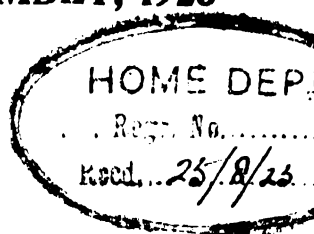


2nd February, 1925

THE  
**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES**  
**(Official Report)**  
**VOLUME VI**

**THIRD SESSION**  
**OF THE**  
**SECOND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1925**



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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Monday, 2nd February, 1925.

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

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

### WEIGHT LIMIT OF POSTAL ARTICLES CARRIED BY POSTMEN.

532. **\*Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Is it a fact that the weight limit to be carried by postmen is 800 tolas?

(b) If so, are Government prepared to consider the desirability of reducing the weight limit from 800 to 600 tolas?

**Sir Geoffrey Clarke:** (a) There is no fixed limit of weight of postal articles to be carried by postmen. The weight must vary according to circumstances, *e.g.*, length of beat, nature of place of delivery, etc. Hired labour is employed whenever the articles for delivery are too heavy for a single postman to carry.

(b) The question does not arise.

### DEBIT OF LOSS ON INSURED ARTICLES TO THE POST OFFICE GUARANTEE FUND.

533. **\*Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Is it a fact that loss sustained on account of insured articles is debited to the Post Office Guarantee Fund?

(b) If so, will Government please state the grounds on which this decision is based?

**Sir Geoffrey Clarke:** (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

### PAYMENT OF PENSIONS BY POST OFFICES.

534. **\*Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Is it a fact that pensions to retired Post Office and R. M. S. Officers are paid by Government treasuries?

(b) If so, are Government prepared to consider the desirability of paying them by post offices instead of by Government treasuries?

**Sir Geoffrey Clarke:** (a) Yes.

(b) The question of paying all Government pensioners drawing Rs. 20 per mensem and below by post offices was considered before and had to be given up as the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs was of opinion that it would be very difficult for post offices all over the country to do the work. Government do not desire to reconsider the question specially for the pensioners of the Postal Department. In some parts of India pensions are being paid by postal money orders.

### ECONOMIES IN THE PERMANENT SUPERIOR ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

535. **\*Mr. Ohaman Lall:** (a) Is it a fact that the total saving over the reorganisation scheme on the North Western Railway, relating to the permanent superior establishment amounts to only Rs. 7,489 according to a reply given in another place by the Honourable Mr. G. L. Corbett?

(b) Is it a fact that in the volume entitled "Report outlining a scheme for the reorganisation of the general working system of the North Western Railway" the cost of existing establishment was stated to be Rs. 2,88,025 whereas that of the then proposed scheme was Rs. 2,90,000, i.e., Rs. 1,975 in excess?

(c) Will Government give the House the correct figures and the reasons why no substantial economies in the permanent superior establishment have been effected?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** (a) Yes. The saving expected is Rs. 7,539 a month.

(b) The Honourable Member is apparently referring to a preliminary and unpublished report the proposals in which were considerably altered in the final scheme.

(c) The correct figures are those given above, namely, Rs. 7,539 per mensem, but against this must be set the cost of additional audit staff of approximately Rs. 6,000 a month. The object of the scheme is to secure increased efficiency and the chief economy expected from the reorganisation will be a reduction in working expenses to which at present no exact figure can be attached.

### SPECIAL CARRIAGES FOR OFFICERS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

536. **\*Mr. Ohaman Lall:** Is it correct that lakhs are being spent on the use and maintenance of special carriages for the use of officers on the North Western Railway?

### CARRIAGES FOR OFFICERS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

555. **\*Mr. Ohaman Lall:** Will Government state what kind of carriages on the North Western Railway are set apart for the exclusive use of the railway officers? Further, will Government give a statement giving full particulars such as description of the carriage, cost, approximate annual maintenance charges of each carriage and the list of officers using such carriages?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** I will reply to this and the Honourable Member's question No. 555 together.

Carriages specially set apart for the exclusive use of railway officers on the North Western Railway are of two kinds, namely, railway service carriages and reserved carriages of the 'A' class. Railway service carriages are 4-wheelers and consist of a combined living and office compartment, a lavatory and a kitchen. Reserved carriages of the 'A' class are usually short bogie carriages which contain similar accommodation to the railway service carriages except that a few have a small observation compartment at the end for inspection purposes, and also a servant's compartment.

The cost of railway service carriages varies from Rs. 8,600 to Rs. 9,000 and that of reserved 'A' class carriages from Rs. 8,300 to Rs. 88,000.



It is not possible to give the approximate maintenance charges for each individual carriage, but the approximate average annual cost of maintenance is Rs. 150 for a railway service carriage and Rs. 300 for a reserved 'A' class carriage.

There are 41 railway service carriages which are used by 58 Assistant Engineers and there are 23 reserved 'A' class carriages, which are used by the officers named in the list, which is being placed on the table.

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*List of officers using reserved 'A' class carriages on the North Western Railway.*

1. Agent.
2. Deputy Agent.
3. Chief Operating Superintendent.
4. Deputy Chief Operating Superintendents (2 officers)
5. Chief Commercial Manager.
6. Chief Mechanical Engineer.
7. Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer.
8. Chief Engineer.
9. Deputy Chief Engineer.
10. Controller of Stores.
11. Signal Engineer.
12. Inspection Car.
- 13—19. Divisional Superintendents (7).

20—30. These 4 carriages are shared by Deputy Agent personnel, Deputy on special duty on reorganisation, Deputy on special duty, marshalling yard design, Deputy Commercial Manager, Deputy Chief Engineer (Designs and Projects) and Deputy Chief Engineer (Construction).

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**Mr. Ohaman Lall:** May I ask Government whether they would consider the advisability of doing away with these special carriages?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** They are required for officers for their work.

**Mr. Ohaman Lall:** Is it not possible for them to travel in first class compartments in ordinary trains?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** The carriages have to be detached from the trains and kept in sidings to enable the officers to do their work.

**Mr. Ohaman Lall:** In every case, for example let us say in travelling from Lahore to Rawalpindi, do not these officers want special saloons or special carriages?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** The officers usually live in their carriages while they are engaged on their duties.

**Khan Bahadur W. M. Hussanally:** What is the total annual cost of running these special carriages?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** I have given the figures.

**Mr. Ohaman Lall:** Also the figures of actual running charges of these carriages?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** Yes. If the Honourable Member means the haulage cost, I have not got that figure.

**Mr. Chaman Lal:** May I ask the Honourable Member to give us the haulage cost of these carriages as well as the cost of maintenance?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** I must ask for notice of that question.

APPOINTMENT OF MR. F. WEBB, AS SUPERINTENDENT, CENTRAL REGISTRY  
OFFICE IN THE OFFICE OF THE AGENT, NORTH WESTERN  
RAILWAY.

537. **\*Mr. Chaman Lal:** (a) Will Government kindly state whether one Mr. F. Webb has been appointed as Superintendent, Central Registry Office, in the office of the Agent, North Western Railway, on a salary of Rs. 350 rising to Rs. 400 per mensem; if so, what are his duties and responsibilities?

(b) Is it a fact that Mr. Webb was a chargeman in the North Western Railway Carriage Shops getting Rs. 210 per mensem prior to his new appointment?

(c) Is it a fact that Mr. Webb had no office experience and that he never even held charge of any branch in any office?

If so, what led to his new appointment?

(d) Will the Government kindly state how many clerks in class V in the Rs. 275 grade, who officiated as Superintendents in North Western Railway offices, have been superseded by this appointment and for what reasons?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given to a similar question by the Honourable Rai Bahadur Lala Ram Saran Das on the 22nd September 1924 in the Council of State.

OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE OFFICE OF THE AGENT, NORTH-  
WESTERN RAILWAY.

538. **\*Mr. Chaman Lal:** (a) Is it a fact that the post of Office Superintendent in the North Western Railway Agents' office was held by several senior Indians?

(b) Is it a fact that on the death of Pandit Shiv Charan Lal, Mr. Sahair, head establishment clerk, Agent's office, being seniormost should have been appointed as Office Superintendent, Agent's office?

(c) Is it a fact that Mr. Holmes, who was appointed on 5th December 1914 (whereas Mr. Sahair was appointed on 1st February 1899) as an assistant record clerk in Loco. Superintendent's office superseded him?

(d) Is it a fact that Mr. Sahair on another occasion was again superseded by one Mr. Coates?

(e) On what grounds was he superseded?

OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER,  
NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

539. **\*Mr. Chaman Lal:** (a) Is it a fact that L. Chuni Lal, head establishment clerk of the Chief Engineer's office, North Western Railway (salary Rs. 400 per mensem), had been officiating off and on as Office Superintendent of that office?

(b) Is it a fact that when a vacancy occurred it was not given to L. Chuni Lal or to another Indian equally qualified who happened also to be available, but to one Mr. Cullen of the Loco. Superintendent's office (salary Rs. 275 per mensem)?

(c) On what grounds was this appointment made?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** I propose to answer questions Nos. 538 and 539 together. They both inquire why certain individual clerks were passed over for promotion to particular subordinate appointments. Government do not know and are not prepared to inquire. The railway administration is in the best position to judge between the relative claims of candidates for appointments of this kind.

**Mr. Ohaman Lal:** May I ask whether the Honourable Member is aware that every time we ask these questions we have been put off with the reply that the railway administration is the best judge of these matters?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** Yes, Sir.

**Mr. Ohaman Lal:** Is the Honourable Member aware that there is a great deal of discontent among Members of this House that no information is given on questions relating to racial matters?

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes:** I may say that the Railway Department consider that these questions should be left to the railway administrations and that the Legislative Assembly should not interfere in details of this kind.

**Mr. T. O. Goswami:** We think otherwise.

**Mr. Ohaman Lal:** What are we here for if we cannot get information on these matters?

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes:** The Railway Department think that the Legislative Assembly should criticise the administration and criticise the Railway Board and they are entitled to influence policy, but nothing can be more fatal to the efficient management of railways than that the Legislative Assembly should try to interfere in details of railway administration.

**Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** But is the railway efficiently managed under the present administration?

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes:** The Honourable Member will find it out when he sees the budget statement.

**Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar:** May I ask whether there are any rules provided in the Legislative Rules for the guidance of Members on these questions?

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes:** It is left to the good sense of the Members themselves.

**Mr. Ohaman Lal:** May I ask for a ruling whether we, as Members of this Honourable House, are not entitled to obtain the information that we ask for on these matters, especially when they raise racial issues?

**Mr. President:** Questions are admitted when they satisfy the Rules and Standing Orders. Whether Honourable Members are able to extract replies from Government is a totally different matter in regard to which I have no responsibility.

**Mr. Ohaman Lall:** Sir, is the process equivalent to that of endeavouring to extract blood from stone?

RETIREMENT WITHOUT FORFEITURE OF GRATUITY OF RETRENCHED  
STAFF OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

540. **\*Mr. Ohaman Lall:** (a) Is it a fact that officers belonging to the Indian Civil Service were allowed certain privileges of retirement on proportionate pension for a certain period after the inauguration of the Reforms Scheme?

(b) Is it a fact on the other hand that railway employees, who under retrenchment, were offered lower posts, were told that a refusal will result in the forfeiture of their gratuity "whether they had rendered more or less than 15 years' service"?

(c) Will Government explain the distinction applied in the case of officers of the Indian Civil Service and the staff of the North Western Railway?

(d) Will Government state the number of cases in which such gratuity has been forfeited?

(e) Are Government prepared to withdraw the orders issued in this connection and permit retirement without forfeiture of gratuity?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** (a) Yes.

(b) Yes—since such men would under the rules not be entitled to a gratuity. It was, however, stipulated that exceptional cases would receive special consideration.

(c) The two cases are not comparable.

(d) Government are not aware of any case in which such gratuity has been forfeited.

(e) In the circumstances stated above, Government see no reason for modification of the orders already passed.

INDIANS IN CERTAIN SPECIFIED APPOINTMENTS ON THE NORTH WESTERN  
RAILWAY.

541. **\*Mr. Ohaman Lall:** Will Government state the proportionate number of Indians in the North Western Railway in the following posts:

- (1) Special Station Superintendents.
- (2) Commercial Superintendents (Senior and Junior).
- (3) Traffic Inspectors (Special, Senior and Junior).
- (4) Chief Controllers, Deputy Controllers, and Assistant Controllers.
- (5) Senior scale of Station Masters, Assistant Station Masters, Yard Masters and Goods Supervisors.
- (6) Platform and Luggage Inspectors (Senior Special, Junior Special).
- (7) Ticket Collectors (Senior Special Class, Junior Special Class, Class D)?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** A statement is placed on the table containing the information asked for by the Honourable Member.

Serial No.	Designation of post.	Total No. of posts.	No. held by Europeans and Anglo-Indians.	No. held by Indians.
1	Special Superintendents . . . . .	3	3	...
2	Commercial Superintendents :			
	Senior . . . . .	3	3	...
	Junior . . . . .	4	2	2
3	Traffic Inspectors :			
	Special . . . . .	2	2	...
	Senior . . . . .	19	19	...
	Junior . . . . .	17	15	2
4	Chief Controllers . . . . .	4	4	...
	Deputy Controllers . . . . .	6	6	...
	Assistant Controllers . . . . .	30	29	1
5	Senior Scale Station Masters and Assistant Station Masters, Yard Masters, Goods Supervisors :			
	Class F (i) . . . . .	10	9	1
	" F (ii) . . . . .	14	13	1
	" E (i) . . . . .	20	19	1
	" E (ii) . . . . .	77	57	20
6	Platform and Lug. Inspectors :			
	Senior spl. . . . .	2	2	
	Junior spl. : . . . . .	7	7	
7	Ticket Collectors :			
	Senior spl. . . . .	1	1	...
	Junior spl. . . . .	7	7	...
	'D' class . . . . .	8	4	4

EUROPEAN, ANGLO-INDIAN AND INDIAN APPRENTICES ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

542. **\*Mr. Chaman Lall:** (a) Will Government state as to how many Indian apprentices have been taken in the last four years in the Loco., Carriage, Signal, Engineering, Electric (North Western Railway) Department and the number of Anglo-Indians and Europeans with their rates of pay?

(b) Will Government explain the differentiation in the rates of pay?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** (a) A statement showing the number of Indian, Anglo-Indian and European apprentices during 1923 and 1924 in the Loco., Carriage and Wagon and Engineering Departments of the North Western Railway with their rates of pay is laid on the table. The figures for the previous two years are not available but will be procured and furnished to the Honourable Member if desired.

(b) It will be observed from the statement that the remuneration for work done is the same for all classes of apprentices. The subsistence and hostel charges are however granted according to the standard of living.



**Mr. Chaman Lall:** Will the Honourable Member see to it that this distinction is done away with?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** I must ask for notice, Sir.

**Mr. Chaman Lall:** Is this again a question of racial discrimination, Sir?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** No, Sir.

**Mr. Chaman Lall:** On what other basis does the Honourable Member explain the differentiation?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** I have already explained that it is due to the difference in the standard of living.

**Mr. Chaman Lall:** That depends upon race, Sir, does it not?

#### ORDERS SENT TO GERMANY FOR ROLLING STOCK.

543. **\*Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the paragraph published in the issue of the *Statesman* of the 4th January, 1925, page 7, under the heading "Indian Rolling Stock" "Reported order for Germany"?

(b) If so, will Government please state if the statement made is correct?

(c) If correct, will they please state the number of goods and passenger coaches ordered for Indian railways?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) Government have no information on the subject.

**Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** Will they try to get the information, Sir?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** Sir, the reply which I just gave that Government have no information on the subject refers to a newspaper report, and I do not quite see how we can get the information.

#### REPORT OF THE INDIAN TERRITORIAL FORCE COMMITTEE.

544. **\*Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the paragraph published in the issue of the *Statesman* of the 4th January, 1925, page 8, under the heading "Territorial Committee"?

(b) If so, will they please state if the statement made is correct and if the report of the Territorial Force Committee will be circulated to the Members of the Assembly during the forthcoming session at Delhi?

**Mr. E. Burdon:** (a) Government have seen the paragraph referred to.

(b) The Committee have signed their report which is at present in the process of publication. It is hoped that the report will be available to Honourable Members during this session.

545. **\*Mr. K. O. Neogy:** Sir, this question† formed part of a more comprehensive question. As the other parts of the question have been disallowed, I do not propose to put it.

† "Will Government be pleased to state how much iron has been estimated to exist in British India according to geological survey?"

**Mr. President:** The other parts of the question were disallowed because they related to matters which were the primary responsibility of Local Governments, and this part was allowed because it concerned the responsibility of the Central Government.

#### UGANDA TOWNSHIP RULES.

546. **\*Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the following which appeared in the *Amrita Basar Patrika* of the 30th October last?

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#### " INDIANS IN EAST AFRICA.

##### *Restriction in respect of residence and trade.*

Mombasa, Oct. 3.

Recently the Uganda Official Gazette published the new 'Township rules' wherein is found the following:

The Governor may, by notice in the Gazette, prescribe areas within which no piece or parcel of land may be occupied by any person not of European origin or extraction for the purposes of trade, residence or otherwise except with the consent or prior permission of the Governor in writing. This does not apply to domestic servants."

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(b) If the reply to (a) above be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state what steps the Government of India have taken to remove the abovesaid addition to the Township Rules?

**Mr. J. W. Shore:** (a) The reply is in the affirmative.

(b) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given by me on the 23rd January 1925, to Mr. Kamini Kumar Chanda's question 115.

#### REFUSAL OF A WIRELESS LICENSE TO MR. S. D. NADKARNI OF KARWAR.

547. **\*Mr. D. V. Belvi:** (a) With regard to the Wireless License Rules issued by the Director General of Wireless, laying down the qualifications necessary for the grant of a wireless license for amateur purposes, will Government be pleased to say which of those qualifications Mr. S. D. Nadkarni of Karwar was held not to possess when his application for a wireless license was refused by the Director General of Wireless, as stated in answer to my question No. 1820, published at page 3207, Legislative Assembly Debates, 11th September 1924?

(b) If it was not for absence of any of those qualifications that Mr. Nadkarni's application was refused, will Government be pleased to say why it was refused?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** Mr. Nadkarni stated at the time of making his application that he had no experience in working Wireless Telegraph Transmitting apparatus and that he had no certificates of competency for working such apparatus.



LIST OF PRIVATE PERSONS HOLDING WIRELESS LICENSES.

548. **\*Mr. D. V. Belvi:** Will Government be pleased to supply a list of private persons in India and Burma who hold wireless licenses, with details against each case as to whether the license is in respect of a "receiving set" only or for a "transmitting set" only or for both receiving and transmitting sets, and also mention the community, whether Indian or Anglo-Indian or European, to which the licensee belongs; or at least a tabulated analysis of these statistics?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** I shall be glad to show the Honourable Member in my office a list giving the information asked for so far as this is available. The list contains nearly 800 names, and Government do not consider that it will serve any useful purpose to lay it on the table.

WITHDRAWAL OF ORDERS PROHIBITING THE TEACHING OF WIRELESS SCIENCE IN COLLEGES.

549. **\*Mr. D. V. Belvi:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether the Government of India Circular prohibiting the teaching of Wireless Science in the colleges to which Dr. S. K. Datta drew attention in this House on 11th September 1924 (*vide* page 3209, Assembly Debates, Volume IV, No. 50), is still in force?

(b) If it is withdrawn, when was it withdrawn, and why? If not, why does it continue even nominally in force?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore:** (a) and (b). The question of the withdrawal of the circular is now engaging the attention of the Government of India; and it is hoped that it will be possible to withdraw the orders in question at a very early date.

REDUCTION OF CLERICAL ESTABLISHMENT ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

550. **\*Mr. Chaman Lal:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether there will be reduction in the North Western Railway clerical establishment in connection with the Reorganization Scheme? If so, in what percentage?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether this reduction will also affect the numbers of superior and subordinate officers and if so, to what extent?

(c) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a list of Anglo-Indians and Europeans (Lower, Upper Subordinate and Superior Staff separately) who were brought under reduction or were increased during the last 4 years; also a list of Indians (Clerical Staff, Outdoor Staff and Artisans to be given separately)?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** (a) Yes eventually. It is not possible to state the percentage at present.

(b) Yes, but it is too early to estimate the full effect to the introduction of the Divisional System.

(c) The preparation of the detailed lists asked for would entail an amount of labour and expense which the Government do not consider would be justified.

QUALIFICATIONS OF OFFICERS IN THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY  
WORKSHOPS.

551. \***Mr. Chaman Lal:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether all the officers who are appointed in the North Western Railway Workshops, especially Loco., Carriage and Signal, obtain their qualifications in any special technical and mechanical colleges before they are engaged and what standard of mechanical education is considered necessary and essential for their qualification?

(b) Will the Government give a statement showing the number of such officers as have achieved the higher standard qualification of Mechanical and Civil Engineering Colleges with the degree or degrees possessed by each of them, also the total number of those who have not received such education?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of officers (Indians, Europeans and Anglo-Indians) on the North Western Railway, who hold the following diplomas?

Member of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers.

Member of the Institute of Electrical Engineers.

Member of the Institute of Civil Engineers.

Associate Member of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers.

Associate Member of the Institute of Electrical Engineers.

Associate Member of the Institute of Civil Engineers.

Associate Member of the Institute of Signal Engineers.

(d) Will Government be pleased to state the basis on which the technical allowance is given to these officers?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** (a) So far as the Locomotive and Carriage Departments are concerned the officers recruited do not obtain their qualifications from any special technical or mechanical colleges.

Appointments are made by the Secretary of State on the advice of a Selection Committee subject to certain general conditions, the principal of which are that the candidates shall have had a good general and technical education followed by at least three years' training in the shops and six months in running and firing.

All candidates must in addition have a thorough understanding of applied mechanics. Signal engineers have been recruited from different sources, in some cases by transfer from the Engineering Service and in a few instances by direct appointment from Home of men possessing previous knowledge and experience in the duties required.

(b) It is not understood what the Honourable Member means by the expression "the higher standard qualifications of Mechanical and Civil Engineering Colleges".

(c) The Honourable Member will find the information he requires in the Railway Classified List, a copy of which is in the Library.

(d) Technical pay was granted in consideration of the additional value to the railway of an officer who has undergone the expense of a training in Europe. It has now been abolished as a separate allowance.

QUALIFICATIONS OF FOREMEN, LOCO. INSPECTORS, ETC., ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

552. \***Mr. Ohaman Lall:** Will Government be pleased to state the standard of education requisite for qualification on the North Western Railway as a Foreman, Loco. Inspector, District Electrician, Chargeman and Carriage and Wagon Inspector? Further, will Government explain the reason why this class is specially recruited from outside India?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** The requisite qualification for the posts indicated is the possession of technical ability and practical experience which will enable the holder to do the work. There is no definite standard of education. The major portion of the men required for the purpose have hitherto been procured from England because there were no adequate facilities for training in this country. Arrangements have, however, been now made by the Local Government in collaboration with the North Western Railway to give training to fit men for duties of this nature and it is hoped that an increasing number will in future be obtained from this source.

**Mr. Ohaman Lall:** Do I understand the Honourable Member to say that no particular educational qualification was necessary?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** No, Sir. I said that there was no definite standard of education prescribed.

**Mr. Ohaman Lall:** And yet did I understand the Honourable Member to say that he could not recruit men in India because men with the necessary qualifications could not be found here?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** I said there were no facilities for training men in India but that they are now being provided by the Local Government in collaboration with the North Western Railway Administration.

**Mr. Ohaman Lall:** Will the Government see that in future recruitment in England is stopped?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** Sir, not unless people are available in this country. When they are available, the number recruited from England will be reduced.

**Mr. Ohaman Lall:** I asked whether recruitment in England would be stopped? I did not ask whether it would be reduced.

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** No, Sir, not until we are able to recruit a sufficient number of men in this country.

RECRUITMENT OF INDIANS FOR CERTAIN SPECIFIED APPOINTMENTS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

553. \***Mr. Ohaman Lall:** Will Government be pleased to state the reasons why Indians are not recruited as Signal and Bridge Engineers, Mining Engineers, Coal Superintendents, District Locomotive Superintendents and District Carriage Superintendents on the North Western Railway? Is it a fact that they are considered as qualified to be appointed as Executive Engineers, District Traffic Superintendents and Accounts Officers?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** There are no posts of Coal Superintendents on the North Western Railway. As regards other appointments it has not hitherto been possible to get qualified Indian candidates possessing the necessary technical qualifications to fill them. Arrangements are, however, being made to improve the facilities for technical training for railway

officers in India which it is hoped will enable an advance in this matter to be made.

It has been found possible to secure Indians possessing the necessary qualifications for the posts of Executive Engineers, District Traffic Superintendents and Accounts Officers.

#### REDUCTION OF CLERICAL ESTABLISHMENT IN THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

554. **\*Mr. Chaman Lall:** Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact, that owing to reduction (Reorganization Scheme) in the clerical establishment in the North Western Railway the clerks have to work overtime, i.e. (10 to 6 P.M.), while the time for attendance is 10 to 4 P.M., and also that the clerical establishment is sometimes disallowed casual and privilege leave?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** The only reductions that have in fact taken place in the clerical staff are in respect of temporary clerks. Possibly on some occasions both officers and staff have had to work longer hours than are ordinarily prescribed and this may occur in any office. Leave cannot be claimed as of right, but there is no reason for the assertion that it has been unduly restricted owing to the cause alleged.

#### UTILISATION OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY FINE FUND, ETC.

556. **\*Mr. Chaman Lall:** (a) Will Government state whether the North Western Railway Fine Fund and the Unpaid Wages Fund is mainly utilized for the following purposes?

1. For maintenance of European and Anglo-Indian Railway School.
2. For maintenance of European Railway Band.
3. For maintenance of Railway Institute.
4. For maintenance of Recreation Club.
5. For maintenance of Volunteer Corps.
6. For maintenance of school buses for conveyance of the children of Anglo-Indians and Europeans from and to school.
7. For building the Institute.

(b) Will Government state whether nearly 95 per cent. of the expenditure out of the North Western Railway Fine Fund, and unpaid wages fund is spent on Anglo-Indians and Europeans and 5 per cent. on the Indian staff?

(c) Are Government prepared in future to utilize these funds for the provision of free education for the children of Indian railway employees allocating proportionate funds for the education of the children of Europeans and Anglo-Indians?

(d) Will Government be pleased to give a statement showing the amount of fines and unpaid wages realized from Indians, Anglo-Indians and Europeans, separately?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** (a) and (b). Unpaid wages as a general rule form part of the sundry earnings of the railway and not utilised for the purposes mentioned by the Honourable Member. A statement showing the disbursements from the Fine Fund of the North Western Railway during the years 1922-23 and 1923-24 is placed on the table.

(c) The Government do not as a rule interfere in matters of this kind. The utilisation of the Fine Fund for the benefit of the employes is purely a matter of grace and Agents have been left to distribute it as they think

test. But the Government have ascertained that the Agent will welcome and encourage the growth of institutes for Indian employes, which could suitably receive assistance from this Fund.

(d) In view of the answer to questions (a) and (b) the necessity for the information relative to the unpaid wages does not arise. The information as regards the fines realised from the employes belonging to the different communities is not easily available and Government do not propose to collect it.

*Statement showing the disbursement from the Fine Fund of the North Western Railway for the years 1922-23 and 1923-24.*

Particulars.	1922-23.				1923-24.			
	European and Anglo-Indian.	Indian.	Joint.	TOTAL.	European and Anglo-Indian.	Indian.	Joint.	TOTAL.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Institutes . . .	9,029	2,160	...	11,189	10,845	2,160	420	13,425
2. Reading Rooms . .	420	240	810	1,470	420	240	800	1,460
3. Sports, Clubs and Tournaments.	1,634	2,672	1,224	5,530	1,039	2,813	2,492	6,344
4. Education, viz., Capitation and monthly grants to Schools.	...	...	...	...	...	390	...	390
5. Compassionate education of children of staff killed on duty.	2,969	1,043	...	4,012	3,191	1,380	...	4,571
6. Apprentices' Home .	2,268	...	...	2,268	2,220	...	...	2,220
7. Holiday Home . .	2,500	...	...	2,500	1,250	...	...	1,250
8. Protestant Cemetery	120	...	...	120	110	...	...	110
9. Chaplain . . .	3,500	...	...	3,500	3,600	...	...	3,600
10. North Western Railway Band.	...	...	6,300	6,300	...	...	4,800	4,800
11. Cost of War Memorial	...	...	...	...	2,175	...	...	2,175
12. Compassionate gratuity.	...	...	...	...	550	...	...	550
13. Grant to Red Cross, Karachi.	...	...	...	...	...	...	500	500
Total .	22,440	6,115	8,334	36,889	25,400	6,983	8,012	41,395
Add—								
Loan and advances to Co-operative stores and to Railway employees.				45,320				27,147
GRAND TOTAL .	22,440	6,115	8,334	82,209	25,400	6,983	9,012	68,542

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** May I ask, Sir, whether the Agents are free to utilise the Fine Fund and whether they are using it justly and fairly at the present moment?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** Sir, I do not admit that the Agents are using the Fund unjustly or unfairly.

**Mr. Ohaman Lall:** Will the Honourable Member find out from the Agents whether the reply to question (b) is correct or not? May I also add that I want to know whether 95 per cent. of the expenditure is incurred for the benefit of Europeans and Anglo-Indians?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** I am placing on the table a complete statement of expenditure.

#### AMALGAMATION OF THE ORIYA-SPEAKING TRACTS.

557. **\*Pandit Nilakantha Das:** (a) Do the Government propose to put all the Oriya-speaking tracts under one Government?

(b) If so, has any action been taken in the matter?

(c) Which of the provincial Governments have already given their opinion in the matter?

(d) Are the Government prepared to put all the Oriya-speaking tracts into a separate Oriya province?

(e) Will the Government please make a statement in the matter?

**Mr. H. Tonkinson:** The Honourable Member is referred to the replies given by the Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey on the subject to questions Nos. 196 and 187 on the 20th January 1923 and the 5th February 1924. The question is under the consideration of Government in connection with the report of Messrs. Philip and Duff regarding the attitude of the Oriya-speaking population of the Madras Presidency towards amalgamation with other Oriya-speaking tracts and they are not prepared to make a statement at the present time.

#### ALLEGED DISORDERLY CONDUCT OF SOLDIERS AT THE DELHI EXHIBITION OF ARTS AND CRAFTS ON THE 24TH DECEMBER 1924.

558. **\*Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the Delhi letter, published in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, dated the 4th January, 1925, in which the following passage occurs:

"Riotous scenes were enacted on the Christmas night in the local exhibition of Arts and Crafts, when a few drunken Tommies made an attack on the innocent crowd of visitors. They began by bombarding the stalls with brick bats, and robbing a few stalls of odd things. This led to an affray in which a few civilians sustained injuries. "A city of gaiety" was in a few moments transformed into "a city of riots" by the drunkards. Panicky people began to run for their lives, shop-keepers at once closed down their stalls. The soldiers went on merrily with their mischief till the Police came, and drove them out of the pandal."

(b) Is it a fact that liquor was freely allowed to be sold at the premises?

(c) Do the Government propose to make an inquiry into this affair, and lay the result before the House?

And if not, why not?

**Mr. H. Tonkinson:** (a) I have seen the article in question.

(b) Ordinary bar licenses were issued for the exhibition premises but there is reason to believe that the soldiers who caused the disturbance were under the influence of liquor before they reached the exhibition.

(c) The usual police and military inquiries are being held.

**DISMISSAL OF MAHANAND LAL, A RECRUITING AGENT.**

559. **\*Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** With reference to my starred question No. 1378 of the 9th June, 1924, and the statement laid on the table in that connection on the 8th September, 1924, will the Government be pleased to state the nature of misconduct for which the recruiting agent Mahanand Lal was dismissed?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore:** The Government of India have no information.

**Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** But why have they no information? Will the Government of India be pleased to find out the information on the subject?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore:** No, Sir.

**Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** Why not, Sir?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore:** Because, Sir, the individual concerned was not one of their officers. He was appointed by the Emigration Commissioner who is also not an officer of the Government of India. Hence the Government of India have no control over him, or his actions.

**AGENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA IN MAURITIUS.**

560. **\*Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** With reference to my starred question No. 1376 of 9th June, 1924, will the Government be pleased to state the names, pay and antecedents of the Agents appointed in Mauritius under section 7 of the Emigration Act (Act VII of 1922)?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore:** No such Agent has been appointed.

**Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** Under section 7 of the Emigration Act, was it not compulsory for the Government of India to appoint an Agent? Why is it that such an Agent has not yet been appointed?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore:** It is not compulsory, Sir, and the Government of India do not consider that circumstances at the present moment demand the appointment of such an Agent. I have already explained in reply to a previous question that the Government of India have sent an officer to make inquiries into the conditions in Mauritius and that their future line of action will be decided by the nature of the report that they get from their officer.

**Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** In the meantime, do I understand that no further recruitment will take place in India?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore:** No further recruitment is taking place.

**Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** And will not take place till the result of that inquiry?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore:** Certainly not, Sir.

## RECRUITMENT OF EMIGRANTS AT BENARES.

561. **\*Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) With reference to my starred question No. 1871 of the 9th June, 1924, regarding recruiting of emigrants at Benares and the reply of the Government that "the depôt is used for the accommodation of emigrants and its location at Benares is in no way inconsistent with the provisions of the rules" published under Government Notification No. 212, dated the 10th March, 1923, will the Government be pleased to state if recruitment did not actually take place in Benares, and if so, how many recruits were obtained in Benares proper?

(b) Will the Government kindly state if recruitment was stopped in Benares "during time of pilgrimage", and if so, will Government state the periods during which such recruitment was held in abeyance since its existence in Benares?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore:** (a) and (b). The Government of India have no information but will make inquiries, if the Honourable Member so desires.

**Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** I do desire that information, Sir, if you please.

## RECRUITMENT OF SWEEPERS FOR MAURITIUS.

562. **\*Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) With reference to my starred question No. 1878 of the 9th June, 1924, are the Government aware that in the statement which was laid on the table on the 8th September, 1924, it is mentioned that "122 sweepers were recruited under special orders"?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the "Special orders" referred to above; and also state under what rule or notification this special class of people were recruited?

(c) Is it not a fact that the notice entitled "*Jazira Mauritius men Kashthkaron ki Zarurat*" referred only to the recruitment of agriculturists (Kashtkars), belonging to respectable families (*Moaziz Khandan*)?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore:** (a) The reply is in the affirmative.

(b) These sweepers were recruited by the Emigration Commissioner in accordance with instructions received by him from the Government of Mauritius. The Government of India do not possess a copy of these orders and are therefore unable to lay them on the table of the House. As these sweepers come in the category of "unskilled labourers" their emigration was regulated by the Government of India Notification No. 232-Emi., dated the 22nd March 1923.

(c) Yes; that particular notice referred only to the recruitment of agriculturists.

## RETURN OF INDIAN EMIGRANTS FROM MAURITIUS.

563. **\*Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to a message published in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, dated the 3rd January, 1925, to the effect that 513 Indian emigrants are returning to this country from Mauritius in the first week of January?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state if in this batch there are any, who were recruited by the Benares depôt, under Notification No. 282-Emi., dated Delhi, the 22nd March, 1923? If the reply is in the affirmative will the Government state the reasons of their return?



**Mr. J. W. Bhore:** (a) The reply is in the affirmative.

(b) The Government of India have no information on the subject.

**Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** I want to know why the Government of India do not possess information on this important subject?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore:** I think the Honourable Member does not realise the nature of the question that he has put. Here are a number of emigrants who are returning from Mauritius. Does the Honourable Member suggest that the Government of India should go round to every returning emigrant and ask him what was the reason for his return to this country? If so, I most respectfully beg to differ from him.

**Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** That is not my meaning. Have not the Government of India received any information from their officers in Mauritius in regard to the emigrants who have returned to this country?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore:** The Government of India have none of their officers stationed in Mauritius.

**Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** Have the Government of India received no further intimation as to why these emigrants have returned?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore:** No, Sir.

#### RETURN OF INDIAN EMIGRANTS FROM MAURITIUS.

564. **\*Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether any report or return in respect of the emigrants have been received by the Government of India from Mauritius in accordance with section 12 of the Notification No. 282-Emi., dated Delhi, the 22nd March, 1923?

(b) If the answer be in affirmative, will the Government be pleased to publish the same?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore:** (a) No report has so far been called for from the Government of Mauritius.

(b) Does not arise.

#### PROTECTOR OF IMMIGRANTS IN MAURITIUS.

565. **\*Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) Is there any Protector of Immigrants in Mauritius?

(b) If so, what is his name, pay and antecedents?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore:** (a) Yes.

(b) Mr. B. A. Francis, whose annual pay is Rs. 12,000 with a personal allowance of Rs. 1,000. For his antecedents, the attention of the Honourable Member is invited to page 625 of the Colonial Office List, 1924.

#### RESUMPTION OF EMIGRATION TO MAURITIUS.

566. **\*Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if they have received any representation from the Government in Mauritius, for the resumption of emigration to Mauritius after the closure of the Benares depôt?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the communications on the subject?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore:** (a) The reply is in the negative.

(b) Does not arise.

#### ALLEGED MALPRACTICES OF LABOUR RECRUITERS.

567. **\*Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** With reference to my starred question No. 1378 of the 9th June, 1924, regarding an article in the *Servant* of 10th April 1924, in which an account has appeared regarding the way in which a number of poor people were booked and brought to Calcutta for being sent to Mauritius, will the Government be pleased to state whether the statements made therein were substantially correct; if so, what steps were taken to bring the alleged offenders to book, and to prevent a recurrence of such incidents?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore:** The inquiry made into the allegations referred to in the article published in the *Servant* of the 10th April, 1924, showed that they were incorrect. The second part of the question does not therefore arise.

**Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** What is the correct version of the incident that is referred to in the paper?

• **Mr. J. W. Bhore:** The inquiry was made by the Government of Bengal and their report to us was that the facts as stated were not correct.

**Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** I want to know the correct version?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore:** As far as I remember, the correct version was that these people came to Calcutta fully cognisant of the condition of recruitment and were dissuaded by their friends from going to Mauritius.

**Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** Is there any evidence in the possession of Government to show that these people were dissuaded by their friends from going to Mauritius?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore:** That, Sir, is the report of the Government of Bengal.

**Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of this report on which they have based their conclusion?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore:** No, Sir.

**Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** Why not, Sir?

#### TANGANYIKA ORDINANCE PROHIBITING THE USE OF GUJRATI FOR KEEPING TRADE ACCOUNTS.

568. **\*Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the new Ordinance in the mandated territory of Tanganyika, prohibiting the use of the Gujrati language for keeping trade accounts?

(b) Do the Government know that 90 per cent. of the trade of Tanganyika is in the hands of the Indians?

(c) Do the Government further know that the majority of the Indian traders of Tanganyika have their central offices in Bombay where all their accounts are kept in Gujrati?

(d) What steps if any have been taken by the Government in this connection?

(e) Is it a fact that when the territory was in the hands of the German Government no bans of such kind existed against the Indians?

(f) Is it a fact that French traders have been allowed to keep their account in French?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore:** The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given by me to Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas' question No. 430 on the same subject.

#### LEGISLATION IN TRINIDAD REGARDING INDIAN MARRIAGES AND DIVORCES.

569. **\*Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** Is it a fact that an Act called the "Indian Marriages and Divorces Act" has been or is about to be passed in Trinidad, and will the Government be pleased to lay a copy of it on the table?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore:** The Government of India are making inquiries.

#### POSITION OF INDIANS IN OTHER PARTS OF THE EMPIRE.

570. **\*Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** Will the Government be pleased to state what steps have been taken in the various Colonies to give effect to the following resolution passed at the Imperial Conference 1921:

"This conference reaffirms that each community of the British Commonwealth should enjoy complete control over the composition of its own population by restricting immigration from any of the other communities, but recognises that there is incongruity between the position of India as an equal member of the Empire and the existence of the disabilities upon British Indians lawfully domiciled in some parts of the Empire and this Conference, therefore, is of opinion that in the interest of the solidarity of the Commonwealth, it is desirable that the rights of such Indians to citizenship should be recognised"?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore:** The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to a booklet entitled the Proceedings of the Imperial Conference 1923 regarding the position of Indians in other parts of the Empire, a copy of which has been placed in the Library of the House.

#### RECRUITING AGENTS EMPLOYED BY THE EMIGRATION DÉPÔT, BENARES.

571. **\*Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) With reference to my starred question No. 1373 of the 9th June 1924, regarding Emigration Agents, is it a fact that the Emigration Rule 7 (2) says "that the agents whenever possible, be men who have actually worked in the country for which they are employed?"

(b) Is it a fact that none of the recruiting agents employed by the Emigration Dépôt, Benares, were Mauritius returned men?

(c) Was any attempt made to get such men? If not, why not?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore:** (a) and (b). The reply is in the affirmative.

(c) Under the rules the Emigration Commissioner had full power to appoint the Agents. Government are therefore unable to answer this part of the question.

ACTION TAKEN AGAINST AGENTS FOR FAILURE TO ENLIST THE PRESCRIBED  
NUMBER OF EMIGRANTS.

572. **\*Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** With reference to my starred question No. 1878 of the 9th June 1924, will the Government be pleased to state what steps, if any, were taken by the Emigration Commissioner if an emigration agent failed to enlist the prescribed number of emigrants?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore:** The Government of India have no information on the subject.

FEES RECOVERED UNDER THE EMIGRATION ACT.

573. **\*Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** Will the Government be pleased to state the total amount of fees recovered from the Emigration Agent or Emigration Commissioner, under Rule 50 of the Emigration Act (Act VII of 1922) and how the money is utilised?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore:** The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to my reply given to Mr. N. M. Joshi's question No. 510 on the same subject.

GRIEVANCES OF INDIANS IN BRITISH GUIANA.

574. **\*Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** Will the Government be pleased to state what steps have been taken by the Government of India to have the grievances of the Indians of British Guiana as brought to light in the report of the British Guiana deputation, removed?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore:** The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given by me to Mr. C. Duraiswami Aiyangar's question No. 305 on the same subject.

CREMATION OF THE DEAD BODIES OF HINDUS IN BRITISH GUIANA.

575. **\*Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) Is it a fact that the Hindus constitute 32 per cent. of the total population of British Guiana.

(b) Is it a fact that they are not allowed to cremate their dead bodies?

(c) Do not the Government know that Dr. Wharton is an influential Indian Christian of the Colony?

(d) Is it a fact that he applied for permission to cremate the dead body of his father who was a Hindu, and was not allowed to do so?

(e) Have any steps been taken by the Government to arrange for the cremation of the dead bodies of the Hindus? If not, why not?

(f) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the remarks made in the majority report of the deputation in this connection that the immigration department was lacking in sympathetic understanding of the Indian sentiment and feeling?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore:** (a) The reply is in the affirmative.

(b) and (e). The Government of India understand that there is no legislative prohibition against cremation and the British Guiana deputation gave an assurance last year that wherever Hindus had any difficulty in the matter, the position would be satisfactorily adjusted. An inquiry will be made as to whether effect has been given to this assurance.

(c), (d) and (f). Yes

REFUSAL OF A PASSPORT TO DR. SUDHINDRA BOSE, A PROFESSOR IN THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA.

576. **\*Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) Is it a fact that Dr. Sudhindra Bose, a professor in the State University of Iowa (America) has not been allowed to come to India?

(b) Is it a fact that he was denied a passport in 1920 by the India Office, on the ground that he was naturalised in America?

(c) Is it a fact that a man naturalised in America cannot be allowed to come to India?

(d) Is there any proof of suspicion against Dr. Sudhindra Bose?

(e) If so, what?

(f) Have the Government of India been consulted in the matter?

(g) If so, will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the communications which passed between the India Office and the Government of India on the subject?

**Mr. H. Tonkinson:** I invite attention to the reply which the Home Member recently gave to a similar question asked by Mr. Kamini Kumar Chanda.

**Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** Part (f) of my question has not been answered, which runs as follows: "Have the Government of India been consulted in the matter?"

This question I think was not answered previously?

**Mr. H. Tonkinson:** I am afraid I must ask for notice.

**Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** This question is already down on the paper. What further notice can I give?

COLONIAL PAPERS SUBSCRIBED FOR BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

577. **\*Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** Will the Government be pleased to state the names of the Colonial papers subscribed for by the Government of India?

Is the *Hindi of Jacobs*, South Africa, subscribed by the Government?

**Mr. H. Tonkinson:** I lay on the table a statement showing the Colonial papers taken by the Government of India.

*Statement of Colonial papers taken by the Government of India.*

1. The Cape Argus, Cape Town.
2. The Sunday Times, Johannesburg, Transvaal.
3. The East Africa Standard, Nairobi.
4. The Indian Opinion, Natal.
5. The Democrat, Nairobi.
6. The Ceylon Daily News, Colombo.
7. The Straits Times, Singapore.
8. The Malay Mail, Kuala Lumpur.
9. The Mauritius Indian Times, Port Louis.
10. The Cape Indian, Cape Town.
11. The Fiji Times and Herald, Suva, Fiji.
12. The Pacific Age, Suva, Fiji.
13. The South African Irrigation Department Magazine.

The *Hindi of Jacobs*, South Africa, is not taken by the Government of India, but a complimentary copy is received in the Department of Education, Health and Lands.

## PROSCRIPTION OF CERTAIN BOOKS.

578. **\*Mr. Kumar Sankar Ray:** Will the Government be pleased to state whether and why any of the following books have been proscribed, viz:

Hyndman's "British rule in India."

Hyndman's "Civil Service."

Hyndman's "Awakening of the East."

Bryan's "British rule in India."

Lala Lajpat Rai's "Britain's debt to India."

Manabendra Ray's "Evolution of Economic Organisations of India"

Sudhindra Bose's "British Rule in India."

Labour Monthly Magazine edited by R. Palme Dutt'

**Mr. H. Tonkinson:** Of the publications mentioned the following have been prohibited entry into India under the Sea Customs Act as their circulation is not in the public interest:

1. Hyndman's "The Awakening of Asia".

2. Bryan's "British Rule in India".

3. M. N. Roy's "Evolution of Economic Organisations of India."

4. Lala Lajpat Rai's "England's debt to India".

5. Labour Monthly Magazine edited by R. Palme Dutt.

The forfeiture of books, etc., under section 99-A of the Criminal Procedure Code is a matter dealt with by the Local Governments.

**Mr. Chaman Lal:** May I ask whether those responsible for prohibiting these books have ever read any one of them?

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Do Government compensate the subscribers of these magazines for the copies which are prohibited?

**Mr. H. Tonkinson:** No, Sir.

## TRANSFER OF THE OUDH AND KOHILKHAND RAILWAY OFFICES TO CALCUTTA.

579. **\*Pandit Harkaran Nath Misra:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

- (a) if the various head or other offices of the O. and R. Railway are shortly going to be transferred to Calcutta and other places outside the U. P. as a result of the proposed amalgamation of the O. and R. Railway with the E. I. Railway?
- (b) Are the Government aware of the unrest and anxiety caused to the subordinate staff employed in the above offices of the O. and R. Railway by the proposed transfer of offices referred to in (a) above?
- (c) If the reply to (a) is in the affirmative, will the Government kindly state if they have considered the advisability of leaving such of the offices as could easily be run from Lucknow; and if they are prepared to consider the advisability of absorbing such of the employees who belong to Northern India in the new Divisions to be formed and located in the U. P.?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** (a) As the result of the proposed amalgamation certain of the administrative offices of the present Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway will be closed down.

(b) Government have received no representation regarding this.

(c) It is not proposed to transfer from Lucknow such of the offices as under the reorganisation could suitably be retained there, and in any changes which have to be made in the public interest Government will see that the fullest possible consideration is given to the convenience of the staff.

LOCATION OF THE TRAFFIC AUDIT BRANCH OF THE AMALGAMATED OUDH AND ROHILKHAND AND EAST INDIAN RAILWAYS AT LUCKNOW.

580. **\*Pandit Harkaran Nath Misra:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) If it is a fact that the B. B. and C. I. Railway whose head offices are located at Bombay runs its traffic audit branch from Ajmere and is it also a fact that some years back the E. I. Railway with its head office at Calcutta used to do so at Jamalpur?

(b) If the reply to (a) be in the affirmative, are the Government prepared to locate the entire traffic audit branch of the two amalgamated railways (*viz.*, O. and R. Railway and E. I. Railway) at Lucknow and if not to state any objections they have?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** (a) Yes.

(b) The question is under consideration by the Auditor-General.

TOTAL SANCTIONED STRENGTH OF OFFICERS OF THE LOCO., CARRIAGE AND WAGON DEPARTMENTS ON STATE RAILWAYS.

581. **\*Pandit Harkaran Nath Misra:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

The total sanctioned strength of officers of the Loco., Carriage and Wagon Departments on the State Railways and how many of such officers are statutory natives of India (i) drawing pay at Rs. 800 per month or over, and (ii) drawing pay at less than Rs. 800 per month?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** Government have not the information but will make inquiries.

THE CIVIL LINES POST OFFICE, AGRA.

582. **\*Pandit Harkaran Nath Misra:** Are the Government aware that the Civil Lines Post Office which was situated on the Drummond Road, in Bagh Muzaffar Khan, has been removed from January, 1923?

**Sir Geoffrey Clarke:** Yes.

## THE CIVIL LINES POST OFFICE, AGRA.

583. \***Pandit Harkaran Nath Misra**: Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact:

- (a) That the previous locality of the Civil Lines Post Office was in the vicinity of Agra and St. John's Colleges and their hostels?
- (b) That the residents of Bagh Muzaffar Khan number about 8,000 consisting mostly of the educated classes such as doctors, professors, students and other public servants?
- (c) That Bagh Muzaffar Khan has got a publishing house and publishing company?
- (d) That the present locality of the Post Office is in an out of the way place far away from the inhabited area?

**Sir Geoffrey Clarke**: (a), (b) and (c). Yes.

(d) It is reported to be centrally situated in respect of the area served by it.

## THE CIVIL LINES POST OFFICE, AGRA.

584. \***Pandit Harkaran Nath Misra**: Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact:

- (a) That the Secretary of the Agra Trade Association pointed out to the Postmaster General of the U. P. that the old house was far better and more spacious than the one now occupied?
- (b) That the portion of the old house occupied by the Postmaster for his personal use was not shown to him on the occasion of his last visit?
- (c) That a joint petition signed by a large number of the residents as well as by the Principals of the Agra and St. John's Colleges protesting against the removal of the Civil Lines Post Office was sent to the Postmaster General of the U. P. with no effect?

**Sir Geoffrey Clarke**: (a) and (b). Government have no information.

(c) A joint petition dated the 1st August 1922 was received by the Postmaster-General, who then looked into the matter personally and decided that the office should be removed to the present building on the 1st January 1923.

## THE CIVIL LINES POST OFFICE, AGRA.

585. \***Pandit Harkaran Nath Misra**: (1) Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact:

- (a) That the Secretary of the Agra Trade Association has pointed out to the Postmaster General, the U. P., that the residents of the Wazirpura have nothing to do with the Civil Lines Post Office and that they transact their business at the Civil Courts Post Office, which is nearer and more convenient to them?
- (b) That the Secretary of the Agra Trade Association pointed out to the Postmaster General of the U. P. that the proprietor of the old building was willing to provide a shade to remove the objection of the Postmaster?



(c) That the Postmaster's statement that the Principals of the Colleges have no further complaint has been contradicted by the Principals themselves and this fact has been brought to the notice of the Postmaster-General?

(2) Are Government prepared to consider the advisability of shifting the Civil Lines Post Office to the old building or to some other building in Bagh Muzaffar Khan convenient to the residents of that locality and to the staff and students of the two Colleges?

**Sir Geoffrey Glarke:** (1) (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) No.

(2) It is not considered advisable to move the Agra Civil Lines Post Office to Bag Muzaffar Khan. The question of opening a separate post office in this locality is, however, under consideration. I may add, Sir, for the information of the Honourable Pandit that I have looked into the matter personally and decided that his complaint is well justified and a post office will be opened in the place he desires.

#### CONSTRUCTION OF WAITING ROOMS OR SHEDS AT CHATNA AND JHANTIPAHARI STATIONS ON THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY.

586. **\*Mr. Amar Nath Dutt:** Is it a fact that there are no waiting rooms or waiting sheds for passengers at Chatna and Jhantipahari stations on the Bengal Nagpur Railway? If so, do the Government propose to take steps to have waiting rooms or sheds for passengers constructed at these stations?

#### SHEDS FOR FEMALE PASSENGERS AT CHATNA AND JHANTIPAHARI STATIONS ON THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY.

587. **\*Mr. Amar Nath Dutt:** Is it a fact that there are no resting places for female passengers at Jhantipahari and Chatna stations on the Bengal Nagpur Railway? If so, do the Government propose to take steps to have sheds for female passengers constructed at these stations?

#### CONSTRUCTION OF GOODS SHEDS AT CHATNA AND JHANTIPAHARI STATIONS ON THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY.

588. **\*Mr. Amar Nath Dutt:** Is it a fact that there are no goods sheds at Chatna and Jhantipahari stations on the Bengal Nagpur Railway and goods are left on the platform without even any tarpaulin cover to protect the goods from sun and rain for several days, causing heavy damage to the owners of goods. If so, do the Government propose to take steps to build goods sheds or godowns at these stations?

#### ENLARGEMENT OF THE GOODS GODOWN AT BANKURA STATION ON THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY.

598. **\*Mr. Amar Nath Dutt:** Is it a fact that the goods godown at Bankura station on the Bengal Nagpur Railway is too small for the goods and very often goods are kept outside the goods godown for want of accommodation? If so, do the Government propose to take steps for extending the godown?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** I propose to answer questions 586, 587, 588 and 593 together as the reply is the same to all four questions.

The Government have no information. They will forward copy of the questions and of their answers to the Agent for such action as he thinks necessary.

NUMBER OF PASSENGERS TRAVELLING TO AND FROM CHATNA AND  
JHANTIPAHARI STATIONS ON THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY.

589. **\*Mr. Amar Nath Dutt:** What is the number of passengers daily coming to and going from Jhantipahari and Chatna stations on the Bengal Nagpur Railway?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** The average number of passengers coming to and going from Chatna and Jhantipahari stations on the Bengal Nagpur Railway daily during the year 1923-24 was approximately 106 and 65 and 100 and 69, respectively.

QUANTITY OF GOODS EXPORTED FROM CHATNA AND JHANTIPAHARI  
STATIONS ON THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY.

590. **\*Mr. Amar Nath Dutt:** What is the quantity of goods exported from Chatna and Jhantipahari stations on the Bengal Nagpur Railway?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** The total quantity of goods booked from Chatna and Jhantipahari stations on the Bengal Nagpur Railway during the year 1923-24, was 2,654 and 6,769 tons, respectively.

SHORTAGE OF WAGONS AT CHATNA AND JHANTIPAHARI STATIONS  
ON THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY.

591. **\*Mr. Amar Nath Dutt:** Is it a fact that goods are often left on the platforms for want of wagons at Chatna and Jhantipahari stations on the Bengal Nagpur Railway?

It is a fact that there is no regularity in the supply of wagons for carriage of goods from these stations? If so, do the Government propose to take steps to ensure a regular supply of wagons for carriage of goods from these stations?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** Government have no information, but copies of the question and answer will be forwarded to the Agent, Bengal Nagpur Railway, who is competent to deal with the matter.

DISTANCE BETWEEN THE WAITING SHED BOOKING OFFICE AT BANKURA  
STATION ON THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY.

592. **\*Mr. Amar Nath Dutt:** Is it a fact that the waiting sheds for the third and intermediate class passengers at Bankura is situated at a distance from the booking office for the third and intermediate class passengers and they have to cross and recross the overbridge for purchase of tickets, which is generally done 10 or 15 minutes before train time, causing great inconvenience? If so, do the Government propose to take steps to have either the booking office removed near the waiting sheds or the waiting shed removed near the booking office?

SITUATION OF THE PARCEL OFFICE AT BANKURA STATION ON THE  
BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY.

594. **\*Mr. Amar Nath Dutt:** Are the Government aware that Bankura exports a large quantity of Bellmetal ware and the situation of the parcel booking office being on the other side of the overbridge, great inconvenience is experienced by the merchants for carriage of these Bellmetal wares over the overbridge?

If so, do the Government propose to take steps for shifting the parcel booking office near the third class booking office for the convenience of the merchants?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** I propose to reply to questions Nos. 592 and 594 together. Government have no information, but the matter will be brought to the notice of the Agent, Bengal Nagpur Railway.

LIGHTING OF THE PLATFORMS AT CHATNA AND JHANTIPAHARI STATIONS  
ON THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY.

595. **\*Mr. Amar Nath Dutt:** Is it a fact that the station platforms at Chatna and Jhantipahari on the Bengal Nagpur Railway are not lighted at train times at night although two trains stop at these stations at night? If so, do the Government propose to take steps to have the platforms of these stations lighted at train time?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** This is essentially a matter to be dealt with by the Agent of the railway and copies of the question and answer will be sent to him.

THE LEPER PROBLEM IN INDIA.

596. **\*Mr. Amar Nath Dutt:** Will the Government be pleased to state whether the leper problem is a provincial or an Imperial subject? If the former, will the Government be pleased to take charge of it as an Imperial subject?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore:** The leper problem, as part of public health, is a provincial transferred subject. Government do not propose to take charge of it as an Imperial subject.

THE POST OFFICE GUARANTEE FUND.

597. **\*Mr. Amar Nath Dutt:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to place on the table a copy of the rules of the Post Office Guarantee Fund which were framed at its start, and the present rules and to state the object of the fund at the start, and its object at the present time and the amount contributed respectively by the class of postal officials, the amount, if any, contributed by the employees of the Telegraph Department and by the Government to the Fund?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to furnish a statement showing (i) the balance at credit in each year since the amalgamation of the Telegraph Department, (ii) the amount paid to the postal employees, (iii) to the telegraph employees for purposes other than for the interests of the subscribers demanded and travelling expenses paid for medical examination for postal life insurance?

(c) Is it a fact that the fund has been spent for any objects other than that for which the subscribers as a body were not interested? If so, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons for so doing. Is it a fact that telegraph employees have been allowed to benefit by the fund although they did not subscribe to it? If so, will the Government be pleased to state reasons for the same?

(d) Is the Post Office Insurance Fund working at a loss? If not, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons for paying the travelling allowances for medical examination for Post Office Insurance from the Guarantee Fund instead of the Post Office Insurance Fund?

(e) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they intend to convert the balance shown at hand in 1922-23 and held in the 3½, 4, 5, and 5½ per cent. securities into 6 per cent. so as to give the Guarantee Fund an enhanced rate of interest? If not, the reasons for not doing so?

**Sir Geoffrey Clarke:** The information required by the Honourable Member has been called for and will be supplied to him as soon as it is received.

#### INCOME CREDITED TO THE POST OFFICE FROM THE POST OFFICE INSURANCE FUND, ETC.

598. **\*Mr. Amar Nath Dutt:** Will the Government be pleased to state the amount of income credited to the post office account from the non-postal branches of the Post Office Insurance Fund, receipt of salt revenue, sale of quinine, payment of Indian military pensions and Post Office Cash Certificates?

**Sir Geoffrey Clarke:** The note on page 3 of the Budget Estimate for the year 1924-25 gives the required information as regards Saving Bank, Cash Certificates, Postal Life Insurance, Army Mobilisation Stores and Customs duty collected through the Post Office.

For salt transactions the Post Office charges a commission of 2 annas per cent. subject to a minimum of 10 annas per indent. This amount is paid by traders and not by any Government Department.

For payment of military pensions, the Post Office charges the Military Department 12 annas for every Rs. 100.

The Department does not get any credit on account of quinine sales. Postmasters get a small commission from Local Governments.

#### UPPER AND LOWER DIVISIONS OF THE CLERICAL ESTABLISHMENT EMPLOYED UNDER THE ACCOUNTANT GENERAL, POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

599. **\*Mr. Amar Nath Dutt:** (a) Is it a fact that before 1918, there was no classification as upper and lower in the clerical establishment under the Accountant-General, Posts and Telegraphs, Calcutta?

(b) Is it a fact that the entire lower division work as defined to-day was strongly recommended by the several Deputy Accountants-General to be classed as upper in their letter Nos. Calcutta—1279-A. G.-G., dated 21st January 1920, Delhi—E.-84, dated 24th January 1920, Nagpur—G.-1877, dated 17th January 1920, and Madras—G. M.-8708, dated 17th February 1920? If so, why should the lower division not be abolished?

(c) Is it a fact that some of the clerks in the lower division are still performing the work classed for upper division while drawing lower division pay? If so, where is the line of demarcation between the upper and the lower division?

REFERENCE CLERKS IN OFFICES UNDER THE ACCOUNTANT GENERAL, POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

600. \***Mr. Amar Nath Dutt:** (a) Is it a fact that the reference clerks in the offices under the A. G. P. and T. are placed in the lower division with a pay of Rs. 40 to 80 while the reference clerks of other account offices are placed in the time-scale of pay Rs. 60 to Rs. 230? If so, what is the reason for this differential treatment?

(b) Is it a fact that there are no upper and lower divisions in account offices other than the offices for the audit of P. and T. accounts? If so, why this distinction?

(c) Is it a fact that many men with University qualifications including some graduates have been placed in the lower grade, while there are lots of unpassed hands in the upper division? If so, why should the former be not classed in the upper grade?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** I propose to answer question No. 599 and question No. 600 together. Government are inquiring into the matter, and a reply will be given to the Honourable Member as soon as possible.

**Khan Bahadur W. M. Hussanally:** May I know what is the objection to answering the questions here in the House after the information is received? Many Honourable Members would like to know what the answers are. If the answers are communicated to the Honourable Member privately, other Members do not know what the answers are.

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** I do not think the House would be greatly enlightened by hearing the answer to this question when it is received.

COLLECTION BY THE RAILWAYS OF TERMINAL TAX ON PASSENGER FARES.

601. \***Dr. K. G. Lohokare:** Will Government be pleased to say:

- (1) if any of the Railways in India have been collecting terminal tax on passenger fares at any of the stations?
- (2) what percentage of collections do the Railways take as cost of the work?
- (3) if the Nasik Municipality had asked the Railway Administration or the Government either direct or through the Local Government for collection of the passenger terminal tax at the Nasik railway station about 3 years before?
- (4) if so, what considerations led the Railway or the Government to refuse the collection on their behalf?
- (5) will Government be pleased to consider such cases and arrange to give the facilities desired to such local bodies as apply for them?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** Railway Administrations are being asked to supply the information required and when it is received it will be sent to the Honourable Member.

## LIFE SAVING APPLIANCES RULES.

602. \***Mr. S. C. Ghose:** (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the new rules relating to the life-saving appliances to be carried on board ships which have been made by the Board of Trade in England and which are expected to come into force on the 1st July 1925?

(b) Do the Government propose to take into consideration the question of making similar rules applicable to ships registered in British India?

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes:** (a) Yes.

(b) The Board of Trade life-saving appliances rules are applied to ships registered in British India except in regard to Native Passenger and Pilgrim Ships for which special rules issued by the Government of India are in force. The question of revising those rules is under consideration.

## EXPENDITURE ON THE BRITISH LEGATION AT KABUL.

603. \***Mr. S. C. Ghose:** Will the Government state if any burden is imposed on the finances of India for the cost of maintaining the British Legation at Kabul?

**Mr. Denys Bray:** For the present Indian revenues contribute the whole of the expenses.

## ILL-TREATMENT OF BRITISH INDIAN SUBJECTS IN CEYLON.

604. \***Mr. S. C. Ghose:** (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the letter addressed to the Editor of the *Englishman* by Mr. D. N. Bonnerjee and published on the 8th December last about the ill-treatment accorded to British Indian subjects who may happen to land in Ceylon?

(b) Have the Government of India taken any action to prevent such harsh treatment of British Indian subjects who go to Ceylon and to protect British Indian subjects of His Majesty?

**Mr. H. Tonkinson:** The Government of India have seen the letter. They have received no representation from Mr. Banerjee but the matter is engaging attention.

## RELIEF GRANTED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS ON ACCOUNT OF THE RECENT FLOODS.

605. \***Mr. S. C. Ghose:** (a) Was any relief asked for by the Government of Madras in consideration of the great floods in Madras?

(b) If so, has any relief been granted?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore:** (a) Yes. The Government of Madras applied for:

(1) a grant of Rs. 15 lakhs from Central Revenues;

(2) a loan of Rs. 20 lakhs to finance the Provincial Loans Account, and

(3) a grant of Rs. 1½ lakhs from the Indian People's Famine Trust.

(b) The request for a grant from Central Revenues has been rejected while that for a loan has been granted. A grant of Rs. 1½ lakhs has also been made from the Indian People's Famine Trust.

CONNECTION OF INDIA AND CEYLON BY RAILWAY.

606. **\*Mr. S. C. Ghose:** (a) Is there any scheme before the Government of India for connecting India and Ceylon by railways?

(b) Is the scheme likely to be carried into effect in the near future?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** There is no such scheme under the consideration of Government at present.

BRITISH TRADE AGENTS AT GYANTSE AND YATUNG.

607. **\*Mr. S. C. Ghose:** (a) What are the duties of the British Trade Agents at Gyantse and Yatung?

(b) What are the qualifications of Mr. D. MacDonald, the British Trade Agent at Yatung for being appointed the Trade Agent at Yatung?

(c) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the news published in the *Englishman* of the 9th October 1924 that Mr. D. MacDonald has been endeavouring to convert to Christianity Tibetan travellers passing through Gyantse? Is this true?

(d) What is the pay of the Trade Agents at Gyantse and Yatung and the cost of the establishments there?

(e) Is any contribution made by the British Government towards the cost of maintaining British Trade Agents at Yatung and Gyantse?

**Mr. Denys Bray:** (a) The duties of the British Trade Agents at Gyantse and Yatung are to further Indian trade in Tibet and generally to protect the interests of British subjects.

(d) Mr. MacDonald has an intimate knowledge of the Tibetan people and language, qualifications, which at the time of his appointment were very rare.

(c) Government's attention was called to the article. The allegation is untrue.

(d) The pay varies with the substantive pay of the incumbents. The pay of the present British Trade Agent at Gyantse who happens to be an Indian Civilian is Rs. 1,750 per mensem. The annual cost of the establishment is approximately Rs. 24,060.

The pay of the present British Trade Agent at Yatung is Rs. 750 per mensem. The annual cost of the establishment is approximately Rs. 19,350.

(e) No.

EMPLOYMENT OF INDIAN TROOPS IN CHINA.

608. **\*Mr. S. C. Ghose:** (a) Will the Government state the number of Indian soldiers including followers in Independent China and British China and to which regiments they belong?

(b) Is every pice of the cost of maintenance of those Indian soldiers paid by the British Exchequer?

(c) Is any portion of the expense borne by the Indian Exchequer?

(d) Did any casualty occur among the Indian troops during the last insurrection in Independent China?

**Mr. E. Burdon:** (a) There are no Indian troops employed in what my friend means when he refers to Independent China. One Indian Infantry battalion which is relieved periodically by another battalion from the Indian Army is employed in Hong Kong and the numbers are as follows:

Indian ranks	...	...	...	745
Followers	...	...	...	56
Medical personnel	...	...	...	8

(b) Yes.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) There were no Indian troops there.

#### EXPORT OF MONKEYS.

609. **\*Mr. S. C. Ghose:** (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the news published in the *Englishman* of the 5th January about the shipment of monkeys from India to foreign countries?

(b) If the news is true, are the Government prepared to take steps to put a stop to such shipment?

(c) Are the Government aware that this news has caused great indignation among the Hindu community?

**Mr. H. Tonkinson:** The Government of India have already instituted inquiries in the matter from Local Governments from whom complete replies have not yet been received.

#### INDIAN HISTORICAL RECORDS COMMISSION.

610. **\*Mr. S. C. Ghose:** (a) Is any contribution made by the Government of India towards the Indian Historical Records Commission which meets yearly?

(b) Is the conference attended by Government officials?

(c) If so, do they draw pay during their absence from headquarters?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore:** (a), (b) and (c). The reply is in the affirmative.

**Mr. K. Venkataramana Reddi:** May I know, Sir, what exactly are the duties of this Historical Records Commission?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore:** The Commission visits various parts of India and makes an examination into the historical material in the way of records, etc., available in different parts of India. At the meetings of the Commission papers are read by scholars and *savants* on matters pertaining to historical research which are of the greatest interest and value.

**Mr. K. Venkataramana Reddi:** May I know the names of the members of the Commission?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore:** I must ask for notice of that question; I cannot give the names offhand.

#### TRAINING OF INDIANS IN NAVAL ENGINEERING.

611. **\*Baboo Runglal Jajodia:** Will the Government please state what arrangements if any exist at present for the proper training of Indians in all branches of Naval Engineering?



**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes:** I would refer the Honourable Member to paragraph 27 of the Report of the Mercantile Marine Committee in which the facilities at present available in India for training in marine engineering are described.

ATTITUDE OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AT THE OPIUM CONFERENCE AT GENEVA.

612. **\*Baboo Runglal Jajodia:** (a) Is it a fact that the representatives of the Government of India, opposed in the Opium Conference at Geneva the American proposition of restricting the uses of opium to the medicinal and scientific requirements?

(b) If the answer be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state what authority the Agents of the Government had and are Government prepared to contradict by cable to the League at Geneva the opinion expressed by the Agents?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to clause (b) of question No. 840 by Dr. S. K. Datta.

The reply to the last part is in the negative.

**Kumar Ganganand Sinha:** Will the Government indicate the subsequent development of the opium question in the League?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** We had a somewhat long debate on this question during question time a day or two ago, and I think for any further questions I must ask for notice to be given.

TRAINING OF INDIANS AS RAILWAY TRAFFIC OFFICERS.

613. **\*Baboo Runglal Jajodia:** (a) With reference to answer to question No. 2181 will the Government be pleased to inform this House if the scheme for the training of traffic officers required for Indian railways has been prepared?

(b) If the answer be in the negative do the Government propose to expedite the formulation of a definite scheme?

(c) If the answer to (a) be in the affirmative will the Government be pleased to state the extent to which advantage has been taken of this scheme, by prospective candidates?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** (a), (b) and (c). A scheme for training Indian officers for the larger Departments of Indian railways is nearing completion, and Government hope soon to be able to make a statement on the subject.

EUROPEAN AND INDIAN FOREMEN ON THE BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY.

614. **\*Baboo Runglal Jajodia:** With reference to answer to Mr. N. M. Joshi's question No. 2190 will the Government be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of European foremen in the B. B. & C. I. Railway workshops and officers?
- (b) what is the average pay drawn by each (of the three) Indian foremen and the European foremen?
- (c) what steps, if any have been taken for the recruitment of officers from among the Indians?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to question No. 486 asked by Mr. Joshi.

### INDIAN FOREMEN ON THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

615. **\*Baboo Runglal Jajodia:** Will the Government please state whether it is a fact that all the foremen and assistant foremen in the E. B. Railway workshops are Europeans and Anglo-Indians? If so, will they state whether any attempts were ever made to appoint Indians to those posts? If the answer is in the negative will the Government please state reasons for the same?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** With the exception of one foreman the rest are non-Indian. Endeavours have been and are being made to promote and train Indians for these posts. Two of the Indians under training are said to be promising well.

### CLOSING OF RAILWAY GOODS OFFICES ON INDIAN HOLIDAYS.

616. **\*Baboo Runglal Jajodia:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to inform the House what further action has been taken in continuation of their answer to question No. 2169 of 18th September?

(b) What reply has been received from the Indian Railway Conference Association regarding the closing of railway goods offices on Indian holidays?

(c) If the reply referred to in (b) be in the negative, are the Government prepared to recommend that the railway goods offices be henceforth kept closed on Indian holidays?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** (a) As promised in the reply given in this Assembly on the 18th September, 1924, to question No. 2169, copies of that question and answer were sent to the Indian Railway Conference Association.

(b) and (c). The views of the Association have not yet been received by Government.

### EUROPEAN, PARSİ AND INDIAN SUBORDINATES IN THE LOCO. RUNNING STAFF OF THE NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

617. **\*Baboo Runglal Jajodia:** With reference to the answer given to Mr. Harchandrai Vishindas' question No. 2167, will the Government be pleased to inform this House:

- (i) the number of European, Parsi and Indian subordinates on the roll of the Loco. running staff of the North Western Railway in the various grades?
- (ii) What percentage do the foremen, drivers and shunters of each class hold to the total number of employees in the grade?
- (iii) What is the number serving in the special grade and how many of them are Europeans, Parsis and Indians?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** Inquiry will be made and the result will be communicated to the Honourable Member in due course.

### VALUE OF RAILWAY MATERIALS AND ROLLING STOCK SENT TO MESOPOTAMIA.

618. **\*Baboo Runglal Jajodia:** With reference to the reply to Khan Bahadur Ghulam Bari's question No. 2158 will the Government be pleased to inform this House:

- (i) the face value of railway materials and rolling stock sent to Mesopotamia and a list of the materials of all classes?
- (ii) the amount of compensation for such materials as have not been returned?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** (i) The information is not available nor, as stated in the reply to Khan Bahadur Ghulam Bari referred to by the Honourable Member, have we complete lists of materials sent to Mesopotamia. Lists of the rolling stock sent to Mesopotamia have, however, been furnished in reply to Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan's question No. 154 on the 28rd of January.

(ii) Information as regards materials is not available. As regards rolling stock, the amount of compensation is Rs. 1,95,59,544.

APPOINTMENT OF INDIANS IN THE SUPERIOR STORES ESTABLISHMENT OF THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

619. **\*Baboo Runglal Jajodia:** Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact:

- (1) that appointments in the officers' grade of the Stores Department, E. B. Railway, are primarily reserved for Anglo-Indians and Europeans;
- (2) that no Indian outsiders are recruited for appointment as Depot or Sub-Store-keepers;
- (3) that while only a limited number of Indian clerks are promoted to the rank of Sub-Store-keepers or Depot Store-keepers after they have put in long years of service no Indian has ever been appointed to the rank of Assistant Controller or District Controller of Stores?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** (1) No.

(2) These appointments are usually made from the ranks of experienced subordinates, but there is certainly no ground for the statement that Indians are in any way barred from appointment.

(3) The statement made is incorrect. There are 4 Indian Assistant Controllers of Stores on the State Railway Establishment.

INDIANS IN THE SUPERIOR STORES ESTABLISHMENT OF THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

620. **\*Baboo Runglal Jajodia:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

- (1) the total strength of the various officers in the Stores Department of the E. B. Railway;
- (2) the number of appointments held by Indians, Anglo-Indians, and Europeans respectively and their percentage to total;
- (3) the average pay drawn by the Indian members of the staff and that drawn by Anglo-Indian and European members of the service?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** (1) There are at present seven officers in the Superior Stores Establishment of the Eastern Bengal Railway.

(2) Three appointments are held by Europeans, three by Anglo-Indians and one by an Indian, i.e., there are 43 per cent. Europeans, 43 per cent. Anglo-Indians and 14 per cent. Indians.

(3) The pay drawn is regulated by the same scale irrespective of nationality and is dependent on length of service. The Indian draws Rs. 550 and the average of the rest is Rs. 636.

**EUROPEAN, ANGLO-INDIAN AND INDIAN FIREMEN, DRIVERS, SHUNTERS  
AND GUARDS.**

621. **\*Baboo Runglal Jajodia:** (a) Will the Government please state whether it is a fact that there are distinctions between equally qualified Indian railway firemen, drivers, shunters and guards on the one hand and the Anglo-Indians and Europeans on the other in matters of pay, leave rules and gratuities?

(b) If so, will the Government please state what steps they propose to take for the removal of such distinctions at an early date?

(c) Will the Government please state the number of Indians and Anglo-Indian employees in the various ranks and grades and the percentage of Indians holding appointments in the superior grade to the total strength of grade?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** (a) and (b). The Honourable Member does not state to which railway he refers, but he is referred to the reply already given to a somewhat similar question, No. 204, asked by Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan.

(c) The Honourable Member will find full information in regard to the Indians, Anglo-Indians and Europeans in the service of each railway in the Budget Memorandum and in Volumes I and II of the Railway Board's Report on Indian Railways. Government have not got information in any greater detail and cannot undertake to collect it.

**APPRENTICE DEPÔT STORE-KEEPERS ON THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.**

622. **\*Baboo Runglal Jajodia:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

- (1) the number of probationers recruited during the last three years for appointment as Sub-Store-keepers, Depôt Store-Keepers and Assistant Controllers in the E. B. Railway?
- (2) How many of the recruits are Indians and how many Anglo-Indians and Europeans?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** Two Anglo-Indian Apprentice Depôt Store-Keepers only were recruited during the last three years on the Eastern Bengal Railway.

**EUROPEAN, ANGLO-INDIAN AND INDIAN FOREMEN AND ASSISTANT FOREMEN  
IN THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY WORKSHOPS.**

623. **\*Baboo Runglal Jajodia:** (a) Will the Government please state the total number of European, Anglo-Indian and Indian foremen and assistant foremen in the E. B. Railway workshops?

(b) What is the average pay drawn by each class of employees of the respective grade and the percentage of the Indian employees to the total strength?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** (a) There are 17 European, 8 Anglo-Indian and one Indian foremen and one European and three Anglo-Indian assistant foremen in the Eastern Bengal Railway workshops.

(b) The same scales of pay apply to Europeans, Anglo-Indians and Indians. The percentage of Indian foremen and assistant foremen to the total strength is 3.8.

GRANT OF INCREASED PENSIONS TO SUB-ASSISTANT SURGEONS AWARDED  
HONORARY KING'S COMMISSIONS.

624. \*Dr. K. G. Lohokare: Will Government be pleased to say:

- (a) If it is a fact that in notification for promotions in the Army Department in the Gazette of India of 27th February 1920, Order No. 360, grants Honorary King's Commission Rank to five senior retired Sub-Assistant Surgeons holding First Class Order of British India?
- (b) How many of these are given the increase in pension as per Army Instructions (India) No. II of 1922, and why it is withheld from others?
- (c) If they had received any representations from retired Sub Assistant Surgeon Lt. Sardar Bahadur Bhuraya Jalaya praying for enhanced pension, and what is the decision given in his case?
- (d) If they have under consideration, correction of the technical difficulties creating an anomaly in the case of these Indian officers, which gives the recipient the rank but not the benefits of the Commission?

Mr. E. Burdon: (a), (b) and (d). In recognition of long and faithful service, some senior Sub-Assistant Surgeons are granted the honorary rank of Lieutenant or Captain; others whose services are regarded as even more meritorious are granted Honorary King's Commissions as Lieutenants or Captains under Army Instruction (India) No. 2 of 1922. The former class are not entitled to enhanced rates of pay or pension, whereas the latter are. The five senior retired Sub-Assistant Surgeons referred to by the Honourable Member were granted the honorary rank of Lieutenant or Captain and were, therefore, not entitled to enhanced pension.

(c) Government have received an application from the officer, and orders have been issued to the effect that as an Honorary King's Commission was not granted to him under the terms of Army Instruction (India) No. 2 of 1922, he is not entitled to the double rate of pension or the outfit allowance provided for therein.

Dr. K. G. Lohokare: Is there any difference in the pensions given to the rank and to King's Commissions?

Mr. E. Burdon: In both cases the reward is granted *honoris causa*. It is really a question of a graduated scale of reward—some receive the lower scale, some the higher.

PENSION OF DHONDI MODAK OF THE 103RD MAHRATTA LIGHT  
INFANTRY.

625. \*Dr. K. G. Lohokare: Will Government be pleased to say:

- (i) If it is a fact that Dhondi Modak, No. 1688, of the 103rd Mahratta Light Infantry, was discharged after about 23 years' service and that his pension roll was completed before the Magistrate, Haveli, Poona, in March 1921?
- (ii) If they know that in spite of the frequent applications by the sepoy to the Officer Commanding of the Infantry, no reply is yet given to him as regards his pension? If not, will they be pleased to inquire?

Mr. E. Burdon: Government are making inquiries. The Honourable Member will be informed of the result as soon as possible.

## TRADING IN SLAVES IN INDIA.

626. **\*Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the paragraph published in the issue of the *Statesman* of the 7th January, 1925, page 7, *re* trading in Slaves in Africa, India and Arabia, under the heading "Trading in slaves"?

(b) If so, will they please state if trading in slaves is practised in any part of India?

(c) If so, in which part?

**Mr. Denys Bray:** (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). Trading in slaves is now believed to be extinct even in the most inaccessible confines of India. In a few outlying areas either not administered at all like the Hukawng Valley between Assam and Burma or under very indirect administration practices still exist which approximate to slavery, but it is hoped that the steps which are being taken will eradicate the evil.

## CIRCULATION OF THE REPORTS OF THE FRONTIER INQUIRY AND MERCANTILE MARINE COMMITTEES TO MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY.

627. **\*Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** Will the Government be pleased to state when the Reports of the Frontier Inquiry Committee and the Mercantile Marine Committee will be circulated to the Members of the Assembly?

**Mr. H. Tonkinson:** The report of the North-Western Frontier Committee was published in March last and copies are in the Library of this House. Copies of the report of the Mercantile Marine were sent to Members including the Honourable Member by registered post in July last.

## INQUIRY INTO THE QUESTION OF EXCHANGE AND CURRENCY.

628. **\*Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** Will the Government be pleased to state if they are prepared to appoint a Committee of officials and non-officials to examine the whole question of exchange and currency in the light of experience gained since the date of the publication of the Babington-Smith Report?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the proceedings in this Assembly during the last ten days.

## ADULTERATION OF COTTON.

629. **\*Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** Will the Government please state:

(a) whether the adulteration of cotton takes place where it is grown or whether mainly in ginning and pressing factories?

(b) whether recognised weights are used in all ginning and pressing factories?

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes:** (a) The Honourable Member's attention is directed to paragraph 214, etc., of the Report of the Indian Cotton Committee. In this paragraph the Committee definitely state as follows:

"The evidence which has been submitted to us shows, in our opinion, that the cultivator is only to a small extent responsible and that the bulk of the adulteration, mixing and damping which is practised is carried on in the ginneries and presses."

(b) The attention of the Honourable Member is directed to paragraph 212 of the Report of the Indian Cotton Committee. In this paragraph they say:

"Our attention was frequently called to the hampering effect on the cotton trade which results from the great variety in the weights used for transactions in cotton not only in different provinces, but also in different districts and parts of districts in the same province."

#### HALL-MARKING OF GOLD AND SILVER ARTICLES MANUFACTURED IN INDIA.

680. **\*Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Has the attention of Government been drawn to a series of articles that appeared in the *Englishman*, dated Calcutta, November 3, 10 and 24 (1924), on the subject of hall-marking of gold and silver wares manufactured in India?

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes:** Yes.

#### INTRODUCTION OF A SYSTEM OF HALL-MARKING IN INDIA.

681. **\*Mr. K. C. Neogy:** (a) Is it a fact that the proposal for the introduction of a system of hall-marking in India, has been under the consideration of the Government of India for some time?

(b) Is it a fact that as early as 1890, a despatch from the Secretary of State for India suggested the establishment of such a system on a permissive basis?

(c) Is it also a fact that the Bombay Presidency Trades Association and various other public bodies advocated the adoption of the system in the year 1914?

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes:** (a) The question of the introduction of a system of hall-marking in India has been examined several times in the past. The last occasion was in 1914—1916 on a representation from the Bombay Trades Association. On that occasion Local Governments were almost unanimously opposed to the compulsory introduction of any such system whilst a majority of local authorities and commercial public were opposed to its introduction even on a voluntary basis.

(b) and (c). Yes.

#### INTRODUCTION OF A SYSTEM OF HALL-MARKING IN INDIA.

682. **\*Mr. K. C. Neogy:** (a) Are Government alive to the necessity of a system of hall-marking to safeguard the interests of the public; as also the advantages to be derived thereby in raising the standard of workmanship and ensuring a fair competition for the honest trader?

(b) Have Government ascertained the prospects of the manufacturers of gold and silver articles in India securing a better market in foreign countries, by the adoption of a system of hall-marking, particularly in the light of experience gained in the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley?

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes:** (a) The Government have no reason to think that local opinion has changed since this question was last examined in 1914—1916.

(b) No.

#### ADOPTION OF A VOLUNTARY SYSTEM OF HALL-MARKING IN INDIA.

688. **\*Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Are Government considering the advisability of adopting a voluntary system of hall-marking to be carried on, for the present, through the agency of the Mints in Calcutta and Bombay?

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes:** No.

#### INCREASE IN THE PERMANENT CADRE OF THE RAILWAY BOARD'S OFFICE.

684. **\*Mr. T. C. Goswami:** (a) How many new appointments in the Railway Board Office have been made since September last? How many of these have been given to Indians, how many to Eurasians, how many to Europeans?

(b) Will Government lay on the table a statement showing the names and salaries of those appointed?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** (a) The permanent cadre of the Railway Board's office establishment has been increased by 59 posts since September last. This increase provided for the absorption of 44 temporary posts of which 19 were on account of leave vacancies, and for 6 posts to cover the employees transferred from the office of the Accountant General, Railways, as a result of the re-organisation of the Finance Branch of the Board's office. Actually therefore only 9 new posts have been created. The new cadre provides for a leave reserve and hence no appointments will be made in future in leave vacancies. The complete reorganisation, including the reorganisation of the Finance Branch, has been sanctioned on a basis which involves an increase in the financial cost of Rs. 1,869 per mensem.

55 persons have been brought on to the Board's permanent office establishment since September last. Of these 48 are Indians and 7 Anglo-Indians. Four posts are vacant.

(b) A statement giving the information required is being sent to the Honourable Member.

#### ABOLITION OF THE AMMUNITION FACTORY AT DUM DUM.

685. **\*Mr. T. C. Goswami:** (a) Is it a fact that the Ammunition Factory at Dum Dum will be abolished?

(b) How do Government propose to provide for the clerks employed in the Factory?

(c) Is it a fact that sectional clerks have been served with notices of discharge to take effect from the 1st of April 1925?

**Mr. E. Burdon:** (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). Efforts are being made to absorb all clerks and section clerks of the Factory, on whom notices of discharge have been served, in other offices as far as possible, and it is hoped that every one of them will be so absorbed.



KOHAT DISTURBANCES.

636. **\*Mr. Ohaman Lall:** Will Government be pleased to lay on the table the first report relating to the Kohat disturbances by the sub-inspector in charge?

KOHAT DISTURBANCES.

637. **\*Mr. Ohaman Lall:** Will Government be pleased to lay on the table all the documents on which the Government resolution relating to the Kohat disturbances and the special magistrate's report, are based?

**Mr. Denys Bray:** With your permission, Sir, I shall answer questions Nos. 636 and 637 together. The Government consider that the publication of the document would not be in the public interest and might revive the communal differences which have now, I hope, been happily composed.

DISCOVERY OF ANTIQUITIES AT MOHENJO-DARO AND HARAPPA.

638. **\*Kumar Ganganand Sinha:** Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the second leader entitled "A word to the Archæological Department" which has appeared in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of Tuesday December 30, 1924?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore:** Yes.

DISCOVERY OF ANTIQUITIES AT HARAPPA.

639. **\*Kumar Ganganand Sinha:** Has the site of Harappa where the Sumerian antiquities are being found been declared protected according to the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act? If so, when?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore:** The site of Harappa was declared protected under the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act by Punjab Government Notification No. 1325, dated the 14th January 1920.

**Kumar Ganganand Sinha:** Why was it not protected before, Sir?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore:** I must ask for notice of that question, Sir.

REMOVAL OF BRICKS FROM THE MOUNDS AT HARAPPA.

640. **\*Kumar Ganganand Sinha:** Is it a fact that "thousands of cart-loads of bricks" from the mounds of Harappa were allowed to be destroyed as is alleged by the writer of an article on this subject in the *Statesman* of the 23rd November 1924?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore:** It is understood that for a century or more before their protection under the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act, bricks had been removed from the mounds at Harappa. The modern town of Harappa is built almost entirely of such bricks, and it is said that 100 miles or more of the neighbouring railway were ballasted with them. No bricks are known to have been removed since the site was protected.

DISCOVERY OF ANTIQUITIES AT MOHENJO-DARO AND HARAPPA.

641. **\*Kumar Ganganand Sinha:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state as to why did the Archæological Department take such a long time to discover that the antiquities found at Mohenjo-daro and Harappa

pertain to the Sumerian Civilization when such were described and illustrated in "Memoires de la Mission Archæologique de Perse", VI (1905) and other publications?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state what arrangements have now been made for the systematic excavation of these sites by the Archæological Department and what is the estimated cost of the same?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state why Mr. R. D. Banerjee was transferred from the Western to the Eastern Circle when he began and was carrying on important excavations at Mohenjo-daro?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore:** (a) A few specimens of the seals have been in the British Museum for some fifty years and illustrations were published in the Royal Asiatic Society's Journal as well as in General Cunningham's Reports. Although they must have been familiar to Summerian experts working in the British Museum they were never recognised as having any connexion with the Summerian culture until after the recent finds at Mohenjo-daro and Harappa.

(b) A special provision of Rs. 80,000 has been made in the budget estimates of the Archæological Department for 1925-26 for excavation. The greater portion of this amount will be utilised for excavations in the Punjab and Sind. Meanwhile excavations are being carried out as far as funds will permit.

(c) Mr. Banerjee had himself applied for transfer for medical reasons.

#### INSUFFICIENCY OF INCOME-TAX OFFICERS IN BIHAR AND ORISSA.

642. **\*Kumar Ganganand Sinha:** (a) Are the Government aware that the Income-tax Officers in Bihar are over-worked and unable consequently to discharge their duties efficiently?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state whether or not their attention has been drawn to the fact that the Income-tax Department of Bihar suffers for want of sufficient numbers of officers? If so, when and how?

(c) How many vacancies will be created in the Income-tax Department of Bihar this year?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** (a) The information in the Government's possession does not support the view that the staff is insufficient.

(b) The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative, the second part therefore does not arise.

(c) It is intended to fill up during 1925-26 six posts, which have already been sanctioned but are at present vacant.

#### LEVY OF POLICE DUTY ON THE INHABITANTS OF KOHAT AND THE ADJOINING VILLAGES.

643. **\*Kumar Ganganand Sinha:** Will the Government be pleased to state in detail the nature of misconduct which has necessitated the Government to levy police duty on the inhabitants of Kohat City and the adjoining villages?

**Mr. Denys Bray:** The Honourable Member's attention is invited to Government's resolution No. 598-F., dated the 9th December 1924, dealing with the Kohat riots.

SPECIAL POWERS OF THE GOVERNOR OF MADRAS IN RESPECT OF  
PATRONAGE AND APPOINTMENTS.

644. \***Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar:** With reference to the answer of the Honourable the Home Member to my question on the 8th September last relative to the special powers claimed on behalf of the Governor of Madras in respect of patronage and appointments, notwithstanding the enactment of the Government of India Act of 1919, will the Government be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the examination and consideration of the question by the Government of India has been completed and whether Local Governments have already been addressed on the matter as was foreshadowed in the said answer?
- (b) Whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the replies made by the Government of Madras in answer to questions in the Madras Legislative Council (No. 1160, by Mr. S. Satyamurti on the 13th November last) and to say whether the answers have been made in consequence of any communications made by the Government of India to Local Governments on the matter of appointments and patronage?
- (c) Whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the reaffirmation therein by the Government of Madras (in November) of the statement made by them to a prior question in February last that "he, the Governor, must take the initiative in appointments; he must personally concur in every order to the prejudice of an officer in All-India or Provincial Services and, in cases of All-India Services even in postings". If so, whether the Government of India have taken any further action in the matter?
- (d) Are the Government of India aware that the powers claimed by the Governor of Madras that he should take the initiative in respect of all appointments, have been enforced not only in respect of every order as to appointments and transfers of members of the Services as also of nominations to honorary appointments in Local Boards, Municipalities and other statutory bodies whose control has been made over under the Constitution to Ministers in the Transferred Department?
- (e) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the position in other provinces in this matter is similar and whether this is consistent with the policy of the Reform Act and how far it carries out the instructions of the Government of India and the Secretary of State in giving effect to that policy?

**Mr. H. Tonkinson:** (a), (c), (d) and (e). The Local Governments were addressed in the matter in October last, but their replies are not complete and the Government of India are therefore not prepared to make a definite pronouncement at present.

(b) The Government of India have seen the questions and replies in the Madras Council referred to by the Honourable Member. They are not based on any communications made by the Government of India.

## INDIAN MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCILS IN THE PROVINCES.

645. \***Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar**: Will the Government be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether there is any proposal now under consideration to reduce the number of Members of the Executive Council in the Province of Madras or in other Provinces?
- (b) Whether there is any proposal under consideration to abandon the principle laid down by the Joint Committee of Parliament on the Government of India Bill in 1919, that at least half the number of Members of the Executive Council should be Indians; if not, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons; if not, will the Government be pleased to state whether their attention has been called to the violation of the principle laid down by the Joint Committee as to the proportion of Indians in the Executive Councils, made in the constitution of the Executive Council in Madras by the appointment, though temporary, of an European Member of the Indian Civil Service in the vacancy caused by the elevation of the Honourable Sir M. Habibulla to the Viceroy's Council; whether this violation has been made with the consent of the Government of India or the Secretary of State, or both, and whether in the permanent arrangements to be made in respect of the appointment this violation is going to be perpetuated?

**Mr. H. Tonkinson**: (a) and (b). There is no proposal now under consideration to reduce the number of Members or the proportion of Indian Members to European Members in any of the provincial Executive Councils.

This Government are not concerned with the recent temporary appointment to the Madras Executive Council, and I am unable to give the Honourable Member any information on the matter.

## RELIEF OF DISTRESS CAUSED BY FLOODS IN THE MADRAS PRESIDENCY.

646. \***Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar**: Will the Government be pleased to state the nature and measure of relief granted by the Central to the Provincial Government of Madras:

- (1) in respect of relief of distress, (2) reconstruction and repair due to damage, destruction and loss of buildings, bridges, roads, houses and huts and the reclamation of cultivable lands silted up in consequence of the same, (3) in respect of the financial deficiency in the revenues of the Province and of the heavy additional demands upon them for the above reconstructive purposes, as well as for the needs of educational, medical and sanitary programmes long held up owing to the inequity of the Meston Award?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore**: With the exception of a loan of Rs. 20 lakhs to finance the Madras Government's Provincial Loan Account the Government of India have not made any grant from Central Revenues for any of the objects mentioned in items (1), (2) and (3) of the question. A grant of Rs. 1½ lakhs has however been made from the Indian People's Famine Trust to relieve the distress caused by floods in the Madras Presidency.

(1) PURCHASE OF COAL FOR THE SUKKUR BARRAGE.

(2) LEVY OF A DUTY ON SOUTH AFRICAN COAL.

647. \*Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju: Will the Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government of India were consulted in the matter of the purchase of coal for the Sukkur Barrage?
- (b) whether the Great Indian Peninsula Railway reduced the railway freight for C. P. coal and why the same facilities were not offered by East Indian Railway and Bengal Nagpur Railway to carry Bengal coal and whether the Government have no voice in the matter?
- (c) what was the quantity of African coal imported into India during the years 1923 and 1924 as far as figures are available?
- (d) whether the Government have imposed any and what amount of import duty on African Coal?

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes:** (a) The Government of India were not consulted, but the Chief Engineer, Lloyd Barrage and Canals Construction, sought the advice of the Chief Controller, Indian Stores Department.

(b) The Great Indian Peninsula Railway did make certain reduction in railway freight for coal from the Central Provinces coal fields. The East Indian and Bengal Nagpur Railways could not make similar reductions for coal from the Bengal coal fields for the reason explained in the reply given in this Assembly on the 25th February 1924, to question No. 499 asked by Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai. I may mention that in spite of the reductions made by the Great Indian Peninsula Railway the rate per wagon per mile from Parasia to Ahmedabad, that is, on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway is 44 pies; the rate from Jherria to Ahmedabad is 39 pies.

- |                    |                |
|--------------------|----------------|
| (c) 1923 . . . . . | 8,85,719 tons; |
| 1924 . . . . .     | 8,14,010 tons. |

(d) Yes, a duty of 8 annas per ton is levied on all imported coal including South African coal.

**Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** Is it a fact that the tender for these 60,000 tons of Natal coal was accepted by the Chief Controller of Stores in India?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** The answer is in the negative. As has been explained by Sir Charles Innes, the advice of the Chief Controller of Stores was obtained by the Chief Engineer, Sukkur Barrage Scheme.

**Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** Here is a statement made in the *Times Trade Supplement* which says that the tender for Natal coal was accepted by the Chief Controller of Stores in India. Sir, I draw the attention of the Honourable Member to this statement; am I to understand that it is not true?

**Mr. President:** The Honourable Member has just had his answer to that question.

**Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** If the Chief Controller was consulted by the Engineer of the Sukkur Barrage, did the Chief Controller bring to the notice of the Engineer the desirability of purchasing Indian coal in preference to Natal coal in response to the wishes of this Assembly expressed in a Resolution of this House before?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** The Chief Controller's advice was not asked on any question of policy. He was simply asked to advise on certain tenders.

**Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** Is it a fact, Sir, that the tenders given by some of the Indian collieries were lower than the tender from Natal?

**Mr. President:** As the Honourable Member is referring to a question for which an officer of the Local Government is responsible, he must get somebody in the Bombay Legislative Council to ask that question.

**Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** We were told just now that the Chief Controller of Stores was consulted and his advice was taken in this matter; and since the Chief Controller of Stores is an officer of the Government of India I want to know if we are not entitled to ask what advice he gave in the matter.

**Mr. President:** The Honourable Member must ask a question on that point.

#### ALLEGATIONS IN THE *WEEKLY MAZDOOR* OF LUCKNOW AGAINST CERTAIN OFFICIALS OF THE OUDH AND ROHILKHAND RAILWAY.

648. **\*Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to an editorial article headed the "Satanic Railway", published in the *Weekly Mazdoor* of Lucknow, dated the 17th December 1924 in which serious allegations have been made against certain officials of the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway?

(b) Are the allegations made therein substantially true? And do the Government propose to have an inquiry made into them? If not, why not?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** The reply to part (a) of the question is in the affirmative and to part (b) of the question in the negative.

649. **Mr. President:** The reply to this question is not yet ready, and I would ask the Honourable Member to postpone it for a day or two.

#### ADMISSION OF INDIAN STUDENTS TO THE UNIVERSITY OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS.

650. **\*Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** Will the Government please state:

(a) if there exists a bar upon the admission of Indian students to the University Officers' Training Corps?

(b) If so, will they please consider the desirability of taking steps to remove the existing bar?

**Mr. E. Burdon:** (a) Yes.

(b) The Government of India have already addressed the Secretary of State on the subject, and will do so again on the next favourable opportunity.

CONSTITUTION OF AN ALL-INDIA BOARD TO EXERCISE CONTROL OVER CINEMAS.

651. **\*Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** Will the Government please state:

- (a) if there exists an All-India Board for exercising control over Cinemas?
- (b) If not, will they please consider the desirability of constituting an All-India Board for the purpose?

**Mr. H. Tonkinson:** (a) No.

(b) A proposal to this effect has recently been considered, but the Government of India were not satisfied that the practical difficulties in the way of such a proposal could be surmounted. I would refer the Honourable Member to the discussion in another place on the 22nd January.

TOTAL EARNINGS OF INDIAN RAILWAYS.

652. **\*Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Will Government please state if the total earnings of all-Indian railways, 1st April to 13th December, 1924, was Rs. 75,68,39,800?

(b) If this figure is not correct, will Government please give the correct figure?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** (a) and (b). The figures quoted by the Honourable Member represent the approximate gross earnings of all Indian railways for the period mentioned with the exception of some 23 narrow gauge lines, from which weekly returns of approximate earnings are not called for as their weekly earnings are small.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS OF LEGISLATIVE BODIES.

653. **\*Mr. S. O. Ghose:** (a) Will the Government state what is the purpose of holding a conference of Presidents of Legislative Councils annually?

(b) Will the Government state whether the expenses of this Conference are borne by the Government of India?

(c) Are the travelling expenses of the Presidents borne by the Local Governments or the Government of India?

**Mr. President:** Part (a) of this question does not concern the Government of India; but, as personally I had some part in the Conference of Presidents, I propose to give the Honourable Member some information about it.

After His Excellency the Viceroy (then Lord Chelmsford) appointed me to be President of the Legislative Assembly, the then Secretary of State (Mr. Montagu) discussed informally with me the scope of my work as President. In the course of our conversation he said that he thought it would be advisable for the President of the Legislative Assembly to establish friendly relations with his brother Presidents in the Provinces. A few months after assuming charge of my present office I went on tour, visiting three Provinces in July and August 1921. I am glad to be able to inform the Assembly that I met with a most cordial reception; and partly as the result of conversations which I then had with my Colleagues in those three Provinces and partly as the result of correspondence with the Presidents in the other Provinces, I was encouraged to issue an invitation to all Presidents to assemble in conference in Simla in September 1921.

The purpose of the Conference was and is to enable the Presidents to exchange, in full and free confidence, their experiences and the general results of their work in their respective Chairs. The first Conference in Simla in September 1921 was so successful that the Presidents decided unanimously to make it, if possible, an annual event. By these annual meetings the Presidents have endeavoured to co-ordinate the procedure of all the Indian Legislatures, and I am glad to have this opportunity of declaring that I have derived the greatest profit from them.

The proceedings of each Conference are confidential. Neither the Government of India, nor any Local Government, has any part in them; and no officer of the Government has ever attempted to influence our deliberations. I am personally indebted to the Secretary in the Legislative Department of the Government of India, and particularly to Mr. G. H. Spence, for assistance in preparing the Agenda and the Reports of each Conference; but, for the character of the proceedings and for the results of the Conference, I and my Colleagues in the Chairs of the different Provinces are solely responsible.

**Mr. L. Graham:** (b) and (c). No expenses are incurred by the Government of India in connection with the Conference.

**Mr. W. S. J. Willson:** Am I to understand, Sir, that the Presidents bear their own travelling expenses?

**Mr. L. Graham:** I have no information, but as I have said, no expenses are incurred by the Government of India in connection with the Conference.

### UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

**EXPLANATION BY THE HONOURABLE SIR HUGH STEPHENSON OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH LED TO THE DETENTION OF ASWINI KUMAR DUTT AND KRISHNA KUMAR MITRA UNDER BENGAL REGULATION III OF 1818.**

60. **Mr. K. O. Neogy:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the statement made, in a speech in the Bengal Legislative Council, on the 7th January, 1925, by the Honourable Sir Hugh Stephenson in explanation of the circumstances that led to the detention of Aswini Kumar Dutt and Krishna Kumar Mitra under Bengal Regulation III of 1818?

(b) If so, do Government accept the said statement as correct?

(c) Is it a fact that Government have made use of the said Regulation against other persons as well in Bengal in circumstances and for reasons similar to those relating to the cases of Aswini Kumar Dutt and Krishna Kumar Mitra?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman:** I have so far only seen a press report of the statement attributed to the Honourable Sir Hugh Stephenson on which I am not prepared to express any opinion, though it appears clear to me that it did not purport to be a complete statement of the case. I presume, however, that the Honourable Member is referring to recent arrests under the Regulation. I can inform him that in no case was such action taken in respect only of the making or abetting of seditious speeches.



COLLECTION OF EXCESS FARE BY TRAVELLING TICKET INSPECTORS  
ON THE SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY.

61. **Haji S. A. K. Jeelani:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the South Indian Railway Co. has recently appointed 40 travelling ticket inspectors and it is persistently insisted that every one of them should collect not less than Rs. 300 per month by way of excess fare or freight charges, from passengers?

(b) If so, are the Government aware of the hardships and annoyance that the illiterate passengers are put to by unscrupulous ticket inspectors? Whether it is a fact that ticket collectors at the different railway stations on the South Indian Railway have been insisted upon to collect a sum not less than their monthly salary on pain of their services being dispensed with?

(c) Whether it is a fact that a large number of second class tickets have been issued to passengers by the South Indian Railway Co., travelling from and to stations between Madras Beach and Pallavaram without providing adequate second class accommodation in the trains for the passengers concerned and consequently such passengers are obliged to travel in the third class?

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes:** (a) and (b). I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply already given by me to a somewhat similar question by Mr. Acharya.

(c) Government have no information.

ADVISORY COMMITTEES ON THE MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA  
AND SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAYS.

62. **Haji S. A. K. Jeelani:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) The object underlying the formation of Railway Advisory Committees, the extent of their jurisdiction, and the nature of their composition, and the functions they are expected to discharge?

(b) Since the formation of the Advisory Committee for the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway and the South Indian Railway Companies, what substantial improvement, calculated to benefit the public have been effected, or are under contemplation?

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes:** (a) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given in this Assembly on 19th September 1924 to Mr. N. M. Joshi's Question No. 2276.

(b) A list giving a few examples of matters of interest to the public, which have been discussed by the Committees, is laid on the table. Action, as approved by the Committees, has been or is being taken thereon. Many other matters have also been dealt with by the Committees, and the Honourable Member is referred to the reports of meetings appearing in the Press.

*Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway.*

Introduction of Indian refreshment cars on Madras-Bombay trains.  
 Warning bells and clocks for Indian refreshment rooms.  
 New facilities for passengers and pilgrims at Tirupati East station.  
 Late train arrival boards at stations.  
 Provision of upper adjustable berths in III class carriages.  
 Benches for III class waiting rooms.  
 Identification of female compartments

*South Indian Railway.*

Improvements in upper class carriages.  
 Classes of accommodation in suburban services.  
 Rates on tiles and timber.  
 Provision of additional oil tank wagons.  
 Employment of Brahmin watermen.  
 High-power lights for Mambalam and Park stations.

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MANAGEMENT OF REFRESHMENT ROOMS ON THE SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY.

63. **Haji S. A. K. Jeelani:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether any proposals have been mooted or any decision arrived at to take over the management of refreshment rooms by the South Indian Railway Company at important stations on their railway?

(b) If so, what is the relative advantage that is expected to result by effecting a change of system, i.e., from Contractors to Company?

(c) Before these proposals were mooted was public opinion consulted in any manner and if so what and which are the public bodies consulted and with what results?

(d) Is it a fact that the Advisory Committee of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway is dissatisfied with the Company management of refreshment rooms owing to numerous complaints and favour a resort to the former system of leasing to contractors?

(e) Is it a fact that the existing system of leasing fruit stalls and refreshment rooms to contractors on the South Indian Railway Company provides no safeguards to encourage competition in order to give its benefit to the travelling public?

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes:** Inquiry is being made and the result will be communicated to the Honourable Member in due course.

ALLEGATION AGAINST DISTRICT TRAFFIC SUPERINTENDENT ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

64. **Sardar Gulab Singh:** 1. Is it a fact that on the instructions of a European District Traffic Superintendent on the N. W. R. a European C. I. D. officer carried on investigations against two Indian assistant officers of the former alleged for taking of bribes?

2. (a) Is it a fact that the investigations proved the allegations of the District Traffic Superintendent to be altogether false?

(b) Was the matter reported by these officers to their superior officers?

(c) If so, what action, if any, has been taken against the District Traffic Superintendent, who ordered the investigation to be made, and the C. I. D. Officer?

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes:** Government have not the necessary information but if the Honourable Member will state names of officers and date of occurrence they will inquire.

#### APPOINTMENT OF INDIANS AS TRAFFIC INSPECTORS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

**65. Sardar Gulab Singh:** (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the accepted Resolution of the Honourable Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Dass regarding the appointment of Indians to the Traffic Inspectors' Cadre of the Transportation Branch, which appeared in the Council of State Debates, Vol. 8, No. 20, dated 28th February, 1923?

(b) If the reply is in the affirmative, will the Government please state what practical steps have so far been taken to give effect to this reform in the N.-W. Railway?

(c) In this connection, will the Government please lay on the table the specific instances in which Indians have been either recruited or promoted to this cadre permanently?

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes:** (a) Yes.

(b) As explained by the Honourable Mr. Chadwick in the debate on the Resolution referred to, appointments of Traffic Inspectors cannot be made direct since previous practical knowledge and experience is essential. An attempt has, however, been made to provide special facilities for educated Indians which will fit them for this branch of the service and for this purpose 12 men have been taken on in the Traffic Manager's Office as clerks in the first instance with a view to training and eventual qualification for promotion to higher subordinate ranks.

(c) As explained above, appointments of Traffic Inspectors are not made by direct recruitment. No permanent appointment has, however, been made (even by promotion) to the class of Traffic Inspector since February 1923 as no permanent vacancy has occurred, the cadre having been reduced by 4 posts. This applies to both Indians and Anglo-Indians. I might add that out of 7 temporary vacancies, 5 have been given to Indians.

#### INDIANS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

**66. Sardar Gulab Singh:** (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the editorial "Indians in the Railway Department" which has appeared in the columns of the *Tribune*, dated 22nd August, 1924?

(b) If the reply is in the affirmative, will the Government please state what has so far been done to allay the deep discontent existing among the graduates working in the N.-W. Railway mainly on the commercial side in spite of the fact that some of them have passed in all the requisite duties of a station master and in train working?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** (a) Government have seen the editorial referred to.

(b) As stated in reply to the Honourable Member's previous question measures have already been taken to give special assistance to Indians in qualifying for some of these posts and Government see no reason for any further action in the matter.

#### INDIAN TRAFFIC INSPECTORS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

67. **Sardar Gulab Singh:** (a) Are the Government aware of the fact that only one Indian, Mr. R. K. Kaul is permanently working as Traffic Inspector in Transportation?

(b) Are the Government aware of the fact that Messrs. Rahim Bux, Randass, Giyanchand, Bansilal, Melaram, Jaggan Nath, Mirza Rahim Beg, Mehta Shunkerass, Ghulam Hossain, Data Ram are in fact not working as Traffic Inspectors but are holding posts in the head office, some as Commercial Superintendents, some as Head Clerks and others as Train Inspectors and Superintendents, Lost Property Office, and are at any rate not Traffic Inspectors but are only shown as such in the Classified List of State Railway Establishment of 1921 and subsequent years?

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes:** (a) If the Honourable Member refers to the North Western Railway there are two Indian Traffic Inspectors (Transportation) holding permanent appointment on that line.

#### PROMOTION OF INDIANS IN SUBORDINATE SERVICE ON THE RAILWAYS.

68. **Sardar Gulab Singh:** (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the reply given by the Honourable Sir Muhammad Shafi in the Council of State that future rise in the subordinate service in the railway depends on the capacity one shows in railway work and the same reply was reiterated in the Assembly to the question of K. S. M. Ikramulla Khan?

(b) If so, what criterion has been established to test the ability of the young graduates, or is their rise dependent on the discretionary power of their officers?

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes:** (a) and (b). Government have been unable to trace the exact references to the speech and (in absence of date), to the question referred to. Promotion, however, is generally in railway, as in every other service, dependent as stated, on capacity shown in performance of the work which the subordinate is called upon to do.

#### PROMOTION OF SUBORDINATES IN THE TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

69. **Sardar Gulab Singh:** (a) Will the Government please lay on the table the names of all Indian graduates working as subordinates in the Traffic Department of the N. W. Railway and cite instances in which rise or promotion has been given them?

(b) Will the Government please lay on the table a statement showing their names, dates of their appointments, salaries on which appointed, present pay, training enabling them to rise to the higher ranks, and future prospects in store for them?

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes:** (a) and (b). Government have no information and are not prepared to call for it.

### EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS OF COMMERCIAL SUPERINTENDENTS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

70. **Sardar Gulab Singh:** (a) Will the Government please state the exact meaning or interpretation of the words "the educational qualifications of Commercial Superintendents are not on record" used in reply to question No. 383 asked by Sardar Kartar Singh, M.L.A., in the last session of the Assembly?

(b) Regarding the above, cannot the service sheets explicitly show the educational qualifications and could not the N. W. Railway authorities have taken the trouble to make personal inquiries from the individuals mentioned therein to satisfy the House?

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes:** (a) The meaning of the words referred to, is that no record is maintained.

(b) The form of service sheet does not show educational qualifications and for practical purposes it is not considered necessary that they should. Nor was it considered necessary to put the Agent to the trouble of making the personal inquiries suggested by the Honourable Member.

### ANNUAL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE OF THE MANSIARI POST OFFICE.

71. **Mr. O. S. Ranga Iyer:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the annual income and expenditure of the Mansiari P. O. (District Almora) for the years 1892, 1902, 1912, 1922 and 1923, respectively?

(b) Is it a fact, that the income of this Mansiari P. O. is almost wholly derived from the people of Patti Malla Johar? If the answer is in the negative will the Government be pleased to give the particulars about the sources of income of the said post office?

**Sir Geoffrey Clarke:** (a) Information for the years 1892 and 1902 is not available. The monthly cost and the average monthly income of the office during the years 1912, 1922 and 1923 were:

	Cost.	Income.
1912 . . . . .	29 5 4	59 4 8
1922 . . . . .	67 8 0	41 1 11
1923 . . . . .	67 8 0	31 2 0

(b) Only about one-third of the income of the Mansiari post office is derived from the residents of Patti Malla Johar and the balance from the residents of Mansiari and other Patties and villages served by it.

### OPENING OF THE SEASON POST OFFICE AT MILAM.

72. **Mr. O. S. Ranga Iyer:** (a) Was there a season post office at Milam? If so, for how long?

(b) Has the season post office at Milam been closed? If so, why?

(c) What was the income and expenditure of the Milam P. O. during the period of its existence?

(d) Is it a fact, that there are a vernacular middle school, 6 primary schools, about 20 income-tax assesses, business men, a patwari and a population of about 8,000 in Patti Malla Johar?

(e) Are the Government aware that there have been continuous complaints from the people of Patti Malla Johar about the hardships caused by the absence of a season post office at Milam?

(f) Do the Government propose to re-open the season post office at Milam? If so, when?

**Sir Geoffrey Clarke:** (a) Yes, as an experimental measure for the period from the 24th July, 1924, to the 30th September, 1924.

(b) Yes. Being a season post office, it was closed when the season ended.

(c) The average monthly income was Rs. 22-6-6. The monthly cost was Rs. 97.

(d) People come in for the summer, but even then the population never, it appears, becomes as large as 8,000. Information on the other point is not available.

(e) There were a few complaints received on the subject.

(f) The season post office will be tried again for one more season this year.

#### REMOVAL OF THE DUNAGHAT POST OFFICE TO KHETI KHAN.

73. **Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer:** Is it not a fact that most of the letters delivered by Dunaghat P. O. are addressed to people in the villages near Kheti Khan? If so, will Government consider the question of removing the P. O. to Kheti Khan?

**Sir Geoffrey Clarke:** The reply is in the negative. There is very little work at Kheti Khan. In the year 1921 an experimental post office was opened there at a cost of Rs. 6 p.m., but the income derived was not enough even to cover that small amount. The office had therefore to be closed.

The Dunaghat post office has been in its present position, which is central, ever since it was opened in the year 1908. It is therefore not proposed to remove it to Kheti Khan.

#### EXPENDITURE ON UNIVERSITY TRAINING CORPS.

74. **Pandit Shamlal Nehru:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of expenditure on the University Training Corps at each centre in each year since the organization of the Corps?

(b) the number of students receiving training at each centre and the nature of military training given?

(c) the number of officers engaged in the work?

**Mr. E. Burdon:** (a) and (b). Members of the University Training Corps are given training in the following subjects:

Section, Platoon, Company and Battalion Drill and Musketry.

A statement is placed on the table giving the remaining information desired by the Honourable Member. It has not been found possible to give figures for the training year 1924-25 as several units have not yet completed their training.

(c) The number of regular military officers engaged in training is one per unit.

*Statement showing the expenditure on and the number of students receiving training in the University Training Corps.*

1	2	3
Name of Unit.	Expenditure incurred in the year 1923-24.	Number of students who received training during the year 1923-24.
1st (Bombay) Battalion, University Training Corps.	Figures not available. They were included in the figures for the Provincial Battalion, Indian Territorial Force.	653
2nd (Calcutta) Battalion, University Training Corps.	Rs. 52,100 approximately	662
3rd (United Provinces) Battalion, University Training Corps.	Rs. 27,260 „	509
4th (Lahore) Battalion, University Training Corps.	Rs. 45,210 „	491
5th (Madras) Battalion, University Training Corps.	Rs. 68,360 „	671
6th (Burma) Battalion, University Training Corps.	Rs. 37,280 „	438
7th (Patna) Company, University Training Corps	Included in the figure given for the Calcutta Battalion.	89
9th (Delhi) Company, University Training Corps.		Constituted in 1924 only.

#### EXPENDITURE ON THE PROVINCIAL BATTALIONS OF THE INDIAN TERRITORIAL FORCE.

75. **Pandit Sham Lal Nehru:** Will the Government be pleased to state:
- the amount of expenditure on the provincial battalions of the Indian Territorial Force?
  - the number of men receiving training at each centre and in each year since the organization of the Force?
  - the nature of military training given and the number of officers engaged in the work?

**Mr. E. Burdon:**

(a) 1920-21	...	...	Figures not available.
1921-22	...	...	Rs. 1,15,674.
1922-23	...	...	Rs. 15,07,889.
1923-24	...	...	Rs. 15,69,860.

(b) Figures for the years 1920-21 and 1921-22 are not available. A statement is laid on the table giving the information desired by the Honourable Member in respect of the years 1922-23 and 1923-24.

(c) Section, Platoon, Company and Battalion Drill and Musketry. Extra training is given to officers.

The number of regular military officers engaged in training is five per unit.

*Statement showing the number of men receiving training at each Centre of the Indian Territorial Force.*

Name of Unit.	1922-23.	1923-24.
11-2nd Bombay Pioneers . . . . .	782	792
12-2nd " " . . . . .	741	481
11-1st Punjab Regiment . . . . .	708	728
11-3rd Madras Regiment . . . . .	637	716
12-3rd " " . . . . .	727	685
13-3rd " " . . . . .	693	658
14-3rd " " . . . . .	...	598
11-4th Bombay Grenadiers . . . . .	104	345
11-5th Mahratta Light Infantry . . . . .	150	283
11-7th Rajput Regiment . . . . .	678	668
12-7th " " . . . . .	652	669
11-9th Jat Regiment . . . . .	647	676
11-12th F. F. Rifles . . . . .	61	732
11-18th " " . . . . .	760	658
11-14th Punjab Regiment . . . . .	591	739
11-15th " " . . . . .	690	706
11-17th Dogra Regiment . . . . .	271	691
11-18th Royal Garhwal Rifles . . . . .	599	431
11-19th Hyderabad Regiment . . . . .	512	615
11-20th Burma Rifles . . . . .	879	665



## EXPENDITURE ON THE AUXILIARY FORCE.

76. **Pandit Shamlal Nehru:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

- the amount of expenditure on the Auxiliary Force in each year since its organization?
- the number of men receiving military training at each centre and in each year since its organization?
- the nature of military training given and the number of officers engaged in the work?

**Mr. E. Burdon:**

(a) 1921-22	...	Rs. 68,25,267
1922-23	...	71,94,771
1923-24	...	73,53,692

(b) A statement is laid on the table giving the information desired by the Honourable Member.

(c) Section, Platoon, Company and Battalion Drill, Musketry and Field Training.

The number of regular military officers engaged in training is one per unit.

*Statement showing the number of men receiving training at each centre of the Auxiliary Force (India).*

Name of Unit.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	Number of regular officers engaged in the work.
<i>Royal Garrison Artillery.</i>					
No. 1 Brigade (Calcutta Port Defence).	53	309	298	294	
No. II (Madras) Brigade, "The Duke's Own".	260	229	193	165	
No. 3 Rangoon Brigade .	212	279	221	229	
No. 4 Cossipore Brigade .	497	610	285	297	
No. 5 Bombay Brigade .	57	161	153	141	
No. 14 Battery, Bangalore .		166	94	88	
No. 15 Battery, Kirkee .	23	7	8	42	
<i>Royal Engineers.</i>					
No. 1 Calcutta Company .	14	67	59	60	
No. 2 Rangoon Field Company	64	144	154	143	
No. 3 Bombay " "	84	95	95	105	
No. 5 Madras " "	14	39	38	71	

*Statement showing the number of men receiving training at each centre of the Auxiliary Forces (India)—contd.*

Name of Unit.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	Number of regular officers engaged in the work.
<i>Cavalry.</i>					
The Bihar Light Horse . .	267	408	423	390	
The Calcutta Light Horse .	141	311	281	280	
The Surma Valley Light Horse.	310	378	378	391	
The Assam Valley Light Horse.	536	740	724	713	
The Bombay Light Horse .	24	126	104	80	
The Northern Bengal Mounted Rifles.	376	763	798	769	
The Punjab Light Horse. .	132	186	238	225	
The Southern Provinces Mounted Rifles.	113	463	500	545	
The Chota Nagpur Regiment .	704	859	771	724	
<i>Machine Gun Corps.</i>					
No. 1 Coorg and Mysore Company.		60	99	106	
No. 8 Bombay Company .				144	
No. 9 Cossipore Company .			181	165	
No. 10 " " .	...		134	168	
<i>Royal Army Service Corps.</i>					
No. 3 Bombay Company .			26	32	
<i>Railway Corps.</i>					
1st Battalion, the East India Railway Regiment.	1,118	2,119	845	912	
2nd Battalion, the East India Railway Regiment.			886	857	
3rd Battalion, the East India Railway Regiment.			704	721	

*Statement showing the number of men receiving training at each centre of the Auxiliary Force (India)—contd.*

Name of Unit.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	Number of regular officers engaged in the work.
<i>Railway Corps— contd.</i>					
The Eastern Bengal Railway Battalion.	682	688	764	779	
1st Battalion, the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Regiment.	393	1,859	1,315	1,254	
2nd Battalion, the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Regiment.			669	617	
1st Battalion, the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway Regiment.	754	1,271	473	539	
2nd Battalion, the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway Regiment.	...		845	881	
The Burma Railways Battalion	326	869	979	1,063	
The Bengal and North-Western Railway Regiment.	263	240	296	312	
1st Battalion, the North-Western Railway Regiment.	525	1,188	805	857	
2nd Battalion, the North-Western Railway Regiment.		...	452	455	
The Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway Battalion.	195	487	456	481	
The South Indian Railway Regiment.	263	1,220	1,333	1,297	
1st Battalion, the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Regiment.	1,491	1,791	1,128	1,157	
2nd Battalion, the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Regiment.	...	...	766	737	
1st Battalion, the Bengal Nagpur Railway Regiment.	505	1,405	862	860	
2nd Battalion, the Bengal Nagpur Railway Regiment.	...	...	703	684	
The Assam Bengal Railway Battalion.	146	376	592	579	

*Statement showing the number of men receiving training at each centre of the Auxiliary Force (India)—concd.*

Name of Unit.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	Number of regular officers engaged in the work.
<i>Infantry.</i>					
The Madras Guards .	301	457	688	619	
The Nagpur Rifles . .	349	485	493	490	
The Punjab Rifles . . .	271	537	633	597	
The Simla Rifles . . .	142	299	376	376	
The Calcutta Battalion . .	312	702	705	620	
The Bangalore Battalion . .	393	487	652	479	
The Tenasserin Battalion . .	285	407	413	434	
The Bombay Battalion . .	168	581	625	652	
The Rangoon Battalion . .	674	1,125	1,113	968	
The Nilgiri Malabar Battalion	475	603	649	683	
The Hyderabad Rifles . .	280	422	542	544	
The Baluchistan Company .	35	28	43	43	
The Upper Burma Battalion .	547	814	705	653	
The Poona Rifles . . .	105	362	408	388	
The Calcutta Presidency Battalion.	201	838	795	788	
The East Coast Battalion . .	87	351	422	377	
The Eastern Bengal Company .	59	171	151	187	
The Kolar Gold Field Battalion.	479	692	773	690	
The Calcutta Scottish . .	113	606	606	615	
<i>Contingents.</i>					
Agra Auxiliary Force . .	85	235	275	245	
Allahabad Auxiliary Force .	149	367	397	380	
Bareilly " " . .	276	277	293	394	
Cawnpore " " . .	147	463	507	497	
Dehra Dun " " . .	227	278	419	425	
Delhi Contingent . . .	...	252	319	317	
Karachi Auxiliary Force .	604	470	522	507	
Lucknow " " . .	302	527	487	503	

## ELECTION OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

**Mr. President:** Non-official Members of the Assembly will now proceed to elect eight Members to serve on the Committee on Public Accounts. There are 18 candidates whose names are printed on the ballot papers, which will now be supplied to Members in the order in which I call them.

(The ballot was then taken.)

**Mr. President:** If all non-official Members have now recorded their votes, we will proceed to the election of the Standing Finance Committee.

(Some more votes were handed in.)

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## ELECTION OF THE STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE.

**Mr. President:** Order, order. The Assembly will now proceed to elect 14 Members to serve on the Standing Finance Committee. There were actually 27 candidates nominated, but since then one, namely, Mr. Patel, has withdrawn his name. There are now 26 candidates whose names are printed on the ballot paper which will be supplied to the Members in order.

(The ballot was than taken.)

**Mr. President:** Have all Honourable Members recorded their votes?

(A few Members, who had not so far recorded their votes, did so.)

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## PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE INDIAN SOLDIERS' LITIGATION (AMENDMENT) BILL.

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman** (Home Member): Sir, I beg to present the Report of the Select Committee on 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.

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## THE INDIAN PAPER CURRENCY (AMENDMENT) BILL—*contd.*

**Mr. President:** The Assembly will now resume consideration of the motion moved by the Honourable the Finance Member on the 22nd January, 1925, namely:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Paper Currency Act, 1923, be taken into consideration."

**Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta** (Bombay Northern Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I beg to move the amendment which stands in my name, namely:

"That the Bill be referred to a Select Committee."

I think, Sir, the newspapers of the last few days could not have been very pleasant reading for the Honourable the Finance Member. There is now dollar sterling parity in the post office remittances between England

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and the United States. There is to be from June onwards a return to the gold standard in South Africa; but the cruelest blow comes from one who was at one time Chancellor of the Exchequer in England, the Right Honourable Mr. MacKenna, who insists on a gold standard there. I wonder why the Honourable Sir Basil Blackett is allowing his kith and kin to go to rack and ruin in this manner when he is fighting tooth and nail against the establishment of a gold standard in this country. But that is not a story very relevant to this matter. By a strange coincidence, Sir, we are meeting here to-day on the fifth anniversary of the acceptance of the report of the Babington-Smith Committee. This day five years ago the Secretary of State for India announced his acceptance of the recommendation of that Committee and also his decision to enforce the rate of 2s. gold ratio recommended by that body. I need not go into the history of that ill-fated recommendation, because we had only recently a full debate on that question. But I would like the House to realise that from the 2nd of February, 1920, onwards till to-day there was, as a result of the sale of Reverse Councils and as a result of a deliberate policy of deflation, a contraction of currency to the extent of Rs. 62 crores. Out of this I am willing to deduct Rs. 12 crores added last year so that there was a net contraction of Rs. 50 crores during the last five years, although the Honourable the Finance Member said the other day in Simla that it was Rs. 45 crores. The difference is only 5 crores. I am willing to admit his figure, namely, that the net contraction of currency during the last five years has been 45 crores. Add to that the fact that not a single rupee was added to the currency during the last five years. The establishment of the statutory rate of 2s. gold made it impossible for anybody to tender gold and receive currency against it. No one would be foolish enough, Sir, to give gold at the Currency Office and receive Rs. 10, when in the market he could receive for the same amount of gold Rs. 16 to Rs. 17. Therefore, by that simple process, Government stopped the expansion of currency since September, 1920. One result of that was that any steady normal expansion of currency that the Bengal Chamber of Commerce recommend for every healthy country—steady growth of currency year by year, says the Bengal Chamber of Commerce—that healthy addition of currency in this country was stopped five years ago and has never been renewed. Taking at the lowest that every year 5 to 6 crores will be added to the currency in the normal course, we have been deprived of something like Rs. 30 crores since the statutory rate was made 2s. gold to the rupee, so that the contraction of the Rs. 45 crores already mentioned plus the refusal to add the normal 30 crores in the ordinary course make the total contraction of currency in this country Rs. 75 crores during the last five years. The Honourable the Finance Member has called it healthy contraction—healthy deflation; healthy indeed for the importers from Manchester and Lancashire, healthy for their own remittance charges, healthy for those who draw salaries here and remit them to England, healthy in every respect to the foreigner, but absolutely unhealthy and ruinous to the producer of this country! That is the performance of the Government of India during the last five years in the matter of currency. Well, Sir, the result of this deliberate and determined policy of deflation could not be without its consequences on the money market and the producing classes in this country. Steady deflation followed, facilities for money decreased and the market has been literally choked and suffocated by the Honourable the Finance Member

sitting tight on what he calls the safety valve. He refuses to move, and practically assumes the role of an infallible Pope in currency matters of this country. The cry of distress came from the trading centres. The Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau re-echoed the cry but it fell on deaf ears. The cry of the poor producer, the tiller of the land, of course, is never heard in Delhi or Simla. But while Government can afford to ignore the Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau and the distressing cry of the poor peasant, the Bengal Chamber of Commerce cannot be ignored, and that body in their letter of the 16th July, 1924, made out a most cogent and convincing case for more currency; they told the Honourable the Finance Member that the needs of currency in this country were not being adequately looked after, that it was the right of every country to have a normally increasing currency, that Government were bound to supply the necessary currency, that they were not doing so, that they had adopted a policy which made it impossible to have an expansion of currency, and that therefore the only course that remained open was by the purchase of sterling and the transfer of it to the Paper Currency Reserve in England. They said to the Government: "Your seasonal increase is not sufficient. That retires automatically when the inland trade bills mature". Unless they said, some permanent or quasi-permanent method of addition to the currency was devised the position would be very serious and the commercial community would be filled with serious apprehensions about the coming season. That is the substance of the letter of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce to the Finance Department. That letter was not to be ignored, and before the last Simla Session commenced, a long letter from the Finance Department was issued in reply to the Chamber's communication. It contained a mild remonstrance, a soft answer, and stated that Government were doing their best, that they would continue to do their best, and that they were announcing certain facilities on the question of bank rate against Inland Trade Bills. And the further result of the Chamber's letter is that we are called upon to consider this Bill which seeks to add to our currency for the purposes mentioned in the Statement of Objects and Reasons. Sir, for this small mercy, thanks, but I am bound to say that Government here also are not proceeding in the proper manner.

The other day, my Honourable friend, the Finance Member made a statement which must have terrified many Honourable Members here. In fact, he adopted a policy of scaremongering. He announced that the policy of Government was influenced by consideration of stabilising price levels and that but for what he and his predecessors had done the rupee would have gone the way of the rouble. That is what he said. I call this scaremongering—to frighten away people by comparing the rupee with the rouble. Sir, we are all aware of the story of the fat boy in Dickens who made the flesh of every one creep by his blood-curdling stories, but a comparison of the rupee with the rouble is something worse and more dreadful. I should have thought that a Finance Member of Sir Basil Blackett's reputation and experience would make sure of his facts before making such frightful comparisons between the rupee and the rouble. He ought to have known that there is no analogy between the catastrophic inflation of the rouble and the mark and the very small inflation of the rupee during the war and after it. It seems the Honourable the Finance Member has either forgotten or has very skilfully and conveniently ignored the facts. I have got figures from a tract on Monetary Reform by Professor Keynes, a gentlemen who is

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of the same persuasion in the matter of gold exchange standard as the Honourable the Finance Member. He was a member, I think, of the Chamberlain Commission. This is what we find in his book I referred to about inflation of currency in Germany and Russia. In Germany in 1920, there were 81 milliards of marks. In 1923 there were 116,000 milliards of marks, that is, the expansion of currency in Germany in the course of those three years was 1,500 times. For every mark in Germany in 1920, there were 1,500 marks in 1923. No wonder this terrible inflation depreciated the value of the mark. I will tell you how. In 1920 every gold mark was equal to 17 paper marks. In 1923 one gold mark was equal to 10 lakhs of paper marks, so that the purchasing power of the paper mark decreased by 50,000 times in the course of three years. The inflation was 1,500 times, the depreciation of the mark was 50,000 times. Take the case of the rouble to which the Honourable the Finance Member has referred. In 1919 there were 61 milliard roubles in Russia. In June, 1923, there were 80,50,000 milliard roubles, that is, the inflation was 132,000 times. Was it any wonder then, Sir, that the depreciation in the purchasing power of the rouble was nearly 10 lakhs times? Now, can any man who has taken care to ascertain facts compare the rupee with the rouble and the mark which depreciated 50,000 times and 10,00,000 (ten lakhs) times respectively; against this enormous inflation in Russia and Germany the so-called inflation in this country during the same period was 1/16th. Here are the figures from the report of the Controller of Currency issued this very year. I find that in 1919-20, there were 153 crores worth of notes in circulation, and in 1923-24 there were 169 crores of notes in circulation. So that, in the course of that period the inflation, if it is to be so-called at all—a normal addition is not an inflation but if you choose so to call it—was an addition of 10 crores, that is, one-sixteenth as against 50,000 times and 10 lakhs times. And what is the depreciation in the purchasing power of the rupee? Why! it has not depreciated but appreciated by 20 per cent. I will turn to statistics in the *Labour Gazette* of Bombay. The year 1919 was the year when the prices were topmost, and yet we are to-day in far better circumstances from the point of view of the purchasing power of money than we were in 1919. (*The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett*: "Hear, hear.") It does not show at all that the consumer is in any danger. On the contrary, it shows that to-day we are much nearer to 1914, and the increase now over 1914 in rice, wheat, jhowar, *bajra*, gram, *dal*, sugar—the ordinary stuff that the Indian masses eat—is very moderate; take 100 as the index figure in 1914, we find in 1923 the prices to be 135, 128, 135, 126, 115 and so on for the articles of consumption stated above. Only in cotton and tea there are increases which we have not been able to control. In this connection I have great pleasure in quoting the authority of one member of the Government against another. The other day Sir Charles Innes in making a most energetic attack on the motion of my Honourable friend Mr. M. K. Acharya stated that the salaries of railway employees had gone up by between 80 per cent. to 100 per cent.; the salaries of wage earners in factories and those in private service have gone up similarly in the year 1919-20 at the lowest 30 per cent. to the highest 100 per cent. These increments were given in 1919 when the prices were topmost and to-day, while those increments remain, the prices have fallen; while all these wage-earning classes are having their remuneration on the basis of the prices of 1919, the prices are to-day



30 per cent. lower than the prices of 1919, so that you cannot say that all this contraction of currency was necessary in the interests of the consumer, or was intended to save the rupee from going the way of the rouble as alleged by the Finance Member. But this was the only respectable excuse for a policy the real purpose of which was not the stability of prices but a higher exchange. Every one in India who has given a thought to the subject feels, and feels strongly, that the only purpose of the policy of the contraction of currency, is to have the exchange higher. But even this mighty Government with all their infinite powers of wasting the resources of this country and with all their irresponsibility could not conquer the forces of nature. The market remained loyal to this 1s. 4d. ratio and all their efforts to maintain the 2s. rate failed. But they continued their policy of contracting currency and, as I said, we are short in five years' time of 75 crores of rupees. Therefore, it is not a day too soon that some measure was devised by which reasonable addition could be made regularly and definitely and steadily to the currency of this country. I find that Government are themselves illogical in this matter. My Honourable friend the Finance Member in his Statement of Objects and Reasons has stated that this Bill is being brought forward for two purposes. One is for the additional currency required for the growing requirements of trade which has now recovered from the post-war depression, and secondly, for the seasonal requirements when crops have got to be brought to the market. These two are definitely separate purposes. One is only temporary during the busy season when crops have to be brought from the fields to the market, and the other is the growing permanent requirements of the trade year by year on account of the increase of population, the revival of trade and also the increase in the number of transactions between Indians themselves. While the object stated is two-fold as a matter of fact Government have not adhered to it in the Statement of Objects and Reasons; Government have to remit every year about thirty crores of rupees to the Secretary of State for what are called "Home charges". The Secretary of State may not require all of them at once, and therefore Government will be pleased, say the Objects and Reasons, to transfer part of these remittances to the Paper Currency Reserve in England and against such transfer issue additional currency; but—and this is the crux—if and when the Secretary of State requires them, he will at once withdraw them and cancel the notes issued. So that the question of the currency necessary for 320 millions of people, the problem of financing their trade and commerce, is to depend on a most accidental circumstance, namely, whether the Secretary of State for India has got surplus funds. It is not to be tackled on its own merits, to be dealt with at the pleasure and the convenience, according to the whim and caprice of the great Moghal at Whitehall 6,000 miles away, surrounded by interests of a financial character none too friendly to India. I say, Sir, this is not the kind of addition which the country has been asking, this is not the kind of addition which the Bengal Chamber of Commerce has asked for. I am very glad here, Sir, to bring to my help the testimony of this great Chamber. My Honourable friend, Sir Campbell Rhodes, the other day thought that it was something very wrong for us to quote his Chamber. Nothing of the kind. Sir, when the Bengal Chamber of Commerce says a thing which is in tune with what we say, it is the clearest proof that the position must have become intolerable. They are not anxious to embarrass the Government; they will do their best

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to withhold their protest until the very very last moment, until they think it would be too late. Sir, the Bengal Chamber of Commerce said, and rightly said, that what the country wanted was not what the Secretary of State could afford as a crumb from his own breakfast table. What this country wants is the satisfaction of its currency requirements,—a regular addition of a permanent character and not what the Secretary of State can simply afford for the time being,—because, Sir, what is the result of such a situation? The Secretary of State might be compelled for his own purposes to withdraw the funds, and that too at a most inopportune moment when a monetary crisis may be impending in this country, when the market is already inflamed, when more money is needed and not less. If he chooses to deflate at such a time, the consequences that would follow would be so appalling, that they might inflame the market beyond control and there would be hundreds of insolvencies, and both the producer and the manufacturer would be ruined, in many cases beyond redemption. Do we want the Secretary of State for India to have power of this kind? If we want to legislate about an addition to the currency, let us legislate on the merits of the question itself. That the currency policy of a great country like ours should be made to depend on a pure accident is, I think, Sir, most deplorable. Therefore, I say that the provision which the Honourable Finance Member has made for the expansion of the currency is inconsistent with his own declared objects of expanding the currency of this country; it is inconsistent with the position that obtains in the country to-day; it is inconsistent with the demand made on behalf of every commercial community including the Bengal Chamber of Commerce. Therefore, Sir, it behoves us to consider whether we cannot do something in the Select Committee whereby we can make both seasonal and permanent additions to the currency. Mere seasonal additions and withdrawals are not enough. The letting in of blood and the letting out of blood alternately cannot be a healthy thing, and I can only sympathise with the doctor who could reconcile himself to a policy of systematic letting in of blood and letting out of blood of an organism. What blood is to the human body, currency in circulation is to the economic position of the country. I do not think, therefore, that the House should reconcile itself to a proposal of this nature which only contemplates seasonal additions and withdrawals.

The second thing that I wish to urge is this. The Honourable the Finance Member has more than one better method if he would only adopt it. He can accept my Honourable friend Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas's Bill in the course of this week or in the course of this Session and the country will be once more placed on a fairly automatic basis in respect of currency. Bankers will be compelled to bring gold as against currency which they are unable to do now.

The next course for my friend the Finance Member would have been to purchase gold at the market rate against the issue of currency for the equivalent amount. The 2s. ratio may still remain, and yet the law can be so modified that we can have additional currency against solid metallic backing. When there is backing in gold, the notes will be as valuable as gold. But he would not adopt the second course either; he has chosen to adopt the least satisfactory course, a course in which he will be the sole judge as to the time when expansion is to take place. He will purchase sterling or will refuse to purchase sterling as he thinks fit. The Bengal Chamber of Commerce has pointed out that the moment the Imperial Bank's balances fall and the moment the seasonal currency is over, it is

incumbent on Government, if they want to add currency, to operate at the market rate and to purchase sterling and not to throw on the market the onus of attaining a certain arbitrary level at which Government think they should buy the sterling. The Honourable the Finance Member has not however listened to this. He knows that if, as proposed by the Chamber, he continues to buy sterling in addition to the requirements of the Secretary of State for India, it would mean a lower exchange. The exchange would certainly fall by additional remittances for currency purposes, and precisely for that reason he will have nothing to do with the Chamber's proposal. He will just buy enough to keep the Secretary of State in funds and out of them alone expand currency. I say, Sir, that this is not the proper method of expanding the currency of this country. We have been all along protesting against the Secretary of State being placed in funds in excess of his requirements in the early part of the year; so if we adopt this Bill, without my amendment, we will have conceded what we have been protesting against these many years, namely, the right of the Secretary of State for India to keep more money with him than is necessary for his requirements. So that, if we agree with the Finance Member, we will have first of all to permit him to send more money to England for the Secretary of State than is required for his "Home charges". Why cannot Government supply our currency needs independently of the remittances for "Home charges"? They have realised the problem; they have understood the evil, but they have adopted a very wrong remedy. Knowledge has come, but wisdom lingers, and I can tell them that the method they have adopted for the expansion of currency is the least satisfactory. It is based not on a correct appreciation of the currency needs of this country, but on considerations wholly alien to that question. I know the Finance Member will claim that he is doing his best in the interests of India; but we understand the phrase "interests of India" as identical with the words "public interests" when used by Government when they issue an Ordinance. When you go on contracting currency and call it "the interests of India", people will understand what those interests are. The expansion of currency must be carried out in a manner in consonance with the wishes of the people of this country and not in a manner in which you can manipulate it at your will and pleasure.

Sir, I have one more word to add. I am told, Sir, that if the House passes this amendment referring the Bill to a Select Committee, the Government might at once withdraw the Bill. I have been told that many Members have been frightened at that prospect. I would ask the Finance Member to lay low this great gossip and slander of him. If the Government were ever to adopt such a course, namely, that a motion to refer a Bill to a Select Committee, if adopted against their wishes, would result in its withdrawal, the action of Government would be most unconstitutional; but I am sure the gossip does not do justice to him; it is simply defamatory. I hope he will make it quite clear that, whether he agrees with us or not, whether he ultimately adopts any amendment or not, he is certainly not going to adopt those tactics. Some Members I know will then vote with a more easy conscience. Therefore, I request and implore him to make clear in the interests of the Government's own reputation, which I hope is still worth caring for, that they will not adopt such tactics. Lastly, I would ask the Finance Member to consider whether he cannot reassure us and remove our apprehensions in the matter of this expansion of currency, and convince us in the Select Committee that no improvement is possible in the Bill as it stands. This question is so vital that some method must

be found to satisfy both objects of the Bill, namely, the provision of seasonal and permanent currency, and that can only be done by referring the Bill to the Select Committee. With these words, Sir, I move the amendment which stands in my name.

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett** (Finance Member): Sir, I should like

1 P.M. to hasten to assure the Honourable Member who has just spoken that like a great many other allegations in his speech the suggestion that Government would immediately withdraw this Bill if it were referred to a Select Committee is absolutely unfounded. I do not know where he got that from, but I begin to feel quite hopeful when I find that there are some suggestions which even Mr. Jamnadas Mehta's suspicious rise superior to.

I was hoping to hear from Mr. Jamnadas Mehta some reason for the reference of this Bill to Select Committee. The speech that he made was very much broader than one required simply to request reference to a Select Committee; and I am afraid I must follow in his steps in going a little beyond the immediate question of reference to Select Committee. But I should like to start with that.

This is a Bill of two clauses, one of which is operative. It makes one change in the existing Act. It is a very narrow limited Bill the scope of which cannot be extended on the Bill as it stands. Reference to Select Committee, as usually understood in Parliamentary procedure, is for the purpose of examining the details and drafting of a Bill, not for the purpose of raising a whole number of large subjects which are entirely outside the scope of the Bill. This seems to me pre-eminently a Bill for discussion in what one may call "Committee of the whole House", which our procedure provides for in the stage following the stage we are now engaged in. As soon as the Bill is taken into consideration it is for the House to consider in committee of the whole House, as it were, the details of the Bill, and there is really nothing in this Bill that cannot be quite easily discussed in committee of the whole House and nothing really which a Select Committee could deal with, because a Select Committee such as that suggested by Mr. Jamnadas Mehta is obviously a Committee to draft an entirely different Bill—a Committee which is to raise the whole question of our currency and exchange system, to deal with the system under which remittances are made to England for the purposes of our expenditure there, to deal with the system under which the reserves are held. None of those proposals as far as I could see would be admissible to a Select Committee on this Bill; they would be entirely outside the scope of the Bill. I do therefore suggest to the House that we should keep it in the whole House and discuss it in the whole House.

The Honourable Member, as so frequently happens, managed to answer a great many of his arguments in his next following sentence. He quoted Mr. MacKenna and seemed to think I should find something unpleasant in reading the statements made by Mr. MacKenna and other bankers in the course of the last week. On the contrary, Mr. MacKenna surely confirms very strongly my own view that the time is coming really nearer every day when we could arrive at a final settlement of our post-war difficulties. Mr. MacKenna spoke in favour of the gold standard. Have I said a word against it? I have never to my knowledge said, and certainly never intended to say, a word against the gold standard. What I did say was that I do not think a gold currency in circulation is a necessary condition of the gold standard—which is quite a different thing. Mr. MacKenna was quoted with approval and the fact that sterling has reached par again or

very nearly reached par, was quoted with approval. But why has sterling reached par? Because during the last five years there has been a very great contraction in the currency of the United Kingdom—a contraction which is comparable to the contraction which has occurred in India; and it is only because of that contraction that sterling has been brought back to par. Mr. Jamnadas Mehta objected to what he called my comparison of the rupee with the rouble. I do not know that I made any direct comparison between the rupee and the rouble. What I did say—and I am glad to be confirmed by several statements made by Mr. Jamnadas Mehta—was that our currency policy in the last four years had been such that instead of having the rupee going the way of the franc or the lira if not of the rouble, we have a very sound currency system in India, and the rupee is regarded as one of the sound currencies of the world. That, I think, was Mr. Mehta's description; that is also mine. I should like to say that if the last Assembly and my predecessor had not collaborated and co-operated to the best of their ability to increase taxation and reduce expenditure and so balance the budget, nothing could have saved the rupee from suffering, if not the fate of the mark, the fate perhaps of the franc or the lira; and it is only because the budget has been balanced that our currency has been kept in a stable condition.

Other Honourable Members have quoted the action of the United States Post Office in fixing the rate of exchange of money orders between sterling and dollar at par. I am not quite clear exactly what has happened. I do not know exactly what is the system in the United States. But the system that is followed in the United Kingdom and I think also in India has been not that the Postmaster-General should pretend to attempt to fix the rate of exchange—he is not so foolish—but that the Post Office in selling money orders should attempt so to follow the rate of exchange as closely as they can so as not to make a loss on their business transactions; and that I think is exactly what the United States Post Office has recently done. If it has done nothing more than decide that for the future, or until further notice, it will sell sterling money orders at \$4.86, I would draw the attention of the House to the fact that the Postmaster General in the United States is obviously a good business man, because at \$4.96 he is giving the customer a rather less amount of sterling than he could obtain in the open market at the rate of \$4.80.

I do not know whether it would be desired that I should pursue the question of the various amendments that are on the paper at this stage in dealing with the question of Select Committee, or whether I should make another speech; if I may take it that the House does not want to hear another speech from me, I may perhaps trespass a little beyond this motion to deal with the position as regards the Bill generally. There are various amendments down on the paper, one by Sir Campbell Rhodes and a very similar one by Mr. Patel dealing with the question of created securities; and then there is the one referred to by Mr. Jamnadas Mehta about the remittances to the Secretary of State. My view is, so far as I understand the meaning of that last amendment—I am not quite sure what it really does mean—that it is entirely outside the scope of this Bill. There is the power that the Honourable Member was referring to of placing securities in the Paper Currency Reserve in London and issuing currency against that here; it is not a new one; it is one which exists; it is one which is not touched by this Bill; it is not touched by the clause of the Bill with which we are dealing; and I do not think it would be germane to this Bill to attempt to make a change which would be a very big and important change in that

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respect in connection with this Bill. That is obviously one of the matters which among others will have to come up for consideration when we attempt to revise the Indian currency system as a whole, and it is one of the subjects that will undoubtedly come before the Currency Committee.

As regards the other amendment about created securities, I should like to say a few words because it is rather a technical and difficult point. The same point was mentioned by Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas in his speech on the first occasion when this Bill came up. He questioned whether the Government ought to have power to issue further additional currency against created or *ad hoc* securities. I am glad this point has been raised. It is an important one, and one which, I think, we must examine a little in detail. If the Government of India issue Paper Currency, they are issuing to the public Government I. O. U.'s promising to pay on demand a given number of rupees, and they get from the public rupees in payment. What can the Government do with those rupees? They can, if they like, keep the whole of those rupees in reserve; then they are always in a position to cash any note that is presented. But it has been the universal experience of all countries that have dealt with paper currency that there is a minimum quantity of currency which always at any given time remains in circulation, and it is both unnecessary and uneconomical to keep a large hoard of rupees in reserve which will never be required for the purpose of cashing notes which will never be presented. What the Government of India have done, and what other Governments have done in similar circumstances, is to use those rupees for capital expenditure, for the development of India, and to put in their place another I. O. U. of the Government of India, namely, a Government of India rupee security. Provided that great care is exercised in estimating the amount of currency that will always normally remain in circulation and will never be presented, that is an economical, useful and satisfactory way of dealing with the reserves. But obviously we do not want to have Government I. O. U.'s promising to pay rupees at a given date as cover for Government I. O. U.'s promising to pay rupees on demand to any extent beyond the absolutely safe minimum; provided you observe that absolutely safe minimum, no harm is done. The trouble of all the currencies of the world since 1914 is that under pressure of war and other demands, that safe minimum has been exceeded and currency has been issued to the public and payment taken for it, and the money used to pay for war and things of that sort in a way that necessarily caused undue expansion of currency. It is clearly for the benefit of India that we should use that minimum amount of capital available for capital development. It does not really matter whether the securities are *ad hoc* or whether they are securities of the same issues as are in the hands of the public. There are technically advantages in the latter course, but there is no real difference. In essence all those securities are simply Government of India I. O. U.'s promising to pay on demand rupees which they have not got immediately available. They have got assets against them in the shape of capital developments in India. That is the simple doctrine on that subject.

Then, of course, there is a further portion of the reserve which it is not necessary to keep in rupees; you cannot keep it in rupee securities; you must keep it either in gold or in some other form of security. Nearly all the countries of the world have found it useful to keep a part of their reserves in the currencies or securities of some other country, particularly

Great Britain, which has been the central money market of the world, and therefore its securities can most quickly be converted into cash. But I need not pursue the question at the moment as to what the other form should be, because this amendment, if it is moved, deals only with the question of *ad hoc* or created securities.

I am entirely in agreement with the view expressed by Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas and the view which apparently underlies the amendments of Sir Campbell Rhodes and Mr. Patel, that it is undesirable that we should create additional *ad hoc* securities under the extra powers that are given to us in this Bill. I quite agree that the power to issue currency against created securities is one which ought only to be used in an exceptional emergency. My difficulty about this amendment is that at the present time the Government of India have power in an emergency to issue currency against these created securities. Now, although God forbid that anything in the nature of a financial panic is likely to come upon us in the near future or at any time, we have to consider the possibility of a financial panic. In a financial panic what happens? Everyone who has deposits, whether with a cotton mill or with a bank, everybody who possibly can, rushes to convert his deposits into cash. There is a tremendous additional demand for cash. How is it to be met? The banking experience of the world is that the way to deal with a panic, to prevent an incipient panic from spreading and to shorten the duration of a panic, is to meet that demand for cash freely, absolutely without stint. People are rushing to the banks demanding cash, not because they need the cash immediately, but because they are afraid they will not get it later on when they want it. If they see that everyone is getting cash on demand without difficulty they cease to be in a hurry to convert their assets, probably at a loss to themselves, into cash. Now, supposing a panic of this sort occurs. Supposing there were to be a big bank smash or supposing a big industrial concern were to find themselves in difficulties, we should be at once confronted with that demand for cash. The Government of India would be in a difficulty to meet that demand for cash, and in these circumstances, it is not only right and proper but it is the absolute bounden duty of the Government of India, of the authorities controlling the note issue, to provide cash, and the probability is that the only way they can do so is by an issue against created securities, to use the technical phrase. They have to issue cash, which will come back very quickly as soon as the panic is over. Therefore, if the Government of India were to accept this amendment, they are giving up a power to meet an emergency. It is true it will be said to me that this power can be made available by other constitutional means, that an Ordinance can be issued in such circumstances. An Ordinance, that is quite true. But that is not a power belonging to the Governor General in Council, it is a power exercised solely by the Governor General. The Government of India would cease to have any statutory power to take action which would be necessary in those circumstances. Provided, however, that it is recognised that it is the duty of the Government to deal with an emergency in the way that I have suggested and that any constitutional power that may be available should and could rightly be used in such circumstances, I am perfectly willing on behalf of the Government to accept the spirit of this amendment, because I agree with those who move it and with Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas, that it is undesirable that that power should be used in anything except the most exceptional circumstances. It ought not to be regarded as



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an ordinary power. I have strayed a little beyond the motion for a Select Committee in the hope that I might be spared an extra speech. If there are any further reasons that are required in regard to this amendment—it is rather a technical one, and I should like to say that the form in which it is moved by Sir Campbell Rhodes is rather better than that in which it is moved by Mr. Patel, but I think it has the same result—I should be glad to give any explanation desired by Members when we come to the point in the next stage. My immediate appeal to the House is not to demand a Select Committee for the consideration of these points. As I have said, I do not think that this is a Bill which, in the interests of the House itself and of its ordinary procedure, should be handed on to a Select Committee. It cannot do anything which cannot better be done in Committee of the whole House.

**Dr. K. G. Lohokare:** (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Sir, I am not a Doctor of Currency indeed, but my friend thinks that he is an attendant upon the patient of currency and the way in which he has been attending upon it is such as can be aptly seen from a quotation that I would give the House. "The idea was first put forward by the War-time Currency Conference and accepted by the Treasury that currency must be increased to meet the liabilities of the bankers—not, be it observed, as the multiplication or reduction of exchanges from time to time require—is repeated in the parrot cry that currency must be increased whenever more money is required by the bankers or the Government." This exactly expresses my friend's demand. I would just give him some statistics wherewith we might be able to see how much currency would be necessary to meet the demand of the trade.

*Table showing Currency requirements.*

Year.	Value of trade in crores.	(India) Index of prices.	(England) Index of prices.	(U. S. A.) Index of prices.	Currency in circulation (crores of Rs.)
Average of 1910—1914	420	100 (1913)	100 (1913)	100 (1913)	220
1914 . . .	345	100	100	98	237
1915 . . .	349	112	127	101	266
1916 . . .	415	125	119	127	297
1917 . . .	424	142	206	177	333
1918 . . .	429	178	226	194	407
1919 . . .	443	200	241	206	463
Average . . .	412	150	192	161	354
1920 . . .	561	209	307	226	411
1921 . . .	614	183	168	140	393
1922 . . .	511	177	156	150	Notes 174 + Rs..
1923 . . .	546	181	150	152	„ 176 + „
1924 . . .	577	184	165	149	„ 170 + „
Average . . .	560	187	162	162	...



I take these figures from Finance and Banking by Mr. Shirras and the index of prices from the *Labour Gazette*, Bombay. The amount of trade between 1914 and 1919, as expressed in imports and exports, is given in column 2.

The average value of external trade for these years is 412 crores, while the average for the next 4 or 5 years is 560 crores. Coming down to the index of prices in India and taking 1914 as the average, the indexes can be read in column 8.

The average of these years is about 150, while the later figures for the quinquennium 1920 to 1924 give an average of 187 and the level of prices to-day is 184. The average of the index of prices for England during the period 1914—1919 was 192, while to-day, in 1924, the price level is 165. In America the price level to-day is 149. Looking to the currency figures, the average for the period 1910—14 is Rs. 220 crores, while the average for the next quinquennium is 354. We are yet to find out how much currency would be necessary for these prices and the amount of trade. Currency depends upon both these factors, the level of prices and the amount of trade. The average value of the trade in 1910—14 is 420 crores, while the price level is taken as 100. The average value of trade in the next quinquennium is 560 crores, while the average price level is 187. Therefore reducing this value of trade according to the 1914 price level by the simple rule of three we get 300 crores as the value of trade for the price level of 1914. The currency to finance this trade according to the level of 1914 should have been 220 crores, but as the level of prices to-day is about 180 the greatest amount of currency that would have been sufficient to meet this would be about 280 crores, while we have actually not less than 350 crores of currency in circulation.

**Mr. W. S. J. Willson** (Associated Chambers of Commerce: Nominated non-official): On a point of order, Sir. Is the Honourable Member speaking on the amendment? He is making a second speech on currency.

**Mr. President:** That is the difficulty we are all up against. As Honourable Members will observe, whether the motion be the original motion that the Bill be taken into consideration, or the motion that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee, or indeed any of the other motions proposing amendments on paper, they appear to allow a large scope for speech each time. I propose therefore after Dr. Lohokare ends to ask the House to come to a decision on the question of the Bill being referred to a Select Committee, especially as I observe that not even the Honourable Member was able to devote more than a minute or two to that subject.

**Dr. K. G. Lohokare:** We find that the currency figures were at their highest in 1919 at 463 crores, and in 1920, as my Honourable friend here points out, there was a deflation, but this deflation he complains should not have come in. The inflation that preceded on account of the war conditions he wants to remain, and any addition to the currency that might have been done during the war period he thinks necessary and taking out anything out of that currency he thinks as deflation. The internal trade of the country has had conveniences and facilities provided by the Imperial Bank having opened branches in many parts of India. There are more facilities for credit and if at all the internal exchanges have gone up far more; the amount of currency that is present to-day over

[Dr. K. G. Lohokare.]

and above 280 crores is more than sufficient to meet the needs. If therefore we add anything more to the present level of currency, I am afraid we shall be inflating the currency unnecessarily. Secondly, the purpose of currency, as my Honourable friend pointed out on the last occasion, is to stabilise the price level and not to look to the exchanges. I will just quote to you the price level in India from the Labour Gazette and it is given in the table above. The price level in India has not yet come down in the same ratio as it has in other countries. In the United States of America from 206 in 1919 the index of wholesale prices has come down now to 149, while in India from 200 index in 1919 it has come down only to about 184. That means that the results of the inflation of currency during the war period are yet prevailing. What it means to the poor persons on account of the rise in prices, on account of the continuity of the raised level of prices, is a thing to which the House must give some consideration. If the amount of currency that is in circulation to-day is in itself the cause of keeping up the level of prices, I do not know what a further addition would mean. The question of inflation and deflation therefore depends upon the relative price level which has distinctly a tendency to rise if we add more currency to the circulation. If we take the argument that additional currency is necessary to meet the seasonal demand of currency, I may point out that section 20 (emergency powers) of the Paper Currency Act is there to meet any emergency demand from the trade. Besides, as the Honourable Member pointed out on the last occasion, there is yet a margin of 8 crores of rupees for the fiduciary issue. So ten and eight—there is yet a margin of 18 crores of rupees and in spite of it I do not know why an addition is required. If it is trade that requires it, I am afraid that the demands of trade are not such as to meet the demands of national welfare. If you compare the hardship entailed on the poor people, the poor labourers, on account of the keeping up of the level of prices and not allowing it to fall as it has fallen in other countries but to give the level of prices a tendency to go up, I am afraid the interests of trade are against the interests of the poor people. I have consulted one of my friends as well. I do not know whether it is a case of blood letting or saline injection or just a temporary dose of morphia or brandy in order that the trade might have some stimulation. I am afraid it may have the effect of making the patient go down and down still further till the disease may have the effect of invaliding him for ever. I sent a telegram from this place to some of my friends who are accepted as currency doctors and they have replied: "If addition is permanent it means inflation, it will undesirably affect prices and would prevent restoration pre-war level, trade interests not coincident with national interests." (A Voice: "From whom?") A certain Professor of Economics. I would give you the name if I were permitted to do so. My Honourable friend will not accept when I tell him that here is a doctor of currency who says that the method of treatment is not what he would believe it to be. But it is a method of treatment which would make the whole organism shrink and shrink and go down so that the treatment of my Honourable friend would bring the patient to the grave rather than afford him any encouragement or any more stimulus for existence. If this emergency currency, as it is expressed in the Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to the Bill, is to be really in the interests of trade, there were other ways as well open, as my Honourable friend the Finance Member just said. I may here say that the limit on which this fiduciary

issue is to be put in is as well a matter of consideration. In the minority Report of the 1919 Committee, Sir Dadiba Dalal has expressed his view in paragraph 27, page 44:

"In view of the great disturbance to the credit of the paper currency arising from the great expansion of the fiduciary issue, I consider that the metallic reserve should be strengthened by the liquidation of investments in London and also that in order to re-establish confidence a high percentage of cash reserves should be maintained for many years to come. About 80 per cent. would not be too high a figure."

His estimate for a safe fiduciary issue is about 80 per cent., while now we find that the metallic backing is going down below fifty per cent. if we allow this addition of fifty crores to the fiduciary issue. While putting in the emergency issue clause in 1923 the present Honourable gentleman in charge of the Finance Department said:

"he wanted to take emergency powers simply because he thought that there should be no permanent addition to the currency, and he has just said that the effect of the free flow of additional currency might very well be to start the usual vicious circle and inflate and raise prices and do all the things against which every currency system has to guard. The advantage in this system is that relatively to the nature of the security the Imperial Bank has to put up rates of interest for its advances and the extra currency is automatically withdrawn when the seasonal demand for it is over."

Consequently if something more is to be added to the currency in a permanent form, I think inflation would surely come in. If they do not desire inflation but simply to tide over a moment of stringency of the money market, here is the remedy that the Finance Member had suggested in 1923 which is yet in his hands, and further if he chooses, he can raise the limit by putting in a Bill. The proper remedy therefore should have been to put in a Bill to raise the limit of the issue under section 20 and not a permanent addition. If at all a permanent addition is required, which I fear is what he desires, why should it be on the fiduciary issue only? Why should it not be on gold? I am afraid we have been going on increasing the fiduciary issue in such a way that we have been even endangering the safety valve limit, as my friend had said. The method that he proposes to put in has another drawback. In order to be able to withdraw the currency from circulation when the emergency is over, he must lend out that money at such a rate of interest as would make the people return that money immediately when the stringency is over. Here we do not find any provision in this Bill about the rate of interest at which it will be issued out to the Imperial Bank. The rate of interest has much to do with making the currency return so that it might not take a permanent form of inflation. Under these circumstances, Sir, I think that, firstly, the trade does not require any increase in currency. If any addition is necessary it should be only seasonal, so that it can come back as early as it has been put in. If there is some provision to be made for this and if the Bill has at all to go to the Select Committee, I would suggest putting in a certain clause by which the rate of interest can very well be mentioned at which we can issue this currency to the banks. With these suggestions I leave it to the House as to how they would think of taking up the consideration of the Bill, but I will beg of them to have some safety-valve for the return of the whole of the currency that would be issued over and above the ordinary requirements by putting in a clause for the bank rate in order that our purpose may be served.

**Mr. Darcy Lindsay** (Bengal: European): I move, Sir, that the question be now put.

**Mr. President:** The original question was :

" That the Bill further to amend the Indian Paper Currency Act, 1923, be taken into consideration."

Since which an amendment has been moved :

" That the Bill be referred to a Select Committee."

The question I have to put is that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee.

The Assembly divided.

#### AYES—28.

Abdul Karim, Khwaja.  
Abhyankar, Mr. M. V.  
Acharya, Mr. M. K.  
Aiyangar, Mr. C. Duraiswami.  
Aiyangar, Mr. K. Rama.  
Aney, Mr. M. S.  
Chetty, Mr. R. K. Shanmukham.  
Dutt, Mr. Amar Nath.  
Gour, Sir Hari Singh.  
Gulab Singh, Sardar.  
Hans Raj, Lala.  
Iyengar, Mr. A. Rangaswami.  
Jeelani, Haji S. A. K.  
Kelkar, Mr. N. C.  
Mehta, Mr. Jamnadas M.

Misra, Pandit Shambhu Dayal.  
Murtuza Sahib Bahadur, Maulvi Sayad.  
Mutalik, Sardar V. N.  
Nambiyar, Mr. K. K.  
Neogy, Mr. K. C.  
Pal, Mr. Bipin Chandra.  
Patel, Mr. V. J.  
Purshotamdas Thakurdas, Sir.  
Ramachandra Rao, Diwan Bahadur M.  
Ray, Mr. Kumar Sankar.  
Sarfaraz Hussain Khan, Khan Bahadur.  
Ujagar Singh Bedi, Baba.  
Yakub, Maulvi Muhammad.

#### NOES—41.

Abdul Mumin, Khan Bahadur Muhammad.  
Abul Kasem, Maulvi.  
Aiyer, Sir P. S. Sivaswamy.  
Ajab Khan, Captain.  
Akram Hussain, Prince A. M. M.  
Ashworth, Mr. E. H.  
Bhore, Mr. J. V.  
Blackett, The Honourable Sir Basil.  
Bray, Mr. Denys.  
Burdon, Mr. E.  
Calvert, Mr. H.  
Chalmers, Mr. T. A.  
Clarke, Sir Geoffrey.  
Clow, Mr. A. G.  
Cocke, Mr. H. G.  
Cosgrave, Mr. W. A.  
Crawford, Colonel J. D.  
Dalal, Sardar B. A.  
Duval, Mr. H. P.  
Fleming, Mr. E. G.  
Graham, Mr. L.  
Hira Singh, Sardar Bahadur Captain.

Hudson, Mr. W. F.  
Hussanally, Khan Bahadur W. M.  
Innes, The Honourable Sir Charles.  
McCallum, Mr. J. L.  
Mitra, The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath.  
Muddiman, The Honourable Sir Alexander.  
Muhammad Ismail, Khan Bahadur Saiyid.  
Naidu, Mr. M. C.  
Reddi, Mr. K. Venkataramana.  
Rhodes, Sir Campbell.  
Rushbrook-Williams, Prof. L. F.  
Sastri, Diwan Bahadur C. V. Visvanatha.  
Sim, Mr. G. G.  
Singh, Rai Bahadur S. N.  
Stanyon, Colonel Sir Henry.  
Sykes, Mr. E. F.  
Tonkinson, Mr. H.  
Willson, Mr. W. S. J.  
Wilson, Mr. R. A.

The motion was negatived.

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

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

**Mr. President:** The question is :

" That the Bill further to amend the Indian Paper Currency Act, 1923, be taken into consideration."

**Mr. Devaki Prasad Sinha** (Chota Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I hope I shall be pardoned for claiming the indulgence of this House if I say a few words on this Bill. I do so with great diffidence for I know that I have not acquired any special knowledge of this subject by gambling in the money markets of Bombay and Calcutta, nor have I acquired any experience in what a Socialist Member of the House of Commons described as the "thieving art of buying and selling." My only concern in this Bill is to see that the interest of the vast mass of consumers in this country does not suffer. In the course of the debate on this Bill we have heard so much of the claims and the grievances of the mercantile community of the chief cities of India. We have also heard how the poor producers in this country are going to be benefited by this Bill. But I regret to say that we have heard very little about the poor consumers of the different articles that come within the purview of the export trade in this country.

Sir, there are two justifications pleaded for this Bill. The first is that the Indian producers and the export trade in general will be considerably helped if we pass this Bill. May I ask what percentage of the total population of the country constitutes the producers of the different articles of food and of raw materials—how many producers of food there are who are buying more articles than they have to sell in the ordinary markets? The second justification pleaded is this that, while the level of prices has gone down considerably from the price level of the year 1919, the wages that were fixed for the different classes of labour were fixed on the price level of 1919. Therefore if we introduce a few crores of extra currency in the country, and, by the addition of a few crores to the purchasing power in the country, if we raise the prices of some articles of necessity, we shall not bring about thereby any great hardship upon the working classes in India. That, Sir, is a matter of opinion; whether the wages

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of the year 1919 constituted a living wage or not is a thing which is entirely a matter of opinion; and I submit that that ought not to be any criterion for deciding whether it is necessary at this moment to bring about an artificial rise in the prices of raw products in India. We are next told that there has been a policy of deliberate deflation in the past few years and therefore it is necessary to make the money market easy in order to give an impetus to trade. May I know, Sir, if the sins of all the past few years are sought to be washed out by a measure like this? Is it or is it not in the interests of the consumers that a sudden deflation of prices should be introduced by throwing out into the market an extra amount of purchasing power merely because for the last few years the amount of currency that was in the opinion of the mercantile community available for the money markets fell short of what it really ought to have been? Sir, the quantitative theory of money is that in a country the purchasing power is always equal to the total quantity of goods and services that are to be secured for it. In one mass we can place gold, paper and other kinds of purchasing power, and in another heap we can place the goods and services that are to be purchased with it. If we seek to introduce any addition or alteration in any of these masses, it is sure to disturb the existing ratio between the two. Therefore, Sir, it seems almost certain that the passage of this Bill and the acceptance of the proposal made by Government is bound to shoot up the price of certain articles of necessity in this country. I am not blind to the fact that on certain occasions it is necessary to increase the amount of purchasing power that is necessary for carrying on

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trade. But what I apprehend most—and the chief cause of my apprehension arises from this fact—is that the present necessity for an expansion in the purchasing power, which I call an inflation in the currency has arisen not for the purpose of stabilising prices, but from the necessities of trade. We have always been brought up in the belief that it is the primary duty of every financier to stabilise prices, and if for maintaining the stability of prices it is necessary to introduce changes in the quantity of the purchasing power, it is always desirable to do so. But, Sir, it is a new angle of vision which seeks to look at this problem not with a view to stabilising prices, but for meeting the necessities of trade. Sir, it must not be forgotten that this is a measure of taxation through the inflation of currency. It is not an emergency measure because the emergency powers given to Government allow, as Sir Basil Blackett himself admitted some time back, an expansion to the extent of about 12 crores more. This is a permanent addition to the currency of the country. It is answered that the powers that are at present given are not likely to be misused and that we must trust the executive to see that these powers will be used only in cases of extreme necessity. As far as I am concerned, I would have had absolutely no objection to trusting the wisdom of Sir Basil Blackett. But what I find here is, that this House is fast being reduced to the status of a gramaphonic automaton of the Indian Merchants' Chamber in Bombay, and we cannot get away from the apprehensions that the influences coming from a certain quarter interested in the expansion of currency may prevail, and that an expansion of the currency would be brought about in a way that may not be conducive to the interests of the people as a whole. Sir, my chief objection to this proposal or to this Bill is, that it would bring about a rise in prices. It is sure to do that. It would disturb the existing stability in prices in India—that stability of prices which is the boast of the Government of India, and the value of which must be realised by all those who represent the interests of the consumers.

We have also heard from the Honourable Member from Bombay who moved the amendment for referring the Bill to a Select Committee some remarks regarding the most unsatisfactory character of the security that is offered for extending this currency. Sir, my Honourable friend, Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, has, perhaps with a much clearer vision than any of us but I regret to say with a misplaced sympathy, described to us the dangers that are inherent in the powers that are given to the executive for the purpose of inflating the currency of the country. I wish, Sir, that, having seen that danger, he had refrained from disturbing the stability of prices on the mere chance of offering help to a few interested persons or parties in the country.

Sir, I do not wish to go further into details. I know that the question of prices and currency is a very delicate adjustment. I know that in this House not much attention seems to be bestowed upon this question, although for days and days we have debated on what are called political or constitutional questions. But, I believe, Sir, as a great writer recently said, that politics are a mere trivial butterfly dance compared with the great power of regulating the prices of gold, silver, rice and wheat in the country. I only hope that in some distant future—I cannot say in the near future—Honourable Members of this Assembly will be alive to the necessities of the general mass of consumers and will not always be influenced by a demand that comes from the mercantile community, whether that be the Indian Chamber of Commerce.

or the European Chamber of Commerce. I do not oppose the Bill, but I have very serious doubts about its utility, and I certainly deny to this Bill any claims to the patriotic character which it seeks to arrogate. It has been found very frequently in the course of the last few years that our patriotic interests are exploited, our patriotic feelings are exploited, in the interests of a few business men or business concerns. I only hope that the Honourable the Finance Member will so regulate the power that is being given to him that in the long run it does not work very great hardship on the poor consumers in this country. I speak only on behalf of the consumers.

**Mr. V. J. Patel** (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): There is one point on which I seek information from the Honourable the Finance Member before this Bill is finally taken into consideration, and the point is this. In the Abstract of the Accounts of the Currency Department of the 15th January, 1925, the purchase price of securities in England is put down as 19 crores, 99 lakhs and odd, that is 20 crores. Now, according to the Currency Act, the purchase price must be the actual amount laid out in the purchase of sterling in India. I should like to know whether this amount is put down according to the Currency Act, or whether it has been put down on the ratio of two shillings to the rupee. If it has been put down on the ratio of two shillings to the rupee, it means you have clearly broken the law and you should have put down as a matter of fact, if you had followed the law, something like 28 crores of rupees. If I am right in the contention that I make, Sir, then the Finance Member could issue notes worth 9 crores of rupees without any further security. Am I correct or not?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett** (Finance Member) The Honourable Member is presumably referring to the provision in the Indian Paper Currency Act which requires that the securities held either by the Secretary of State or by the Government of India as part of the Paper Currency Reserve shall be valued in accordance with the directions of the section: I have not for the moment found the section but the wording of it is that the price shall not exceed cost price—that is what it comes to—shall not exceed cost price. Obviously, you are up against considerable difficulty when you are buying securities with sterling. What is the cost price? You do not know the exact cost of the particular sterling which you remitted to London out of which you are now purchasing securities for the Paper Currency Reserve. You have to take either the average price at which you have remitted over a given period, which will be a little difficult to determine, or you will have to take some arbitrary figure. As a matter of fact, in accordance with the recommendations of the Babington-Smith Committee, the practice of the Government of India has been to value these sterling securities at two shillings to the rupee. (*Mr. V. J. Patel*: "In spite of the Act?") That is quite correct according to the Act, because the Act says: "shall not exceed". The Government have been exceptionally cautious, making sure in all circumstances that the value of the sterling which they hold as cover for note issue shall be in excess of the notes which are issued against it. But the Honourable Member went on to say that if we valued these securities at some other rate it would increase our power of issuing currency against them. It would be difficult to know exactly what other rate to take with the exchange varying. But let us assume for the moment that you take some other rate, say 1s. 4d. or 1s. 6d. That would mean that against these particular securities you could issue an additional 5 or 6 or 7 crores of rupees. That is perfectly true. But the immediate effect would be to

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increase the amount of your currency issue against securities by that 5 or 6 or 7 crores of rupees, as the case may be, and we should be brought up against our margin of 85 at once. So that it is merely a question of book-keeping. Our power is to issue currency notes against securities within a maximum limit of 85 crores of rupees. We have issued at present currency notes against securities which appear in the reserve to the value of about 77 crores of rupees. We could, if we were to revalue the sterling securities on another basis, no doubt add 5 crores to their value and issue currency against them. We should then have an amount of currency issued against Rs. 82 crores of securities. We are exactly in the same position as we are in now. Alternatively we could write down the value of created securities, which as everybody knows, represent to some extent the difference between the original value of those securities at 1s. 4d. and their nominal value at 2s. But the effect will be still the same. We should still be up against the same limit of 85 crores. It is solely a question of book-keeping and does not in any way alter the position in which the Government are placed that if they wish to issue additional currency for the needs of the market—and I would like to assure my Honourable friend who has just spoken that the Government of India are very much alive to the importance of not issuing currency beyond the real needs and of not causing anything in the nature of inflation—if we are to issue additional currency against our existing securities that would increase the total of the securities in the Reserve and our maximum would come into play, and we should be immediately up against the same difficulty which we are up against now that we cannot issue more than between 7 and 8 crores additional at the present moment, without running up against our statutory maximum. The point raised by Mr. Patel is purely a book-keeping point.

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That the Bill further to amend the Indian Paper Currency Act, 1923, be taken into consideration.”

The motion was adopted.

**Sir Campbell Rhodes** (Bengal: European): Sir, I beg to move:

“That to clause 2 of the Bill the following be added, namely:

‘and to the same sub-section the following proviso shall be added, namely:

‘provided that the value of created securities included in the said securities at the price at which they were purchased shall not exceed five hundred millions of rupees.’”

With your permission, Sir, I have altered the last few words, as I am advised that it is more in accordance with the usual drafting, to say “five hundred millions of rupees” instead of “Rs. 500 millions.” My task, Sir, has been made very much more easy by the indication from the Honourable the Finance Member that he is willing to accept this amendment, though he has pointed out that he does so with one stipulation, namely, that, of course, the Governor General would reserve to himself the right on occasion of panic or crisis to take exceptional measures to meet the situation. I think, Sir, all in this House are well aware of these special powers and are quite willing that under such circumstances they should be used. The object of my amendment is to prevent this creation of *ad hoc* securities in normal time. It is obvious from what the Honourable the Finance Member himself has said that he is not likely to be guilty of any



such action. But I am afraid we will not have him with us always. The dispensations of an inscrutable Providence might at some time give us a Finance Member Mr. Jamnadas Mehta or some other gentleman with what I regard as unorthodox ideas of inflation. The danger of deflation has been met by him and by that now famous letter of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce. He referred to my mentioning his reference to that letter. May I say that I very much appreciate the fact that that letter has been quoted by my friend Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas and my friend Mr. Jamnadas Mehta as it shows that really our financial and commercial interests in this country are one, and I can assure Mr. Jamnadas Mehta that the more he gets on to the financial rails, the more he will find himself in agreement with the Bengal Chamber of Commerce. But, Sir, it is the danger of inflation that my amendment is directed against, and here I agree with very much that has fallen from my Honourable friend on the left, though I cannot agree that the interests of trade and the interests of the consumer can be divorced. What is good for trade is good for the consumer; what is good for the consumer is good for trade. I quite agree with my Honourable friend, Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas, and I do not want to be led away by a disagreement, as to the exact time the Currency Committee should meet, into regarding this as anything but a temporary measure designed under temporary conditions to give the country the currency it needs. I agree with him entirely and I think it is the general view of this House that the sooner we get back to a gold standard the better. I do not wish to waste the time of the House and with these few words I submit my amendment.

**Mr. V. J. Patel:** I have a somewhat similar amendment on the agenda. I seek to provide by that amendment that the Government shall not increase the existing amount of created securities. I do not exactly know what the amount of created securities at present is. I am told it is somewhere between 49 and 50 crores of rupees. There is a difference of a few lakhs and therefore I do not wish to press my amendment but support the amendment of my Honourable friend, Sir Campbell Rhodes. I may point out, however, that these created securities have a history of their own. They were created for the purpose of filling in gaps brought about by the sale of Reverse Council Bills, and the policy should be as soon as possible to substitute some substantial securities in place of them so that they may be gradually done away with. These paper securities are absolutely no good and the sooner we do away with them the better. The procedure of doing away with them has been laid down in the Currency Act, *viz.*, that every year the interest from all the securities in the reserves should be utilized for reducing the created securities. But unfortunately, the Honourable the Finance Member follows a different practice altogether. Every year he suspends the particular section of the Currency Act at the time of the Budget, takes the amount realised from the interest on those securities on the credit side of the treasury balances, and thus does not make any attempt to reduce these securities. I hope that at least this year he will not make such an attempt.

**Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas** (Indian Merchants' Chamber: Indian Commerce): Sir, I am glad that the Honourable the Finance Member sees his way to accept this amendment. Regarding the point raised by him as to his powers being thus restricted in the case of a financial panic, all I want to say is that, if a financial panic of the nature that he mentioned did come about, it is not unlikely that he may find that he could not meet it even with the ordinary powers reserved to him under the Act as it stands

[Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas.]

at present. Wider powers are reserved to His Excellency the Viceroy under the Government of India Act, and I feel that we need not legislate for anything unforeseen, and specially for anything unforeseen of a serious nature. It is in the fitness of things that this House should restrict the normal powers of the executive to put into the Paper Currency Reserve securities which may correctly be said to be securities *ad hoc* securities for which no money is required. I hope the House will pass this amendment and I can assure them that it will be a salutary check on the executive.

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** My task has been made easy because we are all in agreement. After what has fallen from my Honourable friends, Sir Campbell Rhodes and Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas, I need not, I think, say more about the position of Government in accepting this amendment. I may perhaps be allowed to say one word with regard to my Honourable friend, Mr. Patel's request that the interest on the Paper Currency Reserve should be used in future to write down the created securities. Does he realise quite what that means? It means that you have got to deflate your currency to the extent that you apply the interest on the Paper Currency Reserve to reduction of the created securities. You cannot get away from it. It is one of the difficulties of the present situation. If you were to use the interest in that way you would immediately have somehow or other to recreate paper currency which you had written down by those means. I do not want to follow the point further.

**Mr. V. J. Patel:** It is all a vicious circle.

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** I explained before lunch what to my mind is the real criterion in regard to the amount of your own securities which you can hold usefully in the reserve. This is the minimum amount which you can reasonably regard as never likely to be presented at any one time. I will not pursue the point further and on behalf of Government I express my readiness to accept this amendment in the form moved by Sir Campbell Rhodes.

**Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta:** I did not like to intervene in the debate because I was in agreement with this amendment, but Sir Basil Blackett has put a different construction upon what fell from my Honourable friend, Mr. Patel. He has interpreted Mr. Patel as intending that the writing off of the created securities meant so much deflation. It need not mean that. You can write off these created securities and with that amount you can buy fresh securities which are of value, and the Act does not compel you to deflate. Of course you can use them for deflating but it is open to you under the provisions of the Act to wipe out these securities and at the same time to buy with that amount other and valuable securities. You are not prevented from doing that. Therefore my Honourable friend, Mr. Patel's admonition should not mean that he intends (I am sure he does not intend) that inflation should necessarily follow in the wake of writing off of the created securities. I hope, Sir, the Finance Member will not use Mr. Patel's remarks as a lever further to deflate the currency of the country.

**Mr. President:** The question is that:

"To clause 2 of the Bill the following be added, namely:

'and to the same sub-section the following proviso shall be added, namely:

'provided that the value of created securities included in the said securities at the price at which they were purchased shall not exceed five hundred millions of rupees.'

The question is that that amendment be made.

The motion was adopted.

**Mr. President:** The next amendment stands in the name of Mr. Jamnadas Mehta. I am not sure how far it is in order.

**Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta:** After what happened to my motion to refer the Bill to Select Committee, I do not want to press this amendment.\*

**Mr. President:** The question is:

"That clause 2, as amended, do stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

**Sardar V. N. Mutalik:** I do not wish to press my amendment.†

**Mr. President:** The question is:

"That clause 1 do stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

**Mr. President:** The question is:

"That the Title and the Preamble to the Bill do stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** I move that the Bill be passed.

**Mr. President:** The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Paper Currency Act, 1923, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

## THE COTTON GINNING AND PRESSING FACTORIES BILL.

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes** (Commerce Member): I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the better regulation of cotton ginning and cotton pressing factories be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar, Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas, Rai Sahib M. Harbilas Sarda, Mr. R. A. Wilson, Seth Kasturbhai Lalbhai, Mr. M. S. Aney, Baba Ujagar Singh Bedi, Mr. M. V. Abhyankar and myself and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be four."

Sir, after the fatiguing intricacies of Sir Basil Blackett's Currency Bill, I am sure that the House will turn with relief to a small commercial problem. I have explained the nature of that problem on two occasions already and I will not take up much time of the House in referring briefly to it again. This Bill is part of a rather tentative campaign which we have

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\* "To clause 2 of the Bill the following be added at the end:

'and the following proviso shall be added to the said sub-section:

'Provided that the remittances to the Secretary of State for India for Home charges shall not be utilised for any future additions to the said securities.'

† "After clause 2, the following new clause be added to the Bill:

'3. This Act shall remain in force for 18 months.'

[Sir Charles Innes.]

instituted in the last two or three years against certain evils in the cotton industry of India. One stage of that campaign was finished when we passed the Cotton Transport Bill; and I am glad to be able to announce to the House that I understand from Bombay that in regard to the Surat Navsari cotton tracts the Cotton Transport Bill has proved successful beyond our utmost expectations. This Bill is intended to supplement the Cotton Transport Act. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan asked this morning a very apposite question, and I gave him the answer in the form of an extract from the Cotton Committee's Report, namely:

"The evidence which has been submitted to us shows, in our opinion, that the cultivator is only to a small extent responsible and that the bulk of the adulteration, mixing and damping which is practised is carried on in the ginneries and presses."

The object of this Bill is to do something which will make it more difficult or rather less profitable to practise those evils which are known to go on in cotton ginneries and presses. That is the primary object of the Bill. If the Bill becomes law, the owner of a pressing factory will have to have all bales marked in the prescribed manner and records maintained of cotton pressed and for whom pressed, and every ginner will be required to maintain a record of the cotton ginned and for whom ginned, and both will be required to produce their records if called upon to do so to the Local Government or the Central Cotton Committee. The additional requirements are that all pressing factories will submit periodical returns of the number of bales pressed in ginning and pressing factories in the recognized way, and a new factory shall comply with certain structural requirements.

Sir, the House will see from the brief summary of the objects of this Bill that we are not imposing any very drastic burden upon the cotton ginneries and pressing factories. When I moved this motion last September the House decided that the Bill should be circulated, and I think I may claim that the opinions received in response to that circulation are generally in favour of the Bill. The Local Governments which are mostly concerned with this Bill are, naturally, the Governments of the Central Provinces, the Punjab, Madras, Bombay and the United Provinces. The Central Provinces Government say:

"The Bill provides for a reasonable measure of control of cotton ginning and pressing factories and the small degree of interference involved will be more than compensated for by the advantages to the cotton cultivator and the cotton trade generally which will accrue from the proposed legislation."

The Governor in Council of the Punjab says that "he would welcome a more stringent and far-reaching measure" but "he accepts the Bill as an initial step in the right direction". It has on the whole met with a very favourable reception in the Punjab. The Governments of Madras and Bombay both accept the Bill. The Government of the United Provinces rather doubts whether the Bill will be effective but I will deal with that point later. Naturally the cotton ginnery and pressing factory interests are opposed to the Bill. That is only to be expected since the Bill imposes certain obligations upon those factories. But apart from that purely sectional interest, I think I may say that the Bill is generally approved by public opinion in India.

The first objection taken to the Bill when the subject was last debated was that this legislation should more properly be undertaken by the Local

Governments and a constitutional point was raised. I submit, Sir, to the House that the constitutional point is perfectly clear. Factories are a provincial subject but under the Devolution Rules they are subject to legislation by the Indian Legislature. Now not one single Local Government has supported that objection that this legislation should be undertaken in the local Legislative Councils. Only one Local Government refers to it at all, and that is the Central Provinces, and the Government of the Central Provinces say that they think it quite clear in view of the nature of the cotton trade that the legislation should be central and not provincial. And I think the House will agree that that is obviously right. The cotton trade in India has no provincial boundaries at all if only for the reason that the great bulk of the cotton in India finds its way to the Bombay cotton market. If you are going in for a system of marking bales, obviously that system must be uniform for every province in India. If you prescribe returns, those returns should be prescribed for all India. Therefore, I do not think that the House will now pay much attention to the objection that this is not a proper subject for legislation in this Assembly.

The only other objection that has been taken to the Bill is that it involves a measure of Government interference with the trade which is not compensated for by the advantage which the trade will get. Now, Sir, I am quite prepared to agree that, generally speaking, Government interference with the trade is a bad thing. But in this case you have the trade itself appealing to Government to interfere because the trade has found by experience that it was not able to deal with this evil itself. If the House will examine the provisions of this Bill they will find that we have reduced our interference to the very minimum. We have not gone nearly so far as the other countries have found it necessary to do in regard to this evil of mixing and adulteration in presses and ginneries. Mixing is by no means peculiar to India. It has been detected in nearly every country in the world which has a cotton trade and other Governments have taken far more drastic means to stop it. In some countries they have actually made it a penal offence to mix cotton in a ginnery or pressing factory. We have not done that. We have not made it an offence to mix or adulterate in any way at all. All that we are doing is to impose upon pressing factories and ginneries certain obligations which will enable the cotton trade to protect itself. This afternoon we are merely dealing with the principle of the Bill. We are not dealing with the details. There are some criticisms which relate to the details but these criticisms will be carefully examined in the Select Committee if the House accepts my motion. Nor do I propose to say anything about what I may call the secondary provisions of the Bill, namely, those relating to structural requirements and to returns. The key proposal of this Bill is the proposal that all bales of pressed cotton should be marked according to a uniform system by the pressing factories, and that is the proposal on which I hope the House will fasten its attention. I have here some instances of malpractices which are known to go on in pressing factories. An officer writing to me says:

"I myself have seen presses equipped with machines for facilitating the mixing of indifferent cotton with good cotton. The Indian Central Cotton Committee have first-hand evidence that press-owners have been offered special rates if they would agree to none of their staff entering the mixing room. In a certain town it is known that as recently as 1922, special rates were quoted for special pressing which meant the filling in of the sides of a bale with superior cotton and filling in the middle with inferior. The rates for ordinary pressing were about Rs. 3-12-0 a bale; special pressing Rs. 6 a bale."

[Sir Charles Innes.]

That, Sir, is just one of the few instances of the malpractices which go on in these pressing factories and I would ask you to consider what the position of the merchant is who buys these bales. Pressed bales of cotton are consigned we will say to Bombay. A consignment may pass through the hands of, it may be, as many as ten, fifteen or twenty merchants before it is delivered to a mill or for export. When the actual delivery takes place, and when the bales are opened up, it may be found that the cotton is badly mixed or badly adulterated and not up to sample. The man who delivers now has to bear the loss, which means, it may be, Rs. 15 to 20 a bale, and he is utterly helpless. The trade has no means at all of finding out where the adulteration has taken place; the man has no means at all of protecting himself. The House must remember that as bales are pressed at present, the only marks are at the ends of the bales. Now the ends of the bales are covered with a separate piece of gunny sown on to each end, and the marks are usually the railway station marks. There is nothing easier than for those ends to be taken off and fresh ends sown on. Therefore it is very difficult to trace adulterated cotton to any particular factory or press. The main object of this Bill is to remedy that defect. If our proposals are carried the press will be required to mark the name of the factory according to a uniform system for all India. Therefore when a merchant in delivering cotton to a mill finds that the cotton is bad and not up to sample and that he has to lose 15 to 20 rupees on that bale, he will know from what press that cotton came, and if that press is continually doing that sort of thing, it will get a bad name; people will fight shy of the cotton of that press, and the cotton of that press will command a lower price in the market, as it deserves to do. Or again the East India Cotton Association, or some other authoritative body in Bombay may refer the matter to the Central Cotton Committee or the Local Government, and the Central Cotton Committee or the Local Government will be able to take the matter up with the press, and according to our proposal the press will be in a position to protect itself. The press itself may have been let down by the man who brought the cotton to be pressed. He will have his records there and if he was not responsible for the adulteration or mixing himself, he will find who was responsible for delivering that cotton. That is all we propose to do. We are not making adulteration or mixing a penal offence; all we are asking the House to agree to is to impose certain obligations on ginning and cotton factories, to admit of adulterated cotton being traced back, and we hope in this way to purify the trade right through. As I say there are questions of detail which will have to be examined in Select Committee, but I hope the House will agree with me that I have made it plain that there is a real evil in this matter which needs attention. If the House agrees to that, they will accept no doubt the principle of this Bill and they will accept my motion that it be referred to a Select Committee.

**Baba Ujagar Singh Bedi** (Punjab: Landholders): Sir, I hope I shall not be accused of egoism when I support a motion of this character, as I find my name has been proposed to serve on the Select Committee, but I do so for two obvious reasons. One is that in my humble opinion I find that, if the Bill is passed with a little modification, it will ultimately benefit the peasant class, and secondly that, if it is referred to a Select Committee, the whole Bill will be most carefully scrutinised and will be placed before this august House for its deliberation. When I read some

of the opinions elicited in connection with this Bill when they say the Bill is not likely to benefit the zemindars, it only reminds me of a story in the days of a war, when certain men were captured and made to convey luggage from one place to another. Among them, Sir, happened to be a townsman. The load was distributed and the officer in charge mounted his horse and ordered them to follow him. They had hardly marched a couple of hundred yards when the townsman and the villager began to converse. The townsman said "I am not in the habit of giving any *begar* whatsoever." The villager said that in spite of his old age he had not been spared and the load allotted to him was much too heavy. They had hardly finished their discourse when the officer in charge inquired what it was they were talking about. Naturally the townsman was a shrewd man and he took advantage of the taciturnity of the villager and promptly replied "Sir, this man says the load allotted to him is much too light and I said the load allotted to me was much too heavy." Whereupon the officer in charge of the convoy ordered the townsman to place his load on the back of the villager and told him to walk in front of the horse. That is exactly the position whenever we find any legislation proposed for these ginning factories or any other thing of the kind. So many obstacles or impediments are placed in the way simply to say it is not going to benefit the agriculturist. What do we find, Sir? What is the situation that has been created for bringing up this sort of legislation? Honourable Members will find from a little pamphlet that was circulated by the Indian Central Cotton Committee which speaks to this effect, that the Bill is frankly an attempt to prevent, or at any rate to reduce, the adulteration of good cotton by bad and it is a necessary complement to the Cotton Transport Act passed in 1923. The evils of mixing are well recognised and for years a remedy has been sought. The justification for legislation is that grave economic loss to the whole country is being caused, and that the loss is falling most heavily on the cotton grower who is least able to protect himself. It must be remembered that the Indian cotton crop now averages some 50 lakhs of bales worth over 100 crores of rupees, of which Indian mills take about 20 lakhs of bales, the balance being exported. A few recent instances will show the extent of the loss caused by mixing. The Agricultural Department in the Punjab has successfully established the growing of Punjab-American cotton over some 6 lakhs of acres. Last year it was calculated that this brought in at least 120 lakhs of rupees of extra profit to the grower; but Indian mills have consistently complained that the cotton is mixed and consequently cannot be used for the purposes for which cotton of one inch staple would be suitable. Then, Sir, they say that at the commencement of the season the demand for cotton of the 1923-24 crop was keen and both Indian mills and exporters paid high prices for it. Later deliveries were badly mixed; the position of Punjab-American was lowered and its price relatively to other cotton fell heavily as will be seen from the following Bombay prices, that I need not quote here. The same fall took place in the Liverpool market where a fair amount of Punjab-American was sold in the early part of 1924.

Now, Sir, how is it going to benefit the agriculturist. I will just read out again an extract from the pamphlet circulated by this Committee.

They say:

"With a view to assisting farmers to avoid having their cotton mixed by middlemen and to help them to get fair prices for the quality of cottons which they grow I asked the Registrar, Co-operative Societies, whether he could get farmers to form

[Baba Ujagar Singh Bedi.]

Co-operative Unions and grade and gin their cottons in a cotton factory owned or rented by these Unions. He is very anxious to help us, but finds himself faced with the fact that the experience of the Okara Zaminder's Co-operative Society which has been trying co-operative ginning for the last 4 years is not encouraging; that 'it is more profitable to sell the mixed articles', etc. The cause of this is that *Desi Kapas*, which can be bought much cheaper than American, can be mixed into American within a range of at least 5 per cent. without much risk of being detected in the ginned condition until the unfortunate spinner puts it into his mill."

Now, Sir, it is for this reason that this Bill is contemplated and I think it is but fair that legislation of this character should be brought in. Some of the opinions say that this adulteration takes place by the cultivators, but here again this Committee has removed this obloquy upon the cultivators. It says that mixing is not done by the grower:

"Very careful and thorough inquiry has been made as to where the mixing takes place and a number of independent reports received. Despite the fact that the same cultivators grow both American and *Desi* cottons in the Punjab, the American *kapas* brought to market by them is on an average of 95 per cent. or greater purity. The baled cotton which is exported from the Punjab is often only 75 per cent. pure. The mixing is done after the cultivator has sold his cotton and mainly in the ginning and pressing factories."

It is for this reason that this legislation has been brought in and I give it my whole-hearted support.

**Mr. M. V. Abhyankar** (Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I stand to oppose the motion made by the Honourable the Commerce Member. This, again, is a piece of legislation which is intended to cater for the benefits of a foreign trader and that too, not at the cost of even the Indian seller, but at the cost of the Indian ginning factory owner and also the agriculturist, as I shall presently show, who are not at all concerned in the mixing up of this cotton. Who is it that is responsible for the mixing up of this cotton assuming there is mixing going on on a wide scale? It is the seller. The ginning factory owner and the pressing factory owner have absolutely nothing more to do with it than to press or gin the cotton offered to him for so doing by the seller and yet we find that the whole of this Bill imposes conditions and all sorts of conditions on the ginning factory and pressing factory owners, leaving the seller absolutely intact; and what can be the result of this Bill if it were passed into law on the ginning factory owner? The ginning factory owner will be put to all sorts of inconveniences. The ginning factory owner will have to increase the already increased charges for ginning and pressing of bales. On whom would this increase tell? Not on the ginning factory owner, but on the agriculturist. It is the agriculturist who in view of these conditions and in view of the increased cost of ginning will have to accept lower prices at the hands of the purchaser. That is how through the ginning factory owner this legislation will tell on the agriculturist. (*A Voice*: "Why not on the buyer?") It cannot under any circumstances tell on the buyer because the buyer will always sell at a profit; whatever rate he buys at, it can never fall on the buyer in this country who happens to be the seller in relation to the buyer in foreign countries.

Then, Sir, it must be remembered—and I am saying this as an agriculturist myself—that the same seed does not produce the same quality of cotton in every area and in all areas. The same seed produces different varieties of cotton in different areas and in different soils. (*A Voice*: "But the same staple.") Not even the same staple. Then again in the



same area the same seed does not give the same kind of cotton at each picking. There are several pickings. (*A Voice*: "That is a mixed seed.") No. At the first picking you will not get good staple; it is in the second picking that you will get good staple from the same cotton from the same area and from the same seed. Then when the farmer comes with his cartload to the ginning factory to sell his cotton, this piece of legislation will always give a handle to the buyer to offer a lower price to that farmer, because there are few traces or some traces of a different variety to be found in that cotton, and, mind you, for which the farmer is in no way responsible. Another difficulty with the farmer is that it is difficult for him to get a pure seed necessary to sow over the whole of his field in order that he may get one kind of cotton.

Then, Sir, what are the improvements in the ginning factories that are proposed in this Bill? The Bill imposes on factory owners separate platforms, and even separate entrances for the bringing in of unginced cotton and the taking out of ginned cotton. Of late in some provinces—I am glad to say it is the case in my province also—farmers are starting small ginning factories of their own on co-operative lines in order to get out of the tyrannies of the big factory owners and local purchasers of cotton and be able to sell their cotton direct to Bombay. Now if these small factories are to spring up, as they ought to spring up in the interests of the farmer, all these conditions will make it difficult, nay even impossible, for them to come into being. Even the factories that are already in existence will find it difficult to cope with the provisions of this Bill when it is passed into law, and it will be much more difficult for these small factories with small capital to meet the requirements of this Bill.

Then, Sir, what is it after all that this Bill will provide for? The purchaser abroad will find out that in a certain bale coming from a certain place there has been bad cotton. What will he put it down to? He will put it down more to the mischief of the ginner, who is not at all concerned in the mixing of the cotton, than to the mischief of the seller who is really responsible for this mischief. And, Sir, after about a year, the purchaser abroad might open a bale when he wants it for use, and then he might report that a certain bale has been found to be adulterated. Who knows if it was really adulterated? We are to know it from a foreign country thousands of miles away, that a certain bale has been adulterated, and that too, a year or two after it has been sold from this country! Who knows? There may be false claims put up against the sellers here, and there is no guarantee in this Bill to protect the sellers against that kind of fraud that a buyer may practise against the seller. One thing more.

4 P.M. The ginning factories work not throughout the year but during certain seasonal months of the year. And this Bill requires the factory owners to maintain registers, to maintain accounts, to keep up an establishment for accounts throughout the year. And not only that, the Bill wants the owners of the factories to maintain them although the owners might have leased out their factories or the owners might have sold their factories. The responsibility is to be theirs. They have to maintain an establishment under this Act for which there is absolutely no need and they have also to be responsible for acts which are not theirs but which are either the acts of their lessees or the people who are working the factories for them. I hope therefore this House will throw out this Bill.

**Baba Ujagar Singh Bedi:** This Bill or this motion?

**Mr. M. S. Aney** (Berar Representative): Sir, the Honourable Member for Commerce has in moving this motion for reference to a Select Committee asked us to concentrate our attention more upon the principle of this Bill than upon the details. I wish to do that and nothing more. The case has been, so far as the cultivators are concerned, put before you by my Honourable friend Mr. Abhyankar. As regards the principle itself, I wish to reiterate what I stated when I made my motion for circulating it for opinion last September, that the subject is a fit one for the Provincial Legislature and not for the Central Legislature. That objection I wish to reiterate again now. And after having carefully read the opinions received, I have failed to find any reason for regarding this House as the proper place for the consideration of the subject. Though opinions have been very strongly expressed on behalf of this Bill by the Central Cotton Committee, it has failed to show that the evils complained of here are evils for all-India legislation, that is, that the evil is to be found in every cotton growing tract of India. They have pointed out certain places in the Punjab and the Bombay Presidency. If that is so, the evil is localised and it is not an evil which can be described as scattered over the entire cotton growing area in this country. And if the evil is localised, then is it difficult for the Central Cotton Committee or any other body to approach the Provincial Legislature, which consists of persons knowing the conditions of cotton cultivation and cotton trade in those provinces more intimately than the Members of this House, where a majority of Members know nothing of these things? What is the difficulty for a body like that to approach the Provincial Legislature and ask them to have legislation to remedy certain evils which damage, according to the Cotton Committee, the reputation of the cotton in these provinces? That being the case, the evil itself being localised and the Cotton Committee having failed to show that that is an evil, which is widespread or having failed to give evidence that the type of evil they describe is a universal evil that has application to all cotton growing tracts where cotton factories are to be found, I think it is necessary for this House to consider whether, in view of this, this is a proper question to proceed with in the Central Legislature, to the extent even of imposing penalising conditions upon a number of factories in different tracts which probably have nothing to do with the mischief of which complaint is being made. That is one point.

Secondly, a point that I wish to touch upon is the very constitutional point which the Honourable Sir Charles Innes has tried to meet in his own way. He says the Provincial Governments have now given their opinions and most of them are agreeable to the idea that the measure should be considered by the Central Legislature. Well, in the first place, I ask in whom does the right that is given by the Government of India Act regarding the transferred subjects vest? That is my first question.

It vests in the Provincial Legislature. That is my first point. Whenever there is any question with regard to transferred subjects, and whenever any idea of assuming jurisdiction and making law with regard to a transferred subject is before this House, I very much wish that Members of this House should not treat the opinions of Provincial Governments as counting for very much. You must assume that the Provincial Government and the Provincial Legislatures are not one and the same thing. The Provincial Government will be quite glad to see that jurisdiction which is given to the Provincial Legislatures as regards transferred subjects is at once handed back to the Central Government and be thus relieved of a

good deal of worry and trouble about these matters. Therefore, when "question like this arises, it is due to us, elected representatives of the people, to see that the opinions of the Provincial Governments do not count much in a matter like this unless the Provincial Government had with it the Resolution of the Provincial Legislature saying that they were prepared to surrender their jurisdiction and their right in favour of the Central Government and an irresponsible Legislature like this. Unless you have a definite opinion like that of the Provincial Legislature, I am not prepared to say that we are justified in assuming jurisdiction ourselves and robbing them of such rights as have been given to them by the Government of India Act. It is easy to lose it, it is difficult to get it back. Secondly, I wish to remind this House of certain observations made by the Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman, the Home Member, while speaking on the motion moved by the Honourable Sir Hari Singh Gour regarding the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Bill. The Honourable the Home Member made certain remarks which are very pertinent. He said that in our zeal to pass laws, in our zeal to have our names inscribed on the Statute-book, we forget the constitutional effect of our action. We forget what we are doing and what is the consequence of conduct of that kind upon the main questions upon which we have been agitating. What the Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman means by this is that by virtually insisting upon this House to take up legislation on matters which fall within the jurisdiction of the Provincial Legislatures, and particularly within the transferred sphere, we are saying that the subject is fit to be dealt with by the Central Legislature and therefore should no longer be on the list of transferred subjects. That observation has come from one who presided over the Reforms Committee. The Resolution of the Government of India has yet to come out and your insistence on legislation by the Central Legislature on transferred subjects may not be lost sight of altogether when the Resolution of the Government of India is issued. Do not forget in your zeal for the sake of having a particular measure in the interests of expediency what effect you are likely to produce on the demand for provincial autonomy. You must be prepared to put up with a little delay or a little trouble that may be involved in the Provincial Legislature undertaking legislation of that kind. The Government of India may certainly make capital out of it and say that although these champions of Indian liberty, these champions of provincial autonomy, have been clamouring aloud that dyarchy has failed and that more subjects should be transferred, the representatives of the people in the Central Legislature have always been anxious that the transferred subjects should be legislated upon by the Central Legislature. Your conduct will be a good proof of your capacity to claim more subjects for transfer, and if we accede to this motion there will be a great deal of inconsistency in what we do. I may tell you, gentlemen,—I am sorry—I may tell the House—on this very point, our Chairman, Mr. Neogy once corrected me, but I forgot it. . . . .

**Pandit Shamlal Nehru** (Meerut Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): May I ask the Honourable Member to speak a little more clearly. I cannot quite make out what he says.

**Mr. M. S. Aney:** What I wish to impress on the House is that the important constitutional effect of our conduct should not be ignored, and I am sure the House will consider carefully the point I have put forward before it records its vote on the motion before it.

[Mr. M. S. Aney.]

I now come to another point. I have already told you that the Central Cotton Committee has failed to produce any evidence that this is an evil which pervades all the provinces. In regard to this I wish to say that it is not merely a question in which our claim for provincial autonomy is likely to be jeopardised, but virtually we should be encroaching upon the rights of local elected bodies in certain provinces. For instance, in Berar there are cotton market committees. I do not want to tire the House with a long list of extracts from the report of the Indian Cotton Committee, but I merely wish to draw the attention of the House to their observations in Part II under Chapter 16 dealing with the commercial aspects of the question. It is therein stated that all these evils, the evil of adulteration, etc., can be capable of correction without any drastic legislation if there are open markets established everywhere and they have made a suggestion to that effect. They have made a suggestion with regard to the establishment of open markets, the publicity of prices, facilities to be given to co-operative societies for doing this, that and the other, etc., etc. The cotton market committees are elected bodies on which representation is given to municipalities, district boards, and so on, and the cotton growers as well as the factory owners virtually control the cotton markets in Berar, and those bodies have got almost all the rights that are now claimed by the Government of India. What will be the result? There would be a conflict of jurisdiction between the cotton market committees in Berar and the Government of India, and by virtue of this Bill you are really creating a cotton bureaucracy at the head of which the Honourable Sir Charles Innes will be sitting, with an Advisory Council in the form of the Central Cotton Committee. This Committee will dictate the policy with regard to the cotton trade at the expense of those cotton market committees. So instead of taking steps in the direction of decentralisation, you, champions of liberty, are encouraging a policy of centralisation, the policy of drawing all the powers back into the hands of the Government of India to put a screw upon those local committees which have been working. I should have thought that some sort of legislation should be moved in the Provincial Legislature with a view to enlarging the scope of these committees and giving them more powers. That is the third constitutional consequence which will follow in case you pass this Bill into law.

I would like to refer to one more point because I have promised only to deal with questions of principle and not deal with details at all. I hope there will be no occasion to discuss the details of this Bill. That is my expectation and that is why I do not discuss them. This is not the first time that legislative interference is made in this matter. If you will carefully read the report of the Indian Cotton Committee you will find that the Cotton Frauds Act has failed to come up to expectations and in fact the cotton cultivators and merchants of Bombay have protested against the maintenance of that Act on the Statute-book. I think it was in 1879 or 1881. My friend Sir Purshotamdas will correct me on that point. In the report you will find that precisely these very objections were raised. It is alleged that the suggestions of the Cotton Committee were free from that objection. It will be seen that the repeal of the Cotton Frauds Act was mainly due to the objections taken to the establishment of a cotton department and inspectors and the imposition of a special tax which was levied to have its provisions carried out. Now the recommendations of

the Central Cotton Committee have already imposed a cess. We have said that. While I am on this point I may remind this House that when the Cotton Cess Bill was before the Council of State, my Honourable friend Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas who was a member of the Council of State vehemently opposed it on several grounds and one of the grounds was that the Central Cotton Committee was not an Indian concern but probably a branch of the Empire Cotton Growing Association in England.

**Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas** (Indian Merchants' Chamber: Indian Commerce): All I can say is that my friend is not quoting me correctly at all. I do not wish to use any stronger word.

**Mr. M. S. Aney:** I am speaking from memory. He will certainly tell us what he said then and probably it may come to the same thing. However it is a different thing. A cess has already been imposed and is considered that the objectionable features of that Act are again being reproduced by the present Bill and if that is so, this is a matter which you must seriously consider when you record your vote on the motion of Sir Charles Innes. Our previous experience of interference of this kind is that it does not help to remove malpractices.

Lastly, those who are conversant with the principles of criminal jurisprudence will surely be shocked by this Bill. It is a penal law. The idea is to detect the offender. Our object has been to secure the co-operation of ginneries and presses in this matter. Further we do not propose that malpractices in regard to the adulteration of cotton should be made the subject of criminal cases and those who commit these offences are not going to be subject to criminal prosecutions at all, but that detection is necessary—that is all that is being attempted at present. The offender is allowed to go scot-free. There is no doubt you do not penalize his conduct but allow him to go scot-free, while those who come in contact with him for certain purposes are asked to observe certain conditions for the breach of which they will be punished. Is that the way of dealing with an offence? Will anybody who is conversant with the principles of criminal jurisprudence approve of a procedure under which a man is sought to be punished because he refused to keep a diary, detailing the movements of his neighbour who happens to be a police suspect on the ground that the neighbour has a criminal desire according to the police, and that he will be punished if he fails to do so, while the real offender may be allowed to go scot-free? What is it? Ginneries and pressing factories are virtually asked to keep, in the form of certain registers, a sort of diary which is to be made use of for evidential purposes of detection. But, after detection, nothing is to be done, and the real offender is to be allowed to go scot-free. What is the use of a law like that? While you are prepared to deal with them, you are not prepared to deal with all the implications. If that is the object, the law is incomplete. Under your system, how do you want to deal with that man, and in regard to a Statute like that it would be impossible for us to see what relation there is between the first part and the second part that is concealed from us to-day. The second part should be the real object of legislation in a matter like this. So you have an incomplete Statute. I am not sure whether this will really succeed or not. Previous experience does not warrant any body in coming to any definite conclusion that this will really succeed in the detection of the offences. Probably the Government wants to wait. After seeing whether this will be of any use in detecting the offences or

[Mr. M. S. Aney.]

not, the question may arise whether there is time for the Government to proceed further with a matter like that. Probably that is the underlying idea. For these reasons, Sir, I think that inasmuch as this method will not help us much in detecting the offenders and checking the malpractices in the trade but will on the other hand in effect encourage certain corrupt practices in certain other quarters. This is a matter which should be seriously taken into consideration. In my province at any rate as regards the conduct of the Inspectors appointed under the Factories Act, our experience of these inspectorial visits is not so very encouraging that we may at once repeat those inconveniences by legislation immediately in the form of this Bill. That being the case, I wish that this House, after these general considerations, should make up its mind to oppose the motion that this Bill be referred to a Select Committee.

**Mr. R. A. Wilson** (Central Provinces: Nominated Official): Sir, I have a complaint to make against the Honourable the Commerce Member in this matter, a complaint in which I shall have the sympathy of the whole House. He makes things very difficult for those who have to follow him in debate. He says what has to be said and says it so well that there is nothing left to be said at all. But fortunately for me my friends from the Central Provinces have come to my rescue. I am sorry to disclose the spectacle of the Central Provinces and Berar as a house divided against itself but I am afraid I have no alternative whatever but to do so. I fear, Sir, that the differences between Mr. Aney and myself are deep and fundamental. He is the champion of the oppressed, of the victim of what I think is commonly called *Naukarshahi*, and he has a deep sympathy for the oppressed factory manager; he sees him prosecuted regularly for employing women, for employing children; he even sees him prosecuted for allowing his fitters to wear dhotis instead of pants. I make a present of this to the Honourable Member from Dacca who seems to be an authority on the subject of dress, judging from what he told us the other day. In this Bill, Sir, it is proposed not to punish the manager but to punish the owner. Mr. Aney sees the spectacle of the tyrannical and irresponsible District Magistrate being empowered to punish the factory owner in addition to the factory manager and he is prepared to go to any length in order to prevent the factory owner being punished. The Honourable the Commerce Member has anticipated Mr. Aney's argument regarding the constitutional question. Mr. Aney has dealt with that at very considerable length and I do not desire to follow him into that question. But, Sir, might it not have been pointed out to the Members from the Central Provinces that all provinces in India are not as advanced from a political point of view as the Central Provinces and Berar are? The Government of India might be perfectly content to leave legislation of this description to the Central Provinces Legislative Council. But the other provinces and the other Provincial Councils could not possibly be trusted with legislation of this character. Mr. Aney has tried to persuade the House that these practices are very largely local. I gather that he considers that they do not exist in Berar. Well, Sir, I am afraid I must differ from Mr. Aney on that point. He knows as well as I do that in one of the four Berar districts one of the principal markets has been ruined by an influx of inferior cotton from the adjoining Bombay districts. Fortunately, the Cotton Transport Act has now come to our aid and that state of affairs is being put a stop to. It is admitted that the practice takes place in the

north of India, in Bombay, in Madras and it certainly takes place in the Central Provinces and Berar. On that ground, therefore, there is clearly a case for central legislation and not a case for provincial legislation. Mr. Aney has referred to the Berar cotton markets and their committees. Well, Sir, I fear he has a touching faith in these cotton market committees, which I for one do not share. Mr. Aney also is perfectly well aware of the fact that the whole of the cotton market law in the Central Provinces is at present in the melting pot because it has been found that the cotton market committees in Berar, though they have done good work are now failing to fulfil all the functions which they are supposed to fulfil. The representation on them consists almost entirely of buyers, sellers and members of municipal committees. The agricultural interests are practically not represented at all. If you go into the rural area of a Berar district you will hear many complaints of the working of the cotton market committees. So, I cannot share his fear that the passing of this Bill into law will raise a conflict between the cotton market committees in Berar and the Government. How can there be any honest objection to this Bill passes my understanding. It is admitted on all hands that the registers which the Bill prescribes are already maintained in all decently run ginning factories and presses. Mr. Abhyankar has referred to the enormous increase in the cost of running presses and ginneries which is bound to result from this Bill. But how such an increase can possibly result when the factories already employ a staff and keep registers, I am unable to understand. That there are certain details of the Bill to which one may take exception I am perfectly clear myself, but at this stage there is no question of considering these details at all. I beg therefore to support the motion of Sir Charles Innes.

**Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas:** Sir, I must admit that my Honourable friend Mr. Aney could not have done better by his constituents than the effort he has put forward in the speech that the House has just listened to. Besides, Sir, touching upon the questions relating to the Bill, he drew the attention of this House in a very sincere and earnest manner to the following, amongst other things. Firstly, the constitutional aspect of this measure, or of consideration of this measure as affecting the Reforms Inquiry Committee, the report of which this House is awaiting with so much eagerness. Secondly, the Cotton Frauds Act of 1875, an Act which was quite different from the one which is now before the House, a comparison which is good enough to frighten away people who do not know the difference between that repealed Act and the present Bill. He thirdly, Sir, told the House what his impression was regarding what I said in the Council of State when the Indian Cotton Cess Bill was under consideration there, and I am afraid his memory rather gave him away there. He made out that I there had said that the Indian Central Cotton Committee was a part and parcel of the British Cotton Committee. Finally, he appealed to the principles of jurisprudence and said that the Bill, as placed before the House, was something which anybody who was acquainted with the principles of jurisprudence could not even think of looking at. I wish my Honourable friend had told us from his experience of the practices, good and bad, of gin and press owners in Berar and the Central Provinces whether any sort of check is necessary on the persons for whom he pleaded so eloquently and so well before this House to-day. Then, Sir, we might have



[Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas.]

been talking about what really appertains to the Bill that is before the House. But I am afraid that he did not venture into that sphere, and my only inference therefore can be that my friend Mr. Aney agrees with me and with the Indian Central Cotton Committee that a good deal requires to be done in connection with the practice of marketing cotton as it exists to-day. If I am not making a wrong or an unfair inference from my Honourable friend's silence regarding the subject matter which is touched upon in the Bill, I submit, Sir, that my Honourable friend, Mr. Aney, is quite correct in agreeing to come on to the Select Committee and I further submit that, if he wishes to oppose the Bill, the time to do so will be after this Bill emerges from the Select Committee without such modifications as my friend may want, and not at present. I however wish to reply to a few of the other subjects and other aspects of the Bill that my Honourable friend has put before the House. He wishes the House to remember what a serious effect this Bill being considered by the House to-day may have when the report of the Reforms Inquiry Committee is published. I do not claim, Sir, to know what is going to be the report of the Reforms Inquiry Committee, and therefore I cannot say whether it is right to wait until that report is out; but I can say this, that cotton unfortunately, Sir, does not sell according to limits laid down in the Government of India Act for Provinces, and as far as such a major article of raw produce grown in India is concerned, those limits should not count. It is therefore, Sir, only right that any legislation in connection with raw cotton should be not provincial legislation but legislation by the Central Legislature. Regarding the Cotton Frauds Act of 1875, my Honourable friend either has not studied the history of that Act very fully or he is forgetting some important aspects of it. The difference between that Act and the present Bill is in short this—that Act was a failure, and was protested against all the while that it was on the Statute-book by everybody concerned in the cotton trade, because that Act laid down control of the cotton trade from outside, namely, through inspectors and other subordinate officers nominated by Government. The present Bill has no such control of the factories from outside. There is only one place where you have even the word "inspector" mentioned in this Bill, and that is a question which should be considered in the Select Committee. But excepting that all through the Bill, if my Honourable friend will only give it a little patient thought, he will see that it brings about automatic control of the cotton trade from within the cotton trade and by those who are engaged in the cotton trade. There is no question of any subordinate officer of Government having anything to say to anybody in connection with the way in which he handles cotton. If a seller or factory owner chooses to mix cotton and the buyer at the other end does not feel justified in complaining about it, there is nobody else to interfere with such seller or factory owner. This is a very palpable and important difference between the Cotton Frauds Act of the seventies of the last century and the present Bill.

My Honourable friend referred to what I said in the Council of State on the Cotton Cess Bill. I was one of those on the Select Committee who differed from the majority and I put in a minute of dissent. My minute of dissent is still on record for anybody, including the Honour-



able Mr. Aney, to see if he chooses to. My main difference with that Select Committee was as to the question what should be the amount of the cess to be levied. The majority of the Select Committee named 4 annas a bale; I wanted it to be restricted to a much smaller figure—2 annas a bale. There was no question of my ever saying—and it is the first time I hear it from my Honourable friend—that the Indian Cotton Committee is a branch of any institution in Great Britain. I mention this particularly because I do not wish any Honourable Member in this House to have the slightest idea that the Honourable Mr. Aney was quoting me correctly, although I am sure he quoted me without meaning it otherwise.

Regarding the principles of jurisprudence I would leave it to the competent lawyer Members of this House to go into the point that has been submitted by the Honourable Mr. Aney; but I would mention this very simple point that cotton gins and presses are the only places where mischief with the pure raw produce of the cotton cultivator is feasible and possible. Would it be wrong for the Indian Central Cotton Committee, would it be wrong for the executive of the Central Government up here, and I submit would it be wrong for this Central Legislature to consider the only place where people can do harm to the pure growth of the Indian cultivator—from bringing that under control and if necessary even putting a substantial penalty on such as dare to play havoc with the pure growth of the cultivator? Sir, in this Assembly we have been accustomed to hear touching appeals, at times in the name of the consumer, but mostly in the name of the Indian ryot and the cultivator. If, Sir, that is a genuine and sincere appeal I submit that this Bill is one which should appeal to this House without the slightest hesitation. My Honourable friend, Mr. Abhyankar, said he was an agriculturist himself. I am delighted to know it—I d'd not know till now that Mr. Abhyankar was an agriculturist. If by agriculturist one is to understand that he tills the soil and therefore knows what it means when you get a smaller return than what you are entitled to when you are growing raw produce, I may still submit to Mr. Abhyankar that he must be a zamindar or landlord and certainly not a tiller of the soil. Sir, this Bill is for the benefit mainly of the person who works with his hand and tries to grow what India looks upon as her greatest wealth, namely, the raw produce, year in year out; and I strongly recommend the House to pass this motion without any hesitation.

**Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty** (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, it is very rarely if at all that Honourable Members on this side of the House find an opportunity of agreeing without any reservation with the observations of one of the occupants of the treasury bench. It is therefore with pleasure that I take this opportunity of whole-heartedly supporting the measure that has been brought forward by my Honourable friend, Sir Charles Innes. I am afraid, Sir, that my Honourable friend from Nagpur has thoroughly misrepresented, if not misunderstood, the scope and purpose of the measure that is now before us. That India is a very great cotton producing country, that somewhere or other a good deal of adulteration goes on in the cotton trade and that measures ought to be taken to prevent this adulteration, are all facts which even my Honourable friend from Nagpur cannot deny. As has been pointed out in the Statement of Objects and Reasons the measure that is

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now before us is only a logical sequence and extension of the Cotton Transport Act. It was with the enactment of the Cotton Transport Act that a serious attempt was for the first time made to prevent the adulteration of cotton in the country. But experience has amply shown that the provisions of the Cotton Transport Act are not completely successful in preventing adulteration. Any one who knows about the state of cotton cultivation in the various parts of the country will realise that under the varied irrigation facilities which differ in the same district, different kinds of cotton are very often grown in the same locality; and so long as the growth of a particular quality of cotton is not restricted to a particular district and so long as there are not particular boundaries within which this can be regulated, the operation of the Cotton Transport Act does not effectively prevent adulteration. My Honourable friend from Nagpur said that this measure is intended to benefit foreign merchants and the mill-owners. Well, Sir, I do not deny the fact that this measure will benefit the merchants and the mill-owners; but has my Honourable friend realised that out of cotton worth about 100 crores of rupees per annum which is produced in India, more than 40 crores worth of cotton is taken and consumed by the Indian mills themselves? And I ask, Sir, is it not worth while to protect your Indian mill-owners themselves from the loss due to the adulteration that goes on in the country? As my Honourable friend, Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas, pointed out, even more than the protection that is afforded to the mill-owner and to the merchant by this measure, it is the cultivator that will be ultimately benefited by this. Every body knows the process that takes place in adulteration during the cotton season and the detrimental effect it has in reducing the prices and thereby depriving the agriculturist of his well-deserved and well-earned profit. In South India on account of the activities of the Agricultural Department a quality of cotton which is now known as Tiruppur Cambodia is extensively grown. The poor agriculturist there takes a good deal of trouble and spends a lot of money in growing this cotton. The cotton goes into the market. It goes through the gins and presses, and in the early periods of the cotton season, it fetches a very good price. But gradually the mischief is being done in the gins and presses and ultimately the purchaser who is offered the Tiruppur Cambodia cannot accept the word of a merchant at its face value and is not prepared to pay the legitimate price which is due to Tiruppur Cambodia. The ultimate effect of this is that, as the season advances, the agriculturist does not get the proper price for his produce. In the small pamphlet that has been placed in our hands by the Indian Central Cotton Committee, it is shown that how in the year 1924 on account of adulteration the price of Punjab American cotton at Liverpool fell gradually with the effect that it resulted in a loss of about Rs. 17-8-0 per acre. Now this loss in price ultimately affects the agriculturist. My Honourable friend from Nagpur asks, why should the factory owner be penalised; why should not the seller be asked to accept the responsibility for this? Yes, if the factory owner is honest, certainly the provisions of this Bill enable him to shift the responsibility ultimately on to the seller, because by keeping a proper record of ownership in the pressing factories, it will certainly enable the factory owner to fix the responsibility upon the person who brought the cotton. This Bill does not in any way penalise the factory owners themselves. And, Sir, whatever might be the plea that my Honourable friends from the

Central Provinces put forward in favour of press owners, it cannot be denied that a good deal of mischief takes place in the factories themselves. Very often, I know in South India, the owners of factories are purchasers of what is known as *Kapas*, that is cotton in the raw stage, and it is to their interest to see that the mixing is done in their factories. I know from personal experience of a pressing factory owner who is supposed to be an expert adulterator. There might not be on the market a particular quality of cotton, but you ask this person for that particular quality, and the man is so clever that in his press he will mix up all sorts and all qualities of cotton and produce a quality of cotton which in its appearance will look exactly like the quality of cotton that is wanted. We know what the poor mill-owner will feel when this cotton is actually taken up for being turned into yarn. Sir, if this Bill offers protection to the mill-owner, it is a protection not merely to the foreign mill-owner, but it is a protection to the Indian mill-owner which he amply deserves, and above all, I am perfectly convinced that the measure will be ultimately beneficial to the producer himself. Therefore, Sir, I have great pleasure in supporting the proposition of my Honourable friend.

**Khan Bahadur W. M. Hussanally** (Sind: Muhammedan Rural): Sir, I move that the question be now put.

The motion was adopted.

**Mr. President:** The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the better regulation of cotton ginning and cotton pressing factories, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar, Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas, Rai Sahib M. Harbilas Sarda, Mr. R. A. Wilson, Seth Kasturbhai Lalbhai, Mr. M. S. Aney, Baba Ujagar Singh Bedi, Mr. M. V. Abhyankar, and the mover, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be four."

**Mr. Darcy Lindsay** (Bengal: European): Sir, I move that Mr. Fleming's name be added, because he has had practical experience in cotton ginning and pressing and I have no doubt will be of great assistance to the Committee.

**Mr. President:** It is only by stretching a point in the Honourable Member's favour that he can be allowed to move it. The matter should have been brought forward before. The question is that Mr. Fleming's name be added.

The motion was adopted.

**Mr. President:** The question is that the Bill be so referred.

The motion was adopted.

## THE WORKMEN'S BREACH OF CONTRACT (REPEALING) BILL.

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman** (Home Member): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to repeal certain enactments whereby breaches of contract by labourers are made punishable under the criminal law, be taken into consideration."

I need not detain the House more than a minute or two on this Bill. I explained, when I asked for leave to introduce it on the 15th of September, that it was being brought before the House to fulfil a pledge made to the House on a Resolution moved by Mr. Neogy. The Bill has now been on the table of the House for some months. I have received no amendments and I conclude, therefore, that it is generally satis-

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factory to the House. It seeks to repeal certain enactments by which breaches of contract on the part of workers are made punishable as criminal offences. It repeals the whole of the Workmen's Breach of Contract Act, 1859, as subsequently amended. It also repeals two sections of the Penal Code, sections 490 and 492, which were no doubt necessary when that Code was enacted but with the development of transport throughout this country are now probably only necessary in very remote places, and, if necessary at all, should be dealt with by local legislation. Sir, I move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman:** Sir, with reference to clause 1, with your permission I should like to make a necessary formal amendment. It was originally intended that the Bill should be passed in the year 1924 and now I hope it will be passed to-day in the year 1925. I move that the year 1925 be substituted for the year 1924.

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Schedule, Title and Preamble were added to the Bill.

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman:** Sir, I move that the Bill be passed.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi** (Nominated: Labour Interests): Sir, I do not wish to take up the time of the House but I wanted to say one word thanking the Government for passing this Bill repealing certain very obnoxious legislation on the Statute-book of this country. The legislation punishing a breach of contract of service as a criminal offence was an inheritance from the anti-labour legislation of England. I am very glad that, although very late, the Government of India have thought it necessary to repeal the legislation. But, Sir, I would like the Government of India to repeal all such legislation on their Statute-book. There are still some Acts in which a breach of contract of service is treated as a criminal offence, such as the Assam Labour and Emigration Act of 1901. I know the offending sections in that Act are withdrawn by notification. Still, I would like the Government of India to remove these sections from the Statute-book altogether. I would also like the Government of India to revise section 491 of the Indian Penal Code in conformity with their object which is to repeal all legislation which treats a breach of contract of service as a criminal offence. Sir, I again thank the Government of India for bringing forward and getting this legislation passed.

**Mr. Ohaman Lall** (West Punjab: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I also add my congratulations to those of Mr. Joshi, to the Honourable the Home Member for having brought in this Bill and I am glad to see the Honourable the Law Member (Sir B. N. Sarma) sitting in his place because, if my memory serves me right, it was he who brought in an amendment on a previous occasion to ask for the repeal of this particular measure. Sir, there is no doubt whatsoever that the offending measures which still remain on the Statute-book ought to be repealed and I also ask the Honourable the Home Member to take the earliest opportunity to amend, if he cannot see his way to repeal, section 491 of the Indian Penal Code. That is a measure which savours also of breach of contract and it ought to be certainly

amended if not entirely repealed. I have nothing more to add except merely to express my disappointment that this Bill takes effect from April, 1926. I wish the Honourable the Home Member had brought it in to take effect almost immediately. We have discussed this measure in the country, the Assembly has discussed it on several occasions and the employers have had plenty of time to make all the necessary arrangements which are contingent upon the passing of this measure and there is no reason why this Bill should not have been brought in to take effect almost immediately. I am afraid it is too late to send in an amendment, but I do hope that, in view of the passing of this Act, no proceedings of any kind will be instituted against workers in any part of India under the various Acts which are hereby being repealed.

**Mr. President:** The question is:

"That the Bill to repeal certain enactments whereby breaches of contract by labourers are made punishable under the criminal law, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

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### THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (PRESIDENT'S SALARY) BILL.

**Mr. L. Graham** (Secretary, Legislative Department): Sir, I rise to move for leave to introduce a Bill to determine the salary of the President of the Legislative Assembly.

Sir, the President of the Legislative Assembly referred to in this Bill is the elected President of the Legislative Assembly. I may remind the House that the time is approaching when under the provisions of the Government of India Act they will be called upon to elect a President of the Legislative Assembly. The rules to regulate the procedure to be followed in that election have recently been published in the Government of India Gazette. The one point of substance, if I may say so, in the Bill is the actual figure which is to constitute the salary of the President. On this subject the Government of India have an open mind and they think that it is a matter which should be settled by the Members of the Legislative Assembly. As, however, it was necessary to enter some figure in the Bill which I now ask for leave to introduce, it should be understood that that figure is only put in the Bill as a basis for discussion. We arrived at the actual figure which we selected after considering the Acts of the various local Legislatures by which the salaries of their respective Presidents have already been settled, and we considered it to be in conformity with the dignity of this House that we should in the first instance put a figure higher than that which has been fixed by any Provincial Act. But, Sir, as I said before, we wish really to leave this figure to be settled by the Members of the Assembly. Sir, I ask for leave to introduce the Bill.

The motion was adopted.

**Mr. L. Graham:** Sir, I introduce the Bill.

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### THE INDIAN INCOME-TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL.

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett** (Finance Member): Sir, I ask for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Income-tax Act, 1922.

This is another simple Bill the explanation of which is given in the Statement of Objects and Reasons. I do not think that at the moment it is necessary for me to add anything to it. Sir, I move for leave to introduce the Bill.

The motion was adopted.

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** I introduce the Bill.

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**Mr. President:** I am informed that Sir Hari Singh Gour is unable to be present in his place to move the motions standing in his name.  
5 P.M. Therefore I propose to ask Government if they can make room for them on the next official day.

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman:** Yes, Sir.

**Mr. President:** As it is rather late now to embark upon the subject of the Bill standing in the name of the Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra, I propose to adjourn the House.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 3rd February, 1925.

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