

Wednesday, 6th September, 1922

THE
COUNCIL OF STATE DEBATES

(Official Report)

VOLUME III
PART. I

THIRD SESSION

OF THE

COUNCIL OF STATE, 1922 °



SIMLA
SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT CENTRAL PRESS
1922

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COUNCIL OF STATE.

Wednesday, the 6th September, 1922.

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

BORROWING BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT.

1. The HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE SETHNA : Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) if they are aware that during the consideration of the financial resolution the Under Secretary of State for India observed in the House of Commons on 30th March last that " the Indian Government was free to borrow in India without an Act of Parliament, but could only borrow in the United Kingdom to such an extent as was authorised by the House of Commons,"
- (b) if similar authority from the House of Commons is necessary to enable self-governing Dominions of the Empire to borrow in the United Kingdom, and
- (c) do the Government of India propose to endeavour to secure similar exemption in their case ?

The HONOURABLE MR. E. M. COOK : (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) If the statutory restrictions were abolished, the loans would automatically cease to be trustee securities under the Trustee Act, and this would greatly lessen their value from the investor's point of view. In order to keep them in the category of trustee stocks, we should have to secure legislation in the United Kingdom on the lines of the Colonial Stock Act of 1900. This Act requires the observance by the borrowing colony of certain conditions, a copy of which I shall be happy to supply to the Honourable Member, if he so desires. The Government consider that the present time is not opportune for asking the Home Government to undertake legislation of the kind.

APPOINTMENT OF FRENCH TRADE COMMISSIONER.

2. The HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE SETHNA : Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) if the following paragraph which appeared in the issue of 17th May last of 'Contract Journal' published in London is correct :—
' A French Trade Commissioner has been appointed for India with headquarters in Calcutta, in the person of M. M. Garreau-Dombasle ' ;
- (b) if the Government of India have any Trade Commissioner representing the interest of this country in France ?

The HONOURABLE MR. H. A. F. LINDSAY : (a) The information contained in the paragraph referred to is substantially correct. Monsieur Maurice Garreau-Dombasle has been appointed not as Trade Commissioner but as Commercial Agent for France at Calcutta, and his appointment has been recognised by the Government of India. His functions are those of Commercial Attache to the French Consul General.

(b) The reply is in the negative.

The HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE SETHNA : Will Government be pleased to consider the propriety of appointing one in France ?

The HONOURABLE MR. H. A. F. LINDSAY : Last year, Sir, Government considered the question of extending the appointments of Indian Trade Commissioners, and I understand that Paris was also considered for the purpose ; but, owing to the financial position, the scheme was dropped.

SCHOLARSHIPS UNDER WILL OF COLONEL BEDFORD, I.M.S.

3. The HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE SETHNA : With reference to the communiqué issued by the Private Secretary to the Viceroy, dated Simla, 29th September 1911, saying that—

“ Colonel C. H. Bedford, M.D., I.M.S., lately Chemical Examiner and Bacteriologist, Burma, has munificently decided to bequeath from the date of the death of himself or his wife whoever may be the survivor a sum of several thousands of pounds sufficient to afford ample endowment for two or more scholarships, and to provide necessary working funds in connection therewith for the prosecution of Scientific and Technical research in connection with the development of Indian industries,”

will Government be pleased to give particulars of—

- (a) the sums of money, if any, received in one lump sum or from year to year under this bequest, and
- (b) the number of scholarships in each year with the names of the recipients, and the amounts paid to them and the particular work for which such scholarships were given them ?

The HONOURABLE MR. H. A. F. LINDSAY : Colonel Sir C. H. Bedford, M.D., I.M.S., is still alive. (*Laughter*).

ADMINISTRATION OF ADEN.

4. The HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE SETHNA : Will Government be pleased to state if—

- (a) it is now decided to allow Aden to remain under the Government of Bombay,
- (b) if no decision is yet arrived at to state what progress has been made since the date of the passing of the resolution by the Council of State that Aden be not transferred to the Colonies ?

The HONOURABLE MR. J. P. THOMPSON (FOR MR. DENY'S BRAY) : (a) No decision has yet been arrived at.

(b) His Majesty's Government were duly apprised of the debate and resolution in the Council of State and a further reference from them on the subject is still awaited.

CONDUCT OF APPRAISERS.

5. The HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE SETHNA : Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) if they have received complaints from any public body or bodies in regard to the hardship and annoyance caused at times to importers of merchandise by appraisers attached to the Customs offices at the ports of Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Karachi and Rangoon ; and
- (b) what action Government have taken in the matter ?

The HONOURABLE MR. H. A. F. LINDSAY : The Government of India have not received any specific complaints of the nature referred to by the Honourable Member. In August 1921 the Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau, Bombay, advocated the abolition of the system of granting rewards to the Appraisers in the Customs Department. The reason given by the Chamber was that they feared that the system encouraged appraisers to incriminate merchants falsely. They did not however, adduce any definite evidence to support their contention and the Government of India, after very careful inquiry and consideration, were satisfied that the request of the Chamber was founded on a misapprehension of the real facts. The system is an old one which has been carefully and periodically revised and it provides ample safeguards to public interests. The power of confiscating goods and of imposing penalties is confined to superior officers, and it has never been suggested, nor have the Government of India the slightest reason to believe, that these officers have ever used their powers in this connection improperly. A further check to any possible abuse is provided by the right of appeal at negligible cost to the Collector of Customs or the Chief Customs Authority. The Government of India have no reason to believe that any hardship is caused to the honest importer under the present system, which, in their opinion, is essential to the efficiency of the Customs administration in India.

FINES LEVIED AT PORTS.

6. The HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE SETHNA : Will Government be pleased to give in tabular form :

- (a) the amounts of fines levied from merchants during the last three years by the Collectors of Customs at Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Karachi and Rangoon in respect of violation of Customs Rules ;
- (b) the names of the appraisers at the five ports to whom money awards have been made showing the amounts received by each of them during each one of the last three years ?

The HONOURABLE MR. H. A. F. LINDSAY : (a) The information asked for by the Honourable Member is obtainable from the annual maritime Trade Reports of the provinces concerned.

(b) The information asked for by the Honourable Member is not readily available, and in view of the fact that there are 132 Appraisers employed at the five ports mentioned, the Government of India do not think that the advantages anticipated from the collection of this information would be commensurate with the labour involved.

ACETONE FACTORY AT NASIK ROAD.

7. The HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE SETHNA : Will Government be pleased to state the circumstances under which the buildings of the Acetone factory at Nasik Road were handed over to the Government of Bombay ?

The HONOURABLE MR. H. A. F. LINDSAY : The cessation of the War naturally reduced the demand for acetone, and it was an uneconomical proposition to continue manufacture. It was consequently decided to close the factory and get rid of it at the best price obtainable. The factory was accordingly sold to the Government of Bombay for use as a distillery, for a sum of Rs. 17½ lakhs.

PURCHASES FOR INDIAN RAILWAYS.

8. The HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE SETHNA : Will Government be pleased to say—

(a) if their attention has been drawn to a statement made generally in the English press and particularly in the London "Times" of 16th June 1922 in regard to purchases for Indian Railways that :—"The Sheffield Chamber of Commerce is said to be bringing pressure to bear on the India Office urging that British firms are entitled to some special consideration even in face of slightly higher prices";

(b) if a deputation from the Sheffield Chamber did wait on the Secretary of State to make the above representation and what reply, if any, was given by the Secretary of State ?

The HONOURABLE MR. H. A. F. LINDSAY : (a) Yes.

(b) The matter is under correspondence with the Secretary of State, and on receipt of a further communication from him a reply will be made to this part of the Honourable Member's question.

DUTY ON MOTOR SPIRIT.

9. The HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE SETHNA : Will Government be pleased to state :

(a) if the duty of six annas per imperial gallon levied (under Act II of 1917 as amended by Act III of 1919) on Motor spirit produced at the different manufactories in British India is levied alike on all Motor spirit (1) consumed in India, and (2) exported from India to other countries, or only on such Motor spirit as is consumed in India ;

(b) if such duty is not levied on Motor spirit exported to other countries the reason for such exemption ?

The HONOURABLE MR. H. A. F. LINDSAY : (a) The duty is not levied on motor spirit exported by the owner of a manufactory in British India direct by sea to any country outside India.

(b) Excise duties being duties on consumption, a refund of excise duty is granted in the case of all commodities subject to such duties in order to enable these goods, when exported, to compete on equal terms with similar goods of foreign origin in foreign markets. In imposing an excise duty on motor spirit the Government of India followed this general principle.

STATISTICS OF MARRIAGES UNDER THE CIVIL MARRIAGE ACT, 1872.

10. The HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE SETHNA : Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing :

- (a) the number of marriages solemnized under the Civil Marriage Act of 1872 in each province, since its enactment,
- (b) the respective communities of the men who have married under the Act,
- (c) the respective communities of the women who have married under the Act,
- (d) in the case of the Hindus, the caste of the men and the women who have married under the Act ?

The HONOURABLE MR. S. P. O'DONNELL : It is assumed that the Honourable Member refers to marriages solemnized under the Special Marriage Act, 1872. The subject is a provincial one and Government do not think they would be justified in imposing on local Governments the labour and trouble involved in obtaining the complete information asked for. I lay on the table however a statement showing the number of marriages registered under the Act during the period from 1911 to 1920 in each province. It will be seen that the total number of marriages under the Act for the ten years from 1911 to 1920 was 608.

Statement showing the number of marriages registered under the Special Marriage Act, 1872 (Act III of 1872) during the period from 1911 to 1920 inclusive.

Year.	Madras Pre- sidency.	Bombay Pre- sidency.	Bengal Pre- sidency.	United Pro- vinces.	Burma Pro- vince.	Bihar and Orissa Pro- vinces.	Central Pro- vinces.	Assam Pro- vince.	Coorg Pro- vince.	Delhi Pro- vince.	North-West Frontier Provinces.
1911-12	...	...	37	...	...	3	...	1	...	...	...
1911	4	3	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1912-13	...	...	16	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
1912	7	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1913-14	...	...	35	...	...	7	...	4	...	...	...
1913	9	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1914-15	...	...	36	...	...	9	...	3	...	...	...
1914	9	6	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
1915-16	...	...	35	...	...	8	...	4	...	...	...
1915	4	3	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...
1916-17	...	...	44	...	1	4	...	4	...	...	...
1916	8	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1917-18	...	...	33	...	...	6	...	3	...	...	...
1917	4	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1918-19	...	...	43	...	1	10	...	3	...	...	...
1918	8	14	...	...	1	...	3	...	...	...	...
1919-20	...	...	35	1	1	7	...	1	...	...	...
1919	9	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1920-21	...	...	28	...	1	9	...	...	...	...	...
1920	12	17	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	74	77	361	3	6	68	5	24	...	...	...

POSTAL RATES.

11. The HONOURABLE LALA SUKHBIR SINHA : Will Government be pleased to state the financial results till now of the increased postal rates especially of the half anna post card and one anna envelope ?

The HONOURABLE MR. B. N. SARMA : It has not been possible to keep special statistics to show accurately the financial results of the increase in the price of postcards and the postage on letters. There has been a slight decrease in the gross sale of ordinary stamps for postal, telegraph and revenue purposes during April, May and June, 1922, compared with

the corresponding months of the year 1921, as will appear from the following figures :--

	1921. Rs	1922. Rs.
April	64,23,000	49,13,000
May	65,23,000	64,29,000
June	55,31,000	56,31,000
	<u>1,84,77,000</u>	<u>1,69,73,000</u>

The separate figures for July 1922 are not yet available, but the total sales of stamps, including service stamps, in that month were Rs. 65,52,000 against Rs. 60,80,000 for July 1921.

The above figures comprise the value of stamps sold for revenue, postal and telegraph purposes and do not give an accurate idea as to the financial effect of the increase in postage rates upon postal revenue. The Act came into force only from the 24th April, and the decrease in April must be largely due to other causes such as trade depression. It may be mentioned also that the figures for 1922-23 would be increased by about 2 lakhs a month were it not for the use of Cash Register machines in the Central Telegraph Offices at Calcutta and Bombay, as these machines dispense with the use of stamps on telegrams.

An estimate prepared on a 3 days' count in August 1922 shows that, on postcards and letters alone, in spite of a reduction of about 26 per cent. in number, the Post Office is now earning an additional revenue amounting to about 1½ lakhs weekly as compared with the revenue earned from letters and postcards during August 1921.

INCOME TAX PAYERS.

12. The HONOURABLE LALA SUKHBIR SINHA : What was the total number in each province of the income-tax payers who filed their accounts under the Income-tax Act ? How many of them were taken as correct for the assessment of income-tax and how many were rejected and assessment was made by the assessing officer according to his own information ?

The HONOURABLE MR. E. M. COOK : I am afraid it is not possible to furnish the information asked for by the Honourable Member. To obtain it, it would be necessary to examine the file of every assessee in every Income-tax Office in India and I do not think the matter is of sufficient importance to justify the trouble involved.

GOVERNMENT LOANS.

13 The HONOURABLE LALA SUKHBIR SINHA : (a) How much fresh loan Government proposes to take within this year and how is it proposed to spend it ?

(b) What is the total amount of National Loan till last March standing against the Government of India ?

(c) When the deficit was only about ten crores of rupees why a much larger loan is going to be taken ?

The HONOURABLE MR. E. M. COOK : (a) A £12½ million sterling loan was raised in June last. It is not possible to say at present whether any further sterling loan will be issued before the close of the current year.

The rupee loan issued this year was for an unlimited amount and the total subscriptions to the loan up to date amount to nearly Rs. 46½ crores. The proceeds of these loans will be mainly devoted to Railway capital expenditure and the grant of advances to meet the capital requirements of Provincial Governments as well as their overdrafts on revenue account ; but a portion will be utilised for funding short term debt and meeting the Central Government's revenue deficit of the year.

(b) The total amount of sterling debt outstanding on the 31st March last was £205 millions and the total rupee debt Rs. 308 crores including Rs. 4 crores of Post Office Cash Certificates. In addition Government had outstanding Rs. 112 crores of Treasury Bills, of which 54 crores were held by the public, and the remainder in the Paper Currency Reserve.

(c) As stated in reply to the first part of the question, the loan is required mainly for purposes other than that of meeting the revenue deficit of the year.

LANDS FOR SUGAR FACTORIES.

14. The HONOURABLE LALA SUKHBIR SINHA : Is Government aware that in September last the Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh moved a resolution in the Council of State that Government should acquire lands for sugar factories but the resolution was negatived on the ground that it was not the business of Government to acquire private lands for a private company ?

The HONOURABLE MR. B. N. SARMA : The Honourable Member is referred to the Proceedings of the Council of State on the 22nd September 1921 for any information which he may require on this subject.

The Resolution moved by the Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh was passed by the Council in an amended form and the Government are not prepared to draw the broad and general inference which the Honourable Member suggests in his question.

The HONOURABLE LALA SUKHBIR SINHA : Sir, may I ask a supplementary question to question No. 14 ?

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : If it arises out of the answer.

The HONOURABLE LALA SUKHBIR SINHA : Will the Government be pleased to inquire from the United Provinces Government why they have acquired a big plot of ground in Mozzufernagar for a private company who will sell it to private individuals for building private shops ?

The HONOURABLE MR. B. N. SARMA : That does not arise out of the question and it relates to another question which has been disallowed.

WAGON-SUPPLY.

15. The HONOURABLE LALA SUKHBIR SINHA : Is Government aware that there is a general complaint about the supply of wagons for the carriage of goods, that the supply of them is often stopped, that such stoppage gives a chance to the Railway staff to make money, and that the goods stocked at the station suffer very much ?

The HONOURABLE MR. H. A. F. LINDSAY : Government are aware that the supply of wagons is not always equal to the demand and that restrictions have at times to be imposed on traffic. The remedy lies in

the provision of additional wagons and of better facilities for their movement. As the Honourable Member is doubtless aware these matters are receiving close attention.

CARRIAGE OF PASSENGERS IN WAGONS.

16. The HONOURABLE LALA SUKHBIR SINHA : (a) Is Government aware that wagons are still used for the carrying of passengers and that on the recent Somawati Mawas fair at Hardwar, of which the Railway authorities had sufficient previous notice, wagons were as a matter of fact used ?

(b) Why carriages were not borrowed from other lines ?

The HONOURABLE MR. H. A. F. LINDSAY : (a) Government are aware of the fact that covered ventilated wagons were used for the conveyance of passengers from Hardwar to Saharanpur—a distance of 50 miles—during the Somawati Mawas fair.

(b) The explanation is that the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway had four other melas to provide for and that had they not used wagons they could not have cleared in 3 days the large number of returning pilgrims who were waiting for trains at Hardwar. The North Western Railway and East Indian Railway were unable to lend coaching stock.

LIQUOR ADVERTISEMENTS IN BOOKS OF POSTAGE STAMPS.

17. The HONOURABLE LALA SUKHBIR SINHA : (a) Is the attention of the Government drawn to the advertisement of liquors in the books of postage stamps ?

(b) Do Government think it proper to permit the advertisement of liquors in publications of post office ?

The HONOURABLE MR. B. N. SARMA : The attention of Government has been drawn to the advertisements. The matter is under consideration.

INDIAN ENGINEERS ON RAILWAYS.

18. The HONOURABLE LALA SUKHBIR SINHA : (i) Will the Government be pleased to state the numbers of Indian Engineers taken annually during the last five years on each of the following Railways :

Great Indian Peninsula,
East Indian,
Bombay, Baroda and Central India,
South Indian ?

(ii) What has been the percentage of recruitment of Indian Engineers to that of Europeans during the last five years and are all those Indians, who were recruited, still in service ? If not, why ? How many out of them have left service on each line and why ? Did they leave service of their own accord or were their services dispensed with by the authorities ; if the latter, why ?

(iii) Are the emoluments of Indian and European Engineers the same ; if not, why, when they have to do exactly the same sort of work ? Are the annual increments in their pay governed by the same rules ? If not, what is the difference and the reason for it ?

(iv) Is it true that the authorities of the above Railways are generally

averse to taking Indians on their lines and if some are appointed by their Home-Boards, they try to get rid of them, instead of encouraging them.

The HONOURABLE MR. H. A. F. LINDSAY : (i) and (ii) The information is being called for and will be furnished to the Honourable Member.

(iii) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply to Dr. Gour's question appearing as No. 159* in the Legislative Assembly Debates on the 16th January 1922.

(iv) I am not aware of any such attitude on the part of Boards of Directors or their officers in this country.

SALE OF SALT.

19. The HONOURABLE LALA SUKHBIR SINHA : Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of rules of the new system adopted for the sale of salt by means of agents and to state whether it has had any good result on the price of salt and whether Government has fixed any rate for the sale of salt by these agents, and what are the advantages of the new system when compared with the old one ?

The HONOURABLE MR. H. A. F. LINDSAY : I shall make over to the Honourable Member a copy of the Notification No. 80, dated the 1st July 1921, issued by the Commissioner, Northern India Salt Revenue, publishing the rules containing *inter alia* the instructions for fixing the rate for the sale of salt under the agency system in Northern India. As regards the result of the new system on the price of salt and its advantages when compared with the old system the Honourable Member is referred to the answers given in reply to questions Nos. 696† and 608‡ asked by Mr. J. C. Chaudhuri and Sardar Gulab Singh at the meetings of the Legislative Assembly on the 28th* March 1921 and the 20th† March 1922, respectively.

RAILWAY REFRESHMENT ROOM AT NASIK ROAD.

20. The HONOURABLE MR. LALUBHAI SAMALDAS : Are Government aware that there is no refreshment room at Nasik Road Railway Station ? In view of the growing importance of the Station, will they consider the advisability of opening one ?

The HONOURABLE MR. H. A. F. LINDSAY : Government are aware that there is no refreshment room for 1st and 2nd class passengers at Nasik Road Railway Station. Restaurant cars are run on Mail and Express trains over this portion of the Railway, and the administration which has been consulted doubts the necessity of providing a 1st and 2nd class refreshment room at this station.

BRANCH LINE FROM NASIK.

21. The HONOURABLE MR. LALUBHAI SAMALDAS : Will Government be pleased to state whether it is contemplated to construct a branch railway line between the Nasik Road Station and the city of Nasik ?

The HONOURABLE MR. H. A. F. LINDSAY : The reply is in the negative.

* Vide page 1590 of Volume II, Part II.

† Vide page 1681 of Volume I, Part II.

‡ Vide page 3393 of Volume II, Part III.

PURCHASE OF INDIAN STORES.

22. The HONOURABLE MR. LALUBHAI SAMALDAS : (a) Will Government be pleased to obtain from the Secretary of State for India and lay on the Council table an authorised report of the interview between the Indian High Commissioner and a "Number of members of Parliament who are interested in placing orders for Indian Stores," referred to in the Reuter's telegram published in the Bombay Dailies on 28th July ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to say if they have received any communication from the Secretary of State for India on the subject after the interview and, if so, will they be pleased to put a copy of it on the Council table ?

The HONOURABLE MR. H. A. F. LINDSAY : (a) The Government of India have received from the High Commissioner and from the India Office copies of the minutes of the proceeding of the meeting of the Members of Parliament with the High Commissioner to which the Honourable Member refers. They have been informed by the High Commissioner, however, that at the outset of the proceedings it was agreed that the minutes should not be made public and that the discussion proceeded on that basis. In the circumstances the Government of India regret that they are not able to lay a copy of the minutes of the proceedings on the table.

(b) The Government of India have received no communication from the Secretary of State on the subject.

WIRELESS STATION FOR WORKING SOUTH AFRICA, INDIA AND AUSTRALIA.

23 The HONOURABLE MR. LALUBHAI SAMALDAS : Will Government be pleased to say whether the information conveyed in the following telegram of Reuter's dated London, July 29th, is correct :—

" Reuter understands that the Post Office is negotiating for the construction of a wireless station for working directly with South Africa, India and Australia. The initial cost is estimated at a million sterling, and the yearly maintenance at half a million."

and, if so, will they be pleased to say what will be India's share in the (1) initial cost, and (2) the yearly maintenance ?

The HONOURABLE MR. B. N. SARMA : The news contained in the Reuter's telegram cited regarding the construction of the British Wireless Station appears to be substantially correct. The sums mentioned in the telegram apparently relate to the cost not of the British Station only, but of the scheme as a whole which is contemplated by His Majesty's Government for the establishment of the Imperial Wireless Chain between South Africa, India, Australia and the United Kingdom. Under this scheme the Indian Station is estimated to cost £185,000, inclusive, to erect and £43,000 per annum to maintain and work.

WIRELESS CONNECTION WITH ENGLAND.

24. The HONOURABLE MR. LALUBHAI SAMALDAS : Will Government be pleased to say whether they had received any proposal from a Company or an individual for connecting India by wireless with England, and, if so, will they be pleased to inform the Council of the terms of the said proposal ?

The HONOURABLE MR. B. N. SARMA : The Government of India have received an application from the Indian Agent of the Marconi Wireless Company for a license to establish direct Wireless Telegraphic Communication between India and the United Kingdom. The application, which was stated in very general terms, included an offer to register a company in India and to erect and work the station on behalf of the Government of India as a link in the Imperial Wireless Chain. The Government of India have also received two offers direct from the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company, but they do not feel justified in announcing the terms of the proposals made which are of a confidential nature.

ALLEGED PAYMENT OF ROUBLES FOR FOSTERING REVOLUTION.

25. The HONOURABLE MR. LALUBHAI SAMALDAS : Will Government be pleased to say whether there is any truth in the report of Reuters' telegram of 15th June that Zinavieff, President of the 3rd Internationale, stated at a meeting of the Central Committee of Russian Communists that seven million gold roubles were paid to Gandhi's adherents in India for the purpose of fostering a revolutionary spirit ?

The HONOURABLE MR. S. P. O'DONNELL : Government have no information as to the accuracy of the statement wired by Reuter.

RAILWAY FREIGHTS.

26. The HONOURABLE SIR DINSHAW WACHIA : Will the Government be pleased to place before the Council the present rate of railway freights for articles, enumerated in the following tables, marked A and B, carried to and fro by Indian railways on their respective railway lines, say, for a distance of (a) 10 miles, (b) 25 miles, (c) 50 miles, (d) 100 miles, and (e) 100 miles and upwards ?

A.

Imported raw materials and manufactures.

1. Raw Cotton.
2. Raw Silk.
3. Raw Wool.
4. Raw Flax.
5. Cotton Piece-goods.
6. Cotton Yarn.
7. Flax Manufactures.
8. Silk Manufactures.
9. Woolen Manufactures.
10. Salt.
11. Sugar.
12. Tea.
13. Raw Tobacco.
14. Cigarettes.
15. Leather Manufacture.
16. Iron.
17. Steel.
18. Other metals.
19. Mill Machinery and Mill work.

B.

Indian raw materials and manufactures.

1. Raw Cotton.
2. Raw Jute.
3. Raw Silk.
4. Raw Wool.
5. Cotton Piece-goods.
6. Cotton Yarn.
7. Flax Manufactures.
8. Silk Manufactures.
9. Jute Manufactures.
10. Salt.
11. Raw Sugar (*Gur*).
12. Refined Sugar.
13. Raw Tobacco.
14. Cigars.
15. Cigarettes.
16. Tea.
17. Rice.
18. Wheat.
19. Groundnuts.

A. <i>Imported raw materials and manufactures.</i>	B. <i>Indian raw materials and manufactures.</i>
20. Glassware.	20. Coal and Coke.
21. Hardware.	21. Cement, bricks, tiles, etc.
22. Earthenware.	22. Iron.
23. Mineral Oils.	23. Steel.
24. Printing Paper.	24. Raw Hides and Skins.
25. Timber.	25. Mineral Oils.
26. Cement.	26. Seeds.
27. Bricks and Tiles.	27. Printing Paper.
28. Coal Tar Dyes.	28. Fodder.
	29. Manure.

The HONOURABLE MR. H. A. F. LINDSAY : The information required by the Honourable Member may be obtained by reference to the General Classification of Goods published by the Indian Railway Conference Association, and to the printed Goods Tariffs of the different railway administrations.

VIZAGAPATAM HARBOUR.

27. The HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIR AHMEDTHAMBY MARICAIR : (a) Are Government aware that the harbour at Vizagapatam, if improved according to the plan and estimates prepared by the Engineer-in-Chief of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway, will turn out to be an excellent and advantageous one affording good facilities in all directions for sea and rail-borne traffic ?

(b) Is it a fact that the scheme is to be worked by the Bengal-Nagpur Railway by floating a public company for the required capital, and have Government approved this course ?

(c) In view of the advantages to be derived by improving Vizagapatam harbour, will Government be pleased to state what action they propose to take to hasten the commencement of the work of construction ?

The HONOURABLE MR. H. A. F. LINDSAY : (a), (b) and (c) The whole scheme for the development of the Vizagapatam Harbour is under investigation and a final decision in the matter has not yet been arrived at.

INCOME-TAX DEPARTMENT.

28. The HONOURABLE SIR MANECKJI DADABHOY : (a) Will Government be pleased to state what amount of additional expenditure, if any, is entailed by the centralisation of the Income-tax Department and the abolition of the provincial departments ?

(b) In this connection, will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the new posts created with their respective emoluments in the different provinces throughout India ?

The HONOURABLE MR. E. M. COOK : (a) I regret that it is not possible to answer the Honourable Member's question. In the first place until quite recently, with few exceptions, the work of assessing and collecting income-tax was almost entirely performed by the ordinary revenue staff. It is impossible to calculate what proportion of the cost of the revenue staff represented the cost of the work that they did in connec-

tion with income-tax. The expenditure formerly shown in the budgets under the head "Income-tax" represented merely the cost of the special establishments employed to supplement the work of the land revenue staff. Even at the present time it is impossible to calculate the cost of assessing and collecting income-tax, because the special department is only being organised gradually. For some provinces, (such as Bombay and Burma, with the exception of the headquarter cities) schemes for the re-organisation of the special department have not yet been sanctioned. In other provinces, (such as Madras and Bengal) though complete schemes have been sanctioned, the special establishment is only being organised in the Presidency-towns, and elsewhere the work is still done by the revenue staff.

(b) I refer the Honourable Member to pages 8-14 of the Demands for Grants, 1922-23.

RAILWAY AND REVENUE EXPENDITURE.

29. The HONOURABLE SIR MANECKJI DADABHOY : (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the total amount of annual contribution for each railway in each of the last five years charged to the general revenues in terms of the contract by which the Secretary of State has guaranteed a fixed annual return upon the capital of some of the railways known as Light Railways ?

(b) Is it a fact that on some of these railways the working expenses amount to over 90 per cent. of the gross earnings while on similar railways constructed under District Board guarantee in the same part of the country they never exceed 65 or 70 per cent. of the earnings ?

(c) Do Government propose to take any action to enforce reduction in the working expenses ?

The HONOURABLE MR. H. A. F. LINDSAY : (a) The Honourable Member is referred to the History of Indian Railways corrected up to 31st March 1921, a copy of which is available in the Library of the Indian Legislature. This will give the requisite information in respect of the years 1917-18 to 1920-21. The figures for 1921-22 are as under :

Guaranteed Payments.

	Rs.
Ahmadpur Katwa Railway	85,971
Burdwan Katwa Railway	29,238
Bankura Damoodar Bivor Railway	1,22,720

(b) The answer is in the affirmative. But such a comparison is of little use as the conditions of traffic and of working cannot be held to be similar.

(c) The programme of revenue expenditure on the branch lines guaranteed by the Secretary of State is scrutinised by Government before being sanctioned and the attention of the Branch Line Companies concerned will be drawn to the desirability of reducing working expenses as far as possible.

RANIGUNJ-CALCUTTA CANAL.

30. The HONOURABLE SIR MANECKJI DADABHOY : Will Government be pleased to lay on the table all papers relating to Lord Mayo's

scheme of a canal from Ranigunj to Calcutta for the transport of coal to the port of Calcutta from the coal-fields of Bengal ?

The HONOURABLE MR. B. N. SARMA : The papers relating to the scheme of a canal from Ranigunj to Calcutta for the transport of coal, form part of the Proceedings of the Government of India, and cannot therefore be laid on the table. A précis of the scheme is, however, placed on the table for the Hon'ble Member's information.

Précis of the scheme of a canal from Ranigunj to Calcutta for the transport of coal.

In June 1866, representatives of certain coal companies proposed the construction of a canal to connect the coal fields of Ranigunj with the river Hooghly and in support of their proposal they urged that the inability of the East Indian Railway Company to meet the requirements of the public, and more especially of the rapidly increasing coal trade, had become so patent that considerable difficulties were apprehended for the coal interest. The cost of the canal was roughly estimated at a crore of rupees by the promoters of the scheme and they asked the Government to grant to them the sole right of constructing the canal.

2. In forwarding the proposals to the Government of India, the Government of Bengal suggested the advisability of combining irrigation with navigation, but for several reasons it was decided in consultation with the Secretary of State to assume State control of the project.

In March 1867, instructions were conveyed to the Government of Bengal for the preparation of plans and estimates which were submitted in December 1868. The project as designed was estimated at that time to cost Rs. 50½ lakhs. The works comprised a weir 10 feet high across the Damodar river opposite to Ranigunj, and a canal taking off from left flank of the weir. The canal which was to be about 100 miles in length was designed to serve the double purpose of irrigation and navigation.

3. After careful consideration of the project the Government of India in March 1869, authorised the immediate prosecution of the necessary preliminary measures for commencing the weir and headworks of the canal, but called for more complete and detailed information on various points connected with the project before sanctioning the further prosecution of the works. In April 1870 in furnishing the additional information called for, the Government of Bengal submitted a revised project which was estimated to cost Rs. 60,00,000.

In regard to irrigation, the Government of India considered that there were not sufficient grounds to warrant that the receipts would cover the interest on capital outlay, while the reverse from navigation, was also a very doubtful figure. The Secretary of State agreed with the Government of India in thinking that the project could not be immediately proceeded with without risk of serious financial loss and that it would be wiser to wait until observations of the Irrigation and Navigation Works in operation in the Midnapore and Cuttack Districts should have afforded better means of judging what would be the probable effect of similar works in the country between Ranigunj and Calcutta.

FRONTIER POPULATION.

31. The HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS : (a) Will the Government kindly state what is the present total estimated male population of (i) tribal areas, and (ii) settled districts of the Frontier Province ?

(b) How many of the males in each of these two areas are estimated to be armed ?

The HONOURABLE MR. J. P. THOMPSON : (a) The Honourable Member is referred to the Census returns of 1921.

(b) It is estimated that there are about 4,30,000 men in tribal areas who are capable of bearing arms. The tribesmen are believed to possess 172,500 breech-loading rifles and carbines and about 50,000 Muzzle Loading weapons. In the administered districts the border villagers have been

supplied with 18,065 files for self-protection. No information is available as to the number of arms held on license in the North West Frontier Province but the information has been called for and will be furnished to the Hon'ble Member when received.

ARMS FACTORIES.

82. The HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS : (a) Will the Government kindly state how many factories for the manufacture of arms exist in the tribal areas ? Can they give the names of the places where these factories exist ?

(b) Is it a fact that some Indians work as artisans in these factories ? If so, will they kindly inform this Council what is the total number of workers in these factories and how many of them are Indians ?

(c) Do not the Government consider it desirable to control in some way these factories ? If so, will they explain their policy in connection with these factories ?

The HONOURABLE MR. J. P. THOMPSON : Supplementary information has been called for and a full answer to questions (a) and (b) will be furnished in due course, together with an explanation in reply to question (c).

FRONTIER RAIDS.

83. The HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS : Will the Government kindly explain whether in case of raids, kidnapping and dacoities in settled districts committed by trans-border people, relations of people, belonging to suspected tribes, and living in settled districts, are proceeded against by the local civil officers ? To what extent does Government follow the system of keeping hostages of different tribes in the settled districts for compelling good behaviour on the part of these tribes ? Do not the Government consider it an effective method for checking offences on the part of tribal people ?

The HONOURABLE MR. J. P. THOMPSON : A Circular recently issued by the Honourable the Chief Commissioner, North-West Frontier Province, on the subject of kidnapping of British subjects, is laid on the table. It will be seen that the Chief Commissioner has laid very great stress on the importance of the arrest of relatives or fellow-tribesmen of the offenders.

It is not the practice of Government to keep hostages from among members of trans-border tribes in British territory in anticipation of tribal misconduct. Such a practice is not regarded as likely to prove an effective method for checking offences. The holding of hostages can only act as a deterrent if Government is prepared to put them to death or inflict other punishment upon them in the event of the misconduct of the tribe they represent, and either course would be opposed to the public conscience. To detain hostages therefore would be to burden the public funds with the cost of their maintenance, without deriving any corresponding advantage.

RULES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF POLITICAL OFFICERS IN THE EVENT OF BRITISH SUBJECTS BEING KIDNAPPED TO INDEPENDENT TERRITORY.

(i) Cases of kidnapping should be reported by telegram to the Chief Commissioner with the least possible delay. The telegram should be followed up in due course by a detailed report showing the steps taken to secure satisfaction for the wronged parties.

(ii) An immediate local inquiry should be made, on the occurrence of such cases, either by the Deputy Commissioner personally or through a trusted subordinate. Investigation should never be regarded as a routine matter to be carried out as soon as the pressure of other work permits.

(iii) In the course of such inquiry particular attention should be paid to ascertaining whether there are any local abettors of the offenders. Should this be found to be the case, they, or their relatives if the abettors themselves have absconded, should be arrested. The relations of the kidnapped person are often in a position to tell who is the accomplice of the raiders, and who are the relations of the accomplice if the latter is an outlaw.

(iv) It should be considered whether the village as a whole has taken all reasonable steps to prevent the commission of the offence. If it be proved that the village has shown negligence the imposition of a fine under section 28, Frontier Crimes Regulation, should be recommended.

(v) The duty of reporting such offences promptly should be impressed on all headmen. Such reports should include any information available as to the identity of the offenders and the route taken by them, and should be made to the nearest police or frontier constabulary post, whence it should be passed on at once to the Deputy Commissioner, Superintendent of Police and District Officer, Frontier Constabulary.

(vi) On receipt of such information, if in sufficiently good time to render such a course possible, the Deputy Commissioner will make arrangements for the pursuit of the gang and for the holding of positions where there is a likelihood of intercepting it.

(vii) All information as to the identity of the raiders and the route taken by them should be communicated promptly by Deputy Commissioners for necessary action on the lines indicated in these rules to the other Political Officers concerned.

(viii) The baramta is an effective weapon by which to secure the release of kidnapped persons and should be resorted to promptly and automatically by Political Agents. Most effective, if this is possible, is the sectional baramta; if the actual section concerned cannot be touched, action should invariably be taken against other sections through which pressure may be brought to bear on the guilty parties. Tribal responsibility must be enforced and the tribe as a whole must be taught by bitter experience that kidnapping leads to tribal inconvenience.

(ix) The baramta should also be employed freely by Deputy Commissioners*, but as its effectiveness is in direct ratio to the knowledge possessed of the tribesmen concerned, the Political Agent responsible for the tribe should ordinarily be consulted. If, however, delay will lead to the loss of a valuable opportunity the Deputy Commissioner should make the arrests and inform the Political Agent concerned that he has done so. In such cases the Deputy Commissioner need not pause for any delicate consideration of a political nature. Such questions can be settled at leisure.

(x) Political Agents should issue a warning to the tribes under their control indicating the measures proscribed in these rules.

(xi) The armament of British villages near the border should be generously increased, both by the issue of licenses to keep private arms and of Government rifles for village defence. Where more arms of the latter description are required for distribution in their districts, Deputy Commissioners should not hesitate to make application to the Chief Commissioner for them.

(xii) The relatives of kidnapped persons should be discouraged from paying ransom on the ground that by so doing they give an impetus to the very series of outrages against which it is desired to guard. At the same time such discouragement cannot be effective unless Government can show that it is able to secure the release of captives without ransom.

(xiii) In order to impress upon our fellow subjects Government's lively sense of their sufferings in this matter, and its determination to assist them the names of all kidnapped persons (other than women) should be prominently displayed on a board outside the Deputy Commissioner's office until the day when the captive is released. With the same object all possible publicity should be given to action taken by Government to secure the release of captives.

(xiv) The activity of officers, British and Indian in carrying out these instructions and stamping out this reproach to the Administration will be especially noted. All assistance accorded by private individuals should be suitably and promptly

*Attention is invited to the provisions of Section 81, F. C. R.

rewarded, application being made, if necessary, to the Chief Commissioner for the funds required.

(xv) Any criticism on the working of these rules and any suggestion for their improvement should be communicated to the Chief Commissioner.

FRONTIER COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

34. The HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS : Will the Government kindly state whether they have decided to place the Report of the Frontier Committee on the table of this Council ? Will they consider the desirability of placing this Report in the hands of the members of the Indian Legislature in the earlier days of the September Session of the Legislature ? By what time is the Government expected to have considered the Frontier Committee Report, and when is the decision of the Government on the Report likely to be published ?

The HONOURABLE MR. J. P. THOMPSON : The Report will be placed on the Table in due course, but it is not likely to be ready before the end of this month. Government are not at present in a position to say how long it will take them to consider the Report or when it will be possible to publish such orders as may be passed on it.

ACWORTH COMMITTEE REPORT.

35. The HONOURABLE MAHARAJA SIR MANINDRA CHANDRA NANDY : Will the Government be pleased to state if any recommendations of the Acworth Committee on Indian Railways have so far been given effect to and, if so, what these recommendations are, and in what definite shape they have been given effect to ?

The HONOURABLE MR. H. A. F. LINDSAY : As the Honourable Member knows, proposals of the Acworth Committee regarding Finance have already been examined by a special committee of the Legislature. A Central Advisory Council has also been constituted though not quite on the lines proposed by the Committee, and this Council has lately considered the recommendations of the Committee in regard to the future management of Railways with special reference to the East Indian Railway and Great Indian Peninsula Railway. It has also considered the question of Local Advisory Councils and it is hoped soon to place before it the question of establishing a Rates Tribunal.

STATE-OWNED INDIAN RAILWAYS.

36. The HONOURABLE MAHARAJA SIR MANINDRA CHANDRA NANDY : Have the Government arrived at any decision in the matter of the transfer of the control of the leading State-owned lines of Indian Railways from the hands of Companies directly to those of the State ?

The HONOURABLE MR. H. A. F. LINDSAY : The answer is in the negative.

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT.

37. The HONOURABLE MAHARAJA SIR MANINDRA CHANDRA NANDY : Is it intended, as suggested by the Acworth Committee, to introduce a new portfolio for Transport and Communications in the Executive Council of the Governor General ? If so, will it involve any

reshuffling of the existing portfolios of the Government ? And if so, on what lines is this readjustment of work likely to be based ?

The HONOURABLE MR. H. A. F. LINDSAY : It has been decided that action on the suggestion referred to must be deferred, pending the report of the Retrenchment Committee.

FISCAL COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

38. The HONOURABLE MAHARAJA SIR MANINDRA CHANDRA NANDY : Will the Government be pleased to state the time when the report of the Fiscal Committee may be published in India, and if it is the intention of the Government to place its chief recommendations before a joint committee of the Council of State and the Indian Legislative Assembly before any action is taken upon them ?

The HONOURABLE MR. H. A. F. LINDSAY : The Government of India propose to publish the Report of the Fiscal Commission as soon it is received by them. They have been in communication with the President of the Commission, the Honourable Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola, on the subject. He has explained that though the Report has been signed by all the members, five members signed it expressly subject to dissent, and that till their dissenting minutes are incorporated, the Report does not become complete and ready for presentation.

As at present advised, the Government of India do not contemplate appointing a Committee to consider another Committee's report.

The HONOURABLE SIR ALEXANDER MURRAY : Sir, may I ask on what date the Report was signed, and what is the actual reason for the delay in submitting it ?

The HONOURABLE MR. H. A. F. LINDSAY : The Report was signed on the 6th July. The answer that I have given explains the reason for the delay. The Minority Report has not yet been received, but has been promised in a few days' time.

CALCUTTA HIGH COURT.

39. The HONOURABLE MAHARAJA SIR MANINDRA CHANDRA NANDY : Is there any proposal before the Government of India to transfer the control of the High Court of Calcutta from the Government of India to the Government of Bengal, and, if so, will the Government be pleased to consult the leading public associations of Bengal before any decision is arrived at on this matter ?

The HONOURABLE MR. S. P. O'DONNELL : The Government did consider some time ago the question, but decided then not to proceed further with it for the present.

MR. SAS TRI'S MISSION.

40. The HONOURABLE MAHARAJA SIR MANINDRA CHANDRA NANDY : Will the Government be pleased to state the total cost of the Right Honourable Srinivasa Sastri's mission to Australia and New Zealand, and lay on the table the net results of his mission in that part of the British Empire ?

The HONOURABLE MR. B. N. SARMA : I am unable to state the total cost of the mission of the Right Honourable Srinivasa Sastri to Australia and New Zealand as the expenditure incurred has not yet been reported

to the Government of India, but I may mention that the Governments both of Australia and New Zealand kindly requested Mr. Sastri to consider himself as their guest during his stay in those Dominions.

The following are the immediate results of Mr. Sastri's mission. The Queensland Government have approved regulations exempting all British subjects of any native race of India who were lawfully domiciled in Queensland at the commencement of the Banana Industry Preservation Act, 1921, and who have continuously remained so domiciled from the operation of the Act which made it almost impossible for Indians, unless specially exempted, to engage in the banana industry. In South Australia, the Government have decided to remove the only disability from which Indians suffer in that colony by amending their Irrigation and Reclaimed Lands Act, 1914, which disqualified all Asiatics from acquiring lands dealt with in the Act and to make it applicable to alien Asiatics only. The Commonwealth Government have given an assurance that steps will be taken at an early date to enable Indians in Australia to participate in the benefits of old age pensions equally with other citizens in the Commonwealth. The Universities in Australia, with the exception of the University of Brisbane in which accommodation is very limited, have expressed their willingness to admit a limited number of Indian students in accordance with their ability to accommodate them and to consider any schemes prepared by the Indian Universities for the inter-change of lecturers for short periods. As regards the franchise, the Governments of the Commonwealth and Western Australia have promised sympathetic consideration, while the State of Queensland, the only other State in which the right is not possessed by Indians, awaits the lead of the Commonwealth Government.

Apart from these achievements Mr. Sastri has been conspicuously successful in removing ignorance and prejudices concerning Indians and in creating an atmosphere favourable to their claims. In this connection a letter addressed to Mr. Sastri by the Premier of Australia on the eve of the former's departure from Australia is laid on the table.

Copy of letter from the Right Honourable W. M. Hughes, Premier of Australia, to the Right Honourable Srinivasa Sastri.

On the eve of your departure from Australia I desire to set out the position of the Commonwealth Government in regard to the representations you have made. First let me say how pleased we are that you have been able to accept our invitation to visit Australia and see for yourself our country and its people. Your visit has been one of Imperial significance and has afforded the people of Australia an opportunity of realising something of the vastness and complexity as well as the splendour of our Empire. Your presence here has been of itself an education to many amongst us. You have by your speeches and your presence lifted the curtain of prejudice and want of knowledge and revealed to us some thing of India as it really is. By those admirable speeches of yours you have educated public opinion inside and outside Parliament, made that possible which before your visit was impossible and you have brought those reforms covered or suggested by the resolutions of the 1918 and 1921 Conferences within the range of practical politics. By your eloquence and by your logic you have made out such a case for those of your countrymen lawfully domiciled within the Commonwealth as will, I believe, secure in the Commonwealth and State legislatures the support necessary to make the amendments of the law that you ask for. I cannot of course speak on behalf of the States, but for the Commonwealth I can at least say this, that the Leaders of all Parties here, as you are aware, expressed publicly their admiration of the manner in which you have stated your case and their appreciation of its merits. This question of the disabilities under which your countrymen suffer is no Party one. As you have very justly pointed out

it has a wide Imperial application. It is from this high plane that you have asked us to look at it, and I have no doubt that the Leaders of the other Parties in the Federal Parliament will do so. Certainly I shall. As to your request that your fellow countrymen resident in Australia shall participate in the full benefits of old age pensions, my Government will at a very early date take such steps as will place them on a footing of equality with all other citizens of the Commonwealth. Here again let me assure you that this course is made immediately possible by your visit and your advocacy. In regard to the Franchise, although I am not able to speak on this subject with such assurance, and such finality as on the old age pension question, I do not hesitate to repeat in the plainest possible terms that you have brought within the range of practical politics a reform which but for your visit would have been most improbable if not impossible of achievement, and you will I hope succeed in your interview with Mr. Charlton Leader of the Labour Party and with Dr. Earle Page, Leader of the Country Party, in inducing them to co-operate with the Government in order that those of your fellow countrymen who are still denied the Franchise shall receive it. I can only conclude by again assuring you that your brilliant advocacy on behalf of your country has borne good fruit. If there are any temporary delays in the realisation of the aspirations you have so ably voiced do not be impatient. You have achieved wonders and in my opinion removed for all time those prejudices and misunderstandings which formerly prevented the admission of your countrymen resident in Australia to the enjoyment of the full rights of citizenship.

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA.

41. The HONOURABLE MAHARAJA SIR MANINDRA CHANDRA NANDY : Will the Government be pleased to state the total cost of the establishment in London of the High Commissioner for India for the years 1920-21 and 1921-22, and the names of the members of the staff in that establishment who now draw a salary of more than £300 a year ?

The HONOURABLE MR. H. A. F. LINDSAY : The High Commissioner's Office has been in existence since the 1st October 1920. The total actual cost of his establishment (including departmental expenses) was £131,400 for the period 1st October 1920 to 31st March 1921 and £175,024 for the period 1st April 1921 to 31st March 1922.

Sixty-eight members of the staff drew in December 1921 a salary of more than £300 a year. The trouble and expense involved in collecting and supplying a list of the names of these officers would be out of all proportion to the value of the information, and Government regret therefore that they are unable to furnish this information.

COST OF RAISINA.

42. The HONOURABLE MAHARAJA SIR MANINDRA CHANDRA NANDY : Will the Government be pleased to state the amount of money that will still be required to complete the new capital at Raisina, and the number of years which will be required for its completion ?

The HONOURABLE MR. B. N. SARMA : (i) Computed with effect from the 1st April 1923, it is estimated that according to the Schedule of works provided for in the Revised Project Estimate a further sum of Rs. 484 lakhs gross will be required to complete the New Capital at Delhi.

(ii) The number of years required to complete the work depends very largely on the amount allotted from year to year. It, as it is hoped, it will be possible to set aside annually the amounts which the engineers can usefully spend, this would ordinarily enable the work to be completed in 1926.

PRESS PIECE-WORKERS.

43. The HONOURABLE MAHARAJA SIR MANINDRA CHANDRA NANDY : Would Government be pleased to state the time when the Report of the Committee, appointed to consider the grievances of the piece-workers in Government Presses and which commenced its sittings in January last, is expected to be published ?

The HONOURABLE MR. H. A. F. LINDSAY : The report of the Piece-workers' Committee has been published, and copies have been distributed to Members of the Legislature.

PRESS COMPASSIONATE FUND.

44. The HONOURABLE MAHARAJA SIR MANINDRA CHANDRA NANDY : (a) Do Government maintain a fund called the Compassionate Fund in the interest of the employees of Government presses ?

(b) If the answer to the above question be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state :—

- (i) the year when the fund was inaugurated
- (ii) the source of its income ;
- (iii) total amount of the fund up to March last ;
- (iv) the Bank or Banks in which it is deposited ; and
- (v) the number of piece-work employees benefited by this fund up to March last, and the extent to which such benefits have been extended to them, individually and collectively ?

The HONOURABLE MR. H. A. F. LINDSAY : (a) There is no fund called the " Compassionate Fund " maintained specially by Government for their press employees. Press Fine Funds have, however, been instituted with effect from the beginning of the current financial year, the assets of which will be applied to the relief of distress among press-workmen and their families.

(b) (i) A fine fund for each Government of India press was inaugurated with effect from 1st April 1922.

(ii) Fines recovered from press employees other than pye fines and fines levied for bad work which involves loss to Government.

(iii) Nil.

(iv) The assets of the fund are deposited monthly in the Post Office Savings Bank.

(v) This does not arise in view of the answer to sub-question (i) above.

COST OF PRESS STAFF.

45. The HONOURABLE MAHARAJA SIR MANINDRA CHANDRA NANDY : Would Government be pleased to state the establishment costs of the salaried staff and piece-workers of its presses respectively for the years 1919 and 1921, at Delhi, Simla and Calcutta ?

The HONOURABLE MR. H. A. F. LINDSAY : The establishment cost of the salaried staff and piece-workers in the Delhi, Simla and Calcutta

presses for the years 1919-20 and 1921-22 is as follows —

		1919-20.	1921-22.
		Rs.	Rs.
DELHI.			
Salaried staff	... ..	1,18,552	1,54,834
Piece-workers	... ..	1,57,023	2,78,520
SIMLA.			
Salaried staff	... ..	1,24,575	1,94,831
Piece-workers	... ..	92,654	1,28,522
CALCUTTA.			
Salaried staff	... ..	3,58,182	4,68,070
Piece-workers	... ..	4,37,806	5,66,441

The above figures do not include the cost of the Books (Publication) Branch in Calcutta ; this branch is entirely separate from the ordinary press work.

REDUCTION OF PRESS STAFF.

46. The HONOURABLE MAHARAJA SIR MANINDRA CHANDRA NANDY : (a) Is it a fact that out of 438 piece-work compositors in the Government of India Press, Calcutta, the services of 172 men (*i.e.*, 39 per cent.) have been dispensed with on the score of paucity of work ?

(b) If answer to the above question be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state if any similar reductions have also been effected in the Lino and Mono Sections and salaried staff of the above establishment in Calcutta, and, if so, to what percentage of its actual strength ?

(c) To what extent have Government orders to private printing establishments been reduced owing to this paucity of work in the Calcutta Press ?

The HONOURABLE MR. H. A. F. LINDSAY : (a) The statement is incorrect ; at no time that can be traced was the number of piece-work compositors in the Calcutta press 438, nor have the services of 172 men been dispensed with on account of the paucity of work. Seventy-five piece-work compositors, however, out of a total of 482 hands were discharged in May 1922, partly on account of the reduction in the amount of work required to be done at the press and partly on account of the installation of new machinery.

(b) No reductions have been made in the Lino and Mono sections ; these have been enlarged on account of the installation of new machinery. In this part of the question the reference to "salaried hands of the above establishment" is not clear, but if the Honourable Member means salaried hands outside the Lino and Mono sections, the answer is that 7 per cent. of the Reading Branch, 4½ per cent. of the section-holders, 3½ per cent. of the proof pressmen and 3 per cent. of the coolies have also been discharged ; in addition to these, 14 copy-holders have been served with notice of discharge with effect from the 31st August 1922. Payment of overtime to salaried hands has ceased, and if some modification can be made in the recently introduced leave rules, which necessitate the retention of a large leave reserve, the number of salaried hands will be further reduced.

(c) The work which is given on contract to private printing presses, *e.g.*, stock books and forms, is of a nature which cannot conveniently

be dealt with in the Government presses ; except for reduced print orders due to the decreased demand for such books and forms, no other specific reductions are possible.

COST OF MONOTYPE STAFF.

47. The HONOURABLE MAHARAJA SIR MANINDRA CHANDRA NANDY : Will Government be pleased to make a statement as to the establishment cost of the Monotype and Mono Miscellaneous sections of the Government Press in Calcutta and the volume of work done by them, estimated in terms of money, for the years 1910 and 1920, respectively, and the cost incurred by Government and the volume of work done, estimated in terms of money, annually by the hand-compositors of its presses respectively for the same period ?

The HONOURABLE MR. H. A. F. LINDSAY : The following statement gives the information required so far as it is available. Statistics of the year 1920-21, however, are vitiated by the strike of piece-workers which took place during that year. Salaried hands were paid full rates during the strike period, while outturn of piece-work was stopped for a prolonged period.

	1910-11.		1920-21.	
	Hand composing.	Mono.	Hand composing.	Mono.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Value of composition at piece rates deduced from number of ens set up.	Not available.	22,505	1,82,138	34,737
Total cost of establishment concerned ...	4,53,028	34,947	1,08,518	44,733

EARNINGS OF PIECE WORKERS.

48. The HONOURABLE MAHARAJA SIR MANINDRA CHANDRA NANDY : With reference to an assurance given by the Honourable Mr. Lindsay in the Council of State on the 26th September 1921, will Government be pleased to state the actual collective monthly earnings of the piece-workers in the Government Presses, class by class, twelve months previous to the introduction of the new scale in July 1920, and their earnings month by month for the year 1921 ?

The HONOURABLE MR. H. A. F. LINDSAY : The Honourable Member is referred to the statement at page 14 of the report of the Piece-workers' Committee which shows the average, not the collective, monthly earnings ; it is hoped that this information will meet the purposes of the Honourable Member.

PRINTING OF CENSUS FIGURES.

49. The HONOURABLE MAHARAJA SIR MANINDRA CHANDRA NANDY : Is it a fact :—

- (1) that the printing of census figures of India, including the Provinces, for 1911, was done by hand-composition ?

(2) that the printing of the same for the year 1921 was done in Monotype machines ?

(3) If answers to the above questions be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state the costs of printing incurred by it for the above in the years 1911 and 1921, respectively ?

The HONOURABLE MR. H. A. F. LINDSAY : (1) The census figures of India in 1911 were printed both by hand and machine composition.

(2) The census figures of 1921 are being printed both by hand and machine composition.

(3) The detailed figures for 1911 are no longer available, the records having been destroyed, and the work connected with the 1921 census is still in progress. It may be mentioned, however, that applying the conditions and rates obtaining in 1911 to five representative pages of the 1911 census report, the cost of mono setting would amount to Rs. 20-3-4, while the cost of handsetting would amount to Rs. 23-12-5. In 1921 the cost of 12 representative pages in the mono machine works out at Rs. 42-14-0 ; if set by hand, they would cost Rs. 59-3-3.

PAYMENT TO PIECE-WORKERS.

50. The HONOURABLE MAHARAJA SIR MANINDRA CHANDRA NANDY : (a) Is it a fact that Government had promised payment, according to class rates, to piece-workers, for periods in normal working hours during which they have to remain idle ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state in how many cases the men of the Calcutta Press have been given such waiting charges since 1920 ?

The HONOURABLE MR. H. A. F. LINDSAY : (a) Yes.

(b) The total amount paid since 1920 in the Calcutta Press is Rs. 151-7-11 : the total is made up of a large number of small payments.

COMPOSITORS AND BINDERS.

51. The HONOURABLE MAHARAJA SIR MANINDRA CHANDRA NANDY : Will Government be pleased to show the highest and lowest class-rates of Compositors and Binders, respectively, in the Government Presses before and after the introduction of the new scale in July 1920 ?

The HONOURABLE MR. H. A. F. LINDSAY : The rates are as follows :—

	Before July 1920.		After July 1920.	
	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest	Lowest.
<i>Calcutta Press—</i>				
Compositors ..	Rs. 4 0	Rs. 1 0	Rs. 7 5	Rs. 1 5
Binders ...	0 1 9	0 0 7	0 6 7	0 1 0
<i>Delhi Press—</i>				
Compositors ..	0 4 3	0 1 0	0 7 0	0 1 5
Binders (Warehouse) ...	0 1 9	0 0 4	0 3 0	0 1 0
<i>Simla Press—</i>				
Compositors ...	0 4 0	0 1 0	0 8 0	0 2 7
Binders ...	(Salaried hands.)			

PAYMENT TO LALCHAND AND SONS.

52. The HONOURABLE MAHARAJA SIR MANINDRA CHANDRA NANDY : (a) Will Government be pleased to refer to the statement made by the Controller of Printing, Stationery and Stamps, India, in forwarding to Government the annual statistical returns showing the working of the Government of India Presses, to the effect that, during 1920-21, the payments for "outside printing" to Messrs. Lalchand and Sons were less than the payments for 1919-20 by Rs. 2,62,208 ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to explain this statement with reference to the statement laid on the table of this House by the Honourable Mr. Lindsay in reply to Question No. 159 of the 26th September 1921, showing that the total amount paid to Messrs. Lalchand and Sons during 1919-20 was Rs. 1,36,005 ?

(c) What amount was paid to Messrs. Lalchand and Sons during 1920-21 for printing orders placed with them ?

The HONOURABLE MR. H. A. F. LINDSAY : (a) and (b). The figure Rs. 2,62,208 is correct. The figure given by me refers to payments for the actual operations of composing, plate-casting and printing alone. The total amount paid to the contractor in the year 1919-20 was Rs. 9,78,718, which includes also the cost of warehouse and binding work, banding, tag-labels, telegraph rolls, storage, distribution and contingencies.

(c) The total amount paid to Messrs. Lal Chand and Sons in 1920-21 was Rs. 7,16,510, of which Rs. 1,56,550 represents payment for the items referred to in my answer of the 26th September 1921.*

CLASSIFICATION OF PIECE-WORKERS.

53. The HONOURABLE MAHARAJA SIR MANINDRA CHANDRA NANDY : (a) Is it a fact that the promotion of piece-workers in Government Presses, from one class to another, depends on their capacity of earning a certain fixed amount of money monthly every year ?

(b) Will the Government kindly state if there has been a re-classification of the piece-workers in the Calcutta Press in the light of the 40 per cent. increment given to them in 1921 ?

(c) Have a very large section of the piece-work compositors of the Government of India Press, Calcutta, been losers by another classification effected in August 1922, as compared to the classes attained by the men by the classification of 1921 ?

The HONOURABLE MR. H. A. F. LINDSAY : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Under the ordinary rules governing the classification of piece-workers, 18 compositors have recently been reduced in class, but the work connected with the annual re-classification has not yet been completed.

INDIANISATION OF CIVIL SERVICE.

54. The HONOURABLE MAHARAJA SIR MANINDRA CHANDRA NANDY : (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to a statement of the "Morning Post" of London to the effect that the Government of India have invited the opinion of the Local Governments in the matter of the further Indianisation of the Civil Service, suggesting the elimination or the reduction of the European element from it ?

(b) If any such circular has been issued, or opinion invited in the matter, will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the

same, together with all correspondence that has transpired on the subject between the Central Government and the various local Administrations on the one hand, and between the Secretary of State for India and the Government of India on the other ?

The HONOURABLE MR. S. P. O'DONNELL : (a) Government have seen the statement referred to.

(b) The letter referred to has already appeared in the columns of the Press. The Government are not prepared to lay on the table any of the other papers referred to by the Hon'ble Member.

INTERVIEW OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS BY GOVERNMENT SERVANTS.

55. The HONOURABLE MAHARAJA SIR MANINDRA CHANDRA NANDY : Will the Government be pleased to state if the Home Department or the Railway Board or any other Department of the Government of India have issued any circular or notice intimating to employees in their Departments that they will be severely dealt with, under "Conduct Rules," if they interview any members of the Legislative Councils for the purpose of ventilating their grievances ? If so, will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the circular or notice in question and the date of its issue ?

The HONOURABLE MR. S. P. O'DONNELL : It will be seen from the copy of the orders in question which I lay on the table that Government servants have been informed that communications to Members of the Legislature which involve a breach of rule 17 of the Government Servants' Conduct Rules will be severely dealt with.

Office Memorandum No. F.-369-Public, dated 8th June 1922.

From—The Government of India, Home Department,

To—All Departments of the Government of India (including the Financial Adviser, Military Finance) and the Office of the Private Secretary to the Viceroy and Military Secretary to the Viceroy.

Cases have come to the notice of the Government of India in which members of the Secretariat establishments have approached Members of the Legislatures with a view to having their individual grievances made the subject of interpellations in the Chambers. Apart from the fact that the questions involved are rarely, if ever, of public importance, the practice usually entails the disclosure to non-official persons of information which has been obtained from official sources or has come into the possession of the member of the Secretariat in the course of his official duties ; and any such disclosure is a breach of rule 17 of the Government Servants' Conduct Rules. The undersigned is therefore directed to request that the attention of the office establishment in the Foreign and Political Department, etc., may be drawn to the provisions of this rule and that they may be warned that any communication to a Member of the Legislature which involves an infringement thereof will be severely dealt with. It is further requested that the substance of this Memorandum may be communicated to the offices subordinate to the Foreign and Political Department, etc., if any, for information and necessary action.

POLITICAL PRISONERS.

56. The HONOURABLE MAHARAJA SIR MANINDRA CHANDRA NANDY : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that persons convicted for political opinions and mischievous political activities are variously treated in the jails of the different provinces of India ?

(b) If the reply to the above be in the affirmative, do the Government intend to take action to put their treatment under some common and uniform rules in all the provinces of India and to bring Indian

jail practice in the matter of the treatment of such prisoners into line, as far as may be, with the practice in force in England ?

The HONOURABLE MR. S. P. O'DONNELL : (a) The rules passed under section 60 of the Prisons Act have not been uniform in all provinces.

(b) The Government of India have recently addressed all Local Governments on the subject of the treatment of persons convicted of offences in connection with political movements and have indicated the principles which they desire to see followed in this matter.

REVENUE OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

57. The HONOURABLE MAHARAJA SIR MANINDRA CHANDRA NANDY : Will the Government be pleased to state the amounts, item by item, by which the actual receipts have fallen short of the budget estimates under the following heads for the period from April 1922 to July 1922 :—

- (a) Customs ;
- (b) Railways ;
- (c) Irrigation ;
- (d) Income-tax ; and
- (e) Postage stamps ?

The HONOURABLE MR. E. M. COOK : The budget estimates are framed for the year as a whole, and it is not possible therefore to compare actual receipts with budget estimates for any period less than the complete 12 months. I shall, however, at a subsequent meeting, be giving certain information regarding the progress of revenue in the current year, in reply to a question of which the Honourable Mr. Sethna has given notice.

AERIAL MAIL SERVICE.

58. The HONOURABLE MAHARAJA SIR MANINDRA CHANDRA NANDY : (a) Has any scheme been submitted to the Government of India for the establishment of an Aerial Mail Service between London, on the one end, and Calcutta, or Bombay or Karachi, on the other ?

(b) If the answer to the above be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to lay on the table the main details of the scheme and the decision of the Government on it ?

The HONOURABLE MR. B. N. SARMA : (a) The answer is in the negative.

(b) The question does not therefore arise.

POSTAL DEPARTMENT RECEIPTS.

59. The HONOURABLE MAHARAJA SIR MANINDRA CHANDRA NANDY : Will the Government be pleased to state—

- (a) the total receipts in the Postal Department from the date of the operation of the new rates of postage stamps up to the end of July last and also the amounts of the total receipts under the same head for the corresponding periods of the years 1919, 1920 and 1921 ;
- (b) the amount of receipts under the head of Railways for the period April to July last and the corresponding periods of 1919, 1920 and 1921 ?

The HONOURABLE MR. E. M. COOK : (a) I regret that I have not yet been able to obtain the figures regarding the revenue from the new postal rates ; I will send them to the Honourable Member as soon as received.

(b). The figures are :—

	Lakhs.
1919.—April to July	26,40*
1920.—April to July	27,20
1921.—April to July	28,97
1922.—April to July	30,46

The figures for the first three years include the receipts on account of freight tax which was merged in the goods rates with effect from the 1st April 1922.

INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE ALLOWANCES AND PENSIONS.

60. The HONOURABLE MAHARAJA SIR MANINDRA CHANDRA NANDY : Will the Government be pleased to state the various kinds of allowances and pensions now being paid to the members of the Indian Civil Service and the collective amount paid under these heads, and make a statement as to how the scale of their salary and allowances in the different departments of service has been modified during the last two years ?

The HONOURABLE MR. S. P. O'DONNELL : As regards pensions, I will give the Honourable Member a copy of the Home Department Resolution No. 1918, dated the 20th November 1919, which contains the information required.

As to pay and allowances, the Honourable Member is referred to the statement printed on pages 320-334 of the Legislative Assembly Debates, Volume II—No. 4, showing the pay of the various important services in 1917 and 1921, which will perhaps serve his purpose. There has been no general modification in the scale of pay and allowances of the Indian Civil Service within the last two years, except slight modifications* in the scale of overseas pay which were made for the reasons given in paragraph 5 of the Finance Department Resolution No. 1559-E.A., dated the 16th August 1921, a copy of which will also be supplied to the Honourable Member.

The HONOURABLE SIR ARTHUR FROMM : May I, Sir, with your permission, ask a supplementary question arising out of question No. 38, if the Honourable Mr. Lindsay has no objection ?

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : I would point out that a supplementary question must be put after the question to which it is supplementary has been answered. To allow a supplementary question to be put at the end of question time would be a rather dangerous precedent, and I think I must refuse to allow the Honourable Member's request.

* Substitution of Rs. 200 for Rs. 150 in the 7th year of service and of Rs. 250 for Rs. 200 in the 10th and 11th years of service.

ADJOURNMENT OF HOUSE.

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : I have received from the Honourable Mr. Sethna a motion for the adjournment of the House to discuss a matter of public interest. I think the matter is clearly blocked by the rule against anticipation, and I understand that the Honourable Member wishes to withdraw his motion.

The HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE SETHNA : I do, Sir.

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : That then is disposed of.

NOMINATION OF PANEL OF CHAIRMEN.

The Honourable the President then read a message from His Excellency the Governor General regarding nomination of panel of Chairmen. The message ran as follows :—

“ In pursuance of the provisions of sub-section (2) of section 63-A of the Government of India Act, I, Rufus Daniel, Earl of Reading, hereby nominate the following Members of the Council of State to be on the Panel of Chairmen of the said Council of State :

In the first place, the Honourable Sir Alexander Robertson Murray ; in the second place, the Honourable Sir Maneckji Byramjee Dadabhoy ; in the third place, the Honourable Sir Dinshaw Edulji Wacha ; and lastly, the Honourable Sir Zulfiqar Ali Khan.

(Sd.) READING,

Viceroy and Governor General.”

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : I understand information has been received regarding Bills assented to by the Governor General.

BILLS ASSENTED TO BY GOVERNOR GENERAL.

The SECRETARY OF THE COUNCIL : Sir, information has been received that His Excellency has been pleased to grant his assent to the following Bills :—

The Ranchi Mental Hospital Act, 1922.

The Press Law Repeal and Amendment Act, 1922.

The Indian Ports (Amendment) Act, 1922.

STATEMENT LAID ON THE TABLE.

The HONOURABLE MIAN SIR MUHAMMAD SHAFI : Sir, I lay on the table the information promised in reply to a question* by the Honourable Mr. Lalubhai Samaldas on the 17th January, 1922, regarding the number of colleges and recognised schools which have disaffiliated* themselves from Universities (other than the Calcutta University), and the number of students in such institutions at the time of disaffiliation.

* * * *Vide* page 548 of Volume II, Part II.

Statements showing the number of colleges and recognised schools which have disaffiliated themselves from Universities (other than the Calcutta University) and the number of students in such institutions at the time of disaffiliation for the year ending the 30th September 1921.

Province.	No. of Colleges.	No. of Schools.	No. of Students.	REMARKS.
Madras	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	
Bombay	1	26*	4,923	*Of this number 5 schools with 2,808 students disaffiliated on account of being nationalised.
Bengal	...	...	...	No college or school under the control of the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education at
United Provinces	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Dacca disaffiliated itself from the Board.
Punjab	1	5	2,374	
Burma	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Thirteen schools with 2,146 pupils were converted into National Schools.
Bihar and Orissa	Nil.	5†	1,407	†In addition 1 school was 'nationalised' two months
Central Provinces	Nil.	1	197	after recognition by the Patna University. Roll number figures not available.
Assam	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	
Coorg	...	Nil.	Nil.	
Delhi	1	Nil.	Nil.	
North-West Frontier Province	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	
Administered Areas	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	

• HINDU CEREMONIAL EMOLUMENTS BILL.

• The SECRETARY OF THE COUNCIL : Sir, in accordance with rule 25 of the Indian Legislative Rules I lay on the table a Bill to amend the law relating to the right of hereditary Hindu priests to claim emoluments in respect of religious ceremonies, which was passed by the Legislative Assembly at its meeting of the 28th March, 1922.

RESOLUTION *RE* REDUCTION OF MEMBERS OF GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

The HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE SETHNA (Bombay : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That this Council recommends to the Governor General in Council that representation should be sent to the Secretary of State urging, in view of the serious financial condition of India, and the consequent necessity for retrenchment in expenditure, that the number of members of a Governor's Executive Council should, in no province, exceed two, and that every Governor of a Governor's province should be advised not to appoint more than two ministers to administer transferred subjects.”

The object of my Resolution, Sir, is to suggest a direction in which retrenchment, so urgently necessary in the present days of financial stringency both in the Central and Provincial Governments, could be effected without impairing the efficiency of the administration. My Resolution aims at a reduction in the number of Executive Councillors and Ministers in some provinces in this country. This Council will remember that at its very first Session in Delhi, in answer to a question by my Honourable friend Raja Pramada Nath Ray, the Honourable the Home Member, Sir William Vincent, placed a statement on the table on the 14th February 1921. According to that statement, in eight provinces in India the reformed constitution under the Government of India Act of 1919 had been introduced and in three out of the eight, the number of Executive Councillors was increased from three to four and the responsible part of government entrusted to representatives of the people was made over to three Members called Ministers.

This was, Sir, in regard to the provinces of Bombay, Bengal and Madras. In one of the Provinces, namely, Bihar and Orissa, there were three Executive Members of Council and two Ministers, the Council may remember that on the very same day that Raja Pramada Nath Ray's question was answered the Honourable the Home Member also replied to a question from me as to why the recommendation made in the Parliamentary Joint Committee's report, that an equality should be maintained in the number of European and Indian Members of Council, was not carried out in that Province. The Honourable Sir William Vincent's reply was to the effect that there were in Bihar and Orissa three Executive Members of Council, two Europeans and one Indian, and that if to bring about an equality in the numbers of Europeans and Indians, one extra Indian Executive Councillor were appointed, there would have been not enough work for the four ; on the other hand, if the number of European Executive Councillors was reduced from two to one, then Sir William contended that the European element in the Executive Council of the Government of Bihar and

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Orissa would be reduced to a very low percentage, an answer with which I believe the Council was not satisfied. But some weeks later in another place Government gave an assurance of some kind according to which when the period of office of the two European Executive Members of Council in Bihar and Orissa terminates, there will only be appointed one European Member and not two—which of course is satisfactory. The reason why the Honourable Sir William Vincent said the European element would be reduced to a low percentage was because at that time the Governor of the Province was also an Indian.

The Council will therefore see that my Resolution affects principally three Provinces, and only partially Bihar and Orissa. In regard to the four other Provinces, namely, the United Provinces, Punjab, Assam and the Central Provinces, there have been appointed only two Executive Members of Council and two Ministers in each. Now, during the days of autocracy before the Reform constitution came into existence, these three Provinces, namely, Bombay, Bengal and Madras, had beside the Governor only three Executive Councillors. Therefore the first effect of the Reform constitution on these provinces has been to increase very considerably the number of the Executive and consequently the expenditure involved in their salaries, etc.

I know, Sir, that the Reform constitution has brought about in its train very considerable additional work for carrying out the government of the country. The Reform constitution, by its general spirit no less than by the partial transfer of responsibility to the representatives of the people, has undoubtedly added to the work. However much democracy may be hedged in by qualifications and limitations, yet the fact cannot be denied that the introduction of the element of democracy must create new duties, must lead to new methods of discharging administrative functions and add greatly to the weight of the responsibilities resting upon the shoulders of the Government.

But, whilst conceding all this and making due allowance, I think it is a perfectly legitimate question to ask if, in the three Provinces I have named, the work has increased to such an enormous extent as to justify having as many as 8 Members in the Executive Government of Bombay, Bengal and Madras, and as many as 6 in Bihar and Orissa, including the Governor. I think I am right in saying that the work has by no means increased to such an extent as to justify this increase in the numbers and the consequent expenditure. In these days when we are trying to retrench in every direction, when the Provinces are almost verging on bankruptcy, the continuance of so many additional officers in the Executive Government is tantamount to culpable extravagance.

Sir, not even the authors of the Reform scheme, nor the Joint Parliamentary Committee, ever contemplated that the number of Executive Members of Government should be as many as 8. Here is what Mr. Montagu, the late Secretary of State for India, and Lord Chelmsford, the late Viceroy, say in their historic joint report. They observe :

"We propose that in each Province the Executive Government shall consist of two parts. One part would comprise the Head of the Province and an Executive Council of two Members. The other part of the Government would consist of one Member or more than one Member according to the number and importance of the transferred subjects, chosen by the Governor from the elected Members of the Legislative Councils. They would be known as Ministers."

Again, the Joint Parliamentary Committee observed in their Report :

"The Committee is of opinion that the normal strength of an Executive Council especially in the small Provinces, need not exceed two members. They have not, however, reduced the existing statutory maximum of four, but if in any case if the Council includes two members with service qualifications, neither of whom is by birth an Indian, they think it should also include two unofficial Indian members."

This, however, is not so much a matter of the opinion of Mr. Montagu or Lord Chelmsford or of those members who formed the Parliamentary Joint Committee. The case lies in a nutshell. Has the work increased to such an extent as would warrant the appointment, as I said, of 8 Members in these Provinces, and 6 in Bihar and Orissa ? If for nothing else, in view of the present financial stringency, these Governments should reconsider the position, and that as soon as possible.

In this connection I propose to mention a fact which to my mind is almost decisive, and it is this—that in the United Provinces, although it is so large a Province, the work of administration is carried on by only two Executive Councillors and two Ministers, and it has never been urged in that Province either by the Executive Members concerned or by the Legislative Council that the work is beyond these four men. If therefore in so large a Province as the United Provinces four men are enough to carry on the work, it stands to reason that we should inquire as to why there ought to be as many as the number I quoted in the Provinces I have named. The United Provinces is one of the largest provinces in this country. Its population is 4,80,00,000,—larger than that of the British Isles. Mr. Lionel Curtis, in one of his many studies on Indian questions, has said in one place in regard to the United Provinces that it is socially the most central and the most complex province in India. In that study he has quoted the opinion of Sir Alfred Lyall that the United Provinces are "the heart of India."

That being so, as I say, the question does require to be very carefully considered why Bombay, Bengal and Madras should have three additional members.

In addition to the United Provinces I will quote another instance. I said just now that the reformed constitution had been introduced in only eight provinces. It is also proposed to extend it to Burma. But before doing so a committee was appointed to make recommendations. That committee was presided over by the President of the other House and in its personnel were various members of both Houses. I mention this fact to show that the committee consisted of men who were perfectly conversant with the conditions prevailing in the different provinces since the reformed constitution came into existence ; and in spite of their first-hand knowledge and although Burma is a large province and a very important province, the recommendation which this committee has made is to have only two Executive Members of Council.

So far, Sir, my recommendation to reduce the number of Councillors and Ministers is based on the argument that the work is not heavy enough

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for as many as have been appointed in the places I have named. But I think that the case in regard to the reduction of Ministers is quite irresistible, particularly in view of the fact that our finances, or rather their finances, do not permit of such very heavy expenditure. If we were in normal times such a luxury might have been permissible. But when the case is absolutely otherwise, then it is high time that these appointments should be reduced. It is unnecessary for me to dwell at any great length on the subject of the financial condition in this country at the present moment. It is a subject to which every one interested in the affairs of India pays the very greatest attention from His Excellency the Viceroy downwards. Even as recently as yesterday His Excellency Lord Reading referred to retrenchment that has been necessary in this country in every direction. Some weeks ago His Excellency the Viceroy replying to a deputation of the Associated Chambers of Commerce observed in regard to the financial position of the country that it was 'serious.' Surely, Sir, it is very serious, and it is because it is very serious that the matter must be fully considered. The country is thankful to the Secretary of State for appointing what is known as the Inchcape Retrenchment Committee. Let us hope that the recommendations which this committee will make will bring about very considerable reductions. But I am sure that the recommendations which it can possibly make will not go very far if the question of military expenditure is not tackled by it. The references to the Inchcape Retrenchment Committee are of course only in regard to the central government and not in regard to the provinces. It is not as if the provinces themselves were not alive to the situation. For example, the Central Provinces and Bengal have already appointed their retrenchment committees and other provinces as, for example, Bombay, during the discussion of its last budget of its own accord reduced the figure on the expenditure side by as much as Rs. 60 lakhs.

The complaint is heard, Sir, on occasions that in trying to bring about retrenchment perhaps those who want to apply the shears begin from the bottom and not from the top; that very often some poor peon or clerk is dismissed and it may be—I do not say it is—that many holding sinecures higher up are left as they are. If an instance is wanted, my Resolution points out that in these three provinces there is a considerable expenditure in regard to the three highest men in the provinces, and they should consider whether that number should be reduced or not. Each Councillor or Minister is paid Rs. 64,000 a year; therefore if the number was reduced by three, it means straightaway a saving of Rs. 1,92,000. But it is not that figure alone. There are many other incidental expenses attaching to these salaries; as for example, these members must have, I suppose, their shorthand typists, their clerk or clerks whose salaries and whose travelling expenses, as also the travelling expenses of the members themselves, must amount to a very tidy figure, perhaps nearly as much as a further Rs. 1,92,000.

Now, Sir, I have explained the position as best I can; but it is very necessary that I should also explain the constitutional aspect of the case. The Government of India Act of 1919 lays down in section 47 that Executive Councillors to be appointed in a Governor's province will be

appointed by His Majesty the King. He appoints as many as the Secretary of State himself decides. The Secretary of State fixes the number and he is restricted to a maximum of 4. Consequently, if my Resolution is accepted, the most that we could do will be to submit a representation to the Secretary of State that he should consider the advisability of a reduction in the manner indicated. In the same Act in section 52 it is also laid down that it is open to the Governor in a Governor's province to appoint as many Ministers as he likes ; he may appoint one, he may appoint two, he may appoint three or even more ; and even if the Government of India think that so many men are not wanted the Government of India, so far as I can read the Act, cannot lay down any rules which would prevent a Governor from carrying out his own wishes. Therefore, Sir, in regard to Ministers as well, all that my Resolution can urge is that the Government of India should advise the different Governors of the different provinces to meet the wishes of the country.

Sir, I do not think I have anything more to add. I shall conclude by saying that if the Government see their way to accept this Resolution they will prove to demonstration that the Government of India at any rate lose no opportunity in trying to restore our finances and the provincial finances to as healthy and sound a position as they were some years ago.

The HONOURABLE SIR MANECKJI DADABHOY (Central Provinces : General) : Sir, I am in entire agreement with my Honourable friend, Mr. Phiroze Sethna, so far as his observations relate to the topheaviness of the Provincial Governments. I have my whole-hearted sympathy with what he has said in this connection and I think he has made out a very clear case for economy and retrenchment.

My Honourable friend also rightly alluded to the constitutional aspect of the case. With reference to this I propose to say a couple of words only. I do not wish to repeat what my Honourable friend has already said. He has pointed out the scope of sections 47 and 52 of the Government of India Act. In view of his exposition of the Statute, I would ask this Council whether it is fair, whether it is just to the provinces, that a Resolution of this kind should be moved in this Council. In my opinion every Provincial Government must work out its destiny and must decide for itself whether its expenditure is large and within what limits it should be controlled.

The Provincial Governments have ample powers : even the spirit of the new Reforms, which have been given to the Provincial Governments, seek to make them as autonomous as possible. Would it be fair, then, that we should discuss the question in this Council as to the requirements of Provincial Governments, when they have not moved in the matter. I think the Provinces have very able representatives ; they have in their Councils men who are as much solicitous for retrenchment and economy as the Members of the Indian Legislature, and I think we can safely leave this matter to them, so far as their recommendation for the appointment of members of the Executive Council is concerned. The appointment of Ministers is, within the Statute, the privilege of the Governor and he alone is entitled to determine the number of Ministers necessary, and I think it would be in consonance with the traditions of our

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Legislature, in consonance with justice and equity and all fairness, that we should leave our brother colleagues in the Provincial Councils to take up and determine all these questions.

The HONOURABLE SAIYID RAZA ALI (United Provinces East : Muhammadan) : So far as the Provincial question is concerned, I do not think that need seriously perturb the equanimity of members of this Council. I find, Sir, that after all there is no such question involved in the discussion of this Resolution as has been given the name of a constitutional question. The Government of India Act clearly provides that the members of the Executive Council are "to be appointed by His Majesty by Warrant under the Royal Sign-manual, and shall be such a number not exceeding four, as the Secretary of State in Council directs." The appointments being made by the King-Emperor, I do not think it is the exclusive privilege of a Governor to be consulted in a question like that. So far as the section goes, I believe it means that appointments can be made direct on the advice of the Secretary of State. I therefore do not think it is correct to say that, in considering a question of this character, we should take Provincial prejudices into consideration. If this Resolution really raises a question which concerns all India, then I believe it is but meet and proper that this Council should put on record its considered opinion as to how far it is necessary that, in certain provinces mentioned by the Honourable Mover, the number of the members of the Executive Council should stand at as high a figure as four. After all, Sir, spendthrift habits are contagious, and I should not be surprised if the contagion one day spreads from Bombay to the United Provinces, and from Madras to the Punjab. Therefore, I think this is not a question which should be considered in a parochial spirit, and this Council has every right to express its opinion thereupon.

Having said this much, I come to the Resolution of the Honourable Mover. I must at once say that I am in entire agreement with the first portion of the Resolution of the Honourable Mr. Sethna. But to me it seems—if my Honourable friend will excuse my saying so—that the latter portion of his Resolution, which recommends reduction in the number of Ministers, is wholly inconsistent with the spirit of the Reforms scheme. His complaint was that in certain provinces the number of Executive Councillors had been raised from 3 to 4. He also urges strongly that no increase in the volume of work has taken place to justify the raising of this number by one. That is a question which I believe will be dealt with by the official benches, and I am anxious to listen to the arguments which may be adduced to justify this increase. But, as Honourable Members of this Council know, the whole scheme of Reforms is based on this. Every Provincial Government is divided into two compartments, namely, the Governor in the Executive Council is one compartment, and the second compartment consists of the Governor acting on the advice of his Ministers. Honourable Members are aware that in certain very exceptional cases it is open to the Governor to overrule his Executive Council as laid down in section 50, clause 1 of the Government of India Act. He also has the power to dissent from the advice given by the Ministers, as laid down in section 52, clause 3, of the same Act. Therefore, there is

absolutely no question of the Ministers being in a position to defeat the Executive Councillors, if the Ministers are more in number than the members of the Executive Council. The Governor is to act in compartments, and the two compartments are, so to say, for the purposes of the constitution, entirely independent of each other. The Act avoids the case of collision arising, and I therefore fail to see why the Honourable Mr. Sethna should go out of his way to recommend a reduction in the number of Ministers. The argument gathers force when we remember that the Montagu-Chelmsford Report, as also the Report of the Joint Committee, recommended a gradual increase in the number of Ministers : in fact, that is the spirit of the whole scheme of reforms. At present the Executive Council is to be retained because the experiment of Diarchy is being tried. Honourable Members will excuse my using the word "experiment," but I use it in a most inoffensive sense. (*Voice* : Diarchy is an experiment). Diarchy is an experiment, and therefore I say that this Diarchy, whether for good or evil, has taken possession of our constitution. The Executive Council had to be retained, but everybody knows, and I need scarcely say that every member of this Council knows that as the people are to be associated with greater powers, to that extent the powers and number of the Executive Council must decrease and *pro tanto* the powers and number of Ministers must increase. That being so, I can quite see the Honourable Mr. Sethna recommending that the number of Councillors be reduced and the number of Ministers be increased. But I entirely fail to see on what principle he recommends a reduction in the number of both classes of officers. I need hardly point out that Diarchy is an experiment and a very new thing in this country. I sincerely hope that the time will soon come when it will be done away with, and the people of this country will come into their own. But as long as that state of affairs is not arrived at, I think we will be doing a very wrong thing in treating Diarchy improperly—though I for one am not very fond of that—and in crippling the parts of the machinery at the very start.

I think that in every province Honourable Members will find that services which are known as beneficial services have been put in charge of Ministers. These were services which were, to a large extent if not wholly, neglected in times past and, therefore, we want men in sufficient numbers to develop these services and look after the interests of these services. It follows, therefore, that the number of Ministers should not be reduced unless it is shown very satisfactorily, with reference to facts and figures, that the number of Ministers is much in excess of that which is required for the needs of those departments which have been transferred to the charge of Ministers. I think the position is so very clear that I have no doubt that this Council, while agreeing with the first part of the Resolution, namely, that the number of Executive Councillors should be reduced and in no case should it be more than two unless very exceptional circumstances are shown, will take the view that the argument does not apply so far as Ministers are concerned. The Ministers have been doing very useful work. I am not here to give a testimonial to the Ministers, but we have it on very high authority that the Ministers in every province have been doing very good and useful work. They are in charge of very important and useful departments, and

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therefore, I think this Council should be the last body to treat the Ministers in a stepmotherly fashion. After having listened very attentively to the speech of the Honourable Mr. Sethna, I should say that no case has been made out for reduction in the number of Ministers. What was probably at the back of the Honourable Mover's mind was that, as he wanted to reduce the number of Councillors, he thought he should impartially make a similar reduction in the number of Ministers. (*The Honourable Mr. Phiroze Sethna* : "No."). I am very glad that my Honourable friend disowns that intention. Well, if that is so, I entirely fail to see why the number of Ministers should be reduced. On the other hand, all the arguments that have been advanced go to show that their number should be increased. There remains the very important financial question no doubt : but, after all, if you reduce your Ministers from 3 to 2, that means a saving of Rs. 64,000 only. I do not despise even a saving of a sum of Rs. 64,000, but, on the other hand, look at the very useful and good work that has been done during the past eighteen months by these men who are responsible to the Legislative Council in every province. For these reasons, Sir, I hope that Honourable Members, while supporting the first part of the Resolution, will not countenance the number of Ministers being reduced from 3 to 2.

The HONOURABLE MR. S. P. O'DONNELL (Home Secretary) : Sir, so far as the first part of this Resolution is concerned, the Government have already moved in the matter. There are, as the Honourable Mr. Sethna has reminded us, four provinces in which the number of Executive Councillors exceeds two, namely, Bihar and Orissa and the three Presidencies. As regards Bihar and Orissa, there was as the Honourable Mr. Sethna has said, a debate in the Legislative Assembly in March 1921. In the course of that debate, it was explained on behalf of the Government that the retention of two European officials on the Council was a temporary measure, designed to meet the needs of a transitional period, and concurred in as such by Lord Sinha, which it was proposed to revise on the retirement of Sir Haviland LeMesurier in November 1922. The proceedings of that debate have been forwarded to the Secretary of State ; the matter is now under his consideration and his orders are awaited.

As to the Presidencies, the Government of India some time ago addressed their Governments on this very question. It is undoubtedly the case that the reforms have added immensely to the volume of work devolving on these Provincial Governments. The Sessions of the Legislative Councils are much longer and more continuous ; the volume of questions, of Resolutions and of legislation to be dealt with is immensely greater and the whole machinery of the Government is more complicated than it was before the reforms. For example, I may mention that in one of these provinces during the course of three Sessions there were over 2,000 questions, over 400 Resolutions and nearly 1,300 motions on grants for money to be dealt with. That gives you some idea of the increase of work which the reforms have involved. The Honourable Mr. Sethna has referred to the United Provinces. Well,

I come from that province, and I should be the last person to say anything which implied that that province was less important than any other Province. At the same time, it is only fair to remember that not only are the United Provinces an inland province, but that they are not commercially and industrially a very advanced province and, therefore, the comparison is not necessarily conclusive. The United Provinces have not the same maritime, commercial and industrial interests that the Presidencies have, and, therefore, it does not follow that the volume of work is precisely the same. At the same time, it is undoubtedly true that the reforms have added considerably to what may be described as the overhead charges of the administration, and in the present financial conditions the need for economy, wherever this can be effected without detriment to the efficiency of the administration, is manifest and indisputable. The Government of India accordingly some time ago asked these Local Governments to consider this question further and to furnish the Government of India with a considered expression of their views. When these opinions have been received, and when they have been examined, they will be forwarded to the Secretary of State, together with an expression of the views of the Government of India themselves. The Council will, of course, recognise that it is quite impossible for the Government of India to commit themselves at present to any final view on this matter. They must consider the views of the Local Governments who are specially qualified to judge on this matter before they can communicate their own opinion to the Secretary of State with whom the decision rests; but they are fully alive to the necessity for economy and, in formulating their own views, they will give due weight to that consideration.

The second part of this Resolution stands on a different footing. Under the Act it rests with the Governor to appoint as many Ministers as he considers are required for the administration of transferred subjects. The Governor exercises in that matter a statutory discretion, a discretion vested in him by law. But it is not a discretion which the Governor can exercise arbitrarily. Ministers are appointed for the administration of transferred subjects, and the essence of a transferred subject is that the ultimate control of that subject rests with the Legislative Council of the Province. The Secretary of State and the Government of India, except for certain very limited purposes, such as matters in which the interests of more than one province or Imperial interests are concerned, have been divested by statutory rules of their powers of control. The salaries of Ministers are voted by the Legislative Council, and the recognised constitutional position is that Ministers must resign unless they have the confidence of the Legislative Councils. Therefore, in regard to this matter of the number of Ministers required, the Legislative Councils have ample means of voicing their wishes and ample means of making those wishes effective. If there are at present three Ministers in each of these Provinces, it must be presumed that the Legislative Councils in each of these provinces consider that number to be required. It is, of course, open to them at any time to revise their previous opinion on this subject, but the ultimate decision rests with them. We have in the provinces, so far as transferred subjects are concerned, responsible government, and it would be inconsistent with

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the principle of responsible government that the Government of India should attempt to interfere in this matter. You really cannot have it both ways. You cannot have responsible government and at the same time retain the power to interfere.

Well, Sir, that is how the matter stands. It is not possible for the Government of India to concur in the first part of this Resolution, for the simple reason that the matter is still under examination and they cannot commit themselves to any final opinion till they have considered the views of the Local Governments. Obviously, the Local Governments are specially qualified to judge on this matter and their opinions must be before the Government of India and must have been examined by the Government of India before the Government of India can make any definite recommendation to the Secretary of State.

The second part of the Resolution, on the other hand, relates to a matter in regard to which the Government of India, as the Honourable Sir Maneckji Dadabhoj I think quite rightly pointed out, ought not and cannot interfere, and for that reason they cannot concur in the proposal embodied therein.

The HONOURABLE RAJA V. N. VASUDEVA OF KOLLENGODE (Madras : Nominated Non-official) : Mr. President, I am sorry that I am unable to accord my unqualified support to the Resolution moved by Mr. Sethna in the form in which it stands, as I believe it involves in the first place a violation of principle. It will be accepted, I think, as a sound principle that, as far as possible, the Provincial Governments should be allowed freedom of action and responsibility in their provincial concerns as we are all aiming at Provincial Autonomy. The Provincial Legislature of each province must therefore be the sole judge as to how it can run the administration for which it is responsible and with what number of Executive Council Members and Ministers the administration can be carried on.

Speaking for Madras I think, that the Madras Legislative Council is in a better position to know its own requirements than anyone from outside and I am sure it is alive to its own responsibilities. I very much doubt whether it is sound policy to dictate to it that it shall run the administration with so many members only, whatever the needs may be. Each province must decide for itself how much scope it has for its developments and what funds are available, and surely the number of officers required must necessarily depend upon the potentiality of each province, the quantity of work that has to be done and the money available. The Provincial Councils are responsible to the people for the efficient discharge of the functions entrusted to them and for the proper utilisation of the funds at the disposal of the Government. If any province is spending money on Executive Council Members or Ministers which it cannot justify, surely the voice of the people must, and will, assert itself and it would bring pressure on the Legislative Council to take such action as may be necessary:

If the present financial straits in which some of the provinces are now woefully placed on account of the unjust and unreasonable system of contributions levied on them, continue or are allowed to be continued, I have no doubt that some of the Ministers and Executive Council Members

will find very little scope for work, and in that event many of them and perhaps many other officers too will have to go ; but on the other hand if measures are taken, as we are bound to take, to relieve such of the Provincial Governments as are suffering under the present financial system, I believe there is immense scope for development, which will tax to the full the brains and energy of all the existing number of Executive Council Members and Ministers. Instead of therefore trying to save a little money by removing a straw from a camel's back by the reduction of a few officers here and there, because of the financial burden, it should be our aim to find means to improve the finances of the provinces and to develop them to the fullest possible extent.

The saving effected by the reduction of the officers mentioned in the Resolution is extremely trifling, and any recommendation on the lines suggested must I think come from the Provinces, if there is a demand for it, and it would be our duty then to support it. But I think we should not take the responsibility of dictating to them as to what they should do in their domestic concerns. If the Honourable Mover confines the scope of his Resolution to the Province which he represents and omits Madras, on behalf of which he has no mandate to speak, I shall be glad to vote in favour of his Resolution on the principle, I advocated, of non-interference with the domestic concerns of another province. Otherwise I must say that I shall be constrained to vote against his Resolution.

If the idea of the Honourable Mover is that the Provincial Governments should reduce their expenditure, irrespective of their needs to find money for the Government of India, it is a proposition I cannot subscribe myself to, as I believe each Government, whether Provincial or Central, must either cut its coat according to its cloth, or find out independent sources of revenue.

Further, Sir, it is undesirable to treat in this respect all Provinces alike and to have a hard and fast rule for them. The requirements of each Province will have to be considered on its own merits.

THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE SETHNA : Sir, as a result of the discussion on this Resolution, I think I can claim that this House, or at any rate the majority, do recognise that in these particular Provinces there is incurred a greater expenditure than should be the case, in regard to the appointment of the highest officials in the Executive Government.

The objections raised, however, are of a different kind. My friend the Honourable Sir Maneckji Dadabhoy says that we have no right to dictate to the Provinces. I think I made it abundantly clear in my speech that we certainly had no voice in the matter of running the Reforms, and the most we could do was to make recommendations first to the Secretary of State and next to the Governors of Provinces.

My friend the Honourable Saiyid Raza Ali agrees with the first part of the Resolution but differs from the second, on the ground that because Diarchy has been introduced it will mean that eventually, as more subjects are transferred, more Ministers will be required, and therefore I need not ask for a reduction in the number of Ministers. But my Honourable friend Saiyid Raza Ali has missed my point. The work of the Government, or rather the portfolios of the different Governments, have not increased. I certainly admit that the work, as the Honourable Mr. O'Donnell told us, must have increased, if in a certain Province there were

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2,000 questions on the subject of this Resolution. I agree with that, but the portfolios have not increased, and if the work has increased it is not necessary to increase the number of Executive Councillors or Ministers, but the staff. However, that is beside the point. My main object was to point out to these Provinces that the country at large is of opinion that they should not have any more Members of the Executive Council than is the case in the other Provinces I have named. My object is more than served by the information which my Honourable friend Mr. O'Donnell has given to the House. I had no idea that the Government of India had themselves taken up this matter, which, in itself, by the way, is an answer to my friend the Honourable Sir Maneckji Dadabhoy, that the Government of India did not think wrong to intervene as they have done; and because the Government of India are making inquiries and they are awaiting replies, I will not press my Resolution, Sir, but only hope that when the replies from the Local Governments have been received by the Government of India, this Council will be duly informed of the result and the action which the Government of India mean to take on the recommendations made in those replies. As regards Ministers, I am not at all particular, and consequently I beg to withdraw my Resolution being more than satisfied with the reply from the Honourable the Home Secretary.

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : Is it your pleasure that leave be granted to the Honourable Mr. Phiroze Sethna to withdraw his Resolution.

The Resolution was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

POSTPONEMENT OF RESOLUTIONS RE PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH.

The HONOURABLE MR. S. P. O'DONNELL (Home Secretary) : Sir, I rise to suggest that the Resolution standing in the name of the Honourable Mr. Kale and the similar Resolution in the name of the Honourable Sir Maneckji Dadabhoy be postponed till to-morrow.

My reason for making this suggestion is that the Honourable the Home Member is extremely anxious to attend the important debate on these Resolutions, and if this comes on to-day, it will be impossible for him to do so, because he is in charge in another place of a number of Bills which it is important to push on with. I have reason to believe that both the Honourable Mr. Kale and the Honourable Sir Maneckji Dadabhoy are quite agreeable to this course should it commend itself to you, Sir.

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : I assume that the Honourable Mr. Kale and the Honourable Sir Maneckji Dadabhoy agree, and I think the Council will feel that that is a suitable course and will desire to hear the Honourable the Home Member on a matter of this kind. As a matter of constitutional practice I intend to put the question to the House. That is the only satisfactory way of arriving at a decision. The question therefore is :

"That the Resolution standing in the name of the Honourable Mr. Kale, and a similar Resolution standing in the name of the Honourable Sir Maneckji Dadabhoy, be postponed on the understanding given by the Government that they will be taken up on the next Government day, which is to-morrow."

The motion was adopted.

RESOLUTION *RE* CONDITIONS OF LIFE AND COMPLAINT OF INDIAN LABOURERS.

The HONOURABLE SIR AHMEDTHAMBY MARICAIR (Madras : Muhammadan) : Sir, the Resolution that stands in my name runs as follows :—

“ This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council that a Committee consisting of officials and non-officials with an official majority be appointed to inquire into the conditions of life and complaint of Indian labourers working in India both Industrial and Agricultural in the following respects and report to the Government with recommendations for their amelioration :—

1. Wages earned, and indebtedness.
2. Hours of work.
3. Housing accommodation and sanitation.
4. Medical treatment.
5. Educational facilities for children.
6. Age of working children.”

This is a Resolution which affects the poor labouring classes in India. It is needless for me to explain here in a lengthy speech how important the question is. It is a well-known fact that the treatment which the labouring classes receive at the hands of mirasidars and industrialists is most unsatisfactory. They are not given sufficient wages and the housing accommodation that is given to them is very poor as compared with what they get in the colonies. In the presidency of Madras, agricultural labourers are put to considerable hardship. They are not provided with sufficient work throughout the year and their position is so hard that they are compelled to seek work elsewhere. At a time like this, when questions of emigration to distant colonies are under consideration, and the committee appointed for the purpose are proposing to put a considerable degree of embargo on emigration in order to retain labour in India itself, it is only proper that sufficient safeguards should be provided with a view to get them properly looked after in India itself. Otherwise their position in India will become very bad and they will be left in the lurch. Before teaching lessons to others we must keep our house clean.

(At this stage the Honourable the President vacated the Chair which was taken by the Honourable Sir Zulfiqar Ali Khan).

It is said that coolies get into indebtedness in the colonies. What about the coolies in India ? How are they kept ? Mirasidars in all parts of the Madras presidency are keeping their labourers in indebtedness for centuries together. There is not one village in which the coolies are not in a constant state of indebtedness. As a matter of fact I have recently purchased some lands in my part of the country and the owner of the land had to hand over to me certain documents which I had to transfer to myself with a view to keep these coolies under indebtedness. Such is the case, Sir, that the coolies in our parts are in a much worse state than they are in the colonies. For example, it was the custom in Ceylon that the coolies were kept under the “ thundu ” system in a state of great indebtedness ; but now the Ceylon Government have passed an Ordinance that the “ thundu ” system should be wiped off. Well, Sir, when we are teaching the colonies where our coolies are finding their way to get employment freely and properly, is it not our duty to look after our own coolies in India itself and see that they are not in a state

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of indebtedness always and provide them with sufficient wages so that they may be kept here? Without keeping our own house in order, is it proper on our part to teach the other colonies and say they should give them minimum wages, good housing accommodation and sanitary arrangements, medical treatment and education for their children and so on? As far as my experience goes, Sir, the condition of the labourers is such that it requires the immediate attention of the Government. They are provided with kajan houses round the drainage canal and there they are asked to live with their families and children. As a matter of fact the coolies in our parts get work only for four months or five months in the year and during the remaining portion of the year they are left without work. As regards medical treatment and sanitary arrangements, it is needless for me to say that there is no such kind of treatment at the hands of the mirasidars. No doubt I am one of those who have been giving similar treatment. But I am quite in sympathy with the coolies and I should like to build a hospital for them; I should like to give them sanitary arrangements; I should like to start a school and give them all sorts of facilities; but if I do all these things, I shall be incurring the displeasure of my co-mirasidars for starting things which have not been in existence for centuries. So, Sir, I think the time has come when the Government should take up this important question and the labourers should be treated in such a way as to enable them to be kept in their own homes with sufficient happiness in India itself. It is, I think, absolutely necessary that a committee should be appointed in this matter to look into the whole question and to ameliorate the difficulties and hardships that these poor labourers suffer from. I am sure Honourable Members in this House will sympathise with me and will give their co-operation, and that Government will not hesitate to accept my Resolution and appoint a committee in this matter. With these few words I commend my Resolution to the acceptance of this Council.

THE HONOURABLE MR. LALUBHAI SAMALDAS (Bombay : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, before I refer to the Resolution moved by the Honourable Sir Ahmedthamby Maricair, may I with your permission congratulate him on the high honour done him by His Majesty the King-Emperor in conferring on him a Knighthood? (*Cheers*) I congratulate him in another way also. He has now become a labourer and a philanthropist, from a capitalist and an industrialist. That is a matter for congratulation. I hope he will stick to this rôle and not merely bring forward a Resolution because of what has happened in another place.

(At this stage the Honourable the President resumed the Chair).

He has made his position quite clear; he feels that the Emigration Committee is putting forward certain proposals which may stop emigration or reduce emigration to the colonies in which my Honourable friend is interested.

He thinks that unless we put our house in order we have no business to lay down conditions for the improvement of labour in the colonies. So far as the principle is concerned, Sir, I don't think there can be any objection; but the method suggested for achieving it is not what it ought to be. My Honourable friend wants a committee consisting of officials and non-

officials. We have already one committee still to come into existence, for which my Honourable friend, Mr. Lindsay is responsible, and which has not been appointed yet, possibly because there is no money forthcoming, I refer to, a committee on the Mercantile Marine. Another reason why such a committee is not necessary just now is that the Provincial Governments have started Labour Departments, and we have got in Bombay a capable man, Mr. Findlay Shirras, as the head of that Department. The Government of India have also opened a Labour Department, and work of the same kind that my Honourable friend wants to be done is being done by the Government of India. I think, therefore, it is unnecessary to have a separate committee doing practically the same kind of work. I hope with this explanation my Honourable friend will see his way to withdraw his Resolution.

The HONOURABLE SIR MANECKJI DADABHOY (Central Provinces : General) : I recognise the philanthropic motive which has prompted my Honourable friend to move this Resolution, but in my humble opinion it will be a waste of public time and public money to accept a Resolution of this nature. My Honourable friend has not recognised that the problems which he has raised in this Resolution are of great and grave economic importance, and each Presidency has to contend against special difficulties in this matter, and I cannot understand how a committee like the one suggested by my Honourable friend will be in a position to collect information and to advise the Government of India.

I will discuss briefly, point by point, the matters raised by the Mover of the Resolution. Now, so far as the question of wages is concerned, every province presents innumerable peculiar difficulties of its own, and it is absolutely impossible to reconcile the difficulties and interests of each province, and there could be no general recommendation which would promote the interests of all wage-earners all over India. Likewise, with regard to the indebtedness of agriculturists and labourers, I quite admit that it is a question of vital importance, but it is absolutely a hopeless task to find out any means or methods of relieving their condition, and what little can be done in that direction each Presidency has been endeavouring for years past to do.

So far as the hours of work are concerned, by special legislation, such as the Indian Factories Act, the hours of labour have been tremendously reduced and regulated, and there is no scope for further reduction in the hours of labour compatible with industrial progress. Housing accommodation is no doubt a very serious problem, and the Indian industrialists all over India are adopting means and measures for meeting this deficiency as far as possible ; but it is impossible in big crowded cities to find house accommodation for their industrial labour, and I am afraid the proposed committee will not be able to contribute anything to the literature existing on the subject at present. Medical treatment, too, is a matter which needs consideration. The Provincial Governments are at present bankrupt ; they have no money ; you cannot ask Provincial Governments to go in for a programme of larger construction of dispensaries and the supplying of free medical aid and relief to labourers and others. However, as the Council is aware, in this direction commendable efforts have already been made, and I do not think it would serve any useful purpose to appoint a

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committee, like the one suggested, to inquire into the matter and to make recommendations that would be advantageous to the country.

So far as educational facilities for children are concerned, it is a big problem, and the Municipalities and Local Governments are doing their best to make education free, as far as their power of the purse permits. You cannot have all these changes effected in a day ; they must all depend on the progress of industrialism. The people must wean themselves from agriculture and take to industries, and so produce wealth in the country, and only then will you be able to remove the poverty of the people and bring prosperity to the nation.

In the matter of the age of working children lately the Factories Act has made commendable alterations. The age limit has already been considerably raised, and I am therefore of opinion that a commission like that suggested by my Honourable friend would not be in a position to make recommendations for each province, which would be compatible with its peculiar requirements and necessities and will be beneficial to the people of that Province. I think my Honourable friend will do well not to press this Resolution on the Council.

The HONOURABLE SIR ZULFIQAR ALI KHAN (East Punjab : Muhammadan) : Sir, I am sorry to say that I cannot see eye to eye with the Honourable Mover of this Resolution. He speaks about agriculturists. Agriculturists, in other provinces, where the " Eka " system exists, would be very dangerous. They have been fighting with their landlords and with each other ; and in a province like the Punjab, where everything is now quiet, if such a Committee were appointed, it would be a sign to all these labourers to unite and make trouble. There is already sufficient trouble going on, and it is no good inviting further trouble.

As regards their houses, they have their own houses and can build as well as they like.

As far as I know about the Punjab, I think medical aid and schools are in plenty and within reason. If they do like to send their children to such schools they can easily do so. The Honourable Mover has all along said that he has had experience of his own province. He said nothing about any other province. If the trouble is only in his province, the question should be confined to his province, and a Committee should not be appointed for all the provinces. Then again, Sir, the question of expenditure will be involved, and I agree with the other members who have asked the Honourable Mover to withdraw his Resolution. If he does that, it will save a lot of trouble.

The HONOURABLE MR. H. A. F. LINDSAY (Commerce Secretary) : Sir, I had intended to inflict a long and rather tedious speech on the House this morning, but so many of my words have been taken from me by previous speakers that I think it is only necessary to summarise the general feeling towards this Resolution. If I oppose it, Sir, it is not from want of sympathy with the condition and needs of Indian workmen. They are fully known, the Government is fully alive to them. In fact I would summarise the position by saying that it is not the existence of the disease which is in doubt, it is the difficulty of finding a practical remedy.

This leads me to my first criticism. What is the remedy that the Honourable Member suggests? As an official myself I am pleased and flattered that he has suggested an official majority, which shows a very pleasing confidence in the official side of the House (Laughter). But, Sir, we have had one Committee after another dealing with this and similar questions. We have had the Industrial Commission which went very fully into the question of housing and labour conditions. Are we to add one more Committee to that series? The Industrial Commission, after all, produced a report which has borne excellent fruit. I doubt whether a second Committee could improve on that.

This leads me to my second point. I hope the Honourable Member does not mean to imply that the Government are adopting an aloof attitude in regard to the condition of Indian labour. The very reverse is the case. Take any one of these points which the Honourable Member has raised. Take the question of indebtedness. It is an extremely difficult question; it is one which has exercised official and unofficial minds for a great many years past in India as in other parts of the world. The soundest and best solution which has occurred so far to Government is the system of co-operation. Co-operative societies have been developed and the Indian public have responded to that movement in a most wonderful way. Between 1910 and 1920 the number of co-operative societies has increased from 3,500 to 40,000; the number of members has increased from 227,000 to 1,500,000; the amount of capital at their disposal has increased from 2 to 21 crores of rupees. That, Sir, is a record of merely 10 years' progress. Then with regard to hours of work. Only last March the Indian Factories Act was brought up to date and contains the very latest provisions for regulating hours of work of adults and children. It also provides for the sanitation of factories; and the age of working children is regulated by the Factories Act. Again, only last Session, the age of children employed in docks was regulated, and I understand that the age of children working in Indian mines is to be the subject of forthcoming legislation. Housing is a still more difficult problem, and it is one which is really for Local Governments to decide. They have already taken action through Municipal legislation, City Improvement and Town Planning Schemes, and, a short time ago, the Government of India addressed them suggesting lines of further development.

Then, the last point, and it is an inevitable point, I am afraid, in these days of retrenchment. Can a Committee be afforded? It will have to be one which includes experts, and it will have to tour throughout the country and advise on labour conditions for a very large area indeed, in fact for the whole of India. Is it right that we should take from the provinces the task of progressing further in improvements to local labour conditions.

My friend the Honourable Mr. Lalubhai Samaldas has referred to a possible Committee on the Mercantile Marine. I am afraid that, although the one Committee does not necessarily exclude the other, financial circumstances do not admit of the present Committee being appointed.

On these grounds I ask the House to vote against the Resolution.

The HONOURABLE SIR AHEMDTHAMBY MARICAIR: Sir, I quite realise, after I have heard the explanation given by the Honourable

[Sir Ahmedthamby Maricair.]

Mr. Lindsay, the financial difficulty of the Government of India is so great that it is not possible to appoint such a huge Committee to go into the whole question. I only hope the Government of India will bear this matter in mind and see that the difficulties of these Indian labourers are safeguarded by appointing a Committee, when the time permits of their doing so. In the meantime I do not like to press my Resolution and I beg for leave to withdraw it.

The Resolution was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

MESSAGE FROM ASSEMBLY *RE* CANTONMENTS (HOUSE-ACCOMMODATION) AMENDMENT BILL.

The SECRETARY OF THE COUNCIL : Sir, there is a message from the Legislative Assembly.

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : Let it be read.

The SECRETARY OF THE COUNCIL : “ I am directed to inform the Council of State that the following motion was carried in the Legislative Assembly at their meeting on the 6th September, 1922, and to request the concurrence of the Council of State in the recommendation contained therein, namely :—

“ That this Assembly do recommend to the Council of State that the Bill further to amend the Cantonments (House-Accommodation) Act, 1902, be referred to a Joint Committee of this Assembly and of the Council of State, and that the Joint Committee do consist of ten Members.”

DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

The HONOURABLE MIAN SIR MUHAMMAD SHAFI (Education Member) : Sir, the next meeting of this Chamber will be held to-morrow, Thursday, the 7th September, and I understand.....

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : I beg the Honourable Member's pardon. I will adjourn the meeting when the business is over. I thought the Honourable Member wished to make a statement as to the message just received.

REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEE ON CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The HONOURABLE MR. H. MONCRIEFF SMITH (Legislative Secretary) : Sir, I beg to present the Report of the Joint Committee on the Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, and the Court-fees Act, 1870.

PROGRAMME OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS.

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : Does the Honourable the Leader of the House desire to make any statement as to the programme of Government business ?

The HONOURABLE MIAN SIR MUHAMMAD SHAFI : Sir, the next meeting of this Chamber will be held to-morrow, Thursday, the 7th September, and I understand that the Agenda for the meeting has already been circulated to Honourable Members. In addition to the items entered on that Agenda there will, of course, be taken the Resolutions which stand over from to-day's list. Thereafter, there will be meetings on Monday, the 11th, which has been allotted by the Governor General for non-official business, and Wednesday, the 13th, on which day the Report of the Joint Committee on the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill will be taken into consideration. I may be in a position on Wednesday, the 13th September, to make a further announcement regarding other official business in prospect.

The Council then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 7th September, 1922.
