

COUNCIL OF STATE DEBATES

(Official Report)

VOL. III, PART II

(24th January, 1923 to 27th March, 1923)

THIRD SESSION

OF THE

COUNCIL OF STATE, 1923.



DELHI
GOVERNMENT CENTRAL PRESS,
1923

CONTENTS.

	Page
WEDNESDAY, 24TH JANUARY, 1923—	
Members Sworn	523
Death of the Honourable Maung Po. Bye	523—25
Grant of Honours to Members	524
Questions and Answers	525—14
Arrangement of Questions	545
Questions and Answers	545—48
Reports laid on the Table of Joint Committee on Bills	548
Governor General's Assent to Bills	548
Statement of Exchange Gains and Losses	548—60
Communications in Frontier Province	561
Muslims, Hindus, etc., in Government of India Secretariat	561—66
Policy of His Majesty's Government with reference to the Government of India Act	567—68
Emigration to the Straits Settlements and Malay States	568—69
Emigration to Ceylon	569—70
Business of the House	570
THURSDAY, 25TH JANUARY, 1923—	
Report of Joint Committee on the Workmen's Compensation Bill	571
The Hindu Ceremonial Emoluments Bill—Request for postponement	571—72
Resolution <i>re</i> Purchase of Stores in England	572—77
Appointment of Public Services Commission	577—78
Resolution regarding the Indian Civil and other Imperial Services	578—86
Resolution <i>re</i> Conditions of Service of future entrants to I. C. S.	586—87
MONDAY, 29TH JANUARY, 1923—	
Member Sworn	589
Questions and Answers	589—92
The Criminal Tribes (Amendment) Bill	592—612
Message from the Legislative Assembly	612
TUESDAY, 30TH JANUARY, 1923—	
Questions and Answers	613—18
The Indian Boilers Bill	618
Message from the Governor General	618—19
The Registration of Chelas Bill	619—28
Resolution <i>re</i> Promotion of Irrigation Projects	629—50
WEDNESDAY, 31ST JANUARY, 1923—	
Bills passed by the Legislative Assembly	651
Gift of Books by Sir William Geary	651
The Indian Cotton Cess Bill—Reference to Joint Committee	651—71
The Indian Cotton Cess Bill—Nomination to Joint Committee	671
Course of Business	671—72

WEDNESDAY, 31ST JANUARY, 1923—contd.

Resolution <i>re</i> Workmen's Compensation and Social Insurance in Agriculture	672—84
Resolution <i>re</i> Protection of Women and Children in Agriculture—Recommendations of International Labour Conference	684—89
Statement of Business	688

MONDAY, 12TH FEBRUARY, 1923—

Questions and Answers	689—99
Dates for Discussion of Budget	699—700
Governor General's Assent to Bills	700
Bills passed by the Legislative Assembly	700
Alteration of Date of <i>Shivraatri</i> and Course of Business	700
Resolutions of which notice is given but not moved in Council	701
Resolution <i>re</i> Repeal of Army Amalgamation Scheme of 1869	701—17
The Malabar (Completion of Trials) Supplementing Bill laid on the Table	717—18

WEDNESDAY, 14TH FEBRUARY, 1923—

Questions and Answers	719—32
The Cotton Transport Bill	733—39
The Cantonments (House-Accommodation) Bill	739—49
Statement of Business	749

THURSDAY, 15TH FEBRUARY, 1923—

Statement <i>re</i> Government of India Presses laid on the table	751—53
The Malabar (Completion of Trials) Supplementing Bill	754—55
The Indian Mines Bill	755—59
The Indian Boilers Bill	759—65
Resolution <i>re</i> Emigration of Unskilled Labourers to Ceylon	765—70
Resolution <i>re</i> Emigration of Unskilled Labourers to Straits Settlements and Malay States	770—72

FRIDAY, 16TH FEBRUARY, 1923—

Resolution <i>re</i> Inquiry into Industrial Finance and Industrial Banks	773—87
Resolution <i>re</i> the Adoption of a System of Compulsory National Military Training and Service	787—98
The Married Women's Property (Amendment) Bill laid on the Table	798
Resolution <i>re</i> the Adoption of a System of Compulsory National Military Training and Service	798—818
Resolution <i>re</i> Necessity of Census of Products of British India	818—19

MONDAY, 19TH FEBRUARY, 1923—

Questions and Answers	821—23
Resolution <i>re</i> Necessity of Census of Products of British India	828—26
Resolution <i>re</i> Opportunities to Indians for qualifying for Secretaryships, etc.	825—27
Resolution <i>re</i> Radio Communications	828
Resolution <i>re</i> Imposition of an Export Duty on Benzine and Petrol	828—34

TUESDAY, 20TH FEBRUARY, 1923—

Bills laid on the Table	885
The Prisoners (Amendment) Bill	885
The Indian Naval Armament Bill	886
The Workmen's Compensation Bill	887-78

WEDNESDAY, 21ST FEBRUARY, 1923—

Resolution <i>re</i> Administration of Ajmer-Merwara	879-88
Resolution <i>re</i> Cognizance by Legislature of Matters on which Govern- ment of India has undertaken legislation [Modification of Rule 23 (1) of the Rules of Business]	888-906
Resolution <i>re</i> Recommendations of the Committee on Indian Arms Rules	907

THURSDAY, 22ND FEBRUARY, 1923—

The Criminal Law Amendment Bill laid on the Table	909
Message from the Legislative Assembly	909
The Workmen's Compensation Bill	909-17
The Indian Factories (Amendment) Bill	917-20
The Hindu Ceremonial Emoluments Bill	929-31
Statement of Business	931

MONDAY, 26TH FEBRUARY, 1923—

Questions and Answers	933-33
Bills laid on the Table	938
Resolution <i>re</i> Recommendations of Committee on Indian Arms Rules	939-62
Resolution <i>re</i> Amendment of Standing Orders	962-64
Discussion on the Criminal Law Amendment Bill	964

TUESDAY, 27TH FEBRUARY, 1923—

Message from the Legislative Assembly	967
Bills laid on the Table	967
The Indian Paper Currency Bill	967-68
The Prisoners (Amendment) Bill	968
The Repealing and Amending Bill	969
The Hindu Ceremonial Emoluments Bill	969-95
Message from the Legislative Assembly	995

WEDNESDAY, 28TH FEBRUARY, 1923—

Bill laid on the Table	997
Conference <i>re</i> Regulations under the Electoral Rules	997
Resolution <i>re</i> Appointment of Indians to the Traffic Inspector Cadre	997-1020
Resolution <i>re</i> Appointment of Indians as Departmental Secretaries, Joint Secretaries, etc.	1020-50
Statement of Business	1050

THURSDAY, 1ST MARCH, 1923—

Member Sworn	1051
The Budget	1051-59
The Criminal Law Amendment Bill	1060-83

MONDAY, 5TH MARCH, 1923—

Questions and Answers	1085
Statement laid on the Table	1085
Resolution <i>re</i> Imposition of an Export Duty on Benzine and Petroli	1085—1101
Resolution <i>re</i> Rights and Status of Indians in Kenya	1102—21
The Married Women's Property (Amendment) Bill	1122—23

TUESDAY, 6TH MARCH, 1923—

Member Sworn	1127
Questions and Answers	1127—29
The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill	1129—31
Bills assented to by the Governor General	1131—32

WEDNESDAY, 7TH MARCH, 1923—

The Budget	1133—81
----------------------	---------

THURSDAY, 8TH MARCH, 1923—

Absence from House at question time of Members who have given notice of Questions	1183
Questions and Answers	1183—90
Draft Notification <i>re</i> Emigration of Unskilled Labour to Mauritius	1190—91
The Indian Cotton Cess Bill	1191—1203
The Indian Income-tax (Amendment) Bill	1203—04
The Government Savings Banks (Amendment) Bill	1204—05
The Official Secrets Bill	1205—15
Message from the Legislative Assembly	1216
Statement of Business	1216

MONDAY, 12TH MARCH, 1923—

Questions and Answers	1217—18
Message from the Legislative Assembly	1218
Bill laid on the Table	1218
Resolution <i>re</i> Amendment of Electoral Rules	1219—29
The Malkharoda and Gaontia Villages Laws Bill	1229—30

TUESDAY, 13TH MARCH, 1923—

Announcement of Summer Session in July, 1923	1231
The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill	1231—70

WEDNESDAY, 14TH MARCH, 1923—

Questions and Answers	1271
Resolution <i>re</i> Indian Stores Department	1271—85
Resolution <i>re</i> Eligibility of Political Prisoners for Election to Legislature	1285—1302

THURSDAY, 15TH MARCH, 1923—

The Malkharoda and Gaontia Villages Laws Bill	1303—04
The Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill	1304—24
Statement of Business	1324—25

	Pages.
WEDNESDAY, 21ST MARCH, 1923—	
Member Sworn	1327
Questions and Answers	1327—34
Bill laid on the Table	1334
The Indian Finance Bill	1335—36
The Mahendra Partab Singh Estates Bill	1336—38
Report of Select Committee on Amendments to Standing Orders	1338
Bills assented to by His Excellency the Governor General	1339
Resolution <i>re</i> Emigration of Unskilled Labour to Mauritius	1338—45
FRIDAY, 23RD MARCH, 1923—	
Messages from the Legislative Assembly	1347
Bills laid on the Table	1347—48
The Indian Finance Bill	1348—97
MONDAY, 26TH MARCH, 1923—	
Questions and Answers	1399—1401
The Mahendra Partab Singh Estates Bill	1401—07
The Legal Practitioners (Women) Bill	1407—08
The Indian Merchant Shipping Bill	1408—10
Statement of Business	1410
TUESDAY, 27TH MARCH, 1923—	
Message from the Legislative Assembly	1411
The Indian Finance Bill	1411—18
Adjournment of Council of State and attendance at meetings	1413

COUNCIL OF STATE.

Wednesday, the 21st March, 1923.

The Council assembled at Metcalfe House at Eleven of the Clock. The Honourable the President was in the Chair.

MEMBER SWORN:

The Honourable Major-General Robert Charles MacWatt, C.I.E., M.B., F.R.C.S., K.H.S. (Director-General, Indian Medical Service).

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

AGRICULTURISTS ON IMPERIAL BANK.

189. The HONOURABLE SARDAR JOGENDRA SINGH: Will the Government be pleased to say if on the governing body of the Imperial Bank there is any representative of agriculturists?

The HONOURABLE MR. E. M. COOK: There is no direct representative of agriculturists on the Central Board of the Bank.

ISLAMIA SCHOOL, BELGAUM.

190. The HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR EBRAHIM HAROON JAFFER: (a) Is it a fact that the lease of land granted for the building of Islamia School, Belgaum, has been recently cancelled by the cantonment authority?

(b) Has the Muslim community of Belgaum prayed for the postponement of the cancellation orders?

(c) Do Government intend conceding to their prayers?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: (a) Government are informed that the lease of the land for the building of the Islamia School, Belgaum, was terminated on the 1st June 1921, as the terms of the lease were not complied with.

(b) Government understand that a petition on the subject was presented by the Islamia School Committee.

(c) Government do not propose, on the information at present before them, to interfere with the orders passed by the local military authorities.

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: I think on the last occasion the Honourable Member had to express his regret to the House for not attending.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: On this occasion, Sir, he did give us notice.

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: I am glad to hear it.

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY AND TELEPHONY IN INDIA.

191. The HONOURABLE SIR ZULFIQAR ALI KHAN: (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to bulletin No. 1 entitled "Notes on the development of wireless telegraphy and telephony with special reference to its progress in India," published some days ago by Khan Bahadur Habibur Rahman Khan?

(b) Is the Government aware that the Khan Bahadur is the first Mussalman British subject and also the first Indian to enter into the practical field of wireless research work?

(c) Is the Government aware that the Khan Bahadur is conducting the wireless research work at his own expense?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to state whether in view of this pioneer work in India by an Indian British subject, they intend to extend their patronage to the Khan Bahadur's independent efforts?

The HONOURABLE MR. B. N. SARMA: (a) Yes.

(b) Government have no information on this point.

(c) Government understands that this is the case.

(d) The Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs has requested the Khan Bahadur to afford him a practical demonstration of his discoveries. In this connection, I place on the table extracts from the correspondence which has passed between the Director of Wireless and the Khan Bahadur on the subject, as also an extract from a note by the Wireless Research Officer on the Khan Bahadur's recent Bulletin.

Extracts from the correspondence between the Director of Wireless and Khan Bahadur Habibur Rahman Khan.

2. On the 7th March the Director of Wireless replied to the Khan Bahadur's letter of 6th (enclosed with the Khan Bahadur's letter to Secretary, Public Works Department) in the course of which the Director of Wireless wrote:—

"I now confirm in writing the statement made to you in conversation on the 19th, that if you can show me by practical demonstration that your discoveries have either arrived at a stage at which they would be of value to Government or to the development of radio generally or even show signs of reasonable promise that such a stage is within reach, I am perfectly prepared to consider any application you may make for further facilities."

3. On the 8th March in a very lengthy letter the Khan Bahadur wrote:—

"I respectfully beg to observe that your offer, contained in the extracts from your letter quoted above amounts to this:—That practical demonstration (which means how the whole thing is done by me) to be given in your presence is the *only basis* to provide you with the Technical data on which you will study the possibilities of my Researches from a commercial, strategic or purely scientific point of view and then *consider* whether the Research deserves any encouragement in the shape of finance or otherwise. It is remarkable that the Government are hesitating to consider my claim to encouragement on no other alternative except that of a practical demonstration. This condition is very ungenerous and unscientific because such a demonstration involves possibilities of serious risks to me as a discoverer. I have already made considerable personal sacrifices for Wireless and I am now prepared to take further risks for the sake of Science and all what scientific Research means to humanity and to India and therefore I now beg to inform you that:

"I am prepared to give before the Government the practical demonstration, which they insist upon, subject to the following three conditions which, I feel sure your goodself will readily agree, are perfectly reasonable.

(a) That the practical demonstration will be given before your goodself only. The Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs will be perfectly welcome."

- (b) That if after this practical demonstration, during which I will also explain to you what are other possibilities in my Water Wireless system, your goodself come to the conclusion that my water Wireless Researches possess possibilities in all or in any of the directions you have indicated in the extract of your letter noted above, the Government shall afford me encouragement in the shape of finance and provision of apparatus for about *three* years of an annual value which shall be clearly defined and fixed before the said practical demonstration takes place, and also guarantee that for a period of *30* (*thirty*) years no one except myself and the Government will have the right to utilize the waters and waterways of India for *water wireless communication without masts and aerials*. If the Government utilize it a reasonable proportion of the profit shall be given to me."
- (c) That if after this practical demonstration your goodself come to the decision that the Water Wireless Telegraphy and Telephony are not capable of commercial development, I shall have no claim on the Government for any financial help or loan of apparatus but that the Government shall grant me a License giving me sole rights in India, say for a period of *30* years, to utilize the waters and waterways of India for *water wireless communications, without masts and aerial*, for commercial purposes. A reasonable Royalty will of course be paid to the Government when the profits accrue."

4. To which the Director of Wireless replied on the 12th as follows :—

"I have the honour to acknowledge your No. W. W./B.-1, dated the 8th March 1923, and do not propose to deal with its contents beyond that portion commencing at the foot of your page 3 where you state that my offer amounts to this :—
 "That practical demonstration (which means how the whole thing is done by me) to be given in your presence, is the only basis, etc." Practical demonstration means that you should satisfy a competent authority that you can communicate between two points by means of your system. Secondly, as I understand you claim to have read European stations by means of special method of your own, practical demonstration in this case would amount to permitting a similar competent authority to read those stations by means of your apparatus. The methods you apply and the details of the apparatus are not necessarily divulged by you provided you can show us results upon which we can judge the possibility or otherwise of your system. Having cleared the ground to this extent, I may now add that your condition (a) is not acceptable and your condition (b) is impracticable; similarly your condition (c)."

5. The following extract from a note by the Wireless Research Officer on the K. B. Bulletin may be of interest :

"There appear to be two technical claims made in this paper :

1. At Bareilly communication was effected over 7 miles with a Ford ignition coil.

There is no evidence that radio frequencies were employed and similar results can be obtained with earth wires by well known methods :—Compare Service power buzzer.

2. A method of radio reception without masts which renders possible the complete elimination of atmospherics.

The first part can be done by several well known methods, e.g., frames or ground aerials. The latter method appears to be that employed by the author. It has been very fully described by several well known authors several years ago and the scanty details afforded by the present author indicate nothing novel. As regards atmospherics the fact that European stations are received indicates nothing. This department has established and carried out regularly a press reception service from England utilising frames. It is well known that in certain special cases some degree of immunity from atmospherics is afforded by ground aerials and cables in water. To test this claim (*re* atmospherics) it is not necessary to divulge the method employed. It will be sufficient to give a demonstration of signals "and comparison with simultaneous reception at a departmental station. There will be no difficulty in demonstrating whether the proposed methods have any special value."

* * * * *

The HONOURABLE SAIYID RAZA ALI: Are Government aware that Khan Bahadur Habibur Rahman Khan claims to have discovered a system?

whereby he can intercept messages passing between say Moscow and Berlin?

The HONOURABLE MR. B. N. SARMA: The Khan Bahadur is laying claim to having made various discoveries and the Director of Wireless has been in communication with him on the subject. The Director is very anxious to ascertain how far the claims which have been put forward are justified and as to whether he could reasonably recommend to the Government any assistance for the further pursuit of these scientific inquiries. The matter is under correspondence between the two officers and I hope that a suitable arrangement will be arrived at, but, unless the Government are satisfied by the report of their scientific officers that they would be justified in expending money on this subject, Honourable Members will realise it would not be possible for them to extend any help.

The HONOURABLE SAIYID RAZA ALI: Are Government in a position to state as to when the report of the Director on the success or otherwise of the experiments made by the Khan Bahadur is likely to reach the Government of India?

The HONOURABLE MR. B. N. SARMA: It will depend upon the Khan Bahadur as to when he will give the facilities that have been asked for by the Director of Wireless and Research.

I. M. S. OFFICERS IN N.-W. F. PROVINCE.

192. The HONOURABLE MR. LALUBHAI SAMALDAS: Will the Government be pleased to state the number of I. M. S. officers in military employ, who served in the North-West Frontier Province during the year 1921-22 and how many of them were Indians?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: A statement giving the information asked for by the Honourable Member is laid on the table.

Statement showing the number of I. M. S. officers, permanent and temporary, who served on the North-West Frontier during the course of the years 1921 and 1922.

		Permanent.			Temporary.		
		No.	Europeans.	Indians.	No.	Europeans.	Indians.
1921.							
N. W. F. Province.	Waziristan.	37	25	12	151	7	144
	Kohat	25	13	12	84	8	81
	Peshawar	32	21	11	49	2	47
Total		94	59	35	284	12	222
1922.							
N.-W. F. Province.	Waziristan.	30	20	10	63	2	61
	Kohat	43	24	22	49	2	47
	Peshawar	25	17	8	30	2	28
Total		101	61	40	142	6	136

EUROPEAN AND INDIAN I. M. S. OFFICERS IN N.-W. F. PROVINCE.

193. The HONOURABLE MR. LALUBHAI SAMALDAS: What is the total number of I. M. S. officers serving at present in the North-West Frontier Province, and what is the proportion of Indians to Europeans?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The total number of I. M. S. officers in military employ serving at present in the North-West Frontier Province is 128, of whom 94 are Indians.

RAILWAY PASSES.

194. The HONOURABLE MR. ALLI BUKSH MOHAMMAD HUSSAIN: (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the total number of free Railway passes issued in 1922 by Railway authorities to railway officials including the clerical staff of the Railway Board and the office of the Accountant General, Railways?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state the total cost of the free passes issued in the year 1922?

The HONOURABLE MR. D. T. CHADWICK: Government have not got the information and see no object in attempting to collect it.

The HONOURABLE SAIYID RAZA ALI: Do Government propose to make inquiries and let the Honourable Member and this House know?

The HONOURABLE MR. D. T. CHADWICK: It is impossible to get the information in the time. It requires a reference to every single Railway Company throughout the length and breadth of India.

The HONOURABLE SAIYID RAZA ALI: Will Government be pleased to take into consideration the question of referring to the various Railways concerned and ascertaining the information as accurately as may be practicable?

The HONOURABLE MR. D. T. CHADWICK: That will be taken into consideration, Sir, with due reference to the reduction of staff necessary on account of retrenchment.

RAILWAY PRIVILEGE TICKET ORDERS.

195. The HONOURABLE MR. ALLI BUKSH MOHAMMAD HUSSAIN: (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the total number of Privilege Ticket Orders issued in 1922 by Railway authorities to the said officials?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state the total cost of Privilege Ticket Orders issued in 1922?

The HONOURABLE MR. D. T. CHADWICK: The Honourable Member is referred to my reply to No. 194.

RAILWAY FREIGHTS.

196. The HONOURABLE MR. LALUBHAI SAMALDAS: Will the Government be pleased to state the rate of freight paid by them to the P. & O. Company for small parcels of general cargo from January to June 1922?

The HONOURABLE MR. D. T. CHADWICK: The Government of India do not ship goods to England to any extent. Shipments from England

are arranged by the High Commissioner and the cost of freight debited against the Department or Local Government ordering the goods. Consequently the Government of India have no information what rates of freight on small parcels of general cargo have been paid in the period mentioned. The information could only be obtained by a searching of back records in the High Commissioner's office which the Government of India think is hardly called for.

MILITARY MEDICAL SERVICES.

197. The HONOURABLE MR. LALUBHAI SAMALDAS: Will the Government be pleased to state the number of staff appointments in military medical services in India? How many of these appointments are held by Indians?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: There are altogether 56 administrative appointments in the Medical Services in India. Of these appointments, 20 are at present held by officers of the I. M. S., one of whom is an Indian holding the appointment of Assistant Director, Medical Services.

INDIANISATION OF I. M. S.

198. The HONOURABLE MR. LALUBHAI SAMALDAS: What steps have been taken up to now to train and appoint Indians to staff appointments with a view to Indianisation of the Indian Medical Service?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Indian officers of the I. M. S. receive exactly the same training as British officers of that Service and are equally eligible, subject to their possessing the necessary seniority and qualifications, for appointments to administrative posts.

(The Honourable the President then called upon Dewan Bahadur Annamalai Chettiyar, in whose name stood Question No. 199.

The Honourable Member was absent.)

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Has the Honourable Member had notice?

The HONOURABLE MR. D. T. CHADWICK: Yes.

INDIA-BURMA RAILWAY.

199. The HONOURABLE DIWAN BAHADUR ANNAMALAI CHETTIYAR: Will the Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the land giving direct Railway facilities between India and Burma has been surveyed and, if so, the total distance of the line;
- (b) what the approximate cost of the construction of the Railway is;
- (c) if the answer to (a) is in the negative, whether they contemplate giving direct access by Railway into Burma from India?

The HONOURABLE MR. D. T. CHADWICK: (a) and (b): Two routes between India and Burma have been surveyed, the Southern or Sea Coast Route from Chittagong *via* Akyab to Minhla, a length of 450 miles, estimated to cost Rs. 1,050 lakhs at present prices; and the Northern or Mukong Valley route from Ledo to Sahman, a distance of 268 miles, estimated to cost Rs. 700 lakhs.

(c) Does not arise.

ARCHITECTURE OF NEW CAPITAL, INDIA.

200. The HONOURABLE DIWAN BAHADUR RAMABHADRA NAIDU: Has the attention of the Government been drawn to an article in the "Daily Express," dated the 4th March 1923, about the paucity of Indian art and architecture in the construction of the New Capital, Delhi?

The HONOURABLE MR. B. N. SARMA: Yes.

The HONOURABLE SAIYID RAZA ALI: Do Government propose to take any action in this matter?

The HONOURABLE MR. B. N. SARMA: We have been very anxious to promote Indian art which is the subject matter of this interpellation, but with the limited funds and with the critical manner in which the Delhi expenditure has been scrutinised by the public I cannot hold out any very great hopes of our being able to do very much just at present.

The HONOURABLE MR. LALUBHAI SAMALDAS: Has the attention of Government been drawn to the complaint made by the School of Arts in Bombay that the Bombay art is not represented and no facilities are given for the students to come and work here?

The HONOURABLE MR. B. N. SARMA: The attention of the Government has been drawn to it.

The HONOURABLE MR. LALUBHAI SAMALDAS: Is any action likely to be taken upon it, Sir?

The HONOURABLE MR. B. N. SARMA: If funds permit.

The HONOURABLE SAIYID RAZA ALI: With reference to the reply given by the Honourable Member, may I ask whether the Government's position is that the Indian style of art and architecture is more costly than the Western one?

The HONOURABLE MR. B. N. SARMA: In so far as the buildings are concerned, the designs have been settled, the plans have been settled and the structures are being raised and I do not think there will be any alteration in the plans and the designs. With regard to decorations, furniture and so on, we are trying to do our level best to encourage Indian art. There is the question as to whether mural decorations, such as are special items as would encourage Indian art can be permitted and students be encouraged and brought up to Delhi and trained under the guidance of special officers. We have gone into the question but we have been confronted again and again with this problem of expenditure and that is the reason why we have unfortunately been obliged to give a somewhat pessimistic reply. But if our finances improve, certainly it will be the anxious desire and care of the Government to promote Indian art and to do all that they can to embellish new Delhi with artistic designs and mural decorations of the kind that people have at heart.

The HONOURABLE LALA SUKHBIR SINHA: May I ask who made these designs and plans and who passed them finally?

The HONOURABLE MR. B. N. SARMA: The architects have been employed after careful consideration of the whole subject.

BILL LAID ON THE TABLE.

The SECRETARY OF THE COUNCIL: Sir, in accordance with Rule 25 of the Indian Legislative Rules, I lay on the table a copy of the Bill to fix the duty on salt manufactured in, or imported by land into, certain parts of British India, to vary the duty leviable on certain articles under the Indian Tariff Act, 1894, to fix maximum rates of postage under the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, to amend the Indian Paper Currency Act, 1923, and to fix rates of income-tax, which was passed by the Legislative Assembly at its meeting held on the 20th March, 1923.

The HONOURABLE DR. MIAN SIR MUHAMMAD SHAFI (Law Member): Sir, in connection with the Bill of which a copy has just been placed on the table by the Secretary, I have to hand over to you a recommendation made by the Governor General under section 67-B of the Government of India Act.

(The recommendation was then handed over to the Honourable the President).

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Let the recommendation be read.

The SECRETARY OF THE COUNCIL: "In pursuance of the provisions of sub-section (1) of section 67-B of the Government of India Act, I, Rufus Daniel, Earl of Reading, do recommend to the Council of State that it do pass the Bill to fix the duty on salt manufactured in, or imported by land into, certain parts of British India, to vary the duty leviable on certain articles under the Indian Tariff Act, 1894, to fix maximum rates of postage under the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, to amend the Indian Paper Currency Act, 1923, and to fix rates of income-tax in the form in which it was passed by the Legislative Assembly with the following amendments, namely:—

(1) That in sub-clause (1) of clause 2, after the words 'construed as if' the words 'with effect from the first day of March, 1923' be inserted and that for the words 'one rupee and four annas' the words 'two rupees and eight annas' be substituted;

(2) That at the beginning of sub-clause (2) of clause 2, the following words be inserted, namely:—

'With effect from the first day of March, 1923.'

(3) That sub-clause (3) of clause 2 be omitted.

(4) That to clause 3 a new sub-clause be added, namely:

(5) The amendments made in the Indian Tariff Act, 1894, by this section shall have effect from the first day of March 1923."

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Let the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor General be endorsed on the back of the Bill.

THE INDIAN FINANCE BILL.

The HONOURABLE MR. E. M. COOK (Finance Secretary): Sir, I have two notices to hand in with regard to the Finance Bill. It may be convenient to Honourable Members if I indicate what they are. The first is a notice of my intention to move that the Finance Bill, as passed by the Legislative Assembly, be taken into consideration. The second notice is of my intention to move certain amendments in the Finance Bill as so passed. The effect of these amendments would be to bring the Bill as passed by the Legislative Assembly into line with the recommendation which we have just heard. In connection with the first notice I would suggest, Sir, that, if it is in accord with the opinion of the House and you yourself see no objection, the Bill might be taken up for consideration on Friday, that is, earlier than with the usual three days' notice.

The HONOURABLE MR. LALUBHAI SAMALDAS (Bombay: Non-Muhammadan): We were under the impression that this Bill was to be taken up for consideration on Saturday, at least that is what the Leader of the House told us at the last meeting. Some of our Members have decided to come back on Friday evening and I therefore wish that the original arrangement should be stuck to and that the Bill should be taken up for consideration on Saturday instead of on Friday.

The HONOURABLE SAIYID RAZA ALI (United Provinces East: Muhammadan): It appears from the announcement that has been made by the Leader of the House that His Excellency the Governor General has made a certain recommendation in the Bill as passed by the Legislative Assembly. We take it that the discussion on the measure may likely take a longer time than one day. Therefore I think that it would be a good thing if the discussion of the Finance Bill is started on Friday so that if we are not in a position to complete our deliberations on that day we might finish the discussion on Saturday. I am very sorry that it would be inconvenient to some of the Members to be present on Friday, or rather they would not be present on Friday, but I believe looking to the convenience of those who are present here at Delhi it would be as well to start the discussion on Friday.

The HONOURABLE SIR MANECKJI DADABHOY (Central Provinces: General): I support the recommendation of my Honourable friend Saiyid Raza Ali. It is likely that this discussion might take more than one day and it would be advisable that the debate should begin on Friday instead of on Saturday. I quite see the difficulty that has been pointed out by my Honourable friend Mr. Lalubhai Samaldas, but I think that Honourable Members are all aware that this is the budget week and if they really wanted to be present they ought to be here in time. There is another point on which I wish to seek some information from you, Sir.

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Let us first of all decide the point when the Bill is to be taken up for consideration. I will call upon the Honourable Member again.

The HONOURABLE DR. MIAN SIR MUHAMMAD SHAFI (Law Member): I should like to say one word with reference to an observation, which fell from my Honourable friend Mr. Lalubhai Samaldas. I have no recollection of ever having made a statement in this House that this Bill will

[Dr. Mian Sir Muhammad Shaḥ.]

be taken up for discussion on Saturday. I do not know where my Honourable friend has got this from.

The HONOURABLE LALA SUKHBIR SINHA (United Provinces Northern: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I support the motion that the Bill be taken up for consideration on Friday next.

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: It appears to be the general view of the House and it will be convenient for the disposal of public business that the Bill should be taken up for consideration at as early a date as possible. I know most Honourable Members have been attending the debate in another place. I see no reason whatever why the Bill should not be taken up for consideration on Friday. The Bill will therefore be taken up on Friday.

The HONOURABLE SIR MANECKJI DADABHOY: I presume that Honourable Members will have the same right of moving amendments to this Bill as if the Bill had not been recommended and introduced in this Council. I should like to have your ruling on this subject.

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: The procedure on a recommended Bill is the procedure of this Council on any other Bill. It will be open to the Council to deal with it in the same way, subject to our rules and procedure as it would do with any other Bill.

THE MAHENDRA PARTAB SINGH ESTATES BILL.

The HONOURABLE MR. J. CRERAR (Home Secretary): Sir, I move for leave to introduce:

“ A Bill to provide for the forfeiture of the estates and other property of Mahendra Partab Singh and for their grant to his son, subject to certain conditions.”

I do not at this stage propose to add materially to the brief recital of the purpose of the Bill which is contained in the Statement of Objects and Reasons. I merely emphasise that the principal purpose of this Bill is to enable measures to be taken for the proper administration of the estate in the interests of the minor son, and of the tenantry and other dependants of this estate. The estate is at present under administration in pursuance of powers conferred by Regulation III of 1818, but the powers of administration which appear to be contemplated by that Regulation are not really adequate for the efficient, economic and beneficent administration of the estate under modern conditions. The intention, therefore, is to transfer the right and title in the estate of the present proprietor to Government and then that Government should transfer it to the minor son. This will enable the estate to be taken under administration under the Court of Wards Act and it is anticipated that great benefit will accrue to the estate itself and to those who are concerned in it. The transfer proposed to be made under section 3 will be under the terms of a *sanad* and in view of the circumstances of the case I think I may say that it will be a proper condition to attach to the grant under that *sanad* a condition of loyalty and also it will be necessary to provide for obvious reasons, that the revenues of the estate are not placed at the disposal of the present proprietor so long as he is a fugitive from justice.

If the House is prepared to grant me the leave for which I now move I shall be prepared at a later stage of the Bill to give a fuller account of the circumstances in which this legislation is necessary and the manner in which it is proposed to apply the powers which the Bill will vest in Government.

The HONOURABLE SAIYID RAZA ALI: To careful observers it will appear that three main principles arise out of the Bill that has been introduced, or rather leave for the

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: I would remind the Honourable Member that this is a motion for leave to introduce.

The HONOURABLE SAIYID RAZA ALI: As I was saying, leave for the introduction of which is sought by the Honourable Member. Sir, those three principles which can in conformity with our Rules and Regulations be discussed at

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: If the Honourable Member is opposing the Bill he had better say so. If he desires to discuss the principles of the Bill the proper time to discuss is on a motion for consideration.

The HONOURABLE SAIYID RAZA ALI: I believe—I speak subject to correction by you, Sir—so far as the principles of the Bill are concerned they can be discussed even on a motion for leave to introduce.

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: They *can* be discussed, but unless the Honourable Member is going to oppose the Bill I am not going to allow him to do so.

The HONOURABLE SAIYID RAZA ALI: A very important point which I want to place before the House

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Will the Honourable Member tell me whether he is going to oppose the motion for leave to introduce or not?

The HONOURABLE SAIYID RAZA ALI: I am not going to oppose the motion. But I want Government to amplify the last clause of the Bill and make it more satisfactory than it is now.

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Then the Honourable Member must reserve it for the motion for consideration.

The HONOURABLE SAIYID RAZA ALI: May I submit that by that time there will be no time left for Government to improve the scope of the Bill. That is my difficulty and that is the reason why I propose to make certain suggestions to Government so that they may be in a position to amend its scope if so advised.

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: If the principles are outside the scope of the Bill, then the Bill must be withdrawn and another Bill brought in. The scope of the Bill can be amended neither on the motion for introduction nor at any other stage of the Bill.

The HONOURABLE SAIYID RAZA ALI: In that case I reserve my remarks till a later stage.

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: The question is that leave be given to introduce:

"A Bill to provide for the forfeiture of the estates and other property of Mahendra Partab Singh and for their grant to his son subject to certain conditions."

The motion was adopted.

The HONOURABLE MR. J. CRERAR: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE ON AMENDMENTS TO STANDING ORDERS.

The HONOURABLE SIR MANECKJI DADABHOY: Sir, I beg to present the Report of the Select Committee appointed to consider and report on the proposed amendments in the Council of State Standing Orders.

BILLS ASSENTED TO BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

The SECRETARY OF THE COUNCIL: Sir, under the provisions of sub-section (1) of section 68 of the Government of India Act, the following Bills which were passed by both Chambers of the Indian Legislature have been assented to by His Excellency the Governor General:

1. The Indian Cotton Cess Act, 1923.
2. The Indian Income-tax (Amendment) Act, 1923.
3. The Government Savings Banks (Amendment) Act, 1923.
4. The Married Women's Property (Amendment) Act, 1923.
5. The Prisoners (Amendment) Act, 1923.
6. The Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1923.

RESOLUTION *RE* EMIGRATION OF UNSKILLED LABOUR TO MAURITIUS.

The HONOURABLE MR. B. N. SARMA (Revenue and Agriculture Member): I beg to move the following Resolution:

"This Council approves the draft notification, which has been laid in draft before the Chamber, specifying the terms and conditions on which emigration for the purpose of unskilled work shall be lawful to Mauritius, and recommends to the Governor General in Council that the notification be published in the Gazette of India."

Honourable Members have had a note prepared by the Department of Revenue and Agriculture on Indian emigration to Mauritius in their hands for some time and I think therefore it would be needless for me to explain to the House at any very great length the reasons which have induced the Government to lay this notification before the House and ask their approval for permitting a limited number of Indian labourers to go to Mauritius under certain conditions which have been laid down in the notification before them. Mauritius is a very small island in the Indian Ocean about 720 square miles in extent not much larger than many of the taluqas in one of the districts of this Empire and has a population of only 376,000 of which 70 per cent. are Indians. The history of this island is very interesting. It seems to have been discovered by the Portuguese

in the 16th Century, passed into the hands of the Dutch, then into the hands of the French and finally into the hands of the British in 1814. Slavery was abolished in 1835, and Indian emigration to Mauritius commenced about the year 1840 and went on almost uninterruptedly till the year 1910. The question of further emigration was considered at that time and the Sanderson Committee recommended that in view of the largeness and the density of the population relatively to the area of land, it might be desirable to stop further emigration and acting on the recommendations of that committee, further indentured emigration was stopped in or about that year. The Government of Mauritius have been representing to the Government of India and the Secretary of State ever since that the recommendations of the Sanderson Committee should be further examined and considered and that there is justification and necessity for a further employment of Indians in the Colony but the Government of India have not until recently been able to see eye to eye with the Mauritius Government, although the Secretary to State and to a certain extent the Government of India felt that it might be desirable to send a limited number of Indian labourers for Governmental works. In the year 1921 the Mauritius Government approached the Government of India and pressed very hard upon the Government the need for assistance from this country, especially in view of the prosperous state of the sugar industry, the danger which threatened it as a result of inadequate labour supply and the imperative necessity for the construction and improvement of Governmental works for which large sums of money were available. The Government of India took into consideration the desirability of assisting if possible the construction of public works which would be not only helpful to the general prosperity but would be directly beneficial to the Indian population resident in that colony but they informed the Mauritius Government that they could do nothing without the assistance of the Legislature especially in view of the Emigration Act, which was at that time under consideration and later on passed into law. The Government of India anticipating the desire of the two Houses in certain directions have pressed upon the Mauritius Government to effect certain reforms in their labour legislation and as a result of their representations the Mauritius Government acquiesced in the views of the Government of India and have readily responded to the call in removing all the penal provisions and promised not to take on re-indenture the coolies at that time under indenture contracts with the planters in Mauritius. The Government of Mauritius have thus readily and cheerfully complied with the conditions which were suggested by the Government of India and they further sent a deputation headed by a Government officer to meet the Emigration Committee and explain to them the imperative need for more labour in that colony. Mr. Walter who headed the commission and the other members have frankly laid their cards on the table and I must pay here a tribute to Mr. Walter for the frank and open manner in which he discussed the whole question before the committee and they convinced the committee that there would be no harmful effect on the existing state of the labour market in Mauritius if a small number of labourers were allowed to go there from here. The points that were pressed upon us were that 140 lakhs were available mainly derived as contributions from the planters out of the profits which they derived from thriving sugar industry for the development of irrigation works, sanitary and other public works of which the colony was so sorely in need. The economic conditions of the country seem to be extremely satisfactory and it is a happy feature to note that agricultural labour there

[Mr. B. N. Sarma.]

get a larger wage—at any rate a very adequate wage as compared with the wage that is prevailing here or in any other Colony. The Indians who have been settled there, mainly the descendants of those who have migrated under indenture have prospered and are at present in possession of about 80,000 acres out of 180,000 acres. They are peasant proprietors. The island also has made remarkable progress in agricultural industry, sugar-cane industry being the principal feature, the area at present being about 130,000 acres a growth of about 26,000 acres more, I think, compared with the figures of 1911. The revenue of this small island is about 2 crores. The exports are about 18 crores, especially sugar and Honourable Members will realise that the country is really in a very prosperous condition. The main point that was subjected to close scrutiny by the Committee and which gave considerable anxiety to the members was as to whether this additional labour force which would be employed in the island is not likely to depress the condition of the agricultural labourers in Mauritius. The question was examined at great length and what impressed the Committee was this that for 10 years to come, at any rate, the Public Works would employ all the men that we propose to send there, 1,500 labourers and even more, so that they would not compete in the same labour market with existing labour and consequently, as far as we can see at present, there is no reason as to why they should depress the existing conditions of the labour market in that island. Furthermore, it has been pointed out to us that the effective labour strength has fallen really by about 9,000 labourers or about 13 per cent. while the area under cultivation has increased by about 20 per cent. And those who are employed in agriculture have pointed out how dangerous it would be to reduce the labour that is needed because the sugar-cane industry requires very careful tending and any unscientific or loose methods of tillage or improper tending would result in a smaller yield of sugar and would threaten really this thriving industry upon which the Colony is at present wholly dependent. We were told that there should be at least 8 men employed on an acre of sugar-cane and yet judged by that standard the labour force now available in that island is very much smaller than is really necessary. So the points that were put to us were briefly that the planting industry itself could absorb the whole of the additional labour, at present available there and which might be sent there, and, apart from that question the new men that would be sent could all be utilised on Government works and therefore, even assuming that there was a doubt on the former question, there was no need whatsoever for these men to take the bread out of the mouths of the people who are already there. That is, Sir, the reason why the Committee and the Government have, after considerable—I won't say hesitation—thought, given to the subject arrived at the conclusion that it would be perfectly safe for us to send a small number. The number of labourers who were asked for by the Mauritius Government and the planters was rather large, and the Committee resolved that emigration should be permitted only for one year, that it should be only 1,500 adult labourers, that we should employ an agent, if possible, that the condition of the labour market by reason of the importation of this labour should be watched carefully from time to time so as to see as to whether it is likely really to depress the existing condition of the labourers there. Furthermore, they have asked for two effectual safeguards, namely, that any labourer who can satisfy the Emigration Commissioner or other officer who might be employed during

the absence of the Emigration Commissioner, or the non-employment of that agency, should have it in his power to compel the Mauritius Government to repatriate at their expense for adequate reasons any labourer, and certainly, if the labourer cannot earn in that island a living wage, which would be adequate to furnish the necessaries of life for a family consisting of himself, his wife, whether he is married or not, and 3 children, whether he has children or not, with a small margin for saving and a provision for old age and sickness. Furthermore, Sir, without any condition whatsoever, without showing any reason whatsoever the labourer is entitled to be repatriated at the end of two years at the expense of the Colony. I think these are effectual safeguards for preventing any undesirable effects by reason of this decision, and the Assembly has gone into the question thoroughly and, though a few hesitated as to whether further inquiry should not be made before we permitted emigration, that objection was withdrawn on a promise that the question would be carefully considered. I would suggest to the House, Sir, that the Government have provided all the necessary safeguards, are taking all due precautions and that it would be wrong on our part to refuse assistance, especially when such assistance is needed for the benefit of our own countrymen resident in that Colony. It is true that we ought to approach the question cautiously so that we may not unnecessarily add to the density of the population in that island but what impressed me and the Members of the Committee was this: Shall we not be taking wrong view of things by really jeopardising the future of that Colony by an unnecessary timidity in this respect in refusing the aid which seems to be really necessary? Can these public works be undertaken with the existing labour population there? If they cannot be undertaken, would it not be really prejudicial to the interests of the Indian population itself if the health of the island, which specially in some parts including the capital seems to be unsatisfactory, is not improved? 50,000 acres of waste land could be brought under cultivation and a most profitable industry further added if irrigation works can be constructed and we are told that these irrigation works can be constructed only with the aid of additional labour. Therefore, I think in allowing a small force to go there we are really consulting not merely the interests of the labourer who may wish to improve his prospects by going from here, but also the prospects of the Indian population resident there. I have, therefore, no hesitation in asking this Council to accept the view which was taken by the Assembly and I commend this Resolution to the acceptance of the House.

The HONOURABLE MR. LAJUBHAI SAMALDAS (Bombay: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I support the Honourable Mr. Sarma in all that he has said and ask the House to accept the Resolution as proposed by him. There is a feeling in the country amongst a certain class of people and even amongst some Members of the Legislature that the Emigration Committee are playing into the hands of the planters either of Ceylon or of Malay States or of Mauritius. The feeling against Mauritius is stronger because of the indentured system that prevailed there. I do not doubt the sincerity of that feeling but I want to assure the House that the Emigration Committee considered the whole question in all its bearings and it was only when we were satisfied that by allowing emigration of 1,500 men we will not in any way be helping to reduce the wages of the Indians who are in the Island or be taking any liberties with the health and the prospects of the men we are sending out, that we agreed to send 1,500 men as an experimental measure. Sir, some of us thought that it

[Mr. Lalubhai Samaldas.]

would be better to have a definite undertaking given to us that over and above the rations, clothing, free nursing, free medical relief, etc., given by the employees, the emigrants should have a sufficient margin to enable them to return whenever they like. To meet this difficulty provision has been made that if at any time India's agent who is in Mauritius is satisfied that any labourer does not get sufficient wages to maintain himself and save something he will be entitled to ask that agent to repatriate him at the expense of the Colony. That is one point gained. The other point yielded by the Mauritius Government is that after two years without showing any cause, the man has a right to ask for repatriation. As regards the extra margin for saving purposes there was a difference of opinion amongst the Members of the Council. Some of us thought that instead of the margin being left to the discretion of the agent, it should be fixed here by the Council. But the majority thought—and I think thought rightly—that it would be much better to leave it to the discretion of our representative in that colony, and it is because we all feel that we are not in way going against the interests of our brethren in that colony and that we are safeguarding, as far as it lies in our power, the interests of the men whom we are sending out, that we agreed to this experiment being made.

There is also a feeling that even the Government is playing into the hands of the planters in all the colonies. Had Government published the report of Fiji and British Guiana, perhaps this feeling would have disappeared. Some public men are of opinion that the fact that these reports are not published and kept back shows that there is something inherently very wrong in those two colonies, and if it is so they fear that it might be equally bad in Mauritius also. As my Honourable friend Mr. Sarma has said the deputation that came here headed by Mr. Walter told us all that we required to know about the labour condition in the Colony. They helped us to get all the information that we wanted. They did not conceal anything and because we were satisfied that the men we send out there will be treated as their brethren that we allowed this emigration to be carried on as an experimental measure. I am quite sure, Sir, that not only will the Government there benefit but that the condition of our labourers who go out there will be much better than what it is here. We have had evidence of a few men whose fathers or grandfathers went out there under indenture and who are now occupiers, one of 1,400 acres of land, and another of 1,000 acres of land—yet another has got a sugar factory himself; this shows that men who went out there from here got such wages that they were able to save for themselves and were able to build up a fortune. We hope that the men we are now sending out will be equally fortunate and equally lucky in getting not only sufficient wages to maintain themselves and get a much better rate than they do here but they will also be enabled to save and settle there as agriculturists. I support this Resolution.

17. The HONOURABLE SAIYID RAZA ALI (United Provinces East: Muhammadan): Sir, as a Member of the Standing Committee on Emigration I do not think I should record a silent vote on this question. I am not prepared to subscribe to the view expressed by the Honourable Mr. Sarma that the taking of so many of our countrymen to Mauritius Island will stimulate the prosperity of those Indians who are already settled there or are working in the Island. All the same I must acknowledge that the deputation from Mauritius tried to meet our wishes fairly. It may be

that they were not in a position to concede all the demands or proposals that were laid before them. Yet, Sir, there is no doubt that the present conditions under which emigration is proposed to be allowed are more favourable than those which obtained in the past, and I do hope, Sir, that in course of time, the Government of the Colony will see to the reasonableness of acceding to all the proposals that were laid before the deputation last month. It is in this view, Sir, that I support the Resolution moved by the Honourable Mr. Sarma.

The HONOURABLE LALA SUKHBIR SINHA (United Provinces Northern: Non Muhammadan): Sir, I do not rise to oppose the Resolution but I give my support. At the same time I want to point out that labour in this country is becoming scarce and a time may soon come when the question of agricultural labour will become very serious and acute, and if our people are led to go out of the country such as Mauritius and other places, then this question ought to be considered by the Government as to what will happen to this country. I think the Zemindars who are present in this Council will support me when I say that agricultural labour in India is becoming very scarce.

The HONOURABLE MR. LALUBHAI SAMALDAS: You pay them more and keep them.

The HONOURABLE LALA SUKHBIR SINHA: There is no question of payment. The wages are going up. But the number is going down.

The HONOURABLE SIR MANECKJI DADABHOY: You do not pay Rs. 50 a month to your labour.

The HONOURABLE LALA SUKHBIR SINHA: I strike this note of warning on this motion that in future Government may take into consideration the case of this country also.

The HONOURABLE MR. B. N. SARMA: Sir, I am glad that there has been unanimous support for the Resolution in this House. The Honourable Mr. Lalubhai Samaldas gave expression to or rather voiced in this House some sentiments and views which are entertained outside this House regarding what is said to be undue haste with which we are sending labourers to outside colonies. I think, Sir, the grave deliberation and the calm

The HONOURABLE MR. LALUBHAI SAMALDAS: May I rise to make a personal explanation, Sir? I never said "with undue haste." I am sorry if I led my Honourable friend to believe so. I never meant it. So far as I remember, I did not say it.

The HONOURABLE MR. B. N. SARMA: I hope I have not said that Mr. Samaldas identifies himself with that view. But I said he gave us an idea of what the public outside, at any rate a section of the public outside, feel on this subject. My answer is that the anxious care which we have bestowed upon the question of emigration to Fiji and British Guiana and the fact that we have not come forward with any proposals for further emigration to these two countries although we are pressed very hard at least by one colony must be proof positive that we are not desirous of promoting emigration to any colony unless we are thoroughly satisfied that the condition of the labourers whom we may send abroad would be much better than what unhappily it is in certain parts

12 Noon.

[Mr. B. N. Sarma.]

of India at the present moment. With regard to the publication of the Fiji and British Guiana Deputation Reports we hope to be able to publish them at an early date. (*The Honourable Mr. Lalubhai Samaldas*: "How long?") It all depends upon certain circumstances for which the Government of India cannot hold themselves directly responsible. The question is being considered. (*The Honourable Mr. Lalubhai Samaldas*: "There is some suspicion.") There is no justification for suspicion at all because if we had asked for emigration to be permitted to proceed to Fiji and British Guiana without the publication of the reports, then the Honourable Members might think that there is something in the reports which does not bear publication and that without informing the House and the outside public as to contents we were trying to promote the interests of the colonies to the detriment of the labourers here. I am sure there is nothing really of a substantial character, or of any character regarding the main proposals of the Committee which need be concealed or which will be concealed from the public at all and I hope to be able to publish the reports at as early a date as may be practicable.

The Honourable Saiyid Raza Ali understood me to say that the sending of this force would directly and immediately benefit the labour force now existing in that colony. If he has so understood me, I am sorry. I never said and never meant to say that the sending of these men to Mauritius would improve the wages of the labourers at present in that colony. All that I said and I do say is that the improvement of public works, the construction of irrigation works, the bringing of waste land under cultivation, the improvement of the hygienic conditions of the colony cannot but promote the prosperity of that colony and be conducive to the prosperity of the present resident Indian population there. (*A Voice*: "Let us hope so.") I feel it would be so, and I have not much doubt on that subject if the premises on which we are proceeding are correct and accurate and we have no reason to think that those premises are incorrect or inaccurate.

The Honourable Lala Sukhbir Sinha sounded a note of warning as to whether we are not unduly depleting the Indian labour market, especially the agricultural market, of labourers and asked us to proceed with caution. Whatever may be said with regard to certain parts of India, I feel sure that with regard to the United Provinces at any rate, it cannot be contended that the density is small or that the existing economic conditions seem to favour the prosperity, or at any rate, the growing prosperity of the labouring classes in that province. We hope that with improved agriculture, with the growth and prosperity of industries there would be room for improvement, but the large number of emigrants from the United Provinces to other parts of India and outside justifies us in believing that the pressure in that area is unduly great and I am sure that Mr. Sukhbir Sinha will co-operate with the Government in finding employment for this surplus population existing at present in that province. He may be sure that nothing would be done by Government to render the position of agriculture or industries in this country difficult by reason of any undue emigration of labourers from here. But he would at the same time realise that the freedom must be left to the labourer as to any other person to go where he pleases to earn his living and improve his prospects if he can, so long as no racial distinctions, no racial discriminations are observed which are likely to humiliate the Indian abroad, and so far as Mauritius

is concerned, we are in a happy position because there is no racial discrimination, no communal discrimination and there is a common electoral roll on which Indians have a large number of voters and we hope to have an increasing number and it is for them really to exercise the privileges which they at present enjoy to have a proper share in the Government of that colony. All the various questions suggested have been examined and I think no hesitation need be felt, especially as I am sure we have in the Government of that country and in Mr. Walter, the Labour Commissioner a sympathetic officer who will look to the safety, prosperity and contentment of any labourers that we may send from here.

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: The question is that the following Resolution be adopted:

"This Council approves the draft notification, which has been laid in draft before the Chamber, specifying the terms and conditions on which emigration for the purpose of unskilled work shall be lawful to Mauritius, and recommends to the Governor General in Council that the notification be published in the Gazette of India."

The motion was adopted.

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Before I adjourn the Council there is one little matter which I should like to bring to the notice of Honourable Members. It has been suggested that a photograph should be taken of Honourable Members and the time suggested is 10-30 A.M. on Friday. I do not know whether Honourable Members would like to be photographed or if so, whether they would like to be photographed on Friday. I will leave it to their decision. (No dissent having been expressed) A photograph will be taken at 10-30 A.M. on Friday. I hope as many Honourable Members as possible will attend.

The Council then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, the 23rd March, 1923.