

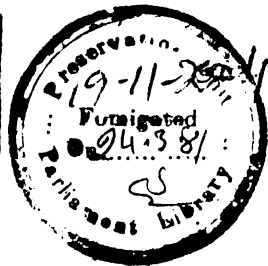
Tuesday, 30th August, 1927

THE  
COUNCIL OF STATE DEBATES

VOLUME II, 1927

*(29th August 1927 to 21st September 1927)*

THIRD SESSION  
OF THE  
SECOND COUNCIL OF STATE, 1927



# Council of State.

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THE HONOURABLE SIR SANKARAN NAIR, KT.

THE HONOURABLE MR. P. C. DESIKA CHARI.

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# COUNCIL OF STATE.

*Tuesday, 30th August, 1927.*

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

## MEMBERS SWORN.

The Honourable Major-General Alfred Hooton, C.I.E., K. H. P. (Director-General, Indian Medical Service); the Honourable Khan Bahadur Muhammad Buzlullah, C.I.E., O.B.E. (Madras: Nominated Official); the Honourable Mr. W. C. Tudor-Owen (Bombay: Nominated Official); the Honourable Mr. E. H. Berthoud, O.B.E. (Bihar and Orissa: Nominated Official); the Honourable Mr. G. A. Natesan (Madras: Nominated Non-Official) and the Honourable Prince Afsar-ul-Mulk Mirza Muhammad Akram Husain Bahadur (Bengal: Nominated Non-Official).

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

### WEIGHTS AND MEASURES USED IN INDIA.

1. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS (on behalf of the Honourable Lala Sukhbir Sinha): (a) Has any enquiry been made on the subject of the different standards of weights and measures in use in India?

(b) If so, will Government lay the result of the enquiry on the table?

(c) If not, do Government propose to hold an enquiry?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT: A Committee was appointed by the Government of India in 1913 to enquire into the question of the feasibility of introducing uniform weights and measures throughout India. A copy of the Committee's report is in the Library of the Legislature.

I would also refer the Honourable Member to the Resolution of the Government of India No. 9, dated the 3rd January, 1922, published in the Supplement to the Gazette of India of the 7th of that month which shows the conclusions arrived at by the Government of India on the Committee's recommendations.

### INTRODUCTION OF LETTER CARDS IN INDIA SIMILAR TO THOSE IN USE IN ENGLAND.

2. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS (on behalf of the Honourable Lala Sukhbir Sinha): Is it under contemplation to introduce letter cards in India similar to those in use in England?

• THE HONOURABLE MR. A. C. McWATTERS: The answer is in the negative.

### PILGRIM TAX AT HARDWAR.

3. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS (on behalf of the Honourable Lala Sukhbir Sinha): (a) Will Government be pleased

to state the year when the pilgrim-tax for the Hardwar Municipality that is collected through the Railway Department was first sanctioned by the Government of India and at what rate per head ?

(b) Is the old rate still in force ; if not, when was it raised and on what grounds ?

(c) Does the Municipal Board of Hardwar keep a separate account and fund of this tax, or is it mixed up with the general account ?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement of income and expenditure of this tax for the last 12 years, that is, from Kumbh 1915, up to the last Kumbh, April 1927 ?

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH :

(a) The pilgrim-tax at Hardwar was first sanctioned in 1893 and the rates at which it was originally levied were 1 anna on each person over 12 years of age and  $\frac{1}{2}$  anna on children between the ages of 3 and 12 years.

(b) No. The rates were revised in 1922 and again this year, as under :—

	1922.	1927.
First class passengers ..	0 6 0	0 9 0
Second class passengers ..	0 3 0	0 4 6
Intermediate class passengers ..	0 1 6	0 2 3
Third class passengers ..	0 1 0	0 1 6

Children under three years continue to be exempt and those over 3 and under 12 are charged at half rates. The tax was revised on the first occasion to enable the Municipal Board to finance water supply and lighting schemes, and on the second to help the Board to build up a reserve from which to meet the very heavy expense to which it is put at times of the Kumbh and Adh-Kumbh melas, when pilgrims come to Hardwar from all over India.

(c) and (d). The Government of India have no information on these points.

#### CLAIMS OUTSTANDING BETWEEN THE WAR OFFICE AND THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

4. THE HONOURABLE RAO SAHIB DR. U. RAMA RAU : Will the Government of India be pleased to state :

(a) the various claims still outstanding between the British War Office and the Indian Government with regard to the expenditure incurred by the latter on behalf of the former during the world war of 1914 ;

(b) the amount involved in each claim ;

(c) the reason for the delay in recovering the same ; and

(d) whether any steps have been taken to settle the claims ; if not, whether any steps are in contemplation ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. F. L. BRAYNE : The Honourable Member is referred to the statement of important financial questions outstanding between His Majesty's Government and the Government of India, which was laid on the table on 30th January, 1924, in reply to a question asked by the Honourable Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas on the 16th July, 1923. The matter has since been



examined in great detail both in India and in England and considerable progress has been made in the negotiations, difficult though they have been. I hope the House will in due course be satisfied that any delay in reaching and announcing the final decision will have been justified by the result of the negotiations.

As regards one of the items in the statement referred to by me, i.e., "Future administration of Aden and incidence of cost", as the House is aware, His Majesty's Government have decided to take over the political and military administration of Aden from the Indian Government, and with effect from 1st April, 1927, to bear all charges connected therewith, subject to a contribution from Indian revenues of £250,000 per annum for the first three years and thereafter £150,000, or one-third of the total cost, whichever is less.

**EXPENDITURE INCURRED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ON BEHALF OF THE WAR OFFICE IN RESPECT OF THE OPERATIONS IN CHINA.**

**5. THE HONOURABLE RAO SAHIB DR. U. RAMA RAU:** Will the Government of India be pleased to state :

- (a) the total expenditure incurred up to date by the Government of India on behalf of the British War Office, in respect of the Chinese operations ;
- (b) whether the amount has been recovered from the War Office yet ; if not, what causes the delay ; and
- (c) the monthly savings effected in the military expenditure on account of the despatch of Indian troops to China ?

**THE HONOURABLE MR. A. F. L. BRAYNE:** (a) The net expenditure incurred in respect of the Chinese operations up to the latest date for which accounts are available is approximately Rs. 58 lakhs.

(b) Advances are being received by the India Office from the War Office and the extra expenditure will be completely recovered shortly when final accounts are sent to the War Office.

(c) The monthly saving to Indian revenues due to absence of troops from India is about Rs. 5 lakhs.

**REORGANISATION OF THE MEDICAL SERVICES.**

**6. THE HONOURABLE RAO SAHIB DR. U. RAMA RAU:** (a) Have any and, if so, what steps been taken to reorganise the medical services and constitute a new civil medical service for India ?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state the circumstances under which the posts of Surgeon-General and Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals in the various provinces in India came to be reserved for the members of the Indian Medical Service ?

(c) Have the Government considered the advisability of throwing open the said posts to civil medical men also in future ?

**THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH:** (a) and (c). The Government of India are still in communication with the Secretary of State on the subject, but hope to make a pronouncement shortly.

(b). The posts were reserved in 1923 by regulations framed under rule 12 of the Devolution Rules.

**LOCATION OF THE OFFICES OF EPIGRAPHY AT OOTACAMUND AND KOTAGIRI.**

**7. THE HONOURABLE RAO SAHIB DR. U. RAMA RAU:** Will the Government of India be pleased to state :

- (a) why the offices of Epigraphy are located at Ootacamund and Kotagiri instead of at Madras ; and
- (b) whether there is any special advantage derived in locating these offices at Ootacamund and Kotagiri ?

**THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH :**

(a) The office of the Government Epigraphist for India was transferred to Ootacamund from Simla in order to facilitate the Government Epigraphists' work in connection with Dravidian inscriptions. There is no epigraphical office at Kotagiri. The office of the Assistant Superintendent for Epigraphy, Southern Circle, which is exclusively concerned with South Indian epigraphy, is located in Madras.

(b) The advantages of locating the Government Epigraphist's office at Ootacamund are that the climate conduces to better work than that of Madras and the climate is more suitable for the preservation of the records than that of Madras.

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INDIAN AUXILIARY AND TERRITORIAL FORCES COMMITTEE.**

**8. THE HONOURABLE RAO SAHIB DR. U. RAMA RAU :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state what steps have been taken to give effect to the recommendations of the Auxiliary and Territorial Forces Committee ?

(b) Do Government propose to place their own views and those of the Secretary of State, on this subject, before the Central Legislature and, if so, when ?

**HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF :** With your permission, Sir, I will reply to this and question No. 67 together.

The Honourable Member is referred to the Resolution on the subject published in the Gazette of India of August 20th of this year.

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ECONOMIC ENQUIRY COMMITTEE.**

**9. THE HONOURABLE RAO SAHIB DR. U. RAMA RAU :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether any and, if so, what action has been taken on the recommendations of the Economic Enquiry Committee ?

(b) Will the Government kindly lay on the table the opinions received from the various Local Governments on this subject ?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT :** (a) The recommendations of the Committee are under the consideration of the Government.

(b) Copies of the replies have been placed in the Library.

**REVISION OF THE PAY OF THE NON-GAZETTED STAFF OF THE EPIGRAPHICAL DEPARTMENT.**

**10. THE HONOURABLE RAO SAHIB DR. U. RAMA RAU :** Are there any memorials for the revision of the pay of the non-gazetted staff of the Epigraphi-

cal Department still pending disposal and, if so, how long have they been pending? And when are they expected to be disposed of?

**THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH :**  
There are no memorials for the revision of the pay of the non-gazetted staff of the Epigraphical Branch of the Archaeological Department pending disposal, but the Government of India have under consideration the question of revising the pay of the establishment of the Assistant Archaeological Superintendent for Epigraphy, Southern Circle, on which it is hoped to issue orders at an early date.

**\* PAY OF OFFICERS OF THE EPIGRAPHICAL DEPARTMENT, ETC.**

**11. THE HONOURABLE RAO SAHIB DR. U. RAMA RAU :** (a) What is the scale of pay obtaining for officers of the Epigraphical Department and what are the scales of pay obtaining for corresponding officers, with special qualifications, working in the Archaeological section proper and other departments, such as the Geological Survey of India, etc.?

(b) Is there at present any provision made for giving the members of the Epigraphical section, possessing the necessary University qualifications, proper training in Archaeology also? If not, why not?

**THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH :**  
(a) There is no separate scale of pay for officers for the Epigraphical Branch of the Archaeological Department. For the scale of pay of officers of the Archaeological and other departments the Honourable Member is referred to the Statutory Rules and Orders, 1924, No. 1395, India, a copy of which is in the Library.

(b) No. Government have received no application from any member of the Epigraphical Branch of the Archaeological Survey Department for training in general Archaeology. If and when such an application is received it will be considered.

**GAZETTED POSTS IN THE ARCHÆOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT.**

**12. THE HONOURABLE RAO SAHIB DR. U. RAMA RAU :** (a) How many gazetted posts are there in the Archaeological Department altogether, and how many are kept open to the qualified Epigraphical hands of the Department?

(b) Have any gazetted posts in the Epigraphical section been filled within recent years, say five or six years, by drafting men from the Archaeological section and *vice versa*?

**THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH :**  
(a) The Honourable Member is referred to the list of officers in the Archaeological Survey Department, a copy of which is placed in the Library of the House. Gazetted officers in the Epigraphical Branch are not excluded from other gazetted posts in the Department if they are qualified for them.

(b) In 1921, the newly created post of Superintendent for Epigraphy in the Epigraphical Branch of the Archaeological Department was filled by an officer with previous service on the general side of the Archaeological Department. No other officer has within recent years been transferred from the general side of the Department to the Epigraphical Branch. No officer has within recent

years been transferred from the Epigraphical Branch to the general side of the Archaeological Department.

**GRANT OF PRESIDENCY AND HILL ALLOWANCES TO THE NON-GAZETTED OFFICERS OF THE EPIGRAPHICAL DEPARTMENT STATIONED IN THE PRESIDENCY TOWNS AND HILL STATIONS.**

13. THE HONOURABLE RAO SAHIB DR. U. RAMA RAU: Are the non-gazetted officers of the Epigraphical department stationed in the Presidency-towns and hill stations given, respectively, the presidency and hill allowances? If not, why not?

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH: The question of granting a city allowance to the non-gazetted officers of the office of the Assistant Archaeological Superintendent for Epigraphy, Southern Circle, is under consideration. No hill allowance is granted to the members of the office of the Government Epigraphist as their pay was revised early this year.

**GRANT OF COMPENSATORY AND HOUSE-RENT ALLOWANCES TO GAZETTED OFFICERS OF THE ARCHÆOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT.**

14. THE HONOURABLE RAO SAHIB DR. U. RAMA RAU: (a) Are the gazetted officers of the Archaeological Department, stationed in the Presidency-towns and hill stations given compensatory and house-rent allowances as in other Departments?

(b) Is it true that such allowances are given to the officers of the department stationed at Calcutta, Poona and Rangoon? Are they similarly given to the officers of the department stationed at the Presidency-town of Madras and the costly hill station Ootacamund? If not, why are they not given?

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH: (a) Only officers stationed in the Presidency-town of Calcutta are given compensatory and house-rent allowances.

(b) In Calcutta compensatory and house-rent allowances are given; in Poona a house-rent allowance is given; no archaeological officer is stationed in Rangoon. Such allowances are not given to officers stationed in Madras and Ootacamund. The question of granting an allowance to the Archaeological officer stationed in Madras has not been considered by the Government of India. The case of Ootacamund is not covered by the Finance Department Resolution No. D-5067-C.S.R., dated the 10th October, 1924.

THE HONOURABLE RAO SAHIB DR. U. RAMA RAU: Will Government take into consideration the fact that the town of Madras is getting very costly and will they consider the advisability of giving a special allowance there?

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH: They considered the question and it was found that no special allowance was necessary.

**PUBLICATION OF SOUTH INDIAN INSCRIPTIONS.**

15. THE HONOURABLE RAO SAHIB DR. U. RAMA RAU: (a) When was the publication of the texts of South Indian inscriptions taken up by the Government? How many of these inscriptions have been printed off hitherto?

(b) What was the staff originally provided for the above work and what is its present strength ?

(c) What is the collection up to date and what is the number of inscriptions outstanding ?

(d) In how many years do the Government expect with the present staff continued to complete the publication of these arrears and bring it up to date, so as to publish each year's collection immediately ?

(e) Where are the South Indian inscriptions (1) collected and stored, (2) made ready for the press, and (3) where are they printed ? What is the necessity for keeping the publication branch away from the place of collection and printing ?

**THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH :**

(a) The publication of South Indian inscriptions was taken up by Government in 1890, and between that year and 1917 342 texts and translations were issued. In 1922, a new series (of texts only) was started and since then 3,701 texts have been published. Thus 4,043 texts of inscriptions have been published up to this time.

(b) The staff in 1890 is not known. The work of publication of South Indian inscriptions, together with other epigraphical work, is now done by the Government Epigraphist's staff, which consists of three gazetted and five non-gazetted assistants.

(c) 22,087 South Indian inscriptions have been collected up to date, of which 4,043 have been published and 18,044 remain to be published.

(d) In about 17 years.

(e) (1) They are collected throughout Southern India, largely in villages, and are stored in the Government Epigraphist's office in Ootacamund, (2) in Ootacamund ; (3) in Madras. The printing has to be done in Madras because the Government Press is at Madras. As for the expediency of locating the office at Ootacamund the Honourable Member is referred to the reply to question No. 7 (b).

**VOLUME OF PUBLICATION WORK EXPECTED OF THE GOVERNMENT EPIGRAPHIST YEARLY IN CONNECTION WITH THE EPIGRAPHIA INDICA.**

**16. THE HONOURABLE RAO SAHIB DR. U. RAMA RAU :** (a) What is the volume of the publication work expected of the Government Epigraphist every year in connection with the Epigraphia Indica ?

(b) Is he directly entrusted with any other publication than the said Journal ? Is it true that Dr. Hultzsch was issuing yearly 4 parts of the Journal in addition to the collection and publication of the South Indian inscriptions ? Is the Journal issued more often than before since the appointment of a separate Epigraphist for the editing of the Epigraphia Indica ?

(c) Has there been increased output in the publication of the Journal since the appointment of assistants to this officer ?

**THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH :**

(a) Four parts each year.

(b) Yes. He is responsible for the publication of the South Indian Inscriptions as well as all epigraphical work generally throughout India; four parts were expected of Dr. Hultzsch annually, but they were not always up to date. There is no separate Epigraphist for the editing of the *Epigraphia Indica*.

(c) There is a much larger output in respect of South Indian texts and the Journal is kept more up to date. The assistants referred to were not specially appointed with reference to the needs of the *Epigraphia Indica*.

#### PUBLICATION OF SOUTH INDIAN INSCRIPTIONS IN THE *EPIGRAPHIA INDICA*.

17. THE HONOURABLE RAO SAHIB DR. U. RAMA RAU: (a) In what languages and scripts are the inscriptions that are published in the *Epigraphia Indica*?

(b) Is it true that a fairly good number of inscriptions in the South Indian languages and scripts are being edited in the Journal?

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH: (a) In all ancient Indian languages and scripts, except Moslemic.

(b) Yes.

#### LANGUAGE QUALIFICATIONS OF THE PRESENT EDITOR OF THE *EPIGRAPHIA INDICA*.

18. THE HONOURABLE RAO SAHIB DR. U. RAMA RAU: (a) What are the language qualifications of the present editor of the Journal?

(b) When was he appointed to the post?

(c) What was the nature of his service before he was selected for the post?

(d) What is the total amount of his service?

(e) For how many years was he actually working in the Epigraphical section before he was appointed the Epigraphist?

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH: (a) He is a M.A., M.O.L. of the Punjab University, and is proficient in the Sanskrit, Pali and Prakrit languages.

(b) In September 1925.

(c) He was a Superintendent for Epigraphy under the Government Epigraphist for four years, an Assistant Superintendent, Archaeological Survey, for three years, and had been in the Archaeological Department for 23 years. Previously he had been Lecturer in Sanskrit at the Punjab University.

(d) 23 years.

(e) 4 years.

#### TOTAL STRENGTH OF THE STAFF OF THE EPIGRAPHICAL SECTION OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT.

19. THE HONOURABLE RAO SAHIB DR. U. RAMA RAU: (a) What is the total strength of the staff (both gazetted and non-gazetted) working in the Epigraphical section of the Archaeological Department?

(b) Of these how many are attached to the office of the Government Epigraphist for India and what are their language qualifications and their duties, and how long have they been working in the Epigraphical section ?

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH:

(a) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the List of Officers and to the Establishment List, copies of which are placed in the Library.

(b) Three gazetted officers, including the Government Epigraphist, and five non-gazetted officers are attached to the office of the Government Epigraphist. Out of the gazetted officers one is specially qualified in Sanskrit, Pali and Prakrit, the second in Tamil and Telugu and the third in Telugu and Kanarese. They are all University graduates. The non-gazetted staff consists of three clerks with clerical qualifications and two readers, both graduates with qualifications in Telugu, Tamil and Kanarese. The Government Epigraphist edits the *Epigraphia Indica* and is responsible for the whole epigraphical work of the Department except Moslemic. The Superintendent is responsible for the editing of the South Indian inscriptions and the Assistant Superintendent helps the Government Epigraphist in editing the *Epigraphia Indica* and in the collection of Kanarese inscriptions in the Bombay Presidency. The duties of the clerks are purely clerical, while the readers prepare material, copy the transcripts prepared by the officers and correct proofs of the text of inscriptions received from the press. The approximate length of service in the Epigraphical branch of the gazetted staff ranges from 5 to 20 years, and of the non-gazetted staff from 3 to 20 years.

LOCATION OF THE OFFICE OF THE SENIOR GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR OF RAILWAYS AT OOTACAMUND.

20. THE HONOURABLE RAO SAHIB DR. U. RAMA RAU: Will the Government be pleased to state :

- (a) the reason for locating the office of the Senior Government Inspector of Railways at Ootacamund ;
- (b) how often has he travelled to Madras on duty in each year during the past three years ; and
- (c) the number and nature of Railway accidents investigated by him during the past three years ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT: (a) Formerly the headquarters of this Senior Government Inspector were in Madras in the cold weather and in Ootacamund in the hot weather. During the cold weather the Senior Government Inspector spends so much of his time on tour that it is just as convenient for his office to be located in Ootacamund as in Madras.

The matter was reviewed in 1926 when it was decided that the balance of advantage lay in locating his office permanently in Ootacamund.

(b) In 1924 (during part of which he was stationed in Madras) once ; in 1925—4 times ; in 1926—7 times.

(c) Two, one was the capitalizing of a mixed train and the other the derailment of wagons of a goods train.

THE HONOURABLE RAO SAHIB DR. U. RAMA RAU : Is not Madras more central than Ootacamund ? Is it not a fact, Sir, that Madras covers a centre of about 5,000 miles, whereas Ootacamund covers only 200 miles ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT : Centre of what ?

THE HONOURABLE RAO SAHIB DR. U. RAMA RAU : If you take Ootacamund as the centre of a circle, it will cover an area of only 200 miles, whereas if you take Madras as the centre of the circle, it will cover an area of 5,000 miles ? Is it not so, Sir ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT : That may be correct, Sir ?

THE HONOURABLE RAO SAHIB DR. U. RAMA RAU : In that case, is it not advisable to have Madras as the headquarters of the Senior Government Inspector ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT : Not if he is always on tour.

THE HONOURABLE RAO SAHIB DR. U. RAMA RAU : Is it not a fact, Sir, that the Senior Inspector is staying all through the year at Ootacamund ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT : No, Sir.

RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED ON MEDICAL MEN WITH REGARD TO THE USE OF OPIUM.

21. THE HONOURABLE RAO SAHIB DR. U. RAMA RAU : (a) Is it a fact that the restrictions imposed on medical men with regard to the use of opium still continue in the Madras Presidency ?

(b) Will the Government kindly state whether the Resolution moved by me on this subject in the Council of State on 22nd February, 1927, with the Government reply, has been communicated to the Madras Government ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. F. L. BRAYNE : (a) The Government have no information.

(b) Yes.

THE HONOURABLE MR. V. RAMADAS PANTULU : May I put the question standing in the name of the Honourable Sir Manmohandas Ramji, Sir ?

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : Yes.

THE HONOURABLE COLONEL NAWAB SIR UMAR HAYAT KHAN : As this is a very important question, can any other Honourable Member put a question standing in the name of another Honourable Member, Sir ?

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : There is no reason why the Honourable Mr. Ramadas Pantulu should not put the question.

PUBLICATION OF THE REPORTS OF THE SUB-COMMITTEES OF THE INDIAN SANDHURST COMMITTEE.

22. THE HONOURABLE MR. V. RAMADAS PANTULU (on behalf of the Honourable Sir Manmohandas Ramji, : (a) Will the Government be pleased to inform the Council if the sub-committees appointed by the Indian Sandhurst Committee to enquire into conditions of military



training in foreign countries and for the purpose of studying the extent to which suitable candidates for an Army career are to be found in Indian Universities, submitted any reports to the main committee?

(b) If so, why have not these reports been published along with the Report of the Sandhurst Committee?

(c) Will the Government publish these reports of sub-committees?

(d) If so, when will they be published?

**HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF:** (a) The answer is yes.

(b) These reports formed part of the evidence before the main committee, and the committee incorporated such portions of them as they wished in their main report. Portions of the proceedings of the sub-committee that visited England and of the evidence are confidential and cannot be published.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

**ACCIDENT TO THE DREDGER RECENTLY PURCHASED BY THE HARBOUR AUTHORITIES AT VIZAGAPATAM.**

**23. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether a dredger has been purchased by the harbour authorities at Vizagapatam recently; if so, at what price, and whether that price has been paid in full;

(b) what were the conditions for delivery of the said dredger;

(c) whether the said dredger ran ashore about the beginning of April 1927 and with what consequences;

(d) whether or not there was any officer on board the said dredger at the time of the above accident;

(e) whether or not there was any storm raging at that time;

(f) whether the said dredger was towed to Calcutta or not;

(g) what were the costs of towing the dredger to Calcutta and repairing it respectively;

(h) who paid the above charges;

(i) was the dredger insured at the time of the accident;

(j) whether the Railway Board got information of the above accident from the Madras Port authorities and not from the Vizagapatam authorities; if so, why; and

(k) what steps have the Government taken or what steps do they propose to take in connection with the above incident?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT:** (a) Yes, at the price of £153,280, which has not yet been paid in full.

(b) Payment was to be made by instalments during construction, and on satisfactory conclusion of trials in Great Britain amounting to 80 per cent. of the total price. The remaining 20 per cent. was to be paid in two instalments

after dredging trials in India and on expiry of a six months' period of guarantee in India, and on the expiry of a six months' period of guarantee.

(c) Yes, in March 1927; it sustained severe damage.

(d) Yes.

(e) There was a heavy surf.

(f) Yes.

(g) The cost of salvage and towing to Calcutta is estimated at about Rs. 57,000, and of repairs at about Rs. 3,86,000. The completion of repairs awaits the receipt of some materials from England.

(h) Liability for the charges has not yet been fixed.

(i) No.

(j) Information was received from the Vizagapatam harbour authorities.

(k) The matter is at present under reference with the Secretary of State.

#### CONSTRUCTION OF THE VIZAGAPATAM HARBOUR.

24. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY : What progress has been made in the construction of the Vizagapatam harbour ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT : The foundations of the Key-Wall and of the transit sheds are about half completed. Dredging work has unfortunately been delayed by an accident to the large dredger, which is now undergoing repairs at Calcutta.

#### RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS DETAINED UNDER REGULATION III OF 1818.

25. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY : Do the Government of India contemplate the release of political prisoners detained under Regulation III of 1818 at an early date ? If not, why not ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. G. HAIG : I would refer the Honourable Member to the answer that I gave him on the 8th February last.

#### LETTING OUT OF RAILWAY LANDS AT GOALUNDO.

26. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY : Are lands acquired for Railway purposes at Goalundo and other places being used or let out to business people for other purposes ? Have Government considered whether this practice is in contravention of a High Court ruling and to the detriment of neighbouring landowners ? Do the Government contemplate putting a stop to such practice ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT : Licences for the use of railway land at Goalundo and other places are granted for purposes connected with the working of the Railway, such as vendor's stalls for the supply of food to passengers, the stacking of goods pending despatch by rail or pending removal after arrival by rail, and for oil installations. A fee is charged equivalent to rents prevailing in the neighbourhood, or sufficient to cover interest on the cost of acquisition of the land and of facilities provided, whichever is greater. Government are not aware that this practice contravenes a High Court ruling.

and consider that the benefit to the general public using the Railway outweighs the detriment (if there is any) to neighbouring landowners. Government do not contemplate putting a stop to the practice.

**DETENTION OF DECK PASSENGERS AT THE WHARF IN RANGOON.**

**27. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY :** Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the great inconvenience felt by deck passengers landing at Rangoon by their detention for 3 or 4 hours in the wharf? If so, what steps do they propose to take to remove this grievance?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT :** The Government of India have caused enquiries to be made and they understand that arrangements are made for the concurrent conduct by the Customs, Police and Port Health Departments in the Port Health Station at Rangoon of the examination of all deck passengers landed there. For the purposes of medical examination three doctors and two nurses are employed to deal with each passenger ship and more if the number of deck passengers exceed 2,000. It is reported that, except in the comparatively rare case of a ship being found on arrival to be infected, the medical examination is carried out at the rate of 1,500 passengers per hour. In so far, therefore, as there is any delay in dealing with deck passengers on arrival in Rangoon, it is due to the fact that the deck passenger traffic in Rangoon is very heavy. The Government of India are satisfied that all possible steps are already taken to reduce the inconvenience involved to a minimum.

**REPORT OF THE BACK BAY ENQUIRY COMMITTEE.**

**28. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY :** Has any action been taken on the report of the Back Bay Enquiry Committee at Bombay? If so, what?

**THE HONOURABLE MR. A. C. MCWATTERS :** So far as future operations are concerned, the Government of India have decided that it must be left to the Government of Bombay to take such action as they think desirable on the recommendations of the Committee. The Report of the Committee, so far as it relates to other matters, has been, and still is, under examination by the Local Government and the Government of India.

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE AUXILIARY AND TERRITORIAL FORCES COMMITTEE AND THE INDIAN SANDHURST COMMITTEE.**

**29. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY :** What steps do the Government propose to take to give effect to the recommendations of :

- (a) The Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Committee; and
- (b) The Indian Sandhurst Committee?

**HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF :—**(a) The Honourable Member is referred to the Resolution on the subject published in the Gazette of India of 20th August.

(b) I am afraid the Honourable Member's question cannot be answered until final decisions have been reached on the recommendations of the Indian Sandhurst Committee.

PAY OF THE AGENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA IN SOUTH AFRICA.

30. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY : What pay is being given to the Agent General to the Government of India in South Africa ?

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH : £2,500 per annum besides an annual sumptuary allowance of £500 and a motor car allowance of £200.

THE HONOURABLE MR. G. A. NATESAN : Is it a fact, Sir, that the motor allowance given to the Right Honourable Srinivasa Sastri does not cover even the pay of his chauffeur for a month ?

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH : I have no information.

WITHDRAWAL OF COIN FROM CIRCULATION DURING THE LAST 20 YEARS.

31. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY : How many different kinds of coins have been withdrawn from circulation during the last 20 years ? Has such withdrawal caused loss to the public or not, and what, if any, has been such loss in respect of each particular class of coin ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. F. L. BRAYNE : I am not quite clear what exactly the Honourable Member wants to know. If by "withdrawal" he means a declaration under section 15A. of the Indian Coinage Act that a certain coin ceases to be legal tender, Government have so far withdrawn the eight anna nickel piece only. No loss has been caused to the public as they can obtain full face value of the coins without limit of time at Currency Offices. The coins also continued to be received at treasuries at face value for a period of 12 months from the date of withdrawal and Government have not received any complaints in the matter.

In addition, the gold mohur ceased to be legal tender on the expiry of the Gold Mohur Act of 1918, and the sovereign was demonetised by the Currency Act, 1927. In the case of the gold mohur there is no loss to the public as it is still received at Government treasuries and Currency Offices at its full face value of Rs. 15. As regards sovereigns, they are now received by Government at their bullion value. 65 sovereigns were so received from the public since the passing of the Currency Act, 1927, and the total loss on these 65 coins was Rs. 2-0-11 only.

If, however, the Honourable Member is referring to coins withdrawn under sections 16, 17 and 18 of the Indian Coinage Act, the loss stated in Article 66 of the Resource Manual is incurred. The number of such coins is given in the annual reports of the Controller of the Currency, copies of which are available in the Library. It is not possible to calculate the actual amount of loss in these cases.

THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY : What I wanted to know was how many kinds of different coins have been issued and how many have been recovered, so that the balance in the hands of the people must have been the loss ?

**THE HONOURABLE MR. A. F. L. BRAYNE:** I have tried to answer the Honourable Member's question so far as I have understood it, and if the Honourable Member will make his question clearer, I will endeavour to give him a more detailed reply.

**PURCHASE BY JAPANESE FIRMS OF COTTON MILLS IN BOMBAY.**

**32. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY:** Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the newspaper reports that several cotton mills in Bombay are being purchased by Japanese firms, and is there any foundation for such reports?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT:** Government have seen newspapers reports to this effect, but have no further information.

**ADMISSION OF INDIANS INTO RESTAURANTS AND DANCING HALLS IN EDINBURGH AND GLASGOW.**

**33. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY:** Is it a fact that some of the restaurants and dancing halls in Edinburgh and Glasgow refused to admit Indians? If so, on what grounds, and have the Government taken any steps to represent their disapproval to the proper authorities there, and what has been the effect thereof?

**THE HONOURABLE MR. H. G. HAIG:** The Secretary of State has informed the Government of India that the orders prohibiting the admission of Asiatics to certain places of public entertainment in Edinburgh were withdrawn by all the establishments concerned on the 20th June as a result of action taken by the city authorities.

Government have not seen any allegation about such restrictions in Glasgow.

**FEDERATION OF SOUTH AND EAST AFRICA.**

**34. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY:** Is it a fact that steps are being taken to form a federation of South and East Africa? If so, what steps are the Government taking to safeguard the interests of Indians residing in those places?

**THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH:** The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the terms of reference of the Commission which His Majesty's Government have decided to appoint. A copy has been placed in the Library of the House for reference. From this he will observe that, while the Commission has been asked to investigate the possibility of federation as a means to securing more effective co-operation between the different Governments in Central and East Africa, no actual steps to form a federation are now contemplated. The stage for action to safeguard Indian interests in the areas coming within the purview of the Commission's enquiry will arise if and when any proposals which are likely to affect the interests of the resident Indian communities materialise. In this connection, I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the definite assurance contained in the White Paper issued by His Majesty's Government on this subject that they adhere to the underlying principles of the 1923 White Paper, entitled "Indians in Kenya", in regard to the political rights and status of British Indians resident there.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY :** Does not that declaration involve this implication that the Indian residents of other Colonies will also be subjected to the reservation of areas for various classes as prevails in Kenya ?

**THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH :** I have not understood it as such.

**PROVISION OF OSCILLATING FANS IN RAILWAY COMPARTMENTS.**

**35. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY :** Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the great inconvenience caused to passengers by the want of oscillating fans in railway trains which would distribute the breeze amongst all passengers travelling in a compartment ?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT :** Government are not aware that inconvenience has been caused to passengers through the absence of oscillating fans in railway trains in place of the type now fitted. The desirability of fitting oscillating fans in compartments of railway coaches has been investigated by certain railway administrations, but, in view of the limited size of the compartments, it has not been considered that the additional cost and complication of this type of fan would be justified by the problematical advantage to be obtained by use in such confined quarters.

**QUALIFICATIONS OF INDIANS AS ROYAL ENGINEERS IN ENGLAND.**

**36. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY :**

(a) Are Indians allowed to qualify themselves as Royal Engineers in England ?

(b) Are Royal Engineers of England allowed to compete in the Engineering Service examination recently introduced in India ?

(c) If Indians are not allowed to qualify themselves as Royal Engineers in England, why are these Royal Engineers of England allowed to compete for the Engineering Service examination in India ?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT :** (a) No.

(b) No. Only persons of Indian domicile are allowed to compete at the examination.

(c) Royal Engineers are not permitted to appear at the competitive examination.

**STATUTORY COMMISSION ON REFORMS.**

**37. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY :** When is the next Reforms Commission going to be appointed, and what will be the terms of reference and personnel of such Commission ?

**THE HONOURABLE MR. H. G. HAIG :** Government are unable to make any statement on the subject.

**LOSS OF THE STEAMER "SHAHZADA" IN THE BAY OF BENGAL.**

**38. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY :** Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the sinking of a ship

named the *Shahzada* in the Bay of Bengal on Thursday, the 14th July 1927 ? If so, will the Government be pleased to state the cause and extent of the disaster and the persons, if any, responsible for it, and what steps the Government propose to take against them and to help the poor relations of the victims of the disaster ?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT :** The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. A Court of Enquiry was appointed by the Government of Bengal under the Indian Merchant Shipping Act to make an investigation. The Court has reported that when the "*Shahzada*" left Calcutta on the 13th July 1927 she was in a fit and proper condition as regards hull, machinery, equipment, etc., and that the cause of the foundering of the vessel was water finding its way rapidly into the interior of the vessel, but what caused the water to enter is unknown. The Court have also held that the loss of the vessel was not due to the wrongful act or default of the Master or Chief Officer, or of any other person on board. Out of the ship's company of 71, 7 Europeans and 14 Indians lost their lives. The Court found that everything possible was done in the short time available before the ship foundered, and that all members of the crew who came to the surface were rescued. All four engineers appear to have been drowned in the engine-room, doing their duty to the last.

Messrs. Turner, Morrison and Company, the local agents of the vessel, have reported that the question of payment of compensation to the relatives of the Indian crew who lost their lives is being dealt with under the Indian Workmen's Compensation Act. As regards the Europeans who were drowned, the matter is receiving the consideration of the Home Board of the Asiatic Steam Navigation Company and will be decided by them. As the Board's decision in the matter will take some time, the local agents have arranged to continue the monthly allowance allotted to their families by the deceased prior to the disaster.

#### COMMUNAL RIOTS.

**39. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY :** Has the number of communal riots in India in 1927 been less than that in the corresponding period of the previous year ?

**THE HONOURABLE MR. H. G. HAIG :** It is difficult to base any comparison on the number of riots, as the term might cover a small incident resulting in a few injuries or a period of serious and prolonged disturbance. But I regret to say that communal riots in 1927 have been deplorably frequent.

#### ABSENCE OF ELEVATED PLATFORMS ON THE PARBATIPUR-SILIGURI SECTION OF THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

**40. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY :** Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the great inconvenience caused to Railway passengers on the Parbatipur-Siliguri section of the Eastern Bengal Railway by the absence of elevated platforms ? If so, do the Government contemplate removing the grievance at an early date ?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT :** The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. The second part therefore does not

arise. I shall, however, be glad to send a copy of this question and answer to the Agent in order to draw his attention to the matter.

#### REDUCTION OF FARES FOR FIRST CLASS PASSENGERS ON THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

41. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY : Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the reduction of the rate of fare for first class passengers only adopted from 1st August 1927 by the Eastern Bengal Railway, and why has the said reduction not been made in case of other class passengers also or in preference to first class passengers ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT : Government are aware that the Eastern Bengal Railway has reduced its first class fares from the 1st August 1927. This reduction has been introduced with the object of attracting a larger number of passengers to travel first class and thereby increasing the railway revenues. Reductions in other classes have not been made because there is not considered to be a prospect of increasing railway revenues thereby.

#### INTERMENT IN UNHEALTHY LOCALITIES IN BENGAL OF POLITICAL DETENUS.

42. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY : Is it a fact that persons detained under the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1925, by the Government of Bengal are being interned in the unhealthiest parts of Bengal ? If so, why is it being done, and what are the places where they are being interned, and do the Government of India propose to interfere in the matter ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. G. HAIG : No, Sir. Every care is taken to avoid places which are known to be unhealthy.

#### ACQUISITION BY THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY OF THE HOUSE OF THE LATE BABU BANKIM CHANDRA CHATTERJEE, THE GREAT BENGALI NOVELIST, AT KANTALPARA.

43. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY : Is it a fact that the house of the late Babu Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, the great novelist of Bengal, at Kantalpara, is being acquired by the Eastern Bengal Railway ? Has any protest been received from the people of Bengal ? If so, do the Government propose to put a stop to the acquisition ? If not, why not ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT : Government understand that in order to improve the entrance into the Naihati Goods Yard at the north end, the Agent of the Eastern Bengal Railway caused enquiries to be made whether the present owner of the late Bankim Chandra Chatterjee's house would be willing to part with a strip 20 feet wide and 185 feet long along the western side of the property. This strip includes an outhouse, a portion of the courtyard about 8 feet wide and a portion of two living rooms, one of which is not a part of the late author's portion of the joint house. The greater portion of the property is stated to be in ruins, the only parts in a fair state of repairs being the outer buildings on two sides. It was ascertained that the owner would agree to the acquisition of the complete property but not a portion of it, and the Land Acquisition Officer was thereupon instructed to pre-



pare an estimate of the cost of acquiring the whole property. It is understood that no notice of acquisition has yet been issued by the Collector upon the heirs of the late author.

Protests have been received from the people of Bengal. The Agent, Eastern Bengal Railway, will be instructed to reconsider his proposals for improving the entrance to the goods yard with a view to avoiding encroachment upon the late author's house.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER IN CHARGE OF THE INSEIN CENTRAL JAIL, BURMA, REGARDING STATE PRISONER JYOTISH CHANDRA GHOSH.

44. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY : Is it a fact that the medical officer in charge of the Insein Central Jail, Burma, has reported that the State prisoner, Jyotish Chandra Ghosh, should no longer be confined in custody inside a prison? If so, on what grounds, and what steps are the Government taking on the report?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. G. HAIG : The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. The second part does not arise.

ISSUE OF £5,000,000 INDIAN TREASURY BILLS.

45. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY : Is it a fact that the Government are issuing an invitation for tenders for 5 millions sterling India bills? If so, for what purpose and why were the tenders not asked for in India, and what are the terms of the loan?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. F. L. BRAYNE : Tenders to the extent of £5,000,000 six months India Treasury Bills were issued on 26th July for payment on 29th July. The average discount rate of accepted tenders was £4/9/9 per cent. The bills were required to meet the immediate needs of the Secretary of State for expenditure in England. Since then tenders for 4 crores of Rupee Treasury Bills have been called for and accepted in India.

REVISION OF THE PAY OF THE INDIAN CLERKS OF THE AUDIT OFFICE OF THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

46. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY : Is it a fact that the Indian clerks of the Audit Office of the Eastern Bengal Railway preferred an appeal to the Auditor General through the proper channel for a revision of the scale of their pay? Was it sent up to him and what steps has he taken upon it? If the appeal was not sent to him, why was it not sent up?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. F. L. BRAYNE : The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative and to the second in the negative. The memorials were withheld by the Accountant General, Railways, under the memorial rules, as no new facts or arguments were advanced by the memorialists in support of their prayers, which had not already been carefully considered and rejected by Government in 1923 and 1924.

INCONVENIENT TIMINGS OF THE TRAIN SERVICES ON THE MURSHIDABAD BRANCH OF THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

47. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY : Has the attention of the Government been drawn to an article headed "Hardships of Passengers" appearing in the "Forward" newspaper of the 26th July

1927, regarding the inconvenient timings of the train services on the Murshidabad branch of the Eastern Bengal Railway? If so, what steps do they propose to take in the matter?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT: Yes, but it is not possible for the Government to take any part in the arrangement of time tables. Copies of the question and the answer will be sent to the Agent.

CORRESPONDENCE IN THE *Forward* REGARDING GRIEVANCES OF NORTH BENGAL PASSENGERS.

48. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY: Has the attention of the Government been drawn to correspondence headed "Grievances of North Bengal passengers" which appeared in the *Forward* newspaper of the 5th August 1927? If so, what steps do the Government propose to take to remove the grievances?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT: Yes, but, as I said in answer to the last question, it is not possible for the Government to take any part in the arrangement of time tables. Copies of this question and answer will also be sent to the Agent.

ACCIDENTS ON RAILWAYS.

49. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY: Has the Railway Board published any report of enquiries into the accidents which occurred during the half year ending 31st March 1927 on the various Railways? If so, will the Government be pleased to state what steps, if any, the Railway Administrations concerned have taken to punish the men responsible for the accidents, and to compensate the victims or their relations?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT: The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative; to the second that necessary action has been taken by Railway Administrations in all cases, but the Government do not consider it desirable to publish the details.

SALE OF SILVER BULLION HELD IN THE PAPER CURRENCY RESERVE.

50. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY: Is it a fact that the Government have, during the end of July and beginning of August 1927, effected a considerable sale of their silver holding? If so, what is the quantity sold?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. F. L. BRAYNE: The Government of India have recently sold silver bullion held in the Paper Currency Reserve to an amount of approximately 9,200,000 fine ounces.

TRANSFER OF CLERKS FROM THE OFFICE OF THE LOCO. SUPERINTENDENT, KANCHRAPARA, TO THAT OF THE DEPUTY AUDITOR, WORKSHOP AUDIT BRANCH, KANCHRAPARA.

51. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY: Will the Government be pleased to state whether—

- (a) it is a fact that some clerks were transferred from the office of the Loco. Superintendent, Kanchrapara, to that of the Deputy Auditor, Workshop Audit Branch, Kanchrapara;

- (b) it is a fact that most of the clerks transferred have been placed under the Audit scale, Class II, with a maximum of Rs. 75 and annual increments of Rs. 3 and with a halt for 5 years at the stage of Rs. 69 ;
- (c) it is a fact that, at the time of the said transfer, they were in Grade ' C ', viz., Rs. 80 of the Loco. Superintendent's office, with annual increments of Rs. 5 with a halt for 2 years at the stage of Rs. 60 ;
- (d) it is a fact that the clerks, who were drawing Rs. 70 as pay have been fixed on Rs. 69 as pay, plus Re. 1 as personal allowance ; if so, under what rule ; and
- (e) it is a fact that clerks placed under Audit scale, Class II, will be deprived of the privilege of foreign line passes over 300 miles and will be counted as entitled to third class passes in place of intermediate class ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. F. L. BRAYNE : (a) and (c). The reply is in the affirmative.

(b) Clerks who were employed on routine duties were brought on to the scale of Rs. 30—3—69—6/5—75, the scale intended for such clerks in the audit office.

(d) Yes. Their pay was fixed under the Fundamental Rules. As vacancies occur any of these clerks found fit for promotion can rise to the higher class the pay of which is Rs. 60—4—120—5—145.

(e) Yes, while in Class II.

#### PAY OF AUDIT OFFICE CLERKS OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY AND THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

52. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY : What is the scale of pay of the East Indian Railway Audit Office clerks and that of the Eastern Bengal Railway ? If any differences in pay exist, what is this due to ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. F. L. BRAYNE : Clerks in the East Indian Railway Audit Office are divided into two grades. 22 are on the scale of Rs. 45—5/2—105, and 49 are on the scale of Rs. 60—8—220—20/5—240.

On the Eastern Bengal Railway clerks are divided into four classes. 212 are on the scale of Rs. 30—3—69—69/5—75, 204 on Rs. 60—4—120—5—145, 31 on Rs. 130—8—170 and 8 on Rs. 150—10—200.

The scales of pay in the two offices are not susceptible of a direct comparison. Upper division clerks in the East Indian Railway audit office have, however, a slightly better scale, for the reason that they are required to do a higher class of work.

#### CASE OF BABU JNANENDRA KUMAR MUKHERJEE OF THE OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY AUDITOR, WORKSHOP AUDIT BRANCH, KANCHRAPARA.

53. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY : (a) Is it a fact that Babu Jnanendra Kumar Mukherjee was transferred from the Loco. office on 11th July 1924 to that of the Deputy Auditor, Workshop Audit Branch, Kanchrapara, on a salary of Rs. 80 per month ?

(b) Is it a fact that the said Jnanendra Kumar Mukherjee was promoted to Officiating Sub-Head from 3rd January 1925 on Rs. 100 and again promoted to Rs. 130 on and from 1st April 1926 and to Rs. 138 on and from 1st April 1927, on the ground of his work being very satisfactory, as remarked by the then Deputy Auditor, Mr. Choudhury ?

(c) Has he again been reverted to Officiating Class I on Rs. 80 per month ? If so, why and from when ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. F. L. BRAYNE : The information is being obtained and it will be sent to the Honourable Member in due course. c

#### RETRENCHMENTS OF EUROPEANS, ANGLO-INDIANS AND INDIANS IN THE LOCO. DEPARTMENT, EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

54. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY :  
(a) How many, if any, Europeans, Anglo-Indians and Indians of the Eastern Bengal Railway Loco. Department have been thrown out of employment on account of the retrenchment policy of the Railway Board ?

(b) Is it a fact that the posts of two Producing Engineers and one Fuel Superintendent have been created ? If so, have Europeans been appointed to these posts and why has this been done ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT : (a) In 1925, 57 men were discharged from the Kanchrapara Locomotive Workshops and in 1926, six ; but it would not be accurate to say that the discharge was due to any retrenchment policy of the Railway Board. 52 of these men were no longer required owing to the closing down of the smithy and the remainder for various other reasons. Government have no information how many of them were Europeans, Anglo-Indians or Indians.

(b) Two Production Engineers and one Fuel Superintendent have been appointed all on 3 years' covenants. All three are Europeans. Indians of the necessary qualifications and experience are not yet available.

#### GRANT OF AN INCREMENT TO THE HEAD CLERK OF THE DISTRICT LOCO. OFFICE, DACCA.

55. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY : Is it a fact that the Head Clerk of the District Loco. Office, Dacca, applied for an increment and that the Agent offered to consider his case on condition that he should effect retrenchment in his office and work with reduced hands ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT : Government have no information. The matter is entirely in the Agent's discretion.

#### INCREMENT OF SENIOR CLERKS IN THE LOCO. OFFICE, KANCHRAPARA.

56. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY : Is it a fact that many senior clerks in the Loco. Office, Kanchrapara, have not got any increment for the last 5 years or more ? If so, how many and why ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT : Government have no information. The grant of increments to clerks rests with the officers under whom they are serving.

**LONG HOURS OF WORK OF CLERKS TRANSFERRED FROM THE LOCO. OFFICE TO THE AGENT, STATISTICS.**

57. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY : Is it a fact that the clerks transferred from the Loco. Office to the Agent, Statistics, are forced to work very late hours and attend office on all Government holidays and on Sundays without any remuneration, though other clerks in Calcutta Railway offices are getting allowances for the same ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT : Government have no information. The matter is one for the Agent of the Railway.

**GRANT OF FREE MEDICAL ATTENDANCE TO THE EUROPEAN JUDGES OF HIGH COURTS.**

58. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY : Is it a fact that rules have been promulgated to allow free medical attendance to European, but not to Indian, High Court Judges ? If so, why and by whom have such rules been promulgated and what are these rules ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. G. HAIG : Free medical attendance is a privilege which all Government officers have for long enjoyed. There is therefore no question of promulgating any such rules as those referred to by the Honourable Member.

**SUPPLY OF FREE MEDICINES TO EUROPEAN OFFICIALS OF STATE RAILWAYS.**

59. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY : Is it a fact that rules have been promulgated by which European officials, but not Indians, in the State Railway administrations will not have to pay the price of medicine when they go to the railway hospitals for treatment ? If so, why and by whom have these rules been promulgated, and what are these rules ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT : The reply to the first part of the question is in the negative. The second part does not arise.

**ALLEGED ASSAULT BY EUROPEANS ON AN INDIAN CIVILIAN AT RAJSHAHI.**

60. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY : Is it a fact, as reported in the *Forward* newspaper of the 6th August 1927, that an Indian Civilian had been assaulted by several Europeans at Rajshahi ? If so, who is this Civilian, and why was he assaulted, and what steps have been taken to punish the assailants ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. G. HAIG : Government have received no information on the subject.

**ADOPTION OF A UNIFORM AND SIMPLER FORM OF BILL OF LADING BY STEAMER LINES.**

61. THE HONOURABLE SIR PHIROZE SETHNA : (a) Will Government be pleased to state what steps they have so far taken for the adoption of a uniform and simpler form of Bill of Lading by the steamer lines in view of the Indian Carriage of Goods by Sea Act of 1925 ?

(b) Is it a fact that shipping companies have still kept in use the old form and have overcome the difficulty of complying with the Act

by a "clause paramount" stamped across the form? And that the shippers have still to ship their goods under the old form of Bill of Lading?

(c) Is it a fact that the British Federation of Traders' Association have written on this question to the Calcutta U. K. Conference, which represent the shipping interests in Eastern Waters, and that they have been informed by the Conference of their inability to adopt a simpler and more intelligible form?

(d) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether they intend moving the Calcutta U. K. Conference to alter the present form so as to make it a uniform, simple and intelligible document?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT: The answer to parts (b) and (c) of the question is in the affirmative.

As regards parts (a) and (d), the Carriage of Goods by Sea Act, 1925, does not require that there should be a uniform form of Bill of Lading. Section 4 of the Act only provides that a Bill of Lading shall contain an express statement that it is to have effect subject to the provisions of the Rules in the Schedule as applied by the Act; and the "clause paramount" stamped across Bills of Lading fulfils the requirements of the law.

Recently, however, the Government have been asked by the Bombay Millowners' Association and by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce to take steps which would lead to the adoption of a uniform Bill of Lading in the Eastern Trade. The Government are considering whether any action can usefully be taken by them.

#### APPOINTMENT OF AN INDIAN AS LEADER OF THE INDIAN DELEGATION TO THE NEXT SESSION OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

62. THE HONOURABLE SIR PHIROZE SETHNA: (a) Will Government be pleased to state why an Indian has again not been appointed leader of the Indian Delegation to the next session of the League of Nations, in spite of the Resolutions passed in the Council of State recommending such appointment?

(b) Is it a fact that Government recommended action in accordance with the Resolutions, but the Secretary of State overruled such recommendation?

THE HONOURABLE MR. S. R. DAS: The decision to appoint Lord Lytton as leader of the Delegation was reached after full consideration of all the relevant circumstances, including the resolution to which the Honourable Member refers.

#### APPOINTMENT OF INDIANS AS ASSESSORS ON THE STATUTORY COMMISSION ON REFORMS.

63. THE HONOURABLE SIR PHIROZE SETHNA: (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the statement made by Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru in the course of an interview he gave to the Associated Press, namely:—

"I have heard from sources, which I cannot disregard as unreliable, that a scheme of having Indians as assessors (to the Statutory Commission) is being seriously entertained in high quarters"?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether such a scheme is being contemplated either by themselves or by the Secretary of State, and has it

been represented to them that the scheme is being viewed with disfavour by Indian public opinion ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. G. HAIG : (a) Government have seen newspaper reports of the statement.

(b) Government are at present unable to make any announcement with regard to the composition of the Statutory Commission. They are aware that a suggestion of the nature referred to has appeared in the press and has been criticised in various quarters.

NUMBER OF INDIANS IN EACH OF THE ALL-INDIA SERVICES FOR THE YEARS 1920 TO 1927.

64. THE HONOURABLE SIR PHIROZE SETHNA : (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of Indians in each of the All-India Services for the years 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926 and 1927 ?

(b) What is the proportion reached in 1927 in each of these services between Indian and European officers ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. G. HAIG : A statement containing the information required by the Honourable Member is laid on the table.

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*Statement showing the number of Indians in the All-India Services in the years 1920 to 1927 and the proportion reached in 1927 between Indian and European Officers.*

Service.	Number of Indians in service in								Proportion reached in 1927 between Indian and European officers.	Remarks.
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.		
Indian Civil Service*	157	172	208	226	253	267	286	311	Indians. 25 Europeans. 75	*Including officers hold- ing listed posta.
Indian Police Service	19	35	49	62	79	93	95	105	15 85	
Indian Forest Service	4	28	42	51	73	84	89	94	26 74	
Indian Service of Engineers	291	289	296	301	308	301	301	304	45.6 54.4	
Indian Medical Service† (including both civil and military side of the service).	79	127	140	155	150	151	161	163	25 75	†There were 135 Indians on 1st January 1927, hold- ing temporary commis- sions in the I. M. S. who are not included in these figures.
Indian Educational . { Men's Branch	39	46	121	129	126	120	119	115	44 56	
Service. { Women's Branch	..	1	5	9	9	9	6	7	26 74	
Indian Agricultural Service	15	17	33	40	36	36	36	36	35.3 64.7	
Indian Veterinary Service	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	6.7 93.3	Recruitment has been stopped.

\*Including officers holding listed posts.

†There were 135 Indians on 1st January 1927, holding temporary commissions in the I. M. S. who are not included in these figures.

Recruitment has been stopped.



**RESULTS OF THE LAST ELECTIONS TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.**

**65. THE HONOURABLE SIR PHIROZE SETHNA :** Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

- (a) the name of each constituency of the Legislative Assembly ;
- (b) the number of voters registered on the electoral roll of each constituency ;
- (c) the names of candidates who offered themselves for election to the Legislative Assembly in each constituency at the last election ;
- (d) the name of the political party, if any, to which each candidate declared himself to belong ;
- (e) the number of votes polled by each ; and
- (f) the percentage of the voters who voted in each constituency to the total number of voters in each such constituency ?

**THE HONOURABLE MR. H. G. HAIG :** The Honourable Member is referred to the report on the results of the 1926 elections, a copy of which is in the Library. Information as regards part (c) is available only in the case of Madras, and that relating to (d) is not available.

**REPORTS FROM PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS REGARDING THE GROWTH OF EDUCATION AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE INSTITUTIONS.**

**66. THE HONOURABLE SIR PHIROZE SETHNA :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether, in view of the near appointment of the Statutory Commission and the matters which it will have to inquire into, they have called from Provincial Governments for reports on—

- (1) the growth of education ;
- (2) the development of representative institutions ; and
- (3) matters connected with (1) and (2), since the adoption of the reformed constitution ?

(b) If not, do they intend to call for such reports ?

**THE HONOURABLE MR. H. G. HAIG :** (a) The Government of India are engaged in the preparation of memoranda on the subjects to which the Honourable Member refers. For this purpose they possess considerable material received from Local Governments. In the case of education it is the practice to issue quinquennially all-India reviews of the progress of education based on information specially supplied by Provincial Governments. The next review is due to issue in 1928.

(b) It is not intended at present to refer to Local Governments unless the available information is found to be inadequate.

**VIEWS OF THE HOME GOVERNMENT ON THE FINDINGS OF THE INDIAN AUXILIARY AND TERRITORIAL FORCES COMMITTEE.**

**\* 67. THE HONOURABLE SIR PHIROZE SETHNA :** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the reply given in the House of Commons by the Under Secretary of State on July 29th that the views of the Home Government on the findings of the Auxiliary and Territorial Forces Committee have been communicated to the Government of India ?

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\* For answer to this question, see answer to Question No. 8.

(b) When were those views received by the Government of India ?

(c) When will the decision of the Government be made public ?

PROPOSED INDIA HOUSE IN LONDON.

68. THE HONOURABLE SIR PHIROZE SETHNA :

(a) Has the lease for the site for the India House to be erected in London been completed ?

(b) What is the period of lease and the annual rent ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to lay the plans of the India House on the table ?

(d) Are any features of Indian Architecture to be introduced in the building ?

(e) How soon is the building likely to be completed ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT : (a) The Government have had no intimation yet from the High Commissioner of the completion of the lease.

(b) The lease would be for 999 years and the ultimate rent of the site £6,000 per annum. For the first 12 months from the commencement of the lease there would be a paper corn rent and the rent for the second and third years would be half the ultimate rent.

(c) The final plans have not yet been received, but when they are received, I shall be very glad to show them to the Honourable Member and to any other Honourable Members who may be interested.

(d) The London County Council requires that the exterior should be in harmony with the neighbouring buildings, and apart from small decorative features it will not be possible to make it representative of any Indian style. The Architect, however, is endeavouring to give the interior a marked Indian character. It is also proposed to decorate the main hall with frescoes painted by Indian artists and, if funds permit, the dome also and the ceilings of the important rooms. Indian timber will be used, so far as possible, for panelling, flooring and furniture. Indian marble will also be used, and will be worked in India before shipment to England. During the past few months the High Commissioner and the Architect have been assisted by an Advisory Committee of members of the Indian Legislature in England, and I understand that this Committee has examined and approved all the plans and has given much valuable advice.

(e) It is not anticipated that the building will be completed before 1930, but it is hoped to have it ready for occupation in 1929.

THE HONOURABLE SIR PHIROZE SETHNA : Will the rent of £6,000 per annum be uniform after the third year, as I understand the Honourable Member to say ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT : Yes, Sir.

THE HONOURABLE SIR PHIROZE SETHNA : Will the building just suffice for the offices of the High Commissioner and the Trade Commis-

sioner, or will there be any portion available for letting to the public? And if the latter, will it be let in preference to Indian businesses and Indian firms?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT:** I do not expect that any portion of it will be available for letting out; it will be fully occupied by the High Commissioner and the Indian Trade Commissioner and their staffs.

**PURCHASE OF PAINTS AND DRY COLOURS BY THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.**

**69. THE HONOURABLE SIR PHIROZE SETHNA:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to a letter, published in the issue of *Forward* of June 25th, 1927, wherein it is stated that, in spite of much lower quotations by Indian manufacturers, the East Indian Railway has accepted tenders of European manufacturers, and importers in respect of paints and dry colours at about 50% higher rates?

(b) Has any action been taken by Government in regard thereto and, if so, what?

(c) Is it a fact that the paints and dry colours required have to be in accordance with the Indian Stores Department specification?

(d) Have Indian manufacturers supplied to the same Railway such paints and dry colours under the condition mentioned in (c), and is it a fact that the Railway has had no cause for complaint in regard to such goods supplied by them?

(e) Is it a fact that the Indian Stores Department purchase such paints and dry colours almost exclusively from Indian manufacturers and that the goods tendered are, as a rule, approved of and passed by their Controller of Inspection?

(f) Is it also a fact that the Army Department purchase paints and dry colours almost exclusively from Indian manufacturers?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT:** (a) and (b). Government have seen the letter mentioned. They obtained a report from the Agent of the East Indian Railway, and the Financial Commissioner, Railways, also looked into the matter during a recent visit to Calcutta. It was found that the Tender Committee of the East Indian Railway rejected the lowest tender for lamp black, Prussian blue, ultramarine blue, Venetian red and bath enamel green because the firm tendering was not on the list of the Indian Stores Department as a supplier of paints, and in accordance with the recognised procedure, their tender was in consequence not considered. The tenders of another firm, which were lower than those accepted, were also rejected because it had recently been found necessary to reject supplies from this firm. The lowest tender for white lead was also rejected because the firm was not known to the East Indian Railway Administration or to the Controller of Purchases of the Indian Stores Department.

(c) Paints and dry colours are required to be in accordance with the Indian Stores Department specification or the specifications in force on the ordering railways which are generally very similar.

(d) Indian firms have supplied such paints and dry colours and in many cases there has been no cause for complaint.

(e) I understand that practically all the paints and dry colours, for which contracts have been placed by the Indian Stores Department for supply during the current financial year, are of Indian manufacture.

(f) Yes.

**TESTING OF THE SUPPLIES OF PAINTS TENDERED BY EUROPEAN MANUFACTURERS TO THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY AT THE GOVERNMENT TEST HOUSE AT ALIPORE.**

70. THE HONOURABLE SIR PHIROZE SETHNA : Have the supplies of paints tendered by European manufacturers to the East Indian Railway, referred to in the issue of *Forward* of 25th June, 1927, been tested at the Government Test House at Alipore ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT : Three items have been tested at Alipore. The other three were for very small quantities and the cost of testing was not considered justifiable.

THE HONOURABLE SIR PHIROZE SETHNA : What was the result in the case of the three that were tested ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT : I am afraid I cannot say without notice.

**PURCHASE OF STORES FOR GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS THROUGH THE INDIAN STORES DEPARTMENT.**

71. THE HONOURABLE SIR PHIROZE SETHNA : Is there any reason why Government Railways do not make use of the Indian Stores Department by purchasing through it as much as possible of their requirements ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT : Government railways do make use of the Indian Stores Department for the purchase of a considerable portion of their requirements. I would refer the Honourable Member to the speech made by the Honourable Sir Charles Innes, in the Legislative Assembly, on 24th February last, in which the policy of the Government with regard to purchase of material for railways by the Indian Stores Department is described. In the year 1926-27, the purchases for State-owned railways through the Indian Stores Department amounted to about Rs. 75½ lakhs which is more than double the figure for the previous financial year.

**FIXING BY THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY OF LUMP SUMS FOR DEPOSITS ON TENDERS FOR RS. 10,000 AND OVER.**

72. THE HONOURABLE SIR PHIROZE SETHNA : (a) Is it a fact that the East Indian Railway asks its tenderers, in case of tenders of Rs. 10,000 and over, to put in a deposit of 2 per cent. of their tendered amounts ?

(b) Is it a fact that information regarding amounts of deposits is obtained by rival tenderers from the Railway Office ?

(c) Do Government propose to instruct the Railway Company to fix lump sums for deposits on tenders which are for Rs. 10,000 and over ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT : (a) Under the present rules, the East Indian Railway Administration asks for a deposit of Rs. 200 when the amount of the tender exceeds Rs. 5,000 and does not exceed

Rs. 10,000 ; and a further deposit of Rs. 100 for each additional Rs. 5,000 or portion of Rs. 5,000.

(b) and (c). The Railway administration have received no evidence that information regarding the amounts of deposits has been obtained by rival tenderers from the railway office, but they recognise the danger to which the Honourable Member has drawn attention and are reconsidering the matter. In doing so they propose to consider the suggestion put forward by the Honourable Member in part (c) of his question.

**DELAYS IN PAYMENT TO FIRMS OF BILLS DUE TO THEM BY THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.**

**73. THE HONOURABLE SIR PHIROZE SETHNA :** Have complaints been received from some Calcutta firms of the delay in receiving payment of their bills, or return of their earnest money and deposits in the case of unsuccessful tenderers from the East Indian Railway ?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT :** The Railway Board have received a copy of one letter from a firm in Calcutta to the Agent of the East Indian Railway complaining of delays in payment, and another firm also mentioned the matter to the Financial Commissioner of Railways when he was recently in Calcutta. The Financial Commissioner ascertained that delays were not general, but asked the Chief Accounts Officer of the East Indian Railway to examine the procedure and make such alterations as may be found to be needed to secure that payments are made as expeditiously as possible.

**IMPROVEMENT IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE STORES DEPARTMENT OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.**

**74. THE HONOURABLE SIR PHIROZE SETHNA :** Is the Railway Board satisfied with the present working of the Stores Department of the East Indian Railway ?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT :** The position is much better than it was two years ago, but is still not entirely satisfactory and special measures have been undertaken to effect further improvement.

**RULE FOLLOWED BY THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY IN REGARD TO THE PURCHASE OF PAINTS.**

**75. THE HONOURABLE SIR PHIROZE SETHNA :** (a) Will Government state what is the rule followed by the Eastern Bengal Railway in regard to the purchase of paints ?

(b) Is it a fact that tenders were invited by this Railway for the whole year for paints of the value of only about Rs. 60,000 ?

(c) Is it a fact :

(i) that quantities of the value of between one and a half to two lacs were purchased without any tenders from certain firms ;

(ii) that none of these firms was an Indian firm ; and

(iii) that manufacturers in India of these paints were not invited to quote their prices for the same ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT: (a) Purchases are made either by tender or by asking selected firms to quote prices. In the latter case the lowest price quoted is accepted provided it is not higher than the prevailing market price.

(b) Yes.

(c) (i) Paint to the value of about Rs. 75,000 has been purchased since January, 1927, from selected firms without a general call for tenders.

(ii) and (iii). One of the selected firms was an Indian firm.

#### PURCHASE OF PAINTS BY THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

76. THE HONOURABLE SIR PHIROZE SETHNA: Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) Whether public tenders were invited by the Eastern Bengal Railway for the following items of paints:

Paint White Zinc Genuine Stiff and Ready Mixed;

Paint White Lead Genuine Stiff and Ready Mixed;

Paint Purple Brown to Eastern Bengal Railway Standard Shade Ready Mixed;

Paint White Enamel; and

Paint Red Lead Dry;

(b) If not, why not?

(c) (i) the names of the firms from whom the purchases were made;

(ii) the quantity and value of the above paints agreed to be purchased during the current year;

(iii) the stipulations made regarding the quality of these paints;

(d) whether any tests have been carried out at the Government Test House, Alipore, of such paints; and

(e) why such purchases were not made by the Eastern Bengal Railway either (1) by inviting public tenders, or (2) through the Indian Stores Department?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT: (a) No.

(b) and (e). Because of the procedure followed by the Eastern Bengal Railway which I have described in answer to part (a) of question No. 75.

(c) (i) Messrs. Jessop and Company, Limited.

„ Plummer Brothers and Company.

„ Turner Morrison and Company.

„ Shalimar Paint, Colour and Varnish Works, Limited.

„ J. F. Madan and Company.

„ R. Ingham Clark and Company, Limited.

„ Hadfields, Limited.

(ii) 1,680 cwts. of paint and 485 gallons of enamel to the total value of over Rs. 78,000 have been purchased since January 1927.

(iii) The paints are required to be genuine.

(d) Samples of paints tendered are regularly sent to the Government Test House at Alipur, and only paints reported by the Test House as being genuine and satisfactory are accepted.

COMPLAINTS REGARDING PAINTS PURCHASED BY THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

77. THE HONOURABLE SIR PHIROZE SETHNA : (a) Is it a fact that the Carriage and Wagons Department have made complaints in regard to some paints purchased by the Eastern Bengal Railway without inviting tenders and that the Stores Department have persisted in placing orders for the same paint with particular firms ?

(b) Is it a fact that some of these firms are not dealers in paints ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT : (a) No complaints have been received with regard to paints supplied during 1927, but complaints were received regarding the supply made by one firm during 1926, and the firm was not asked to quote for 1927 requirements.

(b) The answer is in the negative.

PROTECTION FOR THE LOCOMOTIVE AND WAGON INDUSTRIES.

78. THE HONOURABLE SIR PHIROZE SETHNA : (a) Have Government directed the Tariff Board to frame any recommendations on the question of protection for the locomotive and wagon industries ?

(b) If so, have the Tariff Board made a report on the subject, and will Government be pleased to lay a copy on the table ?

(c) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative and the answer to the first part of (b) is in the negative, when do Government expect such a report from the Tariff Board ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT : The Tariff Board have submitted a report regarding the grant of protection to the manufacture of wagons and underframes under the terms of reference contained in the Government of India Resolution No. 260-T. (64), dated the 3rd April, 1926. The report is now under consideration and will be published as soon as possible. As regards locomotives, the Peninsular Locomotive Company, Limited, was the only company in India concerned with their manufacture. As this company has recently been acquired by Government it has become unnecessary for the Board to consider the question of granting protection to the locomotive industry.

ISSUE OF £5,000,000 INDIAN TREASURY BILLS.

79. THE HONOURABLE SIR PHIROZE SETHNA : Will Government be pleased to state :—

(i) when they gave instructions for the issue of £5,000,000 Indian Treasury Bills ; and

(ii) for what rates were they issued, with the names of the parties to whom they were issued, and in what amounts ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. C. MCWATTERS : (i) Under section 28 (1) of the Government of India Act, tenders for Sterling Treasury Bills for £5 M51CS

million, were called for by the Secretary of State in Council on the 22nd July 1927 for payment on the 29th.

(ii) The average discount rate of accepted tenders was £4-9-9-3d. per cent. Information regarding the names of parties and the amounts allotted to them is not available.

**SALE OF SILVER HELD IN THE UNITED KINGDOM ON ACCOUNT OF THE PAPER CURRENCY RESERVE.**

80. THE HONOURABLE SIR PHIROZE SETHNA : (a) Will Government be pleased to state when they gave orders for the sale of silver which was held in the United Kingdom on account of the paper currency reserve ?

(b) How much has been sold and at what rates ?

(c) Which firm or firms of bullion dealers were employed by Government for the sale of this silver ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. C. McWATTERS : The Government of India sold in July 1927 silver bullion amounting approximately to 9,200,000 fine ounces held in the Paper Currency Reserve in India. They regret they cannot give any further information.

**NUMBER OF MEN IN RECEIPT OF OVER RS. 500 A MONTH IN THE TELEGRAPH WORKSHOPS IN CALCUTTA.**

81. THE HONOURABLE SIR PHIROZE SETHNA : (a) Will Government be pleased to state how many men are receiving more than Rs. 500 a month in the telegraph workshops in Calcutta ?

(b) How many men are Indians by descent, and how many are statutory Indians ?

(c) Are any steps taken to train Indians in this direction and, if so, what ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. C. McWATTERS : (a) Nine, including officiating incumbents.

(b) Two are Indians by descent and two statutory Indians.

(c) The matter is now under consideration of Government, and I am not in a position to state what steps are likely to be taken in the matter.

**RECRUITMENT OF INDIANS FOR LOCO. AND WORKSHOP POSTS ON STATE RAILWAYS.**

82. THE HONOURABLE SIR PHIROZE SETHNA : (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether orders have been given by them for the recruitment of Indians for Loco. and Workshop posts in State Railways in accordance with the percentage recommended by the Lee Commission ?

(b) How do actual recruitments during 1926-27 compare with the percentage recommended ?

(c) What do Government intend to do to expedite the rate of Indianisation in this direction ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT : (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to the Railway Department Resolution No. 2058-E., dated 15th July 1926, stating that the Government of India accepted the



recommendation of the Lee Commission that existing facilities should be pressed forward as expeditiously as possible in order that recruitment in India may be advanced as soon as practicable up to 75 per cent. of the total number of vacancies in the Railway Department as a whole. The regulations for recruitment for the Mechanical Engineering and Transportation (Power) Departments—i.e., for Locomotive and Workshop posts—on State-worked Railways were published as an annexure to that Resolution.

(b) Two appointments were made in 1926-27, one of which was an Indian. In addition 6 Indian apprentices have also been appointed.

(c) A scheme has been introduced whereby Indian apprentices will be recruited and trained in this country for appointment to the superior Mechanical, Engineering and Transportation (Power) Departments of State Railways.

SYSTEM OF RUPEE TENDER FOR THE PURCHASE OF GOVERNMENT STORES.

83. THE HONOURABLE SIR PHIROZE SETHNA : (a) Will Government be pleased to state when it is proposed to adopt the system of rupee tender for purchases of all Government departments ?

(b) What is the progress made in this scheme and why has it been held up so long ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. C. MCWATTERS : (a) It is not possible to state exactly when the system of rupee tender for purchase of Government stores will come into force. The Honourable member may, however, rest assured that the system will be introduced at the earliest possible date.

(b) A Committee has for some time past been engaged in redrafting the Stores Rules so as to give effect to this change of policy. The matters under consideration are far from simple and disposal of them has necessarily taken some time.

THE HONOURABLE SIR PHIROZE SETHNA : A Departmental Committee, I suppose ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. C. MCWATTERS : Yes, Sir.

VALUE OF STORES PURCHASED BY THE RAILWAY DEPARTMENT THROUGH THE INDIAN STORES DEPARTMENT.

84. THE HONOURABLE SIR PHIROZE SETHNA : (a) Will Government be pleased to state the value of stores purchased by the Railway Department of the Government through the Indian Stores Department during the last twelve months for which complete accounts are available ?

(b) What percentage does this form of the total purchases by the State Railways ?

(c) What steps have been taken to increase this percentage ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT : (a) The value of stores purchased for State-worked Railways by the Indian Stores Department in 1926-27 amounted to Rs. 70,23,000.

(b) 4.83 per cent. of the total purchases excluding the cost of such stores as coal, coke, stone, lime, ballast, etc.

(c) Agents of State-worked Railways have been instructed to make the fullest use of the Indian Stores Department as a purchasing agency in all

cases in which they consider that the Department's services can advantageously be utilised: During the last three years the purchases through that Department have grown from Rs. 45,86,000 to Rs. 70,23,000.

THE HONOURABLE SIR PHIROZE SETHNA: Have Government discovered that there are cases when the Agents could utilise the services of the Indian Stores Department and have not so utilised them?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT: I have no information, Sir.

**BASIS OF CALCULATION OF THE ANTICIPATED RETURN ADOPTED BY THE RAILWAY BOARD IN SANCTIONING EXPENDITURE ON OPEN LINES.**

85. THE HONOURABLE SIR PHIROZE SETHNA: (a) Will Government be pleased to state the basis of calculation of the anticipated return adopted by the Railway Board in sanctioning capital expenditure on open lines?

(b) Do they calculate what return will be secured on the new expenditure?

(c) How is this calculation made with regard to extensions to workshops?

(d) With reference to the statement in one of the papers, accompanying the railway budget last year, that expenditure on a particular workshop is calculated to give 8 per cent. return, will Government be pleased to lay on the table details of how this calculation was made?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT: (a) The basis is fully explained in the memorandum placed before the Standing Finance Committee for Railways in November 1925—*vide* pages 32 and 33 of Volume II, No. 4 of the Proceedings of the Committee.

(b) Yes.

(c) By applying the general principles enunciated in the memorandum referred to and by taking into account the important factors that come into play in connection with proposals for the extension of workshops.

(d) The Honourable Member refers, I think, to the scheme for remodelling the Kanchrapara workshops. The details of the anticipated economies which give a return of 8 per cent. on the estimated capital outlay involved are given in the Proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways of January 1926 (Volume II, No. 6, page 13).

**NUMBER OF BRANCHES OPENED BY THE IMPERIAL BANK.**

86. THE HONOURABLE SIR PHIROZE SETHNA: (a) Will Government be pleased to state how many Branches the Imperial Bank have opened till now in accordance with arrangements undertaken by them?

(b) What is the amount of funds which each Branch is allowed to keep free of interest, and are any maxima and minima fixed?

(c) Have Government asked the Bank to open Branches in certain places and has the Bank refused? If so, at which places?

(d) What is the total increase in the number of Branches of all Banks in India other than the Imperial Bank since the Imperial Bank of India Act was passed?

**THE HONOURABLE MR. A. C. MCWATTERS :** (a) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to paragraph 29 of the Report of the Controller of the Currency for 1926-27.

(b) There is no separate limit for individual branches. The Government keep all their balances free of interest with the Bank as a whole under the agreement.

(c) The answer to the first part is in the negative. The second part does not arise.

(d) The information is being collected and will be supplied to the Honourable Member.

**SAFEGUARDING OF THE INTERESTS OF INDIANS IN EAST AFRICA.**

**87. THE HONOURABLE SIR PHIROZE SETHNA :** What suggestions, if any, have Government received with regard to the appointment of an Agent or a Sub-Agent in East Africa for safeguarding the interests of Indian residents there and what negotiations with the East African Government have taken place on the subject ?

**THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH :** The Government of India have received no formal suggestion to appoint an agent in East Africa, but they themselves have considered the matter from time to time and do not propose to proceed further with it until experience has been gained of the appointment recently made by them in South Africa. No negotiations on the subject have taken place between the Government of India and the Kenya Government.

**PURCHASE FOR THE ARMY OF PLOT NO. 8 ON THE BACK BAY SCHEME.**

**88. THE HONOURABLE SIR PHIROZE SETHNA :** Will Government be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the Development Department of Bombay have asked them to take over for the Army, Plot No. 8, which has been prepared for them on the Back Bay Scheme ;
- (b) if so, what are the difficulties pointed out by the Government of India in taking over this plot ;
- (c) when do Government expect to take it over ;
- (d) what is the amount which Government will pay and under which head in the Army estimates will this amount appear ; and
- (e) has this matter been placed before the Standing Finance Committee ?

**HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF :** (a) It has been agreed between the Government of India and the Government of Bombay that Plot No. 8 will be taken over as soon as it is ready.

(b) The Government of India have pointed out no difficulties.

(c) As soon as it is in a fit condition for use by the military authorities and properly levelled for purposes of surface drainage.

(d) The estimated amount is about Rs. 230 lakhs. The sum due to the Government of Bombay will be adjusted in that Government's loan account as a repayment of loans outstanding in the Provincial Loans Account, which is a civil head.

(e) No : transactions of this kind are not by custom placed before the Committee.

#### TAXATION OF THE IMPORTS OF JAPANESE TEXTILE GOODS INTO INDIA.

89. THE HONOURABLE SIR PHIROZE SETHNA : (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether any representation has been received from His Majesty's Government by them with regard to the recommendation of the Indian Textile Board involving the proposal for taxing the imports of Japanese textile goods into India ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to lay a copy on the table or communicate to this House the gist of such representation and any reply which may have been given by the Government of India ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### PURCHASE OF WAGONS AND LOCOMOTIVES.

90. THE HONOURABLE SIR PHIROZE SETHNA : (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have received a letter from the Indian Merchants Chamber asking for particulars as to the purchase of wagons and locomotives during the last few years ?

(b) What is the date of this letter ?

(c) Has any reply been sent ? If so, will Government be pleased to place a copy on the table ?

(d) If no reply has been sent, will Government say when they propose to reply ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT : (a) Yes.

(b) 14th April, 1927.

(c) No reply has yet been sent.

(d) A report has recently been received from the Tariff Board in which the purchase of wagons by the Railway Board is

12 Noon. discussed. A reply will be sent to the letter from the Indian Merchants' Chamber, as soon as it is possible to publish the Board's Report.

#### VALUE OF BOOKS IMPORTED INTO INDIA.

91. THE HONOURABLE SIR PHIROZE SETHNA : Do the Customs authorities keep particulars of the value of books imported into India under classifications, such as :

- (i) school and college books,
- (ii) literary, scientific and other kinds, and
- (iii) novels ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. C. MCWATTERS : The answer is in the negative.

#### PROMOTION OF SUITABLE MUSLIMS FROM THE PROVINCIAL SERVICES TO THE ALL-INDIA SERVICES.

92. THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHMOOD SUHRAWARDY : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the approximate period by which it

proposes to reach the proportions recommended by the Lee Commission in the All-India Services, by promotions from the Provincial Service ?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it considered the expediency of appointing suitable Muslims in the All-India Services, by promotions from the Provincial Services, if for any reasons the number of Muslims appearing in and passing the simultaneous competitive examinations held in India and England be not up to the mark in any of the Provinces ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. G. HAIG : (a) In the Indian Service of Engineers the system of allotting 20 per cent. of the recruitment to officers promoted from the Provincial Service, as recommended by the Lee Commission, has been introduced. In the Indian Forest Service no definite proportion of recruitment by promotion was recommended, but steps are being taken to increase the number of such promotions on a systematic basis. In regard to the Indian Civil Service and Indian Police Service the accepted system is to make promotions to what are usually called listed posts and the principles to govern the rate of increase in the number of listed posts up to the proportion recommended by the Lee Commission are at the moment under careful consideration.

(b) As I informed the Honourable Member on the 5th March last in reply to part (iv) of his question No. 116, efficiency is the guiding principle in making promotions from a Provincial to an all-India Service. The representation of minority communities is secured by the reservation of vacancies for direct recruitment, and Government will not be prepared to give weight to communal considerations when it is a question of making promotions.

#### REPORT OF THE INDIAN SANDHURST COMMITTEE.

93. THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHMOOD SUHRAWARDY : (a) Do the Government propose to publish the full unanimous report of the Indian Sandhurst Committee ?

(b) Do the Government of India propose to give immediate effect to the recommendations made in the said Report ?

(c) If so, will the Government be pleased to state what steps have been taken in this direction ?

(d) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the minutes of the proceedings of the public meeting, on this subject, held in Bombay on the 5th of August, 1927, which was published in the papers ?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : (a) The Government published the Committee's report at the beginning of April 1927.

(b) and (c). No statement of policy can be made and no action can be taken in connexion with the report at the present stage.

(d) Government have seen reports of the meeting.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INDIAN TAXATION ENQUIRY COMMITTEE.

94. THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHMOOD SUHRAWARDY : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the reasons for delaying in giving effect to the recommendations of the Indian Taxation Enquiry Committee ?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state what steps, if any, have been taken to expedite the matter ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. C. MCWATTERS : (a). (1) The Government of India are not directly concerned with most of the recommendations relating to local taxation and the financial relations between local authorities and Provincial Governments. In July 1926, Provincial Governments were requested to consider these recommendations and to inform the Government of India in due course what action they proposed to take thereon. Reports from five of the Provinces are still due and one of them has stated in reply to a reminder that the report is under detailed discussion by the Departments concerned and that it is impossible to promise an early reply.

(2) On most of the recommendations relating to Provincial taxation, the Government of India have come to provisional conclusions and have requested Provincial Governments to indicate to them their views or decisions in due course. Several of the Provincial Governments have sent their replies. The others have been reminded periodically.

(3) In respect of central taxation, the recommendations of the Committee have been receiving the close attention of the Government, who have come to definite conclusions on most of the points. As the Honourable Member is aware, effect has been given to some of the recommendations in the Budgets of 1926-27 and 1927-28. The cotton excise duty and the export duty on tea have been abolished and the import duty on motor cars and tyres has been reduced. The proposal to abolish the export duty on hides was rejected in another place. The question of readjustments in the Meston Settlement was discussed at the Conference of Financial Representatives held in November 1926, and Provincial Governments will shortly be addressed on the detailed proposals.

(b) The Honourable Member will observe that the report is being dealt with expeditiously. The proposals, however, require detailed investigation, which cannot be completed within a short time, particularly as the great majority involve lengthy discussions with Provincial Governments. The majority of the proposals moreover do not call for immediate action, but rather suggest a policy to be pursued over a series of years.

#### PREVENTION OF SCURRILOUS ATTACKS ON THE RELIGION OF THE MUSSALMANS.

95. THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHMOOD SUHRAWARDY : (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the resolutions passed at public meetings by Mussalmans all over India and in London, regarding the judgment in the *Rangila Rasul* case in the Punjab ?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state what action they propose to take against such scurrilous attacks on the religion of the Mussalmans ?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state if they propose to amend the present law, so as to cover cases like the *Rangila Rasul* ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. G. HAIG : (a) Government have seen the resolutions referred to.

(b) and (c). Government are introducing a Bill this session with the object of strengthening the law against insults to religion.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. M. SUHRAWARDY :** Sir, is it a fact that according to the recent judgment delivered by the Acting Chief Justice of the Punjab High Court, the Honourable Mr. Justice Broadway, the decision of the Honourable Mr. Justice Dalip Singh is an *obiter dictum* and it remains a dead letter in the Law Report now, inasmuch as the ruling of the Allahabad High Court is affirmed by Mr. Justice Broadway ?

**THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT :** That is a matter of opinion on which the Honourable Member cannot ask a question.

#### APPOINTMENT OF THE HONOURABLE SIR DINSHAW WACHA TO THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

**THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT :** I have to announce to the Council that I have appointed the Honourable Sir Dinshaw Wacha to the Library Committee in the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. K. C. Roy from the Council.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO MEMBERS WHO HAVE RECEIVED HONOURS.

**THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT :** Honourable Members will expect me to take an early opportunity to refer to those of our colleagues who have received honours since we last met. I am sorry that the Honourable Sir Manmohandas Ramji is not here to-day, but he will no doubt read what I say, and I think we can assure him of the great pleasure afforded to us by the inclusion of his name in the list of new Knights created on the birthday of His Majesty the King Emperor, and I tender to him our sincere, and I am sure I may say our unanimous, congratulations.

The Honourable Sir Geoffrey Corbett's honour was conferred on him in respect of eminent public services rendered before he became a Member of this Council. Nevertheless that does not diminish our pleasure in the Knighthood which he has received, and in congratulating him on it we venture to share collectively in the honour which has been conferred upon him individually.

**THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT (Commerce Secretary) :** Sir, I am very grateful to you for the kind words you have spoken and for the way in which they have been received by this House. I will only say that it will always be a happy memory that I received this honour for work done under the leadership of the Leader of this House and in the company of another Honourable Member.

#### BILLS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY LAID ON THE TABLE.

**SECRETARY OF THE COUNCIL :** Sir, in accordance with Rule 25 of the Indian Legislative Rules, I lay on the table copies of a Bill to amend the Indian Bar Councils Act, 1926, for certain purposes, a Bill further to amend the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, 1923, a Bill to repeal and amend certain provisions of the Indian Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1908, and the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, a Bill further to amend the Indian Divorce Act for

[Secretary of the Council.]

a certain purpose, and of a Bill to repeal certain enactments, which Bills were passed by the Legislative Assembly at its meetings held on the 18th, 22nd and 24th August, 1927.

## REPORTS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEES ON THE GOLD STANDARD AND RESERVE BANK OF INDIA BILL AND THE IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA (AMENDMENT) BILL LAID ON THE TABLE.

SECRETARY OF THE COUNCIL: Sir, I lay on the table the reports of the Joint Committees on the Bill to establish a gold standard currency for British India, and constitute a Reserve Bank of India and on the Bill further to amend the Imperial Bank of India Act, 1920, for certain purposes.

## GOVERNOR GENERAL'S ASSENT TO BILLS.

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

- The Indian Limitation (Amendment) Act, 1927.
- The Indian Registration (Amendment) Act, 1927.
- The Steel Industry (Protection) Act, 1927.
- The Currency Act, 1927.
- The Indian Finance Act, 1927.
- The Indian Limitation (Second Amendment) Act, 1927.
- The Sea Customs (Amendment) Act, 1927.
- The Provident Funds (Amendment) Act, 1927.
- The Madras Salt (Amendment) Act, 1927.
- The Repealing and Amending Act, 1927.

## INDIAN LIGHTHOUSE BILL.

### PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE.

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT (Commerce Secretary): Sir, I beg to present the Report of the Joint Committee on the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to the provision, maintenance and control of lighthouses by the Government in British India.

## INDIAN SUCCESSION (AMENDMENT) BILL.

THE HONOURABLE MR. S. R. DAS (Law Member): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Succession Act, 1925, and the Married Women's Property Act, 1874.

This Bill deals with sections 223 and 236 of the Succession Act, 1925. Under those sections probate or letters of administration cannot be granted to a married woman if the deceased was a Christian without the consent of her husband. This rule was based on the old English law, as it stood at the time



these sections were originally enacted in the Act of 1865. Since then the English law has been considerably changed and at the present moment in England it is not necessary that a married woman should have the consent of her husband. The Bill proposes to bring the law here into conformity with the law in England. The amendment of the Married Women's Property Act proposed by clause 3 of the Bill is also with a view to bring the Indian law into conformity with the present English law.

Sir, I move.

The motion was adopted.

THE HONOURABLE MR. S. R. DAS : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

### INDIAN LIMITATION (AMENDMENT) BILL.

THE HONOURABLE MR. S. R. DAS (Law Member) : Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Limitation Act, 1908.

This Bill is introduced in pursuance of certain recommendations of the Civil Justice Committee and it deals with section 10 and articles 133 and 134 of the Limitation Act. Section 10, as Honourable Members are probably aware provides that no suit for certain purposes against a trustee of a specific trust is barred by limitation by any length of time. The Privy Council have decided that this section does not apply to managers of Hindu or Muhammadan endowments and the object of the Bill is to make the section applicable to such endowments. As to the two articles, 133 and 134, there has been a conflict of decision as to when the period of limitation begins under section 134 and the Bill proposes to set that conflict at rest. The Bill also proposes to reduce the period of limitation under article 133 to three years; (it is 12 years now)—the reason for that being that it deals with moveable properties and not immoveable properties. The Bill also is intended to make it clear that these two articles, 133 and 134, apply to Hindu and Muhammadan endowments.

Sir, I move.

The motion was adopted.

THE HONOURABLE MR. S. R. DAS : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

### ASSAM LABOUR AND EMIGRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL.

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. C. McWATTERS (Industries and Labour Secretary) : Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Assam Labour and Emigration Act, 1901, for certain purposes.

At this stage, Sir, I need not say more than a few words about this Bill which is of a purely formal character. Its object is simply to regularise the collection of cesses from employers under the Assam Labour and Emigration Act for the purposes of the Assam Labour Board. Owing to the somewhat peculiar wording of the Act of 1901, some doubt has been thrown on whether these cesses are being legally collected or not. They have in fact been collected ever since 1915. That is the sole object of the Bill.

Sir, I move.

The motion was adopted.

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. C. McWATTERS : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

## BODIES CORPORATE (JOINT OWNERSHIP) BILL.

THE HONOURABLE MR. S. R. DAS (Law Member): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to enable bodies corporate to hold property in joint ownership.

This Bill is introduced with a view to remove a defect in the law. Under the Indian Securities Act, 1920, when a Government security is held by two persons, it is provided that, on the death of one, the survivor becomes entitled to it. But a difficulty has arisen, when a Government security is held by an individual and a corporate body or by two corporate bodies, as to what happens if there is dissolution of one of the corporate bodies; because the question has arisen whether dissolution of a corporate body really amounts to death. The Bill is intended to make that clear and, following the English Act on the subject—the English Bodies Corporate (Joint Tenancy) Act, 1899—it is proposed now to enact that not only securities but properties may be held by two corporate bodies or by an individual and a corporate body, in which case on the dissolution of the corporate body, the survivor, the other joint owner, would be entitled to the whole of that property or security.

Sir, I move.

The motion was adopted.

THE HONOURABLE MR. S. R. DAS: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

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## PRESIDENCY-TOWNS INSOLVENCY (AMENDMENT) BILL.

THE HONOURABLE MR. S. R. DAS (Law Member): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Presidency-towns Insolvency Act, 1909, for certain purposes.

The object of this Bill is set out very fully in the Statement of Objects and Reasons and I do not propose to take up the time of the House at this stage. I may mention that the real object of the Bill is to make clear a conflict of practice which has arisen between the different High Courts under section 7 of the Presidency-towns Insolvency Act, and section 36 of that Act.

The motion was adopted.

THE HONOURABLE MR. S. R. DAS: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

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## INDIAN DIVORCE (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL.

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. G. HAIG (Home Secretary): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Divorce Act, for a certain purpose.

This is a small Bill which is intended to remedy a certain anomaly which has recently come to light. Under the Indian Christian Marriage Act, a valid marriage can be contracted between a Christian and a non-Christian, but under the provisions of the Indian Divorce Act, as it stands at present, relief can be given only where a petitioner professes the Christian religion. The object of this Bill is to put the non-Christian party to such a marriage on

exactly the same terms as the Christian party and to enable the non-Christian party also to apply for relief.

Sir, I move.

The motion was adopted.

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. G. HAIG : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

### INSOLVENCY (AMENDMENT) BILL.

THE HONOURABLE MR. S. R. DAS (Law Member) : Sir, I move that the Bill further to amend the Presidency-towns Insolvency Act, 1909, and the Provincial Insolvency Act, 1920, for certain purposes, as passed by the Legislative Assembly, be taken into consideration.

The object of this Bill is to prevent a debtor from repeatedly filing an application for adjudication without really any intention of proceeding with that application. What happens now is that a debtor who desires to prevent his creditors from suing him files his application for adjudication and thereafter takes no further proceedings under that, and finally his application is dismissed by the Court. If he gets into trouble again he promptly files another application, holds up his creditors and waits till the application is again dismissed. There have been cases where a debtor has followed this course more than three or four times, and the object of the Bill is to prevent a debtor from taking advantage of the present state of the law.

Clause 2 of the Bill provides that a debtor, in respect of whom an order of adjudication, whether made under this Act or under the Provincial Insolvency Act, has been annulled owing to his failure to apply or to prosecute an application for his discharge, shall not be entitled to present an insolvency petition without the leave of the Court by which the order of adjudication was annulled. Such Court shall not grant leave unless it is satisfied either that the debtor was prevented by any reasonable cause from presenting or prosecuting his application, as the case may be, or that the petition is founded on facts substantially different from those contained in the petition on which the order of adjudication was made.

Clause 3 deals with the case where a debtor in his second application fails to refer to the fact that his previous application had been dismissed for default and the Court grants a second or a subsequent application in ignorance of the fact that a previous application had been dismissed for default. It provides that the Court may of its own motion annul any adjudication made on the petition of a debtor who was, by reason of the provisions of sub-section (2) of section 14, not entitled to present such petition.

Clauses 4 and 5 of this Bill are intended to amend the Provincial Insolvency Act on the same lines.

• Sir, I move.

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2, 3, 4 and 5 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

[Mr. S. R. Das.]

The Title and Preamble were added to the Bill.

THE HONOURABLE MR. S. R. DAS : Sir, I move that the Bill, as passed by the Legislative Assembly, be passed.

The motion was adopted.

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#### STATEMENT OF BUSINESS.

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH (Leader of the House) : Sir, the List of Business for to-morrow is already in the hands of Honourable Members. Thereafter I understand that you will fix our next meeting for Friday in this week. On that day motions will be made to consider and pass the Lighthouse Bill, on which the Joint Committee's report was presented this morning, the Repealing Bill which was laid on the table to-day, and the Indian Succession Bill, the Indian Limitation Bill, the Bodies Corporate Bill and the Presidency-towns Insolvency Bill which were introduced to-day. The remaining official Bills introduced or laid on the table to-day will be proceeded with on Tuesday, the 6th September.

The Council then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 31st August, 1927.