

# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

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**TUESDAY, 2nd FEBRUARY, 1926**

**Vol. VII—No. 8**

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

*Tuesday, 2nd February, 1926.*

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

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## MEMBER SWORN:

Mr. Edgar Stuart Roffey, M.L.A. (Assam: European).

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## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

### RECRUITMENT OF INDIANS TO THE RAILWAY SERVICE OF ENGINEERS.

523. **\*Kumar Ganganand Sinha:** Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the rules and regulations for the recruitment of Indians in the State Railways as Engineers? How many of the said posts are guaranteed to the various Engineering Colleges in India?

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes:** Under the existing rules, officers of the Indian Railway Service of Engineers are recruited partly in England and partly in India. I have placed in the Library a copy of the latest regulations regarding recruitment in England. On the recommendation of the Public Services Commission new rules have been framed regarding recruitment in India. As soon as they are finally approved, I will take steps to place a copy of them in the Library. The guarantee system has been withdrawn from students entering the Indian Engineering Colleges in 1925 and subsequent years.

### GUARANTEE OF APPOINTMENTS IN THE INDIAN SERVICE OF ENGINEERS OR IN THE INDIAN RAILWAY SERVICE OF ENGINEERS TO QUALIFIED STUDENTS OF THE PATNA ENGINEERING COLLEGE.

524. **\*Kumar Ganganand Sinha:** Has any guarantee been given to the Patna Engineering College for the appointment of its qualified students to either the Indian Service of Engineers or as State Railways Engineers? If so, how many places are so guaranteed?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** No guarantee of appointments either in the Indian Service of Engineers or in the Indian Railway Service of Engineers has been given to students of the Patna Engineering College.

### METHOD OF RECRUITMENT TO THE INDIAN ARMY FROM THE DALY COLLEGE, INDORE.

525. **\*Kumar Ganganand Sinha:** Will the Government be pleased to state the method of recruitment to the Indian Army from the Indore College and lay on the table the rules and regulations for admission to the College?

**Mr. E. Burdon:** The Daly College, Indore, was used for one year from October 1918, as a training school for Indian candidates for temporary King's commissions. This arrangement ceased altogether in October 1919, and there are consequently no rules or regulations in existence on the subject.

#### APPOINTMENT OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

**526. \*Kumar Ganganand Sinha:** Will the Government be pleased to state the probable date of the formation of the Public Service Commission for India and the reasons why such a formation is being delayed?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman:** I would refer the Honourable Member to the answer given by me to Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh on the 21st January, 1926.

#### DATE OF THE COMPLETION OF THE WORK OF THE CURRENCY COMMISSION.

**527. \*Kumar Ganganand Sinha:** Will the Government be pleased to state when the Currency Commission is expected to finish its labours?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** It is I understand not improbable that the Commission may be able to complete their work by the end of June next, but I am not in a position to make a definite statement at present.

#### DETENTION OF MR. SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE UNDER REGULATION III OF 1818.

**528. \*Syed Majid Baksh:** 1. Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a thorough perusal of evidence and information was made before issuing orders for arrests under Regulation III of 1818? Is this also a fact so far as Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose is concerned? If so, will the Government, without mentioning names and endangering personal safety, be pleased to answer the following particulars:

- (a) Under what garb were the informants employed to keep watch over Subhas Chandra Bose?
- (b) What was their position in life before employment?
- (c) Did they keep watch over him while he was at home, while he was in the municipal office and while he was on tour?
- (d) Is it contained in their reports that Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose rose in the morning to find that long before he left his bed his office and even his private apartments were filled with candidates for posts in the Calcutta Corporation and other matters regarding business; that he finished his tea within half an hour and hastily conferring with this sundry assortment of people he soon left in his car on inspection tour; that he returned again at 11 A.M., found the same sort of people waiting and after finishing his bath and midday meal within an hour left for the office and did not return again before 11 o'clock in the night; that he found the same kind of people again waiting for him some of them asleep at that hour in the night; that these people had no bar to go even

to his private chambers; that it was not possible to hold secret conference before such people; that exhausted by the day's work he hastily took his meal and almost immediately went to bed and it was physically impossible for him to awake before sunrise the next day; that this was invariably the case without a single day's exception?

2. What is the hour mentioned by the C. I. D. agent at which Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose held secret conclave with the revolutionaries?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman:** I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply given by me on the 28th January, 1925, to question No. 366, asked by Pandit Nilakantha Das, to which I have nothing to add.

#### REMOVAL OF STATE PRISONERS TO THE MANDALAY JAIL.

529. **\*Syed Majid Baksh:** Will the Government be pleased to state if there is any special reason for the removal of State prisoners to Mandalay? Why was Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose or Satyendra Chandra Mitra removed to Mandalay?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman:** I invite the Honourable Member's attention to the speech made by the Honourable Sir Hugh Stephenson in the Bengal Legislative Council on the 11th December last on a Resolution recommending the repeal of the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1925. A copy of the debate containing the speech will be found in the Members' Library.

#### LOCATION OF THE GOLD STANDARD RESERVE IN INDIA.

530. **\*Syed Majid Baksh:** (a) In reply to my starred question No. 324 in the Simla Session, 1925, the Honourable Finance Member answered that £40,202,537 are deposited in England as the Gold Standard Reserve up to April 30th, 1925, and in reply to my starred question No. 325 during the same Session the same Honourable Member stated that the Reserve is maintained for the purpose of being transferred to India during exchange weakness and retransferred to England as the exchange resumes strength. Will the Government be pleased to state what objection there can be if the whole of the Gold Standard Reserve is deposited in India and transferred to England and retransferred to India according as the exigencies of the exchange situation required?

(b) If there be no objection do the Government propose to do that?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** The use and location of the Gold Standard Reserve is a subject which is within the terms of reference of the Currency Commission now sitting and I would suggest that the Honourable Member should await their report.

#### INADEQUACY OF TRAIN SERVICE BETWEEN BONGONG AND RANAGHAT.

531. **\*Syed Majid Baksh:** (1) Are the Government aware:

(a) that passenger trains running between Bongong and Ranaghat are not at all adequate considering the importance of the line which forms the connecting link between the two important main lines of the Eastern Bengal Railway:



- (b) that even the few trains that run between those stations have hardly been known to keep punctuality to the scheduled time in the time table:
- (c) that passengers travelling by the down Chandpur mail invariably fail to catch the corresponding down Bongong passenger which very often leaves Ranaghat only a few minutes before the down Chandpur mail arrives and the unfortunate passengers have to wait for ten or twelve hours before they get the next train for their journey on the main Khulna line:
- (d) that the down Ranaghat passenger from Bongong which is said to be corresponding to the Darjeeling mail on the main line seldom reaches Ranaghat before the Darjeeling mail in spite of the time table: and
- (e) that recently a European doctor of Jessore, an I. M. S., and a Deputy Magistrate both of whom were witnesses in a Sessions case at Jalpaiguri travelling by the said passenger to Ranaghat missed the corresponding Darjeeling mail by a few minutes only and in consequence the case at Jalpaiguri had to be postponed?

(2) Will the Government consider the desirability of remedying the above grievances?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** Government have no information. These are matters which should be brought to the notice of the Agent through his Local Advisory Committee.

#### CONSTRUCTION OF A PLATFORM AT JHIKARGACHA GHAT STATION ON THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

582. **\*Syed Majid Rahim:** (a) Are the Government aware that Jhikargacha Ghat station is a very important station on the Khulna Calcutta line?

(b) Are the Government aware that several maunds of jute are booked every year from this station and that it is the terminus of the most important feeder steamship lines in that part of the country?

(c) Are the Government also aware that in this important railway station there is no platform whatsoever and that there is a frail woodwork which is below the level of the railway line itself?

(d) Are the Government aware that passengers both male and female travelling by day and night have to suffer great hardship for want of a platform and sometimes run the risk of breaking their limbs?

(e) Is it a fact that for the last twenty years a terminal tax of one pice per ticket has been realised from passengers for building a station and platform and that yet the station and platform have not been built?

(f) When will the Government remedy these grievances?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** (a), (b), (c), (d) and (f). Government are not aware of the inconveniences complained of. A copy of the question and answer will be sent to the Agent, Eastern Bengal Railway, for such action as he may consider necessary.

(e) The Government are making inquiries.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE REMITTANCE OF SOLDIERS' SAVINGS TO  
ENGLAND.

538. **Mr. Jambadas M. Mehta:** (i) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the telegram from Delhi, dated 20th November, 1925, published in the *Times of India* of the 21st November, 1925, purporting to be from its Delhi correspondent under the title "The Soldier's Savings"?

(ii) Will Government state what the Indian Army Orders by H. E. the Commander-in-Chief referred to in the said telegram are?

(iii) Will Government explain the difference between remittance through ordinary channels and remittance "through public accounts", for deposit in the Post Office Savings Bank, London?

(iv) Will Government mention the rate of exchange for remittance through public accounts?

(v) What is the net pay earned by a soldier in a year and what is the gross pay?

(vi) Do Government realise that under the limit fixed for remittance "through public accounts" the friends, relations and even ordinary acquaintances of the soldiers concerned are likely to take advantage of the facilities offered by the Army Orders?

(vii) If the answer to (vi) is in the affirmative, will Government state what steps they have taken or propose to take to ensure that soldiers will remit only their own savings under the facilities made available to them?

(viii) What is the estimated amount of annual expenditure likely to be borne by Indian revenues as a result of this remittance arrangement?

**Mr. E. Burdon:** (i) Government have seen a copy of the telegram referred to by the Honourable Member.

(ii) India Army Order No. 984 of 1925. The arrangement has been in force since 1908, and this India Army Order merely raises the maximum limit of the amount that can be remitted.

(iii) Ordinary channels are those resorted to by the general public when remitting money from one place to another. The public accounts referred to are the inward and outward accounts current maintained between the Government of India and the India Office.

(iv) The market rate of exchange.

(v) The pay of a soldier varies according to his rank and the arm of the Service to which he belongs. The Honourable Member will find the rates of pay, etc., of all soldiers serving in India in the Pay and Allowance Regulations, Parts I and II, copies of which are in the Library.

(vi) The friends and relations of a soldier would be most unlikely to adopt such a device. It would not benefit them pecuniarily, but on the other hand, would cause them considerable inconvenience, as the soldier's account in the Post Office Savings Bank could of course only be operated on by himself.

(vii) Does not arise.

(viii) The revised arrangement involves no additional expenditure.

### LEVY OF CANTONMENT TAXES ON RELIGIOUS AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE AMBALA CANTONMENT.

584. **\*Mr. Ismail Khan:** (a) Is it a fact that the Northern Command has issued orders to the Cantonment Board of Ambala to levy cantonment taxes on religious and educational institutions, which have been exempt from the payment of such taxes for several years past?

(b) If the answer to the above question is in the affirmative, are the Government prepared to instruct the Northern Command to revoke the above-mentioned order?

**Mr. E. Burdon:** I am making inquiries into the matter and will let the Honourable Member know the result as soon as possible.

### SUBSTITUTION OF A TERMINAL TAX FOR OCTROI IN THE AMBALA CANTONMENT.

585. **\*Mr. Ismail Khan:** (a) Are the Government aware that the Cantonment Board, Ambala, unanimously submitted a proposal that terminal tax be introduced in Ambala Cantonment in place of octroi and requested the Northern Command to forward the proposal to the Local Government for sanction?

(b) Is it a fact that the Northern Command has taken no action on the proposal and that the trade of the Cantonment has suffered considerably in consequence?

**Mr. E. Burdon:** I am inquiring into the matter and will let the Honourable Member know the result as soon as possible.

### APPOINTMENT OF JUNIOR MILITARY OFFICERS TO THE AMBALA CANTONMENT BOARD.

586. **\*Mr. Ismail Khan:** (a) Is it a fact that very junior military officers are being appointed as members to the Cantonment Board of Ambala?

(b) If so, do the Government propose to issue instructions that, as far as possible, only senior officers should be nominated?

**Mr. E. Burdon:** (a) I presume the Honourable Member is referring to the nomination of military members under section 14(1) (e) of the Cantonments Act, 1924. If so, the Government of India have no information on the point.

(b) The Government of India do not propose to interfere with the statutory discretion conferred by this section on the Commanding Officers of Cantonments.

### WRITING OFF OF LOSSES OF MONEY BY CANTONMENT BOARDS.

587. **\*Mr. Ismail Khan:** (a) Are the Government aware that under section 14 (ii) of the Cantonment Account Code, 1924, a Cantonment Board has no power to write off a loss of cantonment money, however small it may be?

(b) Do the Government propose so to modify the rule as to provide that every loss of cantonment money up to Rs. 100 can be written off by the Cantonment Board on condition that it submits a report thereof to the Local Government?

**Mr. E. Burdon:** (a) and (b). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to draft Rule 2 in Army Department notification No. 1686, dated 18th December, 1925, which was published in the *Gazette of India* of the 19th December, 1925. He will see from that notification that rule 14 of the Cantonment Account Code is already under revision.

#### PRESIDENTS OF CANTONMENT BOARDS.

538. **\*Mr. Ismail Khan:** (a) Is it a fact that under the Government of India Circular No. 29136-2-A. D., dated 12th June, 1925, every officer commanding the station assumes the duties of the President of the Cantonment Board automatically without being appointed to that office?

(b) Is it a fact that section 23 (b) of the Cantonments Act, 1924, distinctly contemplates "appointment of the presidents", and if so, will the Government be pleased to state how and by whom such appointments are to be made?

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

(b) I would refer the Honourable Member to sub-section (1) of section 20 of the Act and must leave him to draw his own conclusions regarding the effect of section 23 (b).

**Sir Hari Singh Gour:** May I beg to inquire if it is a fact that the Vice-President of a Cantonment Board never gets a chance of presiding at a meeting of the Board in view of what the Honourable Member has said?

**Mr. E. Burdon:** No, that is not altogether the case, Sir.

**Sir Hari Singh Gour:** May I beg to inquire if it is a fact that as soon as the Commanding Officer leaves the station some other officer immediately takes his place and becomes *ipso facto* the President of the Cantonment Board?

**Mr. E. Burdon:** Yes, Sir, there is always an officer commanding the station.

**Sir Hari Singh Gour:** Does it not then follow that, as there is never a vacancy of an officer commanding the station, the Vice-President never gets a chance of presiding at a meeting of the Board?

**Mr. E. Burdon:** No, Sir, it might occasionally happen that the President is not able to preside at a particular meeting, in which case the Vice-President would take the Chair.

**Sir Hari Singh Gour:** Is the Honourable Member aware of any instance where that has occurred?

**Mr. E. Burdon:** No, Sir, I am not. I do not see how I could be expected to be.

#### APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS BY CANTONMENT BOARDS.

539. **\*Mr. Ismail Khan:** Has the Governor General in Council directed any Cantonment Board in India to appoint Executive Officers as contemplated by the proviso to section 18 of the Cantonments Act? Do the Government propose to apply this proviso to large cantonments?

**Mr. E. Burdon:** The answer to both parts of the question is in the negative. Power has been taken to enable a Cantonment Board, under suitable restrictions, to appoint its own Executive Officer, but Government do not anticipate that it will be desirable to make use of this power for some time to come.

### GRANT OF MOTOR ALLOWANCES TO EXECUTIVE OFFICERS IN CANTONMENTS.

540. **\*Mr. Ismail Khan:** Does the Government of India Circular No. 27477-A. D., dated 2nd July, 1924, make it obligatory on Cantonment Boards to give a motor allowance of Rs. 100 per mensem to Executive Officers?

**Mr. E. Burdon:** No, Sir.

### REDUCTION OF RAILWAY PARCEL RATES FOR PLANTS.

541. **\*Mr. Ismail Khan:** (1) Is it a fact that only half the parcel rate is charged on flowers, while the full parcel rate is charged on plants?

(2) Is it not a fact that before the war only half the parcel rate was charged on plants also?

(3) Are the Government prepared to consider the advisability of reducing the charges on the transport of plants to pre-war rates?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** (1) and (2). The reply is in the affirmative.

(3) In view of the fact that packages of plants occupy considerable space Government are not prepared to recommend any general reduction in rates.

### RISE IN THE PRICE OF WHEAT.

542. **\*Raja Raghunandan Prasad Singh:** Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the rate of the rise in the price of wheat in the country, especially in Bihar and Orissa, and the distress caused thereby to the poor and middle classes? Do the Government propose to take prompt and effective measures to check a further rise and to bring down the price to the level of two months ago?

**Mr. J. W. Shore:** (1) The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative.

(2) Government as at present advised do not propose to take the action suggested. The exports of food grains during 1925 were not in any way abnormal and it is considered that the rise in wheat prices was in sympathy with the rise in prices in other parts of the world. It is possible that this rise may not be maintained.

†543.

### CONSTITUTION OF A PRIVY COUNCIL FOR INDIA.

544. **\*Raja Raghunandan Prasad Singh:** Will the Government be pleased to say whether they contemplate the constitution of a Privy Council for India?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman:** No.

### REPORT OF THE REFORMS INQUIRY COMMITTEE.

545. **\*Raja Raghunandan Prasad Singh:** Will the Government kindly state when the decision of the Government of India on the Muddiman Committee's Report will be published?

†Answered along with question No. 447 on the 1st February, 1926.

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman:** I am afraid that I am unable to state when the final decision on all the recommendations of the Committee over which I had the honour to preside will be announced.

**Sir Hari Singh Gour:** Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state when the decision is reached if the Legislative Assembly will be informed of it?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman:** I thought they had already had a very good opportunity of debating my Report.

**Sir Hari Singh Gour:** No, Sir. I asked whether, when the decision is reached, it will be announced to the Members of the Legislative Assembly and they will be asked to consider it?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman:** Sir, the decisions will be made public in the usual way. I cannot guarantee that I shall announce it in the Legislative Assembly. It might not be sitting.

**Sir Hari Singh Gour:** I have still a question which is not answered and that question is, when the decision is made, will the Government give this House an opportunity to pronounce its views on that decision?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman:** The Muddiman Committee Report made many recommendations. Some I have already brought before this House, others I am prepared to bring before this House; others are matters which do not concern this House. When the decision of Government is taken that will not be brought before this House, naturally, unless it is raised in the House in the usual way.

#### INTRODUCTION OF A CHEAP TELEGRAPH MESSAGE SYSTEM FOR CHRISTMAS, DASAHRA, ID AND NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS.

546. **\*Raja Raghunandan Prasad Singh:** Do Government propose to introduce a cheap-rate telegraph message system in India to convey Christmas, Dasahra, Id and New Year's greetings from one part of the country to another?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** The reply is in the negative.

#### OPENING CEREMONY OF THE NEW ASSEMBLY CHAMBER AT RAISINA.

547. **\*Raja Raghunandan Prasad Singh:** Is it a fact that Lord Reading before leaving India in April will perform the opening ceremony of the new Assembly Chamber at Raisina?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** The reply is in the negative.

#### MAXIMUM SCALE OF ELECTION EXPENSES PRESCRIBED BY RULE 20(A) OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTORAL RULES.

548. **\*Raja Raghunandan Prasad Singh:** Will the Government be pleased to say whether any maximum scale of election expenses has been fixed by the Governor General in Council as required by rule 20 (a) of the Legislative Assembly Electoral Rules? If not, when will it be so fixed?

**Mr. L. Graham:** The rule to which the Honourable Member refers empowers the Governor General in Council to fix maximum scales of election expenses, but does not require him to do so. The question of fixing maximum scales is under consideration.

## FUTURE OF THE IMPERIAL LIBRARY.

549. **\*Raja Raghunandan Prasad Singh:** Have the Government arrived at any decision regarding the future of the Imperial Library which was under the consideration of the Government?

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

**Sir Hari Singh Gour:** May I beg to inquire how long it will be before this long-pending question is decided by Government?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore:** I regret I cannot enlighten the Honourable Member on this point.

## ISSUE OF RETURN TICKETS TO BHAGALPORE, MONGHYR AND PATNA.

550. **\*Raja Raghunandan Prasad Singh:** Do the Government propose to include Bhagalpore, Monghyr and Patna, in the list of stations whereto return tickets have been ordered to be issued?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** The matter is within the competence of the Agent. The Honourable is also referred to the reply given to part (b) of question No. 369 asked by Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh.

## SUPPRESSION OF THE SLAVE TRAFFIC IN ARABIA.

551. **\*Dr. S. K. Datta:** (a) Has attention of the Government been called to a statement which appears in the *Manchester Guardian Weekly* of December the 4th, 1925, in connection with a debate in the House of Lords on December the 16th, on the question of slavery in Arabia? The statement is as follows:

"It is alleged that a large number of slaves are sold into Arabia from India and Nigeria and from the Italian and French Colonies".

(b) Are Government prepared to give information regarding the Indians who were sold into slavery?

(c) Will the Government state:

- (i) from what parts of India these persons are taken: and
- (ii) the number of such persons taken into slavery during the past ten years?

(d) What steps has Government taken to free these British Indian subjects?

(e) What steps have been taken to permanently suppress the traffic?

**Sir Denys Bray:** I have not seen the *Manchester Guardian Weekly* of the 4th December but can assure the Honourable Member that the allegation is without foundation.

**Dr. S. K. Dutt:** Has the attention of the Honourable Member been called to the debate in the House of Lords raised by Earl Buxton on the 16th December which makes a definite allegation that slave dealers kidnap girls and other pilgrims on pilgrimage, and may I know whether any of those who are kidnapped are British Indian subjects or not?

**Sir Denys Bray:** I have read the debate, Sir, and I have seen the statement to which he refers. We have had from time to time statements made that here and there a child who has been taken on pilgrimage has been

either disposed of by the parents in the Hedjaz or has otherwise remained behind in the Hedjaz, but it has in almost all cases been quite impossible to carry the matter further than that. It looks on the face of it as if such cases as those to which my Honourable friend referred are mostly cases in which the child is disposed of, possibly for religious purposes, with the consent of the parents.

**Dr. S. K. Datta:** May I ask whether the British Agent—whoever the British Agent may be, possibly the British Consul General—has this matter under his consideration or whether this matter has been brought to his attention?

**Sir Denys Bray:** His Majesty's Consul at Jeddah has this matter of slavery and practices approximating to slavery in the Holy Land very much under his examination the whole time. There are very great difficulties in the way, as my Honourable friend may have imagined, but it is hoped that under the new régime those difficulties will disappear.

#### THE TAMBANG ESTATE CASE IN THE FEDERATED MALAY STATES.

552. **\*Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta:** (i) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the case of "two Malayalee estate labourers"—a father and a son—who were charged with attempt to extort money from two European employees of the Tambang Rubber Estate of the Dunlop Plantations' properties in the Federated Malay States in 1924?

(ii) Is it true that the accused in this case were not allowed a fair and proper opportunity of defending themselves? Is it true that an adjournment of the proceedings for the purpose of obtaining legal assistance was refused although the Indian Agent was the applicant on behalf of the accused?

(iii) What was the result of the appeal that was made on behalf of the accused against the conviction and sentence passed by the magistrate?

(iv) What steps have been taken by Government to bring to justice the two European employees who are alleged to have forcibly seduced two young girls, daughters of the elder accused in the said case?

(v) Have Government taken any steps to protect emigrants from India against such dangers in the future?

**Mr. J. W. Shore:** (i) Yes. The case was tried in June 1925.

(ii) and (iii). I have placed in the Library of the House the report of the Controller of Labour, Malaya, containing a complete account of the case. The High Commissioner, Federated Malay States, is satisfied that this memorandum gives an accurate statement of the position.

(iv) As the report shows, the Legal Adviser, Johore, considered that the investigation did not disclose a *prima facie* case against the two Europeans. The Government of India, who have since had the opportunity of examining the record of the case and the judgment in the first class magistrate's court, did not consider that any further action was called for.

(v) An Agent of the Government of India has been posted in Malaya to look after the interests and welfare of Indian labourers.



**APPOINTMENT OF MR. J. COATMAN AS DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC  
INFORMATION.**

558. **\*Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** Is it a fact that Mr. C. J. Hamilton, Professor of Economics in the Patna College, is going to be appointed as Director of Public Information in place of Professor Rushbrook Williams?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman:** The Government of India have appointed Mr. J. Coatman to this post as notified in the *Gazette of India* of Saturday last.

**Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** May I know what are the qualifications of Mr. Coatman?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman:** I am not prepared to discuss with the Honourable Member what the qualifications of Mr. Coatman are in detail, but I will state for his information that Mr. Coatman, who has had a very distinguished University career, is in my judgment a person with a very great power of the pen, and for these reasons and other reasons he has been appointed to this post which in the opinion of the Governor General in Council he is most competent to fill.

**Sir Hari Singh Gour:** May I beg to inquire if the gentleman appointed to this office was ever a Superintendent in the Criminal Investigation Department?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman:** Mr. Coatman is in the Punjab Police, and he has recently been employed I believe at headquarters in the Finger Impression Bureau. He will of course during his period of probation be seconded from that service.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** May I ask whether this post was votable up to this time and after his appointment may become non-votable?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman:** Mr. Coatman is at present on probation. If he is confirmed in the appointment, he will resign his post in the Police and his appointment will then become votable.

**Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** Is it a fact that this gentleman was in the C. I. D.?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman:** I have already said that he was in the Punjab Police. He was afterwards in charge of the Finger Impression Bureau, which is, I believe, a branch of the C. I. D.

**Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** Do Government think that a person who was in the C. I. D. is a proper person for this Department of Public Information?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman:** Otherwise we should not have appointed him, Sir.

**Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** Is this Department of Public Information a branch of the Criminal Investigation Department?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman:** No, Sir.

**Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** Does it do any work for the Criminal Investigation Department?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman:** No, Sir.

**Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** Why were the claims of the present incumbent of the post overlooked?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman:** I am not prepared to discuss the claims of individual officers on the floor of the House.

**Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** May I know what is the connection between the C. I. D. and the appointment which was filled hitherto by Professor Rushbrook Williams?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman:** I have already explained to the Honourable Member with some care that there is no such thing.

**Sir Hari Singh Gour:** The Honourable Member has referred to the distinguished University career of Mr. Coatman. May I know if this gentleman is a graduate?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman:** Not only a graduate but of two Universities; he was a graduate of the Manchester University when he came to India. He subsequently did a very remarkable thing. He went back after admission to Government service for some years and he did what many of us could not do, he went up to the University of Oxford and took the First Class, and he very nearly got a fellowship in All Souls. (Cheers.)

**Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar:** May I inquire how often did the acting incumbent act for the permanent incumbent?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman:** I should require notice of that, Sir.

**Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar:** Do Government realize that an Indian is superseded and that there should be an Indian for an appointment like this? Or do they think he should be a European?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman:** Sir, I do not recognize anything of the kind. It is our business to find the best man, and we have endeavoured to do so.

**Sir Hari Singh Gour:** Have finger prints anything to do with the Publicity Department of the Government?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman:** No, Sir, neither is the fact that the gentleman referred to has had a very distinguished University career anything to do with the Finger Print Bureau.

**Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** May I know if no Indian was available in the service of the Government of India who could have filled this position with as much credit as this gentleman?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman:** Obviously not, Sir.

**Sir Hari Singh Gour:** May I inquire if he had any previous experience of publicity work?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman:** No, Sir. But he has written a good deal in the Press.

**Sir Hari Singh Gour:** Is that a qualification for appointment to the Publicity Department of the Government of India?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman:** The qualification of writing good English is an essential qualification.

**Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar:** Is there not a Board attached to the Bureau of Public Information?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman:** I believe so, Sir.

**Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar:** Did the Government try to get their assistance?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman:** If the Honourable Member's suggestion is that Government should consult a Board of that character in regard to appointments in the Department, then I cannot accept his view.

**Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar:** Do Government realize that by such action the Government are emphasizing the suspicion that this is another branch of the Criminal Investigation Department?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman:** Not at all, Sir. Nor do I admit that because this gentleman was employed in the Police, that fact could stand in the way of his appointment. As I have said, it was because he has other qualifications, which have nothing to do with his police work,—and those qualifications appeared to me to be superior to those of other people, that he was selected. I would add that Mr. Costman is a probationer. It is impossible to determine without trial how he will succeed in the very difficult work connected with the Publicity Department.

**Sir Hari Singh Gour:** May I inquire what is his present pay and what would be the pay that he would draw in this appointment?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman:** I should like notice of that, Sir.

**Mr. B. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** Is it a fact that this Department has a secret service fund and is expected to collect secret information about people?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman:** No, Sir.

**Khan Bahadur W. M. Hussanally:** Is it a fact that this gentleman resigned his service at one time? If so, how was he taken back into Government service?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman:** I shall require notice of that. I was not aware of that.

**Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** May I know who was acting in this post during the absence of Professor Rushbrook Williams?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman:** You do know, Sir.

**Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** May I know whether the acting incumbent was found incapable of doing the work during the absence of the permanent incumbent?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman:** I have already answered that question. I am not going to discuss the respective merits of officers of my Department on the floor of the House, and I do hope the House will not ask me to do that.

MILITARY INSTITUTIONS IN INDIA OR IN ENGLAND SUPPORTED BY  
INDIAN REVENUES.

554. **\*Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) Are there military institutions in India or in England, supported by Indian revenues, but in which Indians are not admitted?

(b) If so, why? Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing separately the names of such institutions, the amounts which they receive annually out of the Indian revenues, and the total amount which they have received up to date?

**Mr. E. Burdon:** (a) and (b). So far as military institutions in Great Britain are concerned, the attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given on the 21st instant to unstarred question No. 83 asked by Baboo Runglal Jajodia.

There are no such military institutions in India.

EXPENDITURE IN CONNECTION WITH THE CONFERENCES OF PRESIDENTS  
OF LEGISLATIVE BODIES IN INDIA.

555. **\*Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** Will the Government be pleased to say if any part of the expenditure in connection with the holding of the Presidents' Conference is borne by the Central Revenues? If so, what is the total expenditure incurred up to date, and how many such Conferences have been held?

**Mr. L. Graham:** No expenditure in connection with the Conference of Presidents is borne by the Central Revenues.

RECRUITMENT OF CLERKS FOR THE OFFICE OF THE ACCOUNTANT  
GENERAL, CENTRAL REVENUES.

556. **\*Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to rule 2 of the rules published for recruitment of clerks for the office of the Accountant General, Central Revenues, which runs as follows?

"Candidates who have passed at least the Matriculation, School-Leaving certificate, or High Standard Examination, of any University in the U. P., the Delhi Province, or the Punjab, in the Second Division, will be eligible for the examination. Candidates of other Universities who are graduates, may also be admitted to the examination, if specially permitted by the Accountant General".

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state why discrimination has been made between the educational qualifications of different candidates for examination?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** (a) It has been ascertained that there is such a rule.

(b) So long as a supply of efficient recruits is obtainable locally it is not advisable to engage men whose homes are distant on account of the inconvenience constantly caused when they require leave of absence for short periods for domestic purposes.

ARTICLE IN THE *SWARAJYA* OF THE 24TH DECEMBER, 1925, REGARDING  
A SCENE AT EGMORE STATION.

557. \***Mr. C. Duraiswami Aiyangar**: (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to an article in the *Swarajya*, dated 24th December, 1925, under the heading "A scene at the Egmore Station"?

(b) Are the facts stated therein true?

(c) If so, who was responsible for the disorder?

(d) Why was the Station Superintendent not available?

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

(b), (c) and (d). Government have no information.

SUPPLY OF DEFECTIVE BUNKER COAL TO TROOPSHIPS AND HIRED  
TRANSPORTS.

558. \***Khan Bahadur W. M. Humayun**: (1) Is it a fact that Government troopships and hired transports usually take their supplies of bunker coal at Bombay or Karachi?

(2) Will Government be pleased to state the names of the firms at either of these places from whom such supplies were taken during the three years 1922-23, 1923-24, and 1924-25, as also the quantities, descriptions of coal and rates of such supplies?

(3) Is it a fact that the coal supplied to several such hired troopships and transports during the season 1923-24 at Bombay and Karachi was found to be of defective description and unsatisfactory quality? If so, will Government please name the vessels that were supplied with such unsatisfactory bunkers?

(4) Will Government be pleased to state the names of the firms who supplied such defective bunkers?

(5) Will Government be pleased to state what action, if any, was taken against the firms concerned for the unsatisfactory supplies effected by them, and referred to in part (3)?

(6) Will Government be pleased to state whether tenders were invited for supplies to troopships and transports at both the ports mentioned above during the season 1924-25? If not, how were the supplies arranged for?

**Mr. E. Burdon**: (1) to (6). I am making inquiries, Sir, and will communicate with the Honourable Member in due course.

GRANT OF OVERTIME ALLOWANCES FOR WORK ON SUNDAYS AND HOLIDAYS  
TO THE INDIAN SUBORDINATES OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

559. \***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub**: Is it a fact that only the Anglo-Indian and European subordinates on the East Indian Railway are granted an extra allowance for working on Sundays and gazetted holidays? If so, do the Government propose to extend the same privilege also to the Indian subordinates?

**Mr. G. G. Sim**: The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, the matter is under the consideration of the Government of India.

# HOUSE RENT ALLOWANCES OF EMPLOYEES OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

560. **\*Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** (a) Is it a fact that different treatment is meted out to the employees of the old East Indian Railway from the employees of the Oudh and Rohilkhand section of the same Railway, as regards house rent?

(b) If so, do the Government propose to extend the same facilities to the servants of the old section of the East Indian Railway which are given to the servants of the Oudh and Rohilkhand section of the same Railway?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** (a) The rent rules on the old Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway and the portion previously worked by the East Indian Railway Company are slightly different.

(b) The Government have under consideration the revision of rent rules for State-worked Railways. The revised rules on adoption will apply to the whole system of the East Indian Railway.

## APPOINTMENT OF INDIANS IN THE WATCH AND WARD DEPARTMENT OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

561. **\*Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** (a) Is it a fact that there is only one Indian as Divisional Inspector and only three as Assistant Inspectors in the Watch and Ward Department of the East Indian Railway?

(b) Do the Government propose to fix a certain proportion of the above-mentioned posts for the Indians and issue orders that vacancies in future should be filled up by Indians until that proportion is reached?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** (a) Government have no information.

(b) The Agent, East Indian Railway, has been made aware of the policy of Government that Indians should be increasingly employed in all departments of railway working, and this policy is being given effect to. The Government do not propose to fix any definite proportion for these particular posts.

## ALLEGED FRAUDS IN THE STORES DEPARTMENT OF THE OLD EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

562. **\*Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** (a) Is it a fact that a huge fraud has been detected in the Stores Department of the old East Indian Railway at Howrah?

(b) What are the facts relating to the fraud? What is the amount in respect of which the fraud was committed?

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes:** (a) and (b). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given in this House on 21st January last, to a similar question asked by Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh.

**Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** Will Government lay on the table the report of the officer who investigated into this case?

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes:** I do not propose to do so.

**Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the report of the auditor?

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes:** As far as I remember there was no special report of the auditor. In any case I do not propose to lay that paper on the table.

**Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** Will Government let us know the names of the two high officials who were dismissed as a consequence of the detection of the fraud?

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes:** I will communicate the names to the Honourable Member if he so desires.

#### CLASSIFICATION OF GUARDS AS "EUROPEANS" AND "INDIANS" ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

563. **\*Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** Is it a fact that before the late Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway was merged in the East Indian Railway there was no such division amongst its Guards as "Europeans" and "Indians" and that after the merging this division is to be introduced amongst the Guards of the late Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway as well? Do the Government propose to remove this distinction from the whole East Indian Railway, at once?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative, and there is no intention to introduce such a division as referred to by the Honourable Member. As regards the second part steps are being taken to remove this distinction.

#### CONVERSION OF THE BRANCH POST OFFICE IN MANSIARI DISTRICT INTO A DEPARTMENTAL POST OFFICE.

564. **\*Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** Do the Government propose to convert the Branch Post Office in Mansiari District, Almora, into a Sub-Post Office or a Departmental Post Office?

**Mr. G. P. Roy:** The Mansiari extra departmental branch office (Almora) has been ordered to be made a departmental branch office with effect from the 1st February, 1926.

#### CASUALTIES DURING THE GREAT WAR AMONGST COMBATANTS AND NON-COMBATANTS RECRUITED FROM PARGANA JOHAR IN THE ALMORA DISTRICT.

565. **\*Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** Will the Government be pleased to state the number of the combatants and non-combatants respectively recruited from Pargana Johar in the District of Almora during the Great War of 1914-19? How many of them were killed or died on the battle-field and how many were wounded?

**Mr. E. Burdon:** I regret that it is not possible to furnish the Honourable Member with the information which he desires as the records maintained by Government do not show the numbers recruited from parganas nor are casualty lists arranged territorially.

The total number of recruits furnished by the Almora District during the period from the 1st August, 1914, to the 31st March, 1918, the latest date up to which information is available, was 8,838.

SALE OF LAND SURPLUS TO MILITARY REQUIREMENTS IN THE  
HYDERABAD CANTONMENT.

566. **\*Mr. Harchandrai Vishindas:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether the land within the cantonment limits of Hyderabad which is not required for military purposes will be sold to the public, and if so, when?

(b) Have Government received any proposals from the cantonment authorities of Hyderabad for selling such land?

**Mr. E. Burdon:** (a) Government are not aware that there is any land within the Cantonment limits of Hyderabad which is surplus to military requirements.

(b) No proposals of the kind have been received from the Cantonment Authority.

TENDERS FOR THE SUPPLY OF SLEEPERS FOR THE LLOYD BARRAGE.

567. **\*Mr. Harchandrai Vishindas:** (1) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the complaints in the Karachi newspapers that recently tenders were invited for the contract of sleepers and that the Executive Engineer, Lloyd Barrage, approved of the lowest tender and intimated the same to the tenderer, but that the Karachi Purchasing Agency accepted another tender of the second lowest tenderer by having his first quotation lowered to that of the original lowest tenderer?

(2) Was the usual practice of inviting tenderers to be present at the opening of tenders and declaring which was the lowest tender and accepting the same, unless a just preference could be given to another tender adopted in this instance?

(3) If not, why not?

(4) If the reply to part 1 of the question be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state if they propose to take any action in the matter?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** (1) Yes.

(2) The usual practice of obtaining all tenders in sealed envelopes and opening them at a fixed time in the presence of any tenderers who may wish to be present, was followed, though no tenderers were present. It is the practice to accept the lowest tender unless there is a special reason justifying a preference as was the case in this instance.

(3) Does not arise.

(4) Yes. A detailed report was obtained from the Chief Controller of Stores.

**Mr. Harchandrai Vishindas:** Will Government be pleased to state what were the reasons for giving preference to this man, and not the lowest tenderer?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** There are certain recognised rules laying down cases in which preference may be given to a person whose tender is not the lowest tender. One of the reasons may be



that the person in whose favour such a discrimination is made is considered to be more reliable than a person who may have quoted the lowest tender but who may not have the facilities for complying with the terms of the tender.

**Mr. Harchandra Vishindas:** The answer is hypothetical containing "may be". What was the reason in this instance?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** I am not prepared to disclose the facts of these tenders. If I have to give the Honourable Member full details about this case, I will have to disclose the details of these tenders and I regret I am not prepared to do that. But, as I said, a report was obtained from the Chief Controller of Stores and I was satisfied that there was nothing wrong in the case though there may have been some indiscretion on the part of the particular officer.

**Mr. B. Das:** Is it not a fact, Sir, that this Lloyd Barrage is another Lloyd fiasco like the Bombay Development Scheme?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** That does not arise out of the main question.

**Sir Hari Singh Gour:** May I inquire if it is not a fact that before a contractor's name is placed on the approved list, inquiry is made as to whether he is a capable and competent contractor able to discharge the duties entrusted to him, and whether tenders were invited and received only from contractors whose names are borne on the approved list?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** Generally speaking the position which my Honourable friend mentioned is the correct position. But there is also such a system as open tenders; and even after we have brought on a particular contractor on the approved list, he may not be in a position to fulfil the provisions of a particular tender.

**Baba Ujagar Singh Bedi:** Will the Honourable Member explain what is the criterion for including people in the approved list?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** I shall require notice of that question.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** May I ask if Government consider it legal to give information as to who is the lowest tenderer to another contractor? What is the method by which they can prevent frauds by their own officers?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** I do not quite understand what the Honourable Member refers to, because the usual rule is not to disclose to another tenderer the facts connected with a particular tender.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** That is the usual rule. We want to know why that rule was not followed in this case and why the officer gave information to another tenderer as to what was the lowest quotation. We want to know the reasons. The whole thing looks suspicious.

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** No such allegation has been made up to the present. I have said that I have myself examined the matter. It is true that this particular officer committed a certain act of indiscretion, but steps have been taken which will obviate recurrence of such acts in future.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** I am glad to hear that.

**Mr. Harchandrai Vishindas:** The Honourable the Government Member said that he has been satisfied with the report of the Chief Controller. Would this report be available to the Members of this House in order that they may satisfy themselves?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** No, Sir. I do not propose to place that report before this House.

**Mr. Harchandrai Vishindas:** May I know, Sir, what is the confidential nature of this report which prevents Government from disclosing its contents?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** The matter is not one of such public importance that it is necessary for me to place it before this House. The matter is rather connected with departmental administration.

**Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar:** Is it the policy of the Government, Sir, that whenever they choose to accept tenders which are not the lowest but other tenders, they should not disclose any reasons to this House as to why they always accept tenders which are not the lowest but which, in their opinion, should be accepted?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** The answer is in the affirmative. That matter at the present moment is for the discretion of the Executive Government.

**Mr. Harchandrai Vishindas:** My first question was whether it is true that when the lowest tender was offered, the Store Purchasing Agency actually asked the next lowest tenderer to reduce his tender; and the answer by the Honourable the Government Member was in the affirmative. Therefore, he accepted the whole allegation in the first part of my question. If this was so, would not Government consider this to be a case of favouritism which might give rise to a good deal of jobbery in the future?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** I have already said that the officer concerned did commit a certain amount of indiscretion, but there was no question of favouritism or jobbery. I am perfectly satisfied on this matter, and instructions have been issued which will obviate any departure from the rules on the subject in future.

#### COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE KARACHI PURCHASING AGENCY OF STORES.

568. **\*Mr. Harchandrai Vishindas:** (a) Are Government aware of the general complaints against the Karachi Purchasing Agency of Stores that its procedure with regard to the selection of tenders is not according to usage or consonant with a fair dealing towards tenderers?

((b) What action do Government propose to take in the matter?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** (a) and (b). Government are aware that complaints have appeared in the Press against the Karachi Purchasing Agency. An inquiry has been made into the matter and Government consider that there is no foundation, generally speaking, for such complaints.

**Mr. Harchandrai Vishindas:** May we know what is the nationality of the agent of this Purchasing Agency against whom these complaints are made?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** I am not sure, Sir, what his nationality is. He may be an Indian.

**Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** But if the Government have inquired into this matter, why did they not find out what is the nationality of the man?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** When I was dealing with the matter I was not particularly concerned with the nationality of the officer. I was rather more concerned to stop an irregularity which might have crept into the procedure in an office under my Department. As I have already told this House, I have taken steps which will in future stop the recurrence of any possible irregularity.

**Khan Bahadur W. M. Hussanally:** May I know, Sir, if steps have been taken in regard to this officer, who, it is admitted, has committed an act of indiscretion?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** He has been told so.

**Mr. Harchandrai Vishindas:** Might I inquire whether at the time when the Government Member read this Controller's report he did not come across the name of the officer and from that he could not deduce his nationality?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** I know the name of the officer, Sir, but I am not in a position to say what his nationality is.

**Mr. Harchandrai Vishindas:** Might I tell the Honourable the Government Member that I know the nationality of that man. He is a European and not an Indian.

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** Then the Honourable Member should not have asked me the question.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** May I ask whether Government will repudiate the indiscretion of this officer with reasonable publicity?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** No, I do not think that to be necessary.

#### RENEWAL OF COACHES AND WAGONS ON COMPANY-WORKED STATE RAILWAYS.

569. **\*Dr. K. G. Lohokare:** Is it a fact that on some of the Company-worked State Railways having coaches and wagons on hand awaiting renewal at the cost of revenue account it is the practice to obtain new coaches and wagons as additions at the cost of the capital account?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** The answer is in the negative.

**Mr. K. Ahmed:** Is it not a fact, Sir, that the Government have got friends amongst the suppliers whom they want to help and thereby help themselves as far as possible?

NUMBER OF SUPERIOR APPOINTMENTS HELD BY INDIANS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA SECRETARIAT.

570. \*Dr. K. G. Lohokare: Will Government be pleased to state the total number of Secretaries, Joint Secretaries, Deputy, Under and Assistant Secretaries employed in the Government of India Secretariats? How many of these are Indians?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: I lay on the table a statement giving the information required.

*Statement showing the total number of superior posts in the Government of India Secretariat in January 1926.*

Appointments.	JANUARY, 1926.	
	Total.	Indians <sup>1</sup>
Secretaries . . . . .	14	1
Joint Secretaries . . . . .	8	1
Deputy Secretaries . . . . .	24	5
Under Secretaries . . . . .	10	8
Assistant Secretaries . . . . .	20	14
Total . . . . .	71	29

Mr. K. Ahmed: Will the Honourable the Home Member kindly enlighten the House with regard to the pledge given to the Indian people that they will Indianize the services, whereas they are bringing Europeans in season and out of season instead of giving preference to Indians?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: I do not think, Sir, that question arises out of the reply that I have given.

THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA DIRECTORY.

571. \*Dr. K. G. Lohokare: Is it a fact that the Government of India Directory includes among others, the names of all the gazetted officers employed in the Government of India Secretariats; if not, on what principle is the inclusion or non-inclusion of such names based?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: The reply to the first part of the question is in the negative. As to the second part, the Government of India Directory was formerly a publication known as the "List of Principal Officials in India". That explains why it does not contain the names of all gazetted officers.

APPOINTMENT OF AN INDIAN TO BE A MEMBER OF THE RAILWAY BOARD.

572. \*Lala Duni Chand: With reference to the reply given by the Government to starred question No. 284, put by Sheikh Sadiq Hussain on 12th February, 1924, will the Government be pleased to state whether they have made any efforts to find a suitable Indian to be a Member of the Railway Board and if so, what has been the result of those efforts?

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes:** I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given to question No. 388 in this House on the 27th January last.

**Lala Duni Chand:** Is there any prospect of a suitable Indian being found for the Railway Board in the near future?

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes:** I think, Sir, there will be no more vacancies in the Railway Board for at least another two years.

**Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar:** May I ask whether the Honourable Member in deciding this question of the appointment of an Indian to the Railway Board on the present occasion was aware of the definite pledge given by the Honourable the Finance Member in this House that whenever a vacancy does arise the scales will be weighted distinctly in favour of the Indian and what he did with the pledge?

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes:** I can assure the Honourable Member that every relevant consideration was given full weight.

**Mr. Chaman Lal:** Is it a fact that that pledge was actually given in this House?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** Those were the words that I used and the procedure that we followed was to give them the fullest weight.

**Mr. Chaman Lal:** May I ask, Sir, if anything has gone wrong with the scales? (Laughter).

**Mr. K. Ahmed:** Are the Government aware that the Reforms will remain a dead letter unless Government make up their mind to take Indians into the services?

**Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar:** May I know, Sir, whether we are to take it that in spite of the scales being weighted no possible Indian was found to fill the vacancy in the Railway Board?

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes:** I think everybody in this House is aware of the value of the work done by Mr. Sim in the Railway Board and will realize what an extraordinarily important post it is. They will also realize that in filling up that post we must get the very best man. I should like to assure the House that when we made that appointment we were fully aware of the disappointment that would be caused to the Honourable Members in this House. I beg them to believe that we took that very fully into consideration.

**Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** From the reply given by the Honourable the Commerce Member, do I understand that there is no Indian capable of filling the post that has been occupied by Mr. Sim?

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes:** What the Honourable Member has got to understand is that the best man for the post is not an Indian.

**Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** May I know what particular steps were taken by the Government of India to find out whether any suitable Indian was available or not?

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes:** I think the House will realize that the number of candidates for a post of that kind is limited.

**Mr. K. Ahmed:** Cannot the Honourable Member see on the opposite side of the House my friends Mr. Jinnah, Pandit Motilal Nehru and many other Members who are far better qualified than any or all of the Members representing the Government, both in merit and in ability. (Laughter.)

INCREASE IN THE PERCENTAGE OF INDIANS IN THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS  
OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

573. **\*Lala Duni Chand:** With reference to the reply given to the question by Mr. Bhubanananda Das on the 12th February, 1924, regarding the percentage of the Indian officials attached to the various Departments of the Government of India, getting more than Rs. 750 per mensem, has there been any increase in the percentage since the question was answered, and if so, to what extent?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman:** The information is not immediately available, but will be collected and supplied to the Honourable Member in due course.

EXPENDITURE ON THE TAXATION INQUIRY COMMITTEE.

574. **\*Lala Duni Chand:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the total expenditure incurred in connection with the Taxation Inquiry Committee?

(b) What action did the Government take on the Resolution conveying the disapproval of this Assembly regarding the composition of the Taxation Inquiry Committee and the nature of its inquiry?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** (a) Exact figures are not available yet, but roughly the cost of the Committee will be about 5 lakhs.

(b) I would refer the Honourable Member to the Finance Department Notification of the 22nd January, 1925, announcing the appointment of the Indian Economic Inquiry Committee.

RESOLUTION RE PROVISION OF CONVENIENCES FOR INDIAN RAILWAY  
PASSENGERS.

575. **\*Lala Duni Chand:** Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Railway Board have taken any, and, if so, what steps to give effect to the Resolution of Haji Wajihuddin regarding the provision of conveniences for Indian railway passengers that was adopted by this House on the 12th February, 1924?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given in this Assembly on the 21st January, 1926, to question No. 54 asked by Haji Wajihuddin on the same subject.

**Lala Duni Chand:** Has any progress been made since the question was answered last time?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** The last reply was given only the other day—about three days ago. I do not know whether there has been any progress since.

**Haji Wajihuddin:** Are the Government aware that, instead of alleviating the grievances and improving the situation discussed in the said Resolution, the authorities of the North Western Railway have recently marked certain newly built very narrow-seated Intermediate class compartments

with the words "For 20 passengers" which compartments can hardly accommodate half the number in each of them, and whether since the reservation of European compartments in the same class has been removed, a consequent reduction in the total number of intermediate class compartments has been made on the said line? If the answer be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to draw the attention of the authorities concerned to the subject with a view to remove the public grievances in the matter?

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes:** I would suggest that the Honourable Member put that question down.

#### REDUCTION OF FARES CHARGED BY STEAMER COMPANIES TO HAJ PILGRIMS.

576. \***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** (a) Is it a fact that the shipping companies which take the pilgrims to Jeddah have enormously increased their fares, and if so, do the Government propose to take measures for regulating the fares charged by the companies?

(b) Is it a fact that children are charged the same fares as grown up persons? If so, do the Government propose to frame regulations by which children up to the age of ten may be charged half fares, as is done by the Railways?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore:** (a) (i) The fares fluctuate from time to time according to demand and supply. The fares for last year which was an abnormal year cannot be taken as indicative of any permanent increase.

(ii) The answer is in the negative.

(b) (i) Yes, as far as the Government of India are aware.

(ii) The answer is in the negative.

**Khan Bahadur W. M. Hussanally:** Will Government take any steps for the purpose of making these fares stable to-day?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore:** I have already answered that question.

#### ALLEGED NEGLECT OF MUHAMMADAN INTERESTS.

577. \***Khan Bahadur Alimuzzaman Chowdhry:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have read the presidential speech of the last All-India Muslim League and the resolutions passed thereon on the 30th and 31st December last, and a letter written by a moderate and loyal Member of the Legislative Council from Bengal published in the *Englishman*, dated the 6th January, at page 9, saying that the Government are more to blame for the culpable neglect of Muhammadan interests as the enlightened Hindus do recognise the claims of the Muhammadans and that they attach to the Government a greater part of the neglect towards the Muhammadans than the Hindus?

(b) Do Government sincerely propose to bring about a real solution of the problem of the entire population of India and improve their condition by removing the monopoly of a class and thereby end all strife between the different communities?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman:** (a) Government have seen a newspaper report of the speech and the letter referred to.

(b) They are most anxious to do all in their power to end all strife between the various communities in India, but it is perhaps unnecessary to say that they do not admit that there is any foundation in the allegations in the letter referred to.

REPRESENTATION OF MUHAMMADANS IN THE VARIOUS LEGISLATIVE BODIES AND PUBLIC SERVICES.

578. \***Khan Bahadur Alimuzzaman Chowdhry:** (a) Are the Government aware that in the last All-India Muslim League held at Aligarh, a resolution was unanimously passed urging the Government that all the Legislatures and elected bodies should be constituted on the definite principle of representation of the Muslims without reducing their majority in any province to a minority or even to an equality in the majority provinces, like the Punjab and Bengal?

(b) If the answer be in the affirmative, do Government propose to take immediate steps in order to translate the same into action and revise the electoral rules and rolls of the constituencies of the provinces of Bengal and the Punjab and take all other steps ancillary to the above requirements, so that before the forthcoming election of 1927 effect be duly given to the resolution referred to in part (a)?

(c) Do Government propose to follow the aforesaid principle regarding the public services as well? If not, why not?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman:** (a) Yes.

(b) The Government do not at present propose to reopen the question but the proposal will be considered when the constitutions of these bodies are next revised.

(c) The whole position is being explained in reply to a memorial received from Muslim Members of the Council of State and Legislative Assembly, which, it is hoped, will issue shortly.

MUHAMMADAN DELEGATE TO THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

579. \***Khan Bahadur Alimuzzaman Chowdhry:** (a) Are the Government aware that in the last All-India Muslim League held at Aligarh, some resolutions were passed regarding the question of Indians in South Africa, Iraq, which is a part and parcel of Jazirat-ul-Arab and the Mosul decision of the Council of the League of Nations, where India is also represented? Did the Government send any delegate, conversant with the situation and the whole circumstance, to the League of Nations from India this time?

(b) If the answer be in the affirmative, who are the persons and what are their qualifications on the subject?

(c) Is it a fact that the Government practically arranged with one Muhammadan, who is familiar with the subject, to send him as delegate to the League of Nations, but as he did not finally agree to go, owing to reasons best known to the Government, the latter did not try to send another Muhammadan in his place at all?

(d) If the answer be in the affirmative, why did not the Government send another Muhammadan and what were the motive and the underlying policy in asking that Muhammadan gentleman to go to the League at all?



**Mr. L. Graham:** (a) and (b). Government have seen press reports of the resolutions referred to. The Honourable Member appears to be labouring under a slight misapprehension regarding the relevant facts. The session of the Assembly of the League of Nations in 1925 was in no way concerned either with the South African question or with the Mosul question. India is not represented on the Council of the League of Nations which dealt with the Mosul question. No question therefore arose of sending Indian delegates specially conversant with the South African and Mosul problems.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

**Mr. B. Das:** May I inquire if Government made any representations to have representatives of India on the Council of the League of Nations where India is not represented?

**Mr. L. Graham:** The constitution of the Council is settled by the Covenant.

**Syed Majid Baksh:** Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state on what side the representative representing India on the League of Nations voted in the case of the Mosul Award?

**Mr. L. Graham:** If the Honourable Member had only heard what I said he would have known that there was no representative of India at that session of the Council because there could be no representative of India on the Council.

#### GRANT OF REFORMS TO THE NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE.

580. **\*Khan Bahadur Alimuzzaman Chowdhry:** (a) Are the Government aware that the All-India Muslim League passed a resolution urging the Government immediately to grant Reforms to the Frontier Province?

(b) Do Government propose immediately to translate into action the spirit of Reforms to that province and bring in their representatives to the Legislative Assembly and the Council of State by election and not by nomination?

**Sir Denys Bray:** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The question of Constitutional Reforms in the North-West Frontier Province is still under consideration.

**Nawab Sir Sahibzada Abdul Qaiyum:** Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state what are the difficulties which are facing Government in arriving at an early decision?

**Sir Denys Bray:** The intrinsic difficulties of a very important question.

**Nawab Sir Sahibzada Abdul Qaiyum:** Will the Honourable Member give the House an idea of the nature of those difficulties?

**Sir Denys Bray:** I should have thought, Sir, that nobody knew it better than my Honourable friend himself.

**Nawab Sir Sahibzada Abdul Qaiyum:** I should like to be enlightened on this subject.

**Mr. M. A. Jinnah:** May I know from the Government when they will come to any decision at all on the subject?

**Sir Denys Bray:** That question is also under consideration.

**Mr. M. A. Jinnah:** May I know whether the Honourable Member can inform us approximately what further time they require?

**Sir Denys Bray:** I understand that there is a motion down for discussion a week or a fortnight hence. Possibly the atmosphere in which that discussion takes place will enable one to approach nearer to the time of decision.

**Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar:** May I ask whether it is the intention of Government to shelve this question by having recourse to discussion in this House in the way in which the Honourable Member has suggested.

**Sir Denys Bray:** I cannot follow the implication but I can repudiate it.

**Sir Hari Singh Gour:** May I beg to inquire whether it is not a fact that the Resolution of this House on the judicial separation of the North-West Frontier Province is about four years old?

**Sir Denys Bray:** Forty years! That is not a fact. The dates are completely wrong. I may point out that since that Resolution there has been a Committee that was sent to the Frontier and whose report is indirectly referred to in this question.

**Mr. K. Ahmed:** Since the spirit of reforms introduced in this country the Government are obstructing the reforms with regard to the North-West Frontier Province and are not bringing Indians elected by the people into the Central Legislature but by nomination only! Do the Government realise that there is no sense of justice in them and that it is they who are obstructing the reforms and not the people of India?

**Mr. President:** Order, order. There is an assumption contained in the Honourable Member's question.

#### REPRESENTATION OF MUHAMMADANS IN THE PUBLIC SERVICES, ETC.

581. **\*Khan Bahadur Alimuzzaman Chowdhry:** (a) Do Government propose to take immediate steps to appoint more Muhammadans as their (Government) lawyers, police officers and in other services of the Government and grant the Muhammadans of Bengal an adequate percentage of representation in all the Legislatures on their population basis for safeguarding their interest and to protect themselves?

(b) Is it a fact that ignoring the claims of the Muhammadans, the Government have recently made both the appointments of Standing Counsel and the Advocate General? Could not the Government appoint a senior Muhammadan from the Calcutta Bar, equal in merit or better than the newly appointed Standing Counsel?

(c) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the *Bengalee* of 10th January at page 4, under the heading "An amazing appointment", and to the issue of the same paper of the 16th January attacking the Government for such appointment?

(d) Do Government propose to consider in future or as soon as a vacancy arises the question of appointing an Indian (Muhammadan) as Standing Counsel of the Calcutta High Court?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman:** (a) The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given by me to his question No. 578.

(b) The appointment of the Advocate General, Bengal, vests in His Majesty. In filling up the vacancy consequent on the appointment of Mr. B. L. Mitter to be Advocate General, Government have considered the claims of every class of eligible candidates including Muhammadans.

(c) Yes.

(d) The claims of all classes of candidates will continue to receive due consideration, but the determining factor will be the suitability of the candidate.

**Mr. K. Ahmed:** Is it not a fact that the Honourable the Home Member has something to do with the appointment of the Standing Counsel, as he wrote a letter for an interview and saw him before appointing this undeserving candidate as stated in the *Bengalce*?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman:** Sir, I would draw your attention to the fact that the Honourable Member is reflecting on a very important Law Officer of the Crown.

**Mr. President:** Order, order. The Honourable Member is not justified in casting reflections on individual officials in season and out of season, as he has been in the habit of doing.

**Mr. K. Ahmed:** Without making any reflections, Sir, (Laughter) may I ask whether the Government has not pleaded ignorance to this Assembly, and as a matter of fact the Honourable the Home Member has been pulling the wire from behind?

**Mr. President:** Order, order.

#### APPOINTMENT OF AN ADEQUATE NUMBER OF MUHAMMADANS IN THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS OF THE ADMINISTRATION.

582. **\*Khan Bahadur Alimuzzaman Chowdhry:** (a) Are the Government aware that the All-India Muslim League passed a resolution that it is imperative for the Government of India and the Provincial Governments to take speedy and suitable steps to secure the appointment of an adequate number of Mussalmans in the various departments of administration, so that harmonious progress and development of the general population may be ensured and the administration may enjoy the full confidence of the entire community?

(b) Do Government propose to give effect to it? If not, why not?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman:** (a) Yes.

(b) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given by me to part (c) of his question No. 578.

#### APPOINTMENT OF MORE MUHAMMADAN JUDGES IN THE CALCUTTA HIGH COURT.

583. **\*Khan Bahadur Alimuzzaman Chowdhry:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state how many of the Indian Judges of the Calcutta High Court are Hindus and how many are Muhammadans at present?

(b) Do Government propose to take immediate steps to appoint some more Muhammadans as soon as vacancies arise?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman:** (a) There are at present 5 Hindu Judges and one Muslim Judge in the Calcutta High Court.

(b) As stated before in this House permanent appointments to the High Court are made by His Majesty under section 101 of the Government of India Act. Courts of justice are not representative institutions, and the main consideration in filling up vacancies in high judicial appointments must always be that of efficiency: subject to this the claims of individual Muslims no less than those of members of other communities must and will receive due consideration.

NUMBER OF HINDUS AND MUHAMMADANS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA SECRETARIAT, ETC.

584. **\*Khan Bahadur Alimuzzaman Chowdhry:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state how many Bengalis are now working in the Secretariat of the Government of India and how many of them are Muhammadans from Bengal, stating in full the number of Hindus and Muhammadans respectively in the Legislative and other Departments acting on a salary of Rs. 400 per month and upwards?

(b) Who were the Law Members respectively at the time when Messrs. Aiyar, Mushran and S. C. Gupta of the Legislative Department were first appointed? Were these vacancies advertised and applications invited for filling the same, or were these appointments made by private arrangements only?

(c) Is there any chance of the appointment of Muhammadans in these places, whenever vacancies arise?

(d) Do Government propose to remove the monopoly of one class and follow the official statement of the Government of Bengal announced on the 21st December, 1925, during His Excellency the Viceroy's stay in Calcutta, reserving the claim of the Muhammadans to 45 per cent.? If not why not?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman:** (a) A copy of certain statements recently prepared showing the communal composition of the clerical staffs of the Departments of the Government of India and the offices attached and subordinate thereto in 1911 and 1925 is being supplied to the Honourable Member and a copy has been placed in the Library. Government do not think any useful purpose would be served by collecting fresh information in the form suggested.

(b) Mr. Aiyar, who is a member of the Madras Civil Service was selected during Sir Narasimha Sarma's term of office to officiate in the Legislative Department for a period of 5 months only. It would not be in accordance with established practice to advertise a vacancy of this character. I may add that at the time of his selection to fill the vacancy, Mr. Aiyar was attached to the Legislative Department for training and that his experience as Secretary of the Civil Justice Committee, to which I should like to render a tribute here, rendered him peculiarly fitted for temporary employment in the Department at the present time when the recommendations of that Committee are still largely under consideration.

Mr. Mushran who was not previously in the service of Government was personally selected by the then Law Member, Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, for the appointment of second Assistant Solicitor. The appointment was not advertised.

Mr. S. C. Gupta was selected during the term of office of Sir Ali Imam to fill the appointment of Legal Assistant in the Legislative Department. The vacancy was not advertised but a number of applications were received. A determining factor in Mr. Gupta's selection was his previous experience in the Bengal Legal Department.

(c) Yes.

(d) I would again refer the Honourable Member to the reply given by me to part (c) of his question No. 578.

**Mr. B. Das:** May I ask a supplementary question with reference to the previous question? Is it the Parliamentary practice to ask questions about individual members of Government.

**Mr. President:** Order, order, it is entirely a matter for the President to decide.

**Mr. B. Das:** I bow to your ruling, Sir.

#### REFERENCE OF THE INDIAN QUESTION IN SOUTH AFRICA TO THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

585. **\*Pandit Nilakantha Das:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether they have invoked the aid of the League of Nations either for arbitration or for conciliation in the matter of dispute between Indians and the South African Union Governments under articles 12 and 15 of the Covenant; and

(b) what steps the Government have taken so far with a view to redress the grievances of Indians in South Africa?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore:** (a) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given by me on the 28th January, 1926, to parts (b) and (c) of Mr. B. Das' question No. 448 on the same subject.

(b) I would refer the Honourable Member to the statement made on the subject by His Excellency the Viceroy in opening the Session of the Legislative Assembly on the 20th January.

**Mr. M. A. Jinnah:** May I ask whether any further steps have been taken since then?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore:** Yes, Sir, we are in almost daily communication with South Africa.

**Mr. M. A. Jinnah:** Will the Honourable Member state what is the position to-day?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore:** I am afraid I cannot give the Honourable Member any specific information to-day, but I hope it may be possible to give him further information at an early date.

**Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar:** May I know if we are making any progress at all?

**Mr. B. Das:** May I suggest that the Government should take into consultation the leaders of the House every day in their conduct of these negotiations?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore:** I think my Honourable friend knows that we did take into consultation not only the members of the Standing Committee but also the leaders of the parties in this House and we were very glad to have the advice they gave and will be very glad to have their advice again.

**Mr. Chaman Lal:** Is there anything against taking them into consultation this Session?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore:** I did not say there was.

**Mr. Chaman Lal:** Will the Honourable Member consult the leaders of the House?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore:** I cannot give the Honourable Member any definite undertaking.

#### THE SOUTH AFRICAN CLASS AREAS BILL.

586. **\*Pandit Nilakantha Das:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether they have made any representation to the South African Union Government regarding the Class Areas Bill:
- (b) if so, when the said representation was made and how long after the Bill was introduced:
- (c) why they did not consult the Assembly and Council of State before making the said representations: and
- (d) whether Government will be pleased to place on the table of the House all correspondence that passed between this and the South African Union Government?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore:** (a) The Government of India have made representations regarding the Areas Reservation and Immigration and Registration (Further Provision) Bill.

(b) and (c). The Bill in question was introduced in the Union Parliament on the 23rd July, and a copy of it reached the Government of India towards the end of August. Its provisions were forthwith examined and an opportunity was taken early in September of consulting the Standing Emigration Committee, which, as the Honourable Member is aware, is composed of representatives both of the Council of State and of the Legislative Assembly. The subject was also discussed in the Council of State on the 10th September, 1925, in connection with a Resolution moved by the Honourable Sir Deva Prasad Sarvadhikary. In the light of these discussions full representations were addressed to the Union Government regarding the provisions of the Bill.

(d) I regret I am unable to comply with the Honourable Member's request.

**Sir Hari Singh Gour:** May I beg to inquire whether the Honourable Member's attention has been drawn to a Bill recently read for the first time in the Union Parliament when there was a majority of one, namely, the Mines Employment Bill, and will he say how the Indians are affected thereby?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore:** I answered two questions on that very point recently, as my Honourable friend would have realised had he always been present at question time.

## THE SOUTH AFRICAN ANTI-ASIATIC BILL.

587. \***Pandit Nilakantha Das**: Will the Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether they have received any letter or suggestion from Mr. C. F. Andrews to press the Government of the Union of South Africa to postpone the Anti-Asiatic Bill?
- (b) what action they propose to take on his letter or suggestion?
- (c) whether they have any intention to ask the Paddison Committee to withdraw, if the Union Government do not agree to the postponement?

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

(b) and (c). I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given by me on the 25th January, 1926, to Diwan Bahadur Ramachandra Rao's question on the same subject.

## SIR FREDERICK WHYTE'S BOOK ON FEDERAL CONSTITUTIONS.

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

- (a) what were the terms of reference of the investigation on which Sir Frederick Whyte was engaged, what was the object and purpose thereof, and what action the Government propose to take on his investigation;
- (b) what was the actual remuneration paid to Sir Frederick Whyte for this purpose and what was the total cost of this business?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman**: (a) There were no terms of reference to Sir Frederick Whyte. As regards the other points raised in this part of the Honourable Member's question, I refer him to my reply to Mr. Ranga Iyer's question No. 508 yesterday.

(b) The total gross cost involved is approximately Rs. 12,000, including Rs. 9,333-5-4 paid as remuneration to Sir Frederick Whyte at the rate of Rs. 4,000 a month. We shall not know the net cost until we know how many copies were sold.

**Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar**: May I know for what purpose the Government of India undertook the publication of this book, whether for the purpose of issuing a text-book, or for propaganda?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman**: My Honourable friend was present when I gave the reasons in my reply to Mr. Ranga Iyer.

**Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar**: May I know whether it was a matter of such urgency that this book should have been undertaken, having regard to the speech my Honourable friend made the other day on the Reforms?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman**: I should have thought the Honourable Member would have known the urgency. It is very natural that we should wish to attract the best minds to the study of these problems.

**Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar**: May I take it that all on this side of the House did not know what provincial autonomy was and that it was considered necessary that we should be instructed?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman:** Speaking for myself, I think I knew many of the facts published in that book, but there are many facts that I did not know, and if my Honourable friend would lay his hand on his heart, I think he would admit that too.

**Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar:** What is the immediate purpose of that book?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman:** The immediate purpose is the desire of Government to interest the best minds of India in the constitutional problems which may arise and we expect will arise in India in the comparatively near future.

#### INQUIRY INTO THE SYSTEM OF COST ACCOUNTING IN THE MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

589. **\*Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar:** Will the Government be pleased to state whether the work of the Committee to inquire into the system of cost accounting in the Military Department has completed its work and whether the report and the evidence given before it will be placed:

- (a) before the Public Accounts Committee; and
- (b) before the Assembly for discussion and necessary action?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** The work of the Committee has not yet been completed. When the report has been received copies will be supplied to Members of the Public Accounts Committee and it will then be considered what further action is necessary.

#### ASSIMILATION OF THE INDIAN APPROPRIATION REPORTS TO THE CORRESPONDING BRITISH REPORTS.

590. **\*Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state in detail the action that has so far been taken and the action that is proposed to be taken on the recommendation of the Public Accounts Committee for the purpose of carrying out the suggestions made by the Auditor General in his report of an inquiry into the possibility of assimilating Indian Appropriation Reports to the corresponding British Reports?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state what action has been taken on the other recommendations made by the Public Accounts Committee in their report on the accounts of 1923-24?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** (a) It is expected that the next appropriation report will be in the new form in accordance with the recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee. The Demands for Grants which will be placed before the House shortly will also be in a new form, altered in order to conform with the new appropriation accounts.

(b) The recommendations are under the consideration of the Government of India at present, whose decisions will, as usual, be incorporated in a Resolution which, it is hoped, will be published shortly.



## ACCOUNTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA FOR 1924-25.

591. **\*Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar:** Will the Government be pleased to furnish a statement showing the extent to which the accounts of the Government of India for 1924-25, so far compiled vary from the anticipations made in March last in the revised estimates of 1924-25?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply already given by me to similar questions by Mr. Rama Aiyangar.

**Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar:** May I know what is the difficulty for Government in stating the exact particulars in this matter?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** The accounts have not yet actually been published. There is considerable difficulty always in arriving at exact figures.

**Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar:** May I take it that the accounts have not yet been closed?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** I think the accounts have been closed, but they are actually in the Press.

**Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar:** When may I expect these figures to be available to the House?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** I hope to give the Honourable Member a succinct and clear account of them when I give my Budget speech.

**Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar:** May I know if it is not possible to give them before the Budget?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** It is usual to give them in the Budget, and I do not propose to give any special figures till then which are not included in the financial accounts before the public.

## UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

## TRAIN CONTROLLERS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

89. **Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** How many train controllers are there on the East Indian Railway? What is the proportion of Indians, Anglo-Indians and Europeans in these posts? What are the scales of pay for Anglo-Indians, Europeans and Indians? Is the nature of the duty of the Indians the same as that performed by non-Indians? What is the difference in the scale of pay due to? Are Indians provided with a similar type of quarters to that supplied to non-Indians?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** The information is not available. Government are not prepared to collect the information. The Honourable Member is referred to the statistics published in the Report on Indian Railways for 1924-25 giving general information regarding the proportion of Indians amongst the employees on the various Railways.

PAY OF STATION MASTERS AND ASSISTANT STATION MASTERS ON THE  
 OUDH AND ROHILKHAND SECTION OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

90. **Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** Is it a fact that the maximum pay of "A" class station masters and assistant station masters on the Bengal and North-Western and East Indian Railways is Rs. 80 and Rs. 76, respectively, whereas on the Oudh and Rohilkhand section of the East Indian Railway the pay of station masters and assistant station masters has been revised to Rs. 75 and 55, respectively? If so, do the Government propose to raise the scale of the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway staff also to the scale in force on the sister Railways?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** Government have no information. But I would point out in this connection that scales of pay on the different Railways differ as they are determined with due regard to local circumstances and conditions, affecting the cost of living, the nature of duties, etc., Government do not propose to take action in the direction suggested.

APPOINTMENT OF MR. KENNEDY NORTH AS DECORATIVE ARTIST AND  
 DESIGNER OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS AT RAISINA.

91. **Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the services of Mr. Kennedy North, the decorator and designer from England, have been engaged for the purpose of the correlation of arts and crafts in conformity with Sir Edwin Lutyen's designs? If that is so, will the Government be pleased to state the precise nature and extent of his work? How long will Mr. North stay in India? Will he after his departure from this country carry on the work that has been given to him?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state Mr. Kennedy North's precise qualification for the proposed work and his experience of the conditions in India in the matter of arts and crafts?

(c) Are Government aware that Mr. North's appointment is inconsistent with the assurance given by them during the last Session in reply to questions by Messrs. Das and Joshi?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** With your permission, Sir, I propose to answer this and question No. 93 together. I have nothing to add to the terms of my reply to question No. 234 by Lala Piyari Lal given on the 26th January, 1926.

SCHEME FOR THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF INDIAN ART FRAMED BY THE  
 PRIZE OF DELHI COMMITTEE.

92. **Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar:** Are Government in receipt of the scheme for the encouragement of Indian art framed by the Prize of Delhi Committee? Do Government propose to take any immediate and practical action in conformity with the demands embodied in that scheme?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given by me on the 28th January, 1926, to questions Nos. 392 and 411 by Maulvi Muhammad Yakub and Mr. Chaman Lal, respectively. The Local Governments have been addressed on the subject, and a copy of the letter is laid on the table.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.  
DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES AND LABOUR.

No. I-184 (T.).

*Dated Delhi, the 25th January, 1926.*

From

The Hon'ble Mr. A. H. LEY, C.S.I., C.I.E., C.B.E., I.C.S.,  
Secretary to the Government of India,

To

- (1) The Secretary to the Government of Madras, Development Department.
- (2) The Secretary to the Government of Bombay, General Department.
- (3) The Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Department of Agriculture and Industries.
- (4) The Secretary to the Government of the United Provinces, Industries Department.
- (5) The Financial Commissioner and Secretary to Government, Punjab, Development Department.
- (6) The Secretary to the Government of Burma, Department of Agriculture, Excise and Forests.
- (7) The Secretary to the Government of Bihar and Orissa, Education Department.
- (8) The Secretary to the Government of the Central Provinces, Revenue Department.
- (9) The Second Secretary to the Government of Assam.

SUBJECT :—*Proposed establishment of a Central Art Institute at Delhi.*

SIR,

I am directed to address you on the subject of a proposal to establish a Central Art Institute at Delhi.

2. Public opinion, as revealed in press comments which have appeared both in England and India, and also in resolutions at public meetings and in the Legislature, has shown a widening interest in the revival and stimulation of Indian art. The Government of India believe that there is a general feeling that there is need for an institution which will give advanced teaching in the fine arts a form of what may be called post-graduate study which such local Arts schools as exist at present are unable to supply. They believe also that it is commonly held that in the conditions prevailing in this country, it is necessary for Government to offer active assistance in the provision of higher Art education, if the artistic talent of the country is to obtain the full development to which it rightly aspires. Without expressing any opinion on the correctness of these statements, I am to draw your attention to a debate in the Council of State on the 28th of January, 1925, when after some discussion, a resolution was passed in the following terms :—

“ This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council that he should at an early date consider the advisability of formulating a scheme of scholarships and prizes for Indian Art students engaged in painting, sculpture, architecture and the artistic crafts, and of establishing a central institution where the scholarship holders and prizemen may continue their work for a period of three or four years.”

It is in pursuance of that resolution that I am now addressing you.

3. I am to forward a copy of a note written by Sir John Marshall, Director-General of Archaeology, in which he outlines a scheme for the establishment of a central art institute, drawn up by him in consultation with the Principals of the Calcutta and Bombay Schools of Art. It should be understood that this scheme has no direct connection with the decoration of public buildings at Delhi, which will be treated as a separate matter. The scheme is intended solely to provide advanced training in the fine arts to Indian art students. It recognizes that this is a question in which the Central Government as well as the Provincial Governments are interested, and suggests a division of charges between those Governments.

4. I am to request that the Government of <sup>Madras</sup> ~~Bombay~~ may favour the Government of India with their opinion both on the general question of the advisability of the establishment by Government of a central art institute and on the particular scheme <sup>etc.</sup>

suggested in Sir John Marshall's note. If a central institute of the kind suggested meets with approval, the Government of India would be glad to know to what extent the Government of <sup>Madras</sup> ~~Bombay~~ would be willing to co-operate and contribute towards the financing of the scheme.

5. I am to say that the Government of India have as yet formed no opinion on the scheme, and they propose to await the views of Local Governments before doing so. They will welcome any criticisms or suggestions which the Government of <sup>Madras</sup> ~~Bombay~~ etc. may have to offer both on the general conception and on the details of the scheme. Points of detail, for instance, on which your Government may like to offer their remarks relate to the monetary value of the scholarships, the allowances of Provincial Directors, the division of charges between the Central and Provincial Governments and so on.

6. A rough estimate amounting to Rs. 2,05,000 of the initial cost of one section, as described in paragraph 12 of the scheme, has been obtained from the Chief Engineer, Delhi, and this estimate and sketch plans\* are enclosed for the information of the Local Government. Some reduction of the estimate would, however, in all probability be possible if the students and superintendent were grouped in hostels, especially if one large hostel were constructed for all the provincial sections, a definite portion of the hostel being set apart for each Province. Also if the main institute buildings of each Province were grouped together in one building, it would be possible no doubt to design a more imposing institute than would be obtained by the construction of a number of small buildings. It would probably in any case be more useful and economical if there were a common library for all the sections and a common exhibition gallery.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

A. H. LEY,

Secretary to the Government of India.

Copy forwarded to the Hon'ble the Chief Commissioner of Delhi, for information.

By order, etc.,

S. LALL,

Under Secretary to the Government of India.

### ENCOURAGEMENT OF INDIAN ART.

*Note on the proposed establishment of a Central Art Institute at Delhi.*

1. In fulfilment of a promise given by the Hon'ble Mr. Ley in the Legislative Assembly, the Government of India has had under consideration the question of giving encouragement to Indian artists by employing them on the decoration of the New Capital buildings at Delhi. At the suggestion of the Hon'ble Member for Industries, His Excellency the Viceroy consulted the undersigned and subsequently invited the Principals of the Calcutta and Bombay Schools of Art, as representing the two Presidencies chiefly concerned, to confer with him on the subject. A meeting of this Committee took place at the Viceregal Lodge on July the 15th and the following were the conclusions arrived at.

2. At the outset H. E. Lord Lytton sketched the history of the case and referred in particular to the publicity given to it in India and in England partly by the press, partly by the holding of public meetings, and partly by questions put in the Legislative Assembly or Provincial Councils. His Excellency expressed the hope that it would be possible for the Central Government to do something tangible at no distant date to meet the freely expressed wishes of the public, but at the same time he pointed

\*Not reproduced.

† With 4 spare copies. Copy also forwarded to the Department of Education, Health and Land\* Finance Department† for information.

out the difficulty of the Government of India concerning itself with what is constitutionally a provincial and transferred subject. He recognised, however, that in a matter of this kind some elasticity might be necessary, and he also recognised that, unless action were to be taken by the Central Government, the Fine Arts could never hope to regain the broad national character which they once possessed. Accordingly, he asked the Committee to consider with him what steps the Government might reasonably take (assuming that a way could be found out of the difficulty alluded to) : first, for the employment of Indian talent on the decoration of New Delhi; secondly, for providing facilities for the advanced training of Indian artists.

3. The Committee agreed with His Excellency that these two objects should be kept quite separate, as there was not necessarily any connexion between them. No doubt the decoration of the buildings in the New Capital would be chiefly the concern of the Viceroy of the day with such advisers as he might care to consult, but the Committee were of opinion that any attempt to secure suitable designs by means of competitions among private artists would be doomed to failure, for the reason that Indian artists qualified to tackle important work of this nature do not at present exist. In the view of the Committee, the only possible way of enlisting Indian talent for this task would be by establishing at Delhi a Central Art Institute to which the most brilliant of the art students from all parts of India could be attracted, and where they could receive more advanced teaching in mural painting, sculpture and certain other branches of the Fine Arts. This Central Institute, the Committee thought, would solve both the problems indicated by His Excellency, since it would meet one of the most pressing needs now felt by Indian art, and at the same time put at the service of Government a body of really capable artists.

4. In the opinion of the Committee the deficiencies of existing Art Schools are mainly three. In the first place they are fundamentally local in their scope, with their horizon limited to the Province in which they are situated; secondly, they make no provision for the advanced graduate teaching which plays such an important part in Europe; thirdly, the majority of them are concerned rather with the minor applied arts and crafts than with the major arts of sculpture and painting. What is needed in order to remedy these deficiencies, is a Central Institute to which specially promising students can go after they have graduated at the local Schools of Art, where they can rub shoulders with artists from other parts of the country, studying one another's methods and thus gradually breaking down the system of water-tight compartments which is at present retarding the development of Indian art, and where, in a word, they can pursue their studies on broader and more stimulating lines. An Institute of the type contemplated by the Committee would be, not a new departure, but merely a logical extension of the system already in existence and tested by long experience. The members of the Committee emphasised their unanimous view that any scheme adopted by the Central Government must take full account of the established centres of Art activity, whether official or private; and that any additional machinery that might be set up, must be designed to run in harmony with them. In this connexion the Committee also laid stress on their view that the regional character of the Fine Arts, as developed in the several Provinces, must at the outset be maintained at Delhi, their idea being that a natural fusion of the several local styles will follow in course of time, and that it would not be wise to endeavour to hasten this fusion artificially.

5. As time goes on and the Institute develops, it may be found desirable to include architecture and some other branches of the fine arts among the subjects with which it is to deal. But for the present the Committee consider that these subjects should be strictly limited to painting and sculpture—the two branches which stand in most urgent need of assistance,—particularly as most of the applied arts and crafts with which the local schools are concerned, are essentially regional in character and depend for their stimulus and vitality upon their own special environment.

6. The fear expressed in some quarters that any further State encouragement of Indian art may result in unduly officializing and thus sapping the vitality of that art, is, in the opinion of the Committee, groundless. In France, where art is better understood than in any other European country, the State has always taken a prominent part in art education and patronage; and the art revival which is now making itself felt so widely in India is to a great extent the direct result of official effort. Should Government assistance not be forthcoming, there would be little hope for the future of art in this country. Politically, the Government of India stands in the place of the Mughal and the earlier kings who preceded it, and unless the Government is prepared to take the lead, as its predecessors did, in extending patronage and help to the fine arts, it is inevitable that those arts should go to the wall. The patronage of Government necessarily connotes a certain measure of control, but there is no reason why such control, if properly exercised, should not be highly beneficial.

7. Assuming that the Government of India and the Local Governments are willing to share their responsibilities in this matter, the Committee recommends that the Institute be jointly organised and controlled by them. For this purpose the Institute will consist of quasi-independent sections—one for Bombay, another for Bengal, another for Madras, and so on. Each of these sections will be under the control of its own Provincial Director, who will be appointed for a term of at least five years. The Directors of the Provincial Sections would most suitably and conveniently be the Principals of the Provincial Art Schools, which will thus maintain their own branches, as it were, for advanced teaching at Delhi. The working season at the Institute will last for eight months, i.e., from September the 15th to May the 15th, with four months' vacation during the hot weather and a break of about three weeks at Christmas. During these eight months, the Provincial Directors will be in residence at Delhi for three months only, but each of them will be assisted by a whole-time Superintendent—preferably an Indian—who will reside on the premises for the whole of the working season.

8. The Institute as a whole will be governed by a Board composed of the Provincial Directors, with a President appointed by His Excellency the Viceroy. In all matters pertaining to the Institute the decision of this Board will be final.

9. The students or graduates will not at first exceed 30 in number, of whom there will not ordinarily be more than 8 in each Provincial Section, including a proportionate number of painters and sculptors. The students will be required to pass a prescribed test and will be provided by the Local Governments with scholarships of the value of Rs. 200 per mensem for a term of three years. They will also be allowed free quarters, if they so desire, at the Institute, and will be encouraged to undertake private commissions subject to the condition that Government will have a prior claim to their services at such rate of remuneration as may be fixed by Government in consultation with the Governing Board.

10. The method of securing admission to the Institute will be as follows :—The candidates will send in their applications according to the rules published by a Local Committee in each Province. Applicants will be eligible from all Arts Schools or kindred institutions, public or private, in India and Burma. Those candidates who are selected by the Committee will be admitted as probationers to undergo an entrance examination, which will be held locally in Bombay, Calcutta, and possibly some other centres under the control of the Governing Body. The syllabus of the subjects of the next examination will be drawn up by the Board during the period that the Directors of the Provincial Sections of the Institute are in residence at Delhi and this syllabus will offer alternative subjects suited to the artistic requirements of each Province. There will thus be no risk of standardizing Indian art, the test being, as far as possible, designed to bring out the best work of the students in different spheres of art, viz., in the decorative, realistic and imaginative branches of painting and sculpture and in landscape painting. The work done in this entrance examination by the probationers will be submitted to the Board of Directors of the Central Art Institute. The reason that a test examination rather than the mere submission of students' work is considered desirable is that the Directors may be able to satisfy themselves that the work is the *bona fide* work of the students themselves.

11. At the expiry of the first term of three years students of exceptional ability, not exceeding four in number, will be eligible for Government of India fellowships of the value of Rs. 300 per mensem, which will enable them to stay at the Institute for a further course of two years. In no circumstances will they be permitted to remain beyond the period of five years.

12. The Institute buildings will comprise a self-contained section for each Province whose students are numerous enough to justify it. At first, some Provinces will probably not send to the Institute more than one or two students. Should this happen, it is suggested that the students might be admitted by country to one or other of the other Provincial Sections.

Each section will require :

- (a) A large studio of about 70' by 40' for painting.
- (b) A smaller studio of about 35' by 20' for sculpture.
- (c) Eight quarters for students, each consisting of a small work-room, bedroom, kitchen and bathroom.
- (d) A studio of about 25' square and quarters for the Director.
- (e) Quarters, with work room and office, for the Superintendent.
- (f) A common room, including a small Library and necessary offices.

13. The number of Sections required can only be determined after the scheme has been referred to Local Governments. But in the meantime the Committee suggest that a rough estimate of the cost of each Section, calculated on a plinth area basis, might be obtained from the Chief Engineer at Delhi.

14. The following will be the principal items of expenditure which the Committee suggest might be divided between the Central and Local Governments in the manner indicated. The actual cost of each item cannot be arrived at until the details of the scheme are more developed.

*To be charged to the Central Government.*

- (a) Provision of site, say, 5 acres in extent.
- (b) Initial cost of buildings and furnishing of same.
- (c) President's remuneration.
- (d) Salary of one clerk, two peons and three chankidars.
- (e) Annual maintenance of building and garden.
- (f) Four second term fellowships at Rs. 300 each, *per mensem*.
- (g) Printing charges connected with examinations and other sundries.

*To be charged to Local Governments.*

- (a) Remuneration of Provincial Directors.
- (b) Salaries of Superintendents at Rs. 800—50—1,000.
- (c) First term scholarships, say, 25, at Rs. 200 each, *per mensem*.
- (d) Travelling allowances for Directors and students.
- (e) Establishment charges for one clerk, three peons and one sweeper for each Section.
- (f) Cost of all working materials (paints, brushes, canvas, models, marble, wax, etc., etc.).

JOHN MARSHALL,

*Director General of Archaeology.*

July 20th, 1925.

*Abstract of cost.*

Abstract of cost.	Quantity or No.	Rate.	Per.	Amount.	Total
<i>Proposed Central Art Institute, Delhi.</i>		Rs. A. P.		Rs.	Rs.
Painting and sculpture studios and common room, library and office as per sketch plan	11,720 s.ft.	6 8 0	8.ft.	76,200	
8 Students Quarters	8 Nos.	3,200 0 0	Each.	25,600	
Quarters for Director and studio A-1662 with 3,500 added for studio.		L. S.	...	85,000	
One Superintendent's Quarter A-1650		"		17,000	
Sanitary fittings, Water Sup- ply and Drainage		"	...	20,000	
Electric installation		"	...	15,000	
Levelling and layout com- pound	...	"	...	4,000	
Roads and Paths	...	"	...	2,000	
Compound walling and fenc- ing	...	"	...	10,000	
TOTAL	...	...	...		2,04,800

## DECORATIONS IN NEW DELHI.

†93. **Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar:** Are Government aware of the resolution passed by a public meeting in November in Bombay demanding that all decorations at New Delhi should be stopped until due consideration and practical form is given to the scheme for the encouragement of Indian art formulated by the Prize of Delhi Committee?

## ALLEGED OPENING OF A MAIL BAG BY THE SUB-DIVISIONAL OFFICER (CIVIL), SIRSA.

94. **Mr. Abdul Haye:** 1. Is it a fact that in October last when a mail peon was carrying a mail bag from Sirsa to Rania he was detained en route and that the bag was taken possession of by the Sub-Divisional Officer (Civil), Sirsa?

2. Is it a fact that the Sub-Divisional Officer broke open the lock of the bag and handled its contents?

3. Is it a fact that the peon refused to take back the open bag after the Sub-Divisional Officer had done with it, and is it also a fact that he was brought back to Sirsa Post Office where the bag was resealed by the Postmaster and delivered to the peon?

4. Were the contents of the mail bag duly checked? If so, with what result? Were any of the contents found tampered with or were they found intact?

5. Were these facts brought to the notice of the Government, and if so what action have they taken in the matter?

**Mr. G. P. Roy:** 1. Yes.

2. Yes, except that the bag was not locked but tied and sealed.

3. Yes.

4. The contents were checked and found correct.

5. No. I have asked the Postmaster-General, Punjab and North-West Frontier, for a report.

## RECRUITMENT TO THE SUPERIOR SERVICES OF THE TECHNICAL AND STORES DEPARTMENTS OF THE INDIAN STATE RAILWAYS OF QUALIFIED MECHANICAL AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS OF THE MACLAGAN ENGINEERING COLLEGE.

95. **Mr. Abdul Haye:** (a) Have the Government so far considered the desirability of recruiting qualified mechanical and electrical engineers of the MacLagan Engineering College to the superior services of the Technical and Stores Departments of the Indian State Railways?

(b) If not do the Government propose to reserve for them some such posts in future?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** (a) The scheme regarding the recruitment of railway officers in India is under consideration.

(b) Government do not propose to reserve posts for any particular college.

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†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 91.



RESULT OF THE ELECTION TO THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS  
COMMITTEE, 1926.

**Mr. President:** I have to announce that the following Members have  
12 Noes. been elected to serve on the Public Accounts Committee:

Pandit Nilakantha Das,  
Sardar Gulab Singh,  
Mr. K. C. Neogy,  
Mr. Ahmad Ali Khan,  
Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur,  
Dr. K. G. Lohokare,  
The Rev. Dr. E. M. Macphail, and  
Sardar V. N. Mutalik.

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RESULT OF THE ELECTION TO THE STANDING FINANCE  
COMMITTEE, 1926.

**Mr. President:** I have further to announce that the following Members  
have been elected to serve on the Standing Finance Committee:

Nawab Sir Sahibzada Abdul Qaiyum,  
Mr. S. C. Ghose,  
Captain Hira Singh Brar,  
Rao Bahadur M. C. Naidu,  
Mr. W. S. J. Willson,  
Sir Darcy Lindsay,  
Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju,  
Mr. N. M. Dumasia,  
Maulvi Abul Kasem,  
Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan,  
Mr. M. K. Acharya,  
Maung Tok Kyi,  
Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh, and  
Syed Majid Baksh.

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THE INSOLVENCY (AMENDMENT) BILL.

PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE.

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman** (Home Member): Sir, with  
your permission I beg to lay on the table the Report of the Select Com-  
mittee on the Bill to amend the Presidency-towns Insolvency Act, 1909,  
and the Provincial Insolvency Act, 1920.

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RESOLUTION *RE* PROHIBITION OF BEGGARY AND VAGRANCY.

**Mr. Abdul Haye** (East Punjab: Muhammadan): Sir, the Resolution  
that stands in my name runs as follows:

"This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that he be  
pleased to undertake legislation to prohibit beggary and vagrancy in India at an  
early date."

When I rise to move this Resolution, I do so with a confidence—a confidence which I am sure, before me, has not been the privilege of another Member to enjoy in this Assembly. The House, I feel, is going to accept this motion without a single dissentient voice, for opposition to a measure like this can only emanate from a person who is a member of the class against which this Resolution is directed and not from an Honourable Member of this Assembly. I also hope, Sir, that this will be one of those occasions, which of course are so rare in the history of this House, when the Treasury Benches will also condescend to see eye to eye with the representatives of the people. That they should adopt this course is obviously to their own advantage, for with the abolition of beggary, the practice of begging for Swaraj will also cease in this country, and they shall have more elbow room to discharge the onerous duties of their self-imposed trusteeship.

Of India it has been said that it is a land of stagnation. Submissive sadness is characteristic of its people. We here in this country have a morbid outlook upon life and we feel obsessed with pessimism. While we feel that this life is more or less a burden, people in the West are full of hope and are intensely active. Unlike ourselves they believe that the world is capable of indefinite improvement and have everlasting faith in individual and collective effort.

It is not my desire to dilate upon the causes and they are many—which are responsible for this state of inertia in this country. One is prone to think that lassitude in this unfortunate country is not entirely due to climatic enervation. This immense stock of imbecile inactivity and patience, this contemptuous disregard for time and its value that one sees around is due primarily, if not solely, to the institution of beggary. Beggars and fakirs in this country go about, Sir, from door to door, from morning till night, preaching their gospel of inactivity and laziness. By their sad, pessimistic and hackneyed songs they rob you of your enthusiasm to act like a man in this world. If this pessimism in India is to be dispelled by new forces of hope and faith, then this lowly calling of doing nothing and living upon the earnings of others must at once be abolished. No chain is stronger than its weakest link. It is equally true that the genius of a nation is best discovered by studying the conduct of its most humble members. Under the circumstances, one cannot be very enthusiastic about the future of a country, a great proportion of whose population deny their Master by refusing to avail themselves of the various gifts granted to them by their Creator.

The problem that we have before us awaiting solution is that this social system of ours that tends to produce drones and sluggards cannot long survive. Let me make myself clear that in my condemnation I do not refer to those who on account of some physical disability, disease or infirmity are driven into this profession. I only refer to those able-bodied persons who of their own free will choose to depend upon the bounty of whimsical people rather than work. It is not want but laziness that induces them to beg for a living. They take to begging because of their determination not to work, and also because not infrequently they consider it to be more lucrative and easy-going than any other profession. There are fakirs who are reputed to obtain far more from charity than they could possibly hope to earn from honest labour. It is due to this that we find that children of tender age are deliberately trained and initiated into this unproductive profession by their parents. It breaks one's heart to

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see them start on a life of begging; gradually their artless and innocent looking faces become shrewd and their manner whining and cringing. With their bellies very often full and their parents begging near by, these little urchins have the audacity to cry with forced tears in their eyes: "Our father is dead, our mother is ill; we have had no food for several days." With somewhat reluctant hands you unloosen the strings of your purse and throw out a coin believing them to be necessitous people. It is no exaggeration to say that beggars in India have made life intolerable. They themselves do not work, neither do they allow any other person to work. They are a regular nuisance to an ordinary citizen and perhaps the only practical method of avoiding that nuisance is to adopt the self-same profession. Early in the morning, while still in bed, you are prematurely roused from your sleep by the yellings of the beggars at your door. The very fact that in the cold weather, in the small hours of the morning, they can afford to move about and wander is proof positive that they are not physically unfit to earn their livelihood by honest labour. As the sun rises they continue pouring in. Some of them pretend to entertain you with a song and only succeed in distracting your attention. Some of them go about with a hurdy-gurdy which in some beggar families descends from father to son as a legacy, to keep them loyal and faithful to their time-honoured and ancestral profession. While you are busy at your table preparing your brief the servant with somewhat indecent haste announces a new comer. "I suppose a new client, Sir." After you have wasted a quarter of an hour in irrelevant talk with him, you realise that the man is not a customer but a beggar in plain clothes. On the way to court one meets these ubiquitous people almost at every step. Some of them sit crouching on the side walks close to the court premises, predicting success to the adverse parties in the same breath. Very often one finds a robust looking young man, fully capable of doing a hard day's work, reclining on a piece of matting against a lamp post, pouring out rich notes into the evening air. Unlike that mumbling old woman lying in a heap against the rails, he has no justification to beg. Some of the beggars go about patrolling the streets playing old-fashioned tunes that coax pennies from the pockets of credulous people. At midday prayer time on Fridays, these beggars gravitate to the big mosques, and while the congregation is on their knees praying before an Almighty God, they prefer to wait and take their chance by asking for favours at the hands of His creatures. Even the inside of the mosque is not free from this nuisance. As soon as the prayer is finished, the respectable looking man on your right, with loose green robe on his shoulder and on his head a striped silk square falling in tasselled folds, rises to his feet and declares that there is no other laudable and charitable purpose in this world except to empty your pockets for his sake. One is simply surprised at the audacity of these beggars when one finds that beggary is very strictly prohibited in Islam. "It is unlawful" said the Holy Prophet (on Him be peace) for a healthy and able-bodied man to beg. In this connection it is worth while to mention the following incident which is reported as a reliable tradition in Islamic religious literature. It was an Ansari, who came to the Holy Prophet (on Him be peace) and he begged for alms. "Have you not got anything in your house", asked the Prophet. "Yes", said he, "I have a coarse blanket, a portion of which I spread underneath and I cover myself with the rest and I own a bowl out of which I drink". "Bring th-se to me" was the order given by the Holy Prophet. When the blanket and the bowl were brought

to him, the Prophet put them to auction and they were sold for 2 dirams. He gave these to the Ansari and said: "Spend one diram in feeding your people and in lieu of the other purchase a blade of axe and bring it to me". When the iron blade was brought to him the Holy Prophet with his own hand put a wooden handle into it. "Take this and go and cut wood and sell it in the market" said he. "Do not come to me for a fortnight but in the meanwhile carry on this trade". After a fortnight when the Ansari came he possessed 10 dirams. The Holy Prophet is reported to have said: "It is better that one of you should take his rope and bring a bundle of fuel on his back and sell it and thereby save his honour, rather than that he should throw himself on the mercy of others by taking to beggary".

Sir, the number of beggars in India is legion. One wonders whether the stars in Heaven are more in number or the beggars in this country. The statistics collected at the time of the last census show that in a population of less than 82 crores there are no less than 29 lakhs of beggars and vagrants, 20 lakhs being in British India and the remaining 9 lakhs in Native States and the Agencies.

In view, however, of the fact that at the time of the census no elaborate or independent inquiries are made to find out the real profession of a person and that a man is practically free to have his profession recorded accorded to his choice. We have very strong reasons to doubt the accuracy of these figures. They only show that at the time of the last census so many persons confessed that they were beggars, but there were undoubtedly others who were not prepared to make such an admission and their number was perhaps larger.

I have no hesitation in saying that barring agriculture there is no other profession in India which can claim more followers than beggary and vagrancy. Figures given under the following heads of Professions and Occupations in the Census Report undoubtedly include a fair proportion of beggars and vagrants also. These heads are:

- (1) Players of musical instruments.
- (2) Singers.
- (3) Reciters.
- (4) Conjurers.
- (5) Fortune tellers.
- (6) Acrobats.
- (7) Exhibitors of curiosities and wild animals.
- (8) Religious mendicants.
- (9) Pilgrim conductors.
- (10) Inmates of asylums and alms houses.

Further, there are more than one crore of people who are classed under the heading "insufficiently described occupations".

Taking all these facts into consideration, Sir, I make bold to say and without any fear of contradiction that every twenty-fifth man in this country is a beggar. If these fakirs are persuaded to shake off their lethargy and forced to work, they will prove a source of immense strength

[Mr. Abdul Haye.]

to the Government and to the people of this country. As to the possibilities that lie hidden in the successful adoption of this measure, I need only remind this House that in British India the number of beggars is far in excess of the number of persons who belong to that gallant, loyal and patriotic community, the Sikhs of the Punjab. If it is possible for the Sikhs to uphold the banner of the British Raj on many a battle-field, if it is possible for them to work for their own amelioration, if they can carry out urgent reforms in the teeth of opposition in a spirit of self-abnegation, there is absolutely no reason why these beggars who are more in numbers should hang round the neck of Mother India like a mill-stone and retard all progress.

Sir, I owe it to this House to explain why instead of bringing in a private Bill penalising beggary, I have chosen to put forward a mere commendatory Resolution. I know that so far as the desirability of bringing about this reform is concerned, there will be a general consensus of opinion. I however thought it more appropriate first to have the matter talked out in this Assembly so as to find out the lines on which it would be suitable to undertake this legislation. It was further my desire to find out if it was the intention of the representatives of some class or community to make exceptions in case of certain people on religious or other grounds.

So far as my community is concerned, I want to make it clear that we do not want any such exceptions to be made, for my religion enjoins that there is no mendicancy in Islam. Let there be one uniform legislation for all and if there is to be any saving clause, let it be in favour of those who are physically unfit to earn a living. Sir, I want legislation to be undertaken in this connection on the lines of the Vagrancy Act now in force in England. As a condition precedent to this legislation, it will be necessary to establish workhouses for poor and indigent people so that it will not be open to an accused person to plead that he is unable to find work although he has made an honest effort to do so. Let me here point out that I fully endorse the opinion expressed by my Honourable friend Mr. Calvert the other day in this House that, so far as unskilled labourers are concerned, there is no dearth of employment in India. Nevertheless, it will be necessary for us to establish poor houses in all the districts of the various Provinces, and I would strongly urge that these be placed under the direct control and management of the Department of Industries with some Swarajist Member at the head of this department in the near future, and it will be a sight to witness the ex-beggar working the spinning wheel quietly and contentedly and adding to the resources of the Motherland. It is expected that in course of time these poor houses will become self-supporting and cease to be a burden on the finances of the Government. When more money is available, I would suggest that gradually suitable allowance should also be made for infirm and indigent persons by the Government in co-operation with local authorities and civic organizations. Persons suffering from blindness, sickness, mental disease or other infirmity are better cared for in institutions specially maintained for them. In such institutions they will be made to work to the extent that they in spite of their disabilities can afford to do. In this manner they will cease to be a mere burden and will not escape their share in the national life. I only want to strike those who prey upon humanity and for whom India

has no need. India expects every man to do his duty and the initial duty that a man owes to himself is to justify his existence by earning his wages. In the words of Rudyard Kipling:

"From forge and farm and mine and bench,  
Deck, altar, outpost lone—  
Mill, school, battalion, counter, trench,  
Rail, senate, sheepfold, throne—  
Creation's cry goes up on high  
From age to cheated age;  
Send us the men who do the work  
For which they draw the wage.  
Words cannot help nor wit achieve,  
Nor e'en the all-gifted fool,  
Too weak to enter, bide, or leave  
The lists he cannot rule.  
Beneath the sun we count on none  
Our evil to assuage,  
Except the men who do the work  
For which they draw the wage.  
Wherefore to these the Fates shall bend  
(And all old idle things)  
Wherefore on these shall Power attend  
Beyond the grip of Kings:  
Each in his place, by right, not grace,  
Shall rule his heritage—  
The men who simply do the work  
For which they draw the wage."

Sir, I move this Resolution and commend it to the serious and sympathetic consideration of this Assembly.

**Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan** (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa: Muhammadan): Sir, I beg to move:

"That for the original Resolution the following be substituted:

"This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that he be pleased to take immediate steps to consult the Local Governments and Administrations whether it is possible to stop beggary and vagrancy in India by legislation and to place the opinions received before the House during its next Session."

It would appear from this amendment that I do not wish that this Resolution of my Honourable friend should be negatived outright. What I wish to suggest is that Local Governments should be consulted. They will be the best to advise us whether legislation would be proper and whether it could stop the evil. It is very easy to undertake legislation. But the question is whether, if there is no public support behind it, or if the habits and customs of the different places differ, the proposed legislation will be effective in stopping the evil. My Honourable friend has, I regret, dragged the name of Islam and the Great Prophet of Islam into this ordinary matter. Beggary and vagrancy are condemned everywhere, and so it is no credit to any particular religion that it should condemn them. It is condemned everywhere, and in every society. Every moral code, every religious code, condemns it. Sir, it is no good dragging in the name of Islam and the Great Prophet of Islam in this very small matter, unless it be the intention of the Mover to get the sympathy of the people who do not understand the position. I am also sorry that he has in certain ways overdrawn the picture. Everybody knows that there are beggars and I agree that they are a nuisance. But it is not the case, as has been pointed out, that every morning, as soon as we get up, beggars come in and trouble us. The question now to be gone into is whether the customs and habits of the people are such that such legislation is necessary. No doubt it is a very

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great question. India is more or less a sub-continent and the habits of the people differ very much. There are different habits and usages in Madras and there are different habits and usages in Bombay, and so on. It may be possible that in the Punjab such legislation may do some good but the same may not be the case in Madras and Bombay. Besides some people think it a meritorious act and an act of piety to give alms to beggars. It is their custom and unless you change the custom, how can you stop the evil. Again, beggary and vagrancy are a result of unemployment. Unless you remove the unemployment you cannot check beggary and vagrancy. There are some people who have been from their very birth taught to give alms, and some people take a delight in paying something to beggars. Out of ordinary custom they pay something to them.

Also, it seems to me that the agitation for removing this has not come from the upper class. I have not seen anything in the papers agitating for this. So I do not think that legislation should be thrust upon the people. I have not said anything against the Resolution and I have not opposed it. But I wish that the Governor General in Council should be pleased to consult Local Governments and Administrations as to whether they consider that legislation on this question would check the real evil, for which this Resolution has been brought. They are the best to advise us on this point. The Central Government cannot be in a position to know the conditions in the different provinces as much as the Local Administrations in the provinces themselves. That is why I wish that Local Governments be consulted, and that the matter should not be thrust here. When we have received all the opinions we will have better materials, and I have suggested that the Government may be pleased to place the opinions before the House during its next Session. These are my reasons, Sir, for moving this amendment. I hope that the Resolution will then come before the House. I therefore suggest that the Government of India may be pleased to consult Local Governments and Administrations before taking any steps, I formally move my amendment.

**Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer** (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I do not rise to move my amendment which runs thus:

"That for all the words after the words 'he be pleased' the following be substituted:

'to take steps for the establishment of destitute homes for beggars and vagrants.'"

After hearing the speech and the amendment or rather the alternative proposition of my friend, Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan, I do really think that it is a better substitute both for the Resolution as amended by me and for the Resolution itself. Sir, while listening to the speech of the Honourable Mover of the Resolution I was rather surprised at the exaggerated picture that he drew about beggars in India and in the East . . . .

**Pandit Shamlal Nehru** (Meerut Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): No, no. Not half strong enough.

**Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer:** . . . exaggerated from a comparative point of view because he seems to believe that there are no beggars in England.

**Mr. Chaman Lall** (West Punjab: Non-Muhammadan): No.

**Mr. O. S. Ranga Iyer:** Mr. Chaman Lal says "No"!

**Mr. Chaman Lal:** You have got the Poor Law,

**Mr. O. S. Ranga Iyer:** Mr. Chaman Lal adds " You have got the Poor Law " I am quite conscious of the fact that there is the Poor Law in England. But Mr. Chaman Lal knows as well as certain other Members of this House that there are dodges by which the beggars in England get round the Poor Laws.

For instance, Mr. Chaman Lal has come across in the streets of London match-sellers, bootlace-sellers, unlicensed hawkers peddling petty articles. These people sell matches or pretend to sell matches to those who give them a few pence without buying the matches,—similarly others also. He is also aware of the fact that children, grown up boys and women stand near the taxis, opening the doors and doing things of that kind for " tips ". He is also aware of the fact that there are ex-soldiers and others singing songs or playing on violins in " pubs " while the women go to drink liquor in those liquor shops. Various other forms of beggary are in vogue in England. I need not dilate on this aspect now. I know that the Poor Laws have not worked satisfactorily in England. I will presently commend to those who think that the English practice should be translated to this country the recommendations of the Poor Law Commission of 1884 and then they will find that the state of things was not so very satisfactory even in England.

In India beggary is elevated to the level of religion. The sanyasin, according to the Hindu religion, is a beggar. The beggar's bowl is a symbol of renunciation in this country and there will be very many difficulties when you put power in the hands of the Government prohibiting beggary. I do not think the Government will be happy to have that power themselves. I see the Honourable the Home Member smiling approvingly when I say that Government will not like to have such power in their hands because they will have to imprison thousands of sanyasins who are vagrants, it being a part of religion to become a spiritual vagrant after a particular period of one's life. A sanyasin is nothing but a religious vagrant on migrant wings,—“ a wander bird ” in the forests, whom the Government cannot put in cages and, therefore, I think that this is a futile Resolution. However, it will be very nice to add to the literature on the subject of beggary and the proposition of my Honourable friend, Mr. Sarfaraz Hussain Khan, promises to add to the literature if it is accepted by Government because you will have the opinions of Local Governments and Administrations on the matter.

Now, Sir, I will read to the House how the Poor Law worked in England because my Honourable friend, the Mover, seems to think that once we introduce legislation prohibiting beggary in this country there will be an end of lotus eaters, there will be an end of laziness, there will be an end of beggars and vagrants. It is absolute nonsense, because once we introduce poorhouses and a Poor Law in this country you will have a large number of beggars and vagrants. Already our people are not very fond of working. The climate is against it, they are considerably enervated by the climate, and the tendency of the people is not to do much work. Among the masses are a set of idlers, . . .

**Pandit Sham Lal Nehru:** No.



**Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer:** . . . . are a set of idlers for the simple reason that they do not have work. The peasants for six months in the year do not find work. My Honourable friend, Pandit Shamlal Nehru, says "No". He knows the masses living in Allahabad, but he does not come into contact with the general masses I am afraid. He only comes in contact with that class of masses known as the *ekkawallas* who are very busy from morning till evening. (Laughter.) As a member of the Labour Union he can certainly do good work. . . .

**Pandit Shamlal Nehru:** I am not a member at all.

**Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer:** At any rate, as one of the future members of the Labour Union. (Laughter.) But the masses living in the distant villages do not have work all the year round. They have a tendency to idle away, because they have no occupation at hand and they have no work. If you introduce poorhouses in this country without finding work for idle hands, they will flock to these houses. At any rate, I do think that the masses in this country are certainly not more fond of work than the masses in England, and I think this is a proposition which no one in this House will dispute, because the climate of England, the tendency of the people, and everything else there are very much towards work and if they do not work that is another matter. Even in a country like England the Poor Law has not worked well and the poorhouses have become the refuge of idlers and an engine of laziness. This is what the Commissioners of the Poor Law Commission say in their report:

"The worst results (of the old Poor Law system of indiscriminate out-door relief), however, are still to be mentioned. In all ranks of society the great sources of happiness and virtue are the domestic affections, and this is particularly the case among those who have so few resources as the labouring classes. Now, pauperism seems to be an engine for the purpose of disconnecting each member of a family from all the others; of reducing all to the state of domesticated animals, fed, lodged, and provided for by the parish, without mutual dependence or mutual interest."

Do you want a repetition of that in this country which is a much bigger country and much more difficult to control?

"The effect of allowance", says Mr. Stuart, (a member of the Commission), 'is to weaken, if not to destroy, all the ties of affection between parent and child. Whenever a lad comes to earn wages, or to receive parish relief on his own account (and this, we must recollect, is at the age of fourteen), although he may continue to lodge with his parents, he does not throw his money into a common purse and board with them, but buys his own loaf and piece of bacon, which he devours alone. The most disgraceful quarrels arise from mutual accusations of theft; and as the child knows that he has been nurtured at the expense of the parish, he has no filial attachment to his parents. The circumstances of the pauper stand in an inverted relation to those of every other rank in society. Instead of a family being a source of care, anxiety, and expense, for which he hopes to be rewarded by the filial return of assistance and support when they grow up, there is no period in his life in which he tastes less of solicitude, or in which he has the means of obtaining all the necessities of life in greater abundance; but as he is always sure of maintenance, it is in general the practice to enjoy life when he can, and no thought is taken for the morrow. Those parents who are thoroughly degraded and demoralised by the effects of 'allowance' not only take no means to train up their children to habits of industry, but do their utmost to prevent their obtaining employment, lest it should come to the knowledge of the parish officers, and be laid hold of for the purpose of taking away the allowance.'"

I need not read any more of these quotations, but every time an opportunity occurs this class of people try to seek shelter under the Poor Laws and in

the poorhouses. The Commission contrasted the dwelling house of the ordinary poor worker and the man who seeks shelter in the poorhouses. The poor-house-lazy-beggar always accumulates filth in his house, his house is so dirty that it is absolutely impossible to live, while the poor man who does not get so much allowance as the lazy beggar in the poorhouse tries to keep his house neat and clean. I wish those who do not agree with me would go through the valuable report of the Poor Law Commission and they will understand what it will amount to in a huge country like India with its 300 million inhabitants. In Great Britain you have got a population of 45 millions whereas in India you have got 300 millions, and in such a country as this, where begging is sanctified by religion—the sanyasis are beggars and nothing but beggars,—their Kamandulu is their begging bowl—in such a country I do not think it is proper to enforce prohibition.

**Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar** (Madras City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): What is the urgency?

**Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer:** As my Honourable friend, Diwan Bahadur Rangachariar, rightly says, where is the urgency? Do you want an accumulation of idlers whose song will be:

“Then drive away sorrow and banish all care  
For the parish is bound to maintain us.”

That will be the destiny of this country under the regulation which my Honourable friend from the Punjab,—or perhaps friends from the Punjab—want to undertake. As for the new Poor Law I need not go into the working of it because I do not think I should prevent other Members from talking on the subject by referring to it at length; but I will certainly bring to their mind the terrible figures in the matter of cost. The amount raised by rates to meet the Poor Law expenses in the year before the war was £12 millions. The amount so raised in the financial year 1921-22 is estimated at £35,700,000. In a country like England, that, and in India you can imagine the expense! We had a Resolution only the other day on the unemployment of the middle classes, educated men who do not find employment. Now you want Government or the people, because it is the taxpayer ultimately,—you want him indiscriminately to provide poorhouses for the beggars by prohibiting beggary altogether. Provide for the decrepit, the diseased and the destitute by all means, but we are asked to vote for a thoroughly futile, almost a mischievous, proposition, stimulating beggary, stimulating laziness and putting a premium on idleness. Such a proposition should be rejected without mercy, but my opinion is that the Local Governments and Administrations may be consulted on a question of this kind because it makes for the accumulation of the literature on beggars.

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman** (Home Member): If I rise rather early in this debate, it is with the object of bringing the House back rather more to the actual terms of the Resolution and the actual difficulties in the way of giving effect to it. I do not think the House will expect me to make any long speech on this Resolution. My Honourable friend who moved the Resolution apparently lumped all classes of beggars and vagrants together. Now, as far as I know, a beggar and a vagrant are very different people. What the Mover of the Resolution asks in the

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end is that Government should undertake legislation on the lines of the English Vagrancy Acts. I have no doubt that vagrants will be greatly pleased with the idea but at any rate I am glad that I have secured at least one man who will vote for hard labour as a punishment under section 109. With the Honourable the Mover's general observations on the necessity for industry, I am in full agreement. I have had to work all my life and I do not see why other people should not work too. But to make laziness penal in all cases is rather a strong proposition. I was also struck by the fact that he did not seriously contemplate the full effect of the terms of his Resolution. He himself referred to the fact that in India in certain circumstances it is the person who gives who acquires merit. In other words I understand that to some persons of this country it is almost a sacred duty to give just as to receive is to enable others to acquire merit. I have myself seen with great interest in some of the places which are considered very holy by many people in this House persons of great veneration certainly receiving offerings but I do not think any one could call them beggars in the ordinary sense of the term. It is the apotheosis of begging. Again, as the House is aware, in the case of the *hyoongyis* of Burma, who form a considerable part of the population of Burma, it would be impossible for any Government which is not insane to bring in legislation to prohibit begging.

Then, on the general point of legislation, of course I admit that the sturdy beggar, the vagabond in fact, is a problem which should be dealt with by the Government of India as part of the general criminal law of the land. I am endeavouring to deal with it and I am sure the House will support me in the steps I have already taken in bringing forward a measure on this subject. I may remind the House that a vagrant is defined as a vagabond. I will not go through the whole long list of persons who can be dealt with under the Vagrancy Acts of England, but I will refer to the main classes specified in Wharton's Law Lexicon. They are "idle and disorderly persons," "rogues and vagabonds" and "incorrigible" rogues and I may say that the English law on the subject is extremely stiff with these classes of persons. I do not know if that is the kind of legislation which my Honourable friend wishes me to introduce in this country. The only constructive suggestion that he made was that he wanted legislation on the lines of the Vagrancy Act. I will not proceed further into this point, because I do not think there is much use in my going through the whole provisions of these Acts.

The second point I wish to make is this. In so far as vagrancy is not part of the general criminal law of the land, the whole problem is one for Local Governments and Local Administrations. Many of the Police and Municipal Acts have provisions which are exceedingly suitable in the places for which they are enacted. They would be suitable to ordinary villages in the mufussil. And here I pause to make a comment. I do not agree with my Honourable friend that the Indian agriculturist is a lazy man. I wish to pay my tribute to him. I regard him as one of those persons who, like the peasants in England, are the backbone of their country. As I said, there are already in various Municipal and Police Acts provisions which are reasonable enough. For example, begging in a public place is punishable under the Madras City Police Act. Exposing mutilations and begging in an importunate manner is also punishable under the Bombay Act. You will find similar provisions in Calcutta.

**Pandit Shamlal Nehru:** The United Provinces Municipal Act gives full powers to municipalities, but the municipalities are too soft-hearted to take action.

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman:** I have myself observed it with much interest. I was recently in Calcutta and I was much struck by the great increase there in the number of beggars in public streets. The point that I wish to bring forward in connection with my present argument is that this is a matter which should be dealt with by the Local Governments and by municipalities. It would be quite unjustifiable for the Imperial Government to attempt to deal with it by legislation of an Imperial character. Then the question was raised as to poor-houses and workhouses. Workhouses in England are in my judgment anything but a success. Again that is a matter for the Local Governments. It is obviously not a question for the Government of India. I do not think my friend who is in charge of Industries would at all welcome the idea that we should have a series of Imperial Workhouses throughout India. I may further point out that so far from the workhouses in England being self-supporting, as apparently my Honourable friend thinks, they are a very heavy charge on the rates as those who have to pay them know to their cost. For those beggars who are afflicted with physical infirmities one can have nothing but pity and one may hope that in time India will fall into line with what other countries have done in this matter and by private benevolence and generosity establish asylums and other institutions. Something has been done on these lines but much remains to be done. That again must be a matter for local effort mainly, for non-official effort, though I am sure the Local Governments will always lend their support to sound schemes of that kind.

Therefore, I have no hesitation in asking the House unanimously to reject the main Resolution. As regards the amendment, my Honourable friend Mr. Ranga Iyer said, it will add to the large volume of literature accumulated on the shelves of the Secretariat. I am inclined to agree with him. I do not think the House will be in favour of it and I certainly am not. The discussion has not been entirely without use. It may attract the attention of Local Governments to a consideration of their own special problems. It would be useless and futile for the Government of India to collect information on a matter that does not primarily concern them and which is essentially one for local legislation. I, therefore, oppose both the Resolution and the amendment.

**Sir Hari Singh Gour** (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan): I had given notice of a very short amendment to Mr. Abdul Haye's Resolution which was intended to bring out the following point, that this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that he be pleased to undertake legislation to regulate and control beggary and vagrancy at an early date, and I do not think the Honourable the Home Member will have any objection to accept the Resolution as amended by me. I quite recognise the difficulties of legislation on this question of beggary but at the same time I wish to draw the attention of the House to the fact that in the last Census Report of 1921, we find that no less than 80 lakhs of persons are recorded as beggars, vagrants, witches and wizards in British India and about 20 lakhs in Native States and in Agencies and elsewhere 8 lakhs, altogether 88 lakhs. It is pointed out in the Census Report that beggars and vagrants in this country who have

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been returned as such average almost 1 to every 106 persons. But in point of fact their number is still greater as to that class must be added saints and fakirs who live by beggary. And the beggars are in large force in the cities of Calcutta and Bombay where the figures given are 9,332 and 8,601, respectively. Now, I ask the House, Sir, that while we are not able to legislate for beggars as a class we might be able to regulate and control beggary in public places, such as public markets, public roads, courts, railway stations and so on. And I submit if legislation is undertaken on those lines it would be central legislation because Railways are not a provincial but an all-India central subject. I therefore ask, Sir, that the Central Government should undertake some legislation for the purpose of regulating beggary in public places. It would not necessitate the construction of workhouses. All that the law would enjoin is the prohibition of beggary in public places where people congregate. The sight of diseased and deformed beggars exhibiting their deformities on roadsides and in markets, courts and railway stations is, I submit, a public nuisance calling for the strong hand of the Central Government to suppress. I invite the Honourable the Home Member to take a walk through Chandni Chauk or the purlieus of the other streets of Delhi and he will find men suffering from the last stages of leprosy, men who are ulcerated from top to toe, persons who are diseased and who come to individuals walking about in the streets asking for alms. I ask, Sir, is that not a public danger? And if legislation is not undertaken for the purpose of preventing beggary in public places what other method would the Central Government suggest for the purpose of coping with this evil. It is perfectly true that certain municipalities like those mentioned by the Honourable the Home Member have framed certain bye-laws, but those bye-laws are local and do not, I submit, meet the requirements of the case. What we want is a general Act for the purpose I have indicated. I therefore, Sir, move my amendment.

**Mr. W. F. Hudson** (Bombay: Nominated Official): I move that the question be now put.

**Mr. President:** The question is that the question be now put.

The motion was adopted.

**Mr. President:** Order, order. The original Resolution was:

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that he be pleased to undertake legislation to prohibit beggary and vagrancy in India at an early date."

Since which the following two amendments have been moved:

1. "That for the original Resolution the following be substituted:

'This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that he be pleased to take immediate steps to consult the Local Governments and Administrations whether it is possible to stop beggary and vagrancy in India by legislation and to place the opinions received before the House during its next session', and

2. "That for the word 'prohibit' in the original Resolution the words 'regulate and control' be substituted."

The question is that the first amendment be made.

The Assembly divided:

AYES—40.

Abdul Karim, Khwaja.  
Acharya, Mr. M. K.  
Ariff, Mr. Yacoub C.  
Carey, Sir Willoughby.  
Chaman Lall, Mr.  
Chetty, Mr. R. K. Shianmukham.  
Cocke, Mr. H. G.  
Dutt, Mr. Amar Nath.  
Goswami, Mr. T. C.  
Gour, Sir Hari Singh.  
Gulab Singh, Sardar.  
Hla. U.  
Hussanally, Khan Bahadur W. M.  
Iyengar, Mr. A. Rangaswami.  
Kidwai, Shaikh Mushir Hosain.  
Lindsay, Sir Darcy.  
Lohokare, Dr. K. G.  
Macphail, Rev. Dr. E. M.  
Majid Baksh, Syed.  
Malaviya, Pandit Krishna Kant.  
Misra, Pandit Harkaran Nath.

Murtuza Sahib Bahadur, Maulvi Sayad.  
Narain Dass, Mr.  
Nehru, Dr. Kishenlal.  
Nehru, Pandit Shanulal.  
Piyare Lal, Lala.  
Ranga Iyer, Mr. C. S.  
Ray, Mr. Kumar Sankar.  
Roffey, Mr. E. S.  
Samiullah Khan, Mr. M.  
Sarfaraz Hussain Khan, Khan Bahadur.  
Singh, Mr. Gaya Prasad.  
Sinha, Mr. Ambika Prasad.  
Stanyon, Colonel Sir Henry.  
Sykes, Mr. E. F.  
Tok Kyi, U.  
Venkatapatiraju, Mr. B.  
Wajihuddin, Haji.  
Willson, Mr. W. S. J.  
Yusuf Imam, Mr. M.

NOES—43.

Abdul Haye, Mr.  
Abdul Qaiyum, Nawab Sir Sahibzada.  
Abul Kasem, Maulvi.  
Akram Hussain, Prince A. M. M.  
Bajpai, Mr. R. S.  
Bhore, Mr. J. W.  
Blackett, The Honourable Sir Basil.  
Bray, Sir Denys.  
Burdon, Mr. E.  
Calvert, Mr. H.  
Clow, Mr. A. G.  
Das, Mr. B.  
Donovan, Mr. J. T.  
Ghose, Mr. S. C.  
Gidney, Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J.  
Ghulam Bari, Khan Bahadur.  
Gordon, Mr. R. G.  
Graham, Mr. L.  
Hazlett, Mr. J.  
Hudson, Mr. W. F.  
Innes, The Honourable Sir Charles.  
Jatar, Mr. K. S.  
Jeelani, Haji S. A. K.

Lloyd, Mr. A. H.  
Malaviya, Pandit Madan Mohan.  
Mitra, The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath.  
Muddiman, The Honourable Sir Alexander.  
Mutalik, Sardar V. N.  
Naidu, Rao Bahadur M. C.  
Neave, Mr. E. R.  
Owens, Lieut.-Col. F. C.  
Pal, Mr. Bipin Chandra.  
Rahman, Khan Bahadur A.  
Raj Narain, Rai Bahadur.  
Rangachariar, Diwan Bahadur T.  
Reddi, Mr. K. Venkataramana.  
Roy, Mr. G. P.  
Sim, Mr. G. G.  
Singh, Rai Bahadur S. N.  
Tonkinson, Mr. H.  
Vernon, Mr. H. A. B.  
Vijayaraghavacharyar, Sir T.  
Yakub, Maulvi Muhammad.

The motion was negatived.

**Sir Hari Singh Gour:** May I point out, Sir, that my friend the Mover  
1 P.M. will accept my amendment and make it . . . . .

**Mr. President:** Order, order. It is not a question of the Mover accepting the amendment. It is for the House to accept it.

The original Resolution was:

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that he be pleased to undertake legislation to prohibit beggary and vagrancy in India at an early date."

Since which the following amendment has been moved:

"That for the word 'prohibit' in the original Resolution the words 'regulate and control' be substituted."

The question is that that amendment be made.

[Mr. President.]

I think the Ayes have it.

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman:** I might explain, Sir, that I do not wish to divide the House on this amendment. We shall have to divide on the main Resolution when it is put and it will save time not to divide on this.

**Mr. President:** Government do not want a division.

The motion was adopted.

**Mr. President:** The next question is:

"That the following amended Resolution be adopted:

'This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that he be pleased to undertake legislation to regulate and control beggary and vagrancy in India at an early date.'

The Assembly divided:

#### AYES—21.

Abdul Haye, Mr.  
Badi-uz-Zaman, Maulvi.  
Chaman Lall, Mr.  
Das, Mr. B.  
Duni Chand, Lala.  
Dutt, Mr. Amar Nath.  
Ghulam Bari, Khan Bahadur.  
Gour, Sir Hari Singh.  
Gulab Singh, Sardar.  
Hussanally, Khan Bahadur W. M.  
Jeelani, Haji S. A. K.

Lohokare, Dr. K. G.  
Majid Baksh, Syed.  
Misra, Pandit Harkaran Nath.  
Murtuza Sahib Bahadur, Maulvi.  
Sayad.  
Narain Dass, Mr.  
Nehru, Dr. Kishenlal.  
Nehru, Pandit Shamlal.  
Ray, Mr. Kumar Sankar.  
Samiullah Khan, Mr. M.  
Venkatapatiraju, Mr. B.

#### NOES—56.

Abdul Qaiyum, Nawab Sir Sahibzada.  
Abul Kasem, Maulvi.  
Ahmad Ali Khan, Mr.  
Aiyangar, Mr. K. Rama.  
Akram Hussain, Prince A. M. M.  
Ariff, Mr. Yacoub C.  
Bajpai, Mr. R. S.  
Bhore, Mr. J. W.  
Blackett, The Honourable Sir Basil.  
Bray, Sir Denys.  
Burdon, Mr. E.  
Calvert, Mr. H.  
Carey, Sir Willoughby.  
Clow, Mr. A. G.  
Cocke, Mr. H. G.  
Donovan, Mr. J. T.  
Ghazanfar Ali Khan, Raja.  
Ghose, Mr. S. C.  
Gidney, Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J.  
Gordon, Mr. R. G.  
Goswami, Mr. T. C.  
Graham, Mr. L.  
Hezlett, Mr. J.  
Hudson, Mr. W. F.  
Innes, The Honourable Sir Charles.  
Ismail Khan, Mr.  
Jatar, Mr. K. S.  
Lajpat Rai, Lala.  
Lindsay, Sir Darcy.  
Lloyd, Mr. A. H.

Macphail, Rev. Dr. E. M.  
Malaviya, Pandit Madan Mohan.  
Mittra, The Honourable Sir Bhupendra.  
Nath.  
Muddiman, The Honourable Sir  
Alexander.  
Mutalik, Sardar V. N.  
Naidu, Rao Bahadur M. C.  
Neave, Mr. E. R.  
Owens, Lieut.-Col. F. O.  
Pal, Mr. Bipin Chandra.  
Rahman, Khan Bahadur A.  
Raj Narain, Rai Bahadur.  
Rangachariar, Diwan Bahadur T.  
Beddi, Mr. K. Venkateramana.  
Roffey, Mr. E. S.  
Roy, Mr. G. P.  
Sim, Mr. G. G.  
Singh, Mr. Gaya Prasad.  
Sinha, Mr. Ambika Prasad.  
Stanyon, Colonel Sir Henry.  
Sykes, Mr. E. F.  
Tonkinson, Mr. H.  
Vernon, Mr. H. A. B.  
Vijayaraghavacharyar, Sir T.  
Wajihuddin, Haji.  
Willson, Mr. W. S. J.  
Yakub, Maulvi Muhammad.

The motion was negatived.

## RESOLUTION *RE* RETRENCHMENT.

**Mr. K. Rama Aiyangar** (Madura and Ramnad *cum* Tinnevely: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that he be pleased to appoint a mixed committee of officials and non-officials to inquire into and report upon:

- (1) the retrenchment in expenditure so far carried out in pursuance of the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee and the reasons for not carrying out, if any,
- (2) the possibility or otherwise of further carrying out such recommendations or other retrenchment, .
- (3) the possibility of wiping out the provincial contributions to the Government of India immediately, and
- (4) the scope to reduce taxation that has been imposed on the country since the commencement of the Great War; and if so, how the same may be started."

I am glad, Sir, that I have had the opportunity given by the ballot to move this Resolution. It covers a wide field and I request Honourable Members to excuse me if, in dealing with this subject, I am able only to run through the whole field and not place all the details before them. In fact, before dealing with the Resolution, it is only proper that I should place the position of the finances of this country during the last three or four years before Honourable Members, because it is only then that the actual need for the question I have now raised can be strictly and properly followed. The Retrenchment Committee sat in 1922-23 and reported before the presentation of the Budget for 1923-24. It recommended a reduction of the budget provision for 1922-23 of about 20 crores, in fact 19.52 crores. In 1923-24, in spite of that recommendation, it was possible only to give effect to about 7 crores of retrenchment out of the 19½ recommended. In fact that was the year in which, though a reduction of only 7 crores out of 19½ was given effect to, a certification of the salt tax from Rs. 1-4 to Rs. 2-8 was resorted to in spite of the view of the Assembly that increased taxation was unnecessary. But actually we know that in that year, out of the six crores extra that was expected from this increased taxation, only about 2 and odd crores was realised. In spite of that we find by the actuals of that year that we were not only able to meet the expenditure, but it was possible also to reduce debts to the extent of about 6½ crores at the end of the year. Then we came to 1924-25 and it was found that to provide for the remission of the provincial contributions the salt duty, which had been fixed at Rs. 2-8 a maund, was sought to be kept up at Rs. 2 a maund, and we found that the provincial contributions were not reduced to any extent because the Assembly insisted that the salt duty must be kept at only Rs. 1-4. But at the end of the year we found that not only was all the expenditure met properly, but there was a very large surplus which amounted practically, I think, to about 14 crores, but actually the revised Budget showed an extra amount of 4 crores for expenditure. But that later actuals must give another 10 crores is my opinion, because, in spite of my attempts to get information from the Finance Department in the September Session at Simla and in the present Session here, I have not been able to have the actuals of 1924-25. However, I think I may claim that it will be more or less correct to say that more than 10 crores was available at the end of the year over and above the actual expenditure of the year. Then we come to the Budget of 1925-26. Then an attempt was made to put the reduction of the excise duty on cotton goods against the provincial contributions for-



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2½ crores reduction in provincial contributions was given effect to. In spite of the best efforts of this Assembly we were not able to make Government agree both to the abolition of the cotton excise duty and to the reduction of the provincial contributions to the extent expected. But very soon, in the course of the year, we have seen that His Excellency the Viceroy has been able to announce that the financial position was so secure that he could actually recommend the abolition of the cotton excise duty before the end of the year. In fact not only is that so, but there is a suggestion made there that the opinion of the Assembly was taken as giving a preferential right to the abolition of the cotton excise duty and that, therefore, the question of the reduction of provincial contributions remains to be considered. However, it can fairly be said that on the whole there has been an extra income of considerably more than what was needed. My calculation of it is that apart from the amount of about nine crores available as balances in the reserve fund and depreciation fund of the Railway Budget, there must be in the General Budget also a balance of more than six crores. We actually do not know what amount has been retrenched in the military Budget; as I said I have not been able to get that information; but all the same I feel that the statement made by His Excellency the Viceroy showing that the financial position was quite safe indicates that so much money is available in that Budget also.

That is where we are, and now we are to begin to budget for the next year; and under those circumstances I come before the Assembly to ask for this Committee to go into the whole question. The first point that I have made, by this reference to the previous history of the finances of the country, is that while the Government of India have been a little bit more cautious than they ought to be, we have been suffering very badly by no help being given to the provinces or to the general tax-payer, except by way of the 2½ crores reduction at the beginning of the year 1925-26, and the present abolition of the cotton excise duty. In fact, it was calculated that we had an extra taxation on the country of from 36 to 45 crores; we may take it at about 40 crores. That extra taxation continues in spite of our having been able during these three years actually to reduce debts to the extent, as I said, of about 6 crores in 1923-24, of about not less than 5 to 10 crores in 1924-25, and, I dare say, of some crores more than 5 crores which we have budgeted for in 1925-26. We have not only done that; we have been able to provide for the best expenditure that might be provided for the Railways; and we have been able to lay by before the end of 1926-27, that is the next year, about 25 to 26 crores, as it has now been estimated the total balances both in the depreciation fund and the reserve fund of the Railways will be; I calculated it to be about 20 to 25 crores. It is at present about 12 to 15 crores, and I expect it to become about 20 to 25 crores before the end of next year. That amount has been heaped up; and in fact we have been able to reduce our debts to the extent I have already indicated, in spite of the Assembly giving its vote against the Government and its standing against it under great pressure. In spite of that, that is the position we have come to. But what I am most anxious about is a determination of the question whether we are going to have actually the retrenchments recommended by the Retrenchment Committee carried out in full. Of course it may be that circumstances have changed and it may be that we have become very rich. But the poor tax-payer still has to bear an extra burden to the extent of 40 crores. We may be rolling in plenty; however that may be, I want a determination of the question whether it is possible at any time

at all to give full effect to the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee, or whether you are going to say that the recommendations have been considered and closed. My submission is, Sir, that it is impossible to say that those recommendations are closed. Therefore, with your permission, Sir, I will refer to a statement that I have prepared and circulated—I dare say, to most of the Members here, and I think that my Honourable friend Sir Basil Blackett too had a copy of it yesterday, because I wanted the Legislative Department to send him a copy of it. Now, Sir, I have shown on the left hand side of that statement the receipts which have been taken into consideration by the Retrenchment Committee. They proceeded on the budget provision of 1922-23. They took that as the receipts and they recommended the retrenchments, whereas I have taken the budget figure of 1925-26 for all these because that is the latest available sure figure. The revised estimate of 1925-26 is not available now, and therefore I have adopted the budget figure of 1925-26 for my purposes. I have collated these figures to show that practically the income anticipated in 1925-26 is less by 1 crore and odd than the income anticipated in 1923-24. Actually it will be seen from the figures I have given that Customs show a little increase. Income-tax shows a large decrease to the extent of 5 crores, and that the other items are negligible. Railways show an increase, but you know that the Railway Budget is now treated separately from the General Budget. Post and Telegraphs show a small decrease. That is the position so far as receipts go. I place it before this House in order to point out that the expenditure recommended by the Retrenchment Committee on the receipts which were then taken as the standard hold good even to-day, unless there are any special reasons which might be advanced by any of the Departments to show that there were grounds which enabled them to go behind the retrenchment recommended by the Committee and add to the expenditure. But what are the facts? I have prepared a statement of the important items which show a difference in expenditure, and these items will be seen on the right hand side of the table. Those are the important items that are affected. What I actually find is that Railways have to be compared this way because the Budget of 1922-23 took into consideration the expenditure on strategic lines, so also the present Budget of 1925-26 must be calculated and takes both the expenditure together, I mean the expenditure on commercial lines as well as on strategic lines, and the provision made is 68 crores, whereas the Retrenchment Committee recommended 64·5 crores, so that we have an extra expenditure budgeted for in 1925-26. Of course, I know that as a Member of the Railway Finance Committee there is a small reduction of 1 and odd crores in expenditure but that would not come in in considering the point I have raised. It is because about 70 lakhs have been excluded for automatic couplers being taken up and also on account of a few other lines which have not been undertaken that there has been a reduction in expenditure shown in the revised estimate, but that does not affect the position I take. In fact the total expenditure on Railways is 3·4 crores more than was recommended by the Retrenchment Committee, though actually the income anticipated from the present year 1925-26 is only about 2 and odd crores over and above what was anticipated by the Retrenchment Committee. If there is a small difference, that cannot explain away the expenditure of over 3 and odd crores for the Railways from that time.

As regards the Post and Telegraphs, as I have said, the receipts have gone down a bit. The recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee was to keep it at 8·16 crores, but what we actually find is that to-day it

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stands at 9.75. I know, Sir, that in the recent Administration Report the Department says that they have been considering certain recommendations that have been made by the Ryan Committee which was appointed to go into this question. But so far as replies have been given as regards retrenchments that have been carried out in pursuance of the Retrenchment Committee's report, Government have not been able to carry out all that has been recommended. I have dealt with this question in a previous article which I have placed in the hands of the Member in charge of this portfolio and I have shown that more than one crore under ordinary circumstances will have to be further reduced if the Retrenchment Committee's Report is to be given effect to. But what do we find? Actually we have gone up over the one crore by another 59 lakhs, so that, if there is a decrease in the income of the Department, the expenditure of 1.59 crores over and above what had been recommended by the Retrenchment Committee requires definitely to be explained.

The other things are small. The Civil administration expenditure has actually gone up by 1.64 crores though the Retrenchment Committee recommended only 9.88. That shows that the Secretariat has been adding to its expenditure very steadily, much more steadily in adding than in retrenching when it accepted the recommendations.

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett** (Finance Member): Does the Honourable Member realise that that includes the bounties on steel?

**Mr. K. Rama Aiyangar**: I have not taken that into consideration. Of the 1.64 crores, probably 1.30 or so will be accounted for by the increase in the bounty on steel if it is included in this item. There is no explanation for the extra expenditure in the Secretariat when the Retrenchment Committee fully allowed for whatever might be pleaded by the Department in considering this question.

The real heading for which I have actually placed this Resolution before the Government and the Assembly is the expenditure under military and marine works. The recommendation of the Committee on this matter appears at page 59 of their Report. They have said that the military expenditure after a few years should be brought down to a sum not exceeding Rs. 50 crores. There was objection raised at the time by the departmental head, His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, for the Committee say:

"We consider that it may be possible after a few years to reduce the military expenditure to a sum not exceeding Rs. 50 crores although the Commander-in-Chief does not subscribe to this opinion."

They note the objection taken by the Commander-in-Chief and yet they say:

"Even this is more in our opinion than the tax-payer in India should be called upon to pay."

They also said that an eye should be kept on the military expenditure with a view to its further reduction. I submit, Sir, that this recommendation, which wanted the expenditure to be put at 57.75 crores for the Budget of 1923-24 and asked it to be reduced to 50 crores after a few years has not yet been reached. The Budget for the current year provides for 60.26. Of course, I am not aware what retrenchment has been effected during the last year and what the actuals for 1924-25 are. I hope that there has been some reduction in that Department but I have not been able yet to

get that information though I have been pressing for information both inside the Honourable the Finance Member's office and outside it through interpellations in this Assembly. Whatever that may be, my point remains. Even if there has been a reduction of 2 or 8 crores, it would not matter. Actually we provided for 10·26 crores more than what the Retrenchment Committee recommended.

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** No.

**Mr. K. Rama Aiyangar:** I have dealt with this point clearly. For 1923-24, they recommended 57·75. This provision of Rs. 60·26 crores is more than that by about Rs. 2½ crores, but actually in a few years they expected it to be reduced to Rs. 50 crores and therefore there be Rs. 10·26 crores saved under that head. I submit that the conditions under which we are now existing are quite different from those referred to by that Committee. They say at page 13:

"The underlying principle of the present organisation appears to be that the army should be in a continual state of preparedness for instant operations in the event of war or unrest."

On that basis they calculated the expenditure as put forward by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief and the Department of which he is the head, and considering the question from that point of view they said that the Indian tax-payer could not afford more and recommended an expenditure of Rs. 57·75 crores for the Budget of 1923-24 and that in a few years' time it should be not more than Rs. 50 crores. They added, in spite of the objections of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, that it must be brought down further as prices fell, and we all know that for the last two or three years prices have fallen and it should be possible to go below Rs. 50 crores. But you have not reached even that Rs. 57·75 crores, and therefore *a fortiori* not the Rs. 50 crores. I submit that it is time that this question was set at rest. The Honourable the Finance Member is, I know, very anxious to retrench and he is taking all steps to do it, but the way in which he puts it, of course, is one of the sweetest ways of putting things and I dare say he means more. He thanks His Excellency for the great help that has been given to him, but I do not know if I would be satisfied with that kind of statement, and this is not a case in which the Indian tax-payer should be left in the air like that. It is the duty of the Finance Member—of course as head of his Department it might be different—but the Finance Member and His Excellency the Viceroy for the matter of that in this matter of expenditure are more or less trustees: They have to look after the interests of the general tax-payer, but after this statement made by the Retrenchment Committee and after their recommendations had been accepted by the Government wholesale—for Government have been paying a tribute to that Committee for having helped them—and when every Department has agreed that whatever has been recommended must be given effect to,—they have not said a word against that—but when we go into details we find that they have been trying to, I should say, bamboozle the Members of this Assembly and have not given effect to the recommendations that have been so far made. I have taken trouble to some extent—I may be wrong and I may be corrected—but I have examined these figures in detail in a series of articles which I sent to the Press and I have been able to assert that the Retrenchment Committee's recommendations have not been given effect to either in the Military

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Department or in many other Departments to the extent that they had promised to do. A mere showing of a reduction of expenditure by cutting out some non-recurring expenditure or a provision that has been wastefully made in the Budget before could not at all amount to the retrenchment that has been called for by the Retrenchment Committee. They have definitely recommended expenditure to be reduced in certain directions and these Rs. 10 crores and odd ought to have been retrenched even in the year 1923-24, but they have not done it even to-day, and I ask the Honourable the Finance Member to be the spokesman of the poor tax-payer and without delay see that the amount is retrenched. I can see in a matter like that he might find his position rather difficult and it might be possible for the Departments to put forward cases where some extra amount should be allowed in the full retrenchment of Rs. 10 crores and it might be something less. But I only want this Committee to go into the question and come to a conclusion. I want, of course, a gentleman of big business habits about whom the other day my Honourable friend Sir Charles Innes said "one of the greatest business men of the world was in charge of that Committee" we have seen such a man treated with what kind of courtesy the moment he leaves the shores of the Indian soil. I have no objection if a gentleman of that repute and of that standing, who can command the confidence both of the Government and the people, is placed again in charge of the thing. Let him decide once for all what is possible in the way of retrenchment of the military expenditure. The real question that arises is this. In England we see that in the coming Budget there is to be a reduction of £20 millions in expenditure and we have seen the big protests by one party and the insistence with which the Prime Minister has been able to hold his own against that kind of opposition. Actually in India there is no question of that kind at all. Times have changed. The Waziristan military operations have been put an end to. The terminal charges have practically all gone and there is no reason to keep the whole body of military in readiness for fighting the next time. This is the moment when not only should you confine yourself to the 50 crores that has been recommended by the Retrenchment Committee but you should be able to do more. That is a position that must be examined. Whatever it is, the Assembly must be able to get the information from the Honourable the Finance Member or the Government of India. Otherwise I submit that there is an immediate necessity to go into this question also by a Committee that might be appointed for the purpose.

**Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar** (Madras City: Non-Muhammadan): With the Honourable Member's permission, may I ask whether he can give us details of any recommendations which have not been carried out? It will help us.

**Mr. K. Rama Aiyangar**: I have got the whole paper with me under every head. I have noted what has to be retrenched. I have not brought it here but I can place it in the hands of every Member in the course of the day. In fact the general lines I have adopted in this matter are quite sufficient for the purposes of this Resolution. Honourable Members will find that the excess charges of collection of revenue is put at *plus* 27. That is what I have noted in No. 4 of the table, on the right hand side but actually, if you examine the details, you will find the expenditure under

Salt and Opium has gone down while the expenditure under Income-tax and Customs have grown. While in the case of Customs the expenditure is nearly 1/5th more than the previous expenditure recommended by the Retrenchment Committee, the actual increase in revenue is actually one crore over about 45 crores that was taken by them. In the case of Income-tax, while they anticipated 22 crores in that year, the actual collections expected are about 17 crores. So there is a fall actually to the extent of about 5 crores. The expenditure on the establishment has gone up by 25 lakhs. I have given the details but they will have to be looked into.

Then I come to the Resolution asking for a Committee to be appointed. In this connection I must place before the House the necessity for this. I have explained the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee so far and the possibility of carrying out further recommendations. The actual position in the country now comes to this, we have to give effect in spirit to the recommendations of three big committees, I mean, the Meston Award, the Retrenchment Committee and the Taxation Committee, the details of whose recommendations we have not yet had.

But all these bear on this question. We are now at a stage when, as I have shown, we have laid by nearly 20 crores, or it will be about 20 crores by the end of this year, on the railway side, and we have reduced the general revenues to that extent, while we have not reduced the provincial contributions though the Meston Committee stated that that was the first charge on any surpluses that the Government of India may have. The Government of India always took up that position, but under the scheme enunciated in the Assembly by the Honourable the Finance Member he would rather regulate the reduction of provincial contributions over a series of years. That is a question which may have to be considered, especially as so much extra revenue is being collected and the tax-payer has to pay, and the nation-building departments which are transferred subjects under Ministers should be helped immediately, at least to the extent of wiping out the provincial contributions. Every nerve should be strained to see that that is done. It does not end there. Bombay has a special grievance in that no growing revenue head has been allotted to it. The Taxation Inquiry Committee has apparently been asked to consider, while not interfering with the Meston Award, the allocation of revenue heads and adjustments between the Central Government and the Provincial Governments. That will raise the question as to how far Bombay should or should not be helped in the matter of the reduction of provincial contributions by which Bombay gets little or nothing. But their great grievance is that they have not any growing revenue heads in their hands to which they might look to meet extra and growing expenditure. That is a point which has to be settled. Madras and Bengal and the United Provinces come into the same category. Madras of course has been working at a deficit, so much so that when we gave them 126 lakhs, 80 lakhs went to pay debts. Bengal has been complaining though certainly the Government of India have been particularly helpful to them as far as they can realize their grievance. But all that is little or nothing, beyond showing the ability of the Government of India to lay by money as they like. But should the whole country suffer and should the tax-payer be fleeced to the extent that he is now? 46 crores have been levied on him. I am of opinion that the matter must be looked into carefully and some relief must be given to the tax-payer, while the provincial contributions must be absolutely

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abolished; and not only that, but further more we should see that their waning revenue heads, like Atkari, are replaced by other things, either in the shape of contributions from the Central Government or by giving them other heads of more lucrative taxation. The whole question has to be considered at this stage.

I would further support the last clause I have placed before you, that is the question of reduction of taxation so far as possible. That is a very complex question. Curiously enough the Railway Department which, according to its own budget, has added about 15 crores to its credit, recommends practically no reductions in fares. The reduction of first and second class fares is not for the purpose of relieving the people; such people do not deserve to be relieved at all first when the whole country is suffering from taxation. That is merely a business step to capture more of those first and second class passengers that they had lost. But the man who is suffering is the third class passenger, and what is the help proposed? The help proposed is a reduction of about 38 to 40 lakhs. Is the benefit of the reduction of half a pie or one pie in mail train charges as also for distances over 300 miles of journey, to reach the masses? What is the average of distances travelled by passengers? It is not more than 70 miles in all. In effect, it means that no relief is given to the third class passengers. The average journey made is about 70 miles only. Take any railway into consideration. Of course full details have been prepared by the Railway Department in connection with that, so that this Assembly, if it only takes it into its consideration, can fully realize the situation. It is not intended to help the real tax-payer who suffers. He should be protected, and in the case of machinery and all other necessities of life the rules as to the rates also will have to be revised, not to help the big man with big surplus profits; it must reach the poor masses who actually in the shape say of the price of the half-anna post-card or the salt duty is actually paying practically the whole of his savings for this kind of extra money. Of course I have got other points to urge in respect of Railways, and I am not at all satisfied that that Department is so enamoured of its income of 13 and odd crores that it should sit quiet and not consider further retrenchments in expenditure. That is another matter which will have to be considered by this Committee if it is appointed. Thus three of these reports have to be considered and disposed of: the Meston Award, the Taxation Inquiry Committee's Report, as also the Retrenchment Committee Report. If the whole position is determined, then as to the reduction of taxation an answer was given by the Honourable Sir Basil Blackett to one of the Honourable Mr. Neogy's questions early last year giving the various items of extra taxation that have been imposed on the people on the Telegraph and Postal side, the Railway and Customs and all others. We have got full details, though he was not able to give the actual amounts collected by this extra taxation. A careful analysis of it will have to be made, and the order in which the taxation should be reduced will have to be decided upon. The poor tax-payer is the last to be thought of, but what we want is that he should be first thought of. The economic condition of the masses must be improved, and the bigger man—of course when he is travelling even to come to Delhi for the Assembly meeting, he draws fat allowances and additional money—may wait and I would ask everybody not to indulge in his own convenience being attended to. The whole position must be looked into, and the order of reduction of taxes must be decided



upon by a responsible Committee in which the representatives of this Assembly and of the other House will be able to press their claims forcibly against any views that might be put forward by the Department. Why should they think of the 98 lakhs reduction only? Why not do it in crores and give relief by half a pie for the ordinary third class passenger? Should the mail passenger alone get any help or those who travel for distances over 300 miles? All these things should be considered, and I submit, Sir, that there is a very very strong case for this being accepted by the Government and the whole matter being gone into.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Five Minutes to Three of the Clock.

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The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Five Minutes to Three of the Clock, Mr. President in the Chair.

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**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** Sir, I had hoped that there would be other Members who would desire to follow my Honourable friend Mr. Rama Aiyangar on this subject before the time came for me to reply, but there does not seem to be that alacrity or desire to make speeches on this subject which I might perhaps have expected. Mr. Rama Aiyangar said that he had been fortunate in that the ballot had given him this opportunity. I suppose he was referring to the fact that he, I think, almost alone had this Resolution in his name and yet got it in preference to others which were backed by more than one name. On the other hand, I think Mr. Rama Aiyangar is a little unfortunate in the date of his Resolution, because to-day is the 2nd of February, and within a month I hope to be in a position to be placing before this House the Budget for the year 1926-27, and it will obviously be more convenient to discuss many of the subjects which he has raised to-day in connection with the Budget than in connection with this Resolution. Further, at this stage of the year the staff of the Finance Department is exceptionally pressed in preparing the budget figures and I did not feel that I was justified in calling on them to prepare any elaborate statistics or figures for me with a view to to-day's discussion. I did not receive until this morning the figures which Mr. Rama Aiyangar has distributed to the House. So I did not have an opportunity before of studying them. I must confess that those figures make me feel a little sad. When Mr. Rama Aiyangar first entered this House and showed that zeal which always distinguishes him in matters of economy and of our estimates, I felt that here was a real supporter who was going to assist the Finance Department, in its arduous duties of keeping down the expenditure of the country to that which was essential for useful purposes; but as time went on, my admiration for Mr. Rama Aiyangar's industry increased, but I lost some of my early enthusiasm (Laughter) because I find it so extremely difficult to follow either his figures or the logical results which he drew from those figures, and I must confess that I have the same feeling in regard to those figures here to-day. So far as I can see none of the important figures in this statement are correct. Let us take the most important of them. Mr. Rama Aiyangar says that the Retrenchment Committee recommended that the expenditure on our military services should



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in the course of a few years be reduced, if possible, to 50 crores. He compares with that a figure for the Budget of 1925-26, which he puts at 60 crores and 26 lakhs. But he is not comparing like with like and that is my general complaint against Mr. Rama Aiyangar. He seldom does that. He is comparing not the net military expenditure, which was the figure that the Retrenchment Committee were dealing with, but the gross. The net military expenditure, which he should have used in this case, is the figure of 56 crores and 24 lakhs, and not the figure that he has taken, which is the gross military expenditure against which there are receipts set off, just in the same way as the Retrenchment Committee was dealing entirely with the net military figure after setting off the receipts against it. That is just an illustration of the difficulty of dealing with Mr. Rama Aiyangar. But I will come back to that. Let me just take the House for a moment a little bit more over the subject as a whole. I said that Mr. Rama Aiyangar's date was rather unfortunate because it was just a month before the Budget. In regard to part (4) of his Resolution calling for a Committee to study the scope to reduce taxation, he is unfortunate in that his motion comes just a few days before the publication of the Report of the Taxation Committee, and, as far as I can see, a good part of the duties which he proposes that this Committee of his should undertake has already been undertaken by the Taxation Committee and the results will be before this House within, I hope, a week.

Now, Mr. Rama Aiyangar's main contention, I think, is that the Retrenchment Committee of 1922-23 recommended certain reductions and that these reductions have not been carried into effect. He went so far as to say that we showed considerable disrespect to a very eminent business man, namely, Lord Incheape, in our failure to carry out the recommendations of his Committee. I happened to be reading almost at the same time—not in this House, Sir,—as Mr. Rama Aiyangar was making his speech, the *Times of India* for February the 1st, and I observed that among the distinguished passengers who arrived in Bombay by the English mail steamer was Lord Incheape. Lord Incheape was met by press representatives and questioned as to whether he had kept himself posted with regard to the financial position of the Government of India and whether he was satisfied with what the Government of India had done to carry out the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee. Lord Incheape replied in the affirmative. He said that all his Committee's recommendations have been carried out by the Government of India most satisfactorily and that nothing could have been better than what they had done in that direction. (Cheers from the Official Benches.) That is a statement by a very responsible person and I claim that it is a fact, that the Government of India have an extremely good record in what they did in regard to the Retrenchment Committee's Report. It is easy enough to appoint a committee and it is perhaps not so easy, but it is possible for such a Committee to make many recommendations. But I am sure the members of that Committee would be the first to realise that the really difficult thing is to carry them out, and I do claim on behalf of the Government of India that we carried them out in a way for which we deserve very considerable credit. As stated at the time, it was not possible in the year 1923-24 to bring all the recommendations into effect all at once. The Committee themselves recognised that there

must necessarily be some delay. We were unduly pessimistic as to our capacity for bringing those recommendations into force. By the end of the year, we had brought them into force to an extent greater than we had ourselves expected. The actual expenditure on the military Budget that year was less than the Retrenchment Committee's figure of 57½ crores. The actual expenditure as a whole was also less than the Retrenchment Committee's figure. On the civil side we carried out practically every one of the detailed recommendations. There were one or two which we definitely decided not to carry out but what we did do was to put into effect retrenchments in various directions which in money brought us in a larger saving than the recommendations of the Committee actually as they stood. That was in the year 1923-24. I do not know how far it is Mr. Rama Aiyangar's contention that in no circumstances should the expenditure for the year 1923-24 be increased. I pointed out to him that he seemed to forget that the largest item in that increase in civil expenditure was the cost of the bounties under the Steel Protection Act and things of that sort, things that were definitely agreed to by this House in pursuit of policy. I go further and say if Mr. Rama Aiyangar is now pressing that retrenchment for its own sake is the policy which this Government should pursue, then I contend that his premise is incorrect. I say that retrenchment of the sort that was under discussion in the Retrenchment Committee of 1923, and that was carried out in the Budget of 1923-24 is not as a rule in the true interests of the country. It was necessary in 1923-24 to balance the Budget at all costs. It was necessary to effect a very heavy reduction of expenditure in all directions. In some directions those reductions were undoubtedly of permanent value. Perhaps every twenty years or so it is a good thing that a Committee of that sort should go through the expenditure of a Government, and where particular expenditure has become a matter of form or routine, should question its utility and should cause reductions to be effected. And of course it is the duty of the Finance Department, a duty which the Finance Department have not shirked but have carried out with searching effect, to keep staffs from growing inordinately, and to prevent any kind of exuberance on the necessary expenditure of Government on that part of its services which are concerned with mere administration. There is always a tendency in any Government for administration expenses to be continually growing unless they are very carefully watched, and a pruning such as they received from the Retrenchment Committee in 1923 was, I think, of very considerable value. The fact that that pruning took place so recently as 1923 is, I believe, a very strong reason for not appointing the Committee which Mr. Rama Aiyangar asks for in 1926, because I can assure him and the House that, so far as I am aware, cuts of that sort, cuts in contingencies of the ordinary departments, cuts in that part of our expenditure which is not directly connected with the beneficial services, as I may call them—Mr. Rama Aiyangar calls them nation-building services—those cuts have not been replaced. But it has been one of the duties and one of the privileges of the Finance Department during the last few years to be restoring those cuts in our expenditure which either proved not to have been justified, where the results were so defective or there was actual loss of revenue, or what was still worse, where the cuts took the form of refusal of beneficial expenditure and have thrown back that beneficial expenditure for years, it has been the privilege of the Finance Department during the last few years working with the Standing Finance

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Committee gradually to reduce cuts that were made in 1923-24. The sort of illustration that I can give of that is the Research Fund. That stood at 5 lakhs before the Inchcape Committee came into being. It was abolished altogether for the time being. There has recently been before the Standing Finance Committee a proposal to restore it in full. Any Finance Department that is worth its salt is in my opinion not confined in its duties to preventing expenditure. A much more important duty is that, within such limits as are possible, it should be encouraging wise expenditure. It is one of the misfortunes of a period when drastic retrenchment is essential and unavoidable that the first kind of expenditure that gets cut is the optional expenditure, and that optional expenditure is nearly all bound to be of the kind which Mr. Rama Aiyangar called nation-building. If there is waste in other directions, that waste can be cut, but it is much more difficult to reduce that sort of waste than it is to say with a stroke of the pen, nothing shall be voted this year for the Medical Research Fund, we will cut down the expenditure on education in the North-West Frontier Province, we will cut down the grants to the Universities which are charged on central funds! I think one of the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee which we did not accept—Mr. Rangachariar was asking a question of that sort this morning—was a proposal that the Delhi University should be abolished. That is the direction in which retrenchment of the sort that I am speaking of must necessarily take its effect, and if it is said that such retrenchment is now desirable, I say that, taking a long view it is not in the true interests of India that you should go in for retrenchment of that sort. Wise expenditure on sanitation and education, if properly controlled and if really wisely spent, not only leads the way to improved social and economic and political conditions for the India of the future, and goes to help to train her citizens for the more responsible tasks which we are all looking forward to her undertaking in the near future, but such expenditure is actually an investment for the tax-payer. The tax-payer of a generation hence will get the advantage when the Government expenditure of a generation hence is spread over a larger number of people and larger incomes, so that the net burden on the individual income is less, if we spend our money wisely during the present generation. The idea of retrenchment for its own sake may be a good thing and it is a necessary thing in times when your Budget cannot be balanced, but the idea that it is a good thing in all circumstances for its own sake, is one which I respectfully, in my position as Finance Member, desire to combat. That is really my general answer to Mr. Rama Aiyangar. I say that he is incorrect in his premise when he says that the Retrenchment Committee's proposals were not carried into effect. In so far as they have not been continued, they have not been continued for the reason that I have just been giving, that taking a long view it is in the truer interests of India to spend money on such things as the Dehra Dun Forest Research Institute than it is simply to refuse to spend money . . .

**Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar:** And get rid of the Indians there.

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** Mention has been made in the Resolution of the possibility of wiping out the provincial contributions. Now, the Government of India have said and they repeat now that their

policy is to arrive at a complete extinction of those contributions at the earliest moment that is possible. But it involves very wide considerations. It does not mean that they are to wipe out the contributions and budget for a deficit; nor does it mean, I think, that they are to wipe out the contributions and immediately propose central taxation for the purpose of wiping them out. But it is the policy of the Government of India still; their financial policy is to arrive at the moment when these provincial contributions will be finally extinguished as soon as is practicable. I cannot at this date anticipate the contents of the next Budget, nor would it give any very great comfort to this House if I were to do so. It is not a dilemma that this Government in their wicked way put before this House: it is simply an obvious fact that if you spend something approaching two crores on reducing a particular tax you have that amount of income less with which to deal with the other problem of the provincial contributions.

**Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar:** You can do both.

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** You cannot do both with that sum; that sum has gone in one direction.

**Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar:** You have more sums in your pocket.

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** That sum cannot go in another direction also. I do not claim more for it than that.

There is one thing I should like to say, though, in regard to these provincial contributions; and that is that one of the places in which the Income-tax fell with most severity was on the educational expenditure and similar expenditure of the provinces under the direct administration of the Central Government; and it was quite natural that that should be so. Other provinces at the same time were having their own Retrenchment Committees and were retrenching desirable expenditure, and it was quite right and proper that the Government of India should retrench in those directions also. But I do want to put in this word for the tax-payers of the administrations that I have referred to. It is, I think, quite right that they, as our finances begin to improve, should have some consideration paid to them, and we are justified, at the same time as we are pursuing a general policy of arriving at the extinction of the provincial contributions, in adding somewhat to the expenditure incurred in those provinces on, if I may use the phrase again, the nation-building services. The mere fact that you have relieved the Punjab Government of a considerable provincial contribution and that the result is a very considerable increase in expenditure in the Punjab on education makes it very natural that the Member in the department of the Government of India responsible for education in the North West Frontier Province and in Ajmer should make an attack on the Finance Member demanding additional money for expenditure on education.

**Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar:** Amalgamate them.

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** I do not think that would save money, except in so far as it would save us the cost of printing answers to questions in the debates on the subject of the North West Frontier Province. I only put that plea in because I think that we have got to remember that the administrations under the central control are in a little bit of a special position, and we are not entitled to ignore their interests entirely where we are aiming at reduction of provincial contributions.

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Now, so far, I have spoken generally. Let me examine in more detail the position of our expenditure into which Mr. Rama Aiyangar desires to inquire. There is, first of all, our military expenditure. I am sorry to say that it is not the fact that we have yet entirely got rid of the post-war special charges, as Mr. Rama Aiyangar seems to think. I have already pointed out that those figures were entirely wrong on the subject of our military expenditure. I would, however, draw the attention of the House to the fact that we have made a very remarkable reduction, and a continuous reduction in our military expenditure since the year 1921-22. The estimates for the year which is now closing were just over 56 crores. Included in those estimates were several charges such as the charges for customs duty on Government stores which were not included at the time when the Retrenchment Committee reported. I do not say that that is all that we are going to be able to do. I should be extraordinarily disappointed if that were the position. I am in full sympathy with the view that the Government of India should not spend an anna more on military defence than is absolutely essential, and I claim that the Government of India have a record for which they are justly entitled to claim some credit in the way that they have reduced military expenditure since the year 1921-22.

**Mr. B. Das** (Orissa Division : Non-Muhammadan) : I hope it will be fifty crores this year.

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett** : I like seeing optimists. I am myself an optimist, but not to that extent. But broadly speaking, our hopes of reducing military expenditure further must depend first on the disappearance of these temporary items, secondly on the general question of fall in prices to which the Retrenchment Committee drew attention, and beyond that, there are undoubtedly small directions in which one may hope to effect economies. But the big question is a question of policy, "What is the size of the army that you require to secure the defence of India", and that is a question which, I submit, cannot very usefully be inquired into by a Committee of the sort suggested by Mr. Rama Aiyangar. He may rest assured that the Finance Department will not lose any opportunity for securing a reduction in expenditure of this kind both because the Finance Department recognise the urgent demands of the provinces and of India generally for expenditure of an upbuilding character and because expenditure on military services the moment it is beyond what is absolutely essential is uneconomic. It is an insurance which you have got to pay; but there is nothing to be gained by paying more than is necessary for an insurance policy.

The next question is the cost of collecting our Customs and Income-tax, the cost of our Revenue Departments. Any reduction in those would, I am convinced at the present moment, simply mean a disproportionately larger reduction in the field of our taxation. I was less able than usual to follow Mr. Rama Aiyangar on that particular subject. I will not attempt to deal further with that kind of expenditure. I would only point out that it is not the direction in which you can go in for retrenchment. Undoubtedly economise; do not spend anything more than you can help; but I do not think there is any room there for this mixed Committee.

Then we come to our debt service and the expenditure on interest. Thanks to the policy, which we have been able to pursue, of an effective provision for reduction and avoidance of debt and to the improved conditions under which we have been able to borrow, largely as the result of our policy, there is every hope of a continued reduction in the net charge for interest in our Budget. As we effect conversions and as we exchange unproductive debt for productive, which is happening year by year, the actual charge on the tax-payer, which is already much smaller, I think, than the Honourable Member realises, for interest on debt will become even smaller. That is a question very largely of your general financial policy. There is no room for a Retrenchment Committee to inquire there.

We then come to our civil expenditure which may be divided into three heads. There is the civil expenditure on administration which is regarded by some economists as onerous in that it is not directly reproductive, the actual cost of the Home Member's salary, for example. He is doing very valuable service for the country, but it is not directly reproductive.

**Pandit Shamial Nehru** (Meerut Division: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Cannot the Home Member take a little less?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett**: I think the Home Member's salary was fixed at a time when the rupee was 2 sh. and when prices were probably half of what they are now. If that is an argument for reduction I will present it to the Honourable Member. But we are not discussing the particular salaries of particular individuals. So far as the civil administration is concerned, I claim that the Government of India have carried into effect fully the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee, going as far as possible and reducing the charge for central headquarters staff and administration, and that a new Committee to do over again what the Retrenchment Committee did three years ago would be quite useless.

Another form of our civil expenditure is expenditure on bounties and things of that sort under the Steel Protection Act. Another form is expenditure of the kind I have been speaking of just now, namely, additional grants to hospitals, additional grants for University education and education in the centrally administered areas, additional grants for the Sugar Research Institute at Coimbatore and for Agricultural Research at Pusa. All of these, I claim, have rightly been increased in the last few years, and as those who are Members of the Standing Finance Committee know, there will be further increase proposed in various directions this year. I do not think that we need the services of a mixed committee of officials and non-officials to advise us to retrench in that direction. So that, my general conclusion is that there is no need to appoint a Committee of this sort and that its appointment would not be valuable. It would merely take up unnecessary time. I have said nothing about the Railways and the Post Office, because, the object of this retrenchment is the reduction of taxation and the abolition of the provincial contributions. I think it is common ground between all the Members of this House that while every possible economy should be effected on the Railways the object of Government is not to make profit out of the Railways for the benefit of the tax-payer but to run the communications of this country at as small a charge to the consumer as possible, and that essentially any retrenchments that might be effected, and I am sure are being very wisely effected wherever possible by my Honourable friend Sir Charles Innes in Railways, will go not to the reduction of provincial contributions but to the reduction

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of railway freights and fares as they ought to go. The same is true of the Post Office except that there I am afraid the question is at the moment rather of finding, so far as it is possible, out of the Post Office revenues money which some people, at any rate, desire to see given to the staff in improvement of their conditions rather than any question of reduction of charges.

I have, I think, now covered all the ground that is covered by the Resolution and I hope that the House feel that they have, at any rate, had a useful discussion on the subject. I have not been able to follow Mr. Rama Aiyangar's figures but I have tried myself to cover broadly the whole question of our expenditure and how far it can or should be reduced and I would suggest to the House that there is no purpose in voting in favour of this Committee and that the House should content itself with having had this discussion and should negative the Resolution.

**Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer:** I move that the question be now put.

**Mr. President:** The question is that the question be now put.

The Assembly divided:

AYES—18.

Abul Kasem, Maulvi.  
Chaman Lal, Mr.  
Duni Chand, Lala.  
Gidney, Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J.  
Gulab Singh, Sardar.  
Hira Singh Brar, Sardar Bahadur  
Captan.  
Hyder, Dr. L. K.  
Majid Baksh, Syed.  
Misra, Pandit Harkaran Nath.  
Muhammad Ismail, Khan Bahadur  
Saiyid.

Murtaza Sahib Bahadur, Maulvi  
Sayad.  
Naidu, Rao Bahadur M. C.  
Nehru, Pandit Shamlal.  
Ranga Iyer, Mr. C. S.  
Roffey, Mr. E. S.  
Sarfaraz Hussain Khan, Khan  
Bahadur.  
Sykes, Mr. E. F.  
Willson, Mr. W. S. J.

NOES—23.

Ahmad Ali Khan, Mr.  
Aiyangar, Mr. K. Rama.  
Bray, Sir Denys.  
Chanda, Mr. Kamini Kumar.  
Clow, Mr. A. G.  
Das, Mr. B.  
Datta, Dr. S. K.  
Hussanally, Khan Bahadur W. M.  
Joshi, Mr. N. M.  
Kasturbhai Lalbhai, Mr.  
Lajpat Rai, Lala.  
Lohokare, Dr. K. G.

Malaviya, Pandit Krishna Kant.  
Malaviya, Pandit Madan Mohan.  
Mutalik, Sardar V. N.  
Narain Dass, Mr.  
Nehru, Dr. Kishenlal.  
Neogy, Mr. K. C.  
Pal, Mr. Bipin Chandra.  
Ramechandra Rao, Diwan Bahadur M.  
Rangachariar, Diwan Bahadur T.  
Reddi, Mr. K. Venkataramana.  
Roy, Mr. G. P.

The motion was negatived.

**Mr. B. Das:** I am glad the voting has come out right and that the subject is going to be discussed in its proper aspect. The Honourable the Finance Member asked this House so very eloquently to negative my friend Mr. Rama Aiyangar's Resolution. I will just reply to him in three words, "Wait and see". I was very pleased to listen to the Honourable the Finance Member explaining the amount of money spent on the nation-building departments directly and indirectly by the Government of India and indirectly by the Provincial Governments. I was very glad to learn that the Government of India do desire the development of the



nation-building departments and that money has been spent on education. I wish the Finance Member had given us the amount of percentage increase in money spent on education and under other heads of the nation-building departments. It may be that the Punjab Government has got a certain amount of relief by getting a paltry Rs. 70,000 for provincial education in the North-West Frontier Province and a certain sum of money in Ajmere-Merwara. But I say and this is my conviction, that the amount of increase in education has always been little and very little.

The Finance Member went on to say how various little savings have been carried out in various Departments. He did not mention the Meteorological Department. I thought he might have mentioned how a saving has been effected in that Department, how we will probably be asked to sanction large sums in the next Budget for new buildings for its headquarters, and how its headquarters are to be translated from Agra and Simla to some other place; how lakhs and lakhs are to be spent again on buildings and how large observation towers are to be built all over India to study aerial navigation. I do not know whether the Meteorological Department is a nation-building department and whether there is any necessity for the existence of that Department. The Retrenchment Committee was very exact in their recommendation and my honourable friend Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas's note on the abolition of certain branches of the Meteorological Department was never given effect to.

The point is that during the War nearly 40 crores of rupees of taxation were levied per annum on the tax-payers. The Finance Member never said one word that the Government of India were going to take steps to reduce this taxation, to reduce the customs duties that were levied for war-time exigencies. I think the European countries and even England have reduced taxation. We have not heard one word from the Finance Member to-day or previously that taxation in any shape is going to be reduced. Of course a great deal has been said about provincial contributions and the name of the North-West Frontier Province was brought in several times as if to show that this Assembly was against education in that province. We want the Finance Member to build up the nation-building departments; at the same time we want him to reduce taxation so that the people of India should not groan under the load of taxation as they are doing now.

I also wish that Railways should reduce a certain amount of their expenditure by abolishing extra heavy departments such as the Stores Departments which they have not yet taken any steps to abolish although the step has been recommended very often in this House and by certain Committees. There is now the Indian Stores Department and there is no necessity for the Railways to maintain the Railway Stores Departments and so add to the expenditure. These are all burdens on the tax-payer and the Railway Department could retrench in that way if in no other direction. Incidentally, although the Railways do well now, they put heavy rates on passengers and freight during the War time and they have taken no steps to reduce these rates. They have not seen their way to reduce the coal freight as yet. To-day you cannot take coal from Calcutta to Bombay while South African coal is being sold at a very cheap price there although Indian sentiment is such that nobody wants to use anything that is produced in South Africa, and South African coal ought to be shut out from India, but owing to the shilly-shallying policy of the Honourable Member for Commerce . . .



**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** On a point of order, Sir, is this question of coal rates in order on this debate?

**Mr. B. Das:** I was just talking of the reduction of taxation, and the reduction of freight, and unless the coal freight is reduced, the burden would continue to lie heavily on the tax-payer. Well, Sir, I ask the Honourable Finance Member and the Government to act not as the representatives of an alien Government but as the representatives of the Government of India and the people of India. Let them think how this burden of taxation is lying heavily on the people of India, and it is their primary and principal duty to reduce taxation on the tax-payer, and retrenchment there must be. An alien Government is spending crores and crores of rupees simply on the maintenance of law and order, and they, Sir, talk of nation-building! Well, this much I can say, Sir, that the Government of India's talk of nation-building Departments is all bosh; they do very little. That is all I have to say, and I support the Resolution of my Honourable friend, Mr. Rama Aiyangar.

**Mr. M. K. Acharya** (South Arcot *cum* Chingleput: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I am sure we all appreciate the industry of my Honourable friend and non-official financial expert, Mr. Rama Aiyangar, as also the authoritative pronouncements of the official head of the Finance Department. I am sure that we shall be failing in our duty if we do not say that we are very thankful to both for having raised this debate and for having given to the House the benefit of the very many suggestive ideas which both of the Honourable Members have done. I was very glad to hear from the Honourable Finance Member that a great deal has already been done in the matter of retrenchment; he thinks that therefore there is no need for a Committee. Well, I would just urge this as a general consideration. Granting indeed, as the Honourable Finance Member says, that a very great deal has already been done, the endorsement of what has been done by a Committee appointed by this House will in no way detract from the work that has been done; on the other hand, it will only go to convince us that if any further improvement requires to be made, that improvement will have to be in other directions than in the direction of retrenchment. It will be a matter of gain, in other words, to have the official view endorsed by a non-official Committee, that all possible retrenchment has been made and that there is no room for making any further retrenchment. In other words, it is perhaps an open question, though much may have been done or a good deal may have been done, whether it is not still possible to effect more retrenchments. Of course to a general proposition such as that retrenchment for its own sake is not always desirable, or that retrenchment should always go hand in hand with questions of general efficiency and so on, nobody can take serious objection; but in these matters, one has to go into the details very very carefully, and find out whether after all expenditure is rightly and wisely incurred; and to such a proposition I dare say the Honourable Finance Member will be the first to agree: and therefore the appointment of a Committee to make sure once for all with regard to further retrenchment, whether it is possible to suggest ways and means for, say, cutting down certain items which may not have been suggested by the old Retrenchment Committee—a new Committee to examine the whole question in the light of the newest figures, to suggest right ways and means in the matter of national expenditure, and what items more and what items less may rightly be spent, may not be altogether out of place. I go further and claim that from time

to time—I do not say whether it should be two years or three years—but from time to time it is very necessary that we should have such Committees to inquire very carefully into the various heads of expenditure, and to ascertain from time to time whether on any heads more is spent than is absolutely necessary in the best interests of the country.

The Honourable the Finance Member has said that a great deal has already been done and possibly in no Department more than in the Military Department. He has been giving us some general figures to show that much has been done. I am not for a moment disposed to dispute the veracity of the statement of the Honourable the Finance Member. I take it that it is perfectly correct; but, as I said, the matter is still open. I am also thankful for the assurance that the Finance Department is very carefully inquiring and almost every day seeing to it that as much more retrenchment is effected as they can see their way to. So that with respect to the first two items for which Mr. Rama Aiyangar wants this Committee, namely, to ascertain the retrenchments in expenditure so far carried out and the possibility or otherwise of further carrying out such recommendations, I will content myself with saying that though it may have been done already, or though much has been done already, there is nothing wrong, and certainly it is not undesirable, that a fresh Committee should again examine the whole matter and see if any further cuts can be made and if any further savings can be effected.

With respect to the other items, with respect to what appears as No. 3,—wiping out provincial contributions—there again I am thankful to the Honourable the Finance Member for repeating the assurance that it is the settled policy of Government to wipe out provincial contributions at as early a date as possible and to do everything in their power to carry out this policy of reducing provincial contributions from year to year until at a very early date they are wiped out altogether. I am thankful to him for repeating this assurance. At the same time, I am afraid that the value of that assurance was rather minimised by the threat he held out to us, and the dilemma into which he said we had drawn ourselves by what he called our decision to spend a large amount on some other item. He said that having already remitted so much on some other item, it is quite reasonable to say that the question of further reductions in the matter of provincial contributions has been jeopardised. Now, with respect to that I would like to raise this point whether it is not possible to meet both the items; if the Finance Member could not do it himself, whether a Committee might not well be appointed to inquire if it is not possible to make the remissions in the matter of the cotton excise duty, which I dare say was the item the Honourable the Finance Member referred to, and whether it is not also possible to carry on the scheme of reducing provincial contributions, in which a beginning was made last year. I should have been very much gladder if I had heard that it is not the intention of the Government of India to give up this proposal this year; but that was not the way in which the Finance Member put it. I have no right to anticipate what is yet to come up, what pleasant surprises the Finance Member may have for us. I hope when at the end of this month or the beginning of the next month the Finance Member brings out his Budget for the next year and gives us exact figures, it will be possible for him to announce further reductions in provincial contributions. I quite grant that it is not

[Mr. M. K. Acharya.]

fair for us to ask him in advance to tell us what he has in store for us. However, I do believe that if the question of reductions in provincial contributions steadily should be faced by us immediately, and if necessary this matter should be inquired into by a representative Committee, namely, whether in spite of the remission of the cotton excise, in spite of it, we cannot carry out a substantial measure of reduction in provincial contributions also. I need hardly say that the province from which I come is very keen about it and for obvious reasons. It is too late in the day for me to go into the whole question, for it has been admitted that an injustice has been done to Madras by laying upon her a very heavy burden. Therefore, I shall not waste the time of the House in repeating things which practically everybody has admitted; but I have to draw the attention of the Honourable the Finance Member to what is happening in Madras. There is a very strong feeling on this subject. In fact, instructions if not mandates are being issued to us here who represent that province that we must do everything in our power to see that this matter is tackled very sympathetically and very successfully. I hope, therefore, the Finance Member would seriously give his very best consideration to the subject whether in the coming year further reductions in provincial contributions will not be possible.

Lastly, Sir, I hope the time will come when it will be possible to discuss the way in which the balances in the Railway Budget are being applied, such as in reducing the third class fares. I hope we shall have an opportunity when the Railway Budget is before us to express our opinion as to what has been done in the matter. I hope we shall have ample opportunity to go into this question. Just now I think I must endorse what my Honourable friend Mr. Rama Aiyangar has said at least with regard to some of the railways which are run in our province that I do not believe that the reduction in third class fares which has been effected is at all sufficient or at all adequate, and that a further reduction in third class fares ought to be insisted upon in the best interests of those for whom we have to sit in this House, namely, the poor third class passengers. But, as I said, I hope it is a matter for which we shall have plenty of time to discuss when the Railway Budget comes up. Similarly, with respect to Posts and Telegraphs, I hope I am not giving out any secrets when I say, as a member of the Standing Finance Committee, that probably the expenditure under this head in the coming year may be even more than what it has been in the last year. Therefore the chances of any reductions in the postal rates may be far less. Still, it is a perfectly legitimate question to discuss whether we shall not be justified in bringing down the postal rates if we can do so. These are, therefore, questions which rightly and legitimately have to be inquired into and I for one certainly think it very right that a Committee should be appointed to inquire into these matters. What the final opinion of that Committee will be, what their recommendations will be and how far this House or the Government will be able to carry them out, will of course depend upon points that cannot now be settled. Therefore, I would urge that in spite of the fact that the Government have made large reductions in the past, in spite of the fact that we are committed to a policy of retrenchment and in spite of the assurances that Government are doing their very best, it is still open to us to say that the matter should be inquired into by a Committee. That does not mean that we disbelieve the Government. But, taking the

Government as it is constituted, it is quite possible—I hope I am casting no aspersions on anybody—so far as the Government is not responsible to us—it is possible that the Government think many questionable items of expenditure to be very rightly incurred. From their standpoint they may consider it to be exceedingly beneficial to the country to incur some expenditure which from our standpoint we may not deem so beneficial. Constantly such items come up and the policy of Government is intermingled with them. All Governments think that they are infallible. They think they are infallible, absolutely right, always

4 P.M. doing the very best and humanest thing, but the question is whether that would be endorsed by a non-official Committee. I say if this Government were responsible to the people, then probably there would be less need for a non-official Committee to go seriously into this question of expenditure, and so on. But because this Government is constituted as it is, because it thinks it is infallible and is doing the very best thing, it is desirable there should be a Committee to inquire into the ways and means of Government expenditure and to see that as far as possible the best interests of the general tax-payer are adequately safeguarded. Therefore while I do not for a moment doubt the assurance given by the Honourable the Finance Member I yet feel that there are very good reasons why there should be a Committee to re-examine these two questions—whether taking the financial position of Government as it is to-day, it is not possible to wipe out provincial contributions, and secondly whether it is not possible either to reduce taxation or to see that the taxes are spent on better and more useful purposes. For such objects as these a Committee may be well appointed. Therefore I ask the Honourable Finance Member to see if such a Committee may not be put to some good use, and that he will not treat the suggestion with—I shall not say contempt—but with the indifference with which he wants the House to treat it. Everybody will agree with me that we are very greatly indebted to Mr. Rama Aiyangar for bringing the matter before us. I am very sorry that there is not a larger attendance in this House at the present moment, and that more of my friends do not take a greater interest in this matter. No doubt it is a little troublesome, but it is a duty we owe to ourselves that in these important questions of finance we ought to take a greater interest and although I am not as well informed as my friend Mr. Rama Aiyangar I still have tried to follow what he has been saying, also what the Honourable Sir Basil Blackett has been saying. I think there are others better than myself who would give their very best attention to this subject. (*Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar*: “What about the Swaraj Party?”) Our Party, Sir, stands in no way inferior in this matter. I think when the proper time comes we shall probably solve these questions as well as the Honourable Finance Member. If we choose we can even I might perhaps study these figures to better purpose. We are just now fighting for more serious, more vital things, things that touch the very heart of the nation. By that I do not mean to say that this is not important but as it is, there are other things more important still. We want to live up as freemen before we look to comforts. But let it not be understood that the Party to which I have the honour to belong is less interested in questions of finance than the party to which Mr. Rangachariar belongs. However this is by the way. I wish the gentlemen of his own party had been present in this House in larger numbers to listen to my friend, Mr. Rama Aiyangar.

**Mr. H. G. Cocke** (Bombay: European): Sir, whatever lack of enthusiasm there may have been earlier in the afternoon, I think we must agree that it is increasing as the debate develops and we can compliment the Honourable the Finance Member that the division decided that we should continue to consider the question of retrenchment rather than go on to the conditions of industrial workers. I had no intention of speaking in this debate because I was sorry for Mr. Rama Aiyangar. I did not feel like supporting him and I had not the heart to oppose him. However, as the discussion is developing, I am very anxious to say one or two words. I cannot support his Resolution because I do not like his proposal for a mixed committee of officials and non-officials. Neither do I like the terms of reference which he has put in his Resolution . . . . .

**Khan Bahadur W. M. Hussanally** (Sind: Muhammadan Rural): You would like a non-official committee altogether.

**Mr. H. G. Cocke**: Sir, if there is any committee suitable for this task, it is a small expert Committee on the lines of the Tariff Board. I have often thought that the Incheape Committee, which came out to this country a few years ago, though it did very good work in a sense, did only half the work, because it was very rushed and because it could not go into all the details of our expenditure. If we look at England we see they have had there practically continuous committees on retrenchment, and although, as I say, I am not prepared to support this Resolution, I do believe that there is something to be said for a committee.—an Economy Board—on the same lines as the Tariff Board, which would go round to Customs Houses and Post Offices and Government offices and really overhaul the whole expenditure from top to bottom and see the working of each concern if possible for two or three weeks. If that were done I think it would be exceedingly useful. I do not say it would be possible for that Committee to include Railways, possibly not Post Offices, but it would be possible to have more than one committee. I am quite sure, knowing what can be effected in retrenchment in business, not by a committee sitting for a short time, but continuously by the heads of businesses, something in the shape of a continuous committee, a committee in constant session, would be extraordinarily valuable not only to the tax-payer but to the Finance Member. The chief benefit of that committee, as compared with the Finance Department, would be that it would be a committee consisting of an official chairman and two expert business men, quite unconnected with the Government of India, and also not necessarily connected with this House. The Honourable Finance Member suggested that it was very useful to have a retrenchment committee perhaps once in 20 years. I am afraid I must join issue with him there for I think something more continuous is certainly necessary.

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett**: The Finance Department is continuous.

**Mr. H. G. Cocke**: The Finance Department is certainly continuous, but to my mind it is not the same thing as a retrenchment committee in that it cannot go round the country and look into expenditure. Take an ordinary business, take the salary bill of an ordinary business, the business man, after three months of the current year has run, compares his salaries with the three months of the previous year . . . . .

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett**: So does the Finance Department.

**Mr. H. G. Cocke:** The Finance Department does that partially, but the Honourable the Finance Member will remember that in the Public Accounts Committee it was stated that many Departments did not compare their expenditure and it was only recently that orders were issued for that to be done. I hope great improvement has taken place in that respect. But it would be a very great help to the Finance Department if a small expert committee could be appointed and could sit in constant session. I do not say that if I were in the Government of India I should like it; I am quite sure I should not. It is annoying to have a committee going into one's business, but as the Home experience shows, continuous committees are necessary . . . .

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** That is because they did not put the Geddes' Committee's recommendations fully into force.

**Mr. H. G. Cocke:** They were not all put into force, but many of them were. Perhaps they were not so thorough as the Government of India have been in dealing with the Inchcape Committee, but a continuous expert committee would nevertheless be very valuable to the country.

**Sardar V. N. Mutalik** (Gujarat and Deccan Sardars and Inamdars: Landholders): Sir, although I have got a good deal of sympathy with the Resolution moved by my Honourable friend Mr. Rama Aiyangar, I am inclined to support the view expressed by Mr. Cocke. My own view, Sir, is that a committee of non-officials and officials would not be able to serve the purpose in view at this stage. We have already the issues framed and the findings of the Retrenchment Committee before us. According to the Honourable Mover, the question is that full effect has not been given to all the recommendations. I think, especially when a question of this sort has to be examined, it could be better examined by the experts of the Finance Department; and if, in spite of what the Honourable Finance Member himself feels, he puts one or two officers on this special duty, not necessarily permanently, but for a period of two or three years, and if they can find out what exactly can be done and what field there is for retrenchment, it will serve a very useful purpose. This House also will get the benefit of the recommendations of those special experts, and if that recommendation comes before the House it will help the budget debate as well as the Finance Committee of this House. I fully accept the view of Mr. Cocke that there should be some experienced non-official associated with the official experts, so that we would have in effect a very small committee; and the whole question can be gone into and we shall be able to have, I suppose, a good deal of retrenchment and we can ascertain exactly how much retrenchment is possible. All that Mr. Rama Aiyangar wants is retrenchment and as a consequence relaxation of the taxation which we have been laying on since 1920-21. It must be painfully admitted that in spite of the fall in prices we are maintaining the taxation at the same high level at which we had it in 1921, and it is only recently that we got a relief by the abolition of the cotton excise duty. I also admit there has been a rise in prices and the whole possibility will have to be gone into carefully. The rise in salaries will have to be taken into consideration, but all these questions certainly must be gone into carefully by experts. I am afraid non-officials do not have real experience like experts and they will not be able to find either the time or the exact knowledge of departmental working

[Sardar V. N. Mutalik.]

needed for the purpose. I endorse the view of my Honourable friend, Mr. Cocke; and I think, if the Honourable Finance Member consents to this proposal, it will be desirable that my Honourable friend should withdraw his Resolution.

**Khan Bahadur W. M. Hussanally:** Sir, I was rather surprised a little while ago when I found my friends on the Government Benches not voting in the division one way or the other, when a closure was proposed. I thought then that they wanted to snatch a vote and I believe that is the case. It is impossible for any one not to have any sympathy for the proposition of my friend, Mr. Rama Aiyangar, in a matter like this. Unfortunately, the Honourable the Finance Member gave us no figures whatever to give us any idea as to how far the retrenchments proposed by the Retrenchment Committee had been carried out and whether there has been any intention to carry out the recommendations of that Committee in full. On the contrary, I think it is his opinion that no further retrenchments are possible. If that be the position that the Government are going to take, I think it is high time that a Committee as proposed should be appointed. (*The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett*: "It is not.") (An Honourable Member said something which was inaudible at the reporters' table.) I do not know what my friend behind says, but he ought to speak out so that we can understand what he means. I wish Mr. Cocke had proposed the permanent committee that he was talking about in his speech; but since he has not proposed any amendment to that effect, I think that Mr. Rama Aiyangar's proposition ought to be carried. One more reason why I am supporting that proposition is it is high time for the Government now to think of taking off the fifty crores of extra taxation that we sanctioned in the very first year of the existence of this Assembly, if not all at once, at least gradually. But the Honourable the Finance Member gave us no indication whatever in his speech whether that is the Government policy or not. The whole country is crying on account of that extra taxation, and in my humble opinion that extra taxation must go even before provincial contributions. However important it is that Provincial contributions should be abolished, I think that the fifty crores taxation that has been imposed on the country during the last five years must go, and if for no other reason, it is for that purpose that I will support this proposition so as to find ways and means to get rid of that extra taxation.

**Mr. G. G. Sim** (Financial Commissioner, Railways): Sir, I do not rise in order to controvert Mr. Rama Aiyangar's figures, because, like the Honourable the Finance Member, I am unable to understand them. I have controverted figures previously put forward by him in this House and I have recently under instructions given by the House itself had to do so in very considerable detail.

As regards the figures he has now put in his list, I should like to ask him how, if his figures are correct, as they appear to show, that while receipts in Railways have gone up by 2 crores, the expenditure has risen by  $3\frac{1}{2}$  crores and net receipts have consequently been reduced by a crore and a half,—how it is that those enormous reserves of the Railways have been accumulated to which he referred. Incidentally I was horrified to find, as Chairman of the Standing Railway Finance Committee, the Honourable Member suggesting that those reserves should be diverted to other departments or utilised for reducing the provincial balances. Nor do I,



Sir, propose to enter into any discussion regarding the proposal put forward by two recent speakers that instead of having a non-official committee, there should be an expert committee by which they presumably mean an addition to the official staff of the Finance Department. The reason why I have risen is to enter a mild protest on behalf of the Standing Railway Finance Committee, of which I have the honour to be the Chairman, for the manner in which it is proposed in this Resolution to supersede them, and also for the manner in which the Honourable Mover of this Resolution and other Honourable Members have entirely ignored the very solid work done by this Committee during the last year on this very matter. It will be within the recollection of the House that during the last Railway Budget debate, Mr. Rama Aiyangar was induced to withdraw a motion which he put forward for a reduction of some crores of rupees in railway expenditure on an undertaking being given by the Honourable the Commerce Member and the Honourable the Finance Member that all his articles in connection with the Incheape Committee's Report, in so far as they related to Railways, would be examined by myself and by my unfortunate office and would be discussed in the Standing Railway Finance Committee. In accordance with that undertaking the matter was gone into at very great length in the Standing Railway Finance Committee. If Honourable Members will refer to the proceedings of the Standing Railway Finance Committee, they will find that Mr. Rama Aiyangar's articles and our comments on every individual figure in those articles occupy nearly the whole of this volume which I hold in my hand. They run from page 14 to page 69 of the first volume of the proceedings of the Committee for the year. Now, Sir, there was no attempt made in these papers to treat the Honourable Member's arguments in any other way than seriously. The first four or five pages give elaborate reasons showing how the Honourable Member has dealt with the subject in a way that would not commend itself to persons conversant with the working of Railways. In addition to that, Sir, every paragraph of his articles has been carefully analysed. I presume all Honourable Members have read these books. The comment on the first paragraph begins "Every statement in this passage is incorrect". That is a comment made by the Railway Board, and complete details are then given showing exactly how the Honourable Member has gone wrong in his figures and calculations. All his articles are examined at length and the Standing Railway Finance Committee discussed the matter at a committee meeting held in Bombay. After the discussion had proceeded for some time an Honourable Member moved the adjournment, and I would like to read from the proceedings of the Committee, in case Honourable Members have not read it, as I wish to draw the attention of Honourable Members to the nature of this motion which was carried at the instance of a non-official member of the Committee. The Committee, as the House is aware, consists entirely of non-officials with the exception of my unfortunate self,—and this Resolution shows clearly that in the opinion of that Committee at any rate—a Committee elected by this House—full consideration has been given and very full replies have been given by the responsible authorities in the Railway Board to the elaborate articles by the Honourable Member. This is the extract:

"Mr. Patel proposed that Mr. Rama Aiyangar should be given an opportunity, if he wished, to submit a rejoinder to the remarks of the Railway Board in time for the matter to be taken up for discussion at the July meeting of the Committee; that no further reply should be written by the Railway Board to such rejoinder (if any) and that any points on which Mr. Rama Aiyangar took issue with the conclusions of the Railway Board be settled by oral discussion in the Committee."



[Mr. G. G. Sim.]

Sir, so satisfied was the Committee with the manner in which I had dealt with Mr. Rama Aiyangar's previous articles that they forbade me to write any more on any subsequent article of the Honourable Member. I regret, Sir, that the Honourable Member who moved that Resolution on the Committee is no longer on the floor of this House in order to explain clearly to the House the reasons why he brought forward that particular motion and to explain what he thinks of Mr. Rama Aiyangar for bringing this matter forward in this House after the thorough manner in which it was discussed in the Committee and without any reference to the labours of the Committee.

In accordance with the decision of the Committee, at the next meeting, the Honourable Member again brought forward a supplementary memorandum. It occupies 10 pages of the proceedings of the Committee held on the 20th July at Calcutta. This matter was again discussed at considerable length with the Honourable Member by the members of the Committee. Finally, Sir, as Honourable Members will see from the proceedings, Mr. Jamnadas Mehta moved that certain figures of comparative receipts and expenditure should be collected by the Financial Commissioner and that in the light of information brought out from these figures the Committee should consider whether Mr. Rama Aiyangar's suggestions could be usefully further pursued. These further figures were collected and were discussed at length by the Committee at a meeting on the 20th January last. We considered it necessary to go fully into the matter before the Committee was asked to make up its mind regarding the budget provisions which will be put forward before this House towards the end of this month. After full discussion the Committee decided that "no useful purpose would be served in discussing any further Mr. Rama Aiyangar's articles on railway expenditure."

**Mr. K. Rama Aiyangar:** Read the next line in fairness to the Assembly.

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** The Committee have recorded the reasons for coming to this conclusion:

"The Committee considered that it was no longer necessary to pursue any further the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee as suggested by Mr. Rama Aiyangar, as the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee had been given effect to in full and the Railway Board were taking steps to secure economies in many other directions than those suggested by that Committee."

They then go into detail showing clearly that the economies effected by the Railways are far in excess of anything that the Inchcape Committee contemplated.

Now, Sir, I do not think it would be right on the part of this House to ignore entirely the views recorded by a Committee elected by this House, which was asked by this House to take up this identical question and which has given very full reasons for the conclusion that has been arrived at. So far as railway expenditure is concerned, the Honourable Member's proposal merely comes to this that the House should ignore the findings of the members of that Committee. For what reason? I know of none. The Honourable Member did not even allude to the discussion before the Standing Finance Committee. Going through every figure produced by the Honourable Member and tracing it to its source occupied my office, Sir, for more than a month, and I am sure that the members of that Committee will bear me out when I say that every consideration was given to the Honourable Member and that the amount of trouble taken by

individual members of the Committee in dealing with the proposals of the Honourable Member was all that the Honourable Member could possibly desire. I hope, Sir, that the House will not, by passing this Resolution, cast any reflection upon the members appointed to that Committee, for I can assure the House that the members of that Committee have had far more heavy work to do than any other Committee appointed by this House and that they have done it more thoroughly than any Committee I have ever had the honour to serve upon. (Applause.)

**Lala Duni Chand** (Ambala Division: Non-Muhammadian): Sir, I had no mind to speak on this subject nor do I consider myself competent to speak on this subject. It is the apologetic nature of some of the speeches and the apologetic attitude of some of the Members of this House towards the subject that has induced me to say a few words. Here is a proposal that is intended to effect further retrenchment. Here is a proposal made in order to reduce heavy taxation and heavy expenditure. What should be the attitude of an average Member of this House towards a question like this? It is a proposal that is intended to benefit my country and I therefore welcome it. I refuse to believe that further retrenchment is not possible. I believe that there is room for even ten Inchcape Committees to sit for further retrenchments. There is room for an all-round retrenchment. Nobody can deny that the administration of this country is top-heavy and most costly.

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett**: I deny it, Sir.

**Lala Duni Chand**: Nobody can deny that the taxation is killing.

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett**: I deny it.

**Lala Duni Chand**: You being the Finance Member, it is your business to deny it. These being the facts, we should see, when a demand like that is made and when there is an opportunity to put Government in an awkward position, whether we should not take the utmost advantage of the occasion in order to put the Government in an awkward position. Whether any good will come out of it or not I cannot say, but here is a proposal, a concrete proposal, the object of which is to do good to the country and we should welcome that proposal. It is in this spirit that this Resolution should be considered. There is no necessity for us to be very grateful to the Honourable the Finance Member. The Honourable the Finance Member does not require our gratefulness. Of course, he is all powerful, but what is really needed is that all possible retrenchments should be tried in all directions. I therefore think that it is from this point of view that the House should vote upon this Resolution and pass it.

**Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya** (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Sir, the Resolution before the House is of greater importance than seems to be realised by some of us, and I wish to say a few words about it. I fully acknowledge the good work done by the Finance Department and by the Honourable the Finance Member in promoting retrenchment of expenditure. I fully acknowledge the good work that Mr. Sim has done as Chairman of the Railway Standing Finance Committee, and I acknowledge it with sincerity. I am grateful to the Government for having given effect to the recommendations of the Inchcape Committee to the extent to which the Honourable the Finance Member has told us they have given. Without going into the figures I think that there is room still for considering the idea put forward in the Resolution of

[Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya.]

Mr. Rama Aiyangar. I just want to invite attention to the real situation. There is no doubt that about Rs. 40 crores have been added as taxation since the War. There is no doubt that taxation stands very high. The reduction, the abolition of the cotton excise duty, when it comes about, will not affect that situation. The cotton excise duty should never have been levied and therefore its abandonment will only be the right course for the Government to adopt. The reduction of the salt duty from Rs. 2-8-0 to Rs. 1-4-0 does not enter into the calculation. The salt duty was raised to Rs. 2-8 per maund not during the War but after it and it was right that it was brought down to Rs. 1-4. I acknowledge the reductions proposed in the railway fares. In short I acknowledge all the good that has been done. But I would still invite the attention of the Honourable the Finance Member and of the other members of Government to the desirability of examining this question by the appointment of a retrenchment board or a retrenchment committee consisting of some officials of course and some non-official Members also of this Assembly, to examine what further reductions are possible. As the Resolution says: to inquire and report upon the retrenchment of expenditure so far carried out in pursuance of the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee and the reasons for not carrying out, if any, the rest of the recommendations. The Honourable the Finance Member has told us that military expenditure stands now at 56-24. So far so good. But in the paragraph which has been referred to before the Retrenchment Committee said:

"We do not however consider that the Government of India should be satisfied with a military budget of Rs. 57 crores, and we recommend that a close watch be kept on the details of military expenditure with the object of bringing about a progressive reduction in the future. Should a further fall in prices take place, we consider that it may be possible, after a few years, to reduce the military budget to a sum not exceeding Rs. 50 crores, although the Commander-in-Chief does not subscribe to this opinion. Even this is more, in our opinion, than the tax-payer in India should be called upon to pay, and, though revenue may increase through a revival of trade, there would, we think, still be no justification for not keeping a strict eye on military expenditure with a view to its further reduction."

We are far away from 50 crores net yet. But that is the goal which the Finance Department ought to reach. We have also heard that in this very year the English Government have reduced their military budget by 20 millions. I hope that is correct.

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** Not yet.

**Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya:** My friend must have better information on that point than I have. So I shall not base any argument on that. But what I submit is this. Here is a definite recommendation of the Committee which was presided over by a very capable business man. The Government of India have done him and his Committee the honour of carrying out the recommendations of the Committee. That very Committee recommended that the Government should try in a few years to bring down army expenditure to 50 crores. A few years have elapsed. Conditions have changed. Prices have gone down, but the condition of the people has not improved. One very sad evidence of the fact is to be found in the large reduction in the income-tax revenue. There is a fall of 4-77 crores in the income-tax revenue. That is a very sad indication that the people are not prosperous. In view of these facts, is it not desirable that there should be a further examination by some very capable men, not a large

committee, but a few very capable men, one or two experts and some Members of this House who should be associated with them, to see where military expenditure can be further reduced. I am sure it is not a reflection against the Finance Department of the Government of India, I am sure it is not want of appreciation of what has been done that prompts the proposal contained in the Resolution but the sheer necessity of bringing down expenditure further. The Honourable the Finance Member agrees that it is certainly not economic to spend more on the Army than is necessary. There has been a complaint for years, for decades, that the military expenditure is excessive. Here is a recommendation by Lord Inchcape's Committee standing out against it. Mr. Rama Aiyangar's figures may be wrong, Mr. Rama Aiyangar's arguments may be inconclusive or unsatisfactory, but you have got the standing recommendation of the Inchcape Committee that you must work down to the figure of 50 crores. Many of us think that the figure should be lower than that, that it should go down to 40 crores. But leave that apart; we have the recommendation of Lord Inchcape's Committee that the expenditure should go down to 50 crores. Is it not a question worth examining? That is the first part of the Resolution. Assuming that there is no recommendation possible for further reduction at the moment, if there was an examination by such a committee, showing exactly what has been done, showing why more has not been done and also suggesting when it might be possible to do more, that certainly would be a help to Government and to the public. That much with regard to the first item in the Resolution.

The second clause of the Resolution deals with the possibility or otherwise of carrying out retrenchment beyond those recommended by the Retrenchment Committee. That is I take it because of the last sentence in the quotation from Lord Inchcape's Committee's Report which I read a while ago where they said that though revenue may increase through a revival of trade there would still be no justification for not keeping a strict eye on military expenditure with a view to its further reduction. We have therefore to examine further possibilities of reduction. The third deals with wiping off the provincial contributions. There is no doubt the Finance Department have been dealing with this question, and I hope, whether this Committee is appointed or not appointed, I do hope that the Finance Department will be able to wipe off these contributions, if not in a year, in the course of two or more years. But if the question is examined by a Committee the Government will not be hampered, it will be helped by such an examination. The last item relates to the reduction of taxation that has been imposed on the country since the commencement of the War. The altered conditions which have come into existence since the War ended have all to be brought under examination. This taxation ought to be reduced. I am certain that every Member, the Honourable the Finance Member included, would desire that this taxation should be reduced. I agree with him that expenditure may be increased and profitably and rightly, but then there must be also a growing national income. If the average national income is not growing, if the taxation is wrung out of the people, out of the poor incomes that they have, then certainly that is not a matter of satisfaction, and it has to be found, with the help of the report of the Taxation Inquiry Committee also, whether there is anything which can be done in that direction. The whole problem, Sir, is one of very great importance, and of vital importance to the people. I do think that either in the form recommended by Mr. Rama Aiyangar or in some other form a further examination of public expenditure should take place. With due respect to the

[Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya.] .

Honourable the Finance Member, Mr. Rama Aiyangar's proposal does not seem to me open to any serious objection, because his proposal is that

"This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that he be pleased to appoint a mixed committee of officials and non-officials to inquire into and report upon . . ."

the points mentioned. Now, I submit that a Committee like that would be able to render some helpful service to the Finance Department and to the Government of India and certainly to the people. If the result shows that nothing more is possible than what has been done by the Department of Finance we shall record our gratitude to the Department, but we want to be satisfied that more cannot be done. We feel that a great deal more can be done. We may be wrong. If there is an examination which satisfies us that we are wrong it would take a great burden from us. For these reasons I commend this Resolution to the consideration of the Honourable the Finance Member and the Government of India.

**Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas** (Indian Merchants Chamber: Indian Commerce): Sir, I did not expect to take any part in this discussion at all to-day, but the way in which the discussion has developed makes me feel that I should put to the House one or two considerations at least as to why a Committee of the nature recommended by my friend Mr. Rama Aiyangar is neither feasible nor is it advisable for this House to vote for it. Having worked with Mr. Rama Aiyangar during the first year on the Finance Committee and during the second year on the Railway Finance Committee, I have personal experience of the great industry that my esteemed friend bestows on any question in connection with finance and especially any question in connection with economy in the administration of the Government of India. To that extent anything coming from him should always command attention from this House. But I submit that in the Resolution that my Honourable friend has tabled to-day he, if I may say so, asks for a Committee for what I submit should be done by means of Resolutions moved in this House. He wants a Committee, Sir, for the purpose of finding out the retrenchment in expenditure which has not been carried out as recommended by the Indian Retrenchment Committee. I feel that this is a matter which does not require a Committee: it is a question of looking at the various statements that before now have been put before this House and finding out the position. I remember, Sir, at least one statement laid before the House by the Finance Department showing the extent to which certain recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee were not carried out, and giving reasons for it. It is very much to be deplored that when a Resolution of this nature is discussed before the House, neither the Honourable Mover of the Resolution nor my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, give a single instance showing that of the 19 crores and 52 lakhs, so many crores and lakhs have been secured by retrenchment. My Honourable friend, Mr. Rama Aiyangar, when asked by Mr. Rangachariar, said that he has a statement which unfortunately he has not brought with him. The Honourable Finance Member says that the officers of the Finance Department are over-worked at this time with regard to the Budget figures, and he unfortunately has not been able to get together the figures which would conclusively prove to this House whether a Committee was necessary at all or not, which would have told us how many crores or how many lakhs remain still to be accepted by the Government of India by way of retrenchment. It is quite possible that it is not crores but just a few lakhs; or if

it is a question of a few thousands, perhaps the House would not have considered the Resolution any further than it did when the first division was called, but I do feel that when an important Resolution of this nature is being considered by the House, it ought to be looked upon as the duty of the Honourable Mover himself or of the Member in charge of the Government Department to tell the House the figures which alone can lead us to the correct conclusion. But I wish, Sir, to leave that point only with a passing reference to it.

Now Mr. Rama Aiyangar wants a Committee to find out how much of the amount has been accepted by Government and what amount has not been accepted by Government. I submit to him for his serious consideration that a Committee is not required for that purpose. I have a recollection that the Finance Department in 1924 did put before this House one or two statements giving the various items which the Government of India have not or rather had not accepted till then. I also believe that if my Honourable friend had his doubts about a few more items, it was a question of getting the necessary information by means of further questions or by correspondence from the Finance Department. I therefore feel that for No. 1 no Committee is either necessary or desirable. Regarding No. 2, the possibility or otherwise of further carrying out such recommendations or economies, I submit that when the Government say that they cannot accept the Inchcape Committee's recommendations in full, and when my esteemed friend feels that they ought to have accepted some items involving say half a crore or a lakh as the case may be, it is for him to move a Resolution to this effect or to bring up the question at budget time. I do not think that any Committee can go further into it, nor do I think we can expect any Government, either bureaucratic or democratic, either responsible or not responsible to the House, to set up a Committee for that purpose. It is for this House to say whether a certain amount rejected by the Government of India out of the cut recommended by the Inchcape Committee should be enforced or not.

**Mr. K. Rama Aiyangar:** Move a Resolution on military expenditure.

**Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas:** I hope that my Honourable friend will not get irritated because I cannot support his Resolution. It is a privilege and a responsibility which I owe to the House to put before them my opinions as they may be. If I feel anything can be done in the Military Department, I can assure my Honourable friend that I will move a Resolution in that connection as soon as I think that the time for it is ripe or that whatever I may suggest is feasible.

Regarding Item No. 3, the possibility of wiping out provincial contributions by the Government of India immediately, I really wonder whether that question is a question which requires a Committee. It is more a question of the balance in hand or, if I may use the expression, worrying the Finance Member to show us a bigger balance than he perhaps chose to show last year. What can a Committee do? Here is the Budget presented. Last year I was one of those who said that the Finance Member could have shown a bigger balance than he chose to do. My Honourable friend will have an opportunity this year, before many weeks are over, and it will be for him to vote down the Sinking Fund or any other items that he likes and say to the Finance Member "Here is a case for reducing provincial contributions further". Regarding the last item, Sir, as the Taxation Committee's Report is still being awaited, I do not think that this House would like to commit itself at this stage as to a scheme for reducing taxation.

[Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas.]

But my main point is not that. My main point is that however anxious Members of this House may be with regard to further economy, whenever you set up a Committee for the purpose of retrenchment, you upset the working of every Department of Government for a period of a few months. Great uncertainty exists. I am saying that from my personal experience of what I saw when I had the honour of working on the Inchcape Committee. Various Government Departments have to attend to the various questions that go from the Retrenchment Officer or the Committee and I put it to the House that it is not desirable to upset the normal working of Government Departments in this connection unless there is a very sound and a very grave reason for it. I suggest that such a contingency has not arisen yet; I hope it will not arise for years to come. There should be no time or period of 10 or 20 years for a Retrenchment Committee. When the finances of the Government go wrong, retrenchment without any consideration may be the order of the day. In the meantime I hope that the word "retrenchment" will be substituted by the word "economy" and I am sure that neither the Finance Member nor any head of Department can say he will not agree to any measure of economy which may be suggested by any Member of this House.

I wish, Sir, to explain for one second more why I have chosen to say what I did. I owe my Honourable friend Mr. Rama Aiyangar an explanation for my inability to support his Resolution. I suggest to him that at the period that we have reached now, when we want greater remission of taxation and faster remission of taxation, what we want more is not so much a demand for retrenchment as a demand for greater income, a demand, Sir, for smaller charges for our public service and greater returns, and I assure him that if he will only turn to it with the same zest that he has given to this question of retrenchment till now he will help the finances of the country much better than he can by this means. I wish, Sir, in conclusion to pay my tribute of admiration for the work that Mr. Rama Aiyangar has done on both the Committees that I mentioned and I only hope that he will now turn from retrenchment to greater incomes for us. (Applause.)

**Mr. K. Rama Aiyangar:** Sir, I am really very glad that an opportunity has been given to go into the matter so fully. Before I meet the points raised by the Honourable Mr. Sim and the Honourable Sir Basil Blackett, I wish to say a word or two with respect to the observations of my Honourable friend Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas. I am surprised he feels that Retrenchment Committees are not necessary in India at this stage. I do not know if my friend has really taken notice of the committees that have been set up in Great Britain and in other countries since the War ceased. In fact, Retrenchment Committees are the order of the day. When exceptional fluctuations come in and taxation and other burdens are imposed according to the needs of the circumstances, every Government interested is bound to repeat its attempt at retrenchments as often as is necessary. I make bold to state that, in spite of the regard and respect that I have for the business capacity of my friend Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas, he has in the richness of his position and the grandeur of his duties forgotten his duty to the poor man in the street. I submit, Sir, that I am not mentioning it in any spirit of personal attack because I have great respect for him. I feel that this question of retrenchment cannot be left simply for the economists and for the various Government departments. I have been in the Finance Committee, both the General Finance Committee and



the Railway Finance Committee. I have also been in the Public Accounts Committee and have gone through all the papers with great care, never missing any opportunity to look into all the figures that are placed before us. I can assure him that neither of these Finance Committees can do anything towards retrenchment. They have only certain records showing the necessity for increasing the expenditure. With the exception of those cases, they have no occasion to look into other matters. They have no occasion actually to take a long view of the situation and also consider the policy of the expenditure of any department. I respectfully submit to my friend Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas to consider the position. Of course, we have wasted lots of time in them. I cannot at all fail to recognise the extraordinary control which the present Finance Member exercises over the situation. In fact, the control is so great that he can do anything he likes one way or the other. He can add to the expenditure as he likes. He can retrench expenditure as he likes. It is an extraordinary power that he has got. I have been saying this all the time. Unfortunately he is not sympathetic to the poor Indian tax-payer. That is what I have been always complaining of. This is probably the fifth time I have put forward my views on this matter. I have not the least doubt that, if he wants retrenchment, he can enforce it before next year. I know he has talked to-day of providing for the future generations of our country on a long view at the cost of an extra taxation of 40 crores upon the present generation. I have not been able to follow that big philosophy. I do not know how by extra taxation alone he wants to provide for future generations. The present generation will by that time become leaner and leaner and will die in the public streets. The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett tells us that he is thinking of providing for a future generation. I do not approve of that theory at all except to a certain percentage of ordinary revenue being used for such purpose. That is all that can be required especially when there is extra taxation. My Honourable friend began with balancing the Budget. Therefore he got all the money he wanted in spite of retrenchment not being carried out. So he rolls in plenty. Of course, he has put forward the other theory that excesses in expenditure must be allowed in spite of the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee, where they are needed in the interests of the country for the nation-building departments. I cannot join issue with him at all in that view. Of course, my Honourable friend Mr. Das pointed out the Meteorological Department. That is a question which may probably require consideration. The question of providing for education and other nation-building departments which are under the control of Central Government will certainly meet with a good response from the House.

I will add one more point. My friend Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas wanted me to quote the various details relating to non-retrenchment. I will take the difference between my figures and those of the Honourable Sir Basil Blackett, and accept the statement that it ought to be 6 crores retrenchment more for military expenditure to carry out the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee. Even so my friend must accept the need for retrenching 6 crores. I say it is 10 crores. The wording of that recommendation is clear in the portion which I read out. The first clause of the recommendation says that the total net expenditure is 57.75, but on the other hand in the second clause, it says "the military expenditure after a few years is to be brought down to 50 crores". The military net budget is the first recommendation, not the second. I have



[Mr. K. Rama Aiyangar.]

no objection to the Honourable Sir Basil Blackett saying that my figures are absolutely wrong. I have taken them from his own reports. If I have been wrong in any figure I will satisfy him that it is his own figure and not taken from anywhere else. I have not taken anything except from his accounts and from his Secretary's memoranda. I am sure he will find that he will have to withdraw his remark after he satisfies himself.

I am very sorry that Mr. Sim dragged me into the controversy which I have now to deal with. An extraordinary resolution was moved by the gentleman for whom he seems to have such great admiration of this kind. It says that:—

"the figures of gross receipts and expenditure of all Railways taken together for 1923-24 and 1924-25 should be analysed with the view to ascertaining whether by making necessary additions to the expenditure of 1913-14 on account of percentages of increased cost referred to in the Railway Board's reply and a proper allowance for increased fares and freights the working cost of the Railways for those years can be justified by present conditions although the operating ratio may be more than 52 per cent. of the gross earnings."

I took objection to that resolution. It was replied to by Government in almost a curious way. They only said while the expenditure was 28 crores for 55 crores income in 1913-14 by adjustment it worked to 72 per cent. of the gross receipts for working expenses, while in 1924-25 it was 62 per cent., so that they wanted to say they worked the Railways more efficiently in 1923-24 and 1924-25, and more economically than in 1913-14. It was only 52 per cent. for 1913-14, and in 1924-25 and 1923-24 it was 62 and 65 per cent. But they say taking the percentages of increase and decrease it worked out to 72 per cent. and the honourable Committee to which reference has been made has accepted it. I am very sorry I was not able to present my views to them at the Committee's meeting, owing to my inability to attend. But what actually happened was that they say that the Retrenchment Committee wanted 8 crores to be got for general revenues from the Railways. But 1924-25 showed that thirteen and odd crores was available and therefore we may shelve the matter. Apparently they did not want that the people should have more money from the Railways if they could get it by economic working. The index figure that was given by the Department was hedged in by a number of qualifying statements whose effect was to say: "We cannot assure you that this is the proper proportion, therefore you can take the statement for what it is worth." But one point I will have to point out for Mr. Sim to consider. I must admit that Mr. Sim has been one of our most conscientious officers, who, though he frets and frowns at those who do not agree with him, has been at the same time very fair in his dealings with us. He has been,

6 P.M. I think, fair but I should not at all say that that fairness extends to the statement he has supplied to us. I think 52 per cent. cannot become 72 per cent. by taking the proportionate extra cost of the working expenses of 1913-14. One point to note is that the average increase of passengers and traffic is 3 to 5 per cent. of the previous year. My friend quietly takes the 1924-25 rates and fares for the total of passengers and total traffic for 1913-14 and multiplies the figures, and he is satisfied. He does not note that with 3 per cent. per annum for 10 or 12 years it will be 32 to 36 per cent. less than in 1913-14 and if the charges for 1924-25 are to be applied to 1913-14 they ought to be reduced by 30 or 36 per cent. to adjust properly. This point has not attracted attention.

I am not satisfied with that. He wants to say he has worked extraordinarily to satisfy himself about the index figure: I feel it is patently unacceptable. I know he is shrewd and he could quite well justify himself by the qualifications he has put in in that statement he has supplied to the Committee. The Resolution was badly worded and he can always escape from a charge levelled against that statement. Certainly I think it was an inspired resolution. Where it came from I do not know. I wrote an article condemning the whole procedure but I did not publish it in the press to avoid unpleasantness.

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** I only wish to be clear if the Honourable Member is referring to the resolution of Mr. Patel or to that of Mr. Jamnadas Mehta.

**Mr. K. Rama Aiyangar:** The resolution that I just now read out was by Mr. Jamnadas Mehta. The Honourable Mr. Patel who was on that Committee did vote against Mr. Jamnadas Mehta when he said that the total receipts and total expenditure on Railways should be got and not for each particular railway. That was an absurd position that was taken from the commencement. Because the Honourable Mr. Sim dragged me into this controversy here I am compelled to give a reply. I should otherwise have shelved the whole matter, because my responsibility ceases when a committee which was asked to hear me has done so. Certainly the Honourable Mr. Sim in all conscience cannot be satisfied that he gave a proper treatment to the matter or used a proper method of placing the opinion before that committee. But there are the facts. Let us have them put before any committee that is appointed. Let Sir Purshotamdas, who thinks no more work is necessary for two or three years, compare it and say what he thinks. Are we going to stop retrenchment altogether on the Railways because for 1924-25 they have earned 11 and odd crores? My contention has been that the Railways should yield 21 crores after paying all interest charges. They will continue to improve if Mr. Sim continues in office and I am sorry he has been translated to some other Department. But I dare say the work will continue and we will have 21 crores because the Railways are so widespread in this country and so many Railways are working now at a deficit, and if properly dealt with they will yield an income which will be not only 8 crores which was the figure wanted at the time the Incheape Committee was sitting, but will yield 21 crores. They will give to the country not only the ten and three quarters crores taken into account by the Mcston Award, but will have enough reserve fund for reducing taxation and also enough depreciation fund for building up the whole Railways again in the form in which they exist. So much for my being dragged into another matter altogether, which I had reserved in my opening speech purposely because I thought on the demands for Railways I would take this up bit by bit and blow up the whole theory. I give notice now that I will show that every bit of it is wrong and I am positive it will be shown to be wrong; however, that is my own assertion and the Assembly will have to judge of it in time and I await its decision.

Now, coming to the Honourable Finance Member, I have shown first that his references to my great mistakes are not quite accurate. It may be that I have misinterpreted the language; but the language is in my favour. My Honourable friend may say that in effect it means what he says but I rely on the language. Even taking it as he puts it, where is the six crores retrenchment? Is the military expenditure to be allowed to be

[Mr. K. Rama Aiyangar.]

kept up at that high figure of 56 crores, and is the Honourable Sir Basil Blackett to continue as Finance Member without resigning his post if he cannot effect the retrenchment and if His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief and the military officers at home refuse to retrench it in the way which has been recommended by the Retrenchment Committee and accepted by the Government of India with the consent, I dare say, of the Secretary of State? Six crores reduction means the whole of the provincial contributions being wiped out. Is it not possible? I ask this Committee to go into that and also the order of merit of the remission of taxation and all the other questions I have raised. I have said that so many crores have been taken now from the public during the last 2 or 3 years and spent in reduction of debt or kept as reserved or as a depreciation fund and there has been an extra taxation of 40 crores on the country; and there is no reply to that. The only reply probably will be "We budgeted like that; if there are balances, they will be taken to reduce debts." But certainly you ought to improve the Budget. The Honourable Finance Member has been three years in charge of the Finance Department; he has probably one or two more Budgets to present, and by that time, expert as he is—as I said we have a great amount of admiration for his capacity,—he should not leave us in the unfortunate predicament of budgeting wrongly to the extent of ten crores, five crores in receipts and five crores in expenditure. If on the whole ten crores differences are allowed in the Budget when he leaves us, it will be very unsatisfactory to the country. It should have been improved by this time; as I have pointed out when he presents his revised estimates on the 28th February or 1st March in every year, the rest of the expenditure for the remaining one month should cause only negligible slight changes, so that the revised Budget must almost tally with the actuals. We find there are large differences in receipts, large differences in the expenditure, between the revised estimates and the actuals so that we are not able to frame the next year's Budget with accuracy and advantage to the country. I should certainly like him to improve the Budget. I thank both the Honourable Mr. Cocke and the Honourable Sardar Mutalik for having made that suggestion. The very reason why I worded the Resolution like this was that I wanted to give the widest scope to the Government; and by adopting that procedure I wanted that officials here might be selected, with perhaps non-official experts added, who will be able to arrive at a correct conclusion and satisfy both Sir Basil Blackett and the Government of India and the departments also. I was almost saying that the services of Lord Incheape, who is now here, might be utilised for the purpose. However, I know Lord Incheape has gone behind his own committee's recommendations in a speech in Parliament he made some time back; and of course the Honourable Sir Basil Blackett gave the purport of an interview that he has given; but he certainly will not go behind his recommendations to-day if he is asked to sit on a committee and find out why these specific heads have not been retrenched. Let him come again and say "Well, every retrenchment has been taken up and done." In fact, I may say I have examined it in a series of articles, item by item, bit by bit, and I think I drew the Honourable Finance Member's attention to it last year. I gave him under each head how much was sought to be retrenched and how much was not retrenched; I put every item in the form of a table showing the recommendation and actual retrenchment effected and put it into the hands of the Honourable Sir Basil Blackett and the

Army Secretary. I have shown that, according to me, these ten crores, and, according to Sir Basil Blackett, six crores, has to be retrenched. The Honourable Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas said that without details you cannot say if the recommendations have been given effect to. He is too rich a gentleman; he may think that six crores are nothing for him, but the country feels the burden of taxation all round. He thinks of moving Resolutions at the time of the Budget. The Honourable the President will only pull me up if I attempt to move a Resolution on that subject.

**Mr. President:** The Honourable Member's time is up.

**Mr. K. Rama Aiyangar:** I shall finish in two minutes, Sir.

**Mr. President:** The Honourable Member will please bring his remarks to a close.

**Mr. K. Rama Aiyangar:** Very well, Sir. What I said was that if I attempted to move a Resolution on the subject of military expenditure and point out what has not been done by the Government in accordance with the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee, I shall be pulled up; but in respect of others I think that instead of putting up a fight amongst ourselves a more responsible Committee should go into the whole question and come to conclusions. I know there was an attempt made to stop the discussion. It is a dry subject. But whatever it is, the position is quite clear. The Committee that I ask for is necessary. I would leave it to the Government to decide what kind of Committee it should be. But they cannot shake off their responsibility in this matter, and I would again ask that Retrenchment Committees should be appointed as often as possible till this taxation is entirely wiped off.

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** Sir, I judge by the last remark of the Honourable Member that the only moment when a Retrenchment Committee will cease to be useful is when there is no expenditure to be retrenched, I do not propose to follow him at any length into his controversy in regard to Railways. But I may say respectfully that I am in entire agreement with the Standing Finance Committee for Railways that no useful purpose will be served in discussing further Mr. Rama Aiyangar's articles on railway expenditure.

There are only just one or two points that I would like to take up. This debate, I think, has been quite useful in covering a ground that is not usually covered outside the budget time. Mr. Cocke suggested that instead of having a mixed Committee of officials and non-officials, we should have an Economy Board. If Mr. Cocke means that the Finance Department would be stronger if it had two or three more officials working there the whole time, I think it might be possible to go into the question. But is that retrenchment?

**Mr. H. G. Cocke:** I said, Sir, non-officials and business men, as you have on the Tariff Board.

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** But unless they are there all the time they will be no use. What he proposes is in effect that we should go outside the ordinary methods of recruitment and recruit two business men as whole-time officers (*Mr. B. Das*: "Of the Government of India.") to sit under the Chairmanship of the Finance Member and do the work

[Sir Basil Blackett.]

which the Finance Department are already doing. I really put it to the House that that is what it comes to. It sounds very nice. If they are to be useful, they must be there the whole time, and if you are going to do that, I assure you that you would probably get at better results by adding them at once to the Finance Department staff. . . .

**Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao:** Retrenching this way.

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** Retrenching that way. I assure you that I should like to retrench some of the time that I have to spend on Finance Department work at present.

Sir, I think that Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas, with whose speech I am in entire sympathy, put the case against the Committee very well indeed. He complained that the figures were not properly presented. The Finance Department have, I think, on three occasions presented a very full statement itemising all the recommendations so far as they were detailed by the Retrenchment Committee and showing exactly what action had been taken in respect of each of those, and if action had not been taken on any of them the reasons therefor. I remember very well it being complained of in one of the newspapers that the chief achievement of the Finance Department in retrenchment seemed to be to reprint this document at great length. That document was presented and it is now again being brought up to date, though I am inclined to think that this is the last time it is going to be useful. I put it to the Honourable Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas that there are difficulties which he did not perhaps give full value to in the matter of presenting this subject in the form of figures. If he remembers, the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee took the form of saying: "We propose this, we propose that". They say, for example, "The total estimates for Medical Services should be limited for 1923-24 to a particular figure". Now, obviously, the figure for 1923-24 is different, owing to changes, to the figure for 1924-25, and the figure for 1926-27 will be different. In some cases we actually put the recommended retrenchment into force and are now restoring it. It is a very hard thing to say that we have accepted exactly 14 crores out of 18 or any figure of that sort. Obviously the figures are not comparable really even after the short number of years that have passed. I should like however to let the House know that as long ago as the middle of last summer I called for a very detailed report from all the Departments of the Government comparing their expenditure immediately after the Retrenchment Committee sat with their expenditure now to show exactly where changes had taken place. I have not got it in full yet. It will be a very detailed document no doubt when it comes. I just mention that to show that this business of watching for economy—I do not want to call it retrenchment—is a business that the Finance Department is continuously exercising and must continuously exercise and that though from time to time an outside committee may be useful, it is not a thing that can normally be carrying on the work of the Finance Department or the Finance Member or the Government of India, especially as, as I mentioned before, a great many of these questions are necessarily questions of policy. I agree thoroughly with Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas's objection on the ground that a Committee of this sort will really disturb the work of all the Departments of the Government of India for a considerable

period if they are to come together. After all, Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas will himself not be offended if I say that a large portion of the time of any committee of this sort must be taken up by the members themselves in learning their job. It is a long job and it requires a good deal of examination. A person cannot come from outside and sit down and say, "Here, and here, and here you can economise". Mr. Rama Aiyangar said that if I wanted, I could at once recommend retrenchments. There are a great many directions in which I can come forward and say, "If you will retrench here, you will save so much; if you will retrench there, you will save so much". But, as I said in my earlier speech, every one of those retrenchments will be in nation-building departments, because those are the departments in which there is optional expenditure.

Now, retrenchment in expenditure, which after all amounts to a very small portion of the total on the civil side, namely, expenditure in the nature of salary of staff and so on, is neither easily possible nor at the present time, I believe, possible to any extent at all, in view of the very recent experience of the Inchcape Committee retrenchment.

I have nothing to add to what I said as regards military expenditure. A little more emphasis would be laid by me than by my friend, Mr. Rama Aiyangar on the words "after the lapse of a few years". After all it is only three years—it is less than three years at this moment—since the Retrenchment Committee reported that the figure for the year 1923-24 for military expenditure should be 57½ crores. It included a sum of 2 crores for eating into stocks, the real expenditure being 59½ crores. We got it down to 56½ for 1925-26. That is the estimate.

**Mr. K. Rama Aiyangar:** 60·26.

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** The Honourable Member is again off at a tangent and he is taking the gross expenditure. We got the net expenditure down to 56½ including several items of which I mentioned one, which were not included in the Inchcape Committee figures. And though I am not in a position to talk at present on the Budget of this year or hereafter, I have already said that I should be very much disappointed if I had for a moment begun to think that Rs. 56½ crores was the end. I ask the House after this useful debate not to vote in favour of the appointment of a Committee for which I am sure the Government of India and myself would at once vote if we thought that it would serve any useful object.

**Mr. President:** The question is:

"That the following Resolution be adopted:

'This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that he be pleased to appoint a mixed committee of officials and non-officials to inquire into and report upon—

- (1) the retrenchment in expenditure so far carried out in pursuance of the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee and the reasons for not carrying out, if any,
- (2) the possibility or otherwise of further carrying out such recommendations or other retrenchment,
- (3) the possibility of wiping out the provincial contributions to the Government of India immediately, and
- (4) the scope to reduce taxation that has been imposed on the country since the commencement of the Great War; and if so, how the same may be started."

The motion was negatived.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** I shou'd like to move my Resolution if you will permit me . . . .

**Mr. President:** The Honourable Member from Bombay knows very well that the Chair stretched a point in his favour perhaps not very properly, and gave the House an opportunity to decide whether it should go on to the next item or not. The House decided against him by rejecting the motion for closure. If the Chair were now to exercise its discretion and allow the Honourable Member to move his Resolution and adjourn the discussion to the next non-official day, it would only be to the prejudice of the other Resolutions which have been already ballotted for. The Resolution of the Honourable Member from Bombay is so important that it might occupy the whole of the day and the Chair is not prepared to allow him to move his Resolution at this stage under the circumstances.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 3rd February, 1926.

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