

1st February 1927

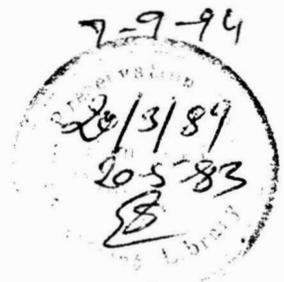
THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES
(Official Report)

Volume I

FIRST SESSION

OF THE

THIRD LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1927



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, 1st February, 1927.

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

MEMBERS SWORN:

Mr. C. Duraiswamy Aiyangar, M.L.A. (Madras ceded districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural);

Sir Hari Singh Gour, M.L.A. (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions; Non-Muhammadan); and

Dr. Lodhi Karam Hyder, M.L.A. (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural).

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

ABOLITION OF STAMP DUTIES ON CHEQUES.

155. *Kumar Ganganand Sinha: How far has the consideration of the question of the abolition of stamp duties on cheques progressed? How is the adjustment of the Meston award going to be made in the new circumstances? What is going to be the financial relationship between the Government of Bihar and Orissa and the Government of India on the abolition of the duty?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: The Government accept the recommendation of the Currency Commission that the stamp duty on cheques should be abolished and are considering the question of further procedure.

PUBLICATION OF TEXTS OF SOUTH INDIAN INSCRIPTIONS.

156. *Kumar Ganganand Sinha: (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to an article entitled "Inscriptions" by Vishnu Gupta published in the *Hindustan Times*, Saturday, December 11, 1926 (Late Dak Edition)?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to state why publication of the Texts of South Indian Inscriptions has been delayed? What arrangements, if any, are being made for the quick publication of the series?

The Honourable Mr. J. W. Bhore: (a) The Government of India have seen the article referred to.

(b) Difficulties have been experienced in the actual printing of these volumes. But the whole matter is now being carefully examined and efforts will be made to expedite the printing.

DEFENCE FORCE BILL IN KENYA.

157. *Kumar Ganganand Sinha: (a) How far will the Indians be affected by the Defence Force Bill about to come up for discussion in Kenya?

(b) What are the provisions of the Bill?

(c) Have the Government of India exchanged any communication with the Kenya Government, regarding the same? If so, will the Government be pleased to lay the correspondence on table?

The Honourable Mr. J. W. Shore: (a) The Bill is not applicable to non-Europeans.

(b) A copy of the Bill has been placed in the Library of the House.

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

OPENING OF AIR MAIL SERVICE.

158. *Kumar Ganganand Sinha: (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the probable date of the opening of the regular Air Mail Service between London and Calcutta?

(b) How far has the arrangement for the same progressed and what are the obstacles in its way?

(c) What are the proposed routes and plans for the service?

(d) How far will the Indian exchequer be required to meet the initial and running cost?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) No such service is at present contemplated.

(b), (c) and (d). Do not arise.

ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE IN SOUTH AFRICA.

159. *Kumar Ganganand Sinha: (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the information, if any, received regarding the Round Table Conference in South Africa?

The Honourable Mr. J. W. Shore: The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reference which was made on this subject by His Excellency the Viceroy on the occasion of the opening of the present session of the Legislative Assembly.

INCREASE OF POLL-TAX ON INDIANS IN KENYA.

160. *Kumar Ganganand Sinha: (a) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table the representation submitted by Mr. D. B. Desai under the authority of the Indian Citizen's Association regarding the increase of poll tax on Indians in Kenya?

(b) What action, if any, are Government taking on the representation? If no action is being taken, why? How does the matter stand now?

The Honourable Mr. J. W. Shore: (a) As Mr. D. B. Desai's representation has already appeared in the public press, it is unnecessary to lay it on the table of the House. A copy will be supplied to the Honourable Member if he desires.

(b) Ordinances have recently been passed in Kenya imposing poll-taxes of 30 and 20 shillings per head on European and Indian adult males respectively, for the purpose of raising funds to cover the cost of education in those communities. Government are in communication with the Colonial Government on the subject.

CONSTRUCTION OF BRANCH LINE FROM PURNEA TO MURALIGANJ.

161. *Kumar Ganganand Sinha: (a) Will the Government be pleased to give full information regarding the proposed project of having a branch line connecting Purnea (Eastern Bengal Railway) with Muraliganj and lay reports, plans and other connected papers on the table?

(b) Have they received any representation regarding it? If so, to what effect?

(c) Have the officers deputed for survey work and for drawing up the plan considered the question of branching off the new line from Kasba (Eastern Bengal Railway) instead of from Purnea, keeping in view:

- (i) the less expenditure in laying lines, the route being straight;
- (ii) Kasba being a greater trade centre for raw products than Purnea;
- (iii) less expenditure in the purchase of lands; and
- (iv) opening up of the part of the country quite unserved by the railways?

(d) If so, what are their findings? If not, do the Government propose to inquire into the question?

(e) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table the full report of the officer who was first deputed to survey the area for the construction of the branch line from Purnea to Muraliganj, showing his reasons for holding the view that the line would be unremunerative? If not, will the Government be pleased to state reasons for the same?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: We have no project for a branch going as far as Muraliganj. There is a project for a line from Purnea to the neighbourhood of Dhandaha which is now being surveyed; we have not yet received the survey report and other documents regarding it. The officer conducting the survey will probably in any case examine the desirability of the branch taking off from Kasba instead of Purnea; but in order that it should not remain unexamined, I am having a copy of the Honourable Member's question and this reply sent to the Agent of the Eastern Bengal Railway.

EQUIPMENT OF MERCANTILE MARINE TRAINING SHIP.

162. *Kumar Ganganand Sinha: Will the Government be pleased to state if the training ship for imparting naval education to Indian boys has been equipped? If not, what is the delay in the same?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: The Royal Indian Marine ship "Dufferin" is being converted into a training ship and it is hoped that it will be ready for use as a training ship by August or September next.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF INDIAN MERCANTILE MARINE COMMITTEE.

163. *Kumar Ganganand Sinha: Have the Government given any effect to the recommendations of the Indian Mercantile Marine Committee? If not, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons for not giving effect to such recommendations?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: As I have already told the Honourable Member in reply to another question, the S.S. "Dufferin" is being adapted as a training ship for deck officers and is expected to be ready for use by September next. For the rest I would refer him to the debate in this House last March.

INSUFFICIENCY OF NON-MUHAMMADAN SEATS FOR PURNEA DISTRICT.

164. *Kumar Ganganand Sinha: Will the Government be pleased to state why there is only one Non-Mahomedan constituency in the Purnea District whereas there are two Mahomedan constituencies in the District for the Bihar and Orissa Council seats? What is the principle by which the seats have been distributed? Is any change possible in the present state of things? If so, how and who is the competent authority to bring about the change and what are the necessary conditions for having one more Non-Mahomedan seat in the District?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: As is explained in paragraph 15 of the report of the Franchise Committee, the relation between muslim and non-muslim representation was fixed, not from district to district, but by allocation of the gross representation suitable for each province and in conformity with the Lucknow Pact. The method of distributing the allocation made to each community is shown on pages 65 and 66 of the report. It was a matter of adjusting rival claims within each community and did not permit adjustments between communities in individual districts.

No change is contemplated.

CONSTITUTION OF RESERVE BANKS.

165. *Kumar Ganganand Sinha: When are the Government going to establish Reserve Banks as recommended by the Royal Commission on Indian Currency? How will they be constituted and controlled and where located? What will be the nature of Government work to be done by the Imperial Bank opened in the various mufasil areas after the establishment of the Reserve Bank?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the Gold Standard and Reserve Bank of India Bill published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary on the 17th January, and introduced into this House on the 25th January, 1927.

VIZAGAPATAM HARBOUR PROJECT.

166. *Kumar Ganganand Sinha: Will the Government be pleased to state how far the Vizagapatam harbour project and the construction of the Raipur Parvatipur line have progressed?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: A statement containing the information asked for is laid on the table.

Statement showing progress of work on the Raipur-Parvatipuram Railway Construction and the Vizagapatam Harbour Development Scheme up to 31st December 1926.

Raipur-Parvatipuram Railway Construction.—About 10 per cent. of the work has been completed.

Vizagapatam Harbour Development Scheme.—Work is in progress on the whole length of the wharf, which is to consist of three berths and the sinking of monolith wells has commenced. A rock breaker and dipper dredger has been employed on dredging work for more than six months with satisfactory results. A suction dredger has now arrived and in the meantime floating and shore pipe lines have been completed and a dredger workshop has been erected. A tug boat and a combined water and anchor boat have been delivered and two rock barges are expected shortly. An intermediate bund as well as the bunds round the power house site have been completed and a containing bund on the east side of the harbour site is nearing completion. The removal of the rock of Durga Hill has been completed and the area is now available for re-arrangement of railway lines of the wharf station, which will be taken up as soon as the shipping conditions permit. Levelling and draining of the site for bungalows is approaching completion and a layout for quarters has been prepared. The distribution of sites in one of the new village is in hand. A dispensary has been opened. Schemes for sewage and town planning have been prepared in consultation with the municipality and malarial surveys of the suburban area have been carried out. A marine survey to investigate the sand travel and formation of the bar has also been completed.

COST OF INDIAN EXCHEQUER OF SINGAPORE SCHEME.

167. ***Kumar Ganganand Sinha:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the amount which India shall have to contribute towards the Singapore scheme?

(b) Are they aware of the amount of money to be contributed by other countries within the British Empire towards the same? If so, will they be pleased to state them?

Mr. G. M. Young: (a) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given on the 29th January, 1926, to unstarred question No. 76.

(b) The Government of India are not aware of the amount, nor are they concerned with it.

REDUCTION OF FARES ON EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

168. ***Kumar Ganganand Sinha:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state why the Eastern Bengal Railway is still continuing to realise pre-war fares?

(b) Is there any possibility of reduction in the near future? If so, how soon? If not, why?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) I lay on the table a statement showing the pre-war and existing fares on the Eastern Bengal Railway from which it will be seen that this railway is not levying pre-war fares.

(b) The Agent has introduced certain return journey tickets at reduced fares and is watching the effect. In view of the fact that the Eastern

Bengal Railway has only lately been able to pay its way again, it is not able to afford a general reduction of fares.

Statement showing the pre-war and existing Fares on the Eastern Bengal Railway.

Pre-war fares.		Existing fares.	
I Class	18 pies all distances	1—150 miles	80 pies.
		Additional distance	20 "
II Class	9 " "	1—150 miles	15 "
		Additional distance	10 "
Inter Class	4 " "	1—150 miles	6 "
		Additional distance	4½ "
III Class	2½ " "		
		<i>Mail.</i>	
		1—150 miles	5 "
		Additional distance	4 "
		<i>Ordinary.</i>	
		All distances	8½ "

169. (Not put.)

IMPROVED WAITING SHEDS AT LOOP LINE STATIONS OF EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

170. *Kumar Ganganand Sinha: (a) Is it a fact that there are waiting sheds only on one side of most of the Loop line stations of the East Indian Railway?

(b) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the fact that the passengers who have to catch trains at odd hours suffer great hardship in sun, rain and cold on that account?

(c) Do Government propose to remove these inconveniences in the near future? If so, when?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: Last year waiting halls or sheds for 3rd class passengers were built for at 10 stations on the East Indian Railway. The Government are not aware of the exact position on the loop line but will send the question on to the Agent.

TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENTS TO FACILITATE COAL TRADE.

171. *Kumar Ganganand Sinha: (a) Will the Government be pleased to state what the tendency of the traffic movement is with regard to the coal trade?

(b) What do the Government propose to do in this respect with a view to facilitate coal trade?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: I am not sure that I understand what the meaning of the Honourable Member's question is. If he wishes to know whether the total volume of coal traffic on the Indian Railways has been increased by the reduction made in long distance coal freights, I may inform him that between 1st April, 1926, and 1st January, 1927, we carried 798,986 wagons loaded with coal and coke as compared with 789,452 in the corresponding period of 1925-26. Thus, there was a small increase of 4,534 wagons. We have no specific action in contemplation in the near future.

ADDITIONAL CHARGE ON SOFT COKE.

172. *Kumar Ganganand Sinha: Will the Government be pleased to state what the Government is going to do with regard to the additional charge of -/4/6 per ton over and above freight on all soft coke coming to Calcutta stations?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: The reason for the extra charge of -/4/6 per ton on soft coke at Calcutta is that it has to be levied at certain Calcutta terminal stations on account of the Howrah Bridge toll and the toll is paid to the Port Commissioners, the working agency for the Howrah Bridge.

Government therefore do not propose to take any action in the matter.

NEW ROLLING STOCK ON EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY DURING 1926-27.

173. *Kumar Ganganand Sinha: Will the Government be pleased to state how much new rolling stock has been constructed by the Eastern Bengal Railway so far, in the year 1926-27?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: During the period 1st April, 1926, to 31st December, 1926, the rolling stock constructed in the Eastern Bengal Railway shops was as follows:

Coaching stock bogies	.	.	.	.	.	61
Coaching stock 4-wheelers	.	.	.	.	.	20
Goods stock (Departmental) 4-wheelers	.	.	.	.	.	4

OVERCROWDING ON BENGAL AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

174. *Kumar Ganganand Sinha: (a) Will the Government be pleased to state what steps if any the Railway Board have taken to bring to the notice of the Bengal and North-Western Railway authorities the inconvenience suffered by the travelling public owing to overcrowding with a view to remedy the same?

(b) If no step has been taken, why?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) and (b). The Railway Board have brought to the notice of the Bengal and North-Western Railway the necessity for accelerating the building programme of third class carriages.

DAMAGE AND LOSS OF FRUIT PACKAGES ON RAILWAYS.

175. *Kumar Ganganand Sinha: (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the damage and loss of large number of fruit packages carried by the Railways?

(b) How many complaints of this nature have been received during the current year by the various State managed Railways?

(c) Are the Government aware of the fact that in a majority of cases the sufferers though greatly injured do not lodge any complaint?

(d) What action, if any, do the Government propose to take to prevent such damages and losses?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) The attention of Government has not recently been drawn to this matter.

(b) We have no information.

(c) No.

(d) The subject has received and is receiving continuous attention by railways, but the main difficulty experienced is the insecure manner in which consignments of fresh fruit are packed. The remedy for this obviously rests with despatchers.

ACCIDENTS OWING TO OVERCROWDING ON BENGAL AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

176. ***Kumar Ganganand Sinha:** (a) Are Government aware that as a result of overcrowding on the Bengal and North-Western Railway main line trains and of improper arrangements at the Railway stations many accidents happen at frequent intervals?

(b) If so, what steps are they taking to prevent the same? If not, will the Government be pleased to state what investigations have been made to ascertain the same?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

EXTENSION OF ASSAM BENGAL RAILWAY LINE TO SHILLONG.

177. ***Kumar Ganganand Sinha:** Is there any proposal under consideration regarding the extension of the Assam Bengal Railway line to Shillong? If so, will the Government be pleased to state in what stage the proposal or the scheme is and when and how the same is likely to fructify?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: A connection by rail between Shillong and Pandu has often been mooted, but as there is a good motor road and motor service between the two places, it is not likely to be a paying proposition and there is no present intention of taking it up.

EMIGRATION OF SANTALS TO ASSAM TEA GARDENS.

178. ***Kumar Ganganand Sinha:** Is it a fact that the emigration of a large number of Santals and other indigenous working class people from the Santal Parganas to the Assam tea gardens and other places is one of the causes of the decrease of the Santal population in the district? If the answer be in the affirmative what steps are being taken to check the same; if in the negative, will the Government be pleased to state reasons?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative; but it should be added that the proportion of emigrants from the Santal Parganas who go to the Assam tea gardens is very small. Government are taking no steps to check the emigration as they believe that it is not in the best interests of labourers or of the country as a whole that labour should be prevented from going to those areas where it is in demand.

Kumar Ganganand Sinha: Have the Government collected any statistics with regard to that?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: Yes, Sir, we have got some statistics.

Kumar Ganganand Sinha: Will the Government be pleased to lay them on the table.

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: I shall be glad to show them to the Honourable Member if he cares to see them.

SATYAGRAH IN PATUAKHALI.

179. ***Kumar Ganganand Sinha:** Have the Government of India interchanged communications with the Bengal Government regarding the Satyagraha carried on in Patuakhali as a result of the stoppage of a Hindu religious procession? If so, will they be pleased to lay the same on table and state the present condition of the movement?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: The Government of India have not been in communication with the Government of Bengal in connection with the incidents in Patuakhali, which they regard as essentially a matter for the Local Government.

FACTS REGARDING MURDER OF SWAMI SRADHANAND.

180. ***Kumar Ganganand Sinha:** Will the Government be pleased to state all the facts regarding the murder of Swami Sradhanand so far available to them indicating whether or not there was any organised conspiracy for the purpose?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: As the Honourable Member must be aware, the case is before the Courts and it would not therefore be proper for me to make any statement on the subject.

PERMISSION TO MR. SATYENDRA CHANDRA MITRA TO ATTEND MEETINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY.

181. ***Kumar Ganganand Sinha:** Will the Government be pleased to state whether or not Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra, a Bengal detenué, will be allowed to attend the meetings of the House? If not, why not? When will he be released?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: I would refer the Honourable Member to the statement I made in this House on the 21st January in connection with the debate on the motion of adjournment.

182. (Not put.)

183, 184, 185. (Answered on 31st January 1927, *vide* pages 188—89 of these Debates.)

INDIANS IN SUPERIOR SERVICES IN INDIA.

186. ***Kumar Ganganand Sinha:** Will the Government be pleased to state whether the percentage of Indians in the superior services of India as recommended by the Lee Commission is to be taken for India as a whole or for each province separately and India collectively? What is the policy and programme followed with regard to Indianisation in each of the provinces of India with regard to each of the superior services?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: The recommendations of the Lee Commission are to be taken as applying to India as a whole. In respect of certain services the rates of recruitment adopted in different provinces differ, but the proportions recommended by the Commission are maintained for India as a whole. As regards policy and programme, I would refer the Honourable Member to the answer which I gave to Khan Bahadur Ghulam Bari's question on the 25th August, 1925.

RECRUITMENT OF INDIANS TO SUPERIOR SERVICES FROM PROVINCIAL SERVICES.

187. ***Kumar Ganganand Sinha**: Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the insufficiency of recruitment in the superior services of India from the Provincial services? If so, what steps are being taken to bring it to the level recommended by the Lee Commission?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: In the Irrigation Branch of the Indian Service of Engineers, the recommendation of the Lee Commission that 20 per cent. of the future recruitment should consist of promotions from the Provincial services has already been introduced. Officers so promoted enter the Indian Service of Engineers at a low point on the gradation list and consequently no question arises of interference with the legitimate prospects of existing members. In the other services which will remain on an all-India basis, in which promoted officers enter the gradation list at a higher point, it has always been the intention that the proportion of posts filled by promotion from the Provincial Services should be increased gradually up to the proportions recommended by the Lee Commission or, where the Commission made no specific recommendation, up to a suitable ratio. Any other system would involve grave injustice to the existing members of the services.

Kumar Ganganand Sinha: What does the Honourable Member mean by the word "gradually"?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: "Gradually", Sir? I think the word can be found in the dictionary.

Mr. Chaman Lal: Does it mean that the Honourable Member is likely to take a number of years to work up to the proportions recommended by the Lee Commission?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: It probably means that it will take some time. Gradually means by grades.

Mr. Chaman Lal: Has it the same meaning as that given to the word in regard to the Government of India Act?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: I should think, Sir, the word used in either connection would have the same meaning.

INDIANISATION OF SUPERIOR SERVICES IN INDIA.

188. ***Kumar Ganganand Sinha**: Will the Government be pleased to state:—

- (a) the authorised strength of the various superior services left open to Indians before the publication of the Lee Commission report;
- (b) the number of Indians appointed to those services before the publication of the report;
- (c) the authorised strength of the various superior services left open to Indians after the acceptance of the recommendations of the Commission by the Government of India and the British Government;
- (d) the number of Indians so far belonging to those services;

- (e) the rate at which appointments are being made;
- (f) the time it will take to reach the sanctioned strength; and
- (g) why the sanctioned percentage of Indians have not immediately been appointed?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: I am not very clear as to the exact information which the Honourable Member requires, but he will find in annexure III to Questionnaire 1 of the Lee Commission's report a statement showing the scales on which Indians were being recruited at that time for the all-India services and in Chapter V of the report the detailed recommendations of the Commission for Indianization in the future which have been accepted and are being carried out. I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the fact that the proportions laid down are proportions of recruitment and these can only change the actual composition of the various services gradually as retirements take place and new recruits join, but the sanctioned percentages of direct recruitment are being applied.

PROMOTION FROM PROVINCIAL CIVIL SERVICE TO INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE IN BIHAR AND ORISSA.

189. ***Kumar Ganganand Sinha:** Will the Government be pleased to state how many persons in the Provincial Civil Service of Bihar and Orissa have been raised to the Indian Civil Service grade? What percentage of the total strength of officers in the Indian Civil Service in Bihar and Orissa are Indians and how does it stand in relation to the general recommendations made by the Lee Commission?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: The number of officers of the Provincial Civil Service of Bihar and Orissa and members of the Bar holding listed posts is eight. This number is 11.8 per cent. of the number of superior posts on the Indian Civil Service cadre in Bihar and Orissa. The percentage recommended by the Lee Commission to be filled eventually by promotion from the Provincial Civil Service (which will also include appointments from the Bar) is 20. This percentage will be worked up to gradually as explained in my answer to question No. 187.

Mr. B. Das: Do I understand that in the Provincial Service of the Bihar and Orissa Government there are not sufficient men to raise it to that 20 per cent.?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: No, the Honourable Member should not draw that implication from my answer.

Kumar Ganganand Sinha: How long will it take to reach the requisite percentage?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: I am unable to say. It depends, on retirements, the creation of new appointments and other things of that kind.

CONSTITUTION OF CIVIL MEDICAL SERVICE AND ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS.

190. ***Kumar Ganganand Sinha:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Civil Medical Service and the Royal Army Medical Corps (India) have been constituted in accordance with the recommendation of the Lee Commission? If not, when will they be constituted?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state what is the minimum number of British officers to be maintained in the Civil Medical Service, the total strength of such service and the method of recruitment so far followed? What are the rates of pay and other conditions of the Civil Medical Service?

Mr. G. M. Young: (a) The Secretary of State has not accepted the Lee Commission's proposal to institute a Royal Army Medical Corps (India). The Provincial Civil Medical Services have not yet been established; nor is it possible just now to say when they will be established as their constitution and other important connected matters are under consideration by the Secretary of State.

(b) Does not arise.

Lieutenant-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney: May I know, Sir, since the Secretary of State has refused to accept the recommendations of the Lee Commission so far as the medical services—civil and military—are concerned, whether it is proposed to substitute them by any other measure, and, if so, whether a Committee will be appointed to do so?

Mr. G. M. Young: As I have already stated, Sir, the constitution and principles of the Provincial Civil Medical Services are under consideration by the Secretary of State and it is impossible for me to make any statement at the moment.

PERIOD OF PROBATION OF OFFICERS OF THE INDIAN AND PROVINCIAL POLICE SERVICE.

191. ***Kumar Ganganand Sinha:** Is it a fact that the Police officers in the Provincial service are confirmed after two years whereas those in the Imperial service as soon as they pass the departmental examination? If so, will the Government be pleased to assign reasons for and indicate the underlying policy in making such a distinction in the matter of confirmation?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: It is a fact that officers of the Indian Police Service may be confirmed as soon as they have passed the tests and examinations prescribed.

It is within the power of each local Government to make regulations for the provincial services under its control. The Government of India are not in a position to say what regulations are in force in any particular province or to assign reasons for any particular rule that a local Government may have introduced.

APPOINTMENTS OF INDIANS TO INDIAN POLICE SERVICE SINCE 1924.

192. ***Kumar Ganganand Sinha:** Will the Government be pleased to state the number of vacancies caused in the Indian Police service in Bihar and Orissa since the publication of the Lee Commission report? How many Indians were appointed to those posts?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: The number of officers appointed to the Indian Police Service in Bihar and Orissa since May 1924 is 9, 5 of whom were Indians. One more Indian is about to be appointed on the results of the examination held in November last.

APPOINTMENTS OF INDIANS TO INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE IN BIHAR AND ORISSA SINCE 1924.

193. ***Kumar Ganganand Sinha**: Will the Government be pleased to state the number of vacancies caused in the Indian Civil Service in Bihar and Orissa since the publication of the Lee Commission report? How many Indians were appointed to those posts?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: Since May 1924 eleven officers have been appointed to the Indian Civil Service in Bihar and Orissa. Of these seven were Indians.

RECRUITMENT OF INDIANS ON INDIAN RAILWAYS.

194. ***Kumar Ganganand Sinha**: Will the Government be pleased to state if the Communiqué on the subject of the recruitment of Indians referred to on page 66 of the Report by the Railway Board on Indian Railways for 1924-25 has been issued? If so, when? If not, when will it be issued and why has it been delayed?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: A Press Communiqué was issued by the Railway Board on the 15th July, 1926.

WATCH AND WARD DEPARTMENT FOR STATE RAILWAYS.

195. ***Kumar Ganganand Sinha**: Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have received reports of the working of the Watch and Ward Department from the Railways that have got it? Where are they, if they have been published? Have the Government or the Railway Board published any statement or expressed any opinion regarding the same? If so, how and when? Do the Government or the Railway Board propose to create the Department in such of the State managed railways as do not at present have it?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: We do not receive or publish specific reports or statements on the working of the Watch and Ward Departments of the various railways, though it is customary for the Agents to mention the working of the Department in their annual report if there is anything deserving of special comment. I will send the Honourable Member, if he wishes, a summary of the latest remarks of individual Agents, but in general they merely bear witness to the success of the Department in preventing thefts, reducing claims for compensation, and stopping travelling without tickets. The creation of a Watch and Ward Department on the North-Western Railway is under consideration; it is the only State-managed railway which has not got one.

RECRUITMENT OF INDIANS FOR POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

196. ***Kumar Ganganand Sinha**: Will the Government be pleased to state the class of services from which Indians have been recruited to the Political Department from the year 1924 onwards?

Mr. E. B. Howell: Indians have been recruited to the Political Department from the Indian Civil Service, the Indian Army and Provincial Civil Services.

APPOINTMENTS DURING 1926-27 TO IMPERIAL CUSTOMS SERVICE. *

197. ***Kumar Ganganand Sinha**: How many appointments, if any, have been so far made in the Imperial Custom Service in the year 1926-27? How many of them are Indians?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: One appointment was made in 1926-27. The recruit was not an Indian.

INDIANISATION OF SUPERIOR SERVICES ON COMPANY RAILWAYS.

198. ***Kumar Ganganand Sinha**: What information, if any, have the Government received from the Company-worked Railways regarding the Indianisation of superior services?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: Government have received no later information than what was furnished by the Honourable Railway Member in reply to Question No. 23 by Mr. B. Das on the 18th August, 1926.

INDIANS IN SUPERIOR SERVICES ON STATE RAILWAYS.

199. ***Kumar Ganganand Sinha**: Will the Government be pleased to state the different superior services on State Railways in which Indians have been recruited? Is there any branch of the service which does not contain an Indian? If so, what is it and what steps are being taken to Indianise it? What is the proportion of Indians to Europeans in the superior services of State Railways?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: Indians have been recruited in all the superior services on State Railways and there is no service which does not contain them. As regards the proportion of Indians to Europeans the Honourable Member is referred to the statement on page 96 of Volume I of the Report on Indian Railways.

APPOINTMENTS OF INDIANS TO SUPERIOR SERVICE ON INDIAN RAILWAYS DURING 1926-27.

200. ***Kumar Ganganand Sinha**: Will the Government be pleased to state the number of Indians appointed so far in the year 1926-27 to the superior service on Indian Railways and indicate the place of their posting and office they are occupying?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: A statement giving the information for State-managed Railways is laid on the table. I should mention that 13 more Indian officers have been selected on the result of the competitive examinations held in November 1926, who will shortly be appointed but who are not included in this Statement.

Up-to-date information regarding the Company worked Railways is not available.

Statement of Indians appointed to Superior Service on State-managed Railways since 1st April 1926.

Department.	Railway to which posted			
	North Western Railway.	East Indian Railway.	Eastern Bengal Railway.	G. I. P. Railway.
Transportation (Traffic)	...			1
Civil Engineering	2	2	...	
Electrical Engineers	2	1		
Stores	...	...		1
Apprentices for the Mechanical Engineers.		6†		...

† Will be posted to different Railways after training is completed.

THE INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION IN INDIA.

201. *Kumar Ganganand Sinha: Are the Government considering any proposal for the stoppage of the open competitive examination for the Indian Civil Service in India? If so, why?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: I invite attention to the reply which I gave to a similar question on the 18th August last. I may add that the Public Service Commission have since been consulted on the whole question of recruitment to the Indian Civil Service.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AIR AND P. AND O. MAIL ROUTES.

202. *Kumar Ganganand Sinha: Will the Government be pleased to state the time usually taken by P. and O. Mail steamer to bring mails from England to India and the time and route the new air lines propose to take in doing the same?

Sir Ganen Roy: The time usually taken for the conveyance of mails from London to Bombay by P. and O. steamers via Marseilles is 15 days. The transit time from London to Karachi of correspondence conveyed by the Cairo-Basra air service is about 13 days. When the air service is extended to Karachi, probably in April next, the transit time will be reduced to 9 days approximately.

REPORT OF AUXILIARY AND TERRITORIAL FORCES COMMITTEE.

203. *Kumar Ganganand Sinha: Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table the views of the Government of India on the Report of the Auxiliary and Territorial Forces Committee? If not, why?

Mr. G. M. Young: The views of the Government of India on the report of the Auxiliary and Territorial Forces Committee are still before the Secretary of State and I regret that Government are, therefore, unable to accede to the Honourable Member's request.

Kumar Ganganand Sinha: How long will it take for the Secretary of State to consider it? Have the Government of India any knowledge of it?

Mr. G. M. Young: I cannot say how long the Secretary of State will take.

Kumar Ganganand Sinha: How long has he been considering it already?

Mr. G. M. Young: I cannot say offhand; I think it was last autumn when we sent it home.

MAIL AND PASSENGER RATES BY AIR LINER.

204. ***Kumar Ganganand Sinha:** (a) What will be the postal rate of mails carried by the new air liners from India to the United Kingdom and *vice-versa*?

(b) How many passengers, if any, will be carried by the new air liner and at what fare?

Sir Ganen Roy: (a) The fee to be paid on postal articles for transmission by the air service proposed to be established between Karachi and Cairo in April next has not yet been fixed.

(b) The aeroplanes to be employed on that service will, it is expected, provide accommodation for 14 passengers. The fare between Karachi and Cairo will be £72.

ACTION TAKEN ON UNEMPLOYMENT RESOLUTION.

205. ***Kumar Ganganand Sinha:** What action, if any, have Government taken so far on the unemployment resolution passed in the Assembly last year? Will it be pleased to lay on the table the correspondence between the Government of India and the Provincial Governments in this connection? If not, why?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: The Government of India have addressed the local Governments on the Resolution passed by the Assembly in their letter No. L-1373, dated the 26th May 1926, which has been published; there has been no further correspondence in this connection between the Government of India and Provincial Governments since the Resolution was adopted. A copy of this letter will be supplied to the Honourable Member.

NUMBERS OF VARIOUS COMMUNITIES ADMITTED TO SUPERIOR SERVICES IN 1924.

206. ***Mr. N. C. Kelkar:** 1. Will Government be pleased to state, what number of Indians were admitted in the year 1926, to:

(a) the Railway Service of Engineers,

(b) the Superior Revenue Establishment of the Transportation (Traffic) and Commercial Departments, by

(i) competitive examinations,

(ii) promotion of the qualified subordinates, and

(iii) from other sources?

2. Will Government state in each case the number by caste or religion?
Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: A statement is laid on the table.

Statement showing number of Indians recruited in 1926.

(1) Name of service.	(2) Competitive Examination.	(3) Promotion from subordinate service.	(4) Other sources.
Indian Railway Service of Engineers .	3†	Nil	1‡
Transportation (Traffic) and Commercial Departments	3	Nil	1
Total .	8		
	Hindus.	Moslems.	
	2	2	
	4	Nil	

†These are candidates taken from Roorkee under the guaranteed appointment scheme.

‡Appointed by the Secretary of State in England.

NOTE.—The first competitive examination for the Engineer Service was held last November and the candidates successful in it will be admitted to the service in 1927.

INDIANISATION OF SUPERIOR REVENUE ESTABLISHMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (POWER) AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENTS.

207. ***Mr. N. C. Kelkar:** 1. Will Government please state:

- (a) what number of Indians are elected as candidates for the special class of apprentices to be trained for 7 years (for their subsequent appointment as probationary officers in 1933), for the Superior Revenue Establishment of the Transportation (Power) and Mechanical Engineering Departments;
- (b) how many are appointed to the above mentioned service from the subordinate staff; and
- (c) how many are appointed from other sources?

2. Will Government state, how many applications they had received from the three classes mentioned in (a), (b) and (c) respectively of part 1 above?

3. If the reply to part 1 (a) and (b) is *nil*, will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it was not the declared policy of the Government to Indianise these Departments along with the others referred to;
- (b) the reasons for suspending this scheme of Indianisation last year (1926); and
- (c) whether the Government intend to bring into force the above-mentioned scheme this year (1927-28), and if not when?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: 1. (a) Six apprentices were selected in 1926, all being Indians.

(b) No subordinate was promoted to this service in 1926.

(c) Thirteen officers were appointed by the Secretary of State in England out of whom 2 were Indians.

2. For the class mentioned in 1 (a) above, over 600 applications were received. For class (b), applications are not invited as promotions from subordinate staff are considered on the recommendations of the Agents of State Railways. Regarding class (c), the information is not available as the selection is made by the Secretary of State.

8. Does not arise.

BEGGAR NUISANCE ON GOVERNMENT RAILWAY LINES.

208. ***Mr. N. C. Kelkar:** (a) Have Government ever received any complaints about the beggar nuisance on Railway trains on Government railway lines?

(b) Is it a fact that some railway station authorities give official or unofficial licences to beggars and participate in their earnings?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) No.

(b) Government have no reason to suspect that an abuse of this character exists. But they assume that the Honourable Member had some definite evidence of its existence in an individual case or cases before giving currency to the accusation by his question, and if he will give me the proofs which he possesses, I will have the case or cases investigated.

UTILISATION OF INDIA'S OUTPUT OF GOLD BY GOVERNMENT FOR COINING, ETC.

209. ***Mr. N. C. Kelkar:** (a) Will Government state what was the average annual production (in ounces) of gold in the different gold mines in Southern India during the ten years before the war and the period since the war?

(b) What was the total amount of gold purchased by Government for coining or other purposes during these years out of this Indian output of gold?

(c) Is it a fact that Government does not purchase Indian gold? If so, will Government state the reasons for their inability to purchase Indian gold?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: (a) The average annual production of gold from mines in Mysore, Madras and Bombay during the years 1904-1918 inclusive was 567,617 ounces. The average production from 1919 to 1925 inclusive amounted to 489,381 ounces.

(b) Figures are not readily available and are being collected.

(c) The Government are prepared to purchase any gold, including Indian Gold, on the conditions laid down in clause (4) of the Currency Bill No. 1 of 1925 as soon as the Bill is passed into law.

ALTERATION OF POST OFFICE INSURANCE RULES TO PERMIT OF
CONDITIONAL ASSIGNMENT.

210. *Mr. N. C. Kelkar: (a) Is it a fact that in the case of Post Office Insurance policies a conditional assignment is not permissible?

(b) Is it a fact that in the case of the assignee predeceasing the assignor, the policy does not revert to the holder and in case of a wife being the assignee, the amount of the policy becomes Stri-Dhana?

(c) Are Government aware that in some of the private insurance companies a condition such as " in the event of the assignee predeceasing the assignor or in the event of the assignor surviving the date on which the said policy would mature, the benefit of the policy and the right to receive moneys thereunder revert to the assignor as if the said assignment had not been made " is permissible in the assignment?

(d) Are Government prepared to suitably change the Post Office Insurance rules so as to make such a condition permissible?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) Yes.

(b) The policy does not revert to the holder. The assignee becomes the absolute owner of the policy. The question whether the amount of the policy becomes *Stri-dhana* is a question of Hindu Law on which the Government of India are not prepared to express an opinion. They would suggest that the Honourable Member should consult his own legal adviser on the point.

(c) No.

(d) No change is considered necessary.

COUNTING OF TEMPORARY SERVICE OF POST OFFICE CLERKS TOWARDS
INCREMENTS.

211. *Mr. N. C. Kelkar: (a) Is it a fact that during the current official year a provision was made in the supplementary Post Office budget for expenditure consequent on the counting of all paid officiating or temporary service for the purposes of granting increments to Post Office Clerks on lines suggested by the All-India Postal and R. M. S. Union?

(b) If so, has the Director-General issued necessary orders in the matter? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) No provision was made in the Supplementary Post Office budget. It was decided that the extra expenditure involved during 1926-27 on account of the concession referred to could be met from the provision made in the current year's budget for the revision of pay of postal clerks.

(b) Necessary orders have been issued by the Government of India.

REPRESENTATIONS TO THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS
RE PAY OF SUBORDINATES.

212. *Mr. D. V. Belvi: (a) Will Government be pleased to state the time normally required by the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs, to dispose of representations and appeals submitted to him by his subordinates?

(b) What was the last date for the submission of representations in connection with the fixation of pay?

(c) How many such representations are lying undisposed of in the Directorate for a period of three months, six months, one year and over?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) No definite time can be stated. The time required depends upon the circumstances of each case.

(b) 31st July 1926.

(c) 1. Between 3 months and 6 months	...	36
2. Between 6 months and 1 year	...	139
3. Between 1 year and above	...	43
	TOTAL	218

BETTER PROVISION FOR CONTINGENT EXPENDITURE IN POST OFFICES.

213. ***Mr. D. V. Belvi:** (a) Is it a fact that in arriving at the contingent expenditure for a Post Office, no provision is made for such items as twine for labelled bundles, paste or gum arabic for affixing number slips, oil for cycle lamps, metal polish, brooms and dusters, sanitary fluids, nor for the supply of necessary stationery to the postmen?

(b) If so, do Government propose to revise the schedule of articles considered as necessary to calculate the contingent expenditure necessary for a Post Office?

Sir Ganen Roy: (a) The reply is in the negative. Provision is made for such items, not specifically for each, but by an allowance to each post office, in accordance with a standard based on their average cost.

(b) Does not arise; but I would explain for the Honourable Member's information that I am not entirely satisfied as to the adequacy of the existing standard, and it will be re-examined.

CLAIMS OF MINORITY COMMUNITIES TO HIGHER APPOINTMENTS IN POSTAL DEPARTMENT.

214. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** (a) Is it a fact that all the five Superintendents of the Post Office who have been recruited by direct appointment are Bengali Hindus?

(b) Is it also a fact that out of the eight Superintendents of the Post Office who have been promoted from the Department only one is a Musalman?

(c) Was the Government of India, Home Department, Office Memorandum No. F.-176/25-Estbs., dated the 5th February, 1926, regarding the measures to be adopted for securing the appointment of members of minority communities communicated to the Postal Department? If it was communicated what effect was given to it by the Department in making the above appointments? If it was not communicated, why was it not communicated?

(d) What steps do the Government propose to take in order to remedy the wrong done to the Musalmans and other minority communities on account of the above appointments?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) No.

(b) No.

(c) Yes. But the Home Department office memorandum referred to deals with recruitment for the clerical establishments only of the Government of India Secretariat and Subordinate offices.

(d) The question does not arise.

Maulvi Muhammad Yakub: Will the Government be pleased to state the exact figures under sub-heads (1) and (2) of my question 214?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: There is no sub-head (1) or sub-head (2) in the question.

Maulvi Muhammad Yakub: The Government reply to my question (a) was 'No' and to part (b) also was 'No'. I want to know how many direct appointments were made and how many of them were given to Moslems and how many to non-Moslems; in the same way how many appointments were made from the department and how many of them went to Moslems and how many to non-Moslems.

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: The Honourable Member should realise that I do not carry these figures in my head. If he wants the information I would suggest that he should put down a precise question.

Mr. Chaman Lall: Will the Honourable Member request the Honourable Maulvi to set down precise *correct* questions in future?

REPRESENTATION OF MINORITY COMMUNITIES IN DEPARTMENTS UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

215. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** (a) Do Government propose to ask for report from all the Departments under the Government of India and state what effect they have given to the Home Department Memorandum No. F-176/25-Estbs., dated the 5th February, 1926, since it was issued?

(b) What measures do the Government propose to adopt to insure the carrying out of the instructions contained in the memorandum mentioned above?

(c) Do the Government desire that the Memorandum should remain a dead letter?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: I would refer the Honourable Member to part (c) of my reply to his question No. 49 of the 27th January.

216, 217, 218. (Not put.)

DISTANCE OF SUB-POST OFFICE AT BAGISAR FROM MANSIARI AND MILAM POST OFFICE.

219. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** (a) Is it a fact that the Sub-Post Office of Bagisar (District Almora) is the account office of the Mansiari Post Office and the Milam Post Office?

(b) Is it also a fact that the distance from Bagisar to Mansiari Post Office is 49 miles and that from Bagisar to Milam Post Office is 79 miles?

Sir Ganen Roy: (a) Yes.

(b) No. The distance from Bageshwar to Mansiari is 58½ miles and from Bageshwar to Milam 83½ miles.

CONVERSION OF BRANCH POST OFFICE AT MANSIARI INTO SEASON SUB-POST OFFICE.

220. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** Are Government prepared to convert the Branch Post Office of Mansiari into a season Sub-Post Office for a period of 4 months every year, *i.e.*, from June to September, so that there may be a connection between the season Post Office of Milam with this proposed sub-office?

Sir Ganen Roy: No, as the average monthly income of the Mansiari branch post office is not sufficient to cover the extra cost which its conversion into a sub-office would involve. The Milam season post office is already connected with the Mansiari post office, both being on the same runners' line.

SAVINGS BANK DEPARTMENT AT MANSIARI POST OFFICE.

221. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** Are Government prepared to authorise the Post Office of Mansiari to do the Savings Bank work?

Sir Ganen Roy: The Mansiari Post Office is already authorised to do savings bank work but no savings bank account has so far been opened.

EXPEDITIOUS DISTRIBUTION OF LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES TO PURCHASERS.

222. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** Are Government prepared to issue orders to the Superintendent of the Government Central Press, Delhi, Simla and Calcutta, to continue to send the issues of the Report of Legislative Assembly Debates, to its purchasers as soon as its copies are distributed among the Members of the Legislative Assembly, so that the public may know at once what is being done in the Legislative Assembly?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: Copies of the debates which are purchased are not distributed by the Managers of Government Presses but by the Central Publication Branch, and they are issued by that branch as soon as they are received. There is no intention of altering this arrangement.

ADMISSION OF MR. SATYENDRA CHANDRA MITRA TO ASSEMBLY.

223. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) Is it a fact that Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra, now under detention in Mandalay Jail, has been elected a Member of the Legislative Assembly? If so, in what issue of the "Gazette of India" has his election been published?

(b) Has this gentleman applied to the Government to give him reasonable facilities to take the oath of allegiance to the Crown, and will he be permitted to do so?

Mr. L. Graham: (a) Yes. The Honourable Member's name was published in the Gazette of India, Part I, dated the 18th October, 1926.

(b) No such application has been received by the Government of India.

THEFT AND BURGLARY IN NEW DELHI.

224. *Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: Is it a fact that cases of theft and burglary are on the increase in New Delhi, and will the Government be pleased to state the number of such cases, month by month, during the last six months, the facts of each case in brief, and the steps taken to prevent recurrence of such crimes?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: Yes, there has been an increase in this class of crime in New Delhi during December 1926.

2. As many extra patrols as are available have been posted in New Delhi. Government are at the present moment endeavouring to arrange an increase in the Delhi Police Force sufficient to provide adequate protection for this area, and I hope those members of the House who are Members of the Finance Committee will give sympathetic consideration to our proposals.

PROPORTION OF MUHAMMADANS IN SUPERIOR POSTAL AND CUSTOMS SERVICES.

225. *Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim: Will the Government be pleased to state Province by Province—

(a) the total number of Postal Superintendents and how many of these are Muhammadans; and

(b) the total number of officers in the Superior ranks of the Customs services and how many of these are Muhammadans?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: A statement giving the information asked for under heads (a) and (b) of the Honourable Member's question is laid on the table.

Statement.

	Total number of Postal Superintendents.	Number of Muhammadans.
(a) Bengal and Assam	81	1
Bihar and Orissa	12	5
Bombay	22	1
Burma	12	Nil.
Central Provinces	14	1
Madras	23	8
Punjab and North-West Frontier	23	9
Sind and Baluchistan	5	1
United Provinces	20	9
Railway Mail Service	19	2
Total	181	82
	Total number of gazetted officers.	Number of Muhammadans.
(b) Bengal	14	Nil.
Bombay (including Sind)	20	1
Burma	8	1
Madras	15	Nil.
Total	57†	2‡

† 82 of these posts are in the Imperial Customs Service, officers in which are liable to transfer and are in fact frequently transferred from province to province.

‡ Both the officers belong to the Imperial Customs Service.

PROPORTION OF MUHAMMADANS IN SUBORDINATE ACCOUNTS, CUSTOMS,
POSTS AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENTS IN BURMA.

226. *Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim: Will the Government be pleased to state whether recruitment of Mohammedans in the Subordinate service of the three Departments, viz., Accounts Department, Customs, Posts and Telegraphs in Burma, which are directly under the Imperial Government are maintained in the same ratio as in other provinces and if not, why? What ratio do the number of Burmese Muslims or otherwise domiciled Muslims in Burma bear to the total strength of the population of that province?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: The information required by the Honourable Member is being collected and will be furnished to him as soon as possible.

PROPORTION OF MUHAMMADAN DISTRICT AND SESSIONS JUDGES IN
BENGAL AND THE PUNJAB.

227. *Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim: Will the Government be pleased to state what is the number of Mohammedan District and Sessions Judges in Bengal and the Punjab compared to the other Indian nationalities?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: According to the civil lists corrected up to the 1st October, 1926, among the permanent District and Sessions Judges in Bengal there are three Muhammadans and 11 Hindus, and in the Punjab 1 Muhammadan, 2 Hindus and 1 Sikh.

MUHAMMADANS IN IMPERIAL FOREST SERVICE.

228. *Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim: Will the Government be pleased to state what is the number of Mohammedans in the Imperial Forest Service all over India by Provinces and the number of their total cadre?

The Honourable Mr. J. W. Blore: I place on the table a statement giving the information required.

Statement showing the sanctioned Imperial Forest Service cadre and the number of Muhammadans therein in each province.

Province.	Sanctioned cadre.	Number of Muhammadans.
Assam	22	Nil
Bengal	21	2
Bihar and Orissa	17	Nil
Bombay	43	Nil.
Burma	119	Nil.
Central Provinces	32	1
Madras (with Coorg)	64	1
Punjab (with Baluchistan and North-West Frontier Province)	39	3
United Provinces (with Ajmer)	41	1

RAILWAY CONNECTION BETWEEN INDIA AND BURMA.

220. ***Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim**: Will the Government be pleased to state if there is a possibility of linking India with Burma by railways?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: There is certainly a possibility, though I am doubtful whether the through connection will be established in the very near future.

BURMANISATION OF DEPARTMENTS UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA IN BURMA.

230. ***Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim**: Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is contemplated by Government to Burmanise the Departments under the Government of India in the Province of Burma, and if so, whether the Government propose to allow free transfer of non-Burman officers already in service in that province to their respective provinces in India?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: Enquiries are being made from the Departments of the Government of India concerned as to whether they have any such scheme under consideration and the result will be communicated to the Honourable Member in due course.

PROVISION OF LAVATORIES IN THIRD CLASS CARRIAGES ON METRE GAUGE COCHIN STATE RAILWAY.

281. ***Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas**: (a) Is it a fact that no lavatories are provided in third class carriages on the Cochin State Railway (Shoranur to Ernakulam metre gauge) which is worked by the South Indian Railway?

(b) Are Government aware that as the journey from Shoranur to Ernakulam takes more than four hours, the want of lavatories in third class carriages is causing great inconvenience to this class of passengers, especially ladies and children?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state what action they propose to take to have this remedied?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: I am quite prepared to believe that the facts are as stated by the Honourable Member though I have no exact information. At the same time I may point out that the line is only some 60 miles long, that there are stations at intervals of approximately 5 miles, that the passenger trains stop at all these stations, and that at important stations like Trichur, Alwaye and Chalakudi the trains stop for some minutes. I doubt therefore whether the inconvenience is very serious, but I am sending a copy of the Honourable Member's question to the Agent of the South Indian Railway—the working Agency for the line.

DECREASE IN GROSS EARNINGS OF NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY DURING 1926 OWING TO COMPETITION OF MOTORS.

282. ***Mr. Abdul Haya**: (a) Will the Government please state if it is a fact that there has been considerable decrease in the total approximate gross earnings of the North-Western Railway for the year 1926?

(b) Is it a fact that this decrease is mainly due to less booking of passengers as a result of very keen competition for passengers existing at present on certain sections of the North-Western Railway between the Railway and some Motor and Lorry Service Agencies?

(c) Is it a fact that on account of this competition and loss the Railway had to increase last year the number of Up and Down trains running between Jullundur and Hoshiarpore and Ferozepore and Moga from 6 to 12?

(d) Will the Government please state if the loss to the railway on these sections was arrested by this increase in the number of trains?

(e) Will the Government please state the amount of extra expenditure incurred by the Railway Department on account of these additional trains on the Jullundur, Hoshiarpore, and Ferozepore, and Moga section up to the 31st December, 1926?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) The increase in the number of Up and Down trains between Jullundur and Hoshiarpore and between Ferozepore and Moga last year was due to additional trains being put on to meet motor competition and the needs of public traffic.

(d) It is too early as yet to say if the provision of these extra trains has arrested the loss due to road competition but undoubtedly the provision of better and more suitable train services is drawing additional traffic to the railway presumably from the roads.

(e) Figures of the extra expenditure on account of these additional trains are not obtainable.

DECREASE IN GROSS EARNINGS OF NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY DURING 1926 OWING TO COMPETITION OF MOTORS.

283. ***Mr. Abdul Hays:** (a) Has there been a loss in the earnings of the Kalka-Simla section of the North-Western Railway for the year 1926 due to competition between the Railway and certain Motor and Lorry Service Agencies?

(b) Is it a fact that travelling by motors and taxis is cheaper than travelling by the Railway?

(c) What steps have the Government taken or propose to take to prevent this loss to the Railway in future?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) and (b). It is a little difficult to say whether travelling by motor is in all cases cheaper than by rail, but there is no doubt that passenger traffic has to some extent been diverted from the Kalka-Simla Railway to the road by the competition of motors.

(c) Some reductions in the Kalka-Simla Railway fares have been introduced from February 1st, 1927, and further reductions of fares on the Kalka-Simla Railway during the season are under consideration.

REMODELING OF KALKA RAILWAY STATION.

284. ***Mr. Abdul Hays:** (a) Is there any proposal before the Government to remodel and reconstruct the railway station of the North-Western Railway at Kalka?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will the Government please state why this remodelling of the station has been considered necessary?

(c) What is the estimate of cost of this proposal?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) Yes, it is proposed to remodel Kalka Railway Station.

(b) The arrangements for despatch and arrival of both Narrow Gauge and Broad Gauge Trains and for holding of stock are inadequate. The arrangements for transfer and weighing of luggage between the B. G. and N. G. and *vice versa* also require to be improved.

(c) Approximately 5 lakhs.

APPOINTMENT OF PROVINCIAL SERVICE MEN TO POLITICAL DEPARTMENT
IN THE NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE.

235. ***Mr. Abdul Hays:** (a) Will the Government please state what steps they have taken to give effect to the recommendation of the Lee Commission that 25 per cent. of the posts in the Political Department of North-West Frontier Province should go to the members of the Provincial Civil Service of that Province?

(b) Will the Government please lay on the table a statement showing the names of the members of the Provincial Civil Service who have since this recommendation been permanently appointed to serve in the Political Department giving in each case the date of such appointment and the date of retirement, transfer, or reversion?

(c) How many members of the Provincial Civil Service are at present temporarily retained by the Political Department in its cadre? Will the Government please state the period for which each officer has been so temporarily acting in the Political Department?

(d) Did the members of the North-West Frontier Provincial Civil Service make a representation to the Government in 1924 regarding this matter? If so, what orders did the Government pass on this representation?

Mr. E. B. Howell: (a) The Lee Commission did not make the recommendation stated in the question. In paragraph 42(a) of their report they recommended that 25 per cent. of the officers annually recruited for the Political Department should be Indians, who should be obtained from the Indian Civil Service, the Provincial Civil Services and from the Indian Army.

(b) and (c). The information required is contained in the statement laid on the table.

(d) Yes—in 1925. They asked that a certain percentage of the Indian recruitment for the Political Department should be reserved for the Provincial Civil Service of the North-West Frontier Province. The request was not accepted, because, as already announced in the Foreign and Political Department Press Communiqué, dated the 2nd September, 1921, the primary sources of Indian recruitment to the Political Department are the Indian Civil Service and the Indian Army, and officers of the Provincial Civil Services are recruited only in cases of special merit.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (b) and (c) of Mr. Abdul Haya's Question No. 235.

(b) The following officers of the Provincial Civil Services have been admitted to the Political Department since 1924;

- (1) †Khan Bahadur Muhammad Inam-ul-Huk—appointed on the 4th October 1924.
- (2) Khan Bahadur Maulvi Ahmed Din, M.B.E.—appointed on 2nd April 1925 and retired on 18th May 1926.

(c) The following officers of the Provincial Civil Services are at present temporarily acting in the Political Department from the dates shown against each :

Baluchistan.

1. Mr. J. E. Lidieth, M.B.E.—From 4th October 1922.
2. Sardar Muhammad Jafar Khan—From 28th September 1925.
3. Rai Sahib Mehta Nihal Chand—From 15th November 1925.
4. Khan Sahib Gul Muhammad Khan—From 29th November 1926.

North-West Frontier Province.

1. Khan Sahib Muhammad Dilawar Khan—From 9th April 1924.
2. Muhammad Safdar Khan—From 1st May 1926.
3. Khan Sahib Zafar Khan—From 7th July 1926.
4. Khan Sahib Mufti Muhammad Yakub Khan—From 2nd December 1926.
5. Khan Bahadur Arbab Wali Mohammed Khan—From 1st February 1923.
6. Khan Bahadur Kuli Khan—From 28th March 1925.

CONTROL DEPARTMENT, BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY.

236. ***Pandit Nilakantha Das**: How long has the Control Department been in existence on the Bengal Nagpur Railway?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: There is no separate Control Department. Presumably the Honourable Member refers to the Train Control system. It was first introduced at Nagpur in January, 1917, and extended over the whole Broad Gauge System, exclusive of short Branches, by August, 1926.

INDIAN HEAD TRAIN CONTROLLERS ON BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY.

237. ***Pandit Nilakantha Das**: (a) How many Head and Deputy Head Train Controllers have been appointed on the Bengal Nagpur Railway during the last two years?

(b) How many of them are Indians?

(c) What facilities, if any, were given for Indian appointments?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a), (b) and (c). Government have no information, and regret that they cannot undertake to enquire.

† Prior to his appointment, Khan Bahadur Inam-ul-Huk held the post of Attaché, Foreign and Political Department, which has been declared by the Governor General in Council to be of the status of the Provincial Civil Service.

EFFECT OF REDUCTION SCHEME ON BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY.

238. ***Pandit Nilakantha Das:** (a) Has there been any reduction of staff on the Bengal Nagpur Railway during the last two years?

(b) How many have been discharged in consequence of the reduction scheme?

(c) How many of them are Indians, how many Anglo-Indians and how many Europeans?

(d) Has the reduction scheme affected officers drawing above Rs. 200 a month? If so, to what extent and proportion?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: We have no later information than that which the Honourable Member will find in the statements on pages 53, 55 and 94 to 102 of the report by the Railway Board on Indian Railways for 1925-26. Similar figures will be given for future years, and they will enable the Honourable Member to judge the effect of the action taken on the investigation which was carried out through the agency of a special officer on the Bengal Nagpur Railway last cold weather.

AMALGAMATION OF ORIYA-SPEAKING TRACTS.

239. ***Pandit Nilakantha Das:** What steps are the Government taking for the amalgamation of the Oriya-speaking tracts under the Local Administration?

AMALGAMATION OF ORIYA-SPEAKING TRACTS.

240. ***Pandit Nilakantha Das:** (a) Is there a definite contemplation of a sub-province for the Oriya-speaking Tracts?

(b) If so, will the Government make a statement explaining the scope and character of such a sub-province?

AMALGAMATION OF ORIYA-SPEAKING TRACTS.

241. ***Pandit Nilakantha Das:** Will the Government give the people concerned in Bihar and Orissa an opportunity of expressing opinion before any sub-province is formed?

AMALGAMATION OF ORIYA-SPEAKING TRACTS.

242. ***Pandit Nilakantha Das:** Do Government propose to unite all the Oriya-speaking tracts apart from the question of forming the tracts into a sub-province or separate Province?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: With your permission, Sir, I will reply to the questions Nos. 239 to 242 together. Government has under consideration the claims made by certain Oriya-speaking tracts, and has consulted the Local Governments concerned. But no decision has been reached, and, in particular, no definite attitude towards the expedient of constituting a sub-province has been adopted.

Government is aware of an inclination to suspend judgment on the merits of a sub-province till its consequences can be gauged, and will endeavour to elicit opinions before adopting any definite scheme.

ATTENDANCE OF MESSRS. S. C. MITRA AND S. C. BOSE AT THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AND BENGAL COUNCIL, RESPECTIVELY.

248. ***Pandit Nilakantha Das:** (a) Do the Government think of making it possible for Messrs. Satyendra Chandra Mitra, M.L.A., and Subhas Chandra Bose, M.L.C. (Bengal detenus) to attend to their duties as legislators?

(b) Have they been allowed to come to take the oath of office?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: (a) and (b). The answer is in the negative.

EMIGRATION OF INDIANS TO BRITISH GUIANA.

244. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to say whether any depot has been opened for the recruiting of labourers for British Guiana, since March 1926? If so, how many, and where?

(b) Who has been appointed Emigration Commissioner, and on what pay?

(c) How many recruiting agents have been employed by this department, and what are their names and addresses?

(d) Will the Government kindly lay on the table a copy of the terms on which labourers are recruited for British Guiana?

The Honourable Mr. J. W. Bore: (a) No.

(b) No Emigration Commissioner has been appointed.

(c) No recruiting agents have been employed.

(d) The terms and conditions on which it has been declared that emigration to British Guiana for the purpose of unskilled work will be lawful are contained in Notification No. 240-Overseas, dated the 23rd March, 1926, which was approved by both Chambers of the Indian Legislature and has been published in the Gazette of India. The notification has not yet come into operation as the Government of British Guiana have not yet intimated the date from which they desire that emigration to that Colony should commence.

PUBLICATION OF FIJI DEPUTATION REPORT.

245. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** Will the Government kindly state if they propose to publish the Fiji Deputation Report of 1921?

The Honourable Mr. J. W. Bore: After the most careful consideration, the Government of India have come to the conclusion that the interests of the Indian community in Fiji would best be served by not publishing the Report referred to.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: May I ask a supplementary question, Sir? In view of the fact that the correspondence between the Colonial Office and the Government of India has been published, will not Government reconsider their decision in regard to the publication of the Fiji Deputation's Report?

The Honourable Mr. J. W. Bore: I do not see the connection but I regret, Sir, that Government cannot reconsider their decision. I have given my Honourable friend the final decision of Government in this matter.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: May I then ask the Honourable Member to let us know a little more in detail the reasons of Government for not publishing that Report?

The Honourable Mr. J. W. Bhore: Sir, I recognise that this is a matter of great public interest, and if it will assist in satisfying the House finally in regard to this matter, I shall be most happy to supplement the reply I have just given. The fact, Sir, is that that Report deals with highly contentious issues, and on those issues strongly divergent views are held by both parties. Any publication of this Report must

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: May I interrupt the Honourable Member? What does he mean by both parties?

The Honourable Mr. J. W. Bhore: The Fiji Deputation, on whose report the Government of India base their case, and the Government of Fiji. Any publication, therefore, of this Report must inevitably lead to rejoinder and counter-rejoinder and in the opinion of the Government of India this would lead to a breaking down of the present atmosphere which is, as far as we can judge, very hopeful and promises progressive improvement in the Indian position.

Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: May I know, Sir, if the Report submitted by the Fiji Deputation is a unanimous Report?

The Honourable Mr. J. W. Bhore: I am afraid, Sir, that I cannot give the Honourable Member any further information in regard to it.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Do I understand, Sir, that the only reason for the non-publication of the Report is that the conclusions arrived at by the Deputation are very different from the opinions held by the Fiji Government?

The Honourable Mr. J. W. Bhore: I have explained the position at some length and I do not think I can add anything more to it.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: Can the Report be shown privately to a Member of this House, Sir?

The Honourable Mr. J. W. Bhore: No, Sir.

GRANT OF LAND IN NEW DELHI FOR BUILDING ANGLICAN CHURCH,
MOSQUES OR TEMPLES.

246. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to say if they have given or propose to give any land in New Delhi for the building of an Anglican Church? If so, how much land, and on what terms?

(b) Have the Government made any pecuniary grant, or propose to make any such grant towards the building, or for the upkeep, of the Anglican Church? If so, how much?

(c) Have the Government given, or propose to give any land in New Delhi, or make any pecuniary grant for the purpose of building any temple or mosque? If so, how much?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: (a) The Government have allotted a site, having an area of 3.825 acres for the Anglican Church, but have

not yet arrived at a decision as to the terms on which the land is to be made over.

(b) Government does not at present propose to make any grant towards the building of the Anglican Church at New Delhi.

(c) Government have under consideration a proposal to grant land for the purpose of building a temple and subsidiary structures. An application for a site for a mosque has also just been received. Government have leased land amounting to 8.44 acres to the Aggarwal and Khandalwal Jain Societies. The land surrounds the temples which existed when the land was acquired.

A certain amount of land has been set aside round two Gurdwaras to make their sites conform to the layout of the New Capital, but the lands have not been conveyed to any Registered Society or Corporation. Similarly, small areas have been set aside round two existing temples but there is no Registered Society to which they can be conveyed.

Mr. M. Rethnaswamy: Sir, may I ask the Government if they have given any facilities for the building of a Roman Catholic Church in New Delhi?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: I am afraid I must ask for notice of that question, Sir.

EXPENDITURE ON POST OFFICE PREMISES IN BOMBAY.

247. ***Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to furnish a statement showing the total monthly expenditure on account of Post Office premises in the town and Island of Bombay during the months of December, 1924, and December, 1926?

(b) Were the requirements of the Post Office duly advertised in the local papers and if so, how long before the termination of the old leases?

(c) Is it a fact that on the termination of the old leases of the two Post Offices in Bombay, the rents were enhanced by 250 per cent. and more for the same premises?

(d) Are Government aware that the rents of premises in Bombay have steadily gone down since December, 1924?

Sir Ganen Roy: (a) A statement showing the monthly rent paid for post office buildings in the Town and Island of Bombay in December, 1924, and December, 1926, is placed on the table.

(b) This was done in the cases of the Kalbadevi, Mandvi, Dharavi and Tardeo post offices. The advertisement in respect of the Kalbadevi post office appeared over two months before the expiry of the old lease. Information as to the dates of publication of the advertisements in the other cases is not now available.

(c) It is not understood to which particular post offices the question refers. The statement furnished, however, shows the increases, if any, in each case.

(d) No.

Statement showing the monthly rent paid for each of the post office buildings in the town and island of Bombay in December 1924 and December 1926.

Name of the office.	Rent in December, 1924.	Rent in December, 1926.
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
1. Apollo Bandar	Free.	Free
2. Apollo Street	213 9 0	213 9 0
3. Ballard Road	157 8 0	Rent abolished since 1st December, 1926.
4. Bandra	Government Building.	Government Building.
5. Barbbhai Moholla	140 0 0	250 0 0
6. Byculla	250 0 0	375 0 0
7. Cadell Road	150 0 0	100 0 0
8. Chamarbag	70 0 0	70 0 0
9. Chaupati	105 0 0	105 0 0
10. Chinch Bandar	Opened from 1st February, 1926.	150 0 0
11. Churchgate Street	Government Building.	Government Building.
12. Clare Road	200 0 0	200 0 0
13. Colaba	Government Building.	Government Building.
14. Cotton Exchange	40 0 0	50 0 0
15. Crawford Market	225 0 0	225 0 0
16. Cumballa Hill	85 0 0	100 0 0
17. Dadar	400 0 0	400 0 0
18. Dellale Road	225 0 0	275 0 0
19. Charavi	41 8 0	45 4 0
20. Elphinstone Circle	Government Building.	Government Building.
21. Falkland Road	80 0 0	80 0 0
22. Girgaon	600 0 0	600 0 0
23. Grant Road	400 0 0	400 0 0
24. Haffkine Institute	Government Building.	Government Building.
25. Hughes Road	Opened from 2nd January, 1926.	80 0 0
26. Jacob Circle	250 0 0	Shifted to the Departmental Building on 7th July, 1926.

Statement showing the monthly rent paid for each of the post office buildings in the town and island of Bombay in December 1924 and December 1926—contd.

Name of the office.	Rent in December, 1924.	Rent in December, 1926.
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
27. Jumma Masjid	175 0 0	210 0 0
28. Kalachowki	Opened from 1st June, 1926.	175 0 0
29. Kalbadevi	400 0 0	1,500 0 0
30. Khoja Street	65 0 0	65 0 0
31. Lady Hardinge Road	40 0 0	40 0 0
32. Lady Jamshedji Road	110 0 0	65 0 0
33. Malhav Bagh	Opened from 15th June, 1926.	275 0 0
34. Mahim	125 0 0	140 0 0
35. Malabar Hill	Government Build- ing.	Government Build- ing.
36. Mandvi	500 0 0	1,250 0 0
37. Masjid	20 0 0	*220 0 0
38. Matunga	50 0 0	50 0 0
39. Mazgaon	225 0 0	225 0 0
40. Mumbadevi	184 4 4	184 4 4
41. New Nagpada	50 0 0	50 0 0
42. Parbhadevi	50 0 0	35 0 0
43. Parel	525 0 0	700 0 0
44. Princess Dock	46 8 0	46 8 0
45. Ramwadi	499 0 0	499 0 0
46. Secretariat	Government Build- ing.	Government Build- ing.
47. S. V. Press	60 0 0	60 0 0
48. Shroff Mahajan	Rent free.	Rent free.
49. Sion	11 12 0	25 0 0
50. Sewri	38 7 0	35 11 0
51. S. C. Court	Government Build- ing.	Government Build- ing.
52. Tardeo	125 0 0	125 0 0
53. Thakurdwar	110 0 0	110 0 0

* Owing to the closing of the departmental Telegraph Office at Masjid and the conversion of the Masjid B. O. into a C. S. O.

Statement showing the monthly rent paid for each of the post office buildings in the town and island of Bombay in December 1924 and December 1926—contd.

Name of the Office.	Rent in December, 1924.	Rent in December, 1926.
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
54. Umarkhadi	300 0 0	300 0 0
55. Victoria Gardens	110 0 0	110 0 0
56. Wadala	16 8 0	26 0 0
57. Warli	21 9 0	48 5 0
58. Khar	Opened from 1st August, 1926.	50 0 0
Total	7,485 4 4	10,388 9 4

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: So far as (c) is concerned, I refer to Mandvi and Kalbadevi. Is it true that the rents now paid are 250 per cent. more and 375 per cent. more than they used to be in former years, namely, that Government are now paying Rs. 1,250 where they were paying Rs. 500 per month in the case of Mandvi and are now paying Rs. 1,500 where they were paying Rs. 400 in the case of Kalbadevi Post Office?

Sir Ganen Roy: I do not find anything in the records of the case to confirm what the Honourable Member has said about the rents of the building, but anyhow, I shall look into the matter.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask, Sir, whether Government will make a very searching inquiry into the increase of rents in the post offices of Bombay in view of the fact that the post offices have paid increased rents while in the city of Bombay the rents are going down? As far as my knowledge goes, the total amount of

Mr. President: Order, order. The Honourable Member has already put the question and he is not entitled to introduce arguments.

Sir Ganen Roy: The matter has been very carefully considered.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask, Sir, whether the Government of India have made searching inquiries into the fact as to why the rent of the post office at Kalbadevi should have been Rs. 1,500 when the rent in 1924 was only Rs. 400?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: In the case of the Kalbadevi post office, tenders were called for and the present rent is the cheapest we were called upon to pay. The Honourable Member's assumption that rents in Bombay have gone down in recent years is, we understand, not wholly correct. We consulted the local authorities, and the authorities of the Bombay Municipality said that that statement was not wholly correct, and that, though in certain parts of the city rents had gone down, there were other parts in which rents had really gone up. As regards the Kalbadevi Post Office, if my Honourable friend will refer to the reply already given by Sir Ganen Roy he will find that tenders were actually called for in regard to the new post office building rented.

Mr. Jambadas M. Mehta: Who is the officer in the Bombay Municipality through whom the Honourable Member has received information that the rents in Bombay are not going down? Evidently the gentleman is not living in Bombay.

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: The gentleman is living in Bombay. I said that he was a responsible authority of the Bombay Municipality.

Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar: May I know what the Honourable Member meant by saying that tenders were called for in respect of houses to be rented? What is the process? I could not quite follow.

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: An advertisement is issued in the papers that the Post Office wants to hire a building in a particular locality with a certain amount of accommodation and people tender for it and the house which is the cheapest is rented.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask again whether in view of the fact that the post office is paying much more rent than it should or than it was paying before the Government will make a searching enquiry into this matter? May I also suggest that, in view of the fact that the Postal Department is considered to be a very honest department, the Government should make a very impartial enquiry into the matter?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: Enquiry has already been made, but if it will satisfy my Honourable friend, I shall have another enquiry made.

Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar: The Honourable Member told us that advertisements are published asking people to let their houses and that is the tender system. I want to know how the tender is dealt when a number of people offer houses in a particular locality (*An Honourable Member:* "Different localities")—in different localities of the same size and with the same accommodation? What are the data upon which these tenders are scrutinised and what are the data upon which the rent is fixed?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: I said a particular locality. If we want a building for a post office in Kalbadevi there is no use in a man in Mahim offering his house. (Laughter.)

Sir Walter Willson: In view of the great increases in rent are Government considering the advisability or otherwise of introducing measures for the taxation of unearned increments?

Mr. Jambadas M. Mehta: Does the Honourable Member admit that the rents for the Mandvi and Kalbadevi offices have gone up from Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,250 and from Rs. 400 to Rs. 1,500 respectively? And is it not a fact that rents in Bombay have not gone up at all?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: I know that is the position in regard to the Kalbadevi post office building and the answer is that it was not possible to get another building on a lower rental in spite of the issue of the advertisement.

Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar: What then was the tender called for if it was the same house that was wanted?

LOWNESS OF THE DOME AND LEVEL OF THE COUNCIL HOUSE.

248. **Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** (a) Are Government aware that the dome of the Central Library in the new Legislative buildings is from the outside very disproportionate to the size of the building?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state which of the ancient buildings in India has got such a disproportionate dome from which the inspiration of this dome was drawn?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state what the significance is of constructing the Legislative buildings in New Delhi on a lower level than the Government of India Secretariat?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) and (b). The architectural feature which symbolises the Unity of the Three Chambers is the circular colonnade and not the inner Dome, which in the Architect's design was not intended to be seen from outside the building, but only within the courts, and which will cease to be seen from outside the building when the attic wall has been built.

(c) The necessity for the construction of a separate Council House of the present magnitude could not be anticipated when the Central Buildings were designed, and no space was accordingly provided for it on the great plateau built on the out crop of rock. The need for the building arose on the introduction of the constitutional reforms in 1920-21 and there was then no other raised site available near the Central Buildings.

Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar: Are we to take it that there is no significance in putting this dome lower?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: None.

THE LAND ACQUISITION (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Mr. N. C. Kelkar (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I rise to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Land Acquisition Act, 1894, for certain purposes. In the usual statement accompanying the Bill I have fully stated my objects and reasons; but in a few sentences I will throw some further light upon the amendments which I seek to bring about by this Bill.

I may, first of all, assure the House that the Bill is conceived in an entirely constructive spirit. The Land Acquisition Act is a necessity and I take it as a settled fact, but in my view a number of amendments can be carried out in the Act, especially from the point of view of the owners who are unfortunately deprived of their land by compulsion. In my view a thread of imperfections runs from end to end of the Act, and I will just indicate the main heads of my amendments only to disclose the policy which underlies the Bill.

First of all, I want by my Bill to impose certain restrictions upon the powers and discretion of the executive Government in the matter of acquisition of land, for, in my opinion, Government sometimes unnecessarily go into fantastic schemes of land acquisition. I need not here refer to the case of the Back Bay Reclamation, because it is acquisition of land under water. But I take it that the sea has already had its own revenge upon the Bombay Government by bringing it seriously into disrepute. And, as for the compensation that the sea would require, it

[Mr. N. C. Kelkar.]

would be compensation in specie and in kind and not money compensation, and I am sure the sea will help itself to some compensation as a matter of course by encroaching upon other shores within the realms of the Bombay Presidency. But that apart. Then the Government often launches upon industrial schemes and acquires very large acreages of land in the name of industrial development. I have in my mind the Ambernath Development Scheme, and I believe I am right in saying that lots of acres have been acquired when there was really no necessity for it, and at present quite a lot of area is remaining idle in the hands of Government, being undisposed of. Then the case about industrial development to be carried out by the Tata Company is obvious. Had it not been for a recent very strong agitation against reckless acquisition of land, I believe by this time all the slopes of the Sayadri mountains would have been in the hands of the Tata Company for what they may or may not like to do with them. I have also in mind cases of acquisition for railway companies, for I find that Government unnecessarily commit themselves sometimes by entering into agreements with railway companies, promising to acquire land for them when the railway companies really ought to shift for themselves and acquire land by paying proper compensation to the parties by private arrangement. And these restrictions upon the powers and discretion of Government I seek to accomplish, firstly, by subjecting the discretion of Government to a more thorough and substantial judicial inquiry into the purpose of acquisition. In that respect I want the notices, private and public, to be more thorough and more adequate, so that even people who are not directly interested in the acquisition of land may appear before the tribunal and point out to Government that the purpose of acquisition is not really *bona fide* public purpose and that the land is being unnecessarily acquired. Then I want to introduce by this Bill a radical change into the machinery for fixing the amount of compensation as well as the nature of the compensation, and I propose to substitute private arbitration for the present procedure of fixing compensation first by an award given by a land acquisition officer and subsequently by reference to the District Court, which procedure is, in my opinion, quite unsatisfactory. I want to introduce this change because I find that arbitration was in vogue and was accepted by Government in the old Land Acquisition Acts up to 1870 and I do not know under what influences Government removed that machinery from the Act and substituted the present procedure. To my mind that procedure by private arbitration is a very satisfactory procedure, and, in evidence of that, I may state that the procedure still obtains under the Bombay District Municipal Act, so far as urban areas are concerned. If any land in urban areas is to be acquired, the municipalities are driven to the necessity of acquiring the land by private arbitration, and I do not see that rural land is more valuable than urban land so far as acquisition is concerned. If municipalities must go to the trouble and expense of getting land under the procedure of private arbitration, I do not quite see why land in rural areas should not be similarly acquired by private arbitration also. The great advantage of the procedure I am proposing is that it first of all saves all further litigation by way of appeal and reference. At present we see that litigation goes up even to the Privy Council and involves a lot of cost. But, if land is acquired by private arbitration, then it is practically a registered consent decree and it saves all further litigation. As regards the costs, they may be nothing to Government but they are certainly very

ruinous to private parties, and if there are any Government pleaders here present as members they will bear me out when I say that the costs in acquisition cases are the secret pocket out of which the life savings of Government pleaders sometimes come. Then I want to make the compensation to be given to private owners more equitable than it at present is. That I want to achieve, first of all, by imposing an obligation to give compensation in kind and in specie in certain cases. Thus, for example, if people are deprived of tenements it is certainly equitable that other tenements should be found for them before the unfortunate people are evicted. Then I want to enlarge the scope of loss and damage to be considered in calculating compensation. Here of course the loss and damage is to be taken in the legal sense, but its scope can be equitably enlarged so that these matters may be taken into consideration in calculating the amount of compensation. And lastly I want also to compel the parties, whether Government or private, in whose behalf or for whose benefit the land is acquired, to acquire the remaining land which is injuriously affected by the acquisition of the more important portions. It will be readily seen that if out of a given area the Government or other parties acquire the important portions, the owner really will not know what to do with the section remaining undisposed of. It is only equitable, therefore, if the best portions are acquired the party acquiring it should also be compelled to acquire the remaining portion, thus disposing of the whole plot and saving the owner the trouble and possible loss of trying to dispose of the balance left over. Then it is also equitable that corporations and public bodies should be prohibited from making a trade of land acquisition and augmenting their revenues by a profiteering sort of arrangement. This Government are always prepared to do for corporations and corporations are likely to go in for more land than they really require for their purposes, letting out the remaining land on a profiteering basis in order to make the financial ends of their schemes meet somehow. Then there is one important point, and that is about the restoration of the land which has been excessively acquired and remains undisposed of in the hands of Government or the party for whom the land has been acquired. What is to be done with regard to this land? The man who is deprived of it has of course the first equitable claim to get back possession of that land, and therefore I want to impose a legal obligation upon Government to have the claim of the owner considered first to any land which may remain undisposed of after a certain definite time. Then generally I want to deprive this land acquisition business of its technical character, technical in the judicial and engineering sense. Here I would quote high authority on this point, namely, Sir Norman Macleod, who, as President of the Tribunal, had, I believe, a lot to do with regard to land acquisition in Bombay. In the first place he says :

"The questions which must necessarily most often arise before the courts are those connected with the appraisalment of the compensation to be awarded to the owner whose land is being compulsorily acquired, and it must be admitted that a court of law is a most unsuitable forum for the decision of such questions."

And with regard to the technical arbitrators, engineering surveyors and helpers, he says :

"Land valuation is never much more than guess work but the margin of error is far more likely to increase than decrease with the attempt to arrive at an accurate solution by means of elaborate reasoning."

If that is the judgment upon the assistance rendered by engineering surveyors and helpers it is perfectly right, I think, to try and get it out

[Mr. N. C. Kelkar.]

of the hands of the technical arbitrators, and I have already stated that I want also to take it out of the hands of a court of law. Thus I want to make this business as little technical as possible from the judicial and engineering point of view, and, in my opinion, the best way to accomplish this is to set up the old machinery of private arbitration which still obtains within the areas of district municipalities in my own province at any rate. The machinery of private arbitration amounts, as I have stated, to a consent decree which stops all further litigation and costs and gives to the owner the satisfaction of having helped himself to justice by appointing arbitrators at whose hands he gets the award. These are three manifest advantages. I hope, I have made out my claim before this House that the Bill is conceived entirely in a constructive spirit. It contains some very useful amendments and I hope the House will give me leave to introduce this Bill and ultimately help me also to carry out some of the amendments.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That leave be given to introduce a Bill to amend the Land Acquisition Act, 1894, for certain purposes."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. N. C. Kelkar: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

Mr. President: Perhaps I might as well remind Honourable Members that we have already established a convention in this House that motions for leave to introduce Bills are not to be opposed, and therefore Members will bear that in mind in making their speeches at this stage.

THE INDIAN REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Mr. C. Duraiswamy Aiyangar (Madras ceded districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I rise to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Registration Act, 1908.

The Statement of Objects and Reasons annexed to this Bill has dealt elaborately with the circumstances under which the amendments are sought to be introduced in the Registration Act. Sir, I beg leave to move it.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. C. Duraiswamy Aiyangar: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE INDIAN PENAL CODE (AMENDMENT) BILL.

(AMENDMENT OF SECTION 141.)

Sir Hari Singh Gour (Central Provinces Hindi-Divisions: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code.

In the Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to my Bill and in the notes on clauses I have set out at some length the object I have in view in asking for leave to introduce this Bill. Sir, I ask for leave.

The motion was adopted.

Sir Hari Singh Gour: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE (AMENDMENT) BILL.

(AMENDMENT OF SECTION 80.)

Mr. C. Duraiswamy Aiyangar (Madras ceded districts and Chittoor; Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908. The objects and reasons are stated in the Statement appended to the Bill.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. C. Duraiswamy Aiyangar: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE INDIAN SUCCESSION (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Maulvi Muhammad Yakub (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Indian Succession Act, 1925. The reasons and the objects for which I seek to introduce this Bill are given in the written Statement of Objects and Reasons which I have appended to the Bill. I beg, Sir, for leave to introduce the Bill.

The motion was adopted.

Maulvi Muhammad Yakub: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE INLAND STEAM-VESSLS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Mr. K. C. Neogy (Dacca Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Inland Steam-vessels Act, 1917. The scope and object of this Bill are fully explained in the Statement of Objects and Reasons.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE INDIAN LAW REPORTS BILL.

Maulvi Muhammad Yakub (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to regulate and improve the Law Reports. The objects are given, Sir, in the Statement appended to the Bill.

The motion was adopted.

Maulvi Muhammad Yakub: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE INDIAN MERCHANDISE MARKS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Mr. K. C. Neogy (Dacca Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Merchandise Marks Act, 1889. The scope and object of the Bill are fully explained in the Statement of Objects and Reasons.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE HINDU CHILD MARRIAGE BILL.

Rai Sahib M. Harbilas Sarda (Ajmer-Merwara: General): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to regulate marriages of children amongst the Hindus. The object of the Bill is fully explained in the Statement of Objects and Reasons attached to the Bill.

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman (Home Member): Sir, I do not desire to break the convention that Bills should not be opposed at the introduction stage, but this is a Bill of a very peculiar character which requires the sanction of the Governor General. All that I wish to say is that, on behalf of the Government, I shall oppose any other motion after motion for introduction, other than a motion for circulation.

Mr. President: The question I have to put is:

"That leave be given to introduce a Bill to regulate marriages of children amongst the Hindus."

The motion was adopted.

Rai Sahib M. Harbilas Sarda: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE INTEREST BILL.

Maulvi Muhammad Yakub (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to limit the interest charged on loans of various kinds in British India and to bring the law in conformity to the needs of the people. The reasons for which I seek to introduce this Bill are given in the Statement of Objects and Reasons. I move the motion, Sir.

The motion was adopted.

Maulvi Muhammad Yakub: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE SOCIETIES REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Mr. N. C. Kelkar (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Societies Registration Act, 1860, for certain purposes. The reasons and objects are stated sufficiently in the Statement appended to the Bill. I ask for leave.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. N. C. Kelkar: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE CRIMINAL LAW REPEALING AND AMENDING BILL.

Sir Hari Singh Gour (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions: Non-Muhamadan): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce. . . .

Mr. President: Order, order. The Honourable Member is too late for that motion. He must come to item No. 25.

Sir Hari Singh Gour: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to repeal and amend certain provisions of the Indian Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1908, and the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, be taken into consideration."

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman (Home Member): Sir, on a point of order, the Bill not having been introduced, this motion cannot be made.

Sir Hari Singh Gour: Sir, may I explain myself. I had just gone out to get a book necessary for the purpose of introducing this Bill. On a very similar occasion in the last Assembly the Honourable the Home Member happened to have gone out, and Sir Frederick Whyte allowed him to introduce the Bill out of its turn, and I ask you, Sir, to exercise the same discretion in my favour. I went out for the purpose of preparing myself with chapter and verse which will enable the House to give me leave to introduce the Bill. This thing was delayed, and I knew my turn was coming, and therefore, I ran up for it. I was almost in time, and you will find, Sir, I was only about a minute late when I came back to the House. I therefore ask you, Sir, to allow me to introduce this Bill.

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: Sir, I have no desire to take a harsh view of the situation, but I do point out that the convention we have established is that Bills should be allowed to be introduced on the understanding that Members do not put down a second motion on the same day. That is the point. My Honourable friend has put down a second motion. If you, in your discretion, Sir, are pleased to allow him the grace of introducing his Bill, I trust that you will not allow him to move a second motion on the same day. On these terms, I am willing that this Bill should be introduced.

Sir Hari Singh Gour: Sir, I am perfectly prepared to give the Honourable Member this undertaking that, if I am given leave to introduce this Bill, I shall be quite prepared to allow the second motion to stand adjourned, provided I am allowed to make a statement that I formally introduce it; and then if the Honourable Member or any other Member wants time and moves for adjournment, I shall not oppose it.

Mr. President: The convention, according to the Home Member, is that motions for leave to introduce Bills are not to be opposed, with this reservation that any Honourable Member who moves for leave to introduce a Bill will not put down further motions on the same Bill on the same day. The Honourable Member is entitled to put down further motions on any other day—the next non-official day. If he accepts that position, the Chair will allow him to move for leave to introduce his Bill.

Sir Hari Singh Gour: Sir, I agree to it. Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to repeal and amend certain provisions of the Indian Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1908, and the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898.

Honourable Members who were Members of the last Assembly will remember that a similar motion for the repeal of Part II of the Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1908 stood in my name and was passed by this House by an overwhelming majority. At that time even the nominated Honourable Members of this House asked the Government whether they were prepared to modify the provisions of Part II so as to give the High Court some discretion and jurisdiction for the purpose of enabling them to revise orders issued by the Governor General in Council or the Local Government and I understood the spokesman on behalf of Government to say that that was a separate question and would be decided if and when it was brought to their notice. Sir, I have taken advantage of the suggestion then made in the course of the discussions of my previous Bill to modify the provisions of my present Bill, and the purpose of it is to give the High Court jurisdiction to revise orders passed by the Governor General in Council and under the Devolution Rules by the Local Government. That is the first part of my Bill. Honourable Members will also remember that, in the report of the Repressive Laws Committee, it was suggested—I do not use stronger language than that—it was suggested that the repressive laws should be repealed, and, on a motion to that effect moved by an Honourable Member in this House, several objections were taken to the wholesale repeal of the repressive laws. The most weighty of them all was that there were certain foreigners, that the influx of foreigners in this country required the use of these executive powers. I have considered, Sir, that objection of the Government and it is in view of the objection of the Government that I have moved for the addition of certain words in the Habeas Corpus section of the Code of Criminal Procedure. The object of it is that, while the Government will retain the power of excluding foreigners and non-British subjects, they will not possess the same power as regards British subjects, who will be subject to the provisions of the Habeas Corpus Act as enacted in the Code of Criminal Procedure. In the result, therefore, Sir, my Bill is a modified Bill which takes note of every reasonable objection that has been raised by Government to the wholesale repeal of the regulations and the other repressive laws and to the repeal of Part II of the Criminal Law Amendment Act. I flatter myself, Sir, with the belief that the Honourable the Home Member and those responsible for laying down the policy of the Government will meet me on this occasion by supporting my measure, if and when it comes up for further consideration. For the present I ask for leave to introduce my Bill.

Mr. President: Motion moved:

“That leave be given to introduce a Bill to repeal and amend certain provisions of the Indian Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1908, and the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898.”

The motion was adopted.

Sir Hari Singh Gour: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

AMENDMENT OF STANDING ORDERS.

Mr. President: The next item on the paper is a motion by Mr. Rangaswami Iyengar for leave to amend the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly in the following manner:

1. To sub-order (2) of Standing Order 4 the following further proviso be added, namely:

'Provided also that where Bills of which notices of motions for leave to introduce have been given, have been printed and circulated to the members, no fresh notice shall be necessary and such Bills shall have precedence in the order in which they stood on the last agenda of the previous session over other Bills of which notice may have been given.'

2. In Standing Order 6 for the words "Governor General" the words "President or the decision of the Assembly whenever it deems it necessary" be substituted.

3. Standing Order 7 be re-numbered as 7 (1) and to the said Standing Order the following sub-orders be added, namely:

(2) On days not previously appropriated for the transaction of Government business, non-official business not disposed of on the days allotted therefor, may be transacted in accordance with such agenda as may be settled by the President.

(3) On days when Government business terminates earlier than 4 P.M., pending non-official business may be transacted in accordance with the agenda that may be settled by the President for the remainder of that day.

(4) Whenever non-official business set down for any day is undisposed of, the President may adjourn the business of that day to be transacted on a day not already allotted for Government business.

4. In sub-order (4) of Standing Order 8 for the word "five" the word "ten" be substituted.

5. In Standing Order 9 after the words "subsequent day", the words "allotted for the disposal of non-official business of the same class" be inserted.

6. In Standing Order 14:

(1) in sub-order (2) after the word "resolution" the word "question" be inserted; and

(2) after sub-order (2) the following sub-order be inserted, namely:

(3) All questions that have been admitted shall be replied to by the member to whom they are addressed as to matters of fact or information asked for, unless the President in the exercise of his discretion decides to the contrary.'

7. To sub-order (1) of Standing Order 24, the following proviso be added, namely:

'Provided also that the Assembly may by a previous vote decide to continue the debate up to 7 P.M.'

8. In sub-order (2) (iv) of Standing Order 20 after the word "heads" the words "and except in so far as their discharge of public duties is concerned" be inserted.

9. After clause (f) of the proviso to Standing Order 31, the following be inserted, namely:

(g) a motion must not anticipate any question substantially identical with the one which has been appointed for consideration for a specific day or with reference to which a notice of motion has been previously given.

Explanation.—Notices of resolutions which have not obtained a place in the ballot for non-official business on any particular day shall not be deemed notices of motions in this behalf.'

10. In sub-order (3) of Standing Order 32 the words "and if the motion is moved by a non-official member, the member of the Government to whose department the matter relates shall have the right of speaking (whether he has previously spoken in the debate or not) after the mover has replied" be omitted.

-[Mr. President.]

11. After Standing Order 73 the following new Standing Order be inserted, namely :

' 73-A. All non-official business not included under questions, Bills, resolutions, adjournment motions or the budget shall be brought up by motions of which not less than three days notice shall be given.'

12. For Standing Order 74 the following be substituted, namely :

' 74 (1) Motions involving communications from the Assembly to the Governor General on his address or message or on any subject of public interest, shall be made by formal address after motion made and carried in the Assembly.

(2) All such communications shall be made through the President.' "

I now ask whether any Member has any objection to leave being given to Mr. Rangaswami Iyengar. As no Member objects, I intimate that leave is granted.

House not committed to Principles of Amendments on Motion for Reference to Select Committee.

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman (Home Member): Before Mr. Rangaswami Iyengar moves that the draft amendments be referred to a Select Committee, I would crave, Sir, your ruling on a point of order. What will this reference to Select Committee involve? I desire to make it perfectly plain that, if it involves any acceptance of any of these rules in principle which will prevent my subsequently contesting it in the full House, then I shall have to adopt a different method to the one which I shall adopt in the other event. If it involves no question of my being debarred from any kind of objection to the terms of the amendments, I shall not raise any opposition at this stage.

Sir Hari Singh Gour (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions: Non-Muhammadian): May I point out, Sir, that, ever since the constitution of this Assembly, there have been several rulings given by your predecessor to the effect that, whenever a Bill or a motion is referred to a Select Committee, the House stands committed to its principle, and that no reference to a Select Committee is possible unless the House previously signifies its assent to the principle of a Bill. The Honourable the Home Member will bear me out.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member from Nagpur forgets the ruling of my predecessor that, when a motion that the proposed amendments to Standing Orders be referred to a Select Committee is accepted by the House, it does not commit the House to the principle involved in any of those amendments. It is no doubt true that, when a motion to refer a Bill to a Select Committee is accepted by the House, the House stands committed to the principle of that Bill. But, when a motion that amendments to Standing Orders be referred to a Select Committee is accepted by the House, it does not commit the House to any principle of any of those amendments.

(At this stage Mr. S. Srinivasa Iyengar stood up to speak.)

Mr. President: What is it?

Mr. S. Srinivasa Iyengar (Madras City: Non-Muhammadian Urban): I want to ask a question.

Mr. President: Is it on a point of order?

Mr. S. Srinivasa Iyengar: I want to ask whether the House cannot vote against any amendments made by a Select Committee. Supposing a Bill is passed. . . .

Mr. President: There is no question of a Bill in this case.

Mr. S. Srinivasa Iyengar: I am not dealing with this. You say, referring to ordinary Bills . . .

Mr. President: It has already been ruled, times out of number, that, when a Bill is referred to Select Committee, the House stands committed to the principle of that Bill.

Sir Hari Singh Gour: I beg to enquire if, in the case of the reference of amendments to Standing Orders to a Select Committee, the House is not committed to the principles of those amendments, to what is this House then committed?

Mr. President: To nothing except that the Standing Orders in question require some amendments. What those amendments should be is to be enquired into and reported upon by the Select Committee. This House is not to usurp the functions of the Select Committee.

Sir Hari Singh Gour: May I

Mr. President: Order, order.

Sir Hari Singh Gour: I wish to ask a question.

I wish to ask whether it would be possible for the Select Committee to introduce and report to this House amendments entirely at variance with the amendments referred to it.

Mr. President: It is not necessary to give any ruling on the question now.

Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadan Rural): In view of the ruling that you have given on the Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman's question, I do not think I shall be justified in taking up the time of the House by discussing the principles of the amendments, and as the House is going to have an opportunity of discussing very fully the principles of these amendments when they emerge from Select Committee, I simply make my motion.

Mr. President: The question is that the proposed amendments be referred to a Select Committee.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President: Mr. C. Duraiswamy Aiyangar has a motion for leave to amend the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly in the following manner:

"1. For sub-order (1) of Standing Order 4 the following be substituted, namely:

'(1) All pending notices shall be carried over to the pending list of business for the next session.'

2. To Standing Order 16, the following proviso be added, namely:

'Provided that when the President resolves to disallow a question he shall previous to such disallowance give an opportunity to the member putting the question to show cause why his question should not be disallowed.'

[Mr. President.]

3. In sub-order (1) of Standing Order 32 for the first sentence the following be substituted, namely :

'As soon as a motion is made the President shall call upon members who have given notices of substantial amendments to move or not the amendments and thereupon other members may speak on the motion and the amendments in such order as the President may call upon them.'

4. In sub-order (3) of Standing Order 32, the words from "and if" to "replied" be omitted.

5. In Standing Order 39, to sub-order (2) the following clause be added, namely :

'(c) or if the member in charge moves that the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinions thereon, any member may move as an amendment that the Bill be referred to a select committee or be taken into consideration.'

6. To Standing Order 53, the following be added, namely :

'In respect of any of the points so referred for reconsideration any member may move an amendment in the same manner as amendments to the Bill are moved.'

7. In sub-order (2) of Standing Order 54, after the words "such day" the words "and in such order on the list of business" be inserted.

8. In sub-order (2) of Standing Order 56, for the words "shall be a member" the words "and the mover shall be members" be substituted.

9. In sub-order (2) of Standing Order 61, for the word "withdrawn" the words "not moved" be substituted and the following be added at the end, namely :—

'This shall not prevent any other member in whose name the same resolution stands from moving when he gets his turn.'

10. In sub-order (2) of Standing Order 70, the words "has been disallowed under the rules or these standing orders or" be omitted.

11. In Standing Order 72, for the words "to be considered" the words "taken for consideration" be substituted.

12. To Standing Order 74, the following sub-order be added, namely :

'Communications from the Governor General to the Assembly shall be made by a written message through the President or informally through a member of the Government.'

13. After Standing Order 74, the following new standing order be inserted, namely :

'74-A. Any message of the Governor General to the Assembly may be made the subject-matter of an address by the Assembly to the Governor General under Standing Order 74.'

14. The following new standing orders be inserted, namely :

'1. All resolutions of the Governor General or the Governor General in Council involving an expenditure not provided for in the current budget shall be communicated to the Assembly at least fifteen days before incurring the expenditure if the Assembly is in session then and at the next sitting of the Assembly in other cases.

On such communication to the Assembly it shall be competent for any member of the Assembly to bring a motion on two days' notice.'

'2. In voting of grants, any member may move that the demands be taken in a particular order for discussion and on taking the sense of the Assembly on such a motion the demands shall be put in the order which has been so assented to.'

Mr. President: Has any Member any objection to leave being granted to Mr. Duraiswamy Aiyangar?

As no Member objects, I intimate that leave is granted.

Mr. C. Duraiswamy Aiyangar: Sir, I move that the proposed amendments be referred to a Select Committee.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President: Perhaps it will be convenient if both these sets of amendments are referred to the same Select Committee. With your consent, therefore, I announce that one Select Committee will be appointed to deal with both sets of amendments.

Election of Select Committee on Amendments to Standing Orders.

Mr. President: I have to announce that nominations for the Select Committee on the amendments of Standing Orders will be received up to 12 Noon on Saturday, the 5th February, and the election, if necessary, will be held in this Chamber on Tuesday the 8th February. Under Standing Order 56(2) the Committee will be composed of the President, the Deputy President and seven members elected by the single transferable vote.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 2nd February 1927.