

Tuesday, 12th February, 1929

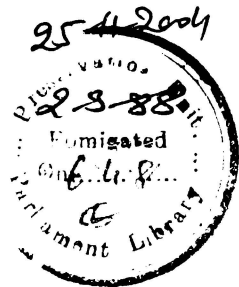
THE
COUNCIL OF STATE DEBATES

VOLUME I , 1929

(12th February to 12th April 1929.)

SIXTH SESSION

OF THE
SECOND COUNCIL OF STATE, 1929



SIMLA
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS
1929

Council of State.

President :

THE HONOURABLE SIR HENRY MONCRIEFF SMITH, KT., C.I.E.

Panel of Chairmen :

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS, C.I.E.

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEORGE GODFREY, KT.

THE HONOURABLE SIR SANKARAN NAIR, KT.

THE HONOURABLE MAHARAJA SIR MUHAMMAD ALI MUHAMMAD KHAN, KHAN
BAHADUR OF MUHMUDABAD.

Secretary :

HONOURABLE MR. L. GRAHAM, C.I.E., I.C.S.

Assistants of the Secretary :

F. M. WRIGHT, C.I.E., I.C.S.

H. SPENCE, I.C.S.

DE C. WILLIAMS, I.C.S.

Committee on Petitions :

HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS, C.I.E., CHAIRMAN.

HONOURABLE RAJA SIR RAMPAL SINGH, K.C.I.E.

HONOURABLE SIR EBRAHIM HAROON JAFFER, KT.

HONOURABLE MR. P. C. DESIKA CHARI.

HONOURABLE SIR MANMOHANDAS RAMJI, KT.

CONTENTS.

Pages.

Tuesday, 12th February, 1929—

| | |
|--|-------|
| Members Sworn | 1 |
| Recent Illness of His Majesty the King-Emperor | 1-2 |
| Questions and Answers | 2-11 |
| Deaths of Mr. S. R. Das and Sir Muhammad Rafique | 11-13 |
| Messages from His Excellency the Viceroy | 13-14 |
| Committee on Petitions | 14 |
| Governor General's Assent to Bills | 15 |
| Message from the Legislative Assembly | 15 |
| Motion for the Election of a Panel for the Standing Advisory Committee for the Department of Education, Health and Lands—Adopted | 15 |
| Motion for the Election of a Panel for the Standing Advisory Committee for the Department of Industries and Labour—Adopted | 16 |
| Motion for the Election of a Panel for the Central Advisory Council for Railways—Adopted | 16 |
| Presidency-towns Insolvency (Amendment) Bill—Introduced | 17 |

Wednesday, 13th February, 1929—

| | |
|---|-------|
| Resolution <i>re</i> Development of Waterways—Negatived | 19-28 |
| Resolution <i>re</i> Establishment of Steamer Services in conjunction with State Railways—Negatived | 29-32 |
| Election of two Members to represent the Council of State on the Court of the Delhi University | 32 |

Monday, 18th February, 1929—

| | |
|---|-------|
| Member Sworn | 33 |
| Message from the Legislative Assembly | 33 |
| Election to the Panel for the Standing Advisory Committee for the Department of Education, Health and Lands | 33 |
| Election to the Panel for the Standing Committee for the Department of Industries and Labour | 34 |
| Election to the Panel for the Central Advisory Committee on Railways | 34 |
| Resolution <i>re</i> Repeal of the Indian Arms Act—Negatived | 34-42 |
| Resolution <i>re</i> Return Tickets on State Railways for Third Class Passengers—Withdrawn | 43-48 |
| Resolution <i>re</i> Betting at Races—Negatived | 49-55 |
| Statement of Business | 55 |

Tuesday, 19th February, 1929—

| | |
|--|-------|
| Member Sworn | 57 |
| Elections to the Panel for the Standing Advisory Committee for the Department of Education, Health and Lands | 57 |
| The Railway Budget for 1929-30 | 57-65 |
| Presidency-towns Insolvency (Amendment) Bill—Passed | 65-66 |

Friday, 22nd February, 1929—

| | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-------|
| General Discussion of the Railway Budget | ... | ... | 67-91 |
| Statement of Business | ... | ... | 91 |

Monday, 25th February, 1929—

| | | | |
|---|-----|-----|---------|
| Member Sworn | ... | ... | 93 |
| Questions and Answers | ... | ... | 93-96 |
| Resolution <i>re</i> Separate Karnataka Province—Negatived | ... | ... | 97-102 |
| Resolution <i>re</i> Slaughter of Milch Cows for the Supply of Beef to the Army—Negatived | ... | ... | 103-137 |
| Resolution <i>re</i> Extension of Banking Facilities—Withdrawn | ... | ... | 113-18 |

Wednesday, 27th February, 1929—

| | | | |
|--|-----|-----|--------|
| Resolution <i>re</i> Import of Vegetable Oil, etc—Adopted | ... | ... | 119-33 |
| Resolution <i>re</i> Reconstitution of the Central Advisory Council for Railways—Withdrawn | ... | ... | 134-38 |

Thursday, 28th February, 1929—

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----|-----|--------|
| The General Budget for 1929-30 | ... | ... | 139-53 |
| Statement of Business | ... | ... | 153 |

Monday, 4th March, 1929—

| | | | |
|--|-----|-----|---------|
| Member Sworn | ... | ... | 155 |
| Message from Her Majesty the Queen-Empress | ... | ... | 155 |
| Questions and Answers | ... | ... | 155-80 |
| Congratulations to the Honourable Colonel Nawab Sir Umar Hayat Khan and the Honourable Sir Annamalai Chetty on the Honours conferred on them | ... | ... | 180-81 |
| Resolution <i>re</i> Reduction of the Price of Postcards—Negatived | ... | ... | 181-93 |
| Resolution <i>re</i> Assessment of Income-tax on the Annual value of Residential Property—Withdrawn | ... | ... | 193-203 |

Wednesday, 6th March, 1929—

| | | | |
|--|-----|-----|--------|
| Questions and Answers | ... | ... | 205-10 |
| General Discussion of the General Budget | ... | ... | 210-55 |
| Statement of Business | ... | ... | 256 |

Tuesday, 12th March, 1929—

| | | | |
|--|-----|-----|--------|
| Questions and Answers | ... | ... | 257-66 |
| Bilk passed by the Legislative Assembly laid on the Table | ... | ... | 266 |
| Resolution <i>re</i> Deductions when determining Income-tax of Losses incurred by Persons who stand Surety or lend Money | ... | ... | 266-75 |
| Statement of Business | ... | ... | 276 |

Monday, 18th March, 1929—

| | |
|---|---------|
| Questions and Answers | 277-85 |
| Bill passed by the Legislative Assembly laid on the Table | 286 |
| Message from the Legislative Assembly | 286 |
| Resolution <i>re</i> Jury Trials in cases of Sedition—Negatived | 286-94 |
| Resolution <i>re</i> Leader of the Indian Delegation to the League of Nations—Withdrawn by leave of the Council | 294-305 |
| Resolution <i>re</i> Distribution of Spinning Wheels to the Famine-stricken people of the Northern Districts of the Central Provinces—Negatived | 305-11 |

Tuesday, 19th March, 1929—

| | |
|---|--------|
| Questions and Answers | 313-20 |
| Statement laid on the Table | 320 |
| Motion for the Election of the Panel for the Standing Committee on Emigration—Adopted | 320-21 |
| Indian Tariff (Amendment) Bill—Passed | 321-23 |

Wednesday, 20th March, 1929—

| | |
|--|--------|
| Questions and Answers | 325-30 |
| Date for the Receipt of Nominations to the Panel for the Standing Committee on Emigration | 330 |
| Resolution <i>re</i> Investigation into the Systems of Land Revenue in the Different Provinces—Negatived | 331-57 |
| Statement of Business | 357 |

Saturday, 23rd March, 1929—

| | |
|--|--------|
| Member Sworn | 359 |
| Questions and Answers | 359-63 |
| Elections to the Panel for the Standing Committee on Emigration | 363 |
| Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Bill—Passed | 364-65 |
| Alleged delay in the Disposal of Government Business in the Legislative Assembly | 365-68 |

Saturday, 30th March, 1929—

| | |
|--|---------|
| Questions and Answers | 369-75 |
| Bill passed by the Legislative Assembly laid on the Table | 375 |
| Election of a Member to the Governing Body of the Central Council of Agricultural Research | 376-77 |
| Indian Finance Bill—Considered and Passed | 377-400 |

Monday, 8th April, and Tuesday, 9th April, 1929—

Monday, 8th April, 1929—

| | |
|--|--------|
| Questions and Answers | 401-02 |
| Election of the Panel for the Standing Committee on Roads | 402-05 |
| Election of a Member to the Governing Body of the Central Council of Agricultural Research | 405 |

Tuesday, 9th April, 1929—

| | |
|---|-----|
| Member Sworn | 407 |
| Bill passed by the Legislative Assembly laid on the Table | 407 |
| Trade Disputes Bill—Date for consideration | 407 |

| | Pages. |
|--|--------|
| Thursday, 11th April, 1929— | |
| Recent Bomb Outrage in the Legislative Assembly ... | 409 |
| Trade Disputes Bill—Considered and Passed ... | 409-30 |
| Elections to the Panel for the Standing Committee on Roads | 430 |
| Message from His Excellency the Viceroy ... | 431 |
| Friday, 12th April, 1929— | |
| Address by His Excellency the Viceroy to the Members of the Council of State and the Legislative Assembly ... | 433-35 |

THE
COUNCIL OF STATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE SIXTH SESSION OF THE SECOND
COUNCIL OF STATE.)

VOLUME I—1929.

COUNCIL OF STATE.

Tuesday, 12th February, 1929.

The Council met in the Council Chamber of the Council House in New Delhi, at Eleven of the Clock, being the first day of the Sixth Session of the Second Council of State, pursuant to section 63D (2) of the Government of India Act. The Honourable the President (the Honourable Sir Henry Moncrieff Smith, Kt., C.I.E.) was in the Chair.

MEMBERS SWORN.

- The Honourable Sir Brojendra Mitter, Kt. (Law Member) ;
The Honourable Mr. Arthur Cecil McWatters, C.I.E. (Industries and Labour Secretary) ;
The Honourable Mr. Miles Irving, C.I.E., O.B.E. (Punjab : Nominated Official) ;
The Honourable Mr. Hugh Bayard Clayton, C.I.E. (Bombay : Nominated Official) ;
The Honourable Mr. Harold Lithgow Braidwood (Madras : Nominated Official) ;
The Honourable Rai Suresh Chandra Basu Bahadur (Bengal : Nominated Official).
- •
-

RECENT ILLNESS OF HIS MAJESTY THE KING EMPEROR.

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH (Leader of the House) : Sir, since the House last met, India with the rest of the Empire has passed through a period of grave anxiety on account of the illness of His Majesty the King Emperor. His Majesty has so endeared himself to every section of his subjects that the anxiety was both personal and universal. His recovery, which we may now look forward to with confidence, was an object of devout prayer and unfailing

[Sir Muhammad Habibullah.]

hope to every one of us. May his restoration to perfect health be rapid and may he, Sir, in the words of what is more an Imperial than a National Anthem, now be spared " long to reign over us ".

I would request you, Sir, to convey to His Majesty through His Excellency the Viceroy our humble and loyal good wishes for his speedy and complete recovery, and to the Royal Family, particularly to Her Majesty the Queen, our sympathy for the anxiety through which they have passed, our admiration for the calm courage with which they have borne that anxiety, and our fervent satisfaction that the period of strain and suspense is almost over.

THE HONOURABLE SARDAR CHARANJIT SINGH (Punjab: Nominated Non-Official): Sir, the world-wide British Empire on which it is truly said the sun never sets, composed as it is of many different countries in many different continents, is held under the unifying sway of His Majesty the King Emperor to whom all eyes across the seas look as the sign and symbol of their Imperial ideal. It was therefore natural that His Majesty's recent long and protracted illness should have cast a gloom over, and caused deep concern and anxiety in, every loyal heart. The prayers that went up to Heaven from every hearth and home for His Majesty's recovery are a sure indication of the depth of the feelings of affection and devotion which one and all feel for His Majesty's person and Throne. Now that our prayers have been heard by the Merciful Providence it is only meet that this Council should give expression to its sincere joy and thankfulness and lay before His Majesty with humble duty its most respectful congratulations. I beg, Sir, to second the proposal.

THE HONOURABLE PRINCE A. M. M. AKRAM HUSSAIN BAHADUR (Bengal: Nominated Non-Official): It is almost needless for anybody to dwell on what the Honourable the Leader of the House has said with regard to His Majesty's illness and his prospective recovery, but I take this opportunity to do myself the honour of associating myself with all the sentiments which he has expressed and which I have no doubt express the unanimous feeling of this House.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: I also wish to associate myself with the Council in this matter. I take it that it is the unanimous desire of all Honourable Members that I should send to His Majesty the King on behalf of the Council a message in the terms moved by the Honourable the Leader of the House; in particular that we should send to His Majesty an assurance of the deep sympathy and anxiety we felt during the long days of his serious illness, of our relief and satisfaction that he has progressed so far towards convalescence and of our earnest prayer that he may be speedily restored to a normal measure of health.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

REPORT ON THE WORKING OF THE NEW RUPEE RATIO OF 1s. 6d.

1. THE HONOURABLE SIR MANMOHANDAS RAMJI: (a) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table any report from the Finance Department about the working of the ratio of Exchange after it was changed from 16d. to 18d. per rupee? (b) If there is no such report, will they be pleased to obtain one, and lay the same on the table?

REPORT ON THE WORKING OF THE NEW RUPEE RATIO OF 1s. 6d.

2. THE HONOURABLE SIR MANMOHANDAS RAMJI: (a) Have Government got a report of the working of the new Rupee Ratio of 1s. 6d. and its effects on trade in general, and particularly on the principal export commodities like wheat, cotton and jute; if so, will they be pleased to place it on the table for the information of Members?

(b) If no such report, as is referred to in the above question, has been prepared, will Government be pleased to get such a report prepared?

THE HONOURABLE MR. F. BURDON: With your permission, Sir, I will answer questions Nos. 1 and 2 together.

(a) The Government of India have received no special reports on the subject indicated in the Honourable Member's questions, other than the annual reports of the Controller of the Currency, which, as the Honourable Member is aware, deal with a number of topics bearing closely on the inter-relation of trade and exchange.

(b) The Government of India do not propose to call for any such report.

RIFLE PRACTICE BY RAILWAY VOLUNTEERS IN CERTAIN VILLAGES IN MIDNAPUR.

3. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY: (a) Is it a fact that people are turned out of certain villages in Midnapur to facilitate rifle practice by the railway volunteers? (b) If so, where are the villages and how many are they, and how long are the people turned out of them and at what time of the year?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: (a) The answer is in the negative. The firing takes place across open country and no villages have to be cleared. All that is necessary is to take steps to prevent persons or cattle from straying on to the range during the practice.

(b) Does not arise.

RUNNING AGROUND ON ITS WAY TO CALCUTTA OF A SHIP CONTAINING PETROLEUM.

4. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY: (a) Has any enquiry been held about the recent running aground on its way to Calcutta of a ship containing a large quantity of petroleum? (b) If so, what has been the result of the enquiry?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT: (a) Yes.

(b) It was found that the primary cause of the grounding was an error of judgment on the part of the pilot in charge in arriving at Fulta Point in a deep laden ship about half an hour earlier than he should have done, but that the pilot was justified in advising the jettisoning of 2,740 tons of cargo of kerosene oil. The Local Government accepted the above finding and directed that the pilot should be warned to exercise more care in future in handling vessels of deep draught.

SEPARATION OF JUDICIAL AND EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS IN THE MADRAS PRESIDENCY.

5. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY : (a) Is it a fact that a Committee appointed by the Madras Government in February 1923 has submitted a report on the separation of judicial and executive functions ? (b) If so, what recommendations did it make and has the taking of any action thereon been stopped by the Government of India ? (c) If so, why ? (d) When are the Government of India taking any action in the matter ? (e) What action will they take ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. G. HAIG : (a) The reply is in the affirmative

(b) to (e). The report of the Committee, together with a statement by the Government of Madras, was laid on the table of the Madras Legislative Council in March 1924. As regards the decision of the Government of India, the Honourable Member is referred to the reply given by me to question* No. 41 asked by the Honourable Mr. Mahmood Suhrawardy on the 11th September 1928.

* REPRESENTATION OF LABOUR AND THE DEPRESSED CLASSES IN THE BOMBAY LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

6. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY : Has any effect been given by the Bombay Government to recommendations Nos. 34 and 35 of the Reforms Enquiry Committee seeking to give representation to labourers and the depressed classes ? If so, what ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. G. HAIG : Yes. The representation of labour and of the depressed classes in the Bombay Legislative Council has been increased by 2 and 1, respectively.

ACTION TAKEN ON THE RESOLUTION OF THE BENGAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL RECOMMENDING THE GRANT OF A SPECIAL FRANCHISE TO LABOUR.

7. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY : (a) Is it a fact that in December 1925 a Resolution recommending the grant of a special franchise to labour was carried in the Bengal Legislative Council and was forwarded to the Government of India ? (b) If so, what action has been taken in the matter ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. G. HAIG : (a) Yes.

(b) The Government of India decided that the question should be postponed pending the enquiry of the Indian Statutory Commission.

NUMBER OF LICENCES FOR GUNS, ETC., GRANTED, REFUSED AND CANCELLED IN EACH OF THE LAST FIVE YEARS.

8. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY : Will Government be pleased to state how many new licences were granted, how many applications for new licences were refused and how many old licences were cancelled during each of the last five years in respect of guns, rifles and revolvers, respectively, in British India ?

* Vide page 24 of Council of State Debates, Volume II, 1928.

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. G. HAIG : The Government of India are not in possession of the information asked for, and they do not consider that the very great labour that would be involved in collecting it from the local authorities all over British India, would in the circumstances be justified.

INCREASE OR DECREASE IN THE SCALE OF FEES FOR LICENCES FOR GUNS, RIFLES AND REVOLVERS.

9. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY : Do the Government contemplate increasing or decreasing the fees for licences for guns, rifles and revolvers in the near future ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. G. HAIG : No such proposal is under consideration.

LEVY OF AN EXTRA PONTAGE CHARGE FOR ALL TRAFFIC OVER THE HARDINGE BRIDGE ON THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

10. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY : Is it a fact that an extra charge for 20 miles on the tickets of all passengers travelling by the northern section of the Eastern Bengal Railway is levied for purposes of recouping the cost of the construction of the Hardinge Bridge over the Ganges ? If so, how far has the cost been recouped and when do the railway authorities concerned propose to stop the extra charge ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT : An extra pontage charge for all traffic, equivalent to 18 miles, is charged over this bridge. Figures are not available to show exactly how much has been collected owing to this extra charge since the bridge was opened to traffic, but as its cost was approximately 360 lakhs, it can be taken for granted that the cost of construction has not been recouped. There are no proposals for abandoning this extra charge, and I may add that the charge is not higher than was made for crossing the river before the bridge came into existence.

THE ISSURDI-PABNA-SADHUGUNJ RAILWAY.

11. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether any re-investigation has been made about the Issurdi-Pabna-Sadhugunj railway project ? (b) If so, (i) has the line been reported to be a good business project ? (ii) do Government contemplate sanctioning the project in the near future ? (iii) if so, when ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT : A revised note on the cost and traffic prospects of this project has been received and is now being examined by the Railway Board. Until their examination is completed, it is not possible to say whether the line is likely to be a paying proposition, or whether it will be undertaken.

STERLING LOAN ISSUED IN JANUARY 1929.

12. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY : Will Government be pleased to state why the new sterling loan issued in January 1929 was not floated in India on a rupee basis ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. BURDON : I am afraid I must ask the Honourable Member if he will be so good as to wait until the Budget is presented, when he will have a more satisfactory opportunity of obtaining all the information he desires.

MANUFACTURE OF PAPER PULP FROM JUTE STICKS OR SUGARCANE REFUSE.

13. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY : (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether any investigation has been made by the Forest Research Institute at Dehra Dun about the feasibility of making paper pulp from jute sticks or sugarcane refuse ? (b) If not, why ?

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH : (a) Yes, such investigations have been made. (b) Does not arise.

EXCLUSION OF THE WORK DONE BY POSTAL INSPECTORS FROM THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE QUESTION OF THE TIME-TEST IN THE POSTAL DEPARTMENT.

14. THE HONOURABLE MR. G. S. KHAPARDE : (a) In view of the appointment of Mr. G. V. Bewoor, I.C.S., to investigate the question of the time-test in the Postal Department, will the Government be pleased to state whether the enquiry will include the work done by Postal Inspectors and the time-test applicable to them ?

(b) If the answer to (a) be in the negative, will the Government be pleased to state the reason for excluding the work of the Postal Inspectors from the investigation ?

(c) Has the increase in the work of the Postal Department added to the work of the Postal Inspectors ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. C. MCWATTERS : (a) and (b). No. There is no time-test for Inspectors of Post Offices.

(c) Yes, but additional appointments of Inspectors have been sanctioned to cope with the increase of work.

RAILWAY LINE FROM MANGALORE TO MALPE.

15. THE HONOURABLE RAO SAHIB DR. U. RAMA RAU : Will the Honourable the Member for Commerce be pleased to state

(a) in what stage the construction of the railway line from Mangalore to Malpe is at present ;

(b) how long it will take to complete the project ;

(c) whether any decision has been arrived at with regard to the proposal to extend the line, so as to provide a through communication by rail between Mangalore and Bombay ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT : (a) Alternative coastal and inland routes are at present being surveyed.

(b) and (c). Until the survey has been completed, it is impossible to say how long it will take to complete the project, or whether it will be taken up. There is no present proposal to extend the line so as to provide through communication by rail between Mangalore and Bombay.

CLOSING OF THE RAILWAY STATION AT TRIKKANNAD ON THE SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY.

16. THE HONOURABLE RAO SAHIB DR. U. RAMA RAU: (a) Is it a fact that the railway station at Trikkannad on the West Coast on the South Indian Railway line has been closed from the 1st January, 1929?

(b) Is it a fact that this station has been in existence for the last 21 years?

(c) Is it a fact that very near the station, there are located about 15 fish oil factories, a big tile factory, a Government fish-curing yard and a few public offices, such as the Post Office, Excise Office, etc.?

(d) Is it a fact that school boys proceeded daily from that station on season tickets either to Mangalore or Kasargod to prosecute their studies?

(e) Have the Government of India received any representation from the residents of Trikkannad and the adjoining localities to restore that station?

(f) If so, what steps have the Government taken thereon?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT: Except from certain representations which were recently sent to them, the Railway Board are not aware that this station has been closed. They have sent a copy of the Honourable Member's question to the Agent of the South Indian Railway, with whom a decision rests.

STRIKE ON THE SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY.

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

(a) the total strength of the workshops at Golden Rock, Trichinopoly, before the strike;

(b) the number of workmen who have been discharged or have voluntarily resigned since;

(c) the present strength of the workshops and how it compares with the minimum required for carrying on the daily routine work;

(d) the total loss sustained by the South Indian Railway Company during the strike (i) through loss and damage to engines, rolling stock and the like, and (ii) through loss of traffic;

(e) the number of lives lost and the number injured during the strike of (i) employees and (ii) passengers; and

(f) the steps taken by the Agent, South Indian Railway, the Railway Board and the Government of India, respectively, to avert the strike?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT: (a) On the 31st March 1928 there were 1,871 workmen at Golden Rock, Trichinopoly.

(b) In all the workshops on the South Indian Railway, 5,016 men voluntarily resigned, thus obviating the necessity for discharging any men.

(c) The information is being obtained for the Honourable Member and will be furnished to him on receipt.

(d) It is impossible to make any accurate estimate of what the gross traffic earnings of the South Indian Railway would have been but for the strike. The estimated loss on account of engines and rolling stock as a result of the Kodaikanal Road accident is Rs. 92,500, and as a result of the Kattupakam accident Rs. 42,400.

(e) The total number of killed and injured were 4 and 42 respectively. They were all passengers.

(f) The Agent adopted a conciliatory attitude in all his negotiations with the Strike Committee. In fact, on the 18th July last, he informed the President of the Committee that he was prepared to refer two of the four points raised by the Committee to arbitration by the Labour Commissioner of the Madras Government, but the President refused to put this before his Committee. Short of surrendering to the Committee's demands, it was clear that there was no other way of averting the strike.

CONSTRUCTION OF A RAILWAY FROM DUNDUR TO NARGUND *via* NAVALGUND.

18. THE HONOURABLE RAO SAHIB DR. U. RAMA RAU: (a) Is it a fact that there was a proposal in 1913 to connect Hubli with Belgaum by rail and if so, what became of that project?

(b) Is it a fact that the Railway Board sanctioned last September the survey of the construction of a railway line from Hubli to Belgaum *via* Dharwar and another from Dundur to Nargund *via* Navalgund?

(c) Is it a fact that the latter project, *viz.*, the Dundur-Nargund line, has been dropped at the instance of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway, and if so, on what grounds?

(d) Is it a fact that this route explores a vast agricultural tract and that many representations have been made by the inhabitants of Navalgund and the adjoining localities pressing for the construction of this line?

(e) Will the Government be pleased to state what steps have been taken on these representations?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT: (a) Yes. It was dropped owing to the war.

(b) The survey of both these lines was sanctioned in August 1927.

(c) The project has not yet been finally dropped, for the examination of the results of the survey is not complete. But the examination, so far as it has gone, suggests that the line will not be remunerative and is not, therefore, likely to be taken up.

(d) and (e). Several representations asking for the construction of this line have been received. It was not necessary to take any specific action on them as the line was already being surveyed.

(1) REPORT OF THE ROAD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE.

(2) SUGGESTED TAX ON PETROL.

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

(a) what steps have been taken in connection with the Road Development Committee's Report;

- (b) whether the suggested tax on petrol is proposed to be levied from the next official year ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT : (a) and (b). Local Governments and Administrations have been consulted on the recommendations of the Committee.

REPORT OF THE INDIAN CINEMATOGRAPH COMMITTEE.

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

- (a) what steps have been taken in connection with the Cinematograph Committee's Report ;
- (b) whether it is intended to give protection, by means of legislation, to producers of Indian films ;
- (c) if so, when the Bill is likely to be introduced in the Central Legislature ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. C. McWATTERS : (a) The Report is under the consideration of the Government of India.

- (b) No decision has yet been reached.
- (c) Does not arise.

DIFFERENT FORMS OF TAXES AND REVENUES, BOTH DIRECT AND INDIRECT, LEVIED AND RECEIVED BY THE CENTRAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS, ETC.

21. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY : Will Government be pleased to furnish a tabular statement showing

- (a) the different forms of taxes and revenues, both direct and indirect, levied and received by the Central and Provincial Governments in India ;
- (b) the amount realised under each of the above heads during the last five years ;
- (c) the proportion which Land Revenue and Income-tax respectively bear to the total collection in each of those five years ;
- (d) in what proportions Income-tax was realised in each of these 5 years from—
 - (a) incomes derived from
 - (1) Industry,
 - (2) Commerce,
 - (3) Professional earnings ;
 - (b) Salaries ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. BURDON : (a), (b) and (c). The information required by the Honourable Member is given in the Finance and Revenue Accounts of the Government of India, copies of which are in the Library.

(d) A statement giving the information available is placed on the table.

Income-Tax Demand for the years 1923-24 to 1927-28.

| | 1923-24. | 1924-25. | 1925-26. | 1926-27. | 1927-28. |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. Salaries | 2,55,07,057 | 2,60,73,751 | 2,83,98,577 | 2,90,22,562 | 2,98,94,985 |
| 2. Interest on securities | 65,12,433 | 55,79,613 | 65,13,189 | 73,39,338 | 78,04,677 |
| 3. Income derived from property. | 59,33,257 | 61,54,509 | 64,72,015 | 68,60,695 | 71,32,251 |
| 4. Income derived from business. | 8,57,02,048 | 7,75,57,634 | 8,14,23,299 | 8,14,31,311 | 7,92,32,805 |
| 5. Professional earnings. | 28,76,720 | 31,45,644 | 30,90,921 | 30,72,124 | 31,62,250 |
| 6. Income derived from other sources. | 53.44,927 | 43,66,438 | 43,98,325 | 43,34,435 | 45,79,392 |
| Total | 13,18,76,442 | 12,33,77,589 | 13,02,96,326 | 13,20,60,465 | 13,18,06,360 |
| 7. Arrears | 2,24,28,061 | 91,20,494 | 48,91,201 | 38,53,744 | 43,00,167 |
| 8. Penalties and miscellaneous. | 6,39,579 | 4,81,027 | 5,38,595 | 6,66,241 | 6,95,999 |
| 9. Deductions under sections 15 and 17. | 9,97,724 | 11,52,939 | 15,23,652 | 16,00,304 | 17,94,085 |
| 10. Refunds | 1,48,73,738 | 1,15,70,221 | 1,48,46,099 | 1,67,48,237 | 1,49,64,014 |
| 11. Net Demand | 13,92,33,627 | 12,02,56,651 | 11,93,56,371 | 11,82,31,909 | 12,00,44,427 |
| 12. Net Collections . . . | 12,69,41,046 | 11,36,99,098 | 11,50,32,765 | 11,32,40,052 | 11,47,42,895 |

PLATFORM AT JALPAIGURI STATION ON THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

22. **THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY :** Has the attention of Government been drawn to the great inconvenience felt by the people of Jalpaiguri on account of the want of a raised platform at Jalpaiguri station on the Eastern Bengal Railway? If so, will the grievance be redressed at an early date?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT : The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. A copy of the Honourable Member's question is being sent to the Agent of the Eastern Bengal Railway, who is competent to deal with the matter.

CONSTRUCTION OF A RAILWAY BETWEEN JESSORE AND RAJBARI ON THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

23. **THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY :** Will the Government be pleased to state whether the construction of a railway line between Jessore and Rajbari or any other station near Rajbari on the Eastern Bengal Railway is under consideration? If so, when is the railway line going to be constructed?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT : No such project is at present in contemplation.

SENDING OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE CENTRAL LEGISLATURE TO CONFER WITH THE JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT FOR FRAMING THE FUTURE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA.

24. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY : Do Government contemplate asking the Central Legislature in India to send their representatives to confer with the Joint Committee of the British Parliament for framing the future constitution for India? If so, on what terms?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. G. HAIG : It is no doubt within the recollection of the Honourable Member that His Excellency the Viceroy in the statement, which he issued on the 8th November 1927, explained that it was the intention that delegations of the Indian Central Legislature would be invited to attend and confer with the Joint Committee of Parliament, and the Council may be assured that that intention still stands. Details have not yet been considered.

DEATHS OF MR. S. R. DAS AND SIR MUHAMMAD RAFIQUE.

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH (Leader of the House) : Sir, it is my melancholy duty, perhaps for the fourth time in successive sessions of this House, to mourn the deaths of two of its former Members. I refer, Sir, to the sad loss which India has sustained through the demise of Mr. S. R. Das and of Sir Muhammad Rafique. Mr. Das was with us when we met last autumn in Simla. Though he looked none too well then, none of us thought that his indisposition was more than slight and transient. Fate knew and willed otherwise, and Government, this House and the country are the poorer to-day by his death. Sir, in Mr. Das Government have lost a loyal and sagacious Councillor, the House a persuasive speaker, a distinguished lawyer and a genial, kindly and generous-hearted Member, and the country a man of ripe experience, of public-spirited and steadfast idealism and of ceaseless activity for India's progress. As Honourable Members are no doubt aware, Mr. Das was at the time of his death engaged upon the task of establishing in India an educational institution modelled on the lines of an English public school. His enthusiasm for this had kindled in the hearts of most of those with whom he had discussed his plans enthusiasm no less keen for what to the majority of us must be unfamiliar and exotic. That, Sir, is proof of the liveliness, energy and fervour of conviction with which Mr. Das took up a cause. It was these qualities which carried him to the head of his profession in Bengal, where he was Advocate General, and which earned him the esteem, if not the agreement, of those who differed from him. To these qualities he added a charm of personality, a kindly, generous and warm disposition which enriched his life with lasting, loyal and affectionate friendship. I count myself among those who got to know him late in life, but who learned to love and admire him no less than those who had enjoyed the privilege of his friendship much longer. To me, Sir, as I am sure to many in this House, his unexpected death has come with all the poignancy of a personal loss, and I would beg you, Sir, to communicate our deep and sincere sympathy to the family of the deceased.

Sir Muhammad Rafique was a Member of this House only for a short period and left us soon after his nomination to be a Member of the Council of the Secretary of State for India—an office which he held at the time of his death.

[Sir Muhammad Habibullah.]

Sir Muhammad Rafique came to us with a distinguished record of judicial service in the United Provinces, where he rose to be a Judge of the High Court and quickly made many friends among us by reason of his vivid and kindly personality. His death at the present juncture must mean the loss of wise counsel to those with whom he was associated and who are working in the public interests. To his family also, Sir, I would request you to communicate an expression of our sense of loss and our sympathy.

THE HONOURABLE SARDAR CHARANJIT SINGH (Punjab : Nominated Non-Official) : Sir, I beg to associate myself with the tribute which has been paid by the Honourable the Leader of the House to the memory of Mr. S. R. Das and Sir Muhammad Rafique. Mr. Das was a lawyer of great eminence and a most amiable colleague whom we had learnt to honour and to love. Sir Muhammad Rafique, as most of the Honourable Members will remember, was a Member of this House for a few months before he was appointed to the India Council in 1924. Even in that short period he left his mark, the memory of which it will be difficult to efface. Both Mr. Das and Sir Muhammad Rafique were my personal friends and in their deaths I feel a personal loss. I join in offering sincere condolence and sympathy to Mrs. Das and the members of the bereaved families.

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEORGE GODFREY (Bengal Chamber of Commerce) : Sir, I feel that, coming from the city of Calcutta, where the late Mr. S. R. Das made his name, I cannot let this opportunity pass without associating myself very warmly indeed on behalf of myself and on behalf of my constituency with the remarks which have been made by the Honourable Mover. Mr. S. R. Das made his name in Calcutta, and coming from the same city with which I have been so long connected I knew him well and I saw him rise step by step in his profession until he reached that very high and responsible post of a Member of the Viceroy's Council. By his death India has lost the services of a genuine, honest and human man. I strongly support the Honourable Leader.

THE HONOURABLE PRINCE A. M. M. AKRAM HUSSAIN BAHADUR (Bengal : Nominated Non-Official) : I should like also to join my voice to the tributes of respect and admiration and the sense of regret which have been expressed on the deaths of the late Mr. S. R. Das and Sir Muhammad Rafique.

*THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY (East Bengal : Non-Muhammadian) : Sir, I also fully associate myself with what has fallen from the Leader of the House about the deceased gentlemen. Mr. S. R. Das came from our province and, although I did not agree with him in political matters, we all admired his genial temper and his sincerity of belief. He was a learned lawyer and was of great help to us in this Council, and we all feel his loss very keenly. I had not the honour of knowing Sir Muhammad Rafique personally, but I appreciate what has fallen from my other friends about his personality and I associate myself with their remarks.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : It is difficult to add anything not only to what has been said in this House but also to the tributes that have appeared in the Press both in this country and in England in regard to the Honourable Mr. S. R. Das. They prove abundantly I think, that Mr. Das

* Speech not corrected by the Honourable Member.

was one of the perhaps few persons holding high official rank who could claim that they had no enemies. They also prove that he was a servant of India and a friend of India. I have no doubt that most of us individually have already tendered to Mrs. S. R. Das our sympathy in the grievous and sudden loss which she sustained, but I shall make it my business to send on behalf of this Council as a whole a message in the terms suggested by the Honourable the Leader of the House.

Sir Muhammad Rafique was a Member here for a short time, but all of us knew him as a man of public affairs. I knew him personally from the time that he was a District and Sessions Judge in the province to which I belong, and the facts that from that office he was promoted to a seat on the Bench of the High Court of Judicature at Allahabad, that after his retirement he was selected for nomination to a seat in this Council and from here was removed to the Council of the Secretary of State for India show abundantly that he possessed the confidence of the Government and the people, and they testify to the high esteem in which he was held. To his bereaved relatives also I shall on behalf of this Council send a message of sympathy.

MESSAGES FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE VICEROY.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: I have Messages for the Council from His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General.

PANEL OF CHAIRMEN.

The first Message is as follows :—

"In pursuance of the provisions of sub-section (2) of section 63A of the Government of India Act, I, Edward Frederick Lindley, Baron Irwin, hereby nominate the following Members of the Council of State to be on the Panel of Chairmen of the said Council of State :

In the first place, the Honourable Rai Bahadur Lala Ram Saran Das ; in the second place, the Honourable Sir George Godfrey ; in the third place, the Honourable Sir Sankaran Nair ; and lastly, the Honourable Maharaja Sir Muhammad Ali Muhammad Khan, Khan Bahadur, of Mahmudabad.

(Sd.) IRWIN,
Viceroy and Governor General."

RAILWAY BUDGET.

The second Message is as follows :—

"For the purposes of sub-section (1) of section 67A of the Government of India Act and in pursuance of Rules 43, 46 and 47 of the Indian Legislative Rules and of Standing Order 70 of the Council of State Standing Orders, I, Edward Frederick Lindley, Baron Irwin, hereby appoint the following days for the presentation to the Council of State and to the Legislative Assembly of the statement of the estimated annual expenditure and revenue of the Governor General in Council in respect of Railways and for the subsequent stages in respect thereof in the Council of State and in the Legislative Assembly, namely :

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Tuesday, 19th February . | Presentation in both Chambers. |
| Thursday, 21st February . | General Discussion in the Legislative Assembly |
| Friday, 22nd February . | General Discussion in the Council of State. |
| Saturday, 23rd February . | } Voting of Demands for Grants in the Legislative Assembly. |
| Monday, 25th February . | |
| Tuesday, 26th February . | |
| Wednesday, 27th February . | |

(Sd.) IRWIN,
Viceroy and Governor General."

GENERAL BUDGET.

A further Message is as follows :—

" For the purposes of sub-section (1) of section 67A of the Government of India Act and in pursuance of Rules 43, 46 and 47 of the Indian Legislative Rules and of Standing Order 70 of the Council of State Standing Orders, I, Edward Frederick Lindley, Baron Irwin, hereby appoint the following days for the presentation to the Council of State and to the Legislative Assembly of the statement of the estimated annual expenditure and revenue of the Governor General in Council in respect of subjects other than Railways and for the subsequent stages in respect thereof in the Council of State and in the Legislative Assembly, namely :—

| | |
|---|---|
| Thursday, 28th February at 5 p.m. | Presentation in both Chambers. |
| Monday, 4th March | } General Discussion in the Legislative Assembly. |
| Tuesday, 5th March | |
| Wednesday, 6th March | General Discussion in the Council of State. |
| Thursday, 7th March | } Voting of Demands for Grants in the Legislative Assembly. |
| Monday, 11th March | |
| Tuesday, 12th March | |
| Wednesday, 13th March, or Thursday, 14th March, according to which of these days is not a holiday for Id-ul-Fitr. | |
| Friday, 15th March | |

(Sd.) IRWIN,

Viceroy and Governor General."

Finally :—

" In pursuance of the provisions of sub-section (3) of section 67A of the Government of India Act, I hereby direct that the heads of expenditure specified in that sub-section shall be open to discussion by the Council of State when the Budget is under consideration.

(Sd.) IRWIN,

Viceroy and Governor General."

(The Messages were received by the Council standing.)

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : Under Order 76 of the Council of State Standing Orders, I am required at the commencement of the Session to constitute a Committee on Petitions consisting of a Chairman and four members. The following Honourable Members have at my request kindly consented to preside over and serve on the Committee. I hereby accordingly have much pleasure in nominating as Chairman of the Committee, the Honourable Rai Bahadur Lala Ram Saran Das, and as members, the Honourable Raja Sir Rampal Singh, the Honourable Sir Ebrahim Jaffer, the Honourable Mr. Desika Chari and the Honourable Sir Manmohandas Ramji.

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S ASSENT TO BILLS.

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

The Hindu Inheritance (Removal of Disabilities) Act, 1928.

The Indian Mines (Amendment) Act, 1928.

The Indian Succession (Amendment) Act, 1928.

The Indian Trade Unions (Amendment) Act, 1928.

The Indian Income-tax (Amendment) Act, 1928.

The Match Industry (Protection) Act, 1928.

The Repealing and Amending Act, 1928.

The Madras Salt (Amendment) Act, 1928.

The Indian Insurance Companies Act, 1928.

The Indian Succession (Second Amendment) Act, 1928.

MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

SECRETARY OF THE COUNCIL: Sir, the following Message has been received from the Legislative Assembly:

"I am directed to inform you that the Legislative Assembly have, at their meeting held on the 11th February, 1929, agreed without any amendments to the Bill further to amend the Indian Limitation Act, 1908, which was passed by the Council of State on the 14th March, 1928."

MOTION FOR THE ELECTION OF A PANEL FOR THE STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, HEALTH AND LANDS.

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH (Education, Health and Lands Member): Sir, I move:

"That this Council do proceed to elect, in the manner prescribed in the rules published in the Home Department Notification No. F. 49, dated the 22nd August, 1922, as amended by the Home Department Notification No. D. 794-C., dated the 30th January, 1924, a panel consisting of 6 members from which the members of the Standing Advisory Committee to advise on subjects, other than Indians Overseas and Emigration, dealt with in the Department of Education, Health and Lands, will be nominated."

Sir, I have nothing to add to this motion which is self-explanatory. I will only emphasise that the panel which the House is now being asked to elect is in respect of a Committee other than the one which deals with questions regarding emigration and Indians overseas. I will soon be approaching the House in regard to the election of a similar panel for the latter Committee.

Sir, I move.

The motion was adopted.

**MOTION FOR THE ELECTION OF A PANEL FOR THE STANDING
ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF
INDUSTRIES AND LABOUR.**

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. C. McWATTERS (Industries and Labour Secretary) : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That this Council do proceed to elect in the manner described in the rules published in the Home Department Notification No. F. 49, dated the 12nd August, 1922, as amended by the Home Department Notification No. D. 794-C., dated the 30th January, 1924, a panel consisting of 6 members from which the members of the Standing Committee to advise on subjects in the Department of Industries and Labour, will be nominated. ”

I do not think it necessary, Sir, to add anything to the terms of this motion. The period of office of the Committee attached to the Industries and Labour Department has expired, and we are anxious to reconstitute it, as in this Department we find the greatest value constantly from the advice of this Committee.

The motion was adopted.

**MOTION FOR THE ELECTION OF A PANEL FOR THE CENTRAL
ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RAILWAYS.**

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT (Commerce Secretary) : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That this Council do proceed to elect in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President a panel consisting of 8 members from which 6 shall be selected to serve on the Central Advisory Council for Railways, as provided for in clause 6 of the Resolution adopted by the Legislative Assembly on the 20th September, 1924, on the subject of the separation of Railway Finance. ”

The motion was adopted.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : In order to enable me to fix dates for nominations and for elections, if necessary, in connection with these motions, I would ask the Honourable Members of the Government who are responsible for the three motions if they could tell me if there is any degree of urgency in regard to the constitution of the panels to which the motions refer.

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH : There is no immediate urgency, Sir, so far as my motion is concerned.

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. C. McWATTERS : The position is the same, Sir, as regards mine.

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT : I should like mine, Sir, before the end of the month.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : Then I shall, in these circumstances, fix 11 O'clock on Monday morning next, the 18th February, as the hour up to which nominations in connection with these three panels of Standing Committees will be received by the Secretary. On that date, if necessary, I shall fix a date for the election.

PRESIDENCY-TOWNS INSOLVENCY (AMENDMENT) BILL.

THE HONOURABLE SIR BROJENDRA MITTER (Law Member). Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Presidency-towns Insolvency Act, 1909, for a certain purpose.

This is a very short and simple measure. Under section 69 of the Presidency-towns Insolvency Act, the Official Assignee has to declare and distribute the first dividend, if any, within six months after the adjudication of the insolvent, unless the Official Assignee satisfies the Court that there is sufficient reason for postponing the declaration to a latter date. Sir, for the information of Members of this House who are not lawyers, I will briefly explain the scope of this Bill. Section 69 provides, as will be seen from the passage I have just read out, that within six months of the adjudication of the insolvent the first dividend has to be declared and distributed. In practice this period of six months has been found to be much too short, because after adjudication the insolvent has to file his schedule and from that schedule the Official Assignee, who is entrusted with the administration of the insolvent's estate, has to ascertain who the creditors are, what the assets are, and what the liabilities are, and after having ascertained all this, he has further to ascertain if there are any onerous obligations of the insolvent which he, the Official Assignee, is in a position to disclaim. Having done all this he finds he has certain assets in his hands for distribution. Now, it has been found in practice that six months' time is much too short for this purpose. Although the law says that he can come to Court for an extension of time, this provision has, in practice, been reduced to a mere formality, and, the sooner the formality is done away with, the better. Having regard to this difficulty the Government of Madras proposed to enlarge the time from six months to a year, and to introduce legislation for that purpose in the Provincial Legislature, but the Government of India thought that since this was a matter which affected all the Presidency-towns to which this Act applies, the proper place for legislation was the Central Legislature. That is the reason why this Bill has been introduced here. I may further inform Honourable Members that this Act applies only to five towns, namely, Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Karachi and Rangoon. It has no application anywhere else. The provision of the Bill is merely to enlarge the time from six months to a year. That is the scope of the Bill.

Sir, I move.

The motion was adopted.

THE HONOURABLE SIR BROJENDRA MITTER : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH (Leader of the House) : Sir, the list of business for to-morrow is already in the hands of Honourable Members. As there is no official business for Friday, the 15th, I have to announce that there will be no meeting on that date. On Monday, the 18th, I hope, however, to be able to make an announcement regarding Government business for next week.

The Council then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 13th February, 1929.