

2nd September 1927

THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES
(Official Report)

Volume I

FIRST SESSION
OF THE
THIRD LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1927



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ERRATUM.

In Legislative Assembly Debates, Volume IV,
No. 49, page 3310, last line but one, for "8 years."
read "one year."

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Friday, 2nd September, 1927.

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

AMOUNT OF INCOME-TAX AND SUPER-TAX PAID BY BRITISH AND OTHER NON-INDIAN COMPANIES CARRYING ON BANKING, SHIPPING AND INSURANCE BUSINESS IN INDIA.

773. ***Mr. Sarabhai Nemchand Haji** : Will Government be pleased to give separately the amount of income-tax and super-tax paid

- (1) By British Companies,
- (2) By other non-Indian Companies,

carrying on business in India in

- (a) Banking, (b) Shipping, and (c) Insurance ?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : Statistics distinguishing between (1) Indian, (2) British, and (3) other non-Indian Companies are not maintained.

Mr. K. Ahmed : Is it true that income-tax was levied on the British shipping companies only after I had drawn the attention of the Government in the first reformed Assembly ?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : I am sorry I did not hear the question.

Mr. K. Ahmed : Is it true that the income-tax was levied on the British shipping companies who never paid before the year 1922 any tax to the Honourable the Finance Member's Department, and after I drew their attention to this in this House in the year 1921 taxes were levied on them ?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : I have heard the question, but I am afraid I do not understand it.

Mr. K. Ahmed : Is it not a fact that since the year 1922 the British shipping companies are paying income-tax and that they did not pay a single pice before 1922 when I drew the attention of the Government to the matter ?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : I give it up.

Mr. K. Ahmed : What is the amount that the Indian exchequer has suffered owing to the negligence of the Government of India in exempting the British shipping companies from payment of income-tax prior to 1922 ?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : I hope the Indian Exchequer never suffers in that way.

Mr. Sarabhai Nemchand Haji : Will the Government be good enough to let us know if it is a fact that income-tax was levied on the British shipping companies operating in this country after attention was drawn to their not paying income-tax by an Honourable Member of this House in 1922 ? Is it a fact or is it not ?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : I am afraid I do not know.

Mr. Sarabhai Nemchand Haji : Will you kindly make inquiries ?

Mr. K. Ahmed : Did the Honourable Member just before his arrival in India have a mind to look to the interests of India, and does he do so as far as the finances of India are concerned ?

Mr. Sarabhai Nemchand Haji : In view of the importance of the figures for which I have asked in my question, will the Government be good enough to collect the necessary figures and present a statement to the Assembly at a later date ?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : The answer is in the negative.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE BOARD OF TRADE OR OTHER SHIPPING INTERESTS
IN ENGLAND IN CONNECTION WITH THE REPORT OF THE MERCANTILE
MARINE COMMITTEE.

774. ***Mr. Sarabhai Nemchand Haji :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if they have received any communication from the Board of Trade or from any shipping interests in England in connection with the Report of the Indian Mercantile Marine Committee ?

(b) If the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to lay a copy of such communication on the table ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : The Government of India received a memorandum from the Board of Trade on the reservation of the Indian coasting trade, in connection with the question whether legislation for this purpose, on the lines proposed by the Committee, was *intra vires* of the Indian Legislature. The Government of India are enquiring from the Secretary of State whether there is any objection to laying this memorandum on the table of this House.

The only other correspondence that the Government of India have had with the Board of Trade in connection with this Report, related to the training ship, which, as the Honourable Member is aware, the Board of Trade have agreed to recognise, on the same footing as the nautical colleges in England, for the purpose of certificates of competency.

No shipping interests in England have addressed the Government of India in connection with the Report.

Mr. Sarabhai Nemchand Haji : Are the contents of this statement so dangerous that it is necessary to get the consent of the Secretary of State before its publication in this country ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : It is clearly necessary, Sir, that when a communication has been received by the Government of India from the British Government with nothing stipulated as to publication, that the consent of that Government should be obtained to the publication.

Mr. K. Ahmed : How long will the Government of India wait for the sanction of the Secretary of State to publish this Mercantile Marine Committee's Report ? Is it not a long time since the Report was submitted by the Committee ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : I am afraid I cannot admit the assumptions upon which the Honourable Member's question appears to be based.

Mr. Sarabhai Nemchand Haji : May I inquire if there is any mention in that statement to the effect that it should not be published until the consent of the Secretary of State is obtained ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : No, Sir, there is no such statement ; but it is in accordance with the usual official procedure and the usual considerations of courtesy to another Government.

Mr. K. Ahmed : Then what is the period for waiting for the Government of India for the usual courtesy which they want to show to the Secretary of State's office ?

Mr. Sarabhai Nemchand Haji : Will the Government be good enough to get a telegraphic communication from England in this connection ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : No, Sir, I do not think there is any necessity to telegraph about it.

RESERVATION OF THE COASTING TRADE OF INDIA TO INDIAN SHIPPING.

775. ***Mr. Sarabhai Nemchand Haji :** Will Government be pleased to state when they propose to give legislative effect to the recommendations of the Indian Mercantile Marine Committee in connection with the reservation of the coasting trade of India to Indian shipping ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : I would refer the Honourable Member to the debate in this House in March 1926 on Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer's Resolution regarding the training of Indians for nautical careers and other recommendations of the Indian Mercantile Marine Committee.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE INDIAN MERCANTILE MARINE COMMITTEE REGARDING THE TRAINING OF ENGINEER OFFICERS.

776. ***Mr. Sarabhai Nemchand Haji :** Will Government be pleased to state the steps if any that they may have taken in carrying out the recommendation of the Indian Mercantile Marine Committee in connection with the training of engineer officers ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : Government expect to reach a decision in the near future.

Mr. Sarabhai Nemchand Haji : In view of the fact that a very long time has elapsed since the Mercantile Marine Committee made recommendations in connection with the training of engineer officers, will the Government be kind enough to state how much longer will they take to provide facilities for such training ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : I hope, Sir, it will not take much longer ; but I am indebted to the Honourable Member for calling my attention to the matter.

ENCOURAGEMENT OF SHIP-BUILDING IN INDIA.

777. *Mr. Sarabhai Nemchand Haji : Will Government be pleased to state if they have taken or propose to take any steps in connection with the recommendation of the Indian Mercantile Marine Committee regarding the encouragement of ship-building in India ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : Government are not yet satisfied that steps should be taken for the development of ship-building in India. Apart from that I may remind the Honourable Member that the recommendations of the Indian Mercantile Marine Committee for the encouragement of ship-building in India were subject to the condition that a ship-building yard should be projected by an Indian company. Until such a project is proposed, the question of the assistance that might properly be given by the Government does not arise.

TRAINING ON THE INDIAN MERCANTILE MARINE TRAINING SHIP OF DECK OR EXECUTIVE OFFICERS FOR THE PROPOSED ROYAL INDIAN NAVY.

778. *Mr. Sarabhai Nemchand Haji : Will Government be pleased to state what arrangements they have made or propose to make regarding the training ship for giving preliminary training for the purpose of recruiting deck or executive officers for the proposed Royal Indian Navy ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : No special arrangements are being made on the Indian mercantile marine training ship for giving preliminary training for the purpose of recruiting Deck or Executive Officers for the proposed Royal Indian Navy.

Mr. Sarabhai Nemchand Haji : In view of the fact that the country is going to spend considerable sums of money on the training ship, will the Government consider the advisability of utilising this training ship for naval requirements as well ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : I think my friend Mr. Young is in a better position than I am to answer that question.

Mr. G. M. Young : It is quite possible, Sir, that if the Indian mercantile marine training ship proves a success, officers will be recruited from it into the executive of the Royal Indian Marine, but naval training will not take place in the mercantile marine ship ; it will take place in the Indian Royal Navy after the candidates have been recruited to it.

Mr. Sarabhai Nemchand Haji : Will the Honourable Member kindly make clear the meaning of the words " if the training in the Indian mercantile marine ship proves a success " ? What does he mean by that ?

Mr. G. M. Young : From the point of view of the Navy, Sir, turning out suitable material for officers' ranks in the Navy.

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney : Will the Honourable Member state how long it will take before the training commences ?

Mr. G. M. Young : Is my Honourable friend referring to the training on the mercantile marine ship or training in the Royal Indian Navy ?

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney : The training ship.

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : It is hoped that by December next the training ship will be ready and the first term will start.

RECRUITMENT OF INDIAN CREW, INDIAN DECK AND ENGINEER OFFICERS AND OTHER RATINGS FOR THE PROPOSED ROYAL INDIAN NAVY.

779. ***Mr. Sarabhai Nemchand Haji** : In view of the recommendation of the Indian Mercantile Marine Committee that the services in the proposed Indian Navy should be Indianised, will Government be pleased to state what steps they have taken or propose to take for recruiting

- (a) Indian crew,
- (b) Indian deck officers,
- (c) Indian engineer officers, and
- (d) Other ratings,

for the proposed Royal Indian Navy ?

Mr. G. M. Young : (a) Indian ratings are already recruited. As I have explained on another occasion the new Navy will carry on with the same ratings as have hitherto been employed in the Royal Indian Marine.

(b) Indian deck officers will be recruited in the proportion of one-third of the total number. Arrangements for holding the first entrance examination have not yet been concluded, but I hope that they will be shortly.

(c) Indian engineer officers also are being recruited in the proportion of one-third. Applications for appointment have been received and are under consideration.

(d) The only other ratings are, I think, the few British warrant officers still left in the service. These will serve out their time and be replaced in due course by Indian warrant officers.

Mr. B. Das : May I inquire, Sir, what was the channel through which the Government invited applications for recruitment of Indian engineer officers ? The Honourable Member just told us that applications for recruitment of Indian engineer officers have been received. May I inquire what was the channel through which Government invited those applications ?

Mr. G. M. Young : Government did not actually invite applications, but they were received.

Mr. B. Das : Through what channel were they received ? Were they received through the Public Service Commission or through the principals of engineering colleges ?

Mr. G. M. Young : It was not through any channel. The Report of the Departmental Committee contains the qualifications required, and on that, applications were received.

Mr. B. Das : Why was not the Public Service Commission asked to call for applications from Indian engineers for recruitment to this service ?

Mr. Sarabhai Nemchand Haji : A supplementary question, Sir. With reference to the proportion of one-third reserved for Indian recruitment, will the Government kindly state the accepted total number of officers to be recruited every year ?

Mr. G. M. Young : At present the accepted total number is three on each side ; three executive officers and three engineer officers.

Mr. Sarabhai Nemohand Haji : In view of the smallness of that figure, is there any particular reason why only one Indian should be taken every year ?

Mr. G. M. Young : Both figures are small. The decision was to recruit in the proportion of one-third, which is considered to be a sufficiently high proportion.

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney : Will the Honourable Member kindly state whether his Department is receiving or will receive applications for such appointments as engineers ?

Mr. G. M. Young : As I have already stated, applications have been received.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Has the Honourable Member heard the story of the boy who stood first in the class because he was the only boy ?

RECRUITMENT OF RATINGS FOR THE PROPOSED ROYAL INDIAN NAVY.

780. ***Mr. Sarabhai Nemohand Haji :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if any ratings for the proposed Royal Indian Navy have been already recruited by them ?

(b) If the answer to (a) be in the affirmative will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that all the ratings already recruited for the ships of the proposed Royal Indian Navy come from one particular community and from one particular part of India ?

Mr. G. M. Young : (a) Yes, Sir, as I have explained in my answer to the previous question the personnel is being transferred into the new Navy.

(b) Yes, Sir. I would invite attention to the replies given to Mr. M. S. Aney's questions Nos. 321—324.

Mr. Sarabhai Nemohand Haji : Are we to understand, Sir, that, in future, recruitment will take place without the ancient prejudices with regard to castes and communities ?

Mr. G. M. Young : I have already explained the matter fully in my answer to Mr. Aney's question. While the Indian Navy remains at its present strength, it is not proposed to go outside the community which at present supplies recruits. When the time comes for the expansion of the Indian Navy, we do propose to go outside that field of recruitment.

Mr. K. C. Roy : Is the Honourable Member aware that it will practically keep out the seafaring Moslems of Chittagong in Bengal from service in the Royal Navy ?

Mr. G. M. Young : It is not a question of practically keeping them out. For the last 40 or 50 years we have only had one class coming forward to serve in the Royal Indian Marine, and we have not even yet had any applications from outside those classes.

RECRUITMENT FROM THE BHANDARI COMMUNITY FOR THE PROPOSED ROYAL INDIAN NAVY.

781. ***Mr. Sarabhai Nemchand Haji** : (a) Will Government be pleased to state if they have received any petition from the Bhandari community requesting the Government to recruit their crew for the proposed Royal Indian Navy from that community ?

(b) If the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the action which they have taken or propose to take in connection with that petition ?

Mr. G. M. Young : I would refer my Honourable friend to my reply to Mr. Aney's question No. 324.

Mr. Sarabhai Nemchand Haji : With reference to this habit of referring the questioner to earlier replies, will the Government be good enough to repeat those replies here so that this House may exercise its constitutional right of asking supplementary questions ?

Mr. G. M. Young : No, Sir ; I do not think it is advisable nor necessary.

Mr. K. Ahmed : What is the practice followed in the House of Commons, Sir ? May we know ?

NUMBER OF INDIAN LASCARS AND FIREMEN SHIPPED AT EACH MAJOR PORT IN INDIA DURING THE LAST THREE YEARS.

782. ***Mr. Sarabhai Nemchand Haji** : Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement giving particulars of Indian lascars and firemen shipped at each of the major ports of India for :

(a) the coasting trade, and

(b) the overseas trade,

in the last three years ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : Local Governments have been asked to supply the information asked for, if available, and the result will be communicated to the Honourable Member on receipt.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : May I ask, Sir, whether the information will be laid on the table of the House ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : If the Local Governments have the information and give it to us, I should be prepared to lay it on the table of the House, unless the information was so voluminous that it might be sufficient to place a copy in the Library.

UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG INDIAN DECK, SALOON AND ENGINE ROOM CREWS.

783. ***Mr. Sarabhai Nemchand Haji** : (a) Are Government aware of the fact that a large number of Indian deck, saloon and engine room crews remains without employment for a long period ?

(b) Have Government received any representation in connection with such unemployment from the Indian deck, saloon and engine room crews ?

(c) If the answer to (a) and (b) be in the affirmative will Government be pleased to state the steps they have taken or propose to take to relieve such unemployment ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : (a) The Government are aware that there is some unemployment among Indian seamen, but they have no reason to suppose that it is abnormal.

(b) The Government of India have from time to time received copies of resolutions passed at meetings of Seamen's Unions, but they have received no direct representation on the subject from Indian deck, saloon or engine room crews.

(c) The unemployment of seamen depends upon the number of ships that require crews, over which the Government can have no control.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : May I ask, Sir, what Government propose to do to relieve the distress caused by unemployment among Indian seamen ? Do they propose to introduce some form of unemployment insurance or any other form of relief ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : I think, Sir, that this is a matter which was raised at the Geneva Conference in 1920, and the view then taken was that unemployment insurance for seamen was unnecessary in India. This view was accepted by the Legislature in a Resolution adopted on the 26th September, 1921.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : May I ask, Sir, why Government came to the conclusion that unemployment insurance was unnecessary in India ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : I am afraid I must ask for notice of that question ?

Sir Hari Singh Gour : What percentage of seamen are at present unemployed ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : I have no information on that point.

Sir Hari Singh Gour : Even approximately ?

Mr. President : The Honourable Member has no information.

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : I have no information from which I could give any figure at all.

Mr. K. Ahmed : Are the Government aware that in 1921 I opposed that Resolution.....

Mr. President : Order, order.

CARRIAGE OF CARGO AND STORES BY INDIAN SHIPPING COMPANIES.

784. ***Mr. Sarabhai Nemchand Haji :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if the Departments concerned have been regularly sending inquiries to the Indian shipping companies for the carriage of cargo and stores in pursuance of the Resolution moved by Sir Lalubhai Samaldas in the Council of State on the 15th March 1922 and accepted by the Government ?

(b) If the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the quantity of cargo for which inquiries were addressed to Indian shipping companies, (2) the quantity of such cargo actually carried by them, and (3) the amount of freight paid to them ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : The information is being collected and the High Commissioner for India has been addressed on the subject. It will be supplied to the Honourable Member in due course.

CARRIAGE OF GOVERNMENT STORES COASTWISE AND IN THE FOREIGN TRADE FROM AND TO AN INDIAN PORT.

785. ***Mr. Sarabhai Nemchand Haji :** Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement giving particulars of quantity of cargo and stores carried on their account as well as on account of the railways from one Indian port to another and from an Indian port to ports outside India and *vice versa* during the last three years and the amount of freight paid on the same to the shipping companies ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : I would refer the Honourable Member to Tables Nos. 10A, 16, 17 and 18 of the " Annual Statement of the Sea-borne Trade of British India with the British Empire and Foreign Countries " for the year ending the 31st March 1926, which contain information regarding the quantity and value of Government stores imported into and exported from British India. No information is, however, available regarding the quantity of cargo and stores carried on Government account and on account of the Railways coastwise, nor as regards freight paid to shipping companies for the carriage of Government and railway stores.

ACTION TAKEN ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DECK PASSENGER COMMITTEE.

786. ***Mr. Sarabhai Nemchand Haji :** Will Government be pleased to state when they propose to take action on the recommendations of the Deck Passengers' Committee who submitted their report to the Government in 1921 ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : I would refer the Honourable Member to the answer given by me on the 22nd August to Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh's question on the same subject.

Mr. Sarabhai Nemchand Haji : May I refer the Honourable Member to the fact that this Committee submitted its Report as early as 1921 and that no action has been taken since ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : The Honourable Member not only can do so but has done so.

STARTING OF THE INDIAN MERCANTILE MARINE TRAINING SHIP.

787. ***Mr. Sarabhai Nemchand Haji :** Will Government be pleased to give information on the following points :

- (a) When will the proposed Indian mercantile training ship begin to work and take cadets for training ?
- (b) What will be the age of admission ?
- (c) What will be the period of training ?
- (d) What will be the fees which each cadet will have to pay ?

- (e) Will the cadets be placed on the same level as the cadets of the Training Ship "Conway" and "Worcester" as regards their entry into (1) the Bengal Pilot Service, and (2) the proposed Royal Indian Navy?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : (a) It is hoped that the first course of the training ship will begin in November next.

(b) Candidates must be between the ages of 13 and 16.

(c) The course will consist of two terms a year and will last for three years.

(d) Fees will be Rs. 50 for each month of residence on the training ship.

(e). (1) Cadets from the training ship will be in a more favourable position than cadets from the "Worcester" and "Conway" for employment in the Bengal Pilot Service, in that appointments to that service are only made in England by the High Commissioner when no suitable applications have been received in India.

(2) The question of entry into the Royal Indian Navy from the training ship is a matter for the Army Department.

Mr. Sarabhai Nemchand Haji : With reference to the recruitment of the Bengal Pilot Service through the High Commissioner in London, will the Government in future kindly invite applications first in this country and then in London?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : I do not know what the actual procedure is at present, but the procedure suggested by the Honourable Member seems to me to be in accordance with the rules.

EMPLOYMENT OF SUCCESSFUL CADETS OF THE TRAINING SHIP AS APPRENTICES BY THE PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL COMPANY.

788. ***Mr. Sarabhai Nemchand Haji :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if the P. and O. Company, which receives a mail subsidy from the Government of India, have given an undertaking to take as apprentices successful cadets coming out of the training ship?

(b) If the answer to (a) be in the negative, will Government be pleased to state the steps that they have taken or propose to take in that connection?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : (a) The P. and O. Company are prepared to take cadets from the Indian training ship as apprentices on their steamers on the Bombay-China line.

(b) Does not arise.

Mr. Sarabhai Nemchand Haji : May I inquire if this undertaking was given when the Company was first approached in this connection?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : I am afraid I have not the information at the moment but I should be quite prepared to give the information to the Honourable Member privately.

Mr. Sarabhai Nemchand Haji : Is it a State secret, Sir?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : Apparently it is a secret from me at the present moment. That is why I have no information.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru : Why do the P. and O. line agree to take an Indian cadet only on the Bombay-China line ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : My recollection is that the explanation given was that these were the only ships on which they had suitable accommodation, but I should really like notice of that question.

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney : Sir, is it or is it not a fact that the Directors of the P. and O. Company in England have issued distinct orders which are in operation to-day that, so far as their Engineering Department is concerned, unless the officer is recruited in England, he is not permitted to rise to the highest rank of Chief Engineer of any of their steamers ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : I do not think that arises from my answer, Sir, but in any case I should have to ask for notice.

COMPULSORY EMPLOYMENT BY STEAMSHIP COMPANIES ENGAGED IN THE COASTING TRADE OF SUCCESSFUL AND SUITABLE CADETS OF THE TRAINING SHIP.

789. ***Mr. Sarabhai Nemchand Haji :** Will Government be pleased to state when they propose to give legislative effect to the recommendations of the Indian Mercantile Marine Committee making it obligatory on the ships trading on the coast of India to give employment to the successful and suitable cadets of the training ship on their obtaining the necessary Board of Trade certificates of competency ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : Government do not consider that the need for such legislation has arisen.

Mr. Sarabhai Nemchand Haji : Should the necessity arise, will the Government undertake such legislation ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : Government will then be prepared to consider the matter.

Mr. Sarabhai Nemchand Haji : May we know the criterion by which it will be judged whether the necessity has arisen or not ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : I should think the Honourable Member would probably draw the attention of the Government of India to the matter if he thought the necessity had arisen.

APPOINTMENT OF AN INDIAN HEADMASTER AND OTHER NON-TECHNICAL INDIAN STAFF TO THE PROPOSED TRAINING SHIP.

790. ***Mr. Sarabhai Nemchand Haji :** Will Government be pleased to state what steps they have taken, in view of the fact that the technical staff will be European, to appoint an Indian Headmaster and other non-technical Indian staff to the proposed training ship ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : The selection of the Headmaster and other superior staff for the training ship is at present under the consideration of the Government in consultation with the members of the governing body.

Mr. Sarabhai Nemchand Haji : Will the Government see that racial discrimination is not exercised against Indians in connection with these appointments ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : I do not think there can be any question of racial discrimination arising in this matter. The sole question will be what is in the best interest of the training of the boys, especially when the training ship first starts.

Mr. Sarabhai Nemchand Haji : Is it a fact, Sir, that Mr. Sayer has recommended a European as Headmaster for the training ship though there are plenty of more than eligible Indians available for the post ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : I could not admit the assumption in the last words of the question. I do not think it is advisable that I should say more at present in this matter when it is under discussion.

EMPLOYMENT BY BRITISH SHIPOWNERS OF SUCCESSFUL CADETS OF THE TRAINING SHIP.

791. ***Mr. Sarabhai Nemchand Haji :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if they have received any representation from the British shipowners trading with India to the effect that they were not prepared to give employment to the successful cadets of the training ship obtaining their certificates of competency ?

(b) If the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state if they propose to arrange with such shipowners for giving employment as officers to the successful cadets of the training ship ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : (a) The answer is in the negative.

(b) Does not arise.

Mr. K. Ahmed : What steps do Government propose to take against shipowners not willing to take Indian cadets trained already ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : I think the Government will wait till that contingency arises before they decide what they will do.

Mr. K. Ahmed : Are the Government aware that the contingency has already arisen ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : No, Sir.

Mr. K. Ahmed : Are the Government aware that British ships or foreign ships plying on the Indian coast should be compelled to give facilities to Indian cadets ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : I think I have already answered that question, Sir, in one of the questions put by my Honourable friend Mr. Haji.

Mr. K. Ahmed : Have they given effect to the evidence I gave in that connection supported by many other witnesses ?

PREMIUM INCOME OF INSURANCE COMPANIES DOING BUSINESS IN INDIA.

792 ***Mr. Sarabhai Nemchand Haji** : Will Government be pleased to give particulars of the total amount of premium earned respectively by (a) the Life Department, (b) the Fire Department, and (c) the Marine Department of the Indian, the British and the other non-Indian Insurance Companies working in India ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : (a) The total amount of life assurance premium income last year of the Indian Companies exceeded 2½ crores. The total life assurance premium income of the Indian branches of British Companies in the same period is estimated to have been under 1 crore.

Government has no information of the corresponding amount received by other non-Indian insurance companies working in India.

(b) and (c). Government has no information regarding the fire and marine premium income in India of any of the insurance companies.

Sir Hari Singh Gour : Sir, the Government receive, I presume, income-tax upon foreign companies trading in India and receiving premium from Indian Insurance. Is that not so ? Do not the Government levy an income-tax from foreign companies trading in India ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : I think my Honourable friend the Finance Member is the proper person to answer that question.

Mr. Sarabhai Nemchand Haji : In view of the importance of the figures asked for in my question, will the Honourable the Commerce Member find out at a later stage the figures from the Department concerned and supply them to the House ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : The income-tax figures ?

Mr. Sarabhai Nemchand Haji : No : the figures of premia earned by non-Indian insurance companies. May I suggest that the question arises like this.....

Mr. President : Order, order. The Honourable Member will proceed to the next question.

Mr. Sarabhai Nemchand Haji : In view of the fact, Sir, that income-tax can be levied.....

Mr. President : The next question on the list.

AMOUNT OF SEA SERVICE REQUIRED OF CANDIDATES APPOINTED TO THE BENGAL PILOT SERVICE IN ENGLAND AND INDIA.

793. ***Mr. Sarabhai Nemchand Haji** : (a) Are Government aware that while no particular period of service at sea has been laid down for the candidates recruited in England for entry into the Bengal Pilot Service, a period of sea service for 4 years in a merchant vessel employed in foreign trade as a seaman or apprentice has been made obligatory on candidates recruited in India for the Bengal Pilot Service ?

(b) Are Government aware that some of the cadets from the " Conway " and the " Worcester " have received a direct entry into the Bengal Pilot Service without possessing any sea experience ?

(c) If the answer to (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the grounds of such a differential treatment ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : (a) Yes.

(b) Some relaxation of the requirements in respect of sea service was necessary during the War owing to the absence of candidates who possessed that qualification. Apart from this, so far as the Government of India are aware, no cadets from the "Conway" or "Worcester" have been received direct into the Bengal Pilot Service without possessing any sea service, but enquiries are being made and the Honourable Member will be informed of the result in due course.

(c) The differentiation of the rules as regards sea service is due to the fact that there has hitherto been no training ship in Indian waters, and a longer period of sea service has consequently been necessary for persons recruited in India. Government has under consideration the amendment of the rules so as to place cadets from the "Dufferin", which will shortly be ready as a training ship in Bombay, on the same footing in respect of sea service as cadets from the "Conway" or "Worcester".

REMISSION OR REDUCTION OF THE CHARGES FOR THE USE OF ARCHÆOLOGICAL MATERIAL BY VARIOUS CLASSES OF STUDENTS.

794. ***Mr. Sarabhai Nemchand Haji :** 1. Will Government be pleased to state the general policy regarding the use for public and educational purposes by serious students in India like university professors, of the photographs, maps, plans, &c., made in or by the Archæological Department of the Government of India, of the finds or monuments in charge of that Department ?

2. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether any charge is levied for the use of any such material by (1) members of the Department of all ranks for purposes of illustrating their own publications, (2) by non-Indian students of research, (3) by Indian non-official students ; and if so (1) whether they have received any complaints from any quarters about the policy or heaviness of such a charge ; and (2) what are the principles on which Government fix those charges ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state what was the income from such fees in the last financial year and what is estimated to be the income for the current year and whether in the interests of historical research they are prepared to dispense with those charges or substantially reduce them ?

Mr. A. B. Dalal : 1. The policy of the Government is to make archæological photographs, plans and maps, accessible to students by reproducing those which are of interest in the Archæological reports and memoirs. Students are also allowed to purchase photographs from the departmental collections.

2. (a) (1). Members of the Archæological Department are not allowed to publish any archæological material whatever without the sanction of the Government of India. If such sanction is given, charges for the material are not levied.

2. (a) (2) and (3). The charges levied on non-Indian and Indian non-official students are the same :

(1) Complaints have been received by the Archaeological Department regarding the heaviness of the charge for photographs required for publication.

(2) The charges are made on the principles.

(i) that the expenditure incurred on the production of the prints should be recouped ;

(ii) that in the interest of the photographic trade, it is not desirable that the Government should supply photographs gratis to the public.

(iii) that if such charges were not made, the demands for photographs would become excessive and it would not be possible for the Archaeological Department to meet them. Neither staff nor funds are provided at present for this purpose, and the Archaeological Department has experienced difficulty in executing the orders placed.

(b) The income from such fees during the last financial year was Rs. 1,996-9-8 ; the estimated income for the current financial year is Rs. 2,000. It is not possible to remit or reduce the ordinary charges for photographic prints. The Government will, however, consider the question of remission of the extra charge for photographs required for publication in the case of books of scientific or educational value by authoritative writers.

Sir Hari Singh Gour : Sir, with reference to the Honourable Member's reply to part (2) of question No. 794, may I inquire, in the case of Government officials who receive free use of the photographs, plates and the rest, who receives the royalty or profit from such publications ? Is it credited to the Government or is it appropriated by the author himself ?

Mr. A. R. Dalal : If the officers are allowed to publish their books with the previous sanction of the Government, the remuneration, with the previous sanction of the Government, is received by the officers themselves.

Sir Hari Singh Gour : That is a repetition of the answer given by the Honourable Member. The point I wish to make is, when Government give previous sanction for the publication of a book, and supplies the officers with plates and other plans from the Archaeological Department free of charge, who receives the profits from the book ?

Mr. A. R. Dalal : The profits of the book are received by the officers concerned.

Sir Hari Singh Gour : The point is that Government partially meets the expenses of the publication of the book, and the profits go to the author.

Mr. A. R. Dalal : The only distinction is that in the case of non-officials, they have to pay fees for photographs for publication, which range from Rs. 5 to Rs. 10, whereas in the case of officers of the Archaeological Department, those fees are not levied ; and here, if my Honourable

friend will look at the concluding portion of the answer I gave, he will find that the question of remitting similar fees for publication from non-official writers of distinction is now under the consideration of the Government, in which case they will be put on exactly the same footing as the officers of the Department.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : Is the permission given by the Government or by the Director of Archaeology ?

Mr. A. B. Dalal : By the Government, Sir.

NUMBER OF ASSISTANT TRAFFIC SUPERINTENDENTS ON THE STATE RAILWAYS, ETC.

795. ***Diwan Chaman Lall :** (a) What is the number of Assistant Traffic Superintendents (now called Assistant Transportation Officers) on the Indian State Railways ?

(b) How many of them are Hindus, Muhammadans, Sikhs, Indian Christians and Anglo-Indians ?

(c) How many of them, appointed by nomination before the recent competitive examination, are not graduates of any University ?

(d) Is it true that some time after 1921 or so a " Local Traffic " branch of this service on a provincial scale was started and six or seven Indian graduates were recruited on this basis with a promise of early promotion to the Imperial Service ?

(e) Is it true that :

(i) one of them, on confirmation, was drafted to the Imperial Service ;

(ii) in 1925 the Railway Board advertised two posts on the Local Traffic side and one in the Imperial grade for competitive examination but admitted all the three successful candidates to the latter grade ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) and (b). The information can be obtained from the Railway Board's Classified List, a copy of which is in the Library.

(c) Out of the officers recruited by the Railway Board by nomination 9 are not graduates.

(d) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative, to the latter part in the negative.

(e), (i) and (ii). Yes.

DISSATISFACTION OF LOCAL TRAFFIC SERVICE OFFICERS WITH THEIR POSITION AND PROSPECTS.

796. ***Diwan Chaman Lall :** (a) Is it true that the starting pay and annual increment of the Local Traffic men mentioned in the preceding question is much smaller than those of E. A. Cs., Sub-Judges, Income-tax Officers and several other provincial services ; and even of some Railway Station Superintendents, Inspectors and Station Masters ?

(b) Is it a fact that the said Local Traffic Service men have to perform the same duties, bear the same official designation and keep up the same position as their Imperial Service colleagues ?

(c) Are Government aware that the emoluments of these Local Traffic Service men are not sufficient for keeping up their position ?

(d) Is it a fact that there is great discontent among these officers on account of the above facts ?

(e) Is it true that a proposal for abolition of the said "two year" Local Traffic Service and Imperialisation of the said Local Traffic men has long been in the air and under consideration of the Railway Board ?

(f) If the answer to part (e) is in the affirmative, when is the Government going to give practical effect to this proposal ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) The pay of officers of the Local Traffic Service is Rs. 250 rising by Rs. 20 to Rs. 750, which, I believe, is the same as in some of the provincial services. Station Superintendents, Inspectors of Traffic and Station Masters who are recruited by promotion from lower ranks sometimes draw a higher starting pay than Rs. 250.

(b) The Local Traffic Service officers generally perform the same duties as junior officers of Superior Service. On the North Western and East Indian Railways they have the same designation, on the Eastern Bengal Railway the designation is different. It is not incumbent on them to live in any particular style.

(c) No.

(d) to (f). Government believe that some of the Local Traffic Service officers are dissatisfied with their position and prospects and the question of abolishing the Service is under their consideration. They wish to settle it as quickly as they can but it involves intricate questions of the organisation of railway services as a whole and it must, therefore, take some time still to come to a decision.

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney : Sir, will the Honourable Member please state if it is a fact that promoted subordinate officers in the Local Service on many occasions lose money by being promoted and at times receive less than they get in their substantive appointments ? I understand these Local Service officers are definitely worse off than in their substantive appointments.

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : Not to my knowledge, Sir.

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney : Will the Government then be pleased to state whether the continued entertainment of subordinate officers in the Local Service is a means of economising and getting good first class labour at cheap rates and at a far lower cost than the covenanted officials whose very duties they are performing at much lower rates ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : No, Sir.

NOMINATIONS TO THE INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE IN INDIA SINCE 1922.

797. ***Diwan Chaman Lall :** (1) What is the number of Indians so far nominated to the I. C. S. in India since 1922 when the I. C. S. competitive examination was started in this country ?

(2) How many of them are Hindus, Muhammadans, Sikhs, Indian Christians, and Anglo-Indians and what is the nationality of each nominee, that is to say, whether British Indian subject or an Indian State subject ?

(3) In this principle of communal representation what matters are taken into consideration ?

(4) What is the population in India of Anglo-Indians, Indian Christians and Sikhs respectively and how many of each have been so far nominated to the I. C. S. since 1922 ?

(5) Is it true that the Government have reserved this year seven posts to be given by nomination ?

(6) Is it true that the rule hitherto has been to take the said I. C. S. annual nominees from amongst the candidates who had sat in that examination ? Has any departure from it taken place hitherto ? If so, in how many cases out of the total number and why ?

(7) Are Government prepared to observe this year the rule referred to in part (6) ? If not, why not ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar : I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given by me to Sardar Kartar Singh's question No. 608 on the same subject.

DEMobilISATION WITHOUT GRATUITY OR COMPENSATION OF INDIAN TEMPORARY INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE OFFICERS IN 1926.

796. ***Diwan Chaman Lall :** (a) Is it a fact that the Government demobilised about 23 Indian temporary I. M. S. officers in 1926 (about the month of September) and that most of these had served the military for more than ten years (9 to 12 years) ?

(b) How is it that they were retained for such a long time (9 to 12 years) and then were not confirmed (barring those who were above 45) ?

(c) Is it a fact that these officers had taken part in the Great War and other field operations (Waziristan, Mesopotamia, Persia, Kurdistan, Egypt and France) ?

(d) Is it a fact that these demobilised officers were neither given gratuity (at the end of their service because of their serving under A. I. I. 284 of 1922) nor pension nor any recompense nor were provided with any jobs ?

(e) Could the Government give an example of similar treatment to the officers of any other branch of the service ?

Mr. G. M. Young : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the terms of their service, these officers renew their contracts from year to year. No promise of permanent employment is given them ; and permanent commissions in the Indian Medical Service can only be given as vacancies are opened. None of the officers whose contracts were terminated in 1926 was selected for a permanent commission.

(c) Yes, some of them.

(d) These officers were not demobilized : their contracts were merely terminated. None of the concessions mentioned in this part of the question is included in their terms of contract.

(e) I am not aware of any other service in which temporary officers are recruited on yearly contract terms.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : Is it not a fact that while these temporary Indian officers are turned out after long service, new temporary Indian officers are at the same time recruited to take their place ?

Mr. G. M. Young : If my Honourable friend will wait for the next question, he will get an answer to that.

TERMINATION OF CONTRACTS OF TEMPORARY INDIAN OFFICERS OF THE INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE AFT R 9 YEARS SERVICE.

799. ***Diwan Chaman Lall :** (a) Is it a fact that the Government is demobilising every year temporary I. M. S. officers (Indians) who have completed 9 years and is recruiting Indians in their place ? Why are these officers being demobilised and new ones taken in their place ?

(b) How is it that these officers are fit to be retained in the military for 9 years but unfit to be taken into the permanent cadre of the service ?

Mr. G. M. Young : (a) As I explained in the statement which I made in this House on the 29th August, instructions are in force under which the contracts of temporary Indian officers of the I. M. S. are terminated when they complete 9 years' service. I also explained on that occasion that this question would be re-examined.

(b) Generally speaking, the efficiency and qualifications required of a temporary officer are considerably lower than those required of a permanent commissioned officer.

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney : Sir, are the duties performed by these temporary and permanent commissioned officers alike ?

Mr. G. M. Young : Yes, Sir.

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney : Then why retain presumably inefficient officers ?

Mr. G. M. Young : We retain them in their own interests. We had to recruit them at a time when we could not get others. It would be hard on them to get rid of them merely because they are less efficient than the officers whom we can now obtain.

SCALES OF PAY OF TEMPORARY INDIAN AND BRITISH I. M. S. OFFICERS.

800. ***Diwan Chaman Lall :** (a) Are Government aware that the Indian temporary I. M. S. officers are on different scales of pay from those British temporary I. M. S. officers who get the same pay and allowances as European regular I. M. S. officers (on promotion to captaincy) ? If the answer be in the affirmative would the Government throw some light why there is such a differentiation between the two ?

(b) Is it a fact that temporary I. M. S. officers (Indians) start with Rs. 500 as Lieutenants (Europeans on Rs. 700 as Lieut.) (A. I. I. Appendix 284 of 1922) and on promotion to captaincy draw Rs. 650 after which their pay becomes stationary even if they remain in service for 9 years or more ?

(c) Is it a fact that the European temporary I. M. S. officer starts with Rs. 700 as Lieutenant and on promotion to captaincy draws the same pay as regular European I. M. S. officers ?

(d) Is it a fact that there is only one European temporary I. M. S. officer and that for him alone even Government have got a different scale of pay and allowance ?

Rank.	Oversea allowance.			Service.
	Basic pay.	If drawn in sterling.	If drawn in Rs.	
Lieutenant	800	Nil.	140	1
			150	2
			150	3
Captain during first three years	650	..	150	4
			155	5
			160	6
With more than three less than six	750	255	280	7
			285	8
			290	9
With more than six as a captain	850	265	290	10
			295	11
			300	12

A. I. I. 401 of 1925.

Mr. G. M. Young : (a) The answer is in the negative. There is only one class of temporary I. M. S. officers, which is the class recruited on annually renewable contracts. This class is open to Europeans as well as Indians, and some British temporary officers have been appointed in the past.

(b) The answer is in the affirmative, except that there is no difference between the pay of European and Indian temporary officers recruited on these terms.

(c) No, Sir ; the European temporary I. M. S. officers draw exactly the same scale of pay and allowances as temporary Indian I. M. S. officers under the same contract.

(d) I believe there is no European temporary officer now left who was recruited on the annual contract terms. There is one European officer who was recruited by the Secretary of State on special terms in 1920. He will be demobilised in about February 1928.

Sir Hari Singh Gour : In view of the fact that Government are recruiting temporary I. M. S. officers on short period contracts giving them as much as Rs. 36,000 a year, have the Government considered the scale of pay paid by the other Colonies, shipping companies, like the P. and O. and the British Indian Steam Navigation Company, and the tea companies who employ European qualified officers on much smaller salaries ?

Mr. G. M. Young : I must ask for notice of that question.

RATE AT WHICH OVERSEAS ALLOWANCE AND SOME OTHER STAFF ALLOWANCES ARE CONVERTIBLE INTO STERLING.

801. ***Diwan Chaman Lall** : How is it that the overseas allowance and some other staff allowances are convertible into sterling at the rate of Rs. 10 to a £ while the official rate is different ?

Mr. G. M. Young : Overseas pay is convertible into sterling at the rate of Rs. 10 to the £, as recommended by the Lee Commission. So far as I am aware, no other allowances are converted at this rate.

OUTFIT ALLOWANCE OF TEMPORARY I. M. S. OFFICERS.

802. ***Diwan Chaman Lall** : Is it a fact that Indians when granted temporary commissions in the I. M. S. are given Rs. 600 as outfit allowance and that Europeans (temporary included) got or get 50£ which was equivalent to Rs. 750 before and Rs. 675 now ? Why is there such a differentiation ?

Mr. G. M. Young : Temporary commissioned officers of the I. M. S. are given Rs. 600 as outfit allowance. Any European officer engaged on these temporary terms gets the same amount of outfit allowance.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I take it that the European recruit to the temporary service does not get £50 ?

Mr. G. M. Young : Not the temporary officer. As I have already explained, we have none of these European temporary officers left.

STATUS OF A TEMPORARY OFFICER IN THE I. M. S. IN RELATION TO A PERMANENT OFFICER OF THE SAME RANK.

803. ***Diwan Chaman Lall** : Is it a fact that a regular I. M. S. officer is always senior to a temporary I. M. S. officer when holding the same rank though the temporary I. M. S. officer has got much more service, say, for example, a temporary I. M. S. Captain with 6 to 8 years' service (3 to 5 years as Captain) is junior to a regular the day he gets his captaincy (which he does after 3 years as Lieutenant). Why is it so ?

Mr. G. M. Young : Yes, Sir, this is in accordance with Regulations. A temporary officer's status is not equal to that of a permanent officer of the same rank.

STRENGTH OF THE I. M. S. ON THE 1ST APRIL 1927.

804. ***Diwan Chaman Lall** : Will the Government state whether the strength of the I. M. S. on 1st April 1927 (as given in Army List) was as follows (if incorrect could the Government give me the correct figures) ?

Total permanent I. M. S. officers	..	..	620
Permanent I. M. S. officers employed in civil	..	..	378
Permanent I. M. S. officers employed in military	..	..	242
Temporary I. M. S. officers employed in military	..	..	137

Mr. G. M. Young : The figures quoted by the Honourable Member may be taken as approximately correct.

GRANT TO INDIANS OF PERMANENT COMMISSIONS IN THE INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE.

805. *Diwan Chaman Lall : (a) Could the Government state the number of permanent commissions granted in the Indian Medical Service in the last 5 years :

- (1) to Indians with Indian qualifications,
- (2) to Indians with European qualifications ?

(b) How is it that so many Indians are being taken into the temporary cadre and why cannot the Government fill the vacancies by giving more permanent commissions to Indians instead of demobilising old temporary I. M. S. officers and recruiting new ones in their place ?

(c) Is it a fact that so few commissions in the I. M. S. are given to Indians with Indian qualifications while they constitute nearly $\frac{1}{3}$ ths of the temporary cadre ? If so, what is the reason ?

(d) If the Indians with Indian qualifications are considered below standard why are they retained for 9 years (the limit up to which temporary officers can serve) ?

(e) Is it not a fact that these temporary I. M. S. officers are reported on yearly (confidential reports) by the various commanding officers as to their fitness to hold King's commissions and for retention in service ? If such is the case how do these officers become useless to the military after 9 years ?

Mr. G. M. Young : (a) (1) 12.

(2) 15.

(b) Under the orders of the Secretary of State, recruitment for the permanent cadre must be in the proportion of one Indian to two Europeans ; consequently the grant of permanent commissions to Indians is limited by the rate of European recruitment in England. That is the reason why the system of temporary contracts has to be continued.

(c) The proportion of Indians, with Indian qualifications only, appointed to permanent commissions in the I. M. S. during the last five years, is, as appears from the answer given to part (a) of this question, 44 per cent. Generally speaking, from the professional point of view, medical qualifications obtainable in the United Kingdom are rated higher than those obtainable in India.

(d) I have already replied to this in my answer to parts (a) and (b) of question No. 799.

(e) Annual confidential reports are submitted on these officers as on all other officers in the army. Those who are favourably reported on have always had their contracts renewed annually, up to the 9 years at any rate. Those who are unfavourably reported on have sometimes had their contracts renewed in spite of that fact.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I ask the Honourable Member why Government will not restart the competitive examination for the I. M. S. ?

Mr. G. M. Young : I must ask for notice of that.

That is a very big question.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : Is it a fact that Government have made no distinction between officers against whom there were unfavourable reports and officers in whose favour there were good reports when they turned out the Indian temporary officers ?

Mr. G. M. Young : I presume my Honourable friend is referring to officers whose contracts were terminated at the end of 9 years' service ?

Mr. K. C. Neogy : Yes.

Mr. G. M. Young : They all went except those who were selected for permanent commissions.

SHORT SERVICE COMMISSIONS FOR EUROPEANS IN THE INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE.

806. ***Diwan Chaman Lall :** (a) Is it a fact that the Government advertised short service commissions for Europeans in the I. M. S. Department on the basis of 5 and 12 years service ?

If so could the Government lay on the table a statement showing separately

(i) number of Europeans granted short service commissions for 5 years ?

(ii) number of Europeans granted short service commissions for 12 years ?

(b) Is it a fact that these Europeans who are (or had to be) granted short service commissions in the I. M. S. are (or were) to be treated just like regular I. M. S. European officers as far as pay and allowances are concerned ?

(c) Is it a fact that on completion of 5 years and 12 years service (in case they like or liked to be demobilised) they are given (or were offered) gratuities of £1,000 and £2,400 respectively, i.e., £200 per annum ?

(d) How is it that Europeans granted short service commissions in the I. M. S. could be given such a handsome gratuity while the temporary Indian I. M. S. officers who have served and usually serve the military for 9 years or more do not get any gratuity ?

(e) Is it a fact that the short service commissioned (European) officers in the I. M. S. get the same privileges as far as leave (privilege, furlough and study leave) is concerned as the permanent ones ?

(f) If such be the case why are not the same privileges extended to Indian temporary I. M. S. officers ?

Mr. G. M. Young : (a) and (b). My Honourable friend is clearly alluding to the special recruitment terms offered to permanent candidates for the I. M. S. These officers are permanent commissioned officers, and are selected on exactly the same terms and qualifications as permanent officers in the past, but have in addition the option of retiring on a gratuity at the end of 6 or 12 years, instead of serving on for pension. I find that this option of retiring after 6 or 12 years with a gratuity is exercisable by Indians appointed to the permanent service equally with Europeans under the most recent terms of recruitment, i.e., those of 1926. The gratuity terms of 1922-23 were not extended to Indians.

The number of European officers who may retire after 5 years, i.e., under the terms of 1922-23, is 41 ; and the number of those who may retire after 6 or 12 years so far is 23.

(c) Yes, except that the figures are £1,000 after 6 years' service and £2,500 after 12 years' service.

(d) It is a question of the terms of contract. Officers who serve with temporary commissions renewable at their option from year to year are not offered gratuity or pension. Officers who serve with permanent commissions are offered gratuity if they do not serve on for pension.

(e) As I have already stated, the officers recruited on these special recruitment terms are permanent officers, and they receive exactly the same terms and conditions of service as permanent officers.

(f) I think I have now sufficiently explained, Sir, the difference in the conditions of service and qualifications between officers recruited on annual contracts and those recruited to the permanent service.

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney : Will the Honourable Member state why Government refuse the same gratuity to the temporary recruited officer even after such a long period of service of 9 years ? Do Government consider this fair and equitable when compared with the generous gratuity given to I. M. S. officers recruited in England ?

Mr. G. M. Young : I did not catch the second question that my Honourable friend put. The reply to the first question is that gratuity is not included in the terms of the contract accepted by these officers, and that one of them has even asked for it.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I ask the Honourable Member whether it is not for the Government to see that there is no discrimination in this matter ?

Mr. G. M. Young : If my Honourable friend means racial discrimination, there is none.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I ask the Honourable Member whether it is not a fact that gratuity is given to European temporary officers recruited in England and not to Indian temporary recruited officers ?

Mr. G. M. Young : European officers granted permanent commissions in the I. M. S. have now the option of retiring with gratuity instead of serving on for pension, and Indian officers have exactly the same option.

SCALES OF PAY OF TEMPORARY BRITISH AND INDIAN OFFICERS OF THE INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE.

807. **Diwan Chaman Lall :** (a) Is it a fact that temporary Indian I. M. S. officers are on a different scale of pay from those of temporary British I. M. S. officers (whose services are renewed yearly). If so, why ?

(b) Is it a fact that British temporary I. M. S. officers get the same pay and three yearly increment as the permanent I. M. S. officers ? If so, why is this not the case with temporary Indian I. M. S. officers ?

Mr. G. M. Young : (a) The answer is in the negative.

(b) The answer to the first part of this question is in the negative. The second part does not, therefore, arise.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I ask the Honourable Member to give us a clear indication as to whether it is not a fact that temporary Indian I. M. S. officers are on a different scale of pay from temporary British I. M. S. officers whose services are renewed from year to year ?

Mr. G. M. Young : I have already explained in my answer to a previous question that there are no temporary British I. M. S. officers left on these annual contract terms. There is one whose terms are special to himself. He was recruited by the Secretary of State in 1920 and is now serving in Iraq. He will be demobilised next February.

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney : Is that officer in Iraq, who was engaged as a temporary officer in the I. M. S., drawing the same salary as a permanent British recruited I. M. S. officer ? Has he or has he not applied for his gratuity and is not that application to-day before the Government ?

Mr. G. M. Young : I believe all those facts are correct.

OFFER OF SHORT SERVICE COMMISSIONS TO INDIANS IN THE INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE

808. ***Diwan Chaman Lall :** Is it a fact that the Government of India have granted short service commissions in the I. M. S. for periods of six or twelve years to Britishers ? If so, why are such short service commissions not offered to Indians ?

Mr. G. M. Young : I have given the answer to this question in my answers to the previous questions.

APPLICATION OF THE ORDERS REGARDING EXAMINATION AND STUDY LEAVE TO ENGLAND AND FREE PASSAGES, ETC., TO TEMPORARY OFFICERS OF THE INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE.

809. ***Diwan Chaman Lall :** Will the orders, regarding the examination and study leave to England, and free passage, etc., recently issued by the Secretary of State and which re-appeared in the *Tribune* of 23rd April 1927, page 5, apply to temporary I.M.S. officers ; if not, why ?

Mr. G. M. Young : No, because the conditions of service accepted by temporary officers on annual contracts do not include these concessions. It is not considered desirable to offer these concessions to officers who have the option of terminating their contracts every year.

REPLACEMENT OF A PROPORTION OF THE BRITISH MILITARY STAFF OF STORE-HOLDERS BY CIVILIAN STAFF.

810. ***Diwan Chaman Lall :** (a) Will the Government please state as to what has so far been done to confirm the scheme of civilianization of the I. A. O. C., introduced in 1924 in accordance with the Inchcape Committee's recommendations and by which 20 candidates were entertained as Assistant Storeholders on probation for one year, subsequently extended to two years and which period expired on 31st October 1926 ?

(b) If nothing has yet been decided, will the Government please state the reasons which have been the cause of delay in arriving at a definite decision ?

(c) Do the Government intend to drop this scheme and substitute for it the scheme of " Godown Keepers " at present under trial in Ferozepore and Kirkee Arsenal in accordance with the Sturrock Committee's recommendations and if so, will the Government please state as to how far it will be a step towards the civilianization of the Corps and whether or not these " Godown Keepers " will be employed in the same capacity and on similar terms as the British military staff is at present employed ?

(d) If answer to the latter part of (c) is in the negative will the Government please state how do they intend to carry out the Incheape Committee's recommendations, *vis.*, the civilianization of the various departments under the Army Department, especially the I. A. O. C. ?

(e) If the answer to the first part of (c) is in the affirmative and to the latter part in the negative, will the Government please state what appointments, if any, do they intend to offer candidates who would become unemployed on account of the withdrawal of this scheme, and have in several cases become over age for entry into any other Government service ?

Mr. G. M. Young : (a) I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the reply I gave in this House to starred question No. 476 on February 18th, 1927.

(b) and (c). It has been decided to continue the scheme, but Government are considering modifications in the method of recruitment so as to secure candidates of a better educated class by suitable terms of pay, promotion and pension. The scheme has no connection with the scheme of " Godown Keepers " recommended by the Sturrock Committee. The proposals to which this answer refers aim at the replacement of a proportion of the British military staff of Storeholders by civilian staff. The proposals of the Sturrock Committee are intended to improve the existing class of Indian " Storemen " or " Godown Keepers ". Civilian " Storeholders " will be employed in the same capacity, though not precisely on the same terms, as military " Storeholders ".

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The scheme is not being withdrawn, but candidates who are not up to the requisite standard of " Storeholders " will, if they are suitable, be offered employment in the clerical cadres of the Indian Army Ordnance Corps.

WITHHOLDING OF THE PAYMENT OF GRATUITY TO INDER SAIN, A CIVILIAN OVERSEER RETRENCHED FROM THE MILITARY GRASS FARM, 4TH CIRCLE. QUETTA.

811. ***Diwan Ohaman Lall :** (a) Is it a fact that a certain civilian Indian overseer, Inder Sain, was retrenched from the Military Grass Farm, 4th Circle, Quetta, in September 1924 ?

(b) Is it a fact that many persons junior to said Inder Sain were allowed to remain in service ? Was there anything special against him

which impelled the Government to mark him out for dispensing with his services ?

(c) Is it a fact that he was promised the payment of the gratuity for his temporary service from 1st April 1907 to 20th August 1915 only if his services for this period were verified according to rules ?

(d) Is it not a fact that his services were verified according to the rules and the verification was considered correct by the authorities ?

(e) Is it a fact that despite the admission of this correct verification, the payment of the gratuity for his temporary service has been withheld without assigning any reason ?

(f) Is it a fact that despite his repeated demands for the reasons that obliged the authorities to withhold his gratuity, he has not been supplied with them ?

(g) Will the Government now lay on the table the correspondence that took place between the A. C. G. F., 4th Circle, Quetta, and the Director of Military Grass Farms, Simla, regarding the withholding of the payment of gratuity to the said Inder Sain for his temporary services ?

(h) Are Government prepared to consider the advisability of cancelling orders dispensing with his services and in any case of reconsidering their decision of withholding the payment of gratuity ?

Mr. G. M. Young : (a) Yes.

(b) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative. As to the second part, the clerk was selected for retrenchment because he was held to be one of the most inefficient in the department.

(c) No, Sir, no promise was made. He was told that if his temporary service was approved, and his claim established the gratuity would be paid. Civilian Indian overseers were allowed under the rules to count for gratuity all services rendered by them in the Military Grass Farms subject to the proviso that the concession was not claimable as a right, but depended upon whether their services were reported as satisfactory or not.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f). No, Sir. The reason was that the officers' services were not considered satisfactory : and he was so informed.

(g) and (h). The answer is in the negative.

INCLUSION OF THE EXPENDITURE ON ELECTRICAL AND SANITARY INSTALLATIONS IN THE CAPITAL COST OF RESIDENTIAL QUARTERS FOR GOVERNMENT SERVANTS.

812. ***Diwan Chaman Lall :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if the expenditure incurred on electric installations and sanitary installations is included in the capital cost of residential quarters for Government servants ?

(b) If so, whether rents are calculated on the capital cost of the building, less installation charges ?

(c) If the answer at (a) is in the affirmative are the Government aware that an extra installation tax is being levied on a certain class of Government officials whose condition of service entitle them to furnished rent free quarters? What is the reason for this?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to state if all classes of Government servants receive equal treatment in so far as residential quarters are provided and is it a fact that a certain class of Government servants are exempt from payment of rental on capital cost on account of sanitary and electric installation?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : (a) and (b). Under the provisions of paragraphs 328-330 of the Public Works Department Code, and Rule 45 of the Fundamental Rules, as it stood before the recent revision, the expenditure on electric and sanitary installations was not included in the capital cost of Government residential buildings, and the tenants (unless specially exempted by the Local Government in particular cases) had to pay adequate rent on the outlay incurred on such installations, in addition to the rent payable for the residences.

In accordance, however, with the revised Fundamental Rule 45 to which the Secretary of State's sanction was received a few days ago, the expenditure incurred on electric and sanitary installations is :

- (i) included in the capital cost of Government residences occupied by officers of All-India and Central Services, who are entitled to the benefit of the rent concessions sanctioned on the recommendation of the Lec Commission, and
- (ii) excluded from the capital cost of Government residences occupied by other officers.

In the former cases, rents have to be calculated on the total capital cost of the residences, including the installations referred to, and are subject to the maximum limit of 6 per cent. per annum of such capital cost. In the latter cases, rents have to be calculated separately on the outlay incurred on the special services, and are payable in addition to the rents of the residences.

(c) Government do not recognise the necessity for providing these special services in all Government residences. Under paragraph 328 of the Public Works Department Code, Local Governments were authorised to sanction the provision of sanitary and electric installations in Government buildings (including those occupied by Government servants entitled to residences free of ordinary rent) provided that there was no doubt that the full prescribed rent on the outlay incurred on such installations could be continuously recovered. Local Governments were, however, empowered to sanction the entire or partial remission of rent for these extra services in very special circumstances.

The revised Fundamental Rule 45 now sanctioned by the Secretary of State also provides that Local Governments may make rules authorising, in very special circumstances and for reasons which should be recorded, the remission or reduction of the rents for the special services in residences occupied by those Government servants who are ordinarily required to pay such rents in full, in addition to the rents of the residences.

POLICY OF GOVERNMENT IN REGARD TO THE INDIANISATION OF THE IMPERIAL SECRETARIAT SERVICE.

813. ***Diwan Chaman Lall** : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state their policy regarding the Indianisation of the Imperial Secretariat Service ?

(b) Are the Government aware that in certain departments of the Government of India there is still a growing tendency to appoint Europeans or Anglo-Indians in the grades of Assistants, Superintendents and Assistant Secretaries in preference to Indians in spite of the latter being senior in service ?

(c) If the reply to (b) above be in the affirmative, what steps do Government propose to take in the matter ? If the reply is in the negative, are Government prepared to enquire into the grievances of the men affected ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar : (a) No question arises of a policy of Indianisation so far as the Imperial Secretariat Service is concerned, because the Service is already composed almost entirely of Indians and statutory natives of India.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No such grievance has been brought to my notice.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : Is it a fact that a practice has recently been started under which Anglo-Indian clerks when newly appointed are posted above the lowest grade ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar : I am not aware of any such practice.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : Will the Honourable Member inquire ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar : I should be perfectly willing to inquire if any specific grievance of that character were brought to my notice.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : Will the Honourable Member kindly look at the proceedings of this House of the last winter Session ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar : As I have already said, I am prepared to inquire into any specific grievance, but no case has come to my notice.

PROMOTION OF UNPASSED MEN TO THE UPPER DIVISION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA SECRETARIAT.

814. ***Diwan Chaman Lall** : (a) Is it a fact that in some offices of the Government of India men are promoted from a lower to the Upper Division subject to passing the requisite test, while in other offices men who have passed the Upper Division test are awaiting their chances of promotion from year to year ?

(b) If the reply to (a) above be in the affirmative are the Government prepared to take steps to arrange for the *inter transfers* of men between different departments of the Government of India Secretariat ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar : (a) It is no doubt the fact that promotion, which depends on actual vacancies, is more rapid in some

offices than in others at particular times, but cases in which men are conditionally promoted in anticipation of passing the test must be rare.

(b) It is open to a clerk who is dissatisfied with his position in his own department to apply for employment for which he is qualified in another department. Government do not propose to take any further steps in the matter.

*
GRANT OF COMPENSATORY ALLOWANCES TO OFFICIALS OF THE POST OFFICE
EMPLOYED IN UNHEALTHY LOCALITIES IN THE MADRAS CIRCLE.

815. ***Diwan Chaman Lall** : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that the rates of compensatory allowances sanctioned for postal officials of the clerical cadre in the specially unhealthy localities of Wynnads and the Annamalais in the Madras Circle are the same as those sanctioned for such officials stationed in the healthy localities on the Nilgiris ?

(b) Are Government aware that the Madras Government have sanctioned higher rates of compensatory allowances for their subordinates stationed in the unhealthy localities than those paid for the Post Office officials ?

(c) Are the Government prepared to sanction compensatory allowances to Post Office officials in unhealthy localities on a par with the Local Government rates ? If so, when ? If not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : (a), (b) and (c). The Honourable Member is referred to the replies given on the 25th August, last to parts (a), (b) and (c) of Mr. Abdul Latif Saheb Farookhi's question No. 456.

NUMBER OF OFFICIALS ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY THE 50 PER CENT. LIMIT
AMONG THE RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE SORTERS, ETC.

816. ***Diwan Chaman Lall** : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of officials affected adversely by the 50 per cent. limit :

- (1) division by division among the Railway Mail Service sorters,
- (2) among the Dead Letter Office clerks,
- (3) among sorters of the Calcutta Railway Mail Service.

and

- (4) among postal clerks stationed in the Bombay city ?

(b) Is it a fact that the percentage of sorters in the Railway Mail Service, and clerks of the Dead Letter Offices and the Calcutta Railway Mail Service adversely affected by the 50 per cent. limit is higher than in the Post Office ?

(c) Is it not a fact that there was a general revision of pay of Post Office clerks in February 1920 ?

(d) Is it not a fact that for want of a similar revision of pay in the Railway Mail Service and Dead Letter Offices, the average pay of sorters and clerks was much lower than that of the clerks in the Post Office ?

(e) Will the Government be pleased to state whether for the above cause a large percentage of men were adversely affected by the 50 per cent. limit in the Railway Mail Service and Dead Letter Offices ?

(f) Do the Government propose to consider the question of relaxing the 50 per cent. limit in the case of the Railway Mail Service, the Calcutta Railway Mail Service and the Dead Letter Offices ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : (a) and (b). The Government of India do not possess the information, nor do they propose to call for it, as its compilation from the old records of a large number of offices would entail an expenditure of labour and money wholly incommensurate with the public advantage to be gained therefrom. The Honourable Member is no doubt aware that the 50 per cent. limit referred to by him was applied in connection with a scheme of revision of pay which was introduced in 1920 with effect from 1st December, 1919.

(c) Yes.

(d) The answer is in the negative. According to the tables given in the Report of the Postal Committee of 1920, the average monthly pay of Railway Mail Service sorters and Dead Letter Office clerks, on Rs. 100 and less, in 1920 was about Rs. 47 and Rs. 49 respectively against Rs. 49 for postal clerks of the same category after the revision referred to in (c). There was a revision of pay of Railway Mail Service sorters in 1919.

(e) Government have no precise information on the point whether a larger percentage of men in the Railway Mail Service and Dead Letter Office were adversely affected than in the rest of the Post Office by the operation of the 50 per cent. limit applied in connection with the scheme of revision of pay on the time-scale basis sanctioned in 1920. But even if the fact is as stated by the Honourable Member, it is obvious from the answer to (d) that the reason is not as has been assumed by him.

(f) The answer is in the negative.

LEAVE OF INFERIOR SERVANTS OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT.

817. ***Diwan Chaman Lall :** (a) Is it a fact that under the Fundamental Rules introduced by the Secretary of State for India with effect from the 1st January 1922, servants of the Central Government in inferior service were entitled to the same leave concessions as those in the superior service ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Government of India in the year 1923 restricted this concession on grounds of expenditure in such a way that extra expenditure to the State should not be more than half the minimum pay of the appointment the absentee holds ?

(c) Is it a fact that even the restricted concession was subject to the discretion of the authority sanctioning the leave ?

LEAVE OF INFERIOR SERVANTS OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT.

818. ***Diwan Chaman Lall :** Will the Government be pleased to state if they have framed any rules according to which the sanctioning

authority is to sanction leave allowances to inferior servants availing themselves of leave ?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : I propose to reply to the Honourable Member's questions Nos. 817 and 818 together.

The Honourable Member is not quite right in saying that under the Fundamental Rules servants of the Central Government in inferior service are entitled to the same leave concessions as those in the superior service. Fundamental Rule 2 confers powers on the Government of India to make rules subject to certain restrictions, modifying or replacing any of the fundamental rules, in relation to services under their administrative control other than all-India Services. Having regard to the nature of the duties performed by Government servants in the inferior grades as compared with those performed by the superior services, the Government of India, in exercise of their power under Fundamental Rule 2, have sanctioned less liberal leave terms for their inferior servants.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Is it not a fact that the inferior services perform more arduous work than the superior services ?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : Sir, I know my own work is arduous. I do not know about theirs.

COUNTING FOR INCREMENTS OF PERIODS OF SERVICE SPENT ON LEAVE WITHOUT PAY.

819. ***Diwan Chaman Lall :** (a) Is it a fact that periods of service spent on leave without pay do not count for increments ?

(b) Does this apply to inferior servants ?

(c) Has the Auditor General ruled that even though inferior servants do not get allowances while on leave the nomenclature of the leave should be according to the kind of leave they are eligible for ?

(d) Has the ruling of the Auditor General been acted upon by the authorities sanctioning leave and permitting increments ?

(e) Is it a fact that the Deputy Accountant-General of Posts and Telegraphs, Madras, remarked in his inspection for 1925 that the ruling of the Auditor General has not been acted upon ?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : (a) No, but under Fundamental Rule 26 extraordinary leave, that is to say, leave without pay granted when other leave is not due does not ordinarily count for increments.

(b) and (c). The answer is in the affirmative.

(d) The Government have no information to the contrary.

(e) Enquiry will be made in regard to part (e).

EXPENDITURE ON NEW OFFICES, BARRACKS AND HOUSES FOR THE ARMY.

820. ***Diwan Chaman Lall :** Will the Government be pleased to state the amount of money spent by the Army Headquarters since 1920 on new offices, barracks and houses for the Army ?

(b) Was this money spent in the ordinary course of normal wear and tear of buildings or for any other purpose ?

Mr. G. M. Young : (a) The total amount spent by the Military Engineering Services from 1920 to 1926 was about 28 crores. The figures for 1926-27 are not yet available.

(b) The money was spent on the erection, repair, reconstruction and improvement of military buildings of all kinds, on electrification and water supplies and on the provision of better roads and bridges. It has not been possible in the time at my disposal to separate this total from the expenditure on the particular items mentioned by the Honourable Member, nor am I quite sure what information exactly he requires. If he would kindly give me further particulars, I will endeavour to answer his question more fully.

NUMBER OF HINDUS AND MUHAMMADANS EMPLOYED IN THE LOWER CLERICAL GRADE OF THE PUNJAB POSTAL DEPARTMENT SINCE THE 1ST MARCH, 1927.

821. ***Diwan Chaman Lall :** With reference to the reply given to starred question No. 972 on 16th March 1927, will the Government be pleased to state the number of Hindus and Muhammadans enrolled in the service of the Punjab Postal Department since 1st March 1927 in the lower clerical grades ? And what are their academical qualifications ?

Mr. H. A. Sams : The information is being collected and will be furnished to the Honourable Member in due course.

PURCHASE OF STORES.

822. ***Diwan Chaman Lall :** With reference to the answer given on 13th June 1927 to my starred question No. 414, dated the 15th February 1927, re purchase of stores, will the Government be pleased to state the full particulars of the 13 cases and the amounts involved in respect to the cases mentioned in the reply ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : A statement giving the information is being supplied to the Honourable Member.

HOUSE RENT ALLOWANCE OF TELEGRAPH PEONS IN NEW DELHI.

823. ***Diwan Chaman Lall :** Is it a fact that the telegraph peons at New Delhi are paid Rs. 2 per mensem as house rent since their arrival at Raisina, while the sanctioned rate is Rs. 2 to Rs. 8-8-0 per mensem ? If so, why, when the accommodation is inadequate ?

Mr. H. A. Sams : No. The sanctioned rate of house rent allowance for all telegraph peons in Delhi and New Delhi is Rs. 2 a month.

RE-EMPLOYMENT OF STRIKERS BY THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

824. ***Diwan Chaman Lall :** (a) Are Government aware that since the North Western Railway strike of 1925, in spite of the promise held out by the Agent, North Western Railway, that the strikers will be provided for, no sooner vacancies occur, the strikers in spite of repeatedly applying for jobs have been refused the same on the plea that their services are not required even though the vacancies for which they applied did exist and were filled by either new men or by promoting junior hands ?

(b) Are Government also aware that a good number of senior drivers who went on strike are still out of work and their posts have been filled by promoting shunters as drivers. If so, do Government propose to ask the Agent, North Western Railway, to fulfill his words regarding the appointment of strikers in preference to outsiders and by stopping promotions to junior hands and issue clear instructions to Divisional officers to carry out his instructions strictly ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) No promise in these terms was ever given by the Agent, North Western Railway, but in filling vacancies he is giving consideration to men who lost their posts in the strike and who have applied for re-employment. The Agent must, however, naturally exercise his discretion in individual cases.

(b) No case has yet come to the Agent's notice in which in filling vacancies new men have been taken on in preference to ex-strikers who were good and efficient employees and who applied for appointment.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Do I take it, Sir, that it is the policy of the Railway Board to give re-employment to those strikers if they happen to be efficient ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : So far as the North Western Railway is concerned, I can say that the action of the Agent is in accordance with the policy of the Railway Board.

LONG HOURS OF WORK OF THE CARRIAGE AND WAGON STAFF AT LYALLPUR AND SOME OTHER STATIONS OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

825. ***Diwan Chaman Lall :** Are Government aware that the Carriage and Wagon staff at Lyallpur and some other stations of the North Western Railway is still performing 12 hours continuous duty against the conventions of the Geneva Conference accepted by the Government of India ? Do Government propose to see that the staff on the North Western Railway is not made to work more than 8 hours a day as per convention of the Geneva Conference ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given to an identical question asked by Khan Bahadur W. M. Hussanally on the 24th of August 1926, and with regard to the action taken for the purpose of the Geneva Convention to the reply given to Mr. Joshi's question No. 150, on the 23rd August 1927.

DATE OF THE COMING INTO FORCE OF THE INDIAN TRADE UNIONS ACT.

826. ***Diwan Chaman Lall :** Since the assent has been given by His Excellency the Viceroy to the Trade Unions Act, will the Government let the House know why its operation is being delayed and when do the Government propose to bring it into operation ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : The Indian Trade Unions Act came into force on the 1st June 1927.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I ask the Honourable Member whether he is aware that when applications are made in certain provinces for the registration of unions the office says they have no documents or forms with which to register these unions ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : I am not aware of that. If that was my Honourable friend's point and he had put down that question on paper, I would by this time have made inquiries on the subject.

GRIEVANCES OF THE EUROPEAN GUARDS OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY STATIONED AT RAWALPINDI.

827. *Diwan Chaman Lall : Are Government aware that the European guards at Rawalpindi submitted a memorial to the Agent, North Western Railway, which has not been attended to as yet ? When will the Agent, North Western Railway, go into the grievances of the memorialists ? Is it a fact that Mr. Barlow, guard, Rawalpindi, was transferred from Rawalpindi because he was considered to be the ringleader of the Rawalpindi guards in this case ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : A memorial has been received and acknowledged by the Agent, North Western Railway, and the grievances are receiving attention. The reply to the last portion of the question is in the negative.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I take it, Sir, that it is not correct that Mr. Barlow, guard, was transferred from Rawalpindi because he was considered a ringleader in the strike ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : I said the reply was in the negative.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Do I take it, the Railway Board are considering the memorial sent up by those European guards ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : So far as I am aware, we have not yet been consulted ; I shall have to ask for notice. I am not at all sure that the alleged grievances are not such as can be remedied by the Agent himself.

GRANT OF GRATUITIES BY THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY TO STRIKERS WHO OFFERED FOR DUTY AND WERE NOT RE-EMPLOYED.

828. *Diwan Chaman Lall : Are Government aware that the North Western Railway strikers offered for duty and many of them were not taken back for want of vacancies and were discharged from service ; that such strikers who are under 15 years of service have been refused gratuity while the gratuity rules provide that it will be paid to men who are not wanted by the Railway ? Do Government intend to consider the question of paying gratuity to such employees as it was paid during retrenchment ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply given to the question No. 219, dated the 27th August 1926 in identical terms asked by Khan Bahadur W. M. Hussanally.

SHADOWING OF MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AND INTERCEPTION AND CENSORSHIP OF THEIR CORRESPONDENCES.

829. *Diwan Chaman Lall : (1) Will the Government be pleased to state the names of the Honourable Members of the Legislative Assembly whose (a) correspondence is in some cases or in all cases opened and

read under instructions of the C. I. D. before delivery, (b) whose movements always from time to time are watched under the instructions of the C. I. D. ?

(2) Will Government kindly obtain the necessary information from the C. I. D. in regard to these matters ?

(3) Will Government state the grounds for the action taken by the C. I. D. in regard to these matters ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar : I would refer the Honourable Member to the answers on the subject given by my predecessor to his questions of the 25th January 1926 and the 9th June 1924.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I ask the Honourable Member whether he has read those answers ? They are absolutely unsatisfactory and do not give a reply to my question.

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar : I certainly have read the answers and I cannot admit that they were unsatisfactory. I may remind the Honourable Member that my predecessor said that if any Honourable Member suffered any inconvenience of the character referred to in the question he would, on the Honourable Member bringing the facts to his notice, make inquiries in the matter. I myself am quite prepared to do the same.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I ask the Honourable Member whether, in view of the question which I have put down, he has not been in a position to make inquiries already in regard to this matter ?

(No answer.)

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I ask the Honourable Member whether it is not a fact that the correspondence of certain Members of this House is being opened by the C. I. D. ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar : I have no information on that subject.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Will the Honourable Member kindly make inquiries ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar : I think I substantially replied to that question. I said that if any Honourable Member suffering inconvenience of the character referred to will bring the facts personally to my notice I will inquire into the matter.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I ask the Honourable Member whether it is not a fact that my question is whether the Government will make inquiries in regard to this matter and let Honourable Members know, and that it is not a question of Honourable Members placing their grievances before the Government ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar : I am afraid I cannot add to the reply I have already read to the Honourable Member.

APPOINTMENT AND TERMS OF REFERENCE AND PERSONNEL OF THE STATUTORY COMMISSION.

830. ***Diwan Chaman Lall :** Will Government state whether any decision has been arrived at in regard to the time of appointment and the terms of reference and personnel of the Statutory Commission ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar : Governmnet are unable to make any statement on the subject.

Diwan Chaman Lall : With your permission, Sir, I beg to withdraw question No. 831 and will not put it.

TRIAL OF INDIANS IN CHINA FOR POLITICAL OFFENCES.

832. ***Diwan Chaman Lall :** Will Government state the names, numbers and description of Indians tried by the British authorities in China for political offences and the sentence awarded in each case or cases and place the copies of the proceedings in each case or cases on the table ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar : I would refer the Honourable Member to the answer that I gave on the 22nd August last to Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh. The names of those who pleaded guilty and were sentenced are Dasaundha Singh, Gajjan Singh and Gainda Singh. The names of the other two men referred to are not known.

Government do not propose to lay copies of the proceedings on the table.

SUBJECTION TO POLICE SURVEILLANCE OF GAU HAR RAHMAN SINCE HIS RELEASE FROM THE PESHAWAR JAIL.

833. ***Diwan Chaman Lall :** Is it a fact that one Gauhar Rahman was sentenced to two years' rigorous imprisonment in 1923 at Peshawar under section 121-A and was released from the Peshawar Jail on the 3rd January 1925 ? Is it a fact that since his release he is under police surveillance ? If so, why and under whose orders ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar : The answer to the two first parts of the question is in the affirmative. The action was taken by the District authorities on account of his association with local criminals.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I ask the Honourable Member whether he will give us the correct facts about the association of this gentleman with local criminals ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar : I am afraid I cannot add to the reply I have already given.

Diwan Chaman Lall : By local criminals does he mean people sentenced for political offences ?

(No answer.)

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I ask the Honourable Member whether action has been taken against this gentleman under section 110 ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar : I am afraid I must have notice of that question.

INTERMENT OF MOHAMMAD SAFIQ IN AKORA VILLAGE.

834. ***Diwan Chaman Lall :** Is it a fact that the Chief Commissioner, North-West Frontier Province on 28th August 1926 commanded the interment of one Mohammad Safiq in Akora village ? If so, will the Government state (a) the reasons of such an order being passed to take effect on the day following his release from the Jail on expiry of his sentence, (b) the means

of his livelihood in the said village, and (c) why the orders do not indicate the period of internment, and will the Government lay on the table the correspondence on the subject ?

Sir Dany's Bray : Enquiry is being made from the local Administration and a reply will be sent to the Honourable Member in due course.

TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS ON THE NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

835. ***Diwan Chaman Lall :** (a) Is it a fact that the T. T. Examiners who sat in the examination have not been told so far whether they passed the examination or failed ? Is it also a fact that marks were allotted to the questions and, if so, whether the examiners have been informed of the number of the marks obtained by them. If not why ?

(b) Is it a fact that the superseded T. T. Es. who were not appointed as special T. T. Es. on the result of the examination had all failed in the said examination, and was it that only those promoted had passed the examination ?

(c) Will the Government state the reasons why this information should be withheld in the case of T. T. Es. ?

(d) Has the attention of the Government been also drawn to the articles which appeared in the *Railway Weekly Herald*, Lahore, dated 18th and 24th March, 1927, respectively, and in the *Tribune*, dated 13th May, 1927 in which some serious disclosures have been made regarding the administration of I. C. Gs. and T. T. Es. of the North-Western Railway Audit Department and what steps do they propose to take to eradicate the evil and improve the present state of affairs ?

(e), Will Government say whether Nazir Ahmad Khan and Mohamad Hussain, T. T. Es. who were supposed to be headquartered at Rawalpindi in 1923 and at Mooltan 1921 and 1922 respectively, have actually performed their duties from these headquarters or do their travelling allowance bills show that they had been actually working from and taking their rest in Lahore.

(f) If the reply to the above is in the negative will the Government state how many times these men have stayed for more than six hours in a day as per their travelling allowance bills at Rawalpindi and Mooltan in each year to show whether these headquarters were actual or paper ones ?

TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS ON THE NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

836. ***Diwan Chaman Lall :** (a) With reference to the list of names supplied in reply to question No. 1250-A is it a fact that the Europeans, Anglo-Indians and most of the Hindus mentioned therein simply happened to be working the trains carrying Mr. G. Z. Khan, the sectional officer, by a mere coincidence ? If so, will the Government give the names of those T. T. Es. only who were usually with him on tour eliminating those of the above nature and those who were casually utilized for special check within their own district limit ?

(b) Will the Government give the names of the T. T. Es. who accompanied the sectional officer outside their district limit on the pretence of special checking and if these gentlemen are mostly Muhammadans, will Government state the reasons for eliminating Europeans, Anglo-Indians, Parsees, Hindus, and Sikhs, etc. ?

LOSS INCURRED BY GOVERNMENT OWING TO THE VISIT PAID TO LAHORE BY CERTAIN TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS OF THE NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY IN JUNE 1925.

837. *Diwan Chaman Lall : (a) Will the Government place on the table for the information of the House a statement giving names of the T. T. Es. and I. C. Gs. stationed outside of Lahore who came to Lahore and were present there on 5th, 6th and 7th June, 1925 and the purport of their visits as recorded on their travelling allowance bills ?

(b) Is it a fact that the T. T. Es. coming to Lahore on official business are issued certificates of office attendance with the business files No. recorded thereon and whether these certificates are required to be submitted with the travelling allowance bills to enable the allowance being passed ? If so, were the T. T. Es. stationed outside of Lahore and present in Lahore on 5th, 6th and 7th June, 1925 issued any certificates of office attendance ? If not, how was their travelling allowance passed for these dates ?

(c) Is it a fact that the T. T. Es. and I. C. Gs. are not supposed to depart from their programmes and forecasts with good reasons in the interest of the Railway, and if so, were these men who left their districts to reach Lahore called by official telegrams or did they come of their own accord ? In the latter case what reasons were given by them for departing from their allotted duties and what other action was taken against them ? Were they allowed to draw their allowances in the absence of certificates referred to in the question above ?

(d) Is it a fact that staff coming from outside the station for the party on the 5th, 6th June, 1925 also remained behind on 7th June, 1925 for the photo group and were allowed to draw their allowances for doing no official work when the office was closed on Sunday, the 7th June, 1925 ?

(e) Will Government state how many T. T. Es. received their card passes stationery, and excess fare books on Sunday, the 7th June, 1925 as per office record ?

(f) Is it a fact that a special man was appointed in the T. T. Es.' Branch to distribute the stationery forms, etc., and there was a rule to the effect that no member of the staff should come to Lahore for receiving these things and average mileage allowance is not admissible for such visits ? If so, did any T. T. E. attend office on the 5th, 6th or 7th June, 1925 to receive stationery card passes, uniform, etc., and was he allowed to draw average mileage and if so under what rules ? Will Government state whether the T. T. Es.' office was opened on Sunday the 7th June, 1925 and if any T. T. E. received his excess fare books, etc., on that day and was granted average allowance ? If so, will the Government state the necessity for entailing the double financial loss on account of their average allowances when these T. T. Es. were present on the previous day the 6th June, 1925 ?

(g) Will Government place on the table a statement showing the earnings of the T. T. Es. who came to Lahore on 5th, 6th and 7th June, 1925 as compared to their earnings on these dates in the previous month (May 1925) and succeeding month (July 1925) and state the financial loss incurred by the Government on account of this function ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : I propose, Sir, with your permission, to reply to questions Nos. 835, 836 and 837 together.

Government are not in possession of information to enable them to reply to the Honourable Member, and as they are convinced that an inordinate amount of time and labour would be spent in collecting information in regard to matters of very small, if of any importance, they do not propose to issue instructions for the collection of the information.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I ask the Honourable Member whether he is not aware that this question was asked in a previous Session also and that it is a matter of very great public importance ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : I am aware that I was asked a question about one of the gentlemen mentioned in this question last Session and gave a reply ; as I have said, I do not consider the matter of any public importance. In regard to certain allegations against one gentleman mentioned in the Honourable Member's question I may say that the Accountant General, under whom and the Chief Auditor these men are employed, has looked into the matter and has assured me that there is no truth in the allegations.

MANUFACTURE OF ENGINES AT THE WORKSHOPS OWNED BY THE BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA AND RAJPUTANA MALWA RAILWAYS IN AJMER.

838. ***Rai Sahib Harbilas Sarda :** (a) Are Government aware that the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway and Rajputana Malwa Railway own large workshops at Ajmer ?

(b) Is it a fact that the locomotive shops are the only workshops in India where railway engines are manufactured, and is it not a fact that the engines made at Ajmer cost less than those imported from England, while they are as good as the latter ?

(c) Is it a fact that the Railway Board are taking steps to put a stop to the making of these engines at Ajmer ? If so, will Government state the reasons for doing so ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) The Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway have workshops at Ajmer.

(b) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. It is not at present possible to say whether the locomotives manufactured at Ajmer are more or less expensive than those of similar design imported from England.

(c) The question whether the manufacture of locomotives should be continued at Ajmer will be considered when we have received the report of Sir Arthur Dickinson who was asked to go into the question of the cost of manufacture there.

MILITARY SERVICES RENDERED BY THE MERS (RAWATS) AND MERATS OF AJMER-MERWARA.

839. ***Rai Sahib Harbilas Sarda :** (1) Are Government aware that Merwara, a hilly sub-district of the province of Ajmer is inhabited by a hardy and warlike people known as Mers (Rawats) and Merats ?

(2) Are Government aware that a battalion of this hardy people, called the Merwara Battalion was first raised in 1822, A. D., by Colonel Hall at Beawar ?

(8) Are Government aware that this force of Mers and Merats of Ajmer-Merwara has loyally served the British Government for over a century and has rendered useful military service and fought in :

- (a) the Sepoy Rebellion of 1857, when it marched 33 miles in 6 hours and saved the Ajmer Magazine from falling into the hands of the rebels, and later, won the battles of Sambhalia and Allwa (Marwar) ;
- (b) the Afghan War of 1878-79 when the good work it did was publicly recognized and the Victoria Cross was conferred on its Commander, Colonel O'Moore Creagh, who later rose to be Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army ;
- (c) the battle of Bidasar in 1883-84 ;
- (d) the Chitral Campaign of 1901-02 ;
- (e) the war with China in 1902 ; and
- (f) the world war in various places in Mesopotamia ?

Mr. G. M. Young : The information contained in my Honourable friend's question is substantially correct.

STOPPAGE OF RECRUITMENT OF THE MERS AND MERATS OF AJMER-MERWARA FOR THE INDIAN ARMY.

840. ***Rai Sahib Harbilas Sarda :** (1) Are Government also aware that a part of the 44th Merwara Infantry into which the original Merwara Battalion was converted, the Mers and Merats of Ajmer-Merwara fought in the world war in :

- the 28th Punjabees,
- the 2nd|42nd Deoli Regiment,
- the 43rd, 2nd|43rd Erinpura Regiment,
- the 72nd Punjabees,
- the 122nd Infantry,
- the 2nd|119th Infantry,
- the 3|150th Infantry,
- the J. and K. Companies of 122nd Infantry and served in the Transport and Hospital Corps, and
- Garrison Companies stationed at Meiktila (Burma) and Sumerpur for duty with the Turkish prisoners of war ;

and in 1921, A. D., took part in the operations in North Persia against the Bolsheviks in the 122nd Regiment and furnished large numbers of fighting men in the Third Afghan War of 1919-21 ?

(2) Are Government aware that the Mers and Merats have earned a name in musketry ?

(3) Are Government aware that Merwara furnished the highest percentage of recruits in India for the world war and that the Commissioner

of Ajmer declared in a public meeting in 1917, A. D., that in his tour in Merwara wherever he went he only found old men and children, all men capable of bearing arms having gone to the front ?

(4) Are Government aware that great dissatisfaction prevails in Merwara owing to the disbanding of the 44th Merwara Infantry and the issue of the Army Order No. 728, dated the 11th of October 1926 which directs that "the Class Composition of the 4th Bombay Grenadiers as laid down in annexure of the India Army Order No. 846 of 1924 is altered", "Eastern Punjabi Jats being recruited as vacancies occur among Mers and Merats" ?

(5) Are Government aware that this order means the total elimination of the Mers and Merats from the Indian Army in spite of the fact that these people have rendered useful military service for over a century in various battlefields in India and outside it ?

(6) Will Government be pleased to state its reasons for barring the Mers and Merats from military service ?

Mr. G. M. Young : The information contained in paragraphs 1—5 of my Honourable friend's question is substantially correct.

(6) In recent years the fighting material furnished by these classes has been considered inferior to that furnished by others : and with the reduction of the army since the Great War it has no longer been possible to find a place for them.

MUSLIM REPRESENTATION IN THE ROYAL AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS.

841. **Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan :** 1. What is the total number of Indian clerks in the Royal Air Force units in India, and how many of them are Muslims ?

2. What is the total number of Indian clerks in the Royal Air Force Headquarters Office and how many of them are Muslims ?

3. Is it a fact that in 1924, two Muslim and five non-Muslim clerks were retrenched from the Royal Air Force Headquarters Office and that all these men were provided with appointments in the Royal Air Force units ?

4. Is it a fact that of the five non-Muslim clerks, three have since been retransferred to the Royal Air Force Headquarters Office and restored to their *status quo ante* without passing the necessary examinations of the Public Service Commission ?

5. Is it a fact that of the remaining two non-Muslim retrenched clerks, one asked for employment in the Army or the Royal Air Force Headquarters Offices because he was unwilling to go out of Simla and having failed to secure such employment the clerk resigned his appointment in the Royal Air Force unit ?

6. Is it a fact that the Royal Air Force Headquarters have, after three years of the clerk's resignation now recommended his re-employment in those Headquarters without passing the necessary examinations of the Public Service Commission ?

7. Is it a fact that all the four clerks referred to above who have been accorded special consideration, have not passed even the Matriculation Examination of the Indian Universities, the lowest examination prescribed for the tests of the Public Service Commission ?

8. Is it a fact that neither of the two Muslim clerks retrenched in 1924, has been given any consideration for retransfer to the Royal Air Force Headquarters ?

9. Will Government please state the reasons which have led to preferential treatment being accorded to the non-Muslim clerks of the Royal Air Force Headquarters ?

10. Is it a fact that *eight* permanent vacancies recently occurred in the Royal Air Force Headquarters, and that out of these only *one* has been given to a Muslim clerk, the remaining seven having been filled by non-Muslims ?

11. Is it a fact that one Muslim candidate served in the Royal Air Force Headquarters for fourteen months in the hope of getting one of the eight appointments referred to above, but was declared inefficient after 14 months and the vacancy held by him was given to a non-Muslim ?

12. Is it a fact that a Muslim candidate was offered an appointment in the Royal Air Force Headquarters for a period of six months in the first instance, but had to make room for a non-Muslim clerk after he had been in that office for only three months ?

13. Is it a fact that the non-Muslim clerk brought in replacement of the Muslim candidate, is a relative of the Superintendent of the Establishment Branch in the Royal Air Force Headquarters ?

14. Is it a fact that the non-Muslim clerk under reference has been given a definite promise of being given preference over his seniors on the occurrence of a permanent vacancy, thus creating dissatisfaction and discontent among the temporary clerks already working in those Headquarters ?

15. If so, will Government very kindly say what steps they propose to take to safeguard the interests, and ensure proper representation, of the Muslim community in the Royal Air Force Headquarters ?

Mr. G. M. Young : 1. 88 (including 7 munshis and 3 draughtsmen). Of this number 30 are Muslims.

2. 38 as on 27th August 1927 (including 1 draughtsman). Of this number 8 are Muslims.

3. Yes.

4. Yes. They were exempted by the Home Department from passing the necessary examination of the Public Service Commission on the ground that they would not have been required to do so had they not been retrenched.

5. Yes.

6. Yes. The grounds for the recommendation are the same as those stated in my answer to part 4.

7. One is a matriculate, and the other three are not.

* 8. One of these 2 clerks secured employment in the office of the Judge Advocate General and is now understood to be serving in the Home Department. The other is not considered to be up to the standard required for the Royal Air Force Headquarters and has therefore not been re-employed at those headquarters.

9. No preferential treatment has been accorded.

10. Yes. 2 vacancies were however originally given to Muslims but one was subsequently found unsuitable and his services were dispensed with. His appointment was then filled by a non-Muslim retrenched clerk.

11. Yes. This is the clerk to whom I have just referred in my answer to part 10.

12. I understand that the non-Muslim clerk referred to was holding at the time an appointment in the office of the Master General of Supply. In view of the fact he had 6 years' clerical experience with Royal Air Force units, and a very efficient record, an exchange was effected, at the instance of the Royal Air Force Headquarters, between this clerk and the Muslim clerk holding a temporary appointment at Royal Air Force Headquarters.

13. I understand that the clerk in question is married to the daughter of the Superintendent's wife's maternal uncle. (Laughter), but this circumstance was not the reason of his appointment. I have given the reasons in my answer to part 12.

14. No such promise has been given.

15. Full consideration is given to the interests of the Muslim community in the Royal Air Force Headquarters. The Indian establishment of those Headquarters is at present composed as follows—majority community 60 per cent. ; and minority communities about 40 per cent.

Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan : May I inquire how many of these minority communities are Mussalmans out of this 40 per cent. ?

Mr G. M. Young : If my Honourable friend will refer to my reply to part 2 of the 15 parts of his question, he will find the answer to that supplementary question.

DISTRIBUTION BY THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES OF LAND IN THE NILI BAR COLONY.

842. ***Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan :** 1. Is it a fact that land on Nili Bar Colony has been distributed by the military authorities among the clerks serving at Army Headquarters ?

2. If so, what is the total number of grantees and how many of them are Muslims ?

3. Is it a fact that non-Muslim clerks, who are not agriculturists, have been liberally granted land on the said Colony, while Muslims clerks, who are generally agriculturists by profession, have been ignored ?

4. What is the total number of non-agriculturist non-Muslim clerks who have been granted land ?

5. Are Government prepared to consider the advisability of granting land on the basis of (agricultural) efficiency and competency ?

6. What reasons had the Government to grant land to non-agriculturist non-Muslim clerks in preference to agriculturist Muslims serving at Army Headquarters ?

7. What is the total area granted to non-Muslims and Muslims respectively ?

8. Will the Government be pleased to state the reasons which led the Government to make these grants to the non-combatant class in preference to the combatant class ?

9. Are there any disabled soldiers who have not been granted any land ?

10. How many families are there who lost their bread earner in the war and to whom no land has been granted ?

Mr. G. M. Young : 1—8. I propose, Sir, to reply to the first eight parts of this question together. The distribution of land in the Nili Bar Military Colony is carried out under the personal direction of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, who has taken the greatest care to see that it is equitably done. Out of a total of 2,300 grants made so far, about 1,000 have been made to Muslims, and out of 3,000 squares available in the Nili Bar Colony 2,750 have been allotted so far to combatants and only 110 to non-combatants. As a special favour, a very few grants were made to deserving clerks at Army Headquarters. 17 grants were made in all : of the recipients, 16 happened to be non-Muslims, and one a Muslim. Another large area of Colony land has been placed at the disposal of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief for military grants. In considering whether it is desirable to offer any grants in this area as a special concession to Muslim clerks, this question and answer will be borne in mind.

9 and 10. I cannot give a categorical reply to these parts of the question : but the claims of disabled soldiers and of the families of those who fell in the War have always been given special consideration not only in the Nili Bar Colony grants but in any other scheme for the grant of land that has been sanctioned by the Government of India or by a Local Government since the War.

Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan : Will Government be pleased to make an inquiry if there are any such disabled soldiers as I have asked about in part 9 of my question, and let the House know, and also if any consideration is going to be shown to these disabled soldiers or not ?

Mr. G. M. Young : I have already explained, Sir, that disabled soldiers have always been given special consideration ; they are now being given special consideration. Applications from disabled soldiers are being invited for these grants.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

PENSION OF MR. BHAGWAN DASS SURI, LATE ACCOUNTANT, MILITARY ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT.

94. **Diwan Chaman Lal :** (a) Are Government aware that Mr. Bhagwan Dass Suri, late accountant, Military Accounts Department (Rawalpindi), who proceeded on field service overseas in October 1914 in connection with the last Great War, was invalided out of service on account of diseases contracted on field service ?

(b) Is it a fact that he was not allowed to avail himself of the full amount of leave (privilege, medical and furlough), due to him and at his credit, before being invalided ?

(c) Is it a fact that he has been a loser in service pension in comparison with his juniors who did not proceed on field service but remained in India, as he was deprived of his acting and *sub-protem* promotions in India and the field and deputation allowances drawn by him in the field were not counted towards pension ?

(d) If so, what action was taken, or what action do Government now propose to take, in the matter ?

COUNTING TOWARDS PENSION OF THE DEPUTATION ALLOWANCES DRAWN BY MR. BHAGWAN DASS SURI.

95. **Diwan Chaman Lall :** (a) Are Government aware that the civilian clerks deputed to the Military Accounts Department during the last Great War were allowed to count their deputation allowances towards pension under Finance Department letter No. 1231, dated 27th July 1917 ?

(b) If so, are Government prepared to extend this concession in the case of Mr. Suri who was deputed to field service and the Field Controller's Office at Poona, in order to increase his pension ?

PENSION OF MR. BHAGWAN DASS SURI, LATE ACCOUNTANT, MILITARY ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT.

96. **Diwan Chaman Lall :** (a) Will Government please state whether any special pensions were sanctioned by them since 1914 under the authority of Article 924 (b), Civil Service Regulations (Edition 1918) ?

(b) Were any applications for pensions in excess of the amounts admissible under the Civil Service Regulations or involving any relaxation of the rules submitted for the sanction of the Secretary of State for India since 1914 under Article 924 (a)-C.S.R. (Edition 1918) ?

(c) If so, under what circumstances were they sanctioned and submitted ?

(d) Are Government prepared to deal with the case of Mr. Suri under these rules ?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : The full particulars of the case of Mr. Bhagwan Dass Suri are not yet available. Replies to the Honourable Member's questions will be given as early as possible.

DISCHARGE OF JAI CHAND, SUB WAY INSPECTOR, NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

97. **Diwan Chaman Lall :** 1. Is it a fact that one Jai Chand, Sub Way Inspector, after having two years' approved service with the I. E. F. "D" in Mesopotamia was engaged by the North Western Railway and after having served there for 9 years was discharged by the Divisional Superintendent, Ferozepore, in April 1926 ?

2. Is it a fact that no charge sheet was ever served on him nor any defence taken and a certificate without entry of abilities or character granted ?

3. Is it a fact that the Railway Administration intended to debar him from further service by granting such a certificate which amounts to dismissal ?

4. Is it a fact that in answer to a question put by Khan Bahadur W. M. Hassanally in the Legislative Assembly last November, Jai Chand was advised by the Government Member to appeal to the Railway Board ?

5. Is it a fact that the Railway Board refused to consider his case on his representation, saying that the Agent of the Railway was solely empowered to deal with it ?

6. Is it a fact that on his representation to the Agent of the Railway no attention was paid to his grievances ?

7. Is it a fact that the man has thus been deprived of his right to appeal to British justice on dismissal by an officer of the Division for no fault of his ?

8. If so, do Government propose to take steps to have the case inquired into, and ask the railway authorities to serve him with a charge sheet and obtain his defence before discharging him if necessary ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (1) Yes.

(2) Yes ; no charge sheet was necessary as Jai Chand was discharged in terms of his agreement.

(3) There was no such intention on the part of the North Western Railway Administration.

(4) No. The question was not put in November last but in August 1926 and I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the exact terms of my reply to question No. 213 to Khan Bahadur W. M. Hassanally on the 24th August 1926.

(5) As Jai Chand was discharged in accordance with the terms of his agreement no appeal lies to the Railway Board against such discharge.

(6) On representation to the Agent full consideration was given to his grievances and replies were given to him on two occasions, namely, on 30th May 1926 and 11th September 1926.

(7) and (8). As already stated Jai Chand was not dismissed and his grievances were considered.

EXTENSION OF THE LEE CONCESSIONS TO COVENANTED SUBORDINATES IN RAILWAYS.

98. **Diwan Ohaman Lall :** (1) When were the Lee concessions granted to the covenanted officers in Railways and why were they not extended to the covenanted subordinates ?

(2) Why have the repeated appeals for recognition for the Lee concessions from the covenanted subordinates been evaded ?

(3) Are Government aware that there are several of the covenanted subordinates who, due to their financial position, are unable to proceed to England for periods of ten to twelve years ?

(4) For what reason was the overseas allowance granted to the Superior Services and not to the subordinates where officers of both branches are recruited from the same country ?

(5) Why were the free passages granted to the Superior Services and not to the non-gazetted officials ?

(6) Are Government aware that a large percentage of the covenanted subordinates are compelled to borrow money when they wish to visit England ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (1) and (2). I presume the Honourable Member is referring to certain concessions granted by Government to the Superior Railway Services on the recommendation of Lord Lee's Commission. The conditions of service of covenanted subordinates rest on a different basis from those of the Superior Services in that they are generally determined by individual contracts made for a period of years at the time of appointment. It has not been considered necessary, therefore, to grant concessions of the nature given to the Superior Services.

(3) Government have no information to this effect.

(4) and (5). I would refer the Honourable Member to the answer I have given to parts (1) and (2) of his question.

(6) Government have no information to this effect.

THE CHILDREN'S PROTECTION BILL.

PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS.

Mr. Deputy President : Sir, I beg to lay on the table the Report of the Committee on Petitions relating to the Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898.

STATEMENT OF BUSINESS.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett (Leader of the House) : With your permission, Sir, I desire to make a statement regarding Government business for the forthcoming week. The House will sit for the disposal of Government business on Monday, the 5th, Tuesday, the 6th, Wednesday, the 7th, and Thursday, the 8th. It is proposed to put down on the list of business the continued consideration of the Gold Standard and the Reserve Bank of India Bill and motions for the taking into consideration and passing of the Imperial Bank of India (Amendment) Bill. This business will be placed last in the List but, in certain circumstances, Government may decide not to make the other motions but to proceed with this business first. The other business which we propose to put down on the paper is as follows :

- (1) a Resolution to be moved regarding the Draft Convention and Recommendation of the International Labour Conference relating to inspection of emigrants on board ship and, if that Resolution is carried, a motion for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Indian Emigration Act, 1922, to give effect to the Convention ;
- (2) a motion to refer the Criminal Law Amendment Bill to a Select Committee ;

- (3) a motion suggesting the appointment of a Committee to consider the question of the residence and accommodation of Members in New Delhi (Hear, hear) ;
- (4) a motion for leave to introduce a Bill to amend section 59 of the Indian Income-tax Act, 1922 ;
- (5) motions to take into consideration and, if those motions are passed, to pass the Indian Tariff (Cotton Yarn Amendment) Bill and the other two Indian Tariff (Amendment) Bills, as reported by their Select Committees ;
- (6) a motion to refer to a Select Committee the Indian Income-tax (Amendment) Bill which was introduced during the Delhi Session ;
- (7) if time permits, motions for Supplementary Demands for 1927-1928 ; and, finally,
- (8) a motion to refer the Volunteer Police Bill to a Select Committee, the discussion of which was adjourned on the 18th August.

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**THE GOLD STANDARD AND RESERVE BANK OF INDIA
BILL—contd.**

Mr. President : The House will now resume further consideration of the clauses of the Bill to establish a Gold Standard for British India, and constitute a Reserve Bank of India.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett (Finance Member) : Sir, with your permission I should like to submit a proposal to you that the debate should be adjourned for to-day. We have got into a rather difficult position in regard to this Bill. When on Wednesday the Government agreed not to press further their "shareholders" plan, it was in the belief that a solution of the difficult problem of an elected directorate without shareholders was very nearly, if not quite, attained. It was in the belief that an agreement had been attained that an amendment was put down in the name of my Honourable friend, Mr. Srinivasa Iyengar, for a directorate elected by electoral colleges. Unfortunately it has not proved that we can see any agreement as we thought. There seems to be a danger of the Reserve Bank of India Bill, a purely business measure, foundering in the whirlpool of communal trouble. I said that the Government were unwilling to include any clause in this Bill on racial or communal lines. An amendment is down to Mr. Srinivasa Iyengar's amendment which raises a difficult problem of that nature. I think that it will be very much better in the interests of all that the Government and the leaders of the Parties should have a period over the week-end to consider whether this seemingly threatening cloud can be dispersed without an undue storm. If so, the Government will hope to continue with this business on Monday, that is, if there is a real prospect of a settlement being reached which will satisfy a large majority of the Members of the House. When the Government agreed not to proceed with their shareholders' scheme they stated that they withdrew it because they did not desire to put this Bill on the Statute-book against the wishes of any large section of the House. The same position seems to be arising in regard to

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the alternative, but I hope that between now and Monday the opportunity of a Sabbath rest may give us occasion to find means to solve this difficulty so that the Bill may be proceeded with in an atmosphere that really does promise general agreement all round. I would, therefore, Sir, ask you in these circumstances to adjourn the debate for to-day, and if that is agreed to by you, Sir, the Government do not propose to-day to proceed with the other business that is put down on the list.

Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, I gladly support this motion for the adjournment of the debate. It is a matter of supreme importance that we should be able to come to an agreement on the question of the Directorate, which would be acceptable to the great bulk of this House, and in the hope that we will be able to arrive at such a conclusion I support the motion before the House.

***Mr. M. A. Jinnah** (Bombay City : Muhammadan Urban) : Sir, I really cannot understand the Leader of the House suggesting that communal trouble has arisen in any particular quarter of the House. Communal trouble has arisen because of the proposal contained in the amendment of Mr. Srinivasa Iyengar. Therefore, if that proposal is to be considered, the other question must necessarily crop up. But, Sir, I do not wish to say anything more for the moment, and I entirely agree that the House should adjourn, and I hope that we shall be able to find a solution.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : May I say that I did not suggest that communal trouble has arisen in any particular quarter of the House ? I quite recognise that the question of electoral colleges must necessarily raise difficult questions.

Mr. S. Srinivasa Iyengar (Madras City : Non-Muhammadan Urban) : I have no objection, Sir, to this course. I think it is on the whole the most convenient course to adopt because it is not a question of obliging the Government ; it is a question of discovering unity among the non-official Members of the House—a unity which I should very much like to see on such a constructive proposal as the Reserve Bank Bill ; and if such a Bill as this is to be passed by this House, I quite agree that it must have the largest possible majority and as great a consensus of opinion as it is possible to attain. In these circumstances I certainly support the motion for adjournment.

Sir Alexander Murray (Associated Chambers of Commerce : Nominated Non-Official) : Sir, speaking for myself I heartily support the motion of the Leader of the House that we should adjourn consideration of this Bill till Monday to enable an agreement to be arrived at, if possible.

Mr. President : I thank the House for giving me a holiday.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 5th September, 1927.

* Speech not corrected by the Honourable Member.