

18th August 1926

# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

(Official Report)

VOLUME VIII

*(17th August to 2nd September 1926)*

FIFTH SESSION

OF THE

SECOND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,  
1926



# Legislative Assembly.

## *The President :*

THE HONOURABLE MR. V. J. PATEL.

## *Deputy President :*

DIWAN BAHADUR T. RANGACHARIAR, M.L.A.

## *Panel of Chairmen :*

MR. K. C. NEOGY, M.L.A.

SIR DARCY LINDSAY, M.L.A.

LALA LAJPAT RAI, M.L.A., AND

MR. ABDUL HAYE, M.L.A.

## *Secretary :*

MR. L. GRAHAM, C.I.E., M.L.A.

## *Assistants of the Secretary :*

MR. W. T. M. WRIGHT, C.I.E., I.C.S.

MR. S. C. GUPTA, BAR-AT-LAW.

MR. K. G. HARPER, I.C.S.

## *Marshal :*

CAPTAIN SURAJ SINGH, BAHADUR, I.O.M.

## *Committee on Public Petitions :*

DIWAN BAHADUR T. RANGACHARIAR, M.L.A., *Chairman.*

DIWAN BAHADUR M. RAMACHANDRA RAO, M.L.A.

COLONEL J. D. CRAWFORD, M.L.A.

MR. JAMNADAS M. MEHTA, M.L.A.

MR. ABDUL HAYE, M.L.A.

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, 18th August, 1926.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at Eleven of the Clock, and the President (the Honourable Mr. Vithalbhaj Javerbhai Patel) took the Chair.

## MEMBERS SWORN.

Mr. Alfred Alan Lethbridge Parsons, C.I.E., M.L.A. (Financial Commissioner, Railways) ; Sir Ganendra Prosad Roy, Kt., M.L.A. (Director General of Posts and Telegraphs) ; Diwan Bahadur Calamur Varavalli Viswanatha Sastri, M.L.A. (Madras : Nominated Official) ; Mr. Harry Graham Haig, C.I.E., M.L.A. (Home Department : Nominated Official) ; Mr. Benegal Rama Rau, M.L.A. (Finance Department : Nominated Official) ; Mr. John Coatman, M.L.A. (Director of Public Information) ; Sir George Frederick Paddison, K.B.E., C.S.I., M.L.A. (Madras : Nominated Official) ; Mr. Frederick William Allison, M.L.A. (Bombay : Nominated Official) ; Mr. Ernest Lingham Norton, M.L.A. (United Provinces : Nominated Official) ; Mr. Crewe Armand Hamilton Townsend, C.I.E., M.L.A. (Punjab : Nominated Official) ; Mr. James Ferguson Dyer, M.L.A. (Central Provinces : Nominated Official) ; Mr. Keshav Chandra Roy, C.I.E., M.L.A. (Bengal : Nominated Non-official) ; Mr. John Sheepshanks, M.C., M.L.A. (Bombay : European) ; Maulvi Asad Ali, M.L.A. (Chittagong Division : Muhammadan Rural) ; and Mr. Tracey Gavin Jones, M.L.A. (United Provinces : European).

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

### COMMUNAL RIOTS.

1. **\*Mr. Harchandrai Vishindas :** 1. Will Government be pleased to state :

(a) if they have collected any statistics as to the loss of life and other casualties occasioned by the communal riots during the last three years ?

(b) to what causes can such riots be traced ?

2. Do Government concede the right of communities to make use of the King's highways for their religious and other processions in the manner established by time-honoured usage without molestation from other communities ?

3. Will Government be pleased to ascertain whether it is true that in India music with processions was never objected to until very lately ?

4. Will Government be pleased to state if they have under contemplation any legislative or executive action for the restoration of whatever was the practice sanctioned by time and usage ?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman :** With your permission, Sir, I propose to reply to this question by making the following statement :

Government agree that every citizen has the right to use the public highways for religious and other processions in the manner established by custom and tradition, but the right is subject to the exercise of the similar rights of others and to any orders passed in the public interest by competent authority.

Religious disturbances in India are no novelty unfortunately. They have occurred from time to time in many places, particularly when the festivals or holidays of the two great religions have fallen at the same season and when one party desires to lead a procession past places of worship belonging to the other or raises objections to the observance of some religious rite. I may mention as an instance that a memorial was submitted to the Government of India in 1882 asking them to maintain the existing practice by which music was stopped before a mosque in a certain town. The correspondence of the period shows that the question was then the cause of acute friction between the parties.

It is impossible to say when this particular objection was first raised or first gave rise to rioting. It is reasonable to suppose that it dates from a period of which no exact records exist.

The Government of India do not contemplate introducing legislation of the kind suggested. Apart from the difficulty of ascertaining in the face of conflicting reports and claims what the custom in a particular locality has been, His Excellency the Viceroy, in his recent speech at the Chelmsford Club in Simla, made it clear that in the view of the Government of India, the remedy for the present troubles is not to be sought in legislation but in an improvement in the mutual attitude of the leaders and members of the communities at variance. Executive action must clearly be left to the authority in immediate charge of the area in which trouble has arisen or is likely to arise and its character must vary with the circumstances of the place and the moment.

I place on the table a statement giving disgracefully long statistics of communal rioting for the whole of India for the last three years, so far as details of the occurrences have been reported to the Central Government.

Date.	Place of occurrence.	Casualties.
24th August 1923 ..	Gonda, United Provinces ..	28 injured : no deaths.
Do. ..	Saharanpur, United Provinces ..	Total casualties 296 injured and 10 deaths.
26/28th August 1923 ..	Agra, United Provinces ..	2 persons killed.
6/7th September 1923 ..	Saharanpur, United Provinces ..	Number of casualties not reported.
21st March 1924 ..	Bagalkot, Bombay ..	20 injured.
12th April 1924 ..	Kandhla, Muzaaffarnagar, United Provinces.	23 injured.
15th April 1924 ..	Harpur, United Provinces ..	Not known.

Date.	Place of occurrence.	Casualties.
11th July 1924	Balliamran, Delhi Idgah Kohna.	} Killed 17, injured 150.
15th July 1924	Sadar Bazar, Delhi	
19th July 1924	Juma Masjid, Delhi	} 27 injured.
16th July 1924	Lilooah, Bamangachi	
11th August 1924	Amethi, United Provinces	Not known.
11th August 1924	Sambhal, United Provinces	Not known.
23rd August 1924	Bhagalpur, Bihar and Orissa	1 killed.
30th August 1924	Nagpur	1 killed.
9/10th September 1924	Kohat	36 killed, 145 wounded.
12th September 1924	Lucknow	4 killed and 30 injured.
22nd September 1924	Saharanpur, United Provinces	6 killed and 104 injured.
7th October 1924	Allahabad	8 killed and 110 injured.
Do.	Saugor, Central Provinces	30 injured.
Do.	Kankinara	6 injured.
8th October 1924	Jubbulpore, Central Provinces	81 injured.
25th January 1925	Khanna City, Ludhiana, Punjab,	None.
11th February 1925	Fatehpur, United Provinces	8 injured.
9th March 1925	Mandal, Virangam, Bombay	3 severely beaten.
12th March 1925	Bagalkot, Bijapur, Bombay	Some injured but detailed information not furnished.
16th March 1925	Sadar Bazar Khari Bawli and Nayabans, Delhi.	21 injured and 1 killed.
17th March 1925	Do.	36 injured.
2nd July 1925	King George's Dock, Kidderpore, Calcutta.	38 injured, 4 seriously 1 of whom died later.
4th July 1925	Talikot in Bijapur, District, Bombay.	No casualties.
2nd August 1925	Sholapur District, Bombay	20 injured, one seriously.
15th August 1925	Jalalpur, Fyzabad District, United Provinces.	16 injured.
Do.	Mirganj, Gopalganj Subdivision Saran, District, Bihar and Orissa.	Injured not known.
23rd August 1925	Titaghur, 24 Parganas, Bengal.	9 injured.
30th August 1925	Khamgaon, Central Provinces.	No serious injuries caused.
28th September 1925	Bahraich District, United Provinces.	29 persons more or less injured, six seriously, one of whom not expected to recover.
13th October 1925	Arvi Wardha, District, Central Provinces.	40 injured.
20th October 1925	Uttangi, Bellary	3 killed ; 5 seriously wounded, 22 slightly injured.
22nd October 1925	Aligarh, United Provinces	6 killed, 130 injured.
26th October 1925	Akola, Berar	2 severely injured. About 30 others slightly injured.
28th October 1925	Sholapur, Bombay	2 killed and 22 injured.
February 1926	Agra City, United Provinces.	1 old man badly handled by mob, not expected to live.
7th February 1926	Madhi in Pathardi Mahal Ahmednagar District, Bombay.	6 injured not seriously.

Date.	Place of occurrence.	Casualties.
11th February 1926 ..	Barondi, Patnagiri District, Bombay.	22 injured, 1 of whom died.
12/13th February 1926..	Rewari, Punjab .. ..	Several injured and 1 found dead.
2nd to 12th April 1926 ..	Calcutta .. .. .	584 injured and 44 deaths.
14/16th April 1926 ..	Sassaram, Shahabad District, Bihar and Orissa.	20 persons injured, 2 of the injured died subsequently.
22nd April to 9th May 1926.	Calcutta .. .. .	391 injured and 66 killed.
17th May 1926 ..	Kharagpur, Bengal ..	Total casualties believed to be 11 killed and 32 injured.
26th May 1926.		
1st June 1926 ..	Hajinagar Paper Mills, Calcutta.	40 injured of whom 3 seriously.
22nd June 1926 ..	Damoh, C. P. .. ..	7 persons injured.
Do. ..	A village in Darbhanga District.	4 or 5 slightly injured.
22nd June 1926 ..	Jhusi, village near Allahabad	1 killed and nine injured.
Do. ..	Maksudpur, Thana Katra, Muzaffarpur District.	4 injured.
23rd June 1926 ..	Singhasan, Beniapatti Thana, Darbhanga District.	4 killed.
Do. ..	Shankarpur, Sursand Thana, Sitamarhi Sub-Division, Muzaffarpur District.	No injured reported.
Do. ..	Bihar Sub-Division ..	No injuries reported.
Do. ..	Gaya .. .. .	Do.
Do. ..	Sihali in Bara Banki District United Provinces.	9 injured, 1 seriously.
24th June 1926 ..	Delhi .. .. .	Total number injured 63 including 3 deaths.
Do. ..	Gobindpur Thana, Gaya District.	Number of casualties not reported.
Do. ..	Katra Thana, Muzaffarpur District.	2 attacked by mob.
1st July 1926 ..	Palma .. .. .	9 injured.
4th July 1926 ..	Do. .. .. .	10 injured.
15th July 1926 ..	Karachi .. .. .	11 injured.
Do. ..	Calcutta .. .. .	13 deaths and 109 wounded.
16th July 1926 ..	Do. .. .. .	2 killed.
19th July 1926 ..	Do. .. .. .	6 injured.
20th July 1926 ..	Do. .. .. .	1 killed.
21st July 1926 ..	Purnea, Bihar and Orissa ..	1 injured.
22nd July 1926 ..	Calcutta .. .. .	3 killed and 10 wounded of whom 2 died later. 7 isolated cases of stabbing of which 2 were fatal.

**Mr. K. Ahmed :** Are the Government aware that, if hospitals, churches and mosques are situated on the King's highways, the Honourable the questioner cannot be allowed to pass along the road in a procession accompanied with music? It is specially provided that King's highways cannot be used for that purpose.

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman :** I do not fully understand the import of the Honourable Member's question. If he means

to imply that in certain towns there are regulations for licences of professions, I believe he is correct.

**Mr. K. Ahmed :** Are the Government aware that Lord Lytton made a statement to the correspondent of the *Westminster Gazette* a few days ago that the rivalry between the Hindus and Muhammadans regarding the Indianization of the services is the cause of the communal riots and disturbances in this country ?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman :** I am not aware of that statement.

**Mr. K. C. Roy :** May I suggest that the Honourable the Home Member be good enough to place on the table of this House the reports received from the Provincial Governments on these communal riots ?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman :** I must consider that matter before I can give an answer.

**Mr. B. Das :** May I inquire, with reference to the reply given by the Honourable Member just now that communal disputes ought to be settled by the different communities, whether Government do not play the part of the third party in fostering the communal disturbances in the country ?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman :** I should like the question to be repeated. I did not hear the last words of the Honourable Member.

**Mr. B. Das :** Whether the Government do not play the third party in fostering communal disturbances in the country.

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman :** Have I rightly understood the Honourable Member to suggest that the Government foster communal disturbances ?

**Mr. B. Das :** That is the general impression among the public.

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman :** That is a completely mistaken and very wrong suggestion, and I am much distressed that the Honourable Member has thought it fit to repeat it in this House. (Applause.)

**Mr. K. Ahmed :** Are the Government aware that the Governor of Bengal (His Excellency Lord Lytton) made the statement on the opening day of the last Session of the Bengal Council in Calcutta that the *goondas* were exported from the foreign provinces and the natives of the adjoining Provinces were engaged by the Indian merchants under the Chamber of Commerce who were asked by the Government to take care of these *goondas* in their employment, so that the people might live peacefully in the city of Calcutta ?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman :** The question regarding the export of *goondas* should, I think, be addressed to my Honourable friend the Commerce Member.

#### ISSUE OF RETURN TICKETS BY THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

2. \***Mr. Kamini Kumar Chanda :** (a) Does the East Indian Railway now issue return tickets, that is tickets on reduced fares for the double journey ?

(b) Is it a fact that such tickets are issued from only a few stations to a few other stations ? Will Government give a list of such stations or say whether such list is published in the Railway Guide ? If it is not published how can the public ascertain the names of such stations ?

(c) Is it a fact that such return tickets are issued from Howrah (Calcutta) to Delhi and back, but are not issued from Delhi to Howrah and back ? If so, will Government please state the reason, if any, for this restriction ?

(d) Is it a fact that there is not the slightest indication given in the monthly or periodical Railway Guides :

- (i) that such return tickets are issued at all ;
  - (ii) of the names of the stations between which, and the conditions under which, such tickets are issued ; and
  - (iii) of the amounts of fares charged for such tickets.?
- (e) If so, why ?

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

(b) Return tickets are issued from most of the principal stations. The lists will be found on pages XVIII e to XVIII m of the East Indian Railway Time Table and Guide in force from April 1926.

(c) Yes. Similar concessions are granted from Delhi to certain stations but not to Howrah as the object of the concession is to increase traffic, and no such increase is at present anticipated by the issue of tickets from Delhi to Howrah.

(d) (i) to (iii). No. As already stated names of the stations between which and conditions under which return tickets are issued and the amounts of fares charged for such tickets are given on pages XVIII e to XVIII m of the East Indian Railway Time Table and Guide in force from April 1926.

(e) Does not arise.

#### ISSUE OF RETURN TICKETS TO ALL STATIONS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY, ETC.

3. **\*Mr. Kamini Kumar Chanda :** (a) Is it fact that while the Eastern Bengal Railway issues return tickets to all stations on that line, return tickets issued by that Railway on the East Indian Railway when running the Sealdah-Muttra Express on the latter line are restricted to certain stations only ?

(b) Is it a fact that different amounts are charged for return tickets from Calcutta if issued from Howrah and Sealdah respectively to the same station ?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the propriety of removing the above-mentioned anomalies ? Do Government propose to consider the expediency of extending the issue of return tickets to all stations on the East Indian Railway, and also of equalising the fare for the return ticket whether issued from Howrah or Sealdah if it is to the same station ?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons :** (a) The Sealdah-Muttra Express is an East Indian Railway train, starting from Sealdah only for public convenience, and the rules of the East Indian Railway consequently apply to it.

(b) The reply is in the negative.

(c) As I have pointed out, no anomaly exists. The question of issuing return journey first, second and intermediate class tickets generally throughout the East Indian Railway is at present under the consideration of the Railway Administration.

The return journey fare by the train mentioned is the same, whether the ticket is issued at Howrah or Sealdah.

**RESERVED ACCOMMODATION ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.**

**4. \*Mr. Kamini Kumar Chanda :** 1. Do the following rules now obtain on the East Indian Railway regarding reserved accommodation :

(a) 3 first class and 4 second class tickets will suffice for reserving a first class and second class compartment respectively, from Howrah, but not to Howrah ?

(b) The tickets must bear consecutive numbers and a return ticket will not count towards reserving the compartment ?

2. Will the Government please state the reason, and also the reason why 3 first class tickets will reserve one compartment from Howrah to Delhi but 4 tickets will be needed to reserve a similar compartment from Delhi to Howrah ?

3. Is it a fact that return tickets will not do to reserve a compartment ? Do Government propose to remove the above-mentioned anomalies ?

4. Do Government propose to consider the propriety of introducing the rule mentioned in (a) of part 1 of this question on the Eastern Bengal Railway and the Assam Bengal Railway ?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons :** 1 (a) As an experimental measure the East Indian Railway allow reservation from Howrah to any station on the East Indian Railway system of a first class compartment on payment of 3 ordinary first class fares and of a second class compartment on payment of 4 ordinary second class fares.

1 (b) and 3. Tickets need not bear consecutive numbers. Ordinary return tickets, but not tickets issued at special concession rates, are admitted.

2. As stated in my answer to 1 (a) above, the concession has been introduced experimentally only and its extension will depend on its proving a success.

4. The success attending the experiment so far has not been such as to justify the Railway Board suggesting to the Agents of the Railways mentioned that they should introduce something on similar lines. At present the reservations have averaged only three a month first class and twelve a month second class.

**PAUCITY OF TRAINS AND INADEQUATE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SUPPLY OF DRINKING WATER ON THE BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.**

5. **\*Raja Raghunandan Prasad Singh** : Has the attention of the Government been drawn to a correspondence headed "Grievances of B. N. W. Railway Passengers" published in the *Searchlight* of Patna of the 9th June last? If so, do the Government propose to take prompt steps to inquire into and remove the grievances, if any, about the paucity of trains connecting main lines and about the inadequate arrangements for the supply of drinking water at stations?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons** : Government have not seen the issue of the *Searchlight* mentioned by the Honourable Member. If he will supply me with a copy I will send it on to the Agent for his consideration.

**COMMUNAL RIOTS.**

6. **\*Raja Raghunandan Prasad Singh** : Will the Government be pleased to state how many communal riots have taken place and where during the last three months, and the number of persons killed or wounded in those riots?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman** : I would refer the Honourable Member to the statement placed on the table in connection with the reply I have given to Mr. Harchandrai Vishindas's question No. 1.

**EXPORT OF CATTLE.**

7. **\*Raja Raghunandan Prasad Singh** : Will the Government be pleased to state how many head of cattle of different descriptions have been exported from each province since January 1926 to the end of June 1926?

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes** : The Government have no information beyond that contained in the Monthly Accounts of the Seaborne Trade of India which will be found in the Library.

**THE CALCUTTA PORT TRUST LOAN OF ONE CRORE.**

8. **\*Pandit Shamlal Nehru** : Has the attention of the Government been drawn to :

- (a) The article under the caption "Calcutta Port Trust Loan" in *Commerce*, dated 3rd April 1926 ;
- (b) The articles under the captions "Calcutta Port Trust Loan" and "Unsound finance" in *Commerce*, dated 10th April 1926 ;
- (c) The article under the caption "Calcutta Port Trust Loan" in the *Times of India*, dated 13th April 1926 ; and
- (d) The article under "Local Bodies" in the *Pioneer*, dated 17th May 1926 ?

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes** : (a), (b), (c) and (d). The reply is in the affirmative.

THE CALCUTTA PORT TRUST LOAN OF ONE CRORE.

9. \*Pandit Shamlal Nehru : (a) Are the Government aware that the general view on the recent flotation of a one crore loan by the Commissioners for the Port of Calcutta at 97 per cent. on a 5½ per cent. basis is the same as the *Statesman's* view that " it is impossible to avoid the opinion that the loan could have been floated on a cheaper basis " ?

(b) Is it a fact that a leading Bank, namely, the Central Bank of India, Ltd., offered to underwrite the whole issue at a rate which was one per cent. more favourable than the rate of 5½ per cent. at 97 ; that, in any case, the Bank requested a counter-offer ; that the Port Trust did not give any counter-offer but announced the loan ?

(c) Are Government prepared to cause an inquiry to be made as to why the Commissioners deemed it fit or necessary to take no notice of the request of the Central Bank of India, Ltd., for a counter-offer ?

(d) Are the Government aware that the loan which was issued at 97 stands to-day at 107½ ?

(e) Do Government propose to take steps to lay down some uniform procedure in respect of the loan programmes of local bodies on the lines of the suggestion in the *Pioneer* referred to in the previous question ?

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes :** At present the Government of India are not directly concerned with the details of loans issued by the Calcutta Port Trust. Their control over such issues is directed merely to seeing that their own borrowing programme is not affected. I understand, however, that Finance Department has under consideration the general question of the method and practice of borrowing by large local bodies.

EXTENSION OF THE BAUSI RAILWAY TO BAIDYANATH DHAM AND SAINTHIA.

10. \*Raja Raghunandan Prasad Singh : Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the suggestion made in the correspondence headed " Bhagalpur Notes " published in the *Hindustan Times* of June 13th, 1926, about the extension of the Bausi Railway to Baidyanath Dham and also to Sainthia via Dumka (Santhal Parganas) ? Do the Government propose to accept the suggestion and give effect to it at an early date ?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons :** Government have seen the article in the *Hindustan Times* referred to. Investigations regarding the Bausi Naya Dumka and Sainthia Railway project are already in hand and those for a chord line off this railway to connect with Baidyanath Dham are about to be carried out. If, as a result of these investigations, the projects are found to be remunerative, their construction will be undertaken.

SUPPLY OF ICE AND WATER TO THE RAILWAY TRAVELLING PUBLIC.

11. \*Raja Raghunandan Prasad Singh : Do the Government propose to arrange that ice and water may be available in the different trains themselves at least during the hot season, so as to remove the inconvenience felt by railway travellers for want of arrangements for the supply of cold water at most stations during the hot season ?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons :** There are already ice vendors on a large number of trains and some Railways are, I believe, experimenting with the system of travelling watermen, though previous experiments in this direction have not yielded good results. But I can assure the Honourable Member that Railway Administrations and their Local Advisory Committees give constant attention to the question of providing adequate supplies of ice and water to railway travellers.

**CONTINUANCE OF THE EXISTING LEAVE RULES TO MEMBERS OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY WHOSE SERVICES WERE RETAINED ON THE TRANSFER OF THE MANAGEMENT OF THE RAILWAY TO THE STATE.**

12. **\*Colonel J. D. Crawford :** (a) Is it a fact that the Railway Board issued in 1924 a memorandum guaranteeing to the members of the East Indian Railway Company whose services were retained by Government on the taking over of the Railway the continuance of their existing leave rules ?

(b) Is it a fact that in 1925 the Railway Board authorised the Agent of the East Indian Railway to assure the staff that the service agreements sent them for signature were not intended to modify the terms stated by the above memorandum ?

(c) Is it a fact that the Railway Board have since ruled that employees under the East Indian Railway rules will not be granted more than six months' leave from the date they are pronounced medically unfit ?

(d) Does the Railway Board by this rule intend to reverse the decision contained in the statement made in sub-paragraph (c) of their memorandum of 1924 to the effect that " they have therefore decided to offer to them the continuance of their existing leave rules and conditions " ?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons :** (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) The answer is in the negative. Under the rules of the East Indian Railway Company an officer retiring with less than 20 years' service was not entitled as of right to leave on retirement, but the Board of Directors of the Company had discretion to grant such an officer on retirement the privilege leave due to him and any furlough earned by him up to a limit of 18 months. This rule is still in force except that the position of the Board of Directors is now occupied by the Railway Board, who have therefore to consider in each case, as it comes before them, what amount of leave it is in the circumstances reasonable to grant. It so happens that in two out of the three cases that have come before them since the East Indian Railway came under State management, they decided to sanction furlough up to 6 months. But it must not be understood from this that they intend in future to preclude themselves from sanctioning either more or less than 6 months' leave ; they propose, as indeed the rule requires, to deal with each case on its merits.

(d) Please see the answer to (c).

**Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney :** Will the Honourable Member kindly inform the House whether it is a fact that the leave and furlough rules which obtain on the East Indian Railway, so far as Europeans are concerned, are more liberal than any rules enjoyed by any department or service in India ?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons :** No.

**Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney :** Is it a fact that on the East Indian Railway three sets of leave rules for subordinate employees are in force, one for Europeans, another for Anglo-Indians, and the third for Indians ?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons :** I am afraid that I must ask for notice of that question. I do not remember at the moment.

**Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney :** Is it a fact that in the category of European are included European covenanted hands, domiciled Europeans, Europeans enlisted in India, and fair-complexioned Anglo-Indians ?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons :** I must again ask for notice.

**Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney :** Is it a fact that there are instances on the East Indian Railway in which one brother.....

**Mr. President :** Order, order. The Honourable Member may put down these questions on paper.

GRANT OF REBATES TO UNITS BY THE ARMY CANTEN BOARD.

13. **\*Colonel J. D. Crawford :** (a) Will Government please state the scale at which rebates have been granted to units by the Army Canteen Board ?

(b) Is the average of these rebates the same as, in excess of, or lower than the average rebates granted by the old contractors ?

(c) Have rebates due to units been paid in full ?

(d) Do Government propose to compensate units for any loss that has been incurred by them under the Army Canteen Board ?

**Mr. E. Burdon :** (a) Rebate is paid by the Army Canteen Board, India, at the rate of  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. on all cash received on account of messing bills and cash sales to British troops, except in the case of cash sales to officers messes and certain other customers on which a discount of 5 per cent. is allowed.

Rebate at 5 per cent. is paid on all cash received at Institutes conducted for Indian troops.

(b) The average of the rebate paid by the Army Canteen Board (India) is approximately the same as that granted by the contractors. Some units now receive more and others less. Rebate was paid by contractors on a "per capita" basis, while the amount paid by the Army Canteen Board (India) varies according to the amount of the sales.

(c) Yes.

(d) In view of the reply which I have just given to part (c), this question does not arise.

**Mr. K. C. Roy :** May I ask the Army Secretary what is the approximate figure of rebate ?

**Mr. E. Burdon :** It is in the neighbourhood of Rs. 2-8-0 per head.

**Mr. K. C. Roy :** But what is the monthly rebate ? I understand that it is roughly Rs. 1,200 a month paid by the Canteen Board.

**Mr. President :** The Honourable Member is giving information, not seeking it.

PUBLICATION OF THE REPORT OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON CURRENCY.

14. \***Mr. B. Das** : (a) Will Government be pleased to state when they expect to publish the Report on the Royal Commission on Currency ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state if they intend to bring up the Report in the current Session for discussion in the Assembly ?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett** : I shall answer questions Nos. 14, 15 and 35 together. The intentions of the Government of India have been set forth in the Press Communiqué issued on the 4th instant simultaneously with the Report of the Commission.

**Mr. B. Das** : Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state why Government did not see their way to publish the appendices, as mentioned in the minute of dissent by Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas, for public information ?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett** : The appendices were published immediately on their receipt from England. The reason why they were not published before was that they were not received.

**Mr. B. Das** : Are they available for our information ?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett** : Copies are placed in the Library for those Honourable Members who may desire to see them.

**Mr. M. A. Jinnah** : How many pages are there ?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett** : That is a sum which I will leave the Honourable Member to work out for himself.

**Mr. M. A. Jinnah** : Will the Honourable Member tell us how long it will take for an ordinary man to go through the appendices ?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett** : Mr. Jinnah being an ordinary man can no doubt find out for himself.

TRANSFER OF THE CONTROL OF THE CURRENCY DEPARTMENT TO THE IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.

†15. \***Mr. B. Das** : (a) Will Government be pleased to state if they have decided to transfer the Currency Department to the control of the Imperial Bank ?

(b) What steps, if any, are being taken to convert the Imperial Bank of India into the State Bank of India ?

DISCUSSION BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE REPORT OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON CURRENCY.

†35. \***Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju** : Will the Government be pleased to state whether they propose to place the report of the Currency Committee before the Assembly for discussion during the August-September Session ?

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE ALLIANCE BANK OF SIMLA, LIMITED.

16. \***Mr. B. Das** : (a) Will Government be pleased to state if the Secretary of State for India has any legal suits pending against any of the Directors of the Alliance Bank of Simla, Limited ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Boulton Brothers were found not guilty in a British Court ?

(c) What were the total expenses incurred on these prosecutions ? Are these expenses to be borne by the Government of India ?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett :** The reply to part (a) is in the negative and that to part (b) is in the affirmative. As regards part (c), the total charge against Indian revenues in connection with the prosecutions was £2,661-3-5.

LIQUIDATION OF THE ALLIANCE BANK OF SIMLA, LIMITED.

17. **\*Mr. B. Das :** Will Government be pleased to make a statement to the House on the liquidation of the Alliance Bank of Simla ? Are there any liabilities to be paid by the Government of India on the same ?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett :** I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply given by me on the 8th September 1924 to his question No. 1870 on this subject. I then made it clear that, as the Liquidators were able to pay a 50 per cent. dividend, the Government of India were free from any financial liability whatever in respect of their guarantee to the Imperial Bank of India.

OCCUPATION BY AN INDIAN OF THE POSITION OF AGENT OF ANY OF THE STATE RAILWAYS.

18. **\*Mr. B. Das :** Will Government be pleased to state if any Indian is at present occupying the position of Agent of any of the State Railways ?

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes :** The reply is in the negative.

APPOINTMENT OF INDIANS AS DEPUTY AGENTS OF RAILWAYS.

19. **\*Mr. B. Das :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the names of the Railways (State or Company managed) which have Deputy Agents on their staff ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the number of such Deputy Agents that each Railway has been allowed to appoint ?

(c) Has any Indian been appointed to the post of Deputy Agent so far in any of these Railways ?

(d) Have Government considered the question of appointing as Deputy Agents any Indian in the Engineering or Traffic Departments ?

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes :** (a) and (b). The names of Railways (State or Company-managed) which have Deputy Agents on their staff and the number of Deputy Agents on each are given below :—

Assam Bengal Railway .. .. .	1
Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway .. .. .	2
Bengal Nagpur Railway .. .. .	1
Eastern Bengal Railway .. .. .	1
East Indian Railway .. .. .	2
Burma Railways .. .. .	1
Great Indian Peninsula Railway .. .. .	2
Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway .. .. .	2
North-Western Railway .. .. .	2
Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway .. .. .	1

(c) No.

(d) These appointments are made by selection from officers of the requisite experience and qualifications.

#### APPOINTMENT OF AN INDIAN ACCOUNTANT GENERAL AS AN AGENT OF A RAILWAY.

20. \***Mr. B. Das** : (a) Is it a fact that an Agent of a Railway need not be an Engineer in every case ?

(b) Is it a fact that Agents have been appointed from the rank of railway accountants ?

(c) Have Government ever considered the question of appointing any Indian Accountant General of Railways as Agent of a Railway ?

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes** : (a) and (b) The reply is in the affirmative.

(c) These are selection appointments and the best officer available is appointed when a vacancy occurs.

#### APPOINTMENT OF INDIANS TO SUPERIOR POSTS ON RAILWAYS.

21. \***Mr. B. Das** : (a) With reference to the reply to starred question No. 1007 of 26th February last, will Government be pleased to state what is the total number of recruitments for superior posts on Indian Railways for 1926-27 and what has been the proportion of Indian recruits ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the number of such officers taken by respective State Railways giving the number of Indians and non-Indians ?

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes** : (a) and (b) Full information with regard to recruitment for the Superior Services of State Railways for the year 1926-27 cannot be furnished now. The present position is that we have so far recruited 8 officers, of whom 5 are Indians. These officers have been posted to the following Railways :—

- |   |    |                                 |
|---|----|---------------------------------|
| 1 Royal Engineer (European)                             | .. | Great Indian Peninsula Railway. |
| 1 Assistant Officer Commercial (Indian)                 | }  | Great Indian Peninsula Railway. |
| 2 Probationary Electrical Engineers (Indian).           |    | North-Western Railway.          |
| 1 Probationary Electrical Engineer (Indian).            |    | East Indian Railway.            |
| 1 Probationary Assistant Controller of Stores (Indian). | }  | Great Indian Peninsula Railway. |
| 1 Assistant Signal Engineer (European)                  |    | North-Western Railway.          |
| 1 Assistant Coal Superintendent (European).             |    | State Railways.                 |

As far as can be foreseen at present, Government will probably recruit 51 more officers consisting of—

- 21 Civil Engineers.
- 11 Transportation (Traffic and Commercial) Officers.
- 4 Bridge Engineers.
- 5 Signal Engineers.
- 4 Electrical Engineers, and
- 6 Mechanical Engineers.

The recruitment of 21 Civil Engineer officers will be as follows :—

- 2 Royal Engineer officers.
- 7 European officers to be recruited from England of whom 3 are due on last year's indent.
- 9 officers of Indian domicile to be recruited in India of whom 2 will be from Roorkee.
- 3 subordinates to be promoted.

The 11 Transportation (Traffic and Commercial) officers will be recruited as follows :—

- 1 Royal Engineer officer.
- 2 European officers to be recruited from England.
- 6 officers of Indian domicile to be recruited in India.
- 2 subordinates to be promoted.

For the 6 Mechanical Engineer appointments the provisional arrangement is to recruit 5 Indian apprentices and 1 Production Engineer who is being obtained from England. This is subject to alteration as the cadre is at present under revision.

As regards Electrical Engineers, 2 are being recruited from England and 2 more probationary Assistant Electrical Engineers will probably be recruited in India if men of suitable qualifications can be obtained.

Excluding one Signal Engineer appointment to which it is proposed to appoint a subordinate, the Secretary of State has been asked to recruit Bridge and Signal Engineers in England, as suitably qualified candidates are not available in this country. I may mention that Indians are also eligible for recruitment by the Secretary of State in England for these as well as for the appointments in the Mechanical Engineering Department.

**EXPENDITURE BY COMPANY-MANAGED RAILWAYS ON THE GRANT OF THE LEE COMMISSION'S CONCESSIONS TO THEIR SUPERIOR OFFICERS.**

22. \*Mr. B. Das : (a) Will Government be pleased to state if all the Company-managed Railways have accepted the recommendations of the Lee Commission for their superior officers ?

(b) What is the additional sum that the Company-managed Railways will expend on the grant of privileges recommended by the Lee Commission ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state if all such Company-managed Railways have accepted the principle of recruitment of 75 per cent. Indians to the superior services ?

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes :** (a) Yes.

(b) Rs. 13 lakhs per annum, but the charge will decrease with the progress of Indianisation.

(c) Yes.

**RECRUITMENT OF INDIANS AND NON-INDIANS TO SUPERIOR POSTS ON COMPANY-MANAGED RAILWAYS.**

23. **\*Mr. B. Das :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of superior posts recruited this year (1926-27) by respective Company-managed Railways and the number of Indians and non-Indians recruited by each ?

(b) How many of such Indian officers are new recruits and how many of them have received departmental promotion ?

(c) In case of departmental promotions from the subordinate staff to the superior services, does the Railway Board satisfy itself that officers so promoted are duly qualified and are not obstructing the chances of young qualified recruits ?

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes :** (a) and (b). Information for the year 1926-27 is not available. A statement giving the information for the period from 1st April to 30th June 1926 is, however, placed on the table.

(c) The promotion of subordinates to the Superior Services of the Company-managed Railways rests entirely with the Boards of Directors of the Companies and the Government of India are not concerned.

*Statement showing the number of Indian and non-Indian officers recruited by the Company-worked Railways during the period from 1st April 1926 to 30th June 1926.*

Railways.	Number of Indian recruits.		Number of non-Indian recruits.		Remarks.
	Appointed direct.	Subordinates promoted permanently.	Appointed direct.	Subordinates promoted permanently.	
Assam Bengal ..	1		1	1	
Bengal Nagpur ..			2	..	
Bengal & North Western	..	..	..	1	
Bombay, Baroda and Central India.	1*	..	1*		*Appointed from the temporary staff
Burma .. ..	1†	..			†Burman.
Madras and Southern Mahratta.				..	
Rohilkund and Kumaon	..	..		2	
South Indian ..	1	2	1*	..	

**PERSONNEL OF THE LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES APPOINTED BY THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY AT ADRA, NAGPUR, CALCUTTA AND VIZAGAPATAM.**

24. **\*Mr. B. Das :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the dates on which the Bengal Nagpur Railway appointed the personnel of their Local Advisory Committees for the four centres—Adra, Nagpur, Calcutta and Vizagapatam ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a list of members of these Local Advisory Committees of the Bengal Nagpur Railway ?

(c) Have these Advisory Committees held any sittings so far ? If so, how often ?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons :** (a) and (b). The Agent is now engaged in selecting members of the Calcutta and Vizagapatam Local Advisory Committees. After these two Committees have been constituted the establishment of the two other Committees will follow.

(c) No.

**Mr. K. Ahmad :** Do Government propose to consider seriously the question of the appointment of members for these Advisory Committees ? Is it not proper for them to nominate able and experienced persons to be members of these Advisory Committees ?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons :** We have already got able and experienced members on our Advisory Committees.

**Mr. K. Ahmed :** But are they all men of ability and experience, Sir, with what knowledge ?

**APPOINTMENT OF LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES BY THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY FOR THE ORIYA-SPEAKING TERRITORIES TRAVERSED BY THE RAILWAY.**

25. **\*Mr. B. Das :** (a) Are Government aware that the people of Orissa feel very much aggrieved that no town of Orissa has been chosen as one of the centres of these Local Advisory Boards ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Bengal Nagpur Railway traverses large Oriya-speaking territories and handles large mineral resources of Orissa ?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons :** The location of these Committees is a matter for the Agent to decide.

A copy of the question has, however, been forwarded to the Agent, Bengal Nagpur Railway.

**AMALGAMATION OF THE ORIYA-SPEAKING TRACTS.**

26. **\*Mr. B. Das :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if they have come to any decision on the Report of the Phillip-Duff Commission regarding the amalgamation of the Oriya-speaking tracts ?

(b) Is it a fact that under section 52A of the Government of India Act, the Governor General in Council can transfer part of any district from one Province to another ?

(c) Are Government considering the question of applying section 52A of the Government of India Act to the Oriya speaking tracts ?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman :** (a) No.

(b) I do not read section 52A of the Government of India Act as conferring this power on the Governor General in Council.

(c) Does not arise.

**Mr. B. Das :** May I enquire if Government are aware of the fact that the letter they circulated to Provincial Governments was utilised for electioneering purposes by a Madras Minister and was circulated broadcast in his constituency, a fact which was commented upon in the Madras Papers ?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman :** No, Sir, I am not aware of that.

**Mr. B. Das :** Will the Honourable Member kindly enquire into the fact ? It was published in all the Madras papers, especially the *Hindu* and *Swarajya*.

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman :** If the Honourable Member will give me full details, I will be in a position to enquire into the matter.

#### CIRCULATION OF REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS TO MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

27 **\*Mr. B. Das :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state which officer of any particular Department of the Government of India decides whether a particular report of a Committee or Commission relating to that Department will have to be circulated to the Members of the Assembly.

(b) Is the Honourable Member in charge of the Department consulted in every case ?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman :** (a) A number of copies of all published reports are placed in the Members' Library for reference. A Member who requires a copy of a particular publication for his personal use is given one, under standing orders, if he applies for it. But it is not the practice to distribute copies of such reports to Members, whether they apply for them or not, unless the report in question is about to be discussed formally in the Assembly.

(b) The above procedure is a matter of routine and the orders of the Member in Charge of the Department are not normally required for carrying it out.

#### REPORT OF THE RAVEN COMMITTEE.

28. **\*Mr. B. Das :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the total amount of expenditure on the Raven Committee for standardisation of railway workshop manufacture ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the amount of money spent on the publication of this Committee's Report ?

(c) How many copies of this Report were published ?

(d) How many copies of the same have so far been sold to the public ?

(e) How many copies have been distributed amongst officials of the Government of India ?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons :** (a) Rs. 64,294.

(b) Rs. 3,446.

(c) 750.

(d) 270 copies up to 10th August 1926.

(e) Sixty-eight copies of the Report have been supplied to Government officials, in addition to which twenty-seven copies have been distributed to the Press, the Legislative Library, the Standing Finance Committee, and such public bodies as are usually supplied with free copies of Government publications.

**CIRCULATION OF THE REPORT OF THE RAVEN COMMITTEE TO MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.**

29. **\*Mr. B. Das :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state what would have been the additional expenditure to the Government if they had circulated copies of the Raven Committee's Report to the Members of the Assembly ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state if it is the Railway Board or the Department of Commerce that decided that the Raven Committee Report should not be circulated to the Members of the Assembly ?

(c) Is it not a fact that the Railway Board's attitude in the past has always been to pigeonhole Reports lest they should attract public criticism ?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons :** (a) Rs. 1,062.

(b) Six copies of the Report were sent to the Legislative Department to be placed in the Library of the Legislature.

(c) The reply is in the negative.

**ISSUE OF FIRST CLASS PASSES TO MR. ABDULLA KHAN, SAID TO BE THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE PASSENGER PROTECTION SOCIETY OF INDIA.**

30. **\*Dr. K. G. Lohokare :** 1. (a) Will Government please state whether one Mr. Abdulla Khan, said to be from Lucknow, poses as a General Secretary of the Passenger Protection Society of India ?

(b) Is it a fact that a first class travelling pass has been issued by the Great Indian Peninsula and Bengal Nagpur Railways to one Mr. Abdulla Khan, who professes to be the General Secretary of the Passenger Protection Society of India, and that it is so being issued continuously for the last 10 or 12 years ?

2. Will Government please state whether they have given any authority or credentials to the said Mr. Abdulla Khan in his capacity as such General Secretary so as to entitle him to a permanent first class travelling pass ?

3. Is it a fact that the said Mr. Abdulla Khan calls himself Nawab in his alleged official letters ?

4. Is it a fact that the office of the said Mr. Abdulla Khan or the General Secretary of the Society can not be traced to any place, and that the

letters addressed to the said General Secretary at the alleged offices at Lucknow, Bombay, Delhi, and Simla are returned to correspondents by the Dead Letter Office ?

5. Will Government please say whether any such Society exists to their knowledge and whether the said Mr. Abdulla Khan may or may not be the Secretary of the Society ?

6. Is it a fact that the Chief Inspector of Food on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway is a close relation of the said Mr. Abdulla Khan and has been appointed to the post on recommendations from this Mr. Abdulla Khan ?

7. Is it a fact that Mr. Abdulla Khan was making an earnest effort by frequently writing to the authorities of the Bengal Nagpur Railway for employment as Food Inspector on behalf of one Mr. Ijaza Ali Kidwai, another of his close relations ?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons :** Government have no detailed information on the points raised by the Honourable Member. Certain Railways used to issue passes to Mr. Abdulla Khan, but this privilege has been withdrawn. The Passenger Protecting Society is not officially recognised by Government and any work done by Mr. Abdulla Khan on behalf of this Society is done on his own responsibility.

#### THE "VITA" DROWNING FATALITY.

31. **\*Mr. Harchandrai Vishindas :** (a) Is it a fact that on the 4th May last six out of the passengers discharged from the British India Steam Navigation Company's steamer "Vita", into Machwa "Naini Kichoa" also belonging to the same company, to land at the port of Cutch Mandvi were drowned on account of stormy weather and high seas ?

(b) Have Government in contemplation any means to avoid such fatalities in future ?

(c) Do Government propose to direct the Steam Navigation Company to provide steam launches in lieu of country sailing crafts for the landing of passengers ?

(d) Do Government propose to order better landing facilities on the shore, say, a pier or quay, instead of the present conditions ?

(e) Have Government in contemplation the recognition of the heroic services of tindal Ebrahim who saved so many lives during the "Vita" drowning fatality ?

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes :** (a) Yes, but the "Machwa" in question did not belong to the British India Steam Navigation Company.

(b) and (c). Enquiries are being made regarding the possibility of improving the methods of embarkation and disembarkation of passengers.

(d) As the port in question is not in British India the Government of India are not in a position to issue orders in the matter.

(e) Yes.

REPRESENTATION OF LABOUR AND THE DEPRESSED CLASSES ON THE PROVINCIAL AND CENTRAL LEGISLATURES.

32. \***Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju** : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Government of India as stated by Earl Winterton propose to create additional seats in Provincial Councils before the next election for labour and depressed classes representatives ?

(b) Will the additional seats be thrown open for election ?

(c) Is it contemplated to enlarge the Assembly representation for Labour and Depressed classes ?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman** : (a) and (b). As a result of the recommendations of the Reforms Enquiry Committee, additional nominated seats have been created in the Madras, Bombay, Punjab and Central Provinces Legislative Councils for increased representation of labour and the depressed classes. For details I invite the Honourable Member's attention to the Home Department Notifications No. F.-290|9|25-Public to F.-290|9-3|25-Public, dated the 9th August 1926.

(c) No.

**Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju** : I have not received an answer to (b), as to whether they will be thrown open for election.

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman** : If the Honourable Member will read the Notification he will see they will not be thrown open for election.

NOMINATION OF A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE INDIAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE TO THE NINTH SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE.

33. \***Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju** : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether any Indian representative of the Indian Chambers of Commerce has been nominated or is proposed to be nominated to the Ninth Session of the International Labour Conference ?

(b) Is it a fact that Mr. Narottam Morarji was appointed as adviser to Sir Arthur Froom appointed as the Employers' delegate, and that he declined it on the ground that it would be humiliating to the Indian Chambers of Commerce ?

(c) Do the Government propose to appoint an Indian delegate to represent the Indian shipping interests ?

(d) Is it a fact that Sir Arthur Froom was the only Englishman who opposed the recommendations of the Mercantile Marine Committee with Commander Headlam as Chairman and Sir John Biles, Naval Architect of the Secretary of State, as a member ?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra** : (a) and (b). The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given on the 24th March 1926 to question No. 1393, asked by Mr. B. Das in the Legislative Assembly. Government were not informed of the reasons which prompted Mr. Narottam Morarji to refuse the offer of appointment as Adviser to the Ninth Session of the International Labour Conference, which, I may add for the information of the Honourable Member, came to an end on the 24th June 1926.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Sir Arthur Froom disagreed only with certain recommendations made by his colleagues in Chapter III of the Report of the Indian Mercantile Marine Committee.

INDENTS FOR THE PURCHASE OF STORES ON THE INDIAN STORES DEPARTMENT,  
LONDON.

34. \***Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju** : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have received any protest from the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay, against the manner in which some of the departmental officers were sending their indents to the Indian Stores Department, London, particularly requiring the purchase of certain brands of goods only in preference to all others even of British make and standard at a much higher cost ?

(b) Is it a fact that one indenting officer insisted on cement of the Associated Portland Cement Company at £11,100 as against £9,900 quoted by another British firm ? Is it a fact that Indian cement of the same standard cannot be had even in India itself much cheaper ?

(c) Is it a fact that another indenting officer insisted upon Dickinson's paper at £ 2,487, fifty per cent. higher than the tender of another firm ?

(d) It is a fact that pugree cloth was purchased at a higher cost when equally good material can be had in India ?

(e) Do the Government propose to take any steps to prevent the waste of public money and the utter neglect of India's economic interests ?

(f) Do the Government propose to extend the new rules relating to the supply of stationery and printing stores for the Public Service to the supply of other goods to encourage Indian industries and economise expenditure ?

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

(b) Yes. The cement in question was required for use in Burma where circumstances make it difficult for Indian cement to compete.

(c) Yes. The matter was fully investigated by the Government of India and it was ascertained that paper of the quality required was not manufactured in India and could not be manufactured by any of the existing paper mills in the country. I may also mention for the Honourable Member's information that in both these cases the stores in question were ordered by officers under a Provincial Government and that Local Governments of Governors' Provinces enjoy full powers in regard to the purchase of stores required by them. The Government of India have therefore no power to interfere in the matter.

(d) An indent for 6,67,500 yards of khaki pugree cloth was received by the Chief Controller of Stores, Indian Stores Department. Of this quantity 3,60,000 yards were demanded immediately from stock and the balance was to be supplied within a short time. Simultaneous tenders were called for by the Chief Controller in India and England and the result was that English prices were substantially lower. The indentor was therefore advised to indent for the pugree cloth on the London Stores Department.

(e) It has always been the policy of the Government of India to discourage indenting officers from restricting the sources of supply to a specified firm or firms and to insist, except in special cases, on their sending with indents full particulars and designs so as to enable the Stores Department to place the orders in the cheapest market consistent with efficiency.

(f) The Rules for the supply of stationery and printing stores for the Public Service for the most part follow closely the Rules for the supply of other articles for the Public Service, and the policy underlying both sets of rules is the same, namely, to encourage the industries of the country, so far as is consistent with economy and efficiency.

**Mr. B. Das :** In view of the fact that the Provincial Governments and the Central Government are acting independently and are getting their stores independently, will Government convene a conference of the representatives of the Provincial Governments and advise them to get their stores through the Chief Controller of Stores ?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra :** The Central Government sees no reason to interfere in the matter.

35. (See after question No. 15.)

RECRUITMENT BY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS OF THE PERSONNEL REQUIRED FOR THE TRANSFERRED BRANCHES OF THE ADMINISTRATION.

36. **\*Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju :** Will the Government be pleased to state :

- (a) how far the recommendations of the Lee Commission were given effect to ?
- (b) whether the personnel required for the transferred branches of the administration are now being recruited by Local Governments excepting the medical services ?
- (c) whether the Secretary of State delegated the powers under section 96B of the Government of India Act to enable the Local Governments to make rules to regulate the services in the transferred fields as well as the Provincial Services ?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman :** (a) The Honourable Member is referred to the statement made in reply to part (b) of Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao's question (No. 181) on the 25th August 1925. Of the outstanding questions mentioned therein, rules for the delegation of control over Provincial Services were published with the Home Department Notification of the 1st April 1926 and those for the delegation of control over Central Services will probably be made by the end of next month. As to the establishment of the Public Service Commission, the Honourable Member is doubtless aware that the Chairman and Members have been appointed by the Secretary of State in Council and that the Commission will begin to function early in October next.

(b) and (c). The position is explained in the recent communiqué of which I lay a copy on the table. With regard to (c) I should add that Local Governments have not been empowered to make rules regulating the

conditions of service of all-India Services, while the sanction of the Secretary of State in Council or the Governor General in Council, as the case may be, is required to any rule that would affect adversely any existing member of the Services working under Local Governments, whether all-India or Provincial.

#### COMMUNIQUE.

Some of the most important recommendations of the Lee Commission were those which related to the future of the services operating in the transferred field of administration. The services chiefly affected were the Indian Educational Service, the Indian Agricultural Service, the Indian Veterinary Service, the Roads and Buildings Branch of the Indian Service of Engineers and the Indian Forest Service in Burma and Bombay. The recommendations of the Commission were *firstly*, that no further recruitment should be made by the Secretary of State for these services; *secondly*, that the personnel required for these branches of administration should in future be recruited and appointed by local Governments. In order to give effect to this policy it was further recommended that the Secretary of State should delegate to Local Governments under section 96B (2) of the Government of India Act authority to fix the conditions of service and appointment of these new services and to regulate all matters concerning them.

2. These recommendations were accepted by the Government of India and the Secretary of State. Orders were issued soon after the publication of the Lee Commission Report discontinuing all fresh recruitment to these All-India Services. The drafting of the necessary rules for the delegation of the Secretary of State's power to Local Governments proved to be a matter of considerable complexity; but two Resolutions issued recently by the Home Department contain rules made by the Secretary of State in Council on the 9th March 1926 which delegate to Local Governments full powers to regulate their provincial services not only on the transferred but also on the reserved side. These powers will now enable Local Governments to proceed with the policy advocated by the Lee Commission, namely, the building up of new provincial services to take the place of the old All-India Services on the transferred side, recruitment for which has, as already explained, been discontinued for some time.

#### REORGANISATION OF THE MEDICAL SERVICES.

37. **\*Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju :** Have any and, if so, what steps been taken to reorganise the medical services and constitute a new civil medical service ?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore :** The matter is under consideration.

#### INDIANISATION OF THE INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE AND THE INDIAN POLICE SERVICE.

38. **\*Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju :** (a) In the matter of the Indianisation of the Indian Civil Service to the extent of half and half within 15 years, has the recruitment of 40 per cent. Indians to be direct and 20 per cent. promoted from the Provincial Service been put into force ? What was the actual number of new recruits in 1924-25 and 1925-26 and how many of them were Europeans and how many Indians and how many promoted from the Provincial Services ?

(b) In the recruitment for the Indian Police Service is 30 per cent. Indian direct recruitment and 20 per cent. promoted observed ? What was the actual number recruited in 1924-25 and 1925-26 of Europeans and Indians respectively, and the number of Indians promoted ?

**The Honourable Sir. Alexander Muddiman :** (a) and (b). The proportion of Indians recommended by the Lee Commission for direct recruitment in these services has been adopted beginning with the recruitment for 1925, but the increase in the number of posts filled by promotion

from Provincial Services to 20 per cent. is being introduced gradually as the position in each province allows. The actual number of officers recruited in 1924-25 and 1925-26 is as follows :—

	Europeans.	INDIANS.	
		Direct.	Promoted.
Indian Civil Service ..	1924-25 .. 7	16	
	1925-26 .. 3	19	
As regards the Indian Police Service.	1924-25 .. 18	8	5
	1925-26 .. 14	7	9

The information regarding officers promoted from the Provincial Civil Service to listed posts is being obtained from local Governments and will be furnished to the Honourable Member as soon as it is complete.

INDIANISATION OF THE INDIAN FOREST SERVICE.

39. **\*Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju :** Is the recommendation of recruitments for the Indian Forest Service by having 75 per cent. Indians observed, and how many were recruited in 1924-25 and 1925-26, Europeans and Indians, respectively ?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore :** Yes ; in 1924-25 six Indians and two Europeans ; in 1925-26 four Indians and one European.

INDIANISATION OF THE INDIAN SERVICE OF ENGINEERS.

40. **\*Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju :** Is the recruitment of 40 per cent. Indians direct and 20 per cent. promoted observed in the Indian Service of Engineers and how many were recruited and promoted in 1924-25 and 1925-26, and how many Europeans were recruited in the same period ?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra :** It has only recently been decided that the 60 per cent. Indian recruitment to the Indian Service of Engineers in the Irrigation Branch in provinces in which that Branch has been separated from the Buildings and Roads Branch, and in Assam, shall be divided into 40 per cent. direct-recruited Indians and 20 per cent. officers promoted from the provincial engineering services, and that the 67 per cent. Indian recruitment to the Service in Madras, which is the only province where the Irrigation Branch has not been or will not shortly be separated from the Buildings and Roads Branch, shall be divided into 45 per cent. direct-recruited Indians and 22 per cent. officers promoted from the provincial engineering services. Local Governments will shortly be informed of this decision.

The number of officers recruited and promoted to the Indian Service of Engineers in 1924-25 and 1925-26 is given below :

Year.	Europeans.	Direct-recruited Indians.	Promoted officers.
1924-25 .. .. .	11	14	1
1925-26 .. .. .	8	13	Nil, but it is proposed to promote 4 officers with effect from 1st October 1925.

#### RECRUITMENT OF INDIANS FOR THE POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

41. **\*Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju** : Is the recruitment of 25 per cent. Indians for the Political Department given effect to and if not, why not ?

**Sir Denys Bray** : Yes, it is being slightly exceeded.

#### RECRUITMENT FOR THE IMPERIAL CUSTOMS SERVICE.

42. **\*Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju** : Is the recruitment for the Imperial Customs Service limited to half, and if so, in the Indian Branch how many Indians and how many domiciled Europeans or Anglo-Indians were recruited in 1925-26 ?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett** : Excluding officers promoted from the subordinate ranks, appointments in the Imperial Customs Service are made in the proportion of two in India to one in England.

During the year 1925-26 there were no substantive appointments by promotion ; there were three officers appointed direct, of whom all were Indians, none being Anglo-Indians.

#### RECRUITMENT FOR THE SUPERIOR TELEGRAPH AND WIRELESS BRANCH.

43. **\*Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju** : Were 75 per cent. of the Superior Telegraph and Wireless Branch recruited in India in 1925-26, and if so, how many were Indians and how many Anglo-Indians ?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra** : During 1925-1926 there was no recruitment for the Superior Telegraph Engineering Branch. One officer was recruited for the Wireless Branch and he is an Indian.

#### INDIANISATION OF THE SERVICES ON STATE RAILWAYS.

44. **\*Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju** : What steps were taken for Indianising the Services on State Railways, and was recruitment of the Services in other Railways improved in the matter of Indianisation, and what is the total number and number of Indians and Anglo-Indians actually recruited in 1925-26 in State and other Railways, respectively ?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons** : (a) The Government of India have accepted the recommendation contained in paragraph 42 (d) of the Lee Commission Report.

The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the Government of India Resolution No. 2058-E., dated 15th July 1926, published in the Gazette of India of the 17th July 1926.

(b) 33 officers were recruited for the Superior Railway Services of State-managed Railways in 1925-26, of whom 12 were Indians and the rest Europeans. The low proportion of Indians is due to the fact that the great majority of the appointments were appointments of Mechanical and Electrical Engineers. Similar information is not available for Company-worked Railways. I may however remind the Honourable Member that the policy of Indianization has been accepted by the Company-worked Railways only very recently.

**Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney** : Will the Honourable Member kindly inform the House, of the Indians who were recruited for the Superior Railway Services, how many were Anglo-Indians ?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons** : I have not got the figures here.

#### STOPPAGE OF THE OPEN COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION FOR THE INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE IN INDIA.

45. **\*Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju** : Was there any proposal from any quarter for stopping the open competitive examination for the Indian Civil Service in India, and if so, who recommended it and what is the nature of the recommendation and what is the final decision of the Government ?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman** : I invite the Honourable Member's attention to paragraph 104 (c) of the Lee Commission's Report.

The question will doubtless in due course be one for consultation with the Public Service Commission.

#### INTERDEPENDENCE OF THE MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LEE COMMISSION.

46. **\*Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju** : Have the Government given due effect to the statement that the main proposals in the Lee Commission Report are vitally interdependent and should be considered as a whole, and if not what are the reasons for modifying the proposals so as to prejudicially affect Indian interests ?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman** : The Government of India have always recognised the importance of the statement in question, and I am not aware that we have in any way modified the proposals so as prejudicially to affect Indian interests. If the Honourable Member will tell me what he has in mind I shall be glad to consider it.

#### AMALGAMATION OF THE ORIYA-SPEAKING TRACTS.

47. **\*Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju** : Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Government of India received any fresh proposals from the Local Governments in regard to the grouping of the Oriya-speaking areas under one administration after they were returned for reconsideration by the Government of India ?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman :** The Government of India have addressed the Governments of Bihar and Orissa, Madras and the Central Provinces on certain points and their replies are awaited.

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

48. **\*Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state what steps are being taken to give effect to the recommendations of the Indian Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Committee ?

(b) Have racial distinctions been removed in the constitution of non-regular military forces in India including the Auxiliary Force ?

(c) What are the reasons for the delay in giving effect to the recommendations which were published on the 23rd February 1925 ?

**Mr. E. Burdon :** (a) and (b). The views of the Government of India on the Report of the Auxiliary and Territorial Forces Committee are now before the Secretary of State. Government are unable to make any further statement on the subject at present.

(c) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply given on the 25th January last to part (d) of starred question No. 168.

**INAUGURATION OF AN INDIAN NAVY.**

49. **\*Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju :** Will the Government be pleased to state what steps are being taken for the inauguration of the Indian Navy for the defence of India's coasts, harbours and shipping ? Are the recommendations of the Mercantile Marine Committee likely to be put into speedy operation ?

**Mr. E. Burdon :** I presume that in the second part of this question, the Honourable Member is referring to the recommendations in Chapter V of the Report of the Indian Mercantile Marine Committee. The decision of His Majesty's Government in the matter was announced by His Excellency the Viceroy in the Council of State on the 9th February 1926. But, as has been explained before, much constructive work has to be done before the Royal Indian Navy can be brought into being. Legislation is necessary both in England and in India ; ships have to be acquired and adapted for use in the tropics ; and details of administration, organisation and finance have to be examined and settled. Very considerable progress has been made in regard to all these matters, but it will take some time before final orders can be issued.

**Mr. B. Das :** May I enquire, Sir, if Government are going to give us a day to discuss Sir Sivaswamy Aiyar's adjourned Resolution on this subject ?

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes :** I will consider the matter in consultation with the Leader of the House if there is any general desire for a further day.

**MINIMUM WAGES OF INDIAN LABOURERS IN CEYLON AND MALAYA.**

50. **\*Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju :** Will the Government be pleased to state whether an opportunity will be given to the Assembly to discuss the proposals regarding the minimum wages of Indian labourers in Ceylon, the Malay States and the Straits Settlements ?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore :** Proposals regarding the fixation of standard minimum wages of Indian estate labourers in Ceylon and British Malaya have been made after full consultation with the Standing Committee on Emigration, which, as the Honourable Member is aware, includes Members of both Houses of the Legislature. These proposals are now the subject of correspondence between the Government of India and the Colonial Governments concerned. An agreement has almost been reached with the Government of Ceylon, and the Government of India hope to issue a communiqué reviewing the points of settlement as soon as negotiations on certain minor points, which are still under discussion, are completed. If such agreement is reached before the end of the Session, I shall endeavour to find an opportunity to make a statement to the House. Government do not consider that any general discussion of the question is necessary. At this stage it would also be inexpedient, as negotiations are still in progress.

POSITION OF INDIANS IN FIJI.

51 **\*Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju :** 1. Will the Government be pleased to state :

- (a) whether any and what steps were taken and with what result for the abolition of the newly imposed poll-tax on all males excepting Fijians in the Fiji Islands ?
- (b) whether the Report of the Fiji Deputation of 1921-22 will be published at all and if so, when ?
- (c) whether a living wage was secured to Indian labourers in Fiji ?
- (d) whether any and what steps are taken to provide shipping for those Indian labourers who are entitled to a free passage to India ?
- (e) whether Indian representation is secured to Indians in the Legislative Councils and municipal bodies ?
- (f) whether any and what steps are taken for providing primary, secondary and technical education for Indians who are debarred from entering the Fijian and European schools already in existence for the purpose ?

2. Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have requested His Majesty's Government to permit an official from India to go to the Fiji Islands and report about the present actual condition of Indians in the Fiji Islands ?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore :** The position of Indians in Fiji has been the subject of correspondence with the Colonial Office for some time, and the Government of India hope to be able to make a full announcement shortly regarding the results of these negotiations.

POSITION OF INDIANS IN TANGANYIKA.

52. **\*Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the result of the Government of India's representation to His Majesty's Government about the economic and political condition of Indians in the mandated territory of Tanganyika ?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Colonial Office permitted Indians to keep their trade accounts in an Indian vernacular, specially Gujarathi, and whether orders were issued by the Colonial Office for the renewal of trade licences to Indians ?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore :** (a) The Government of India have not made any representations to His Majesty's Government regarding the political condition of Indians in the mandated territory of Tanganyika, or their economic condition generally.

(b) In reply to question No. 95 asked by Mr. B. Das on 26th August 1925, I stated that the Governor of the Territory proposed to appoint a committee to investigate the question of trade licences and the possibility of raising by alternative methods the revenue at present accruing from the profits tax. The report of the committee has not yet reached the Colonial Office, but section 14 (2) of the Trades Licensing Ordinance, 1923, which specifies the languages in which accounts may be kept, remains in abeyance pending the receipt and consideration of the report of the Committee. Government are not aware that local Indians are experiencing any difficulty in the matter of the renewal of their trade licences.

**Mr. B. Das :** With reference to the reply of the Honourable Member to part (a), do I understand that in the opinion of the Government of India the time has not yet arisen for representations to His Majesty's Government about the economic and political conditions of Indians in Tanganyika ?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore :** Will the Honourable Member suggest to me on what points representation should be made ?

**Mr. B. Das :** I will do that.

#### POSITION OF INDIANS IN KENYA.

53. **\*Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju :** Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have any information that the condition of Indians in Kenya has improved and whether the disabilities imposed on them have been removed and whether Indians enjoy British citizenship rights there ?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore :** The Honourable Member is referred to the relevant portion of the replies given by me on the 26th August 1925 to Mr. B. Das' Question No. 96 and to the supplementary question asked by the same Honourable Member. I have nothing to add to what I said then.

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

54. **\*Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju :** Will the Government be pleased to state whether there is any prospect of the Southborough Committee inquiring into the grievances of Indians in East Africa and whether the report of Major Ormsby-Gore makes any reference to the position of Indians there ? How do the Government propose to safeguard the interests of Indians there ?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore :** With your permission, Sir, I shall answer the Honourable Member's question in two parts :

(a) As announced by Major the Hon'ble Ormsby-Gore in the House of Commons on the 9th June 1925, the Southborough Committee has ceased

to exist. There is no prospect, therefore, of its conducting any further enquiries.

(b) As regards the second part of the Honourable Member's question, I would invite his attention to the reply given by me on the 26th August 1925 to the question supplementary to Mr. K. C. Neogy's question No. 109, asked by Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas on that date.

ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE REGARDING THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DISABILITIES OF INDIANS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

55. \***Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju** : Will the Government be pleased to state when and where the Round Table Conference will be held to consider the political and economic disabilities of Indians in South Africa, and what would be its constitution and the terms of reference ? What are the points on which the South African Union is prepared to co-operate and to discuss in greater detail other than those published in the communiqué ?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore** : As already announced the Conference will meet at Cape Town on December 14th, 1926. Its scope is generally described in the formula published in the Government of India's communiqué, dated 23rd April. No further details have yet been settled. The personnel of the Indian delegation to the Conference is under consideration. The selection of South African representatives is obviously a matter for the Union Government.

**Mr. B. Das** : Will Government consult this side of the House regarding the choice of the personnel of the South African Deputation ?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore** : I can give my Honourable friend the assurance that every endeavour will be made to see that the deputation is as representative as possible.

**Mr. B. Das** : Was it not a fact that during the last Session the Honourable Member had said he would be in close touch with the leaders of this House over the South African question, and does the Honourable Member now propose to consult the leaders on this side of the House about the personnel of the coming deputation ?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore** : I have nothing further to add to what I have already said.

SAFEGUARDING OF THE INTERESTS OF INDIAN LABOURERS IN CEYLON AND MALAYA.

56. \***Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju** : Will the Government be pleased to state whether any and what steps are being taken to safeguard the interests of Indian labourers in Ceylon, the Malay States and the Straits Settlements if they propose to settle in those countries permanently ?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore** : As the Honourable Member is aware emigration of unskilled Indian labour to Ceylon, etc., has been allowed on conditions, approved by the Indian Legislature which seek to ensure that while working as a labourer, his interests will so far as possible be adequately safeguarded. The Government of India have appointed Agents in both countries to look after the Indian labourer. They are not aware that in

either of the Colonies mentioned by the Honourable Member any obstacles exist to the permanent settlement of Indians or that such settlement involves any deterioration of status.

#### CYCLONE IN THE AKYAB DISTRICT OF BURMA.

57. \*Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao : (a) Will the Government be pleased to place on the table the reports if any that have been received from the Government of Burma about the cyclone on the Arakan Coast ?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of persons that died in the cyclone, the approximate value of the property lost in the cyclone and the steps taken by the Government of India and the Local Government to afford relief to those who have suffered in the cyclone ?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : (a) Copies of reports received to date are placed on the table.

(b) The information asked for is contained in the reports. No relief was granted from central revenues.

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*Copy of a telegram dated the 30th May 1926, from the Government of Burma, to the Government of India, Home Department.*

A severe cyclone accompanied by tidal wave is reported to have done much damage and caused heavy loss of life in Akyab district. Details are scanty owing to break down of communications. Fuller report will follow.

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*Copy of a telegram dated the 2nd June 1926, from the Government of Burma, to the Government of India, Home Department.*

Continuation my telegram, dated 30th May. Commissioner, Arakan, has telegraphed as follows. *Begins.* Latest estimate of deaths in cyclone Maungdaw township is 2,764 in 33 villages from Mrawchaung latitude 20° 35' to Mingalagri latitude 20° 55'. Chief casualties are Maungdulla 525, Udaung 380, Althangyaw 350, Thabyedaw 200, Sheikali 197, Zawmadat 175, Kanbu 150, Padin 111 and seven other villages over fifty each. *Ends.* Governor in Council has placed Rs. fifty thousand at disposal of Commissioner for relief of sufferers. Further reports expected within day or two and will be communicated on receipt.

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*Copy of a telegram No. 446-C., dated the 30th July 1926, from the Government of Burma, to the Government of India, Home Department.*

Your 119-Public, dated 23rd July, regarding Akyab cyclone loss of life, Akyab District 2,774. Estimated loss in cattle, rice and seed, grain, house property and household utensils is roughly seventeen and half lakhs rupees. Damage to Government buildings estimated at roughly 85,000 rupees. Damage to private buildings was extensive but easily repairable. Rupees 50,000 sanctioned by Local Government for immediate relief. About a lakh of rupees has been collected privately for relief. Agricultural loans up to rupees two lakhs been issued extensively and relief work organised on construction of roads. Full report follows by letter.

#### ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE IN REGARD TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN QUESTION.

58. \*Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Government of India have come to any decision in regard to the venue of the Round Table Conference,

in regard to the South African question and also the personnel of the Conference from India ?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state what action the Government of India have taken in regard to the Colour Bar Bill passed by the Legislature of the South African Union ?

(c) Will the Government also be pleased to state whether the questions dealt with by the Colour Bar Bill will come up before the Round Table Conference for consideration ?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore :** (a) As I have already stated, the Conference will meet at Cape Town on the 14th December next. The personnel of the Indian delegation to the Conference has not yet been settled.

(b) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the press communiqué on the subject which was issued on the 4th June last.

(c) The agenda of business to be discussed at the Conference has not yet been definitely settled, but the scope of the Conference, as stated in the formula agreed upon between the two Governments appears to cover discussion of the application to the Indian community in South Africa of the principle underlying the Colour Bar Bill.

**Mr. M. A. Jinnah :** Will the Honourable Member indicate the method that Government propose to adopt in settling the personnel of the Conference ?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore :** I am afraid, Sir, I cannot at this stage go beyond what I have already told the House. I have given the House the assurance that Government will endeavour to see that the constitution of their deputation will be such as to cover all important interests as far as this is possible and will be such as to ensure that the Indian case will be put forward to the best advantage.

**Mr. M. A. Jinnah :** Will the Honourable Member indicate what methods the Government will adopt to secure that result ?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore :** The method of selection, Sir.

**Mr. M. A. Jinnah :** I want to know definitely—unless the Honourable Member wants notice in which case I shall give him notice—whether the Government of India propose to adopt any method for the purpose of securing that result, and if so, how they are going to do it. Will it be a purely executive decision ?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore :** I did not hear exactly what was said. Does my Honourable friend mean by that question to ask whether the deputation will be official ?

**Mr. M. A. Jinnah :** No. My question is very simple. I understand the Honourable Member has given us an assurance that the personnel will be entirely Indian or at any rate sufficiently Indian.

**Mr. J. W. Bhore :** I did not say that, Sir.

**Mr. M. A. Jinnah :** Will the Honourable Member inform this House how he proposes to secure the result which he assures us he wants to secure, namely, what method the Government will adopt in selecting the personnel of the Conference ?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore :** I have already told my Honourable friend the method will be one of selection. The Government will select those whom they consider to be best fitted to represent India.

**Mr. M. A. Jinnah :** Will that decision be arrived at purely by the executive ?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore :** Yes, Sir.

**Mr. M. A. Jinnah :** Will they take any steps to secure or consult non-official opinion ?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore :** I can give no assurance on that point to my Honourable friend at the present moment.

**Mr. B. Das :** Will the Honourable the Leader of the House assure us that the Government will consult non-official opinion regarding the personnel of the deputation ?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman :** No, Sir. I cannot give any such assurance. The deputation is a Government deputation and the personnel will be selected by Government.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXTERNAL CAPITAL COMMITTEE.

59. **\*Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the opinions on the recommendations of the External Capital Committee have been received, and will the Government be pleased to place them on the table ?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state when they propose to take action in regard to the recommendations of the Committee ?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett :** (a) Replies have yet to be received from five Provincial Governments. When all have been received copies will be placed on the table.

(b) Progress is being made in several directions, as for example, in the matter of establishing an Indian Institute of Bankers. I shall not be in a position to make a comprehensive statement on the Report as a whole till the replies from Provincial Governments are received. The questions involved have also in some cases to be considered in connection with the Report of the Currency Commission.

#### RIOTS AT RAWALPINDI.

60. **\*Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have received any report from the Local Government about the riots at Rawalpindi and their cause, and will the Government be pleased to place the same on the table ?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to state the cause of the said riots ?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman :** The Government of India have not yet received the final views of the Governor in Council on these occurrences, and hence I am not at present in a position to lay any papers on the table or to make a definite statement as to the causes of the riots.

INFLUX OF PUNJABIS INTO THE RAILWAY SERVICE IN THE PROVINCE OF SIND.

61. \*Khan Bahadur W. M. Hussanally : Has the attention of the Government been drawn to a letter by 'Justice' published in the *Sind Observer* of June 16th, 1926, anent the influx of Punjabis into the railway service in the Province of Sind ? Are the facts mentioned therein correct ?

ORDER REGARDING THE EMPLOYMENT OF MATRICULATES ON THE NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

62. \*Khan Bahadur W. M. Hussanally : (a) Is it a fact that the North-Western Railway Administration have ruled that no one except a Matriculate should be employed in the Railway ?

(b) If so, when was that order passed ?

(c) How many vacancies in the Sind section of the North-Western Railway have occurred since that order was passed ?

(d) How many Sindis and how many Punjabis have been recruited in Sind since the promulgation of that order ?

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes** : I propose to reply to questions Nos. 61 and 62 together.

I have seen the article referred to by the Honourable Member. The fact is that for many years past a Matriculation qualification has been prescribed for admission to the clerical staff on the North Western Railway. Obviously, no reasonable objection can be taken to such a rule, but the suggestion in the *Sind Observer* is that the rule operates unfairly as between Sindhis and Punjabis, since it is harder to pass the Matriculation examination of the Bombay University than that of the Punjab University. I am afraid that I must ask to be excused from expressing any opinion on the point, and even if the facts are as stated, I do not see what action the Railway Administration could take. As I have said, the rule relating to the educational qualifications of the clerical staff has been in force for a very long time, and I am not prepared to collect the statistics which the Honourable Member asks for.

**Khan Bahadur W. M. Hussanally** : May I know when that rule was enacted ?

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes** : I am told that it has been in force for a long time. I am afraid that is all I can say.

**Khan Bahadur W. M. Hussanally** : Cannot I have the year ? My information is that it is very recent ?

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes** : I am afraid, Sir, the Honourable Member's information is wrong.

DISTRIBUTION OF APPOINTMENTS ON THE NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY AMONG CHRISTIANS, HINDUS AND MUHAMMADANS.

63. \*Khan Bahadur W. M. Hussanally : (a) Is the Home Department Circular regarding the fair distribution of Government service among various communities applicable also to the Railway Department ?

(b) If so, has the North-Western Railway acted up to that Circular ?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to place on the table a statement showing the number of appointments rendered vacant in the North-Western Railway since that Circular was issued, and the distribution of such appointments among Christians, Hindus and Muhammadans ?

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes :** (a) Yes.

(b) Since the proportion of Muslim subordinates on scales of pay rising to Rs. 250 per mensem and over is considerably higher on the North-Western Railway than on any other Class I Railway, and since the proportion was higher in 1925 than in 1924, I have every reason to suppose that the Agent is giving effect to the policy indicated.

(c) Statistics are already given in an Appendix in Volume I of the Annual Report by the Railway Board on Indian Railways showing by Railways the distribution among Europeans, Anglo-Indians, Muslims and non-Muslims of all appointments the pay of which reaches or exceeds Rs. 250 per mensem. I am afraid I cannot add to these statistics in the manner suggested by the Honourable Member.

#### REFUND TO THE RELATIVES OF PILGRIMS WHO DIED IN THE HEDJAZ OF THE AMOUNTS DUE ON RETURN TICKETS.

64. **\*Khan Bahadur W. M. Hussanally :** (a) When was the system of return steamer tickets to be purchased by Hajis going to the Hedjaz introduced ?

(b) What has been the number of Hajis who purchased return tickets since that date up to the present, and what has been the amount of return fare realised ?

(c) How many Hajis have died in the Hedjaz since that date who did not use the return tickets ; and what has been the amount of the fares on such tickets ?

(d) How much of this amount has been paid back to the relatives of the deceased ?

(e) What has been the amount which has lapsed ?

(f) What has been the interest on such lapsed amounts ?

(g) In whose possession is this amount ?

(h) How is it proposed to use or dispose of this lapsed amount together with interest ?

(i) Do Government propose to publish a yearly statement after the expiry of the Haj season, giving the details above indicated together with any others that may be of interest to the public ?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore :** (a) Since the passing of the Indian Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Act, 1925, a pilgrim travelling by the lowest class is required by law either to purchase a return steamer ticket or pay a deposit for defraying the cost of the return voyage, unless he is exempted from this requirement on the ground that he does not intend to return to India within three years. But the practice of purchasing

return tickets on a purely voluntary basis had been in vogue among pilgrims for some time ?

(b) to (f). The Government of India have no information.

(g) and (h). So far as Government are aware no sum representing unclaimed passage money on account of unused return coupons is at present in the possession of Government. They have no information as to whether any amount of such passage money is in the possession of shipping companies. They are, however, considering the advisability of issuing rules under the Indian Merchant Shipping Act to provide that unclaimed passage money or deposits shall in future lapse to Government after a prescribed period and be applied for the benefit of the pilgrims.

(i) The suggestion of the Honourable Member will be considered.

**Khan Bahadur W. M. Hussanally :** May I inquire if the Government propose to ask the shipping companies what amount they have in their possession at the present moment ?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore :** I do not think that any useful purpose will be served by making that inquiry.

**Khan Bahadur W. M. Hussanally :** I think a very useful purpose will be served.

**Sir Walter Willson :** May I ask, Sir, whether in fixing a reduced rate for return tickets it would not be reasonable to suppose that either a railway company or a shipping company would make some profit from unused tickets ?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore :** That, Sir, is a general question on which I do not feel myself competent to reply.

**Mr. K. Ahmed :** In the case of the Hajis who went to Mecca from Bombay and did not return to India at all, or died, will the Government be pleased to state their numbers and the amount of money that they spent in purchasing return tickets ?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore :** I am afraid I must ask for notice of that question.

**Sir Walter Willson :** With reference to the answer given by the Honourable Member to me just now, is it not a fact that the railway companies do not make any return in respect of unused return tickets, and why therefore should shipping companies adopt a different policy ?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore :** In regard to the practice on Railways, I think the Honourable Member should address his question to my Honourable friend Mr. Parsons.

**Pandit Shamlal Nehru :** Do not the railway companies return the cost of the unused half of a return ticket *minus* 10 per cent ?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore :** I am not aware of the practice on Railways.

**Mr. K. Ahmed :** In view of the fact that in the Select Committee you accepted the view of the majority of the Muslim Members, when my friend Sir Walter Willson was present and agreed that the steamship companies would immediately return the money if the ticket was not used....

## UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

## LICENCES FOR FIRE-ARMS IN THE DELHI PROVINCE.

1. **Mr. Ismail Khan** : Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement in the following form :

	In 1919.	In 1920.	In 1921.	In 1922.	In 1923.	In 1924.	In 1925.
Total number of licences granted (new or renewed) for the purposes of sport, protection and display in Delhi Province.							
Total number of licences granted (new or renewed) to dealers allowing them to deal in fire-arms in Delhi Province.							
Total number of firearms imported or the total number of firearms for which "no objection certificates" were granted to import firearms by these dealers into Delhi Province.							

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman** : A statement is laid on the table.

	In 1919.	In 1920.	In 1921.	In 1922.	In 1923.	In 1924.	In 1925.
Total number of licences granted (new or renewed) for the purposes of sport, protection and display in Delhi Province.	186	1,399	1,187	1,275	1,355	1,562	1,567
Total number of licences granted (new or renewed) to dealers allowing them to deal in fire-arms in Delhi Province.	4	4	4	5	5	6	6
Total number of fire-arms imported or the total of fire-arms for which "no objection certificates" were granted to import fire-arms by these dealers into Delhi Province.	926	965	1,081	1,202	2,212	2,390	2,349

QUALIFICATION OF THE CHIEF FOOD INSPECTOR OF THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

2. **Dr. K. G. Lohokare** : (a) Will Government kindly say whether the recently appointed Chief Food Inspector of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway possesses any special qualification for being appointed to such a post ?

(b) Is it a fact that the senior Food Inspector then working was set aside in preference to the new incumbent ?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons** : Government have no information and do not intend to call for any as the matter is within the discretion of the Agent. But a copy of the question and reply will be sent to the Agent of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway.

USE OF THE KING'S HIGHWAY FOR RELIGIOUS AND OTHER PROCESSIONS.

3. **Baboo Runglal Jajodia** : Will the Government concede that all communities, whatsoever their forms of faith or worship, have every right to make use of the King's highways for their religious and other processions in the manner established by custom and tradition without any molestation from any other community ?

OBJECTION TO THE PLAYING OF MUSIC IN HINDU RELIGIOUS PROCESSIONS.

4. **Baboo Runglal Jajodia** : (a) Will the Government please state when the objection against the playing of music in Hindu religious processions was raised for the first time in India ?

(b) When did the first communal riot in this connection break out ?

(c) Do the Government propose or have they in contemplation any legislative or executive action for a permanent and final solution of the question of restoration of whatever was the practice sanctioned by custom and tradition ?

COMMUNAL RIOTS IN TERRITORIES UNDER THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

5. **Baboo Runglal Jajodia** : (a) Will the Government of India be pleased to state the number of communal riots which took place in the territories directly under their administrative control which were due to religious processions and other causes ?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state the numerical strength of the communities involved, the loss of lives and property and other casualties involved in such communal riots during the last three years ?

COMMUNAL RIOTS.

6. **Baboo Runglal Jajodia** : Has the opinion of the Government of India been sought for by any of the Provincial Administrations in connection with communal riots and, if so, what has been the advice or views of the Government of India ?

POSTPONEMENT OF HINDU RELIGIOUS PROCESSIONS OWING TO COMMUNAL RIOTS.

7. **Baboo Runglal Jajodia** : Will the Government state in how many cases in territories directly under their administrative control Hindus have been denied the right of taking out religious processions owing to communal outbreaks, and in how many cases religious processions had to be postponed either on account of the refusal of the authorities to arrange proper police safeguards for the conduct of the same or the inaction of the police ?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman** : I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply I gave to Mr. Harchandrai Vishindas' question on this subject and to the statement I laid on the table in connection therewith.

I will ascertain whether there have been any occasions during the last three years when religious processions have been forbidden or postponed in territories under the direct control of the Government of India, and if so, for what reasons ; and I will furnish the Honourable Member with a statement of the communal riots which have occurred in these territories, together with the numerical strength of the communities involved and other details, so far as available, for which he asks.

No Provincial Administration has recently sought for the opinion of the Government of India in connection with communal riots, but the matter has naturally from time to time been the subject of correspondence. For the general views of the Government of India on the subject, I refer the Honourable Member to my reply above quoted.

REPORT OF THE AUXILIARY AND TERRITORIAL FORCES COMMITTEE.

8. **Sardar V. N. Mutalik** : (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have considered the Report of the Auxiliary and Territorial Forces Committee ?

(b) If so, what recommendations have been accepted ?

(c) Do Government intend to bring before this House any Resolution on this Report ?

**Mr. E. Burdon** : (a), (b) and (c). The views of the Government of India on the Report of the Auxiliary and Territorial Forces Committee are now before the Secretary of State. Government are unable to make any further statement on the subject at present.

TRAINING OF MEN FOR THE PROVINCIAL FOREST SERVICES.

9. **Sardar V. N. Mutalik** : Will Government be pleased to state :

(a) what change, if any, they propose to effect for the training of men for the Provincial Forest Services, at the Forest College, Dehra Dun ?

(b) whether it is proposed to start Forest Colleges in other places for training Provincial Service men and private students ?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore :** (a) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the Resolution of the Government of India, Department of Education, Health and Lands, dated the 22nd June 1926.

The Provincial Forest Service course at Dehra Dun will be abolished after the end of March 1928 when those who entered the college in April 1926 will have completed their training. With the disappearance of this course, it is proposed to raise the standard of the Rangers' course at Dehra Dun, thus making it easier for Local Governments to make appointments in the Provincial Forest Service by promotion from the Rangers' service, if they wish to do so.

(b) Burma has a Provincial Forest Service course of its own at the Rangoon University. Government are not aware of any proposals to start Forest Colleges for training Provincial Forest Service students in other Provinces.

#### WAITING ROOM FOR HIGHER CLASS PASSENGERS AT KOREGAON OF THE MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA RAILWAY.

10. **Sardar V. N. Mutalik :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they are aware that there is no waiting room for higher class passengers at the Koregaon station of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway, and that the Koregaon station is an important and a growing station and the passenger traffic is increasing ?

(b) If so, are Government prepared to undertake the building of a waiting room at an early date ?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons :** The Government have drawn the attention of the Agent to the suggestion contained in the Honourable Member's question. It is not a matter on which they have or can be expected to have any information themselves.

#### USE OF WAITING ROOMS BY RAILWAY OFFICERS.

11. **Sardar V. N. Mutalik :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if there are any orders for railway officers to occupy the waiting rooms during their stay at any railway station, and not to allow any higher class passengers to enter the waiting rooms ?

(b) If so, are Government aware that this practice on the part of the officers causes extreme inconvenience to the passengers during the hours of the night and especially to ladies, who want to catch trains, or get down from trains, at stations which are at some distance from the cities ?

(c) Do Government propose to issue any orders to secure the convenience of the passengers ?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons :** (a) and (b). The reply is in the negative. Passengers are given preference over the staff on Railways in the matter of accommodation either in trains or waiting rooms. But if the Honourable Member will mention any specific instance, the matter will be brought to the notice of the Railway Administration concerned.

(c) In the circumstances no issue of orders on the subject is considered necessary.

**RECRUITMENT TO THE CLERICAL STAFF OF THE ACCOUNTS OFFICES IN THE CENTRAL PROVINCES.**

12. **Mr. S. D. Talatuley** : 1. Have the Government fixed and determined upon any policy in the matter of recruitment to the clerical staff of the Accounts Offices in general and of the Central Provinces in particular, and if so, will the Government be pleased to lay the papers on the table in this connection ?

2. Does the policy provide for recruitment in the Province itself by preference, as far as possible, in the case of Provincial Accounts Offices ? If so, will the Government be pleased to lay on the table statistics of recruitment in the Central Provinces Accounts Offices according to the following details :

- (a) Number of clerks recruited every year during the last five years.
- (b) How many of them are provincial men and how many extra-provincial, and out of these extra-provincial men how many are from the different Provinces other than from the Central Provinces and Berar.
- (c) For what special reasons have the extra-provincial men been preferred to provincial men ?

**GRANT OF HOLIDAYS TO THE STAFF OF THE ACCOUNTS OFFICES IN THE CENTRAL PROVINCES.**

13. **Mr. S. D. Talatuley** : 1. What is the policy of the Government in the matter of granting gazetted holidays under section 25 of Act XXVI of 1881 (the Negotiable Instruments Act), with regard to the Accounts Offices of the Central Provinces and Berar ?

2. Is it a fact that generally these holidays are not granted to the Central Provinces Accounts Offices, and if so, why are they so treated ?

3. Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table statistics as to how many holidays were and were not granted every year during the last 5 years according to the following details :

- (a) Holidays prescribed by the Negotiable Instruments Act.
- (b) Holidays notified by the Local Government under the Negotiable Instruments Act.
- (c) Special or local holidays.
- (d) Last Saturdays.

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett** : Enquiries are being made and the information will be supplied to the Honourable Member in due course.

**DENIAL TO THE STAFF OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY OF THE BENEFIT OF THE FUNDAMENTAL LEAVE RULES.**

14. **Mr. Harchandrai Vishindas** : (a) Is it a fact that the North-Western Railway staff are denied the benefit of the Fundamental Leave Rules of 1922, and if so, why ?

(b) Are Government aware that there are many of this staff who are desirous of availing themselves of these rules ?

(c) If so, do Government propose to remove the bar ?

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes :** (a), (b) & (c). The Fundamental Leave Rules apply to the staff of the North Western Railway with the exception (1) of the daily rated monthly paid staff, and (2) of the employees of the Delhi-Umbala-Kalka Railway who were transferred from the East Indian Railway and who remain under their old rules.

#### PLATFORM ATTENDANCE OF SORTERS AT THE VICTORIA TERMINUS.

15. **Sardar V. N. Mutalik :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the reduction, if any, made in the platform attendance of sorters of the B-6, B-7, and B-13 sections at the Victoria Terminus railway station, before the departure of the respective mails ?

(b) If no reduction has been made, will Government be pleased to state if the present attendance is in excess of the maximum platform attendance allowable under the rules ?

(c) Do Government propose to issue any instructions in the matter ?

**Sir Ganendra Roy :** (a) Only in the case of the B-13 section where the platform attendance has been reduced to one hour.

(b) There is no maximum platform attendance.

(c) The question of counting as duty the period of such attendance prescribed in each case is under consideration.

#### STATUS OF THE POST OFFICE STAMP VENDORS IN BOMBAY.

16. **Sardar V. N. Mutalik :** (a) Is it a fact that prior to the findings of the Postal Inquiry Committee (1920) the pay of the Post Office stamp vendors in Bombay was the same as the minimum for the Post Office clerks ?

(b) Did the stamp vendors up to the year 1922 belong to the superior service ?

(c) Are the stamp vendors now treated as temporary establishment in inferior service ?

(d) Is it a fact that in Bombay the qualifications of a stamp vendor are superior to those of a postman ? Are they expected to sell stamps to the extent of at least Rs. 600 of various denominations ?

(e) How many stamp vendors in Bombay belong to the superior service and how many to the temporary inferior subordinates ?

(f) Will Government be pleased to state the reasons for this change of status ?

**Sir Ganendra Roy :** (a) No. The number of stamp vendors in Bombay was then 15, of whom 12 drew pay at Rs. 30 and 3 at Rs. 40. The minimum pay of clerks in Bombay at that time was Rs. 40.

(b) Yes.

(c) Stamp vendors entertained after the 20th November, 1923, are treated as establishment in inferior service. The stamp vendors in Bombay are all permanent Government servants.

(d) The answer to the first part of the question is "No" and to the second part "Yes."

(e) Thirteen are in superior service and eleven in permanent, not temporary, inferior service.

(f) The work performed by a stamp vendor requires no qualifications of a superior kind.

#### DELAY IN THE GRANT OF DUTY ALLOWANCES TO POSTAL TOWN INSPECTORS IN BOMBAY.

17. **Sardar V. N. Mutalik** : (a) Are Government aware that the Postal Town Inspectors in Bombay have been put off with promises of duty allowance for the last five years ?

(b) What would be the probable cost of duty allowance to Postal Town Inspectors during a financial year ?

(c) Is it a fact that Mr. Clerici had promised to the deputation of the All-India Postal Union (1925) that a provision for duty allowance to the Town Inspectors would be made in the Budget for the year 1926-27 ?

(d) If the answer to the above be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the reason for the delay ?

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

(b) Rs. 38,000.

(c) The actual words used were : " We propose including it in our Budget for 1926-27 ".

(d) As mentioned in item 3 (e) of Part I of the printed statement of grievances laid on the table on the 4th March, 1926, the Government of India are considering this question along with that of improving the pay and allowances of appointments above the time-scales of pay.

#### ABNORMAL DEATH RATE AMONG SORTERS WORKING IN THE W-2 SECTION OF THE RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE.

18. **Sardar V. N. Mutalik** : (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of sorters working in the W-2 section of the Railway Mail Service ?

(b) How many of the sorters of the W-2 section died during the two years ending 31st March 1926 ?

(c) What was the percentage of deaths per year during the last two years in the W-2 section ?

(d) Is that the usual death-rate amongst Railway Mail sorters in India ?

(e) If not, are Government prepared to inquire into the reasons for this abnormal death-rate ?

**Sir Ganendra Roy** : (a) 16.

(b) 4.

(c) 12.5 per cent.

(d) No. The average mortality is 1.21 per cent.

(e) The deaths were from typhoid, anæmia, malaria and heart disease, respectively. I am inquiring further into the causes of death of these four sorters.

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

19. **Mr. Abdul Haya** : (a) Have the Government arrived at some definite decision with regard to the question of the extension of the Reforms to the North-West Frontier Province ? If so, will the Government please make the decision known to this House ?

(b) Was the Resolution passed in March last by an overwhelming majority of this House regarding the extension of the Reforms to the North-West Frontier Province communicated to His Majesty's Secretary of State for India in Council ?

(c) Did the Government have any correspondence on this subject with the Secretary of State for India in Council ?

(d) If so, are the Government prepared to lay that correspondence on the table ?

**Sir Denys Bray** : The Honourable Member is referred to the pronouncement made by the Honourable the Home Member on the 19th March 1926, in the course of the North-West Frontier debate. To that pronouncement Government have at present nothing to add. The report of the debate was sent to the Secretary of State for India in the usual course. Government do not propose at the present stage to lay any papers on the table.

#### WEARING OF KIRPANS AND SWORDS BY SIKHS IN THE PUNJAB AND THE NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE.

20. **Mr. Abdul Haya** : (a) Has it been brought to the notice of the Government that some Sikhs recently used their *kirpans* as a weapon of offence in certain disturbances that took place at Rawalpindi, Amritsar, Calcutta and other places ?

(b) If so, will the Government please state what steps they have taken to prevent the repetition of offences by means of *kirpans* ?

(c) Are the Government now prepared to remove the distinctions that at present exist in the matter of the possession of swords in the Punjab and in the North-West Frontier Province inasmuch as only Sikhs are allowed to wear swords while members of other communities are required to take out licences for the purpose ?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman** : (a) The Government of India have received no information to suggest that *kirpans* were used in the manner suggested.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In the Punjab no distinctions exist in regard to the possession of swords; but *kirpans* possessed or carried by Sikhs are exempt from the prohibitions and directions of the Rules. Government do not propose to take any action in the matter.

No distinction exists in the North-West Frontier Province.

**RIGHT OF APPEAL OF PROVINCIAL CIVIL SERVICE OFFICERS UNDER THE NEW MEMORIAL RULES.**

21. **Maulvi Sayad Murtuza Sahib Bahadur:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Provincial Service officers had a right of appeal to the Secretary of State in Council before the promulgation of the rules framed under the Government of India, Home Department Resolution No. F-472-11-23, dated the 1st June 1924 ?

(b) Does rule XVI of the above Resolution which lays down that at least one appeal shall lie contemplate that further appeals still lie as heretofore ?

(c) If the answer is in the negative, is it intended that the rights of those officers who were appointed before the promulgation of these rules should be curtailed ?

(d) Is it a fact that an appeal against the order of the Local Government is to be preferred to the Governor under rule XVIII of the above-mentioned Resolution ?

(e) If the answer to (d) is in the affirmative, is it contemplated that an officer should hear an appeal against his own order ?

(f) Are Government prepared to get the rules so amended as to restore the former rights or to allow at least one appeal against the orders passed by the Governor to the Viceroy and the Governor General or to the Public Services Commission and give them retrospective effect making them applicable to the persons against whom such orders have been passed during the current year at least ?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman :** (a) Provincial Service officers whose salary was not less than Rs. 500 per mensem were permitted, under the instructions in force previously, to appeal to the Secretary of State.

(b) No.

(c) The intention was that the authority of Local Governments under the Reforms Scheme should not be impaired by providing a right of appeal to a higher authority from officers appointed by them.

(d) Yes.

(e) The appeal is to the Governor personally.

(f) The answer is in the negative.

**ORDERS FOR SLEEPERS FOR THE MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA AND THE SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAYS.**

22. **Baboo Runglal Jajodia :** 1. (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the letter published in the *Justice*, Madras, of the 18th February, 1926, under the heading "Farce of Railway Tenders for Sleepers" ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway and the South Indian Railway invited tenders for the supply of 7,50,000 sleepers ?

(c) Will the Government state how many tenders were received ?

(d) What was the highest and lowest rate quoted in those tenders and which of the rates in the tenders have been accepted ?

2. (a) Is it a fact that orders for 4½ lakhs of sleepers have been placed with Killick Nixon & Co., for supply from Australia ?

(b) What is the rate at which the orders above were placed ?

(c) What is the quantity of Indian sleepers ordered and at what rate ?

3. (a) Is it a fact that the price of these foreign sleepers is higher than that of Indian sleepers and why is it that Indian sleepers were not ordered ?

(b) Is it the declared policy of the Government to give preference to Indian sleepers ?

4. (a) Do Government propose to enquire whether *messua ferrea* and *erooland hopea pariflora* (*Irumbagan*) are recognised by all Railways as the best and most durable for Indian sleepers and suitable for railway purposes ?

(b) Were the Imperial Forest Economist and other experts consulted before these orders were placed and what was their opinion on Indian timbers ?

5. Were orders for foreign timbers placed by any other Railway during 1925-26, and if so, what was the quantity and amount thereof ?

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes :** 1. (a) Yes.

1. (b)—(d). The information in possession of Government is as follows:

The rates accepted by the South Indian Railway were from Rs. 8-12-0 to Rs. 8-14-0 for broad gauge sleepers and from Rs. 3-7-9 to Rs. 4-2-4 for metre gauge sleepers F. O. R. at South Indian Railway stations. The only rate accepted by the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway was Rs. 9-2-3 F. O. R. Madras for broad gauge sleepers.

2. (a) and (b). Orders were placed for 112,500 metre gauge Australian sleepers with Messrs. Killick Nixon & Co. at £8-17-6 per ton of 50 c. ft. C. I. F. Madras.

2. (c). The South Indian Railway accepted tenders for 139,000 Indian sleepers at Rs. 8-12-0 to Rs. 8-14-0 for broad gauge sleepers and Rs. 3-10-0 to Rs. 4 for metre gauge sleepers F. O. R. at South Indian Railway stations. The Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway accepted none of these tenders from South India as, after taking freight into consideration, the prices were unfavourable. They, however, ordered 335,000 Indian sleepers from other parts of India.

3. (a) From the information available it appears that the Railway Companies accepted the most favourable tenders, taking into account the cost of carriage to site.

3. (b) Yes, provided that the cost and quality of Indian sleepers is not unfavourable compared with foreign sleepers.

4. (a) According to the report of the Sleeper Enquiry Committee, appointed by the Railway Board in 1923-24, the durability of these South

Indian sleeper woods is short and their price so high that it is preferable to use substitutes.

4. (b) Government have no information.

5. In addition to the Madras and Southern Mahratta and South Indian Railways the following Railways purchased foreign timber sleepers in 1925-26:

Railway.	Description of sleepers.	Quantity ordered.	Price per sleeper.	
			C. I. F. Indian Port.	Rs. a. p.
B. N.	.. Creosoted ..	90,000	6 4 6	
"	.. Creosoted Baltic Red Wood.	1,500	7 6 0	
G. I. P. ..	.. Jarrah ..	40,000	7 12 6	
"	.. " ..	51,800	8 0 0	
"	.. Jarrah Crossing ..	9,000	3 3 0	per c. ft.
"	.. " " ..	6,280	3 3 9	Do.
"	.. " " ..	26,250	3 5 4	Do.
"	.. Creosoted Douglas Fir	1,000	6,437 8 0	(total cost).

OPINION OF MR. TIELMAN ROOS, MINISTER OF SOUTH AFRICA, REGARDING THE ASIATIC BILL.

23. **Baboo Runglal Jajodia** : (a) Will the Government state whether it is a fact that Mr. Tielman Roos, Minister of South Africa, has said "The Asiatic Bill is a homely affair—we shall not mind whatever opinion India may hold—we must get it enacted" ?

(b) If so, what action, if any, have Government taken in the matter ?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore** : (a) Government have not seen the statement referred to by the Honourable Member which Mr. Tielman Roos is alleged to have made.

(b) Does not arise.

ELIGIBILITY OF CLERKS IN THE MILITARY ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT TO APPEAR FOR THE SUBORDINATE ACCOUNTS SERVICE EXAMINATION.

24. **Dr. K. G. Lohokare** : 1. Will Government please state if the number of years of service to make a clerk in the Military Accounts Department eligible to appear for the S. A. S. examination is counted up to the date of the examination or up to the probable date of the result ?

2. Do they give him promotion from the date of the examination or from the date of the result in case a candidate is eligible to be transferred to the S. A. S. grade at the time of passing ?

3. Do they allow a shortage of a few months in the period of eligibility for appearing at the examination rather than make some of them wait for the above examination for more than nine months ?

4. What is the date of the next examination, and how is the service to be counted this time ?

- The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett** : 1. Up to the date of examination.  
 2. From the date of the publication of the results.  
 3. Yes in specially deserving cases, up to 3 months.  
 4. (a) May 1927. (b) Under the ordinary rules now in existence, with due regard to specially deserving cases and cases of hardship.

**GRANT OF HOUSE RENT ALLOWANCE TO MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY ACCOUNTS OFFICES STATIONED AT POONA.**

25. **Dr. K. G. Lohokare** : Do the Government of India propose to grant house rent allowance at Poona to the members of the Military Accounts Offices similar to that granted by the local Government ; if so, when are the orders on the subject likely to be issued ?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett** : The matter is under consideration. I fear that it will be some little time before a decision is reached.

**REDUCTION OF THE PAY OF INEFFICIENT ACCOUNTANTS IN THE MILITARY ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT.**

26. **Dr. K. G. Lohokare** : (a) Is it a fact that an accountant drawing Rs. 500 per mensem if considered unfit by the Selection Board to hold an appointment on Rs. 550 is reduced to Rs. 450 *per mensem* ?

(b) If the reply be in the affirmative, will Government please state whether in any other Department under the Government of India an individual who is unfit for further promotion or advancement is not allowed to draw the pay he is actually in receipt of but is reduced to a lower rate of pay ? If so, in what departments ?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett** : (a) Yes.

(b) I would refer the Honourable Member to the answer already given him in August 1925 to his unstarred question No. 85 (a).

**OFFICIATING PROMOTIONS IN THE OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER OF MILITARY ACCOUNTS, WAZIR DISTRICT.**

27. **Dr. K. G. Lohokare** : (a) Is it a fact that the Controller, Military Accounts, Wazir District, through a misinterpretation or ignorance of the rules regarding officiating promotions has not continued the officiating promotions to men who proceeded on privilege leave, and that the Military Accountant General has confirmed his action of not opening the question again on the ground of lapse of time ?

(b) If the reply be in the affirmative, do Government propose to issue necessary instructions to the officer concerned to rectify the omissions now, ignoring the lapse of time and thus enabling the parties concerned to get their dues, which were not paid on account of ignorance or misinterpretation of the rules ?

(c) Is it a fact that the Government of India do not write-off the overpayments made to the members of an Audit Department which are

due to misinterpretation of orders, however late they may be detected, as stated in reply to my unstarred question No. 83 on the 25th August 1925 ? If so, are Government prepared to apply the same principle and direct that any short payments made should be rectified when pointed out by the parties concerned however late it may be ?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett :** The matter referred to by the Honourable Member is being enquired into, and a reply will be given as early as possible.

#### PUBLICATION OF THE REPORT OF THE ARMY ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

28. **Dr. K. G. Lohokare :** Are Government now in a position to answer parts (2), (3) and (4) of my unstarred question No. 243, dated the 22nd March 1926, regarding the publication of the Report of the Army Accounts Committee ?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett :** The Report of the Army Accounts Committee has been received, and I am arranging to place a few copies of the Report in the Library of the House. No final decision has yet been arrived at in regard to the Committee's recommendations.

#### HEADQUARTERS OF THE OFFICES OF CERTAIN CONTROLLERS OF MILITARY ACCOUNTS.

29. **Dr. K. G. Lohokare :** (a) Will Government please state whether arrangements are being made for

- (1) the removal of the Office of the C. M. A., C. P. District, Mhow, to Poona ;
- (2) the removal of the Office of the C. M. A., S. R. Division, to Quetta ; and
- (3) the removal of the Office of the C. M. A., Allahabad Brigade, to Meerut ?

(b) If the reply be in the affirmative, when are these offices likely to be removed ?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett :** Certain proposals for a partial centralisation of Military Audit Offices are under consideration, but no final decision has yet been reached.

#### FORMATION OF MILITARY PENSION OFFICE.

30. **Dr. K. G. Lohokare :** With reference to the reply to my unstarred question No. 247, on the 22nd March 1926, regarding the formation of a Military Pension Office, will Government please state whether a final decision has been arrived at ? If so, will they furnish full details on the subject ?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett :** (1) The reply is in the negative.  
(2) Does not arise.

## MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT.

**Mr. President :** I have received the following notice of motion for the adjournment of the House from Mr. K. Ahmed :

“ I beg to give you notice hereby that I desire to move the adjournment of the House on the first day of this Session or thereafter on as early a day as may be fixed to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, namely, the action of the Government of India in the appointment of a Royal Commission on Agriculture, about the composition of its personnel, its terms of reference, the scope of its inquiry and the views of the public thereon in the matter.”

It is difficult for me to understand what precisely the Honourable Member wants by the last portion of his motion. Does the Honourable Member desire to censure the Government of India for the views of the public on the Agricultural Commission, or what ? I should also like to know from the Honourable Member, before I decide whether the motion is in order or not, when exactly this Royal Commission was announced ?

**Mr. K. Ahmed :** Sir, after we had dispersed in Delhi at the end of the last session, something has happened within the last few months and to-day is the first opportunity we have had of expressing our feelings on behalf of the country, and it is urgent.

**Mr. President :** Will the Honourable Member tell me when exactly the Royal Commission was announced ?

**Mr. K. Ahmed :** The Royal Commission was announced some time ago but the selection of personnel, the scope of the inquiry and certain other matters have very recently been announced by the present Viceroy in his Nagpur speech, while the Under Secretary of State, Earl Winterton in the House of Commons in reply to Colonel Wedgewood said that the Commission would not be precluded. . . . .

**Mr. President :** I have not yet got the reply I wanted from the Honourable Member. When was the Royal Commission announced ?

**Mr. K. Ahmed :** Sir, it was announced by His Excellency Lord Reading last year, but that is immaterial.

**Mr. President :** Kindly tell the Chair on what date the Royal Commission was announced by the Government of India ?

**Mr. K. Ahmed :** On the 20th January 1926, I understand. Sir.

**Mr. President :** Then obviously the Honourable Member is out of date. He should have moved a motion for adjournment on the 21st of January when the Assembly was sitting or immediately thereafter.

**Mr. K. Ahmed :** I am very thankful to you, Sir, but if I am allowed only a minute or two to substantiate the point on which I want to move for the adjournment of this House, I think you will agree with me that . . . . .

**Mr. President :** All the points are given in the notice of motion. The Royal Commission was admittedly announced on the 20th January, and therefore any motion on the subject could have been brought if the matter was urgent on the 21st January or immediately thereafter. No motion of adjournment for the interruption of the ordinary business of this House can be in order at this stage. The matter is not of recent occurrence. I therefore rule the motion out of order.

**Mr. President :** I have received also the following notice of motion for the adjournment of the House from Pandit Shamlal Nehru :

“ I intend to ask for leave to make a motion for adjournment of the business of the Assembly on the 18th instant to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, namely, the question of the advice given to His Excellency the Governor General for the non-allotment of days for private Bills during the current Session.”

With regard to this motion I would like to suggest to the Honourable Member to consider whether it is proper for him to attempt to interrupt the ordinary business of the House on the very first day when it meets during this Session, and whether it would not be more proper for him to first ascertain the general desire of the Members of this House about having a day for non-official Bills. If there is such a general desire on the part of Members, I am sure the best course would be for him and the other Members to have a friendly talk with the Leader of the House, who, I am sure, will do the needful, and I am equally certain that His Excellency the Viceroy would not stand in the way of this House if he is assured that there is such a general desire. I am inclined to think that the purpose the Honourable Member has in view will not be attained by discussing this question on the floor of the House by this motion for adjournment. He should, in my opinion, first ascertain the wishes of the Members of this House and if he finds a general agreement to get a day, he should approach the Viceroy through the Leader of the House. Perhaps it may be that the Viceroy did not give any day because there is no likelihood of finishing any private Bill during this short Session. But if he is assured that there is a general desire for a day for private Bills, he will not disappoint the non-official Members. Perhaps several Members themselves feel that no useful purpose would be served by having a day in this short Session and on the eve of the dissolution of this House. This is merely a suggestion from the Chair before the Chair rules that the motion is in order or not.

**Pandit Shamlal Nehru :** I thank you for the advice and I assure you that I sent in this motion with the greatest reluctance. The fact is that I did not want to send in this motion at all at present. I wanted to approach His Excellency the Governor General again once more, but I was told that if I went in a few days and His Excellency again told me that he could not allow a day for non-official Bills the Honourable the President would not give me a chance to make this motion, because then it would not be a definite matter of urgent public importance. That was the reason I sent in this motion. I thank you for your advice and I will proceed on the lines suggested by you. I hope you will allow me to withdraw the motion.

#### ASSENT OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL TO BILLS.

**Mr. President :** I have to inform the Assembly that the following Bills which were passed by both Chambers of the Indian Legislature have been assented to by His Excellency the Governor General under the provisions of sub-section (1) of section 68 of the Government of India Act :

The Small Cause Courts (Attachment of Immoveable Property) Act, 1926.

The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Act, 1926.

The Government Trading Taxation Act, 1926.  
 The Guardians and Wards (Amendment) Act, 1926.  
 The Indian Lunacy (Amendment) Act, 1926.  
 The Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Act, 1926.  
 The Indian Naturalization Act, 1926.  
 The Steel Industry (Amendment) Act, 1926.  
 The Insolvency (Amendment) Act, 1926.  
 The Code of Criminal Procedure (Second Amendment) Act, 1926.  
 The Promissory Notes (Stamp) Act, 1926.  
 The Contempt of Courts Act, 1926.  
 The Indian Registration (Amendment) Act, 1926.  
 The Madras Civil Courts (Amendment) Act, 1926.  
 The Legal Practitioners (Amendment) Act, 1926.  
 The Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926.  
 The Indian Tariff (Amendment) Act, 1926.  
 The Madras Civil Courts (Second Amendment) Act, 1926.  
 The Indian Finance Act, 1926.  
 The Cotton Industry (Statistics) Act, 1926.  
 The Legal Practitioners (Fees) Act, 1926.  
 The Code of Civil Procedure (Second Amendment) Act, 1926.  
 The Delhi Joint Water Board Act, 1926.  
 The Indian Income-tax (Amendment) Act, 1926.  
 The Indian Divorce (Amendment) Act, 1926.  
 The Indian Factories (Amendment) Act, 1926.  
 The Transfer of Property (Amendment) Act, 1926.

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### THE INDIAN BAR COUNCILS BILL.

PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE.

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman** (Home Member) : Sir, I beg to present the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to provide for the constitution of Bar Councils in British India for certain purposes.

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### STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE.

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra** (Member for Industries and Labour) : Sir, I lay on the table the information promised on the 12th February, 1926, in the concluding portion of the reply to Mr. Kumar Sankar Ray's question No. 783 regarding total capital outlay on irrigation works etc.

[Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra.]

There are no alkaline deposits on lands under cultivation by canal water in Bengal, Burma, Bihar and Orissa, the Central Provinces, Baluchistan and Rajputana. The following table gives the necessary information in respect of the other provinces, viz., Madras, Bombay, the United Provinces, the Punjab, and the North-West Frontier Province :

Province.	District.	Canal.	Area of lands abandoned.	Percentage of the abandoned area on the total irrigated area.	Remedial measures.
			Acres.		
Madras	Guntur	Kistna Delta system.	62		The area abandoned on account of alkalinity is an infinitesimal fraction of the total irrigated area in the Presidency, and the stage of alkalinity resulting in the abandonment of land has not made itself manifest. The Madras ryot is acquainted with the means of checking alkalinity and the Agricultural Department has been taking measures to instruct him in the matter. The local Government consider that no special action is necessary.
Bombay (Deccan and Gujarat).	Ahmed-nagar.	Pravara canals	4,934	} 14.5	The local Government have investigated the question in detail. It is partly a matter of prevention and partly of reclamation. Prevention has proved here not to be difficult. From the beginning, irrigation is restricted to suitable depths of soil. Percolation from the canals is being greatly reduced by puddle trenches in the banks and by concrete or masonry lining in particularly porous strata. Reclamation has proved to be very difficult, however, owing to the character of the Deccan black soil. Successful attempts have been made by drainage which is the only practicable method known. But how far they can be economically applied over the 28,000 acres now out of cultivation is a matter of doubt. A great deal of money and effort has been expended in this matter, first by the Agricultural Department and later by a special Executive Engineer who has been investigating the problem for a number of years. Schemes for draining 3,000 acres of damaged lands have been sanctioned. Some of them have already been completed with satisfactory results, while others are in progress. Further estimates for draining all the easily reclaimable areas are under preparation.
	Nasik and Ahmed-nagar.	Godavari canals	12,595		
	Poona	Nira Left Bank canal including Shetphal Tank.	8,249		
	Poona	Mutha canals including Matoba Tank.	2,000		
	Nasik	Kadwa canals	161		
	Nasik	Girna Left Bank canal.	100		
		Total	28,039		

Province.	District.	Canal.	Area of lands abandoned.	Percentage of the abandoned area on the total irrigated area.	Remedial measures.
Sind			Acres. Not determined.		In Sind the areas out of cultivation are in patches, and have not been determined. The questions of prevention and reclamation cease, since in an alluvial tract, such as that in Sind, it is usually comparatively, easy to wash out the alkaline salts from the soil to a depth where they can no longer do any damage or are likely to rise again to the surface by growing crops, which need a large amount of water. Rice is looked upon as a recuperating crop, and is so, provided the flooding which it requires does not raise the subsoil water above six feet from the surface. If there is any likelihood of this occurring, then drainage of the land is needed, so that any water above six feet deep can drain away. The difficulty in Sind is the provision of this drainage, and this is a matter which is being carefully investigated by the Government of Bombay.
U. P.			711	·03	In addition to 711 acres already abandoned on account of the accumulation of alkaline deposits, 80 acres are also likely to be abandoned for similar reasons. Numerous experiments with regard to the treatment of <i>usar</i> land were attempted but without success.
Punjab	Ambala	Western Jumna canal.	250	18·8	It is not possible to give a precise indication of the future progress of damage from alkaline deposits but the matter is receiving the serious attention of Government.  The following measures for the reclamation of alkali lands have already been taken, <i>viz.</i> :—  (i) Experiments on the reclamation of alkali lands were conducted at <i>Narwal</i> on the Lower Chenab canal in 1915 by the Department of Agriculture, Punjab, and they have proved successful. The method adopted was deep cultivation combined with surface flooding and lateral drainage and a very fine yield of wheat was obtained from land so treated. A full
	Gujranwala.	Upper & Lower Chenab canals.	9,562	2·6	
	Sheikhpura.	Do.	3,144	0·4	
	Jhang	Lower Chenab canal; Muzaffargah Inundation canals; Lower Jhelum canal.	6,746	1·4	
	Shahpur	Lower Jhelum canal; Upper Jhelum canal; Shahpur canals	5,000	0·7	
	Gujarat	Upper & Lower Jhelum canals.	9,346	3·0	
	Sialkot	Upper Chenab canal.	8,276	178·1	
		Total	42,324	0·4	

[Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra.]

Province.	District.	Canal.	Area of land abandoned.	Percentage of the abandoned land on the total irrigated area.	Remedial measures.
Punjab— <i>contd.</i>	..		..		<p>description of the <i>Narwala</i> experiment] is given in Appendix II of the Report of the Operations of the Department of Agriculture, Punjab, 1915.</p> <p>(ii) The <i>Bara Farm</i> experiments are described in the Report of the Operations of the Department of Agriculture, Punjab, 1923.</p> <p>(iii) The <i>Chenab Colony</i> experiments are recorded in the Punjab Revenue and Agriculture Department, printed proceedings for January 1913.</p> <p>The measures which the Government of the Punjab propose to take for the future in areas threatened by alkaline deposits are as follows :—</p> <p>(a) They will consider the advisability of confining irrigation to the kharif season.</p> <p>(b) To free natural drainage lines from obstructions by notifying them as "Drainages" under the Northern India Canal and Drainage Act of 1873.</p> <p>(c) To excavate and maintain by modern methods a scientific system of seepage drains and to deepen existing drains.</p> <p>(d) To encourage irrigation by pumps from wells.</p> <p>(e) To consider the reduction of the intensity of canal irrigation.</p> <p>(f) To conduct a large experiment on mole-drainage under the guidance of Mr. B. H. Wilsdon, Scientific Research Officer, Irrigation Branch.</p> <p>(g) To instal pumping plant where the country is too flat to allow of drainage by gravitation.</p> <p>(h) To continue scientific research on the subject of alkaline deposits and the allied subject of water-logging.</p>

Province.	District.	Canal.	Area of land abandoned.	Percentage of the abandoned area on the total irrigated area.	Remedial measures.
N.-W. F. P.	Peshawar	Kabul River canal.	410	1-01	In the past, a certain number of artificial drains have been constructed and the natural <i>nalas</i> have been cleared. Starting with the year 1926-27, a regular programme of drain construction and <i>nala</i> clearance, has been laid down. Care is being taken to restrict supplies to those necessary to mature the crops. In the naturally well drained areas of the Government canals in the province, the cause of their being thrown out of cultivation is due, in a large degree, to the natural drainages having been interrupted by bunds or ploughing over for cultivation by the people themselves. Steps are being taken to notify as "drainages" all such <i>nalas</i> in the canal tracts as have not already been so notified, under the Northern India Canal and Drainage Act, 1873.
	Do.	Lower Swat canal.	8,470	5-63	

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman** (Home Member) : Sir, I lay on the table the information promised in reply to question No. 597 asked by Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar on the 3rd February, 1926, regarding statutory rules.

Since the original statutory rules were framed in 1920 the only rules made under the Government of India Act which under the proviso to section 129-A, sub-section (3), were laid in draft before both Houses of Parliament before they were made were the rules which gave effect to the notification of the Governor General in Council constituting Burma a Governor's Province under the Act, namely, the Burma Electoral Rules, the amendments to the Legislative Assembly and the Council of State Electoral Rules then made, the Burma Legislative Council Rules and the amendments to the Devolution Rules then made.

### THE CURRENCY BILL.

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett** (Finance Member) : Sir, I introduce the Bill further to amend the Indian Coinage Act, 1906, and the Indian Paper Currency Act, 1923, for certain purposes and to lay upon the Governor General in Council certain obligations in regard to the purchase of gold and the sale of gold or gold exchange.

**Dr. K. G. Lohokare** (Bombay Central Division : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, I am aware of a convention here that the introduction of a Bill.....

**Mr. President** : Order, order. What is the Honourable Member's point ?

**Dr. K. G. Lohokare** : I want to reserve my right of opposition.

**Mr. President** : Order, order. The Honourable Member cannot oppose the introduction. There is no motion before the House. Under Rule 18 the Governor General has got the power to order the publication of any Bill, and in that event it is not necessary to move for leave to introduce that Bill. That procedure has been adopted in this case and the Honourable the Finance Member now merely introduces the Bill as the leave stage has been dispensed with. The Honourable Member can oppose any motion for leave to introduce a Bill, but there is no such motion before the House.

#### THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION (AMENDMENT) BILL.

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra** (Member for Industries and Labour) : Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923.

The motion was adopted.

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra** : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

#### THE USURIOUS LOANS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman** (Home Member) : Sir, the Bill which I seek leave to introduce amends and extends the scope of the Usurious Loans Act, 1918. Honourable Members are of course aware that that is an Act passed enabling the Court to reopen transactions in a suit on the ground that the interest is excessive, or that the transaction as between the parties is substantially unfair. The suits to which the Act applies are defined in sub-section (3) of section 2 of the main Act. They are suits for the recovery of loans or for the enforcement of security in respect of loans. The first amendment my Bill makes in the law is that suits for redemption of securities are included in the suits to which the Act applies. The second amendment is that as the law now stands, agreements purporting to close previous dealings and to create new obligations may not be reopened for a period of six years. The Bill proposes to substitute for the period of six years a period of twelve years. Some years ago, in fact to be accurate in 1922, the Bombay Government proposed to amend the law in the way now done by the Bill. We consulted Local Governments, and a considerable measure of support was received, but we thought that at that time the Act had hardly been in force long enough to justify us in amending it so soon. The Bombay Government have returned to the charge, and we have again considered the matter. The Bombay Government rather wanted local legislation ; we were not in favour of it, and we thought the Act should be amended by this House. That, Sir, is the genesis of the present Bill which I ask the leave of the House to introduce.

Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Usurious Loans Act, 1918, for certain purposes.

The motion was adopted.

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman** : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE (SECOND AMENDMENT)  
BILL.

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman (Home Member) :** Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, for a certain purpose.

This Bill, Sir, arises out of certain recommendations of the Civil Justice Committee. If Honourable Members have the Report with them, they will find that in paragraph 1 of Chapter XXVI the Committee suggest that in second appeals the appellant should be required to furnish security for the costs of an appeal, these costs to be arrived at under a system which I need not trouble the House with at the moment. This question of the deposit of costs on a second appeal is not a new one. It has been considered by the authorities concerned on several occasions. The proposal as made by the Committee does not contemplate any discretion to the Courts, and the deposit of costs is to be a condition precedent to all second appeals. We have referred the proposals to Local Governments and Administrations and to the several High Courts. The proposal as made by the Committee was not, as it stood, undoubtedly acceptable to a considerable proportion of those who considered it, and the Bill I am now seeking to introduce narrows the proposals of the Committee in several respects. In the first place, security must necessarily only be furnished when the appeal is an appeal from a concurrent judgment. That reduces the scope considerably. Then further limitations have been inserted. Power is given by my Bill to the High Court to dispense with security for costs when the judgment appealed from is on the face of it erroneous in law, or when a subsequent decision of the High Court or of the Privy Council has modified or altered the law. We further provide that security should be required only on admission of the appeal under Order XLI of the Code of Civil Procedure. Again, we lay down a fresh limitation that the security should be limited to costs of the second appeal; and last of all, we have provided that security should be furnished only in cash or Government securities. The first three conditions are those mostly suggested by the Governments of Madras, the Punjab, and Bihar and Orissa. I think I need hardly take up the time of the Council by explaining further the other suggestion we have adopted, which is made in the interest of avoiding those delays which are so common when there is a question of ascertaining or testing security. Sir, I move.

**Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar (Madras City : Non-Muhammadian Urban) :** May I ask, Sir, that the opinions received may be circulated before the next motion is made ?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman :** Certainly, I shall be very glad to circulate the opinions.

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

“ That leave be given to introduce a Bill further to amend the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, for a certain purpose.”

The motion was adopted.

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman :** Sir, I introduce the Bill.

### THE INDIAN FACTORIES (AMENDMENT) BILL.

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra** (Member for Industries and Labour) : Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Factories Act, 1911, for a certain purpose.

The motion was adopted.

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra** : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

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### THE NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENTS (INTEREST) BILL.

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman** (Home Member) : Sir, the Bill I seek leave to introduce is a Bill further to amend the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881, and the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, for certain purposes.

The proposal is a very small one. It was made by the Civil Justice Committee in Chapter XV, paragraph 14, of their Report. The Bill proposes to amend Order XXXVII of the First Schedule to the Code. Order XXXVII is the Order which deals with summary suits on negotiable instruments. The Bill amends the law to make it clear that oral agreements regarding interest cannot be recognised. If there is a stipulation in the document itself, then that is the interest that must be allowed. If there is no stipulation, then the interest must be the interest provided by the Negotiable Instruments Act. The Civil Justice Committee have recommended that this point should be made clear and that, Sir, is the object of my Bill.

Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881, and the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, for certain purposes.

The motion was adopted.

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman** : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

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### THE PROVINCIAL INSOLVENCY (AMENDMENT) BILL.

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman** (Home Member) : Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Provincial Insolvency Act, 1920, for certain purposes.

This again is a bye-product of the Civil Justice Committee. In their Chapter where they dealt with insolvency matters they made certain recommendations. I need not trouble the House with those which are not referred to in this Bill. One of them was given effect to in the last Session. This Bill gives effect to certain others. Honourable Members might perhaps like the reference. They will find the remarks of the Committee at page 232 and the following pages of the Committee's Report. Briefly, they propose that the Provincial Insolvency Act should be so amended as to have a provision in it analogous to that of section 36 of the Presidency-towns Insolvency Act. That, Sir, is the section which enables

third parties to be examined. I think it is a matter of some importance and most of the authorities consulted agreed that it is desirable.

Another proposal which is inserted in my Bill, to which I personally do not attach so much importance, is the proposal to amend the law so as to enable a committee of inspection to be appointed. That, Sir, has not attracted much comment. Some think that is hardly necessary. But as it has been recommended and as it has received a measure of support, I have inserted it in the Bill which I am bringing forward.

Another very small amendment, which really is of trifling importance, is a proposal of the Committee that the power of the receiver under section 80 of the Act should be restricted. That, I think, is quite a sound proposal. I do not think receivers under the Provincial Insolvency Act exercise those powers. Those who have greater and more recent knowledge of the Courts, I think, will certainly bear me out. But as a matter of academic propriety, it is certainly desirable that they should not exercise those powers. When the Bill was circulated the Rangoon High Court made a useful suggestion regarding the amendment of sections 53 and 54 of the Act and this we have carried out in clause 3 of the Bill. As far as I can understand, this clause is in accordance with the decisions of High Courts and merely clears the law. I want to make it quite clear that these proposals are not in any sense interdependent. They are entirely separate matters. They have been brought into one Bill because they are the product of the recommendations of the Civil Justice Committee. Sir, I move for leave to introduce the Bill.

The motion was adopted.

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman** : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

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### THE INDIAN SUCCESSION (AMENDMENT) BILL.

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman** (Home Member) : Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Indian Succession Act, 1925, for a certain purpose.

The Bill is of a very simple character, but in my judgment it is of some importance. I need not tell lawyers in this House that in certain parts of India it is not necessary for Hindus who make a will to reduce it to writing. It is so in those parts of India where the Hindu Wills Act does not apply. The Civil Justice Committee have drawn attention to this matter. I may say that it is not in any sense a new discovery ; we have all known it for long and indeed I think so far back as 1865 Professor Whitley Stokes considered that time would not be long before the requirements at any rate of reducing the will to writing were prescribed by law, and he thought that the amendment would come into being quickly. That was in 1865. We are now in 1926. I do not think the Government of India will be accused of precipitancy in bringing this measure forward. I do not propose at this stage to put forward the obvious arguments in favour of the proposal. I think I have sufficiently explained its very simple purpose. When a Hindu wants to make a will, he must reduce it to writing and have it signed and attested in accordance with the ordinary law. That is all that I have included in my Bill. The Civil Justice Committee

[Sir Alexander Muddiman.]

made two further much more difficult and controversial propositions, which did not receive very great support, and I have therefore not included them in my Bill. Sir, I move the motion.

**Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar** (Madras City : Non-Muhammadan Urban) : May I ask the Honourable Member that the opinions on this Bill, be circulated ?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman** : Certainly.

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

“ That leave be given to introduce a Bill to amend the Indian Succession Act, 1925, for a certain purpose.”

The motion was adopted.

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman** : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

#### ELECTION OF A MEMBER TO REPRESENT THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ON THE COUNCIL OF THE INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE, BANGALORE.

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra** (Member for Industries and Labour) : Sir, I move :

“ That this Assembly do proceed to elect a Member to represent this House on the Council of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, in pursuance of the provisions of clause 9, secondly, of the Scheme for the administration and management of the properties and funds of the Institute, which was published in the Gazette of India with the Notification from the Department of Industries and Labour, No. I-10 (T.), dated the 12th February, 1926.”

Members of this House have been furnished with a copy of the Notification to which I have referred. With that notification was published the Scheme for the administration and management of the properties and funds of the Indian Institute of Science. If my Honourable friends will turn to clause 9, secondly, of that Scheme they will find that the Council of the Institute will consist, among other people, of one nominee of the Indian Legislative Assembly, and in my motion I am asking the Assembly to elect that nominee. I need hardly add that the nominee need not be a Member of this House. I would also like to point out that under clause 13 of the Scheme the individual nominated by this House will hold office for three years from the commencement of the year in which the appointment is made ; so that if the nominee of the House, in case he is a sitting Member now, ceases to be re-elected at the next election, he will continue to represent this Assembly on the Council for three years.

Sir, I move.

**Dr. S. K. Datta** (Nominated : Indian Christians) : Sir, I would like to ask the Honourable Member the grounds on which he demands this particular nomination and what exactly is the special relationship of this Assembly to an important educational institution. I think it was two years or a year and a half ago that we refused to be represented on the governing body of management of a particular educational institution. Has this Assembly given authority to the Honourable Member to include in this Notification a representative of this Assembly ? I personally think that it is a very dangerous precedent for this House to be represented or

institutions whose purpose is completely different to the purpose of this House. I think it would have been far wiser if this particular clause had been omitted from the Notification. There may, however, be reasons of which I am not aware, which led to this decision, and I would ask the Honourable Member to give us further information.

In the second place, Sir, if we once undertake to be represented on the governing bodies of institutions, we do not know where the application of this principle is to stop and that, to my mind, makes this precedent very dangerous. I am however willing to withdraw my opposition to the motion if I can have a satisfactory explanation from the Honourable Member. For it may be that his proposal follows from some time-honoured commitment of which I have no knowledge.

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra** : Sir, the proposal to include a nominee of the Indian Legislative Assembly on the Council of this particular body was one of the recommendations made by the special committee which was appointed in 1921 to make inquiries and recommendations in regard to the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. That Committee had for its Chairman Sir William Pope, Professor of Chemistry, Cambridge University, and for its members the late Sir Ashutosh Mukherjee, Sir Henry Hayden and Professor Raman. The report of the Committee was published, and a draft notification embodying the proposals, which thereafter found a place with certain modifications in the Scheme for the administration and management of the properties and funds of the Institute, to which I have already referred, was circulated by the Government of India in 1923 and criticisms were invited on the various items included in the draft notification. Finally the Scheme was published by notification in the Gazette of India on the 12th February, 1926. Up till now no Member of the Assembly or anybody else has objected to a nominee of this House being included in the Council of the Institute.

**Mr. M. A. Jinnah** : How could they ?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra** : I am inclined to think that the provision is a desirable one because this House votes a certain amount of money for the expenditure of the Institute. It gives an annual contribution. I think, therefore, that it is desirable that this Assembly should have the power of nominating a member of the Council. As I have said, it does not necessarily follow that that nominee should be a Member of this House. That, I hope, will take away the point of Dr. Datta's objection to which he has been referring.

**Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar** (Madras City : Non-Muhammadan Urban) : Sir, I do think there is a great deal of force in what Dr. Datta has brought forward. On a former occasion this House was asked to nominate and to give its consent to nominate its delegates or representatives to the governing body of an Institute in Delhi. This House took the stand that being a Parliament—it was not like municipal bodies—it would degenerate into a body undertaking executive management of institutions. We are legislative authorities of the Central Government. I do not think there is any precedent for a Parliament like this hoping to become a fully responsible body, one-day I do not think any Parliament like the Central Legislature descends to nominating its representative to the governing bodies of institutions. If there should be Members of the Legislature on the governing body, they should be chosen by others on personal grounds.

[Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar.]

It is not because the Legislature sanctions it but merely because of individual merit that he should be so chosen. I do not think that this Assembly can undertake this function and I do say, Sir, that Government should think over this motion before they press it to a division. If it is pressed for a division, I am afraid I will have to record my vote against it.

**The Rev. Dr. E. M. Macphail** (Madras : European) : Sir, I regret that I was unable to hear the last speaker. I think there is a great deal in what Dr. Datta has said, but I support the motion. We find in the local Legislature in Madras that representatives are chosen by it for appointment to the Senate of the University. I think that anything we do in the way of agreeing to make such appointments ought to be jealously scrutinised. But it seems to me that if there is any case in which this House may fitly appoint a Member or some other person to represent it and to look after both the interests of this House and of the institution to which he is appointed, it is to an all-India institution like the Institute of Science in Bangalore. While, therefore, I sympathise with my friend, Dr. Datta, I am still inclined to support the Honourable Sir B. N. Mitra's motion.

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

“ That this Assembly do proceed to elect a Member to represent this House on the Council of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, in pursuance of the provisions of clause 9, secondly, of the Scheme for the administration and management of the properties and funds of the Institute, which was published in the Gazette of India with the Notification from the Department of Industries and Labour, No. I-10 (T.), dated the 12th February, 1926.”

The Assembly divided :

AYES—50.

Abdul Qaiyum, Nawab Sir Sahibzada.  
Ahmed, Mr. K.  
Aiyangar, Mr. K. Rama.  
Aiyer, Sir P. S. Sivaswamy.  
Ajab Khan, Captain.  
Akram Hussain, Prince A. M. M.  
Allison, Mr. F. W.  
Bhore, Mr. J. W.  
Blackett, The Honourable Sir Basil.  
Clow, Mr. A. G.  
Coatman, Mr. J.  
Crawford, Colonel J. D.  
Dalal, Sardar B. A.  
Donovan, Mr. J. T.  
Dyer, Mr. J. F.  
Ghazanfar Ali Khan, Raja.  
Gidney, Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J.  
Gour, Sir Hari Singh.  
Graham, Mr. L.  
Haig, Mr. H. G.  
Hezlett, Mr. J.  
Hudson, Mr. W. F.  
Innes, The Honourable Sir Charles.  
Ismail Khan, Mr.  
Jones, Mr. T. G.  
Lindsay, Sir Darcy.

Macphail, The Rev. Dr. E. M.  
Mahmood Schamnad Sahib Bahadur, Mr.  
Mitra, The Honourable Sir Bhupendra  
Nath.  
Muddiman, The Honourable Sir Alexander.  
Norton, Mr. E. L.  
Ownes, Lieut.-Col. F. C.  
Paddison, Sir George.  
Parsons, Mr. A. A. L.  
Rahman, Khan Bahadur A.  
Raj Narain, Rai Bahadur.  
Rau, Mr. B. R.  
Reddi, Mr. K. Venkataramana.  
Koffey, Mr. E. S.  
Roy, Mr. K. C.  
Roy, Sir Ganendra.  
Sarda, Rai Sahib M. Harbilas.  
Sastri, Diwan Bahadur C. V. V.  
Sheepshanks, Mr. J.  
Singh, Rai Bahadur S. N.  
Sykes, Mr. E. F.  
Townsend, Mr. C. A. H.  
Wajihuddin, Khan Bahadur Haji.  
Willson, Sir Walter.  
Yakub, Maulvi Muhammad.

NOES—14.

Chanda, Mr. Kamini Kumar.  
Das, Mr. B.  
Datta, Dr. S. K.  
Deshmukh, Mr. B. M.  
Ghose, Mr. S. C.  
Hyder, Dr. L. K.  
Jinnah, Mr. M. A.

Joshi, Mr. N. M.  
Lohokare, Dr. K. G.  
Murtuza Sahib Bahadur, Maulvi Sayad.  
Neogy, Mr. K. C.  
Rangachariar, Diwan Bahadur T.  
Talatuley, Mr. S. D.  
Venkatapatiraju, Mr. B.

The motion was adopted.

**Mr. President :** As the result of the decision just made, I have to announce that nominations for election will be received in the office of the Assembly till 12 Noon on Friday, the 20th August, and the election, if any, will take place in this Chamber on Monday, the 23rd August.

**RESOLUTION RE APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEES TO DEAL WITH BILLS RELATING TO HINDU AND MUHAMMADAN LAW.**

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman (Home Member) :** Sir, the position in regard to the Resolution\* that stands on the paper is rather curious. It was set down for discussion.....

**Mr. M. A. Jinnah (Bombay City : Muhammadan Urban) :** Sir, before the Honourable Member in charge of this Resolution moves, I want to move the adjournment of this motion till the next Assembly meets. Sir,

\*\*\* This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that in order to give effect to the recommendation in paragraph 120 of the Report of the Reforms Enquiry Committee the Indian Legislative Rules and the Standing Orders of this House be amended so as to provide as follows :

- (a) two Standing Committees, one to deal with Bills relating to Hindu Law and the other with Bills relating to Muhammadan Law shall be appointed :
- (b) appointments to these Committees shall be made by a Committee of Selection the members of which shall be appointed at one of the first meetings of the Assembly to be held in each year and should hold office for one year from the date of nomination :
- (c) the Committee of Selection shall consist of the President, the Deputy President and the Leader of the House supplemented up to a total number of 12 members on a motion moved by the Leader of the House so as to represent the main divisions of opinion in this House :
- (d) the Standing Committee for Bills relating to Hindu Law shall consist of the Honourable the Home Member, the Honourable the Law Member, if they are Members of the Assembly, and 30 Hindu Members nominated by the Committee of Selection, so as to include persons well versed in Hindu Law and representatives both of the orthodox and reforming sections of the Hindu Community :
- (e) the constitution of the Standing Committee for Muhammadan Law shall be similar to that of the Committee on Hindu Law except for the substitution of 20 Muhammadan Members for the 30 Hindu Members :
- (f) the Members of each Standing Committee shall hold office for one year but may be renominated by the Committee of Selection in successive years :
- (g) a Bill which has been referred to the Standing or a special Select Committee in one House shall not be referred to the Standing Committee or a special Select Committee in the other House :
- (h) as soon as leave is given to introduce a Bill other than a Government Bill and, subject to paragraph (g), as soon as a Bill other than a Government Bill which has been passed by the other House is laid on the table of this House, if the Bill is certified by the President to relate to Hindu or Muhammadan Law, it shall be referred to the Standing Committee concerned without further motion :
- (i) the Standing Committee shall have power to examine witnesses and to circulate a Bill, but when it directs circulation the fact shall be reported to the Assembly :
- (j) the further procedure in the Assembly after the report of the Standing Committee is received shall be the same as the procedure on receipt of the report of a Select Committee."

[Mr. M. A. Jinnah.]

it seems to me that the House stands practically dissolved, and it would not be desirable that we should take the decision of this House at the present moment under those circumstances. I would therefore ask the Honourable Member not to oppose my motion for adjournment and to agree to the adjournment of the motion. When we have a new House we shall be able to deal with this Resolution. I think it will be admitted that this Resolution is of very great importance, and I therefore hope that the Honourable Member will not press his Resolution at this moment.

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman :** Sir, before I reply to my Honourable friend, I should just like to complete the sentence I was engaged on. I was explaining that this Resolution was set down for discussion on the 16th September last year. I formally moved the Resolution and, as I was about to speak on it, the Honourable Diwan Bahadur Ramachandra Rao broke in and moved for its adjournment; another Member spoke merely on the adjournment question, and I informed the House that I was prepared to leave the decision as to whether they would take up the discussion then or at a later date to the House itself. Sir, this Resolution has figured on the notice paper many times at the expense of the tax-payer. It is an important Resolution. It is true this Assembly is coming to a close, but it might be argued that gentlemen who have experienced the difficulties of this kind of legislation for two and a half years would be in a better position to discuss it than those who may replace them who may be new and untried legislators. It might be so argued. On the other hand, it is not a Resolution which I desire to force down the throat of the House if the House does not desire to discuss it. I will not oppose Mr. Jinnah's motion and I leave it to the House.

**Mr. President :** Amendment moved :

“ That the further discussion of this Resolution be adjourned till the next Session of this Assembly.”

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 19th August, 1926.

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