

1st February 1928

# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

(Official Report)

Volume I

*(1st February to 7th March, 1928)*

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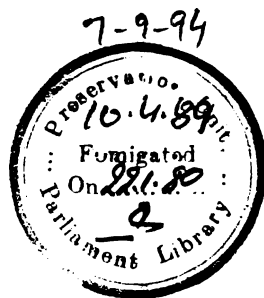
## SECOND SESSION

OF THE

## THIRD LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1928



DELHI  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS  
1928



# **Legislative Assembly.**

## ***President :***

**THE HONOURABLE MR V. J. PATEL.**

## ***Deputy President :***

**MAULVI MUHAMMAD YAKUB, M.L.A.**

## ***Panel of Chairmen :***

**MR. M. A. JINNAH, M.L.A.**

**SIR DARCY LINDSAY, KT., C.B.E., M.L.A.**

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

**MR. M. R. JAYAKAR, M.L.A.**

## ***Secretary :***

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

## ***Assistants of the Secretary :***

**MR. D. G. MITCHELL, C.I.E., I.C.S.**

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

**MR. G. H. SPENCE, I.C.S.**

## ***Marshal :***

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

## ***Committee on Public Petitions :***

**MAULVI MUHAMMAD YAKUB, M.L.A., Chairman.**

**SIR HARI SINGH GOUR, KT., M.L.A.**

**MR. N. M. JOSHI, M.L.A.**

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

**DR. A. SUHRAWARDY, M.L.A.**

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THE

# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE THIRD  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY)

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VOLUME I—1928.

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## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

*Wednesday, 1st February, 1928.*

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The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House in New Delhi at Eleven of the Clock, being the first day of the Second Session of the Third Legislative Assembly, pursuant to S. 63-D (2) of the Government of India Act. The President (the Honourable Mr. Vithalbhai Javerbhai Patel) was in the Chair.

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### MEMBERS SWORN:

- Mr. Lancelot Graham, C.I.E., M.L.A. (Secretary, Legislative Department);
- Mr. David George Mitchell, C.I.E., M.L.A. (Central Provinces: Nominated Official);
- Mr. Muhammad Rafique, M.L.A. (Calcutta and Suburbs: Muhammadan Urban);
- Mr. John Ackroyd Woodhead, M.L.A. (Commerce Department: Nominated Official);
- Mr. John Armstrong Shillidy, M.L.A. (Home Department: Nominated Official);
- Mr. Shamaldhari Lall, M.L.A. (Government of India: Nominated Official);
- Mr. Vombathkere Pandurang Rao, M.L.A. (Madras: Nominated Official);
- Mr. Frederick William Allison, M.L.A. (Bombay: Nominated Official);
- Mr. Edward Gawan Taylor, M.L.A. (Bombay: Nominated Official);
- Khan Bahadur Mian Abdul Aziz, M.L.A. (Punjab: Nominated Official);

Rai Bahadur Bhuban Mohan Chatterji, M.L.A. (Bihar and Orissa: Nominated Official);

Mr. Thomas Couper, M.L.A. (Burma: Nominated Official); and

The Reverend Jotish Chandra Chatterjee, M.L.A. (Nominated: Indian Christians).

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

#### ADVERTISEMENT IN THE *DAILY TELEGRAPH*, LONDON, FOR AN ASSISTANT EXAMINER OF QUESTIONED DOCUMENTS UNDER GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

1. **\*Mr. Mukhtar Singh:** (a) Is it a fact that the Government advertised in the *Daily Telegraph* of London for the post of Assistant Examiner of Questioned Documents under the Government of India?

(b) If the answer be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state if a similar advertisement for this post was published in India? If the answer be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state the dates on which the advertisement was published in the *Daily Telegraph*, London, and the dates on which the advertisement was published in the Indian papers?

(c) If the answer to (a) be in the negative, will the Government be pleased to state why the advertisement was exclusively published in England and not in India?

#### ELIGIBILITY OF INDIANS FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT EXAMINER OF QUESTIONED DOCUMENTS UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

2. **\*Mr. Mukhtar Singh:** Is the post of Assistant Examiner of Questioned Documents under the Government of India open to an Indian if he is qualified for the post? If the answer be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state the steps taken to secure an Indian to fill up the vacancy? If the answer be in the negative, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons for debarring Indians holding this post?

**The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar:** With your permission, Sir, I shall answer questions Nos. 1 and 2 together. The High Commissioner advertised the post in the British newspapers at Government's request. A similar advertisement was not published in India, as it was desired to secure a man who had lately completed a course in science and technology at a Western University. The post was open to the best qualified man, Indian or European.

#### NUMBER OF LOCOMOTIVES IN USE ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY AND THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY.

3. **\*Mr. Mukhtar Singh:** Will the Government be pleased to supply the following information:

(a) The number of locomotives in the North Western Railway and the Bengal Nagpur Railway?

(b) The number of locomotives purchased during the last (1) five years, (2) ten years, (3) fifteen years on the North Western Railway and the Bengal Nagpur Railway?

(c) The grades of pay paid to workmen and skilled labourers in the North Western Railway and the Bengal Nagpur Railway in the locomotive and carriage and wagon shops?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** A statement is laid on the table giving the information required.

(a) *The number of locomotives on the N. W. Railway and B. N. Railway is :*

Gauge.	N. W. R.	B. N. R.
5'—6" . . . . .	1,397	709
2'—6" . . . . .	99	134
2'—0" . . . . .	17	17
Total . . . . .	1,513	920

(b) (1) *The number of locomotives purchased during the last five years is :*

Gauge.	N. W. R.	B. N. R.
5'—6" . . . . .	75	125
2'—6" . . . . .	16	7
2'—0" . . . . .	..	4
Total . . . . .	91	136

(b) (2) *The number of locomotives purchased during the last ten years is :*

Gauge.	N. W. R.	B. N. R.
5'—6" . . . . .	263	258
2'—6" . . . . .	27	17
2'—0" . . . . .	..	4
Total . . . . .	290	279

(b) (3) *The number of locomotives purchased during the last fifteen years is :*

Gauge.	N. W. R.	B. N. R.
5'—6" . . . . .	449	376
2'—6" . . . . .	53	57
2'—0" . . . . .	..	17
Total . . . . .	502	450



(c) *The grades of pay fixed for skilled and unskilled workmen in the locomotive, the carriage and the wagon shops are :*

Railway.	SKILLED WORKMEN.		UNSKILLED WORKMEN.	
	Minimum.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Maximum.
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
N. W. R. . . . .	1 4 0	2 8 0	0 10 0	0 12 0
B. N. R. . . . .	0 12 0	2 14 0	0 9 0	0 14 0

**NUMBER OF CARRIAGES AND WAGONS RECEIVED FOR REPAIRS IN THE WORKSHOPS OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY AND THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY.**

4. **\*Mr. Mukhtar Singh:** Will the Government be pleased to state the number of carriages and wagons received for repairs in the workshops of the North Western Railway and the Bengal Nagpur Railway? Will the Government be further pleased to state the causes of the disproportionate number of carriages to wagons for repairs in the two systems of railways?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** The Honourable Member will find the figures he requires on pages 43 and 44 of the Monthly Summary No. 42 of Railway Statistics, a copy of which is in the Library. The number of carriages on both railways is not the same as the number of wagons, and carriages ordinarily take a longer time than wagons to repair.

**CONTRACTS GIVEN TO PRIVATE FIRMS BY THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY.**

5. **\*Mr. Mukhtar Singh:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the total amount of different contracts given to the Indian Standard Wagon Company during the last two years by the Bengal Nagpur Railway?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state the total amount paid to the Argus Engineering Works for the construction of locomotive cylinders by the Bengal Nagpur Railway during the last two years?

(c) How much has been paid by the Bengal Nagpur Railway to private firms for castings and forgings, etc., during the last two years?

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

(b) Rs. 1,900.

(c) Rs. 4,99,727.

**EMPLOYMENT OF LABOUR SAVING MACHINES IN THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY WORKSHOPS AT KHARAGPUR.**

6. **\*Mr. Mukhtar Singh:** Will the Government be pleased to state the date when the labour saving machines were received in the Kharagpur workshops of the Bengal Nagpur Railway? Will the Government

be further pleased to state the number of workmen newly enrolled after that date in the workshops?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** I am not sure that I understand to what labour saving machines the Honourable Member refers. If they are those mentioned by Pandit Nilakantha Das in his question No. 951 of the 13th September last, their introduction during 1925 and 1926 led to a saving of 13 clerks, but did not affect the number of workmen employed in the Kharagpur workshops.

#### PLACING OF ORDERS FOR REPAIRS WITH PRIVATE FIRMS BY THE WORKSHOPS AT KHARAGPUR.

7. **\*Mr. Mukhtar Singh:** Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Kharagpur workshops will be able to do all the repairs, etc., with the staff that has been retained or will they be obliged to place orders for certain repairs with private firms? If the answer be that the repairs will have to be done by private firms, will the Government be pleased to state the average amount that will have to be paid annually on an average to the private firms?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** So far as can be foreseen the present strength and equipment of the Kharagpur Workshops should be adequate for all repair work likely to be required, and there is no present intention of placing orders for any such repairs with private firms unless economic reasons should indicate the desirability for doing so.

#### TERMS OF DISCHARGE OF WORKMEN EMPLOYED IN THE WORKSHOPS AT KHARAGPUR.

8. **\*Mr. Mukhtar Singh:** Will the Government be pleased to state the terms of discharge communicated to the workmen at Kharagpur?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the copy of the notice issued to workmen which was laid on the table with the reply given by me to question No. 906 by Mr. Joshi, in the Assembly on 7th September last.

#### AMOUNT OF SAVINGS MADE BY THE DIFFERENT GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS BY THE REDUCTION OF TICKET COLLECTORS AND CHECKERS.

9. **\*Mr. Mukhtar Singh:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of ticket collectors and checkers on the North Western Railway, the Bengal Nagpur Railway, the Great Indian Peninsula Railway and the East Indian Railway in the years 1924, 1925, 1926 and 1927?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state the amount of savings made by the different Government Railways during the years 1924—27 by reducing the number of ticket collectors and checkers?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** (a) and (b). I am sending the Honourable Member a statement giving the required information. He will see from this statement that between 1924 and 1927 there was an increase in the total number of ticket collectors and checkers combined on all the railways concerned.

*Number of Ticket Collectors and Ticket Checkers on N. W., B. N., G. I. P. and E. I. Railways during 1924, 1925, 1926 and 1927.*

Railways.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
N. W. Railway—				
No. of Ticket Collectors . . .	631	642	706	716
„ Checkers . . .	191	122	129	211
	822	764	835	927
B. N. Railway—				
No. of Ticket Collectors . . .	230	239	225	213
„ Checkers . . .	66	86	98	99
	296	325	323	312
G. I. P. Railway—				
No. of Ticket Collectors . . .	363	381	446	451
„ Checkers . . .	47	51	59	70
	410	432	505	521
E. I. Railway—				
No. of Ticket Collectors . . .	452	426	509	409
„ Checkers . . .	69	69	165	165
	521	495	674	574

#### APPOINTMENT OF AN INDIAN REPRESENTATIVE PERMANENTLY AT GENEVA.

10. **\*Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas:** (a) Have Government noticed in the Report of the Delegates appointed by India to the International Economic Conference held at Geneva in May, 1927, the following remark on page 16:

“Before concluding, we desire to state that during our stay in Geneva we were greatly impressed by the desirability of India appointing an Indian representative permanently at Geneva to watch her interests, as is done by many of the other leading countries of the British Empire and foreign states”?

(b) If the reply to the above be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state if they propose to take early action on this unanimous recommendation of the three delegates, *vis*:

Sir N. N. Wadia, K.B.E.,

Sir Campbell Rhodes, Kt., C.B.E., and

Dr. L. K. Hyder?

(c) If the reply to (b) above be in the affirmative, will Government indicate the action they propose to take?

**Mr. L. Graham:** (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The recommendation is at present under consideration.

**Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas:** May I know, Sir, when Government are likely to come to a decision in connection with this recommendation?

**Mr. L. Graham:** I could not prophesy about it, Sir, but Government are making inquiries as to what countries permanently keep representatives at Geneva and on what scale they keep them.

**Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas:** How long do Government expect it will take to get that information from Geneva?

**Mr. L. Graham:** That depends on factors for which Government are not responsible.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** May I ask, Sir, whom will these gentlemen represent in Geneva?

**Mr. L. Graham:** Perhaps that question should be asked of the gentleman who put the question.

**Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas:** It is the Government of India who deputed those gentlemen, and that is why my friend did not want me to answer that question.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** I wanted the Government to answer.

**Mr. L. Graham:** I take it, Sir, that an Indian representative will primarily represent India.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Will he represent the Government of India or the capitalists of India or the labourers?

#### ABOLITION OF THE REBATE SYSTEM ADOPTED BY STEAMSHIP LINES IN INDIA.

11. **\*Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas:** (a) Are Government aware that the Government of South Africa have intervened in the shipping freight war on the ground that the Conference Lines offer of 15 per cent. "rebate" amounts to a deliberate and open violation of the ocean mail-carrying contract of the South African Government?

(b) Are Government aware that the Union Castle Company have been notified by the South African Government that unless the offending practice referred to in (a) above is immediately discontinued, the Government in South Africa will have to consider giving twelve months' notice of the termination of the mail contract?

(c) Are Government aware that the Government of South Africa have further warned the Conference Lines that they (the Government of South Africa) will use their powers under the 1911 Shipping Combination Discouragement Act to differentiate in respect of harbour charges against any lines granting "rebates" or other inducements conditional upon shippers confining their patronage to those lines?

(d) If the reply to the above (a), (b) and (c) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state whether they have considered the question of taking similar steps with a view to end the system known as the "rebate system"? If not, why not?

**The Honourable Sir George Rainy:** (a), (b) and (c). Government have seen reports in the Press to the effect that the South African Government have taken the action indicated by the Honourable Member.

(d) Government have considered the effect of the rebate system on the sea trade of India, but they are not convinced that its abolition would be in the interests of India as a whole.

**Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas:** Will the Honourable Member be pleased to say what is the difference between the effect of abolition of deferred rebates in South Africa and in India?

**The Honourable Sir George Rainy:** The Honourable Member invites me to assume that the circumstances are identical in India and in South Africa. That is an assumption, Mr. President, that I do not think he is entitled to ask me to make.

**Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas:** I make no assumption, Sir. Are the general principles different for South Africa and India?

**The Honourable Sir George Rainy:** I think the Honourable Member is trying to play upon the foible of a Scotchman for general principles. I am quite prepared to admit that the general principles which are applicable in one country are also applicable in another.

**Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas:** To that extent, then, the Honourable Member will admit that India has been treated differently from South Africa by the respective Governments.

**The Honourable Sir George Rainy:** That is the case, Mr. President. There is a difference, as the Honourable Member will observe from my answer.

#### THE DACCA-ARICHA RAILWAY.

12. **\*Mr. A. H. Ghuznavi:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Dacca-Aricha Railway scheme will be kept in abeyance now?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons therefor, and also when they propose to take it up?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** (a) and (b). The report and estimates have just been received from the Agent, Eastern Bengal Railway, and are under examination by the Railway Board. Government have no intention of keeping the scheme in abeyance if the results of the survey are satisfactory.

#### IMPORT OF VEGETABLE GHEE, VEGETABLE FAT, ETC., INTO INDIA.

13. **\*Raja Raghunandan Prasad Singh:** (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the note contributed to the *Indian Journal of Economics* (Vol. III, Part 1) by Pt. Daya Shankar Dubey, Lecturer in Economics, Allahabad University, on the subject of the rapidly growing import of vegetable products, e.g., vegetable ghee, vegetable fat, vegetable flour, etc., and the accelerated adulteration of ghee and flour (properly so-called) therewith?

(b) Is it a fact that during the period of six months from April to September, 1927, about 152,556 cwts. of such vegetable products valued at Rs. 66,88,200 were imported into India?

(c) If the answer to (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, do the Government propose to take suitable measures to put an effective check on the import of the articles in question?

(d) Is it a fact that chemical examination of the same has shown that their use is not only not beneficial but positively injurious to the health of the people?

**Mr. G. S. Bajpai:** (a) The Honourable Member presumably refers to an article which appeared in Part I of Volume VIII of the Journal. Government have seen that article.

(b) Yes; but the exact value of the imports was Rs. 66,87,570.

(c) and (d). Government are aware that the articles to which the Honourable Member refers are deficient in vitamins, but experts do not consider that they are injurious to health. Government do not, therefore, think that the action proposed by the Honourable Member is necessary in the interests of public health. A suggestion has been received from a Local Government to prohibit the import into, or manufacture within, British India of such products unless they are coloured in such a way that they cannot be mixed with or passed off as natural ghee without immediate detection. This suggestion is being considered.

#### TREATMENT OF THE INDIAN MEDICAL DEPARTMENT AS PART OF THE INDIAN ARMY.

14. **\*Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney:** Arising out of the answers given to starred question No. 958 on 13th September, 1927, if Assistant Surgeons of the Indian Medical Department are a part of the Indian Army, will the Honourable Member state whether it is a fact that paragraph 43 (a) Regulations for the Medical Services of the Army in India exists, i.e., "The Assistant Surgeon Branch, for duty ordinarily with British Troops," further in all regulations for field service they are included in the tables of British and not Indian troops?

**Mr. G. M. Young:** The answer is in the affirmative.

**Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney:** Will the Honourable Member state how he reconciles his answer given to-day with the one that he gave to my question No. 958, taking into consideration at the same time Indian Army Instructions, Part B, Nos. 286 and 287, which have sanctioned an increase of pay to the Indian Unattached Lists from which the I. M. D. men are excluded?

**Mr. G. M. Young:** I am afraid I have not understood that question.

**Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney:** I shall repeat it, Sir. In view of the answer given to-day, will the Honourable Member reconcile it with the answer he gave to my question No. 958? If he will answer this, I shall then ask the second part of my question.

**Mr. G. M. Young:** I think my friend's difficulty arises out of the fact that he attaches too much importance to names. The Indian Medical Department men are an integral part of the Indian Army and they do duty with British troops while the latter are in India.

**Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney:** If that is really the case, will the Honourable Member say how is it that these I. M. D. officers take precedence over other British warrant officers of the British Army with whom they are listed and how is it that the Commissions of I. M. D. officers are signed by His Majesty the King?

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

#### QUARTERS FOR SOLDIERS OF THE TERRITORIAL FORCE AT MEERUT.

15. **\*Mr. Mukhtar Singh:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if there are quarters provided for the soldiers of the Territorial Force of the 9th Jat, 11th Battalion at Meerut?

(b) Is it a fact that even the officers of the Territorial Force are provided with very bad quarters without any decent arrangement for bathrooms?

**Mr. G. M. Young:** (a) During the annual training, the officers of this regiment are provided with quarters at their own request. Other ranks are accommodated in tents.

(b) Government are informed that the quarters have adequate bathing arrangements.

#### AMOUNT PAID TO THE SOLDIERS AND OFFICERS OF THE TERRITORIAL FORCE FOR THEIR DAILY RATIONS.

16. **\*Mr. Mukhtar Singh:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the amount paid daily to the soldiers and officers of the Territorial Force for their daily rations?

(b) Are there any mess arrangements for the officers of the Territorial Force at Meerut and what is the monthly fee for joining the mess besides the expenses incurred at the mess?

(c) What are the average monthly expenses incurred by the officers of the Territorial Force at Meerut for joining the mess and paying for its monthly expenses?

**Mr. G. M. Young:** (a) Officers receive 5 annas a day in lieu of rations. Other ranks receive free rations on the scales laid down for corresponding ranks of the Indian Army.

(b) Yes. The mess subscription is Rs. 8 per month.

(c) I believe that, in addition to the mess subscription, an officer's other expenses amount to about Rs. 25 per mensem.

#### PROVISION OF ORDERLIES FOR OFFICERS OF THE TERRITORIAL FORCE.

17. **\*Mr. Mukhtar Singh:** Do Government provide orderlies for the officers of the Territorial Force when they come for extra training?

**Mr. G. M. Young:** No, Sir.

#### PROVISION OF COAL FOR THE SOLDIERS AND OFFICERS OF THE TERRITORIAL FORCE DURING TRAINING IN THE COLD WEATHER.

18. **\*Mr. Mukhtar Singh:** Do Government provide coal for the soldiers and officers when they attend for training during the cold weather?

**Mr. G. M. Young:** The officers' mess is supplied with fuel on payment. Coal is supplied free to other ranks when considered necessary.

#### TEACHING OF HINDI IN THE ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE, SANDHURST.

19. **\*Mr. Mukhtar Singh:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the optional subjects which a candidate for the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, can take for his admission examination?

(b) Does Hindi find a place in the list of optional subjects? If the answer be in the negative, will the Government be pleased to state reasons for its exclusion and for the inclusion of Urdu as a subject?

(c) Is this examination open to the candidates of the whole of British India?

(d) Is there any arrangement for the teaching of Hindi to the Hindu boys who join the Royal Military Sandhurst College? If so, will the Government be pleased to state the number of hours allotted to Hindi in a week?

**Mr. G. M. Young:** (a) The subjects are Physics and Chemistry or General Science, Intermediate Mathematics, Urdu, Modern Persian, Pushtu, and Sanskrit.

(b) No, Sir. The reasons for including Urdu and omitting Hindi are that the former is the *lingua franca* of the Indian Army and that it is desired to limit as much as possible the number of languages included in the syllabus as optional subjects.

(c) Yes.

(d) Neither Hindi nor Urdu is taught at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst. Both these subjects are, however, taught at the Dehra Dun College, and I am informed that 15 periods of 35 minutes each are allotted weekly to Hindi. In addition, 25 minutes religious instruction is given daily to Hindu students in Hindi.

#### DISCOMFORTS OF LOOP LINE PASSENGERS TRAVELLING BEYOND KIUL JUNCTION.

20. **\*Raja Raghunandan Prasad Singh:** Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the great discomfort and inconvenience felt by Loop Line passengers going upcountry beyond Kiul Junction, due to the absence of any through night up train? Do they propose to remove the said grievance by withdrawing 37 Up Passenger from Sealdah to Allahabad *via* Janghai and in its stead extending the running of 43 Up Loop Passenger either up to Delhi or Allahabad?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** The attention of Government has not been drawn to the matter.

It is not possible for Government to take any part in the arrangement of Time Tables. Copies of the question and this answer will be sent to the Agent, East Indian Railway.

#### EXTENSION OF THE RUNNING OF NOS. 41 AND 42 EXPRESS FROM HOWRAH TO DELHI AND *vice versa*.

21. **\*Raja Raghunandan Prasad Singh:** Do the Government propose to extend the running of 41 and 42 Express from Howrah to Delhi and *vice versa* instead of from Howrah to Agra Cantonment and *vice versa* as at present, for the convenience of through Loop passengers up to Delhi?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** It is not possible for Government to take any part in the arrangement of Time Tables. Copies of the question and this answer will be sent to the Agent, East Indian Railway.

#### CONNECTION OF NAYA DUMKA WITH THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY LOOP LINE.

22. **\*Raja Raghunandan Prasad Singh:** Will the Government be pleased to state if the proposal to connect Naya Dumka (Santhal Parganas) with the East Indian Railway Loop Line is being given effect to? If so, will the Government be pleased to say by what time trains will begin to run?



between Naya Dumka and any station on the Loop Line with which it may be in contemplation to connect it?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** The Bausi-Naya Dumka-Sainthia Railway is still under investigation by the East Indian Railway Administration.

**CONTRIBUTIONS DURING THE LAST THREE YEARS TO THE CENTRAL AND PROVINCIAL REVENUES BY LANDHOLDERS AND BANKERS.**

23. **\*Raja Raghunandan Prasad Singh:** Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the amount of the contribution made during the last three years by landholders and bankers throughout India to the Central and Provincial revenues, Province by Province, in different shapes and also indicating the percentage of the same?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** The information required is not in the possession of Government and it would be impracticable to attempt to obtain it.

**POWERS OF COMMITTEES OF THE CENTRAL AND PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURES TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE STATUTORY COMMISSION.**

24. **\*Raja Raghunandan Prasad Singh:** Will the Government be pleased to state specifically and definitely what powers the Committees of Central and Provincial legislatures (to be associated with the Parliamentary Commission) are going to be invested with? Will these Committees have the power to examine witnesses and documents? Will they have the liberty to submit any report? Will they have the power to vote at any stage of their contact with the Commission?

**The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar:** As the Honourable Member is aware His Majesty's Government have left to the Statutory Commission wide discretion in determining the procedure by which it is suggested that a committee of the Indian Legislature should co-operate with it and I am not therefore at present in a position to make any statement.

**PAYMENT OF A SUBSIDY TO THE *Aligarh Mail*, ETC.**

25. **\*Munshi Iswar Saran:** Will Government state:

- (1) if its attention has been drawn to the speech of Mr. Mahomed Ali delivered at the last Calcutta Session of the All-India Muslim League on the 31st December 1927 and published in the Press in which Mr. Mahomed Ali read a letter purporting to have been written by Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad of Aligarh to Mr. Coatman of the Publicity Bureau of the Government of India and which runs as follows:—

"I introduce to you Mr. Jaffry, Editor, *Aligarh Mail*. Will you please pay him from September to January? Will you please give him general advice and give him also practical tips?"

- (2) if it is a fact that the letter referred to above was written?
- (3) if it is a fact that the payment from September to January asked for was made?
- (4) the monthly allowance, if any, which used to be paid to the *Aligarh Mail*?

- (5) the total amount paid to the *Aligarh Mail* and the period during which such payments were made?
- (6) out of what funds and with whose sanction were these payments, if any, made?
- (7) the capacity in which Mr. Coatman was expected to make the payment and to "give general advice and practical tips"?
- (8) if it is a part of the duty of the Publicity Bureau to pay subsidies to newspapers and to give general advice and practical tips?
- (9) the principle on which subsidies are paid to various newspapers.  
• and advice is given?
- (10) the names of the newspapers which are in receipt of subsidies and the departments through which the subsidies are paid?
- (11) the duties of the Publicity Bureau of the Government of India?

**The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar:** Government have no information whether the letter was written. No such letter was received by Mr. Coatman who has no acquaintance at all with Mr. Jaffry. The Government of India subsidize no newspapers, and no payment has been made by them at any time to the *Aligarh Mail*. As regards the duties of the Publicity Bureau, I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the answer given by me to Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru's question No. 1200, dated the 20th September, 1927. The other questions do not arise.

#### THE STATUTORY COMMISSION.

26. **\*Munshi Iswar Saran:** Will Government state:

- (1) if they recommended the appointment of the Statutory Commission?
- (2) if they themselves recommended the appointment of an exclusively Parliamentary Commission or if they recommended the inclusion of some Indians in the Commission?
- (3) if they at any time consulted their constitutional advisors as to the meaning and scope of section 84-A. of the Government of India Act or if they independently of or without such advice came to the conclusion, if at all, that the Commission contemplated by section 84-A. of the Government of India Act was to consist exclusively of Members of Parliament?
- (4) if they at any time before a certain number of public men were invited in Delhi in the early part of November 1927 took any non-official European or Indian in India into confidence, and if so, when and whom?
- (5) if they consulted any Local Governments, if so, which?
- (6) if they consulted any organized bodies of depressed classes before the appointment of the Statutory Commission?

**The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar:** (1), (2), (3), (5) and (6). I regret that I am not in a position to make any statement on these matters. The Honourable Member, however, is doubtless aware that section 84-A. of the Government of India Act makes express provision for the appointment of

the Statutory Commission, and the responsibility for submitting the names of the Commissioners rests with the Secretary of State.

(4) I think the Honourable Member will realise that I am unable to make any statement about any confidential conversations that may have taken place.

**Munshi Iswar Saran:** Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to tell us whether any consultation did take place or not? I do not wish to know what the consultation actually was; all that I wish to know is whether the constitutional advisers were as a matter of fact consulted about the interpretation of section 84-A. of the Government of India Act.

**The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar:** I regret very much that I cannot at this stage make any fuller statement on the matter.

#### TERMINATION OF THE CONTRACT WITH CERTAIN ANGLO-INDIAN SCHOOLS FOR TRAINING TELEGRAPHISTS.

27. **\*Mr. N. M. Joshi:** With reference to the reply given on the 23rd August, 1927, to my starred question No. 142(b), will Government be pleased to state what decision they have arrived at in the matter of terminating the agreement with certain Anglo-Indian schools for training telegraphists?

**Mr. H. A. Sams:** The revised method of recruitment of telegraphists is under the consideration of Government. Arrangements will be made to give notice of the termination of the agreement to the schools as soon as the scheme is finally settled.

#### LEVY ON PORTERS AT THE HOWRAH STATION.

28. **\*Mr. N. M. Joshi:** (a) Is it a fact that the Agent of the East Indian Railway had deputed an officer to enquire into the question of the levy made on the porters at the Howrah station?

(b) Is it a fact that the officer has already made a report?

(c) Will Government be pleased to publish the report? If not, why not?

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

(b) Yes.

(c) Government do not propose to publish the report, which is purely a departmental document.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** May I know, Sir, whether departmental documents are not useful to the public?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** The publication of such documents is not always in the public interest.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** May I ask, Sir, why Government consider that the report of an officer on a subject in which the public are deeply interested should not be published?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** Officers could not be given the same freedom of expression if their reports to their departmental references were always to be published.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** May I ask, Sir, whether the publication of the report is not permitted in this case because the report is against the practice so far followed by Government?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** That is not the reason, Sir.

#### EMPLOYMENT OF INDIANS AS WIRELESS OPERATORS.

29. **\*Mr. N. M. Joshi:** (a) With reference to the reply given on 23rd August, 1927, to my starred question No. 140, will Government be pleased to state what steps they have taken to increase the number of Indians (excluding Anglo-Indians) as wireless operators?

(b) How many Indians (excluding Anglo-Indians) are working as wireless operators and how many are under training?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** (a) Provision has been made in the Budget for 1928-29 for a scheme for the recruitment of a number of Indians (including statutory Indians) for training and subsequent employment as wireless attendants. Wireless attendants will be eligible for promotion to the grade of wireless operator after qualifying for such promotion.

(b) 23 Indians (exclusive of Anglo-Indians) are employed as wireless operators including 13 employed as wireless wheatstone operators. There are none at present under training.

#### ESTABLISHMENT OF A PROVIDENT FUND FOR THE WORKERS IN THE ORDNANCE AND CLOTHING FACTORIES.

30. **\*Mr. N. M. Joshi:** With reference to the reply given on 10th September, 1927, to my starred question No. 1138, regarding the establishment of a Provident Fund for the workers in the Ordnance and Clothing Factories, will Government be pleased to state whether they have arrived at a final decision in the matter, and if so, what it is?

**Mr. G. M. Young:** Government have not yet arrived at a final decision regarding the provident fund referred to by the Honourable Member, but hope to do so at an early date.

#### HOURS OF WORK AND WEEKLY REST DAY OF RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.

31. **\*Mr. N. M. Joshi:** (a) With reference to the reply given on 22nd August, 1927, to my starred question No. 150, regarding the hours of work and weekly rest day of railway employees, will Government be pleased to state what is the result of their examination of the question?

(b) Is it a fact that the Indian Railway Association has appointed a sub-committee to consider certain labour questions? If so, which questions are going to be considered by the sub-committee?

(c) Do Government propose to appoint a workers' representative on the sub-committee referred to in (b)?

**The Honourable Sir George Rainy:** (a) The Railway Board have received from the Indian Railway Conference Association a copy of a Resolution passed at its Conference on October, 1927, which embodies the results of that Association's consideration of the questions of hours of work and weekly rest of railway employees. This resolution is now receiving the consideration of Government.

(b) Government understand that the Indian Railway Conference Association propose to consider the formation of a section within the Association to deal with questions relating to labour on railways, which may come before the Association.

(c) The composition of such a section, if formed, would not be fixed by Government but would be governed by the Rules of the Indian Railway Conference Association.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** May I ask, Sir, whether Government will make a recommendation, as regards the proposal contained in part (c) of my question, to the Railway Conference?

**The Honourable Sir George Rainy:** I do not think it would be possible for Government to take the action contemplated by the Honourable Member, Sir. The Indian Railway Conference Association is a conference of the railway administrations and it would not be possible to admit labour representatives into an organisation of that kind without completely changing its constitution.

#### (1) CREATION OF EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES. (2) COLLECTION OF STATISTICS OF UNEMPLOYMENT.

32. **\*Mr. N. M. Joshi:** With reference to the reply given to my starred question No. 149 on 23rd August, 1927, will Government be pleased to state whether the enquiry referred to is being made by the International Labour Office or by the Government of India, and what is the result of that enquiry (a) regarding the creation of employment exchanges, and (b) regarding the collection of statistics of unemployment?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** The enquiry to which I referred in my reply to the Honourable Member's question on the 23rd August, 1927, was an enquiry by the International Labour Conference in connection with the annual report submitted by the Government of India in accordance with Article 408 of the Treaty of Versailles. The question raised by this enquiry is receiving the consideration of Government.

#### PROHIBITION OF THE EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN UNDERGROUND IN MINES

33. **\*Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Will Government be pleased to state when the rules prohibiting the employment of women underground in mines will be published and enforced?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** The attention of the Honourable Member is drawn to the reply given on the 14th February, 1927, to part (b) of his question No. 337. The views of the Mining Boards have been received only recently and are under consideration.

#### DEDUCTION OF WAGES.

34. **\*Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Will Government be pleased to state at what stage the question of deduction of wages is now, and if they have come to a decision, what is the decision?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** Government are at present considering the replies received to their circular letter No. L-1418, dated the 25th June, 1926, and have not yet arrived at any definite decision in the matter.

**INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION REGARDING THE PROMPT PAYMENT OF WAGES.**

35. **\*Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Will Government be pleased to state when they propose to introduce legislation regarding the prompt payment of wages?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** The matter is still under consideration and I am not yet in a position to make a definite statement on the subject.

**ALLEGED ASSAULT ON HIS TROLLYMEN BY MR. BENGANGH OF THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.**

36. **\*Mr. N. M. Joshi:** (a) Is it a fact that Mr. Bengangh, an S. D. O. on the Eastern Bengal Railway, assaulted and beat his trollymen on or about the 21st October, 1927?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state what action Government have taken in the matter?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state if this is the first time that Mr. Bengangh has committed such an offence?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** Government have received no report of any such occurrence but are making enquiries from the Agent.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** May I ask, Sir, whether they will publish the result of their inquiry?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** I will let the Honourable Member know what the Agent replies.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Is there any harm if the world outside also gets this information?

**EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES FOR RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.**

37. **\*Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Will Government be pleased to state whether they have received a report from the officer who was appointed to enquire into the educational facilities for railway employees?

(b) If they have received the report, when do they propose to publish it?

(c) What action do Government propose to take on the report?

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

(b) Copies of the report have been placed in the Library.

(c) No decisions have yet been reached. The report is under consideration.

**IMPROVEMENT OF THE SYSTEM OF RECRUITING SEAMEN IN CALCUTTA AND BOMBAY.**

38. **\*Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Will Government be pleased to state what they propose to do to improve the system of recruiting seamen in the ports of Calcutta and Bombay?

**The Honourable Sir George Rainy:** At Calcutta the Government appointed in 1924 as Shipping Master an officer recruited from the mercantile marine to supervise personally the recruitment of seamen at that

port and to formulate a scheme with a view to eradicate the prevalent abuses. Since that appointment conditions have begun to improve and in order to leave the Shipping Master more time to exercise a greater measure of personal supervision the superior staff of the Calcutta Shipping Office was further strengthened last year by the creation of a new appointment of Assistant Shipping Master. In addition an employment register of serangs has also been started at the Shipping Office, Calcutta. As regards Bombay the question of taking action on similar lines is at present under consideration.

#### ESTABLISHMENT OF A FINES FUND IN THE INDIAN POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.

39. **\*Mr. N. M. Joshi:** (a) With reference to the reply given on 25th August, 1927, to the starred question No. 464, will Government be pleased to state when they propose to establish a Fines Fund in the Postal and Telegraph Department?

(b) Do Government propose to take the co-operation of the representatives of the Postal and Telegraph Unions in administering the Fines Fund when established?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** (a) No decision has yet been arrived at.

(b) In view of the small amount recovered all over India and Burma, it is unlikely that the Honourable Member's suggestion will be accepted at any rate for the present, even if it is decided to establish a Fine Fund.

#### AMENDMENT OF THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT.

40. **\*Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Do Government propose to introduce a Bill to amend the Workmen's Compensation Act in this present Session as promised on 25th of August, 1927?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** Government hope to be able to introduce an amending Bill during the present Session, but I wish to take this opportunity of making it clear that no general revision of the Act is contemplated and that the proposals of Government will be limited to remedy such defects in the existing Act in matters of details as experience of its working has so far brought to light.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** May I ask, Sir, whether in framing the Bill, the Government of India consulted the organisations which are interested in this problem?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** No, Sir.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** May I ask, Sir, why?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** My Honourable friend is fully aware of the procedure which is followed in connection with legislation. When the Bill comes before the House, all parties interested will have an opportunity of expressing their opinions in the matter.

#### RECOGNITION OF RAILWAY UNIONS.

41. **\*Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Unions of the railway employees in India?

- (b) How many of the Unions are registered now?
- (c) How many are recognised by the Agents of the respective Railways?
- (d) Why certain Unions are not recognised?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** I am collecting the information from Railway Administrations and hope to be able to supply it to the Honourable Member in a fortnight or three weeks' time.

•                      **RECOGNITION OF RAILWAY UNIONS.**

42. **\*Mr. N. M. Joshi:** (a) With reference to the reply given on 25th August, 1927, to starred question No. 349, will Government be pleased to state whether they have completed consideration of the question of the recognition of the Unions of railway employees by the Agents of the Railways?

(b) If so, what is the decision?

**The Honourable Sir George Rainy:** (a) and (b). The matter is still under consideration.

**NUMBER OF CONVICTIONS SECURED IN PROSECUTIONS OF MANAGERS,  
ASSISTANT MANAGERS OR OWNERS OF MINES.**

43. **\*Mr. N. M. Joshi:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of convictions secured in prosecutions of either the managers or assistant managers or owners of mines under section 40(1) and 40(2) and in how many cases of such convictions, punishment of imprisonment was given?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state in how many cases referred to in (a) serious or fatal accidents had taken place?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** (a) and (b). For the required information the Honourable Member is referred to Section IV of the Annual Reports of the Chief Inspector of Mines on the working of the Act, copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

**WELFARE OF WORKERS EMPLOYED IN FACTORIES OWNED AND MANAGED BY  
THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.**

44. **\*Mr. N. M. Joshi:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state how many factories under the Indian Factories Act are owned and managed by the Government of India, the classes of factories and what is the total number of workers in them?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have any special department watching over the welfare of the workers employed in the factories owned and managed by the Government of India? If not, do they propose to consider the advisability of either establishing such a department or at least appointing an officer for that purpose?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** (a) The information is being collected and will be supplied to the Honourable Member as soon as possible.

(b) The answer is in the negative. No such proposal is at present under the consideration of the Government of India.



**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** May I ask, Sir, whether the Government of India do not care to look after the welfare of their employees?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** Sir, that suggestion does not arise out of the reply which I have given to the Honourable Member's question.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** May I ask, Sir, how then the Government of India look after the welfare of their employees?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** The departments concerned and the heads of departments under them do look after the interests of the employees and, if the employees consider that their interests are not being sufficiently looked after, they do not hesitate to take advantage of the Appeal and Memorial Rules to ventilate their grievances and bring them to the notice of the proper authorities.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** May I ask, Sir, whether every Government officer is an expert in labour welfare?

**Mr. President:** Mr. Joshi.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** I expected a reply, Sir.

**Mr. President:** Mr. Joshi.

#### **EXEMPTION OF OPERATIVES IN FACTORIES FROM THE VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE INDIAN FACTORIES ACT.**

45. **\*Mr. N. M. Joshi:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to a statement on page 2 of the statistics for factories for 1925, that an unsatisfactory feature of the year is the increase over the last year in the number of factories in which the majority of operatives are exempted from the various sections of the Act?

(b) Will the Government of India be pleased to state whether they propose to call for reports from the Provincial Governments justifying such exemptions and stating what compensation has been provided for workers for the loss of protection caused by the exemption and also stating the exact limitations of each exemption?

(c) Do they propose to publish these reports? If not, why not?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** (a) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) As was stated in the note on the working of the Factories Act during the year ending 31st December, 1925, Local Governments have been asked to review the existing exemptions with a view to their possible reduction. It is not the intention of the Government of India to call for reports from the Provincial Governments.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **USE IN MINES OF CERTIFIED FLAME-PROOF ELECTRICAL APPARATUS.**

46. **\*Mr. N. M. Joshi:** (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the statement made on page 7 of the report of the Chief Inspector of Mines for 1926 that it is desirable that only electrical apparatus that

has been certified as having successfully withstood a flame-proof test should be installed in Indian mines where there is any risk of inflammable gas?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state what steps they have taken to carry out the suggestion in (a)?

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

(b) No step has yet been taken to enforce by regulation the use of "certified" flame-proof electrical apparatus.

#### INCREASE IN THE DEATH RATE IN THE ASANSOL MINING SETTLEMENT.

\* 47. **\*Mr. N. M. Joshi:** (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to a statement on page 2 of the report of the Chief Inspector of Mines for 1926, that the death rate in the Asansol Mining Settlement increased from 16.1 to 19 per thousand?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state what steps they have taken to improve the conditions in such way as to bring down the death rate?

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

(b) The Bengal Mining Settlements Act, 1912, empowers the Government of Bengal to take suitable measures to prevent the outbreak or spread of dangerous epidemic disease in mining settlements. A Bill was introduced in the Bengal Legislative Council on the 24th August, 1927, to amend and consolidate the law relating to the control and sanitation of mining settlements in Bengal, and one of the objects of that Bill is, by giving increased powers to the Mines Board of Health, to make it a more efficient instrument for enforcing sanitary measures.

#### NOMINATION OF AN INDIAN REPRESENTATIVE TO THE FEDERAL COUNCIL IN BRITISH MALAYA.

48. **\*Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Has the attention of Government been drawn to the statement in the report of their Agent for British Malaya that no Indian representative has been nominated to the Federal Council and, if so, what steps have they taken to remedy the grievance?

**Mr. G. S. Bajpai:** The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. The Government of India have made suitable representations on the subject of Indian representation to the Malayan Government.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** May I know whether any reply has been received to the representation?

**Mr. G. S. Bajpai:** No, Sir. No reply has been received yet.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** May I know when the representation was made?

**Mr. G. S. Bajpai:** The representation was made in September last, i.e., long before notice of the Honourable Member's question was received.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Thank you.

#### IMPROVEMENT OF QUARTERS FOR THE MARRIED INDIAN LABOURERS IN BRITISH MALAYA.

49. **\*Mr. N. M. Joshi:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the statement in the report of their Agent in British Malaya

that the present state of housing of workers provides for little privacy in the case of married labourers?

(b) Will they be pleased to state what steps are being taken to secure improvement in this respect?

**Mr. G. S. Bajpai:** (a) Yes.

(b) The matter has been taken up with the Government of Malaya.

#### RECRUITMENT OF SUB-ASSISTANT SURGEONS FROM MADRAS BY THE MALAYAN GOVERNMENT.

50. **\*Mr. N. M. Joshi:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether their attention has been drawn to the suggestion made by their Agent in British Malaya that Sub-Assistant Surgeons from Madras should be recruited by the Malayan Government?

(b) Will they be pleased to state what steps they have taken to recommend this measure to the Malayan Government?

**Mr. G. S. Bajpai:** (a) Yes.

(b) It is understood that the Government of Malaya realise the importance of employing, for the administration of medical relief to Indian estate labourers, persons familiar with their ways and possessing suitable medical qualifications. In the circumstances the Government of India do not consider it desirable or necessary to press for the employment by the Colonial Government of any particular class of doctors.

#### DEATH RATE AND SICKNESS IN THE QUARANTINE CAMP AT PORT SWETTENHAM, MALAYA.

51. **\*Mr. N. M. Joshi:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the statement in the report of their Agent for British Malaya that the death rate and sickness in the Quarantine Camp at Port Swettenham are phenomenally high?

(b) If so, will they be pleased to state what steps are being taken to remedy the state of things?

(c) Will they be pleased to state whether they propose to place this matter before the Standing Emigration Committee?

**Mr. G. S. Bajpai:** (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) The Government of India have made inquiries on the subject, and will apprise the Standing Emigration Committee of the result in due course.

#### NEED FOR MORE ORDERLY SERVICE OF FOOD, ETC., IN THE SHIPS CARRYING EMIGRANTS OVERSEAS.

52. **\*Mr. N. M. Joshi:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the fact mentioned in the report of their Agent in British Malaya that there is need for more orderly service of food and for provision of cups, etc., in the ships carrying emigrants overseas?

(b) If so, what steps have they taken to secure these conveniences?

**Mr. G. S. Bajpai:** (a) Yes.

(b) The matter has been brought to the notice of the Controller of Labour, Malaya, by the Agent of the Government of India whose further report is awaited.

**STATEMENT OF THE COTTON TEXTILE TARIFF BOARD REGARDING PROBLEMS RELATING TO LABOUR.**

53. \***Mr. N. M. Joshi:** (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the following statement in the report of the Cotton Textile Tariff Board: "These and other problems relating to labour call for a more comprehensive enquiry than the limits of our terms of reference permit"?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state when they propose to make the enquiry recommended by the Tariff Board?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** (a) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) The problems specifically referred to by the Tariff Board in this connection related to education, which is a matter for the Provincial Government. On various other matters connected with labour the Government of India have, as the Honourable Member is aware, enquiries in progress.

**NOMINATION OF AN EXPERT TO THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE TO STUDY QUESTIONS REGARDING NATIVE LABOUR.**

54. \***Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Will Government be pleased to state the name of the expert nominated on their recommendation to the Committee appointed by the International Labour Office to study and consider the questions regarding Native Labour?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** Sir Selwyn Freemantle was elected by the Governing Body.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** May I know, Sir, whether his name was recommended by the Government of India?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** No, Sir.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** May I ask, Sir, whether he was appointed by the Governing Body of the International Labour Office on the recommendation either of the Government of India or of the Secretary of State?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** I have already stated in my answer that he was elected by the Governing Body. But I do not know of the reasons underlying that election, Sir.

**APPEALS OF DISMISSED RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.**

55. \***Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Will Government be pleased to state to which authorities appeals may be made by railway employees who are dismissed, and under what conditions?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** The Honourable Member is referred to rule 298(4) of State Railway Open Line Code, Volume II. A copy of this rule will be sent to the Honourable Member.

**REGULATIONS FOR THE PROTECTION OF WORKERS EMPLOYED IN DANGEROUS  
AND UNHEALTHY INDUSTRIES.**

56. **\*Mr. N. M. Joshi:** (a) Are Government aware that under the English Factory and Workshop Act regulations are made protecting the workers employed in dangerous and unhealthy industries?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether there are such regulations made under the Indian Factories Act? If so, for which industries?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** (a) Yes. These regulations are made under section 79 of the British Factory and Workshop Act which authorises the Secretary of State to certify certain processes, etc., to be dangerous.

(b) The Indian Factories Act contains no provision corresponding to section 79 of the British Factory and Workshop Act. It is therefore not possible to make any regulations under the Indian Factories Act corresponding to those made under section 79 of the British Act. The rules made by Local Governments under the Indian Factories Act, however, contain certain provisions relating to the health and safety of the workers in factories.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** May I know, Sir, whether Government will consider the advisability of passing legislation on the lines of the regulations made in England?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** The matter will receive consideration.

**DISEASES NOTIFIED AS INDUSTRIAL OR OCCUPATIONAL UNDER THE  
WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT.**

57. **\*Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Will Government be pleased to state what diseases have so far been notified as industrial or occupational under the Workmen's Compensation Act?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** The occupational diseases under the Workmen's Compensation Act are anthrax, lead poisoning, phosphorus poisoning, mercury poisoning and their sequelæ.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** May I ask, Sir, whether the Government of India will inquire of Local Governments whether there are occupational diseases other than those which have been named just now?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** I will consider that point, but I cannot give an undertaking in reply to the Honourable Member's question whether that inquiry will be made or not.

**Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney:** The Honourable Member I think said that one of the diseases under the Workmen's Compensation Act is snake poisoning. May I ask if snake poisoning is a disease or is it an accident?

**RATIFICATION OF THE CONVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE REGARDING SEAMEN.**

58. **\*Mr. N. M. Joshi:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state which of the conventions and recommendations passed by the International Labour Conference regarding the work of seamen have been so far ratified by them?

(b) Will they be pleased to state what steps legislative or otherwise they have taken to give effect to each of them?

**The Honourable Sir George Rainy:** (a) The Government of India have ratified the following two Draft Conventions adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 3rd Session:

- (1) Draft Convention fixing the minimum age for the admission of young persons to employment as trimmers or stokers.
- (2) Draft Convention concerning the compulsory medical examination of children and young persons employed at sea.

(b) Executive instructions have been issued by Local Governments to give effect to the provisions of both of these Conventions pending necessary legislation.

#### HAJ PILGRIMS.

59. **\*Haji Abdoola Haroon:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) how many Haj pilgrims returned to India out of the total number of pilgrims that went to the Haj during the year 1927?
- (b) how many return tickets were issued in all during the year 1927?
- (c) how many of those pilgrims who had taken return tickets in 1927 did not return to India?
- (d) how many pilgrims kept deposits in the year 1927 with the Government or the shipping companies for their passage, etc., and what was the total amount of such deposits?
- (e) whether those deposits have been returned to the pilgrims concerned?
- (f) how much interest was realised from those deposits and how were they spent?
- (g) whether there is any amount remaining unclaimed with Government from the deposits of 1927? If so, what is the total amount?

**Mr. G. S. Bajpai:** Information has been called for from the Local Governments concerned and will be supplied to the Honourable Member, when received.

#### LOSS INCURRED BY THE RAILWAYS OWING TO PASSENGERS TRAVELLING WITHOUT TICKETS.

60. **\*Mr. Mukhtar Singh:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state since when the complaint has been received about passengers travelling without tickets?

(b) Have the different Railways made any estimate of the loss on this account?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state the amount of loss estimated by the different Railways during the last three years?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** (a) and (b). The evil is probably as old as railways themselves: in recent years its dimensions were brought to the

particular notice of Railway Administrations generally when the Bengal Nagpur Railway Administration raised the whole question before the Indian Railway Conference Association in 1922.

(c) I lay on the table a statement shewing the estimated losses for the calendar year 1924, the half year ending 30th June, 1925, and the financial year 1925-26.

*Statement showing the number of passengers detected travelling without tickets on Class I Railways and the amounts collected from them during the year ended 31st December, 1924.*

Railways.	Number of passengers detected travelling without tickets.	Total amount collected from the number of passengers detected travelling without tickets.		Remarks.
		No.	Rs.	
1. Assam Bengal . . . . .	27,535	22,158		
2. Bengal Nagpur . . . . .	162,723	2,44,069		Includes mendicants. 6,032
3. Bengal and North Western	113,021	88,159		
4. Bombay, Baroda and Central India.	410,982	3,42,818		Includes mendicants. 148,789
5. Burma . . . . .	187,209	1,28,267		
6. Eastern Bengal . . . . .	178,140	2,30,644		
7. East Indian . . . . .	166,487	1,58,408		Includes mendicants. 19,854
8. Great Indian Peninsula . . . . .	322,297	3,37,238		Includes mendicants. 96,587
9. Jodhpur . . . . .	..	..		
10. Madras and Southern Mahratta.	84,649	81,274		Includes mendicants. 24,662
11. Nizam's Guaranteed State . . . . .	26,469	23,525		Includes mendicants. 198
12. North Western . . . . .	369,784	4,75,649		Includes mendicants. 1,078
13. Oudh and Rohilkund . . . . .	139,222	2,11,115		Includes mendicants. 189
14. Rohilkund and Kumaon . . . . .	12,196	20,470		Includes mendicants. 171
15. South Indian . . . . .	147,105	1,48,450		
Total . . . . .	2,347,819	25,12,244		

*Statement showing the number of passengers detected travelling without tickets on Class I Railways and the amounts collected from them during the half year ended 30th June 1925.*

Railways.	Number of passengers detected travelling without tickets.	Total amount collected from number of passengers detected travelling without tickets.	Remarks.
	No.	Rs.	
1. Assam Bengal .	16,135	10,173	
2. Bengal Nagpur	82,564	1,17,867	
3. Bengal and North Western.	54,398	42,937	
4. Bombay, Baroda and Central India.	170,288	1,75,676	Includes mendicants. 84,497
5. Burma . . . . .	96,943	67,991	
6. Eastern Bengal . . . . .	63,024	1,04,940	
7. East Indian . . . . .	72,816	71,052	Includes mendicants. 10,135
8. Great Indian Peninsula . . . . .	156,789	1,70,248	Includes mendicants. 36,195
9. Jodhpur . . . . .	4,044	6,169	Includes mendicants. 289
10. Madras and Southern Mahratta.	32,117	40,040	Includes mendicants. 413
11. Nizam's Guaranteed State . . . . .	13,652	12,779	Includes mendicants. 5
12. North Western . . . . .	177,343	2,42,091	Includes mendicants. 4,418
13. Oudh and Rohilkund . . . . .	84,522	1,23,023	Includes mendicants. 4,381
14. Rohilkund and Kumaon . . . . .	5,964	11,100	Includes mendicants. 380
15. South Indian . . . . .	50,186	62,224	
Total . . . . .	1,080,785	12,58,310	



Statement showing the number of passengers detected travelling without tickets on Class I Railways and the amounts collected from them during the year 1925-26.

Railways.	No. of passengers detected travelling without tickets.				Amount collected from the No. of passengers detected travelling without tickets.			Total No. of passengers detected travelling without tickets.	Total amount collected from the No. of passengers detected travelling without tickets.	Remarks.
	1st.	2nd.	Inter.	3rd.	1st.	2nd.	Inter.			
	No.	No.	No.	No.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	No.	Rs. a. p.	
1. Assam Bengal	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	29,833	41,652 0 0	
2. Bengal Nagpur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	(a) 92,700	1,21,000 0 0	(a) This does not include passengers travelling beyond destination and excessed.
3. B. & N. W.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	(b)	1,13,102 10 0	(b) Not available.
4. B. E., & C. I.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	394,164	3,31,400 0 0	
5. Burma	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	211,000	1,30,616 0 0	
6. Eastern Bengal	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	90,785	89,084 0 0	
7. East Indian	618	1,512	5,369	1,74,645	10,755	16,483	22,361	182,144	2,56,923 10 0	
8. G. I. P.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	474,077	5,90,023 0 0	
9. Jodhpur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18,187	16,177 3 9	
10. M. & S. M.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	87,751	1,02,643 0 0	
11. Nizam's G. S.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	28,321	26,974 0 0	
12. North Western	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	355,957	7,14,627 0 0	
13. Rohilkund and Kumaon.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14,766	21,889 14 6	
14. South Indian	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	106,178	2,15,311 8 3	
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,085,863	27,71,423 4 6	

**DESTRUCTION OF SOME BALES OF COTTON BY FIRE AT AMALNER STATION.**

61. **\*Sir Victor Sassoon:** (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the report in the *Times of India* of the 3rd December, 1927, regarding the destruction of some bales of cotton at Amalner station by fire?

(b) Is it a fact that though, in the opinion of the Court of Appeal upheld by the Privy Council, the loss was due to the negligence of the Company, the Company were not liable as the negligence was not wilful?

(c) Are Government prepared to take necessary steps by which the liability for any loss due to negligence, whether wilful or not, should be borne by the Railways and not by the consignees?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** (a) The Government have seen the report. The Company were held not to be liable as the consignment was booked at owner's risk.

(b) It is open to the public by paying full railway charges to maintain the railway's liability for consignments.

(c) The exemption of liability of the railway in the case referred to was due to a special contract in the form of a risk note, entered into by the sender in consideration of a reduction in rates. The terms of the risk note were revised in October, 1924, on the recommendation of the Risk Note Committee and the Government do not consider that any further revision is necessary.

**Sir Victor Sassoon:** Risk note means ordinary risks and not any question of negligence.

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** No, Sir. The risk note, as I understand it, covers Railways against negligence but does not cover them against wilful misconduct. I may add that the terms of the risk note were settled by a Committee, on which I think there was a majority of Members of this House—there were certainly three Members—and I believe that our practice in this country is the same in all essentials as that in Great Britain.

**LEAVE RULES OF THE SUBORDINATE STAFF OF THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.**

62. **\*Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the officers of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway of the old Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company are governed by the Fundamental Leave Rules, whereas the subordinates of the railways of the old Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company are still governed by the old Company's leave rules; and

(b) if the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, will Government give their reasons for the differential treatment?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** (a) No, both officers and subordinates of the old Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company are still governed by the old Company's leave rules.

(b) Does not arise.

### AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS STAFF OF THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

63. **\*Mr. N. M. Joshi:** With reference to the answer to unstarred question No. 171 of 4th March, 1927, regarding the Audit and Accounts staff of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, will Government be pleased to state whether the information has since been collected, and

- (a) if the answer be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to lay a copy of the same on the table?
- (b) if the answer be in the negative, will Government be pleased to say how the matter stands now? •

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply sent to him with Mr. Penny's letter No. D-814-F. E., dated the 8th March, 1927. A copy will be found in the Library of the House.

### NEW LEAVE RULES FOR THE SUBORDINATE STAFF OF RAILWAYS.

64. **\*Mr. N. M. Joshi:** (a) Is it a fact that the Government in reply to starred question No. 868 of 11th March, 1927, stated "they hoped the new leave rules for railway subordinates will be got out before the end of 1927"?

(b) Is it a fact that they have not been introduced as yet?

(c) Is it a fact that the question of revised leave rules has been under the consideration of the Government ever since 1919?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state definitely when the new leave rules will be introduced?

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

(c) 1923-24 is, I think, the correct year.

(d) Government are not in a position to do so.

### CONTROL OF PORTERS AT DELHI STATION.

65. **\*Mr. N. M. Joshi:** With reference to the statement made by Mr. Parsons in the reply given on 24th August, 1927, to my starred question No. 279, regarding the porters at Delhi station, that the Agent is considering the possibility of controlling the porters departmentally, will Government be pleased to state what is the result of the consideration?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** The Agent has not found it possible to devise a plan whereby a more satisfactory arrangement would be arrived at.

### INCONVENIENCES OF PASSENGERS AT RAJBARI AND FARIDPUR STATIONS ON THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

66. **\*Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state what is the arrangement at Rajbari railway station on the Eastern Bengal Railway for passengers going to Faridpur, who travel by the Dacca Mail, for their shelter at night?

(b) At what hour does the Dacca Mail reach Rajbari?

(c) Are coolies available there, and are the carriages on the side lines for Faridpur lighted?

(d) What is the general arrangement at Rajbari railway station for *pardanashin* ladies and third class passengers?

(e) Is there any waiting room at the railway station at Faridpur for third and intermediate class passengers?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** (a), (c), (d) and (e). Government are not aware of the exact arrangements.

(b) From Calcutta at 4-15 and from Dacca at 22-44.

#### EMPLOYMENT OF MUSLIMS ON THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

37. **\*Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state what is the total strength of officers and clerks in the offices of the Traffic Manager, Agent, Chief Auditor and the Controller of Stores, of the Eastern Bengal Railway at Calcutta?

(b) When were these offices established?

(c) What is the percentage of Muslims therein?

(d) How long has it been under the management of the State?

(e) Is there any circular or rule for the guidance of those administrations, concerning the recruitment of the minority, majority and other communities and statutory Indians?

(f) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have any objection to making a rule to offer at least 45 per cent. of the new vacancies in the Eastern Bengal Railway system to qualified Muslims?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** (a) The Honourable Member will find a statement showing the number of superior appointments in the offices mentioned by him in the pink book of the Eastern Bengal Railway for 1927-28. This statement will be repeated in the pink book which will be supplied to him when the budget estimates are presented at the end of this month. Details of the establishment of clerks will be found in the establishment rolls of the railway, a copy of which is in the Library.

(b) and (d). The Eastern Bengal Railway was acquired by the State on the 1st of July, 1884, and it can be assumed that these offices were in existence then.

(c) and (e). I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply which I gave on the 13th September, 1927, to Mr. Abdul Haye's questions No. 1001, 1003, 1006 and 1009, which is equally applicable to the Eastern Bengal Railway.

(f) Government are not prepared to make a rule in the sense suggested by the Honourable Member. As was stated in my reply to Mr. Abdul Haye, their policy with regard to communal representation was communicated to Railway Administrations including the Eastern Bengal Railway Administration and they have no reason to believe that it is not being properly carried out.

#### CARRIAGES ON THE DARJEELING-HIMALAYAN RAILWAY.

68. **\*Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state what is the relation of the Government with the Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway?

(b) Are the carriages, in the Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway, provided with any kind of convenience for passengers?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** (a) The Railway was constructed under the Bengal Tramway Act. For details I would refer the Honourable Member to the History of Indian Railways, a copy of which is in the Library.

(b) Yes.

#### INCONVENIENCES OF PASSENGERS AT CHANDPUR AND GOALUNDO GHAT STATIONS.

69. **\*Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state what facilities the Eastern Bengal Railway give to the travelling public in the matter of bathrooms in the running trains?

(b) Is it a fact that the trains when they reach Goalundo Ghat station, come back with passengers from the steamers from Chandpur, Narayanganj and other places, without any formality of dusting and cleaning the bathrooms with phenyle and other disinfectants?

(c) Is it not a fact that sweet vendors are allowed to sell their wares on the coal and sands without any covering on them?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to state what facilities the railway authorities give to third class passengers to get out of the trains at Goalundo Ghat, where there is no raised platform?

(e) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the deplorable condition prevailing at Chandpur (Assam-Bengal Railway) and Goalundo Ghat (Eastern Bengal Railway) with regard to the carriage of passengers' luggage, from the train to the steamer and *vice versa*, and will the Government be pleased to state what are the rates for a coolie load and what are the rates per package?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** (a) Except on the suburban services, practically all passenger carriages on the Eastern Bengal Railway are provided with latrines.

(b), (c) and (d). Government are not in possession of information on these matters, but will send a copy of the Honourable Member's question and this reply to the Agent of the Eastern Bengal Railway, who will no doubt take any steps that may be required.

(e) The coolie rates at Chandpur and Goalundo Ghat are 1 anna 6 pies per coolie; no rate is quoted per package.

#### EXPENDITURE ON THE GOVERNMENT TEST HOUSE AT ALIPORE.

70. **\*Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state at what cost the Alipore Test House is maintained by the Government of India?

(b) What is the total strength of officials and menials there?

(c) Is there any Muslim employed there?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** (a) The net cost to Government of maintaining the Government Test House, Alipore, during the year 1926-27 amounted to Rs. 1,09,898, the gross expenditure, including all direct and indirect charges, being Rs. 2,90,577 and receipts Rs. 1,80,679.

(b) The staff of the Government Test House, Alipore, on the 1st January, 1928, consisted of 57 superior and 33 inferior servants.

(c) Yes.

**UTILISATION OF THE INTEREST ACCUMULATED IN GOVERNMENT SAVINGS BANKS AND OTHER BANKS IN THE NAME OF MUSLIM INVESTORS.**

71. **\*Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state what they propose to do with the accumulated interest in Government Savings Banks and other banks in the name of the Muslim investors who do not claim them now?

(b) Will they have any objection to spending that sum for the benefit of the Muslims in general?

(c) Are the Government prepared to consult Muslim opinion in general whether that sum could be utilised for the education of Muslim youths abroad?

**\*The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the answer given in the Council of State on the 12th September, 1927, to the Honourable Sir Haroon Jafar's question No. 118 on the same subject. The Government of India have no control over the unclaimed interest on money standing to the credit of depositors in private banks.

**EMPLOYMENT OF MUSLIMS IN OFFICES UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE CONTROLLER OF PRINTING, STATIONERY AND STAMPS.**

72. **\*Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state what steps they have taken or they propose to take to increase the number of Mussalmans in the ministerial establishment of the four offices (Central Stationery and Stamps, Central Forms Stores, Central Publication Branch, and Central Printing Press) located at Calcutta under the administrative control of the Controller of Printing, Stationery and Stamps, where the percentage of Mussalman clerks is only 7, as stated by the Honourable Member in charge of the Department of Industries and Labour, in his reply to my starred question No. 414 on the 25th August, 1927?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state why out of a total number of vacancies of 113 only 27 were offered to Muslims (*vide* the answer to part (f) of the question quoted in part (a) above) and whether the 30 per cent. which the Honourable Member makes up in his reply to the same question, does not include piece-workers and others who are not employed on any permanent basis?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state what is the percentage of Muslims in the Government of India Press in Calcutta, who hold permanent jobs there? Is it a fact that there is only one Mussalman reader out of 45 readers, three revisers out of 15, and not a single copy-holder out of 45?

(d) Is it a fact that the clerks of the four offices, mentioned above, submitted a memorial to the Honourable Sir B. N. Mitra, Member of the Department of Industries and Labour, in February, 1927, regarding their increase of pay?

(e) If the reply is in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state what steps have been taken or are likely to be taken in that behalf?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** (a) Appointments to vacancies in the ministerial establishment of the Branches of the Stationery and Printing Department in Calcutta are made from a list of qualified candidates who have passed a preliminary examination, conducted

by the Controller of Printing, Stationery and Stamps. The policy of Government with regard to the appointment of members of minority communities is being followed but the increase in the number of Muslims in the Branches referred to above depends on the number of qualified Muslim candidates who pass the preliminary examination.

(b) and (c). The information is being collected and will be supplied to the Honourable Member, when ready.

(d) Yes.

(e) The memorial is under consideration of the Head of the Department.

**PAY OF THE TWO CLERICAL GRADES IN CERTAIN OFFICES IN CALCUTTA UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE CONTROLLER OF PRINTING, STATIONERY AND STAMPS.**

73. **\*Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim:** (a) Is it a fact that there are two clerical grades in the offices mentioned in the preceding question, *viz.*, one with a starting pay of Rs. 45 rising up to Rs. 140 and the other from Rs. 40 to Rs. 100 with an annual and biennial increment of Rs. 3 and Rs. 5 respectively?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state if there is any difference in the work and responsibilities of the men of the two grades in question?

(c) If there is no difference in work and responsibilities, do the Government propose to amalgamate these two grades at an early date and give effect to it since its re-organisation in January, 1925?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** (a) In the Branches of the Stationery and Printing Department in Calcutta there are two clerical grades. The scale of pay for the upper grade is Rs. 45—140, with an efficiency bar at Rs. 85, and for the lower grade Rs. 40—100, with an efficiency bar at Rs. 70.

(b) and (c). The nature of the work and responsibilities of the two grades is being examined by the Controller of Printing, Stationery and Stamps and the matter will receive the consideration of the Government of India after the Controller's report has been received.

**LOANS MADE TO THE ADI DRAVIDA AND OTHER DEPRESSED CLASSES BY THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.**

74. **\*Rao Bahadur M. C. Rajah:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a list of loans placed at the disposal of the Government of Madras for the years 1926-27, 1927-28 for the purpose of advancing money to the Adi Dravida and other Depressed classes for securing for them permanent habitation?

(b) How much of this was actually spent for the Adi Dravida and other Depressed classes and how much was spent for castes not socially backward?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** The Government of India sanctioned a loan of about 63 lakhs in 1926-27 and of about 56 lakhs in 1927-28 to the Government of Madras from the Provincial Loans Fund for the purpose of financing the Provincial Loan Account. They have no detailed information regarding the individual loans and advances made by the Local Government.

**INAUGURATION OF ANTI-HOOKWORM, ANTI-MALARIAL AND ANTI-CHOLERA CAMPAIGNS.**

75. **\*Rao Bahadur M. C. Rajah:** (a) Has the attention of the Government of India been drawn to the Madras Government report No. 803-P. H., dated 27th April, 1927, on the report of the progress of anti-hookworm campaign activities in the Madras Presidency assisted by liberal grants of money by the International Health Board of the American Rockefeller Institute?

(b) Is it the intention of the Government of India to encourage the Rockefeller\*Philanthropic Institute's International Health Board for inaugurating similar anti-hookworm, anti-malarial and anti-cholera campaigns in all provinces and cantonments under them?

**Mr. G. S. Bajpai:** (a) Yes.

(b) So far as the provinces are concerned, the initiative now rests with Local Governments. The Government of India were recently asked whether they would agree to one or two experts appointed by the Rockefeller Foundation acting in collaboration with the staff of the Central Malaria Organisation which has recently been established by the Indian Research Fund Association and the authorities of the Foundation have been informed that the offered collaboration will be welcomed. There is no other proposal before Government at present to invoke the assistance of the Foundation.

**NUMBER OF WORKMEN AND SKILLED LABOURERS OF THE RAILWAY WORKSHOPS AT KHARAGPUR WHO LEFT SERVICE IN AN AVERAGE YEAR DURING THE LAST FIVE YEARS.**

76. **\*Mr. Mukhtar Singh:** Will the Government be pleased to state the total number of workmen and skilled labourers who left service either by death or dismissal or any other cause in an average year during the last five years at Kharagpur Bengal Nagpur Railway workshops?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** The information has been called for and will be supplied to the Honourable Member when received.

**APPOINTMENT OF UNQUALIFIED OFFICIALS AS TOWN INSPECTORS OF FIRST CLASS HEAD POST OFFICES.**

77. **\*Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if the examination previously in force for Inspectors of the Post Offices and the Head Clerks of the Divisional Superintendents of Post Offices is considered equivalent to the examination prescribed in the Director General's (Posts and Telegraphs) General Order No. 5, dated 19th July, 1927? If the reply is in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased, to state whether the officials who passed the Inspectors' examination are entitled to promotion to the first selection grade posts in the subordinate service of the Post Office without appearing at any further examination?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state if the appointments of Town Inspectors in the first class Head Offices are in the selection grade?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that unqualified officials have been provisionally appointed as Town Inspectors in the first class Head Offices subject to their passing the selection grade examination in preference to qualified officials who have passed the



examination of Inspectors and are waiting their turn for 'promotion to the selection grade posts? If so, why?

(d) In view of the exemption from further examination given to the officials who have passed the Inspectors' examination, do the Government propose to provide such men in selection grade posts falling vacant during the intervening period between the date of the Government of India's orders introducing the selection grade examination and the date on which such examination is first held?

**Mr. H. A. Sams:** (a) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. With respect to the second part, those who have passed the examination for Inspectors of Post Offices and Head Clerks of Divisional Superintendents' offices will be eligible for promotion to the selection grade without further examination.

(b) Yes.

(c) The fact is not altogether as stated by the Honourable Member. I am supplying to the Honourable Member separately a copy of the orders of Government regarding promotion to the newly created posts.

(d) Until the first examination is held, promotion to the selection grade appointment will be made by Heads of Circles by selection as heretofore. Those who have passed the examination for Inspectors of Post Offices and Head Clerks to Divisional Superintendents' offices are eligible for selection grade appointments if they are sufficiently senior and are considered suitable. Until the first selection grade examination is held they are also eligible to the appointments of Inspectors of Post Offices and Head Clerks to Divisional Superintendents' offices irrespective of seniority.

#### APPLICATION OF THE REVISED PENSION RULES FOR MENIALS TO THE RECORD SUPPLIERS AND JAMADARS IN THE CURRENCY DEPARTMENT.

78. **\*Mr. Fazal Ibrahim Rahimtulla:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether the scales of pension of the menial staff in some departments have been recently revised, if so, in what departments?

(b) Are the new pension rules applicable to the record suppliers and jamadars in the Currency Department? If not, why not?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** (a) The Honourable Member is, I think, referring to the menial staff in the Government of India Secretariats. The answer is in the negative.

(b) Does not arise.

#### PROVIDENT FUND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVANTS.

79. **\*Mr. Fazal Ibrahim Rahimtulla:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state when the provident fund system as passed in the Council of State in 1924 is likely to be introduced in Government offices?

(b) Is it proposed at the same time to consider the grant of a bonus to the heirs of Government servants in case of the latter's death before retirement?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** (a) The position is still as indicated in the reply which I gave on the 25th August last to the Honourable Member's question on the same subject. The actuarial investigation of the cost is not yet complete. I would ask the Honourable Member to

believe that it is not to any procrastination on the part of the Government but to the complexity and importance of the subject to which is to be attributed the long period of incubation.

(b) The Honourable Member is referred to my reply to the same question put by him on the 25th August last.

#### REVISED SCALE OF PAY FOR THE STAFF IN CURRENCY OFFICES, ETC.

80. **\*Mr. Fazal Ibrahim Rahimtulla:** (a) Are Government aware that there is great discontent amongst the staff in all Currency Offices in India for not applying retrospectively the revision of June, 1924? If so, do they intend to alleviate the feeling by granting some increment to those who have put in more than ten years' service? Is it a fact that the Deputy Controller of the Currency, Madras, and the Currency Officer, Mr. Murphy, had recommended some such relief? If so, why was it not granted?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have reconsidered the question of a provident fund for the Currency Office staff? If so, is it considered in the light of the recent legislation as stated in February, 1925?

(c) If the answer be in the affirmative, have the Government introduced the practice of adding their share to the provident fund of the employee every year? If not, why not?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is not also a fact that by the addition of Government's share at the end of the employee's service he loses the interest on that?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given to the second part of question No. 471 asked by Mr. M. K. Acharya on the 2nd September, 1925. The Government do not propose to grant additional increments to those clerks who have put in more than 10 years' service nor are they prepared to publish opinions expressed by individual officers in such cases.

(b) to (d). In view of possible changes in the control of the Currency Department, the Government do not propose to consider the question of modifying the existing provident fund arrangements for the staff employed in the Treasurer's Department in the Currency Offices. The rest of the staff is on a pensionable basis.

#### EXPENDITURE ON THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE, DELHI, ETC.

81. **\*Haji Abdoola Haroon:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) the amount sanctioned by them for the carrying on of the Railway Clearing House?

(b) the details of expenses for installation of the Clearing Accounts Office?

(c) whether it is a fact that the maximum of the scale of the clerical staff has been reduced from Rs. 145 to 120? If so, why?

(d) whether it is a fact that the building now occupied by the Clearing Accounts Office, Delhi, was formerly rejected by the

Railway even when available for Rs. 1,50,000 and now some 3 lakhs of rupees have been paid for the same building?

- (e) whether it is a fact that 7,000 new bricks were bought for laying the floor in a camp while the Chief Audit Officer was at Lahore, and a few months later they were sold at Rs. 7 or 10 only for the whole lot?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** (a) The Clearing Accounts Office is expected to cost about 11 lakhs in the current year.

(b) The building and its equipment have so far cost Rs. 3,32,000, of which Rs. 3,48,000 represent outlay on the building and Rs. 14,000 cost of furniture and fittings.

(c) No. Rs. 120 is the maximum pay for clerical staff and is also the maximum in the East Indian Railway Accounts Office. Rs. 145 is the maximum in the North-Western Railway Audit Office, but the staff transferred from that office to the Clearing Accounts Office have been given the option of remaining on their old scales of pay.

(d) Government have no information to this effect.

(e) Yes. The bricks originally cost Rs. 90 and were sold for Rs. 10 the purchaser being responsible for breaking up the floor and removing the bricks.

#### AGITATION IN THE PRESS AGAINST THE WORKING OF THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE.

82. **\*Haji Abdoola Haroon:** Are the Government aware of the fact that:

(a) there was some agitation in the Press against the working of the Railway Clearing Accounts Office?

(b) series after series of articles were published in *The Tribune*, *The Hindustan Times*, *The Muslim Outlook*, *The Punjab*, *The Zamindar*, *The Inqilab* and various other leading papers of the Punjab?

(c) If so, whether any action was taken by Government?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** (a) and (b). There has been a good deal of correspondence about the Railway Clearing Accounts Office in the papers mentioned by the Honourable Member and also in other organs of the Press, some of the correspondents taking one side and some taking the other.

(c) Government took no action.

#### OVERWORKED CLERKS OF THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE.

83. **\*Haji Abdoola Haroon:** Are the Government aware of the fact that:

(a) the clerks had to work and are still working far above the normal number of working hours in the Clearing Accounts Office?

(b) the clerks attend office on gazetted holidays and Sundays even?

(c) If in the affirmative, do the Government propose to take any step to stop this system of working?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** (a) The clerks in the Clearing Accounts Office have had on occasion to work extra hours owing to the move of the office from Lahore to Delhi and the fact that the work was not, at the outset, completely organised.

(b) The office is closed on Sundays and gazetted holidays, subject to the condition which is usual in all Government offices that arrangements are made for urgent work. It was closed for instance during the Christmas holidays.

(c) There is no intention of understaffing the office or of requiring the clerks to work extra hours as a general practice.

#### SELECTION OF MEN FOR THE STATUTORY AUDIT OFFICE.

84. **\*Haji Abdoola Haroon:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) How was the selection of men for the Statutory Audit Office made?

(b) Whether any person was deputed to suggest the names?

(c) Why B. Amirudh, clerk of the Statutory Audit Office, was taken back to the Chief Audit Office?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** (a) and (b). The selection of men for the Statutory Audit Office was made partly by the Statutory Auditor from the East Indian Railway staff at Lucknow and partly by the Chief Auditor, North Western Railway, from his staff.

(c) The transfer was made in the interests of the public service.

#### Hired Machines in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office.

85. **\*Haji Abdoola Haroon:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) What was the old cost of the compilation office and what is the new cost at present including hire charges of the machines in use?

(b) Through what official agency and from what manufactory the machines for this office were purchased?

(c) Whether the manufactory allowed any percentage of commission on the actual price of the machines?

(d) Whether there is any contract for the supply of cards for the use of these machines between the Government and those manufactories?

(e) If so, will Government be pleased to state what is the price of cards per thousand?

(f) Whether these cards could not be printed in India at a very low cost?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** (a) The information is being collected and will be supplied to the Honourable Member when it is ready.

(b), (c) and (d). The Hollerith and Powers machines in use in the Clearing Accounts Office are hired and not purchased from the companies which manufacture them. One of the conditions of hire is that cards for use with the machines shall be purchased from the Company concerned.

(e) About Rs. 7 per thousand.

(f) No. The cards are made of a special kind of paper which cannot be manufactured in India.

**EXPENDITURE ON THE EXPERIMENT OF THE LOCAL GOODS SCHEME ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY, ETC.**

86. **\*Haji Abdoola Haroon:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) The total cost of the experiment of the North Western Railway local goods scheme?

(b) Why Delhi has been preferred to Calcutta for the experiment of the East Indian Railway local goods scheme?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** (a) About Rs. 28,000.

(b) I am not sure that I understand what the Honourable Member means by the experiment which he mentions, but the question whether the local traffic audit of the East Indian Railway should be carried out by the Clearing Accounts Office in Delhi is still under consideration.

**MEMORIAL FROM THE TELEGRAPH PEONS' ASSOCIATION, RANGOON.**

87. **\*Mr. N. M. Joshi:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if they had received a memorial from the Rangoon Telegraph Peons' Association?

(b) Is it a fact that no increase has been made in the pay of the telegraph peons as was done in the case of the other employees of the Postal Department?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state what they propose to do in the matter?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** (a) A duplicate copy of a representation addressed to the Director General has been received on behalf of the task-work peons, boy peons and durwans of Rangoon.

(b) No increase in the pay of telegraph peons has recently been sanctioned but the same is true of many other classes of postal employees serving in Rangoon.

(c) The case of the lower subordinate staff of the Posts and Telegraphs Department including telegraph peons is now under consideration.

**REVISION OF PAY OF THE STAFF OF THE CURRENCY OFFICES.**

88. **\*Mr. N. M. Joshi:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the resolutions passed at the last All-India Currency Conference held at Madras?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state, if they have granted further revision of pay to certain Departments under them which are similarly placed as the Currency Offices?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state, if they have granted similar revision to the Currency Offices?

(d) If the reply to (c) be in the negative, will they be pleased to state when they propose to do so?

(e) If not, will they be pleased to state reasons for the same?

REVISION OF THE PAY OF SHROFFS OF THE CURRENCY OFFICES.

89. **\*Mr. N. M. Joshi:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the resolution No. 6, passed at the last All-India Currency Conference, about the revision of pay of the Shroffing establishment?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state what they propose to do in the matter?

REVISION OF PAY OF THE SUPERVISING STAFF OF THE CURRENCY OFFICES.

90. **\*Mr. N. M. Joshi:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the resolution No. 12, passed at the last All-India Currency Conference, about the revision of pay of the supervising staff?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that a revision of scales of pay of the supervising staff in the Currency Office was promised when a similar revision would take place in the Accounts Office?

(c) Is it a fact that the scales of pay of the supervising staff of the Accounts Office has been revised?

(d) If the reply to (c) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state why the revision was not granted to the supervising staff of the Currency Offices?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** I propose to answer questions Nos. 88, 89 and 90 together.

The Government are obtaining certain information to enable them to reply fully to the Honourable Member's questions.

A final answer will be communicated to him as soon as possible.

MANUFACTURE OF PRIVATE FURNITURE, ETC., IN THE WORKSHOPS OF THE BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY IN BOMBAY.

91. **\*Mr. N. M. Joshi:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state, if private work is allowed in the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway Workshops in Bombay?

(b) Is it a fact that a Foreman in the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway Workshops has made over 200 water carts and sold them in the open bazar?

(c) Is it a fact that some private furniture has been made in the Workshops for the use of the supervisor, employees, etc.?

(d) Is it a fact that the matter was brought to Mr. Fraser's notice?

(e) Is it a fact that no notice was taken by him?

(f) Are Government prepared to enquire into the matter and let the House know the result?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** (a) Government are making enquiries and will inform the Honourable Member of the result as soon as a reply is received from the Agent.

(b) to (f). Government are not prepared to enquire into these matters, which are entirely for the Agent of the Railway.

ANNUAL EXPENDITURE INCURRED ON THE APPRENTICES' HOME ON THE  
BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY.

92. **\*Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Will Government be pleased to state the annual expenditure incurred on the Apprentices' Home on the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** The Honourable Member presumably refers to the Freeland House Hostel for workshop apprentices at Ajmer, the annual expenditure on which is about Rs. 4,800.

GRANT OF COMPULSORY LEAVE WITHOUT PAY TO THE DAILY PAID STAFF  
OF THE CARRIAGE DEPARTMENT OF THE BOMBAY, BARODA AND  
CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY.

93. **\*Mr. N. M. Joshi:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state, if the daily paid staff of the Carriage Department (M. G.) of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway is given compulsory leave without pay for one month?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the reasons for it?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** Government have no information. Enquiries are being made and the Honourable Member will be informed in due course.

EMPLOYMENT OF MEN IN THE LOCO. SHOPS OF THE BOMBAY, BARODA AND  
CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY ON PRIVATE WORK CONNECTED WITH THE  
BOWLING GREEN, GOLF COURSE, ETC.

94. **\*Mr. N. M. Joshi:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state, if it is a fact that some men employed in the Loco. Shops of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway are employed on the bowling green, recreation ground, Railway Institute and golf course to keep them trim?

(b) Is it a fact that some Foremen, Assistant Foremen, Chargemen, etc., have some men daily engaged in their private work who are on the roll of the Loco. Shops?

(c) Is it a fact that the band master is put down in the shop books as an Assistant Boiler Maker Foreman?

(d) Is it a fact that a new man has been appointed whose duty is to play and give instruction in golf and he is on the roll of the Loco. Shops?

(e) Is it a fact that Mr. Porter (retired Assistant Works Manager) has been re-engaged on Rs. 8 per day but looks more to the golf course, bowling green, etc.?

(f) Will Government be pleased to state why this extra expenditure is being incurred?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** Government have no information. Enquiries are being made and the Honourable Member will be informed in due course.

IMPOSITION OF DISABILITIES UPON AMERICANS RESIDENT IN INDIA SIMILAR  
TO THOSE IMPOSED ON INDIANS IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

95. **\*Mr. N. M. Joshi:** With reference to the reply given to the starred question No. 1100, on 8th March, 1926, regarding the imposition of disabilities upon Americans resident in India, similar to those imposed on

Indians in the U. S. A., will Government be pleased to state the result of the examination of the question under consideration?

**The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar:** I would draw the attention of the Honourable Member to the reply given by Sir Denys Bray to question No. 103 on the 23rd August, 1927.

### STRIKES ON RAILWAYS.

96. **\*Mr. N. M. Joshi:** With reference to the use of the word "illegal" in the Standing Order issued by the Secretary, Railway Board, on the 27th July, 1922, under Rule 14, Part II, of the State Railways Provident Fund and Gratuity Rules, will Government be pleased to state which is the authority which can declare a strike to be legal or illegal for the purpose of the Standing Order referred to?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** No legislation under which a strike can be declared as illegal has been passed in India; there is, therefore, at present no such authority.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** May I ask how is that rule to be interpreted? Who interprets the rule?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** I do not think there has yet been an occasion on which we have had to interpret it.

### TREATMENT OF RAILWAY UNIONS BY THE AUTHORITIES OF THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

97. **\*Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the authorities of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Administration do not give any replies to the representations about the grievances of the staff made by the Unions from time to time?

(b) if the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, what are the reasons for not giving any replies to the representations?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** I do not know if it would be correct to say that the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Administration do not give any replies to representations made by Unions, but they have not yet recognised any of the 7 Unions on their Railway as representing the interests of any considerable body of their employees. Two of these Unions, the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Workmen's Union, Parel, and the Wadi Bunder Staff Union have, however, recently been registered under the Indian Trade Unions Act and have sent a copy of their rules and regulations to the Agent with a request for official recognition and their request is now under consideration.

### PAYMENT OF OVERTIME ALLOWANCE TO THE SUBORDINATE STAFF OF THE COACHING AND GOODS DEPARTMENTS OF THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

98. **\*Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Administration has framed any specific rules relating to the payment of



overtime allowance to the subordinate staff working in the Coaching and Goods Departments and in the Cabins?

- (b) if not, what is the present system of paying overtime allowance, if any, and on what basis?

#### WORKING HOURS OF THE STAFF EMPLOYED AT THE WADI BUNDER GOODS DEPÔT.

99. **\*Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) the hours of attendance per day for the staff working at the Wadi Bunder Goods Depôt?
- (b) whether it is a fact that the staff at Wadi Bunder is sometimes required to work even up to early hours next day for a continuous period of a month?
- (c) if not, for what period during a year they are so required to work?
- (d) whether they are paid any overtime allowance for such work?

#### WORKING HOURS OF THE STAFF OF THE COACHING DEPARTMENT AND CABINS OF THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

100. **\*Mr. N. M. Joshi:** (a) Will Government be pleased to enquire whether the staff working in the Coaching Department and Cabins of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway are required to work ordinarily for twelve hours a day without any weekly rest?

- (b) If they are not so required, will Government be pleased to state the working hours of such staff?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** I propose, with your permission, Sir, to answer questions Nos. 98, 99, 100, 102 and 105 together. The information is being collected for the Honourable Member and will be supplied to him as quickly as possible.

#### WEEKLY REST DAY OF THE STAFF OF THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

101. **\*Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the staff working on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway are allowed a day's rest every week?
- (b) if not, what staff are not allowed such concession?
- (c) whether it is a fact that in order to become entitled to a day off a person is required to work for 24 hours continuously?

**The Honourable Sir George Rainy:** (a) and (b). I am unable to give the Honourable Member a complete list of the classes of staff on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway who do and who do not at present get a weekly day of rest. Generally speaking workshop staff, and most of the clerical staff, get a day of rest, while station and running staff connected with, and engaged in, the working of the train services, and those engaged in light intermittent duties, such as gatesmen, do not do so. But the question of

giving railwaymen generally a weekly day of rest is under the consideration of the Government of India.

(c) Government are not aware of any rule or practice to this effect

**INFLECTION OF FINES ON THE STAFF OF THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.**

†102. \***Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) the different classes of fines that are inflicted on the staff working on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway?
- (b) whether the Railway Administration has framed any specific rules relating to the imposition of fines on the members of the staff?
- (c) if so, whether the Government will be pleased to place such rules in the Library of the Assembly?
- (d) whether it is a fact that a person has to suffer more than one punishment for one and the same mistake?

**UNIFORM OF LEVERMEN EMPLOYED ON THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.**

103. \***Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether levermen working on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway are provided with any dress, and if so, what is the dress so provided and at what interval?
- (b) whether it is a fact that only one set of dress is supplied to them a year, and that they have to use the same dress on all the 365 days of the year?
- (c) whether it is a fact that the Railway Administration requires the levermen to put on the same dress while on duty?
- (d) whether the Railway Administration inflicts a fine both on the leverman and the cabinman under whom he works?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** (a) and (b). The annual issue of free clothing to levermen on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway:

	Woollen.	Blue Cotton Drill.
Coats	1	1
Trousers	1	1

and one blue turban or cap.

(c) Government have no information.

(d) The Railway Administration can fine either a leverman or cabinman if occasion arises for doing so.

**PERIODICAL MEDICAL RE-EXAMINATION OF CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE STAFF OF THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.**

104. \***Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Great Indian Peninsula Railway authorities require the staff in certain sections to pass the periodical medical re-examination in eye-sight, colour knowledge and general physical fitness?

- (b) if so, the reasons for such periodical re-examination?
- (c) when was such re-examination introduced and what led to its introduction?
- (d) whether it is a fact that the official who does not re-pass the medical test is penalised either by his services being dispensed with or by reduction in pay or permanent stoppage of future promotions?
- (e) what steps do Government propose to take to stop the hardship caused by this re-examination?
- (f) whether the system of such periodical re-examination exists on any other State or Company-managed Railway?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** The procedure for the periodical medical re-examination of staff has now been made uniform on the four State-managed Railways and a copy of the regulations which have just been issued has been sent to the Honourable Member.

#### PROMOTION OF EMPLOYEES OF THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY FROM THE LOWER TO HIGHER GRADES.

†105. **\*Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are any definite rules or principles on which the promotion from the lower grade to the higher grade is made of officials working in several capacities in the various Departments of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway?
- (b) if so, whether they will place a copy of the same in the Library of the Assembly?
- (c) if not, whether such promotions are entirely at the discretion of the Heads of the Departments?
- (d) if the reply to (c) above is in the affirmative, whether such discretion is to the prejudice of many senior men?
- (e) whether the Government will see the railway authorities make rules and regulations for making such promotions?

#### LADY PACKERS EMPLOYED IN THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE POST OFFICE IN BOMBAY.

106. **\*Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of inward foreign parcels, containing ladies' millinery dealt with by the Foreign Exchange Post Office in Bombay, during the 12 months ending the 31st December, 1927?
- (b) what was the value of such parcels?
- (c) what was the value of postage realised by the Indian Postal Administration on these parcels?
- (d) what was the amount realised from such parcels for services rendered by the Foreign Exchange Post Office in connection with the Customs work?
- (e) whether it is a fact that two lady packers have been engaged in the Bombay Exchange Post Office in January, 1928, specially for repacking parcels containing millinery opened by the Customs authorities?

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† For answers to this question, see answer printed after question No. 100.

- (f) what is the average annual expenditure required for maintaining the two lady packers?
- (g) how many complaints about bad re-packing of parcels opened by the Customs authorities, were received during the 12 months ending 31st December, 1927?
- (h) is the extra expenditure justified compared with the revenues received?
- (i) if the answer to (h) above be in the negative, will Government be pleased to give reasons for engaging two lady packers on special pay?

**Mr. H. A. Sams:** Complete information is not available: it is being collected and will be furnished to the Honourable Member in due course.

**REPORT OF THE OFFICER DEPUTED TO ENQUIRE INTO THE FACILITIES AVAILABLE FOR THE EDUCATION OF THE CHILDREN OF RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.**

107. **\*Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru:** With reference to the reply given to starred question No. 1192 on the 20th September, 1927, will Government state whether it has been decided to publish the report of the educational officer deputed to enquire into the facilities available for the education of the children of railway employees?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** Copies of the report have been placed in the Library for the use of Members of this House. It is a departmental document and it is not proposed to make it available for sale to the public.

**OAKGROVE EUROPEAN SCHOOL, MUSSOORIE.**

108. **\*Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru:** (a) What is the total number of pupils in the Oakgrove European School (Mussoorie) and the expenditure per pupil incurred by the Railway Board? Do Government spend about one lac of rupees annually on this school?

(b) What is the average annual grant given to the two high schools maintained by the East Indian Railway?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** There were 483 pupils on the rolls of the Oakgrove School for Boys and Girls on 31st March 1926. In 1925-26, the expenditure of the school exceeded the receipts from fees, a Provincial grant, etc., by about Rs. 1,34,000, which was met from the revenue of the East Indian Railway. For fuller details I would refer the Honourable Member to paragraphs 41 and 42 of Mr. Jones' report.

(b) The East Indian Railway maintain five high schools for Indians.

Particulars of the grants made to all classes of railway schools in 1925-26 will be found in Mr. Jones' report. Information in respect of the high schools is not available separately, but I am obtaining it for the Honourable Member.

**Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru:** With reference to the statement of the Honourable Member that the East Indian Railway maintains five high schools, may I refer him to a reply given by Sir Charles Innes on the 25th March, 1927, to question No. 1190, in which he said that there was one high school maintained for Indian children in Bengal and one in the United Provinces?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** I am very glad to be referred to that reply, but I do not know that it has very much bearing on the statement I have made. If the Honourable Member suggests that there is some inaccuracy in that reply I will look into the matter, but the East Indian Railway does not cover only Bengal and the United Provinces.

#### EXPENDITURE ON THE HOSPITAL ATTACHED TO THE OAKGROVE EUROPEAN SCHOOL, MUSSOORIE.

109. **\*Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru:** Is there a hospital attached to the Oakgrove European School? If so, what is its annual expenditure? Is this expenditure included in the figure of Rs. 2,85,860 which was stated to be the recurring expenditure of the school in 1925-26 by Government in reply to starred question No. 673 on the 31st August, 1927?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** There is a hospital attached to the Oakgrove School. The expenditure on it is included in the figure mentioned by the Honourable Member, but is not known separately.

#### PAY, ETC., OF TEACHERS OF THE OAKGROVE EUROPEAN SCHOOL, MUSSOORIE.

110. **\*Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru:** (a) How many teachers in the Oakgrove European School are in the officers' grade? How many teachers in Indian high or middle schools are in the same grade?

(b) What are the salaries of the Principal and the Headmaster of the Oakgrove School and how many assistant masters are in receipt of a salary of Rs. 250 or more? What are the scales of salaries payable to headmasters and assistant masters of Indian high schools?

(c) Are all or any of the teachers of the Oakgrove European School provided with board, lodging and light free of charge? Are any other concessions allowed to them? Do teachers of Indian high or middle schools enjoy these privileges?

(d) Is the Oakgrove School under the Government of India or the U. P. Government and are its teachers treated as Government servants? Are teachers of Indian schools accorded the same status?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** (a) The Principal of the Oakgrove School is a gazetted officer. None of the teachers in the Indian secondary schools maintained by the East Indian Railway Administration are gazetted officers.

(b) The Principal's pay is Rs. 650 plus sterling overseas pay of £25. The Head Master draws Rs. 500 per mensem with allowances totalling Rs. 100 per mensem. Six assistant masters draw Rs. 250 per mensem or more. For the salaries given to Head Masters and assistant masters of Indian high schools maintained by the East Indian Railway Administration, I would refer the Honourable Member to pages 138 to 144 of the East Indian Railway's Classified List of Subordinate Staff for 1927, a copy of which is in the Library.

(c) I am enquiring from the Agent of the East Indian Railway and will let the Honourable Member know.

(d) The Oakgrove School is under the East Indian Railway Administration and its teachers and those of the Indian schools maintained by the East Indian Railway Administration are Government servants.

**Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru:** With reference to the answer given to part (a), may I know whether there is any teacher except the Principal in the officers' grade?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** The Principal of the Oakgrove School is certainly the only gazetted officer. I am not quite sure that I understand what the Honourable Member means by the officers' grade. Nor am I quite certain that the other masters at that school are described as officers at all.

**Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru:** By officers' grade, I meant the superior grade.

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

#### DEPARTMENT FOR GIRLS ATTACHED TO THE OAKGROVE EUROPEAN SCHOOL, MUSSOORIE.

111. **\*Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru:** Is a department for girls attached to the Oakgrove European School? Do the Railway authorities maintain any school for Indian girls? If not, do they propose to start such a school now?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** Yes; the Oakgrove School has a department for girls. So far as I am aware the East Indian Railway Administration does not maintain any school solely for girls, either European or Indian, but I am making enquiries on this point from the Agent. No concrete proposal for the establishment of a girls' school on the East Indian Railway at the cost of railway revenues is at present before Government, but the whole question of the assistance which railways should give towards the education of their employees' children, and the form which it should take, is being considered by Government.

**Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru:** Is there any girls' department attached to any Indian high school or middle school?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** I do not know, Sir.

#### SCALE OF FEES IN THE OAKGROVE EUROPEAN SCHOOL, MUSSOORIE, ETC.

112. **\*Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru:** (a) Is a sliding scale of charges proportioned to the salaries of the parents of the pupils similar to that in force in the Oakgrove European School applicable to Indian high or middle schools? If not, are Government prepared to take early steps to extend this concession to the comparatively low-paid Indian staff?

(b) Are the hostels attached to the Oakgrove School self-supporting? Is any grant given to Indian schools for the maintenance of hostels or are the latter required to meet their expenditure from their own resources?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** (a) The fees charged for attendance at the Indian secondary schools maintained by the East Indian Railway Administration are in accordance with the rates prescribed by the Education Departments of the Provincial Governments, and do not, I understand, depend on the pay of the parents. The whole question of the assistance which railways should give towards the education of the children of their employees and the form which it should take is at present under the consideration of Government.

(b) The Oakgrove School is a boarding school and the fees charged cover both board and tuition. The school as a whole is not self-supporting. The

Indian high schools provided by the East Indian Railway Administration at Dinapore and Tundla have hostels, but I am unable to say whether the administration makes a grant specifically for the maintenance of the hostels as apart from the assistance which it gives towards the maintenance of the schools as a whole. I am making enquiries on this point from the Agent and will let the Honourable Member know as early as possible.

## UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

### INSTITUTION OF AN ALL-INDIA ACCOUNTANCY BOARD.

1. **Mr. M. R. Jayakar:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to inform this House as to what has been done in furtherance of the scheme of instituting an All-India Accountancy Board with a view to convert the same within three years into an Institute of Accountants?

(b) Is it a fact that the whole scheme as prepared by the Special Committee appointed for the purpose is now ready?

(c) If so, will Government be pleased to inform the House whether it is going to be published, and if so, when?

(d) Is it a fact that some European chartered accountants have objected to the inauguration of the scheme? If so, do Government propose to shelve it or carry it through?

**The Honourable Sir George Rainy:** (a) to (c). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given by the Honourable Sir Charles Innes to question No. 1097 asked by Mr. Fazal Ibrahim Rahimtulla in this House on the 21st March 1927. The Government of India have not yet been able to undertake the necessary legislation, but hope to do so at the next September Session.

(d) The answer to the first part is in the negative. The second part does not arise.

### COLLECTION OF INCOME-TAX AND SUPER-TAX.

2. **Sir Victor Sassoon:** Will the Government furnish a statement showing the number of officials connected with the collection of income-tax and super-tax:

- (a) in India,
- (b) in the Bombay Presidency,
- (c) in Bombay City.
- (d) in Calcutta City,
- (e) in Madras City,

for the fiscal years between 1922 and 1926 inclusive, also the respective amounts collected and the cost of collection?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** The figures are not available in the form asked for owing to the changes in the organisation of the machinery for assessment and collection which have been in course of introduction during the period.

### ESTABLISHMENT OF AN URBAN UNIT OF THE INDIAN TERRITORIAL FORCE IN CALCUTTA.

3. **Lala Lajpat Rai:** (a) Are Government aware that there is a strong feeling of dissatisfaction in Calcutta as the result of the Government decision not to form an urban unit of the Indian Territorial Force as recommended by the Shea Committee's Report in that city?

(b) Have representations been made to Government by the Indian Chamber of Commerce and other public bodies in Calcutta urging the speedy establishment of an urban unit of sufficient strength in that city?

(c) Is it a fact that the Indian Chamber of Commerce and other public bodies have suggested to Government ways and means by which an urban unit may be started in Calcutta and maintained at very little cost to Government until adequate funds may be provided for in the Budget?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to state (1) what steps have been taken on those representations and (2) whether Government are considering the desirability of forming an urban unit in Calcutta at an early date? If so, when and of what strength? If not, why not?

**Mr. G. M. Young:** (a) Government are aware that dissatisfaction has been expressed in some quarters.

(b) Representations have been received from the Indian Chamber of Commerce and the Indian Association, Calcutta.

(c) Certain suggestions have been put forward by the Indian Chamber of Commerce.

(d) The Bengal Government were consulted and their reply was received only a few days ago. It is now under consideration.

### GRANT OF HOUSE RENT ALLOWANCES TO THE MAIL GUARDS AND OTHER INFERIOR SERVANTS OF THE RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE IN THE MADRAS PRESIDENCY.

4. **Mr. N. M. Joshi:** With reference to the reply given on 16th February, 1927, to my unstarred question No. 98(b), will Government be pleased to state what the Director General has done in the matter referred to in the question?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** The Director-General has since prepared a scheme which is under the consideration of the Government of India.

### REDUCTION OF THE HOURS OF WORK OF THE STATION COMMERCIAL STAFF ON THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

5. **Mr. N. M. Joshi:** With reference to the reply to my unstarred question No. 39, given on 18th August, 1927, will Government be pleased to state the result of their enquiries?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** The replies on the points raised in the Honourable Member's previous question are:

(a) and (b). No.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) On certain Railways at stations where the duties of the Commercial station staff are of a continuous nature they are employed on 8 hour shifts.



### WORKING HOURS OF EMPLOYEES OF THE RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE.

6. **Mr. N. M. Joshi:** With reference to the reply given on the 16th February, 1927, to my unstarred question 97, parts (b) and (c), will Government be pleased to state what is the result of the examination of the question regarding Railway Mail Service employees?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** Orders have already issued to count platform attendance in excess of 15 minutes as time spent on duty and the sorting staff has been augmented accordingly wherever justified. The question of treating similarly the attendance of sorters of running sections in Record Offices for the examination of work papers is under consideration.

### PAYMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA OF THE SALARY OF MR. JAFARE, EDITOR OF THE ALIGARH MAIL.

7. **Lala Lajpat Rai:** (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to a speech made by Mr. Muhammad Ali at the annual session of the All-India Muslim League held at Calcutta on 31st December last, in the course of which the speaker read a letter supposed to have been written by Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad of the Aligarh Mohammadan University and addressed to Mr. Coatman, Director of the Information Bureau, Government of India, in which Mr. Coatman had been asked to pay the salary of Mr. Jafare, Editor of the *Aligarh Mail*, for several months?

(b) Was the letter referred to by Mr. Muhammad Ali genuine?

(c) Was the letter delivered to Mr. Coatman and did Mr. Coatman pay the salary to Mr. Jafare as desired?

**The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar:** I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given by me to-day to the starred question by Munshi Iswar Saran on the same subject.

### SUBSIDIES PAID TO NEWSPAPERS.

8. **Lala Lajpat Rai:** (a) How many newspapers, if any, have the Government of India been subsidizing with a view to enlist support against the boycott of the Simon Commission?

(b) Will the Government give the names of such papers and the amounts paid to each of them?

**The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar:** (a) None.

(b) Does not arise.

### EXPENDITURE ON SUBSIDIES PAID TO NEWSPAPERS.

9. **Lala Lajpat Rai:** (a) How much money do the Government of India spend annually on subsidizing the Press?

(b) Is the Director of Information fully authorised by the Government to make grants for subsidizing papers?

**The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar:** (a) None.

(b) Does not arise.

**DISSEMINATION OF HEALTH PROPAGANDA AMONGST THE WOMEN OF INDIA,  
ETC.**

10. **Lala Lajpat Rai:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to give information as to how many hospitals for women and maternity homes there are in India? How many of them are financed out of Imperial and Provincial Revenues and how many by private agency?

(b) How many women doctors are employed (i) by the Public Health Department, (ii) by private agencies?

(c) What steps, if any, have the Government of India taken so far to carry on health propaganda amongst the women of India?

(d) How much money, if any, is spent annually by the Government on the dissemination of health propaganda amongst women and on the medical education of women?

(e) What steps, if any, are being taken by the Government of India for promoting the physical welfare of the women of India? Are the Government of India prepared to make a provision in the Budget for helping Indian women's physical development clubs?

**Mr. G. S. Bajpai:** (a) Medical administration is a transferred provincial subject. Government regret that they have no information as to the number of hospitals for women or maternity homes in provinces or the source from which they are financed. The only hospital for women directly aided by Government is the hospital attached to the Lady Hardinge Medical College for women and the only maternity home in receipt of similar aid is the Portmore Nursing Home, Simla. In addition the National Association for supplying Medical Aid by Women to the Women of India, popularly known as the Countess of Dufferin's Fund, which receives a substantial grant from Central Revenues, runs 30 hospitals in the provinces and in areas directly under the Government of India.

(b) The Government of India do not possess complete information. The number of women doctors employed by the National Association for supplying Medical Aid by Women to the Women in India is 55.

(c) The Government of India have themselves taken no direct step to carry on health propaganda among women; the matter, as already explained above, is primarily one for Provincial Governments. The steps taken by these Governments are summarised in the annual report of the Public Health Commissioner with the Government of India. A copy of this report as well as the report of the Countess of Dufferin's Fund will be found in the Library.

(d) The Government of India make recurring grants to the total amount of:

(1) Rs. 3,70,000 to the Committee of the Countess of Dufferin's Fund, otherwise known as the National Association for supplying Medical Aid by Women to the Women in India;

(2) Rs. 3,14,500 to the Lady Hardinge Hospital and Medical College, Delhi;

(3) Rs. 35,000 to the Central Committee of the Indian Nursing Association;

- (4) Rs. 6,000 per annum to the Delhi Health School; and  
 (5) Rs. 5,000 to the Portmore Nursing Home, Simla.

(c) The question of rendering assistance to women's physical development clubs is one for Local Governments and Administrations to consider.

**NUMBER OF INDIANS AND ANGLO-INDIANS OFFICIATING IN THE OFFICERS' GRADES IN CERTAIN SPECIFIED DEPARTMENTS OF THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.**

11. **Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) How many subordinates under each classification of Indians and Anglo-Indians have been officiating at present in the officers' grades in the Transportation (Power and Traffic), Commercial, Engineering (Civil and Mechanical) and Audit Departments of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway and since what time?  
 (b) How many vacancies in the officers' grades in the departments referred to in (a) occurred between 1925 and 1927?  
 (c) How many of these were filled up by promotion of subordinates and direct recruitment from outside and in the case of latter, what were the special conditions under which and qualifications for which such men were appointed?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** (a) The figures (for the 31st October 1927) are as follows:

Transportation (Power and Traffic)	... 17
Commercial	9
Engineering, Civil & Mechanical	... 9
Total	<hr/> 35 <hr/>

8 were Indians other than statutory Indians. Government have no information how many were statutory Indians. The period of officiating service varies from 2 months to 5 years.

(b) 26 excluding the Audit Department.

(c) (1) 8 were recruited by the Secretary of State in England,

(2) 4 were recruited by competitive examination in India.

(3) 2 were recruited direct. One was taken for the Commercial Department on account of his special qualifications; he was a professor of the Sydenham College of Commerce. The other was an apprentice in the Great Indian Peninsula Railway workshops, and he was taken into the Mechanical Engineering Department.

(4) One subordinate was permanently promoted, and the permanent promotion of 5 other subordinates is under consideration.

**PAY OF THE SUBORDINATE STAFF OF THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF AUDITOR, GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.**

12. **Mr. N. M. Joshi:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the officers of the Chief Auditor's Office, Great Indian Peninsula Railway, are given a time-scale of pay, whereas the subordinates of that office are given a graded scale of pay?

(b) Is it a fact that the cadre of the subordinate staff was last revised in the year 1924?

(c) Is it a fact that under the present cadre no less than two-thirds of the total subordinate staff are fixed in the grade of Rs. 80 and under; and that some of these men have completed 12 to 18 years of service?

(d) Is it a fact that under that cadre the starting salary of a cadre is fixed at Rs. 40 rising to Rs. 60 in four years, whereas in other Government offices in Bombay the starting salary is Rs. 60?

(e) Is it a fact that an average clerk in the office of the Accountant General, Bombay, gets a salary of the Rs. 100 after the completion of five years' service, whereas in the Chief Auditor's Office under the present graded scale an average clerk of equal status gets Rs. 60 only?

(f) Have Government received any representations from the subordinate staff for a better scale of pay?

(g) If the answer to (f) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state what action they have taken or propose to take in the matter? If not, why not?

**AUDIT INSPECTORS ATTACHED TO THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF AUDITOR,  
GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.**

13. **Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) The total number of Audit Inspectors attached to the Chief Auditor's Office, Great Indian Peninsula Railway?

(b) How many of them are Indians, Anglo-Indians and Europeans and what are their qualifications?

(c) Is it a fact that an Indian Audit Inspector starts on less salary than an Anglo-Indian or European having the same qualifications?

(d) If the answer to (c) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state on what grounds this differential treatment is given?

(e) Are the posts of Audit Inspectors filled in by inviting applications in the Press or by competitive examination or by promoting subordinates from the Audit Office? If not, what is the procedure followed by the Chief Auditor in the matter?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** I propose to reply to questions Nos. 12 and 13 together.

The information required by the Honourable Member is being collected and will be furnished to him in due course.

**PAY OF HEAD RECORD CLERKS IN THE RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE.**

14. **Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the revision sanctioned for the Selection Grade in the Post Office and the Railway Mail Service was given effect to from the 1st September, 1927, instead of from the 1st July, 1927, as was originally intended?

- (b) whether the proposal to raise the pay of the appointments of Head Record Clerks in the Railway Mail Service to Rs. 250—20—350 from the 1st March, 1927, has not yet been given effect to?
- (c) if the answer to (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state reasons for the change and delay respectively?

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

(b) Yes.

(c) As regards (a), the date of effect of the revision had to be adjusted with reference to the latest estimate of cost and availability of funds. As regards (b) the issue of formal orders has been delayed as it was first necessary to settle a number of troublesome questions that arose in connection with the filling of the new posts. The orders will issue shortly.

**GRANT OF ADVANCE INCREMENTS TO INSPECTORS OF POST OFFICES AND THE RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE.**

15. **Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that as a result of the recent revision (September, 1927) of the pay of Inspectors of Post Offices and the Railway Mail Service, those officials who have put in more than 15 years service as Inspectors and others who were confirmed immediately before the revision are drawing the same pay, viz., Rs. 160?
- (b) whether when the time-scale was introduced in 1919, the Inspectors were given one increment for every two years of service put in as Inspectors?
- (c) whether in view of the hardship and discontent amongst the Inspectors of Post Offices and the Railway Mail Service, the Government will consider the question of advance increments on some basis in exercise of powers under Fundamental Rule 27?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** (a) It is a fact that those Inspectors whose pay on the 31st August 1927, in their old scale was less than Rs. 160 came to the new scale at the minimum stage of Rs. 160 in accordance with the Fundamental Rules.

(b) Yes.

(c) Representations from the men concerned have been received by the Director General and are under consideration.

**PROFESSIONAL LETTER-WRITERS IN THE POST OFFICES IN BOMBAY.**

16. **Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether professional letter-writers are appointed to work on the verandahs of the Post Offices in Bombay;
- (b) whether it is a fact that a number of professional letter-writers have been continuously working as such for more than twelve years;

- (c) whether it is obligatory on the part of the professional letter-writers to sell stamps to the public without remuneration from the Post Office and in a number of cases the daily retail sale of stamps and post-cards exceeds Rs. 150;
- (d) whether before January, 1927, in consideration of their free work mentioned in (c) above, the professional letter-writers in Bombay were allowed free use of a small space on the Post Office verandah;
- (e) whether the Post Office in Bombay has since 1st January, 1927, issued licenses on payment of certain charges to the professional letter-writers;
- (f) whether the Government will consider the question of granting free use of the space on the verandah of Post Office premises in respect of at least such offices where it is obligatory on the part of the professional letter-writers to sell stamps as was done for many years past?

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

#### HOUSE-RENT ALLOWANCES OF INFERIOR SERVANTS OF THE RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE IN BOMBAY.

17. **Mr. N. M. Joshi:** (a) Is it a fact that the house rent allowance to inferior servants in the Post Office and Foreign Mails Division in Bombay was raised from Rs. 7 to Rs. 8-8-0 with effect from 1st March, 1927?

(b) Is it a fact that the same concession was not extended to the inferior servants of the Railway Mail Service in Bombay?

(c) Is it a fact that the All-India Postal and R. M. S. Conference held at Nagpur and the Bombay Presidency Postal and R. M. S. Conference held at Dharwar have passed resolutions requesting the Government to extend or raise the house rent allowance in the case of inferior servants of the Railway Mail Service similar to those granted in the Post Office?

(d) If the answers to the above are in the affirmative, do the Government propose to remedy the grievances and remove the discontent among the inferior staff in the Railway Mail Service?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** (a) Yes, except that the date of effect was the 1st September, 1926, not the 1st March, 1927.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

(d) The matter is under consideration.

#### MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

##### SOUTH AFRICAN LIQUOR BILL.

**Mr. President:** I have received the following notice of a motion for the 12 Noon adjournment of the House from Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru:

"I beg to give notice that after question time I shall ask for leave to make a motion for the adjournment of the business of the Assembly for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the Liquor Bill, introduced by the Government of the Union of South Africa into the Union Parliament, which seriously affects South African Indians."

**Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru** (Agra Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I do not know whether it is necessary for me to make any statement at this stage. It will be admitted that the matter is one of very great importance.

**Mr. President:** Why does the Honourable Member assume that it will be admitted?

**Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru:** I do not know what the House or the Chair will do, but I thought that it would be admitted on all hands that the matter was one of serious importance. In the first place, it concerns a pretty large number of our countrymen resident in South Africa. In the second place, it has an intimate bearing on the spirit of the agreement entered into at Cape Town recently by the representatives of the Government of India and the Union Government. It is therefore highly desirable, indeed, I may say, necessary, that the matter should be discussed by this Assembly. This question is now before the Union Parliament, and if we lose this opportunity of discussing the matter, which is one of great importance as I have already said, we may not get another opportunity of discussing it during the whole of this Session. Indeed, the Bill may have passed through all its stages before we can comply with the formalities necessary for the bringing up of a Resolution before this House. The entire Indian community is greatly agitated over this measure and has appealed to the people of India and to His Excellency the Viceroy to intervene on their behalf. I hope therefore, Sir, that both you and the House will agree that this is a matter which should be considered at the earliest possible stage by this House, which has the responsibility of speaking on behalf of the whole country.

**Mr. G. S. Bajpai** (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands): I think, Sir, the Honourable Member's statement, that the matter is urgent, and of public importance, need not be challenged, and certainly I do not propose to challenge it. But I would, Sir, with your indulgence, like to place before him, and before the House, a few considerations, which, I hope, may induce the Honourable Member not to press his request. A motion for adjournment, Sir, I take it, may be moved for one of three reasons. First, to impress upon Government the urgency of a particular matter; secondly, to place Government in possession of the views of the House; and thirdly, to make suggestions to Government as to the action to be taken. As regards the first point, Sir, ...

**Mr. President:** The Honourable Member is going into the merits. If he admits that the motion raises a definite matter of urgent public importance, and if the Chair rules it in order, the Honourable Member will be entitled to have his say when the motion comes up for discussion.

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett** (Leader of the House): May I intervene and ask your permission for a moment to be allowed to express to the House and to Mr. Kunzru the objections from the point of view of diplomacy and from the point of view of the real interests of India to the pressing of this motion at the moment. That, I think, was the intention which Mr. Bajpai had, to give reasons showing that to press this motion at the moment might be prejudicial to the true-interests of India. The Government are fully seized of the views of the country at large and are in full agreement with them on this subject and have taken all the steps they can take.

**Mr. President:** The Honourable Member is really going into the merits. If the motion raises a question, the discussion of which is against public interests, the Governor General may disallow it. The Chair cannot disallow this motion on that ground.

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** I do not ask you to rule it out. I was asking the House not to press it.

**Mr. President:** The motion is in order and it is entirely for the Honourable Member (Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru) to say whether he wishes to press it.

**Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru:** Sir, in view of the great importance of the matter I should be very reluctant to withdraw this motion. If, however, Government think that it would be preferable to discuss it on another occasion and would agree to give us a day to discuss it when we ask for it, I should be prepared to consider the withdrawal of this motion now. I do not think, Sir, that an expression of responsible opinion in the House on this point would jeopardise the interests of India or would in any way imperil the negotiations that might be going on between this country and South Africa.

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** Sir, I am afraid I cannot commit the Government to giving a whole day to discuss a subject which I think it is undesirable that we should discuss for even two hours.

**Mr. President:** I rule that the motion is in order and therefore ask whether the Member has the leave of the Assembly to move the adjournment. If no Member objects . . . . .

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** I desire to object.

**Mr. President:** That being so, I request those Members who are in favour of leave being granted to rise in their places.

As more than 25 Members have risen, I intimate that leave is granted and the motion will be taken up for discussion at 4 P.M. or at any earlier hour at which the business of the day may terminate.

#### DEATH OF SIR GEORGE PADDISON.

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett** (Leader of the House): Sir, before the House proceeds to the business of the day, it is my melancholy privilege to ask this House to pay a last tribute of respect to the late Sir George Paddison's memory. Since we last met, this House and India and the Government of India have become the poorer by the death of a very highly respected and revered member of the Indian Civil Service who has been for some time a Member of this Legislature. Sir George Paddison made a very great impression on the history of the relations of India with South Africa. In 1925-26 he went on a special mission, and it is I think universally agreed that his tact and patience and the general geniality of his character had a considerable influence in leading up to that satisfactory deputation from this country of which he was also a member which went a year later under my friend and colleague, Sir Muhammad Habibullah, and brought back an agreement which stands as a landmark in the history of India in South Africa. I am sure that it will be the wish of all Members of this House that we should pay this tribute of respect to our lost comrade.



**Rao Bahadur M. G. Rajah** (Nominated: Depressed Classes): Sir, it is my melancholy duty on behalf of the depressed classes who form 60 millions of the population, to associate myself with the touching tributes that have fallen just now from the lips of the Honourable the Leader of the House. The death of Sir George Paddison, Sir, was a great shock to us. Sir George was a senior civilian officer in the Madras Presidency who did yeoman service on behalf of the depressed classes. His loss, Sir, is a very great loss to the community as a whole. When he retired from service, we never expected that he would die so soon. If there was a distinguished public servant who, in departments that touched the life of the masses, rendered eminent service to the State, it was Sir George Paddison. If there was one man in South India who gave an impetus to the depressed classes movement, worked heart and soul for them, and sincerely attempted to elevate them to a position and removed conditions of age-long serfdom under which they were suffering and are suffering even to-day, it was Sir George Paddison. To every man who went up to him. Sir, he extended his friendly hand of fellowship, sympathy and kindness. His qualities as Labour Commissioner were unrivalled. As a special officer for 8 years in connection with revenue settlement, as Secretary of the Madras Forest Committee, as special officer for investigating the economic conditions of the Khonds, as Protector of the Depressed Classes and as Labour Commissioner, he had ample opportunities of gaining an intimate knowledge of the condition of the agricultural and other working classes. It is not necessary here for me, Sir, to refer in detail to his international activities or to the splendid work he did on behalf of Indians in South Africa. Sir George Paddison was sent to South Africa in one of the darkest hours in the history of Indians in that country, and he was very successful in preparing the way for Sir Muhammad Habibullah's deputation. Sir, I once again associate myself with the tribute to his memory that has been paid by the Leader of the House.

**Sir Darcy Lindsay** (Bengal: European): Sir, I desire to associate myself with the sympathetic words expressed by the Honourable the Leader of the House. As a member of the Delegation that went to South Africa to the Round Table Conference, I can testify to the great heart and sympathetic nature of the late Sir George Paddison. He was ever ready to help those who wanted help, and his kindness was in every way most pronounced. He did yeoman service on the Mission to South Africa, both when he went there on the first occasion and when he was on the Round Table Conference, and India owes to him a very great debt of gratitude. I am sure that the whole of India will mourn his loss.

**Lala Lajpat Rai** (Jullundur Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, on behalf of the Nationalist Party I beg to associate myself with the remarks made by the Leader of the House. If I cannot say anything more, it is due to the fact that I received no notice of this motion and therefore did not prepare myself.

**\*Mr. S. Srinivasa Iyengar** (Madras City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Mr. President, I desire to associate myself with the remarks that were made by the Leader of the House. It is an entirely non-party matter, and I fully associate myself with all the expressions that have fallen from the previous speakers.

**Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas** (Indian Merchants' Chamber: Indian Commerce): Sir, may I ask your leave to associate myself and my party

\*Speech not corrected by the Honourable Member.

[Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas.]

with this motion. The work of Sir George Paddison till about two years back was restricted to the Madras Presidency, but when the Government of India selected him to head the Deputation which is now known as the Paddison Deputation to South Africa, his work earned all-India reputation. His name will always be associated with the first effort made to lay the foundation of the subsequent agreement, and I am quite sure that the sympathy of us all goes to Lady Paddison in her sad bereavement.

**Mr. President:** Our colleague has left this mortal world, and I, as your President, desire to associate myself with the feelings of regret and sorrow expressed in this House. It will be my duty to convey the condolences of this House to the family of the deceased.

### GOVERNOR GENERAL'S ASSENT TO BILLS.

**Mr. President:** I have to inform the House 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 Insolvency (Amendment) Act, 1927.

The Repealing Act, 1927.

The Indian Bar Councils (Amendment) Act, 1927.

The Indian Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Act, 1927.

The Indian Divorce (Amendment) Act, 1927.

The Indian Forest Act, 1927.

The Indian Lighthouse Act, 1927.

The Indian Succession (Amendment) Act, 1927.

The Presidency-towns Insolvency (Amendment) Act, 1927.

The Bamboo Paper Industry (Protection) Act, 1927.

The Indian Securities (Amendment) Act, 1927.

The Societies Registration (Amendment) Act, 1927.

The Indian Tariff (Cotton Yarn Amendment) Act, 1927.

The Indian Tariff (Amendment) Act, 1927.

The Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1927.

The Cantonments (Amendment) Act, 1927.

The Indian Emigration (Amendment) Act, 1927.

The Indian Income-tax (Amendment) Act, 1927.

The Aden Civil and Criminal Justice (High Court Jurisdiction Amendment) Act, 1927.

The Indian Divorce (Second Amendment) Act, 1927.

The Assam Labour and Emigration (Amendment) Act, 1927.

# STATEMENT LAID ON THE TABLE.

INDIAN LASCARS AND FIREMEN SHIPPED AT MAJOR PORTS IN INDIA DURING  
THE LAST THREE YEARS.

**The Honourable Sir George Rainy** (Member for Commerce and Railways): Sir, I beg to lay on the table the information promised in reply to a question asked by Mr. Sarabhai Nenchand Haji on the 2nd September, 1927, regarding the number of Indian lascars and firemen shipped at major ports in India during the last three years.

Port.	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.
*Calcutta—			
Coasting trade . . . . .	3,442	1,814	2,216
Overseas trade . . . . .	37,249	40,823	42,586
*Bombay—			
Coasting trade . . . . .	524	382	368
Overseas trade . . . . .	22,388	21,346	20,717
†Karachi—			
Coasting trade . . . . .	346	269	130
Overseas trade . . . . .			
‡Aden—			
§Coasting trade . . . . .	341	295	469
Overseas trade . . . . .			
Rangoon—			
Coasting trade . . . . .	2,495	2,491	2,602
Overseas trade . . . . .	2,818	2,873	2,919
Madras—			
Coasting trade . . . . .	473	567	494
Overseas trade . . . . .	127	81	150
Total . . . . .	70,203	70,941	72,651

\* The figures for ports other than Calcutta and Bombay are for the calendar years 1924, 1925 and 1926.

† At Karachi figures were not recorded separately for coasting and overseas trade.

‡ The Aden figures also include Arabs and Somalis signed on at Aden.

§ No seamen are signed on at Aden for the coasting trade.

## THE GOLD STANDARD AND RESERVE BANK OF INDIA BILL.

### DISCUSSION AND RULING OF MR. PRESIDENT IN REGARD TO THE INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW BILL.

**Mr. President:** The next item on the agenda is the introduction of the Bill to establish a gold standard currency for British India and constitute a Reserve Bank of India. Before I call upon Sir Basil Blackett

to introduce the Bill, I should like to hear Mr. Aney who has given notice of a point of order which he wishes to raise and on which he wishes to get the decision of the Chair.

**Mr. M. S. Aney** (Berar Representative): Sir, I have given notice of a point of order and I am glad that you have given me the opportunity of placing it before this House, before calling upon the Honourable the Leader of the House to introduce the Bill. The point of order is simple though very important. The present Bill which the Honourable Member proposes to introduce is one which deals with precisely the same subject matter with which a Bill that was introduced by him last March and partly considered by this House last September had dealt. The point arises on account of this position that that Bill has been carried to the pending list of business of this House for this Session. Although other notices lapse on the expiry of a Session, under Standing Orders, notices regarding Bills are carried over to the pending list of business for the next Session. That Bill is therefore pending before this House and the question which you have to decide, Sir, is, as there is a Bill on the same subject matter pending before this House, whether the Honourable Member is in order in introducing a new Bill dealing with the same subject matter or not. That is one point.

The second point is that in dealing with the Bill which was introduced last March we have partly considered that Bill: several important points, and points of principle, have been decided and the opinion of this House has been recorded on those points. Those points therefore, to use strictly legal language, are *res judicata* so far as this House is concerned. On those points this House has pronounced its opinion and so the question is whether the Honourable Member will be in order in calling upon this House to reopen the points and give further opinions on those questions on which it has already expressed its opinions last Session. That is another point.

The third point is this: there are certain provisions in the Standing Orders and Legislative Rules which enable Members who have introduced any Bills to withdraw those Bills or allow them to lapse; those provisions are devised with a view to enable the members who for any reasons think it expedient to dispense with further progress of the Bill introduced by them and deal with it afresh, to come in with a new Bill. Those rules and orders can be properly observed either by withdrawing the Bill that is pending and withdrawing the motions of which notice has been given, or if they do not want to ask the opinion of the House on a motion for leave to withdraw them, they must wait for the rest of the period and see that the Bill lapses. These are the only two methods by which Members can proceed as regards pending matters. There is no third method prescribed in the Standing Orders at all. The Honourable Member is taking advantage of certain Standing Orders with a view to dispense with leave to introduce the Bill being obtained and thus attempts to stifle expression of opinion of the House which it has a right to do. He does not want to abide by the rule which enables him to withdraw the former Bill. He has not the patience to wait and allow the Bill to lapse by efflux of time. This course is undoubtedly derogatory to the dignity of the House. This House has pronounced its opinion and we are now being called upon to re-consider the questions afresh. Even if the course adopted be found technically legal, I want the House to

[Mr. M. S. Aney.]

consider whether it is in conformity with the prestige and dignity of this House and whether this House should be coerced into acquiescence in such an improper procedure.

These are the three points which I want to urge and which I would request the House to consider. I say that this procedure which the Honourable Member is adopting is also against what may be called the rule against repetition and the rule against anticipation. The rules against repetition and anticipation have been recognised to be the standing and important features of the procedure relating to the business of representative legislatures in every civilised country. Their constitution invariably contains provisions based on these principles in their procedure relating to business. The present Bill offends against the rule of repetition since we are called upon to decide the very questions which we decided last Session. It is against the rule of anticipation, because we expect that as a Bill is still pending here it will come before us for consideration at any time within the period within which it would not lapse and therefore we are entitled to expect some opportunity for the discussion of those questions here. But those discussions are being anticipated if the Honourable Member be permitted to thrust upon us this new Bill at this stage.

These are constitutional principles and they have been infringed by the abnormal procedure to which the Honourable Member proposes to resort by seeking to introduce the Bill to-day. These, Sir, are my points of order and I wish that these points may be discussed and your rulings given before the Honourable Member is called upon to introduce the new Bill.

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett** (Finance Member): Sir, on the question of the dignity of the House I do not think I need assure this House that I am as jealous of its dignity as any one. I have been a Member of all three Assemblies and this is my twelfth Session. I am in fact in a very true sense an Assembly man and I feel sure the House will acquit me of having among my presumptuous sins the habit of flouting the dignity of this House. But I do not think this is the moment at which to discuss or debate this question whether the procedure which the Government proposes to take is or is not consonant with the dignity of the House. If it is so desired, a later opportunity might perhaps be found, when we are actually discussing the Bill in question, for me to explain why I think the course chosen is in accordance with the dignity of the House. On the question of regularity I submit the Honourable Member has produced no evidence of any kind to show that the course which I propose is not entirely regular. If, Sir, you are in any further doubt on that question, I would ask you to call upon Mr. Graham who is our expert in the question of regularity.

**Mr. Jagnadass M. Mehta** (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I think the House is entitled to have a ruling from the Chair on all the points which my friend, Mr. Aney, has raised and I shall add one more point of order for your ruling. Sir, if the Government thought that the share capital was the right course, it was open to them either to allow the old Bill to run through all its stages in this House and then have appropriate amendments brought in the other House, or to apply

for the withdrawal of the Bill here and after withdrawal, if allowed by the House, to introduce this Bill. These were the only two right constitutional courses open to Government. They have adopted neither and I fear, Sir, that the real reason why the Government are not coming forward with a motion for withdrawal is their fear that this House may not grant any such motion; and it is therefore that they are adopting this most unconstitutional course which besides being an affront to the House is also an unusual and extraordinary procedure. I think on this question the Chair ought to protect the privileges and dignity of this House.

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** Sir, I do not think, if we are talking of the dignity of the House, it can be suggested that it is a dignified course for this House to proceed with a Bill of over fifty clauses with an announced intention in advance on the part of the Government to get the major clauses in the Bill altered in another place. If we are talking of the dignity of the House, I suggest that it is far safer in the keeping of the Government than in the keeping of Mr. Jammadas Mehta in this matter.

**\*Mr. S. Srinivasa Iyengar** (Madras City: Non-Muhammadian Urban): Mr. President, I consider, if I may say so, that this introduction which is sought to be made by the Honourable the Finance Member is not really in order. I am not concerned with the question of dignity so much as with the constitutional aspect. The first point is that two Bills on the same subject are to be kept pending in the House at the same time. I submit that once this House is seized of the Bill in the sense that certain clauses were put through, the Government is no longer in control of the Bill and it is the Chair and the whole House that is in full control; the Government can no longer tamper with the further procedure of the Bill. The only stage where two Bills on the same subject can be introduced and remain in the list of business would be when they are introduced by different Members. Apart from that question, having regard to the stage which the Bill reached on the last occasion, having regard to the express commitment of the Government to the principle of that Bill, I submit it is not open to the Finance Member, legally, technically and from a common sense point of view, to seek to introduce a different Bill upon the same subject in this Session of the Assembly. That is my point, Sir, and I do not see that there is any necessity for any express rules upon the subject, because the rule-making authority could never have contemplated such an absurd, such a grotesque thing as this: and therefore it is useless to rely upon the rules and seek to introduce the Bill in the way the Government has done. I do not wish to animadvert upon the course they have chosen to adopt, but in order to determine the attitude of the party to which I have the honour to belong at a later stage, it is necessary for us to know, Sir, your ruling and also the attitude of the Government on this matter, and, as the party had something to do with it on the last occasion, I may perhaps be permitted to say that it is letting us down completely if you go back upon what was agreed to on the last occasion and introduce a new Bill altogether. That itself will justify a different attitude being taken.

**Mr. L. Graham** (Secretary, Legislative Department): Sir, may I deal with the last speaker first? I understand from the Leader of the Opposition that in his view the House has proceeded so far with the Bill that we have no power to remove that Bill from the seisin of this House. The

\*Speech not corrected by the Honourable Member.

[Mr. L. Graham.]

point I will put to him in reply, Sir, is that the House cannot under the rules compel the Government either to put the Bill down on the paper again or to make any motion that this Bill be passed. When I say this Bill, I mean the Bill which, in the language of my friend Mr. Srinivasa Iyengar, the House is now seised of. Mr. Srinivasa Iyengar cannot drive Government to take that Bill to a conclusion. In that sense, I submit, Sir, the House is not seised of the Bill. It cannot compel us to put that motion down on paper; it cannot compel us to make the motion that the Bill be passed.

The next point I should like to deal with—I should say that the Honourable the Leader of the House has adequately dealt with it already—is the one relating to the dignity of the House. I cannot myself imagine anything more grotesque or anything more incongruous than that we should go on with the clauses of the Bill which was taken into consideration last season with the knowledge that the Bill was going to be altered in the really material matter of the constitution of the Bank in the other House. That certainly would not be a proceeding consistent with the dignity of this House.

The other points, Sir, which I may be allowed to touch upon are those raised by my friend Mr. Aney . . . . .

**Mr. President:** Mr. Jamnadas Mehta has made another argument.

**Mr. L. Graham:** I am afraid I did not hear him. Will he please repeat what he said?

**Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta:** I said that it was open to Government to come here for the withdrawal of the Bill, but they were afraid to do so, because, unless the House is unanimous, the withdrawal will not be permitted, and therefore they do not ask for withdrawal and by their unusual procedure are insulting this House.

**Mr. L. Graham:** As regards that, I was going to deal with it in reply to Mr. Aney, because I think Mr. Jamnadas merely repeated what my friend Mr. Aney said . . . . .

**Mr. President:** Mr. Jamnadas Mehta suggests that unless the House is unanimous no withdrawal can be permitted, and therefore the Government do not take that course.

**Mr. L. Graham:** That, Sir, is a question on which I think there can be no possible doubt as to your ruling. I did not understand Mr. Jamnadas Mehta to mean that. I am very glad you have made the point clear.

If we come before the House, Sir, with a motion for withdrawal, it will be in respect of the Bill as a whole, and I submit, Sir, that that motion which will be made under Standing Order 50 is a motion which can only be disposed of in accordance with the majority of this House. In other words, Sir, if the motion should be on the paper, it would be a motion by the Honourable Member in charge of the Bill to the effect that he moves for leave to withdraw the Bill. I submit, Sir, that the question which you will have to put would be "the question is that leave be given for the withdrawal of this Bill". Such a motion, Sir, could only be settled in the ordinary way by the majority of the House. I have not

brought with me my volumes of Hansard on the subject. I had no idea that the question would be raised to-day . . . .

**Mr. President:** There is no motion for leave to withdraw, and therefore the Chair is not called upon to decide whether withdrawal can be by the unanimous vote or by the majority vote. The Honourable Member need not labour the point further.

**Mr. L. Graham:** I understood, Sir, that you asked me to deal with that point . . . .

**Mr. President:** Mr. Jamnadas Mehta suggests that the ordinary course for the Government to follow in this matter is to ask for leave to withdraw, but the Government is afraid that that withdrawal can only be by the unanimous vote of the House and therefore the Government is not resorting to that course.

**Mr. L. Graham:** I can only reply to that, Sir, by telling the House that Government have no fears on that subject at all. (*Honourable Members:* "Hear, hear!" "Bring it".)

Now, Sir, may I deal with the points raised by my friend Mr. Aney? I think I am correct—no doubt you will correct me if I am not—in summing up Mr. Aney's arguments, and they are to this effect, that the motion for consideration would be bad on the ground of repetition and also on the ground of anticipation. I was not quite clear what he meant by anticipation. I thought he meant it would prevent us from going on the Bill which was brought up last season. He is afraid apparently that we might switch off from one Bill to the other. It seems to him that we are trying to run two horses along the course and putting our money on the winner. We do not propose to do anything of this sort. The position will be made perfectly plain by the Honourable Sir Basil Blackett when he moves for consideration of the new Bill. He will then say—in respect of that I am not going to anticipate him exactly—he will then say that we do not propose to proceed with the old Bill. It is a live Bill. We have not killed it; only we might almost say that it is in a state of suspended animation, suspended because Government do not propose to make any motion in this Session in respect of that Bill. Therefore, there can be no question of anticipation. That Bill is not coming up again. This House has seen the last of that Bill. (*An Honourable Member:* "Has it?") This House has seen the last of the Bill which was taken into consideration in September last. (*An Honourable Member:* "We have heard many last words.")

I now take the point of repetition, Sir. I understood my friend to argue that this was purely a question of interpretation. He did not say, as I understood him, that the rule against repetition applied. He did not quote the rule against repetition as it is contained in the Legislative Rules of this House, and I would ask your permission, Sir, to quote it. It is not a rule, but it is a Standing Order, Standing Order 31. If Honourable Members turn to the Standing Orders, they will find it at page 105 of the Manual at the beginning of that Standing Order—I do not think I need read the proviso, but I will merely read the first passage:

"A motion must not raise a question substantially identical with one on which the Assembly has given a decision in the same session".



[Mr. L. Graham.]

Now, Sir, I do not think it is necessary for me to remind the House of it—but it is necessary for me to state that we are now in a different Session, that the House was prorogued on some date in September as far as I remember. It is not disputed that this House was prorogued, and that a new Session was convened by the Governor General in exercise of his powers. Now the extent, Sir, to which the rule against repetition applies in this House is in respect of questions raised in the same Session.

One more point, Sir. I think it is in reply to my friend Mr. Aney—that is, as regards this question of parallel legislation. It seems to be the idea that we, from motives of fear or some other disreputable motives, have discovered some new course of action. Would it, Sir, surprise the House very much if I were to say that this is not the first occasion on which parallel legislation has been before this House? I had expected to deal with this point, if at all, on the motion for consideration. Therefore, Sir, the House will excuse me if my researches have not been quite so complete as I would have wished them to be, but I have here one case which I think is a good case. I am very sorry that one of the protagonists in that case is not in his place to-day. I refer to the Honourable Sir Hari Singh Gour. But on a certain occasion—I have the dates here—in September 1922 in Simla, the Honourable Member brought forward one of those startling Bills of his by which he proposed at a stroke to remove the objection to women practising at the Bar. Well, the House generally being in favour, he received their permission to introduce his Bill. In the following Session in Simla he made his motion for Select Committee. Now, Sir, with due respect to the Honourable Sir Hari Singh Gour, that Bill of his was not very well drafted and in fact it really did not set out to amend the Act it was concerned with at all. He proposed merely to insert an amendment in the Legal Practitioners Act and that was not going to effect his purpose. The attitude which Government took up was that we entirely agreed that it was quite wrong that women should be debarred from practising and we would do our best to help him but we could not do it on his Bill as it was the wrong Bill. It was a one word Bill, I might almost say, because it merely altered the definition of "person" in a certain Act. Now, Sir, as I say, Government were as usual sympathetic. Sir Hari Singh Gour, however, was not to be deceived by professions of sympathy on the part of Government. He therefore pressed his motion for Select Committee and his motion was carried. The Bill was referred to a Select Committee.

**Mr. President:** On the undertaking given by Government.

**Mr. L. Graham:** Government, Sir, had said they would be prepared to introduce a Bill of their own.

**Mr. President:** And that Sir Hari Singh Gour need not convene a meeting of the Select Committee.

**Mr. L. Graham:** I do not think I find those words, Sir, but that is not the point in any case, if I may be allowed to say so.

**Mr. President:** I do not wish to interrupt the Honourable Member, but I should like to point out that the procedure adopted in connection with that Bill had the unanimous support of the House and the Select Committee was not convened in pursuance of the undertaking given by Government.

**Mr. L. Graham:** Might I be allowed, Sir, to read the words of Sir Hari Singh Gour on that occasion and leave the House to draw its own conclusion?

"May I, Sir, (said Sir Hari Singh Gour) interpose at this stage of the debate to explain my position with reference to what has fallen from the Honourable Mr. Tonkinson? The motion before this House is for reference of my Bill to a Select Committee, and under the ruling of yours, Sir, this House, if it adopts my motion, will only commit itself to the principle of the Bill, namely, that women should be as eligible to practise at the Bar as men. The Bill will then go to the Select Committee. If acting upon that principle, the Government introduce a measure giving effect to the principle accepted by this House, I shall not convene a meeting of the Select Committee, and in that case the Government measure will replace my measure."

**Mr. President:** Will the Honourable Member read the last few sentences of Mr. Tonkinson's speech on behalf of Government?

**Mr. L. Graham:** It is a very long speech. I do not know if the House will follow it.

**Mr. President:** If he will only read that portion which refers to the undertaking given by Government.

**Mr. L. Graham:** I thought we were concerned here with procedure and practice. But if undertakings are required I will see what I can do. Perhaps the Honourable the President means the last words on page 2580:

"If this Assembly accepts the principle that women should be as eligible as men for enrolment in all grades of legal practitioners, then Government is prepared to draft a Bill which will really give effect to this Bill. Sir, I suggest that, if my Honourable friend will agree, such an opinion could be obtained upon the motion now before the House. If it is decided on this motion to refer this Bill to a Select Committee, that Select Committee need not meet."

in other words, Sir, parallel legislation is possible:

"and the acceptance of the motion now before the House could be regarded merely as an acceptance of the principle to which I have referred. Government would then draft a Bill and would introduce it in the Legislature as early as possible."

Well, Sir that is actually what happened. There were before the Legislature two Bills, both alive, actually in the same Session. It is perfectly true that the Select Committee never met on Sir Hari Singh Gour's Bill but my point is that Sir Hari Singh Gour's Bill was very much alive—just as the Honourable Member is very much alive—and had the Government shown the least intention of flagging, Sir Hari Singh Gour would have gone on with his Bill. But actually there were two Bills before the House on the same subject at the same time and that is the only purpose for which I cite this particular case, because we were told that we were inventing some new kind of wicked procedure for defeating the wishes of the House.

I must apologise for the long speech I have inflicted upon the House. I trust that I have dealt with the points raised by the different speakers to the best of my ability. I say on the ground of repetition, the rules are in our favour because it is a new Session. The ground of anticipation cannot arise, because we definitely say we are not going to make any motion about the old Bill; and on the ground of practice, I have cited a precedent. As regards the dignity of the House, I think that Sir Basil Blackett may safely be constituted its custodian.

**Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas** (Indian Merchants' Chamber: Indian Commerce): Sir, the legal aspect involved in this procedure which the Government of India now wish to follow in this House has been sufficiently

[Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas.]

discussed by Honourable friends of mine who understand that part of the procedure much better than I do. I do not wish to say anything on that part of it. But I do wish, Sir, to draw the attention of the House to the dangerous precedent that is being set by the Government in allowing this motion to go through.

**Mr. President:** There is no motion before the House.

**Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas:** In allowing this procedure to be followed, Sir. I have noted from my Honourable friend Mr. Graham's speech that the Government are not afraid to apply for permission to withdraw the old Bill. The question, then, that I can very well ask, is why don't they apply for withdrawal of the original Bill?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** I would suggest that the only question before the House is whether this procedure is regular or not.

**Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas:** I know, Sir, what the question before the House is. I also feel that those who do not wish to take part in discussing the legal aspect may be allowed to put the practical point of view before the House. The precedent cited by the Honourable the Secretary of the Legislative Department refers to what I may call a comparatively minor Bill. The procedure that is sought to be followed here is not on the same fours. In this case there is a Bill which was introduced, was reported upon by a Joint Committee and was considered also by this House. In fact, we went through several clauses of the Bill. Government then, for reasons which I need not repeat here but which are known to every Member of this House, thought fit to stop further progress with the Bill. Fresh instructions were taken from quarters that need not be mentioned and Government now propose to have two parallel Bills. There is no precedent for this in Sir Hari Singh Gour's Bill at all and I feel that the right course, if I may say so, the straight course, for the Government would be to apply for leave to withdraw the original Bill and then the Assembly may allow the Honourable Member to introduce the new Bill. Sir, the Honourable the Finance Member has assured the House that, as far as the prestige and reputation of this House is concerned, and as far as jealousy for the privilege of the House is concerned, nobody can excel him. I will take him at his word.

**Mr. President:** Not even the Chair?

**Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas:** I think, Sir, he was only referring to Members on the floor of the House and not to the Chair.

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** I do not think my statement was put in such boastful language. I said that I can safely be trusted to be solicitous of the dignity of the House. I did not claim to be more solicitous than my many superiors in that art.

**Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas:** I will allow the Honourable the Finance Member to be as modest as he likes. I wish to ask him in that case, why does he not fall in line with the wishes of the House which have been expressed from the non-official benches and the wishes at least of the Indian community as a whole as reflected through the Press and the platform till now? He says he is not afraid to apply for withdrawal.

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** I would ask you, Sir, whether all this is in order. I have not taken the opportunity to debate in full the reasons for and against my course.

**Mr. President:** I have no doubt that Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas is in order, as the question of the propriety of the procedure is under discussion.

**Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas:** I am much obliged to you, Sir. It is encouraging to have that from the Chair. I will say this, Sir . . . .

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** I would ask you, Sir, before this debate proceeds further, whether it is your intention to rule whether or not the procedure which the Government propose is regular or not. If, in addition, you propose to rule that the procedure is out of order because it is not regarded by you, Sir, as appropriate, I submit, Sir, that that is a matter of opinion and is not really the question that is before you or the House and that you should, Sir, confine yourself to the first duty.

**Mr. President:** Mr. Aney has already raised the question whether the procedure proposed to be adopted by the Honourable the Finance Member is in keeping with the Parliamentary practice.

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** I ask whether the Chair has got to give its decision on that point.

**Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas:** I venture, Sir, to ask the Honourable the Finance Member to consider in all seriousness whether the attitude that he now proposes to take up regarding the new Bill is really in keeping with his solicitude for the privileges and prestige of the House. He is now, Sir, trying to introduce a Bill which is practically analogous to his original Bill even though he got a Joint Committee to work on that original Bill and this House to consider several of its important clauses. The straight course for him would be to apply for withdrawal of that Bill, clear the way, and then ask for leave to introduce his new Bill, which, as a matter of convention, would in the ordinary course, I take it, not be refused out of sheer courtesy. He is now trying to force a new procedure here and I think that those who are jealous of the privileges of the House should say to him that this is irregular and that they cannot agree to it. I feel, Sir, that I am likely to be misunderstood when I take up this attitude and I want your permission for one minute, Sir, to clear this up. Whatever my differences regarding the merits of the original Bill or of the second one,—I am not concerned with them now; I know that one will have opportunities to put one's views before the House on that—I say that he is now introducing a new procedure which I am afraid Government may have to regret very often in the future and which certainly is an insult to this House, and if I may say so, is a mockery of those who spent months in the Joint Committee considering the original Bill. I therefore cannot sufficiently deprecate the policy which the Government now seek to follow, and I hope that you, Sir, will rule this out.

**Munshi Iswar Saran** (Lucknow Division: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Sir, I submit that this question can be discussed without any feeling being imported into the discussion. What is the position that you find at the present moment? No one will be prepared to dispute the fact that there is a Bill which has been brought over from the last Session. That Bill has not been withdrawn. That Bill will not be withdrawn till the House

[Munshi Iswar Saran.]

allows Government to withdraw it. The Bill is alive. What the Secretary of the Legislative Department says is this, that the House cannot compel the Government to go on with that Bill, as indeed the House cannot compel any non-official Member to go on with a Bill. What the House can say to Government or to a non-official Member in this position is, "We are not going to allow you to play with us and to introduce another Bill on the same subject while your former Bill is still before us". If we are to accept the interpretation of Mr. Graham, we would be in a most awkward position. Let us assume, Sir, that a Member of Government—I wish to assure the Members of Government that I am referring to Government because it will be convenient for the purposes of my illustration—introduces a Bill to-day. That Bill is before the House. That Member for some reason retires or withdraws and another Member takes his place. He says, "I have looked into the Bill which has been introduced. It is not one for which I very much care. I should like to have another Bill". He then comes and introduces another Bill. Let us take an extreme case. Another Member succeeds him and says, "Both these Bills are rotten; they are not up to much; I will introduce a third Bill". Are we to understand that you can have as many Bills in this House at one and the same time as it pleases Government to introduce? Mr. Graham referred to the case of the Bill which was introduced by Sir Hari Singh Gour. Let me remind him that two wrongs do not make one right.

**Mr. S. Srinivasa Iyengar:** No point of order was decided then.

**Munshi Iswar Saran:** Was this question decided then? And assuming that the House did decide it, I submit with all respect to you, that you can reconsider what was decided at that moment. I submit, Sir, that it is a very important question of principle which we beg you to decide at the present moment. We are not concerned here with the merits of the Bill at all. It may be that the present Bill which the Honourable the Finance Member wishes to introduce from every point of view may be an incomparably superior Bill to the one we already have. Even then I would maintain this, Sir, with all respect, that the previous Bill having been introduced and not having been withdrawn by the leave of the House, is still before us and you will not be pleased to allow the Honourable the Finance Member to introduce this Bill.

If I am not very much mistaken, the Honourable the Finance Member seems to be in doubt whether it is open to the Chair on the present occasion to decide this question. Sir, I speak with great respect to the Honourable the Finance Member, but if the Chair is not going to decide it, what other authority is there to decide such points that come up for consideration?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** If the Honourable Member will allow me, the question that I put was, not whether it was open to the Chair or not open to the Chair to decide on the regularity of this procedure. Obviously it is open, obviously that is the duty of the Chair, and obviously no Member has any right to decide other than he whether or not a particular procedure is regular or in accordance with the Standing Orders. But the question whether this course is or is not consonant with the dignity of the House—questions of that sort are, I submit, matters of opinion on which it is not at the present moment the duty of the Chair

to express an opinion or to decide. What the Chair is asked to decide is the question whether the introduction of this Bill at this moment is a regular procedure or not, and that is the question which I think is before the Chair.

**Munshi Iswar Saran:** Certainly, and that is the question which I was trying to argue according to my own lights, whether the Honourable the Finance Member should be allowed to introduce the Bill in view of the fact that another Bill on the same question has been brought over from the last Session and has not been withdrawn. That is the point which you, Sir, have got to determine. Mr. Graham has said that the House may take it that "we shall not proceed with the last Bill and the House has seen the last of that Bill." I do complain against this procedure on the part of Government. They, I think, ought to set us a better example. They ought to take the leave of the House before withdrawing it. Instead of doing that, in an indirect manner they wish to do what they are not prepared to do for reasons best known to themselves in the manner which is recognised by the rules. I therefore submit that they should first withdraw the Bill, and having withdrawn the Bill they have to ask your permission and the permission of the House to introduce a fresh Bill according to the rules on the subject. If they are not prepared to do it, then I submit you should be pleased to hold that they are not entitled to introduce another Bill as long as the first Bill is before the House and has not been withdrawn, because I submit for your consideration that this will be a very dangerous procedure if we accept it. There will be no end of Bills which we may have on the same subject at one and the same time: we may have two or three or as many Bills as the Government pleases. I submit it is really not in keeping with the propriety of the rules and the soundness of procedure that should be observed. I therefore submit that the Honourable the Finance Member should not be allowed to introduce his Bill.

**Mr. President:** The question raised has, in my opinion, two aspects. The first is whether the method adopted by the Finance Member in dealing with the Reserve Bank Bill in the Assembly so-violates the proprieties of the House as to constitute it an abuse of its forms and procedure. The second is whether the new Bill in so far as it provides for a Shareholders' Bank as against the decision of the Assembly in favour of a State Bank is not barred by the rule of repetition contained in Standing Order 31 of the Manual. On this second point, my view is that, unless a motion asking the Assembly to consider the clause in the new Bill providing for a Shareholders' Bank is made by the Finance Member, the bar arising, if at all, from the rule against repetition does not operate. It is, therefore, not necessary for me at this stage to consider that question, and, indeed, I do not propose on this occasion to say anything more than what is strictly necessary for the purpose in hand.

Coming now to the first point, it is necessary for the Chair to bear in mind the previous history of this piece of legislation in order to decide whether the method now proposed by the Finance Member violates the proprieties of this House. It will be remembered that the Finance Member introduced his Reserve Bank Bill in the Delhi Session last year, and it was then referred to a Joint Select Committee of both Houses. That Committee consisted of 30 members, and held its sittings for several days at different places. The fight between Government and non-official

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members on the Committee centred round two important matters; (1) whether the Reserve Bank should be a State Bank or a Shareholders' Bank, and (2) what should be the constitution of the Board. On both these points Government lost, and the Finance Member made his Minute of Dissent on the Report of the Joint Select Committee. The Bill, as reported, was presented to the House for consideration at the Simla Session, and after nearly three days discussion on that stage the Finance Member, on behalf of Government, accepted the recommendations of the Joint Select Committee in favour of the constitution of a State Bank as a concession to non-official view, at the same time making it quite clear that the House should come to some reasonable understanding on the question of the constitution of the Board. The Bill was then considered clause by clause and the first seven clauses were passed by the House, including the clause regarding the State Bank. The eighth clause regarding the constitution of the Bank was being considered on the 1st September when the House adjourned to the 2nd September. When the House re-assembled on that day, the Finance Member requested the Chair to adjourn further consideration of the Bill to the 5th September, in order to enable him to come to some understanding on the question of the constitution of the Bank with the various Party leaders in the House. This request was granted, and the House again met on the 5th September, when it was found that Government had not included the item on the agenda, nor was any explanation forthcoming why that was not done. At the following meeting of the Assembly on the 8th September, the Finance Member made a statement of the next week's business, and announced the decision of Government that they had no intention of proceeding further with the Reserve Bank Bill "at present". This announcement was resented by the non-official Members, and the whole of the Swaraj Party left the House as a protest. On the 13th September, when the House reassembled, a motion censuring the Government of India for withdrawing the Reserve Bank Bill from the consideration of the House at that stage in that sudden and abrupt manner was discussed and carried. In explaining the attitude of Government on that motion, the Finance Member expressed himself thus:

"I entirely agree that Government have no right to withdraw the Bill without coming to the House. If Members of this House are of opinion that an affront was offered to the House, I can only say on behalf of Government that no such affront was desired or intended, and I am very sorry that any impression of that sort should have gone abroad. As regards the withdrawal of the Bill, what Government have done is to come to the conclusion that, in view of the time available during this Session and the complexity of the problem still to be solved, it was not desirable to attempt to complete the Bill this Session."

This is the history of the Bill which the Chair has to bear in mind in deciding whether the method which the Finance Member now proposes to adopt violates the proprieties of this House. The Finance Member proposes to-day to introduce a new Reserve Bank Bill. Under Standing Order 4(2) of the Manual, the old Reserve Bank Bill is still on the pending list of business; it has neither been withdrawn, nor has it lapsed by efflux of time. It is no doubt true that the mover of a Bill is entitled to drop it altogether in the sense that he makes no further motion with regard to it; but if he drops a Bill and proposes to introduce another instead on the same subject, what should be the correct procedure for the

Member to adopt is a question which the Chair has got to consider in this connection.

I have taken some trouble to ascertain the practice of the House of Commons in matters of this kind, and though I have not been able to find any reported case which is on all-fours with the case we are considering, there are cases which, if they do not bear materially upon this question, certainly illustrate the principle involved in it. A Member who has introduced a Bill drops it himself, or is required to drop it, either because he is not satisfied with its provisions and desires to make material alterations in it, or because the Committee to which the Bill has been referred recommends such radical alterations in it as to constitute it entirely a different Bill from that which has been read a second time by the House and committed.

In 1873, the mover of the University Test (Dublin) Bill made material alterations in the Bill as introduced, and the Speaker held that the Bill should be withdrawn with the leave of the House and a new Bill introduced.

In 1878, when the order for the second reading of the Hypothec (Scotland) Bill was read, objection was taken that the Bill had been so transformed as virtually to amount to a new Bill. The Speaker ruled that the Bill should be withdrawn with the leave of the House, and a new Bill substituted.

These are cases where the alterations had been introduced on the sole authority of the Member who had introduced the Bill, and not by a Committee of the House.

The Partnership Amendment Bill, 1866, was committed *pro forma*, and a great number of amendments were proposed in the Committee which so changed the Bill as to transform it into an entirely new Bill.

The Tithe Rent Charge Recovery Bill of 1899 was materially altered by the Committee to which it was referred, and the Speaker in both cases unhesitatingly affirmed that the practice of the House had been in cases of that kind to withdraw the old Bill and then to introduce a new Bill in the amended form.

In the University Test (Dublin) Bill, above referred to, the Speaker expressed the practice of the House in these terms:

"There is no principle more clearly laid down in this House than this. When a Member has introduced a Bill to the House, it ceases to be in that Member's hands and passes into the possession of the House. No essential alterations in that Bill at any stage may then be made without the distinct order of the House. I may remind the House that that principle applies with special force when the House proposes to go into Committee *pro forma* on a Bill in order to meet the objections to that Bill raised on the second reading. Upon those occasions, it is clearly established that no alteration can be introduced in a Bill inconsistent with the general character of the Bill. The House has clearly laid down a clear course for Members to take if they desire to make any essential alterations in the Bill, of which they have charge, at any stage. That course is to ask the leave of the House to withdraw the Bill and to present another instead thereof. That is the proper course to take, and that is the course which, as I understand, the Honourable Member proposes to take."

The case that we are considering is further complicated by reason of the fact that the old Bill, which is still pending, has not only been considered in the Committee and reported upon, but also the consideration of that Bill, as reported by the Joint Select Committee, has been approved by the House and decisions on several clauses reached. The Finance



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Member, by proposing to introduce his new Bill on the same subject, endeavours, in effect, to make material alterations, not so much in the old Bill as introduced, but in the Bill as amended by the Joint Select Committee; and, furthermore, in the decisions already reached by the House.

The rule of practice enunciated by the Speaker of the House of Commons in the cases above referred to, applies, therefore, with greater force to this case. If the Finance Member had chosen to continue the old Bill, he could not have made any motion asking the Assembly to reconsider its decision in favour of the State Bank as against the Shareholders' Bank. It cannot be argued that the rule against repetition applies to motions made during the same Session, and, therefore, there would be no objection to the reopening of the question of State *vs.* Shareholders' Bank in the following Session. In fact, the Finance Member could not have got an opportunity to re-open the question, as the Bill would have been taken up for consideration from the stage at which it was left over, and no President would allow the Finance Member or the Assembly to go back on the clauses of the Bill already passed. If, therefore, the Finance Member could not have re-opened the question of State *vs.* Shareholders' Bank in the ordinary course, he is, in my opinion, not entitled to do so by resorting to this extraordinary procedure.

The practice of the House of Commons that a Member desiring to make substantial alterations in the Bill introduced by him can only do so by withdrawing the Bill with the leave of the House and introducing a fresh Bill in an amended form is, in my opinion, based on considerations of the propriety of Parliamentary procedure, and has no relation whatever to the rule against repetition. If any motions in connection with the new Bill are otherwise barred by the rule against repetition, it is difficult to understand how the withdrawal of the old Bill can save them from such bar. I am not, however, called upon to express any opinion on this question at present.

There is one other point to which I should like to refer before I conclude my observations. The position of the Assembly has been rendered much more difficult in this case by reason of the fact that the new Bill has already been published in the Gazette of India under the orders of the Governor General, presumably on the advice of the Governor General in Council. This procedure has deprived the Assembly of the opportunity of refusing leave to introduce the Bill during the pendency of the old one on the same subject as a protest against the method adopted by Government in dealing with the Reserve Bank Bill. That being so, it is now for the Chair, as the sole interpreter of the Rules and Standing Orders of the House, and the guardian and protector of its rights and privileges, to intervene. Holding these views, and taking the fullest responsibility for my decision, I unhesitatingly affirm that the method proposed to be adopted by the Finance Member violates the proprieties of the House and is an abuse of its procedure, and, I, therefore, regret, I must decline to call upon him to introduce his Bill.

There are now two courses open to Government: (1) To withdraw the first Bill with the leave of the Assembly if it is given, and introduce the proposed new Bill. In suggesting this course I desire to guard myself against conveying any impression that the withdrawal of the old Bill will

remove all difficulties in the way of the introduction of the new Bill in this Session. (2) The only other and safer course for Government is to allow the first Bill to disappear from the pending list of business by lapse of time, and then introduce this Bill. [Vide proviso to Standing Order 4 (2).]

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett** (Finance Member): I do not propose to make either the second motion\*. I am debarred by the rules of propriety from making this motion because Sir Walter Willson has not taken his seat this morning.

### THE INDIAN MERCHANT SHIPPING (AMENDMENT) BILL.

**The Honourable Sir George Rainy** (Member for Commerce and Railways): Sir, I rise to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, 1923, in order to vest in the Governor General in Council the control of matters covered by that Act.

It is not necessary, Sir, that I should say more than a very few words in support of this motion. Under the Devolution Rules, shipping and navigation are a Central subject, but hitherto the actual administration has rested with the Local Governments as agents of the Government of India. In the conference held in 1924, at which representatives of all the interests concerned were present, there was general agreement that the Government of India should take over the direct control of these matters, and this Bill is intended to give effect to the recommendation of the conference. The House will remember that last Session a Bill was passed into law transferring the control of light-houses to the Central Government. This is another instalment of the same scheme which contemplates that eventually the Government of India should assume direct responsibility for all matters connected with merchant shipping. The Schedule to the Bill may seem elaborate and lengthy, but its object is quite simple, namely, to substitute in the Indian Merchant Shipping Act the Governor General in Council for the Local Government and to make all necessary consequential changes. In order to make the administration elastic during the period of transition, it is proposed also to take power for the Governor General to delegate all or any of his powers. That in effect is what the Bill proposes to do.

Sir, I move.

The motion was adopted.

**The Honourable Sir George Rainy:** Sir, I introduce the Bill.

### STATEMENT OF BUSINESS.

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett** (Leader of the House): Sir, with your permission, I desire to make a statement regarding the Government business for next week. In view, Sir, of the ruling in regard to the regularity of the introduction of the Bill that I did not introduce to-day I am unable to make any statement at the moment but I shall hope to let the House know at the earliest possible opportunity of the course Government propose to pursue in regard to business next week.

\*"To move that Sir Walter Wilson be appointed to the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881, for a certain purpose."

**Mr. President:** It was not at all necessary for the Honourable Member to make that statement. Mr. Graham came and told me that the Honourable Member desired to make a statement about next week's business. Although such statements are permissible immediately after questions, I allowed the Honourable Member thinking that he had really a statement to make.

**Mr. L. Graham** (Secretary, Legislative Department): I trust, Sir, that you do not think I deceived you in any way.

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** Sir, I submit that it was desirable and necessary from the point of view of the convenience of the House that the opportunity should be taken . . . .

**Mr. President:** Order, order. The House stands adjourned till Half-Past Two.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half-Past Two of the Clock.

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The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. President in the Chair.

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#### MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

##### SOUTH AFRICAN LIQUOR BILL.

**Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru** (Agra Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I rise to move the adjournment of the business of the House to consider a question of urgent public importance, namely, the situation created by the Liquor Bill which has been recently introduced by the Government of the Union of South Africa into the Union Parliament.

Sir, it is little less than a year ago since Mr. Bhore announced to us the terms of the agreement arrived at between the representatives of the Government of India and the Union of South Africa in regard to the position of Indians resident in South Africa. It is a matter of common knowledge, that Indians desire that, as citizens of the British Empire, their countrymen, wherever settled, should enjoy the fullest rights of citizenship. They desire that their countrymen should form an integral part of the population of the countries in which they reside, enjoying all the rights and opportunities which are open to any section of the residents of that place. Nevertheless, the agreement was received with general satisfaction throughout the country, because it was believed that there were certain important principles involved in the agreement which would place the future relations between Indians and Europeans on a basis of justice and equity. Mr. Bhore, when he read out the terms of the agreement, told us how the Government of India themselves viewed it:

"The agreement which has been announced to the House to-day", he said,

"is a convincing proof of their goodwill."

i.e., of the Government of the Union,

"Let us treat it as such and endeavour to make it the basis of lasting friendship between India and South Africa. It is not suggested that all outstanding questions between the two countries have been solved, but the Government of India are confident that if the spirit that prevailed at the recent Conference at Cape Town endures, the ultimate solution of the Indian problem in South Africa in a manner that will be satisfactory and honourable to both countries is assured."

I will, with your leave, Sir, advert for a moment to the terms of the agreement itself to show that the hope which was expressed by Mr. Bhore on behalf of the Government of India was well-founded. One of the clauses in the annexure which was attached to the agreement states :

"The Union Government firmly believe in and adhere to the principle that it is the duty of every civilized Government to devise ways and means to take all possible steps for the uplifting of every section of their permanent population to the full extent of their capacity and opportunities."

This showed, Sir, that so far as those people were concerned who were prepared to conform to Western standards of life, every opportunity would be given to them to develop themselves to the fullest extent they were capable of, and that no impediment would be placed in their way which would keep them on a lower plane than that occupied by the European population of South Africa. Apart from this general declaration of policy, the annexure refers specifically to certain economic questions which bear vitally on the matter which I have now asked the leave of the House to place before it. It had been frequently stated that the objection to the presence of Indians in South Africa was economic, and that if there were some way of ensuring that there would be no unfair economic competition between Indians and South African whites, much of the trouble, which seemed to be racial, would disappear. In view of this, the representatives of the Government of India and South Africa agreed that "the principle underlying the Industrial Conciliation Act, and the Wages Act which enables all employees, including Indians, to take their places on the basis of equal pay for equal work, will be adhered to." There was thus to be no question of driving out Indians by means of statutes differentiating racially against them. It was thought that if the principle of equal wages for equal work was insisted on, the position would right itself. Apart from this, it is a matter of common knowledge that the Indians in South Africa have a legitimate grievance in regard to the manner in which trading licenses are refused to them, and the Union Government agreed that in any future revision of the law relating to the issue of such licenses, every consideration would be given to the suggestions made by the representatives of the Government of India in order to ensure that the requests of Indians for the renewal of licenses were not dealt with arbitrarily. We are therefore justified in concluding, Sir, that the spirit of the Cape Town Agreement requires that there shall be no racial differentiation against Indians, that their position should be steadily ameliorated and that at any rate the position of no section of the Indian population shall be made worse than it was at the time of the conclusion of the agreement. But, here, Sir, we have a measure known as the Liquor Bill introduced into the Union Parliament which differentiates racially against Indians and which affects their position seriously so far as the future is concerned. I would ask for the indulgence of the House while I read out that portion of clause 104 of the Liquor Bill which refers to Asiatics generally and therefore to Indians also. Now clause 104 says :

"No distiller, brewer or holder of a license shall employ any native or Asiatic in connection with the manufacture, bottling, sale or delivery of liquor, and subject to the provisions of sub-sections (2), (3) and (4) no holder of a license shall employ any native or Asiatic in any capacity whatever on any licensed premises."

In order to soften the rigour of this law certain exceptions have been provided. Sub-clause (2) states that all the Asiatics concerned need

[Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru.]

not be dismissed immediately, but that a period of a year shall be given during which their number might be steadily reduced. This provision is scarcely of any value. The most important exception is that embodied in sub-clause (3) of clause 104 which says that a licensing board in the province of Natal might authorise the employment of Asiatics who were continuously employed throughout the year 1927, provided that the establishments concerned agreed to pay double the usual license fee. Even this leaves the future of the Indians absolutely dark.

Now, it will be noticed, Sir, that this clause refers in terms to Asiatics and it is also known that it is expressly aimed against Indians. Our objection to it is first that it is of a racial character. In the second place, after the conclusion of the Agreement relating to the principle of equal pay for equal work, there seems to be absolutely no reason why Indians should be driven out of any calling in which they are engaged at present, since there can be no fear hereafter that they will enter into unfair competition with Europeans. Now, I am aware of the fact that the Minister of Justice who recently introduced this Bill into the Union Parliament stated that Indians already employed in the liquor industry would not be affected. I do not know whether that refers only to Natal or whether it refers also to the other provinces of the Union, particularly Cape Town. But even if the assurance given by Mr. Tichmann Roos refers to the whole of South Africa, it still leaves a great deal to be desired. Our object is not merely to ensure the position of Indians who are employed in the liquor industry at the present moment. We are fighting for the future of the entire Indian population in South Africa and we wish that in accordance with the terms of the Cape Town Agreement which might be regarded as a treaty between two Governments, no cause should arise in future which would create bad blood between this country and South Africa. Honourable Members are no doubt aware that among the representatives of the Union Government who discussed the Cape Town Agreement were the Prime Minister of the Union himself, namely, General Hertzog, and Dr. Malan. Now, I am not prepared to believe that General Hertzog and Dr. Malan would themselves favour any course which would lay the Government of South Africa open to the charge of having violated the agreement which they had entered into. I have no doubt that they would endeavour by every means in their power to fulfil the agreement arrived at a little more than a year ago in the letter and in the spirit. But the situation which has been created by the introduction of the Liquor Bill is such as to arouse grave apprehensions and dissatisfaction, not merely among Indians in South Africa, but also throughout this country; and we should be wanting in our duty as representatives of our countrymen if we did not at this juncture voice their feelings in regard to the measure under discussion. The Indian community in South Africa have appealed to the Government of India to make representations on their behalf and to take all steps in their power to protect Indian rights. What we desire in the first place through this motion for adjournment is to ask the Government of India to do the best that it can for our countrymen settled in South Africa. We desire in the second place to convey to the Government of South Africa our strong feeling that the new Bill is out of keeping with the spirit of the agreement arrived about a year ago at Cape Town. If passed unaltered

it would make us feel that the question which appeared to have been solved in 1926 had unfortunately been ripped open again. I would therefore ask the Government of India to make their attitude clear on this point to assure the House that they are alive to the gravity of the question, that they are taking all possible steps within their power to impress the strength and justice of the Indian case on the Union of South Africa and that they will continue to watch with the utmost vigilance the interests of our helpless countrymen settled thousands of miles away from the parent country.

**Mr. G. S. Bajpai** (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands): I have listened with the utmost respect and interest, Sir, to the speech which the Honourable the Mover of this motion has just made, and I think I may at the very outset give him the assurance that the Government of India are seized, that they have, in fact, been seized, of the urgency and importance of this question, not since yesterday or the day before yesterday, but since October 1927 when the Bill as published in South Africa was brought to their notice; and, as soon as it was brought to their notice, they took the necessary steps to place their views before the Government of the Union of South Africa. The position to-day, if I may so put it, is by no means so grave as it was in 1925, when the Class Areas Bill was before the Union Parliament, or, in 1926, when it was not quite known whether the Government of the Union would or would not agree to a Round Table Conference. The measure which is now before the House of Assembly in the Union of South Africa is undoubtedly a measure which raises a very important question of principle, namely, the racial question as to whether the Indian is or is not to be employed in a particular occupation. But its scope is limited. I do not, however, wish Honourable Members of the House to think that the Government of India, because of the limited nature of the scope of the measure, are either oblivious of, or inclined to ignore, its importance. They have taken, in regard to this measure, as I stated earlier, every possible action to impress upon the Government of the Union, both the fact that this particular clause 104 is not strictly in keeping with the spirit and the letter of the Cape Town Agreement, and the further fact that there is, on grounds of equity, no justification whatsoever for passing a measure which would discriminate against Indians. Having said that much, Sir, I think the House will accept, at any rate, the force of my statement that the Government of India are fully alive, and not only fully alive, to the importance of the question, but that they have done everything which lies in their power to impress their own views, which happily in this case are the same as the views of the House, on the Government of the Union of South Africa.

Then, Sir, there is another respect in which the position to-day is better than it was in 1925 or in 1926. In the first place, we did not then have the personal understanding and the atmosphere of friendship which prevail between the two Governments to-day. In the second place, in 1925, and 1926, we were reduced—there was no other alternative—to communicating our views through the ordinary channel of telegraphs and despatches, which, unfortunately, are never so satisfactory as personal representations. To-day in the Union of South Africa we have, as the representative of the Government of India, and, if I may say so, as the representative of the people of India, a man who enjoys in the fullest measure the confidence, I am sure, of every section of this House, the

[Mr. G. S. Bajpai.]

confidence of the people of India, the confidence of the Indian community in South Africa, the esteem of the European community in South Africa and the respect of the Union Government. If we utilise that agency for pressing the Indian case, Sir, and if I give the House the assurance that in pressing the Indian case our representative will have the fullest possible support of the Government of India, and that the Government of India will back him at every stage, then, I submit, Sir, there is no justification or reason for pressing this motion for adjournment of which the Honourable Member has given notice, because that would be tantamount to a vote of censure on Government and Government have done nothing to deserve such censure. There is one more point I should like to emphasise. I do not wish, Sir, to stifle discussion, and far be it from me to counsel discretion to a House which contains wiser and more experienced men than myself,—I am, perhaps, the youngest Member of the House. But, I would submit, that in 1925 and 1926, when there was a far graver matter before the Union Parliament—I refer now to the Class Areas Bill,—this House established a tradition of dignified and wise restraint which was of the utmost help to the deputation which was headed by Sir George Paddison, and, later, to the delegation which was headed by Sir Muhammad Habibullah. I would to-day remind the House, Sir, after what I have said, about the value of restraint, that in anything which Honourable Members might say here they will fully bear in mind the fact that what may be uttered in the stress of emotion to-day may have unfortunate consequences later on. I have nothing more to add, Sir.

**Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas** (Indian Merchants' Chamber: Indian Commerce): Sir, the reason for pressing this motion of adjournment, for discussion at least, is this. This is the only opportunity that this House can get for obtaining information from Government regarding this somewhat ominous looking measure which is on the anvil of the South African Parliament, and it struck us on this side of the House that if we did not avail ourselves of this opportunity, we might never be able to have the views of this side of the House put before the Government at any time in this Session unless the ballot box was particularly favourable to us. I was rather surprised this morning when the Honourable Members, the Secretary of the Education Department and the Leader of the House, both indicated, of course with the best of intentions. I am sure, that there should be no discussion of this motion. But if one, Sir, gets a telegram of the nature that I am going to read presently—and I know that many Members on this side of the House have received similar telegrams—I really leave it to the Government of India to decide whether we are not justified in asking that this matter should at least be discussed. I read, Sir, a telegram which I received from Durban from the South African Indian Congress. It reads as follows:

"Second Reading Liquor Bill now going through Parliament notwithstanding strong protest. Bill seeks deprive three thousand Indians and their families and dependents from livelihood ultimately driving them out of country. Bill direct conflict with the letter and spirit of Cape Town Agreement. Clear racial legislation. Indians greatly alarmed at Government's attitude. If Bill passes Cape Town agreement smashed. Earnestly appeal your immediate intervention."

Now, Sir, we know the great earnestness with which the Government of India and the Department of which my friend Mr. Bajpai is the

Secretary, have been backing the Indian cause in South Africa with great credit to themselves. But I wish to differ from what my friend Mr. Bajpai said that the discussion of this motion or even the carrying of it would necessarily amount to a vote of censure on the Government of India. Ordinarily, Sir, I admit that a motion for adjournment if carried is a vote of censure on the Government of India. But in the case of South Africa we know that there are occasions when with the best of intentions and with the best of goodwill on their part for Indians and their cause in South Africa, the Government of India have been absolutely helpless. I wish to ask my friend Mr. Bajpai what opportunity have we got of putting our views before the public in South Africa except by a motion of this nature or by a Resolution in this House? And if there be no other opportunity, surely, Sir, the Government of India will understand that they need not take this motion for adjournment if carried in quite the same serious light as it should be taken. This is the only way out we have got, and therefore I wish to make it clear that no censure is either intended or meant either by my friend Mr. Kunzru or by those on this side of the House who will speak or vote with him, on the Department concerned.

I need say only one word, Sir, that we admire the great care and the great sympathy the Education Department has been evincing in the cause of Indians in South Africa. But that, Sir, does not take us very far, and it is only right that the Department concerned and the Government of India should give us every opportunity that we may seek to put forward our views in this connection.

My friend Mr. Bajpai said that any indiscreet word said in the course of the discussion might injure the relations between this Government and the Government of South Africa. My friend will admit that all through during the last two years, when we were passing through very serious times, whenever there was a discussion in this House on this subject, no indiscreet word was said, and everybody on this side of the House was determined to back the Government of India to the end and everybody was deeply anxious that both the Governments should come to a satisfactory understanding. At the same time, Sir, when measures like these are taken, as it is apparent from the telegram we have received, in direct violation of the spirit and letter of the agreement entered into not more than a year or a year and half ago, it is only right that people here should express their feelings quite frankly, and if I may say so, without mincing words. What does the measure which is now before us amount to? It amounts to an effort at an inroad into the agreement, and while I am sure that the Government of India and His Excellency Lord Irwin will do their level best; and while every one in this House has the greatest confidence in that great ambassador that India has sent out, I mean the Right Honourable Srinivasa Sastri, it is only right that we should strengthen their hands and make them feel that we are watching their efforts with the utmost anxiety, because the very livelihood and source of maintenance of 3,000 Indians in South Africa are at stake. It is, Sir, easy for people in this country to discuss the fate of these Indians and to ask us to be discreet. If any of us were concerned, Sir, in the fate which is awaiting these 3,000 Indians if this Liquor Bill should pass, I should like to see how many of us could afford to be discreet and use well chosen words. I do not wish to say that we



[Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas.]

need necessarily use strong language, but I submit that if there is any strong language, it should be understood that the occasion, which is a provocative one, is itself responsible for it.

Now with the statement made by my friend Mr. Bajpai, one has no quarrel at all. The only apprehension that I have is, whether the Government of India are confident that they will be able to get the South African Government and the Parliament to see that they are doing something which appears to be convincingly unjustifiable? The agreement entered into by the Habibullah Deputation with the South African Government we all respected to the utmost degree. If there were any who were not satisfied with it, nothing was said about it by them; they reconciled themselves to it. But I think our patience cannot be tried any further, and no violation of the agreement would be either tolerated or would be looked upon with any sort of leniency. I think my friend Mr. Kunzru is entitled to congratulation for having availed himself of this opportunity to ventilate India's views regarding this Liquor Bill and

3 P.M. I am quite content to leave this in the hands of the Government of India, especially when Mr. Bajpai has assured us on the floor of the House that the Government of India would back through and through the Right Honourable Srinivasa Sastri in the attitude which he may decide requires to be taken in this connection in South Africa. I feel that, should this motion be carried, there is no censure meant on the Government of India Department. But if my friend is so sensitive as that, I would not mind, Sir, on this assurance given by him, if this motion is, after it is fully discussed, even withdrawn. But I do hope that Mr. Bajpai will see that, should things go wrong, Government will give us timely notice and allow the House another opportunity to discuss the next stage which may arise.

**Sir Darcy Lindsay** (Bengal: European): Sir, in associating myself with the motion so ably put to the House by my Honourable friend, Pandit Kunzru, I wish to say that I do so because I have visited South Africa and am aware of the position of the unhappy men who are likely to be hit by this Bill if it becomes law. There is, so far as I know, nothing against these men. (*Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas*: "Hear, hear".) It is not as if they were taking work away from other people, say from the whites. They are employed by the hotel keepers and other licencees because they are good men. They are better men than those employers can engage elsewhere. That is a testimony given to me in the course of my stay in South Africa and I should imagine that there would be considerable opposition to this measure on the part of South Africans themselves. (*Mr. B. Das*: "I question that".) I think you are possibly wrong. According to my information there is opposition, and I have hopes on those grounds alone, Sir, that the measure may not pass into law. But on the other point of racial discrimination I am again entirely with my Honourable friend Pandit Kunzru. It seems to me that this is against the spirit of the honourable agreement that was entered into so short a time ago and I cannot believe that an honourable gentleman like the President of the Union will countenance support to such a measure. (Hear, hear.) I am very pleased indeed to hear that the Government of India are doing all in their power to resist the measure that appears to us to be aimed against some of our people, who, as I said before, are

living a peaceful life and, mark you, Sir, they are people who are living a great deal in western style,—the western style that the South African Government laid down as one of the objects they had in view in the upliftment of their people. So long as this western standard of living was not departed from, I understood there was a welcome to such people. Now, these very waiters who are employed in licensed premises are the people who have largely adopted western standards of living.

I am a little disappointed, Sir, that my Honourable friend, Mr. Bajpai, made no reference as to how the position actually lay at present. But I suppose for diplomatic reasons he was unable to do so. But I think that, on what has fallen from Mr. Bajpai, the House may rest assured that the Government of India are looking after the interests of the people to the very best of their ability and with the aid of our Agent General in South Africa I for one am content to leave it in their hands.

**Lala Lajpat Rai** (Jullundur Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I think after the speech of Sir Darcy Lindsay passing a glaring tribute to those Indians who are engaged in the liquor traffic in South Africa, and also testifying to the fact that the present Bill, if enacted into law, will violate the spirit of the agreement that was entered into between the Government of India and the Government of the Union of South Africa, much is not needed to be said. I am very glad to get an assurance from Mr. Bajpai (as the representative of the Government of India) that the Government of India is doing its best to protect the interests of those Indians who are engaged in the trade there. I only want to add one word, that the feeling in the country about this matter is one of strong indignation and of strong resentment. I hope that the Government of India will leave no stone unturned to see that the rights of those Indians who are engaged in their trade are not abrogated by any law which is being enacted, in violation of the spirit of the agreement which was entered into between the two Governments. I also wish to join Sir Darcy Lindsay in expressing my confidence in the Right Honourable Srinivasa Sastri's tact and wisdom, and I hope that the matter will be gone into with such care and fairness as to fully protect the interests of the Indians there.

With these words I will be content to leave the matter for the present in the hands of the Government in the hope, as has been expressed by my friend Sir Purshotamdas, that in case any developments take place later on that may make it necessary for us to raise the question again, the Government of India will not stifle an expression of opinion on our part on those developments. After this, I hope my friend Mr. Kunzru will see his way, after making any remarks he may like to make in reply, to withdraw his motion.

**Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru**: Sir, my Honourable friend, Mr. Bajpai, was apprehensive . . . . .

**Mr. President**: The Honourable Member is not entitled to make a speech if he desires to withdraw his motion.

The motion was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 6th February, 1928.