

4th September 1928

THE
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(Official Report)

Volume III

(4th September to 15th September 1928)

THIRD SESSION

of the

THIRD LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1928



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CONTENTS.

	PAGES.
TUESDAY, 4TH SEPTEMBER, 1928—	
Members Sworn	1
Questions and Answers	1-38
Unstarred Questions and Answers	39-149
Motion for Adjournment—Attack on the President of the Legislative Assembly by the <i>Times of India</i> —Disallowed	149-54
Motion for Adjournment—Quinine Fraud—Disallowed	154-57
Bills Assented to by the Governor General	157-58
Petition relating to the Transfer of Property (Amendment) Bill and the Transfer of Property (Amendment) Supplementary Bill	158
Deaths of Sir Alexander Muddiman and Captain Kabul Singh	158-62
The Public Safety (Removal from India) Bill—Introduced	162
The Indian Insurance Companies Bill—Introduced	162
The Dangerous Drugs Bill—Introduced	163
The Indian Trade Unions (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	163
The Trade Disputes Bill—Introduced	163-64
The Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	164
The Indian Succession (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	164-65
The Repealing and Amending Bill—Introduced	165
The Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	165
The Match Industry (Protection) Bill—Introduced	165-66
The Indian Income-tax (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	166
The Madras Salt (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	166
WEDNESDAY, 5TH SEPTEMBER, 1928—	
Members Sworn	167
Questions and Answers	167-219
Statement <i>re</i> Separate Office for the Legislative Assembly	219-24
Petitions relating to the Indian Law Reports Bill	224
Resolution <i>re</i> The Cable and Wireless Beam Merger—Adopted	224-50
Resolution <i>re</i> The Haj Pilgrim Traffic—Postponed	250-57
THURSDAY, 6TH SEPTEMBER, 1928—	
Questions and Answers	259-94
Panel of Chairmen	294
Committee on Public Petitions	294
Statement <i>re</i> Separate Office for the Legislative Assembly	294-99
The Public Safety (Removal from India) Bill—Postponed	299-305
The Indian Insurance Companies Bill—Referred to Select Committee	305-10

CONTENTS—*contd.*

	PAGES.
SATURDAY, 8TH SEPTEMBER, 1928—	
Questions and Answers	311-48
Statement of Business	348
Petitions relating to the Hindu Child Marriage Bill—Presented ..	348-49
The Child Marriage Restraint Bill—Recommitted to the Select Committee	349-61
The Indian Divorce (Amendment) Bill—Motion to refer to Select Committee negatived	361-72
The Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill—(Amendment of Section 43)— Motion to refer to Select Committee, negatived	373-85
The Hindu Marriages Dissolution Bill—Withdrawn	385-93
MONDAY, 10TH SEPTEMBER, 1928—	
Member Sworn	395
Questions and Answers	395-435
The Indian Insurance Companies Bill—Presentation of the Report of the Select Committee	435-36
The Public Safety (Removal from India) Bill— <i>contd.</i>	436-76
TUESDAY, 11TH SEPTEMBER, 1928—	
Questions and Answers	477-539
Unstarred Questions and Answers	539-67
Petition relating to the Special Marriage (Amendment) Bill	567
Petitions relating to the Hindu Child Marriage Bill	568
Resolution <i>re</i> the Haj Pilgrim Traffic—Adopted, as amended	568-72
Resolution <i>re</i> Pay of Judges of the High Courts—Negatived	572-94
Resolution <i>re</i> Education of Girls and Women in the territories administered by the Central Government—Debate adjourned	594-602
WEDNESDAY, 12TH SEPTEMBER, 1928—	
Questions and Answers	603-26
The Public Safety (Removal from India) Bill—Discussion adjourned ..	626-78
THURSDAY, 13TH SEPTEMBER, 1928—	
Questions and Answers	679-93
Unstarred Questions and Answers	693-95
Statement of Business	695
The Reservation of the Coastal Traffic of India Bill—Discussion on the Motion to refer to Select Committee adjourned	695-737
The Hindu Child Marriage Bill—Presentation of the Report of the Select Committee	719
FRIDAY, 14TH SEPTEMBER, 1928—	
Allegations in certain Newspapers of Partiality and Bias against Mr. Presi- dent	739-62
Alleged Propaganda by the Home Department against Mr. President ..	739-62
The Public Safety (Removal from India) Bill—Discussion adjourned ..	763-88
SATURDAY, 15TH SEPTEMBER, 1928—	
The Public Safety (Removal from India) Bill—Referred to Select Com- mittee	789 871

THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES
(OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE THIRD SESSION OF THE
THIRD LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.)

VOLUME III—1928.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, 4th September, 1928.

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

MEMBERS SWORN :

The Honourable Mr. Arthur Cecil McWatters, C.I.E. (Member for Industries and Labour) ; Mr. Philip Graham Rogers, C.I.E., M.L.A. (Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs) ; Mr. Hattiangadi Shankar Rau, M.L.A. (Finance Department : Nominated Official) ; Mr. Lalchand Navalrai, M.L.A. (Sind : Non-Muhammadan Rural) ; Diwan Bahadur Thodala Raghavayya Pantulu Garu, C.S.I., M.L.A. (Madras : Nominated Official) ; Mr. Sorab Manekshah Bharucha, M.L.A. (Bombay : Nominated Official) ; Mr. Maurice Webb, M.L.A. (Bombay : Nominated Official) ; Mr. Carleton Moss King, C.I.E., M.L.A. (United Provinces : Nominated Official) ; Rai Bahadur Shyam Narayan Singh, C.B.E., M.L.A. (Bihar and Orissa : Nominated Official) ; Mr. Ghazanfar Ali Khan, O.B.E., M.L.A. (Central Provinces : Nominated Official) ; Mr. James Hezlett, C.I.E., M.L.A. (Assam : Nominated Official) ; Captain Hira Singh Brar, Sardar Bahadur, M.B.E., M.L.A. (Punjab : Nominated Non-Official) ; and Sir James Simpson, Kt., M.L.A. (Associated Chambers of Commerce : Nominated Non-Official).

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

DEPRESSED AND UNTOUCHABLE CLASSES IN INDIA.

1. ***Lala Lajpat Rai** : Will Government be pleased :
 - (a) to lay on the table a list of the classes or castes or sub-castes which are considered "untouchable" ?
 - (b) to inform the House what classes are considered "depressed" besides or in addition to the untouchables ?

(1)

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar : (a) I place on the table a list of castes which are generally, according to local usage and custom, regarded as untouchable, and which have been classified as such in previous census and educational reports. I wish to make it clear that the Government of India do not regard this list as final, exhaustive or authoritative. Whether a caste is regarded as touchable or untouchable must depend on local custom which is variable and, we may reasonably hope, will prove to be a progressive factor. I also understand that the degrees of untouchability are not the same throughout India but vary from place to place.

(b) The classes generally considered as depressed beside or in addition to the untouchables are hill tribes, aboriginals and criminal tribes.

List of castes in the provinces which are considered "untouchable".

Madras—

Haddis.	Bavuris.
Dandasis.	Medaris.
Malas.	Madigars.
Parayans.	Panchamas.
Holeyas.	Valluvan.
Chakkiliyan.	Pallan.
Korogas.	Cherumas.
Nayadis.	Kotas.

Bombay—

Mahars.	Holeyas.*
Dheda.	Mangs.
Madigs.	Chambhars.
Chamars.	Mochis.
Bhangis.	Dhore.
Khalpas.	Shindhavas.
Turis.	Kolahas.

Bengal—

Bagdi.	Bauri.
Bhuinmali.	Bhuiya.
Bhumij.	Chamar.
Dhoba.	Dom.
Dosadh.	Hari.
Kaora.	Kora.
Mal.	Muchi.
Munda.	Namasudra.
Oraon.	Pod.
Santal.	Sunri.
Tiyar.	

United Provinces—

Dhobis.	Koria.
Rangaz.	Saiqalgars.
Balahis.	Baheliya.
Rajs.	Sunkars.
Dhanuks.	Tarmolis.
Rangrez.	Gharamis.

United Provinces—contd.

Balahars.	Bhangia.
Bengalis.	Bansphors.
Chamars.	Domara.
Bajgis.	Khatiks.

Punjab—

Chamars.	Chuhra.
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Bihar and Orissa—

Bhangia.	Doms.
Halalkhor.	Hari.
Mehtar.	Turi.
Ahir Gaura.	Bauri.
Chamar.	Dhoba.
Ghasi.	Ghusuria.
Gokha.	Kandra.
Kela.	Mahuria.
Pan.	Muchi.
Siyal.	Ganda.

Central Provinces—

Balahi.	Basor.
Chamar.	Dhobi.
Ganda.	Ghasia.
Katia.	Kori.
Kumhar.	Mehra.
Mang.	Mehtar.

Paska.

Lala Lajpat Rai : Why are the criminal tribes classed as depressed classes ? Is there any particular reason for that ? Is it because they are criminal ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : I think the reason is that criminal tribes are mostly also in a depressed condition.

Lala Lajpat Rai : There are many other classes besides the depressed classes which are in a depressed condition—particularly the women of this country. Would you class them among the depressed classes ?

Rao Bahadur M. C. Rajah : Will the Government be pleased to state why they are called the depressed classes ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : It is very difficult to find an alternative term to describe what is intended to be described.

Mr. K. Ahmed : Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state whether a poor fakir or a beggar living on charity not belonging to the depressed classes is classed as belonging to the depressed classes ? What about the famine stricken people ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : No, Sir ; I think the answer to that is in the negative.

Mr. Amar Nath Dutt : Will the Honourable Member say whether the Government consider Indians, who are under foreign domination, as members of the depressed class ?

Mr. President : Order, order.

Lala Lajpat Rai : Will the Honourable Member say whether any local inquiry is made in regard to any local custom before any class is described as depressed and whether that local inquiry is embodied in the local report ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : Yes, Sir. In connection with census proceedings very careful local inquiries are made in regard to what the local custom is.

Lala Lajpat Rai : I wonder if the Honourable Member has ever seen the census reports and satisfied himself whether there is any reference to any local inquiry about the custom.

Rao Bahadur M. C. Rajah : May I ask, Sir, whether the figure of 60 millions given in " India 1926-27 ", page 45, comprises the untouchable classes ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : The figure referred to by the Honourable Member referred to territory outside British India as well as British India.

INCREASE OF TUBERCULOSIS IN INDIA.

2. ***Lala Lajpat Rai :** (a) Are Government aware that tubercular diseases are increasing at a frightful speed and that mortality from the same is increasing at a tremendous rate ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table figures relating to tubercular diseases and mortality from the same in all provinces of India ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have taken any steps to check and control the ravages of this disease in India in general, and in the areas directly under the Government of India in particular ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : (a) Statistics of deaths from tubercular diseases are not available for the whole of India. For the areas for which statistics are available, figures for the last five years have been tabulated and placed in the Library. These show that there has been a slight rise in the death-rate from pulmonary tuberculosis ; but it is not possible to say definitely whether the increase represents a rise in the incidence of the disease or is due to improved methods of registration.

(b) Deaths from tuberculosis are recorded separately only in three provinces, viz., the United Provinces, Bengal and Bombay. In 1926, the death-rate per mille from tuberculosis was .14 in the United Provinces ; .15 in Bengal and 1.14 in Bombay.

(c) An account of the action taken by the Government of India as well as by Local Governments to combat tuberculosis will be found in the annual Reports of the Public Health Commissioner with the Government of India for 1924 and 1925. Copies of these reports will be found in the Library. As regards areas administered directly by the Central Government it may be mentioned that a proposal for the establishment of a tuberculosis hospital is being considered by the Delhi City Municipality. In Baluchistan six wards for tubercular patients were added to the Civil Hospital, Quetta, during 1926. In Rajputana there are two private sanatoria and a large number of tuberculosis patients are treated at the

Civil Hospital, Ajmer. Proposals for a tuberculosis hospital and sanatorium for the North-West Frontier Province are also under consideration. Research work on problems of tuberculosis such as accurate surveys of the disease in particular localities and its transmission is also being carried out under the auspices of the Indian Research Fund Association, which is financed by the Government of India.

Lala Lajpat Rai : Do the Government recognise the importance of this subject so as to make it the subject of an inquiry in each province to find out the figures of mortality from tuberculosis there ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : I have already stated that the provincial machinery for the registration of tuberculosis is confined to three provinces. Medical administration under the reforms, as the Honourable Member is aware, is a transferred provincial subject, so that the initiative for perfecting or improving machinery for registration rests with Local Governments. As regards the areas directly under the Government of India, as I have already stated, registration machinery exists, I understand, in Delhi, and we shall try and extend it to other cities like Peshawar.

Lala Lajpat Rai : Am I to understand that the Government of India do not consider this question of sufficient national importance to take special steps besides those adopted by Provincial Governments to check the disease ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : The Government of India, Sir, have taken such steps as are constitutionally within their orbit and within their power ; that is to say, they have made suggestions to Local Governments from time to time as to how they might co-operate with one another in combating this disease. It is not really the function of the Government of India to tell them that they must perfect their machinery for registration.

Lala Lajpat Rai : Do the Government of India consider it sufficient that the Delhi Municipality should establish a consumptive hospital and the Government should do nothing in the matter ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : I do not think that it follows from my reply that the Government of India have adopted an attitude of malevolent neutrality towards the proposal of the Delhi Municipality. Before the Government of India can come to a decision in regard to the establishment of a hospital in Delhi, the Delhi Municipality must submit a proposal to the Government of India through the proper channels.

Lala Lajpat Rai : Does the Honourable Member consider that this is merely a question of should or should not ? The question is whether the Government of India do attach sufficient importance to take the question in hand.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : If my Honourable friend will be satisfied by a statement of the obvious, I will say that the Government of India take very great interest in combating tuberculosis.

Mr. K. Ahmed : Will the Honourable Member be pleased to satisfy this House by showing that he is always intelligent to see that the research work is going on smoothly under the Government of India ? In view of that fact, Sir, will the Honourable Member now state with regard to the School of Tropical Medicine in Calcutta how much research is carried on and what are the steps that are taken for improving the conditions of the poor people suffering from tuberculosis ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : I confess, Sir, that the sequence, logical or otherwise, of that involved question I have been unable to follow. One thing stood out from that statement, and that was the name of the School of Tropical Medicine in Calcutta ; and I would inform the Honourable Member that the School of Tropical Medicine in Calcutta is under the control of the Government of Bengal, and, therefore, the proper forum for addressing the question is the Legislative Council of Bengal and not this House.

Mr. K. Ahmed : Is it not a fact, Sir, that the most senior medical officer of that school is drawing a salary from the Government of India and is their expert on tuberculosis and also on *kala-azar* ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : My Honourable friend's information is rather confused. There are undoubtedly two Professors belonging to the School of Tropical Medicine in Calcutta who are paid by the Indian Research Fund Association ; but the Association is not a part of Government and therefore the fact of their being maintained by that Association does not make them servants of the Government of India.

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney : If the Government absolves itself from responsibility in the matter and relegates it to the Provincial Governments, will the Honourable Member kindly explain the necessity for a Public Health Commissioner and a Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India and the issues of their annual reports ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : It is undoubtedly the function of Government to co-ordinate and collect for the information of the outside world the activities of the various provincial medical departments.

Lala Lajpat Rai : For the outside world only ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : I beg pardon ; for India also. That is one of the reasons to justify the maintenance by the Government of India of a Public Health Commissioner. In addition to that the Government of India have other activities such as central agencies for research and international responsibilities. For that reason also it is necessary to maintain a Public Health Commissioner.

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney : Is it not the duty of the Government of India to supply information not only to the outside world but also to inside India ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : I have already stated in answer to my Honourable friend, Lala Lajpat Rai, that I stood corrected, and I qualified my original statement, by saying not merely the outside world but also inside India.

The Revd. J. C. Chatterjee : Sir, will the Honourable Member inform the House what provision for registration of tuberculosis exists in Delhi, to which he has just referred ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : I merely base my information, Sir, on the report published by the Public Health Officer of Delhi. I presume that unless he had a machinery for registration he would not be able to produce the figures which are embodied in the report to which I have referred.

The Revd. J. C. Chatterjee : Will the Government take steps to let the public know what those means are, because hitherto they do not seem to know very much about these provisions ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : I am sorry, Sir, that my Honourable friend, although he resides in Delhi, is not aware of the affairs of his own city, but I shall undertake to make the inquiry to which he refers.

Lala Lajpat Rai : The Government of India also resides in Delhi.

APPOINTMENT OF INDIANS AS CONSULAR OFFICERS.

3. ***Lala Lajpat Rai :** (a) Will the Government of India inform the House what steps are being taken, if any, by His Majesty's Government to enrol Indians in the Consular Services of the Empire ?

(b) Have the Government of India made any representation to His Majesty's Government with regard to the appointment of Indians in the Consular Services of the Empire ?

(c) If the answer be in the negative, have the Government of India any intention of making such recommendations ?

(d) Are the Government of India aware that Indian tourists and traders are subjected to a great deal of annoyance and humiliations throughout the world for lack of Indian Consular Officers ?

Sir Denys Bray : (a), (b) and (c). No, Sir. But the questions seem based on the misapprehension that there are no Indian Consular representatives at present, whereas there are actually four.

(d) No, Sir. On the contrary, I constantly receive expressions of appreciation from Indian tourists and traders of the assistance afforded them by His Majesty's Consular Officers in all parts of the world.

RECRUITMENT TO THE CLERICAL AND SUBORDINATE SERVICES UNDER THE FINANCIAL COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS.

4. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if they are considering the question of placing on a proper footing the recruitment to the clerical and subordinate services in the Accounts Offices under the control of the Financial Commissioner of Railways ?

(b) If the answer to (a) be in the negative, are they aware that the Auditor General has prescribed definite rules on the subject of clerical recruitment in the offices under him and that there is also a competitive examination for accounts to regulate recruitment to the Subordinate Accounts Services ?

(c) Are Government prepared to consider the desirability of adopting the practice outlined in (b) with a view to putting a stop to the present system ?

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

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

RECRUITMENT TO GAZETTED POSTS UNDER THE FINANCIAL COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS.

5. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy :** Will Government be pleased to state whether they are considering the question of entrusting to the Public Service Commission the recruitment to all the gazetted posts in the Accounts Offices under the Financial Commissioner of Railways ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : The method of recruiting superior officers for the Accounts Departments of Railways, should these Departments come permanently under the control of the Financial Commissioner of Railways, is under consideration. I think it probable that recruitment will be by means of an examination which the Public Service Commission will conduct for us.

IMPORT OF FOREIGN LIQUOR.

6. ***Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas :** Will Government be pleased to lay a statement on the table giving :

- (a) The quantity of foreign liquor imported into India during the last five years, giving figures for each year separately,
- (b) the amount of customs revenue derived from the importation of foreign liquor during the last five years, giving figures for each year separately,
- (c) the names of countries from which the spirits referred to in (a) above were imported ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : A statement furnishing the information required is laid on the table.

Statement showing the quantity of foreign liquor, including denatured and perfumed spirits, imported into British India during 1923-24 to 1927-28, the amount of customs revenue derived therefrom and the important countries from which imported.

(a) Quantity.—

Year.	Beer and other fermented liquors.	Wines.	Spirits, all sorts, except denatured.	Denatured spirit.
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	Galls.	Galls.	Galls.	Galls.
1923-24 ..	2,846,316	225,336	1,300,249	366,358
1924-25 ..	3,351,784	309,736	1,328,738	330,381
1925-26 ..	3,510,769	274,455	1,427,001	482,901
1926-27 ..	3,830,030	295,720	1,473,754	661,737
1927-28	4,499,814	304,141	1,403,388	911,125

NOTE.—Some of the spirit recorded under (3) is spirit which, though classified as "rum" on importation, is subsequently denatured in bond before passing into consumption.

(b) Customs Revenue.—

Year.	Potable liquors, all sorts, also perfumed spirit, etc.	Denatured spirit.
	(1)	(2)
	Rs.	Rs.
1923-24	2,25,52,878	65,930
1924-25	2,49,90,115	42,066
1925-26	2,53,35,940	63,095
1926-27	2,60,47,770	83,714
1927-28	2,54,98,672	99,436

(c) Names of countries from which bulk of imports took place.—United Kingdom, Germany, Netherlands, France, Java and Japan.

NOTE.—Detailed information will be found in the Annual Statement of the Sea-borne Trade of British India with the British Empire and Foreign countries for 1926-27, Volumes I and II, and in the Accounts relating to the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of British India for March 1928.

CASE OF K. C. BANERJI, AN ALLEGED C. I. D. INFORMER.

7. *Sardar Kartar Singh : 1. (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to an article in the *Tribune* of Lahore dated 6th May 1928, headed " Spider caught in its own web. Mysterious visitor to Lahore with pistol under his shirt, conspirator or C. I. D. informer. Amazing story of Bengali youth's arrest and release. " ?

(b) Are the facts stated therein correct ?

2. Is it a fact that K. C. Banerji was a C. I. D. informer and that the pistol found in his possession was supplied to him by the C. I. D. and that he was instructed to give the arm to any one of the revolutionary party ?

3. Was the said K. C. Banerji convicted and sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for five years by a Magistrate at Lahore under section 20 of the Arms Act ?

4. Is it a fact that K. C. Banerji filed an appeal in the High Court of Judicature at Lahore against the said conviction and that the 21st of October 1927 was fixed for the hearing of the appeal ?

5. Is it a fact that K. C. Banerji was released before the appeal came up for hearing before the High Court ? If so, under whose orders was he released, and what were the grounds for his release ?

6. Did K. C. Banerji apply for any clemency to the Government under section 401 of the Criminal Procedure Code ? If not, on whose application, initiation, or recommendation did the Government take the action which resulted in his release ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar : I have seen the article. For the remainder of his questions I must refer the Honourable Member to the

discussion on the motion for adjournment in the Punjab Legislative Council on the 10th May last, in which the matter was exhaustively discussed.

SUICIDE OF VISHNUDAS BAGAI, A HINDU ART DEALER OF SAN FRANCISCO.

8. ***Mr. M. R. Jayakar** : (a) Has the attention of the Government of India been drawn to the case reported in the *Bombay Chronicle* of the 7th of May, 1928, of one Vishnudas Bagai, a Hindu art dealer of San Francisco, who committed suicide by gas as a protest against the refusal of the United States Government to recognize the American citizenship which he claimed ?

(b) Are the Government prepared to make inquiries into the matter and ascertain whether the facts stated in that newspaper are true ?

Sir Denys Bray : (a) Yes.

(b) Enquiries have already been instituted.

DEPORTATION OF MR. MEHAR SINGH RAIT, AN INDIAN STUDENT, FROM THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

9. ***Mr. M. R. Jayakar** : (a) Has the attention of the Government of India been drawn to the case reported in the *Bombay Chronicle* of the 4th of May, 1928, of one Mr. Mehar Singh Rait, an Indian student, who was deported by the American Government before he has had time to complete his education ?

(b) Is it a fact that Mr. Rait had served with the Mesopotamian Force "D" as a Hospital Storekeeper for four years during the Great War and had earned medals in that connection ?

(c) Are the Government prepared to make inquiries into this matter and ascertain whether the facts stated in that newspaper are true ?

(d) Do Government propose to take steps in the matter of Mr. Rait's grievance and obtain redress for him from the American Government in such manner as may be possible ?

Sir Denys Bray : (a) Yes.

(b) I have not been able to verify the account of Mr. Rait's war services given in the article, but see no reason to doubt it. Those war services however did not constitute him an alien veteran of the United States forces.

(c) There seems no need to go beyond the article itself. On the facts therein given, the situation is as follows :

According to the United States' Immigration Act of 1917, which was in force when Mr. Rait entered America, he was within the geographical prohibition on immigration set up by section 3 and could thus only secure entry by proving that he was within one of the exempted categories. The only exceptions susceptible of applications to Mr. Rait were those in favour of "students" and of "travellers for curiosity or pleasure". Granted that Mr. Rait came within one or other of these exceptions at the time of entry he failed to remain within either, in that he earned his living as a clerk and thus became

subject to the provision which lays down that persons "who fail to maintain in the United States a status or occupation placing them within the excepted classes shall be deemed to be in the United States contrary to law and shall be subject to deportation".

(d) However much therefore I may sympathise with Mr. Rait, the Honourable Member will, I trust, appreciate Government's inability, in view of Mr. Rait's self-confessed contravention of the American immigration laws, to attempt to obtain any redress from the United States' Government for his deportation.

FIRING ON RAILWAY STRIKERS AT BAMANGACHI.

10. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy :** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the strictures passed by the Magistrate of Howrah, in his orders dated the 9th May, on the Officer Commanding the Eastern Frontier Rifles who opened fire on a crowd of railway strikers on March 28 last near Howrah ?

(b) Is it a fact that firing was resorted to on the orders of the Police Superintendent ; that no warning was given to the crowd before this was done ; that before the arrival of the Police Superintendent, Captain Christie proceeded to act on his own responsibility in placing pickets and regulating and stopping traffic on the road ; that there was no order to aim low, with the result that at least one man was shot through the head ; and that the shots were fired not at the crowd as a body but at selected persons in the crowd who were specially picked out each time by Captain Christie, who himself and not the Police Superintendent selected the direction in which to fire ?

(c) What inquiries, if any, have the Army authorities made in the matter, and with what result ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : (a) Yes. *

(b) All the circumstances connected with this case have been thoroughly investigated by the Government of Bengal, but they have been advised that no conclusions should be published until the completion of the trial in which one of the leaders of the strikers is being charged with perjury and bringing a false case against Mr. Mould, Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer. In the circumstances the Honourable Member will understand that I am not able to deal with the points raised on this question.

(c) No inquiry has been made by the Army authorities, as the matter concerns the civil authorities. The Eastern Frontier Rifles is not a battalion of the Army, but of the Military Police.

SUPPRESSION OF A RADIO MESSAGE SENT BY MR. BERNARD HOUGHTON, A "RETIRED I. C. S. OFFICER, TO THE FREE PRESS OF INDIA.

11 ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh :** (a) Are Government aware that the following radio message sent by Mr. Bernard Houghton, I.C.S., (Retired), on or about the 11th February 1928, addressed to the Free Press of India, Bombay, was withheld by the authorities :

"Look at the past of those who sponsor the Commission. Birkenhead was the bitter enemy of Irish National Freedom. Simon supported the illegal imprisonment of

Irish in London, and last year fought the British Miners. Remember Macdonald's notorious record in India, China, and Egypt. Is it credible that these men, in their united front, intend the liberties of India? Is it not clear that they wish Indians to again co-operate in forging their own chains? Whatever their words, they have but one mind, and it is set on British domination."

(b) If so, do Government propose to make an enquiry as to the suppression of this message?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : (a) Yes.

(b) The message was withheld under the authority of the Bombay Government.

SUPPLY BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS OF CERTAIN INFORMATION TO THE SIMON COMMISSION.

12. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh :** Is it a fact that the Government of India have asked Local Governments to supply certain information to the Simon Commission? If so, will Government be pleased to lay a copy of their communication on the table?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : The invitation to submit memoranda issued by the Indian Statutory Commission on the 6th March, 1928, was addressed equally to the Government of India, the Local Governments and the general public. The Commission suggested to the Government of India that the most convenient procedure would be that the Local Governments should submit their memoranda direct to the Commission. Accordingly the Local Governments were requested by the Government of India to send the memoranda prepared by them direct to the Commission, copies being sent simultaneously to the Government of India for their information. They were further informed that it would be for each Provincial Government to decide for itself the nature of the reply which it would make to the Commission, selecting the particular matters on which it proposed to lay its views before the Commission. The Government do not propose to lay on the table a copy of their communication to the Local Governments.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Are Government aware that the Government of Bihar and Orissa have prepared a paper on the subject which is at variance with facts, and with official records in many respects?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : I am not aware of it.

PROSCRIPTION OF BOOKS PUBLISHED IN ENGLAND.

13. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh :** Will Government be pleased to state for the guidance of booksellers and other members of the public the names of books and their authors, published in England, but which have been proscribed by the Government?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : The Honourable Member is presumably referring to books published in England, the bringing of which into British India has been prohibited under section 19 of the Sea Customs Act, 1878. The number of such books is small, and Government see no

necessity to publish a list. The prohibition of any book under the Act is always notified in the Gazette of India, and Government are prepared to furnish information to any bookseller or private individual as to whether a particular book about which such bookseller or individual may be in doubt has been proscribed. Such information will also be furnished by the India Office or the High Commissioner for India in answer to any inquiries which may be addressed to them in England.

Lala Lajpat Rai : Are the Government aware that in the absence of any list of proscribed books, sometimes people are taken by surprise, when they arrive in Bombay or Karachi, and when they are told that certain books are proscribed ? Are such lists available in the office of the High Commissioner or in any other office in England or in India or anywhere else which will show to people coming back to India whether certain books are proscribed or not ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : As I pointed out in my main reply, the Government of India, the India Office and the Office of the High Commissioner are always ready to reply to any inquiries which may be addressed to them.

Lala Lajpat Rai : How is a person to know that a certain book is proscribed ? If you keep a list of proscribed books, certainly he will be able to know whether a particular book is proscribed or not ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : I think that if any one is in doubt whether a certain book is proscribed or not, he can easily solve it by making inquiries in the matter as I have suggested.

Mr. K. Ahmed : In view of the fact that a large majority of young students, innocent as they are, who return to this country from England after completing their education abroad, fall victims, in the absence of any list of proscribed books, when their boxes are searched by customs officers, do Government propose for the benefit of the country as well as of the student population and others returning to India to supply a list of proscribed books, so that they may not purchase such objectionable books ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : I am not aware that any inconvenience to the extent mentioned by the Honourable Member has been experienced.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : What is the objection to publishing a list of books which are proscribed in this country so that people interested might know beforehand that those books are proscribed ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : The Government of India consider that the publication in the Gazette of India, and their readiness to supply information which I have already alluded to, adequately meets the case.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Is a complete list of proscribed books published in the Gazette of India beforehand ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : All books which are dealt with under this section of the law are duly notified in the Gazette of India.

Lala Lajpat Rai : Is the Honourable Member aware that there are certain books which are put in the list of proscribed books and afterwards removed ? Before anybody comes to India, how is he to know whether certain books still continue to remain in the list of proscribed books or not ? There are certain books originally put on the list of

Government and afterwards they are removed. Will the Honourable Member kindly explain to us what difficulty is there if the Government of India will undertake to publish only a list of books which are proscribed ?

Mr. K. Ahmed : Do you mean a list of books proscribed before a student is born, who has gone to England and is to return to India ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : I regret I cannot add anything more to what I have said already on the subject.

OPENING BY THE POST OFFICE OF LETTERS ADDRESSED TO MRS. BESANT.

14. ***Lala Lajpat Rai :** (i) Has the attention of the Government of India been drawn to Mrs. Besant's complaint about her letters being opened in the Post Office ?

(ii) Are the Government of India responsible for the order under which action was taken or did the Government of India give that order ?

(iii) If so, will the Government of India give the reasons for such action ?

(iv) Are there lists prepared under the orders of the Government of India of persons whose letters are opened ?

(v) If so, what are the general or special principles which are applied in selecting names for such list or lists ?

(vi) Is there any All-India list of persons whose letters are subjected to the process complained of by Mrs. Besant ? If so, are there any Provincial lists besides ?

(vii) Has the Home Department of the Government of India any control over the process of opening letters, examining their contents and disposing of them ? If so, what kind of control has the Home Department, and who performs that function ?

(viii) What kind of officers open these letters ?

(ix) What kind of officers read them ? Are all the letters addressed to the gentlemen whose names are on the list, opened or only some ? If the latter, how is the selection made ?

(x) What kind of letters are detained and not delivered ?

(xi) Why is not the fact of the letters having been opened stated on the cover ?

(xii) Do the Government of India propose to make a statement of general policy about this matter and do they propose to take steps to prevent the annoyance that is caused to people engaged in constitutional agitation by this process ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : (i) to (iii). I invite the Honourable Member's attention to my answer to Mr. Ranga Iyer's unstarred question No. 2 of to-day's date on the subject.

(iv) to (vi). I invite the Honourable Member's attention to my answer to Mr. Ranga Iyer's unstarred question No. 3 of to-day's date, which explains the discretion of the various Governments and the principles by which they are bound.

(xii) to (xiv). The Government of India in the Home or any other Department or any Local Government are empowered to issue orders under section 26 (1) of the Indian Post Office Act. No general orders have been issued as to procedure, which will depend on the instructions given in any particular case to the postal officials and on the nature of the case.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunru : May I ask whether the Honourable Member is in order in replying to a starred question by referring to the answer given to an unstarred question put on the same day ? Is he not bound to give full information in reply to a starred question ?

Mr. President : I think Honourable Members have an advantage in having with them previously replies to unstarred questions.

Several Honourable Members : No, Sir ; we have not got replies to unstarred questions as yet.

Lala Lajpat Rai : Is the Honourable Member aware that there is a great deal of excitement over this question ? Is he aware that in almost every important post office in India there is a censor put up who opens letters and then reposts them ? Is that within the authority of the Government of India ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : As I pointed out, it is impossible to lay down any general procedure in the matter. Individual cases or classes of cases must be dealt with according to their nature. We constantly lay down a general policy or general procedure, because obviously this is not a matter in which a routine procedure could be adopted.

Lala Lajpat Rai : I am asking for information ; it is not a question of policy at all. Is it a fact or not that in Lahore and Delhi Post Offices there is a postal censor who opens letters, reads them and replaces them and re-addresses them ? Is it a fact or not ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : I have no information.

Lala Lajpat Rai : The Government of India ought to have information on such an important subject as this.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunru : May I ask, Sir for your decision on the point of order I raised ?

Mr. President : I think the Honourable Member is quite right. The Government should take care that in their replies to starred questions they make no reference to replies given on the same day to unstarred questions.

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : May I say one word, Sir ? I do feel that I owe an apology to the Honourable Member. It escaped my notice that there was a reference to an unstarred question in my reply. I quite see the inconvenience to Honourable Members. In future I shall see that references to unstarred questions which are not already in possession of Honourable Members will not be included in replies to starred questions.

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer : May I request the Honourable Member to put us in possession of answers to unstarred questions every day before we come to the House ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : I shall take note of the Honourable Member's suggestion.

DISMISSAL OF MR. B. L. deROZARIO, LATE DEPÔT STOREKEEPER, ALAMBAGH.

15. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub** : (a) With reference to the replies to parts (a), (b) and (c) by Mr. A. A. L. Parsons to my starred question No. 286 in the Legislative Assembly on the 23rd February 1928, will the Government be pleased to furnish :

(i) instances of Mr. B. L. deRozario, late Depôt Storekeeper, Alambagh, having given delivery of *any* brass material to the auction purchasers of March 1922 ;

(ii) of his being in league with other employees in committing the alleged fraud ; and

(iii) of any wilful intent on his part to defraud ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Railway authorities made no joint departmental enquiry of their own as is done in all such cases ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to furnish, in addition to extract of Controller of Stores, Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway's office order No. G./90, dated 6th December 1921 (already received on 3rd May 1928), appointing Mr. deRozario as Depôt Storekeeper, Charbagh, on Rs. 250 per mensem, a copy of the office order issued by the Controller of Stores, Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway Office, detailing the duties of a Depôt Storekeeper, by which Mr. deRozario was directly responsible, as Depôt Storekeeper, for the loss of the brass material said to have occurred in March 1922 ?

RESPONSIBILITY OF GAZETTED OFFICERS IN DIRECT CHARGE OF EACH STORES DEPÔT OF THE LATE OUDH AND ROHILKHAND RAILWAY.

16. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub** : (a) Is it a fact that after the retirement from railway service of Mr. G. A. Roach, Depôt Storekeeper, Charbagh Depôt, on Rs. 400 per mensem and Lala Nathoo Ram, Depôt Storekeeper, Alambagh Depôt, on Rs. 300 per mensem—both upper subordinates of the Stores Department, Lucknow,—in the year 1914, each Stores Depôt of the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway, Lucknow, was placed in direct charge of a gazetted officer by Mr. D. E. Keatinge, the then Chief Storekeeper, and that this system was strictly adhered to by Mr. Keatinge and his *six successors as well*, right up to July 1925, the date of amalgamation of the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway with the East Indian Railway ?

(b) If so, what share of responsibility devolved on the gazetted officer, for the deliveries of valuable auction material such as brass, copper, zinc and lead ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : I propose, with your permission, to answer questions Nos. 15 and 16 together. Government regret that they cannot undertake to collect the further information required. I would remind the Honourable Member that he has been given very full information with regard to this case in the replies to his questions No. 237 of 24th August 1927 and No. 286, dated 23rd February 1928, in which he was informed that though the Special Police Investigating Officer secured proof that Mr. deRozario had been implicated in certain fraudulent transactions it was decided to deal with him departmentally ; a charge sheet was given to him and his services were dispensed with by the railway authorities because he was unable to give satisfactory replies to the charges brought against him. The Honourable Member was also informed of the disciplinary action taken

against the gazetted officer who, at the time of the fraud, held charge over the Charbagh Stores Department.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE SINGHAJANI-TANGAIL-PINGNA RAILWAY.

17. ***Mr. A. H. Ghuznavi** : (a) Has the traffic survey with regard to the proposed Singhajani-Tangail-Pingna Railway which the Government stated on September 1, 1927, would be undertaken been completed ? (*Vide* Assembly Debates of September 1927, Volume IV, No. 54, page 3812.)

(b) Will the Government please make a statement as to the nature of the results of the survey ?

(c) If the results of the survey are satisfactory, do Government propose to expedite the construction of the line ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : I understand that the traffic survey and a revised engineering estimate have been completed and that they show estimated net earnings of Rs. 3,53,000 and capital cost of rather over 70 lakhs. But the estimate of net earnings does not take into account the effect of the Dacca-Aricha Railway, if that railway is constructed ; and in fact the whole position as regards railway development in Eastern Bengal will in that event be considerably modified. I am unable therefore to say at present whether, and, if so, at what approximate date, this line will be taken up.

THE DACCA-ARICHA RAILWAY.

18. ***Mr. A. H. Ghuznavi** : (a) Will the Government be pleased to make a statement in regard to the Dacca-Aricha Railway project with reference to their reply to my question on the subject on February 1, 1928 (*vide* Assembly Debates, Volume I, page 8) ?

(b) Have the Railway Board considered the report and the estimates submitted by the Agent of the Eastern Bengal Railway and with what results ?

(c) If the Railway Board have approved of the scheme, when do the Government propose to take the matter in hand ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : The Railway Board have considered the report and estimates of the Dacca-Aricha Railway project, and the Government of India have addressed the Secretary of State on the subject.

19.†

PROVISION OF A WAITING ROOM AT SERAJGUNJ GHAT STATION ON THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

20. ***Mr. A. H. Ghuznavi** : (a) Are the Government aware that at Serajgunj Ghat station on the Eastern Bengal Railway there is no waiting room for the travelling public ?

(b) Are the Government aware that Serajgunj Ghat Road station has no shelter for passengers in bad weather ?

(c) If so, do Government propose to take steps to provide a waiting room at Serajgunj Ghat station at an early date ?

† Withdrawn.

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : Government are not aware of the detailed arrangements at Serajganj Ghat station, but have sent a copy of the Honourable Member's question to the Agent of the Eastern Bengal Railway in order that he may consider whether any alterations are desirable.

RESERVATION OF COMPARTMENTS ON STATE RAILWAYS.
21. Mr. A. H. Ghuznavi : (a) Are the Government aware that different railways have different rules in regard to the reservation of compartments ?

(b) Do Government propose to take steps to remedy this and introduce uniform rules for all State Railways ?

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

(b) Government do not consider it necessary to have a uniform practice on all railways in a matter of this kind. The practice on each railway must be determined by local conditions.

Mr. K. Ahmed : Do Government propose to have a uniform rule for reservation of compartments as far as State Railways are concerned ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : No, Sir. As I explained in my answer, it is not a matter in which Government consider uniformity either necessary or desirable.

Mr. K. Ahmed : Are the Government aware that the public will have a very bad opinion of the Government, because in the case of the train that goes from Delhi to Calcutta you can reserve your berth without any cost, while if you book from Calcutta to Delhi you have to pay a reservation fee of eight annas and purchase the ticket in advance ? Does the Honourable Member realise it ?

APPOINTMENT OF SEPARATE BOOKING CLERKS AT DELHI FOR THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA AND BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAYS.

22. Mr. A. H. Ghuznavi : (a) Are the Government aware that at the Delhi station there is only one booking clerk for both the Great Indian Peninsula and the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railways to the great inconvenience of the travelling public ?

(b) Are Government prepared to take steps to provide a booking clerk for each of the railways ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) and (b). Government do not receive information as to the number of booking clerks employed at individual stations, but they have sent a copy of the Honourable Member's question to the Agent of the North-Western Railway—the arrangements at Delhi Main station are under the control of the North-Western Railway Administration—and have asked him to see that such action as may be found to be required is taken.

Mr. M. S. Aney : Will the Government be pleased to submit whatever reply may be received by the railway authorities from the Agent concerned to the Members of this House ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : I am quite prepared to let Mr. Ghuznavi know what the reply is, if the Agent sends a reply.

PROVISION OF FANS IN SECOND CLASS CARRIAGES ON THE BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY.

23. ***Mr. A. H. Ghuznavi** : (a) Are the Government aware that in some of the second class carriages on the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway no fans are provided ?

(b) In view of the fact that in the heat of the summer months the absence of fans in these carriages is a great inconvenience to the travelling public, are Government prepared to take steps to remedy this ?

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

(b) Government understand that the Agent of the Railway is taking steps to provide fans where they are not at present provided.

PROVISION OF LATRINES IN SERVANTS' COMPARTMENTS ON THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA AND EAST INDIAN RAILWAYS.

24. ***Mr. A. H. Ghuznavi** : (a) Are the Government aware that both in the Great Indian Peninsula and the East Indian Railway trains no privies are provided in the servants' compartments ?

(b) Are the Government aware that this is a great hardship for the servants especially when they have to travel over long distances at a stretch ?

(c) Do Government propose to take steps to remedy this ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a), (b) and (c). Government are aware that a good many of the present servants' compartments on the Great Indian Peninsula and East Indian Railways have no privies, but privies are being provided in the servants' compartments of all the new standard carriages.

RETIRING ROOMS AT STATIONS ON THE DIFFERENT STATE RAILWAYS.

25. ***Mr. A. H. Ghuznavi** : (a) Will the Government be pleased to make a statement as to the number of stations in which retiring rooms are provided under the different State Railways in India ?

(b) Are Government prepared to take steps to provide more such rooms at an early date ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : The Railway Board understand that there are at present retiring rooms at two stations on the North-Western Railway, and at one on the East Indian Railway. They have asked the Agents of the State-managed Railways to consider the question of providing such rooms at other stations where it appears probable that the expense will be justified by the use made of the rooms.

UNSUITABLE RETIRING ROOMS AT AJMER.

26. ***Mr. A. H. Ghuznavi** : (a) Are the Government aware that the retiring rooms at Ajmer are not comfortable owing to their large size ?

(b) Are Government prepared to take steps to improve these rooms by remodelling and altering them, by cutting up the existing rooms into smaller compartments suited to the convenience of the public ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) and (b). Government are not aware of the detailed arrangements at Ajmer, but have sent a copy of the Honourable Member's question to the Agent of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway for any action which he may think necessary.

Rai Sahib Harbilas Sarda : Have the Government received any information or any complaint from any body at Ajmer that the rooms are large ? I do not think the rooms are too large and nobody has ever complained that the rooms are in any way unsuitable.

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : I am not aware that any complaint has been received, Sir. On the other hand, as I am sending him a copy of the question, the Agent will no doubt be able to decide the matter.

PROVISION OF COMPLAINT BOOKS IN FIRST AND SECOND CLASS CARRIAGES ON ALL TRAINS.

27. *Mr. A. H. Ghuznavi : Do Government propose to provide a complaint book on all trains (in the first and second class carriages) in order that passengers might note in them any defects with regard to the supply of water, lights and fans with instructions that in all terminus stations these books should be inspected by proper authorities and action should be taken on them ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : The Railway Board are consulting Railway Administrations on the Honourable Member's suggestion

Mr. N. M. Joshi : May I ask, Sir, whether the Government will consider the desirability of keeping complaint books in the third class compartments also ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : I very much doubt if they would utilise them, Sir.

ELECTRIFICATION OF THE CALCUTTA RAILWAYS.

28. *Mr. A. H. Ghuznavi : (a) Will the Government make a statement as to the present position of the scheme for the electrification of the Calcutta Railways ?

(b) Are the Government aware that the electrification of the Bombay Railways has not only been financially profitable but has also been a great advantage to the travelling public and has removed the serious congestion from which the people of the town of Bombay were suffering ?

(c) Are the Government aware that there is a congestion in Calcutta in regard to its population and that house-rents for ordinary people are prohibitive ?

(d) In view of the facts referred to in parts (b) and (c) above, do Government propose to take steps to introduce electrification of the railways in Calcutta and its suburbs and thus remove the congestion of this city as well ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) The Railway Board have recently received from their Consulting Electrical Engineers their observations on the electrical side of the scheme and also a revised estimate of the cost of the civil engineering side of the scheme from an officer whom they placed on special duty for this purpose. They are at present considering these reports.

(b) Government believe that the electric services in Bombay have been appreciated by the public and have tended to remove congestion. They anticipate that they will prove a financial success.

(c) Government are not prepared to express an opinion on these matters which are more within the province of the Provincial Government.

(d) As the Honourable Member will have learnt from my answer to part (a) of his question, the question of electrifying the lines in the neighbourhood of Calcutta is actively under the consideration of the Railway Board.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PRESS BY GOVERNMENT SERVANTS.

29. ***Lala Lajpat Rai** : (a) Will the Government of India state if they have made any rules by which writing for the Press by Government servants is regulated ?

(b) Are Government aware that large amounts of money are earned by Government servants, by writing for the Anglo-Indian papers, based on knowledge obtained from Government records ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar : (a) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to rules 17, 18 and 19 of the Government Servants' Conduct Rules a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

(b) Government have no reason to believe that large sums of money are earned in the way suggested. The question of remuneration in such cases is a private matter for arrangement between the contributor and the newspaper.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO JOURNALS IN INDIA OF ARTICLES REGARDING THE DISCOVERIES MADE BY THE ARCHÆOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT DURING 1927.

30. ***Lala Lajpat Rai** : (a) Will the Government state what they mean by reserving the copyright of a pamphlet known as "Exhibition of Antiquities discovered by the Archæological Department during the year 1926-27" ?

(b) Are Government aware that articles based on these discoveries have been contributed to different journals in India and outside, illustrated by pictures taken of the things discovered and unearthed, by the highly paid officers of the Archæological Department ? Were these officers paid for the articles ? Will the Government give their names and the amounts earned by them ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : (a) The pamphlet referred to by the Honourable Member was made copyright only to prevent its publication before its contents had been discussed at a conference of archæological experts. As soon as the conference had finally settled its terms, the "copyright" was withdrawn.

(b) Officers of the Archæological Department are allowed at present to contribute illustrated as well as unillustrated articles to the Press on payment. The question of revising the existing orders on the subject is under consideration.

Lala Lajpat Rai : Was the fact of the withdrawal of the copyright announced in the papers ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : The fact that the contents of this copyright book were communicated to the newspapers was tantamount to the withdrawal of the copyright reservation.

RESTORATION AND PRESERVATION OF THE BUILDINGS CONNECTED WITH THE MEMORIES OF RANI LAXMI BAI OF JHANSI.

31. ***Lala Lajpat Rai :** (a) Will the Government of India state if the places and buildings of the Hindu rulers of Jhansi are protected monuments within the Protected Monuments Acts ?

(b) Are Government aware that Rani Laxmi Bai of Jhansi is held in great reverence and esteem by the Hindus of Bundelkhand ?

(c) Do Government propose to restore and preserve the buildings connected with the memories of Rani Laxmi Bai's times ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : (a) No.

(b) Yes.

(c) Government are considering the matter.

OPENING OF PORTS IN INDIA TO THE PILGRIM TRAFFIC.

32. ***Mr. A. H. Ghuznavi :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the names of the ports of India open to the traffic of pilgrims to Mecca ?

(b) Is it a fact that the port of Calcutta was open to pilgrim traffic in the year 1927 and that it was closed down in 1928 ?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state why the port of Calcutta was closed to such traffic ?

(d) Are the Government aware that the pilgrims are hard hit by having to travel to Bombay for sailing for Mecca ?

(e) Do Government propose to open the different ports of India like Calcutta, Madras, Karachi, Chittagong and Bombay to such traffic ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : (a) Bombay, Karachi and Calcutta.

(b) and (c). The port of Calcutta was open to pilgrim traffic in 1927 and also in 1928.

(d) Bombay not being the only port open to pilgrim traffic, pilgrims may embark at Calcutta or Karachi, if they do not wish to travel to Bombay.

(e) As I have already replied, Bombay, Karachi and Calcutta are already open to pilgrim traffic. The question of opening Chittagong and Madras has been considered by the Government of India on several occasions, but they have not been convinced of the necessity of adopting this course.

HARASSMENT OF PILGRIMS BY MOALLEMS.

33. ***Mr. A. H. Ghuznavi :** (a) Are Government aware that the *Moallems* by their activities harass the pilgrims especially financially by taking them to Bombay ?

(b) Do Government propose to make a law for restricting the activities of *Moallems*, making it obligatory for them to take out a proper licence from a committee to be constituted for this purpose ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : (a) and (b). Reports on the subject referred to by the Honourable Member and suggestions for dealing with it have been received from the Government of Bengal and are under consideration by the Government of India.

STEAMER FARES TO JEDDAH FROM DIFFERENT INDIAN PORTS

Mr. A. H. Ghumavi : (a) Are Government aware that the Haj pilgrims are hindered by the absence of any fixed rates in regard to the steamer fares to Jeddah from different Indian ports?

(b) Do Government propose to take steps to fix rates of fares for the different steamer services from Indian Ports to Jeddah?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : (a) and (b). The reply to both parts of the question is in the negative.

UNBOOKED LUGGAGE OF THIRD CLASS PASSENGERS

35. *Mr. A. H. Ghumavi : (a) Are the Government aware that third class passengers are subjected to great hardships with their unbooked luggage is stowed by the railway men on the way?

(b) Are Government aware that most of the third class passengers are not conversant with the railway rules?

(c) Do Government propose to revise the rules in regard to the charging of freight from passengers with unbooked luggage?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : Government are aware of the existence of some dissatisfaction with the existing rule under which the free allowance of luggage is forfeited when a passenger is found with excess luggage for which no payment is made at the starting station; and the question whether the rule should be altered is at present being considered by the Indian Railway Conference Association.

RESULTS OF THE I. C. S. EXAMINATION HELD IN INDIA IN 1928

36. *Mr. B. S. Moorti : (a) Will Government be pleased to state the result of the competitive examination held this year in India for selection of Indian students for appointment to the Indian Civil Service?

(b) How many Indian students appeared for the examination?

(c) How many of them were Hindus, Muslims and Christians?

(d) How many were successful in being appointed to the Indian Civil Service?

(e) How many of these successful students were Hindus, Mahomedans and Christians, and how many marks did each of them get in the examination?

(f) Will Government be pleased to state the names of the students (with the number of marks obtained by each) who stood high in the list and from amongst whom students were selected and appointed to the Indian Civil Service?

The Honourable Mr. A. Ghumavi : (a) and (f) I will furnish the Honourable Member with a copy of the table of the results of the examination.

(b) The number of candidates appearing at the examination, which is restricted to persons of Indian domicile, was 124.

(c) Hindus 85, Muhammadans 25, and Christians 7.

(d) and (e). Six Hindus were appointed on the result of the competitive examination. Seven others, viz., 4 Muhammadans, 2 Burmans and one Sikh, whose names have already been announced, were subsequently appointed by nomination. The table which I am sending the Honourable Member will show him the number of marks secured by each. No Christian was appointed.

Nawab Sir Sahibzada Abdul Qaiyum : May I know, Sir, who are the examiners who set the papers and who correct and mark the answer papers, and whether there are any Indians on the Board, and, if so, how many of them are Moslems and how many Hindus ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar : The general arrangements for the examination are in charge of the Public Service Commission.

Nawab Sir Sahibzada Abdul Qaiyum : I am asking about the examiners who set the papers and correct and mark the answer papers.

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar : I am afraid I cannot answer that question without a very great deal of research.

EXAMINATION FOR CERTIFICATES AS FIRST AND SECOND CLASS MINES MANAGERS.

37. ***Dr. B. S. Moonje :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state in connection with the granting of first and second class Mining Manager's Certificates by the Board of Examiners appointed by the Governor General in Council, the number of Indian students who appeared each year during the last 5 years for the prescribed examination for such certificates ?

(b) How many of them were successful in each year in getting the certificates ?

(c) How many of those who have been fortunate enough in getting such certificates are now employed as Mining Managers ?

(d) Who conducts the actual examination of students, the Board or any other agency set up by it ?

(e) What are the subjects prescribed for the examination and the rules, if any, connected therewith ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. McWatters : (a) and (b). I lay on the table a statemnet giving the required particulars.

(c) Of those Indians who secured certificates in the years 1923 to 1927, 13 holding first class certificates and 43 holding second class certificates are at present managers of mines.

(d) The examinations are conducted by local examiners appointed by the Board of Examiners.

(e) The information is contained in the Rules on the subject made by the Board of Examiners. A copy of the Rules has been sent to the Honourable Member.

Statement showing the number of Indians who appeared at the examinations for Coal Mine Managers' Certificates, and the number to whom certificates were awarded, during each of the years 1923-27.

Years.	First Class.		Second Class.	
	No. of Indians who appeared.	No. of Indians who obtained certificates.	No. of Indians who appeared	No. of Indians who obtained certificates.
1923 ..	87	5	265	34
1924 ..	88	5	326	27
1925	101	6	386	16
1926 ..	91	6	371	12
1927	69	4	194	23

RECEPTION ACCORDED TO THE SIMON COMMISSION IN INDIA.

38. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether any official report of the reception accorded to the Simon Commission in India has been sent to the Secretary of State for India ?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to lay it on the table ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : (a) The answer is in the negative.

(b) Does not arise.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : Was any confidential report made then ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : The answer is in the negative. No such report was made at all.

GOVERNMENT'S DISAPPROVAL OF THE ALLEGATIONS MADE BY MISS MAYO IN HER BOOK "MOTHER INDIA" AGAINST INDIANS.

39. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether any steps have been taken by Government to express their disapproval of the allegations made by Miss Mayo in her book "Mother India" against Indians ?

(b) If not, do Government propose to take any such steps ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the answers given by me in this House on the 20th September 1927 to the questions asked on the subject.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : That was only an advice given at that time. Will the Government take any steps to express its own approval or disapproval ? That was only an advice given to local agencies to pronounce condemnation of the book. But my further question is, whether Government is prepared to take upon itself to express its condemnation or disapproval of this scurrilous book.

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : On the occasion to which I have referred I answered a very large number of questions at very great length and I defined the position of the Government on that occasion. I regret that I have nothing further to add on the present occasion.

Mr. K. Ahmed : I take it that it is not the duty of the Government of India to express disapproval.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : My supplementary question, Sir. Does the Government approve of that book ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : The Honourable Member is asking for an opinion. I am not prepared to express any opinion.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : You are not prepared to express disapproval also ?

INTERCEPTION OF THE LETTERS OF MR. RASH BEHARI BOSE.

40. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai :** (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the letter of Mr. Rash Behari Bose, dated 7th April 1928, appearing in the *National Herald* of Bombay, dated 24th May 1928 (dak edition)—on page 3 ?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the allegations regarding the interception of his private letters contained in that copy of the *Indian National Herald* are correct ?

(c) If so, will the Government be pleased to state :

(i) whether the letters are being intercepted by any order issued by Government ?

(ii) whether the Government have found in those letters anything objectionable ? If yes, will the Government be pleased to place those letters on the table ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The correspondence of Rash Behari Bose is being intercepted under the orders of Government. He absconded from India in order to avoid prosecution on charges of conspiracy to wage war against the King and murder. Government are not prepared to make any statement regarding the contents of letters written to or by this man, who, according to admissions made in the letter to which the Honourable Member refers, is continuing his revolutionary activities from abroad.

ANTI-INDIAN PROPAGANDA.

41. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai :** (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to an editorial note under the heading of "Anti-Indian Propaganda" appearing in the *People of Lahore*, dated 17th May 1928 ?

(b) Do Government propose to take any action against the said H. W. Millington (General Post Office, Calcutta, India) ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : (a) I have seen the article.

(b) Mr. Millington is not known at the General Post Office, Calcutta.

SIND LAND ALIENATION BILL.

42. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether any correspondence has passed between the Bombay Government and the Government of India with respect to the proposed Sind Land Alienation Bill ?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to place it on the table ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : (a) The reply is in the negative.

(b) Does not arise.

PRESENTATION OF VALUABLE FINDS MADE AT MOHENJO-DARO TO THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

43. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state how much in all has been spent up to the present time on the excavations of Mohenjo-daro in Sind ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Government have sent out or intend sending out jewellery and other precious finds to be kept in the British Museum, London ? If so, why ?

(c) Do the Government propose to have the rest of the mounds in the area of Mohenjo-daro excavated ? If so, when and what would be the probable cost thereof ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : (a) About Rs. 160,000 up to the end of May 1928.

(b) No.

(c) Yes, from now onwards. The cost of the work will be about half a lakh a year, but the total amount, which will depend on the complete period for which excavation goes on, cannot be estimated with any approach to accuracy at this stage.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : Will Government establish a museum at Mohenjo-daro ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : I would like to have notice of that question. I cannot answer off hand whether Government will consider the suggestion or not.

WAITING ROOMS FOR INTERMEDIATE CLASS PASSENGERS AT STATIONS ON THE SIND SECTION OF THE NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

44. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if waiting rooms for intermediate class passengers (men and women) are provided for on the Sind section of the North-Western Railway ?

(b) If yes, will the Government be pleased to state the names of the stations ?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state when they propose to provide such waiting rooms on stations which do not possess the same ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) and (b). Waiting rooms are not generally provided on this section at present. There is one for ladies at Shikarpur.

(c) The Railway Administration alone can judge whether the traffic justifies provision of a waiting room at any particular station and I have sent a copy of the Honourable Member's question to the Agent, North-Western Railway.

WAITING ROOMS FOR FIRST AND SECOND CLASS PASSENGERS AT STATIONS ON THE SIND SECTION OF THE NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

45. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the names of the stations on the North-Western Railway (Sind section) including flag stations which do not possess waiting rooms for first and second class passengers ?

(b) Do Government propose to construct waiting rooms for first and second class passengers on these stations ?

(c) Which stations on the North-Western Railway (Sind section) are provided with rest rooms only and no first and second class waiting rooms ?

(d) Are the Government aware that rest rooms are generally refused to first and second class passengers which causes great inconvenience to them ?

(e) Are Government prepared to issue general orders that where no waiting rooms exist, the rest rooms should be thrown open to first and second class passengers ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) and (c). I am sending the Honourable Member the list of the stations.

(b) No.

(d) and (e). The rest rooms provided at certain stations are for the use of railway officials on duty. Government are not aware of any inconvenience caused to first and second class passengers on this account and are not prepared to issue the general orders suggested.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : Will Government be pleased to provide waiting rooms positively where there are no waiting rooms or rest rooms ? Is Government going to do that ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : As I have explained, Sir, the provision of waiting rooms or rest rooms is a matter which we leave to the Agents. I am prepared to send a copy of the Honourable Member's question to the Agent of the North-Western Railway together with a copy of the question which he has just put to me, but the decision must be left to the Agent.

Mr. K. Ahmed : Will the Honourable Member convey the reply which he will receive from the Agent to the Honourable Member (the questioner) ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : I was careful to word my reply so as not to impose upon the Agent the necessity of giving me an answer.

PROVISION OF FANS IN INTERMEDIATE AND THIRD CLASS CARRIAGES ON THE NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai :** (a) Are the Government aware of the urgent need of fans in the intermediate and third class carriages on the North-Western Railway ?

(b) Are the Government prepared to take early steps to provide fans in the intermediate and third class carriages on the Punjab and Sind sections ?

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

For the views of Government on this question I would refer the Honourable Member to the replies given to Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan's questions Nos. 1160 and 1161 on the 25th of March 1927.

PROVISION OF A SHED ON THE PLATFORM ON SHIKARPUR STATION ON THE NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

47. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai :** (a) Are the Government aware of the necessity of a shed on the platform of the Shikarpur station in Sind on the North-Western Railway ?

(b) Do Government propose to provide that station with a shed at an early date in view of its importance ?

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

(b) Small matters of this kind are left to the Agent, to whom a copy of the Honourable Member's question has been sent.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : Will the Government ask the Agent to expedite the putting up of the shed ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : No, Sir. I think it is a matter which can very well be left to the Agent's discretion.

ESTABLISHMENT IN SIND OF A TRAINING SCHOOL FOR SUBORDINATES OF THE NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY. :

48. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state how many training schools for railway subordinates there are on the North-Western Railway and where ?

(b) Are Government aware that there is great necessity of such a training school for railway subordinates on the North-Western Railway (Sind section) being established in Sind ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) One, temporarily located at Lyallpur, but about to be transferred to Kot Lakhpat.

(b) No.

NUMBER OF TRAFFIC INSPECTORS ON THE NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY DRAWING RS. 320 TO RS. 500 PER MENSEM.

49. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the total number of posts of Traffic Inspectors (Transportation Branch) on the North-Western Railway drawing rupees 320 to 500 *per mensem*, ?

(b) How many of these are Hindus, Muhammadans, Parsis, Goanese, Eurasians and Europeans ?

(c) How many of them are permanent and how many officiating ?

NUMBER OF STATION MASTERS IN CLASSES IV, V, VI, VII AND VIII ON THE NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

50. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of station masters in the following cadre on the North-Western Railway ?

CADRE.

<i>Class.</i>				<i>Pay.</i> <i>Rs.</i>
iv	..	..	..	200—10—250
v	..	..	..	250—10—300
vi	..	..	..	330—15—350
vii	..	..	..	360—20—400
viii	..	..	..	425—25—500

(b) How many are permanent and how many officiating ?

(c) How many of these are Hindus, Muhammadans, Parsis, Goanese, Eurasians and Europeans ?

NUMBER OF GUARDS, CLASS IV, ON THE NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

51. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state how many guards there are on the North-Western Railway in the following cadre ?

CADRE.

<i>Class.</i>				<i>Pay.</i> <i>Rs.</i>
iv	..	..	..	125—10—185—200—210

(b) How many of these are permanent and how many officiating ?

(c) How many of these are Hindus, Muhammadans, Parsis, Eurasians and Europeans ?

NUMBER OF DRIVERS, CLASS IV, ON THE NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

52. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state how many drivers there are on the North-Western Railway in the following cadre ?

CADRE.

<i>Class.</i>				<i>Pay.</i> <i>Rs.</i>
iv	..	..	..	140—10—220—10|2 years 230.

(b) How many of these are permanent and how many officiating ?

(c) How many of these are Hindus, Muhammadans, Parsis, Goanese, Eurasians and Europeans ?

NUMBER OF PERMANENT WAY INSPECTORS IN CLASSES II, III, IV AND V ON THE NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

53. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state how many Permanent Way Inspectors there are on the North-Western Railway in the following cadre ?

CADRE.

Class.	Pay.
	Rs.
ii	400—25—450
iii	475—25—500
iv	550—25—600
v	625—25—675

(b) How many of these are permanent and how many officiating ?

(c) How many of these are Hindus, Muhammadans, Parsis, Goanese, Eurasians and Europeans ?

NUMBER OF SIGNAL AND INTERLOCKING, AND BLOCK SIGNAL INSPECTORS ON THE NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY DRAWING FROM RS. 400 TO RS. 675 PER MENSEM.

54. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state how many Signal and Interlocking, and Block Signal Inspectors there are on the North-Western Railway in the following cadre ?

CADRE.

Class.	Pay.
	Rs.
ii	400—25—450
iii	475—25—500
iv	550—25—600
v	625—25—675

(b) How many of these are permanent and how many officiating ?

(c) How many of these are Hindus, Muhammadans, Parsis, Goanese, Eurasians and Europeans ?

NUMBER OF BRIDGE INSPECTORS IN CLASSES II AND III ON THE NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

55. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state how many Bridge Inspectors there are on the North-Western Railway in the following cadre ?

CADRE.

Class.	Pay.
	Rs.
ii	400—25—500
iii	550—25—675

(b) How many of these are permanent and how many officiating ?

(c) How many of these are Hindus, Muhammadans, Parsis, Goanese, Eurasians and Europeans ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : I propose with your permission, Sir, to answer questions Nos. 49—55 together.

A statement giving the information asked for in part (a) of these questions is being sent to the Honourable Member.

With regard to (b), the number of men officiating varies so frequently that it is not practicable to give figures.

With regard to (c), the information in possession of Government in connection with communal representation on the North-Western Railway will be found in Volume I (Appendix F) and Volume II (Appendix C), of the Report on Indian Railways for 1926-27, a copy of which is in the Library. The statistics were formulated in the form there given after consultation with, and acceptance by, the Central Advisory Council for Railways and Government do not consider it desirable to supplement them by details regarding individual offices or posts.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : Will Government undertake an enquiry as to the causes of disproportion of the appointments in the different communities and will Government direct a suitable revision thereof ?

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

Nawab Sir Sahibzada Abdul Qaiyum : Have the Government recognised the Goanese as a separate community ?

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru : What is the reason for the refusal of Government to supply the detailed statistics asked for by the Honourable Member, particularly with regard to Traffic Inspectors ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : I am supplying the Honourable Member with the statistics asked for in part (a) of his question with regard to Traffic Inspectors. The reasons for not supplying figures of communal representation apply just as much to Traffic Inspectors as to any other branch or office.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru : May I know whether the information asked for in part (b) of the question is confidential ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : My answer with regard to part (b) was that the number of men who officiate vary so frequently that it is not practicable to give figures. It varies almost from day to day as appointments become vacant by people going on leave and so on.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru : It is part (c) which refers to permanent and officiating men. I am asking what objection there is to replying to part (b) of question No. 49.

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : I must apologise to the Honourable Member. I overlooked that part (b) of question No. 49 is part (c) in the remaining questions. I have already explained to the House on many occasions the reasons why Government do not consider it desirable to give this information with regard to individuals offices or posts.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru : May I ask the Honourable Member whether in regard to information which is not of a confidential character it is open to Government to say that they will not supply it or that they will not take the trouble of collecting it and placing it on the table of the House ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : It is always open to Government to refuse information when it thinks it is in the public interests to do so.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru : Do Government realise that these questions have to be asked because they have taken no action in the past on the recommendations of this House with regard to the appointment of Indians in these posts, and particularly to the posts of Traffic Inspectors on the North-Western Railway ? The reply of the Government amounts to an evasion of the question altogether and I ask whether it is permissible for Government to do so in regard to questions which do not ask for confidential information ?

LOSS OF LIFE AND OTHER CASUALTIES OCCASIONED BY COMMUNAL RIOTS SINCE THE 22ND JULY 1926.

56. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to give statistics as to the loss of life and other casualties occasioned by communal riots in India since the 22nd July 1926 ?

(b) What steps have Government taken to stop the communal tension in India ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to the statement laid on the table in connection with the reply which I gave in this House on the 14th September 1927 to Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava's question on this subject. I now lay on the table a further statement giving particulars in respect of riots since reported. The numbers of persons killed and persons wounded during the period referred to in the Honourable Member's question as reported to the Government of India are 149 and 1,345 respectively.

(b) I would refer the Honourable Member to the answer given in this House to the late Mr. Harchandrai Vishindas' question of the 18th August 1926.

Statement showing the Hindu-Muhammadan riots from September 1927 to 30th June 1928.

Date.	Place of occurrence.	Casualties.
11th September 1927 ..	Ahmedabad, Bombay	1 killed, a few injured (number not known).
28th September 1927 ..	Dehra Dun, U. P.	2 killed and 31 injured (10 seriously).
4th and 5th October 1927	Jubbulpore, C. P.	18 injured.
28th October 1927 ..	Gaya (Bihar and Orissa) ..	1 seriously injured.
14th November 1927 ..	Delhi	2 killed and 69 injured.
5th March 1928 ..	Khandala (Tata Construction Company's Workshop, Bombay Presidency.	1 fatally injured. 37 injured.

Date.	Place of occurrence.	Casualties.
7th March 1928 ..	Ol, Muttra District, U. P. ..	One killed, 20 (4 or 5 seriously) injured.
30th March 1928 ..	Harkol village, Kolaba District, Bombay.	14 injured.
22nd April 1928 ..	Chandur, Biswa, Buldana District, C. P.	16 injured.
24th April 1928 ..	Kamatipura, Bombay	6 injured.
30th May 1928 ..	Muzaffarpur District, Bihar and Orissa.	1 killed, 4 injured.
Do. ..	Darbhanga District, Bihar and Orissa.	4 injured.
Do. ..	Gaya, Bihar and Orissa ..	2 wounded.
Do. ..	Parora village, Aligarh District, U. P.	1 killed.
Do. ..	Madehpur village, Jullundur District, Punjab.	5 injured.
Do. ..	Softa village, Gurgaon District, Punjab.	14 killed. 33 injured.
31st May 1928 ..	Malikpur village, Ambala District, Punjab.	10 killed. 9 injured admitted to hospital.
27th June 1928 ..	Bombay City	12 injured.
29th June to 1st July ..	Kharagpur, Bengal	15 killed. 21 injured (treated at the Railway Hospital).

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : I have seen Mr. Harchandrai Vishindas's question. Will Government be pleased to say what reconciliatory methods they have taken to bridge the gulf between the communities ? They only gave advice to non-official leaders to do so. What I ask is, what steps Government have taken to bridge the gulf between the different communities ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : The reply, which I quoted, of my late predecessor gives a concise but comprehensive account of the attitude of Government in the matter.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : That information is not, in my opinion, definite. I want to know whether Government are going to do anything definite in order to bridge the gulf or not ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : I must repeat that I consider the reply to that question is contained in the answer to which I have referred. If the Honourable Member desires a more specific reply he will perhaps give me notice of a question.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : Will Government be pleased to direct the District Officers to make earnest and honest efforts by forming committees of the leaders of the communities to bring about a rapprochement ?

Mr. K. Ahmed : May I ask one supplementary question ?

Mr. President : Order, order. Question No. 57. Mr. Lalchand Navalrai.

REVISED PENSION RULES FOR THE INFERIOR SERVICES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY.

57. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai :** Are Government aware that the Bombay Government have sanctioned the revised pension rules in respect of inferior services ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : Yes.

REVISED PENSION RULES FOR THE SUBORDINATE SERVICES.

58. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai :** Will Government be pleased to state when the final orders regarding revised pension rules in respect of the subordinate services are expected to be passed ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to part (b) of the reply given in this House by Sir Basil Blackett, on the 15th February last, to Mr. Kelkar's question No. 92. The position is unchanged.

PRINTING OF RAILWAY RULES AND REGULATIONS IN THE VERNACULARS.

59. ***Mr. A. H. Ghuznavi :** (a) Are Government aware that third class passengers suffer inconvenience owing to their ignorance of railway rules and regulations ?

(b) Are Government prepared to take steps to have the rules printed in the vernacular languages and circulate them free among the public or sell them at a nominal price ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : Government certainly consider that a wider acquaintance on the part of third class passengers with the ordinary rules and regulations governing railway travelling would be of advantage to all parties concerned, and the Railway Board have considered the Honourable Member's suggestion. But they incline to the view that at present at any rate it would do little good to make printed vernacular translations of the principal rules available, and that a more promising method of tackling the problem is to appoint enquiry clerks in the larger waiting sheds.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Are Government prepared to have the substance of these rules printed in the vernacular and put up at the railway stations and in the third class carriages ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : I believe I am correct in saying that we are already considering that expedient, but I am a little doubtful myself whether we shall get the third class passengers to read them.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : No. Many of them do read.

PROVISION OF THIRD CLASS TOURIST CARS FOR PILGRIMS AND MARRIAGE PARTIES ON ALL RAILWAYS.

60. ***Mr. A. H. Ghumnavi :** (a) Are Government aware that for the special convenience of pilgrim and marriage parties a third class tourist car has been provided on the South Indian Railway at a reasonable fare ?

(b) Are Government prepared to take steps to provide similar cars on all other railways in India ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) Yes, as an experiment.

(b) Also as an experiment, the East Indian Railway Administration are already building similar cars and the North-Western Railway Administration have been asked to do so. The question of extending the use of such cars will be considered when the results of the experiment on these railways are known.

CRIMINAL CASE INSTITUTED IN CALCUTTA AGAINST DR. J. A. DUNN OF THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA.

61. ***Mr. A. H. Ghumnavi :** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to a criminal case in Calcutta in which Dr. J. A. Dunn of the Geological Survey of India was prosecuted on a charge of having on July 11, 1927, at the New Market Post Office, thrown a parcel at Mr. H. K. Roy, parcels clerk, and injured him ?

(b) Are Government aware that the Chief Presidency Magistrate in passing judgment passed strictures on Dr. Dunn ?

(c) Do Government propose to cause an enquiry into the matter and take such steps as they think fit ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. McWatters : (a) Yes.

(b) In the opinion of the Government the remarks made by the Chief Presidency Magistrate in pronouncing judgment can hardly be construed as strictures on Dr. Dunn.

(c) No.

OMISSION BY THE CALCUTTA INCOME-TAX DEPARTMENT TO FURNISH INFORMATION TO ASSESSEES IN THE NOTICE ISSUED UNDER SECTION 34 OF THE INDIAN INCOME-TAX ACT, 1922.

62. ***Mr. A. H. Ghumnavi :** Will the Government be pleased to state why no information is given to an assessee in the notice under section 34 issued by the Calcutta Income-tax Department as to what income had escaped assessment in the particular accounting year or as to what further information is required upon either a source of income or rate of assessment of the assessee ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : The Indian Income-tax Act does not require that the notice issued under section 34 should contain the information mentioned. In October 1926, however, the Central Board of Revenue prescribed a form in which spaces are provided for entering this information, and the Commissioner of Income-tax, Bengal, reports that this form is in use in Calcutta and that these spaces are filled up before it is issued.

ADMISSION TO THE READING ROOM OF THE IMPERIAL LIBRARY, CALCUTTA.

63. *Mr. A. H. Ghumanavi : (a) Is it a fact that some new rules have been introduced into the Imperial Library at Calcutta regarding the admission of readers into the reading room ?

(b) Is it a fact that only permanent ticket holders are now admitted into the reading room ?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state why tickets are no longer issued temporarily to daily readers ?

(d) Is it a fact that permanent tickets are now issued only to people who are recommended by gazetted officers ?

(e) Do Government propose to revise this rule for the benefit of the general public, especially poor students, and make it possible for them to enter the Library under easier conditions ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : (a) No, an old rule which was in abeyance for sometime has been revived.

(b) No.

(c) Temporary tickets are issued to daily readers.

(d) No.

(e) Students whose applications are endorsed by the Professor of any College in Calcutta or by some respectable gentleman can always gain admission to the reading room of the Library by application to the Librarian ; so can members of the general public. The need for revising the rules does not therefore arise.

TRANSFER OF THE RECORDS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA FROM CALCUTTA TO DELHI.

64. *Mr. A. H. Ghumanavi : (a) Is it a fact that the buildings for housing the Imperial records of the Government of India have been completed at New Delhi ?

(b) Is it a fact that some of the records of the Government of India have already been transferred to Delhi ?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state why there is delay in transferring the other records from Calcutta to Delhi ?

(d) Do Government propose to expedite the transfer of the records from Calcutta to Delhi ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) and (d). The condition of the records of the " Company " period, i.e., the period prior to 1860, renders it necessary that they should be classified, flattened and cased and such of them as are damaged repaired in Calcutta before they are transferred to Delhi. This work is now in progress.

TOTAL NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS AND APPEALS TO THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS OR THE COMMISSIONER OF CALCUTTA UNDER SECTIONS 27 AND 30 OF THE INDIAN INCOME-TAX ACT, 1922.

65. *Mr. A. H. Ghumanavi : (a) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the total number of applications and

appeals respectively, under sections 27 and 30 of the Indian Income-tax Act of 1922, preferred to the Assistant Commissioners or to the Commissioner of Calcutta, as the case may be, during the period of six months from May 1926 to October 1926, and how many of these applications and appeals were either allowed (including modifications of assessments) or rejected ?

(b) Will the Government be further pleased to lay a statement on the table shewing how many applications and appeals under sections 27 and 30, respectively, were preferred to the Assistant Commissioners of Income-tax, Calcutta, and how many of them were either allowed (including modifications of assessments) or rejected during a period of six months from November 1926 to April 1927 ?

(c) Who were the Assistant Commissioners of Calcutta during May 1926 to October 1926 and from November 1926 and after ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : (a), (b) and (c). A statement giving the information asked for is laid on the table. In the question the words "preferred to the Assistant Commissioners or to the Commissioner of Calcutta, as the case may be" should presumably read "preferred to the Income-tax Officers or to the Assistant Commissioners, as the case may be". Such applications and appeals do not lie to the Commissioners of Income-tax except when an Assistant Commissioner is exercising the powers of an Income-tax Officer. It may be noted that as the bulk of assessments are made during the last two quarters of the year, the number of applications under section 27 and of appeals under section 30 is larger in the second than in the first half year.

		Allowed.	Rejected.	Total.
(a) Applications under Section 27.	May 1926 to October 1926	107	177	284
Appeals under Section 30..	Do. ..	130	84	214
(b) Applications under Section 27.	November 1926 to April 1927.	150	295	445
Appeals under Section 30..	Do. ..	247	242	489
(c) Assistant Commissioners in Calcutta during May 1926 to October 1926—				
May 1926 to middle of September 1926	.. ..	Mr. T. T. Williams. Mr. W. B. Kirkwood.		
Middle of September 1926 to October 1926	.. ..	Mr. T. T. Williams. Khan Bahadur Ataur Rahman		
Assistant Commissioners in Calcutta from November 1926 and after—				
November 1926 to December 1926	.. ..	Khan Bahadur Ataur Rahman Rai Sahib S. N. Banerjee.		
January 1927 to March 1927	.. ..	Mr. Hubert Graham, I.C.S. Khan Bahadur Ataur Rahman. Rai Sahib S. N. Banerjee.		
April 1927 to middle of October 1927	.. ..	Khan Bahadur Ataur Rahman Rai Sahib S. N. Banerjee.		
Middle of October 1927 to December 1927	.. ..	Mr. Hubert Graham, I.C.S. Rai Sahib S. N. Banerjee. Mr. O. K. Martin.		
January 1928 to date	.. ..	Mr. Hubert Graham, I.C.S. Khan Bahadur Ataur Rahman. Rai Sahib S. N. Banerjee.		

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

PROLONGED STAY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA IN NEW DELHI.

1. **Mr. Amar Nath Dutt** : Will Government be pleased to lay on the table recent correspondence, if any, relating to the prolonged stay of the Government of India in New Delhi ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : Government are not prepared to place the correspondence on the table.

INTERCEPTION OF MRS. BESANT'S LETTERS.

2. **Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer** : (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to a signed article in *New India* of May 16th by Mrs. Besant complaining against interception of her letters by the Government ?

(b) Is it a fact that Mrs. Besant's letters have been intercepted ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : (a) and (b). Government have seen the article referred to. The allegation made by Mrs. Besant is that for some months past her letters have been intercepted and interfered with by Government. The allegation is entirely without foundation.

INTERCEPTION OF LETTERS WRITTEN TO OR BY DANGEROUS CHARACTERS.

3. **Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer** : (a) Is it a fact that the letters written to or by dangerous characters are intercepted by the orders of Government ?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the reasons for such orders ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : (a) and (b). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the provisions of the Indian Post Office Act, 1898 (Act VI of 1898), which empowers Governments in India to intercept correspondence on the occurrence of a public emergency or in the interest of the public safety or tranquillity.

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT'S SHARE OF THE INCOME-TAX COLLECTED IN BIHAR AND ORISSA.

4. **Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh** : Is it a fact that the net total of the Income-tax collected in Bihar and Orissa in 1926-27 was Rs. 39,47,179 of which the share of the Provincial Government was Rs. 3,23,581 only ? If so, will Government be pleased to say if they propose to bring about a more equitable adjustment of the shares between the Provincial and the Central Governments in this matter ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : The correct figures of the net total of income-tax collected in Bihar and Orissa in 1926-27 and of the share of the Provincial Government are Rs. 38,61,792 and Rs. 3,24,361, respectively. As regard the second part of the question, the Honourable Member is referred to the reply given on the 7th March 1928 to the unstarred question by Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan, No. 325.

LOCATION OF THE INDIAN REFRESHMENT ROOM AT PATNA JUNCTION.

5. **Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh** : (a) Are Government aware that the building of the Patna Junction railway station (East Indian Railway)

has become insufficient for the growing needs of the Railway, as well as of the travelling public, in view of Patna being the capital of the Province of Bihar and Orissa, and requires remodelling and expansion ?

(b) What arrangements, if any, are contemplated in this direction ?

(c) Are Government aware that the European refreshment room at Patna Junction is situated on the station platform, while the Indian refreshment room has been located outside the main station building, and at some distance from it, and that it is thereby causing considerable inconvenience to passengers ? Do Government propose to arrange for the location of the Indian refreshment room on the main platform of the station ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) and (b). There is no scheme for the remodelling of the Patna Junction railway station at present before Government.

(c) Government are not aware of the exact location of the Indian refreshment room, but are sending a copy of the Honourable Member's question to the Agent of the East Indian Railway with a request that he will consider whether the arrangements at this station require improvement.

REDUCTION OF INTERMEDIATE CLASS FARES ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

6. **Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh :** Is it a fact that the fares of first, second and third classes have been reduced on the East Indian Railway, and that the fares of the intermediate class have not at all been reduced ? If so, why ? Do Government propose to reduce intermediate class fares as well ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : Intermediate class fares by ordinary trains on the East Indian Railway were reduced on the 1st of January 1926 and by mail trains on the 1st of March, 1928. No further reduction is at present in contemplation.

EMPLOYMENT OF ADDITIONAL BOOKING CLERKS TO COPE WITH THE HEAVY THIRD CLASS BOOKING AT PATNA JUNCTION.

7. **Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh :** Is it a fact that at Patna Junction railway station (East Indian Railway) there is only one booking clerk for the third class to issue tickets for the Up, Down and other trains, much delay and inconvenience being caused thereby to passengers ? Do Government propose to provide additional hands to cope with the heavy third class booking at that station ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : Government do not receive information as to the number of booking clerks at individual stations, but have sent a copy of the Honourable Member's question to the Agent of the East Indian Railway for such action as may be found to be required.

SEPARATION OF THE OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FROM THE LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

8. **Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if they have consulted the Secretary of State regarding the separation of the office of the Legislative Assembly from the Legislative Department ?

(b) When do they propose to put the scheme into operation ?

Mr. L. Graham : (a) The reply is in the affirmative.

(b) As soon as possible after the sanction of the Secretary of State is received.

WANT OF A DEAD LETTER OFFICE IN THE BIHAR AND ORISSA POSTAL CIRCLE.

9. Kumar Ganganand Sinha : (a) Is it a fact that there was a Dead Letter Office at Dinapore till 1905 and it was amalgamated with the Calcutta Dead Letter Office by reason of the partition of Bengal in that year ?

(b) Is it a fact that after the creation of the province of Bihar and Orissa, the Post and Telegraph Department created at Patna a separate postal circle, known as the Bihar and Orissa Postal Circle, without any Dead Letter Office ?

(c) Is it a fact that the original intention of the Post and Telegraph Department was to open a Dead Letter Office at Patna and that not only was room allotted for the Dead Letter Office in the original plan of the new postal building at Patna but Mr. Sullivan, the then Personal Assistant to the Postmaster General, Bihar and Orissa, was sent to Calcutta in connection with the establishment of the office at Patna ?

(d) If the answer to part (c) is in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state in detail the reason for abandoning the intention of establishing a Dead Letter Office at Patna and place on the table of this House the correspondence substantiating those details ?

(e) Is there any Postal circle other than the Bihar and Orissa Circle which has no Dead Letter Office under it ? If so, will the Government be pleased to state their names ?

(f) Is it a fact that the Postmaster General of Bihar and Orissa has no hand in the matter of supervision or administration of the Calcutta Dead Letter Office notwithstanding the fact that it is the Dead Letter Office of Bengal and Bihar and Orissa ?

(g) Are Government aware of the fact that the testing of the efficiency of post offices in Bihar and Orissa suffers much for want of a Dead Letter Office in the circle ?

Mr. P. G. Rogers : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Yes, the Sind and Baluchistan Circle.

(f) Yes.

(g) Government are not aware that the absence of a Dead Letter Office in the Bihar and Orissa Circle has impaired the efficiency of the postal service in that area.

**NUMBER OF CLERKS EMPLOYED IN THE DEAD LETTER OFFICE AT CALCUTTA,
ETC.**

10. Kumar Ganganand Sinha : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of clerks employed in the Dead Letter Office at Calcutta on :

- (i) 16th October 1905,
- (ii) 1st January 1907,
- (iii) 1st January 1910,
- (iv) 1st April 1924,
- (v) 1st April 1928,

dividing them by the provinces to which they belonged and sub-dividing them into Hindus and Mussalmans ?

(b) In the case of the province of Bihar and Orissa will the Government be pleased to indicate the number of Biharis and Oriyas separately and state how many of the number indicated are persons belonging to the communities domiciled in Bihar and Orissa as different from the native inhabitants of the Province ?

(c) How many natives of Bihar have been appointed as clerks in the Dead Letter Office during the last 14 years ?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to state the method followed for the recruitment of the different grades of clerks in the Dead Letter Office and the qualifications required for the same ?

(e) Is it a fact that during the last 14 years no Bihari has been appointed as a Manager of the Dead Letter Office, and that men were recruited from the Railway Mail Service and the Calcutta Postmaster General's office to fill the vacancies ? If so, will the Government be pleased to state reasons for the same ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. McWatters : (a) (i)—(iv). No information is available.

(v) Bengal—63 (43 Hindus and 20 Mussalmans).

Bihar—11 (10 Hindus and 1 Mussalman).

Orissa—2 (2 Hindus only).

United Provinces—5 (5 Hindus only).

Bombay—2 (2 Hindus only).

Madras—2 (1 Hindu and 1 Christian).

(b) 11 Biharis and 2 Oriyas. All are natives of Bihar and Orissa respectively.

(c) Four. This number includes one Bihari Mussalman entertained after the 1st April 1928 making the total number of Biharis employed in the Dead Letter Office 12.

(d) Recruitment is made according to requirements. The "Matriculation" is the minimum educational qualification and preference is given to candidates having a knowledge of different languages.

(e) No Bihari has been appointed Manager of the Dead Letter Office for the last 14 years. An official of the Railway Mail Service was

appointed as Manager. The reason was that at the time no senior suitable man was available for the post.

DEPUTATION OF THE INDIAN POLICE ASSOCIATION TO HIS EXCELLENCY
THE VICEROY.

11. **Mr. Amar Nath Dutt** : Is it a fact that His Excellency the Viceroy received a deputation of the Indian Police Association consisting of Messrs. Ewart Powell and Smith on the 8th June last ? If so, will the Government be pleased to state the subject or subjects which were discussed and the reply of His Excellency the Viceroy ? Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table all information in their possession about the deputation ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Creer : The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. The questions discussed related to certain matters connected with the conditions of service of the Indian Police Service. Government do not consider it necessary to lay on the table any papers on the subject.

CONSTRUCTION OF A RAILWAY BRIDGE OVER THE GUNDUK.

12. **Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh** : Is there a proposal to construct a railway bridge over the Gunduk between the proposed Chakia-Karnoul-Thawe section of the Bengal and North Western Railway, in Bihar ? If so, has provision been made for a footpath on the bridge ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : The line mentioned by the Honourable Member is only under survey, and no decision has yet been reached whether it will be constructed. It is not therefore possible at present to give an answer to his question.

CONSTRUCTION OF A RAILWAY BRIDGE OVER THE GANGES AT MOKAMEH
GHAT.

13. **Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh** : (a) Is it a fact that the Secretary of State for India has sanctioned the construction of a railway bridge over the Ganges at Mokameh Ghat ? If so, when is the work of construction likely to be taken up ?

(b) Is there a proposal that the railway bridge at this point will be for the broad gauge, and that the East Indian Railway will be extended up to Baraurie Junction (Bengal and North Western Railway), Bihar, for transhipment of goods and passengers between the East Indian Railway and the Bengal and North Western Railway ?

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

(b) No.

CONSTRUCTION OF A RAILWAY FROM MASHRUK TO THAWE.

14. **Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh** : Will Government kindly state when the construction of the railway line from Mashrak to Thawe (Bengal and North Western Railway) in Bihar is likely to be taken up and completed ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : The line was sanctioned on the 14th of June this year, and provision for the commencement of construction has been

made in the current year's Budget. It is anticipated that it will be completed in 1930-31.

STATE MANAGEMENT OF THE BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

15. Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Do Government propose, in pursuance of their declared policy, to bring under State control and management the administration of the Bengal and North Western Railway, or any section of it ? If so, when ? And if not, why not ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : The right to determine the contract does not arise until the 31st of December 1932 when it can be determined on giving one year's notice. This applies to all sections of the railway. The question whether it should then be determined has not yet been considered.

LOCATION OF THE IMPERIAL LIBRARY.

16. Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : With reference to my starred question No. 143 of the 31st January 1927, regarding the location of the Imperial Library, Calcutta, will Government be pleased to state the substance of the recommendation of the Committee which was appointed to consider this question, together with the decision of the Government thereon ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : The Committee recommended the retention of the Imperial Library in Calcutta. The Government of India have accepted the recommendation.

CONSTRUCTION OF A RAILWAY BETWEEN MUZAFFARPUR AND SITAMARHI.

17. Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : (1) Have Government received copy of the following Resolution which was passed unanimously by the Muzaffarpur District Board, on the 28th April 1928 :

" (a) The Muzaffarpur District Board strongly recommends the early construction of a direct railway line between Muzaffarpur and Sitamarhi, inasmuch as Sitamarhi is an important and growing Sub-Division of Muzaffarpur, and it is confidently expected that the passenger as well as goods traffic will justify the outlay, and the line is likely to prove remunerative, and will remove a long felt want of the public.

(b) The Local Government has already recognised the urgency of this line, *vide* proceedings of the Bihar and Orissa Legislative Council, dated the 25th July 1921, and 7th August 1926.

(c) Copies of this Resolution be forwarded to (1) the Secretary, Railway Board, Simla ; (2) the Agent, Bengal and North Western Railway, Gorakhpur ; and (3) Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh, M.L.A., Muzaffarpur, for necessary action."

(2) What is the position with regard to this railway project ?

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

(2) The Agent of the Bengal and North Western Railway has carried out a traffic survey, the results of which have recently been reported to the Railway Board and are under their consideration.

OPENING HOURS OF BOOKING OFFICES AT RAILWAY STATIONS.

18. Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : (a) Will Government kindly give the names of the Railway Administrations which have carried out the instructions issued in May 1926, in pursuance of my suggestion that the opening

hours of booking offices should be notified by posters in the vernacular in front of third class booking windows at all stations, as stated by the Honourable Sir George Rainy in this House on the 28th February 1928 ?

(b) If the orders have not yet been carried out by any Railway Administration, will the Government be pleased to give reasons for the non-compliance ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) Information has been received from all Railways that this has now been done.

(b) Does not therefore arise.

THIRD CLASS BOOKING OFFICE AT KATHGODAM.

19. Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : (a) Are Government aware that at Kathgodam railway station (Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway) there is no notice put up before the third class booking office to indicate the booking hours ?

(b) Is it a fact that this Booking Office is not open for 24 hours, with the result that there is a lot of rush at the booking window for tickets ?

(c) Are Government aware that Kathgodam is the terminus for people going up to, or coming down from Naini Tal, Almora, etc., and traffic is heavy during the season ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) No. Government are informed that there is a notice at the booking office windows.

(b) The booking office is not open for 24 hours. The Railway Administration has experienced no undue rush and passengers are booked without difficulty and in good time by the trains they intend to travel.

(c) Kathgodam is a terminal station but the inward and outward traffic is not so heavy that it cannot be efficiently dealt with by the staff provided.

PROHIBITION OF THE IMPORT OF VEGETABLE GHEE.

20. Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : (a) Are Government aware that in reply to a question in the Bihar and Orissa Legislative Council on the 20th March 1928, on the subject of what is called vegetable ghee or Banaspati ghee, the Local Government replied that " it has been analysed and reported on in a paper by the Chemical Examiner, Punjab, published in the Indian Journal of Medical Research for January 1927 " ; and that " it is a pure vegetable oil which is prepared in factories in Holland and Germany. In the preparation process, the vitamins are destroyed and the food value is therefore seriously affected. It may be used in cooking, e.g., for frying, but is not good as a direct ingredient in food-stuffs " ?

(b) Do Government propose to prohibit the import of this article into India ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : (a) Yes.

(b) The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to parts (c) and (d) of Raja Raghunandan Prasad Singh's question No. 13 in the House on 1st February last.

PETITION FROM MR. DRIGHNATH SINGH AND OTHERS.

21. Kumar Ganganand Sinha : (a) Have Government received any petition from Mr. Drighnath Singh and others through their attorney regarding their claim to certain properties in the district of the Santhal Parganas ?

(b) If so, when was it forwarded by the Bihar and Orissa Government ?

(c) If the answer to (a) is in the negative, are the Government aware that the petitioners submitted their memorial to the Bihar and Orissa Government on the 17th October, 1927 ?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to state the maximum delay permissible in forwarding petitions ?

(e) What discretion lies with the Local Governments in this matter ?

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

(b) In December, 1927.

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

REPRESENTATION OF INDIANS ON THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN FIJI.

22. Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : (a) Is it a fact that there are about 65,000 Indians in Fiji, for whom only 3 seats on the Legislative Council of Fiji are proposed to be allotted, while as many as 6 seats are to be given to the Europeans, who are only about 5,000 in number ?

(b) What steps have Government taken, or propose to take, to remedy this racial differentiation ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : (a) and (b). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the answers given by Mr. Bhore to his starred question No. 252 and the connected supplementaries on the same subject on the 2nd February 1927. No suitable opportunity has since occurred of suggesting an increase in the representation of the Indian community on the Fiji Legislative Council.

ABOLITION OF THE POL-TAX LEVIED ON INDIANS IN FIJI.

23. Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Is it a fact that Mr. Badri Maharaj, who was the only Indian—a nominated member—on the Fiji Legislative Council, resigned his seat as a protest against the imposition of the poll-tax in Fiji ? Is this tax levied only on Indians ? If so, why ? Have Government taken any steps to bring about its abolition ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : With regard to the first and second parts of the question, the attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given on the 13th March 1925 to his starred question No. 1194. The third part of the question does not arise. As regards the fourth part, the Honourable Member is referred to part (a) of the reply given on the 15th February 1927 to his question No. 446.

PUBLICATION OF AN UP-TO-DATE INDIAN BRADSHAW BY THE RAILWAY BOARD.

24. Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Do the Railway Board propose to publish an authoritative and up-to-date Indian Bradshaw, and to sell it to the public at a cheap rate ? If not, why not ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : Government are not prepared to endorse the Honourable Member's criticism on the publication mentioned by him. The Publicity Office are now publishing a time table of the principal railways of India at the price of Re. 1.

CONSTRUCTION OF A RAILWAY FROM RISHIKESH TO KARNPRAYAG.

25. Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : (a) Will Government kindly state how far the project of constructing a railway line from Rishikesh to Karnprayag, in Garhwal (United Provinces) has progressed ?

(b) Is it a fact that the programme of railway construction and projects for 1929-30 which was placed before the twenty-second meeting of the Board of Communications, United Provinces, held at Lucknow, on the 4th April 1928, included the Rishikesh-Karnprayag Railway ? If so, what decision was arrived at ?

(c) Are Government aware that the opening of the Rishikesh-Karnprayag Railway will tap the forest resources of the mountains in Garhwal, and is likely to prove remunerative, besides serving the pilgrim traffic to Badri Nath shrine ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) The Railway Board are awaiting the abstract estimate and revised traffic report which the Railway Administration were asked to complete by June of this year.

(b) Government have no information ; and the project stands eighth on the list of new projects recommended by the Government of the United Provinces for 1929-30.

(c) Information on these points will no doubt be contained in the traffic survey report which is awaited.

CONSTRUCTION OF A RAILWAY BETWEEN INDIA AND BURMA.

26. Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the following Resolution passed by the Indian Industrial and Commercial Congress, held in Madras in December 1927 :

“ This Congress is of opinion that the construction of a railway line connecting India with Burma is an urgent necessity, and recommends to the Government of India to consider the admissibility of constructing such a railway at the earliest possible opportunity ”

(b) Is there any proposal for constructing such a line ? If not, why not ?

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

(b) The answer to the first part of this question is, no, and to the second, that there is no hope of any such line being at present remunerative.

LEAVE RULES OF INDIAN OFFICERS ON THE ASSAM-BENGAL RAILWAY, THE BENGAL-NAGPUR RAILWAY AND THE BENGAL AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

27. Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : (a) Will Government kindly state whether Indian officers appointed in England, and in India, on the Assam-Bengal Railway, Bengal-Nagpur Railway, and the Bengal and North

Western Railway, are entitled to the same furlough rules as European officers on those Railways are entitled to ?

(b) What is the position of Indian officers appointed in India, and in England, regarding leave rules on State Railways, compared with those on Company Railways ? Are the status of Indian officers in this matter the same on these Company Railways as on State Railways ? If not, why not ?

(c) Do Government propose to take necessary steps to equalise their status, so that Indian officers may not be worse off in this respect as compared with English officers ?

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

(b) The grant of furlough to officers of Asiatic domicile on State-managed Railways is regulated by the Fundamental Rules of which there is a copy in the Library. The Fundamental Rules are not in force on Company-managed Railways ; but the Companies can frame leave rules for their employees, whether European or Indian, within the limits of certain general rules which were laid down in 1901, and a copy of which is in the Library. As a result, the leave rules, of both European and Indian Officers, on Company-managed Railways are not the same as those of officers on State-managed Railways.

(c) Government do not propose to take any action. The officers concerned are the servants of the Companies, and it rests with the Companies to determine what their leave rules should be within the limits laid down in 1901.

SEPARATE WAITING ROOM FOR FIRST AND SECOND CLASS EUROPEAN PASSENGERS AT HARDWAR.

28. **Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh :** With reference to starred question No. 453 of the 19th March 1928, and the reply of Government that there is a separate waiting room for first and second class European passengers at Hardwar railway station, will the Government be pleased to state why this racial discrimination is being maintained ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : The Agent has instructed the Divisional Superintendent that the upper class waiting rooms are to be available for all passengers with upper class tickets and are not to be reserved solely for European passengers.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO ENQUIRE INTO THE AFFAIRS OF THE DELHI UNIVERSITY.

29. **Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh :** Is it a fact that the Government appointed a Committee about a year back to enquire into the affairs of the Delhi University ? Has the report of the Committee been submitted, and when ? And when is it likely to be available ? What are the decisions of the Government thereon ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : The answer to the first question is in the affirmative. The report was submitted to the Government of India on the 28th December 1927 ; it is now under consideration, but no final conclusions have yet been reached by Government. Six copies of the report have been placed in the Library of the House.

NUMBER OF CADETS UNDERGOING TRAINING ON THE TRAINING SHIP "DUFFERIN".

30. **Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh :** (a) With reference to my unstarred question No. 380 of the 13th March last, will Government kindly state separately the number of candidates from the different Provinces, who are under training for careers in the Mercantile Marine in the Training Ship "Dufferin" ?

(b) What is the period of training, and what stipends, allowances, etc., if any, are given to the students during their course of training ? What is the monthly fee levied from the students ; and what are their prospects after they have qualified ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : (a) The number of cadets from different Provinces who are undergoing training on the "Dufferin" is as follows :

Madras	..	..	..	..	1
Bombay	..	..	..	..	10
Bengal	..	..	..	..	2
United Provinces	..	..	..	..	5
Punjab	..	..	..	..	3
Burma	..	..	..	..	1
North-West Frontier Province	..	..	..	..	1
Delhi	..	..	..	..	1
Ajmer-Merwara	..	..	..	..	2
Indian States	..	..	..	..	3

(b) Information on the various points referred to is contained in the Prospectus of the Training Ship "Dufferin", a copy of which is available in the Library of the Legislature.

SMUGGLING OF OPIUM FROM NEPAL INTO BIHAR AND ORISSA.

31. **Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh :** With reference to my unstarred question No. 382 of the 13th March 1928, regarding the smuggling of opium from Nepal into the Province of Bihar and Orissa, and the reply of the Government that "measures for checking smuggling from Nepal are being considered", will Government kindly state the measures which have been taken, or are proposed to be taken, to check this evil ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : The matter is still under consideration.

NOMINATION OF A QUALIFIED SIKH TO THE INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE IN 1928.

32. **Sardar Gulab Singh :** (1) Is it true that a certain number of selections of qualified candidates are made every year by the Government of India for nomination to the Indian Civil Service with the object of adjusting communal inequalities arising out of the results of the yearly examination ?

(2) Is it true that matters other than position of the candidate in the examination, such as family services to the Government, are also taken into consideration in making the above-mentioned selections ?

(3) Is it a fact (a) that, in view of the principle mentioned in (1), no Hindu candidate could have been selected this year ; (b) that Mr. Tarlochan Dass Bedi, S/o Ishar Dass Bedi, of Dera Baba Nanak, Punjab, has been selected this year ?

(4) Are Government aware of the fact that the Sikh community has been, for some years past, ventilating its grievance that a due share is not given to it in the said selections ?

(5) Is it a fact (a) that the Government of India this year allotted one post to the Sikh community for selection ; and asked for the recommendation of a *Sikh* candidate ; (b) that the *Punjab Government* recommended the aforesaid Mr. Tarlochan Dass Bedi for selection as a *Sikh* candidate ?

(6) Is it a fact (a) that the Sikh community, through its various agencies, conveyed, to the Government, its protest against the recommendation and selection of Mr. Tarlochan Dass Bedi as a *Sikh* as he is *not* a Sikh but is a Hindu ; (b) that the Government of India were favourable to the above Sikh view ?

(7) Are Government aware of the strong feeling prevalent among the Sikh community to the effect that the said post reserved for it this year has not been given to it ?

(8) Will the Government be pleased to state (a) why the said post has not been given to a qualified *Sikh* candidate ; (b) whether it has been withdrawn ? If so, why ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : (1) Selections are made by the Government of India on the advice of the Public Service Commission.

(2) No. The only question taken into consideration is the individual candidate's personal fitness for appointment.

(3) (a) It was not found necessary to reserve for Hindus any of the vacancies set aside for adjusting communal inequalities.

(b) Yes.

(4) The Sikh community, like other communities, has no doubt pressed its claims.

(5), (6), (7) and (8). The Government of India asked the Public Service Commission to recommend a Sikh candidate. They recommended Mr. Bedi. The Government of India asked the Punjab Government whether they accepted Mr. Bedi as a Sikh, and on the Punjab Government replying in the affirmative the appointment was recommended to the Secretary of State, and Mr. Bedi was appointed. The Government of India received a number of representations to the effect that Mr. Bedi should not be regarded as a Sikh. These were communicated to the Government of the Punjab, whose opinion remained unchanged.

PREVENTION OF FLOODS.

33. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : (a) Have Government taken any step to check floods ?

(b) If so, will they please state what those steps are ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. McWatters : (a) and (b). I would remind the Honourable Member that flood prevention is primarily a provincial

concern. But in view of the importance of the subject, the Government of India in 1924 and again in 1927 drew the attention of all Local Governments to the matter and offered to assist them in investigating the causes of and remedies for recurring floods. An expert Committee, of which the Consulting Engineer to the Government of India was a member, has recently been investigating the problem in Orissa.

MUHARRUM HOLIDAYS IN THE IMPERIAL SECRETARIAT.

34. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : Will the Government please state the number of days during Muharrum on which holidays are given to the employees of the Imperial Secretariat in general and to the Muhammadans in particular ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : The principal day during Muharrum is observed as a closed holiday for members of all communities of the Imperial Secretariat and two additional days are also given to Muhammadan employees.

GRANT OF CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE TO MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AT SIMLA AND NEW DELHI.

35. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : (a) Are Government willing to allow conveyance allowance to Members during the Simla Session of the Assembly and Members living in New Delhi during the Delhi Session as they allow to Members living in Delhi during the Delhi Session ?

(b) If not, will they please state the reasons ?

Mr. L. Graham : (a) Non-official Members who reside in New Delhi and do not draw free haulage of a motor car or a carriage and horses may draw a conveyance allowance of Rs. 50 per mensem for the period for which they are entitled to daily allowance.

(b) The Government of India can see no justification for granting a special allowance, over and above the daily allowance of Rs. 20, to Honourable Members in Simla, where conditions are different from those prevailing in New Delhi.

COST OF THE KABUL LEGATION.

36. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : (a) Will Government please state if the cost of the Kabul Legation is paid wholly from the Indian Exchequer ?

(b) If so, do they propose to represent to the Secretary of State to consider the desirability of having the cost of the Kabul Legation shared equally by India and Great Britain ?

(c) If the answer to (b) be in the negative, will Government please state reasons ?

Sir Denys Bray : I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the answer given by me to questions Nos. 42, 87, 101 and 389 on the 25th August 1925.

LIBERATION OF SLAVES IN INDIA AND ITS OUTLYING TRACTS.

37. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan** : Will Government please state what further progress, if any, has been made in the attempt for the liberation of slaves in India and its outlying tracts ?

Sir Denys Bray : I propose for convenience sake to give a single answer to the Honourable Member's four questions* on the subject of slavery.

2. The newspaper reports referred to are generally correct.

3. In the course of the anti-slavery operations on the North East border of Burma last cold weather, 1,398 were released in the Triangle and adjoining area. With the exception of 20 slaves who live in a remote area beyond the scope of those operations, abolition of slavery in the Kachin Hills is believed to be complete.

4. A full account of the Triangle expedition is contained in Mr. Barnard's report, a copy of which has been placed in the Library.

5. Further measures to cope with the difficult problem of suppressing human sacrifice in the more inaccessible parts of the Naga Hills and Hukawng Valley are under consideration.

CONSTRUCTION OF A RAILWAY BETWEEN CONTAI AND CONTAI ROAD.

38. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan** : (a) With reference to Government reply to unstarred question No. 36 in the meeting of the Council of State on the 8th February 1928, regarding the construction of a railway between Contai and Contai Road station on the Bengal Nagpur Railway, will Government please state whether the Railway Board have come to any decision in the matter ?

(b) If so, will they please communicate its decision to the House ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : The project has been sanctioned.

SUPPLY OF WATERPROOFS TO POSTMEN AND TELEGRAPH PEONS.

39. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan** : Is it a fact that postmen and telegraphmen are provided with waterproofs during the rainy season ? If not, do Government propose to provide waterproofs to postmen and telegraphmen during the rainy season ?

Mr. P. G. Rogers : Yes ; waterproofs are provided where necessary.

REPORT OF THE ROADS DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE.

40. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan** : (a) Will Government please state when the Report of the Roads Development Committee is expected to be presented to the Assembly ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : The Report has not yet been received by the Government of India.

CONTROL OF OPIUM SMOKING.

41. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan** : Will Government be pleased to make a statement showing the steps so far taken in the different provinces of British India to check and control opium smoking ?

*Nos. 37, 108, 134 and 150.

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : In Assam, opium smoking has been totally prohibited by legislation. A system of registration and rationing is in force in Burma. No new names can be added to the register, and with the gradual disappearance of the persons now on the register, opium smoking will cease to exist in Burma. Smoking in company has been prohibited by legislation in the Punjab, Delhi, the North-West Frontier Province, Baluchistan and the United Provinces. An Act prohibiting opium smoking in Bihar and Orissa, except by registered smokers, was passed by the local Legislative Council in January 1928. It will come into force from the 1st January 1929. A Bill aiming at the ultimate prohibition of opium smoking in the Central Provinces is being discussed by the local Legislative Council. The Government of Madras propose to undertake legislation prohibiting opium smoking altogether. The Government of Bombay are also considering measures to bring about the ultimate suppression of opium smoking in the Presidency. A Bill to penalise opium smoking by other than registered smokers is being drafted by the Government of Bengal.

TRAINING OF INDIANS FOR HIGHER SERVICE IN THE FOREST DEPARTMENT.

42. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : Will the Government be pleased to furnish information to the House about the progress made in the training of Indians for higher service in the Forest Department ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : A statement giving the information available has been laid on the table of the House.

Statement.

(a) Number of Indians recruited to the Indian Forest Service since 1921	59
(b) Number of Indians who have been or are being trained for technical posts at the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun	6

CONSTRUCTION OF A RAILWAY FROM MANMAD *via* MALAGAON AND DHULIA TO NARHANA.

43. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : Will the Government please state if the Railway Board has considered and come to any decision in the matter of the proposed construction of a railway line from Manmad *via* Malagaon and Dhulia to Narhana ? (*Vide* question No. 4 in the meeting of the Council of State on 6th February 1928) ?

(b) If so, will they please communicate its decision to the House ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : The Agent of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway has been informed that the Railway Board do not consider the project remunerative, and are therefore not prepared to undertake its construction. If, however, the Government of Bombay are prepared to guarantee the line, they will reconsider the matter.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE BELAPUR-NASIK RAILWAY.

44. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : (a) Will Government please state if the Railway Board has come to any decision regarding the

construction of the Belapur-Nasik Railway ? (Vide question No. 5 in the meeting of the Council of State on 6th February 1928) ?

(b) If so, will they please communicate its decision to the House ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : No decision has been reached. The alignment is under investigation.

THE POST OFFICE GUARANTEE FUND.

45. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : With reference to Government reply to question No. 8 (e) and (f) in the meeting of the Council of State on 6th February 1928, stating that Rs. 10,75,654 were credited to the Capital Account of the Posts and Telegraphs Department, will Government please state for what purpose this fund has or will be utilized ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. McWatters : As the purposes for which this fund was instituted, and its disposal, have been the subject of repeated questions in the Assembly, I will give a brief statement about it which I hope will make the position clear to the Honourable Member.

The Post Office Guarantee Fund came into existence in 1873 with, as its object, the making good within certain limits at the collective cost of the Post Office staff losses caused by the negligence or misconduct by postal employees. Subscriptions were taken at fixed rates of Rs. 2 and Re. 1 per annum according to pay, which rates of subscription were subsequently reduced, and finally, in 1905, ceased altogether to be levied. As the balance of the Fund grew, objects such as the grant of compassionate gratuities to the staff were included in the scope of the Fund, with the result that by 1925 expenditure of the following kinds was being met from it :

- (a) losses caused by the negligence or misconduct of postal staff which would otherwise be irrecoverable,
- (b) rewards for specially honest and courageous service of postal officials in the discharge of their duties,
- (c) compensation to postal officials for loss of private property, due to accidents, e.g., fire, floods, suffered by them while on duty,
- (d) cost of journeys undertaken by certain low paid postal staff in connection with medical examination for the Post Office Insurance Fund ; and
- (e) compassionate gratuities to postal staff and their dependants.

Of recent years the interest, amounting to a little over half a lakh of rupees annually, accruing on the existing investments of the fund proved no longer sufficient to meet all these charges. Government were not prepared to resume the former practice of levying subscriptions from the staff, and it was decided to abolish the fund by crediting to the Post and Telegraph Capital Account the sale proceeds of the securities in which it was invested (amounting with interest to about Rs. 11 lakhs) and that, in future, expenditure under the various heads enumerated above should be budgeted for in full in the working expenses budget of the Department in the ordinary way. The total of these items of expenditure is considerably in excess of the total interest which was formerly obtained from the fund investments, and it will be obvious therefore that those who are interested in the disposal of the fund benefit by the decision taken in the matter.

SAFETY OF MAIL RUNNERS, ETC.

46. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan** : Will Government please state :

- (a) What safeguards they have provided for the safety of the mail runners when they have to pass through dangerous places, namely, places where they may be liable to attacks from beasts or robbers ?
- (b) Whether they propose to give one day's holiday in a week to postmen ; and, if not, what relief they propose to give to the postmen in this regard ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. McWatters : (a) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given on the 26th January 1926 by the Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra to his starred question No. 250 in the Legislative Assembly. The measures described in that reply have been introduced and are being extended as far as funds permit ; but the Honourable Member will realise that to set on foot these measures to the maximum possible extent would be a very expensive business. The question of their extension is receiving the further attention of Government particularly with reference to the decision that, where cash or insured articles of over a specified value are carried, the runners should ordinarily be doubled, since it is doubtful whether in this case the precaution may not defeat its own object by advertising the value of the mail bags and may thus merely result in exposing two persons instead of one to danger. The Honourable Member may be assured that Government are doing their best to ensure the safety of mail runners where they are exposed to danger.

(b) The matter is under examination.

ELECTRIFICATION OF RAILWAYS FOR THE CALCUTTA SUBURBAN TRAFFIC SERVICE.

47. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan** : Will Government please state what further progress has been made regarding the electrification of railways for the Calcutta suburban traffic service (*vide* Government reply to question No. 90 in the meeting of the Council of State on the 13th March 1928) ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : The Railway Board are now considering the reports on the project received from their Consulting Engineers and from an officer who was placed on special duty to deal with the engineering side of the scheme.

CONSTRUCTION OF A RAILWAY BETWEEN MUZAFFARPUR AND SITAMARHI.

48. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan** : Will Government please state what progress, if any, has been made regarding the proposed construction of the Muzaffarpur-Sitamarhi line ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : The Railway Board have just received the traffic survey of this line.

RELEASE OF POLITICAL DETENUS.

49. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan** : (a) Will Government please state if any further releases of the persons detained under Regula-

tion III of 1818 and the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1925, have been made since the question No. 106 was put in the meeting of the Council of State on 13th March 1928 ?

(b) If so, what is the number of the persons so released ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : The number of releases at the end of February was 118. On the 15th August the number of releases totalled 170. On the latter date there were only 13 persons under any form of restraint under the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act, and none of these were detained in jail.

NAMES OF THE HIGH COURTS WHICH HAVE FRAMED RULES UNDER THE INDIAN BAR COUNCILS ACT, 1926.

50. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : Will the Government please state the names of the High Courts which have framed rules under the Indian Bar Councils Act, 1926 ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : Rules under the Indian Bar Councils Act, 1926, have been framed by the Madras, Calcutta, and Allahabad High Courts, and the Chief Court of Oudh. Government have been informed that the rules in respect of the Bombay, Rangoon and Patna High Courts will be ready by the 1st January 1929.

REPORT AND ESTIMATES OF THE SHIKOHABAD-ETAH-KASGANJ RAILWAY.

51. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : (a) Will Government please state if they have received the report and estimates of the Shikohabad-Etah-Kasganj Railway scheme [*vide* Government reply to question No. 144 (h) in the meeting of the Council of State on 22nd March 1928] ?

(b) If so, have they come to any decision ; and if they have, do they propose to communicate it to the House ?

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

(b) The report and estimates are expected shortly.

RUNNING OF ANOTHER EXPRESS TRAIN FROM BOMBAY TO DELHI.

52. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : (a) Will Government please state if any decision has been arrived at regarding the running of another express train from Bombay to Delhi (*vide* Government reply to questions Nos. 145 and 146 in the meeting of the Council of State on 22nd March 1928) ?

(b) If so, do they propose to communicate the decision to the House ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : Yes, another express train was introduced from 1st of May 1928.

THE DACCA-ARICHA RAILWAY.

53. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : (a) Will the Government please state if the Railway Board has arrived at any decision regarding the Dacca-Aricha Railway [*vide* starred question No. 12 (a) (b) in the meeting of the Legislative Assembly on 1st February 1928] ?

(b) If so, do they propose to communicate the decision of the Board to the House ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : The Railway Board have considered the report and estimates of the Dacca-Aricha Railway project, and the Government of India are in correspondence with the Secretary of State on the subject.

IMPORT OF VEGETABLE GHEE.

54. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : With reference to Government reply to starred question No. 13 (d) regarding the import of vegetable ghee, vegetable fat, etc., into India, asked in the meeting of the Legislative Assembly on 1st February 1928, will the Government please state :

- (a) If they have arrived at any decision regarding the suggestion by 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 ?
- (b) If so, do they propose to communicate their decision to the House ?
- (c) Will they please state the name of the Local Government which has made the above suggestion ?
- (d) Do they propose to consult Local Governments other than the one which has made the suggestion ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : The suggestion was made by the Government of the Punjab. It has been referred to the other Local Governments and their views are awaited.

HOURS OF WORK AND WEEKLY REST DAY OF RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.

55. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : With reference to Government reply to starred question No. 31 (a) asked in the meeting of the Legislative Assembly on 1st February 1928, regarding hours of work and weekly rest day of railway employees, will Government please state :

- (a) If they have arrived at any decision on the Resolution received by the Railway Board from the Indian Railway Conference Association ?
- (b) If so, will they please communicate their decision to the House ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) and (b). The Railway Board have approved the adoption by the State-managed Railways of the Resolution passed at the 1927 Session of the Indian Railway Conference Association, a copy of which is appended to this reply, and have been informed that the Boards of Directors of practically all Company-managed Railways have also given their assent to that Resolution. Railways are proceeding with their preparations to give effect to that Resolution.

Proposal 28.

That this Conference recommends :

(ii) that the provisions of the Geneva and Washington Conventions be applied to the staff of Indian Railways in the manner, and to the extent, prescribed in the following rules ; that these rules be given full effect within 12 months ending 30th September

1928, except in respect of the running staff ; that measures be taken to apply them to the running staff as soon as may be practicable ; that a report by an officer nominated by the Conference be submitted to the Conference at its Session in 1928, describing the manner in which these rules have been put into force on each railway and the extent to which they have been given effect ;

* * * * *

Rules.

1. (1) With the exception of staff classed as supervising and persons engaged in a confidential capacity, the hours of work of all staff engaged on railway work shall be limited to 60 in a week when work is proceeding under normal conditions.

(2) In the case of persons whose work is essentially of an intermittent nature the sum of the hours of actual work performed within the prescribed hours of duty shall not exceed 60 in a week when work is proceeding under normal conditions.

(3) The Agents of Railways may make temporary exceptions, as provided for in Article 6 (b) of the Washington Convention, to the limitation prescribed in Rule 1 (1) for any class of staff or any individual in cases of abnormal traffic or other pressure of work, accidents, unforeseen interruptions to traffic and other emergencies.

II (1) The whole of the staff employed on the working of Railways, with the exceptions noted hereafter, shall enjoy under normal conditions of work in every period of seven days, a period of rest comprising at least 24 hours as provided for in Article 2 of the Geneva Convention.

(2) The following total exceptions to Rule II (1) are made as authorised by Article 4 of the Convention :

(a) All staff classed as supervising staff.

(b) Staff whose work is essentially of an intermittent nature.

(3) The Agents of Railways may make temporary or partial exceptions to Rule II (1) in regard to any class of the staff in cases of abnormal traffic or other pressure of work, accidents, unforeseen interruptions to traffic and other emergencies.

III. For the purposes of these rules all staff engaged on railway work may be classed in the following categories. The Agent's decision being final in the classification of any grade not particularly specified therein :

(a) Supervising staff.—This includes all superior gazetted officers and subordinate supervising staff such as :

Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors.

Supervisors and Overseers.

Superintendents and Deputy Superintendents.

Foremen and Assistant Foremen.

Yardmasters.

Chief Train Controllers.

Head Train Examiners.

Station Masters supervising stations but not actually engaged in train-passing duties.

Goods Clerks and Booking Clerks working in a supervising capacity, etc.

Assistant Surgeons and Sub-Assistant Surgeons.

(b) Clerical Staff in supervising offices and all whose work is of a purely clerical nature.

(c) Staff whose work is governed by the Indian Factories Act.

(d) Staff whose work is governed by the Indian Mines Act.

(e) Running Staff.—This includes Drivers, Firemen, Guards, Brakemen, Traveling Ticket Examiners, and staff engaged in the Crew Ticket check system and all staff travelling by trains on duty connected with the running of those trains.

(f) Staff other than the above whose work is of a continuous nature.

(g) Staff other than the above whose work is essentially of an intermittent nature.

IV. Under these rules the principle of the 60 hour week is applied to all railway staff except those in category (a) and the weekly rest day will be enjoyed by all railway staff except those in categories (a) and (g).
Resolution 28.

The proposal was put to the vote and CARRIED *nem con.*

9th August 1928.

WANT OF A RAILWAY IN THE SATKHIRA SUB-DIVISION, BENGAL.

56. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** (a) With reference to Government reply to question No. 67 (b) in the meeting of the Council of State on the 20th February 1928, will Government please state if the Agent, Eastern Bengal Railway, who was asked to look into the matter, has submitted any report ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to communicate the gist of the report to the House ?

(c) If the answer to part (a) above is in the negative, do Government propose to ask the Agent to expedite the matter ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a), (b) and (c). The Agent of the Eastern Bengal Railway has pointed out that in any case the Satkhira Navaran Railway could not, in view of the other projects on the Programme, be taken up for several years, and that, as it was undesirable to proceed with traffic and engineering surveys considerably in advance of the time at which construction was likely to be possible, he did not think it desirable to reinvestigate this particular project immediately, and the Railway Board have accepted his views.

GRANT OF SCHOLARSHIPS TO INDIAN STUDENTS FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRAINING IN EUROPE.

57. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** With reference to Government reply to question No. 70 (a) (b) in the meeting of the Council of State on the 27th February 1928, regarding grant of scholarships to Indian students for archaeological training in Europe, do Government propose to grant scholarships to Indian students for archaeological training in Europe ? If not, why not ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to Mr. Aney's question No. 363 on the 7th March 1928.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE DACCA-ARICHA BRANCH OF THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

58. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** (a) Will Government please state if the Railway Board has come to any decision, regarding the construction of the Dacca-Aricha branch of the Eastern Bengal Railway (*vide* Government reply to question No. 88 in the meeting of the Council of State on the 13th March 1928) ?

(b) If so, do they propose to communicate its decision to the House ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : I would refer the Honourable Member to the answer given to his question No. 53 of date.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE BARISAL-FARIDPUR RAILWAY.

59. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** (a) With reference to Government reply to question No. 89 and question No. 105 in the meeting of the Council of State on 13th March 1928, regarding the construction of the Barisal-Faridpur Railway, will Government please state if the Agent, Eastern Bengal Railway, has submitted the report of the result of his investigation ?

(b) If not, do they propose to ask him to expedite the work ?

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

(b) The Agent has been asked when the report may be expected.

USE OF "CERTIFIED" FLAME-PROOF APPARATUS IN INDIAN MINES.

60. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** (a) Will Government please state why no steps have so far been taken to enforce by regulation the use of "certified" flame-proof apparatus in Indian mines [*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 46 (b) given in the meeting of the Legislative Assembly on 1st February 1928] ?

(b) Will Government also please state if they propose to take any steps in the matter in the near future ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. McWatters : (a) and (b). Rule 99 of the Indian Electricity Rules lays down the precautions which must be taken in the use of electrical apparatus in any part of a mine where inflammable gas or vapour is likely to occur. There has so far been no instance in Indian mines where ignition has been caused by sparking from electrical machines. An increasing proportion of "certified" electrical apparatus is being used in Indian mines, and the Government of India do not at present propose to enforce by regulation the use of "certified" flame-proof apparatus.

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

61. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** (a) Will Government please state if they have received the report of the Controller of Labour, Malaya, regarding need for more orderly service of food, etc., in ships carrying emigrants overseas [*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 52 (b) in the meeting of the Legislative Assembly on 1st February 1928] ?

(b) If so, will they please lay a copy of the report on the table of the House ?

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

(b) The Agent's suggestion that food be served out to emigrants by making them sit in rows was not considered feasible by the Shipping Agents. His suggestion regarding the supply of eating dishes to emigrants has also not been accepted owing to—

(i) the preference of some emigrants to receive food on leaves ;

(ii) the refusal of several emigrants to use dishes used in previous voyages ; and

- (iii) the difficulty of properly washing and disinfecting a large number of these dishes.

The suggestion regarding the supply of tin cups for drinking water or for ablution purposes has been accepted and is being given effect to.

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

62. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : (a) With reference to Government reply to supplementary question to starred question No. 56, regarding regulations for the protection of workers employed in dangerous and unhealthy industries, asked in the meeting of the Legislative Assembly on 1st February 1928, will Government please state if they have come to any decision on the question of passing legislation on the lines of the regulations made in England ?

- (b) If so, will they please communicate their decision to the House ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. McWatters : (a) and (b). The Government of India are considering the question and have not yet reached a decision.

HAJ PILGRIMS.

63. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : With reference to Government reply to starred question No. 59, regarding Haj pilgrims, asked in the meeting of the Legislative Assembly on 1st February 1928 will Government please lay on the table of the House a copy of the information when received from the Local Government concerned ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : A statement containing the information furnished by the Governments of Bombay and Bengal has been placed in the Library.

PROHIBITION OF THE EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN UNDERGROUND.

64. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : (a) Will Government please state if they have arrived at any decision on the views of the Mining Boards, regarding prohibition of the employment of women underground in mines (*vide* the latter portion of Government reply to starred question No. 33 in the meeting of the Legislative Assembly on 1st February 1928) ?

- (b) If so, will they please communicate their decision to the House ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. McWatters : (a) and (b). The provisional conclusions of the Government of India on the matter are set out in their Notification No. M-1055, dated the 14th June 1928, publishing draft regulations for criticism in accordance with the provisions of section 31 (1) of the Indian Mines Act, 1923. The attention of the Honourable Member is also invited to the press communiqué, dated the 22nd June 1927, and the circular letters inviting the views of the Local Governments, copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

DEDUCTION OF WAGES.

65. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : Will Government please state if they have arrived at any definite decision now (*vide* Government

reply to starred question No. 34 in the meeting of the Legislative Assembly on 1st February 1928, regarding deduction of wages) ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. McWatters : The answer is in the negative.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION FOR THE PROMPT PAYMENT OF WAGES.

66. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : (a) Will Government please state if they have arrived at any decision on the question of introduction of legislation, regarding the prompt payment of wages (*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 35 in the meeting of the Legislative Assembly on 1st February 1928) ?

(b) If so, will they please make a statement to the House ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. McWatters : (a) The answer is in the negative.

(b) Does not arise.

RECOGNITION OF RAILWAY UNIONS.

67. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : (a) With reference to Government reply to starred question No. 42 (a) and (b), regarding recognition of Railway Unions asked in the meeting of the Legislative Assembly on 1st February 1928, will Government please state if they have come to any decision in the matter ?

(b) If so, will they please communicate their decision to the House ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : Government have come to the following conclusions :

- (1) The fact that a Union has been registered under the Indian Trade Unions Act should predispose an Agent to accept it as representing the interests of its members and their views.
- (2) The decision whether, and if so to what extent, a claim of any particular Union to represent matters affecting the staff of the railway may be admitted must be dependent on the extent to which the Union in question is actually representative, in its numbers, influence and standing, of the staff as a whole or of a particular class or particular classes of the staff.

DELIVERY POST OFFICES IN PATNA.

68. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : (a) Will Government please state if all other Post Offices except those of Patna and Patna City in the town of Patna have of late ceased to be delivery offices ?

(b) If so, will Government please state the reasons for this change ?

(c) Are Government aware that the change referred to causes inconvenience to the public ?

Mr. P. G. Rogers : (a) Yes.

(b) To ensure correct and punctual deliveries throughout the area.

(c) No. A complaint has, however, been received on this score and is being investigated. The result will be communicated to the Honourable Member.

EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN CLERKS IN POST OFFICES.

69. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : (a) With reference to Government reply to unstarred question No. 26 (b) in the meeting of the Legislative Assembly on 6th February 1928, regarding employment of women clerks in Post Offices, will Government please state if they have arrived at any decision regarding the question of abolishing the special rates for women clerks and of removing the existing restrictions upon their employment ?

(b) If so, will they please communicate their decision to the House ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. McWatters : (a) No decision has been arrived at.

(b) Does not arise.

POLITICAL PRISONERS IN ASSAM.

70. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : With reference to Government reply to unstarred question No. 494 in the meeting of the Legislative Assembly on 27th March 1928, regarding number of political prisoners in Assam, will Government please state the date on which and the place where each political prisoner was imprisoned ?

Sir Denys Bray : As stated in my previous reply there is only one political prisoner in Assam, a Manipuri detained for his complicity in the Kuki rebellion. He was first detained in the Imphal Jail on the 9th August 1918, was later transferred to the Dibrugarh Jail, and is now in the Shillong Jail.

ESTATE OF MIRZA SURAIYA JAH, A MEMBER OF THE *ex*-ROYAL FAMILY OF DELHI.

71. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : (a) With reference to Government reply to starred question No. 543 asked in the meeting of the Legislative Assembly on 26th March 1928, regarding the estate of Mirza Suraiya Jah, a member of the *ex*-Royal Family of Delhi, will Government please state if enquiries in the matter have been completed ?

(b) If so, will Government please communicate the result of the enquiries to the House ?

Sir Denys Bray : (a) Yes, and the result was duly communicated to the Honourable Member who asked the question.

(b) The answer was as follows :

“ 1. Yes. Total value Rs. 1,613-7-0 per mensem.

2. (a) Yes. The legitimacy of the claimant, Mirza Salim Mohammad Shah, was considered to be doubtful.

(b) He obtained a decree declaring him to be a legitimate son but granting him only a share in the personal property of the late Mirza Suraiya Jah. He died before the decree was executed.

- (c) No. The deceased had obtained only a share in the joint property. The superintendence of the property remained with the Court of Wards in accordance with the provisions of Punjab Act II of 1903 (*see* sections 8, 10 and 46).
- (d) Her mother so applied on her behalf. But it had been decided by Government fourteen years previously that a female could not be recognised as head of the family, and that in default of a suitable male member the Court of Wards must be regarded as head of the family *pro tem*.
- (e) No. A daughter of Mirza Suraiya Jah and her son and daughters are also living.
- (f) See (c) above. The question of her mother's dower debt is under consideration together with other heavy liabilities of her deceased father, whose property has come under the Court of Wards.
- (g) Yes, under the Memorial Rules published with Government of India Notification No. F.472-II-2|23, dated the 21st June 1924.
- (h) The Government of India are asking the Honourable the Chief Commissioner for a report as to the disposal of the case."

With reference to (h) above, the Officiating Chief Commissioner, Delhi, has submitted a report of the arrangements which have been approved by him in connection with the affairs of the late Mirza Salim Mohammad Shah.

A summary of that report is attached herewith for the Honourable Member's information; a copy has been sent to the Honourable Mr. Muhammad Ismail Khan.

Summary.

1. After investigation under section 26 of the Punjab Court of Wards Act, II of 1903, of the outstanding claims against the deceased Mirza Salim Mohammad Shah, son of the late Mirza Suraiya Jah, it was found that the deceased's share in the joint property was heavily involved in debt to the extent of Rs. 75,628, as detailed below :—

	Rs.
(a) Court of Wards	47,028
(b) Dower of widow Nawab Qaisar Jehan Begum ..	20,000
(c) Messrs. Alopi Pershad Ram Sarup	8,500
(d) M. Saiduddin	100
	<hr/> 75,628 <hr/>

As regards (b), Nawab Qaisar Jehan Begum claimed as her dower allowance the sum of Rs. 50,000, but as the dower promised was considered exorbitant, she was allowed a maximum of Rs. 20,000.

As regards (c), Messrs. Alopi Pershad Ram Sarup put in a claim of Rs. 19,500 for subsidizing the civil suit of the late Mirza Salim Mohammad Shah, but the amount allowed them was Rs. 8,500 only, without interest.

As regards (d), M. Saiduddin holds a promissory note for Rs. 100 which has been admitted for payment.

2. The total value of the share of the late Mirza Salim Mohammad Shah is Rs. 88,753-14-0, and after deducting the amount of the debts mentioned above, the divisible value of the property remains at Rs. 13,125 which devolves on the reversioners in the shares to which each is entitled under the Muhammadan Law, as shown below :

Names of creditors and reversioners.	Share of each reversioner under Muhammadan Law.	Value of share.	[Debts payable by deceased.	Total share of reversioner.
	Ra. a. p.	Ra. a. p.	Ra. a. p.	Ra. a. p.
1. M. Saiduddin .. ..	.. ..	.. ..	100 0 0	
2. Messrs. Alopi Pershad Ram Sarup.			8,500 0 0	
3. Nawab Qaisar Jehan Begum (widow).	1 8 0	1,640 11 9	20,000 0 0	21,640 11 9
4. Mussammat Taimur Jehan Begum (daughter).	4 8 0	6,562 15 0	..	6,562 15 0
5. Nawab Badahah Jehan Begum (sister).	3 8 0	4,922 3 3	47,028 0 0	51,950 3 3
Total ..	..	13,125 14 0	75,628 0 0	80,153 14 0

3. Of the creditors, Messrs. Alopi Pershad Ram Sarup and Saiduddin will be paid in cash. As no surplus money is available and as the deceased's share is under the superintendence of the Court of Wards and no charge can be created on its (this ?) share, under section 8 of the Punjab Court of Wards Act, the claims of these creditors are therefore to be met from the income which will accrue hereafter, &c.,

(a) Rs. 100 to M. Saiduddin in December 1928.

(b) Rs. 1,000 per annum without interest at the end of each month of March to Messrs. Alopi Pershad Ram Sarup.

4. As regards the reversioners in the case, in the first place it will not be possible within the next few years to pay them in cash, and in the second, such a course is not considered desirable. It has therefore been decided to raise the share of their joint property to the extent of their debts as indicated below :

	Present share of each reversioner under Muhammadan Law, vide paragraph 2 above.	Rate of share under the new arrangement.
	Ra. a. p.	Ra. a. p.
Nawab Qaisar Jehan Begum ..	1 8 0	1 4 0
Mussammat Timur Jehan Begum ..	4 8 0	1 12 0
Nawab Badahah Jehan Begum ..	3 8 0	2 3 0

OPENING OF THE RAILWAY FROM HAPUR TO LUXAR.

72. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** With reference to Government reply to unstarred question No. 452 in the meeting of the Legislative Assembly on 26th March 1928, regarding opening of the railway from Hapur to Luxar, will Government please state what further progress, if any, has been made in the matter ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : The preparation of the report and estimates of the alternative alignment. *viz.*, Garmukhtesar-Roorkee-Jawalapur (with a branch from Mowana to Meerut) by the East Indian Railway Administration is in hand.

LEGISLATION TO DECLARE STRIKES ILLEGAL.

73. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : (a) Will Government be pleased to state if any legislation under which a strike can be declared as "illegal" has been passed in Great Britain ?

(b) If so, do they propose to introduce similar legislation in British India ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. McWatters : The answer to both parts of the question is in the affirmative.

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

74. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : (a) With reference to Government reply to starred question No. 101 (a) (b), regarding weekly rest day of the staff of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, asked in the meeting of the Legislative Assembly on 1st February 1928, will Government please state if they have arrived at any decision on the question of giving railway men generally a weekly day of rest ?

(b) If so, will they please communicate their decision to the House ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) and (b) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to his unstarred question No. 55 of date.

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

75. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : (a) With reference to Government reply to unstarred question No. 3 (d) in the meeting of the Legislative Assembly on 1st February 1928, regarding establishment of an urban unit of the Indian Territorial Force in Calcutta, will Government be pleased to state if they have arrived at any decision on the subject ?

(b) If so, will they please communicate their decision to the House ?

Mr. G. M. Young : The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. The second part does not arise.

THE BAUNSI NAYA-DUMKA SAINTHIA RAILWAY.

76 Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : (a) Will Government please state if the East Indian Railway Administration have completed the investigation of the Baunsi Naya-Dumka Sainthia Railway (*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 143 asked in the meeting of the Legislative Assembly on 1st February 1928) ?

(b) If so, will they please communicate their decision to the House ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : The investigation has not yet been completed.

EXPIRATION OF THE CONTRACT OF THE DARJEELING-HIMALAYAN RAILWAY.

77. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : (a) Will Government please state when the contract of the Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway will expire ?

(b) Will they please also state what are their intentions about the management of the said Railway after the contract expires ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) Under the contract with the Company, Government have the right to buy the Railway on the 4th May 1929, or at intervals of ten years thereafter.

(b) Government have decided not to exercise their option on the 4th of May 1929.

EXTENSION OF THE INDIAN BAR COUNCILS ACT TO THE VARIOUS HIGH COURTS.

78. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : With reference to Government reply to starred question No. 493, regarding extension of the different provisions of the Indian Bar Councils Act to the various High Courts asked in the meeting of the Legislative Assembly on 20th March 1928, will Government please state if they are in a position to make an announcement on the subject ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar : Those provisions of the Indian Bar Councils Act, 1926, which were not already in operation have been brought into force in respect of the Madras, Calcutta and Allahabad High Courts, and the Oudh Chief Court. They will be brought into force on the 1st January 1929 in respect of the Bombay, Rangoon and Patna High Courts.

MONEY DUE TO THE MUSSALMANS OF DELHI ON ACCOUNT OF COMPENSATION FOR THE ACQUISITION OF CERTAIN PROPERTY.

79. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : With reference to the reply to starred question No. 446 in the meeting of the Legislative Assembly on 17th March 1928, regarding money due to the Mussalmans of Delhi on account of compensation for the acquisition of certain property, will Government please state :

- (a) when was the sum of Rs. 29,612-8-8 deposited,
- (b) the names of the bodies who tried to obtain payment, and
- (c) the orders passed on their applications or representations submitted for payment of the same ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar : (a) On various dates between April 1913 and March 1919.

(b) and (c) The following tried to obtain payment :

- (i) S. Nazir Aziz of Baradari Khwaja Mir Dard, Delhi, claimed Rs. 103-8-0 compensation for the land of Baradari Khwaja

Mir Dard. The claim was rejected on the 18th April 1919 by the District Judge, by the following order—

- “ The land being *waqf* the money cannot be given to him unless a proposal to purchase land for the *waqf* to replace that acquired is put forward and agreed to by the community for whom the *waqf* was intended and it cannot be invested as the applicant objects on religious grounds to taking any interest, therefore it is inadvisable to invest the money.”
- (ii) The Anjuman Muhafiz Auqaf, Delhi, filed an application in the Court of the District Judge, Delhi, requesting that the compensation for certain lands be made over to the Anjuman for expenditure in connection with mosques and grave yards on behalf of the Muslim community of Delhi. The question of the establishment of a trust for the purpose was thereupon considered by Government ; but the legal and other difficulties were found to be great. The local Administration, however, proposed to look into the matter again and see if there is any possible alternative.

MOVE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA TO SIMLA.

80. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** (a) With reference to Government reply to unstarred question No. 400 (c) in the meeting of the Legislative Assembly on 17th March 1928, regarding move of the Government of India to Simla, will Government please state if they have arrived at any decision on the question ?

(b) If so, will they please communicate their decision to the House ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar : (a) and (b) No final decision has been arrived at. The question is still under consideration.

QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

81 **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** (a) With reference to Government reply to starred questions Nos. 416 to 422 asked in the meeting of the Legislative Assembly on 13th March 1928, will Government please state if they have completed their enquiries ?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the result to the House ?

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

(b) I am communicating the information received to the Honourable Member.

APPOINTMENT OF MR. J. C. MAIR AS ASSISTANT ACCOUNTANT UNDER THE PORT COMMISSIONERS, CALCUTTA.

82. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** (a) Will Government please state if they have come to any decision in the matter of the appointment of Mr. J. C. Mair as Assistant Accountant under the Port Commissioners, Calcutta (*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 429, asked in the meeting of the Legislative Assembly on 14th March 1928) ?

(b) If so, will Government please communicate the result to the House ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : The Government of India are informed that Messrs. J. C. Mair and K. B. Roy were appointed Assistant

Accountants under the Commissioners for the Port of Calcutta in accordance with a unanimous resolution of the Commissioners in meeting on the 11th June last. The appointments have been sanctioned by the Government of Bengal.

INDIANISATION OF THE HIGHER GRADES OF THE TECHNICAL AND NON-TECHNICAL SERVICES OF THE PORT COMMISSIONERS. CALCUTTA.

83. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** (a) With reference to Government reply to starred question No. 430 (b) asked in the meeting of the Legislative Assembly on 14th March 1928, regarding Indianization of the higher grades of the technical and non-technical services of the Port Commissioners, Calcutta, will Government please state if further enquiries in the matter have been made ?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the result for the information of the House ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : Enquiries have been made from the Government of Bengal and their reply is awaited.

CONSTRUCTION OF A RAILWAY BETWEEN MUZAFFARPUR AND SITAMARH.

84. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** (a) Will Government please state if the result of the survey, regarding construction of a railway line between Muzaffarpur and Sitamarhi (B. and O.) has been received from the Agent, Bengal and North Western Railway (vide Government reply to unstarred question No. 395 in the meeting of the Legislative Assembly on 14th March 1928) ?

(b) If so, will they please state when the construction of the line is expected to be taken up ?

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

(b) The Railway Board have still to consider the traffic survey and cannot therefore say at present if and when the construction of the line will be taken up.

SULPHUR SPRINGS AND MEDICINAL NATURAL WATERS IN INDIA OR BURMA.

85. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** (a) With reference to Government reply to starred question No. 495 (a) and (b), regarding existence of sulphur springs and other medicinal natural waters in India or Burma asked in the meeting of the Legislative Assembly on 21st March 1928, will Government please state if they have completed their enquiries ?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the result to the House ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : (a) and (b). Copies of the letters received from Local Governments and Administrations on the subject have been placed in the Library of the House.

ESTABLISHMENT OF PROVINCIAL PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSIONS.

86. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** (a) With reference to Government reply to unstarred question No. 384 in the meeting of the

Legislative Assembly on 13th March 1928 regarding establishment of Provincial Public Service Commissions, will Government please state if they have arrived at any decision on the question ?

(b) If so, will they please communicate their decision to the House ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : The matter is under the consideration of the Secretary of State in Council.

USE OF VEGETABLE GHEE TO ADULTERATE PURE GHEE.

87. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : (a) Will Government please state the names of the provinces in respect of which complaints have been made that vegetable ghee is fraudulently used to adulterate pure ghee [*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 403 (b) asked in the meeting of the Legislative Assembly on 12th March 1928] ?

(b) Do Government propose to make enquiries from those provinces as to the actual state of things existing in the provinces in respect of the question and communicate the result of their enquiries to the House ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : (a) Bengal, United Provinces, Punjab, Bihar and Orissa and Delhi.

(b) The Government of India have already addressed Local Governments and Administrations on the subject and their replies are awaited.

SUPPLY OF ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE DIFFERENT DEPARTMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA FREE OF CHARGE TO MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

88. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : (a) Will Government please state if they have considered the question of supply of Annual Reports of the different Departments of the Government of India free of charge to Members of the Legislative Assembly (*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 411 on the 12th March 1928) ?

(b) If so, will they please communicate their decision to the House ?

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

(b) For reasons of economy it has been decided not to supply Government publications to Members of the Indian Legislature free of charge as a matter of ordinary routine. The Library of the Legislature now receives six copies of each such publication, and Honourable Members have access to these publications there. Requests from individual Members of either House for a free supply of any publication in which they may be specially interested will, however, be considered by each Department.

EMPLOYMENT OF BIHARIS AND ORIYAS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA SECRETARIAT.

89. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : (a) Will Government please state if the information has been collected, *vide* Government reply to unstarred question No. 370 on the 12th March 1928, regarding employment of Biharis and Oriyas in the Government of India Secretariat and other offices ?

(b) If so, will they please lay the information collected on the table. ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : (a) Yes.

(b) A copy of the answer given to Mr. Amar Nath Dutt is laid on the table.

Information supplied to Mr. Amar Nath Dutt, M.L.A., in reply to his question No. 370 in the Legislative Assembly on the 12th March 1928 :

The number of men from the province of Bihar and Orissa holding ministerial posts in Central Government offices to which recruitment is made through the Public Service Commission is 8, and their proportion to men from the other provinces is roughly 1:200.

Officers have not hitherto generally been appointed on the advice of the Public Service Commission.

EMPLOYMENT OF BIHARIS AND ORIYAS IN THE OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL.

90. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : (a) Will Government please state if the enquiries have been completed, *vide* Government reply to unstarred question No. 373 on the 12th March 1928, regarding employment of Biharis and Oriyas in the office of the Auditor General ?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the result to the House ?

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

(b) The information supplied in reply to unstarred question No. 373 will be found in the Library of the House.

TRAVELLING TICKET COLLECTORS AND CREWMEN ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

91. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : (a) Has the information called for been obtained, *vide* Government reply to starred question No. 384, regarding Travelling Ticket Collectors and Crewmen on the East Indian Railway asked in the meeting of the Legislative Assembly on 10th March 1928 ?

(b) If so, will they please furnish the information to the House ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : Yes, I am sending the information collected to the Honourable Member.

CONSTRUCTION OF A CIVIL AERODROME AT GAYA.

92. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : Will Government please state what progress has been made in the construction of a Civil Aerodrome at Gaya, *vide* Government reply to my unstarred question No. 338 (a), on the 10th March 1928 ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. McWatters : The levelling of the Civil Aerodrome at Gaya has been practically completed; but as the aerodrome is situated on black cotton soil, surface dressing cannot be effectively carried out in wet weather. This item of work will be put in hand immediately after the rains and will be finished within a fortnight. It is hoped that the approach road to the aerodrome will be completed before the end of November.

BENGAL RAIL PROJECT.

93. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan** : (a) With reference to Government reply to my unstarred question No. 339 (a), of the 10th March 1928, regarding the Bengal Rail Project, will Government please state if the scheme has been put before the Standing Finance Committee for consideration ?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the result to the House ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

AMENDMENT OF THE IMMIGRATION LAW IN PANAMA.

94. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan** : Will the Government be pleased to state if they are in a position to give any further information regarding " Amendment of the Immigration Law in Panama " (*vide* Government reply to my unstarred question No. 351, on 10th March 1928) ?

Sir Denys Bray : I am glad to say that the new Panama Immigration Law, which came into force last March, removes all restrictions against British Indian subjects.

RESOLUTION NO. 90 PASSED AT THE 7TH SESSION OF THE ALL-INDIA POSTAL AND RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE CONFERENCE HELD AT NAGPUR.

95. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan** : (a) Have Government arrived at any decision on the subject, *vide* my unstarred question No. 343 (a) and (b), and its reply on 10th March 1928, regarding Resolution No. 90 passed at the 7th Session of the All-India Postal and Railway Mail Service Conference held at Nagpur ?

(b) If so, will they please communicate their decision to the House ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. McWatters : I propose to answer questions Nos. 95 and 128 together. The matter is still under consideration.

TIME-TEST OF THE DEAD LETTER OFFICE.

96. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan** : (a) Will Government please state if they have arrived at any decision on the subject of the time-test of the Dead Letter Office [*vide* Government reply to my unstarred question No. 348 (a) and (b), on 10th March 1928] ?

(b) If so, will they please communicate their decision to the House ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. McWatters : (a) and (b). No decision has as yet been reached in the matter.

LEAVE AND PENSION RULES FOR INFERIOR SERVANTS OF GOVERNMENT.

97. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : (a) With reference to starred question No. 343, and its reply on the 7th March 1928, regarding leave and pension rules for inferior servants of Government, will Government please state if they have arrived at any decision on the question ?

(b) If so, will they please communicate their decision to the House ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : (a) and (b). No decision has been reached as regards leave. As regards pension, the only decision so far taken is that the temporary increase of small pensions already in force should continue till 1st November 1929. In the interval it is hoped that the Classification Rules will be issued and the Government of India will then re-examine the matter in the light of the situation thus created and of the action taken in regard to the same matter by Provincial Governments in general.

SUICIDE OF AMBIKA CHARAN KHAN, A DETENU.

98. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if they are aware of the result of the enquiries made by the Secretary of State, *vide* Government reply to my unstarred question No. 208 (b), on the 7th March 1928, regarding the suicide of Ambika Charan Khan, a detenu ?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the result to the House ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar : The results of the enquiries were stated in the answer that I gave in this House on the 7th March 1928 to parts (c) and (d) of the Honourable Member's question No. 208.

PAUCITY OF RECRUITS FOR THE ARMY FROM BIHAR AND ORISSA.

99. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : (a) With reference to my unstarred question No. 214 (a) and (b), and its reply on the 7th March 1928, regarding paucity of recruits for the Army from Bihar and Orissa, will Government please state the reasons for the discontinuance of recruitment for the Indian Army in the Province referred to ?

Mr. G. M. Young : The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given on the 22nd August 1927 to part (a) of starred question No. 57.

REMOVAL OF VALUABLE RELICS FROM THE MUSEUM AT PATNA TO THE MUSEUM AT CALCUTTA.

100. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : With reference to Government reply to my unstarred question No. 217 (a) that "the question is still under consideration" on the 7th March 1928, regarding removal of valuable relics from the museum at Patna to the museum at Calcutta, will Government please state if they have arrived at a decision ?

(b) If so, will they please communicate their decision to the House ?

- Mr. G. S. Bajpai :** (a). The question is still under consideration.
(b) Does not arise.

LOCATION OF THE IMPERIAL LIBRARY.

101. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : (a) With reference to Government reply to my unstarred question No. 261 (a) that " the matter is still under consideration " on the 7th March 1928, regarding the location of the Imperial Library, will Government please state if they have arrived at a decision ?

(b) If so, do they propose to do so for the information of the House ?

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

(b) It has been decided to retain the Imperial Library in Calcutta.

STATUS OF INDIANS IN FIJI.

102. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : (a) With reference to Government reply to my unstarred question No. 272 that " Government regret that it is not possible for them, at this stage, to lay the correspondence on the table " on the 7th March 1928, regarding the status of Indians in Fiji, will Government please state if they are now in a position to lay the correspondence on the table ?

(b) If so, do they propose to do so for the information of the House ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

REVISION OF THE PENSIONS OF THE MENIAL STAFF IN SOME GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

103. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : (a) Will Government please state if they have arrived at a decision on the question of the revision of the pensions of the menial staff in some Government Departments (*vide* Government reply to my unstarred question No. 274 on 7th March 1928) ?

(b) If so, will they please communicate their decision to the House ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply I have just given to his question No. 97.

POPULARISATION OF THE USE OF COAL AS A DOMESTIC FUEL.

104. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : (a) Will Government please state if they have arrived at a decision on the question of popularising the use of coal as a domestic fuel (*vide* Government reply to my unstarred question No. 288 on 7th March 1928) ?

(b) If so, will they please communicate their decision to the House ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : The Mining Federation have been informed that the Government of India are unable to accept the conditions by which the scheme is accompanied.

TRAINING OF MARINE WIRELESS OPERATORS.

105. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** Will Government please state if the arrangements for the training of Marine Wireless Operators at the Government Wireless Training Establishment in Calcutta have been completed ?

Mr. P. G. Rogers : The arrangements were completed in March 1928.

REPORT AND ESTIMATES OF THE CHARSADDA SWABI RAILWAY.

106. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** (a) Will Government please state if the report and estimates of the Charsadda Swabi Railway have been received from the Agent, North-Western Railway ?

(b) If so, will Government please state what further progress has been made in the matter ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

SERVICE CONDITIONS OF TELEPHONE OPERATORS.

107. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** (a) Will Government please state if the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs has arrived at a decision in the matter of other service conditions of telephone operators serving in the Posts and Telegraphs Department (*vide* Government reply to my unstarred question No. 314 on 7th March 1928) ?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the decision to the House ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. McWatters : (a) No. The question is under review.

(b) Does not arise.

ABOLITION OF SLAVERY AND HUMAN SACRIFICES IN THE TRIANGLE AND NAGA COUNTRY.

†108. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the paragraph published in the issue of the *Statesman* of the 1st May 1928, page 9, under the heading "Slavery Abolition" ?

(b) If so, will they please state if the reports made therein regarding the anti-slavery and the abolition of human sacrifice campaign conducted in the Triangle and the Naga Country are correct ?

(c) Can Government give further information in connection with the matters referred to ?

(d) If so, do they propose to furnish information to the House ?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 37.

CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW HOSPITAL AT DELHI.

109. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** (a) With reference to Government reply to my unstarred question No. 143 on the 1st March, 1928, regarding the construction of a new hospital in Delhi, will Government please state if they have arrived at a final decision now ?

(b) If so, will they please communicate their decision to the House ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : (a) The Government of India have not yet arrived at a decision in the matter.

(b) Does not arise.

ARTICLE IN THE *Labour* OF JANUARY 1928, ENTITLED "SAD PLIGHT OF SORTERS DURING FLOODS".

110. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** (a) With reference to Government reply to unstarred question No. 165 (b), (c), (d), on the 1st March, 1928, regarding the article in the *Labour* of January, 1928, entitled "Sad plight of sorters during floods", will Government please state if the enquiry has been completed ?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the result of the enquiry to the House ?

Mr. P. G. Rogers : (a) Yes.

(b) The results of the enquiry were communicated by letter on the 19th June, 1928, to the Honourable Member in whose name the question stood. The replies to the unanswered portion of the question are :

(b) No. Neither the sorters nor mails were in danger.

(c) Yes.

(d) They despatched an inspector to the scene and telegraphed funds to the nearest post office. I may add that special allowances were granted to the sorters in consideration of the special circumstances of the case.

GRANT OF HOUSE RENT ALLOWANCES TO POSTAL OFFICIALS.

111. **Mr. V. V. Jogiah :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if any action was taken by the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, regarding grant of house rent allowances to the officials employed at the places enumerated in my unstarred question No. 102 put during September 1927 session of this Assembly ?

(b) If not, do Government propose to direct that the matter should be decided without delay ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. McWatters : (a) After careful enquiry the Director-General is satisfied that there is no case for the grant of house rent allowances to postal officials at the places in question.

(b) Does not arise.

INADEQUATE STAFF OF INSPECTORS IN THE GANJAM POSTAL DIVISION.

112. **Mr. V. V. Jogiah :** (a) Are the Government aware of the fact (i) that in the Ganjam Postal Division of the Madras Circle, Postal Inspectors have to spend much time in travelling for want of proper means of conveyance especially in the vast Agency Tracts, (ii) that each Inspector has got work (inspection, enquiry and investigation, etc., and the time required for travelling) to perform for which even a whole year is quite insufficient, (iii) that several frauds are being committed and (iv) that the work in almost all directions is much in arrears owing to imperfect supervision and inadequate staff of Inspectors ?

(b) If not, do Government propose to enquire into the matter and sanction the required additional staff at an early date ?

Mr. P. G. Rogers : (a) (i) Yes.

(ii) No.

(iii) Frauds have occurred, but their number is not abnormal.

(iv) The work is in arrears to some extent, but this is not due to an inadequate inspection staff.

(b) The Postmaster-General, Madras, has redistributed the work among the Inspectors, and additional staff is not required.

PAUCITY OF SIGNALLERS IN THE GANJAM POSTAL DIVISION.

113. **Mr. V. V. Jogiah :** (a) Are the Government aware of the fact that in the Ganjam Postal Division there has been a great paucity of combined hands (officials qualified in telegraphy) since the opening of the Division and that there are at present only 40 active signallers against 48 required ?

(b) If not, do Government propose to enquire and take special steps to recoup the number at an early date ?

Mr. P. G. Rogers : (a) Yes. The actual figures are 38 signallers against 37 signalling appointments.

(b) The Postmaster-General, Madras, has already taken steps to make good the deficiency.

INADEQUACY OF THE SPECIAL ALLOWANCES TO POSTAL OFFICIALS EMPLOYED IN THE AGENCY TRACTS OF THE GANJAM DIVISION.

114. **Mr. V. V. Jogiah :** (a) Are the Government aware that the special allowances granted to postal officials employed in the Agency Tracts of the Ganjam Division are quite inadequate and far less than those granted to officials of the several departments of the Local Government ?

(b) If not, do Government propose to enquire and sanction similar allowances at an early date ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. McWatters : (a) The answer is in the negative.

(b) The existing rates of compensatory allowances and special pay in the Posts and Telegraphs Department are under review.

SUPPLY TO THE OFFICES IN THE GANJAM DIVISION OF ORIYA TRANSLATIONS OF PUBLICATIONS CONCERNING THE POSTAL DEPARTMENT.

115. Mr. V. V. Jogiah : (a) Are the Government aware that in the Ganjam Division there are several places where Oriya alone is the prevailing language and that nevertheless the offices situated there are not supplied with documents and publications concerning the Postal Department translated into Oriya ?

(b) If not, do Government propose to enquire into the matter and sanction the supply at an early date ?

Mr. P. G. Rogers : (a) No.

(b) Enquiries are being made and the Honourable Member will be informed of the action taken.

TENURE OF THE APPOINTMENT OF A HEAD CLERK OF THE APPOINTMENT BRANCH OF A POSTMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE.

116. Mr. V. V. Jogiah : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the period for which the head clerk of the Appointment Branch of a Postmaster-General's office can continue as such ?

(b) Is this period insisted on in the Madras Circle ?

Mr. P. G. Rogers : (a) It has recently been decided that the Head Clerk of the appointment section in a Postmaster-General's office can continue in this appointment for not more than three years at a time. Orders to this effect are under issue.

(b) Does not arise.

PERIODICAL INSPECTION BY POSTMASTERS-GENERAL OF THE SEVERAL BRANCHES OF THEIR OFFICES.

117. Mr. V. V. Jogiah : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if the several branches of the office of a Postmaster-General are inspected by him periodically with a view to examine files and see if work is done promptly and properly ?

(b) If this is not done, do Government propose to introduce rules enjoining such an inspection in the interests of efficient administration ?

Mr. P. G. Rogers : (a) Postmasters-General are not required to make periodical inspections of the several branches of their offices. They are held responsible for the proper conduct of work in their offices in whatever manner they think suitable.

(b) Does not arise.

GRANT OF CASUAL LEAVE TO SIGNALLERS IN COMBINED POST OFFICES.

118. Mr. V. V. Jogiah : (a) Are the Government aware of the fact that in combined post offices, with only third class telegraph working hours and with more than two hands but with only one signaller, the benefit of casual leave is denied to that signaller as no substitute can, under paragraph 2 of Rule 521 of the Post Office Manual, Vol. II, be arranged in his place ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to modify the rule suitably so as to permit of the deputation of substitutes in such vacancies and remove the hardships at present existing under the rule above stated ?

Mr. P. G. Rogers : The rule quoted has been amended so as to allow of arrangements being made for substitutes in such cases.

GRANT OF CASUAL LEAVE TO DEPARTMENTAL BRANCH POSTMASTERS.

119. **Mr. V. V. Jogiah :** (a) Are the Government aware of the fact that the benefit of casual leave is denied to departmental branch postmasters when substitutes cannot, under paragraph 3 of Rule 521 of the Post Office Manual, Vol. II, be arranged in their places without extra cost in pay or acting allowance ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to amend the rule suitably permitting the employment of substitutes with necessary extra cost in such vacancies ?

Mr. P. G. Rogers : The rule quoted has been amended so as to allow of arrangements being made for substitutes in such cases.

NOMINATION OF WOMEN AS MEMBERS OF PROVINCIAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS.

120. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** Has the attention of Government been drawn to the paragraph published in the issue of the *Statesman* of 3rd May, 1928, page 13, under the heading "Women's movement in India—Steady Progress" ? If so, will the Government please state if it is a fact :

- (a) the Legislative Council of the Central Provinces unanimously passed a resolution this year admitting women and that Mrs. Anasuya-bai Kale, a member of the Indian Women's Association, has been nominated to it ?
- (b) the Legislative Council of the United Provinces has removed the sex disqualification and that Mrs. Ahmed Shah has been nominated to it ?
- (c) Bihar remains the only province in India where women are un-enfranchised ?
- (d) there are now seven women legislative councillors in India including those in the Indian States ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar : (a), (b) and (c). My attention was drawn to the paragraph in question by the Honourable Member's question. The Government of India are aware of the Resolutions which have been passed by the Legislative Councils of the United Provinces and the Central Provinces regarding the removal of sex disqualification, but Local Governments are not required under the rules to report to the Governor General in Council the fact of any lady having been elected or nominated to a Legislative Council. So far as I am aware the necessary action for the removal of sex disqualification has not been taken in Bihar and Orissa.

(d) The Government of India have no information about women Legislative Councillors in Indian States.

EXTRA PAY FOR SUNDAY AND HOLIDAY WORK FOR POSTAL OFFICIALS.

121. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** (a) With reference to Government reply to starred question No. 324 (d) on the 27th February, 1928, regarding extra pay for Sunday and holiday work done by postal officials, will Government please state if they have arrived at a decision on the question ?

(b) If so, will they communicate their decision to the House ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. McWatters : (a) No decision has as yet been arrived at.

(b) Does not arise.

APPOINTMENT OF THE INDIANS TO THE FOREIGN AND POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

122. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** With reference to the statement laid on the table in reply to starred question No. 326 (a) to (f) on the 27th February, 1928, regarding number of sanctioned appointments in the Foreign and Political Department, will Government please state :

(a) the names and designations of the officers representing the Province of Bihar and Orissa (*vide* column IV of the statement) ?

(b) any special reason why an Indian could not be appointed in the Department (*vide* column III of the statement) ?

Sir Denys Bray : (a) Mr. J. Almond, I.C.S., and Mr. F. Williamson, I.C.S.

(b) Column III shows that 16 Indians were appointed to the Department. The one remaining vacancy was also given to an Indian making a total of 17 Indians selected during the period under review.

LETTER IN THE *Statesman* OF 3RD MAY, 1928, UNDER THE HEADING "BANDEL-BARHARWARA LINE".

123. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the letter published in the issue of the *Statesman* of 3rd May, 1928, page 4, under the heading the "Bandel-Barharwara Line" ?

(b) If so, will they please state if the statements made therein are correct ?

(c) If correct, will they please state if they will take steps to redress the grievances complained of ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) Government have seen the letter referred to.

(b) and (c). They have no knowledge of the arrangements on this particular branch and they leave it to the Agent, East Indian Railway, to take any steps that might be expedient.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO RESTRICT THE TRAFFIC IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

124. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the paragraph published in the issue of the *Statesman* of 3rd May, 1928, page 5, under the heading "Traffic in Women Bill introduced in Parliament" ?

(b) If so, will Government please state if any law, similar to the provisions of the Bill referred to, exists in British India ?

(c) If not, do they propose to introduce legislation with a view to make illegal the vices and evils to which reference has been made in the provisions of the Bill reported to have been introduced in the House of Lords ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar : (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). I would refer the Honourable Member to sections 366, 366A, 366B, 372 and 373 of the Indian Penal Code. In addition to the provisions contained in these sections, there are local enactments on the subject in force in Bombay, Calcutta and Rangoon dealing with the special problems that arise in these cities ; namely, Bombay Act XI of 1923, Bengal Act XIII of 1923 and Burma Act II of 1921. The Government of India consider that, so far as the general problems arising out of traffic in women are concerned, the provisions contained in the Indian Penal Code are sufficiently comprehensive. It is obviously for the Local Governments to consider whether the special conditions existing in any area within their jurisdiction call for any special measures on the lines of the enactments referred to.

SEATS FOR INDIAN MEMBERS IN THE PRIVY COUNCIL.

125. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the news published in the issue of the *Statesman* of 3rd May, 1928, page 9, under the heading "The Privy Council. Two seats for Indian Members" ?

(b) If so, will Government please state if the news published is correct ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar : (a) Government have seen the article.

(b) The facts are correctly stated. But the Honourable Member is no doubt aware that His Majesty's Government have since omitted from the Administration of Justice Bill that part which related to the Judicial Committee which was opposed in order to secure the passage through the House of Commons of the rest of the Bill in view of the state of Parliamentary business. It is however the intention of His Majesty's Government to proceed with the Bill at the earliest opportunity.

ADMISSION OF CANDIDATES FROM DEHRA DUN INTO THE INDIAN POLICE AND INDIAN FOREST SERVICE.

126. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that Lord Rawlinson, when addressing the Members of this House, said that successful candidates from Dehra Dun, who failed to secure admission into Sandhurst, would be admitted to the

Indian Police and the Indian Forest Service (*vide* Government reply to the second supplementary question to starred question No. 249 on the 20th February, 1928) ?

Mr. G. M. Young : I am unable to trace any statement by the late Lord Rawlinson, or by any other Government spokesman, to the effect suggested by the Honourable Member. The Honourable Member is possibly thinking of a passage in a speech made by Lord Rawlinson in the Assembly on the 5th March, 1924. He will find it on page 1165 of the Legislative Assembly debates of that year.

EVIDENCE OF GOVERNMENT SERVANTS BEFORE THE STATUTORY COMMISSION.

127. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** (a) With reference to the third supplementary question to starred question No. 238 and its reply on the 16th February, 1928, regarding the issue of instructions to Government servants who may be called upon to give evidence before the Statutory Commission, will Government please state if they have made enquiries from the Local Governments ?

(b) If they have, will they please state if they propose to communicate the result of their enquiries to the House ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : (a) Yes.

(b) Local Governments have not issued any such instructions in regard to the Statutory Commission, but the Government of India have since issued orders to the effect that Government servants desirous of giving evidence before the Indian Statutory Commission should first obtain the permission of the Government under which they are serving.

PAY OF GRADUATES IN THE POSTAL DEPARTMENT.

†128. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** (a) With reference to Government reply to unstarred question No. 97 on 15th February, 1928, regarding pay of graduates in the Postal Department, will Government please state if they have arrived at a decision on the question ?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the result to the House ?

NAMES OF THE MEMBERS OF THE NEW CAPITAL COMMITTEE.

129. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** Will Government please state the names of the members of the New Capital Committee [*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 178 (c) of the 13th February, 1928] ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. McWatters : The New Capital Committee is at present composed of Sir J. P. Thompson, Vice President, and Messrs. A. G. Clow, D. G. Harris, T. K. Rajagopalan and J. L. Sale, Members, with myself as President.

STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEES ATTACHED TO DEPARTMENTS OF GOVERNMENT.

130. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** (a) With reference to Government reply to starred question No. 275 (a) and (b) on the 23rd

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 95.

February, 1928, regarding Standing Advisory Committees attached to Departments of Government, will Government please state if the information has been collected ?

(b) If so, will they please furnish it to the House ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Ozerar : The information was supplied to Mr. B. Das and a copy of the statements showing the number of meetings, etc., held by the Standing Advisory Committees is also being sent to the Honourable Member.

RE-EMPLOYMENT OF MR. IRELAND, A DISMISSED RAILWAY SERVANT ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

131. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : (a) With reference to Government reply to starred question No. 287 on 23rd February, 1928, regarding the re-employment of Mr. Ireland, a dismissed railway servant on the East Indian Railway, will Government please state if enquiries have been completed ?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the result to the House ?

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

(b) The Divisional Superintendent was not aware that Mr. Ireland had previously been employed in the Stores Department of the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway as he failed to mention the fact in his declaration form. Mr. Ireland ceased to be in service from the 8th of December, 1927.

THE DELHI TRAMWAYS.

132. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : (a) With reference to Government reply to starred question No. 288 on the 23rd February, 1928, regarding the Delhi Tramways, will Government please state if the information has been collected ?

(b) If so, will they please furnish it to the House ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. McWatters : (a) Yes.

(b) I hardly think that the matter is of sufficient general interest. But if the Honourable Member desires a copy of the papers, I shall be glad to furnish him with one

TERMS OF THE LOANS FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA UNDER SECTION 20 OF THE PAPER CURRENCY ACT, AGAINST INLAND BILLS.

133. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : Will the Government be pleased to state on what terms the "Loans from the Government of India under section 20 of the Paper Currency Act, against Inland Bills discounted and purchased *per contra* Rs. 7,50,00,000 as shown in the statement, published in the issue of the *Statesman* of 5th May, 1928, page 7, under the heading "Imperial Bank", were given ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : The terms of the loans in question are regulated by the following rule, which was sanctioned by the Government of India in 1925 :

"The entire amount outstanding at any time shall bear interest at bank rate, subject to a minimum of 6 per cent. for the first 4 crores and of 7 per cent. for the

subsequent 8 crores. The Bank shall be entitled to deduct from the amount of interest payable any amounts proved to the satisfaction of the Controller of the Currency to have been paid by them on account of stamp duty on bills held by the Bank on behalf of the Currency Department."

ABOLITION OF SLAVERY IN THE TRIANGLE AND THE KACHIN HILLS.

†134. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the paragraph published in the issue of the *Englishman* of 7th May, 1928, page 8, under the heading "Slaves in the Triangle" ?

(b) If so, will they please state if the following statements made therein are correct :

- (i) "Altogether 1,025 slaves have been released in the present year's operations, and no slaves remained in the Triangle area",
- (ii) "Complete abolition of slavery in the Kachin Hills" ?

PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT FOR WAR RETURNED CANDIDATES IN THE MATTER OF APPOINTMENTS UNDER GOVERNMENT.

135. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** (a) Will Government please state if there is a Government Circular to the effect that preferential treatment will be accorded to war returned candidates in the matter of appointments under Government ?

(b) If so, will they please lay a copy of it on the table ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar : (a) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) I have had a copy placed in the Library of the House.

RAILWAY EXTENSIONS IN ASSAM.

136. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the paragraph published in the issue of the *Englishman* of the 7th May, 1928, page 9, under the heading "Railway Extensions" ?

(b) If so, will they please state if the first batch of ten of the 30 new lower class coaches which the Eastern Bengal Railway were constructing for the Assam-Bengal Railway has been handed over to them ?

(c) Have the Furkating Badulipara Jorhat and Karimganj Longer Valley branches been opened ?

(d) How do matters stand and what progress has been made in connection with the acquisition of land for the Feni-Belonia and Chittagong Nizarhat branch lines ?

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

(b) 25 of the Coaches have already been despatched, the remaining 5, if they have not already been despatched, will be despatched shortly.

* For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 87.

(c) The Furkating Badulipara Jorhat branch was opened on the 1st July last ; the probable date of opening the Karimganj Longer Valley branch is the 1st of November next.

(d) *Feni-Belonia*.—The usual notices have been issued and immediate action is being taken for the acquisition of all waste and arable land. Proceedings for the acquisition of the remaining land required are well in hand.

Chittagong Nizarkhat.—The notification for acquisition of land was published on 16th August, 1928.

HARDSHIPS OF PILGRIMS AT KAMARAN.

137. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan** : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if they have received information regarding the question of hardships of pilgrims at Kamaran [vide Government reply to starred question No. 170 (a) and (b) on the 10th February 1928] ?

(b) If so, will they please furnish information to the House ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : A note containing the information furnished by the Government of Bombay has been placed in the Library.

ARRANGEMENT FOR LODGING FOR PILGRIMS AT KAMARAN.

138. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan** : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if the accommodation that was under construction has been completed [vide Government reply to starred question No. 172 (c) on the 10th February, 1928], regarding the arrangements for lodging, etc., for the pilgrims who leave the ship for quarantine purposes at Kamaran ?

(b) If so, what is the cost of the construction and how many persons are expected to be accommodated in it ?

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

(b) The cost of construction of the more substantial accommodation was Rs. 3,858. Nine private dressing rooms have been provided of which six are for males and three for females. One stone building in each pilgrim camp has been provided with better accommodation for 6 families. A kiosklike hut has been constructed with 2 cabinets, each containing 72 drawers fitted with locks, for storing the valuables of pilgrims.

CONSTRUCTION OF QUARTERS FOR THE CLERKS OF THE HEAD POST OFFICE AT MOTIHARI.

139. **Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh** : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Motihari Head Post Office in Bihar and Orissa Circle is situated at a distance of more than a mile from the town ?

(b) Is it a fact that the said post office is managed by nine clerks, six of whom have got split duties, and that consequently they have to walk four times from their houses to the post office say about 6 miles a day ?

(c) Is it a fact that rented houses near the post office are none, and that even in the town they are not available even at a prohibitive rental ?

(d) Is it a fact that the clerks of the said post office petitioned the Postmaster General, Bihar and Orissa Circle, on the 19th July, 1926, and the 13th January, 1927, for construction of quarters ?

(e) Is it a fact that the Bihar and Orissa Provincial Postal and R. M. S. Conferences of 1926 and 1927 passed resolutions Nos. 21 and 37 (a) respectively for construction of quarters for the clerks of the said office ?

(f) Is it a fact that Mr. J. Kumar (Assistant Postmaster General, Bihar and Orissa) investigated the clerks' grievances for quarters in June 1927 ?

(g) Is it a fact that the Superintendent of Post Offices, Gandak Division, has recommended six sets of family quarters for the clerks of the Motihari Head Office to the Postmaster General, Bihar and Orissa ?

(h) Is it a fact that with orders of the Postmaster General a site selection committee consisting of the Sub-divisional Officer, Sadar (Motihari, Presiding Officer), Civil Surgeon, Champaran, Sub-divisional Officer, P. W. D., and the Superintendent of Post Offices, Gandak Division was formed and that the said committee has selected the site for quarters and approved the site plan ?

(i) Is it a fact that the Executive Engineer, Muzaffarpore Division, has prepared the estimate and has forwarded the same to the Postmaster General for sanction ?

(j) Is it a fact that the District Magistrate, Champaran, has approved the proceedings of the site selection committee and has forwarded the same to the Executive Engineer, Muzaffarpore Division, for preparing the estimate ?

(k) If the answers (a) to (j) above be in affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state how far the Government has proceeded in removing this hard-felt grievance of the clerks of the said office for quarters ?

(l) Do Government propose to sanction split duties allowance for the clerks concerned till the construction of quarters near the post Office ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. McWatters : (a) to (h) and (j) Yes.

(i) The estimate and plan have not reached the Postmaster-General.

(k) The construction of quarters will be undertaken as soon as possible after the estimate referred to in (i) has been received and approved by the proper authorities and funds have been provided

(l) Government are not prepared to take the action suggested.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE ISHURDI-PABNA-SHADHUGANJ RAILWAY.

140. **Mr. K. C. Neogy :** Will Government be pleased to state :

(a) whether the recent investigation into the Ishurdi-Pabna-Shadhuganj railway project by the Agent, Eastern Bengal Railway, has shown that it is capable of yielding an annual return of over 6 per cent. on the capital outlay, which has been estimated at about Rs. 42 lakhs against 53 lakhs of a previous estimate ?

- (b) whether this project originated in 1904, and its active consideration has been pending since 1916 ?
- (c) whether this line would provide the only railway communication to an important District headquarters town in Bengal ? and
- (d) whether it is proposed to include the line in the construction programme for 1929-30 ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) The Railway Board have not yet received the report of the Agent on this project which was recently investigated by him, and until they have seen the report they cannot state what the annual return is likely to be.

(b) A project for a railway between Pabna and Sara was investigated in 1904 and rejected. A survey for a railway from Ishurdi to Sadhuganj via Pabna was made in 1916. Since that date various means of making a rail connection with Pabna have been under consideration.

(c) The Honourable Member is correct in supposing that there is at present no railway communication to the town of Pabna.

(d) A decision can only be reached when the report of the Agent has been received.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE FARIDPUR-CHARMUGURIA-BARISAL RAILWAY.

141. **Mr. K. C. Neogy :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state when the Faridpur-Char muguria-Barisal project will come up for active consideration ?

(b) For how many years has the question of connecting Faridpur with Bhanga been under consideration, apart from the larger project mentioned above ? Does the question of this short extension to Bhanga depend entirely on the said larger project, or is it under separate consideration also ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) The Railway Board are awaiting the results of the reconnaissance survey sanctioned in 1926

(b) I believe that a project which included a connection between Faridpur and Bhanga was mooted in 1888. The survey report of which the receipt is now awaited by the Railway Board will indicate separately the prospects of

(i) a connection between Faridpur and Barisal,

(ii) a connection between Faridpur and Bhanga, and these will be considered in due course.

PROVISION OF A PLATFORM AND WAITING ROOMS AT FARIDPUR, EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

142. **Mr. K. C. Neogy :** (a) When was the railway station at Faridpur (Eastern Bengal Railway) first opened ?

(b) Are Government aware that Faridpur is the headquarters town of an important District in Bengal ?

(c) Are Government aware (or if not, will they make inquiries in the matter ?) that the Eastern Bengal Railway authorities have refused

to provide a platform at the Faridpur railway station all these years, in spite of representations from officials and the non-official public and repeated criticisms in the Press ?

(d) Are Government aware of any railway station at any other District headquarters town which has not been provided with a platform ?

(e) Are Government aware that there are no proper waiting room accommodation nor other amenities at the Faridpur railway station ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) April 1899.

(b) Government are aware that Faridpur is the headquarters of a District in Bengal.

(c) and (e). There have been representations on the subject and the Agent is considering the complete reconstruction of the station at Faridpur and will no doubt consider to what extent the facilities mentioned in these two parts of the Honourable Member's question should be provided in the reconstructed station.

(d) Government are unable to make any categorical answer on this point without enquiries which they do not think it worth while to undertake.

CASH CERTIFICATES.

143. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the paragraph published in the issue of the *Statesman* of the 8th May, 1928, page 10, under the heading "National Savings Movement" ?

(b) If so, will they please state if the figures stated in the sub-heading "Cash Certificates" are correct ?

(c) If not, will Government please state the correct figures in the years referred to ?

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

(c) Does not arise.

VISIT OF THE MALARIA COMMISSION OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS TO INDIA.

144. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** With reference to the extract "It referred also to the hope of the Government of India that the League's Malaria Commission might be able to visit India during the latter part of 1928", from the Final Report of the Delegates of India to the Eighth (Ordinary) Session of the Assembly of the League of Nations 1927, page 25, under the heading "Work of the health organisation", will Government please state if they can give any further information on the matter, namely, whether the League's Malaria Commission will visit India during the latter part of 1928 ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : The Council of the League of Nations have accepted the invitation of the Government of India asking the Malaria Commission to visit this country, but the time of the visit has not yet been fixed.

FORMATION OF AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY AT PATNA.

145. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** (a) Have Government received letter No. 411, dated the 9th May 1928 from the Secretary, Bihar

and Orissa Chamber of Commerce, Patna, addressed to the Secretary, Railway Board ?

(b) Is it a fact that there is an Advisory Committee for the East Indian Railway at Calcutta and another at Cawnpore but none for the Province of Bihar and Orissa in Patna ?

(c) Is it a fact that the East Indian Railway has a mileage of about 540 miles in Bengal and of about 1,053 miles in Bihar ?

(d) Is it a fact that the Railway Board has appointed an Advisory Body for the Bengal Nagpur Railway at Cuttack although the Bengal Nagpur Railway has one at Calcutta ?

(e) Is it a fact that the Bengal and North Western Railway has also an Advisory Committee for the Province of Bihar and Orissa which meets at Muzaffarpur ?

(f) If the answer to the above questions be in the affirmative do Government propose to sanction the formation of an Advisory Committee of the East Indian Railway at Patna ?

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

(b) There is one Committee at Calcutta and one for the United Provinces whose meetings are held alternately at Cawnpore and Lucknow every two months.

(c) This is approximately correct

(d) There is a branch Committee at Cuttack which is appointed by the Bengal Nagpur Railway Administration and not by the Railway Board.

(e) Yes.

(f) The matter is being considered. But I must point out to the Honourable Member that there are considerable practical difficulties in adding to the number of Advisory Committees on any particular railway system owing to the tax which they make on the time of the Agent, and that the Bihar and Orissa Province is represented on the East Indian Railway Calcutta Advisory Committee by two members, one nominated by the Government of Bihar and Orissa and the other by the Bihar and Orissa Legislative Council.

REPRESENTATION OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE AND THE DOMINIONS AND INDIA IN THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

146. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : (1) Is it not a fact that (a) Australia, (b) British Empire, (c) Canada, (d) India, (e) New Zealand and (f) South Africa form as different States as shown in the List of States in Appendix I, page 73 of the Final Report of the Delegates of India to the Eighth (Ordinary) Session of the Assembly of the League of Nations 1927 ?

(2) Is it not a fact that (a) Australia, (b) Canada, (c) India, (d) New Zealand and (e) South Africa are parts of the British Empire ?

(3) Will Government please give reasons for the representation of the British Empire as well as of (a) Australia, (b) Canada, (c) India, (d) New Zealand and (e) South Africa as separate States ?

Mr. L. Graham : (1) and (2). The statements of fact herein contained are correct so far as they go, but reference should have been made to the Irish Free State.

(3) The expression " British Empire " in this context has been construed as meaning " Great Britain and Northern Ireland and all parts of the British Empire which are not separate Members of the League ".

ALLEGED INTERCEPTION OF MONEY SENT TO MRS. BESANT TO PAY THE FEES OF POOR STUDENTS.

147. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the paragraph published on page 9 of the *Statesman* of 26th May 1928, under the heading " Money for Mrs. Besant—Labour question in Commons " ?

(b) If so, will Government please state if they are in a position to give information to the House as to whether the Madras Government had held up and reclaimed money sent to Mrs. Besant to be used to pay the fees of poor students ?

(c) If so, will they please furnish the information to the House ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : (a) I have seen the paragraph.

(b) and (c). The allegation is entirely without foundation.

STATE MANAGEMENT OF THE BURMA RAILWAYS.

148. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the paragraph published on page 6 of the *Statesman* of the 19th June 1928, under the heading " State Railways in Burma " ?

(b) If so, will they please state if the statement made therein, viz., that the Government of India have decided to take over the Burma Railways as a State-managed concern from the commencement of next year is correct ?

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

REPORT OF THE CINEMA ENQUIRY COMMITTEE.

149. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if they have received the Report of the Cinema Enquiry Committee ?

(b) If so, when is it expected to be published ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : (a) Yes.

(b) The report was published on the 7th August.

HUMAN SACRIFICE IN BURMA.

†150. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the paragraph published on page 7 of the *Englishman* of the 28th May, 1928, under the heading " Human Sacrifice " ?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 37.

- (b) Does the custom of human sacrifice still exist in Burma ?
- (c) If so, in what part or parts of it ?
- (d) Will Government please state if they propose to take steps to stamp out this barbarous and inhuman custom referred to ?
- (e) If so, when ?

TRAFFIC IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

151. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan** : With reference to the extract "only the first part of the report has been published, the second part having been communicated confidentially to the Governments concerned—of which the Government of India is not one—for such observations as they wish to make", published in the Final Report of the Delegates of India to the Eighth (Ordinary) Session of the Assembly of the League of Nations, page 59, under the heading "Traffic in Women and Children", will Government please give any special reason why the Government of India has been excluded as appears from the last portion of the extract ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar : The report of the Body of Experts on Traffic in Women and Children was in two parts. Part one gave an account of the facts disclosed by the enquiry and a statement of the conclusions based on them. Part two contained a more detailed statement of the evidence derived from various sources arranged according to countries. When the report was presented to the Council of the League, it was decided to publish Part one immediately and a copy was communicated to the Government of India. In regard to Part two, it was decided in the first instance to send it confidentially to the Governments of the various countries with which it dealt for their observations. India was not one of the countries dealt with in this Part, and a copy was not therefore communicated to the Government of India at the time. A copy of Part two, together with the observations of the Governments referred to above, has since been received.

LANGUAGE IN WHICH THE PROCEEDINGS OF MEETINGS OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS ARE RECORDED.

152. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan** : Will Government please state :

- (a) In what language the proceedings of meetings of the League of Nations are recorded ?
- (b) If it is a fact that the delegates of the different States speak in the languages of their respective nationalities ?
- (c) If the answer to (b) be in the affirmative or in other words the delegates speak in other languages than English is there any procedure by which Indian delegates can follow the debates of the Assembly ?

Mr. L. Graham : (a) French and English.

(b) Delegates are permitted to speak in the languages of their respective nationalities.

(c) All speeches delivered in English are interpreted in French and *vice versa*. All speeches delivered neither in English nor in French are interpreted in both English and French.

AGE OF HINDU MARRIED WOMEN.

153 **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan** : Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that out of every 1,000 Hindu married women (a) 14 are under 5 years of age, (b) 111 under 10 years of age, (c) 437 under 15 years of age, *vide* page 244, lines 8 to 10 of the Journal of the Parliaments of the Empire—Vol. IX, No. I, January 1928) ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : The statement in the Journal purports to reproduce the gist of a speech made by Rai Sahib Harbilas Sarda in this House on the 15th September, 1927, and the figures quoted in the statement were given in that speech. If the Honourable Member wishes to check their accuracy his attention is invited to Table VII in Part II of Volume I of the Census of India, 1921, which he will find in the Library.

TRANSFER OF THE OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF INCOME-TAX, BIHAR AND ORISSA, FROM RANCHI TO PATNA.

154. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan** : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if the Central Board of Revenue has received a communication from the Bihar and Orissa Chamber of Commerce regarding the transfer of the office of the Commissioner of Income-tax, Bihar and Orissa, from Ranchi to Patna (*vide* paragraph published in the issue of the *Statesman* of 30th June, 1928, under the heading "Claims of Patna—Transfer of Income-tax Office urged") ?

(b) If so, will they please state if any order has been passed thereon ?

(c) If passed, will they please lay a copy of the order on the table ?

(d) If not, by what time do they expect to pass the order ?

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

(b), (c) and (d). Government have nothing to add to the answer given by Sir Basil Blackett to Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh's starred question No. 708 in the Legislative Assembly on the 31st August, 1927.

AIR SERVICE TO INDIA.

155. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan** : Will Government please state if it is correct that the air service to India will begin about April next (*vide* statement published in the issue of the *Statesman* of 13th July, 1928, page 9, under the heading "Air Service to India") ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. McWatters : That is the present expectation.

CONSTITUTION OF PROVINCIAL PUBLIC SERVICES COMMISSION.

156. **Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar** : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state what are the rule-making powers delegated to the Central and Provincial Governments respectively by the Secretary of State in Council under section 96 (B) of the Government of India Act ?

(b) Whether the Secretary of State has authorised the Central or any of the Provincial legislatures to make laws regulating the Public Services to any extent or in any respect or manner ?

(c) If not, whether there is any proposal under consideration to do so ?

(d) Have the Government of India received any proposal of legislation from any Province or Provinces for the constitution of Provincial Public Services Commission ?

(e) Has such legislation been authorised by the Secretary of State in Council under section 96 (B) of the Government of India Act ?

The Honourable Mr. J. C. Crerar : (a) Besides the rule-making powers delegated to the Central and Provincial Governments under certain rules of the Fundamental Rules promulgated in 1922, the Local Governments of Governors' Provinces have been authorised under the Civil Services (Governors' Provinces) Delegation Rules of 1926 to make, subject to certain reservations, rules regulating the method of recruitment, the conditions of service, pay, allowances and pensions of provincial and subordinate services and of officers holding special posts. Draft rules delegating similar powers to the Governor General in Council in respect of officers employed under the Central Government are under the consideration of the Secretary of State in Council.

(b) and (c). The Secretary of State in Council has not given any general authorisation to the Central or Provincial Legislatures, under section 96B (2) of the Government of India Act, to make laws regulating the public services ; but he considers particular proposals for legislation on their merits.

(d) Yes, from Madras.

(e) The question of making a general rule authorising Local Governments to legislate on this matter is at present under consideration.

LAND REVENUE LEGISLATION.

157. Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar : (a) With reference to the reply of Government to my questions Nos. 627 and 630, dated 30th August 1927, will the Government be pleased to make any statement whether if any and if so what progress has been made by Provincial Governments in carrying out the recommendations of the Joint Committee of Parliament in 1919 regarding land revenue legislation ?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state what administrative action it took or what instructions it conveyed to Provincial Governments in respect of draft land revenue legislation proposed by them and submitted for statutory or administrative sanction ?

(c) Is it a fact that in more than one Province projected legislation in this behalf had been held up or delayed by reason of the difficulties experienced in the Legislature in carrying out the directions of the Government of India ?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to state under what provision of law or rules it exercises powers of controlling provincial legislation on a provincial subject like land revenue ?

(e) Will the Government be pleased to state whether in this matter it is subject to any general or specific instructions from the Secretary of State in Council ?

(f) Is the Government of India going to make a report to the Statutory Commission communicating its failure to carry out the recommendations made by the Joint Parliamentary Committee during the last 8 years and the cause thereof ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : (a) The Punjab Government introduced in 1926 a Bill to amend the Punjab Land Revenue Act. This Bill is reported to have been passed by the Legislative Council in May last. In the Central Provinces, the Select Committee of the Legislative Council appointed to consider the Settlement Bill, which was introduced in 1927, has submitted its report. Land Revenue Bills have also been prepared in the United Provinces and Bombay.

(b) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the answers given to parts (b) and (c) of his question No. 627 on 30th August, 1927.

(c) No.

(d) The action of Local Governments with reference to such legislation is subject to the superintendence, direction and control of the Government of India under section 45 of the Government of India Act.

(e) They are subject to the general instruction that the concurrence of the Secretary of State is to be obtained before executive orders are issued forbidding the introduction of a Bill which a Local Government proposes to introduce in the Provincial Legislative Council.

(f) As the Honourable Member's assumption that the alleged failure to carry out the recommendation of the Joint Parliamentary Committee is due to the Government of India is not correct, the question does not arise.

DEPOSITS HELD BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA UNDER THE CIVIL ACCOUNT CODE WITH THE ACCOUNTANTS GENERAL IN THE VARIOUS PROVINCES.

158. **Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar :** (a) Will the Government of India be pleased to call for and place on the table a statement of the various deposits held by them under the Civil Account Code with the Accountants General in the various Provinces on the 1st of January, 1928, and the periods during which they have been so held ?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to call for and lay on the table a statement of deposits lapsed to Provincial Governments in each year commencing from 1923 ?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they propose to amend the Civil Account Code so as to make it obligatory on the Treasury Officers to issue notice to the depositors by registered post before ordering them to lapse to Government ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : (a) The compilation of the figures required by the Honourable Member would involve an expenditure of time and labour which could not be justified by the results obtainable, while to prepare a statement of the periods during which the deposits have been held is practically impossible. The figures of outstandings on the 31st March, 1926, which are the latest available, can however be shown to the Honourable Member by arrangement with the Financial Secretary if the Honourable Member will write to him on the subject.

(b) The total amounts of deposits treated as lapsed to Government are shown in the Finance and Revenue Accounts—*vide*, for example, Accounts 74 and 74A of these accounts for 1926-27.

(c) The Honourable Member is perhaps under the impression that, once a deposit is treated as lapsed, it can never be claimed, by the party concerned. I would invite his attention to Article 207 of the Civil Account Code, Volume I, from which it will be seen that amounts of lapsed deposits can always be refunded with the sanction of the Accountant-General. In the circumstances, Government do not propose to make any amendments of the nature suggested.

TOTAL AMOUNT OF DEPOSITS HELD BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA TO THE CREDIT OF PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS.

159. **Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the total amount of deposits held by the Government of India to the credit of Provincial Governments under various heads from 1921 ?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state whether any interest on the said deposits held by them has been credited to the Local Governments concerned ?

(c) If not, whether any proposals for the payment of interest to the Local Governments on the deposits held by them have been made and considered ?

(d) Whether they have arrived at any decision in the matter ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : It is impossible within a reasonable compass to give the detailed information which my Honourable friend desires. But it will perhaps sufficiently meet his point if I state briefly the general position which is as follows. Under present constitutional arrangements the Central Government act as the banker of all the Provincial Governments and are responsible to furnish them with cash for provincial transactions when and where required. In return the Central Government have the use, free of interest, of all deposits of the kind which I think the Honourable Member has in mind. The Central Government, on the other hand, pay interest to Provincial Governments on the balances accumulated in the Famine Insurance Fund under the provisions of Schedule IV to the Devolution Rules. They also pay to Provincial Governments interest on such portion of the credit balances of the latter as may be placed with the Central Government on fixed deposit in accordance with the Rules contained in Article 298B of the Account Code. The proposition that interest should be paid on other categories of deposits is not at present a live issue. The question is however one which may probably arise in connection with any general revision of the Meston Settlement.

THE CAUVERY-METTUR PROJECT.

160. **Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar :** Will the Government be pleased to state :

(a) whether they have received from the Government of Madras revised estimates for the Cauvery-Mettur project for sanction ?

- (b) whether they are aware that a committee appointed by the Madras Government examined the whole matter and submitted a report to the Government ?
- (c) whether that Committee has recommended the cutting down of the expenditure under various heads and the substitution of surki mortar concrete for cement concrete and various other economies and improvements ?
- (d) whether the experts of the Government of India have given no definite opinion as to the preferability of cement concrete to surki mortar concrete ?
- (e) whether in the circumstances the Government of India will re-examine the question before submitting the revised estimates for the approval of the Secretary of State ?
- (f) whether they will examine also the other suggestions made by the Committee on the question of reducing expenditure under various other heads ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. McWatters : (a), (b) and (c). Yes.

(d) The question was examined on behalf of the Government of India by Chief Engineers of four different provinces. The balance of opinion was in favour of the use of cement concrete.

(e) and (f). The Government of India will consider what questions require re-examination when they receive the proceedings of the Government of Madras on the report.

PROVISION OF AN OVERBRIDGE AT THE CROSSING TO THE EAST OF MOGHALPURA ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

161. **Lala Lajpat Rai :** (a) Are Government aware that the railway crossing to the east of Moghalpura station on the North Western Railway crosses a very frequented road which leads from Mianmir to Shalamar-Bagh and Amritsar ?

(b) Are Government aware that people wishing to cross that crossing have to wait there as long as half an hour before the gates are opened ?

(c) Are Government prepared to consider the advisability of providing an overbridge at that crossing ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : Government have no detailed information, but they understand that the provision of an overbridge is under consideration. They are sending a copy of the Honourable Member's question to the Agent of the North-Western Railway to draw his attention to the subject.

DELIVERY OF POSTAL ARTICLES IN THE TOWN OF PATNA.

162. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the paragraph published on page 7 of the *Searchlight* of the 18th July, 1928, under the heading "A Postal Grievance" ?

(b). Is it a fact that prior to the centralization of the delivery system in the Patna Town the postal articles used to be delivered from all the Post Offices in the town in the same afternoon ?

(c) Is it a fact that this new system of delivery was introduced in the town of Patna in spite of great opposition from the general public ?

(d) Is it a fact that owing to the introduction of this new system the Postal Department has to pay an extra allowance of Rs. 200 a month to the motor contractor and that some additional hands have been also sanctioned and even then the grievances of the public remain unredressed ?

(e) If the answer to (a), (b), (c) and (d) be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state if they are prepared to revert to the old arrangements ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. McWatters : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes, but only from the delivery offices.

(c) No.

(d) No. The only additional expense was the increase of Rs. 200 in the mail contractors' subsidy.

(e) The arrangements have since been further improved in certain sectors. It is not proposed to revert to the old arrangements.

MAKING OF APPOINTMENTS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA OFFICES ON A COMMUNAL BASIS.

163. Mr. Amar Nath Dutt : Is it a fact that in the offices of the Government of India appointments are being made on a communal basis and appointments of members of certain communities have been stopped in some offices ? If so, will the Government state the reasons for such a policy ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : I will send the Honourable Member a copy of the orders which provide for the redress of communal inequalities which may arise in the ordinary process of recruitment. These orders do not contemplate that the appointment of members of certain communities should be stopped, and I am not aware of any foundation for such a suggestion.

COMMUNAL PREFERENCE IN APPOINTMENTS TO THE PUBLIC SERVICE.

164. Mr. Amar Nath Dutt : Are the Government aware that communal preference in appointments is retarding the growth of Indian nationalism by accentuating bitterness among members of the different communities ? If so, what safeguards do the Government propose to provide against the evil ? Is communal preference dependent upon the votes of the Members of the community in the Legislatures ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. The second part does not arise. The suggestion in the third part that the Government policy in regard to recruitment to the services bears any relation to the way in which members of particular communities cast their votes is entirely without foundation. On the contrary the policy rests on the plain consideration that it is not in the public interest that any particular community should obtain an undue preponderance in the Government services.

EMPLOYMENT OF BENGALLEES IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA SECRETARIAT.

165. **Mr. Amar Nath Dutt** : Is it a fact that Bengalees are not given the same facilities as other communities for service in the Government of India Secretariat ? Are the Government aware that there is a widespread belief that a Bengalee graduate, however brilliant he may be, will not get an appointment, so long as others are available, however inferior their qualifications may be ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : The answer to both parts of the question is in the negative.

FAILURE OF BENGALÉE GRADUATES IN THE SECRETARIAT SERVICE EXAMINATIONS.

166. **Mr. Amar Nath Dutt** : Will the Government be pleased to enquire into the causes of the failures if any of the Bengalee graduates in the Secretariat service examinations ? Are the Government aware that there is a widespread belief that they do not get equally fair treatment with others ? If so, is there any truth in such a belief ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : Bengalees compete on equal terms with candidates from other Provinces, and if it is a fact that they fail to secure appointments it can only be concluded that they are less well qualified. No special enquiry is called for. As regards the second part of his question I must refer the Honourable Member to the answer that I have just given on the same subject. If such a belief exists, it is unfounded.

DISCHARGE OF A. K. MITRA, RELIEVING CLERK, BURDWAN, BY THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

167. **Mr. Amar Nath Dutt** : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the reasons for the discharge of A. K. Mitra, relieving clerk, Burdwan, East Indian Railway, as intimated by the Divisional Superintendent, Howrah, in his office No. E. G. 102/28, dated 10th April 1928 ? Are such cases entirely in the disposal of the officer and has the discharged person no remedy from the higher authorities ?

(b) Is it a fact that A. K. Mitra was appointed in consideration of the services of his father, the late P. C. Mitra, who was killed in the war and whose sacrifice received recognition from His Majesty the King ? Is it also a fact that his father and grandfather served the East Indian Railway for more than half a century ? Was such sacrifice and service considered before ordering his discharge without any reason ? Will the Government be pleased to state their general policy in the case of such discharge ?

(c) Is it a fact that A. K. Mitra was discharged without reason ? Will the Government be pleased to state whether they propose to re-instate A. K. Mitra under the circumstances ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : Government have no information with regard to the individual case mentioned by the Honourable Member and since its disposal is entirely within the competence of the authorities of the East Indian Railway they do not propose to take any action. In accordance with the ordinary rule a non-pensionable railway employee in the event

of being discharged from the service has the right of appeal to the Agent if the order of discharge is issued by the Head of his department and to the Head of the appellant's department in all other cases.

ACCIDENT BETWEEN HAIYA GHAT AND KISHANPUR RAILWAY STATIONS ON THE BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

168. **Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh :** (a) Is it a fact that a serious railway accident took place between Haiya Ghat and Kishanpur railway stations (Bengal and North Western Railway), on or about the 22nd January 1928 ?

(b) What was the cause of the accident, and the number of casualties ?

(c) Is it a fact that in view of the serious allegations made regarding the number of casualties, and the treatment of the injured in the hospital, the District Magistrate of Durbhanga was instructed to hold a public enquiry ? Will Government be pleased to procure and lay on the table a copy of the report of the District Magistrate, together with the communication received from the Government of Bihar and Orissa, on the subject ?

(d) Was any one prosecuted, or any departmental action taken against any one in connection with this accident ? And, if so, with what result ?

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

(b) The cause of the accident in the opinion of the Senior Government Inspector was the derailment of an empty road-van attached next to the engine. The casualties were 8 killed and 15 injured.

(c) Yes, an enquiry was held by the District Magistrate and a copy of his report is laid on the table. Government regret that they cannot agree to publish the correspondence between the Local Government and the Government of India.

(d) The Station Master, Kishanpur, and the Assistant Medical Officer, Samastipur, have been dealt with departmentally by the Agent, Bengal and North-Western Railway.

FROM M. J. DIXON, ESQ., I.C.S., DISTRICT MAGISTRATE, DARBHANGA, TO THE COMMISSIONER OF THE TIRHUT DIVISION, MUZAFFARPUR, LETTER NO. 47, DATED LAHERIASARAI, THE 9TH FEBRUARY 1928.

SUBJECT.—Final Report on the railway accident between Kishanpur and Haiya Ghat railway stations.

In continuation of my previous report No. 33-C., dated the 3rd February 1928, I have the honour to state that I held enquiry at Kishanpur railway station on the 6th February, and at Samastipur railway station and the Civil Hospital, Samastipur, on the 7th February.

The accident took place beyond the southern end of bridge No. 11 A at mile 8.8 which is about 2 miles north of Kishanpur railway station. The line in this part is on a long straight level piece, running over three miles over a low bank which continues beyond the bridge. The bridge itself consists of 20 spans of 20 ft. girders, and is practically a viaduct over a water course there being no parapet and no foot way. There is a large depression at this place in which water remains throughout the year. At about 8.30 P.M. on the night of 22nd January, the 30 Down mixed train from Darbhanga was passing over this bridge. An empty road van attached next to the engine was derailed on the bridge, and striking the parapet wall of the abutment was

thrown against the superstructure of a third class bogie carriage following immediately behind, and completely wrecked this coach. The whole superstructure was torn off the under carriage and completely wrecked and thrown down the eastern bank about 100 feet beyond the end of the bridge. The under carriage was derailed about 50 feet further on, and the road van was derailed on the western side. All the passengers of this bogie carriage were hurled out with wreckage and many were killed and injured. The coupling between the road van and the engine was broken and the engine ran on ahead and was pulled up some eighty feet beyond the wreck. The remainder of the train remained on the track and was practically undamaged, there being no casualty to any other passengers except those on the smashed bogie coach.

The composition of the train was as follows :

- Engine " F " class 0-6-0 type.
- One four-wheeled road-van.
- Four bogie 3rd class carriages.
- One six-wheeled inter and 3rd class carriage.
- One six-wheeled inter class carriage.
- One six-wheeled 2nd class carriage.
- One six-wheeled 1st class carriage.
- One six-wheeled brake van.

The train was non-vacuum.

At first it was generally believed that the cause of the accident was due to the engine parting with the rest of the train and instead of running ahead was stopped with a view to attach itself to the rake which was still moving with momentum, and this caused the collision resulting in the derailment of the road van and the passenger carriage. This was the account given in the first accident report, submitted by the Station Master of Kishanpur on 24th January, and which was accepted by the police in the enquiry held by the Deputy Superintendent of Police, under Rule 20 (c) of the Revised rules made under section 84 of the Indian Railways Act (Act LX of 1890). An exaggerated version of this cause of the accident was given by a gateman at the enquiry held on the 27th January 1928. His version which is a popular one current was that the driver having lost his train reversed his engine and backed it to the on-coming train. This is the version given by two witnesses who were in the smashed coach, one Muhammad Mustafa, a compounder, and one Abdul Moid, a teacher in a Middle Vernacular School, who were examined before me on the 6th February 1928 at Kishanpur.

Mr. R. R. Byron, Senior Government Inspector of Railways, held a technical enquiry on the 27th January at Kishanpur. He found that the van which was in front next to the engine had become derailed about 50 feet from the southern end of the bridge as was evident from the damage caused from the derailed wheels to the sleepers, the marks of the derailed wheels on the sleepers ran for some distance parallel to the rail with a slight inclination to the right, and the van must have been on the point of falling over when it struck the abutment, one wheel having travelled beyond the end of the sleepers. This apparently caused the derailed van to mount upon the superstructure of the following bogie coach which was also derailed. Mr. Byron does not in his report consider that the accident was caused by the broken tender drawbar, on the contrary he considers that the leading end of the road van was still being held straight by the tender coupling although he found that the drawbar of the tender was flawed for about 40 per cent. of the cross sectional area at the point of fracture. He has held that the wheels when running over the sleepers threw a sudden additional strain on the weakened drawbar of the tender which broke under the strain and caused the accident, had the van not been held in front by the tender coupling at the moment of derailment the tendency of the whole train pushing it forward, would have been for the van to incline to the right, the side on which was derailed, and it would have gone over the side of the bridge before reaching the abutment which was 50 feet from the point of derailment.

It may be noted that this report does not deal with the cause as to how the road van completely sheared off the superstructure of the following coach which was thrown down the bank on the opposite side, approximately the same distance from the bridge ; the under structure being derailed about 50 feet further south.

At the enquiry the Senior Government Inspector of Railways examined the Guard, the Assistant Guard, the driver and the fireman who were on the train, and also the gate keeper of mile 8½. Also he has taken the statement of the Permanent Way Inspector, Mr. G. C. Disney of Darbhanga, who arrived from Darbhanga at the scene

of occurrence at 3-45 A.M., also the Assistant Medical Officer, Mr. Twidle, who came by the break down train at Kishanpur at about 11-30, and there is the report of the Assistant Engineer, Samastipur, who arrived shortly after 1 A.M. and copies of the inquest report of the Sub-Inspector, Government Railway Police, who arrived at 2 A.M. and the personal diaries of the Senior and the Junior Sub-Inspector of Warisnagar police.

The Deputy Agent of the B. and N. W. Railway has accepted the finding of the Senior Government Inspector of Railways regarding the cause of the accident.

The Government Inspector has held that the cause of the derailment was due to the fact that the light road van was empty, its tare weight being only 4 tons 14 cwts., and it was sandwiched in between the engine and heavy bogie stock, the tare weight of each of the bogie 3rd class being 18 tons 10 cwts., with the result that there was a constant tendency for this light van to be lifted up whenever the following coaches bunched up upon it. In the case of a non-vacuum braked train any slackening of the engine speed would immediately result in the bunching together of the coaching stock. The Government Inspector is of opinion that the speed was constantly varying within a few miles per hour sufficient to cause the causing vehicles to bunch up together with enough force to raise the road van so that it mounted the rails and was derailed. The wheels then running on the sleepers threw a sudden additional strain on the already weakened draw bar of the tender which broke under the strain and caused the accident.

He has recommended that ordinarily empty goods wagons should not be attached to these trains, but that if for traffic reasons it is necessary to move empty wagons by these trains such wagons must be placed in the rear of the passenger coaches. That road vans which from the nature of the work they perform are seldom fully loaded and are usually attached to a train throughout its journey should be attached in the rear of the train. He has also recommended that as a rule mixed train should consist of passenger stock and fully loaded wagons which may be marshalled in front of the passenger coaches to facilitate shunting by the train engine at way-side stations.

With respect to the actual occurrence, I again examined the Guard, the Assistant Guard, the Driver, the Fireman and the Jack, and nine passengers who were in the damaged coach including Babu Jamuna Karji, a District Board member, and one inter class passenger Babu Ram Senahi Rai, a teacher of the local Saraswati School. The three occupants of the engine all stated that the engine had crossed the bridge half way when they felt a sudden jerk backwards, and immediately afterwards, they heard a crash and the engine shot ahead. The driver then shut off the steam and brought the engine to stop. The Guard and the Assistant Guard who were both in the Guard's van in the rear of the train felt what the Guard describes as 'bump' and the Assistant Guard as a 'Jerk' and the train came to a stand still. The passengers in the derailed coach could not give any coherent account of the actual occurrence except that they felt the carriage going down the bank rapidly.

The Driver got down from the engine and proceeded towards the wreckage with the aid of a lantern. The Guard and the Assistant Guard also arrived at the scene of the accident in 15 or 20 minutes. The Guard and the Driver then left the train in charge of the Assistant Guard and took the engine to Kishanpur railway station, arriving there at about 9-15 P.M. and the station master sent information by wire. In the accident message which was not despatched before 9-50, there is no mention of any person being killed on the spot. The report merely stated "many injured". The station master sent back the engine with the Guard. The Guard and the Assistant Guard then made arrangements for the safety of the standing train by placing lights at the end and placing detonators on the track. The up train from Samastipur arrived at Kishanpur at 9-42 P.M. By this time there was a general rumour of the accident, some of the injured persons had arrived at Kishanpur by foot, and through the insistence of the Senior Sub-Inspector of Police of Warisnagar who was present at the station, and a Mr. Fitz Gerald, an employee of the Burma Oil Company who was a passenger of the up train, a relief party went out with the engine and a third class coach of 41 up, to the scene of the accident. There was some delay in getting necessary permission from Samastipur and also recalling the light engine to Kishanpur. This relief party which consisted of the Senior Sub-Inspector of Police, Warisnagar, Mr. Fitz Gerald, Babu Baijnath Pande, Sub-Registrar of Kishanpur, his clerk, Brijbans Subay, a District Board Supervisor, Babu Chet Narain Lal, and the station master of Kishanpur, left Kishanpur at about 10-30 and arrived at the scene of accident about 11 P.M. Two boys Mathur Chand Ghose and Sunil Chandra Sen who had been in the wrecked bogie and had already arrived at Kishanpur returned with this party. During this time the injured had been helped out of the wreckage by the Assistant

Guard and other passengers, prominent among whom was a District Board member Babu Jamuna Karji. A fire had been lit with some straw and nothing further was done till help arrived. The relief party remained there for nearly two hours, and were joined half an hour after their arrival by the Junior Sub-Inspector and the Writer Head Constable of Warisnagar thana. Fifteen injured men were taken to the relief train. Before leaving, some of the party headed by Babu Jamuna Karji counted the dead bodies. According to Babu Jamuna Karji the number was about thirty in all, according to Mr. Fitz Gerald the number was not more than twelve and not less than eight, and according to the Sub-Registrar of Kishanpur Babu Baijnath Pande the number was about twenty, there being fourteen separate bodies. When the party left the place, the Head Constable of Warisnagar left in charge to watch these dead bodies and the properties of the passengers.

Meanwhile a break down train in charge of the District Traffic Superintendent, B. and N. W. Railway, Mr. Brown, arrived at Kishanpur railway station with necessary first aid, bandages, blankets, stretchers, etc., in the charge of the railway doctor, Mr. Twidale, with a Sub-Assistant Surgeon and a dresser. Mr. Brown did not think it necessary to take the train up as there was a relief train ahead and so he walked up to the place accompanied by the doctor and met the relief train returning about a mile and a half further north. They stopped the train and came back with it travelling on the engine. The Railway doctor did not enter the bogie carriage and examine the injured. Apparently he and Mr. Brown were under the impression that first aid had already been rendered by a doctor on the spot and therefore considered it best to get back to Kishanpur as quickly as possible. The relief train arrived back at Kishanpur at 0-55 A.M., where it was met by the Sub-Assistant Surgeon of Warisnagar. Warisnagar is at a distance of only two miles from Kishanpur railway station. This dispensary doctor stated in evidence that he was the first to treat these patients. The railway doctors also attended these patients at Kishanpur. The bogie with the injured was attached to the waiting 41 up train which returned to Samastipur as 30 down leaving Kishanpur at 1-55 A.M. The three doctors also returned to Samastipur, the dispensary doctor and the Sub-Assistant Surgeon of the railway remained in the bogie with the patients. No information was sent to Samastipur by the railway authorities or by the railway police, although Mr. Brown stated in his evidence that he saw a wire at Kishanpur by the side of the telegraph instrument which was to have been sent by the Sub-Inspector, Government Railway Police, to the address of his Writer Head Constable and therefore he did not think that it was necessary to send any separate information. This wire was not sent. When the train reached Samastipur there was no arrangement for evacuating the injured. The assistant station master on being requested supplied a stretcher and some coolies, and two patients were taken into the hospital, one of whom was in a very precarious condition and died that afternoon. Mr. Fitz Gerald's camp cot had to be used as a stretcher. There were four cases which were considered by the doctors present to be serious.

The assistant station master offered to send the rest of the injured to the Samastipur dispensary hospital by hiring taxis which were at the station. This was refused by Babu Jamuna Karji after consulting the Warisnagar dispensary doctor. The bogie with the injured passengers was then moved to the siding from where the injured were carried in stretcher to the Samastipur dispensary hospital by the coolies supplied by railway. The railway doctors did not accompany the carriage to the siding. One Mewa Lal, a District Board Sub-Overseer who lives close to the siding, was called up by Babu Jamuna Karji and was placed in charge of the coolies who took these injured persons on stretchers to the hospital. He stated in evidence that he arrived at 3-30, again 4 A.M. and again after 5 A.M. at the Samastipur dispensary. That when he came first at 3-30 A.M. he awoke the dresser and on his first and second arrival he told the dresser to inform the doctor, but there was no sign of the doctor. The doctor Rai Bahadur Bakim Chandra Ghose stated in evidence that he was not informed till 5-30 A.M. The first injured case must have reached the hospital by 3-30 A.M.

At about 6 A.M. the doctor came to the hospital and all the injured were given stimulant mixture. He also dressed four of the injured whom he considered to be suffering from slight injuries. Two of the patients whom he considered to be seriously injured, and who had been left on the verandah of the male ward were then given a second stimulant mixture and the compounder was told to prepare hot water for dressing these patients. The doctor then left the hospital, changed his clothes, went to the Sub-Jail and returned at about 7 A.M. On his return he found Babu Jamuna Karji, the Chairman of the Local Board and Municipality, and a pleader in the male ward. Babu Jamuna Karji strongly remonstrated with the doctor over the delay in dressing

the seriously injured patients. The doctor ordered him out of the hospital and proceeded to dress these patients. These patients had already received first aid dressing and apparently the doctor did not consider that they were in very urgent need of being redressed and therefore he thought it better to have them dressed with warm water instead of cold lotion. One of these cases was subsequently found by the Civil Surgeon to have been very septic and in a very dirty state, when he visited the hospital on the 29th January, 1928. One other patient whose case was not considered serious by any one of these doctors was considered by the Civil Surgeon to be suffering from a damaged thigh bone. This was Dasain Thatheri who has been since discharged from Samastipur hospital and was examined as a witness in this enquiry. I consider however that in this hospital there was some delay in the treatment of these cases and that they were not considered at first very serious and this is borne out by the first report submitted by Dr. Ghose, the Deputy Superintendent of the Banwarilal Hospital, who made an enquiry on the evening of the same day, and reported that only one injured man had slight lacerated thigh muscle wound and the others had bruises only and none seriously wounded.

I examined one Sarju Singh, Rajput by caste, a patient in the Sadr hospital, Laheriaasrai, suffering from lacerated thigh wound. He said he was in the bogie coach and was flung out among the wreck. He twice lost consciousness but remembers to have been given some stimulant mixture in the relief train. He says he arrived at Samastipur dispensary at 4 A.M. and was lying on the verandah, and received no attention till day break.

It is a fact however that the cases admitted were not serious if properly treated at first. The serious cases consisted of two patients with lacerated thigh muscles and one case diagnosed later by the Civil Surgeon as suffering from partial hip fracture.

The responsibility for this delay at Samastipur dispensary is however a part of the large responsibility which the railway staff has incurred by its failure to have made proper arrangements for the evacuation and treatment of the injured. The care and supervision of the injured did not receive the attention required on the part of the railway administration, and the responsibility for this should not have been left with one of the passengers Babu Jamuna Karji who himself must have been hurt, having been in the wrecked coach.

The station master at Kishanpur appears to have been very incompetent. Had it not been for the presence of the Senior Sub-Inspector of Police, Warianagar, and a Mr. Fitz Gerald, an employee of the Burma Oil Company, who was a passenger of the up train, at the station, it is very doubtful if any relief train would have been sent out. The break down train arrived after considerable delay. Kishanpur is only at a distance of 8 miles from Samastipur. No medical officer had visited the scene of the accident, and the blankets which were in the break down train were apparently forgotten and not distributed among the injured. No information was sent in to Samastipur and no arrangements were made for receiving the injured.

The break down train arrived at the scene of the accident at about 2 A.M. A guard of police and chaukidars was posted on the wreckage during the night time. The following morning the dead bodies were collected and an inquest was held. A translation of the inquest report is given with the evidence of the Government Railway Police Sub-Inspector. Seven bodies were recovered of which two were subsequently identified and handed over to their relations. The five bodies unidentified were buried at the spot. The number of dead bodies actually found by the police on the following morning is much less than that which is said to have been counted by the members of the first relief party and Babu Jamuna Karji. At the time the account of the dead was made by these people they had been working for nearly two hours in evacuating the injured, and in view of the different number stated by Babu Jamuna Karji, Mr. Fitz Gerald, and the Sub-Registrar of Kishanpur, none of whose figures are exact, no great reliance can be placed on their estimates, which are much larger than the number actually recovered by the police. From the departure of the relief train up to the morning there was a guard of police and chaukidars over the wreckage. The members of the relief party admit that no bodies were removed while they were present, and there is no evidence that any bodies were removed subsequently.

During the night the Assistant Engineer Mr. Livingston and the District Traffic Superintendent Mr. Brown searched among the wreckage and after a careful search could discover only six bodies. The number of dead bodies therefore found by the police on whom inquest report was held is in my opinion the correct number of people killed at the scene of the accident. The inquest held by the Government Railway Police Sub-Inspector is signed by one Parduman Lal, Law Superintendent of the

Sursand estate, the Writer Head Constable Jamuna Prashad and the Junior Sub-Inspector of Warisnagar.

Of the 15 persons removed, one who was admitted to the railway hospital died on the 23rd, and two cases are still under treatment for lacerated thighs, one at the Banwari Lal Hospital, Laheria sarai, and one at the Samastipur dispensary.

I would recommend that there should be more effective organisation by the railway administration of their medical department for rendering first aid and evacuation of the injured. I also wish to bring to your notice the commendable public spirit displayed by Babu Jamuna Karji, Mr. Fitz Gerald and Muhammad Sherif, Senior Sub-Inspector of Warisnagar.

ALLOCATION OF COSTS BETWEEN THE DIFFERENT LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE DEOGHAR CONSPIRACY CASE.

169. **Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh** : Have Government received any representation from the Government of Bihar and Orissa on the subject of the allocation of cost in conducting the Deoghar conspiracy case, in which the accused came from Bengal, the United Provinces, and the Punjab ? If so, what decision, if any, has been arrived at regarding the allocation of cost between the different Local Governments concerned ?

The Honourable J. Crerar : A representation has been received from the Government of Bihar and Orissa on this subject asking for a contribution from central revenues towards the expenses of the case. The Standing Finance Committee of the Assembly has agreed to a supplementary demand of Rs. 50,000 being moved for this purpose, and this will be done in due course.

PREVENTION OF THE IMPORT INTO INDIA OF IMITATION TEAS.

170. **Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh** : (a) Is it a fact that "imitation teas" in which weeds and other ingredients are mixed, are imported into India for consumption, and that they are injurious to health ?

(b) Where are these "imitation teas" produced ; and do Government propose to take necessary steps to prevent their import into India ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : (a) and (b). The Government of India understand that imitation tea is manufactured at Virudhunagar in the Ramnad District of the Madras Presidency from the leaves of certain trees and that this stuff is imported coastwise from Tuticorin to Bombay, etc., probably under other descriptions such as "Soap Nut Powder". It is also reported that there is some traffic in artificially coloured teas in Amritsar, but no information is available as to whether these are imported from outside and if so whence. I regret I am not in a position to express any definite opinion as to whether the imitation teas are injurious to health, as such opinion can be expressed only after a careful scientific analysis of the ingredients. With regard to the question of the prevention of the importation of such teas I may state that action has already been taken or is being taken by Local Governments to prescribe under their Food Adulteration Acts a standard quality of tea for sale for human consumption. In view of this the Government of India do not propose to take any further action in the matter.

RAILWAY SURVEY FROM RUTLAM-BANSWARA TO GALIAKOT IN CENTRAL INDIA.

171. **Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh** : (a) It is proposed to have a railway survey made from Rutlam-Banswara to Galiakot (Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway) in Central India ?

(b) Will this railway line, if constructed, pass through Sailana, which is a populous and growing centre ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) A traffic survey for a railway from Rutlam via Banswara to Galiakot has been sanctioned.

(b) Until an engineering survey has been made the exact alignment of the Railway cannot be stated.

INADEQUATE REPRESENTATION OF SIKHS IN THE POST OFFICE AND THE RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE IN THE PUNJAB.

172. Sardar Gulab Singh : (a) Will Government be pleased to place on the table two statements showing the following information :

Statement No. 1.

Name of Circle, Division or Office.	Total number of clerks or sorters including Reserve.	Number of clerks or sorters belonging to Sikh community.	REMARKS.
1. Punjab and N. W. F. C. Postal Circle ..			
2. Office of P. M. G., Lahore			
3. R. M. S. D. Division			
4. R. M. S. E. Division			
5. R. M. S. L. Division			

Statement No. 2.

Name of Circle, Division or Office.	Total number of vacancies of clerks or sorters (including Reserve) filled up during the year 1937-38.	Number of vacancies filled up by recruiting members of Sikh community.	REMARKS.
1. Punjab and N. W. F. C. Postal Circle ..			
2. Office of P. M. G., Lahore			
3. R. M. S. D. Division			
4. R. M. S. E. Division			
5. R. M. S. L. Division			

(b) Is it a fact that the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs, issued orders to the effect that every third vacancy be given to the members of the community which is inadequately represented ?

(c) Is it a fact that the Sikh community is poorly represented in the Post Office and R. M. S. in the Punjab ?

(d) If the answer to part (c) is in the affirmative, do Government propose to take suitable action against the officials responsible for not abiding by the Director-General's instructions referred to in part (b) and not allowing every third vacancy to Sikhs in the Departments named above ?

(e) Do Government propose to issue strict instructions to the effect that in future the rights of the Sikh community are not ignored in recruiting candidates and that recruitment is made strictly in accordance with Director-General's instructions referred to in part (a) above ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. McWatters : The information asked for by the Honourable Member is being collected and will be furnished to him in due course.

ABOLITION OF THE WESTERN CIRCLE OF THE RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE AT POONA.

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

(a) whether the abolition of the Western Circle, Poona, of the R. M. S. has resulted in economy ?

(b) If so, how much ?

(c) If not, whether they propose to abandon the scheme for abolition in other centres ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. McWatters : (a) and (b). The scheme was adopted for administrative rather than financial reasons, and no marked economy is anticipated at present.

(c) No.

GRANT OF HELP TO THE WIDOW AND FAMILY OF MR. GANPATI AYER, LATE HEAD SORTER, NO. 8 SECTION, RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE, BANGALORE CITY.

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

(a) whether they are aware that Mr. Ganpati Ayer, the late Head Sorter, No. 8 Section, Railway Mail Service, Bangalore City, contracted a wound in the course of his official duty and after some time died on account of it, leaving a widow and some children ?

(b) whether the widow has sent a petition for help for the family and to give some suitable job for her eldest boy ? and

(c) whether Government has considered the petition and, if so, what the decision is ?

Mr. P. G. Rogers : (a) The evidence available shows that the wound was not contracted in the course of official duty.

(b) Yes.

(c) The matter is under consideration.

DEPARTMENTAL EXAMINATION FOR POSTAL ACCOUNTANTS.

175. **Mr. N. M. Joshi :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether there is an open and competitive departmental examination held for Postal Accountants since 1925 to all who have rendered 3 years' service or more in the clerical cadre ?

(b) If the reply to (a) be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state the syllabus prescribed for the above examination ?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of officials of the clerical cadre with 3 years' service or more in the whole of India and Burma, the number who appeared for the examinations held in 1925, 1926 and 1927 and the number who passed in each of the said examinations ?

Mr. P. G. Rogers : (a) Yes.

(b) A syllabus of the examination will be supplied to the Honourable Member.

(c) The information is being collected and will be furnished to the Honourable Member on its receipt.

DEPARTMENTAL EXAMINATION FOR INSPECTORS AND SUPERINTENDENTS' HEAD CLERKS IN THE POSTAL DEPARTMENT.

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there was a departmental examination held for the appointments of Inspectors' and Superintendents' Head Clerks in the Postal Department ?

(b) if so, its syllabus :

(c) whether the said examination was a competitive one thrown open to all officials of the clerical cadre in India and Burma : and

(d) the number that passed in each of the said examinations ?

Mr. P. G. Rogers : (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The examination was conducted by Heads of Postal Circles who exercised their own discretion as to the syllabus and conditions of the test. In some circles the examination was an open competitive one, in others not.

(d) Government do not consider that the possible utility of the information when obtained will justify the time and labour which will be required to collect the figures asked for by the Honourable Member.

DEPARTMENTAL EXAMINATION FOR INSPECTORS AND SUPERINTENDENTS' HEAD CLERKS IN THE POSTAL DEPARTMENT.

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

(a) whether it is a fact that an examination has recently been introduced in G. O. No. 5 of 19th July 1927 issued by the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs for promotion to the Selection Grade of Rs. 160—10—250 including the

appointments of Inspectors and Superintendents' Head Clerks in the Postal Department ?

(b) if so, its syllabus ?

Mr. P. G. Rogers : Yes ; this General Order has however been superseded by the orders contained in part V of Director-General's Circular (Post Office) No. 10, dated the 24th May, 1928.

A copy of this, which includes the syllabus, will be supplied to the Honourable Member.

PAY OF INSPECTORS OF POST OFFICES, ETC.

178. **Mr. N. M. Joshi :** Will Government be pleased to state the pay of Inspectors of Post Offices, Head Clerks to Superintendents of Post Offices and other I Selection grade officers and accountants in Post Offices with their respective duties and responsibilities ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. McWatters : Inspectors of Post Offices, Head Clerks to Superintendents of Post Offices and other 1st selection grade officials are in the grade of Rs. 160—10—250. Accountants in Post Offices ordinarily draw the local time-scale of pay with a special pay of Rs. 10 or Rs. 15, but in the more important Post Offices there are Accountants drawing the pay of the selection grades namely Rs. 160—10—250 and Rs. 250—20—350.

2. The duties and responsibilities of the officials in question are generally as their designations imply, but a detailed catalogue would exceed the reasonable limits of a reply to the Honourable Member's question.

DEPARTMENTAL EXAMINATION FOR INSPECTORS OF POST OFFICES AND SUPERINTENDENTS' HEAD CLERKS.

179. **Mr. N. M. Joshi :** Is it a fact that officials who passed the departmental examination for Inspectors and Superintendents' Head Clerks and who are in the waiting list have been exempted from passing the examination prescribed in D. G.'s G. O. No. 5 of 19th July 1927 and similar exemption denied to passed accountants in D. G.'s No. As. A. 3/27 of 3rd November 1927 addressed to all Postmasters General ? If so, why ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. McWatters : Yes. The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply to paragraph (a) of the unstarred question No. 483, by Mr. B. Das in the Legislative Assembly on the 27th March 1928.

GRANT OF INCREMENTS FOR THE PAST POSTAL SERVICES OF THE POSTAL RECRUITED MEN.

180. **Mr. N. M. Joshi :** (a) With reference to the reply to unstarred question No. 463 given in the Assembly on 27th March 1928 regarding the counting of total length of postal service, will the Government be pleased to state, whether they are aware of the fact that the men transferred from the Post Office to the Telegraph Department were signallers doing the work of the Telegraph Branch ?

(b) If the answer be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state whether they will reconsider and grant increments for the past postal services of the postal recruited men ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. McWatters : (a) The signalling work done in the Post Office by the postal signallers subsequently transferred to the Telegraph Branch formed a part only of their duties.

(b) Government are not prepared to reconsider their decision on this question.

GRANT OF PENSION TO MISTRIES.

181. **Mr. N. M. Joshi :** With reference to the reply to question No. 466 given in the Assembly on 27th March 1928 regarding the grant of pension to *mistries*, will the Government be pleased to state when the decision will be reached ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. McWatters : Government are not yet in a position to give the information asked for by the Honourable Member.

RECRUITMENT FOR THE SIGNALLING ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE MADRAS CIRCLE.

182. **Mr. N. M. Joshi :** Will the Government be pleased to state when the open recruitment for taking men in the Signalling Establishments in the Madras Circle will take place ?

Mr. P. G. Rogers : The revised rules regarding the recruitment of candidates for the Signalling Establishment of the Department have already been approved by the Government of India, and will shortly be given effect to, not only for Madras, but for the whole of India.

STOPPAGE OF RECRUITMENT TO THE GENERAL SERVICE OF THE TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT FROM THE COONOR AND LOVEDALE SCHOOLS, ETC.

183. **Mr. N. M. Joshi :** With reference to the reply to question No. 467 (b) given in the Assembly on 27th March 1928 regarding the abolition of distinctions made between Indians and Anglo-Indians, will the Government be pleased to state the decision that has been arrived at ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. McWatters : The attention of the Honourable Member is drawn to the revised rules for the recruitment of candidates to the Signalling Establishment of the Department a copy of which will be supplied to him.

EXAMINATION FOR CLERKS IN THE CENTRAL TELEGRAPH OFFICE AT MADRAS.

184. **Mr. N. M. Joshi :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether any examination was held on the 28th June 1928 in the Central Telegraph Office at Madras for appointing clerks ?

(b) If the answer be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to furnish :

- (1) Number of applications registered ?
- (2) Number of candidates allowed to sit for the examination ?
- (3) Number of candidates declared successful ?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state out of the successful candidates (1) how many have University or School Final qualifications (2) how many of them are unpassed men (3) how many of them are women, and (4) how many of these women had either University or School Final qualifications ?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to state whether any re-examination was held in dictation for those who failed in that subject the first time ?

(e) If the answer be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state whether all the men who failed in dictation the first time were allowed to appear for the second time ?

(f) If the answer be in the negative, will Government be pleased to state why the officer should not allow all the men to appear for the examination the second time ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. McWatters : (a) Yes.

(b)—

- (1) One hundred and fourteen,
- (2) All,
- (3) First seventeen in order of merit.

(c)—

- (1) Twelve,
- (2) Two,
- (3) Three,
- (4) None.

(d) Yes.

(e) No.

(f) Because some of the candidates did so badly in the first test that it seemed unnecessary to examine them again.

DEPARTMENTAL EXAMINATIONS FOR SUBORDINATES IN POST OFFICES.

185. **Mr. N. M. Joshi :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether there are any departmental examinations in the Post Office for the subordinates irrespective of qualification for promotion to Superintendent of Post Offices ?

(b) If the answer be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state why should not a similar examination be held in the Telegraph Department for the subordinates for promotion to second and first division of appointments in the traffic branch ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. McWatters : (a) Yes. In the Post Office there is a departmental examination for promotion to the grade of Superintendent open to selected subordinates.

(b) Government understand that this question is already engaging the attention of the Director-General.

**DATES OF APPOINTMENT AND CONFIRMATION OF CERTAIN CLERKS IN THE
CENTRAL STATIONERY OFFICE.**

186. Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra : (a) Will the Honourable Member in charge of the Industries and Labour Department be pleased to furnish the date and year when the following clerks of the Central Stationery Office were appointed and confirmed.

1. Babu Sailendranath Bose,
2. Babu Promoderanjan Banerjee,
3. Md. Nazmul Alam, B.A.,
4. Babu Fanindranath Bose,
5. Babu Barendranath Bose,
6. Babu Birendranath Mitra,
7. Babu Subalak Chandra Chatterjee,
8. Babu Abanibhusan Mukherjee,
9. Md. Serajuddin Ahmed,
10. Babu Triguna Charan Chakraborty,
11. Babu Sourendranath Roy,
12. Babu Ashitnath Roy, and
13. Babu Susil Kumar Chakraborty.

(b) Will he be pleased to state :

- (i) the date of the salary bill or bills in which they were shown confirmed,
- (ii) the particulars of the date, month and year in which their service books were prepared,
- (iii) the name of the Deputy Controller of the Central Stationery Office in whose time they were confirmed, and
- (iv) the name of the Deputy Controller of Stationery who attested their service books ?

(c) Will he be pleased to say whether it is a fact that (i) the service books were prepared long after the dates of their confirmation, and (ii) these service books were therefore attested by the successors of the officers in whose time they were confirmed ?

(d) If the answer to (c) above be in the affirmative, will he be pleased to say the name of the officer who is responsible for this delay and irregularity and what disciplinary action do Government propose to take against him ?

(e) If the answer to (c) above be in the negative, will he be pleased to put up the service books of the persons mentioned in (a) above ?

The Honourable Mr. A. O. McWatters : I propose to answer questions Nos. 186, 190 and 191 together. The information required by the Honourable Member relates to matters of administrative detail which are left to the discretion of the Controller of Printing and Stationery. The Government of India regret that they cannot undertake to obtain this information as it would involve an amount of time and trouble disproportionate to the result. If there has been any irregularity, it is open to the clerks concerned to make a representation to the Government of India.

IRREGULARITY IN CONFIRMATION OF CLERKS IN THE CENTRAL STATIONERY OFFICE.

187. **Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra :** (a) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state the circumstances under which the persons appointed in the Stamp Branch were transferred to the Stationery Branch and confirmed earlier than the persons who were appointed in the Stamp Branch prior to them but subsequently transferred to the Stationery Branch ?

(b) Is it a fact that Babu Triguna Charan Chakraborty, B.A., originally appointed in the Stamp Branch was transferred to the Stationery Branch and confirmed in clerical grade I in preference to Babu Sanatkumar Chatterjee, B.A., and Nanda Dulal Chatterjee, B.A., clerks in clerical grade I, who were seniors to Babu Triguna Charan Chakraborty in service ?

(c) If the answer to (b) above be in the affirmative will he be pleased to say, (i) in how many cases such irregularity in confirmations was adopted, and (ii) whether the Superintendent of the Central Stationery Office is responsible for such irregularity ?

(d) If so, will the Honourable Member be pleased to say what departmental action does he propose to take against him ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. McWatters : I propose to answer questions Nos. 187, 188, 189, 192, 193, 194 and 195 together. Inquiries are being made, and I hope to furnish the Honourable Member with the results of these at a later date.

CONFIRMATION OF CERTAIN CLERKS IN THE CENTRAL STATIONERY OFFICE.

†188. **Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra :** (a) Will the Honourable Member in charge of the Industries and Labour Department be pleased to refer to his reply given in answer to question No. 198 (iv) at page 1062 to the Legislative Assembly Debates, Vol. I, No. 22 of 1928 and say whether it is a fact that Babu Sanatkumar Chatterjee, B.A., Nagendranath Chakraborty, B.A., Nando Dulal Chatterjee, B.A., and Manindranath Bhanja were confirmed subsequent to December 1927, i.e., after the date when the question No. 198 referred to above was forwarded to the Central Stationery Office for furnishing facts ?

(b) If the answer to question (a) above be in the negative, will the Honourable Member be pleased to substantiate the answer by furnishing :

- (i) the date when their service books were prepared,
- (ii) the date of the salary bill or bills in which they were shown confirmed,
- (iii) the name of the Deputy Controller who was in charge of the Stationery Office at the time of their appointment and at the time of their confirmation, and
- (iv) the name of the Deputy Controller who attested their service books ?

(c) If the answer to question (a) above be in the affirmative, will he be pleased to say why these facts were not mentioned in the reply to question 198 (iv) referred to in (a) above ?

*For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 187.

(d) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state whether the Superintendent of the Stationery Office is responsible for this misstatement of facts furnished to Honourable Member ?

(e) If so, what departmental action does the Honourable Member propose to take against him ?

DATES OF CONFIRMATION OF CERTAIN CLERKS IN THE CENTRAL STATIONERY OFFICE.

†189. **Mr. Satyendra Ohandra Mitra :** (a) Will the Honourable Member in charge of the Labour and Industries Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Babu Triguna Charan Chakraborty, B.A., was appointed in the Stamp Branch under the Controller of Printing ; Stationery and Stamps subsequent to Babu Sanatkumar Chatterjee, B.A. ?

(b) Will he be pleased to say whether it is a fact that Babu Triguna Charan Chakraborty was transferred to the Stationery Branch and confirmed earlier than Babu Sanatkumar Chatterjee although the latter submitted a health certificate earlier ?

(c) If the answer to (b) above be in the affirmative will the Honourable Member be pleased to state the reason for such preferential treatment to Babu Triguna Charan Chakraborty ?

(d) Is it a fact that Babu Triguna Charan Chakraborty was the private tutor to the sons of the Superintendent of the Central Stationery and Stamp office ?

DATES OF CONFIRMATION OF CERTAIN CLERKS IN THE CENTRAL STATIONERY OFFICE.

†190. **Mr. Satyendra Ohandra Mitra :** (a) Will the Honourable Member in charge of the Labour and Industries Department be pleased to refer to the statement furnished in answer to question 198 (b) (i) at page 1062 of the Legislative Assembly Debates, Vol. I, No. 22 of 1928 and state :—

(i) in what particular month's salary bill or bills the following persons were shown confirmed :

Babu Ajit Narayan Chowdhuri, M.Sc.,
 Babu Prodyut Kumar Sen Gupta, B.A.,
 Babu Nagendranath Chakraborty, B.A.,
 Babu Sanatkumar Chatterjee, B.A.,
 Babu Nandodulal Chatterjee, B.A., and
 Babu Manindranath Bhanja, Matric.

(ii) When their service books were prepared, and

(iii) whether their service books bear the attestation of Mr. G. W. Coster who was Deputy Controller during 1925-27 ?

(b) Is it a fact that Babu Ajit Narayan Chowdhuri, M.Sc., was appointed on six months' probation in a substantive post in the Stationery Branch ?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 187.

‡For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 186.

(c) Is it a fact that he all along up to the end of August 1928 worked in the Stationery Department ?

(d) Is it a fact that he never worked in the Stamp Branch ?

(e) If the facts be otherwise as mentioned in (c) and (d) above, will Honourable Member be pleased to put up relative papers to substantiate his statement ?

(f) Is it a fact that he was confirmed in a post in the Stamp Branch in 1927 ?

(g) If the answer to (f) above be in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member be pleased to state the circumstances under which he was confirmed in the Stamp Branch even though an order was passed in 1925 for its abolition in 1928 ?

NON-CONFIRMATION OF CERTAIN CLERKS IN THE CENTRAL STATIONERY DEPARTMENT.

†191. **Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra :** (a) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state why Babu Ajit Narayan Chowdhuri was not confirmed in the post of the Stationery Department to which he was substantively appointed ?

(b) Is it a fact that Babu Nando Dulal Chatterjee, B.A., was appointed in 1925 in the Purchase Branch of the Stationery Office ?

(c) Is it a fact that he was shown holding a temporary post in the Forms Department in June 1928 ?

(d) If the answer to (c) above be in the affirmative will he be pleased to say why he was shown as made permanent in answer to question No. 198 (b) (i) at page 1062 of the Legislative Assembly Debates, Vol. I, No. 22 of 1928 ?

(e) Is it a fact that Babu Nagendranath Chakraborty, B.A., was appointed in 1925, but has not yet been confirmed ?

(f) If the answer to (e) above be in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member be pleased to say how he was stated to have been made permanent in answer to question referred to in (d) above ?

(g) Is it a fact that Babu Rakhaldas Gupta submitted a medical certificate of health in 1925 ?

(h) If the answer to (g) above be in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member be pleased to state what facts he wanted to convey by the terms "for reasons of health" in answer to question b (iv) referred to in (d) above ?

(i) Is it a fact that Babu Rakhaldas Gupta enjoyed leave on average salary only permissible under the Fundamental Rules ?

(j) If the answer to (i) above be in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member be pleased to state why then he was not confirmed ?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 186.

EMPLOYMENT OF MEN SANCTIONED FOR THE STAMP BRANCH IN THE STATIONERY BRANCH UNDER THE CONTROLLER OF PRINTING AND STATIONERY.

†192. **Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra :** (a) Will the Honourable Member in charge of the Labour and Industries Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the following persons drew salary from the Stamp Budget, but were attached to work in the Stationery Branch :

Maulvi Zahadur Rahaman,
 Babu Amarendranath Manna,
 Babu Nandodulal Chatterjee,
 Babu Ajitnarayan Chowdhuri,
 Babu Sasanka Jiban Ghose,
 Maulavi Mahommad Ishaq,
 Babu Chandi Charan Mukherjee,
 Babu Prosad Das Mukherjee,
 Babu Nagendranath Mukherjee No. II ?

(b) If the answer to question (a) above be in the negative, will he be pleased to say why they were served with notice relating to the termination of their service with the abolition of the Stamp Branch ?

(c) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to put up the attendance register of the Stamp Branch during 1925-27 in support of the answer to (b) above ?

(d) Will he be pleased to say why men sanctioned for the Stamp Branch and drawing salary from the Stamp Budget were actually employed to do work in the Stationery Branch under the Controller of Printing and Stationery ?

(e) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to say in what branches of the Printing and Stationery Department the persons named in the question (a) above were confirmed after the abolition of the Stamp Branch as ensured in his reply to question No. 198 (iv) at page 1062 of the Legislative Assembly Debates, Vol. I, No. 22 of 1928 ?

NEPOTISM IN THE CENTRAL STATIONERY OFFICE.

†193. **Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra :** (a) Will the Honourable Member in charge of the Industries and Labour Department be pleased to refer to the reply to question No. 199 (c) at page 1063 of the Legislative Assembly Debates, Vol. I, No. 22 of 1928, and say whether it is a fact that the following persons are brothers-in-law of the present Superintendent (Rai Saheb A. C. Chunder, I.D.S.M.) of the Central Stationery Office :

Babu Phanindranath Bose of Accounts Branch,
 Babu Sailendranath Bose of Supply Branch,
 Babu Barendranath Bose of Examiners' Branch, and
 Babu Bholanath Bose of the Co-operative Society of the Stationery Office ?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 187.

(b) Is it a fact that Babu Netai Chandra Chunder (non-Matric) and Babu Anil Chandra Bose of the Central Forms Store are the son and brother-in-law of the Superintendent of the Central Stationery Office, who controls the appointments of the Forms Store, Central Publication Branch and the Calcutta Press ?

(c) Is it a fact that the following persons are relatives by marriage of the Head Assistant of the Supply Branch (Babu Jotindranath Ghose), now on deputation to the Central Publication Branch :—

Babu Suprokas Pal of the Purchase Branch,

Babu Birendranath Mitra of the General Branch, and

Babu Amullya Charan Ghose of Stationery Store ?

(d) Is it a fact that Babu Satis Chandra Mittra of the Purchase Branch of the Stationery Office, is the brother of the son-in-law of the Superintendent of that office ?

(e) Is it a fact that Babu Nirapada Mukherjee of the Stationery Store and Babu Nirmal Chandra Banerjee of the Accounts Branch of the Central Stationery Office are the son-in-law and nephew of the Head Assistant of the Purchase Branch (Babu Benode Behari Banerjee) of the Stationery Office ?

(f) Is it a fact that Babu Jibendranath Banerjee of the General Branch of the Stationery Office is the son of Babu Dijwendranath Banerjee, the Head Assistant of the Accounts Branch of the office ?

(g) Is it a fact that Babu Bhibuti Bhusan Chatterji of the Supply Branch is the son of the Head Assistant (Babu Atul Chandra Chatterjee) of the Supply Branch of the Central Stationery Office ?

(h) Is it a fact that Babu Sasanka Kumar Ghose of the Purchase Branch and Babu Santash Kumar Bose of the Examiner's Branch of the Central Stationery Office are the brothers-in-law of the Cashier (Babu Nerode Behari Bose) of the Central Stationery Office ?

(i) If the answers to questions (b) to (h) above be in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member in charge of the Industries and Labour Department be pleased to say why these facts were suppressed in furnishing the answer to the question referred to in (a) above ?

(j) Does he propose to enquire into the matter and take proper steps so that no such mis-statement is furnished in this Assembly in future ?

SUPERSESSION OF CERTAIN CLERKS IN THE CENTRAL STATIONERY OFFICE BY BABU SUPROKAS PAL.

†194. **Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra :** (a) Will the Honourable Member in charge of the Industries and Labour Department be pleased to state when Babu Suprokas Pal of the Purchase Branch of the Central Stationery Office was confirmed in the grade of Rs. 80—200 ?

(b) Is it a fact that he was allowed to officiate in the post of the Head Assistant of the Purchase Branch during April and May 1928 ?

*For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 187.

(c) Is it a fact that the following assistants of the Central Stationery Department are senior to Babu Suprokas Pal in pay and length of service and superior to him in educational qualification :—

Babu Haripada Kundu,
 Babu Benode Behari Moohkooty,
 Babu Akhil Chandra Dey,
 Babu Sudhansusekhar Banerjee,
 Babu Kalipada Ghose, and
 Babu Jitendranath Bhattacharjee ?

(d) Is it a fact that all the assistants mentioned in (c) above held independent charges of sections and branches of the Stationery Office some time or other previous to Babu Suprokas Pal's appointment as the Head Assistant of the Purchase Branch of that office ?

(e) Is it a fact that Babu Suprokas Pal was never placed in independent charge of a section or a branch of the Stationery Office previous to his officiating as the Head Assistant of the Purchase Branch ?

(f) If the answers to questions (c), (d) and (e) above be in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member be pleased to state whether the supersession of the persons mentioned in (c) above by Babu Suprokas Pal was dealt with on the merits of the case by specifying the reasons and grounds of supersession in each case ?

(g) If the answer to (f) above be in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member be pleased to put up the file or files in that connection ?

(h) If the answer to (f) above be in the negative, will the Honourable Member be pleased to state why this irregular procedure of superseding the claims of men without anything written on record is adopted in the Stationery Office ?

(i) Is it a fact that the persons mentioned in (c) above were superseded on the ground that they had no training in the working of the Purchase Branch of the Stationery Office ?

(j) If the answer to (i) above be in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member be pleased to state whether transfers from one Branch to another in the Central Stationery Office are made at any stated time ?

(k) If the answer to (j) above be in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member be pleased to state the reason and circumstances under which the persons named in (c) above were never transferred to the Purchase Branch ?

DATES OF CONFIRMATION OF CERTAIN CLERKS IN THE CENTRAL STATIONERY OFFICE.

†195. **Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra :** (a) Will the Honourable Member in charge of the Labour and Industries Department be pleased to refer to the reply to question No. 198 (b) (v) at page 1062 of the Legislative Assembly Debates, Vol. I, No. 22 of 1928 and state the circumstances under which Babus Triguna Charan Chakraborty, B.A., and Sourindra-

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 187.

nath Roy, Matrics, were confirmed earlier to the recruits made by Mr. F. D. Ascoli, M.A., I.C.S., as Controller of Printing, Stationery and Stamps ?

(b) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to put up their appointment and confirmation file or files showing the grounds and reasons why they were confirmed earlier though recruited later ?

(c) Is it a fact that Babu Triguna Charan Chakraburty, B.A., was the private tutor to the sons of the Superintendent of the Stationery Office (Rai Saheb A. C. Chunder, I.D.S.M.) ?

(d) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to mention any other case of confirmation in which priority of appointment was not taken into consideration ?

(e) If the answer to (d) above be in the negative, will the Honourable Member be pleased to state the reasons why preferential treatment was accorded to Babus Triguna Charan Chakraburty and Sourindranath Roy in their confirmation ?

ADEQUATE REPRESENTATION OF TELEGUS IN THE AUDIT OFFICE OF THE VIZAGAPATAM HARBOUR CONSTRUCTION.

196. **Mr. V. V. Jogiah :** (a) Is it a fact that 12 out of the 20 accountants and clerks employed in the Audit Office of Vizagapatam (purely Telugu country) Harbour construction are Tamilians ?

(b) Is it a fact that only 3 out of 20 clerks are Telugus ?

(c) What was the number of Tamilians employed prior to 1926 in the Audit Office and what is the number of Tamilians subsequent to 1926 up to date, stating the exact number of Tamilians and Telugus ? Will the Government be pleased to state the reasons of this influx of the Tamil element ?

(d) Do Government propose to take steps to increase the number of Telugu hands ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : Enquiry is being made and a reply will be sent to the Honourable Member in due course.

HOURS OF REST OF THE STAFF OF THE SUCTION DREDGER "VIZAGAPATAM."

197. **Mr. V. V. Jogiah :** (a) Is it a fact that it is proposed to work the suction dredger "Vizagapatam" of the Vizagapatam Harbour construction for 2 shifts of 12 hours or 24 hours per day ?

(b) Is it a fact that the European staff of each shift of 12 hours are allowed to rest ashore in free furnished quarters when off duty ?

(c) If so, why have no arrangements been made for the Indian staff of each shift as well ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : The information asked for is being obtained and will be furnished to the Honourable Member on receipt.

APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF ENGINEER ON THE SUCTION DREDGER "VIZAGAPATAM."

198. **Mr. V. V. Jogiah :** (a) Is it a fact that the best qualified and experienced engineers are selected for the engineer's post on the suction dredger "Vizagapatam" ?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, why were the claims of statutory natives of India who held a first class B. O. T. certificate and who had actually worked as Chief Engineer for several years, overlooked and an Englishman who had never worked as a Chief Engineer appointed to the vacancy of Chief Engineer on the dredger "Vizagapatam"?

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

(b) The engineer who was appointed Chief Engineer holds a first class B. O. T. certificate, and previously acted as Chief Engineer on a reclamation dredger. He was considered the most suitable of the applicants.

ALLEGED INSULTING BEHAVIOUR OF EUROPEAN OFFICERS AND ENGINEERS TOWARDS INDIANS WORKING ON THE DREDGER "VIZAGAPATAM."

199. **Mr. V. V. Jogiah :** (a) Is it a fact that the Executive Engineer, Dredging-Division, Vizagapatam Harbour Construction, has received complaints from the Indians working on that dredger that European officers and engineers are in the habit of abusing and insulting the said Indians?

(b) If so, what action has the Executive Engineer taken in the matter?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : Government have received no report to this effect.

NUMBER OF HOURS OF ACTUAL DREDGING DONE BY THE SUCTION DREDGER "VIZAGAPATAM," ETC.

200. **Mr. V. V. Jogiah :** Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing :

- (a) Number of hours of actual dredging done by the suction dredger "Vizagapatam" from the date of her entry into the creek to the 15th August, 1928?
- (b) Number of hours of stoppage due to breakdowns, overhauls, and to other causes?
- (c) Total quantity dredged up to date and the total quantity required to be dredged before ships may enter the Harbour?
- (d) Actual expenditure as compared with the output per cubic yard?
- (e) The cost of the dredger and the cost of repairs of the previous dredger when it was towed to Calcutta last year?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : I can only give this information up to 4th August, 1928, which is as follows :

(a) 1083½.

(b) 880½.

(c) (i) 10,381,700 cubic ft.

(ii) 184,000,000 cubic ft.

(d) I am obtaining the information asked by the Honourable Member.

(e) (i) £153,280.

(ii) Rs. 3,86,000.

ALLEGED ILL TREATMENT OF BENGALI CLERKS IN THE OFFICE OF THE ACCOUNTANT GENERAL, CENTRAL REVENUES.

201. **Mr. Amar Nath Dutt** : Are Government aware that the Bengali clerks are ill-treated in the office of the Accountant General, Central Revenues, and that further recruitment of Bengalis has been stopped ? If so, do Government propose to mitigate the evil ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : Enquiry is being made, and a reply will be given to the Honourable Member in due course.

PROTECTION OF THE LIFE AND PROPERTY OF THE INHABITANTS OF THE VILLAGES KOILWAR, MAHMADPUR, ETC., FROM FLOODS.

202. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan** : (a) Is it a fact that the life and property of the inhabitants of the villages between Dehri and the place where the 'Sone River' falls into the 'Ganges' especially Koilwar, Mahmaddpur, Dhamdhia, Surodha, Pareo and Pachlotia, etc., etc., which are situated at the bank of 'Sone River' in Bihar Circle, are cut short every year during floods causing great loss in all respects ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether any arrangements have been made for permanent precaution for the protection and safety of the life and property of the above-mentioned inhabitants ? If so, what ? If not, why not ?

(c) If the reply to (b) above is in the negative do Government propose to take every possible action for the protection of life and property of the said villagers by providing sufficient funds for the construction of butteress in necessary places between the above-quoted area or by constructing additional canals to subside the force of the flood in the 'Sone River' ?

(d) Has any action in the matter since been taken by the Bihar and Orissa Government ? If so, what ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. McWatters : (a) and (d). The Government of India have no information.

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

SUBMISSION OF MEMORIALS BY THE SUBORDINATE STAFF OF THE PRINTING AND STATIONERY DEPARTMENT.

203. **Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra** : (a) Has the attention of the Honourable Member in charge of the Industries and Labour Department been drawn to the bye-rules framed by the Controller of Printing and Stationery relating to the submission of memorials by the subordinate staff of the Printing and Stationery Department in file No. H. Q.-4|134, dated the 17th March 1928.

(b) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state whether these rules were forwarded to Government for their sanction and approval ?

(c) If the answer to (b) above be in the negative, will the Honourable Member be pleased to say whether Government vested the Controller with any special power to frame such rules ?

(d) If the answer to (c) above be in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member be pleased to place a copy of the order on the table ?

(e) Is it a fact that these rules are contradictory to the general rules framed by the Government of India relating to the submission of memorials ?

(f) If the answer to (e) above be in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member be pleased to pass orders for the cancellation of these rules mentioned in (a) above ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. McWatters : (a) No rules were framed by the Controller, but a memorandum drawing attention to the correct procedure was issued by the Controller to the heads of all branches of the Printing and Stationery Department.

(b) The memorandum was submitted to Government for approval.

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

(e) No.

(f) Does not arise.

ALLEGED HIGHHANDEDNESS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE CENTRAL STATIONERY OFFICE.

204. Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra : (a) Will the Honourable Member in charge of the Industries and Labour Department be pleased to state whether his attention was drawn to the three successive publications on the 29th January 1928, 9th February 1928 and 24th March 1928 in the *Forward* regarding the highhandedness of the Superintendent of the Central Stationery Office ?

(b) If the answer to (a) above be in the affirmative, will he be pleased to state whether any order was passed stopping the dramatic performances by the staff of the Central Stationery Office for any public charity in view of the mismanagement of the fund ?

(c) Will he be pleased to say whether any enquiry was made about the appropriation of the proceeds of the charity performance held in connection with the Mayor's Fund ?

(d) Will he be pleased to say whether any action was taken by the Controller of Printing and Stationery for the contribution of the balance of the proceeds realised from the charity performance towards the fund above-mentioned ?

(e) If the answer to (d) above be in the affirmative, will he be pleased to say :

(i) whether the last instalment of Rs. 150 has been paid at all,

(ii) if it has been paid, when and

(iii) why the instalment was not paid in proper time ?

PRESENTATION MADE BY THE CLERKS OF THE CENTRAL STATIONERY OFFICE TO THE CONTROLLER OF PRINTING AND STATIONERY ON THE OCCASION OF THE MARRIAGE OF HIS DAUGHTER.

205. **Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra :** (a) Will the Honourable Member in charge of the Industries and Labour Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that exaction was made from the clerks of the Stationery Office on the occasion of the marriage of the daughter of the Controller of Printing and Stationery ?

(b) Is it a fact that a sum of Rs. 500 was raised on that occasion ?

(c) Is it a fact that the marriage presentation was handed over to the Controller while he was in Calcutta by Babu Suprokas Pal of the Purchase Branch along with the Superintendent of the Stationery Office ?

CIRCULATION AMONGST THE STAFF OF THE PRINTING AND STATIONERY DEPARTMENT OF THE GRADATION LIST.

206. **Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra :** (a) Will the Honourable Member in charge of the Labour and Industries Department be pleased to state whether a combined gradation list of the clerks of the Central Stationery Office, Forms Store, Central Publication and the Calcutta Press under the Controller of Printing and Stationery is maintained ?

(b) If the answer to (a) above be in the affirmative, will he be pleased to state whether it is a fact that that list was never circulated amongst the members of the staff of those offices ?

(c) Is it fact that copies of the gradation list in other offices under the Labour and Industries Department are circulated amongst the members of the offices ?

(d) If the answer to (c) above be in the affirmative, does the Honourable Member propose to order the circulation of the gradation list referred to in (a) above amongst the staff of the Printing and Stationery Department ?

PROMOTIONS IN THE PRINTING AND STATIONERY DEPARTMENT.

207. **Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra :** (a) Will the Honourable Member in charge of the Labour and Industries Department be pleased to state whether all promotions in the Printing and Stationery Department are made according to the gradation list maintained in that Department ?

(b) Is it a fact that the gradation list was never circulated amongst the members of the staff of that department ?

(c) If the answer to (a) above be in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member be pleased to state in how many cases (i) promotions were not made according to the gradation list specifying the reason in each case ?

CONTROL FOR SUPPLYING COOLIES TO THE CENTRAL STATIONERY AND STAMP OFFICE.

208. **Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra :** (a) Will the Honourable Member in charge of the Labour and Industries Department be pleased to state how long Messrs. Bird & Co. had the contract for supplying coolie labour in the Central Stationery and Stamp Office ?

(b) Is it a fact that after the question No. 204 at page 1065 of the Legislative Assembly Debates, Volume I, No. 22 of 1928 was asked in this Assembly tenders for the supply of coolie labour were invited ?

(c) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state whether any tender was called for coolie labourers so long as Messrs. Bird & Co. were the contractors ?

(d) If the answer to (c) above be in the negative, will the Honourable Member be pleased to mention the names and dates of the newspapers in which advertisements were issued for this purpose during the last five years stating the particulars of the parties who submitted tenders ?

CONTRACT OF MESSRS. BIRD AND CO. FOR THE SUPPLY OF COOLIES TO THE CENTRAL STATIONERY AND STAMP OFFICE.

209. **Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra :** (a) Will the Honourable Member in charge of the Labour and Industries Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in regard to the contract of Messrs. Bird and Co. for the supply of coolie labour to the Central Stationery Office slips for coolie hire are daily made and passed for daily payments ?

(b) Is it a fact that daily payments are made by the contractors on these coolie slips and after the expiry of the month a consolidated bill is submitted to the Accountant General, Central Revenues ?

(c) Is it a fact that there is no system of check for these coolie slips daily submitted by various sections and branches ?

(d) If the answer to (c) above be in the affirmative, does the Honourable Member propose to introduce any system which will prevent the submission of coolie hire slips without actual appointment of coolies ?

PRESENTATION MADE BY THE SUBORDINATE STAFF TO THE CONTROLLER OF PRINTING AND STATIONERY ON THE OCCASION OF HIS DAUGHTER'S MARRIAGE.

210. **Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra :** (a) Will the Honourable Member in charge of the Labour and Industries Department be pleased to state whether under the Government Servants' Conduct Rules an officer is permitted to take presentations from the staff subordinate to him on the occasion of his daughter's marriage ?

(b) If the reply to (a) above be in the affirmative, will he be pleased to cite the rules and orders sanctioning the acceptance of such marriage presentations from the subordinate staff ?

(c) If the reply to (a) above be in the negative, will the Honourable Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Controller of Printing and Stationery (Mr. E. E. Coombs, O.B.E.) obtained presents from his subordinate staff on the occasion of his daughter's marriage ?

(d) If the answer to (c) above be in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member be pleased to place on the table a copy of the Government order as mentioned in (b) above ?

(e) If there is no such Government order as mentioned in (b) above, will the Honourable Member be pleased to state what departmental action was taken against the Controller of Printing and Stationery for violating the Government Servants' Conduct Rules ?

(f) If the answer to (c) above be in the negative, will the Honourable Member be pleased to state what action was taken against *Forward* by the Controller of Printing and Stationery or the Government in his behalf to withdraw its publication making false allegations against the Controller ?

(g) If no action as stated in (f) above has been taken, will the Honourable Member be pleased to state the reasons and circumstances under which no action was taken to rectify the allegations made in the *Forward* in its issue of the 9th February, 1928 ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. McWatters : I propose to answer questions Nos. 204 to 210 together. Inquiries are being made and the results will be communicated to the Honourable Member in due course.

RESIGNATION BY BEDI RAGHBIR SINGH OF HIS COMMISSION IN THE INDIAN TERRITORIAL FORCE.

211. **Sardar Gulab Singh :** (a) Will Government please state whether it is a fact that Bedi Raghbir Singh was granted a commission as Honorary 2/Lieutenant in the 11/17th Dogra Regiment (Territorial) in 1924 ?

(b) If the reply to the above is in the affirmative, is it a fact that this officer was compelled to resign his commission under threat of removal from the Territorial Force on disciplinary grounds ?

(c) Is it a fact that a confidential communication on the above subject was received by the 11/17th Dogra Regiment (Territorial) from the Brigade Headquarters, Jullundur, which was noted by the above-named officer on or about the 14th August 1927 ?

(d) Is it a fact that Bedi Raghbir Singh resigned his commission on private grounds on 16th August, 1927, against his will in compliance with the confidential communication referred to above ?

(e) Is it a fact that Bedi Raghbir Singh cancelled his resignation in January 1928 ?

(f) Is it a fact that in spite of this cancellation, his resignation appeared in Government of India Gazette Notification No. 406, dated 24th March 1928 ?

(g) Is it a fact that Bedi Raghbir Singh has appealed to the Northern Command for his reinstatement fully stating the causes which led to his resignation ? If so, what has been the result ?

Mr. G. M. Young : (a) The facts are as stated except that the commission was dated the 1st April, 1925.

(b) No, Sir. The officer applied to resign his commission on account of the death of his father and the necessity for his presence at home to manage his family affairs.

(c) Government have no information.

(d) No, Sir. Government have no reason to suppose that the officer was influenced in any way by the military authorities in the matter of his resignation.

(e) In January 1928 he applied for permission to withdraw his resignation.

(f) He was not granted permission to withdraw his resignation and it was accordingly published in the Gazette of India.

(g) Government are not aware that he has appealed, but if he has, the appeal will no doubt be considered on its merits.

CREATION OF A CANTONMENT BOARD IN LANSDOWNE, ETC.

212. **Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state when the Cantonment administration was introduced in Lansdowne ? What was the (a) population, (b) income, and (c) number of clerks in the office when it was first started ?

(b) What was the income and expenditure and number of clerks, sweepers, Jamadars and Bazaar Chaudharis in each of the following years :—1906, 1913, 1920, 1927 ?

(c) How many times has the census of the Lansdowne Cantonment been taken since the creation of the Cantonment ? When was it last taken ?

(d) What was the census of Lansdowne Cantonment in 1911 and 1921 ?

(e) Are Government aware that the population of Lansdowne Cantonment is over 5,000 during summer ?

(f) Is it the intention of the Government or the Cantonment Authority to take its census this year or next year to find out if the population of Lansdowne is over 5,000 or not ?

(g) Is it the intention of the Government to create a Cantonment Board at Lansdowne ?

(h) Is it a fact that the Lansdowne Cantonment authorities have asked the Local Government to enhance the conservancy tax over 500 per cent. ?

(i) Were any persons residing in Lansdowne consulted before making such recommendation ? If so, who were the persons consulted and when were they consulted ?

(j) Is it a fact that the residents of Lansdowne have sent their objections to the Local Government ?

(k) When do Government propose to constitute a Cantonment Board for Lansdowne ?

Mr. G. M. Young : The information asked for is being obtained and will be supplied to the Honourable Member as soon as possible.

GRIEVANCES OF THE TELEPHONE PROBATIONERS IN THE PATNA DIVISION.

213. **Maulvi Mohammad Shafee :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether their attention has been drawn to the correspondence in the *Searchlight* under the heading "Grievances of the Telephone Probationers in Patna Division", of the 23rd May 1928 and also to the correspondence in the *Patna Times* under the heading "Jobbery in the Patna Telephone Department", of the 22nd July, 1928, as also in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* under the heading "Hard Lot of the Telephone Probationers in the Patna Division", of the 2nd June 1928, in regard to the injustice done

to about a dozen probationers who were taken in, in February 1927 by Mr. P. N. Biswas, the then Divisional Engineer, Telegraphs, Patna Division, to work as telephone operators ?

(b) Is it a fact that one Mr. E. A. Daranjo was appointed as a telephone operator in September 1927, without sitting for any examination and without having any superior qualification in preference to all others who came out successful in a competitive examination held in February 1927, who were given hopes of employment by the department ?

(c) Are Government aware that much injustice is done by the subordinate employees and that it reflects badly upon the management of the authorities of the Department ?

(d) Do Government propose to do justice to the disappointed probationers in the best manner possible ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. McWatters : (a) Yes.

(b) In the absence of any other suitable candidate, Mr. D'Aranjo was appointed as a telephone operator on passing the educational test, as at that time, of the 20 candidates who had been examined in February 1927, 8 had been provided for, one had refused an appointment, one had joined the East Indian Railway and the remaining 10 had been found to be unsuitable.

(c) Government do not consider that there was any injustice in rejecting candidates who had proved unfit.

(d) Does not arise.

**SIKH, MUHAMMADAN, HINDU, AND CHRISTIAN CLERKS, ACCOUNTANTS, ETC.,
IN THE MILITARY ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT.**

214. Sardar Gulab Singh : (a) Will the Government please state separately the number of Sikhs, Muhammadans, Hindus and Christians clerks, accountants, Deputy Assistant Controllers of Military Accounts, and Imperial Service Officers in the Military Accounts Department ?

(b) In case of the communities with the least number do Government propose to take steps to bring that number to a fair proportion ?

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

(b) In accordance with the general policy of Government in the matter, action has been taken to redress communal inequalities in the various grades in the Military Accounts Department. This process will, of necessity, be gradual.

REPRESENTATION OF SIKHS IN THE MILITARY ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT.

215. Sardar Gulab Singh : (a) Will the Government please state the number of Sikhs, Muhammadans, Hindus and Christians (accountants and clerks) employed in the Military Accountant General's Office ?

(b) Is it a fact that employment in the above office is by selection from among the men in the Controllers' Offices ?

(c) Is it a fact that there is no Sikh in the above office at present ? If so, is it a fact that no Sikh is fit to be selected ? If this is not the case, do Government propose to take steps to bring in Sikhs ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : (a) The number of Sikhs, Muhammadans, Hindus and Christians (accountants and clerks) employed in the Military Accountant General's office is as shewn below :

	Sikhs.	Muhammadans.	Hindus.	Christians.
Accountants	1	18	3
Clerks—permanent and temporary (including copyists and stenographers)	3	80	2

(b) Yes.

(c) There is no Sikh in the Military Accountant General's Office at present. Selections for appointments in that office are made from amongst men serving in Controllers' Offices who are specially recommended by their respective Controllers for a particular class of work. There is, therefore, no reason why a Sikh should not be so selected if he possessed the necessary qualifications.

NUMBER OF SIKHS, HINDUS AND MUHAMMADANS IN ARMY HEADQUARTERS, THE IMPERIAL SECRETARIAT AND THE RAILWAY BOARD.

216. **Sardar Gulab Singh :** What is the number of Sikhs, Hindus, Muhammadans in—

(a) The Army Headquarters (civilians only),

(b) The Imperial Secretariat, and

(c) The Railway Board ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : I understand that the Honourable Member wants information in regard to the clerical staff. The figures as they stood on the 31st December, 1927, were :

Office.	NUMBER AS ON THE 31ST DECEMBER 1927.		
	Hindus	Musalims.	Sikhs.
(a) Army Headquarters (including Royal Air Force.)	391	111	42
(b) Imperial Secretariat [excluding Railway Department (Railway Board)]	484	126	25
(c) Railway Department (Railway Board) excluding the Technical Office	79	17	4

NUMBER OF SIKHS, HINDUS, MUHAMMADANS AND CHRISTIANS IN THE RAILWAY CLEARING HOUSE AT DELHI.

217. **Sardar Gulab Singh :** What is the number of Sikhs, Hindus, Muhammadans and Christians in the Railway Clearing House at Delhi ? In case of communities with the least number do Government propose to recruit a fair proportion of that community ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to Nawab Sir Zulfiqar Ali Khan's similar question (No. 251) on the 7th March, 1928.

SEPARATE OFFICE FOR THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

218. Mr. Amar Nath Dutt : (a) Will Government be pleased to say what progress has been made with regard to the proposals for a separate office establishment for the Legislative Assembly ?

(b) Have Government addressed the Secretary of State for India on the subject ? If so, when ? Have they asked for a telegraphic reply ? If not, do they propose to do so now ?

(c) When do Government propose to bring the new office into existence ? Have Government made any recommendation to the Secretary of State to this effect ?

(d) Do Government propose to take the sanction of the Standing Finance Committee in anticipation of the Secretary of State's orders ? If not, why not ?

(e) What are the reasons for the delay in coming to a decision ? Do Government propose to take necessary action so that the new office may be brought into force at the earliest possible date ?

(f) Is it a fact that the Members of the Assembly are anxious to have a separate office ? If so, do Government propose to set up a temporary office with a separate Secretary, etc., for the Assembly, pending the Secretary of State's sanction ?

Mr. L. Graham : (a) A despatch on the subject was sent to His Majesty's Secretary of State for India on the 26th July last.

(b) The Secretary of State has not been asked to accord his sanction by wire, because there would appear to be ample time before the Delhi Session in which to receive his reply.

(c) The necessary action will be taken as soon as possible after the Secretary of State's sanction is received. No recommendation has been made as to the date from which the new office is to be brought into existence.

(d) Government are not prepared to take any action in anticipation of the sanction of the Secretary of State because until they know what has been sanctioned they will not know what to lay before the Standing Finance Committee.

(e) Having regard to the importance of the matter Government do not consider that an unduly long time has been expended on it. The Honourable Member is referred to the reply above to part (c).

(f) Government have not observed any great keenness on the part of Members to bring this matter up for discussion in this House. Government do not propose to take the action suggested.

DECREASE OF BENGALIS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA SECRETARIAT.

219. Mr. Amar Nath Dutt : Will the Government be pleased to state whether the proportion of the Bengalis employed in the Government of India Secretariat has considerably decreased since 1913 ? If so will the Government be pleased to state the reasons ?

Is it a fact that brilliant Bengali graduates' claims for service under the Government of India are often overlooked compared with members of the other communities ?

Are Government aware that there is a general feeling amongst the Bengali candidates for service under the Government of India, that they are not wanted by the Government ? If so, do Government propose to allay the general feeling and order recruitment on the basis of merit ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar : Government have not complete information on the subject, but I am prepared to accept the Honourable Member's statement that this is so. As indicated in the replies given by Sir Alexander Muddiman on the 23rd March, 1925, and the 26th January, 1926, to Haji S. A. K. Jeelani and Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan, one reason may possibly be that the removal of the seat of the Government of India from Calcutta has reduced the number of suitable Bengali candidates.

With reference to the remaining parts of the Honourable Member's question I can assure him that recruitment is made strictly on the basis of merit.

POLICY OF RECRUITMENT FOR THE SERVICES UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

220. **Mr. Amar Nath Dutt :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether their policy of recruitment for the Services under the Government of India is based upon efficiency or community or religious persuasion ?

Will the Government be pleased to state whether they accept the principle laid down in the Queen's Proclamation about appointments under the Government ? If the answer be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state whether orders have been issued in some offices to recruit on a communal and provincial basis ? If the answer be in the negative, are Government aware that such a policy is detrimental to the growth of Indian nationalism ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar : Efficiency is the basis of all recruitment to Government service, but subject to the satisfaction of this primary condition the policy of Government is to regulate recruitment so as to prevent the preponderance of any one class or community. I have already undertaken to furnish the Honourable Member with a copy of the relevant instructions.

Her late Majesty's proclamation is binding on all servants of the Crown.

EMPLOYMENT OF MUHAMMADANS IN THE IMPERIAL LIBRARY.

221. **Mr. Muhammad Rafique :** (a) Will the Honourable Member in charge of the Department of Education, Health and Lands be pleased to refer to the answers given to questions Nos. 673 and 674 in this House of the 8th February, 1926, and No. 151, dated the 20th August, 1926, and lay on the table :

- (i) a statement showing the total number of ministerial employees and sorters in the Imperial Library and the nationality (religion) of these officers separately : and

- (ii) a statement showing the acting, temporary and permanent vacancies that occurred in these services since 20th August 1926 and how many of these were given to the Muhammadans ?
- (b) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to say if it is a fact that the previous number of two Muhammadan clerks has been reduced to only one, viz., the clerk in charge of the Arabic Department ?
- (c) Is it a fact that during the period referred to above there were about seven permanent vacancies and no Muhammadans were taken in any of these ?
- (d) Were all these vacancies advertised in the papers ? If not, why not ?
- (e) Is it a fact in filling up two of these posts, it was advertised in the papers that men having five years' experience in Library work would be taken ? And were men with such qualifications actually taken ?
- (f) Is it a fact that for working in the temporary vacancies in the Imperial Library, no Muhammadans are taken, so as to give them an opportunity for acquiring experience in Library work and ultimately securing permanent posts, while raw Hindu outsiders are invariably taken with a view to provide them with permanent posts when vacancies occur ?
- (g) In view of what is going on in the Imperial Library will the Honourable Member be pleased to say if any steps will be taken for securing to the Muhammadans their share of appointments in the Library as early as possible ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : Information is being collected and will be supplied to the Honourable Member in due course.

OPENING BY A CLERK OF THE IMPERIAL LIBRARY OF A RESTAURANT IN THE LIBRARY.

222. Mr. Muhammad Rafique : (a) Will the Honourable Member in charge of the Department of Education, Health and Lands be pleased to say :

- (a) Is it a fact that a clerk of the Imperial Library, Calcutta, has opened a restaurant in the Library through a sorter of the Imperial Library and that the profit arising therefrom is divided amongst them ?
- (b) Is it a fact that the sorter and other menial staff of the Library are employed in the work of this restaurant during office hours ?
- (c) If so, will the Honourable Member be pleased to say if any steps will be taken to stop this ?
- (d) When the restaurant was opened did the authorities concerned call for any tender from refreshment vendors for running it ? Or was it a clerk who got the business started solely for his benefit, without such steps being taken first ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : Government have made enquiries and will communicate the result to the Honourable Member in due course.

SALE OF BOOKS AND PERIODICALS WEEDED OUT OF THE IMPERIAL LIBRARY, CALCUTTA.

223 **Mr. Muhammad Rafique :** (a) Is it a fact that books and periodicals received in the Imperial Library are privately sold by the clerks in charge as waste paper, without any regard whatever to their importance ?

(b) Is any list maintained of the so-called weeded out books and magazines and are proper records kept of their disposal ?

(c) Are any steps taken for checking from time to time the books and periodicals received in the Imperial Library with reference to the list of those weeded out ?

(d) Are the back numbers of important magazines like the *Lancet* and *Blackwood Magazine* also included in the weeded out list ? If so, how are they disposed of ?

(e) Is it a fact that the purchase and disposal of furniture for the Imperial Library is privately arranged by the clerk in charge, without any auction being held in the case of sale, or any tender being invited in the case of purchase, which causes financial loss to Government ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : (a) No.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

(d) Important magazines are kept. The *Lancet* is not subscribed for. *Blackwood's Magazine* is kept.

(e) No.

GRANT OF A PENSION OR GRATUITY TO THE WIDOW OF MR. MADAN GOPAL, LATE A POSTAL EMPLOYEE IN THE CENTRAL PROVINCES.

224. **Seth Jamnadass :** With reference to my unstarred question No. 67, dated 29th August 1927 regarding the grant of relief to the family of the late Mr. Madan Gopal, a postal employee in the Central Provinces, answered in the Simla Session of the Assembly 1927, do Government propose to grant a gratuity or a pension very soon to the widow of the late Mr. Madan Gopal ?

The Honourable Mr. A. G. McWatters : The rules do not permit the grant of gratuity or pension in such cases.

FAILURE OF CROPS IN THE JUBBULPORE DISTRICT AND PARTS OF BENGAL.

225. **Seth Jamnadass :** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the answer given by Earl Winterton, the Under Secretary of State for India, in reply to a question put by Mr. G. Lansbury, M.P., regarding the failure of crops in the Jubbulpore District and parts of Bengal recently in the House of Commons ?

(b) Has the suggestion made by Mr. Lansbury that the Government of India should issue a statement of their policy with regard to suspensions and remissions of land revenue been brought to the notice of the Government of India by the Secretary of State for India ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : (a) and (b). Yes.

INCLUSION OF CERTAIN SUBJECTS AS OPTIONAL SUBJECTS IN CERTAIN IMPERIAL SERVICES.

226. Seth Jammadass : (a) Will Government be pleased to state which of the subjects studied by a student of B. Commerce of an Indian University are included in the following Imperial Services examinations :

- (i) Finance.
- (ii) Military Accounts.
- (iii) Indian Audit.
- (iv) Indian Customs ?

(b) Are Government prepared to consider the advisability of including the following subjects as optional subjects in the above examinations :

- (i) Accountancy and Auditing.
- (ii) Banking, Money, Currency and Public Finance.
- (iii) Industrial and Commercial Organisation.
- (iv) Economic Development of the Empire and India, so that a graduate in Commerce may also have a chance ? Do Government propose to consider the advisability of including these subjects in I. C. S. ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply I have given to Dr. Moonje's question No. 324.

HEAVY RAINFALL IN BIHAR ON THE 4TH AND 5TH AUGUST.

227. Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : (a) Is it a fact that in the Meteorological weather report, dated Poona, the 3rd August 1928, we find the forecast : "Decrease of rain in Bihar" ; and in the same report, dated the 4th August, we read : "Further decrease in Bihar" ?

(b) Are Government aware that on August 3rd and 4th, Bihar had the heaviest rainfall within living memory, i.e., 16.80 on the 3rd, and 15.40 on the 4th August ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. McWatters : (a) Yes.

(b) No such figures were recorded at any of the eleven representative observatories of the Meteorological Department in Bihar ; and the figures are entirely inaccurate if they are intended to denote the average rainfall over Bihar as a whole. Even if recorded at individual district stations, they would not constitute the heaviest rainfall in Bihar within living memory.

MOTOR SERVICE MAINTAINED IN DELHI FOR THE CONVEYANCE OF FILES FROM NEW DELHI TO VICEREGAL LODGE.

228. Mr. Amar Nath Dutt : (a) Is it a fact that a motor car service is always maintained during the winter season by the Home Department of the Government of India at Delhi for carrying files from New Delhi Secretariat to Viceregal Lodge ?

(b) What is the cost of maintaining such a service of cars and for how long has the system been in existence ?

(c) To whom has the contract been given for these years for the maintenance of such cars ?

(d) Have tenders ever been called for before the contract was entered into ? If not what are the reasons for such action ? If tenders were called for, how many people tendered ? Was the lowest tender accepted ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar : (a) and (b). It is a fact that a motor service was maintained during the last two winter seasons for the carriage of files, letters, etc., between the Secretariat, New Delhi, and Viceregal Lodge or places within one mile thereof. The distribution was made from a central depôt and several Departments participated in the arrangement, the cost being Rs. 700 a month in 1926-27 and Rs. 650 a month in 1927-28.

(c) Mr. J. Carbery, retired Deputy Controller, Central Printing Office.

(d) Tenders were invited when the arrangement was first initiated, but for obvious reasons were confined to selected firms and individuals. The lowest tender was accepted.

CONSTRUCTION OF A RAILWAY FROM SAINTHIA TO BHERAMARA *via* BERHAMPORE.

229. Mr. Amar Nath Dutt : (a) Is it a fact that the construction of a railway line from Sainthia to Bheramara, *via* Berhampore was included in the approved projects of 1927-1928 ?

(b) What is the cause of the delay in the construction of the proposed line ?

(c) Is it a fact that the tracts through which the line is to pass have been declared a famine infected area ?

(d) Would it tend to ameliorate the conditions of the famine-stricken people if the construction of the line were taken in hand immediately ?

(e) Has the construction of the line been pressed for by the Eastern Bengal Railway and by their Advisory Committee ?

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

(b) As the result of local petitions the eastern half of the alignment for the proposed line is under reconsideration by the Agent in consultation with the Local Government.

(c) The line would traverse certain tracts in which the Local Government have declared the existence of distress owing to scarcity, but not famine, this year.

(d) No representation to this effect has been received from the Local Government.

(e) The Local Advisory Committee pressed for construction last year, but the Eastern Bengal Railway Administration, though they were at one time anxious to start work on this line, had to postpone its commencement for the reason given in (b).

PROMOTION OF MR. WOOD TO OFFICIATE AS AN ASSISTANT TRAFFIC SUPERINTENDENT, KATIHAR, ON THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

230. Mr. Amar Nath Dutt : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that Mr. Wood, Transportation Inspector of the Eastern Bengal Railway, has been promoted to officiate as an Assistant Traffic Superintendent, Katihar ? Has he passed the examinations

necessary to qualify for appointment as Assistant Traffic Superintendent ? If not, will the Government be pleased to state on what ground Mr. Wood was promoted and whether other fully qualified subordinates were not awaiting promotion ?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state what academical qualifications Mr. Wood has got and the departmental examinations for which he has qualified ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) Mr. Wood has been promoted to officiate as Assistant Traffic Superintendent, Katihar. There is no examination for the appointment of a qualified subordinate to officiate as an officer, and Mr. Wood was selected as the subordinate technically most suited to officiate in the post.

(b) He was selected for his technical, and not academical, qualifications.

PROMOTION OF MR. HOLDER TO THE POST OF TRANSPORTATION INSPECTOR ON THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

231. Mr. Amar Nath Dutt : Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that the District Traffic Superintendent, Lalmanirhat, Eastern Bengal Railway, promoted Mr. Holder a guard, to the post of Transportation Inspector ? Has he fully qualified in an assistant station master's duties ? Was there any senior duly qualified permanent assistant station master of Lalmanirhat District, who several times acted in place of Transportation Inspectors ? If so, why was not such duly qualified subordinate appointed ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : Government have no information. A matter of this kind is within the competence of the Agent of the Railway, and it may be presumed that he selected the man considered best qualified for the post.

EDUCATION OF THE CHILDREN OF THE STAFF OF THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

232. Mr. Amar Nath Dutt : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that Mr. Kureshi, District Traffic Superintendent, Katihar, has refused to consider the question of rendering facilities to the staff for educating their children ? If so, why ?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state their policy about rendering facilities to the staff for educating their children ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) Government have no information on this point.

(b) The policy is under consideration. It is proposed to discuss the whole question with the Central Advisory Council for Railways in the near future.

RE-EMPLOYMENT BY THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY OF RETIRED RAILWAY SUBORDINATES.

233. Mr. Amar Nath Dutt : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Eastern Bengal Railway Administration discharges men from active service on attaining the age of 55 years or invalids them on medical grounds ?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to state how many men of this type have been re-appointed by the said Administration in their construction work ?

(c) Will the Government be also pleased to state why such are re-employed in active service when they were compelled to retire ?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to state if any of these men are employed to work trains in the construction carrying coolies and other staff ?

(e) If so, will the Government be pleased to state who is responsible for accidents resulting in loss of life or serious injury to persons or heavy loss to property and whether precaution has been taken to prevent accidents ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) This is the ordinary rule.

(b) and (c). Government do not know the numbers of men over the age of 55 years, or previously discharged on medical grounds, who have been re-engaged temporarily on construction work, but it is not uncommon to fill temporary posts of this kind with experienced men of this kind when available.

(d) and (e). Government have no knowledge whether at the present time there are any men of the classes mentioned by the Honourable Member employed on working construction trains, and do not think it worth while to make enquiries on the point. They have no reason to believe that any such men would be employed unless the Railway Administration is satisfied that they can carry out their duties in accordance with the rules to which they may be required to work and without risk to safety of persons travelling in these trains.

GRANT OF LOCAL ALLOWANCES TO OFFICERS AND MINISTERIAL STAFF OF THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY STATIONED IN CALCUTTA.

234. Mr. Amar Nath Dutt : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Eastern Bengal Railway Administration has sanctioned local allowances to officers and ministerial staff attached to the Calcutta offices on the ground that the cost of living in Calcutta is higher than that of other stations of the Eastern Bengal Railway system ?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to state if any officer or staff other than those mentioned in question (a), are stationed in Calcutta ?

(c) If the answer to (b) be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state what are the classes of staff stationed there and whether they have been granted such local allowances ? If not, why ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) Ministerial staff on scales of pay general on the Eastern Bengal Railway system who may be employed in offices of the Railway which are located in Calcutta are given a compensatory allowance.

Officers whose headquarters are at Calcutta also receive a compensatory allowance when certain conditions are fulfilled.

(b) and (c). I am collecting information and will communicate with the Honourable Member on receipt.

PROVISION OF QUARTERS FOR THE INDIAN GUARDS OF THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY STATIONED IN CALCUTTA.

235. Mr. Amar Nath Dutt : Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Eastern Bengal Railway Administration has provided a number of quarters for officers, ministerial staff, station staff, Anglo-Indian and European guards and drivers, Indian drivers and shunters stationed in Calcutta ? If so, will the Government be pleased to state whether quarters have been provided for Indian guards stationed at Calcutta and whether there were any representations from them for such quarters and what action, if any, has been taken on the same ? If not, why ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : I propose to answer this and questions Nos. 237, 238 and 247 together. Government have no information in respect of these questions, but are making enquiries. Answers will be supplied to the Honourable Member in due course.

GRANT TO INDIAN GUARDS OF THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY OF THE SAME FACILITIES AS EUROPEAN GUARDS.

236. Mr. Amar Nath Dutt : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Indian guards stationed in Calcutta have to perform duties similar to those of Anglo-Indian and European guards and Indian drivers at all times of the year ?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to state, the reasons for not giving them the same facilities as Anglo-Indian and European guards ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) The duties of Indian guards are the same as those of Anglo-Indian and European guards, though not the same as those of Indian drivers.

(b) Government are not aware that Indian guards are not given the same facilities for performing their duties as Anglo-Indian and European guards.

PROVISION OF QUARTERS FOR THE STAFF OF THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY STATIONED AT SANTAHAR.

†237. Mr. Amar Nath Dutt : (a) Is it a fact that a good number of staff quarters at Santahar in the Eastern Bengal Railway were burnt down in the year 1927 ?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to state what action the Eastern Bengal Railway Administration has taken to provide accommodation for the staff, who have been suffering for want of quarters at Santahar ?

ALLOTMENT TO OTHER STAFF OF THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY AT LALMANIRHAT OF THE QUARTERS BUILT FOR INDIAN GUARDS AND RAILWAY STATION MASTERS.

†238. Mr. Amar Nath Dutt : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that quarters built for Indian guards and relieving station masters posted at Lalmanirhat have been allotted to other staff in contravention of the standing orders of the Eastern Bengal Railway Administration ?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 235.

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to state if the Eastern Bengal Railway authorities received any representation on the subject ?

(c) If so, will the Government be pleased to state what action has been taken on the representation ?

(d) If not, why ?

ISSUE OF A CIRCULAR BY THE DISTRICT TRAFFIC SUPERINTENDENT OF LALMANIRHAT REGARDING WORKING OF TRAINS BY SICK GUARDS.

239. Mr. Amar Nath Dutt : (a) Is it a fact that the District Traffic Superintendent of Lalmanirhat of the Eastern Bengal Railway has issued a circular to the guards working there that their interests must give way to the interests of the service and that they must not report sick at the last moment to avoid going out with a train ?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state if they require a train to be worked by a guard who has actually got high fever or attacked with diseases which are beyond one's control and which makes a man quite unfit to leave his bed through sickness ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) Government have no information.

(b) No.

GRANT OF ALLOWANCES TO THE CLERKS OF THE DISTRICT OFFICERS OF THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY FOR SUNDAY AND HOLIDAY WORK.

240. Mr. Amar Nath Dutt : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that the clerks of the District Offices of the Eastern Bengal Railway are made to work on Sundays and holidays ?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to state, whether they are paid any extra allowances for working on Sundays and holidays ?

(c) If not, do Government propose to close the offices according to the Negotiable Instruments Act ?

(d) If not, why ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) Clerks, whose duties are specifically connected with the running of trains, are required to work on Sundays and holidays, and other clerks may be required to do so when a breakdown occurs, or when shops are working on Sundays or holidays. Clerks may also be required to work on these days when there are arrears of work.

(b) In Calcutta gharry hire is allowed when overtime is worked.

(c) and (d). No. This would involve stopping train services.

HEAD PASSENGER SUPERINTENDENTS ON THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

241. Mr. Amar Nath Dutt : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state, if it is a fact that the Eastern Bengal Railway authorities has recently created two posts of Head Passenger Superintendents to be recruited from Indians ?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to state if the vacancies were advertised to get deserving candidates ?

(c) If not, will the Government be pleased to state what procedure was adopted in the above cases by the Selection Board of the Traffic Department to select men for such posts ?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to state, if it is a fact that the chief clerks of Katihar and Lalmanirhat District Offices were recommended by their respective officers for appointment as Head Passenger Superintendents ?

(e) If so, will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that both the chief clerks mentioned above were rejected and that the same District Officers were asked by the Selection Board to send suitable candidates for such posts ?

(f) If so, will the Government be pleased to state whether there were deserving candidates with requisite qualifications for such posts ?

(g) Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact, that the Traffic Manager received appeals from candidates who applied for such posts against the decision of the District Officers ? If so, what action, if any, was taken on these appeals ?

(h) Is it a fact that the District Officers were requested to nominate candidates from Anglo-Indians to fill up such vacancies ? If so, why ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : Enquiries are being made from the Agent, Eastern Bengal Railway, and I will communicate with the Honourable Member when I have received his reply.

GRANT OF LEAVE WITH PAY TO COOKS AND SERVANTS EMPLOYED IN THE GUARDS' RUNNING ROOMS ON THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

242. **Mr. Amar Nath Dutt :** Is it a fact that cooks and servants employed in the guards' running rooms on the Eastern Bengal Railway are not allowed any leave with pay ? If so, why ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : At present running room cooks and servants are allowed sick leave on half average pay for sixty days in a year. Government understand that the rules are under revision.

ALLEGED TRESPASS INTO THE HOUSE OF ONE ROY, A TRAINS CLERK AT FULCHARI, ON THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

243. **Mr. Amar Nath Dutt :** Is it a fact that there was a trespass into the house of trains clerk Roy while he was away on duty leaving his wife alone in the house at Fulchari, Eastern Bengal Railway, and on the raising of a hue and cry by the wife, the trespasser left and was noticed by the neighbours ? If so, was the trespasser an employee of the Eastern Bengal Railway and what action has been taken in the matter ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : Government have no information. The trains clerk can presumably take any legal remedy open to him.

RAISING OF THE PAY AND RETIRING GRATUITY OF MINISTERIAL OFFICERS OF THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

244. **Mr. Amar Nath Dutt :** With reference to the reply given to question No. 564 in the last Session of the Assembly, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons for not raising the pay and retiring gratuity

of the ministerial officers of the Eastern Bengal Railway, as also the reasons for not taking any action on the report of the Committee of the Eastern Bengal Railway Indian Employees' Association as stated in the reply ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : It is for the Agent of the Railway to initiate such proposals and to deal with the report of the Committee. It is for this reason that the Railway Board did not take up the question.

GRANT OF INCREASED PAY TO THE SUBORDINATE STAFF OF THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

245. Mr. Amar Nath Dutt : Is it a fact that the Railway Board has sanctioned the increase of pay of a class of staff of the Traffic Department of the Eastern Bengal Railway, on the recommendation of the Traffic Manager of the Eastern Bengal Railway, on the ground of economic distress ? If so, will the Government be pleased to state why the same increment has not been granted to the other classes of the subordinate staff of the Eastern Bengal Railway ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : The Railway Board have sanctioned proposals which were put before them last June by the Agent of the Eastern Bengal Railway for raising the pay of certain classes of the subordinate staff on his railway where, after investigation, he came to the conclusion that the previous scales of pay were not sufficiently attractive to secure the proper type of recruit. They gave their sanction to the proposals which the Agent put before them, because they consider that in these cases the Agent had shown that the existing rates of pay were not sufficiently attractive to procure suitable recruits, and in certain cases did not allow sufficient improvement on promotion to definitely more responsible positions.

GRANT OF MILEAGE ALLOWANCE TO THE TRAVELLING TICKET INSPECTORS OF THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

246. Mr. Amar Nath Dutt : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Travelling Ticket Inspectors employed in the Eastern Bengal Railway were receiving mileage allowance like that of other running staff employed in the Traffic Department of the same Railway ?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to state if they are at present performing the same nature of duty as before ?

(c) If so, will the Government be pleased to state, whether they are similarly treated in the matter of mileage allowance as before ?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Travelling Ticket Inspectors employed in the State Railways are considered as running staff in all respects.

(e) If so, will the Government be pleased to state why the Travelling Ticket Inspectors employed in the Eastern Bengal Railway are not equally treated and granted mileage allowance ?

(f) Is it a fact that the Travelling Ticket Inspectors of the Eastern Bengal Railway submitted representations to the Chief Auditor of the same Railway regarding granting mileage allowance to them ? If so, what action has been taken on the representations ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : I am collecting the information and will communicate with the Honourable Member when it is received.

PROVISION OF QUARTERS FOR THE TRAVELLING TICKET INSPECTORS OF THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

†247. **Mr. Amar Nath Dutt:** (a) Is it a fact that the Travelling Ticket Inspectors employed in the Eastern Bengal Railway have been suffering for want of quarters for a long time and that they made several representations to the authorities? If so, what action, if any, has been taken on the representations?

PROVISION OF TWO SWIMMING BATHS FOR THE EUROPEAN AND ANGLO-INDIAN EMPLOYEES OF THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY AT PAKSEY AND SAIDPUR.

248. **Mr. Amar Nath Dutt:** (a) Is it a fact that the Eastern Bengal Railway Administration has recently provided two swimming baths, one at Paksey and the other at Saidpur, at a considerable cost to provide amenities for a few European and Anglo-Indian employees stationed at these two stations?

(b) Is it also a fact that due to paucity of funds adequate arrangements could not be made for the supply of pure drinking water to the staff posted at many road stations of the Eastern Bengal Railway?

(c) If the replies to items (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to say why money was spent in providing swimming baths for the benefit of a few in preference to a vast number of the Indian employees who are in difficulty for want of or for inadequate arrangements for the supply of pure drinking water?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) No. The swimming bath at Paksey was built from the funds of the Officers' Club, and that at Saidpur from the funds of the Institute.

(b) No. For the past three years a programme of tube well sinking has been in operation. But in a number of instances these tube wells have failed to produce water of satisfactory quality.

(c) Does not arise.

INDEBTEDNESS OF THE SUBORDINATE STAFF OF THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

249. **Mr. Amar Nath Dutt:** (a) Is it a fact that the subordinates of the Eastern Bengal Railway are constantly borrowing money from the Eastern Bengal Railway Co-operative Credit Society and most of them are also having recourse to temporary withdrawals of Provident Fund money? If so, are these due to economic distress and sickness of the subordinate staff of the Eastern Bengal Railway?

(b) If the reply be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state, what action, if any, they propose to take to relieve the distress?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: I am collecting information and will communicate with the Honourable Member when it is received.

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 235.

INSECURITY OF SERVICE OF THE SUBORDINATE STAFF OF THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

250. **Mr. Amar Nath Dutt :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the reasons which led them to amend the words "on reduction of establishment" in Annexure "A" in paragraph 298, Note No. 1, Chap. IV of State Railway Open Line Code, Vol. II, by the substitution of the words "in accordance with the terms of his agreement", as also to restrict the scope of appeals from subordinate railway employees, by Standing Order No. 610, dated 4th August, 1919 ?

(b) Will the Government be also pleased to state if it is a fact that the agreement which each subordinate railway employee is required to sign in token of his acceptance on first appointment contains a clause, that his services are liable to be dispensed with at any time on a month's notice or on a month's pay in lieu thereof ?

(c) Is it a fact that under the amendment of the code rule, *vide* (a) above and under the clause in service agreement, *vide* (b) above, the Eastern Bengal Railway Administration has of late discharged some employees against whom no dereliction of duties were brought home and that due to the operation of the amended code rule some employees, having less than 15 years' service at their credit have been deprived of the gratuity in terms of Annexure B, Rule 3 (II) (d) of gratuity rules, thus causing extra hardships to these employees ?

(d) Is it also a fact that Annexure A, Rule 5 of paragraph 298 of State Railway Open Line Code, Vol. II, very seldom, if ever, is applied by the Eastern Bengal Railway Administration when considering cases of discharge ?

(e) If the replies to items (b) to (d) be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to say what steps, if any, the Government propose to take in this matter to safeguard the interests of the railway employees against insecurity of service ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) As originally drafted, the paragraph of the State Railway Open Line Code, to which the Honourable Member refers, was based on a decision reached by the Government of India in 1888, but did not correctly interpret that decision, for it was not even then the intention that non-pensionable railway servants, who, under the terms of their service, were liable to discharge at one month's notice, should have any right of appeal unless dismissed summarily and without one month's pay. The matter was reviewed in 1919 as the practice of appealing to one authority after another against discharge in cases in which there was no violation of the terms of service had grown to such an extent, owing to the incorrect drafting of the paragraph, as to react seriously on the efficiency of railway working. It was then decided that, in order to prevent the power to discharge being exercised unfairly, a railway servant, discharged in accordance with the terms of his service, should be permitted to appeal to the authority immediately superior to the authority issuing the order of discharge.

(b) Yes.

(c) Government are not aware whether the Eastern Bengal Railway Administration has recently found it necessary to discharge any employees,

not for any fault but because of a reduction in establishment. But, if so, under rule 3 (II) (d) of the gratuity rules they would be eligible for gratuity on abolition of appointment provided their service has been continuous, good, efficient, and faithful.

(d) The general rule to which the Honourable Member refers applied to the Eastern Bengal Railway Administration, and Government have no reason to suppose that it is not followed.

(e) Does not arise.

PROVISION OF A REST HOUSE AT KURSEONG FOR THE INDIAN SUBORDINATE STAFF OF THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

251. **Mr. Amar Nath Dutt** : (a) Is it a fact that two villas at Kurseong were purchased for the use of officers and subordinates of the Eastern Bengal Railway ?

(b) Is it a fact that the villa intended for the subordinate staff has been converted in such a manner that it can be used by Anglo-Indians only and the same is not fit for Indian subordinates ? If so, will the Government be pleased to state if the Indian subordinates have any such rest house ? If not why ?

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

(b) No alterations have been made in the villa used by the subordinate staff since purchase to adapt it for the use of Anglo-Indians or any other community. There is no rest house in the hills specially adapted to the Indian style of living, and hitherto very few requests for such a rest house have been received by the Agent.

RESERVATION FOR ANGLO-INDIANS OF THE POSTS OF CREW INSPECTORS ON THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

252. **Mr. Amar Nath Dutt** : (a) Is it a fact that recently there were some vacancies in the post of Crew Inspectors under the Traffic Department of the Eastern Bengal Railway and some Indians applied for these vacancies ? Is it a fact that the Deputy Traffic Manager, Eastern Bengal Railway, passed an order on the file to the effect " These posts are intended for Anglo-Indians only " ?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state whether there was such order for reserving Crew Inspectorships for Anglo-Indians only on the Eastern Bengal Railway ? If so, why ?

(c) If the answer to (b) be in the negative will the Government be pleased to state, what action has been taken on the order of the Deputy Traffic Manager, Eastern Bengal Railway, referred to in (a) ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : Enquiries are being made from the Agent, Eastern Bengal Railway, and I will communicate with the Honourable Member when I have received his reply.

GRANT OF INCREASED PAY TO THE INDIAN SUBORDINATES OF THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

253. **Mr. Amar Nath Dutt** : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that Indian subordinate employees of the Eastern Bengal Railway of all ranks and grades have, of late, submitted memorials to the

Agent, Eastern Bengal Railway, for increase of pay on account of economic distress ?

(b) What action, if any, has been taken by the Agent, Eastern Bengal Railway, on the majority of the memorials ?

(c) If no action has as yet been taken, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) Memorials have been submitted by certain classes.

(b) As explained in the reply to the Honourable Member's unstarred question No. 245. The Agent has already submitted proposals, which have been sanctioned, with regard to certain classes of the subordinate staff, and Government understand that he is investigating the position with regard to certain other classes.

(c) Does not arise.

SUPPLY TO THE LIBRARY OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE RAILWAY ACCOUNT AND AUDIT CODE.

254. Mr. Amar Nath Dutt : (a) Is it a fact that there is no copy of the Railway Account and Audit Code in the Legislative Assembly Library ?

(b) Is it a fact that the same Code has been referred to in interpellations in the Assembly ?

(c) If the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the reasons for not placing the book in the Library ?

(d) Is there any objection to place the book in the Library ? If so, what are the reasons ?

Mr. L. Graham : (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) and (d). Arrangements are being made to place the book in the Library.

PROVISION OF A LIGHT ON THE VERANDAH OF COTTAGE NO. 28 IN LONGWOOD.

255. Mr. Amar Nath Dutt : (a) Is it a fact that there is no light on the verandah of cottage No. 28 in Longwood ?

(b) Was there any complaint from Members of the Assembly occupying cottage No. 28 regarding want of light last year and this year ?

(c) Has any step been taken to have a light on the verandah of cottage No. 28 ? If not, why ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. McWatters : (a) There is no electric light in the covered passage leading to the entrance.

(b) The tenant made a complaint last year and a complaint was made this year by the Honourable Member who has put this question.

(c) No, mainly because it is not possible to secure municipal sanction to more than a limited number of new electric light points.

**NUMBER OF INDIAN TRAFFIC INSPECTORS RECRUITED SINCE 1924 BY THE
VARIOUS STATE RAILWAYS.**

256. Mr. Amar Nath Dutt : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the mode of recruitment of Traffic Inspectors on State Railways ?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of Indian Traffic Inspectors recruited since 1924 in the various State Railways and the number of Anglo-Indians ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given to his starred question No. 572 on the 2nd September, 1926.

(b) Government are not in possession of information as to the number of Traffic Inspectors recruited since 1924, and they regret they are not prepared to supplement the statistics of communal representation given in the annual reports of the Railway Board on Indian Railways by figures for particular branches or offices.

**NUMBER OF BENGALI CLERKS RECRUITED SINCE 1925 BY THE RAILWAY
BOARD.**

257. Mr. Amar Nath Dutt : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the various grades of the clerical services under the Railway Board and the mode of recruitment for the same ?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of Bengali clerks recruited since 1925 by the Railway Board ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons :

	<i>Old Scale.</i>	<i>New Scale.</i>
	<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>
(a) Superintendents ..	600—40—800	550—30—700
Assistants, Dn. I	200—15—365—500	180—15—450
Assistants, Dn. I	*375—25—500	..
Clerks, Dn. II ..	100—8—300	100—8—260
Clerks, Dn. II ..	†300—25—350	..
Clerks, Dn. III ..	100—8—156	75—5—150
Stenographers† ..	175—9—400	150—10—300

*Upper time scale to 15 per cent.

†Special grade to 10 per cent.

‡Plus Rs. 50 to stenographers attached to the Members and Secretary, Railway Board.

The method of recruitment is as follows :

- (i) From the staff employed on railways.
 - (ii) From candidates who have passed the Imperial Secretariat Examination held by the Public Service Commission.
 - (iii) From a selected list of applications received in this office.
- (b) Four.

**LOSS SUSTAINED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ON THE WORKING OF THE
ARMY CANTEN BOARD.**

258. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the paragraph published in the issue of the *Statesman* of the 19th August, 1928, page 12, under the heading "Rs. 37 lakhs loss to Government—Army Canteen" ?

(b) If so, will Government please state if the statement made therein that "a net loss of Rs. 37 lakhs has been sustained by the Government of India on the transactions of the Army Canteen Board" is correct?

(c) If correct, will they please state what are the causes of this great loss?

(d) If any person or number of persons have been found guilty of causing or of being instrumental in causing the loss, will Government please state if any action has been taken against him or them?

(e) If so, will they please state what action has been taken?

Mr. G. M. Young : (a) and (b). The answer is in the affirmative.

(c) The causes of the failure of the Army Canteen Board are examined in paragraphs 7 (b) and (c) and 8—13 of the report submitted by the Currie-Sethna Committee in February 1926. A copy of the report will be found in the Library of the Assembly. The main cause of the failure, in the opinion of the Government of India, was the inefficiency of the Controller of the Board.

(d) and (e). The Honourable Member is referred to the statements laid on the table in answer to unstarred question No. 31 and starred question No. 715, dated the 22nd January, and 7th September, 1925, respectively.

CONTINUANCE OF THE REMISSION OF TERMS ALLOWED BY THE INNS OF COURT TO VAKILS OF INDIAN HIGH COURTS TO QUALIFY AS BARRISTERS.

259. Mr. Amar Nath Dutt : (a) Is it a fact that the remission of terms allowed to vakils of Indian High Courts by the Inns of Court in England to qualify as Barristers-at-Law is proposed to be withdrawn from 1929?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state if they protested against the proposal?

(c) Do the Government propose to take steps so that the remission of terms may be continued as before or at least for three years more?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar : (a) The Government of India have no information.

(b) The regulations are entirely within the competence of the Inns of Court and the Government of India are not consulted before they are framed.

(c) On the information conveyed in these questions, which is all I have, the question appears to be one more for the Bar Associations in this country to consider than for Government.

VARIOUS GRADES OF CLERKS EMPLOYED UNDER THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

260. Mr. Amar Nath Dutt : Will the Government be pleased to state what are the various grades of clerks employed under the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs and the mode of recruitment?

Mr. P. G. Rogers : It is presumed that the Honourable Member refers to the office of the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs only. The following are the grades of clerks :

<i>Designations.</i>	<i>Scales.</i>
Chief Superintendent ..	Rs. 550—40—750.
Budget Superintendent ..	Rs. 500—25—700.
Superintendents..	Rs. 300—20—500.
Personal Clerk to D. G.	Rs. 300—20—500.
2 Budget Assistants ..	Rs. 300—20—500.
1st Division Clerks ..	Rs. 100—6—160—10—300 with efficiency bars at Rs. 130 and Rs. 180.
2nd Division Clerks ..	Rs. 55—5—155 with efficiency bars at Rs. 80 and Rs. 115.
2 Selection grade posts in the 2nd Division ..	Rs. 150—10—200.

Recruitment for the 1st Division and the 2nd Division clerks is usually made from persons who have passed the Staff Selection Board Examination. The other appointments are selection appointments and are made by promotion.

PAY AND PROSPECTS OF THE SUBORDINATE STAFF EMPLOYED UNDER THE DIRECTOR OF ARMY AUDIT.

261. Mr. Amar Nath Dutt : Will the Government be pleased to state how the subordinate staff under the Director of Army Audit is recruited and their pay and prospects ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : I place on the table a statement showing the rates of pay of the subordinate staff under the Director of Army Audit. Clerks are eligible for promotion to the grade of Accountants after passing the Subordinate Accounts Service Examination and selected Accountants are appointed as Assistant Accounts Officers.

Clerks are generally recruited by selection from outside. At times, however, to meet the requirements of a newly created Department experienced clerks are taken from other accounts offices.

Statement showing the rates of pay of the subordinate staff under the Director of Army Audit :

Assistant Accounts Officers.—Rs. 660—40—900.

Accountants.—Rs. 240—20—360—30—600—50—650. (Bar at Rs. 420).

Clerks.—Rs. 70—7—140—6—230. (Bars at Rs. 140 and Rs. 170).

For Assistant Accounts Officers and Accountants joining after the 1st July, 1928, the following rates have been sanctioned :

Assistant Accounts Officers.—Rs. 500—35—850, plus special pay of Rs. 50 to the Assistant Accounts Officer employed at the headquarters of the office of the Director.

Accountants.—Rs. 200—20—360—30—600. (Bar at Rs. 360).

PUBLICATION OF A HAND-BOOK SHOWING THE MODE OF RECRUITMENT TO THE VARIOUS SUBORDINATE SERVICES UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

262. Mr. Amar Nath Dutt : Has the Government published any hand-book for public information of the mode of recruitment to the various subordinate services under the Government of India ? If not, do the Government propose to do so ? If not, why ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : I would refer the Honourable Member to the answer given by my predecessor on the 7th February, 1927, to a question put by Kumar Ganganand Sinha on the same subject.

GRANT OF INCREMENTS TO CERTAIN 2ND DIVISION CLERKS IN THE ARMY DEPARTMENT.

263. Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra : (a) Is it a fact that in 1924 some clerks in the Army Department who were qualified for the 2nd Division were confirmed in the 3rd Division for want of vacancies in the 2nd Division ?

(b) Is it a fact that these men were given increments at the rate of 3rd Division for their temporary service of 4 or 5 years in the 2nd Division which they had put in before confirmation ? If so, why ?

(c) Is it a fact that these men have always been doing 2nd Division work and have been promoted to the 2nd Division with effect from the 1st April 1928 ?

(d) Will the Government please state why increments at the rate of 2nd Division for their temporary service in that Division before confirmation were not given ?

Mr. G. M. Young : (a) Up to the 1st June, 1924, there were only two divisions in the Secretariats and all clerks not in the First Division were classed as members of the Second Division, including those engaged on, and fit for nothing else but, routine duties. The latter were placed below the efficiency bar of the Second Division. After the 1st June, 1924, a Third Division was constituted for those performing routine duties. The Army Department had a temporary establishment of men qualified under the old conditions for the Second Division and these included the men now in question. Two of the posts held by these men were made permanent in the Second Division in October, 1924, but the remainder had to go into the new Third Division and continued to do the routine work on which they had previously been employed. There they remained until they were fit to be promoted and vacancies occurred.

(b) Yes, but as I have explained, the duties of the present Third Division were previously those of the Second Division below the efficiency bar. The men placed in the Third Division had, before confirmation, held temporary posts on fixed non-progressive rates well below the efficiency bar of the Second Division. They were performing work of no higher character than that performed by men who had not qualified for the Second Division. Therefore, on confirmation, they received the increments prescribed for the lowest Division.

(c) The answer to the first part of the question, if it refers to the Second Division as now constituted, is in the negative. The answer to the second part is in the affirmative.

(d) For the reasons given at (b).

CROSSING OF THE EFFICIENCY BAR IN THE 2ND DIVISION BY DESPATCHERS AND TYPISTS IN THE ARMY DEPARTMENT.

264. Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra : (a) Is it a fact that under existing rules despatchers and typists are not allowed to cross the efficiency bar at Rs. 172 in the 2nd Division ? Is this rule observed in the Army Department Secretariat ? If not, why ?

(b) Is it a fact that there are certain clerks in the Army Department Secretariat who have passed the Staff Selection Board's test as typists only, but who have been allowed to cross the efficiency bar ? If so, why ?

(c) Is it a fact that some permanent clerks in the Home and other Departments who were working as typists or despatchers were fixed in the 3rd Division on the introduction of that Division ? If so, why has this not been done in the Army Department ?

(d) Do the Government propose to bring down to the 3rd Division those clerks in the Army and other Departments who are ineligible to cross the efficiency bar in the 2nd Division under the rule alluded to and to reduce their pay to Rs. 170 plus a personal allowance of Rs. 2 a month ?

Mr. G. M. Young : (a) Yes, but clerks already in permanent service before June, 1924, who were recruited for the 2nd Division, are allowed under the same rule to cross the efficiency bar, if they are found capable of performing duties not merely of a routine nature. The rule is observed in the Army Department Secretariat.

(b) There is one such clerk, who has been allowed to cross the efficiency bar under the proviso to the rule referred to in part (a) of this question.

(c) As regards the Home Department, 6 clerks who were made permanent in the 2nd Division with effect from 1st April, 1924, were transferred to the 3rd Division ; but they were warned at the time of their confirmation that they might be relegated to the 3rd Division on its formation. In the Army Department, there were no clerks who were similarly circumstanced. Enquiry is being made from other Departments, and the result will be communicated to the Honourable Member in due course.

(d) No, Sir. There are no clerks in the Army and the Home Departments who have crossed the efficiency bar of the 2nd Division other than those eligible and deemed fit to do so. As regards other Departments, enquiry is being made, and the result will be communicated to the Honourable Member in due course.

INTRODUCTION OF A LEAVE RESERVE IN THE ARMY DEPARTMENT.

265. Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra : (a) Are the Government aware that a " Leave Reserve " has not yet been introduced in the Army Department Secretariat ? If not, why ?

(b) Is it a fact that there are several officiating clerks in the Army Department who are awaiting confirmation on the introduction of the leave reserve in that Department ?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state when it is likely to introduce the leave reserve in the Army Department ?

Mr. G. M. Young : (a) Yes, because the permanent strength of the clerical establishment is still subject to review.

(b) No, Sir, officiating clerks are employed in leave vacancies and their services are liable to be terminated at any moment. This is made plain to them on engagement, and there is no undertaking that they will be made permanent.

(c) I am afraid I am not in a position to say.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

ATTACK ON THE PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY BY THE
"TIMES OF INDIA".

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh (Muzaffarpur *cum* Champaran: Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, I beg to move an adjournment of the House.....

Mr. President : The Honourable Member cannot move the adjournment of the House unless he obtains leave to do so.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : I beg your pardon, Sir. I ask for leave to move an adjournment of the House to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, an unjust, unworthy and undignified and deliberately malicious attack on the President of the House by the *Times of India*, regardless of all sense of decency and decorum, and containing aspersions and sneers reflecting on the conduct of the President, and calculated to lower the dignity and honour of the Chair and of the House.

Sir, Honourable Members must have read with pain and surprise the undignified attack made upon you, Sir, as the President of the House, and which reflects upon the dignity of this House as well."

Mr. K. Ahmed (Rajshahi Division: Muhammadan Rural) : What are you for ? It is your public duty.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Under rule 11, Sir, a motion for an adjournment of the business of the Assembly for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance may be made with the consent of the President. I beg to submit that this is a matter of public importance, and of sufficient public importance to justify an adjournment of the House; and it is also a definite matter, as it arises out of the scurrilous attack made by the *Times of India* in its issue of the 24th August. It is also a matter of urgency because the longer this matter is delayed, I feel, Sir, that the dignity of the Chair as well as the honour of this House is being compromised: and I therefore under the circumstances feel that this is a case in which you should permit leave to move an adjournment of the House. I can quite realize the delicacy of your position, Sir, in this matter, because you have yourself been the subject of the attack; but we feel, Sir, that apart from your position as the Honourable President of this House and the custodian of our rights and privileges, our position and dignity as Members of the House have been compromised by this cowardly and unworthy attack.

Munshi Iswar Saran (Lucknow Division : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, my Honourable friend, Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh, in order to obtain your consent has to satisfy you that this matter to which reference has been made is a definite matter. Then he has to satisfy you that it is

[Munshi Iswar Saran.]

a matter of public importance; and the third condition is that it is a matter of urgent public importance. If he succeeds in satisfying all these three conditions, I submit with great respect that you may be pleased to grant him the permission that he prays for.

Sir, I do not agree with my Honourable friend that you will feel any delicacy in this matter because I believe that in deciding this matter you will forget that you are occupying the Chair at the present moment. You will only consider the impersonal aspect of the case. What you will consider is,—here is the Legislative Assembly and here is the President of that Assembly who has been attacked in this particular manner by a certain paper which I shall not honour by naming in this House.

Now, that the matter is definite no one could object to. Here is the article itself which contains most objectionable statements. What does the article say? I am not reading it, it is not necessary to read it, but you cannot satisfy the Chair unless you bring to the notice of the Chair the allegations, the very serious allegations that have been made. Now, the President has been accused of gadding about. English is not my mother tongue and I, therefore, Sir, took the trouble of consulting Webster's Dictionary, and I find there "gadding" means going about much needlessly or without purpose.

Mr. K. Ahmed : What dictionary?

Munshi Iswar Saran : Webster's Dictionary. Do me, Sir, the honour of listening to me. What I submit, Sir, is this. Here a paper has the impudence to suggest that the President of the Legislative Assembly in his capacity, pray remember, as the President goes about much needlessly or without purpose. I say, Sir, it has not only insulted the President but also the House of which he is the President.

Sir, after this point, the next point is, is the matter of public importance? Well, Sir, this Assembly in some perorations has been called India's Parliament. Well, let us take it as India's Parliament. Then, what does it come to? India's Parliament and the President of India's Parliament have been insulted and abused and attacked in a wholly unfair and malicious manner. Is this or is this not then a matter of public importance?

Then the third question would arise, is it urgent? I say, Sir, it is most urgent, for the reason that this House owes it to itself and owes it to its President not to allow this insult to remain without a challenge. It is up to us to resent, to repudiate the insult that has been offered to this House and I shall go the length of suggesting that we should take such steps and we should expect you, Sir, to take such steps as may be necessary in order to stop such attacks in the future. Of course it is hardly necessary to observe that I do not complain against just and legitimate criticism. I therefore submit that leave to make this motion should be granted.

There is one other matter to which I shall refer. I wish to warn my friends that I do not wish to go into the merits of the question at all. I wish only to say that the matter would not have been urgent if Government had taken advantage of their Publicity Department and had at once repudiated the statements and insinuations that were made in this article. (*Cries of "Hear, hear."*) If they had at once said: "We resent such criticism, we repudiate the suggestions, we do not, cannot and will not countenance

articles such as the one in question," then it might perhaps have been open to some one to say that this was not a matter of urgent public importance. On the very first day that we meet after this attack, if Government have not taken that step it is up to us to take that step.

The House will be pleased to remember that in the year 1926 certain statements were made by a certain newspaper as regards your ruling in a certain matter. I do not wish to rake up that controversy; but this is what the late lamented Sir Alexander Muddiman in his capacity as the Leader of the House said at once :

" I may tell the House that I have read certain observations which might be construed as a reflection against the Chair. I dissociate myself entirely from that view. May I assure you that we are fully satisfied that the rulings of the Chair are based on the principles that have always been, and I trust will always be, the basis of the rulings of the Chair."

The reason why I have invited the attention of the House to this statement made by the Leader of the House is that the moment it came to the knowledge of the Leader of the House, the Leader of the House rose in his place in this House and repudiated the suggestion that was contained in that article. If that course had been followed in this case, Sir, I repeat that this motion might perhaps have been open to the argument that there was no urgency about it.

Sir, let me make it perfectly clear. The personality of the President of the Legislative Assembly does not matter. If Mr. Patel had been attacked it would have been the concern of Mr. Patel and his friends and co-workers. But if the President of the Legislative Assembly has been insulted it becomes the concern not only of the non-official Members of this House but also of the official Members, because the Assembly is made up of official and non-official Members, and it is up to both of them with one voice to repudiate publicly and emphatically the most objectionable statements that are contained in the article.

A word more, Sir, and I have done. The writer has drawn a comparison between the present President and the past President : with that I am not concerned—but what he says is :

" But that he should presume to go about advising them in reference to their duties is another matter ; and if it is not such presumption which takes him on tour for what purpose does he go ? Is it politics ? "

Now, Sir, what is the insinuation ? The insinuation is that the President of the Legislative Assembly abuses his position, abuses his rights and abuses his privileges and goes about discussing politics or preaching politics.

" If it one of those conventions he pretends to make ? "

Now, Sir, comes the last suggestion and it is the most disgraceful of all.

" Is it merely a way of getting rid of that money with which he likes to be ostentatiously magnificent ? "

I submit, Sir, irrespective of the personality of the President, such vile and vicious attacks would have been resented by the whole House. But in this case the resentment is greater, the indignation is deeper, because the present occupant of the Chair happens to have our respect, our admiration, our esteem and our confidence. (Applause.)

Maulvi Muhammad Yakub (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions : Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, after the speeches of my friend the Mover

[Maulvi Muhammad Yakub.]

of this motion and my friend Munshi Iswar Saran there is hardly anything for me to add about this motion being in order. It has been clearly shown that the matter is urgent, that it is a definite matter and that it is of public importance. We all know that the high esteem and confidence which our President enjoys throughout the whole country needs no demonstration. At the close of the last Session the eloquent encomiums which were showered upon him both by the official and non-official Members of this House, and the manner in which he was re-elected a Member and also as President of this House, fully demonstrate the confidence which the country reposes in him. The mischievous and cowardly attack of an Anglo-Indian paper, which very often takes a prominent part in widening the gulf between Indians and Englishmen, has certainly wounded the feelings of not only the Members of this House but of the people of the country at large. Therefore, I say it is a matter of general interest that the conduct of such a paper should be condemned by this House. I hope, Sir, that your sense of modesty will not overcome your sense of duty as the custodian of the honour of this House. I can only add, Sir, that I wish that your Deputy President could have been in the Chair on this occasion.

Mr. President : I take it that the Government have nothing to say on this!

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar (Leader of the House) : I have only one word to say. I understand that the purpose of a motion for the adjournment of this House is ordinarily to discuss a matter of policy for which the Government is responsible. Government must of course repudiate any responsibility whatever for this article. If I might hazard a suggestion, I venture to think that you, Sir, are perfectly able to maintain and preserve the dignity of your office. I have no further remarks to make and I leave the matter entirely in your hands.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta (Bombay City : Non-Muhammadian Urban) : It is not clear whether the Government is identified with this article.

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : I expressly said that the Government entirely disavowed any responsibility for it whatsoever.

Mr. President : This is one of those matters in which the President and the House are apt to go wrong if they permit themselves to be moved by indignation at the nature and character of the attack. I am grateful to the Honourable Member for giving me 24 hours' notice. That has enabled me to look into the Parliamentary procedure and precedents and give my considered decision. I have no doubt whatever that the matter proposed to be discussed is a definite matter ; I have also no doubt that the matter is urgent, and it is quite clear that the matter is of public importance. But that is not all. Because the matter proposed to be discussed is a definite matter of urgent public importance the President is not bound as a matter of course to rule the motion in order. Honourable Members will find that the Standing Order 11 gives wide discretionary power to the President to admit or disallow a motion for adjournment. A matter may be urgent, it may be definite, it may be of public importance, and yet the President may in a proper case disallow such a motion.

Now, in this particular case, I have, as I have already pointed out to the House, looked up Parliamentary procedure and precedents and I have come to this conclusion. Generally speaking, motions for adjournment under Standing Order 11 must have relation, directly or indirectly, to the conduct or default on the part of Government and must be in the nature of criticism of the action of Government. I am quite clear about that, and I am supported by the Parliamentary precedents in that respect. It is not necessary for me to quote those precedents at all, but just for the information of the House I should like to mention one case in which a Member obtained leave in the House of Commons to move an adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, "the articles of a scandalous nature which have appeared in the *Daily Mail* and other papers relating to the conduct of certain Members of this House." We are dealing with a case in which there is an attack against the President; that was a case in which there was an attack against Members of the House. Now, when the business under discussion at a quarter past eight was postponed, the Speaker said :

"The House is aware that we have fixed 8-15 for discussion of the motion, that the Honourable and gallant Member for Finsbury has been given leave to move. The leave was given. But on reflection I think I ought to inform the House that I have come to the opinion that I was wrong in accepting that motion. When the Honourable and gallant Member rose to ask for leave to move the adjournment, I considered in my mind the points which were involved in Standing Order 10, namely, whether the motion was for the purpose of expressing a definite matter. I thought the matter was definite; whether it was urgent. I thought it was urgent. I thought it was a public matter and I thought it was an important matter. Thereupon I accepted it. Perhaps also I was moved with some indignation at the character of the attack and the nature of the attack which has been made upon certain Members of the House, but I confess that I had not in my mind at the moment the rulings which had been given on former occasions that motions for adjournment under Standing Order 10 must have some relation to the conduct or default of Government and must be in the nature of criticism of the Government either for having done some action or for having omitted to do some action which was urgently necessary at the moment. The motion of which the Honourable and gallant Member gave notice, namely, to call attention to the articles of a scandalous nature which have appeared in the *Daily Mail* and other papers relating to the conduct and character of certain Members of this House does not affect the Government and whatever may be the decision of the House either in adjourning or refusing to adjourn the action of the Government is not in issue at all. Therefore, I do not think that the motion can properly be made. It raises a false issue. Honourable Members when asked to vote aye or nay on the motion for adjournment would be asked to pronounce an opinion that would leave the Government intact. Indeed the Government would not necessarily take any part in the discussion of that question. To that extent the motion raises a false issue."

The Speaker of the House of Commons then asked the Honourable Member if he could not see his way to drop the motion. Leave having been given it was not in the power of the Chair to prevent the Honourable Member from making the motion. The Honourable Member accepted the suggestion of the Chair and did not make the motion. This case is analogous to the case I have just read to the House. I go further and say that if it is the intention of the Honourable Member from Bihar to raise the question of privilege—and I do not know how far the question of privilege does arise in this case—I should say at once that no discussion on a question of privilege can take place on a motion for adjournment. I lay it down definitely and unambiguously. Under these circumstances, I regret I must disallow the motion for adjournment.

There is one word more which I would like to say. Let not this ruling be understood to mean that the House has no remedy whatever in

[Mr. President.]

such cases. I hold that it is the inherent right of any Assembly to defend itself against outside attacks and it is perfectly open in a proper case for the House to table a substantive motion and pass a vote of censure or condemnation on the attacker. But that is a different matter. On a motion for adjournment this can not be done. I therefore disallow this motion for adjournment.

Mr. Amar Nath Dutt (Burdwan Division : Non-Muhammadaus Rural) : On a point of information, Sir, may I know what action the Government is going to take in this matter ? Judges of High Courts have their remedy. They can bring before them any man they choose and punish him, while the Speaker of this House seems to be without any remedy in such matters. So I would like to know what action the Government proposes to take to protect the Speaker of the House against such a libel.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

QUININE FRAUD.

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney (Nominated : Anglo-Indians) : Sir, I rise to ask your permission that this House do adjourn with a view to consider certain facts relating to the gigantic quinine fraud that is to-day being perpetrated throughout the length and breadth of India and to which the people of India are being subjected. I shall prove to you the importance of this matter. It will not be difficult to convince this House how important this matter is to the country when I refer to the mortality from malaria, which totals 4 millions a year, in other words 1.1 per cent. of the population, and if I were to indent on my imagination and place the corpses of these 4 million victims side by side they would cover 2,300 miles and extend from the north to the south of India. Such is the appalling malarial mortality in this country which I would call, for want of a better name, the malarial longitude of India. Sir, this quinine fraud is being done by the wholesale importation into India of certain spurious quinine preparations especially quinine bisulphate, a specimen of which I have in my hand. I do not include in this fraud quinine prepared by such well-known firms as Burroughs and Wellcome, Park Davies, Howard and Company and other reputable firms. It is the most terrible fraud that has ever been perpetrated on this country and the unrestricted sale of this spurious drug has, I submit, been largely responsible for the steady high mortality from malaria. The label on this bottle exposes the whole fraud. It states here "Quinine Bisulphate" and beneath this in small letters there is printed, the word "Co." which means "compound". Against this is printed the quantity, i.e., 5 grains, meaning that there are 5 grains of quinine bisulphate in each tabloid. This quinine has been examined by the Chemical Examiner to the Punjab Government who certifies it to consist of one grain or less of quinine, $3\frac{1}{2}$ grains of chalk and half a grain of alum or other insoluble matter, to make it a little tasty. The wholesale price this quinine is being sold at in Bombay is Rs. 5 a lb. as against the wholesale cost price of pure Government quinine of Rs. 19 a lb. How is this possible unless it be a spurious preparation ? Now, Sir, this is the fraud that is being perpetrated upon the peoples of India and absolutely no steps whatever are being taken either by the Central or Provincial Governments. And why ?

Because there is no Drugs Adulteration Act in India, an Act which even Egypt, Palestine and Mesopotamia possess. (*An Honourable Member*: "Who makes that quinine?") This spurious preparation of quinine is manufactured in England and Germany and other places of Europe. The label on the bottle states "Made in London, England", but imported and compressed in India by D. Rai and Company. This imposition on the ignorant and suffering public, as I have just said, is being perpetrated with what almost looks like the connivance of Government. There are many other drugs besides quinine, e.g., ergot, bismuth, cinchona, etc., that are adulterated and imported into India and imposed on the ignorant public by dishonest and unqualified chemists and druggists. The supply of quinine in India comes from two sources, one from the Government and the other as sold by public chemists, etc. This House will be interested to know that Government holds a stock of quinine which is 21 years in excess of its annual requirements.

Most of the quinine offered in the bazaars for sale to the public by so-called small Indian chemists (of course excluding the reputable chemists of India) is not quinine at all but chalk. India is "par excellence" the dumping ground for every variety of quack medicine and adulterated drug manufactured in all parts of the world; its markets are glutted with useless and deleterious drugs sold by unqualified chemists who are themselves a public danger; and yet the Government looks on with complacency. I don't say that it does so deliberately, but that it has done so for many years there is no doubt. Otherwise it would have awakened to its responsibility years ago and introduced a Food and Drugs Act—a Pharmacy and Poisons Bill—and insisted on all chemists being suitably qualified. The next point is the urgency of the matter. This will not be a difficult matter to prove.

Mr. President: How long has this been going on?

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney: I cannot tell you how long the quinine fraud has been going on, but with regard to the adulteration of other drugs, I believe the fraud has been going on for a good many years.

Mr. President: How long has the Honourable Member known it?

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney: I have known about the quinine fraud quite recently, indeed I knew of it from the exposure in the *Civil and Military Gazette*. We are on the eve of the malaria season in India. We are entering on the period when millions of our malaria stricken people will be tramping to our District Board and Municipal hospitals expecting to be given quinine but receiving chalk instead.

An Honourable Member: Did the Honourable Member receive a report from the Government Analyst?

Lieut.-Col. H. A. J. Gidney: I have got with me the report of the Chemical Examiner to the Punjab Government as reported in the *Civil and Military Gazette* of 31st August 1928. Public opinion has been aroused to a very large extent and India owes a debt of gratitude to the public spirited men who have exposed this fraud and to the *Civil and Military Gazette* for opening its columns to the exposure of this fraud. My point is, what are we going to do? I know Government is too busy readjusting political situations and so I have asked for an adjournment of the House because I believe that Honourable Members who are the custodians of the country will do their utmost to stop this gigantic fraud on the health of our people. Government will probably try to evade responsibility on the score that medicine

[Lieut.-Col. H. A. J. Gidney.]

is a transferred and provincial subject. I know that medicine is a transferred subject and that the Devolution Rules state that food adulteration is also a provincial matter, but Government cannot evade direct responsibility in this quinine fraud because this spurious drug is imported into India at its various sea ports which are under the Central Government. This quinine enters India *via* all Indian seaports where it is assessed by the Customs and Government derives customs revenue from it for all such importation is subject to the Sea Customs Act which is entirely a Government of India matter. Indeed, if I were uncharitably inclined, I might say the Government of India in receiving import revenues from bogus drugs, of which fraud it is fully aware, is, in a manner, aiding and abetting the fraud. I therefore submit that Government cannot get behind its responsibility. It may say it knows nothing about it. I submit that it certainly does know and it should know, for Government has already been warned of these frauds, malpractices and dangers. On the 19th March 1921 I introduced a motion in this House in which I asked Government to impose a 20 per cent. extra taxation on the importation of certain dishonest quack drugs. Government refused to do so on principle. On the 9th March 1927 this matter was brought to the notice of the Council of State. I have before me that debate in which the Director General of the Indian Medical Service assured the Mover of the motion that he would represent to the various Provincial Governments with regard to the necessity of a Food and Drugs Act being introduced, as also that the training of pharmacutists be placed on a proper footing. I understand that the various Governments have been consulted about this matter, but nothing material has been done for the past eighteen months and the millions of India are still dying of malaria. The Tropical School of Medicine in Calcutta has also pronounced its opinion about the danger of this drug adulteration and pressed for legislation. The Senior Trades Commissioner has also exposed these dangers and advised a Food and Drugs Act. Mr. J. C. Ghosh of Calcutta has also exposed these dangers and pressed for legislation. The Indian Chamber of Commerce in Bombay have also written to the Government of India, Education, Health and Lands Department, and asked for a Food and Drugs Act and standardisation of all drugs manufactured or imported into India. Representatives of well known drug manufacturers and the public Press have also widely ventilated the fraud and dangers. I ask the Government, what has it done? Nothing! when it was clearly its duty to act at once and so save India. Why has it failed to do its duty? Why has it not introduced a Food and Drugs Act—a Pharmacy and Poisons Bill and other remedial measures? I therefore ask the Government to give the House the following assurance, failing which I ask your permission to adjourn the House for further consideration of the matter. I ask the Government of India to give the House an assurance that, after adequate enquiry, it will take early steps.

Mr. President : Order, order. This procedure is not to be utilised for the purpose of soliciting assurances from Government. If the Honourable Member wishes to ask leave for an adjournment of the House he can do so.

Lieut.-Col. H. A. J. Gidney : I ask the House to join me in demanding from the Government the immediate suppression of this drug fraud. That it is of great and grave national importance to the millions of our people no one can gainsay. I therefore ask you, Sir, to be so good as to grant an adjournment of this House.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands) : Sir, I do not think it necessary for me to discuss at length the imaginatively lurid picture which my Honourable and gallant friend has painted of the evils of the quinine pill peril. There are only two questions which I would like to submit for the consideration of the House, viz., whether this is a definite matter of public importance, and further whether it is a matter of urgent public importance. First, as to its definiteness. So far as I am aware, my Honourable and gallant friend's indictment is based upon the communication of the travelling representative of a chemical firm, unsubstantiated, as far as I can see, by any testimony of which I am in possession, or for that matter anybody else. Most of his arguments are culled from the columns of the *Civil and Military Gazette*. It is difficult, Sir, in the circumstances, to judge of this matter merely by the correspondence in the Press.

The second question is whether this is a matter of urgent public importance. My Honourable and gallant friend has by his own speech played completely into my hands, because he says that in 1921 he made a motion to suggest to Government that a duty should be imposed on the importation of this drug. Further, he says that in 1926 or 1927 the matter was discussed by the Council of State. Again he refers to a letter addressed to the Government of India some time in May 1928. If that is so, where is the urgency of this matter? The Government of India have been considering it for years. (*An Honourable Member* : "And done nothing!") I will come to that. We are not discussing the merits of the question or the action taken by the Government of India, but only whether this is a matter of urgent and definite public importance. He says there is the imminence of malaria and millions of people will die. There again the question arises, has he established that the bulk of the people who use quinine use this adulterated quinine? I am not aware of the national extent of the so-called evil. So far as I can gather from the documents on which my friend bases his case, the evil is confined to the Punjab.

The third point to which I should like to draw your attention, Sir, is that under Rule 12, clause 2, of the Standing Orders of this House, a matter has not merely to be a specific matter for discussion, but also a specific matter of recent occurrence. How is this of recent occurrence? According to this document, the sale of the alleged adulterated drug has gone on for a long time.

Mr. President : Order, order. The Honourable Member has failed to satisfy me that the matter is urgent. On the contrary he has satisfied me that the matter is several years old. I therefore regard his motion as one which does not satisfy the requirements of Standing Order 11, and I therefore disallow it.

BILLS ASSENTED TO BY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Mr. President : I have received a letter from Mr. G. Cunningham, Private Secretary to His Excellency the Viceroy, reading as follows :

"Sir, I have the honour to inform you 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 Burma Salt (Amendment) Act, 1928.

The Indian Securities (Amendment) Act, 1928.

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

[Mr. President.]

The Inland Bonded Warehouses (Amendment) Act, 1928.
 The Indian Finance Act, 1928.
 The Indian Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Act, 1928.
 The Indian Tariff (Amendment) Act, 1928.
 The Steel Industry (Protection) Act, 1928.
 The Indian Territorial Force (Amendment) Act, 1928.
 The Auxiliary Force (Amendment) Act, 1928.
 The Chittagong Port (Amendment) Act, 1928.

PETITION RELATING TO THE TRANSFER OF PROPERTY
 (AMENDMENT) BILL AND THE TRANSFER OF PROPERTY
 (AMENDMENT) SUPPLEMENTARY BILL.

Secretary of Assembly : Sir, under Standing Order 78 I have to report that a petition signed by M. R. Ry. K. R. Venkatachariar, Pleader, Chittoor, has been received relating to the Bill further to amend the Transfer of Property Act, 1882, for certain purposes and the Bill to supplement the Transfer of Property (Amendment) Act, 192 , which were introduced in the Legislative Assembly on the 14th September 1927.

DEATHS OF SIR ALEXANDER MUDDIMAN AND CAPTAIN
 KABUL SINGH.

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar (Leader of the House) : Sir, before the list of business for the day is entered on, with your permission, Sir, I should like to say a few words on what must be to us all a very melancholy subject. Since the House last met, there has passed away in the late Sir Alexander Muddiman, a personality once familiar and highly respected, not only within these walls but beyond them—more than that, because if I rightly remember, an Honourable Member opposite once referred to him with general applause as “our beloved Home Member”. Though at the time of his unexpected and lamented death, he was no longer a Member, I am confident that the whole House and every individual Member of it will be acutely sensible of a great and irreparable loss. On Sir Alexander’s record and achievements in the office, to which I have unworthily succeeded, it would not become me to dwell. I was not a Member of the House during his Leadership and the great majority of Members now present have a direct and intimate experience to which I can lay no claim. But the great capacity and resource, the geniality of temperament, the essential equity of mind which he displayed as Leader, and the confidence he inspired in every quarter of the House, are matters of common knowledge.

I knew him as the best of Chiefs—sagacious, imperturbable, always ready to assist, to advise or to support. I think I may say that I also knew him, as indeed did all with whom he was brought into any close relation, as a personal friend. I cannot find adequate words to express the sorrow and dismay which the news of Sir Alexander Muddiman’s tragically sudden decease brought to his large circle of friends, and I shall leave them unsaid. Those who so knew him must, I think, have been especially impressed by what, in the experience of most of us, is a rare, as it is an inestimable, combination of qualities—a shrewd and penetrating insight into human motives and conduct, and a great charity and good humour in passing judgment upon them. And this happily balanced habit of mind he carried into the

more impersonal issues of politics and administration. No one had a keener intellectual appreciation of the logical value of the issues that there arise : no one could assess with more sympathy and wisdom their practical value in human affairs. Few men, I believe, in recent times have left so many to deplore their death. To this House he has bequeathed a memory which will always be preserved, and a tradition as Leader, which it must be my best ambition to endeavour humbly to follow.

I also think, Mr. President, that I would be failing in my duty if I did not make a reference to the loss this House has sustained in the recent death of Captain Kabul Singh. Captain Kabul Singh was modest and retiring by temperament, but I think he had earned the respect and esteem of the House and I feel that the House will desire to record an expression of its deep regret.

Maulvi Muhammad Yakub (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions : Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, I also join in mourning the loss of that great Englishman, the late Sir Alexander Muddiman. By his sympathy with the aspirations of the Indians, by his unflinching courtesy and by his straightforward manner in dealing with the people of this country, he had earned the love and respect of all those who had the privilege of knowing him. We the Members of this House know very well that differences of opinion as regards political matters never interfered with the social relations of the late Sir Alexander Muddiman with the Members of this House, and even during the most contentious debates he never lost his temper or his sense of humour, and he extended his hospitality and courtesy equally to the Swarajists as well as to the Members on the other side of the House. When he was elevated as Governor of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh it was expected that a new era of broadminded policy and improvement in the administration of the province had begun, and in fact during the very brief and short period of about five months when he was Governor of the United Provinces, the whole prospect was changed and the people of the province thought that the regime of Sir Alexander Muddiman would be a regime of sympathy and good will, but alas, it was not going to be fulfilled. The iron hands of untimely death have snatched him away from the scene of his action. The general character of the mourning which was displayed by the people of the United Provinces on his death shows his popularity and the love of the people of the Province which he had earned during that short period. Our hearts go forth in sympathy to that old lady in England, his mother, who in her old age has lost all that man could possess in this world : and we sincerely sympathise and condole with her in her irreparable loss and bereavement. With these words I wish to associate myself with the Resolution that has been moved.

I wish also to associate myself with what the Leader of the House, the Honourable Mr. Crerar, said about that gentleman the late Captain Kabul Singh. We, who knew him as a Member of this House, know that he was a genuine friend and a thorough gentleman, and we wish also to extend our sympathy to the bereaved members of his family.

Mr. Jannadas M. Mehta (Bombay City : Non-Muhammadan Urban) : Sir, on behalf of the Congress Party in this House I wish to associate myself with the observations made by the Leader of the House on this very melancholy and sad occasion. Those of us who had the privilege of coming into contact with the late Sir Alexander Muddiman remember with pleasure and gratitude his many qualities of head and heart, and while this is not

[Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta.]

the occasion for judging of the political value of the various measures which were passed or not passed in his time, everybody will admit that he was the least impatient and the least bitter of all the opponents that we had had to meet on the floor of this House. He was never buried under the weight of his great office or of the many responsibilities which he carried on his shoulders, but always rose above them ; and there was a sort of *bonhomie* about him, an easy, cheerful, pleasant way which disarmed all opposition and suspicion and which was a great instrument in turning doubtful friends into cordial companions. That was the great merit of Sir Alexander Muddiman. If I may so say without digressing, Sir Alexander Muddiman, along with several other officers of Government, was a better man than the system he and they have to work. It is the misfortune of some members of the Government that they are called upon to administer a system which they themselves do not like and it is this fact to which many of the difficulties of the present situation can be traced. But about Sir Alexander Muddiman it may be truly said that he tried to rise above the system to the best of his ability. We remember he looked so strong and healthy—the very picture of health—and it is really a great wrench that so soon after his leaving this House he should have been suddenly removed from our midst. We are all of us deeply shocked and I request you to communicate to the members of his family our sympathy and condolence in their great loss.

I would also like to associate myself with the observations made by the Leader of the House about the late Captain Kabul Singh.

Nawab Sir Zulfiqar Ali Khan (East Central Punjab : Muhammadan) : Sir, I rise in obedience to the call of a melancholy duty, and I desire to pay my homage to the memory of the late Sir Alexander Muddiman. It is not long since he was with us in this House, but we all remember his genial ways and the great tact which he displayed in his dealings with us, non-official Members. I associate myself entirely with the remarks which have fallen from the previous speakers. I may add a few more remarks and say that when he joined the Government of India as Deputy Secretary he displayed those sterling qualities which helped him to attain to one of the highest positions in India. As President of the Council of State—I was in those days an elected Member of the Council of State—he displayed great tact and showed that he was perfectly impartial and scrupulously just. I never heard any whisper against his treatment of either officials or non-officials. It was a great quality in him that he had the ability to please everybody. I remember his work in the Home Department and as Leader of the House. It is an ineffaceable memory with me that whenever I came in personal contact with him I carried away the most pleasant impression of his personality, and I think this was the impression created on others also. Sir, we are grateful to him for the example which he gave us in behaviour. No man so harassed and so severely criticised faced the Assembly with greater calm and with such an irrepressible and genial smile. Sir, I would request you to convey to his relatives at Home the sense of loss which we have suffered in his death, and I think all the Members present here will agree with me in this request.

Lala Lajpat Rai (Jullundur Division : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, on behalf of myself and of the Party which I have the honour to represent in this House, I would like to associate myself with the remarks that have

been made by the Honourable Leader of the House, about the tragic death of Sir Alexander Muddiman. Sir Alexander Muddiman was one of those men whom we consider to be rare—he was frank and sincere. It is a great thing in these days to have men amongst British statesmen who, in spite of conflict of interests and views that may exist between the Government and the opposition, will reduce the amount of bitterness and unpleasantness which results therefrom to its lowest possible extent. I think that is a great quality which Sir Alexander Muddiman possessed in abundance and which we all fully appreciated on this side of the House. We are very sorry that he should have been cut off from the great career which he had before him.

I also wish to associate myself with the regret of the House in regard to the death of Captain Kabul Singh.

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas (Indian Merchants' Chamber : Indian Commerce) : Sir, on behalf of the Independent Party it is my painful duty to associate myself with the remarks which have fallen from the Leader of the House. I do not wish to say much, but there is one incident which impressed me about Sir Alexander Muddiman very early after I joined the Central Legislature and I think it is only right that I should take this opportunity of getting it on record. It was in the Council of State when Sir Alexander Muddiman was President in July 1923, when the Council of State was in Session and the Kenya White Paper was published in London. The Council was to adjourn on the 27th July, the last working day, and the Kenya White Paper was available to us on the 24th of that month. I was working to get a sufficient number of votes to get an adjournment of the House, and 15 people were required to stand up in their seats before an adjournment motion could be accepted. Unfortunately, the Government wished to oppose the motion, and Sir Narasimha Sarma, who was then Member in charge, told me that he would stoutly oppose the motion. When this was brought to the notice of Sir Alexander Muddiman, he said to me that the motion which was going to be moved was perfectly in order, but I must get 15 people to stand up. It was five minutes to eleven on the 27th, and Sir Alexander Muddiman inquired whether there was the requisite number of Members present in the House. It was then mentioned to him that the fifteen required to support the adjournment motion were not secured. Sir Alexander Muddiman sent for Sir Muhammad Shafi, the Leader of the House, and told him, "Will you inform Sir Purshotamdas that if he can get 14, I will stand up and be the 15th member". This served its purpose wonderfully and we got more than 15 to stand up. Since that incident, Sir, I felt that in Sir Alexander Muddiman we had a man who could be relied upon to stand by India even under trammels of office. I think, Sir, this incident is sufficient to show that in Muddiman the man, India had much to appreciate and even to praise.

Mr. H. G. Cooke (Bombay : European) : Sir, I wish to say a very few words to join in this tribute both on behalf of myself and those who sit on these benches to the memory of the late Sir Alexander Muddiman. My recollection of him goes back to the second Assembly in 1924. He was not here then, but he was in the Council of State, and shortly after he came to this House as Home Member. Reference has been made to his geniality and good spirits by several speakers to-day, and those qualities were undoubtedly amongst his greatest attributes. Another instance

[Mr. H. G. Cocke.]

which perhaps I might be permitted to recall, though of a somewhat different nature to that just referred to, was on the occasion when Government were likely to be deprived of their travelling allowance. On that occasion Sir Alexander Muddiman with his usual geniality said : " Nothing would please me more than to have six weeks in which to walk up the hill to Simla ". That incident shows the character of the man but he also possessed other very excellent characteristics. He was very sincere, he was always easy to approach, and he was very responsive to any request made to him by Members of the House.

I also desire to associated myself with the words of tribute paid to the memory of Captain Kabul Singh, and trust the expressions of condolence by the Members of this House may be conveyed to the relatives of the deceased.

Mr. President : I am sure the House will permit me to add my quota of tribute to the memories of the late Captain Kabul Singh and Sir Alexander Muddiman. Captain Kabul Singh was a very quiet and unassuming Member of this House, and, as was just observed by my Deputy, a thorough gentleman.

As regards Sir Alexander Muddiman, he was associated with the Central Legislature since 1910 in various capacities. Steadily he rose to be the Secretary of the old Imperial Legislative Council, of which I had the honour to be a Member, and in that capacity I came in direct touch, and, if I may say so, in intimate touch with Sir Alexander Muddiman. He was then promoted to the office of the President of the Council of State, in which capacity, as the House is aware, he showed conspicuous ability and impartiality in the discharge of his duties. With his experience as President of the Council of State he came to this place as the Leader of the House and in that capacity displayed unusual knowledge of Parliamentary traditions, and I can say from personal experience he was thoroughly conversant with Parliamentary manners, Parliamentary etiquette and Parliamentary methods in conducting the business of this House. I watched his career with the keenest interest and, as you are all aware, the relations between the Chair and the Leader of the House were then of an extraordinarily cordial nature. He always stood up for the dignity of the Chair and the dignity of this House. We all miss him very much, and it will be my duty to convey an expression of the regret and condolence of this House to the family of the deceased.

THE PUBLIC SAFETY (REMOVAL FROM INDIA) BILL.

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar (Home Member) : Sir, I introduce the Bill to provide for the removal from British India in certain cases of persons not being Indian British subjects or subjects of States in India.

THE INDIAN INSURANCE COMPANIES BILL.

The Honourable Sir George Rainy (Member for Commerce and Railways) : Sir, I introduce the Bill further to amend the Indian Life Assurance Companies Act, 1912, for certain purposes, and to provide for the collection of statistical information in respect of insurance business other than life assurance business.

THE DANGEROUS DRUGS BILL.

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra (Finance Member) : Sir, I introduce the Bill to centralise and vest in the Governor General in Council the control over certain operations relating to dangerous drugs and to increase and render uniform throughout British India the penalties for offences relating to such operations.

THE INDIAN TRADE UNIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Mr. A. C. McWatters (Member for Industries and Labour) : Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, for a certain purpose.

The object of this Bill is to remove certain obscurities which have crept into one section of the Indian Trade Unions Act. That section, section 11, deals with the procedure in appeal from the orders of the Registrar either refusing to register a Trade Union or issuing orders for the withdrawal or cancellation of a certificate of registration. The section, as it stands, is defective because in the first place it does not make clear where the appellate Court is situated ; whether it is to be the Court which has jurisdiction in the place where the head office of the Union is situated or whether it is to be the Court which has jurisdiction where the office of the Registrar is situated. It was clearly the intention of the House when the Trade Unions Bill was under discussion that the appellate Court should be the Court where the head office of the Trade Union was situated and the first amendment made in this Bill is to make that point clear. The second point is that in the existing section it is not clear which the appellate Court is in the Presidency towns and in Rangoon, and the second amendment made in this Bill is to make it clear that the appellate Court in these cases is the High Court and that there shall be one appeal in all cases to the High Court.

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Mr. A. C. McWatters : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE TRADE DISPUTES BILL.

The Honourable Mr. A. C. McWatters (Member for Industries and Labour) : Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to make provision for the investigation and settlement of trade disputes, and for certain other purposes.

This Bill, as the House will realise, is an important measure. It has been published for some weeks and as the time at my disposal in making this motion is obviously short, it would be quite impossible for me to do more than make a very few remarks on this occasion. I shall content myself with giving the merest summary of the provisions of the Bill. The first provision is to provide machinery by which Government shall be enabled to intervene as early as possible in cases of trade disputes. The machinery may take the form of the appointment of either Courts of Inquiry or Boards of Conciliation. In both cases what we propose to do in the main is to have publicity and the force of public opinion in shortening trade disputes which have been, I am sorry to say, so prevalent recently, and I think the House will agree with me that it was perhaps a pity that such machinery was not available during the last few months.

[Mr. A. C. McWatters.]

The subsidiary provisions of the Bill are two-fold. The first is a provision which requires some interval to elapse before a strike can take place in a Public Utility Service. The object of this is the protection of the public, because strikes in these services are very often serious both to life and to property and also because this interval of a month, which the Bill requires, will give us the opportunity of bringing into play the conciliation machinery which I have just described.

The third part of the Bill, which is based, as the House will have observed, on recent legislation in England, proposes to render illegal strikes and lock-outs in certain circumstances. The definition given in the Bill is a definition, so far as it can be defined in law, of a general strike, and the illegality occurs only if the strike or lock-out fulfils both of two criteria. First of all, the strike or lock-out must have objects other than, or in addition to, a trade dispute within the trade or industry concerned, and in the second place, it must be designed to coerce Government either directly or by its effect upon the public. These, as I have said, are very important provisions on which the House will certainly expect me to make a full explanation on a later date. On the present occasion I think the explanation I have given is perhaps sufficient to explain the Bill briefly to the House.

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Mr. A. C. McWatters : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Mr. A. C. McWatters (Member for Industries and Labour) : Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, for certain purposes.

The Bill which I ask for leave to introduce is limited to the removal of certain defects which have come to light in the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act of 1923. The Act came into force on the 1st of July, 1924, and during the interval, a certain number of points, some of detail, some of fair importance, have been brought to our notice principally by the Commissioners for Workmen's Compensation, and the present Bill is intended to deal solely with these points of detail. But I should like to take this opportunity of saying that we propose at the same time to address Local Governments with regard to the more general principles of the Bill. On the present occasion I do not think I need go into further detail as regards this Bill which is very fully explained in the Statement of Objects and Reasons.

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Mr. A. C. McWatters : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE INDIAN SUCCESSION (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Mr. J. A. Shillidy (Home Department : Nominated Official) : Sir, I ask for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Succession Act, 1925, for a certain purpose.

The Bill is a very short one. It could hardly have been shorter. Its object is simply to give effect to what was the original intention of the Indian Succession (Amendment) Act, 1926. It was not the intention of that Act that the wills of Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs and Jains beyond those mentioned in section 57 of the Act of 1925 should be subjected to the requirements of probate or letters of administration. It was not perceived at the time that an amendment of section 213 of the Act was necessary, and all that this Bill seeks to do is to confine those requirements of probate or letters of administration to the wills of Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs and Jains mentioned in sub-section (1) of section 57.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. J. A. Shillidy : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE REPEALING AND AMENDING BILL.

Mr. L. Graham (Secretary, Legislative Department) : Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend certain enactments and to repeal certain other enactments.

The object of the Bill, as stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, is to make a few necessary amendments of a formal nature in certain enactments and to repeal certain spent or useless matter in the Statute-book.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. L. Graham : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE INDIAN PENAL CODE (AMENDMENT) BILL.

(AMENDMENT OF SECTION 505.)

Sir Denys Bray (Foreign Secretary) : Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code for a certain purpose.

There is nothing controversial (*Some Honourable Members* : " Oh ! ") in the spirit in which this Bill has been designed and I greatly hope that I shall persuade the House to receive it in no controversial spirit. The fundamental object of the Bill in as simple and plain language as I can find is the better preservation of India's interests abroad. Of late, those interests have been jeopardised, I had almost said impaired, by certain statements in certain quarters which tended to promote, in the language of the Bill, unfriendly relations between India and foreign countries. It is only recently that Government has realised that there is no provision in the law to cover cases of this kind. Hence the Bill which I now ask the leave of the House to introduce.

The motion was adopted.

Sir Denys Bray : I introduce the Bill.

THE MATCH INDUSTRY (PROTECTION) BILL.

The Honourable Sir George Rainy (Member for Commerce and Railways) : Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the protection of the match industry.

[Sir George Rainy.]

This Bill is a very short and a very simple one. It is based, as Members will no doubt realise, on the report recently published of the Indian Tariff Board regarding the protection of the match industry. The Government of India have accepted the recommendation of the Board and this Bill proposes to give effect to that recommendation. The rate of duty on matches will be left unchanged, but the duty which at present occurs in the revenue part of the Tariff Schedule will be transferred to the protective part of the Schedule. The object of that of course is to give the House an opportunity of expressing a definite opinion regarding the protection of the industry. Sir, I move.

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE INDIAN INCOME-TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra (Finance Member) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Income-tax Act, 1922, for a certain purpose.

The purpose, Sir, is a very simple one and is a corollary of the formation of a Central Income-tax Department.

The motion was adopted.

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

THE MADRAS SALT (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra (Finance Member) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Madras Salt Act, 1889, for a certain purpose.

This again, Sir, is a very simple Bill and its sole object is to remove a lacuna in the existing Act.

The motion was adopted.

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

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 5th September 1928.