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THIRD SESSION

of the

THIRD LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1928



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, 18th September, 1928.

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

EXPORT DUTY ON RICE.

635. *U. Tok Kyi : (a) Will Government be pleased to state if they have made a special investigation into the question of the export duty on rice as promised by Sir Basil Blackett on the 12th March 1928 ?

(b) If they have, when may the result of the investigation be expected to be known ?

(c) If they have not, will Government be pleased to state when they intend to start the investigation ?

(d) Are Government aware that the Burma Legislative Council during its last Session has passed a Resolution recommending the abolition of the export duty on rice ?

(e) Is it not a fact that the steamer freight for rice from Bangkok or Saigon is smaller than that from Rangoon to Bombay or any of the Indian ports that take rice from outside ?

(f) Is it not a fact that since the days of the "Rice Control", the Rangoon rice has not found its place in the London market ?

(g) Are Government aware that there is a large reduction in the quantity of Burma rice exported to foreign countries during this present year ? If so, will Government be pleased to state the reasons why ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : (a) to (d). Government have not yet made the investigation. They were awaiting the Report of the Royal Commission on Agriculture which, however, does not deal with the subject. They are aware of the fact that the subject was recently discussed by the Burma Legislative Council and have asked for a copy of the Proceedings. When they get it, they propose to take up the matter with the Local Government.

(e) No.

(f) Yes, though exports to the United Kingdom have latterly been improving.

(g) Yes. The reduction is partly due to the embargo placed by the Japanese Government on imports of rice into that country, which extends for the present up to the 31st December, 1928. Government also understand that increasing competition from the rice growing countries on the Mediterranean Seaboard, viz., Spain, Italy, and Egypt and reasonably high crops in Saigon, Siam and Japan have contributed to this result.

REGISTRATION OF THE MUSLIM ASSOCIATION, PESHAWAR CANTONMENT.

636. ***Maulvi Sayyid Murtuza Sahab Bahadur** : (a) Is it a fact that the Registrar, Joint Stock Companies, North-West Frontier Province, has refused to register the amalgamated two wings of the Muslim Association, Peshawar Cantonment, which submitted a formal memorandum of the Association and other documents required by Act XX of 1860 ?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Registrar received the formal documents required by the Act from any other Society claiming to be the Muslim Association, Peshawar Cantonment, before or after the receipt of the documents mentioned in part (a) above ?

(c) If not, will the Government be pleased to state why the former Association was not registered ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar : The Government of India have no information on the subject. Inquiries are being made and the result will be communicated to the Honourable Member.

'CONVERSION OF LEAVE ALLOWANCES AT 2s. PER RUPEE.

637. ***Mr. Sarabhai Nemchand Haji** : (a) As the rate of exchange has now been fixed at 1s. 6d. per rupee, will Government please state why the leave allowances mentioned in Fundamental Rules 89 and 90 are still converted at the rate of 2s. per rupee ?

(b) Are Government aware that this disparity between allowances drawn in and outside Asia prejudicially affects the interests mainly of Indian officers desiring to take leave in India and, in practice, draws an unnecessary and unrecognised distinction between the Indian and European officers of Government ?

(c) Will Government please state what steps they propose to take so as to equalise, at an early date, the rates of allowances, whether drawn in or outside Asia ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : (a) to (c). With the exception of the year, viz., the year 1919, the ratio between the sterling and rupee rates of leave allowances in the case of the maxima and minima rates to which the Honourable Member refers, and in the case of these rates only, has been the same since about 1843. My Honourable friend will observe from this that the ratio was maintained in the cases specified even during the years 1894 to 1914 when the rate of exchange was in fact practically stable at 1s. 4d. to the rupee. Hitherto the situation which I have described and of which my Honourable friend complains has not in fact been the subject of widely expressed grievance on the part of Government servants, no doubt because *inter alia* maxima and minima rates only operate in a relatively small number of cases. For example, as a general rule, Indian officers are not entitled to take more than four months' leave on average pay at a time, and during the first four months' leave on average pay the average pay is not subject to the extraneous limits specified in Fundamental Rule 89.

I must point out that Indian and European officers alike are subject to the rupee maxima and minima if they take leave in India on average pay in excess of four months or in excess of the amount of privilege leave due to them if they are under the Civil Service Regulations. On

the other hand, Indian officers, when they take leave outside Asia, benefit by the higher sterling maximum.

As my Honourable friend is aware, the question of the fixation of the rate of exchange between rupee and sterling has been the subject of considerable controversy in the past few years, and this circumstance combined with the other circumstances which I have mentioned has militated against the Government of India considering the question which the Honourable Member has now raised. The Government of India are, however, inclined to think that the time has now come or nearly come when the question should be re-examined, and I will take steps to see that this is done in the near future.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : Why is it, Sir, that this fictitious rate of exchange at 2s. is observed in the case of leave allowances for certain officers ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : The Honourable Member could not have listened carefully to the lengthy answer which I read out on the floor of the House. That rate is not adopted in the case of all leave allowances. It comes into operation in the case of certain maxima and minima rates, and the circumstances which have led to the adoption of the 2s. rate of conversion in that particular case have been fully explained by me in the lengthy answer I have given.

PAYMENTS TO OFFICERS OF UNIVERSITY TRAINING CORPS FOR PERIODS SPENT IN CAMP OR AT ANY AUTHORISED COURSE OF INSTRUCTION.

638. *Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru : What steps are being taken by Government to carry out the recommendation of the Auxiliary and Territorial Forces Committee that officers of the University Training Corps should be paid for the period spent in camp or at any authorised course of instruction ?

Mr. G. M. Young : This recommendation will be carried out. I find that, by an error in drafting, the rules, as recently published, debar officers of the University Training Corps from receiving individual pay for periods spent in camp, etc. ; but I am having the rule corrected, and I am glad that the Honourable Member's question has drawn my attention to the point.

EXTRA MESSING ALLOWANCE TO NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE UNIVERSITY TRAINING CORPS.

639. *Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru : Are Government aware that the Auxiliary and Territorial Forces Committee recommended the payment of an extra messing allowance to Viceroy's commissioned officers, non-commissioned officers and men of urban units and persons holding corresponding ranks in the Auxiliary Force ? Do Government propose to provide for the payment of the same allowance to the Non-Commissioned Officers and men of the University Training Corps ?

Mr. G. M. Young : The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. The answer to the second part is in the negative.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru : Would not Government be pleased to give the reasons for not giving any allowance to the non-commissioned officers and men of the University Training Corps ?

Mr. G. M. Young : Yes, Sir. The reason roughly is that the University Training Corps are not analogous to either the Auxiliary Force or the urban units of the Territorial Force in this respect. The latter force go into camp for very short periods of training. The University Training Corps, like the provincial battalions of the Territorial Force go into longer periods of training. Where the period of training is short there is greater justification for an extra messing allowance.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru : Is not the status of the University Training Corps the same as that of the urban units considering the social classes from which the students come ?

Mr. G. M. Young : It all depends upon what my Honourable friend means by "status". Their military status is entirely different.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru : Are Government aware that when the last training camp was held in the United Provinces there was a great deal of dissatisfaction among the men of the University Training Corps on account of the scanty allowance given to them ?

Mr. G. M. Young : I have no information on that point beyond what the Honourable Member has just stated. I should be very glad, however, if any discontent of that kind were officially brought to my notice.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru : Is the Honourable Member aware that I brought this matter to his notice last year ?

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Forgotten.

An Honourable Member : Too long.

Mr. G. M. Young : I must confess I had forgotten that.

ABOLITION OF DUAL COMMISSIONS IN THE CASE OF OFFICERS OF THE UNIVERSITY TRAINING CORPS.

640. ***Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru :** What progress has been made with the policy of abolishing the dual commission in the case of officers of the University Training Corps ?

Mr. G. M. Young : The policy has been adopted and no further dual commissions will be granted. Those who now hold the dual commissions will be eligible for the grant of the new commission in accordance with the regulations that will be published shortly.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru : Is it proposed to make selections in future in regard to the abolition of the dual commission or will all the officers now in the University Training Corps be *ipso facto* treated as King's commissioned officers ?

Mr. G. M. Young : They have already the honorary King's commission also. I am afraid I have not got the details in my head, but all of them will be equally eligible for the new commission.

POWERS OF COMMAND OVER SUBORDINATE PERSONNEL OF EUROPEAN OFFICERS OF THE INDIAN AUXILIARY FORCE AND INDIAN OFFICERS ON THE SPECIAL INDIAN TERRITORIAL FORCE LIST.

641. ***Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru :** (a) Is there any distinction between the European Officers on the Indian Auxiliary Force list and the

Indian officers on the special Indian Territorial Force list seconded for duty with the University Training Corps in respect of powers of command over subordinate personnel ?

(b) If the reply to the above be in the affirmative when do Government propose to abolish this distinction ?

Mr. G. M. Young : There is no distinction, Sir, in the powers of command of Indian and European officers over subordinate personnel. I may take this opportunity to explain that the proposal to have special list of officers seconded from the Auxiliary Force and the Territorial Force for duty with the University Training Corps has been abandoned. All officers of the University Training Corps will be given commissions in the Indian Territorial Force and will be appointed directly to the various University Training Corps.

ISSUE OF SERVICE RIFLES TO THE UNIVERSITY TRAINING CORPS IN THE UNITED PROVINCES.

642. ***Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru :** (a) With reference to reply given to starred question No. 514, on the 29th August, 1927, will Government be pleased to state whether service rifles have been issued to the University Training Corps in the United Provinces ?

(b) If the answer be in the negative when do Government propose to fulfil the promise given by the Army Secretary during the budget debate on the 14th March, 1927 ?

Mr. G. M. Young : Arrangements have been made to supply all University Training Corps in the United Provinces with a number of rifles sufficient to enable them to fire their annual courses of musketry.

The question of replacing all the drill practice rifles with service rifles entails a good deal of expenditure and is still under reference to the local military authorities.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru : Is it a fact that the Honourable Member said in March, 1927, that as soon as arrangements had been made for guarding the arms, there would be no objection on the part of the military authorities to replacing drill practice rifles with service rifles ?

Mr. G. M. Young : That is so.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru : Why is another reference now needed to the military authorities ?

Mr. G. M. Young : I am afraid it is not another reference. The provision of these rifles on a large scale is a matter of some difficulty. I think I might repeat what I have already explained before that it is purely a question of custody and that there is no question of withholding from the University Training Corps weapons which they should consider themselves entitled to have if arrangement can be made. That is proved by the fact that every other University Training Corps in India with the exception of the company at Lyallpur and the company at Patna, which are in the same situation as the United Provinces in this matter, has service rifles.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru : How many rifles are going to be issued to the University Training Corps in the United Provinces ?

Mr. G. M. Young : I do not know the exact number, but it is a number which is sufficient, as I have said, to enable them to fire their annual course of musketry.

Dr. B. S. Moonje : What is the real difficulty in the matter of supplying army service rifles to the University Training Corps ? Is it a difficulty about providing for safe custody, or difficulty about firing ?

Mr. G. M. Young : It is the difficulty of safe custody. The various Universities in the United Provinces do happen to be situated at some distance from the place where the rifles can be stored under guard by the military. I may add that it might be deduced from the persistence of my Honourable friend's questions that there is some feeling of grievance in the United Provinces Universities in regard to this matter. The Government have no reason to suppose that there is any such feeling. It was only the other day that a high military officer told me that he went down to Allahabad and enquired into the state of the University Training Corps there. He found them extremely contented so far as he could make out, and he also said that they were exceedingly efficient. I cannot but think that the members of the University Training Corps take a practical point of view about this matter, that is, that if it is not easy or convenient to supply them with service rifles for drill practice purposes, they are content to do their drill practices with drill practice rifles.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru : Are Government aware that at the last training camp the officers of the University Corps represented to the officer commanding the Allahabad District, probably General Nightingale, their grievances in regard to the non-supply of service rifles ?

Mr. G. M. Young : I am not aware of that fact.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru : Are Government aware that the other University Training Corps have been granted service rifles although they have no better arrangements for guarding them than the University Training Corps in the United Provinces.

Mr. G. M. Young : No. I went into that matter very carefully and that is not my conclusion.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru : Is the Honourable Member aware that at Poona, for instance, the armoury is situated at a distance from the military headquarters and the arms are guarded there by two or three retired military men ?

Mr. G. M. Young : Sir, I am exactly aware of the methods by which arms are guarded at Poona, but I am satisfied that there is no reason to apprehend there any loss of rifles from theft or from other causes. The same circumstances do not apply in the case, at any rate, of all of the University Training Corps in the United Provinces.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru : Are the armouries in the United Provinces badly constructed, and if so, have the Universities been asked to modify them ?

Mr. G. M. Young : Really it is a question of custody by the military.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru : What is the real difficulty which the military authorities have not been able during the last 18 months to overcome in the United Provinces ?

Mr. G. M. Young : It was only in the United Provinces that the question arose. I have already explained the difficulty.

Dr. B. S. Moonje : The only difficulty, as we are given to understand, is the provision of safe custody. But we feel now, at least the impression created by the Honourable Member's answers is that there are other difficulties also. We would like to know definitely what those difficulties are in detail.

Mr. G. M. Young : There is no other difficulty except the difficulty of custody.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru : Is it a matter simply of the employment of the necessary number of men ?

Mr. G. M. Young : It is a matter partly of the employment of the necessary number of men, which is an expense.

Dr. B. S. Moonje : When do you think arrangements will be made for safe custody if that is the only difficulty ? What amount of time and expenses will be required for providing safe custody arrangements, if that is the only difficulty ?

Mr. G. M. Young : I admit that the matter has taken a very long time and it is not settled yet.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru : Has the matter been under consideration for about a year and a half ?

Mr. G. M. Young : My Honourable friend knows when he first raised the question.

POPULATION OF THE DEPRESSED CLASSES.

643. ***Rao Bahadur M. C. Rajah :** With reference to the answer given to my supplementary question to starred question No. 1, regarding the population of the depressed classes, on 4th September, 1928, will Government be pleased to state approximately :

(a) how many of the 60 millions are from the territories outside British India ; and

(b) how many of the 60 millions belong to the criminal tribes ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar : The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to paragraph 193 of the Census Report of 1921. Government have no information of the population of criminal tribes.

(Mr. Mukhtar Singh was not in his seat when question No. 644 was called.)

Mr. M. S. Aney : May I put the questions standing in the name of Mr. Mukhtar Singh ? He has authorised me to put his questions.

Mr. President : The Honourable Member has not taken the trouble to inform the Chair.

Mr. M. S. Aney : He has written to me that he has informed you also.

Mr. President : I am not sure, but I shall give the benefit of the doubt to the Honourable Member.

(Mr. M. S. Aney put questions Nos. 644 to 649, both inclusive, standing in the name of Mr. Mukhtar Singh.)

STOPPAGE OF THE RECRUITMENT OF NON-MUSLIMS AS COMPOSITORS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, DELHI.

644. ***Mr. M. S. Aney** (on behalf of Mr. Mukhtar Singh) : (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of (i) Muhammadan, (ii) non-Muhammadan compositors in the Government of India Press, Delhi ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the number of vacancies (a) permanent and (b) temporary filled in the composing staff of the Delhi Press since 1st November, 1927 ? Will the Government be further pleased to state the number of posts given to (a) Muslims and (b) non-Muslims during the above period ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that orders have been issued stopping the recruitment of non-Muslims as compositors in the Government of India Press, Delhi ? If the answer be in the affirmative will the Government be pleased to state the reasons for issuing such an order ?

(d) Is it a fact that non-Muslim compositors applied for the posts of compositors during the period of 1st November, 1927, till date in the Government of India Press, Delhi and their applications were rejected simply because they were not Muhammadans ?

(e) Is it a fact that Muhammadan compositors aged from 50 to 70 years have been recently employed in preference to non-Muslim young compositors ? If the answer be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state why such a preferential treatment has been adopted ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. McWatters : The information is being obtained and will be supplied to the Honourable Member in due course.

PROHIBITION OF THE SALE OF VEGETABLE GHEE.

645. ***Mr. M. S. Aney** (on behalf of Mr. Mukhtar Singh) : (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to page 234 of the Royal Agricultural Commission's Report ? If so, what action do Government propose to take to prohibit the sale of hydrogenated oils and other products under the name of vegetable ghee, *Vanaspoti* ghee or the like ?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to take necessary steps so that the vegetable oil be not adulterated with ghee or sold under any such name which may suggest that it is the same or a similar product as ghee ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : The matter is engaging the attention of the Government of India who are in communication with Local Governments on the subject.

COST OF CARRYING A TON OF GOODS ONE MILE ON CERTAIN RAILWAYS.

646. ***Mr. M. S. Aney** (on behalf of Mr. Mukhtar Singh) : Will the Government be pleased to state the cost of carrying a ton of goods on the following Railways to a distance of one mile in (a) open trucks (b) in closed wagons ?

(i) North Western Railway.

(ii) Great Indian Peninsula Railway.

(iii) East Indian Railway.

(iv) Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway.

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : The figures are not compiled separately for open and closed wagons. For goods vehicles as a whole, on these and other Class I Railways, the Honourable Member will find the information in columns 15 and 16 of statement 15 in Volume II of the Report by the Railway Board on Indian Railways for 1926-27 and previous years.

IMPORT OF ARTIFICIAL FLOUR.

647. ***Mr. M. S. Aney** (on behalf of Mr. Mukhtar Singh) : (a) Is it a fact that artificial flour synthetically made from wood is imported into this country and is mixed up with the grain flour and sold in the market ? If the answer be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state under what heads the article is entered at the Customs House ?

(b) Have Government analysed this product and do Government consider it fit for human consumption ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : The Government of India have no information, but have made enquiries.

SAVING OF THE SUGAR INDUSTRY FROM EXTINCTION IN INDIA.

648. ***Mr. M. S. Aney** (on behalf of Mr. Mukhtar Singh) : Have Government decided to take any step to save the sugar industry of this country from extinction ? If so, will the Government be pleased to state the steps proposed to be taken in this behalf ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : Government are still considering the matter.

RENTS OF DIFFERENT QUARTERS ALLOTTED TO MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

649. ***Mr. M. S. Aney** (on behalf of Mr. Mukhtar Singh) : Will Government be pleased to state the basis upon which the rent is fixed for the different quarters allotted to the Members of the Assembly ? What percentage of the price of furniture is included in the calculation of rent of these quarters ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. McWatters : The rents in Simla were fixed by adding percentages of the capital cost of the land, buildings, sanitary, water and electric installations and furniture to charges on account of maintenance, taxes and certain services, an addition being made to allow for the fact that the quarters would only be occupied by the Members for short periods. The percentage on the price of the furniture included in the calculation is 20 per annum.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Are Government aware that the prices of furniture have been put ridiculously high and this indicates the existence of fraud in the Department concerned ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. McWatters : I am not aware of that. The furniture, I believe, was bought at a time when it was expensive.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Has the Honourable Member seen the furniture himself ? If he has not, will he kindly go round and see the sort of furniture that has been given in the Cart Road quarters ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. McWatters : I have not seen it, but I shall be very glad to go round and see it for myself.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : I shall be very glad if the Honourable Member will kindly do so, and look to the prices.

REVISION OF THE PAY OF THE CLERICAL STAFF OF THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

650. ***Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra :** (a) What were the recommendations of the then Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs, Sir (then Mr.) G. R. Clarke in connection with the revision of pay of the clerical staff of his office in 1920-21 ?

(b) What was the basis of his recommendations ?

(c) Were the recommendations of the Director-General accepted by the Government of India ?

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

The Honourable Mr. A. C. McWatters : Government are not prepared to disclose the nature of their departmental discussions.

PAY OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE POST OFFICE.

651. ***Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra :** (a) Is it a fact that the scale of pay for the Assistant Directors-General of the Post Office is superior to that of the Assistant Secretaries in the Government of India Secretariat ?

(b) What is the reason for the difference between the two scales ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. McWatters : (a) The scales rise by the same annual increment of Rs. 50 from the same minimum, Rs. 1,000 ; to Rs. 1,250 in the case of Assistant Secretaries and to Rs. 1,500 in the case of Assistant Directors-General.

(b) The pay of each has been fixed with regard to the nature and conditions of the work.

Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra : Do not the Assistant Directors-General get an extra pay in addition ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. McWatters : No.

REORGANISATIONS OF THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

652. ***Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra :** (a) How many reorganisations (major and minor) have taken place in the office of the Director-General Posts and Telegraphs since 1923 ?

(b) Will Government please briefly state them and the names of gentlemen who were entrusted with the work ?

(c) Did Government take any steps to give effect to their recommendations ?

(d) Will Government please state the reasons why it was considered necessary to have another re-organisation this year ?

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

(b) and (c.) The reorganisation proposed by Mr. Hamilton in April, 1925, was not given effect to. On the recommendations made by the

Posts and Telegraphs Department Committee, 1924-25, and by Rai Bahadur J. P. Ganguli in December 1925, separate Budget and Establishment Branches were formed in 1926 and 1927. After the transfer of the office from Calcutta to New Delhi, the different branches and sections were re-arranged in April 1928 by the officers of the Direction.

(d) In July last Government considered it necessary to employ Rai Bahadur J. P. Ganguli as special officer again to make a detailed review of the staff necessary to carry on the work under the arrangements made in April last. The report recently received from him reveals justification for the action taken by Government.

(e) No ; but the transfer of the office from Calcutta to Delhi rendered the latest reorganisation necessary.

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT OF THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

653. *Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra : (a) Do Government contemplate deputing an outsider from among the gazetted rank of Superintendents of Post Offices to the office of the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs to work in place of the Chief Superintendent of the office now on leave ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state why the claim of the existing senior fit officials in the office from the cadre of Superintendents downwards has been ignored ?

(c) Were any of the existing senior officials tried for the post ?

(d) If so, how many, and who were they ?

(e) Will Government please state the reasons for bringing in an outsider.

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

(b), (c), (d) and (e). A recent inspection of the office by an independent officer revealed such an unsatisfactory state of affairs that the Director-General considered it necessary to adopt special steps to improve matters. He selected, with the concurrence of Government, a gazetted officer of the rank of Superintendent of Post Offices for the duties of the Chief Superintendent as a temporary measure. This post is a selection post, and seniority gives no claim, either to be tried in or appointed to it.

Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra : Will the Honourable Member tell the House if the senior officers of the department will be given a chance ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. McWatters : The selection of an outside officer was made deliberately because of the results of the inquiry made by the special officer. It was not considered that any of the senior officers would be as good as the man we have selected for this particular and very difficult task of reorganisation.

Mr. B. G. KUNDU, ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL, BURMA.

654. *Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim : With reference to the reply of the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs to my question in the last Session is Mr. B. G. Kundu still continuing to act as an Assistant Postmaster General, Burma ?

Mr. P. G. Rogers : Yes.

PROMOTION OF CLERKS AND OFFICERS ON THE ASSAM-BENGAL RAILWAY.

655. ***Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim** : Will Government be pleased to state on what basis promotions are given to the clerks and officers on the Assam Bengal Railway ? Do they make any distinction between Mussalmans and others in matter of promotion ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : Definite grades and scales of pay are laid down for clerks and increments are given in these scales provided the work performed has been satisfactory. Officers are on time-scales and promotions from grade to grade are granted on occurrence of vacancies with selection for posts outside the ordinary grade. No distinction is made between Muslims and others in the matter of promotion.

RECRUITMENT OF CLERKS BY THE STATISTICAL OFFICER, EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

656. ***Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim** : Will Government be pleased to state how many clerks have been recruited by the Statistical Officer, Eastern Bengal Railway, Sealdah, from January up to 31st August 1928, and how many of them are Mussalmans ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : 38 clerks have been recruited by the Statistical Officer of the Eastern Bengal Railway during the period mentioned. Government regret that for reasons which had previously been explained, they do not consider it desirable to give figures of the communal composition of individual offices ; but I can inform the Honourable Member that applications from Muslims for these posts were only about 1 per cent. of the total applications and that the numbers of Muslims taken in were much in excess of this percentage even, though certain of the Muslim applicants who were offered posts did not accept them.

Maulvi Abdul Matin Chaudhury : Were the posts advertised in the newspapers ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : If the Honourable Member requires details of that description, he ought to have asked for them in the original question. He must give me notice.

PASSENGER SUPERINTENDENTS, EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

657. ***Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim** : Will Government be pleased to state how many Passenger Superintendents have been recruited by the Traffic Manager, Eastern Bengal Railway, from January up to 31st August 1928, and what are their respective qualifications, and how many of them are Mussalmans ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : One passenger Superintendent, who had previous railway experience, was recruited. He was not a Muslim.

REPRESENTATION OF MUSLIMS ON THE ASSAM BENGAL RAILWAY.

658. ***Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim** : (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether the Secretary of the Chittagong Islamia Association addressed a demi-official letter on the 17th July 1926, to Mr. Stevenson, the then Chief Engineer of the Assam Bengal Railway with regard to Muslim representation ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Chief Engineer by his letter No. 9738-9744, dated the 13th July, 1926, circulated all the offices under him to give effect to the request contained therein ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : The Agent of the Assam Bengal Railway has been asked to furnish this information, and it will be communicated to the Honourable Member as soon as his reply is received.

NUMBER OF MUSLIM AND HINDU CLERKS IN CERTAIN SPECIFIED OFFICES OF THE ASSAM-BENGAL RAILWAY.

659. ***Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim :** Will Government be pleased to state what is the number of Muslim and Hindu clerks in the following offices under the administration of the Assam-Bengal Railway :

- (1) Traffic Manager's Office.
- (2) Agent's Office.
- (3) Chief Engineer's Office.
- (4) Chief Auditor's Office.
- (5) Loco. and Carriage Superintendent, Pahartali, Chittagong Office.
- (6) Offices of the District Traffic Superintendents.
- (7) Offices of the District Engineers ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : Government regret that, for reasons which have previously been explained, they are not prepared to give the figures of communal representation in individual offices.

Maulvi Abdul Matin Chaudhury : Is it a fact that Government is refusing the information because very few Muhammadans are appointed to these posts ?

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

• GAZETTED POSTMASTERS.

660. ***Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim :** Will Government be pleased to state what is the total number of gazetted Postmasters all over India, and how many of them are Mussalmans ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. McWatters : The total number of gazetted Postmasters, including the Presidency Postmasters, is 48. Of these 3 are Mussalmans.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE CHITTAGONG-DUHAZARI AND THE CHITTAGONG-NAZIRHAT RAILWAYS.

661. ***Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if the works of construction of the proposed new Chittagong-Duhazari and the Chittagong-Nazirhat Railways have yet been started by the Assam-Bengal Railway ?

(b) When is it likely to be completed ?

(c) Is it a fact that there is no railway station to the northern side of the Chittagong town, where most of the passengers and traffic gather ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) The work on the Chittagong-Nazirhat Railway has been started and the project of the Chittagong-Duhazari Railway is under the consideration of the Board.

(b) The Chittagong-Nazirhat Railway is expected to be completed in January 1930. No date can be given for the Chittagong-Duhazari Railway since it has not yet been decided when the project can be taken up.

(c) It is a fact that there is at present no railway station to the northern side of the Chittagong town.

RECRUITMENT OF THE STAFF FOR THE NEW CONSTRUCTIONS OF THE ASSAM-BENGAL RAILWAY AT FENI AND CHITTAGONG.

662. ***Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim** : (a) Will Government be pleased to state by what notifications the staffs have been recruited to work in various capacities in connection with the new constructions of the Assam Bengal Railway at Feni and Chittagong ?

(b) Were these ever advertised in any local newspapers ?

(c) Who is the authority responsible for the recruitment of the staff in connection with these new constructions ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) and (b). I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply already given by me to his question No. 531 of the 13th September.

(c) The Administration of the Assam Bengal Railway Company.

NUMBER OF THE MUSLIMS AND NON-MUSLIMS EMPLOYED IN CERTAIN SPECIFIED OFFICES.

663. ***Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim** : Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the following information together with the rates of pay of all classes of employees in each office ?

Name of Offices.	Senior Acct.		Junior Acct.		S. A. S.		U. Dvn. clerks.		L. Dvn. clerks.		Dutries.		Peons.		Rates of pay.	REMARKS.
	Muslim.	Non-Muslim.	Muslim.	Non-Muslim.	Muslim.	Non-Muslim.	Muslim.	Non-Muslim.	Muslim.	Non-Muslim.	Muslim.	Non-Muslim.	Muslim.	Non-Muslim.		
Military Accountant General's Office.																
Military Finance Branch																
Audit Office (Indian Stores Department).																
Accountant General, Post & Telegraph's Office.																
Accountant General, Railway's Office.																
Military Audit Office																
Auditor-General's Office																

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

APPOINTMENT OF A SECRETARY TO THE PORT COMMISSIONERS, CHITTAGONG.

664. ***Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim :** Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state, how far the case regarding the appointment of a Secretary to the Chittagong Port Commissioners has matured ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : The Government of India have sanctioned the proposals of the Commissioners for the Port of Chittagong for the creation of a post of whole-time Secretary to the Commissioners with effect from the date on which the Indian Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Act, 1928, comes into force.

OPENING OF A TECHNICAL SCHOOL IN CONNECTION WITH THE ASSAM-BENGAL RAILWAY AT CHITTAGONG.

665. ***Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim :** Will Government be pleased to state how far the proposal for the opening of a Technical School at Chittagong (Pahartali) in connection with the Assam Bengal Railway has progressed ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : The Railway Board understand that the Government of Bengal has raised the question of providing facilities for training apprentices at Pahartali with the Agent of the Assam Bengal Railway, and that the Director of Industries, Assam, is also interested in the project. They further understand that the Agent of the Railway has expressed his willingness to assist in providing such facilities. As the Honourable Member will realise, the matter is one primarily for the two Provincial Governments concerned.

REVERSION OF WIRELESS OPERATOR B. C. DEY, RANGOON, TO THE TRAFFIC BRANCH.

666. ***U. Tok Kyi :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the reasons why Wireless Operator B. C. De, Rangoon, was reverted to the Traffic Branch ?

(b) Is there any proposal before the Government to recruit to the Wheatstone Wireless Branch at Rangoon only Anglo-Indians by nomination without calling for volunteers ?

Mr. P. G. Rogers : (a) Telegraphist B. C. De, while under training in Wheatstone Wireless work, was found to be unsuitable for that particular work and was consequently reverted to the Traffic Branch.

(b) No.

U. Tok Kyi : Is the Honourable Member aware that Mr. B. C. De has incurred the displeasure of his superiors by serving on the Committee of the All-Indian Telegraphic Union ?

Mr. P. G. Rogers : No, Sir. Even if he were on the Committee, he would not incur the displeasure of his official superiors on that account.

GRANT OF HOUSE RENT TO STATION SERVICE MEN OF THE TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.

667. ***U. Tok Kyi :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that in the Telegraph Department only general service men are granted house rent, and not the station service men ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to remove the grievance of the station service men ?

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

(b) Government do not consider that the station service telegraphists have any reasonable grievance. Their pay was fixed on a consolidated basis and on the distinct understanding that no house rent allowance would be admissible. Unlike their confreres in the general service, the station service men are not liable to transfers throughout India.

OPENING OF A SCHOOL FOR TRAINING TELEGRAPHISTS IN BURMA.

668. ***U. Tok Kyi :** Is there any school for training telegraphists in Burma ? If not, do Government propose to open such a school in Rangoon at an early date to enable Burmans to undergo training in telegraphy ?

Mr. P. G. Rogers : If the Honourable Member refers to departmental classes for training in telegraphy, one already exists in Rangoon. If, however, his question relates to the telegraph classes established in certain educational institutions in India for providing trained recruits for the Telegraph Department, then no such training classes exist in any educational institutions in Burma. It is not proposed to open any, since all such classes are being closed in India, owing to the adoption of new rules for recruitment for the telegraph service.

DEPRESSED CONDITION OF THE SILK WEAVING INDUSTRY IN SOME PARTS OF BENGAL, ETC.

669. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy :** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the observations made in the report of the Royal Commission on Agriculture in India regarding the "competition which is already confronting the Indian silk industry from artificial silk", and the risk that the demand for the natural article will weaken if the use of artificial silk continues to increase at its present rate ?

(b) Has the attention of Government also been drawn to a series of articles by Mr. J. N. Sarkar, M.A., which appeared in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* during the last week of August, under the heading "Decline of Indian Silk Industry", in which the writer has tried to show that the apprehension of the Royal Commission on Agriculture as indicated in part (a) above, has already come true, and particularly that the silk weaving industry in some parts of Bengal is in a very depressed condition ?

(c) Did Government at any time consult the Local Governments regarding the effect of increasing imports of artificial silk yarn and fabrics on the indigenous silk industry, either before or after effecting the reduction in the import duty on artificial silk yarn last autumn ? If so, when and with what result ?

(d) Do Government propose to take any action in the matter, particularly in view of the observations of the Royal Commission on Agriculture quoted above ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) No.

(d) The figures available do not show that the increasing imports into India of artificial silk yarn and manufactured goods have been accompanied by a decrease in the Indian demand for the natural article. The

facts known to the Government of India do not disclose any grounds for action.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : Do I take it that the Government have decided to take no notice of this particular observation of the Agricultural Commission ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : I do not think the Honourable Member is entitled to draw that inference.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : What are the materials at the disposal of the Honourable Member, beyond the figures which he has mentioned, which have enabled him to come to the conclusion to which he has ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : The figures available to the Government of India are the same as those available to Honourable Members of this House. They are those which are published in the trade returns.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : May we not expect the Government of India to address Local Governments on this question in view of the definite observations made by the Royal Commission on Agriculture ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : It is precisely in view of the nature of the observations made by the Royal Commission that I give the answer which I did give. They say :

“ Unfortunately there are no figures available for the total production of natural silk in India, but it has been stated in evidence that at present the demand for natural silk has not declined.”

Mr. K. C. Neogy : Do not the Government think that the Provincial Governments might be in a position to assist them in this matter ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : If the position were such as the Honourable Member apprehends it to be, I should have expected that the Local Governments would have addressed the Government of India.

PRIVATE NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER.

ISSUE OF TREASURY BILLS WITHIN THREE WEEKS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA LOAN BEING FULLY SUBSCRIBED.

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas : (1) Will Government be pleased to state the reasons why they have been compelled to issue Treasury Bills in India within three weeks after getting their loan this year of Rs. 35 crores fully subscribed and within less than ten days after their borrowing £6 millions in London last month ?

(2) Do Government think that it will be necessary for them to borrow further in London this financial year ?

(3) Do Government expect to have to continue borrowing on Treasury Bills in India hereafter this year ?

(4) Are Government aware of the increasing want of credit in India during the last few months and do they intend to take any measures in this connection which will assure the public in India ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : (1) The Revised Estimate for 1927-28 assumed that the outstandings of Treasury Bills with the public at the close of the year would be 9 crores. As a matter of

fact, Government issued fewer Treasury Bills in March last, and the outstandings amounted to 7½ crores only. Further, Railway Capital Expenditure last year was about 2½ crores more than the Revised Estimate. The net result is, therefore, that the cash position at the beginning of the current year was 4 crores worse than assumed in the Budget. The Honourable Member is no doubt aware, *firstly*, that Government *did* contemplate the issue of Treasury Bills in the current year to an amount which would leave the outstandings at the close of the year at 9 crores, and *secondly*, that while large disbursements have to be made in September and October on account of discharges of War Bonds, 1928, and of maturing Treasury Bills, land revenue does not begin to flow in till late in January. It is accordingly necessary, in accordance with the Budget programme, that Treasury Bills should be issued in certain months of the year in order to tide over a period when there is a considerable gap between public receipts and outgoings. It is hardly necessary for me to point out, what will have been obvious to the Honourable Member from the Budget Statement, that Government have been doing everything in their power latterly to economise in the way of treasury balances.

(2) and (3). Whether Government will borrow further in London or continue to borrow on Treasury Bills in India are matters which must necessarily depend on circumstances from time to time. Clearly, Government cannot bind themselves beforehand to any particular course of action, but I can assure the Honourable Member that Government will do their best to direct their operations in such a way as to cause the minimum inconvenience to the Indian money market. As a matter of fact, the resumption of the issue of Treasury Bills has coincided with the resumption of the purchases of sterling, so that, in effect, what Government take from the market with the one hand they will give to it with the other.

(4) Government are not aware that there is an increasing lack of credit in India which justifies any special action on their part. They are, of course, aware that the cash balances at the Imperial Bank of India have recently been lower than in previous years—a circumstance which is probably accounted for to a large extent by the hold up of cotton. In any case, Government have received no special representations in the matter and have no present intention of taking any specific measures in the direction indicated by the Honourable Member who is probably aware that since the beginning of December last there has been a net expansion of currency to the extent of Rs. 3 1/3 crores.

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas : Can the Honourable Member tell the House what was the outstanding amount of Indian Treasury Bills at the end of last month ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : I have not the precise figures with me, Sir, but I believe the amount outstanding with the public was in the neighbourhood of ten crores.

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas : Which is higher than what the Government of India expected to close last year with ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : That is probably so.

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas : And in spite of the Government having got all the 35 crores which they had asked for ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : That is perfectly true. I have explained the position in my answer. The amount outstanding

at the end of the year may be a particular figure. The amount outstanding at the end of any particular month may be a higher figure, however, for the reason that our receipts and outgoings from month to month do not tally.

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya : How will they compare on an average with the last year ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : I do not quite understand that question.

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya : How do the Treasury Bills this year compare on an average with the last year ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : I much regret I still fail to appreciate the Honourable Member's question. As a matter of fact this year the sale of Treasury Bills has been suspended for some months.

(Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya repeated the question.)

Sir Victor Sassoon : Is the amount for this month the same as for the similar month of the previous years or not ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : If my Honourable friend wants to know what the total amount of sales this month is likely to be, I much regret I am unable to give him that information.

Sir Victor Sassoon : The question is this. The amount outstanding, as I understand from the answer, is ten crores. How does this amount compare with the amount outstanding this month last year and this month in the previous year ?

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya : I hope the matter is now quite clear to the Honourable the Finance Member.

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : I have not got the figures here, Sir, and I am not sure whether it would be possible for me to disclose the figures.

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas : Sir, as regards the total amount of 35 crores which the Government of India asked for through the loan, did that include repayment of Treasury Bills outstanding ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : If my Honourable friend had read the Budget statement of this year, he would have found that it contemplated the raising of 32 crores by Treasury Bills this year and the repayment by Government during the year of an equal amount leaving the outstandings at the end of the year at 9 crores.

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas : Does that include the Treasury Bills in the Paper Currency Reserve, Sir ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : No, Sir. I do not think that includes the Treasury Bills in the Paper Currency Reserve. I am sorry the figure I gave of 32 crores was not correct, it is 35 crores : those 35 crores are the Treasury Bills issued to the public.

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas : Regarding the Honourable Member's reply to my question No. 4, do I take it that the Honourable Member wants this House to believe that the Government of India are not aware of the increasing want of credit in commercial circles in India ?

Mr. President : Order, order. The Honourable Member has already said so.

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas : I want the Honourable Member to repeat his reply so that I may not misunderstand it, Sir. I want to know whether the Honourable Member asks us to believe that the Government of India are not aware of the increasing want of credit in India during the last few months.

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : I can only repeat part of the answer which I have already given to the House. Government are not aware that there is an increasing lack of credit in India which justifies any special action on their part.

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas : Are Government aware that the bank rate has all this slack season been at five per cent. ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : Government are fully aware of that ; and if the Honourable Member had listened to my reply, he would have found out that a later portion of my answer to that particular part of his question refers to the fact that the cash balances of the Imperial Bank have recently been lower than in previous years.

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas : Are Government also aware that call money rate has been ruling between $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. and 4 per cent. all through the monsoon period ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : They are aware of that, Sir, but it does not follow that that justifies any special action on their part.

Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty : May I know what conclusion the Government of India have drawn from the facts that the bank rate was 5 per cent. during the slack season and that the cash balances with the Imperial Bank have gone down ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : The Government of India have drawn the precise conclusion to which I have referred in my answer to the main question.

Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty : My Honourable friend's answers are so long that it is impossible to make out what exactly the point of these answers is. Sir, I have listened to that answer very carefully and he has not indicated what conclusion the Government of India have drawn from these figures.

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : The conclusion which my Honourable friend wants the Government of India to draw is that credit is becoming increasingly difficult in India.

Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty : If Government disagrees with that, what is the conclusion that they draw from these facts ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : The conclusion they draw is that the circumstances are not such as to justify the Government of India to take any special action in the matter. I am sorry that the answer to the main question is a long one, but the question itself dealt with matters of some importance and it was not possible for me to confine my answer to a smaller compass. As a matter of fact, the result of the supplementary questions is that we are drifting into a regular discussion.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ELECTED BOARD IN PESHAWAR CANTONMENT.

382. **Maulvi Sayyid Murtuza Saheb Bahadur :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the civil population of Peshawar Cantonment is more than 25,000 ?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to state why an elected Board should not be now given to the residents of that Cantonment as allowed by the Cantonment Act ?

Mr. G. M. Young : (a) I have no separate figures to show the number of the civil population in the Peshawar Cantonment. The Census Report of 1921 shows the total population of the Cantonment as 25,025.

(b) Under the provisions of clause (b) of the proviso to section 14 (1) of the Cantonments Act, 1924, the constitution of an elected board in a Cantonment in the North-West Frontier Province does not depend on the numbers of its civil population, but on the discretion of the Local Government.

GRIEVANCES OF TOWN INSPECTORS OF POST OFFICES.

383. **Mr. G. Sarvotham Rao :** (a) (i) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the issue of the *Tribune*, dated the 13th June 1928 under the heading " Post Office Town Inspectors " ?

(ii) Are the facts stated therein substantially correct ?

(iii) If so, what action, if any, has been taken ?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to say (1) whether the Postal Superintendents, the Postal Overseers, the Sorting Postmen, the Branch Postmasters and the Postal Muffasil Inspectors were removed from their permanent posts and transferred to the next subordinate lines when the scale of pay in respect of each of the above classes was raised by the Government and (2) whether the above-mentioned officials were replaced by men who rendered more years' service in the subordinate lines ?

(c) If not, why have the officials who were taken as recruits from clerks and appointed substantively as Town Inspectors long ago in preference to their clerks been replaced by clerks ? What action has been taken by the Government to redress the grievances of the aforesaid Town Inspectors ?

(d) Is it a fact that the postal Town Inspectors attached to the First Class Head Office stations have been supervising the work of the clerks—senior or junior ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. McWatters : Government have seen some papers containing articles regarding the Postal Town Inspectors. Representations from Service Associations, Town Inspectors and other postal officials regarding the operation of the orders relating to the appointments of Town Inspectors have been received and are at present under my consideration.

CREDITING TO THE GOVERNMENT AND NOT TO THE CANTONMENT FUND OF INCOME FROM FELLED TREES OF " A " CLASS LAND IN CANTONMENTS.

384. **Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava :** (a) Is it a fact that since the classification of Cantonment land into " A ", " B " and " C " classes

and the putting of "A" class land entirely in charge of the military officers, the income from felled trees of "A" class land is credited to the Government and not to the Cantonment Fund ?

(b) Is it a fact that "A" class land was in the charge of the Cantonment Authority before 1924, and is it true that all the trees standing thereon were planted and nourished at the expense of the Cantonment Fund ?

(c) Will the Government state the grounds for appropriating to itself the 'receipts' from the trees planted by the Cantonment Authority ?

(d) Is it a fact that the All-India Cantonments Association has taken strong objection to this diversion of Cantonment Fund receipts to the Government by executive instructions ?

(e) Do the Government propose to reconsider the matter and direct that the receipts from trees standing on "A" Class land be as before credited to the Cantonment Fund ?

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

(b) Before 1924, all Government lands in Cantonments, except those in actual military occupation, were managed by the Cantonment Authority as the representative of the Secretary of State for India. Receipts and expenditure connected with these lands, including the planting and tending of trees thereon, passed through the accounts of the Cantonment Fund, but the Fund itself vested in His Majesty and the Cantonment Authority was not the owner of any property.

(c) The ownership of trees follows the ownership of the land on which they stand. Unless the land on which the trees stand is transferred to the Cantonment Authority under section 108 of the Cantonments Act, 1924, the trees do not vest in or belong to that authority.

(d) The Association has made a protest.

(e) The answer is in the negative, for the reasons stated above.

ELECTION OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, CANTONMENT BOARD, ABBOTTABAD.

385. Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava : (a) Is it a fact that though the Cantonment Board, Abbottabad, was constituted in the beginning of the current year, yet no Vice-President has been elected in that Board so far ?

(b) Are Government aware that under section 20 (2) of the Cantonments Act it is obligatory for a Board to elect the Vice-President ?

(c) Is it a fact that the All-India Cantonments Association drew the attention of the Northern Command to the matter in their letter No. 764-A., dated the 1st July 1928 ?

(d) Will the Government state :

(i) why the provisions of section 20 (2) were ignored so long in Abbottabad ; and

(ii) when the election of the Vice-President can be expected to be held ?

Mr. G. M. Young : I am making enquiries and will let the Honourable Member know the result.

ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ELECTED CANTONMENT BOARD IN CHAKRATA.

386. **Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava :** (a) Is it a fact that Chakrata had a civil population of 3,140 according to the last Government Census Report and the present population is about 4,000 ?

(b) Is it a fact that under section 14 of the Cantonments Act, it is the right of every Cantonment outside the North-West Frontier Province, having a civil population of 2,500 or over to have an elected Board there ?

(c) Is it a fact that Chakrata, though entitled to an elected Board under the Act, is still administered by a Corporation Sole ?

(d) Is it a fact that the All-India Cantonments Association protested against the constitution of a " Corporation Sole " in Chakrata but that the Army Department refused to change the constitution ?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state the reasons that have led the Government to establish a " Corporation Sole " in Chakrata in spite of its having a civil population of more than 2,500 ?

(f) Are Government aware that the people of Chakrata greatly resent their being deprived of their civic rights, and have many grievances due to their having no voice in the administration ?

Mr. G. M. Young : (a) The last Government Census Report shows the permanent population of the Chakrata Cantonment as 1,459, and the temporary population during the hot weather as 3,661. These figures apparently include both the civil and the military population. Government have no information as regards the present population, but the civil population during the cold weather is very small.

(b) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to section 11 of the Act. The discretion to constitute or not to constitute a Cantonment Board in any Cantonment rests with the Governor General in Council irrespective of the size of the civil population. Section 14 merely regulates the composition of a Cantonment Board if it has been decided to establish one.

(c) The Chakrata Cantonment is administered by a " Corporation Sole." It is not entitled to an elected board under the Act.

(d) Yes.

(e) The Cantonment has a floating civil population from April to October and for the rest of the year the bazaar remains practically closed. Government do not consider that in these circumstances the Cantonment would be suitably administered by a Board.

(f) The answer is in the negative.

TOWN INSPECTORS OF POST OFFICES.

387. **Kumar Ganganand Sinha :** (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the issues of :

(i) the *Bengalee*, dated the 29th May, 1928, under the heading " Postal Town Inspectors " ;

(ii) the *Englishman*, dated the 30th May, 1928, under the heading " Postal Town Inspectors in Calcutta " ; and

(iii) the *Forward*, dated the 10th June 1928, under the heading "Vagaries of the Postal Department" ?

(b) If so, what steps have been taken ?

NUMBER OF TOWN INSPECTORS OF POST OFFICES IN THE PUNJAB AND NORTH WEST FRONTIER CIRCLE, ETC.

†388. **Kumar Ganganand Sinha** : (a) Will Government be pleased to state the total number of postal Town Inspectors attached to the First Class Head Post Offices in the Punjab and North West Frontier Circle and how many of them have been removed from their substantive appointments of Town Inspectors, after 1st September, 1927 ?

(b) What is the total number of the postal Town Inspectors in the Bengal and Assam Circle First Class Head Post Offices and how many of them have been removed from their substantive appointments of Town Inspectors after the 1st September 1927 ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. McWatters : I propose to answer questions Nos. 387 and 388 together. Government have seen some but not all of the papers mentioned by the Honourable Member. Representations from Town Inspectors, Service Associations and others regarding the operation of the orders relating to the appointments of Town Inspectors have been received and are at present under my consideration.

PROMOTIONS TO SELECTION GRADE APPOINTMENTS IN THE POST OFFICE AND THE RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE.

389. **Kumar Ganganand Sinha** : (a) Is it a fact that promotion, in future, to a post in the lowest selection grade in the Post Office and R. M. S. will not be allowed unless the candidate exhibits the requisite qualification necessary for the post by passing the departmental test ?

(b) If so, have the equal number of text books been prescribed for all the candidates who will have to get promotion after passing the departmental test ?

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

(b) The text books are the same, except as regards the Post Office Manual of which parts of two volumes have been prescribed for postal candidates and part of one for Railway Mail Service candidates—these covering the duties of the two branches.

ADOPTION OF A UNIFORM SYSTEM OF EXAMINATION FOR CANDIDATES FOR THE EXAMINATION FOR PROMOTION TO THE LOWEST SELECTION GRADE POSTS IN THE POST OFFICE AND RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE.

390. **Kumar Ganganand Sinha** : (a) Is it a fact that—

(i) the text books prescribed for the examination for the posts of postal Superintendents are the same for all candidates for such posts ;

(ii) the text books prescribed for the examination for promotion to the post of an Inspector in the Muffasil or Superintendents' head clerks in the Post Offices were also the same for all candidates who were allowed to sit for the examination ?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 387.

(b) If so, what steps have been taken to adopt a uniform system of examination for all candidates who will be allowed to sit for the examination for promotion to the lowest selection grade posts in the Post Offices and the R. M. S. ?

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

(ii) The examination was conducted by Heads of Postal Circles, each of whom prescribed his own syllabus, and it is probable that the text books were not exactly the same in each Circle.

(b) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to Director-General's Circular No. 10, dated the 24th May 1928, which contains the conditions and syllabus of the examination. A copy will be supplied to the Honourable Member.

GRANT OF PASSAGE CONCESSIONS TO MEMBERS OF THE NON-SUPERIOR SERVICES WHO ARE OF NON-ASIATIC DOMICILE.

391. Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra : (a) Is it a fact that the Government of India have had under consideration for the past few years the question of granting passage concessions to members of the non-superior services who are of non-Asiatic domicile ?

(b) If so, when do the Government propose to issue orders ?

(c) Is it a fact that similar concessions have been granted to members of the non-superior services in Army Headquarters ?

(d) If the answer to (c) is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the reasons for the delay in the extension of the same concessions to members of the civil departments ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : (a) Yes, in the case of officers serving under the Central Government.

(b) Orders will issue as soon as possible.

(c) Yes, in the case of one class, viz., ex-military clerks.

(d) The delay is due to the larger number of persons involved and to the great variety in the nature and terms of their employment.

PROMOTION OF A SECOND DIVISION CLERK OF THE WIRELESS BRANCH TO THE FIRST DIVISION.

392. Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra : Will the Honourable Member in charge of the Industries and Labour Department be pleased to state :

(i) whether a second division clerk of the Wireless Branch has been promoted to the first division from 1st January, 1928 ;

(ii) whether the clerk was promoted on the distinct understanding that he will be transferred from the Wireless Branch, Simla, to the D. G. P. and T.'s Office, Delhi, and will take up purely first division work ;

(iii) whether the clerk is still retained in the Wireless Branch and is given facilities for doing purely routine work in the branch ;

- (iv) why he has not yet been transferred to Delhi in accordance with the orders passed by the Establishment Officer of the Department ?

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

(ii) Yes.

(iii) He is retained in the Wireless Branch, but is employed as a 1st Division reserve clerk.

(iv) The matter is still under consideration pending final orders on the report of the Special Officer on the Director-General's office.

SUPERSESSION OF CERTAIN CLERKS OF THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

393. Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra : Is it a fact that on the occasion of a sectional arrangement, a junior *non-matric* clerk in one of the branches of D. G. P. & T.'s Office, Simla, was allowed, under D. G.'s Memo. No. Staff-A.-0228/28, dated 3rd July 1928, to supersede his senior clerks (including one *graduate* and passed P. O. Superintendentship).— If the reply to the above is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state :

- (i) whether the superseded senior clerks have ever officiated in the grade of Branch Superintendent (previously Head Assistant), if so why they have now been refused for the post ;
- (ii) whether any representation or appeal from the affected clerks has since been received. If so, what action have Government taken or propose to take in the matter ?

Mr. P. G. Rogers : (i) Yes ; the vacancy was however a temporary one of short duration and the arrangement made to fill it was that which would least upset the work of the Branch as a whole, without reference to seniority or other qualifications.

(ii) Yes, one of the clerks appealed to the Director-General and to Government. His appeals were rejected.

REDUCTION OF RENTS OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL RESIDENCES IN SIMLA.

394. Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : (a) Will the Government be pleased to explain the circumstances under which all the rents of Government official residences in Simla have been reduced ? Will Government be pleased to state whether it is true that refunds have been given to tenants for excess rents paid in Simla and state the full amount of refunds so paid as well as the largest sum paid to an individual ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state how many houses of A, B and C Class exist and how their rents and allotment are decided ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the actual cost to Government of the houses now occupied by the Members of the Executive Council, the rents paid for them, the cost of annual repairs for the last three years, and the returns to Government on the capital outlay ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. McWatters : (a) The Secretary of State for India sanctioned in August 1927 certain new rules (45, 45A and 45B)

to take the place of the old Fundamental Rule 45, in order to give effect to the recommendations of the Royal Commission on the Superior Services in regard to house rent. Of these new rules, Fundamental Rule 45-A applies, *inter alia*, to all officers serving directly under the Government of India in Simla. The rents of Government residences in Simla have been re-assessed according to that rule with effect from the 1st April, 1924, and refunds have been given to the tenants accordingly. The total amount of refunds of rent up to date in respect of officers' houses is Rs. 1,65,461 and the largest amount refunded to an individual was Rs. 3,964.

- (b) There are 7 "A" class houses,
8 "B" class houses,
and 8 "C" class houses.

Their rents are assessed in accordance with the rule referred to in first portion of this question; the allotments are made according to the rules prescribed for the purpose.

	Rs.
(c) (i) The book value of the houses (excluding the value of the sites) occupied by the ordinary Members of the Executive Council is	6,62,834
(ii) The rents paid for them per year amount to	33,000
(iii) The cost of annual repairs for the past three years is	47,178
	or
	15,726
	on an average per year.
(iv) The return to Government was therefore on the average	17,274

RENTS OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL RESIDENCES IN SIMLA.

395. **Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh :** (i) Will Government be pleased to state if it is true that officials drawing Rs. 4,000 to Rs. 5,000 are residing in furnished houses possessing tennis courts, kept in order at Government expense, and free of house and ground taxes for which they pay rents ranging from Rs. 1,150 to Rs. 1,430 per season of seven months?

(ii) Is it a fact that an official drawing over Rs. 4,000 per mensem is living in a Government house at a rent of under Rs. 770 for the Simla season?

(iii) Is it a fact that a number of well paid officers are residing in furnished houses at rates considerably below those which some of their subordinates have to pay for inferior unfurnished houses?

(iv) Do Government intend to review the position which has been created by their recent action and to institute a more equitable state of affairs?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. McWatters : (i) In Class A houses which are intended for officers drawing Rs. 4,000 a month or over, the inclusive rents for furnished accommodation lie between Rs. 1,152 and Rs. 1,395 with the exception of one house which is rented at Rs. 1,429 without furniture.

(ii) Yes; the house is unfurnished.

(iii) The operation of the rules governing house rent has resulted in the rents for certain houses in lower classes being higher than the rents for certain houses of a superior class.

(iv) Government will examine the question.

DEPUTATION OF THE CHIEF CONTROLLER OF STORES, INDIAN STORES DEPARTMENT, TO CEYLON.

396. **Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh :** (a) Is it a fact that the permanent Chief Controller of Stores, Indian Stores Department, has gone on deputation to Ceylon for nine months only ?

(b) Is it a fact that the acting Chief Controller of Stores, Indian Stores Department, has ordered that no members of the ministerial establishment should be allowed to go on deputation for any period less than eighteen months ?

(c) What are the reasons for the differential treatment ?

(d) Is it that officers can be more easily replaced than members of the ministerial establishment ?

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

(b) No such orders have been issued by the Chief Controller of Stores.

(c) and (d). Do not therefore arise.

DISCONTENT AMONG THE MEMBERS OF THE STAFF OF THE INDIAN STORES DEPARTMENT.

397. **Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh :** (a) Is it a fact that many members of the staff of the Indian Stores Department apply for posts elsewhere ?

(b) Is it a fact too that many of the men to whom offers are made by the Indian Stores Department decline to take them up ?

(c) Is there not a general discontent in the Indian Stores Department in this matter ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. McWatters : (a) There has been a number of instances in which the staff of the Indian Stores Department have applied for posts elsewhere to better their prospects.

(b) There have been a few such cases.

(c) I am not aware of any general discontent among the staff of the Indian Stores Department.

RECRUITMENT OF STENOGRAPHERS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA SECRETARIAT AND ATTACHED OFFICES.

398. **Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh :** Is it a fact that--

- (i) the old Staff Selection Board and the present Public Service Commission hold different speed tests for recruitment of stenographers to the Government of India offices, but do not base their nominations to the Secretariat and to the attached offices on the result of such tests ?

- (ii) there are as a result of this (a) men who have been exempted and (b) men who have passed only the 80 words speed test in the Secretariat, while there are men with higher speed test qualifications in attached offices ?
- (iii) the results of a speed test or tests are not alone sufficient for the selection of stenographers, but that tests of ability to draft and summarise are also required ?
- (iv) men who were already in the employ of the Government of India at the time of the appointment of the late Staff Selection Board were not required to pass any test even as permanent men in attached offices were not required to do so ?
- (v) that the qualifications required by the Government of India of stenographers of their Secretariat and attached offices are one and the same ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : (i) At the last examination for stenographers, held by the late Staff Selection Board in 1924, candidates were required to qualify in stenography at speeds of 100 and 140 words per minute. No examination for stenographers has so far been held by the Public Service Commission. The names of candidates who qualify as stenographers in open competition are placed on a waiting list according to the marks obtained by them in the written test and they are nominated for vacancies in the Secretariat and in the attached offices as they occur, in the order in which their names appear on the list.

(ii) Yes.

(iii) In addition to the technical test, candidates for the post of stenographer are required to qualify in a written examination consisting of papers in English, precis writing and drafting.

(iv) Yes.

(v) The initial qualifications are the same.

PROPORTION OF STENOGRAPHERS TO OFFICERS IN ATTACHED OFFICES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

399. Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : (a) Is it a fact that the number of stenographers to officers is less in attached offices than in the Secretariats ?

(b) Is it also a fact that officers in attached offices have to do a lot of touring which most of the officers in the Secretariat have not to do ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : (a) The number of stenographers is fixed with reference to the particular requirements of each office. There is no general principle such as the Honourable Member's question would suggest.

(b) No general statement is possible, as the position varies from post to post. Some officers holding posts in attached offices are required to make frequent tours ; others do less touring, and others again do none. Similarly in the Secretariat the position is different in different Departments ; but generally speaking the amount of touring that officers in the Secretariat are required to do is small.

INCREMENT OF A STENOGRAPHER IN THE FOREIGN AND POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

400. **Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh :** (a) Is it a fact that in the Foreign and Political Department a Deputy Secretary noted on his stenographer's case for increment that he had not seen him for more than three months, and so could not make a recommendation ?

(b) Is it a fact that the recommendation for that stenographer was made by the Assistant Secretary of that Department, and that on such recommendation the increment was sanctioned ?

Sir Denys Bray : (a) and (b). The answer is in the negative.

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL OF STATE.

Secretary of the Assembly : The following Message has been received from the Secretary of the Council of State :

" I am directed to inform you that the Council have at their meeting held on the 17th September, 1928, agreed without any amendment to the Bill to amend the Hindu law relating to exclusion from inheritance of certain classes of heirs and to remove certain doubts, which was passed by the Legislative Assembly on the 22nd March, 1928."

RESOLUTION *RE* EDUCATION OF GIRLS AND WOMEN IN THE TERRITORIES ADMINISTERED BY THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT.

Mr. President : The House will now resume further discussion of the following Resolution moved by the Revd. J. C. Chatterjee on the 11th September, 1928 :

" This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that he be pleased to sanction a substantial grant, capital as well as recurring, for the furtherance of girls' education in the centrally administered territories, and that as a first step towards this, a well-staffed and up-to-date college be established for the training of women teachers.

This Assembly further recommends that a competent Committee, including prominent women, be appointed to go into the subject and to make a report."

Maulvi Muhammad Yakub (Rohilkhund and Kumaon Divisions : Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, the subject matter of this Resolution is so self-evident that it does not require very ingenious arguments or long speeches to convince the Government of India of the necessity of spending more money on female education than they have been doing up to this time. On the first day when this Resolution was being discussed, it was shown to the satisfaction of the House that the Government of India is not spending as much money on the education of girls, in territories directly under their administration, as the Provincial Governments are doing in the provinces, and, although education is now a transferred subject, in the territories centrally administered, the Government of India is as much responsible for the efficiency of education as it is responsible for the efficiency of the Army in India. It has been shown the other day that the number of female scholars and the number of girls' schools in these territories is hopelessly small and stands in need of an impetus as soon as possible.

Sir, this Resolution makes very moderate and sensible demands. The first demand or recommendation contained in it is for the establishment of a first-class training college for female teachers at Delhi. We know very

well, Sir, that the chief difficulty in the way of female education in India is the want of trained female teachers. The number of girls' schools cannot be increased because we do not get trained female teachers. Also many of the existing girls' institutions are suffering for want of a sufficient number of teachers. The want of trained teachers is not felt for girls' schools only ; such lady teachers are especially needed by a large section of Mussulmans who still hesitate in sending their girls even to girls' schools. Therefore, we hope that the Government of India will take early steps to provide the money for training female teachers as soon as possible.

The other recommendation made in the Resolution is that a Committee of eminent men and women be appointed to go into the whole subject and make a report. Sir, the Government of India has recently been appointing a large number of Committees and Commissions, and it is indeed a pity that the attention of the Government of India has not yet been directed towards female education and that no committee has yet been appointed to go thoroughly into this very difficult and intricate subject. We have not yet got a suitable curriculum and course of studies for female education, and there are so many other subjects which greatly stand in need of being investigated. We therefore hope that no further delay will be made in meeting the request made in this Resolution, and that a Committee, as suggested by the Resolution, will soon be appointed by Government. I am afraid my Honourable friend, the holder of the portfolio of Education in this House, will say that the whole question of education in Delhi is under discussion and that the Government of India cannot give any undertaking until the report of the Delhi University Inquiry Committee is out. But, Sir, I hope that this very important question of female education will not be delayed until the report of that Committee is out. I do not know if the question of female education in the centrally administered territories has been referred to that Committee, but if it has not been, there is no reason why Government should not at once give us an undertaking that they will appoint a Committee to go into this question. Also the question of the establishment of a first-rate college for training female teachers should not be delayed any more. I think that this question also is not within the purview of the inquiry of the University Committee. The question of finance also, I think, ought not to come in the way of taking steps about this matter, because, as has already been shown, the Government of India is spending a very small sum of money on the education of girls. Therefore the question of finance should not come in the way of early steps being taken.

With these words, Sir, I lend my whole-hearted support to the Resolution.

Sardar Gulab Singh (West Punjab : Sikh) : Sir, I rise to support the Resolution of my Honourable friend Sardar Bahadur Jowahir Singh which has been so ably moved by my Honourable friend the Reverend Chatterjee, and to move the following amendments :

“ That after the words ‘ up-to-date college ’ the words ‘ and normal Schools ’ be inserted ; and before the word ‘ women ’ in the last line of the first paragraph the word ‘ Indian ’ be inserted.”

The Resolution as it stands does not in my opinion express our full demand ; for normal schools to train teachers for primary education are as essential as colleges to train teachers for secondary schools. I make these amendments, Sir, to this Resolution. Besides, Sir, I support the Resolution as

[Sardar Gulab Singh.]

it stands. The subject of female education, Sir, is an extremely important one.

Mr. President : No one has questioned that.

Sardar Gulab Singh : It has been fully discussed, Sir, by the Honourable Mover. When I first moved this Resolution on the first non-official day in the first Assembly in 1921, Sir Henry Sharp, then in charge of the Education portfolio, admitted it to be an important Resolution and called it pious and engaging and also expressed full sympathy, hearty sympathy, on behalf of the Government with the Resolution ; but so far no action has been taken in this matter. I say, Sir, it is a subject that is not receiving the attention which it deserves and necessary steps are not being taken to improve the deplorable state of female education, especially in the centrally administered territories under the direct charge of an Executive Councillor of the Government of India, who should make the minor administration a model for other provinces. The literacy of females, Sir, in India is of course about 1 per cent., but in the centrally administered territory it is far far lower. The expenditure, Sir, even in the advanced administrations, say, Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara, on female education, is about one-fifth of the expenditure on male education in these provinces. I am of opinion that the expenditure on female education should be greater at present ; in case the Government do not agree to give a special grant, of course we can then increase the grant already given for education of females. The experience, Sir, in other provinces shows that numbers of girl scholars are freely forthcoming when the number of schools is increased. Even strict *purdah* girls attend schools when the schools are near and can be approached. It is the lack of schools that has hindered the daughters of India to adorn themselves with the invaluable jewel ; therefore it is desirable that education should be free and a number of scholarships should be provided and liberal grants-in-aid given to private schools to stimulate female education. If we compare, Sir, even the literacy of females in two important cities, Lahore and Delhi, we find that the former is double that of the latter. To improve the state of female education, Sir, in the said territories funds are badly needed, and Government should make liberal grants, capital as well as recurring. It only needs more financial help than it gets now. Separate minor administrations cannot afford to have training schools of their own. So it is incumbent upon the Government to make special grants for such institutions. Of course, Sir, the right step to take up first is that a well-staffed and up-to-date college and normal schools should be established for the training of Indian women as efficient teachers. The need of trained teachers, Sir, is keenly felt all round, and the dearth of such teachers stands in the way of enlarging the number of schools. There are only a few training schools, Sir, with a small number of scholars in the said territories which cannot possibly supply trained teachers to all territories directly under the Central Government, having a female population of 18 lakhs. With the establishment of such institutions alone we can have cheap and competent Indian women teachers who will be able to work in rural areas and will be popular with Indian children. Sir Henry Sharp, during the debate on my Resolution referred to, remarked that :

“ there is no branch of education of girls which is so important as the training of Indian women as efficient teachers in the girls' schools and colleges.”

To solve this difficult problem, Sir, properly, the authorities should appoint a competent Committee including prominent women to make a report on the subject. Sometime back, Sir, we read in the papers that certain measures were being proposed to found a University for women ; but it all remained a mere talk. If the Government are really anxious to uplift India materially, the best and the fastest way to do so is by female education. By educating a girl, Sir, we educate the whole family, and it has been truly said, Sir, that " the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world ". (Applause.) So, I move my amendments, Sir, as already stated.

Rai Sahib Harbilas Sarda (Ajmer-Merwara : General) : Sir, I rise to support the Resolution moved by my Honourable friend Revd. Chatterjee. The education of girls is no less important than the education of boys, but in certain areas, considering the condition of things there, I think it is comparatively more important. A college for the education of girls with a suitable curriculum is a very desirable one and one such college should be established in a central place. But what is of far greater importance is that schools for training women teachers should be established in each of the areas under the direct administration of the Government of India.

My province of Ajmer-Merwara is under the direct administration of the Government of India, and we have therefore to look to this Government for the necessary educational facilities.

We are a small province and, according to the last census report of 1921, though in point of literacy, we were in the forefront amongst the provinces of India, in the matter of girls' education we are very much backward ; and were it not for the interest taken by non-Government agencies, by private bodies and individuals in the matter of female education, we should have been nowhere. There is only one Government school for secondary education in the whole of the province against nine private ones ; only six Government primary schools against 15 non-Government ones ; and there is not one Government training school for women teachers, though there is one such private institution at Ajmer. Thus, there are altogether only seven Government schools for primary and secondary education in the whole of the province against 25 non-Government ones. As for the number of girl pupils, out of 56,935 girls of school-going age in my province, only 2,033 are at present receiving education ; that is to say, 3.5 per cent. And if we take the entire women population of the province, 2,25,705, only .9 per cent. receive education, that is to say, not even 1 per cent. This deplorably low percentage is due to the neglect of girls' education on the part of Government. If we exclude the girls receiving education in non-Government institutions, we find that only 228 girls in the whole of the province are receiving education in Government institutions, that is to say, only .4 per cent. of girls of school-going age of my province.

If we consider the Government expenditure on education, we find that on secondary and primary education for girls Government spends only Rs. 20,608 per annum, against Rs. 74,687 spent by private individuals and institutions. Compared with the expenditure on boys' education, which in itself is very small in my province, this comes to only 9 per cent. of that on boys' education. Taking the entire population of Ajmer-Merwara, we find that Government spends only 8 pies per head on girls' education.

I would therefore earnestly invite the attention of Government to this state of affairs and request that an earnest effort should be made to put a stop to this deplorable condition of things. Government should establish

[Rai Sahib Harbilas Sarda.]

secondary schools in all the towns of Ajmer-Merwara, and there are only five towns in my province. The first necessity, however, in my province is an up-to-date suitable training school for women teachers. Sir, Ajmer-Merwara is cut off from the rest of British India. The nearest British province to Ajmer-Merwara is more than 200 miles away from it. Considering this and the difference in language, manners, customs and conditions of society generally, it is not very easy to send young women far away from the province to receive education and be trained as women teachers. If a good suitable school for training women teachers is established in Ajmer-Merwara, the surrounding States of Rajputana will also be able to send women to be trained as teachers and will gladly contribute towards the maintenance of such an institution. This would be a great financial support to Government.

I would therefore urge and hope and trust that the present Chief Commissioner of Ajmer-Merwara, who is greatly interested in girls' education, will lose no time in establishing a good up-to-date training school at Ajmer and secondary schools in all the towns of Ajmer-Merwara, and good primary schools in the more important of the villages, and we trust Government will find funds for this purpose.

t **Lala Lajpat Rai** (Jullundur Division : Non-Muhammadan) : I rise to propose the amendment that stands in my name, and which runs as follows :

“ That for the words ‘ be established for the training of women teachers ’ the words ‘ with departments for Arts, Science and training of teachers be established ’ be substituted. ”

The object of this amendment is to draw the attention of the Government of India to the importance of providing facilities for the higher education of girls in the centrally-administered areas.

Sir, the training of teachers cannot be carried on with much profit unless there is a sufficient number of highly educated girls who can be trained as teachers for high schools, middle schools and primary schools. If it were only intended to provide teachers for primary schools, perhaps the Resolution as originally moved might be good, but it is not intended to confine the activities of education only to primary schools. It is absolutely necessary that adequate provision should be made for the higher education of girls by means of high schools and colleges, and therefore the Resolution is not complete without this amendment which I beg to move. The amendment is in no way inconsistent with the original Resolution. It only adds to it and provides that unless a first rate, up-to-date college for the teaching of Arts and Science is added, the motion would be incomplete.

I do not want to take the time of the House in dilating on the importance of female education. That is a matter which is generally accepted on all sides, but I wish to point out to the Government of India that they cannot shirk their responsibility in the matter of education by saying that education in the provinces is a transferred subject. However, that will not be strictly relevant to this debate, and I therefore refrain from enlarging on it. I do not admit that there is anything in the Devolution Rules which make it impossible for the Government of India to make grants for general education in the provinces too. It is a real matter of great disappointment that in a big city like Delhi, which is of historical importance and second to none in the world, except perhaps Rome, that there should not

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be a single college for the education of girls which is properly fitted and equipped, and that provision for education in Delhi should be so inadequate and incomplete as it is at the present moment. Delhi is the capital of the British Indian Empire, and as such Delhi should give a moral lead to the other provinces in the matter of education of girls, and also in the matter of general education. In Delhi there is the only college for the medical training of women in Northern India, and that also makes it necessary that there should be a first grade college provided for the teaching of Arts and Science to which girls, not only from Delhi could attend, but also from other areas adjacent to Delhi. In Lahore, which is of less importance than Delhi, there are three colleges which cater for girls' education. One is a Government and the other two are missionary colleges. They have a very large number of girls on their rolls, and the girls who are being educated there pay very fair tuition fees. Therefore it cannot be said any longer that people do not care for the education of their girls, provided provision is made which is safe and adequate. Sectarian schools and colleges for the education of girls are not generally approved of by the public. They have some kind of suspicion of sectarian schools. Therefore, what is needed are up-to-date colleges, Government colleges, for the higher education of girls. I know that there is an intermediate college in Delhi called the Indraprastha College. I had a conversation very recently with the manager of that college, and he told me that a large number of applications are rejected every year for want of space. It is an aided institution. That also shows that there is real need for such a college in Delhi, but there is no provision for it and the existing arrangements are not adequate.

I therefore hope that the Government of India, both for the purpose of providing for the education of girls in centrally administered areas and also for giving a moral lead, will establish a well equipped and first rate college in Delhi for the education of girls. It is necessary that such colleges should be established, because teachers cannot be trained unless they have been properly educated. Therefore, first for the purpose of making adequate provision for teachers such colleges are necessary, and I hope Government will take the earliest opportunity of making provision for such a college in Delhi, both for the purpose of providing for the education of girls in centrally administered districts and for giving a moral lead to other provinces. I think it is the moral duty of Government to do so, if Government are serious in their profession of interest which they take in the matter of women's uplift in this country. It is absolutely necessary that this matter should not be neglected any more. In fact without making any reflection on the Delhi University, I should have thought that Government should have considered it more important and necessary to make adequate provision for the higher education of girls than establishing a University at Delhi for boys and men. Delhi, being the capital of the British Indian Empire, ought to have a first-class University providing for the education both of males and females in all the departments of human knowledge, and that should be the first charge upon the revenues of the Government of India. Considering the importance of education and the importance of the education of girls, I have reason to believe, Sir, that the Government is not unsympathetic towards this proposal, and therefore I do not want to take up the time of the House by dilating on this point at any length. I hope the Government will take early steps and will not do anything to postpone the consideration of this subject any longer. That is all I have to say, Sir, and I move my amendment and give my support to the Resolution.

Mr. C. Duraiswamy Aiyangar (Madras ceded districts and Chittoor : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, I rise to support the Resolution, but in the first instance I wish to express my alarm at the remarks passed by my friend, Lala Lajpat Rai. My friend Lala Lajpat Rai says that the Central Government must give a lead to the Provincial Governments in matters like these. I have been glad that Provincial Governments have never looked to the Central Government for a lead in these matters. If they had taken this lead, educational advancement would have been in a worse condition than it is at present. Sir, I will be glad, therefore, if, until the Central Government begins to administer these departments thoroughly and satisfactorily, we do not call upon the Provincial Governments to take any kind of moral lead from the Central Government. It has also been said, Sir, that the area which the Central Government has to administer must present a model. My friend Sirdar Gulab Singh also expressed the same idea. I have often felt when the Budget came up for discussion on the floor of this House that the Central Government should be deprived altogether of the personal administration of even an inch of territory. The small portion of territory which has been entrusted for direct administration to the Central Government has involved that territory in a lot of difficulties and disadvantages. So far as the budget items are concerned, items proposing grants for the judicial administration or for education or for sanitation or for medical, public health, agriculture, industry, connected with the territory directly under the administration of the Government of India have all come under the guillotine and have never been discussed on the floor of this House. If they had a separate method of discussing these subjects, surely the meagreness of provision this House made year after year without the least discussion or without the least criticism on the part of this House or any other responsible body would have disappeared long ago from the Budget. Unfortunately, Sir, at the time of the Budget several important subjects are put first and even in these subjects certain rearrangements of order are made according to the political needs and desires of certain people, so much so all the allotted time is exhausted by the discussion of political subjects in some way or other, and we leave a large number of important subjects undiscussed on the floor of the House and *a fortiori* subjects which come at the tail end of the Budget are not included, not even attended to, and I would not have been surprised, if we had had a less efficient President, if he had even forgotten to put some of these items under the guillotine. Therefore, Sir, I have often thought that these are items which must receive very careful discussion and very careful consideration at some time or other, and it is with that view of the matter that I have always considered that this territory directly under the administration of the Government of India has often been at a disadvantage.

Sir, I may be mistaken but I understand my Honourable friend Lala Lajpat Rai's amendment to mean that there will be no institution for the training of women teachers. As I understand the amendment, he wants the deletion of the words "be established for the training of women teachers" and the substitution in their stead of the words "with departments for Arts, Science and training of teachers be established". If these words are inserted into the original Resolution in substitution, the Resolution will read :

"...and that as a first step towards this, a well-staffed and up-to-date college with departments for Arts, Science and training of teachers be established."

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On the other hand, what has to be emphasised here is not the training in India of teachers but of women teachers. The training of women teachers is absolutely necessary in order that further advance in female education may be made even in places where there may be prejudices to sending girls for education beyond a particular age. I have always found, Sir, in my practical experience as a President of Local Boards and Chairman of a municipality, that there has been a considerable difficulty in getting female teachers to teach the girls in girls' schools ; so much so that I found several parents of these girls unwilling to send these girls to school for education after the 8th or 9th or at the most the 10th year. On the other hand, if a large supply of women teachers of advanced grade be supplied by colleges established in India for the training of women teachers, I have no doubt that the education of these girls would have gone on to a further age than that to which they have now taken their education. And in fact my friend Rai Sahib Harbilas Sardar would find no difficulty in reforming marriages if female education had advanced in the manner in which it should have advanced if only the Government had been very particular about these matters.

Sir, in provincial administrations it cannot be denied that at present the attention that is paid to girls' education is much more than that which is paid in the Central Government and I have explained the reasons for which the Central Government's action in these matters has always gone unnoticed. I would even recommend by way of an amendment that the Central Government should not only attend to education in territories directly under their administration, but they should also contribute a large amount to Provincial Governments in order to have female education in a further advanced condition than it is at present in the provinces. Even there we find generally the provincial Budgets are for deficits even when they spend very little on the head of Education as they have to meet other expenses, and if such be the condition in respect of the Local Governments, it is but right that the Central Government should consider education as a most important subject and in that view of the matter, Sir, I would even put it before the Treasury Bench that they may see their way to improve education not only in the territories directly under them but also make contributions to the provinces in order to ensure that female education is considerably advanced. We cannot at present count lady graduates even on one's fingers' ends in some of the provinces, and I do not see, Sir, how it will be possible for us to maintain institutions to advance education for girls with the present number of female teachers. And I do consider that it is as essential to attend to girls' education as it is to the increasing number of women teachers well trained in colleges, well equipped in the manner in which my friend Lala Lajpat Rai suggests. In fact the production of a larger number of women teachers ought to be considered to be the highest duty of the State both in the Central as well as the Provincial Governments.

Sir, in this view of the matter, I would strongly urge that the Government should take prompt steps to see that education receives a larger grant. In the current Budget they have allowed only Rs. 3,24,000 under the head of education, under medical 8 lakhs, public health still less, agriculture still less. If that is the way in which they are administering the territory directly under their management, I certainly do not think they will ever become a model to the provinces. On the other hand, it is the absolute

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and primary duty of the Central Government to see, as my friend observed, that they are taken as the model and in order to entitle them to that position I dare say the Government will pay more attention to education as well as to sanitation and industries under the Central Government.

Nawab Sir Sahibzada Abdul Qaiyum (North-West Frontier Province : Nominated Non-Official) : Sir, I should like to add just a few words in support of the Resolution. I come from a province, which is under the direct management of the Government of India, and we look to the Government of India for advancement in all matters, which are called transferred subjects in the major provinces. Education is one of those transferred subjects, and I think it is for the Government of India to set up a model of education for the guidance of the Provincial Governments. It is not only in education, Sir, but in all the other transferred subjects that we see the backwardness of these minor administrations under the Government of India, as compared with the Provincial Governments. If, as is every now and then said, these small provinces cannot bear the expenses of education, and other improvements all that I can say is that these administrations are not the creation of their own will. They have been created for some Imperial purpose and as long as they serve that Imperial purpose, I think they should not suffer on account of their isolation or smallness in matters which directly concern the comforts and happiness of the people of those provinces. The transferred subjects directly concern the comforts of the population, and education is the foremost of all. I do not know whether the education of the female is more essential or the education of the male ! It is for the public to decide. Personally I should think that both are equally important and essential. I cannot make out whether it is the husband who ought to educate his wife and children, or whether it is the mother who should take charge of the education of the children. Whether the one or the other there is no doubt that the education of the female and of the male should go hand in hand and on parallel lines. If we go on with the education of the male, without paying much attention to the education of the female, we will be making the males uncomfortable in their subsequent life by not being able to find proper appointments for themselves, but we will be also making them uncomfortable in their home life, because they will not be able to find educated wives for themselves. That certainly is one consideration which we should bear in mind. If we go on with the education of the male, we should not lag behind in the education of the female, so that the home of the educated people may be happier. As regards the Government of India's attention to education, I do not see any extraordinary activity on their part in that direction. We have been asking for grants for higher education for the male, and if my Honourable friend Lala Lajpat Rai will only see the difficulties that lie in our way in getting help for the higher education of our males, I do not think he will be very much encouraged to ask for a full-fledged college for the higher education of the female.....

Lala Lajpat Rai : Not in Peshawar. I am asking for it in Delhi.

Nawab Sir Sahibzada Abdul Qaiyum : Let there be one central college for higher education for the female at the capital of the Government of India. I have no objection to that !

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Lala Lajpat Rai : That is what I want.

Nawab Sir Sahibzada Abdul Qaiyum : Because, if we do not really need, under the present circumstances, any very high education for the female in their ordinary private life, we at least badly want female doctors for our society, and the higher medical education cannot be acquired without first giving higher education in sciences to the female. If not for anything else, at least for that purpose we want a well-equipped college in sciences at the seat of the Government of India !

With these words, Sir, I support the Resolution of my friend, the Revd. J. C. Chatterjee.

Mr. H. G. Cocke (Bombay : European) : Sir, lest by silence it should be thought that we, on these Benches, are not sympathetic to the cause of education in India, I desire to say that we are. Statistics show that considerably increasing sums have been spent on education in the last 20 years. But during that time we have had a war, and we have had the reaction following the war, and it has not always been possible to find as much money for education as we should all have liked. I believe that in the next 20 years, if there is no war, we shall find this country very greatly advancing in education. It is very much wanted, and particularly, in the direction of women's uplift, as my Honourable friend Lala Lajpat Rai has just described it ; it is most essential that this country should go forward. I think it is one of the good points about the transfer of the Central Government from Calcutta to Delhi that we have now, at the seat of the Government of India, a fine city with ample space to establish colleges for the training of men and women, doctors and so on. Therefore I hope that this Resolution will be acceptable to Government and that far greater sums in future will be available for all sorts of education than it has been possible to grant in the past.

Mr. M. S. Aney (Berar Representative) : Sir, the Resolution and also some of the amendments that have been moved will no doubt find general acceptance with the whole House. The question of girls' education in centrally administered areas is surely a matter which ought to be one of serious consideration for this House. The Central Legislature is generally occupied in considering important questions of policy affecting the whole of British India. But, at the same time, there is a special responsibility on the Central Legislature to look after those areas which are known as centrally administered areas, as these provinces have got no other representative institutions in which their provincial grievances and difficulties can be properly ventilated and considered. It is a special responsibility which is peculiar to the Central Legislature, but unfortunately, it is not sufficiently attended to and realised. Although it is a matter of some reflection on this House, the fact is there. Therefore, whenever a question like the present one is raised by any person coming from these centrally administered areas, it generally evokes the sympathy of the whole House.

This House is certainly glad that the question has been raised and an opportunity given to this House to express its active sympathy for the educational advance which the centrally governed areas want to make. In connection with this certain facts which have been brought to our notice in that small but interesting speech which my Honourable friend, Mr. Sarda, has delivered, also deserve to be considered. I find from his

[Mr. M. S. Aney.]

speech that whatever progress girls' education has really made in that little province of his which he represents here with so much credit to himself and to this House also—whatever progress has been made in the matter of girls' education—was mainly due to private enterprise and not to Government effort. It is a matter of peculiar importance that since the advent of the reforms, in the provinces where reformed Governments have come into existence, considerable progress in the matter of girls' education has been made. The provinces where the subject of education is a transferred subject have made serious efforts to give an impetus to the cause of girls' education. I wish to know from the Secretary to the Education Department, when he makes his speech, what efforts the Government of India have made since the beginning of the reforms to keep pace with the provinces in the matter of the progress of girls' education in centrally administered areas. If they are lagging behind, the centrally administered areas may legitimately say that they are being considered only as a charge for Imperial purposes and not for developing them, particularly in those subjects or departments which are known as transferred subjects, and the grievances of my Honourable friend, Nawab Sir Abdul Qaiyum, will have ample justification. So, that is a point on which the House would like to have some information from the Education Secretary.

Out of the 2,000 girls of school-going age who are at present having education in the schools in Ajmer-Merwara, only 200 are having their education in Government schools. If that is the position, there is undoubtedly great scope for the Central Government to develop girls' education in that province.

The second point which strikes me as being very peculiar is this. So far as the first part of the Resolution is concerned, I think there will be universal agreement in this House ; as regards the third part also there will be universal agreement here ; but as regards the second part of the Resolution in which the demand is being made for the establishment of a well-staffed and up-to-date college for the training of women teachers, there are some points which have to be considered. In the first place, what are the centrally administered areas ? Is it one contiguous area ? No. There is the North-West Frontier Province, there is Ajmer-Merwara, there is the Delhi Province, there is Coorg which is removed from these three provinces by thousands of miles. There are, besides, cantonment areas and also Residencies not to mention penal settlements like the Andamans and Nicobars. All these are centrally administered areas, and so far as the scope of the Resolution goes, it is intended to develop female education, primary and secondary, as far as possible. That appears to me to be the scope of the Resolution as it was originally moved by my Honourable friend, Mr. Chatterjee. If that be so, one well-staffed college for training women teachers will certainly not do to cater to the needs of these scattered areas, and that is a point which I wish the Education Secretary to take note of. Training colleges or training schools for women will have to be established in all these different areas. Otherwise you would not get women teachers who will be able to carry on the work of girls' education in all these different areas where probably different languages are being spoken and education will have to be given through the medium of different vernaculars. That particular point strikes me as of great importance and reference was made also to the same by my

Honourable friend, Mr. Sarda. From that point of view, I think the Resolution will have to be made a little more comprehensive.

As regards the amendment which my leader, Lala Lajpat Rai, has moved, of course, everybody will be in sympathy with that amendment. But the point is this. There should be separate training colleges for women in all these centrally administered areas as far as possible, and besides that, there should be a well-staffed college of Arts and Science for those girls who will be in a position to take advantage of the higher education. The amendment seeks to have one college with faculties of Arts and Science in addition to the training of women. I would like to modify it to this extent, that so far as the training for women-teachers is concerned, it is a matter which should be distinctly left alone for different areas, with a view to start schools, and separately considered; the central college which he wishes to have established should concern itself with education in Arts and Science only. If that sort of arrangement is made, then this amendment as well as the original Resolution can be considered together, and I think there should be no difficulty for the Government of India to accept the Resolution in the modified form. They should not try to find fault with the amendment but consider the spirit of the amendment as well as of the Resolution that is moved, and in that spirit they should try to give effect to the Resolution as a whole. I hope that Government will accept the Resolution as well as the amendment in the spirit in which they have been moved, especially seeing that they have expressed their sympathy in the cause of women in this House so often. I hope that there will be no reason for us to complain of lack of enthusiasm on the part of Government on translating their sympathies into action.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated : Labour Interests) : Sir, in the matter of education the Government of India have a special responsibility.

(At this stage Mr. President vacated the Chair which was taken by Mr. Deputy President, Maulvi Muhammad Yakub.)

We consider the Government of India as superior to the Provincial Governments. Not only that, but the very constitution of the Government of India shows that although the subject of education is a transferred subject, the Government of India have not yet divested themselves of their responsibility for education. They have a department called the Department of Education, Health and Lands, and in this phrase they have used the word "Education" at the very beginning. It shows that the Government of India have still got responsibility in the matter of education although that subject is a transferred subject. Not only that, but the Government of India have at their disposal a very highly paid officer for looking after education. Certainly that officer is not paid very highly in order that he should look after the small province of Delhi and other central territories; that officer is appointed because the Government of India have got a certain responsibility for the education of the whole country. Sir, judging this matter from that point of view, I feel that the Government of India have not done their duty towards this subject. Compared with the Government of India, I feel that Local Governments have done something more, although I am not satisfied with what the Local Governments have done, and if the Local Governments are judged in this matter, I should pass a vote of censure against them. But as compared to the Government of India, the Provincial Governments

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have done more. Take the question of primary education. At least there are some Governments which have passed legislation for compulsory primary education, namely, the Government of Bombay and some other Governments also. There are also some Indian States which have introduced compulsory primary education. But the Government of India have not yet done anything. They are still thinking of introducing it in the Delhi city. As regards the other administered territories, I do not think they have done anything. The same is the case as regards secondary education. In the territories directly administered by the Government of India there are only a few secondary schools, and, my Honourable friend, Mr. Sarda, has stated most of the effort is private effort. Again, as regards higher education, the same thing may be said, namely, that more facilities are necessary for higher education. I therefore think that the Government of India have not done their duty towards the subject of education, and when we consider the claims of the different classes of education, such as, the education of boys and girls, the education of girls belonging to the higher classes, of girls belonging to the middle classes, and of girls belonging to the poorer classes, I feel that there also the Government of India have failed in their duty. The Government of India call themselves the trustees of the people of this country, and especially of the masses, of the poor classes in this country. Sir, if we go into the figures of expenditure on primary education, secondary and higher education for boys and girls, we shall find that this Government of India is not a trustee.....

Mr. Deputy President : I would ask the Honourable Member to confine himself to the Resolution which relates to the centrally administered territories.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : That is exactly my point. I am now discussing the education of the girls of the different classes in the central territories, and my point is that the Government of India, while giving education to the people in the central territories, have not done justice to the poorer classes. The Government calls itself the trustees of the poorer classes and the masses, but if we consider its conduct as regards the giving of education to the boys and girls of the different classes, it has shown partially to the higher and the middle classes.

Mr. Deputy President : The Resolution does not make any difference between the education of the girls of the poorer classes and the higher classes.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : We are now discussing the education of girls and my point is that the Government have been spending large sums on the education of the higher and middle classes and they have not spent sufficient money on the education of the poorer classes. Some time ago I asked for figures as to how much the Government of India spend on primary education, secondary and higher education. I was told that the Government of India could not give figures because they could not separate primary schools and secondary schools. They could not give the figures because it is a fact that they are spending more money on higher and secondary education as compared with primary education. They spend large sums of money on different universities. They give money to the Benares, Delhi and Aligarh Universities. I am not sure how much they spend on these universities. If the resources of the Government are unlimited, I would

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not object to the Government of India spending money on these universities. I should even suggest that they should double the grants now given. But if the resources of the Government are limited, I claim that they must spend more money on primary education and the education of the masses. They give so many lakhs to these three universities, where no university was wanted.

Mr. Deputy President : I would ask the Honourable Member to confine himself to the Resolution.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : I want your indulgence to prove my case that the Government of India have neglected the education of the girls of the poorer classes.

Mr. Deputy President : Yes, please do.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : They have started a University in Delhi where there was no need for a university. That university was only intended to find a Vice-Chancellorship for my friend Sir Hari Singh Gour. At the first Convocation of the Delhi University, they gave degrees only to three persons. They were Sir Hari Singh Gour, Sir Muhammad Shafi and Lord Reading. I formed the impression at that time that the Delhi University was started not for the education of the students but for giving degrees to some of these people. The same may be said about secondary education. A complaint has been made by my friend Rai Sahib Harbilas Sarda that Government leave more to private effort. If Government do that in the matter of higher and secondary education, I do not certainly blame them, but when Government spend money out of public revenues, they ought to spend more on the masses and the poorer classes. That is my view.

Lala Lajpat Rai : Are they not all bound up to some extent ?

Mr. N. M. Joshi : I am anxious to separate the education of the three classes.

Mr. Deputy President : That is not the point at issue.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : I claim your indulgence in this matter, because the point of view I am placing before this House is somewhat new to this House, and I think that the Resolution of the Honourable Member is also faulty in that respect. I agree with him that the Government of India should spend adequate amounts for the education of the people in the central territories, but when they start a training college for women-teachers as the first step I certainly do not approve of the idea.

Mr. Deputy President : Do you oppose the Resolution ?

Mr. N. M. Joshi : My point is that the teachers must be trained later and the schools must be started first. According to the Resolution, teachers must be trained first. That is not my idea. Sir, there are people who believe in the quality of the education. I also care for quality but if I am given a choice, I would unhesitatingly go in for quantity and not for quality. I therefore feel that the starting of schools for girls is the first step to be taken and not the starting of a training college for women teachers. Certainly if you start a college for the training of women, there will be some provision for the women of the middle classes. That is perhaps the view which Members here take. I do not take that view. First start the schools and then improve the quality. I therefore do not agree with the Resolution as it is framed.

[Mr. N. M. Joshi.]

Then, Sir, the Resolution also asks for a Committee ; but before I go to that point I want to say a word or two about the education of the girls of the depressed classes and of Muhammadans. In this respect I want to give a warning to my Mussalman friends. Our Muhammadan friends always complain that Muhammadans do not get jobs in the public services in proportion to their numbers. It is perhaps due to the fact that they are backward in education. Now, in all public service, girls are going to get jobs. If more Hindu girls learn first and if Muhammadan girls do not, let my Mussalman friends remember that Muhammadan girls also will lag behind in the public services. I am therefore anxious that the Muhammadans should insist that there should be sufficient schools for the primary education of the girls amongst their classes, and also for secondary and higher education. I want to say something about the depressed classes. I see that my friend Rao Bahadur Rajah is not here. He must insist that the Government of India must make provision for the education of the girls of the depressed classes. Once they lag behind, they will lag behind for ever.

Mr. B. Das (Orissa Division : Non-Muhammadan) : What will you do if you educate all the girls of the depressed class ? They will not find husbands. You must educate their boys first.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : Well, Sir, that is not really my point.

There is one more point. It is not enough that the Government of India should start schools and make provision for the facilities for girls attending schools. It is now the experience of the whole world that you cannot provide education to the poorer classes unless you help them in their maintenance. You must give scholarships to boys (Laughter), I mean girls who cannot come to schools for want of money. The poorer classes do not go to school not because they do not like education. Everyone whether he is rich or poor wants his children to be educated ; but the poorer people do not send their girls to school simply because these girls are useful in working at home and, economically, they cannot afford, to send their girls to school. I am therefore anxious that the Government of India should not only start schools but should institute a large number of scholarships so that there should be no poor man in the country who cannot afford to send his daughters to school for want of money. The institution of scholarships is absolutely necessary if you want the poorer people to learn. Schools are said to be open to all classes of people, but you are not keeping your schools open to the poorer classes of people unless you provide also for their maintenance.

One more point, Sir, about education being made compulsory. This also is the experience of the whole world that education, at least so far as primary education is concerned, must be made compulsory, but the Government of India have not done that. Some Provincial Governments have done that, but the Government of India have failed in this duty. Well, Sir, as regards the education of girls, I want to make one or two remarks.....

Mr. Deputy President : Only about girls, not boys.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : There is a custom of educating girls separately from boys, and I do not approve of that practice. I feel that if our boys and girls are to grow morally sound, they must be educated together ; I think there must be co-education. Boys and girls must be educated in the same schools. (Hear, hear.)

The Revd. J. C. Chatterjee (Nominated : Indian Christians) : What about the *purdah* ?

Mr. N. M. Joshi : I am coming to that. Experience throughout the world shows that it is by co-education that you raise the whole community morally, and by separating the boys and girls from their childhood up to the age when they grow old, you are really doing great harm to the moral condition of the community. Sir, we have got some experience in this matter in Bombay.....

Mr. Deputy President : We are not dealing with Bombay now.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : Sir, I am giving some experience for the benefit of the central territories (Laughter).

Mr. Deputy President : I hope the Honourable Member will confine himself to the Resolution, which he should please read once more.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : I am only suggesting that the present practice of starting separate schools for boys and girls is a bad one.

Mr. Deputy President : But that is not the Resolution.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : I want to tell you that our experience in Bombay is that it is better to have the same college for girls and boys than to have a separate college for girls.

An Honourable Member : Bombay is not Delhi.

Mr. M. S. Aney (Berar Representative) : Is it not that there is a university in Bombay Presidency solely for the education of girls ?

Mr. N. M. Joshi : Sir, the people in the Bombay Presidency hold sound views on education. I do not wish to speak on this subject very long because I am sure there are some Members who do not like my speaking on this subject. (*Honourable Members* : "No, no".) My Honourable friend who moved this Resolution asked, "What about the *purdah* ?" Certainly, if you want to keep your *purdah* and all the evils that follow, you may have separate schools. That is certainly an evil, and if you want my advice, certainly I am going to tell you that you must remove the *purdah*. If Indians in Northern India want Swaraj and the proper use of that Swaraj, then certainly the *purdah* should be removed.....

Mr. Deputy President : I cannot allow the Honourable Member to ramble like that. He must confine himself to the Resolution and must not talk on anything else.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : I will say a word about the North West Frontier Province. The Government of India grant large amounts of money to people in the North West Frontier Province to keep them quiet,—I think fifty lakhs or more. I suggest, Sir, that if five lakhs out of those 50 lakhs are spent on the education of the girls in the North West Frontier Province, I am quite sure in ten years' time it will not be necessary for them to spend these 50 lakhs of rupees to keep the people quiet. They have so far neglected the education of these tribal territories and they go on spending money on giving them some work ; I believe they are giving some tribes some allowances which are sometimes called pensions. (Laughter.) Sir, if they spend that money on civilizing these people, giving them education, giving them not only ordinary education but industrial education and provide them with industries, it will not be necessary for the Government of India to go on spending these fifty lakhs of rupees for many years.

[Mr. N. M. Joshi.]

I hope the Government of India will pay proper attention to the education of girls in the North West Frontier Province.

One word more, Sir, the Resolution asks for the appointment of a Committee. Sir, I am not against the appointment of Committees. These Committees sometimes do some work and also provide opportunities for some of the Members of the House to serve on them. I feel, Sir, that the subject of education has been too long neglected. This is not the time now to appoint a Committee. Let the Government of India begin to give education to the people instead of appointing a Committee to consider the question of giving education. The appointment of a Committee is now too late in the day. Let them now begin to spend money, let the next Budget show that they have provided adequate amounts of money for the education of girls in the central territories : and then only I think, Sir, this House will be satisfied.

Sir Hari Singh Gour (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, I am not quite certain if the Honourable Mr. Joshi's provocative reference to me were intended to draw me out because I did not intend to make a speech on this subject, but as he has referred to me, Sir, I feel constrained to tell him that while I am not sure that the University of Delhi has gained anything from me, I am certain that I have acquired an amount of knowledge which I would not have possessed had I not been associated with that institution.

Mr. D. V. Belvi (Bombay Southern Division : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : And also a Knighthood.

Sir Hari Singh Gour : Sir, the one great fact that has occurred to me is this. My Honourable friends on both sides of the House speak of the education of girls. But where are the girls ? I shall point out to you, Sir, what is the unfortunate position of girls so far as the Province of Delhi is concerned. I have been visiting all the girls' schools and the high schools and the intermediate colleges in Delhi which owe their inception to myself, Sir. And I found the headmistresses and principals of these colleges complaining that those little children of 5 and 6, intelligent, bright, with sparkling eyes and a great desire to absorb knowledge,—when they have been pupils for two, three or four years—a hoary-headed gentleman walks into the room and says, " I want to take away this girl." And when they ask, " Why do you want to take away this girl, she is getting on quite well ? " he says, " Oh, she is going to get married ". The result is that, half, if not three-fourths of the girls, just at the time when they are beginning to learn and imbibe knowledge, just at the time when education would be useful to them, are marched off from the class room and tied round the marriage post. That is the position of the girls.

An Honourable Member : Do they not come back ?

Sir Hari Singh Gour : I am asked whether they come back. Sir, they do come back ; they come back and they go to the Lady Hardinge Hospital for their confinement and early death.

Now, I wish to ask Honourable Members on the Opposition Benches, if they are really friends of women's education and if they really wish

that the girls in the centrally administered area should get on and receive education, are they prepared to provide the necessary girls ?

Lala Lajpat Rai : Yes.

Sir Hari Singh Gour : My friend Lala Lajpat Rai says, "yes". Well I shall put him to the test when my friend Mr. Harbilas Sarda's Child Marriage Bill comes up before this House and my own Age of Consent Bill comes up here for passing. That will be the acid test of the real desire of this House to advance the cause of female education. Unless you are able to raise the marriageable age and provide the girls who will fill the class room, it is idle to ask the Government of India to train up teachers. The teachers may be trained but they cannot lecture to empty class rooms. Let me give you, Sir, the instance of two colleges which were proposed to be started in Delhi. As regards one college the scheme was ready but they said we have no girls at all, and the result was that the college never came into existence.

Mr. B. Das : How is it that private colleges in Delhi are flourishing ?

Sir Hari Singh Gour : They are men's colleges. I am giving you the history of women's college. The Indraprastha High School was raised to the status of an intermediate college, in the hope that it would develop soon into a first-rate college. I found on my visit two years ago that while there were, I think, 11 girls, three of them had got married and there remained 8. We started the Arts College and I acknowledge on behalf of this struggling institution the assistance which the Government of India have given by placing Alipore House at the disposal of the Indraprastha College. I do not know if the Honourable Member who is to reply on behalf of Government knows of the self-sacrificing services of the Principal, Miss Gmeiner (Gmnier), and her associates (one of whom also a European died at her post), who have been trying to bring up these girls so that they may be educated and may in course of time become good housewives and schoolmistresses and, if possible, contribute also to the public services of this country.

(At this stage Mr. Deputy President vacated the Chair which was resumed by Mr. President.)

The self-sacrificing labour of this lady and her associates requires public acknowledgment. I wish you could have seen the position of this Indraprastha High School at the back of the market, in most crowded and insanitary surroundings, the headmistress living in a small cubicle on next to nothing, and imparting education to 300 or 400 girls who are all cooped up in a pigeon warren. You will immediately say that the Government of India deserve a hearty vote of censure for allowing this deserving institution to struggle on for existence in such insanitary surroundings. Sir, for the last four years we have been asking the Government to place a more sanitary building at the disposal of this growing and deserving institution, and it was only in the last few months that the Government of India made up their minds not to make a gift but to sell Alipore House to the Indraprastha College. The result is that the managing committee are now going about collecting money from friends, benefactors and sympathisers of that institution. That is not the way in which the Government of India should act. They should have made a gift of Alipore House to this institution. They should have said to themselves, here is a struggling institution and a

[Sir Hari Singh Gour.]

selfless devoted woman trying to educate the people of this country, the girls of this country, and the least contribution that we can make is to make over to that institution this building, Alipore House, which belongs to Government and which will cost us nothing. If the Government would do that, the Indraprastha College could start science classes and arts classes and would draw from the four corners of India deserving girls and give them higher and better education. That is the way in which to help the centrally administered areas.

Sir, I am in perfect sympathy with my friend Mr. Chatterjee, but I say to him that in order to give education in the centrally administered territories you must begin at the beginning. You must see that the education of girls between the ages of 5 and 10 is subsidised by Government. You must give them free and liberal scholarships. And after the age of 10 it is for the public, of which the Members of this House are the accredited plenipotentiaries, to see that the marriageable age of girls is substantially raised, so that they may not be taken from the school classroom just at the time when they should begin to profit from the education they are receiving. If that is done I am sure the future of women's education in India will have been solved. We want that these girls should receive education up to the higher and collegiate standard, and then you will have bright young Indian girl graduates helping us in our public and private duties. That will, I submit, be the advent of new India, and the reconstruction of the future nation will be supported by the mothers of the nation, thirsting for more knowledge, better sanitation and better health. That will be achieved if she who rocks the cradle is educated, and the large problems of health, sanitation, infantile mortality and the early death of the mother and child will have been solved. Education of girls is not to be looked at with the microscopic vision of merely teaching them the A, B, C and to enable them to read elementary books. Education must be regarded as a national necessity and the cornerstone of the future of India. It is with that large heart and greater vision that you must look at the education of women in the centrally administered territories. That would be a model for the other provinces to follow. It is with that hope and with that desire that the struggling University of Delhi was started. It was not started for the purpose of finding gratuitous degrees for two or three persons, as my Honourable friend Mr. Joshi cynically remarked.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : May I ask the Honourable Member one question, whether the establishment of that University has added to the number of college students in Delhi even by one ?

Sir Hari Singh Gour : Sir, I can very easily answer that question. When that university was started, it was started with an alumni of 780, if I remember aright, and within two years the students in the Delhi University went up to 1,400. (Applause). That is the result of starting the Delhi University. But I am not here to advocate the cause of the Delhi University. I am speaking here on the question of female education in the centrally administered territory, and I shall focus my point by asking this House to remember that we are voting on this motion on the following understanding. We want first and foremost to tap the large source of supply for female education, namely, the lower middle

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classes and the labouring classes, to which Mr. Joshi has so pathetically referred.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : May I correct one statement ? Sir Hari Singh Gour said that the number of students went up from about 700 to 1,400. Is it not due to the fact that some colleges that were affiliated to the Punjab and the United Provinces Universities were brought back to the Delhi University ?

Sir Hari Singh Gour : The existing colleges of Delhi formed themselves into a University, and when I speak of the number having gone up, I am speaking of the number that went up on the rolls of the Delhi University.

Now, Sir, I say that we must begin at the beginning. Give the infants of the Kindergarten classes stimulus to interest them in education. That you can do by small prizes and free distribution of scholarships, and for that purpose you must set apart a certain sum of money. After primary education you must give them a further incentive to go into the secondary classes, because that is a crucial time in the life of the girl. With sufficient incentive she might be able to prosecute her studies in the secondary classes. A large number of parents have told me. " We cannot afford to keep these girls in secondary schools ; we have not got the money ; if they get married their husbands will keep them. Amongst the labouring classes a girl will begin to work whereas if she learns she earns nothing. She is trying to become a Babu and we do not want our girls to become Babus." That is the prevailing cry amongst the lower classes, and the labouring classes. Therefore you have now to make the class room attractive by suitable incentives given to the girls to stay on and postpone their marriage to which they are prematurely driven by their uneducated and old-fashioned parents. Having done that, you must have a well-equipped college with all the amenities of a modern college and try to give these girls education as cheaply as possible. It is a national insurance, Sir. The money that we spend upon women's education is money which is spent for the betterment of the whole nation, and I therefore think that you must try to make education as cheap as possible. Having done that, your duty ends ; and for the purpose of helping us on, we on this side of the House say—and I am certain that my orthodox friends in this House will concur with me—that the marriageable age of girls should be raised, substantially raised, so that they might receive education and profit much by that education before they are carried off by their husbands.

Sir, one more point and I have done. It has been said and said with a great deal of truth that if you are merely to start a training college for women teachers, that is not promoting women's education. Suppose you have a training college and you have got it—I do not know whether Mr. Chatterjee knows that teachers' training classes are attached to every university, there is what you call, the L. T. and B. T. classes, Licentiate of Teaching and Bachelor of Teaching. Those who do not pass the B. A. are given the L. T. just as they have a Diploma in Pedagogy in the English Universities. In all these universities you have got classes for training teachers. The University of Lucknow, especially the Isabella Thoburn College, turn out women teachers by dozens ; and it is the same case in all the other colleges. When I visited the four Colleges in Lahore I found that they have also got classes for training of teachers and they turn out teachers. Consequently, if you are to concentrate upon the

[Sir Hari Singh Gour.]

provision of teachers, you will be multiplying a commodity for which there may not be a ready market. I therefore suggest that a Committee should go into this question, but it should be remembered that the very production of teachers would not be conducive to the growth of female education in this country. What you require is not so much the training of teachers, as the stimulus given to primary, secondary and higher education to our girls in the centrally administered territory. That would be an example to be followed and copied by the provinces and in this way, at any rate, we shall be able to add one more brick to that grand arch of national reconstruction for which we are all striving and towards which we are steadily progressing.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh (Muzaffarpur *cum* Champaran : Non-Muhammadian) : Sir, I rise to lend my wholehearted support to the underlying principle of this Resolution as well as to the amendment moved by my Honourable friend Sardar Gulab Singh. The underlying principle of this Resolution I take it to be the spread of girls' education in the centrally administered areas, and the substance of my friend Sardar Gulab Singh's amendment is that, in order to carry out that object, a well-equipped college for the training of women teachers should be started, and along with it a normal school should be started in order to secure the production of a sufficiently large number of trained women teachers to train up the girls. Sir, it is very necessary that a college, well equipped college, for the training of female teachers should be started at a central place, and in order to.....

Mr. B. Das : Will the Honourable Member use the words " lady teachers " instead of " female teachers ? "

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : I stand corrected. It is quite necessary to start a suitable college at a central place for the training of lady teachers ; and to act as a feeder to this institution normal schools should be opened at different centres in the centrally administered areas. It has been pointed out in the course of this debate that the centrally administered areas are not a compact territory ; they are scattered all over the country ; and if we confine ourselves to the terms of the Resolution, it would mean that only one college is to be started. It is asked : How is one college going to act as a training ground for the teachers of all the centrally administered areas ? My reply to that is that one college should be started at a central place, say in Delhi ; and normal schools to act as feeders to this institution may be started, say, one in Ajmer-Merwara, one in the North-West Frontier Province, and in other centres where necessary. I want, Sir, to refer this House very briefly to the present position of education in some of the centrally administered areas.

In Ajmer-Merwara I find that the total population is 4,95,271, and in 1926 there were 10,260 scholars in 176 recognised educational institutions for males ; and 1766 in 20 similar institutions for girls. I beg to submit that this is a very disappointing figure, and I hope that in course of time and with the arrangements which we are proposing to make, the number of girl scholars will considerably increase.

Then I shall turn for a minute to Coorg, which is of course a very small territory, with a population of about 1,63,838. There were in 1926,

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871 boys in high schools ; 7,118 in primary schools ; and 174 girls in high schools, and 668 in primary schools.

The figure with regard to the North-West Frontier Province is as follows. The population of the province in 1921 was 22,51,340. In 1925-26 there were 601 recognised educational institutions for males, with 52,072 scholars ; and 85 similar institutions for girls with 6,344 scholars. The percentage of scholars to the total population is 2.9. This, I submit, is a very lamentable state of things in a centrally administered area, which should act as a model to other Provinces.

The condition of things in other provinces is no less unsatisfactory, but under the terms of this Resolution we are not to travel beyond centrally administered areas ; and therefore I will not refer to them.

Nawab Sir Sahibzada Abdul Qaiyum : That does not include the tribal area, which has not yet been provided with facilities for education.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : That only strengthens my position. In the tribal area, to which my Honourable friend refers, no adequate provisions have been made for imparting education either to boys or to girls. I remember there was a proposal in the Standing Finance Committee very recently, asking funds for the purpose of establishing a jail in the North-West Frontier Province. Some of us were inclined to think that the money we were asked to spend for the establishment of the jail would have been better employed in imparting education in that area. In that case probably there would not have been very great necessity for a jail to be established there. If we opened schools it would follow that we would close up the jails in course of time.

My Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, has said—if I followed him aright—that he wanted any sort of women teachers to act as teachers for the training of girl students. If that was his meaning, I certainly disagree with him. He went further and said that he wanted quantity and not quality of education among girls. I emphatically dissent from that view. The sort of education we want to be imparted to our girls should be not merely literary education, but it should include religious training as well as physical. We are certainly not expected to entrust our girls to the care of teachers whose antecedents we do not know and who have had no proper training in respect of character and attainments to take up the important and delicate art of teaching.

The next point which was taken up by Mr. Joshi was that he did not like that boys and girls should be educated in separate institutions, and he said that he would like to see them educated in the same school. We would like to record our dissent from this view. We want that the education which a girl requires should be somewhat different to the education which we would like to impart to our boys, and therefore the curriculum for girls as well as the curriculum for boys would naturally differ to a considerable extent. I do not think it would be a wise or a practical proposition to allow our boys and girls to be thrown together and to be trained in the same institution. It is rather difficult to speak on a proposition which is so obvious ; and I do not think that many words of mine are needed to commend this Resolution to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. Bajpai is sitting so leisurely, as if he had an unanswerable case against us in his pocket ; but I will ask him to deal with this question

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very fully and sympathetically in the course of his reply to what we have said in the House.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Ten Minutes to Three of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Ten Minutes to Three of the Clock, Mr. President in the Chair.

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya (Madras : Indian Commerce) : I move that the question be now put.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (Ambala Division : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, I rise to support the Resolution and the amendment of Chaudhri Mukhtar Singh.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : It has yet been moved.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava : The amendment was moved, Sir. Now, Sir, it is too late in the day to expound the advantages of female education, especially in this House. This is an admitted fact. The question then is, how this female education is to progress in this country and on what lines. Though it is admitted in theory that female education is very good, in practice the apathy shown by the Government of India and by the Provincial Governments is very great. There is some provision in villages for the education of boys, but so far as the education of girls is concerned, I think it can be safely said that it has been too sadly neglected. To-day, in all the civilised Governments of the globe, it is the right of the subject to expect that the Government shall provide free and compulsory primary education for the nationals of the country, whether the recipients of the education are boys or girls, and I must say that the Government of India must hang down its head in shame if all the figures which have been quoted to the House by the various speakers who have spoken before me are scrutinised. Those figures also are not safe because, if there is any female education, it is to be found in some of the big cities. If the rural areas are segregated and then the percentage of literacy is found out, it will go down still, and will come to almost a negligible figure. The Government meet this by saying that the special social customs of India and other factors are to blame. I do not agree. I want to repudiate the suggestion of Sir Hari Singh Gour and I want to say that girls in the country want education. There is no poor man in the country who does not want education. It is wrong to say that no girls are to be found who could be educated. I am rather surprised to hear this from the Chancellor of the Delhi University (*An Honourable Member* : "*Ex-Vice-Chancellor.*")—from the *Ex-Vice-Chancellor* of the Delhi University. The old argument is trotted out that as there is child marriage, it is impossible to have female education in India. May I know what arrangements there are in the whole country for the education of girls from the age of 6 to 10 or 11 ? Marriages do not take place within those ages.

Sir Hari Singh Gour : What is the good of such education ?

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava : This is the first time I have heard in this House an argument of this sort from an Honourable Member—and

specially from Sir Hari Singh Gour : " What is the use of female education ?" What is the use of any education at all I fail to see. If the benefits of free and compulsory primary education are not realised by Sir Hari Singh Gour, I have nothing but pity for him. I am very sorry to hear that. The Universities which only cater to the needs of those who live in the city are institutions which do not benefit the poorer people of the country, and when I am reminded of the fact that even such big people as Sir Hari Singh Gour think like this, then it means that there is no room in India for the poorer people, if the administration of Universities is to be handed over to gentlemen like our *Ex-Vice-chancellor*.

Now, Sir, there is such a thing as democratisation of education. I do not grudge Delhi or any other place having any college or any high school. I want them in much greater numbers than at present. But if these colleges and high schools are to be had at the expense of the education of the poorer classes of this country, I would rather not have them at all. Sir, I know that the Honourable the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands will rise up in his seat and say that there is no money. This free and compulsory primary education is a question of rupees, annas and pies. Much more so in this country, because, if any person goes to the villages and asks the village people to educate their girls, they say, " We are not even having our food ; we have not sufficient means for our necessary clothes and will we make Babus out of these girls ?" This is exactly what is said to every person who goes to a village and asks the villager to have his daughter educated. He says, " Even the boys are not educated ; what sense is there in asking me to send my girl to school ?" Sir, this is a very difficult question to solve, but this is the most urgent question of the day. If further reforms are to come, the future queens of India would be the women. They will be invested with sovereign powers. They will not be the queens of the homes alone. When the vote is given to them they will certainly exercise a great control over the destinies of India. Do we want that we should have ignorant masters or intelligent and educated masters ? Or do we want no progress at all ?

Now, Sir, I would submit that these two most difficult questions arise, *viz.*, (1) the question of funds, and (2) whether this free and compulsory primary education is to be had at the expense of.....

Mr. President : There is no question of free and compulsory education in this Resolution. I hope the Honourable Member will read the Resolution.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava : May I humbly submit, Sir, that I am supporting the amendment of Chaudhri Mukhtar Singh which reads thus :

" That for the words from ' for the furtherance of ' to the words ' training of women teachers ' the following be substituted :

' for providing free and compulsory primary education of girls between the ages of 6 and 11 in the centrally administered territories as early as possible and as a first step to that end to establish at once sufficient number of women teachers' training schools in that area '."

Mr. President : Whose amendment ?

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava : Chaudhri Mukhtar Singh's.

Mr. President : Has that amendment been moved ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands) : It was moved, Sir.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava : It was moved the other day, Sir. I would submit, Sir, that the problem is how the girls of the poorer classes are going to be educated. When western education was introduced in India people would gladly go to Makhtabs and Pathshalas, but would not go to westernised schools and the Government gave scholarships to those whom they wanted to attract to those schools. I want to propose exactly the same thing, and the first suggestion that I wish to make is that every girl should be given a scholarship, be it eight annas or a rupee, every month so as not to deprive the parents of those girls of any earnings that the girls may have made. Sir, this solution may or may not be relished by many Members sitting here, but I have got some experience of the villages and the village people and my feeling is that unless this is done there is very little likelihood of any experiment being successful in the rural areas. The second suggestion that I wish to make is that some normal schools for training women teachers should be established in the various parts of the centrally administered territories. Sir, the Honourable Mr. Joshi just now pointed out that he was in favour of the co-education of boys and girls. The proposal was laughed at by some people. Now, I beg to propose the same thing though to a limited extent. I wish to suggest that so far as free and compulsory primary education is concerned, there is no other solution except this, that for the time being boys and girls up to a certain age should be educated together. Up to the age of 10 I do not think many people will have any serious objection to sending their girls to the same schools to which the boys go. Unless and until there are a sufficient number of women teachers this must be done. At the same time, I would submit that if there is any walk of life in which women can shoulder out men, it is this. If you study the systems of England and America you will find that every primary school has got girl teachers. Some time ago the Punjab Government sent two of its officers to England to study the rural conditions there and they reported on many matters. As regards the point pertinent to this Resolution they were of opinion that the presence of girl teachers was necessary to bring out the qualities that distinguish children from men. If we study the system in vogue in America, so far as rural education is concerned, you will find the same thing. Now, Sir, I want to suggest one more thing, and that is this. Literary education in the three R.'s is absolutely essential, but as was reported by those two officers of whom I have spoken, the rural side of education should not be neglected. Unless and until you make education attractive to those people to whom it is imparted, it is impossible that you can arouse any enthusiasm in those people. The rural part of education, agricultural and industrial, should not be lost sight of.

Now, Sir, I do not wish to tire the House by going into figures, but I will only point out that the poorer classes have got a better claim on the revenues of the country than the other classes, though I do not want to differentiate such claims on the score of classes as Mr. Joshi did. For me

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there is absolutely no class so far as compulsory primary education is concerned. The richer, the middle and the lower classes—they all have an equal claim to be educated and freely educated. This question only arises with regard to secondary and college education. It is a point of contest between the various schools of thought as to what should be the lines of education so far as secondary and college education is concerned—whether there should be co-education and girls and boys should attend the same colleges. I do not want to enter into those various questions so far as this Resolution is concerned, but at the same time the Government's duty does not end by providing merely for free and compulsory primary education. My voice may be a voice in the wilderness because the proposal contained in the amendment is by itself such that I do not think Government will make any good arrangement in the near future. But let it be understood, whether the Government make arrangements or not, that Government will be failing in their elementary duty towards their subjects if they do not arrange for this primary education as soon as possible. Now, Sir, Simon Commissions come and go, and there are various other Commissions. And then different cries arise from different parts of the House for improvement and progress in different directions. But I submit that no progress is possible, and you cannot improve in any way unless and until this difficult question is solved once for all, and the question cannot be treated in the lighthearted manner in which the Government of India have been treating it for so long a time. So far as the Provincial Governments are concerned, we are not discussing the progress they have made under this Resolution. But, as was pointed out by one of the previous speakers, the Government of India have a special responsibility also in this matter. It is but meet that the Government of India should, by precept and by example, show an example to the Provincial Governments and guide them in their duties towards the people of this country.

With these words I support the Resolution and the amendment.

Mr. D. V. Belvi (Bombay Southern Division : Non-Muhammadian Rural) : It seems to me something like a cruel and painful irony of fate that we should be under the necessity of discussing a Resolution like this in the year of grace 1928, after being under British rule for more than 150 years. We are discussing now whether it is not necessary for us to train women teachers to impart primary education to little girls in this country. We are told that we are under an enlightened Government. I have no doubt that this assertion is in some respects true, but educationally we are in a very bad plight. After 150 years of British rule in this country, what is the condition of education here ? Even in the case of men the percentage of literacy does not go above 8 per cent., and in the case of women the percentage does not rise to even 2. That is the state of things in this country after the enlightened rule of Great Britain for more than 150 years ! My Honourable friend who preceded me said that the British Government should hang its head in shame. I submit that the British Government has neither a head nor a tail. It has not a body to be kicked nor a soul to be damned. It is a soulless machine and it has been rightly described as a steel frame. Had it consisted of human beings, it would have surely felt the shame to which my Honourable friend referred. It has been said that education should be free and that primary education should be compulsory. But my Honourable friends who spoke in support of this Resolution forgot one important fact, namely,

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that you cannot make bricks without straw. Where is the money to come from for the accomplishment of the object of this Resolution ? What is our financial position ? How do we stand financially ? The total revenue of the country is about 140 crores of rupees a year and out of this amount nearly 45 per cent. is swallowed up by one department, namely, the Army. Can you find money to promote education in this country in this state of affairs ? Now, let us compare the educational condition of India with the educational condition of the much maligned Soviet Russia. You will perhaps be agreeably surprised to hear that in Soviet Russia the percentage of literacy is 46 in the year 1928. In the Republic of Georgia the percentage is 46. The reason is obvious. Russia spends only 12 per cent. of her revenues on the Army whereas we spend in India not less than 45 per cent. That makes this world of difference between these two countries. The other ways in which we are spending our revenues are also very imprudent. Look at the huge pile of buildings that have been put up in the Imperial City of Delhi. We have already sunk not less than 17 crores of the hardearned revenues of India in that Serlonian bog—the Houses of Parliament, the Viceregal Lodge and the few bungalows that have been built at Delhi. The Government of India have got money enough to waste on these showy things. But they have no money to spend on education. The reason is that there is no will to promote education in India. Had there been a will to promote education, there would have been a way, but the Government of India do not want to promote education in this country. They know that their salvation lies in the ignorance of the people of this country. They may profess all sorts of things in this world but no sane man can believe the professions of the Government of India. Look at the way in which education is promoted in England. Boys are educated and girls are educated. Education is compulsory and universal there. Look at India with all its huge revenue. Is it not a pity that we should be asking the Government of India to finance at least one college in the Imperial City of Delhi for training women teachers, and this too in the enlightened 20th century ? Is it not very strange that the part of the country which is administered by the Central Government should be treated in this way ? Properly speaking the centrally administered provinces should be something like a model to be held up to the Provincial Governments. In my humble opinion the position of the Government of India with reference to the Provincial Governments ought to be like the position which is generally occupied in a high school by a headmaster with reference to his assistants. I submit that the Government of India stands in the position of a headmaster and the Provincial Governments should always look up to the Government of India for guidance and for the method in which they should promote education, but unfortunately we find that the Government of India neglects its duty. The provinces are better in some respects ; but so far as the Government of India is concerned education stands in the position of a neglected Cinderella. My Honourable friend Mr. Bajpai may say something in defence of the position of Government and I am very curious to know how he is going to defend the position of Government. Now, I submit that there should be not one college in the Imperial City of Delhi alone but that there should be a college for training women teachers in every other part of the country which is administered by the Central Government. There should be at least one college in the North-West Frontier Province. Is it very difficult

for the Government of India to maintain a college in each of the territories administered by it ? They talk of social reform and orthodox people. My friend Sir Hari Singh Gour says that we orthodox people come in the way of the promotion of female education. But we orthodox people are always willing to have our sisters and daughters educated up to the time of their attaining puberty which may be in their 12th or 13th year. Till then if there is provision for their education they will pick up sufficient vernacular. My friend Sir Hari Singh Gour says there should be high schools for women, and colleges for women. Nobody will be more glad than myself to see a high school for the education of girls in every district and nobody will be more glad to see that there is a college for women's education in every province, but we have not yet reached that stage. We are now at the lowest rung of the educational ladder. We have not even got a school for girls in every big village. What is the use of all this tall talk of high schools for girls and colleges for girls ? We need not discuss all these Utopian things just now. Let us be a little more practical. Let us persuade the Government of India at any rate to finance one college in the Imperial City of Delhi. The City of Delhi was compared by my Honourable friend Lala Lajpat Rai—and rightly too—with the city of Rome. What will the rest of the world say when it hears of this discussion in the Legislative Assembly and learns that there is not a single college for training women teachers for the education of girls even in the Imperial City of Delhi ? Can there be anything more disgraceful than this state of affairs ? How lamentable is it that the education of women is a matter in which nobody takes serious interest on behalf of the Government ? They do something here and something there, simply for satisfying us a little. Sometimes they increase the educational expenditure by a lakh or two lakhs and so on, but they have no heart in the matter. They want to keep their army intact. They want to spend the major portion of the revenues of the country on the maintenance of the services and such other things. Educationally the country is very backward and, as I said, the state of things is very lamentable. Some of my friends are discussing the advisability of making primary education compulsory and free in British India. I believe that this is a very large order. It is largely a question of finance. Let us for the present persuade the Government of India to accede to the modest request of my Honourable friend the Revd. Chatterjee and to open a college in Delhi. When they have done it, we may apply next to the Government of India to make education free and compulsory at any rate in the part of the country administered by the Government of India. What is the use of asking them to do too many things all at once ? I hope that Government will be pleased to accede to the request embodied in this Resolution. They can easily carry out the object of this Resolution if they have a will to do so. If they please, they can even persuade the Secretary of State to start a women's college in Delhi.

My friend Mr. Joshi urged that there should be mixed schools for boys and girls. The House knows that I am one of the orthodox Hindus in this House. I do take strong objection to the proposition of my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi. Boys should be educated by all means and girls should be educated by all means, but I am dead against bringing boys and girls together under one roof. You know what is happening in America. The columns of newspapers in this country are very often flooded with quotations of the occurrences in America. I do not believe

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all that is said in the newspapers, but a part of it may be true. We do not want to have that state of affairs introduced in this country. Then it was said that it does not matter what kind of education is imparted to our girls. My friend Mr. Joshi said that education may be imparted even by untrained women. I am dead against it. It is not a sound proposition. We want lady teachers of good character, lady teachers properly trained, teachers in whom we can repose confidence. We cannot entrust our daughters and our sisters to any woman in the street. So I do not accept this suggestion that education may be imparted by anybody and anywhere and in any way. Let there be proper education, properly imparted, under proper supervision.

Mr. K. Ahmed (Rajshahi Division : Muhammadan Rural) : Your teachers must be trained in orthodox style ?

Mr. D. V. Belvi : They may or may not be orthodox ; we have nothing to do with the religion of the teachers. If we can secure orthodox teachers, so much the better. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. K. Ahmed : Suppose they support the Age of Consent Bill of Mr. Sarda contrary to the views of the orthodox section ?

Mr. D. V. Belvi : Well, Sir, I do not choose to reply to the irrelevant criticisms of my friend. I have here something to say about the Resolution, and it will be a mere surplusage of words to say that I support it. Every sensible man in this House is bound to support it. I do not believe that there is a single man in the House who will oppose such a good Resolution. Sir, I support the Resolution with all my heart.

(Several Honourable Members moved that the question be put.)

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : Sir, there is a well known constitutional maxim in England that the King can do no wrong. My Honourable friends opposite, at least some of them, have amended that maxim to the effect that the Government of India can never do and never do anything but wrong.

Mr. D. V. Belvi : No, we do not say so. The Government have often done many things that are right.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : If Honourable Members do not insinuate or suggest that, then I do not understand why speaker after speaker has got up and charged us with a Machiavellian apathy towards the education of girls or, for that matter, boys' education. Sir, I do not wish to import into this discussion a spirit of controversy. The explanation of that is that the Government of India share the view of Honourable Members opposite, namely, that, to quote a rhetorical phrase, the women of any race or any nation are the custodians of its civilization and the torch-bearers of progress. Here in India if we wish the women of this country to play that exalted rôle in the national evolution of India, then we have some headway to make ; and I am quite prepared to admit that, perhaps, at any rate, in the past, progress in the sphere of the education of women has lagged behind the aspirations of the outside public or for that matter the aspirations of the Government of India. But that in itself is not by any means a justification for saying that the Government of India do not entertain any sympathy towards the demand for improving the facilities for the education of women, or that they are not prepared at any time, and in spite of any pressure,

to give effect to the recommendations and to the wishes of the House. I do not, Sir, I think, stand in any need of traversing in detail the various figures which have been cited by Honourable Members opposite. One Honourable Member, who I regret to say is not in his place to-day, Chandhri Mukhtar Singh, adopted the other day what I thought was a somewhat unfair criterion; namely, comparing the progress of literacy among women or for that matter among children generally in proportion to the total population of the areas directly under the Government of India. I think it would have been a fairer comparison if the figures had related exclusively to what might be described as the population of school-going age: and if you adopt the figures of the population of school-going age, then undoubtedly you get a better perspective of the advance that has actually been made in the sphere of education. Now, Sir, it is rather tantalising and not merely tantalising but disheartening to anybody to be told, "Oh! you have increased the percentage of the literate population in the directly administered areas from .6 to .7." May I, Sir, applying the criterion, which I enunciated just now, give other figures? The percentage of the school-going age of the population which is now actually in school, shall we say, in the North-West Frontier Province, is 7 as against .6 which was the figure quoted the other day and which I say does not give us a true perspective of what is happening in these areas. Further, I do not think it is altogether fair to pick out an area like Ajmer-Merwara or even the North-West Frontier Province where, after all conditions are not so settled as they are in certain other parts of the country, and where there are numerous difficulties and say, "Here you are, this marks the nadir of your achievement but this is what we propose to regard as the climax of your achievement."

Rai Sahib Harbilas Sarda: Are conditions unsettled in Ajmer-Merwara?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I was speaking of the North-West Frontier Province, Sir.

Rai Sahib Harbilas Sarda: But the Honourable Member coupled Ajmer-Merwara and the North-West Frontier Province together when he spoke.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: Now let me pursue my argument. As I say, that argument is not fair,—to single out a particular area and to say that the figures are not as satisfactory as Honourable Members opposite would wish them to be or as we would wish them to be, and to say that this is really characteristic of all that the Government of India have done. Why not mention Coorg? What is the percentage of the population of school-going age there in School at the present moment? Sixty-seven per cent., if that is of any interest to the House. However, Sir, as I say, I do not wish to traverse in detail the facts and figures because, after all, what they represent is the result of the effort made so far. I have myself stated in the opening part of my speech that there is no ground for full or complete satisfaction with the progress made so far. But what we have to do here to-day is to confine ourselves to the terms of the Resolution moved by my Honourable friend, Mr. Chatterjee. That Resolution falls into three parts. The first part asks the Government of India to spend more money, or, rather, to make substantial grants for the education of women. The second part is that the Government of India should

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found a training college for the training of women teachers ; and the third part is that they should appoint a Committee to explore the possibilities of how and to what extent progress can be made in what has been described as a neglected field. Then there are a series of amendments also. Two of them—one moved by Chaudhri Mukhtar Singh and the other by Sardar Gulab Singh—relate to primary education. Various suggestions have been made. Chaudhri Mukhtar Singh thinks that compulsory primary education provides the panacea for all ills, and that all the areas directly administered by the Government of India, regardless of social conditions, regardless of social differences, regardless of social and economic difficulties, are ripe for the immediate introduction of primary education. Then Sardar Gulab Singh's amendment also relates to primary education because what he suggested was the multiplication of normal schools. On the other hand, Lala Lajpat Rai, the Honourable Leader of the Nationalist Party, said, " It is not really sufficient to confine our attention to primary education ; we ought to embrace in the scope of the activities of the Government of India both primary education and collegiate education, and we should proceed to found a college which would be equipped with the various departments for giving instruction in the arts and sciences." We feel, Sir, that if we take the recommendations or the proposals made in Mr. Chatterjee's Resolution, the last proposal is in logical sequence ; I refer to the proposal to appoint a Committee of inquiry : and the reason for that is this. The other proposals included in this Resolution are proposals which indicate the ways and means of giving effect to the main object, which is the promotion of education among women. Now, in the course of the debate to-day on this Resolution, diversity of opinion has manifested itself as to the means and methods to be employed in securing this object, in advancing towards this goal. My friend, Mr. Joshi, vehemently asserted that co-education was the only way of getting there. My friend, the Honourable Mr. Belvi, got up and said, " No, no, no, that will be a most horrible thing, that will be subversive of the cherished traditions of society and of social customs in this country." Then, Sir, my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi said : what you should concentrate on is primary education, and not merely primary education, but education for the poorer classes. Other Members got up and said, in this field of education there are no classes, all sections of the community really stand together ; their requirements, their needs, are equal, and you have to treat them all as being on one level, and as deserving equally of the solicitude and attention of the State. That, Sir, being the position, in other words, there being diversity of opinion as to the best method which you can adopt for tackling this problem, it seems to me that Government would be going as far as it is desirable at this stage to go to consider the third proposition in my friend Mr. Chatterjee's Resolution, namely, the proposal for the appointment of a committee of inquiry. Mr. Joshi is sceptical of the value of committees. He says committees are a dilatory expedient. If you do not wish to get anything done : if you wish definitely to postpone a matter which may be inconvenient or embarrassing, all that you have to do is to say, we shall appoint a committee. Then the House is momentarily satisfied, the subject passes out of the public view, it is no longer in the popular focus ; years elapse and, then, when an opportunity comes, the House jog the memory of Government and ask what exactly has Government been doing all these years. Well, I do not think, Sir, that with my experience, which is very

short, of this House, I should be prepared to substantiate the charge that the House is neglectful of matters of this character. Last Session we had a prolonged, an interesting and at times a heated debate over the provision of facilities for educating the depressed classes. That was one aspect of the question urged on that occasion. This Session I received notices of various Resolutions ; there was one about the foundation or establishment of a women's college at Delhi ; there was the Resolution which we are discussing to-day ; there was another Resolution for giving aid to the Anglo-Arabic College. I think, Sir, that the House is not doing itself justice and that Honourable Members on the opposite Benches are not doing themselves justice in suggesting that they have to leave these matters entirely to Government and that their solicitude itself is not vigilant and active on behalf of the backward communities which are directly under the control of the Government of India. So I feel, Sir, that this particular charge of Mr. Joshi's does not stand substantiated. We must concentrate, as I say, on the suggestion made in the concluding proposition of my friend Mr. J. C. Chatterjee's Resolution. And before I proceed further, Sir, I should like to make one remark. Mr. Joshi, Sir, aptly, I think, drew attention to this one fact, that it is not sufficient, if you are going to explore the question of educational facilities in the areas directly under the Government—it is not sufficient to confine your investigation or inquiry to one sex. You have really got to extend that inquiry to include all sections of the community and both the sexes. And that, Sir, is a position which the Government of India wholeheartedly accept.

Now, Sir, to come to the concrete proposal which I wish to place before the House ; the Government of India have carefully considered the whole question of primary education in the areas directly under their administration. That consideration, Sir, started, not after the receipt of the Resolution which we are discussing to-day, but after the debate which was initiated by my Honourable friend Mr. Jayakar last Session on the position of the depressed classes, particularly in regard to education. We have consulted the heads of the minor administration—and I should like to avail myself of this opportunity to pay a tribute to their keen enthusiasm for improving the education of the populations committed to their care—and with their concurrence the Government of India have decided to appoint a committee with the following terms of reference : To enquire into—

- (a) the existing facilities for primary education for boys and girls ;
- (b) the possibility of expansion whether on a voluntary or compulsory basis with special regard to the attitude and aptitude of the local population ; and
- (c) the necessity for providing special facilities for the community generally known as "untouchables", and to make recommendations.

And not merely, Sir, have we decided to appoint this committee as soon as the Standing Finance Committee would agree to give us the necessary, but we have also decided that in view of the keen and laudable interest

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shown by Honourable Members of this House in this problem the committee should include educational experts and also representatives of this House. We have not yet, Sir, considered what the personnel of the committee is to be, but I think that before I complete my explanation of the general intention and attitude of Government with regard to this matter, I should say that we have taken note of the recommendations made in the Resolution of my friend Mr. J. C. Chatterjee that this committee, or rather the committee which he recommended, and which was to be confined only to the investigation of the problem of the education of women, should include prominent women. It is the intention of the Government of India that this Committee of Inquiry should have the benefit of the services and the experience of some lady who is interested in and conversant with the problem of the education of women. That, Sir, is what I have to say in regard to the recommendations contained in the Resolution which my friend Mr. J. C. Chatterjee has moved.

I now turn to the amendment of the Honourable Leader of the Nationalist Party, which relates to the establishment of a first-grade women's college at some central place, preferably Delhi. Sir, he made a reference to the historic importance of Delhi. I am glad, Sir, that occasion has been offered by this Resolution for Honourable Members opposite to say something in favour of the Government of India's New Capital. If only, Sir, the admission of a college into the fold is sufficient to satisfy Honourable Members opposite and to reconcile them to the location of the capital of the Government of India in Delhi, there ought to be a meed of satisfaction to be derived for what my Honourable friends on the other side have described as a waste of crores and crores on the creation of an Imperial Capital. The difficulty with regard to my Honourable friend Lala Lajpat Rai's Resolution is this. Although you may treat the education of women, whether it is primary education or secondary education or collegiate education, as part of one whole, yet as practical builders we have to confine our attention first to the ground work, the foundation—to lay the foundation right and true and deep, lay it so that it will endure—and then proceed to erect or build your superstructure thereon. To pursue the analogy a little further, Sir, I feel that the college which my Honourable friend wants is really of the nature of a superstructure—perhaps the second storey to be added to this edifice, and therefore a stage which would come perhaps later in the course of our activities. However, Sir, I know that a reply like that would be described not merely as unduly cautious but possibly also unsympathetic. And if there is one charge, Sir, which I am anxious, at least in a matter of this kind, to escape, not merely for myself but on behalf of the Government of India, it is the charge of lack of sympathy. So what we propose to-day in regard to this particular proposal is this. We shall consult the minor administrations immediately. We shall ascertain their views in regard to this proposal. The important thing to bear in mind is this. It is no use establishing a college in Delhi, or for that matter in any other central area, unless you are sure that from the areas which are directly administered by the Government of India and for which the Government of India are primarily responsible, that you will attract to this college a sufficient number of students. My Honourable friend, Lala Lajpat Rai, said that the colleges in Lahore are crowded; that sectarian colleges make no appeal to certain sections of the community. They would much rather

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be in an institution where sectarianism of any sort or kind does not prevail—a perfectly legitimate aspiration, Sir—and it would be an equally legitimate activity on the part of the Government of India to meet the deficiency, the want of a non-sectarian institution, provided, as I say, there is sufficient material to justify them in the belief that the college when built would really attract a sufficient number of students. I will, Sir, give an instance to show why we are somewhat sceptical of really eliciting admissions sufficient to justify the construction of a first grade college. My Honourable friend referred in the course of this morning to the Lady Hardinge Medical College, the only medical institution of its kind in India, that is to say, an institution which is devoted exclusively to the education of women ; and I may, Sir, for his information at this stage say that this college does not merely confine itself to medical education, that we have as a matter of fact attached to it classes, first and second year science classes, in order to give the necessary scientific training to girls coming to the institution in order to fit them for the pursuit of the higher medical course. Now, Sir, this institution do not, if my information is correct, in the initial stages attract a sufficient number of pupils, although it is recognised, and recognised all over, that one of the primary requirements of this country is an adequate supply of trained women doctors. However, Sir, as I have said, we shall inquire from the heads of minor administrations as to what they think of this idea and if they are in favour of it ; then we propose to take up this question along with the general question which is now receiving the consideration of Government, namely, the future of the University of Delhi. I know, Sir, that by making that statement I am running the risk of incurring the wrath of my friend Mr. Joshi. He thinks we ought to scrap the University of Delhi forthwith ; but you cannot scrap the Delhi University and bring into being at Delhi a first grade college devoted to the instruction of women. I believe that the sense of the House is not to scrap the University of Delhi, but to see, if the University is to survive and endure and to be a model for the various universities of India, whether my friend Lala Lajpat Rai's idea cannot be fitted into the scheme of the future and the wider and the larger University of Delhi.

Then, Sir, there is just one point, a comparatively minor point, namely, the proposal to found a Normal College, a training college. That is a point that we put to the heads of minor administrations, as soon as we received notice of this Resolution, and we were informed by the Chief Commissioner, Delhi, by the Chief Commissioner of the North-West Frontier Province, and by the Chief Commissioner of Ajmer-Merwara that at the present moment they do not feel the want of a central college which would devote itself exclusively to the training of women teachers ; there are already normal schools and an Anglo-Vernacular class is to be added for the training of women teachers in the North-West Frontier Province. There is a training school in Delhi. In Ajmer-Merwara, as my friend Rai Sahib Harbilas Sarda pointed out, there is no Government institution imparting this special kind of training at the present moment, but there is a recognised private institution which, according to the information that the Chief Commissioner has furnished us, is at the present moment adequate to the requirements of this area. But the point which I wish to make is this. You are appointing a committee with wide terms of reference. It is being called upon to go into the whole question of existing facilities for education for boys as well as for girls, whether on a voluntary or compulsory basis, and you are also

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asking it to make recommendations. Now, I have no doubt that this committee will also go into the question of the adequacy or otherwise of the existing facilities for the provision of teachers for these institutions ; and if they in their wisdom consider that it is desirable either to have a central training college or to multiply the normal training schools, undoubtedly the Government of India will bestow upon that recommendation exactly the same attention as they will upon the other recommendations of the committee.

That practically brings my remarks to, a close, Sir. I have perhaps detained the House longer than I had intended, but I thought it would be as well to make as full a statement on this interesting subject as the time at my disposal would permit. There is one thing that I would like to say, Sir. I hope that in view of the announcement that I have made and the assurances that I have given, my Honourable friend will see his way to withdraw his Resolution. It is not necessary now to push that Resolution, because, what is of value in the Resolution is the spirit and not the particular recommendations which he has made. I have made a full statement of what the intentions of Government in regard to this interesting problem, which is indeed a national problem, are. I have also given the assurance that we do not propose to postpone our initiative to the Greek Kalends but that on the contrary we wish to proceed with it as early as possible. Therefore, Sir, I would appeal to my friend and I would also appeal to the House not to press this Resolution, but to rest satisfied with the assurance that I have given, and, if I may crave such a thing from Honourable Members opposite, to give our initiative their benediction, for I feel, Sir, that they ought to accept the assurance from me that it is the hope, as it will be, the unfailing endeavour of Government, to the utmost of their ability and power, to open wider and yet wider the windows of the mind of those whose enlightenment is their responsibility.

The Revd. J. C. Chatterjee : Sir, when the House resumed discussion on my Resolution this morning, I had a letter passed on to me by an Honourable friend in this House, who said that he was in entire sympathy with my Resolution and therefore did not consider it necessary to remain in the House and wished me good luck. When I looked round, it seemed to me that almost everybody seemed to be in sympathy with my Resolution and that most people seemed likely to follow the example of my Honourable friend, so that it seemed as if the subject was going to die a very speedy death. I am very glad that did not happen. But, Sir, in an otherwise valuable and instructive discussion, there has been just one source of regret to me and that has been the empty state of Benches opposite and also around me. It is said that if all men talk well of any person or of any subject one must be sorry for that person or that thing. It seemed to me that because everybody sympathised with this Resolution, my cause was in danger.

Sir, a great deal has been said about the apathy of Government to this question of the education of girls and women. I hold no brief for Government and in my opening speech, I pointed out that Government had not in my humble opinion done quite as much as they might have done for the cause of women's education. But, as I said then, Sir, I moved this Resolution not merely to get something out of Government and not merely, as it were, to ask them for specific favours, but I also hoped, that this

House would, by the valuable suggestions that they threw out and by the enthusiasm they showed, give a lead, a moral lead, to the whole country ; and I still believe, Sir, that it is not the Government who alone can educate or help us to educate the women and girls of this country, but that a great deal must be done in this matter by private effort, and, therefore, I have refrained from putting all the blame on the Government. I believe, as my Honourable friend, Sardar Gulab Singh, has said, that " the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world ". If that is true, and I believe it is true, surely it is the duty of everyone, not only of Government but of the people of this land, to do their best to train that hand that is going to rule our country. It is specially necessary when we are trying to give the vote to women and to obtain self-government. I believe the best preparation for self-government is to train and educate our women, and I believe the assistance of the people of the country is necessary, and therefore I would have been much happier if the Benches opposite had supported this Resolution by their valuable suggestions, instead of so many Honourable gentlemen opposite absenting themselves simply because they sympathised with this Resolution.

Now, Sir, I shall take a very short time of the House in saying what I feel about the amendments that have been put forward and about what my Honourable friend the Education Secretary has said in his most eloquent and most sympathetic speech. (Loud cheers.) As regards the amendment of Chaudhri Mukhtar Singh, that I believe only seeks to describe in detail what is already contained in the first part of my Resolution. He says, make primary education for girls compulsory. I have asked Government to give us money or an increased grant for the furtherance of education of women and girls in centrally administered territories. If that money is forthcoming—and I hope it will be, after the Honourable Member's sympathetic speech—then what are we going to use that money for ? The first thing required is primary compulsory education. I agree with my Honourable friend, though I can not ask that from the next day, education must be made compulsory in all centrally administered territories. I do not maintain that ; but when we get the money, that will be one of the first things that we will do. No Resolution can embrace within its short scope all the details of a subject. Nothing would be gained by incorporating such amendments within the terms of this Resolution. With regard to normal schools I used the term " training college " in a very wide sense, not only as a training college for graduate teachers, but also as including teachers for village schools, or teachers trained in normal schools. That, I submit, is included within the scope of that Resolution.

As for the amendment moved by my Honourable friend, the Leader of the Nationalist Party, the suggestion that there should be a first grade women's college in centrally administered areas, preferably Delhi, and that the college should contain facilities for the teaching of Arts and Sciences as well as for training teachers, I am in complete sympathy with his suggestion. But I do not agree with my Honourable and gallant friend, Sir Hari Singh Gour... (*Several Honourable Members*: "How is he gallant ?") He is a Knight (Loud laughter and cheers). I do not agree with my Honourable friend that students will not be forthcoming for the women's college, or for high and secondary schools. I do not entertain the same fear, but say that if a college were established in Delhi—

[The Revd. J. C. Chatterjee.]

and I do hope the Government of India will see the wisdom of establishing such a college—there will be no difficulty in filling it. I have been in educational work in Delhi for the past 20 years, and I can claim to know the state of things in the city and round about, so that I can assure you that if such a college were now established there will be enough girls from Delhi itself and places round about to fill it. In Delhi alone there are three high schools for girls. Of course not one of them is at present run by Government, but they themselves will supply a good many students for a college.

I believe it is the duty of the Central Government to give the lead to other administrations. If they establish a first grade girls' college it will attract women from all parts of the country, and especially if it has a teachers' training department, it will attract girls from all over the country to be trained there. I must say that I am rather surprised that my friend the Education Secretary stated that the Lady Hardinge College suffered from a lack of students. I am in fairly close touch with that college and find that girls are refused admission because it has been found that there is not enough room for them. I maintain that there are several girls who long and desire to go to that college and are prevented from doing so because an adequate number of scholarships are not provided. But if you will only give the money and provide adequate scholarships for students in the Lady Hardinge College, it will be absolutely crowded out and nobody will be able to complain that there are not a sufficient number of scholars forthcoming.

It has been said by various Members that what is required is that a special effort be made to encourage women's education. The reason why women teachers are not forthcoming is because Government will not make it easy for women to go to a training college. From my experience I endorse that opinion. I do not want to lay more blame on the Government, but I do say that women teachers must be encouraged. In fact there ought to be every facility given in the way of scholarships.

One more point is that we have various measures of social reform before this House. My Honourable friend, Sir Hari Singh Gour, has brought in several measures for social reform, but his mind at present is too full of marriage and divorce, and it is very difficult for him to give his attention to education pure and simple. He has maintained that, unless you pass these various social measures, you will not be able to get any progress in social affairs. He told us a little story, that whenever he has visited a high school some hoary-headed gentleman has walked in and said that he wanted to take his girl away as he had to marry her. Who sent that hoary-headed gentleman into that high school? Probably some hoary-headed lady behind the walls of the *purdah*, who, because she did not receive the benefits of education, had forced that hoary-headed gentleman to go to the school and take his daughter away. First educate our women and girls and then there will be no need for these Bills on marriage and divorce and other things, because our girls will take care of themselves, and that at any rate is the first thing. Let us have education first and then other things.

It seems that the House is very anxious to proceed to the next subject which undoubtedly will provide many more thrills than the tame subject

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of women's education. I therefore do not desire to deprive the House (*Cries of "Go on, go on"*) of enjoying those thrills. But, Sir, I would conclude my remarks by saying this—(*"Cries of "Go, go on"*) I can go on till closing time if you really desire, but I shall spare you.

Mr. President : The Honourable Member is probably aware of the Standing Orders.

The Revd. J. C. Chatterjee : May I have two minutes more, Sir ?

Mr. President : How can he ? He has taken more than 15 minutes.

The Revd. J. C. Chatterjee : I only want two more minutes, Sir. My Honourable friend the Education Secretary has asked me to withdraw this Resolution.

Mr. President : Is the Honourable Member going to withdraw his Resolution after making a long speech ? If he wanted to withdraw, he should have begun by making the motion to that effect.

The Revd. J. C. Chatterjee : From what my Honourable friend has stated, I have abundant belief in his good intentions and in the good intentions of the Government which he adorns, and he has agreed, Sir, to what I believe is the spirit of my Resolution. He has promised a Committee which will go into these matters, and as he has also promised to consider sympathetically the question of the establishment of a women's college, all I desire to ask him is if he is also prepared to give us another assurance, *viz.*, if he will be prepared in territories like Delhi, where the Municipality is asking daily for compulsory education, to go a little further and promise that if this report is delayed—and I quite see, Sir, that Government move slowly and that reports take long in preparation—I want to ask him, Sir, whether he will be prepared, if definite proposals are put forward in the course of a few weeks or a few months for the introduction of free compulsory education for girls in the Delhi province and for a more suitable training school for women teachers, to act on those proposals before that report is ready for publication. I can testify from personal experience that Government have done their best to give effect to Mr. Jayakar's Resolution on the depressed classes, and I am quite prepared to withdraw my Resolution, with your permission, and with the permission of the House, if the Honourable the Education Secretary is prepared to give me that assurance.

Mr. Amar Nath Dutt (Burdwan Division : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : After wasting so much time ?

Mr. President : The question is :

"That for the words from 'for the furtherance of' to the words 'training of women teachers' the following be substituted :

'for providing free and compulsory primary education of girls between the ages of 6 and 11 in the centrally administered territories as early as possible and as a first step to that end to establish at once a sufficient number of women teachers' training schools in that area'."

(After the President had put the question and collected the "Ayes" and "Noes".)

The Revd. J. C. Chatterjee : I would like to withdraw the Resolution, Sir.

Mr. Amar Nath Dutt : After two days' waste of time ?

Mr. President : The Honourable Member sought to get some further assurance from the Education Secretary and now at this stage he wanted to withdraw the Resolution.

The Revd. J. C. Chatterjee : I asked permission to withdraw before the question was put, Sir.

Mr. President : Is it right ? He wanted an assurance from the Education Secretary which he failed to get and now, at this stage when the question was put, and " Ayes " and " Noes " had been received, the Honourable Member wished to withdraw his Resolution. But he also ought to know that he cannot withdraw the Resolution so long as amendments are in his way. No Resolution can be withdrawn unless the amendments are out of the way. They must either be withdrawn or defeated.

The Ayes have it.

The motion was adopted.

Lala Lajpat Rai : May I withdraw my amendment, Sir ?

Mr. President : As the first amendment is carried, all other amendments fall. I do not know how your amendment can now fit in with the amended Resolution. If the Honourable Member can satisfy me, I am prepared to allow him.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta : Mr. Chatterjee's Resolution is gone.

Mr. President : No. I am going to put the amended Resolution to the House. The question is :

" That the following Resolution, as amended, be adopted :

' This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that he be pleased to sanction a substantial grant, capital as well as recurring, for providing free and compulsory primary education of girls between the ages of 6 and 11 in the centrally administered territories as early as possible and as a first step to that end to establish at once a sufficient number of women teachers' training schools in that area.

This Assembly further recommends that a competent Committee, including prominent women, be appointed to go into the subject and to make a report '."

The Revd. J. C. Chatterjee : I ask your permission now, Sir, to withdraw.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta : It is not your Resolution.

An Honourable Member : That is a technical difficulty.

Mr. President : The Honourable Member was not fortunate enough to defeat the amendment.

The question is that that Resolution, as amended, be adopted.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President : To-morrow I understand the Select Committee on the Public Safety Bill meets and therefore this House will not sit.

The House stands adjourned till Thursday morning at 11 o'clock.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 20th September, 1928.