

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

MONDAY, 28th JANUARY, 1929.

Vol. I—No. 1

OFFICIAL REPORT



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THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

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

VOLUME I—1929.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Monday, 28th January, 1929.

ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE VICEROY TO THE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

H. E. the Viceroy: Mr. President and Gentlemen, when I appointed this date for the beginning of your session, my intention was to appoint the same date for the beginning of the session of the Council of State in order that I might be able to-day to address both Chambers. It was, however, pointed out to me that in the Delhi session, mainly owing to the fact that the Council of State has no part in the voting of supply, the burden of work which falls on the Members of the Council of State is considerably lighter than that which falls upon the Assembly, and that it would not therefore be convenient to summon the two Chambers to begin their labours simultaneously. I have, therefore, been constrained, on this occasion, to confine my address to Members of this Chamber.

For the past two months we have all laboured under the burden of a grave anxiety, owing to the prolonged illness of the King-Emperor; but, by the mercy of Providence, recent news shows that His Majesty's progress has been steadily maintained, and we may now reasonably hope that he is on the highway to complete recovery. The universal sympathy that has gone out to the Royal House, and particularly to Her Majesty the Queen, during these dark days, has shown in striking fashion how securely King George the Fifth, by devotion to duty and personal thought for all his people, has enthroned himself in their hearts. They will continue to pray that for many years he may be spared to rule over them and guide their destinies.

In the interval that has elapsed since your last session, India has lost two notable sons, the one a Member of my Council, and the other a prominent Member of this Assembly.

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Though they differed in much, they resembled one another in the extent to which they were able to attract to themselves the affection of many outside the circle of their political associates. Of Mr. Das I can speak from the close personal knowledge that came from our work together, and which gave me ample opportunity of observing the high and selfless principles by which his life was guided. A firm friend and a wise counsellor, his death is to me a great personal loss.

Of Lala Lajpat Rai I can only speak from the standpoint of a far less intimate relationship. It fell to him to play a prominent part in the political life of his country, but there were qualities in him that led many who dissented most sharply from his political opinions, to forget much of their dissent in a genuine appreciation of a very human personality.

(Honourable Members will recollect that, after a conference of leaders in this House last September, a Resolution was passed recommending the setting up of a separate establishment for dealing with the business of this Assembly. That Resolution was of the nature of a compromise which, while not going so far as your President desired, went rather further than the proposals which my Government had already submitted to the Secretary of State. Having regard to the support which the Resolution received from all quarters of the House, my Government decided to accept it with certain additions, which were imposed by the fact that this House had invited the Governor General to take the new Department into his portfolio. It was understood that, in so doing, it was the general wish of the House, in conformity with the Standing Orders, that the administration of this Department by the Governor General should be deemed to be non-controversial. That being so, it appeared desirable that the Governor General, in the administration of the new Department, should be clearly placed in a position where no controversy could arise. For this reason we have amplified the scheme of the Resolution by providing for recourse to the Public Service Commission in all cases in which the exercise by the Governor General of his powers as head of the Department might at any time bring him into conflict with the President or with the Assembly. The same protection has also, for equally good reasons, been conferred, with his consent, on the President.

The drafting of statutory rules to regulate the conditions of service in the new Department now set up will necessarily take time, but good progress has already been made in this task. Meanwhile the Secretary of State has given his consent to the introduction of the scheme on a temporary basis.

As Member in charge of the new Department I would ask the House to be indulgent while the Department is in its infancy, and not to expect it to attain its maximum degree of efficiency from the first days of its inauguration. There are indeed still some gaps in its complement; but with a view to reducing these inconveniences, the Legislative Department has made a temporary loan of the services of some of its members while the President is looking for suitable recruits. The new Department, I hope, starts with the goodwill of all sections of the House, and though, as I have said, the conclusion reached does not represent all that the President, or perhaps some sections of the House, would have desired)

I think we may nevertheless generally congratulate ourselves upon the outcome of our discussions.

In external affairs everything has been dwarfed by the upheaval in Afghanistan. Of the drama that has unfolded itself during the last few months in Afghanistan I shall say nothing save this, that the policy of Government is and has throughout been one of scrupulous non-intervention, and it is our earnest hope that there may be an early restoration of peace and order throughout the length and breadth of that country, and that India may again have on her north-western border a peaceful, strong and united country for her neighbour. During this critical time we in India could not but be proud of the gallant bearing of the British Legation, of the firm control of our tribes by the frontier administrations, and of the fine work accomplished by the Royal Air Force over the evacuation of women and children from Kabul.

In South Africa, our first Agent, Mr. Sastri, to-day relinquishes charge of his office and starts on his return voyage to India. By his services to his compatriots in South Africa and to the promotion of friendly relations between India and the Union, he has secured a high place for himself in the history of the two countries as a successful ambassador of India and has laid India under a great debt of gratitude. He has left a high standard of statesmanship for his successor to maintain; but I am sure that Sir K. V. Reddi carries with him to his new duties the confidence and good wishes of this House, not less than those of the Government of India.

The House is aware that last year His Majesty's Government appointed a Commission to report on future policy in regard to Eastern Africa. The Report has just been published and will require mature consideration. My Government, however, is fully alive to the importance to Indian interests of the decisions which His Majesty's Government may eventually decide to take in this connection, and I am glad to be able to inform you that His Majesty's Government have agreed that, before any decision is taken, they will give the fullest consideration to the views of the Government of India on all matters affecting India. The Governor of Kenya, moreover, for the purpose of discussion on the Report, has, with the approval of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, offered to appoint temporarily to the public service in Kenya, with a seat on the Executive Council, an officer of the Indian Civil Service who will be nominated by myself. In order to ascertain the judgment of enlightened public opinion on these matters I have asked the Honourable Sir Muhammad Habibullah to convene the Emigration Committee of the two Houses of the Indian Legislature at the earliest possible date this session, with the purpose of eliciting their views and practical suggestions. I do not doubt that my Government will derive great value from these discussions.

Since I last addressed the House, the Report of the Royal Commission on Agriculture in India has been published, and, as Honourable Members know, a Conference of provincial representatives assembled in Simla last October to discuss the more important proposals contained in it. The deliberations of the Conference revealed a unanimous desire for progress, and though time is doubtless required for action over so wide a field,

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the fact that public attention has been thus focussed upon this all-important branch of national activity will bring real encouragement to all who have the imagination to see what it means in the life of India.

The bulk of the work on the Commission's recommendations must, under the existing constitution, fall to the provinces. But for some the responsibility rests primarily on the Government of India. Of these, the most important concerns the establishment of a central organisation for research purposes, and this proposal, after discussion with provincial representatives, my Government have decided to adopt. The duties of the new Council of Agricultural Research will be to promote, guide and co-ordinate research throughout India; to train research workers by means of scholarships; and to collate and make available information on research, and on agricultural and veterinary matters generally. As to the structure of this body, we propose to modify in some respects the recommendations of the Royal Commission. Our proposal is that its chief component parts should be, *firstly*, a Governing Body—the principal executive organ of the Council—presided over by the Member of the Governor General's Council in charge of Agriculture, and comprising 17 other members, of whom two will be chosen from the Legislative Assembly and one from the Council of State, and nine will be nominated by the Governments of the nine major provinces; and, *secondly*, an advisory council of 39 members, whose function will be to give expert advice to the Governing Body, and submit for its approval programmes of research inquiry. In addition to these two bodies, it is hoped that the major provinces will establish committees to work in close co-operation with them.

As regards finance, we propose to substitute, for a lump grant of Rs. 50 lakhs which the Commission favoured, a lump grant of Rs. 25 lakhs to be paid in instalments, supplemented by annual recurring grants of Rs. 7.25 lakhs. These sums will vest in the Governing Body, who will consider all proposals for research, sanction expenditure, and allot funds to meet it.

It is my sincere hope that the organisation which I have outlined will receive whole-hearted support from this House and will, before long, start upon its labours which will surely be to the lasting benefit of India's agricultural millions.

The House will be glad to learn that a generous offer has been made by the four Dominions of Canada, Australia, South Africa and New Zealand, to present to the Capital of India four stone pillars, on the model of the famous Asoka columns. My Government have gratefully accepted this gift, which will fittingly symbolise the common loyalty of the Empire to the Person and Throne of His Majesty the King-Emperor.

The past year has been marked by a series of labour troubles, which we have all witnessed with deep concern. The tale of loss and suffering involved by them need not be retold here, and we are more immediately concerned to devise means by which such profitless disputes may be avoided.

I have on more than one recent occasion appealed to labour to follow wiser counsels for the future, and to employers to prove their determination to leave their employes no justifiable ground for complaint. If both

parties can combine to establish closer relations with each other and to develop the organisation for settlement of points of difference before they reach the stage of conflict, we may face the future with confidence and Government is anxious to do everything in their power to encourage and assist such efforts. In the Trade Disputes Bill, which is now before the Legislature, we have provided for the establishment of courts of inquiry and boards of conciliation which may be called into play if disputes get beyond the stage of mutual arrangement. The proposals of Government in this connection, and in the other parts of the Bill, which aim at the protection of the public in certain circumstances from the consequences of labour disputes, will shortly come before you, and I trust that wisdom will guide your decisions in regard to them.

But these proposals will not in themselves reach the root of the matter. I have long felt that the best way to secure the advantage both of employers and employed is for Government to undertake a review of the conditions under which labour works, and to lend such help as it can in the removal of legitimate grievances. This question has for some time been under the earnest consideration of Government, and I am now able to say that His Majesty has approved the appointment of a Royal Commission during the course of the present year to undertake such an inquiry. Our intention is that the scope of the inquiry should be wide and that it should, with due regard to the economic position of industry in this country, explore all aspects of the problem affecting the conditions under which industrial labourers work. The *personnel* of the Commission has not yet been settled, but we shall use every endeavour to ensure that it is representative. I am pleased, however, to be able to say that we have secured the services as Chairman of Mr. Whitley, lately Speaker of the House of Commons, who has been in intimate touch with labour problems in England, and is widely known for his association with the establishment of the Councils which bear his name.

The announcement which I have just made will, I am confident, be generally welcomed. The conclusions of such a Commission will be of the greatest interest not only to India but to the whole industrial world. We may hope that they will provide us with a basis for future legislation, materially affecting India's industrial future, and it is essential therefore that the inquiry should be as thorough and the *personnel* as strong as it is possible for us to make it.

But there is a yet more serious side of these industrial troubles on which I feel it my duty to touch. While every allowance must be made for the genuine grievances which the labouring classes feel, there can be no doubt that the unrest of the past year has been due in no small measure to the activities of certain persons, whose end is rather to promote anti-social purposes than to secure betterment of the workman's lot. The disquieting spread of the methods of communism has for some time been causing my Government anxiety. Not only have communist agents from abroad promoted a series of strikes in the industrial world, but the programme which they have openly set before themselves include undisguised attacks on the whole economic structure of society. All classes alike are threatened by the spread of these doctrines, and no Government can afford to ignore this insidious danger. Last session my Government placed before you a measure aimed at the agents from outside India who have

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been engaged in this mischievous work, but by a narrow margin the measure was rejected. The anticipations on which my Government then acted have been justified. The object of spreading communist ideas has been steadily pursued, and communist methods have been regularly employed. We have watched in the great city of Bombay the industrial labouring population brought into a state of great unsettlement, excited, prone to violence and often deaf to reason, while in Calcutta we have seen a strike, which appears to have no clearly reasoned basis, indefinitely prolonged. These facts are only symptomatic of a more general movement, of which many here have direct experience, and accordingly my Government have decided to place before you once more the proposals for dealing with communist agents from abroad, which were under discussion last session, and further to include in the measure power to forfeit or control remittances of money from communist sources abroad, which are not without a very appreciable influence on the activities of the communists in this country and their ability to promote and prolong for their own ends these industrial troubles.

I must now address myself, Gentlemen, to some of the broader features of the political situation. I am not concerned to-day to discuss the question whether, as some Honourable Members think, His Majesty's Government were ill-advised in deciding to recommend to His Majesty the appointment of a Parliamentary Commission, or whether, as I think and have more than once said, those were ill-advised who have chosen to adopt a policy of boycott. Although those who followed this course have thus, as I believe, deprived themselves of an opportunity, of which others have availed themselves, to influence the evolution of India's political future, each of these questions has now become a historical fact, which the historian will weigh with fuller knowledge, and it may be with more impartial judgment, than we can bring to bear upon them. But whatever may be our attitude on these matters of acute and violent controversy, it would be both unwise and unfortunate to allow them to blur the glasses through which we must try to see the future.

We meet not long after the conclusion of many important meetings, held at the close of last year, and this is not the occasion for me to attempt finally to appraise action taken and words used in the heat of controversy or under the stress of a critical occasion. It would seem evident, however, that what all people must desire is a solution reached by mutual agreement between Great Britain and India and that, in present circumstances, the friendly collaboration of Great Britain and India is a requisite and indispensable condition to obtain it. On the one side it is as unprofitable to deny the right of Parliament to form its free and deliberate judgment on the problem, as it would be short-sighted of Parliament to underrate the importance of trying to reach a solution which might carry the willing assent of political India. And it is at this stage, while we can still have no means of knowing how these matters may emerge from the Parliamentary discussions, that it is proposed to destroy all hope of peaceful and orderly progress towards agreement, unless, by a fixed date in time, Parliament should have accorded its approval to a particular solution, the result no doubt of earnest effort to grapple with

an exceedingly complex problem, and as such entitled to serious consideration, but one which important sections of opinion in India have not accepted, and which was reached through deliberations in which Parliament had no part or voice. Such procedure savours rather of intolerance and impatience than of the methods of responsible statesmanship, and would reduce Parliament to being a mere registrar of the decisions of other persons. That position of course is one that in justice to its own obligations Parliament could never accept.

I cannot predict any more than any Honourable Member here, when or in what form the report from those whom Parliament has charged with the duty of inquiry may be drawn, or whether further inquiry into specific subjects may thereafter be found necessary. In any case we may assume that His Majesty's Government will, as indeed has always been contemplated, desire to subject any proposals that it may then be disposed to make to full discussion with, and the criticism of, those persons, whether official or unofficial, who may be best qualified to contribute to the ultimate solution.

In a situation therefore that must call essentially for qualities of confidence on both sides, and for free exchange of opinion on terms honourable to all, I see very clearly that nothing but harm can flow from a threat that, unless a particular condition is fulfilled, which I believe to be mechanically impossible of fulfilment from the outset, an attempt will be made to plunge the country into all the possible chaos of civil disobedience. It is quite certain that no discussions of any kind can promise the least hope of success, when either party to them approaches the task in the spirit of hostility and suspicion from which such an ultimatum springs.

I recognise that although many leaders and schools of political opinion in India will refuse to walk along the dangerous paths of non-co-operation, many of them openly profess distrust of the attitude of Great Britain towards this country. They say, and would have others believe, that hitherto Great Britain has given no sufficient proof of her intention to fulfil the pledge that Mr. Montagu gave on behalf of His Majesty's Government in 1917, and that Great Britain is seeking to forget or deny the high policy there enshrined.

In conditions more favourable to cool judgment, I suppose that most persons would admit that British India, as we find it to-day, is a British creation, and that it is the British power which has, during the last century, held together its constituent parts. If this centripetal influence is immediately or too suddenly withdrawn, is it wholly unreasonable to fear that some at any rate of the parts might fly asunder, and the dream of a strong united India, a nation among the nations of the world, as we may speak of the British or American nation, would vanish and be destroyed? Anxious as I am to see the realisation of this dream, I can hardly hope that any words of mine may suffice to disperse the black cloud of unwarranted mistrust that has enshrouded so much of Indian political thought. But I tell this Assembly again, and through them India, that the declaration of 1917 stands, and will stand for all time as the solemn pledge of the British people to do all that can be done by one people to assist another to attain full national political stature, and that the pledge so given will never be dishonoured. And, as actions are commonly held more powerful than words, I will add that I should not be standing before

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you here to-day as Governor General, if I believed that the British people had withdrawn their hand from that solemn covenant.

Those therefore who preach that a new generation has arisen in England which seeks to explain away the significance of the 1917 declaration, are, consciously or unconsciously but not the less really, misrepresenting the purpose of Great Britain, and poisoning the wells by which the common life of India and Great Britain is supported and sustained. If there are Indians who are thus tempted to mistrust Great Britain, there are no doubt many in Great Britain, resentful of what they well know to be an unfounded and ungenerous accusation, who may mistrust some of those who speak for India. But if we are thus tempted in the 20th century, I know that both India and Great Britain will be judged in the 21st by the degree to which they have refused to lose faith in one another. Gentlemen of the Assembly, though we may differ on all other issues, let us not readily or lightly impugn the good faith of one another, for that is to destroy the very foundation of all hope of better things.

I would add one or two observations of more personal kind. Whoever holds the position of Viceroy and Governor General of India is bound, through his Office and conscience, by a double duty. He is under the plain obligation of seeing that the King's Government in India is carried on, with due respect for the law, and in this sphere he may at any time be confronted with issues that are more far-reaching than ordinary political controversy, and that are indeed fundamental to all society. Respect for law is an attribute of civilisation painfully and hardly won, and a society, which lacks it carries within itself the seeds of its own dissolution. Those therefore who can guide public opinion in this country are doing no service to India if they accustom her to think lightly of disobedience to constituted authority, whatever the title by which such disobedience may be described.

But in another and not less important capacity the Viceroy and Governor General stands as intermediary between India and Great Britain, and as such will constantly endeavour to interpret as faithfully as he may the hopes, the feelings, the desires of the Indian people to those who may from time to time compose His Majesty's Government in Great Britain, and, if I may quote words which are used in connection with another office in the British Constitution, "to beg His Majesty's Government ever to place the most favourable construction upon all their proceedings".

That duty I have striven, and shall strive, to fulfil to the best of my ability; and it is, gentlemen, because the smooth adjustment of these different functions, imposed on a single individual, does not lie with me alone, that I have tried to draw frankly the broad outlines of the present situation as I see them. I have desired so far as I could to employ no language which might needlessly offend the feelings of those who take a different view. For I long, as for nothing else, to see the political life of India move down orderly channels to its full term of natural development. And to achieve that end we all have our own work to do. On each one of us, in our several spheres, in this Assembly and outside, the time and the subject lay very heavy responsibilities, and it is my most earnest prayer, for you and for myself, that under God's guidance we may be permitted, during the time that lies before us, to help one another in their discharge.

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

MEMBERS SWORN:

- The Honourable Sir George Ernest Schuster, K.C.M.G., C.B.E., M.C. (Finance Member);
Lala Hans Raj, M.L.A. (Jullundur Division: Non-Muhammadan);
Mr. V. Panduranga Rao, M.L.A. (Madras: Nominated Official);
Mr. Hubert Arthur Sams, C.I.E., M.L.A. (Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs);
Mr. Frederick William Allison, M.L.A. (Bombay: Nominated Official);
Rai Amal Krishna Mukharji Bahadur, M.L.A. (Bengal: Nominated Official);
Mr. Joseph Charles French, M.L.A. (Bengal: Nominated Official);
Mr. Michael Keane, C.I.E. M.L.A. (United Provinces: Nominated Official);
Mr. Henry Louis Stevenson, M.L.A. (Burma: Nominated Official);
Mr. William Alexander Cosgrave, M.L.A. (Assam: Nominated Official);
and
Mr. Kodikal Sanjiva Row, M.L.A. (Finance Department: Nominated Official).

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

†1.*

†2.*

PAY OF TEACHERS OF THE GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL, DELHI.

3. *Maulvi Muhammad Yakub: (a) Will Government be pleased to state for how many years the present incumbent of the post of the Head Master, Government High School, Delhi, has been in this post?

(b) Will Government be pleased to give the names of the teachers in the Government High School, Delhi, who are drawing the maximum pay according to their present grade?

(c) Is it a fact that all the senior teachers in the Government High School, Delhi, except one Mr. Inayat-ur-Rahman, have reached the maximum pay according to their grade?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) Since 1st September, 1922.

(b) A statement giving the information required is laid on the table.

(c) No. There is no recognised division of teachers into "senior" and "junior". Of the 21 assistant masters on the staff, five have reached the maximum of their scale of pay, the others have not.

† For this question and its answer, see at the end of starred questions for the day.

Statement giving the Names of Teachers in the Government High School, Delhi, who are drawing the maximum Pay according to their Grade.

L. Raghbir Chand,
L. Ram Charan Das,
L. Zorawar Chand,
L. Kidar Nath, and
Pandit Brahm Dutta.

EXAMINATION RESULTS OF THE PUPILS OF THE GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL,
DELHI.

4. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the result of the Matriculation Examination of the Government High School, Delhi, for the last seven years?

(b) What was the position in the order of merit of this School as compared with other schools of Delhi Province in 1928:

(i) Matriculation Examination.

(ii) Head Masters' Association Examination?

(c) Is it a fact that the percentage of passes is decreasing every year?

(d) If the answer to (c) is in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to give the reasons therefor?

(e) Are Government prepared to consider the desirability of transferring the Head Master and the senior teachers of this School who have been working there a long time and who are residents of Delhi?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: The information asked for is being collected and will be supplied to the Honourable Member in due course.

DUTIES OF THE HEAD MASTER, GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL, DELHI.

5. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** (a) With reference to the answer given to the starred question No. 427, dated 14th March, 1928, will Government be pleased to lay on the table the result of the enquiry instituted by the Government with regard to the additional duties of the Head Master, Government High School, Delhi?

(b) Is it a fact that Lalas Suraj Bhan and Kunj Behari Lal, Government High School, Delhi, take the classes assigned to the Head Master and that it is seldom that the Head Master himself, owing to his personal engagements, takes his classes?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) Government are informed that the performance of the additional duties mentioned by the Honourable Member does not interfere with the efficient discharge by the Headmaster, Government High School, Delhi, of the duties attached to that post and to the post of Assistant Superintendent of Education:

(b) No.

NUMBER OF MUSLIMS ATTENDING THE GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL,
DELHI.

6. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** What is the total number of students attending the Government Industrial School, Delhi, and how many of them are Muslims?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: 260, of whom 186 are Muslims.

EMPLOYMENT OF MUSLIMS AS TEACHERS IN THE GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL, DELHI.

7. *Maulvi Muhammad Yakub: (a) What is the total number of teachers (excluding carpenters and blacksmiths) in the Government Industrial School, Delhi, and how many of them are Muslims?

(b) Is it a fact that no Muslim has ever been permanently employed as Head Master, 2nd Master, or 3rd Master of this School?

(c) If the answer to (b) is in the negative, will Government be pleased to give his or their names?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) 13, of whom 5 are Muslims.

(b) and (c). Government took over this school from the Delhi Municipal Committee only with effect from 1st April 1927. There has been no Muslim Head Master since that date. There are no posts of 2nd or 3rd Master in this school; the posts are termed Drawing Masters, Carpenters, Blacksmith, etc.

EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS OF THE PRESENT HEAD MASTER, GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL, DELHI.

8. *Maulvi Muhammad Yakub: (a) What are the educational qualifications of the present Head Master, Government Industrial School, Delhi?

(b) Are Government aware that he possesses no technical qualifications at all, which are very essential for an institution like the present?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) and (b). The present Head Master is a B.A., S.A.V. (1st Division) B.T. trained (1911). He holds a Drawing Master's certificate. He also has experience of Industrial education, having visited schools of Art, Industrial Schools, and other places of educational value in England, France, Switzerland, etc. He has been employed in this school since 1908. The Inspector of Industrial Schools of the Punjab recently reported that his work has been of outstanding excellence for years.

AGE AND SERVICE OF LALA JAIMAL SINGH, SECOND MASTER IN THE GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL, DELHI.

9. *Maulvi Muhammad Yakub: (a) What is the age of Lala Jaimal Singh, at present working as 2nd Master, Government Industrial School, Delhi, according to his Service Book?

(b) For how long has the said teacher served in:

(i) The Local Board Schools.

(ii) The Government Industrial School?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) 47 years. His designation is Drawing Master and not 2nd Master.

(b)(i) From 16th April, 1900 to 31st March, 1927.

(ii) From 1st April, 1927, to date.

NUMBER OF MUSLIMS EMPLOYED AS TEACHERS IN LOCAL BOARD SCHOOLS
AND SCHOOLS UNDER THE NEW DELHI COMMITTEE.

10. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub**: (a) Will Government be pleased to state how many teachers there are at present in the Local Board Schools and Schools under the New Delhi Committee in Delhi Province, and how many of them are Muslims?

(b) How many teachers have been recruited on the recommendation of the District Inspector of Schools in the above Schools since the 1st of January, 1926, and how many of them are Muslims?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: A statement giving the information required is placed on the table of the House.

Statement showing particulars about teachers in the Local Board Schools and the Schools under the New Delhi Committee in Delhi Province.

| No. of | | No. of teachers recruited on the recommendation of the District Inspector of Schools since the 1st January 1926. | |
|-----------|-------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| Total No. | No. of Muslim teachers. | Total No. * | No. of Muslim teachers. |
| 467 | 101 | 89 | 21 |

SUPERSESSION OF AMJED ALI, A SORTER IN THE RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE.

†11. ***Mr. T. A. K. Shervani**: (a) Is it a fact that one Amjed Ali was a seniormost sorter in Railway Mail Service, "A" Division?

(b) Is it a fact that this Amjed Ali was superseded by one Jai Govind, who was given a post in the selection grade?

(c) If the answer to (b) is in the affirmative, why was Amjed Ali superseded and not taken in the selection grade?

(d) Is it a fact that Jai Govind was fined for neglect of duty and was found incompetent to hold the post to which he was promoted?

(e) Is it a fact that Jai Govind, although found incompetent, retained his post in the selection grade?

(f) Is it a fact that this Jai Govind was a relative of one Shanker Lal, the then Superintendent, Railway Mail Service, "A" Division?

(g) Are Government prepared to enquire into the case?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: Government have no information. If the individual referred to thinks that he has a grievance, it is open to him to address Government in the usual manner.

GENERAL AUTHORIZATION TO THE CENTRAL OR PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURES
UNDER SECTION 96 B (2) OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ACT.

†12. ***Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar**: (a) With reference to answers (b) and (c) of Government to my unstarred question No. 156 on the 4th September last, will Government be pleased to state whether the Secretary of State has communicated to the Government of India any decision declining to give any general authorisation to the Central or Provincial Legislatures.

† This question was not put, owing to the absence of the questioner.

under section 96 B (2) of the Government of India Act to make laws regulating Public Services but proposing to consider particular proposals for legislation on their merits?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to lay the connected despatch on the table of the House?

(c) If the answer to the former part of the question is in the affirmative, will Government state whether the question of making a general rule authorising Local Governments to legislate on this matter referred to in part (e) of the Government's answer is being again considered?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: (a) The Secretary of State has decided to postpone for the present any general authorisation of the Central and Provincial Legislatures to make laws for the regulation of the Services.

(b) It is not proposed to lay the despatch on the table.

(c) The general rule referred to in part (e) of my answer of the 4th September was one authorising Local Governments to make laws for the establishment of local Public Service Commissions. This rule has been made and is now in force.

INCONVENIENT TIMINGS OF TRAINS TO MONGHYR.

†13. ***Raja Raghunandan Prasad Singh:** Is it a fact that No. 12 Benares Cantonment-Howrah Express arrives at Kiul Junction (East Indian Railway) at 20-55, and the 46 Gaya-Monghyr Passenger leaves Kiul Junction at 20-30, that is to say, 25 minutes earlier? Do Government propose to so arrange the timings of the said two trains as to connect them for the conveniences of the passengers for Monghyr, who have, under the present arrangement, to wait for five hours at Kiul to catch the next train to Monghyr?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: A copy of the Honourable Member's question has been sent to the Agent of the East Indian Railway. Government cannot themselves undertake the arrangement of time tables.

PROVISION OF A RAILWAY FOR CONVENIENCE OF PILGRIMS TO BADRI NARAYAN.

†14. ***Raja Raghunandan Prasad Singh:** How far has the plan to establish railway communication for the convenience of pilgrims to Badri Narayan proceeded? What stations has it been decided to construct en route to Badri Narayan?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: A report on the Rikhikesh-Karanprayag extension is awaited from the Agent of the East Indian Railway. But preliminary information received by the Railway Board does not suggest that the line will be remunerative.

CONNECTION OF NAYA DUMKA, SANTAL PARGANAS, WITH THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY LOOP LINE.

†15. ***Raja Raghunandan Prasad Singh:** How far has the matter of connecting Naya Dumka (Santal Parganas, Bihar and Orissa) with the East Indian Railway Loop Line proceeded? Has the necessary survey been made? When is the construction of the branch line likely to be started?

† This question was not put, owing to the absence of the questioner.

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: The estimate of the Sainthia-Bausi Branch, which is the line to which the Honourable Member refers, has been received by the Railway Board. It shows that the line is not likely to prove a remunerative proposition, and there is therefore very little chance of it being taken up.

Mr. B. Das: May I put the question, Sir, on behalf of Mr. Neogy?

Mr. President: The Honourable Member has not informed me.

ALLEGED CONSPIRACY TO BUY UP CERTAIN NEWSPAPERS IN INDIA TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF NATIONALISM.

†16. ***Mr. K. O. Neogy:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to an Editorial note in *The Tribune*, Lahore, dated 20th September headed 'Sensational Story from Simla', alleging a conspiracy, in which Government, the Maharaja of Darbhanga and a millowning potentate are stated to be involved, to buy up certain newspapers in India to prevent the spread of Nationalism?

(b) Are the facts given in the note correct?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: (a) Government have seen the article referred to.

(b) Government have no information.

AN "AT HOME" GIVEN AT MASHOBRA BY MR. C. T. ALLEN IN CONNECTION WITH THE ALLEGED PURCHASE OF NEWSPAPERS IN INDIA.

†17. ***Mr. K. O. Neogy:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to a publication in *The Tribune*, dated 25th September, 1928, mentioning an "At Home" given at Mashobra by Mr. C. T. Allen of Cawnpore, and that it was attended by the Viceroy and a number of Country Leaguers interested in the purchase and promotion of newspapers in India as a challenge to Nationalism?

(b) Are the facts stated therein true?

(c) Is it a fact that the Governor General in Council is promoting this movement for not only purchasing newspapers, but for establishing a vernacular press all over the country, owned and directed by big capitalists with a view to oppose the forces which stand in the country for reform and progress?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: (a) Government have seen the article referred to.

(b) Government have no information.

(c) No.

ALLEGED WITHDRAWAL OF INCOME-TAX CLAIMS FOR POLITICAL CONSIDERATION.

†18. ***Mr. K. O. Neogy:** (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement of all outstanding claims against persons or firms, in respect of income-tax involving a total amount of rupees five lakhs and above in each case up to 31st March, 1928?

† This question was not put, owing to the absence of the questioner.

(b) Will Government be pleased to state how many of these claims have since succeeded, or been withdrawn or rejected by the appellate authorities?

(c) If any claims have been withdrawn, will Government please state the reasons for withdrawing these, particularly mentioning if political considerations, such as buying up newspapers and floating newspaper concerns, had anything to do with any of these withdrawals?

(d) Whether the withdrawal of any claims is under consideration, and whether political considerations and the need for reward for services rendered to the Governor General in Council in the political field are influencing the Government in helping the liquidation of any of these income-tax claims?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (a) In view of the provisions of section 54 of the Indian Income-tax Act, 1922, the Government is unable to furnish the statement asked for.

(b) In the circumstances just described, the question does not arise.

(c) Here too the question does not arise, but I may state, for the information of the Honourable Member, that political considerations have never been allowed to influence the assessment and collection of income-tax.

(d) The answer is in the negative.

RECRUITMENT OF MUHAMMADANS TO THE GENERAL LIST OF THE INDIAN AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS SERVICE.

19. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** Is it not a fact that out of 183 posts reserved for the members of the General List in the Indian Audit and Accounts Service, only 12 posts are held by Muhammadans, and that out of these 12 posts, six are held by the Muhammadan members who have been recruited only in the recent years? If it is so, have the Government of India taken any steps to ensure a regular number of Muslim recruits to this Service? If they have, what are they?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. For the answers to the remainder of the question I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Home Department letter to him No. F.-167—27-Ests., dated the 7th January, 1928.

PROMOTION OF A MUHAMMADAN TO THE RANG OF ACCOUNTANT GENERAL.

20. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** Is it a fact that no Muhammadan Officer in the Indian Audit and Accounts Service is at present holding the post or rank of Accountant General? If it is so, what action do Government propose to take in this matter?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, a Muhammadan officer will be appointed to this rank as soon as one of sufficient merit attains sufficient seniority.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will the Honourable Member be pleased to say how many Hindu Accountants-General there are?

EMPLOYMENT OF MUHAMMADAN OFFICERS OF THE GENERAL LIST IN THE FINANCE AND OTHER DEPARTMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

21. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** Is it a fact that no Muhammadan officer of the General List is at present serving in the Headquarters Offices, such as the Finance Department, Auditor General's Office, Offices of the Accountants General, Central Revenues, Railways and Posts and Telegraphs? How do the Government of India account for this absence of Muhammadan officers from these offices?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. One of the present Deputy Auditors General, Inspection, is a Muhammadan and there is a junior officer who is a Muhammadan in the Office of the Accountant General, Central Revenues. The second part of the question does not arise.

ALLEGED FAVOURITISM IN THE PROMOTION OF ASSISTANT ACCOUNTS OFFICERS.

22. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** (a) Are Government aware of the increase during recent years of the number of promotions to the General List from the rank of Assistant Accounts Officer?

(b) What is the policy recognised in such promotions?

(c) Kindly state the number of the officers so promoted during the last six years?

(d) What are the educational qualifications of the officers so promoted?

(e) How many years' permanent service had they rendered as Assistant Accounts Officers at the time of their promotion to the General List?

(f) What posts have they been made to hold after promotion?

(g) How many of these promoted officers are Hindus, Muhammadans and Christians?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (a) The number of such promotions has fluctuated during recent years. There were five in 1924, six in 1925, six in 1926, seven in 1927, nil in 1928 and one in 1929.

(b) Since 1925, the rule has been that vacancies should be so filled that one-sixth of the total cadre consists of promoted subordinates. Promotions are made on merit, and not only from the rank of Assistant Accounts Officer.

(c) Of the 31 subordinates promoted during the last six years, 25 held the rank of Assistant Accounts Officer before promotion.

(d) The 31 officers so promoted include 6 M.As. and 14 B.As.

(e) The officers who were permanent Assistant Accounts Officers before promotion had served as such for periods varying from 1½ to 8½ years.

(f) Of the 31 officers mentioned above, all except 5 have since held cadre posts in the Service. These five have held posts in or subordinate to the Finance Department.

(g) 19 are Hindus, one is a Sikh and the remainder are Anglo-Indians and Christians.

**DEPARTMENTAL PROMOTIONS TO THE GENERAL LIST OF THE INDIAN
AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS SERVICE.**

23. *Maulvi Muhammad Yakub: (a) Have the Government of India ever considered the fact that promotions to the General List in the Accounts Departments cause a great deal of supersession owing to the benefit of six years' service allowed to the promoted, over and above the junior officers of the Indian Audit and Accounts Service? Has this fact ever been brought to the notice of the Auditor General by the Audit and Accounts Association?

(b) In view of the fact that this departmental promotion is generally resented by the direct recruits to the Indian Audit and Accounts Service, as it creates a block in the promotion within the said service, will the Government of India kindly state what steps they wish to take in this matter?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (a) The matter has been brought to the notice of the Auditor General by the Association named. In view of the facts, firstly, that the greater number of promoted subordinates are superannuated before they become eligible for promotion to the selection grades, and, secondly, that promotions to those grades are regulated primarily by selection on merit and not by seniority, Government do not consider that the interests of officers directly recruited to the Service have been prejudicially affected.

(b) The Government consider that the right action to be taken in this matter is to continue their present practice of exercising a vigilant supervision of all appointments so as to ensure, first, the greatest possible efficiency in the conduct of the Public Service, and, secondly, the preservation of a fair opportunity of advancement, according to their merits, for all officials.

EMPLOYMENT OF MUHAMMADANS AS ASSISTANT ACCOUNTS OFFICERS.

24. *Maulvi Muhammad Yakub: (a) Will the Government of India state the number of Assistant Accounts Officers in the various Accounts Offices in India? How many of these belong to the minority communities? How many of the latter are Muhammadans?

(b) Have the Government of India ever considered the paucity of Musalman Assistant Accounts Officers in the Accounts Offices? What steps do they wish to take now in this matter?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (a) There are at present 77 permanent and 28 temporary posts of Assistant Accounts Officers in India. The incumbents of 22 of these posts are Anglo-Indians or Christians, 3 are Muhammadans and the remainder are Hindus.

(b) The general practice is to fill the ranks of Assistant Accounts Officers by selection on merit from among qualified senior accountants but one or two direct recruitments of Indian chartered accountants have recently been made for work in the Commercial Audit Department. Government are not prepared to alter the general practice of appointment by strict selection; and it would obviously be unwise to allow communal considerations to operate in cases where the possession of special technical qualifications is the dominant requirement. Here again I would refer the Honourable Member to the letter No. F.-167-27/Ests., dated the 7th January, 1928, addressed to him by the Home Department.

RECRUITMENT OF MUHAMMADANS TO THE SUBORDINATE ACCOUNTS SERVICE.

25. *Maulvi Muhammad Yakub: Will the Government of India state the number of the direct recruits to the Subordinate Accounts Service in the Auditor General's Office and other local Accountant General's Offices since the year 1921? How many of these were Muhammadans? Out of these Muhammadan candidates how many were successful in the Subordinate Accounts Service Examination?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: The number of direct recruits to the Subordinate Accounts Service in the Auditor General's Office and in local Accountants General's Offices, since the year 1921, is 22. Out of these, two are Muhammadans. One of the Muhammadan recruits was successful in the Subordinate Accounts Service Examination, and the other reverted, at his own request, to the clerical grade, and did not appear for the Examination.

RECRUITMENT OF MINORITY COMMUNITIES TO ACCOUNTS OFFICES IN INDIA.

26. *Maulvi Muhammad Yakub: What action has been taken by the Auditor General to watch that the instructions of the Government of India regarding the recruitment of the minor communities in the various Accounts Offices in India, are duly observed by the Heads of those Offices?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: The Auditor General has impressed on all Heads of offices under him that the orders of the Government of India are absolute and that he holds them personally responsible for strict compliance with those orders. The Head of each office submits to the Auditor General annually statements showing (i) the number of permanent appointments made during the year and the manner in which they were filled, and (ii) the communal composition of the office as on the 31st December of each year. These periodical reports are forwarded by the Auditor General to the Government of India, by whom they are carefully scrutinised.

PROMOTION AS ASSISTANT PERSONNEL OFFICER OF THE CASHIER OF THE RAILWAY BOARD.

27. *Maulvi Muhammad Yakub: (a) Is it a fact that the cashier of the Railway Board's Office who is a second division clerk, has recently been gazetted Assistant Personnel Officer?

(b) Is it a fact that the duties of the Cashier in the Railway Board's Office are practically the same as in other departments of the Government of India?

(c) Is it a fact that a second division clerk is lower in status to a first division assistant?

(d) Will Government please state the reasons why gazetted status has been conferred upon the cashier of the Railway Board's Office?

(e) Is it a fact that for this reason he will become superior in status to the senior first division assistants in the Office?

(f) Is it a fact that the son of the Cashier, Railway Board's Office, was lately appointed an Assistant Traffic Superintendent on the North-Western Railway?

(g) Did the son of the Cashier, Railway Board's Office, possess any technical qualifications for that post?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) The Cashier of the Railway Board's Office has been awarded the honorary rank of Assistant Personnel Officer.

(b) No.

(c) Yes.

(d) In recognition of long and meritorious service.

(e) Honorary rank does not affect official status. It is a personal distinction.

(f) He was appointed in 1922.

(g) Technical qualifications were not compulsory under the system in force in 1922 for the selection of candidates.

CONSTRUCTION OF A RAILWAY BETWEEN DACCA AND ARICHA.

†28. ***Mr. A. H. Ghuznavi:** (a) Will Government be pleased to make a statement with regard to the present position of the project for the Dacca Aricha Railway?

(b) In reply to my starred question No. 18 of September 4th, 1928, the Honourable Mr. Parsons stated that the matter was under correspondence between the Government of India and the Secretary of State. Will Government be pleased to lay on the table the final decision of the Secretary of State, if any reply has been received?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) and (b). The project has been sanctioned by the Secretary of State and it is hoped to provide funds for the inception of construction next year.

CONSTRUCTION OF A RAILWAY BETWEEN SINGHJANI AND TANGAIL-PINGNA.

†29. ***Mr. A. H. Ghuznavi:** (a) With reference to my question No. 17 of September 4th, 1928, Mr. Parsons stated that the final decision in regard to the Singhjani-Tangail-Pingna Railway depended on the Dacca-Aricha Railway problem. Will Government be pleased to state the latest position with regard to it, in the light of the decision arrived at by the Secretary of State with reference to the Dacca-Aricha problem, if any reply has been received?

(b) Do Government propose to take steps to expedite matters?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) and (b). The Agent of the Eastern Bengal Railway will no doubt consider the effect of the construction of the Dacca-Aricha Railway, which has recently been sanctioned by the Secretary of State, on the prospects on the Singhjani-Tangail-Pingna Railway, but I am unable to make any statement at present as to the prospects of the later line being taken up in the next two or three years.

SALE OF VEGETABLE GHEE IN INDIA.

†30. ***Mr. A. H. Ghuznavi:** (a) Are Government aware that a commodity popularly known as "Vegetable Ghee" is placed very largely in the market all over India and is intended to take the place of "ghee"?

† This question was not put, owing to the absence of the questioner.

(b) Are Government aware that this commodity is hardly very satisfactory from the medical point of view and facilitates the adulteration of ghee especially in sweetmeats?

(c) Do Government propose to take steps to stop its sale in the market?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) Government are aware that solidified vegetable oil, popularly known as "Vegetable Ghee", is largely sold in India as a foodstuff.

(b) Government are aware that this substance is deficient in vitamins, but are advised that it is not injurious to health. It is understood that vegetable ghee is used in some places to adulterate natural ghee.

(c) Government do not consider that this commodity is a menace to public health. The question of legislating to stop its sale on this account does not therefore arise.

AUCTIONING OF UNCLAIMED GOODS ON STATE RAILWAYS.

†81. ***Mr. A. H. Ghuznavi:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state what arrangements are made under the existing state of things on railways for the disposal of unclaimed goods and auctionable materials?

(b) Do Government employ private auctioneers or carry out the auctioning departmentally?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) and (b). The procedure varies on different railways. Some railways engage the services of an auctioneering firm, some conduct their sales departmentally, and some employ both methods, engaging an auctioneering firm only for the larger sales.

PROVISION ON ALL RAILWAYS OF DOORS BETWEEN FIRST CLASS AND SERVANTS' COMPARTMENTS.

†82. ***Mr. A. H. Ghuznavi:** (a) Are Government aware that on the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway there is a doorway between the first class compartments and the servants' compartments?

(b) Are Government aware that this arrangement existed formerly in the Eastern Bengal Railway, and East Indian Railway and was highly appreciated by the public?

(c) Are Government prepared to revive that arrangement on all the railways?

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

(b) If this is so, no expression of the public's appreciation has reached the Railway Board.

(c) The design of upper class stock is now under consideration. The Railway Board are inclined to favour the introduction of vestibuled stock which will do away with the necessity for servants' compartments altogether.

SALE OF FRAUDULENT QUININE IN INDIA.

†83. ***Mr. A. H. Ghuznavi:** (a) With reference to the Motion for Adjournment by Lieutenant-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney on September 4th, 1928, for the stopping of the quinine fraud in India, will Government be pleased to state what action they have taken in the matter?

† This question was not put, owing to the absence of the questioner.

(b) Do Government propose to undertake any legislation on the subject?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) Local Governments and Administrations were asked last October, to submit considered reports on the allegations regarding the sale of adulterated quinine on a large scale. Replies have so far been received only from Coorg and Ajmer-Merwara, stating that there is no evidence that adulterated quinine is sold in these provinces.

(b) Any action that may be considered necessary will be taken on the receipt of replies from Local Governments, who have been reminded.

HIGH CHARGES FOR CATERING ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

†34. ***Mr. A. H. Ghuznavi:** (a) Are Government aware that the rates of Messrs. Kellner and Company, Caterers of the East Indian Railway, are the highest?

(b) Have Government considered the question of starting a catering department of their own for each of the railways, instead of committing the catering arrangements to private parties after the expiry of the period of contract with these parties?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) Government have received no complaint as to the rates charged by the firm mentioned.

(b) The question whether the State-managed Railway Administrations should establish catering departments of their own will be considered about the time any of the present contracts is due to expire.

PROVISION OF A FIRST CLASS RAILWAY PASS TO MISS SCHELEK OF VIENNA.

†35. ***Mr. M. S. Sesha Ayyangar:** (a) Is it a fact that Miss Schelek from Vienna, who visited India early this year, was given a free first class railway pass during her Indian tour?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state in what railway or railways, why, and at whose instance this was done?

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

(b) The pass was issued under the orders of the Railway Board and was made available over principal railways. It was granted solely for railway publicity purposes, and Miss Schelek supplied the Central Publicity Railway Bureau with a lot of material.

RATE OF FARES FOR THIRD CLASS PASSENGERS TRAVELLING LESS THAN 50 MILES.

†36. ***Mr. M. S. Sesha Ayyangar:** (a) Is it in contemplation to abolish the present rate for short distance travel of less than fifty miles, regard being had to the fact that the average distance travelled by a third class passenger is about 38 miles?

(b) Are Government aware that trains other than the mail, (especially on the South Indian Railway), are run in such a deliberately slow manner that long distance third class passengers are compelled to travel only by mail trains and pay a higher fare?

(c) If so, do Government propose to issue the necessary instructions to lessen the hardship?

† This question was not put, owing to the absence of the questioner.

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) No general reduction in third class short distance fares is contemplated at present.

(b) The reply is in the negative.

(c) Does not arise.

REVERSION TO THE CONTRACT SYSTEM FOR SUPPLYING REFRESHMENTS TO INDIAN PASSENGERS ON THE MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA RAILWAY.

†37. ***Mr. M. S. Sesha Ayyangar:** (a) Is it a fact that the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway are making profits varying from 75 per cent. to 200 per cent. on the supply of light refreshments to Indian passengers in important junction stations by selling them at high prices?

(b) Are Government aware that, under the so-called company management of catering in the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway, the food and light refreshments have deteriorated in quantity and quality, though they are sold at higher prices than before?

(c) If so, what steps do Government propose to take to improve the situation or end the present system by restoring the old system of contracts?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) On the contrary the Indian refreshment rooms on the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway are actually run at a loss. During the three months, July, August and September, the receipts were Rs. 1,81,878, and the expenditure, excluding charges for Indian refreshment cars and interest on capital outlay on buildings, furniture and cars, Rs. 1,23,100. The charges, not included in the figure of Rs. 1,23,100, would amount to considerably more than the difference of Rs. 8,778.

(b) No complaints have been received by the Railway Administration from the travelling public or from the Members of the Railway Advisory Committee that the quantity or quality of the refreshments served has deteriorated.

(c) Government do not propose to take any action.

ALLEGED RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN THE APPOINTMENT OF STATION MASTERS AND ASSISTANT STATION MASTERS ON THE MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA RAILWAY.

†38. ***Mr. M. S. Sesha Ayyangar:** Is it a fact that on the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway and South Indian Railway, there is racial discrimination involved in providing for two classes of station masters and assistant station masters, one from Europeans and Anglo-Indians, to fill the A, B, C, D groups, and the other from Indians, to fill E, F, G groups, with a great disparity in the pay and emoluments of the two sets of recruits? If so, are Government prepared to issue instructions to put an end to such racial discrimination?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: Enquiries which have been made by the Railway Board show that the racial discrimination which the Honourable Member alleges in his question does not in fact exist. On the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway, appointments in the 'D' grade are mostly

† This question was not put, owing to the absence of the questioner.

those of assistant station masters at large stations, involving turns of night duty and supervision of yard work, duties, that is to say, far more arduous than those ordinarily undertaken by an 'E' grade station master. It is also necessary for a station master who has only been at a roadside station, to serve as a 'D' grade assistant station master at a large station before he can be considered suitable for further promotion to the three higher grades, C, B, and A. In the past considerable reluctance has been experienced on the part of 'E' grade station masters to take up the more arduous 'D' grade appointments, but the Railway Administration has made very special efforts to recruit 'D' grade appointments from Indians, and during the last two years seven such appointments have been filled by Indians. They have also recently inaugurated a further scheme with the same object. Five special appointments of probationary assistant station masters have been created, and candidates for these posts were subjected to a competitive examination. The five men heading the list were selected to fill the five vacancies, and are now undergoing special intensive training to fit them for 'D' grade appointment. Although these probationary assistant station masters' appointments are open to all the traffic staff on the line, they were specially created for the purpose of encouraging promising young Indians to offer themselves for appointments in the more executive work of the traffic department, and the first five probationary assistant station masters now in course of training are all Indians.

On the South Indian Railway, scales of pay for station staff are fixed according to the importance of stations and any employee gets the scale attached to the station to which he is posted, without racial distinction of any kind.

PURCHASE OF STEEL SLEEPERS BY THE SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY.

†99. ***Mr. M. S. Sessa Ayyangar:** (a) Are Government aware that the Nilambur unemployment is entirely due to the recent purchase of steel sleepers by the South Indian Railway on a large scale?

(b) If so, will steps be taken to stop the use of steel sleepers in future?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) Government have received no report to this effect.

(b) Government consider that the Agent of the South Indian Railway must be left to decide what description of sleeper is best suited and most economical for adoption on the various sections of the line.

PURCHASE OF STEEL SLEEPERS BY THE NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

†40. ***Mr. M. S. Sessa Ayyangar:** (a) Is it a fact that the North-Western Railway recently purchased eight lakhs of steel sleepers, and that the Punjab Timber Association protested against this to the Chief Commissioner for Railways?

(b) If so, what steps have Government taken, or do they propose to take in the matter?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative, and to the second that the deputation from the Punjab Timber Association met the Chief Commissioner, Railways, on the subject last May. Actual requirements of the North-Western Railway for

† This question was not put, owing to the absence of the questioner.

steel sleepers—about 200,000—in 1929-30 have been included in the combined call for metal sleepers issued by the Railway Board in December, 1928. In the same year the requirements for wooden sleepers are put at 10 lakhs.

(b) None.

DISCRIMINATION IN THE TERMS OF APPOINTMENT OF EUROPEANS AND INDIANS IN TEMPORARY POSTS ON INDIAN RAILWAYS.

†41. ***Mr. M. S. Sesha Ayyangar:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact, that, while European Officers of the Railways, in the temporary rank and file, are given a guarantee for two years, with three months' notice on either side for termination of services, the Indian Officers of the same standing are denied such stability of tenure?

(b) And if so, do Government propose to issue instructions to eliminate these differences?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) No. Temporary officers who are engaged in England come out on a two years' covenant and their agreement provides for six months' notice of termination of service. The last appointment was made in 1926. Temporary officers who are engaged in India, irrespective of their nationality, execute no agreement; their services are terminable on a month's notice.

(b) Government see no reason to suggest any alteration to the South Indian Railway.

IRREGULARITIES IN THE AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS OFFICES OF THE SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY.

†42. ***Mr. M. S. Sesha Ayyangar:** Has the attention of Government been drawn to the report of the Deputy Accountant General of Railways, Dewan Bahadur Mr. R. Sundarachari, on his inspection of the Audit and Account Offices of the South Indian Railway, from May to November, 1926; and do Government propose to issue instructions to the Railway to ensure that the irregularities brought to light therein do not occur in future?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: Reports of the inspection of railway audit and account offices by the Deputy Accountant General, Railways, are addressed to the Accountant-General, Railways, who scrutinises them and brings to the notice of the Government any serious irregularities brought to light on which he considers that action should be taken. These irregularities are carefully investigated by the Railway Board, and necessary instructions issued.

In the particular case referred to, the Accountant-General, Railways, has forwarded five paragraphs of the report to the Railway Board for action. Action has already been taken on one of these, and a report has been called for from the Railway Administration on the others.

AVOIDANCE OF SAND DUNES ON THE SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY.

†43. ***Mr. M. S. Sesha Ayyangar:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if the newly opened diversion in the Pamban-Dhanushkodi Section of the South Indian Railway is a success in avoiding the recurrence of sand dunes?

(b) If not, what do Government propose to do?

† This question was not put, owing to the absence of the questioner.

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: The Agent reports that though the South Indian Railway Administration can never expect to be entirely free from difficulty in regard to blowing sand, or the formation of sand dunes on Rameswaram Island, the difficulties experienced on the south side of the island are small compared with those experienced previously, and the re-alignment has therefore been fully justified.

RETENTION FOR A FURTHER PERIOD OF THE CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY.

†44. ***Mr. M. S. Sesha Ayyangar:** (a) Is it a fact that the Railway Board has extended the Construction Department of the South Indian Railway, including Engineering and Audit, under the Chief Engineer, to a further period of four years more?

(b) If so, why? Is it a fact that important constructions have been completed and the existing staff is heavy and costly?

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

(b) There is still a lot of construction work to be done on the South Indian Railway.

RETENTION OF THE CREW SYSTEM ON THE SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY.

†45. ***Mr. M. S. Sesha Ayyangar:** (a) Is it a fact that the Crew System on the South Indian Railway involves a lot of extra expenditure, with no proper return, and yet the Agent has recommended to the Home Board an extension of the system for another year?

(b) If so, why?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: The Agent reports that the adoption of the system has prevented a good deal of free travelling, and thereby secured beneficial results. He also considers, as do the Railway Board, that it is essential to educate the public as to the necessity for purchasing tickets when they travel. In these circumstances he has asked his Home Board to agree to the continuance for a further year from the 1st of November, 1928, of the temporary post of Assistant Commercial Superintendent on Rs. 800 rising to Rs. 650, and the Railway Board have communicated their sanction to this proposal, subject to the approval of the Home Board of the South Indian Railway Company.

PRICE-CUTTING IN THE SALE OF MATCHES BY THE SWEDISH TRUST SYNDICATE.

†46. ***Mr. M. S. Sesha Ayyangar:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the fact that the Swedish Trust Syndicate (Match) has again taken to their old methods of price-cutting, selling at a price, which is below their cost price, with a view to ruining the Indian Match Factory?

(b) If so, do Government propose to take any immediate and effective steps towards regulating the activities of this powerful trust and thereby protecting the Indian industry?

† This question was not put, owing to the absence of the questioner.

(c) Is it a fact that the Great Indian Peninsula Railway is granting special concessions to the Swedish Syndicate in the transport of their materials to the great discomfiture of the Indian industry?

(d) If so, are Government prepared to stop this course of conduct or extend the concessions to the Indian match industry also?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: (a) The Government of India have received a representation on the subject.

(b) The Government of India are carefully watching the progress of the Indian industry and are collecting information to this end.

(c) and (d). The Railway Board understand that the Great Indian Peninsula Railway quote special station to station rates for safety matches both from Kurla, where an Indian match factory is situated, and from Ambernath, the location of the works of the Western India Match Company, which they believe to be under the control of the Swedish Match Company; but that all the station to station rates from Ambernath have not been made applicable to Kurla. They are taking up the matter with the Agent of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway.

AMOUNT OF GOLD SOLD TO AMERICA AND GERMANY FROM THE GOLD RESERVES OF INDIA IN ENGLAND.

†47. ***Mr. M. S. Seshu Ayyangar:** (a) Will Government please state the total amount of gold sold respectively, since April, 1928, to America and Germany, from out of the Gold Reserves of India kept in England?

(b) Will Government please state why this large drain is made?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (a) No gold has been sold from the gold reserves of India since 1st April 1928.

(b) Does not arise.

PROTECTION AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE INDIAN FILM INDUSTRY.

48. ***Maulvi Abdul Matin Chaudhury:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the news published in the *Statesman* of November 1, 1928, under the heading of "Cinema War in India"?

(b) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the interview given by Mr. Frank Chamberlain, which appeared in the *Statesman* of November 3, 1928, stating that certain big American film-producing interests have combined to open an establishment in India, with a head office in Bombay and branches in Calcutta, and possibly other centres, for the purpose of distributing directly to Indian theatres a large number of American films?

(c) In view of the threatened American invasion of the Indian cinema trade, what steps do Government intend to take to check this menace, which was anticipated in the Report of the Indian Cinematograph Committee?

† This question was not put, owing to the absence of the questioner.

(d) Do Government intend to take steps for the immediate imposition of the quota system, as recommended by the majority of the members of the Cinematograph Committee, for the development and encouragement of the Indian film industry?

(e) Are Government aware that the quota system is in force in Italy, France, Great Britain, Germany, Portugal, Czechoslovakia and some other European countries?

(f) Are Government aware that the French Government have doubled the income-tax payable by American distributors and exhibitors of films in France, for the prevention of a foreign monopoly of film distribution, and do Government intend to take similar steps in India?

(g) Are Government aware that the system of subsidies is prevalent in Germany for the encouragement of the indigenous film industry, and do Government propose to take similar measures to encourage the development of the Indian film industry?

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

(c) and (d). The Report of the Indian Cinematograph Committee is under the consideration of the Government of India.

(e) Yes.

(f) and (g). The reply to the first part of both these questions is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, the Government are not in a position to make any pronouncement pending consideration of the Report of the Indian Cinematograph Committee.

SIMON COMMISSION: EXPENDITURE INCURRED FOR MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SERVING ON THE INDIAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

49. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) Are Government aware that the Indian Legislative Assembly adopted, on the 18th February, 1928, a Resolution declaring that they will have nothing to do with the Simon Commission, at any stage and in any form?

(b) Is it a fact that the Government of India, under the directions of the Secretary of State for India, nominated some Members of the Assembly to serve on the Indian Central Committee?

(c) What would be the approximate or allotted expenses of the Members of the Assembly so nominated?

(d) From which source, the British or the Indian exchequer, do Government propose to defray such expenses?

(e) If the latter, under what rule or authority will they be authorized to do so?

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

(b) No. Nominations were made by His Excellency the Viceroy.

(c) and (d). No separate estimates were framed for the element nominated from the Assembly. Full information on the subject of the financial arrangements will be given in a statement to be laid on the table in reply to question No. 194, asked by Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh.

(e) Government propose to move in this session for a supplementary grant to cover the expenditure on the Indian Central Committee in the current financial year, and for 1929-30 provision to meet the expenses of the Committee is being made in the budget estimates. Meanwhile expenditure on the Committee is being incurred against the budget provision made for the Indian Statutory Commission.

INDIANIZATION OF THE ARMY IN INDIA.

50. **Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if their policy and intention since 1919 have been to Indianize the Army, both officers and soldiers in India?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state in detail how far and what progress has been made in that direction since the aforesaid period?

Mr. G. M. Young: (a) and (b). Government's policy of Indianization in the officer ranks of the Indian Army dates, as the Honourable Member's question suggests, from the year 1919, when Indian officers were first granted the King's Commission in the Indian Army and vacancies at Sandhurst were opened to Indian cadets. The number of those vacancies remained at 10 a year until 1928, when they were increased to 20 a year. At the same time vacancies were made available for Indian cadets at Woolwich and Cranwell. In 1919 there were nine Indian King's Commissioned officers in the Indian Army, and on the 1st January, 1929, there were 91. There has never been any question of Indianizing the soldier ranks in the Indian Army as these ranks are already filled by Indians.

NUMBER OF BRITISH OFFICERS AND TROOPS IN INDIA.

51. **Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of British troops in India immediately before the introduction of the Montagu-Chelmsford reforms and at present?

(b) What is the number of British Officers of all ranks, respectively, at the aforesaid period and now?

(c) Has there been any reduction in the number of British Officers or soldiers since the aforesaid reforms? If so, when, how much and in what ranks?

(d) Has there been any increase in the number of Indian Officers and soldiers since the aforesaid reforms? If so, when, how much and in what ranks?

Mr. G. M. Young: I am afraid I could not collect all the information desired by the Honourable Member without the expenditure of an inordinate

amount of time and labour. I place on the table, however, a statement which I hope will meet his purpose.

Statement laid on the table with reference to starred question No. 51.

British Army in India—

| Date. | No. of Officers. | No. of other ranks. |
|------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| March 1920 | 1,654 | 47,635 |
| March 1928 | 1,955 | 54,764 |

Indian Army—

| Date. | No. of British Officers. | No. of Indian Officers. | No. of other ranks. |
|------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| March 1920 | 3,586 | 4,865 | 2,58,683 |
| March 1928 | 2,074 | 3,351 | 1,33,876 |

The apparent increase in the number of British troops is due to the fact that in 1920 the British Army in India was short of establishment by 2 Cavalry Regiments and 14 Infantry Battalions.

The decrease in the number of British and Indian officers and other ranks of the Indian Army is due to the fact that in 1920 the Indian Army was far above peace requirements as the aftermath of the War.

INDIAN OFFICERS PROMOTED TO THE KING'S COMMISSION.

52. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of Indian Officers with their respective rank in the Army at present holding the Viceroy's Commission?

(b) Have any Subedar-Majors, or Indian Officers holding the Viceroy's Commission, been promoted to the King's Commission?

(c) If so, how many and what are their names and rank?

Mr. G. M. Young: (a) The total number of Viceroy's commissioned officers serving in the Indian Army, excluding sub-assistant surgeons of the Indian Medical Department, is 9,929. 2,325 of these are Jemadars, 1,899 Subedars or Risaldars, and 205 Subedar-Majors or Risaldar-Majors.

(b) Yes.

(c) Twenty, of whom ten have retired. Of the ten still in service, seven are Captains and three Lieutenants. I will give the Honourable Member their names, separately, if he wishes.

INDIAN CADETS WHO HAVE QUALIFIED AT SANDHURST.

53. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) How many Indian cadets have passed out of the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, since it was opened to Indians?

(b) How many of them have been granted the King's Commission since the aforesaid period?

(c) What are their names and ranks?

Mr. G. M. Young: (a) 67.

(b) 65. The other two candidates passed the final examination but were not recommended for Commissions by the authorities at Sandhurst.

(c) The names and present ranks of the officers now serving will be found on pages 259 to 270 of the Indian Army List, a copy of which is in the Library.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will the Honourable Member be pleased to say if these gentlemen are granted permanent or temporary Commissions?

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

NUMBER OF INDIANS ENROLLED IN THE AUXILIARY FORCE.

54. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) Is it a fact that the Auxiliary Force in India was to be thrown open to Indians in consequence of the acceptance of an amended Resolution of the Indian Legislative Assembly in 1924, for which a Commission was to be appointed?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state if Indians have been enrolled in the Auxiliary Force in India since 1924?

(c) If so, how many and from which provinces?

(d) If not, what are the reasons for it?

Mr. G. M. Young: (a) No, Sir. The Auxiliary and Territorial Force Committee, which was appointed in pursuance of the Resolution, did not recommend the admission of Indians to the Auxiliary Force.

(b) to (d). A certain number of Indians, including Parsees, are still serving in the Auxiliary Force. The exact number is not known but is probably round about 500. The great majority were enrolled under paragraph 4 (b) of the Auxiliary Force Act, having been previously members of the Indian Defence Force. I do not know whether any Indians have been enrolled since 1924, but if any have, their enrolment was not strictly legal.

UNITS OF THE INDIAN ARMY COMPLETELY INDIANISED.

55. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) Are there any units of the Indian Army completely Indianised? If so, how many?

(b) Are they officered completely by Indian Officers? If so, how many officers are there?

(c) Have such officers been promoted from the Viceroy's Commission or directly recruited in the King's Commission?

Mr. G. M. Young: (a)—(c). None of the eight units selected for Indianisation is as yet completely Indianised, but the number of Indian King's Commissioned Officers in each is approaching half. They all received their Commissions direct from Sandhurst.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INDIAN SANDHURST COMMITTEE.

56. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if the Resolution of this House, dated 14th September, 1927, recommending the Governor General in Council to be pleased to accept and give effect to the unanimous recommendations of the Indian Sandhurst Committee, has found favour with Government?

(b) If so, has any effect been given to that Resolution?

(c) If the answer be in the affirmative, how far has it been carried out?

(d) If the answer be in the negative, what are the reasons for not carrying it out?

Mr. G. M. Young: The extent to which the recommendations of the Indian Sandhurst Committee have been accepted by Government, and the reasons why some of them were not accepted, have already been announced. I would refer the Honourable Member to the announcement made in this House by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief on the 8th March, 1928, and to my speech on the 10th March.

As regards the steps taken to give effect to the recommendations accepted by Government, I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given on the 8th September last to Mr. K. C. Roy's starred question No. 232.

CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS MAINTAINED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

57. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) Is it a fact that the British Ecclesiastical Department in India is being maintained by the Indian tax-payer at a cost of Rs. 31,11,000 per year?

(b) Are there any non-Christian religious institutions or temples maintained in India by the Government from the Indian exchequer? If so, which, and each at what cost?

(c) Is any portion of the Ecclesiastical expenditure used for the British Army? If so, how much?

(d) Is any expenditure of a similar nature used for the Indian Army? If so, how much?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: (a) The budget estimate of the expenditure under the major head "Ecclesiastical" for the year ending the 31st March, 1929, is Rs. 33,72,000.

(b) No money is expended from Central Revenues on temples and mosques beyond what is required to conserve those that have been declared to be protected monuments and are in the charge of the Archaeological Department. The expenditure on conservation operations cannot be stated with exactness because it is not always recorded separately for each building, or each class of building. It may also be pointed out that many temples and mosques in India received indirect subsidies from the Government in the shape of remissions of land revenue on land owned by them.

(c) Yes, but separate figures for the total expenditure on this account are not available.

(d) Yes; religious teachers are maintained in Indian Army Units. The annual expenditure under this head is about Rupees one lakh five thousand.

CHRISTIAN ORPHANAGES MAINTAINED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

58. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) Are there any Christian orphanages and orphan schools in India maintained or supported, subsidized or aided by Government from the Indian exchequer? If so, where are they situated, what are their names and what is the cost of each?

(b) Are there any non-Christian orphanages and orphan schools in India similarly maintained, supported, subsidized or aided by Government from the Indian exchequer? If so, where are they situated and what are their names and what is the cost of each?

(c) If the answer to part (b) be in the negative, do Government propose to establish orphanages and orphan schools for non-Christians in India?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a), (b) and (c). The information asked for is being collected and will be supplied to the Honourable Member in due course.

VACANCIES IN THE INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE RESERVED FOR INDIANS AND EUROPEANS.

59. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) Is it a fact that 50 per cent. of the annual vacancies in the Indian Civil Service have been reserved for Europeans and 50 per cent. for Indians since the Great War?

(b) If not, what is the percentage reserved?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state how many Europeans and Indians, respectively, have been permanently appointed annually in the Indian Civil Service since the introduction of the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: (a) and (b). Since 1925 the position has been as stated by the Honourable Member in respect of the 80 per cent. of vacancies filled by direct recruitment. The posts held by members of the Provincial Civil Services appointed to listed posts are in addition to these.

(c) A statement has been laid on the table.

Statement showing the number of Europeans and Indians selected for the Indian Civil Service during the years 1921 to 1928.

| Year. | Europeans. | Indians. | Remarks. |
|--------------|--------------------------------|----------|----------|
| 1921 | 30 | 25 | |
| 1922 | 9 | 24 | |
| 1923 | 21 | 15 | |
| 1924 | 3 | 15 | |
| 1925 | 20 | 22 | |
| 1926 | 28 | 27 | |
| 1927 | 37 | 36 | |
| 1928 | Recruitment not yet completed. | | |

RECRUITMENT OF EUROPEANS FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

60. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) Is it a fact that recruitment for the Public Works Department, Imperial Service for India is now made from England from amongst Europeans only and not in India?

(b) If so, why is this discrimination made?

(c) If the answer to part (a) be in the negative, will Government be pleased to state if the recruitment of the aforesaid officers is made by the Public Service Commission by competitive examination or by selection only?

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

(b) Does not arise

(c) Direct appointments to the India-recruited branch of the Indian Service of Engineers were in the past guaranteed to students of certain engineering colleges in India. The guarantees having expired recently, the question of the procedure under which direct recruitment to the branch should be made in future was taken up. This question is still under consideration, and in 1928, recruitment to the branch was, as an *ad interim* measure, effected in accordance with the system in force in the past, but the number of recruits taken was that actually required for the Service, and not the number of appointments formerly guaranteed under that system to the colleges, as the latter was in excess of the actual requirements.

SERVICES RECRUITED BY SELECTION BY THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

61. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** Will Government be pleased to state which are the Services that the Public Service Commission recruits by selection and what is the method of selection adopted?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: A list of the services and specialist posts for which the Public Service Commission make recruitment exclusively by selection according to the terms and conditions prescribed for them by the Government of India from time to time is laid on the table. The method of selection adopted is that laid down in Rule 5 of the Public Service Commission (Functions) Rules, 1926.

There are, however, other services, namely:—the Indian Civil Service, Indian Police Service, Indian Forest Service, Indian Audit and Accounts Service, Military Accounts Department, Imperial Customs Service, Indian Railway Service of Engineers, Transportation (Traffic) and Commercial, Electrical Engineering and Signal Engineering Departments of State Railways, which are mainly recruited by competitive examinations and only partially by selection or nomination, if the results of the examinations make this necessary for the purpose of redressing communal inequalities. Recruitment in the latter case is carried out in accordance with the specific rules or orders issued by the Secretary of State or the Governor General in Council.

List of Services and Specialist Posts.

1. Mechanical Engineering Department of the Superior Revenue Establishment of State Railways.
2. The Archaeological Survey of India.
3. The Geological Survey of India.
4. The Zoological Survey of India.
5. The Botanical Survey of India.
6. The Indian Meteorological Department.
7. The Medical Department of the Indian State Railways.
8. Assistant Divisional Engineers (Telegraphs) in the Indian Telegraph Department.
9. Special posts in the Railway Department, the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, the Veterinary Research Department, and the Indian Stores Department.

Mr. K. Ahmed: Will the Honourable Member be pleased to say if the Deputy Secretary of the separate Secretariat of the Honourable the President will be appointed by the Public Service Commission or by the Governor General?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar: The appointment will be made in due course after consultation with the Public Service Commission.

METHOD OF RECRUITMENT FOR APPOINTMENTS ON STATE RAILWAYS.

62. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) Which Services in the State Railways are recruited through the Public Service Commission?
- (b) Which by the Railway Board?
- (c) Which by the Agents of the State Railways?
- (d) In cases of (b) and (c), what method of recruitment is adopted?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) All recruitment in India for permanent appointments in the superior railway services is made through the Public Service Commission.

(b) The recruitment for temporary appointments of gazetted rank is made by the Railway Board.

(c) Appointments to subordinate establishments are made by Agents of State Railways.

(d) A roster of applicants for appointments of temporary engineers is kept in the Railway Board's office, and when a vacancy occurs the names of applicants on this roster who appear to be suitable are communicated to the Agent of the railway concerned, who interviews the candidates and sends his recommendation for the appointment to the Railway Board. Temporary appointments of gazetted officers in other branches of railway service are of rare occurrence but the ordinary practice would be for applications to be invited by advertisement and for the applicants to be interviewed by a committee convened by the Railway Board.

On the North Western Railway recruitment to subordinate establishments is made by selection Boards composed of officers of the railway, and a similar system is being developed on other State railways.

NUMBER OF INDIAN ARTISTS IN RECEIPT OF SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDY IN EUROPE.

63. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) How many Indian artists are receiving scholarships from the Indian Government for study and training in Europe?
- (b) What line of study and training are they engaged in, and how much do each of them get?
- (c) To what provinces in India do they belong?
- (d) Are there any such Indian students given scholarships for their study and training in America? If so, how many are there and what amount of scholarship do they receive?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a), (b) and (c). No scholarship has yet been awarded by the Government of India to Indian artists for study and training in Europe. But the attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the Press communiqué issued by the Department of Industries and Labour on the 9th November, 1928, a copy of which is being forwarded separately to him for information. It will be observed that it is the intention of the Government of India to award four State scholarships for art studies in Europe during the ensuing financial year.

(d) No such scholarship has been awarded by the Government of India. The second part of this question does not therefore arise.

EMPLOYMENT OF INDIAN DIRECTORS BY THE BURMA OIL COMPANY AND THE ASIATIC PETROLEUM COMPANY.

64. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: With reference to the answer by the Honourable Mr. A. C. McWatters to my question No. 508, dated the 12th September, 1928, will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether monopolies have been granted to the Burma Oil Company and Asiatic Petroleum Company?
- (b) If the answer be in the affirmative, whether these companies have Indian directors on their rolls? If so, how many of them? If not, why not?
- (c) Do Government propose to enforce their policy by making such companies have a reasonable proportion of Indian directors?

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

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

TRANSFER OF THE TAHSIL OF NASIRABAD FROM BALUCHISTAN TO SIND.

65. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) If there was a movement that the Tahsil of Nasirabad in District Sibi of Baluchistan territory be transferred to the Province of Sind, being annexed to Upper Sind Frontier District?
- (b) Is it a fact that the Deputy Commissioner of the Upper Sind Frontier and the Commissioner in Sind are in favour of the annexation?
- (c) Is it a fact that the public of the Tahsil and of the Upper Sind Frontier District are in favour of the annexation?
- (d) How far has the matter progressed?
- (e) Do Government propose to transfer the aforesaid Tahsil to the Upper Sind Frontier District?

Sir Denys Bray: Enquiry is being made from the Local Administration and a reply will be sent to the Honourable Member in due course.

†66. *

REMUNERATION PAID TO MEMBERS OF THE AGE OF CONSENT COMMITTEE.

67. *Pandit Nilakantha Das (on behalf of Mr. S. C. Mitra): (1) Will Government be pleased to say whether any distinction has been made

† For this question and its answer, see at the end of starred questions for the day.

between the Age of Consent Committee and the other Committees appointed by the Government of India during the last five years in relation to remuneration, rates of travelling allowances, conditions of travelling allowances, halting allowances and other facilities?

(2) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table the remuneration, rates of travelling allowances, conditions of travelling allowances, halting allowances, and other facilities which have been sanctioned by the Government to the Members of the Age of Consent Committee and the following Committees appointed by the Government of India:

- (i) The Cinematograph Committee,
- (ii) The Education Committee under the presidency of Sir Philip Hartog,
- (iii) The Roads Development Committee,
- (iv) The Central Legislature Committee to collaborate with the Simon Commission?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar: (a) No uniform scale of remuneration, allowances and other conditions of appointment has been prescribed for committees appointed by the Government of India. The terms of appointment are those which are considered suitable in each case and the members of such committees are informed of them at the time of appointment.

(b) I lay on the table a statement giving the information required.

Statement showing the remuneration, rates of travelling allowance, etc., of certain Committees

| Name of Committee. | Remuneration of Members. | Travelling and halting allowances. | Condition of travelling and halting allowances. |
|------------------------------|---|---|---|
| 1. Age of Consent Committee. | <p>(1) <i>Chairman</i>—Rs. 3,000 a month.</p> <p>(2) <i>Members excepting Mrs. O'Brien Beadon</i>—Rs. 50 a day for each day of the period during which the Committee is assembled in Simla or on tour provided the member is present at Simla or at the place where the Committee happens to be while on tour.</p> <p>(3) <i>Mrs. O'Brien Beadon</i>—Rs. 1,800 a month.</p> | <p>(1) While travelling with the Committee the Chairman is entitled on requisition to a reserved first class compartment.</p> <p>(2) The members are classified as first class officers for the purpose of Travelling Allowance Rules.</p> <p>(3) Chairman and the Members are entitled to a halting allowance of Rs. 15 1a day for periods of halt while on tour away from the headquarters.</p> <p>(4) The Chairman and Members are granted travelling allowance for journeys to join the Committee, to home and back during recess, and to return home on completion of the work of Committee.</p> | <p>The daily halting allowance is in lieu of and not in addition to that admissible under the ordinary rules. The travelling and halting allowances are subject to the same conditions as are applicable to first class officers of the Government of India while on tour or otherwise.</p> |

| Name of Committee. | Remuneration of Members. | Travelling and halting allowances. | Conditions of travelling and halting allowances. |
|---|---|--|---|
| <p>2. Indian Cinematograph Committee.</p> | <p><i>Chairman</i>— Rs. 3,000 a month while Chairman of the Committee plus a daily allowance of Rs. 15 a day.</p> <p><i>Members</i>— <i>Non-official Members</i>— Rs. 50 a day plus a daily allowance of Rs. 15 a day.</p> <p><i>Mr. A. M. Green.</i>— Basic pay and overseas pay as in his post of Collector of Customs, Bombay, plus special pay at the rate of Rs. 150 per mensem, plus a daily allowance of Rs. 15 a day.</p> <p><i>Mr. J. Coatman.</i>— Rate of pay as Director of Public Information, plus a daily allowance of Rs. 15 a day.</p> | <p>The Members of the Committee were classified as 1st Class officers for the purposes of the Travelling Allowance Rules. While travelling with the Committee the Chairman was entitled on requisition to a 1st Class compartment and a 1st Class compartment was reserved for each two Members of the Committee. The Chairman and Members received in addition their actual travelling expenses up to a maximum of 3.5ths of 1st Class fare.</p> | <p>The daily allowance was drawn continuously by the Chairman and Members while they were on duty with the Committee whether travelling or not. No halting allowance was granted in addition.</p> |
| <p>3. Auxiliary Committee on the Growth of Education.</p> | <p>(1) <i>Chairman, Sir Philip Hartog</i>:—Pay as Member of the Public Service Commission.</p> <p><i>Official Member, Sir George Anderson</i>.— Pay as Director of Public Instruction, Punjab.</p> <p><i>Other Members (non-official)</i>— Personal compensatory allowance not exceeding Rs. 1,500 a month payable while in India.</p> <p>(2) <i>All Members</i>.—Subsistence allowance of Rs. 15 a day.</p> | <p><i>Chairman and Members</i>—</p> <p>(1) Travelling allowance admissible to first class officers under the Fundamental Rules but without the daily allowance.</p> <p>(2) Reserved accommodation by train:—</p> <p>(a) For all journeys before the visit of the Committee to Bombay in the middle of September, one reserved compartment for the Chairman, one coupe compartment for the lady Member and two first class berths each for the other Members.</p> <p>(b) For all journeys from Bombay onwards, one sleeper bogie car carrying 18 first class fares—this includes accommodation for Secretary of the Committee also.</p> | |

| Name of Committee. | Remuneration of Members. | Travelling and halting allowances. | Conditions of travelling and halting allowances. |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| <p>4. Road Development Committee.</p> | <p><i>Chairman and Members (who were non-official members of the Legislature):</i></p> <p>1. Remuneration of Rs. 50 a day and, in addition, a daily allowance of Rs. 15 to—</p> <p>(a) Members of the touring sub-committee for the period of their tour;</p> <p>(b) Members of the full committee who attended the proceedings of the touring sub-committee in their respective provinces; and</p> | <p>(c) Each Member was allowed free accommodation for two private servants or two third class fares for servants and in addition reasonable portorage charges on the certificate of the Secretary of the Committee.</p> <p>(3) Reserved accommodation by Steamer during tour of the Committee:—</p> <p>For the Chairman, one two berthed reserved cabin and cost of two deck passages for two servants and reasonable portorage charges.</p> <p>For each Member, one and three-fifths non-diet first class passages.</p> <p>(4) For Sir Amherst Selby Bigge and Sir George Anderson, a free first class A passage to and from India including free railway fare by the overland route.</p> <p>(1) Travelling allowances as admissible under the Supplementary Rules to effect of the 1st class, i.e., 1 1/2ths fare of the highest class of accommodation provided by rail or steamer.</p> <p>(2) Two members of the touring sub-committee, who were members of the Council of State, were entitled to reserve by requisition ordinary 1st class compartments only when they were on tour with the sub-committee.</p> | <p>The daily allowance, mentioned in column 2, was in lieu of, and not in addition to that admissible under the ordinary rules.</p> |

| Name of Committee. | Remuneration of Members. | Travelling and halting allowances. | Condition of travelling and halting allowances. |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|---|
| <p>5. Indian Central Committee.</p> | <p>(c) Members of the full committee attending meetings of the Committee outside the headquarters, which was with the Government of India.</p> <p>2. A daily allowance of Rs. 50 when attending meetings of the Committee in Delhi. This allowance, however, was not to be paid when the Legislature was in Session and the Members were in receipt of the daily allowance admissible to them as members of the Legislature.</p> <p><i>Note.</i>—There was only one official member on the Committee. No extra remuneration was sanctioned for him. He performed his duties in addition to his ordinary work.</p> <p><i>Chairman and Members—</i></p> <p>(1) Personal compensatory allowance at Rs. 1,500 a month each.</p> <p>(2) Subsistence allowance of Rs. 15 a day each.</p> | <p><i>Chairman and Members—</i></p> <p>(a) Travelling allowance admissible to first class officers under the Fundamental Rules but without the daily allowance.</p> <p>(b) The Committee has been provided with reserved railway accommodation on the following scales :—</p> <p><i>Chairman.</i>—One bogie saloon.</p> <p><i>Members.</i>—One reserve first class compartment each.</p> <p>The Committee is allowed to requisition a special train containing the above accommodation and also accommodation for its Secretariat and clerical and menial staff.</p> | <p>The subsistence allowance is drawn continuously even at headquarters and in train except for the period when members are absent on business of their own for which no allowance is admissible.</p> |

| Name of Committee. | Remuneration of Members. | Travelling and halting allowances. | Condition of travelling and halting allowances. |
|--------------------|--------------------------|---|---|
| | | <p>(c) The Chairman and Members are entitled to recover actual expenses limited to 3.5ths first class fare if they travel on the business of the Committee otherwise than by a special train.</p> <p>(d) For journeys performed in the special train third class accommodation for a maximum of two private servants can be availed of free, and reasonable portorage charges are also allowed on the certificate of the Secretary or Deputy Secretary of the Committee.</p> <p>(e) The Members of the Committee are allowed to take in their reserved accommodation their wives or any close relation provided no additional expenditure is involved.</p> <p>(f) The Members are entitled to 1½ths first class fares by train to join or return from the Committee from time to time.</p> <p>(g) The Members receive while with the Committee a conveyance allowance of Rs. 20 a day for all days other than those spent wholly in travelling by rail or steamer.</p> <p>(h) The Chairman is allowed to hire for the day one motor car for his use while travelling on duty to places outside the five miles radius of his camp.</p> <p>(i) Steamer accommodation for voyages from Calcutta to Rangoon and from Rangoon to Madras :— <i>Chairman.</i>—3½ first class fares. <i>Members.</i>—2½ first class fares if accompanied by their wives, otherwise two first class fares.</p> | |

COMMITTEES APPOINTED SINCE 1921 TO REPORT ON QUESTIONS OF ADMINISTRATION.

68. *Pandit Nilakantha Das (on behalf of Mr. S. C. Mitra): Will Government be pleased to state what committees have been appointed since 1921 by the Government of India to report on questions of administration?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar: I lay on the table a list of the committees appointed by the Government of India since 1921.

List showing committees appointed by the Government of India since 1921.

1. The Repressive Laws Committee.
2. North West Frontier Enquiry Committee.
3. Piece Workers' Committee.
4. Railway Industries Committee.
5. Seamen's Recruitment Committee.
6. The Military Requirements Committee.
7. The Committee appointed to consider the Esher Committee's Report.
8. The Cantonment Reforms Committee.
9. The Indianization Committee.
10. The Waziristan Committee.
11. The Braithwaite Committee.
12. The Indian Retrenchment Committee.
13. Tariff Board.
14. Indian Mercantile Marine Committee.
15. Committee to make recommendations regarding the reorganization of the administrative methods of the Forest Department.
16. Burma Reforms Committee.
17. Indian Bar Committee.
18. Civil Justice Committee.
19. The Reforms Enquiry Committee.
20. The Indian Taxation Enquiry Committee.
21. The Indian Economic Enquiry Committee.
22. Colonies Committee.
23. Deputation of the Government of India to South Africa.
24. Government of India Delegation to South Africa.
25. Government of India Deputation to East Africa.
26. Deputation of Educational Experts to South Africa.
27. Frontier Civil Forces Committee.
28. Committee to enquire into the Back Bay Reclamation Scheme.
29. Age of Consent Committee.
30. The Indian Cinema Committee.
31. The Auxiliary and Territorial Force Committee.
32. Indian Sandhurst Committee.
33. The Indian Arms Rules Committee.
34. The Indian Road Development Committee.

ADVOCACY OF AN INFORMATION BUREAU BY THE *TANGANYIKA OPINION*.

69. *Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the article appearing in the *Tanganyika Opinion*, dated the 18th July, 1928, under the heading "Information Bureau" on page 9?

(b) Have Government considered the case for an Information Bureau; and what steps, if any, do Government propose to take in the matter?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: Government have not received the issue of the *Tanganyika Opinion*, dated the 18th July, 1928. If the Honourable Member will supply me with the article referred to, I shall endeavour to answer his question.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: Cannot the Honourable Member write and get a copy of the *Tanganyika Opinion* from his office direct?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: As a matter of fact, I rely on the Honourable Member to supply us with the information on the strength of which he asks his questions.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: Then all these questions go for nothing. (Laughter).

Mr. K. Ahmed: Is not the Honourable Member answering the question on behalf of the Government in a better position to get a supply of the newspaper from *Tanganyika* than any Honourable Member of this House?

Is it not the duty of the Government, particularly of my Honourable friend who represents his Department, to send for the paper in order to satisfy the representatives of the people of this country in this House by furnishing them with sufficient information?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I do not quite understand, Sir, whether the Honourable Member wishes me to supply the whole House with copies of this newspaper, or whether he wishes to know whether we get this particular newspaper in the Secretariat Library. We do get this paper for our Library, but, unfortunately, the issue of the particular date mentioned by the Honourable Member I have not been able to get hold of. Whereas there is undoubtedly on us an obligation to get newspapers of interest, I presume Honourable Members who ask questions have also the ordinary obligation of courtesy to supply us with material which they themselves possess.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: Is not a copy supplied to the Public Information Bureau?

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

Mr. K. Ahmed: Is it not the duty of the officer in charge of the Public Information Bureau to get information from outside also, or do the Government stick merely to the information obtained from the districts and provinces in India?

APPOINTMENT OF AN INDIAN TRADE COMMISSIONER FOR EAST AFRICA.

70. *Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the leading article headed "Indian Trade Mission", published in the *Tanganyika Opinion*, in its issue of the 20th July, 1928 (page 11)?

(b) Do Government propose to appoint Indian Trade Commissioners in the Colonies, and specially in East Africa? If so, when?

(c) Do Government propose to place before this House the recommendations made by the Indian Trade Mission, headed by Dr. Meek? If so, when?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: (a) Government have seen the article.

(b) The question of appointing Indian Trade Commissioners abroad is under consideration.

(c) The report of the Mission has been published, and copies have been placed in the Library.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: With regard to the answer to clause (b) of the question, when is a decision likely to be arrived at?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: I think perhaps, Sir, it would be better for me not to claim the role of a prophet, but I should certainly hope that the decision will not be very long deferred.

REPRESENTATION OF INDIA IN THE COMMERCIAL SECTION OF THE EASTERN AFRICA SHOW.

71. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the article appearing on page 12 of the *Tanganyika Opinion*, dated the 24th August, 1928, headed "The Eastern Africa Show"?

(b) Are Government aware that in the Commercial Section of the said Eastern Africa Show, India is not represented, while England and South Africa have been represented? If so, why?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: (a) The Government has seen the article.

(b) I observe that the article states that stands in the Commercial Section have been booked by enterprising firms from South Africa and England; but I do not know why no stands have been booked by enterprising firms from India.

CREATION OF MARKETS IN EAST AFRICA AND OTHER COLONIES BY MEANS OF PUBLICITY WORK.

72. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) Have Government seen the articles appearing in the *Tanganyika Opinion*, dated the 31st August, 1928 (pages 4 and 8), under the heading "The Empire Marketing Board"? And are Government aware of the manner in which publicity work is done in connection with creating markets?

(b) Are Government aware that there are little or no means available to the mercantile community of India of being directly in touch with the commercial world in the East African and other Colonies? And what measures, if any, do Government propose to take to remedy this state of affairs?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: (a) The Government have not seen the article appearing in the *Tanganyika Opinion* of the 31st August, 1928, but they have read the report of the Empire Marketing Board on its publicity work during the year May 1927 to May 1928.

(b) The Government are considering the question of appointing Indian Trade Commissioners abroad.

CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO THE SIMON COMMISSION BOYCOTT DEMONSTRATIONS AT LAHORE.

73. *Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: (a) Has there been any correspondence between the Government of India, the Local Government of the Punjab, and the India Office, relating to the Simon Commission boycott demonstrations at Lahore, and the assaults on the people, and their leaders, and injuries to Lala Lajpat Rai? If so, do Government propose to publish this correspondence?

(b) Why do not Government institute an open and impartial enquiry into the matter?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: With your permission, Sir, I propose to answer the questions numbered 73, 80, 81, 82, 83 and 115 together. The incidents that occurred at Lahore on the arrival of the Statutory Commissioner, Rawalpindi, and I am placing in the Library copies of his report. The questions arising out of this report were fully discussed in the Punjab Legislative Council. For the details connected with this matter I would refer the Honourable Members to Mr. Boyd's report and the debate in the Punjab Legislative Council. That Council, by a large majority, rejected the Resolution suggesting further enquiry. The Government of India do not propose to take any further action.

The Government of India received from the Punjab Government a full account of these incidents, and this account was communicated to the Secretary of State.

Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya: Will the Honourable Member lay the communication which he has made to the Secretary of State on the table of this House?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: All the material facts bearing on the case are included in the papers to which I have already referred and which are available to the Honourable Member.

Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya: I put the definite question. "Will the Honourable Member lay the communication which he has made to the Secretary of State on the subject on the table of this House".

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: No; I am not prepared to do that, for the reason which I have stated, namely, that all material facts are contained in the report to which I have referred and in the debates in the Punjab Legislative Council in which the spokesmen of the Local Government stated the facts fully.

Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya: I ask whether the Government of India is not responsible, even to this extent, that it will lay upon the table of this House the communication which it has made to the Secretary of State on this subject. The facts may be contained in

Mr. President: Order, order. The Honourable Member cannot make a speech. He is entitled to put a supplementary question.

Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya: I was going to explain why I put that supplementary question.

Mr. President: Does the Honourable Member wish to put a question?

Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya: Yes.

Mr. President: Then he will put a definite question.

Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya: Will the Honourable Member state the reason why he is not willing to place the communication which he has made to the Secretary of State on the subject, on the table of the House?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: I think I have already made my position clear on that point.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: It is not clear to us.

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: The whole of the material facts are already, as I have explained, contained in the report to which I have referred and in the published debates of the Punjab Legislative Council.

Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya: If the facts are contained in those published papers, is not that a strong reason why he should place that communication on the table of this House?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: No, I do not think so.

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer: Will Government be pleased to consider the advisability of placing the communication on the table?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: I have already considered the advisability and have come to the conclusion which I have already stated.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: If there are no additional materials contained in the despatch which the Government of India have sent to the Secretary of State, what is the objection to placing a copy of it on the table of the House?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: Redundancy.

Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya: Does the Honourable Member mean to say that there are matters in the communication which will not bear the light of day, and that that is the reason why he is not placing it on the table?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: No.

Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya: Then what objection can he have to placing the communication on the table of the House? The Honourable Member is aware that this House does want to know what communication the Government of India have made to the Secretary of State on this very sad and deplorable incident

Mr. President: Order, order.

Mr. M. E. Jayakar: Is the House to understand that the Honourable Member is refusing to put the papers on the table on the ground of any secrecy?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: I have already explained, and I hope that this will be the last occasion which will necessitate my doing so, that the whole of the material facts are contained in the report of Mr. Boyd and in the statements of the official spokesmen on the occasion of the debate in the Punjab Legislative Council. I have nothing to conceal and nothing to add.

Mr. B. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Will not Government give to this House an opportunity of understanding what opinion the Government of India expressed on the materials that were placed before them by the Boyd Committee? That is exactly what is wanted now in the demand that this correspondence should be placed on the table.

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: The Government of India communicated to the Secretary of State the statement of facts which they received from the Punjab Government.

Mr. B. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Did not the Government of India communicate to the Secretary of State any conclusions which they themselves drew from the facts that were placed before them?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: The Government of India concurred in the views submitted by the Punjab Government, which had already been fully stated by the spokesmen of that Government in the local Council.

Kumar Ganganand Sinha: Then they had no view of their own? "

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: It is quite possible to maintain an opinion which coincides with the opinion of another on the same question.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Is it not a fact that the enquiry by Mr. Boyd was a one-sided one?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: If that was so, it was not the fault of Mr. Boyd.

Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya: The Honourable Member is aware that Lala Lajpat Rai was a Member of this Assembly and therefore Members of this House desire to have information as to the attitude of the Government of India on this question.

Mr. President: Order, order; I cannot permit the Honourable Member to raise a debate. If he wants to put a supplementary question, he is perfectly entitled to do so.

Mr. K. Ahmed: Then begin by saying, "In view of the fact and so on" (Laughter).

Mr. M. E. Jayakar: Is the Honourable Member aware of the strong and intense feeling which Members of this House have on some of the incidents which happened in the Punjab at that time?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: I have no doubt that a strong feeling had been excited by a very unfortunate situation.

Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya: I ask definitely whether the Honourable Member does not think it his duty, as representing the Government of India, to place on the table a copy of the communication he has made to the Secretary of State on that disgraceful attack which was made on a Member of this Assembly.

Mr. President: That question has already been answered by the Honourable Member.

Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya: No, Sir. I beg your pardon. I asked whether the Honourable Member does not think it his duty to lay on the table of this House a report he has made to the Secretary of State relating

to a Member of this Assembly. That is the point I wish to emphasize. The proceedings of the Punjab Council and the reports of the Punjab Government are not matters which touch us directly. I want to know whether the Government of India do not consider it their duty to lay on the table of the House the report which they have made to the Secretary of State, relating to an incident which affected a Member of this Assembly.

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: I regret I have nothing to add to the answers I have already given to questions which covered precisely the same ground.

FACILITIES GRANTED TO PROFESSOR ROERICH AND OTHER AMERICAN EXPLORERS PROCEEDING TO TIBET.

74. *Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: (a) Will Government kindly state what facilities, if any, were given by the Government to Professor Roerich, the American explorer and his party, in their expedition to Tibet?

(b) Is it a fact that a Commission of Enquiry, composed of delegates from several American Institutions, arrived, or will shortly arrive in India, on its way to Tibet? What facilities in the way of granting passports or otherwise have been given to this Commission of Enquiry? And what is the object of this Commission?

Sir Denys Bray: (a) No facilities were given by Government to Professor Roerich (who is, by the by, a Russian, not an American subject), on his expedition into Tibet, which he entered from Chinese Turkestan.

(b) Government have of course nothing to do with a Commission of Enquiry composed of delegates from one foreign country proceeding to another foreign country, nor have they given any facilities to it.

CONSTRUCTION OF A RAILWAY BETWEEN NASIRABAD AND DEOLI.

75. *Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: Will Government be pleased to state if it is proposed to construct a railway line from Nasirabad to Deoli (Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway)? If so, when is the traffic survey likely to be taken in hand?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: A revision of the traffic survey was sanctioned in July 1928, but the results of the survey have not yet been received by the Railway Board.

APPLICATIONS FOR RELIEF TO THE RAILWAY RATES ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

76. *Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement, showing the names of those who have submitted applications to the Railway Rates Advisory Committee since its institution, the nature of the complaints, the kind of relief sought, and the action taken on the applications?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: I am having a statement giving the information required by the Honourable Member placed in the Library.

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM INDIAN REVENUES TO COST OF THE SINGAPORE NAVAL BASE.

77. *Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: Is there any proposal before Government regarding contributions from Indian revenues towards the construction of the Singapore Naval Base?

Mr. G. M. Young: The answer to this question is, as on all previous occasions, in the negative.

INCREASE OF ACCIDENTS ON THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

78. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of accidents that have occurred in the local train service of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway since the electrification of the service by passengers standing on the foot-boards due to congestion, or more due to the Railway Authorities running single units, and thereby striking at the pillars of the bridges or overhead structures or signal posts or otherwise, due to their nearness to the lines?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether, by a reference to statistics since the electrification scheme, the number of such casualties has increased, and if the answer is in the affirmative, what precautionary measures the Railway Authorities have taken in the matter or propose to take to minimise such accidents?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) None. The Honourable Member is I expect referring to the accident near Byculla Bridge on the 1st of October, 1928, when two passengers fell out of a running train and were fatally injured. Investigation showed that these two men were standing in the door-way of a compartment and lost their balance; they did not come in contact with an iron structure or a signal post.

(b) The answer is in the negative. But I should like to explain that, according to a report received from the Agent of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, there is an unfortunate tendency amongst passengers to stand in the door-way of a compartment or to ride on the foot-board of a carriage, even when there is ample seating accommodation inside. In order to prevent this, notices have been displayed on platforms and inside the carriages, warning the passengers against the danger of standing in the door-way of carriages or riding on the foot-boards, and experiments are being made as to the suitability or otherwise of the introduction of automatic doors on electric trains of the type in use on the London Underground Railways.

CAUSE OF TWO ACCIDENTS ON THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY ON 1ST OCTOBER, 1928.

79. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** Are Government aware of the dual accidents that occurred on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway local service on the 1st October, 1928, and the following remarks passed by the Coroner and the jury:

- (a) to relieve the extraordinary congestion which is said to occur on the up local trains in the mornings;
- (b) to remove immediately from its present position the signal post at the north of the Byculla Bridge, which is in dangerous proximity to up electric trains;
- (c) to remedy defects which exist in the working of the emergency chains in the trains on their systems?

If the answers to the above are in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state what steps the Railway Authorities have taken or propose to take in view of the observations made by the City Coroner?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: Government have seen the remarks of the Coroner and the jury to which the Honourable Member refers.

The Great Indian Peninsula Railway Administration report that no extraordinary congestion occurs on the up local trains in the mornings, nor, they observe, did the City Coroner and jury commit themselves to a statement to this effect. But an extra train is being run and steps are being taken to ensure that all trains during the rush hours are provided with the full complement of coaches.

The signal post mentioned has been removed and the working of the emergency chains has been improved.

INQUIRY INTO THE ACTION OF THE POLICE IN CONNECTION WITH THE DEMONSTRATION AGAINST THE SIMON COMMISSION AT LAHORE.

†80. ***Diwan Chaman Lall:** 1. Is it a fact that on the 30th of October, 1928, the police at Lahore assaulted several members of a demonstration organised as a protest against the arrival of the Simon Commission?

2. Is it a fact that among those assaulted was the late Lala Lajpat Rai?

3. Is it a fact that Lala Lajpat Rai received two injuries over the region of the heart?

4. Is it a fact that Lala Lajpat Rai complained of constant weakness as a result of the assault upon him?

5. Is it a fact that the doctors who attended upon the late Lala Lajpat Rai have averred that his death was hastened as a result of the wounds received by him?

6. Is it a fact that Lala Lajpat Rai himself expressed the opinion that he was deliberately attacked with murderous intent?

7. Will Government be pleased to state what action has been taken by them to investigate, through an impartial tribunal, the truth of the above allegations?

NATURE OF ACTION TAKEN AGAINST THE POLICE IN CONNECTION WITH THE DEMONSTRATION AGAINST THE SIMON COMMISSION AT LAHORE.

†81. ***Diwan Chaman Lall:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the names of the officers engaged in the assaults at the Lahore Railway Station on October the 30th?

(b) Will Government state the nature of the action taken against the said officers?

STATEMENT BY LORD WINTERTON IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS REGARDING THE ACTION OF THE POLICE AT THE BOYCOTT DEMONSTRATION AGAINST THE SIMON COMMISSION AT LAHORE.

†82. ***Diwan Chaman Lall:** Will Government state whether Lord Winterton's statement in the House of Commons is correct that the police used only necessary force "to restrain the crowds from breaking the barricades"?

† For answer to this question see answer to question No. 73.

ORDERS ISSUED TO THE POLICE IN CONNECTION WITH THE BOYCOTT DEMONSTRATION AGAINST THE SIMON COMMISSION AT LAHORE.

†83. ***Diwan Chaman Lal:** Will Government state the exact nature of orders, departmental or otherwise, issued to the police by the executive or administrative authorities in connection with the control of crowds that were expected to assemble in Lahore on October 30th, 1928, and the manner in which such crowds were to be handled?

‡84. *

INCREASED ADMISSIONS TO SANDHURST, WOOLWICH AND CROYDON BY COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS OPEN TO BRITISH, ANGLO-INDIAN AND INDIAN BOYS IN INDIA.

85. ***Dr. B. S. Moonje:** (a) Will Government please state if it is a fact, as reported in the papers, that special arrangements have been made for nominating British cadets from India for the Royal Military College at Sandhurst?

(b) If so, what special need was there for making such racial discrimination in favour of British cadets as against the Anglo-Indian and Indian cadets?

(c) Could not the British cadets compete with the Anglo-Indian boys, who are competing with Indian boys, for admission to the Royal Military College at Sandhurst?

(d) Do Government propose to increase the number of yearly admissions from India to Sandhurst, Woolwich and Croydon, and issue orders that the selection of cadets shall be by competitive examination under a joint system applicable to all boys from India, whether British, Anglo-Indian or purely Indian?

Mr. G. M. Young: (a) Yes Sir and a Press communiqué was issued by Government on the subject on the 22nd November, 1928.

(b) No racial discrimination is involved in this measure. The Governor General of India has been empowered, like the Governors General of Dominions, to nominate a few British candidates annually for admission to Sandhurst, subject to their passing the entrance examination for which they will sit in India. The object is merely to save British candidates resident in the Dominions or India from the unnecessary trouble and expense involved by a return journey to England, if they fail to qualify at the entrance examination.

(c) If the Honourable Member's suggestion were accepted, such of these British candidates, as were successful, would gain admission to Sandhurst at the expense of Indian and Anglo-Indian boys.

(d) The answer is in the negative. British candidates from India will not be allowed to compete for Indian vacancies at Sandhurst.

Dr. B. S. Moonje: Why are British cadets exempted from competition? Why are they nominated?

Mr. G. M. Young: They are not exempted from competition. They are nominated, and then they appear at the examination.

† For answer to this question see answer to question No. 73.

‡ For this question and its answer, see at the end of starred questions for the day.

Dr. B. S. Moonje: Why are they exempted from competition with Indian and Anglo-Indian boys.

Mr. G. M. Young: I have already explained the reason which is, that if they were successful in competing with Indian and Anglo-Indian boys, they would gain admission at the expenses of those boys, and there would be fewer vacancies available for Indians.

(1) ADDITION TO THE ROYAL AIR FORCE IN INDIA ; (2) INCREASED FACILITIES FOR THE STUDY OF AVIATION BY INDIANS.

86. ***Dr. B. S. Moonje:** (a) Will Government please state if it is a fact, as announced in the papers, that Royal Air Force Bombing Squadrons 11 and 39 are being sent out to India from England as a permanent addition to the existing Royal Air Force in India? If so, what special need is there for such an addition at a time when India is at peace with its neighbours?

(b) Do Government propose to provide for such emergencies by increasing the number of Indian boys to be sent to England annually for the study of aviation, both civil and military, and also by creating facilities in India for teaching aviation, so that the rank and file required for the Air Force may be recruited in India instead of having to import them from England?

Mr. G. M. Young: (a) The answer is in the affirmative. The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the Press communiqué, dated the 3rd January, 1928, and to pages 1154 and 1155 of the report of the Assembly debates of March, 1928. The two squadrons mentioned by the Honourable Member are being sent to India to complete the establishment of eight squadrons in accordance with decisions announced a year ago. The requirements of the Air Force in India after the war were originally calculated at eight squadrons, but for financial reasons the strength of the Force was not brought up to this figure earlier. The addition is not due to any special need or emergency.

(b) I think my Honourable friend must be aware of the decision to create gradually an Indian air squadron, and of the fact that six vacancies at Cranwell have already been offered for competition to Indians. Facilities for training the rank and file of an Indian Air Force unit already exist and will be utilised as soon as Indian cadets begin passing into Cranwell. Ten scholarships have been established for the training of Indians in civil aviation in England. It is not proposed to increase this number at present. Four light aeroplane clubs have recently been established in India. Indians can receive training in aviation by joining any of these clubs. Tenders have also been invited for the contract for the operation of an internal aeroplane service in India, and it is the intention of Government that the company which obtains the contract should be required to afford training and opportunities for employment to Indians in all branches of its work.

(1) REMARKS ON THE SIMON COMMISSION BY MR. F. W. JOHNSTONE ; (2) ALLEGED PROPAGANDA BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA IN AMERICA.

87. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the following remarks made by Mr. F. W. Johnstone, the American representative of the League, against Imperialism at Berlin, and

published in the *Anrita Bazar Patrika*, dated the 4th December, 1928 (page 9):—

“To us Americans the Simon Commission is a bluff. We have lost confidence in investigation committees. We are for complete independence as the inherent birthright of the people”?

(b) How much money have Government spent out of Indian revenues for carrying on political propaganda in America?

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

(b) None.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: Was not a Professor of the Patna College sent out to America for this purpose some time back?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: Nobody has been sent for the purpose of carrying on political propaganda in America.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: At the expense of the State?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: Not for political propaganda.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: Yes.

†88.*

ALLEGED MAL-ADMINISTRATION OF THE AFFAIRS OF PUSHKAR BY THE SHAMLAT COMMITTEE.

89. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) Are Government aware when the Shamlat Committee took charge of the Pushkar affairs in 1903, under the direction of the Local Government, what was the condition and extent of the landed property, and what it is now?

(b) Is it a fact that the Pushkar Raj was in possession of landed property to the extent of about 62,000 bighas, conferred by the Moghal Emperors, and now, after 25 years' management of the Shamlat Committee, it possesses only three to four thousand bighas? How is the position reversed and who is responsible for it?

(c) Are no regular accounts kept by the Shamlat Committee of Pushkar, and is it a fact that the accounts, if any, are never checked or supervised by the Local Government or the Government of India through auditors or otherwise?

(d) Are Government aware that much of the landed property of the Jagir has been sold away or otherwise disposed of by the members and whether the full proceeds thereof reached the coffers of the Shamlat Committee?

(e) What arrangement has the Shamlat Committee of the Local Government made for the safe custody and proper utilisation of the income from the Jagir, and from the pilgrims?

Sir Denys Bray: With your permission, Sir, I propose to answer questions Nos. 89, 90 and 91 together. The information is being collected and will be communicated to the Honourable Member, in due course.

DISMISSAL OF PANDITS SOHAN LAL AND GOPI KISHEN FROM THE SHAMLAT COMMITTEE OF PUSHKAR.

†90. *Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: (a) Are Government in a position to say why Pandit Sohan Lal and Gopi Kishen, who were unanimously elected by the members, were turned out by the Commissioner of the District without assigning any reason, after working for about a month in 1927? Did the Local Government make any reply to the application and telegram submitted by about 80 of the voters (total being 100) of the Shamlat Committee? If not, why not?

(b) Are Government prepared to explain how and for what the amount of Rs. 22,000 of the Pushkar Jerun Udhar Committee was spent, or is it still in banks or otherwise in deposit?

CREATION OF A MUNICIPALITY FOR PUSHKAR.

†91. *Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: (a) Are Government aware that there are more than a hundred shops in Pushkar and that the place is not of small importance, but is big enough to maintain a municipality, and that seven to eight lakhs of pilgrims visit the place throughout the year?

(b) Are Government aware that there is no municipality in Pushkar and that the following things are necessary in the town:—

- (1) General cleanliness in the town, temple and the tank?
- (2) Arrangements for light and water for the pilgrims on ghats as well as on the streets at the principal places?
- (3) One dispensary for immediate help?
- (4) Preparation of metalled roads throughout the town, and especially the one leading to the Brahma Temple from the end of the road from Ajmer?

(c) Has the Local Government ever placed these points before the Shamlat Committee? If so, when, and with what result?

BOYCOTT DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST THE SIMON COMMISSION.

92. *Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the speech of Mr. Beazley, Chief Secretary, Punjab Government, made in the Punjab Legislative Council on the 30th November, 1928, regarding the assault on the Simon Commission boycott demonstrators in Lahore, in course of which he stated that stringent measures became all the more necessary, "owing to the explosion at Manmad, which was a concerted attempt on the lives of the President and Members of the Simon Commission, and the explosion at Lahore"?

(b) Was an enquiry made with regard to the explosion of a bomb at Maumad or at Lahore? If so, who conducted the enquiry and when? And will Government be pleased to lay a copy of the report of the Manmad explosion incident on the table?

(c) Will Government kindly state if they have issued any instructions to Local Governments, in connection with boycott demonstrations against the Simon Commission, and the way in which the Commission should be received? If so, can a copy be laid on the table?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: (a) Government have seen Mr. Beazley's speech which contains statements similar to those attributed to him by the Honourable Member.

† For answer to this question see answer to question No. 80.

(b) Enquiries into both explosions were initiated by the police of the provinces concerned immediately after their occurrence. The Manmad case is now *sub judice*. I am unable to place copies of the preliminary police reports on the table.

(c) The Government of India have issued instructions regarding the precautions necessary to secure the Commission's safety. I regret that these cannot be laid on the table.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: If the Manmad case is *sub judice*, how did Mr. Beazley come to the conclusion that the explosion at Manmad was a concerted attempt on the lives of the President and Members of the Simon Commission.

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: The fact that it is *sub judice* is no obstacle to his being informed of a matter of administrative importance to the Punjab Government at the time.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: I want to know on what evidence he came to that conclusion?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: The fact that there was reason to believe that the explosion at Manmad was directed against the Commission was communicated to the Punjab Government.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: How? This is begging the question. Please be more explicit in your reply.

ALLEGATIONS IN CONNECTION WITH MR. BYRT AGAINST MR. GRAHAM, SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA IN THE LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

93. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to a Bombay report published in the *Forward*, dated the 6th December, 1928 (page 8), in which it is stated that Mr. Graham, Secretary to the Government of India "is taking a leading part in the move, and addressing letters to many to back up" the candidature of Mr. Byrt, the Assembly Correspondent of the *Times of India* who was expelled by the Honourable the President, to a seat on the Legislative Assembly?

(b) Is the story of a Government official meddling in election matters and writing letters substantially correct? And has any inquiry been made in this connection?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: (a) Government have seen the article referred to.

(b) There is no truth whatsoever in the story.

NOMINATION OF A QUALIFIED INDIAN LADY AS A MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

94. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** Do Government propose to recommend the nomination of a qualified Indian lady Member to this House, in view of many pending legislative measures in which the women are greatly interested?

Mr. L. Graham: There are at present no vacancies among the Non-Official Members and the Government of India Act does not allow of additional Members being nominated to this Chamber for the purpose of particular measures.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: Why do not Government ask a Non-Official Member to vacate his seat?

Mr. L. Graham: Would the Honourable Member be prepared to resign his own seat?

Mr. K. Ahmed: Do Government propose to consider the nomination of ladies when the next vacancy occurs?

Mr. L. Graham: Nominations are not made by Government. That duty does not fall upon Government at all.

CONCLUSIONS OF THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT FRAUD CASE.

95. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** Will Government be pleased to state the conclusions in what is known as the Finance Department Fraud case?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: Two of the three accused persons were convicted by the lower court, but on appeal the Sessions Judge has ordered a retrial.

FENCING OF RAILWAY LINES TO PREVENT ACCIDENTS DUE TO STRAYING CATTLE.

96. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) Is it a fact that a stray bull on the railway line near Jind Station was the cause of a railway accident, accompanied by loss of life, to the Frontier Mail to Bombay, on the 4th December, 1928? Will Government kindly state if the railway line was fenced on both sides, so as to prevent bulls or cattle from straying on to the railway line?

(b) Do Government propose to take necessary steps to have the railway lines throughout India properly fenced, where there are no fencings at present?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative.

(b) Railway Administrations are proceeding with the provision of fencing where they consider it desirable.

GRANT OF RAILWAY FARE CONCESSIONS TO TEACHERS ATTENDING THE BOMBAY PRESIDENCY SECONDARY TEACHERS' CONFERENCE.

97. ***Mr. M. R. Jayakar:** (1) Are Government aware that an application was made to the Railway Board and to the Agents of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway and the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway on behalf of the Bombay Presidency Secondary Teachers' Conference for the purposes of obtaining railway fare concessions in favour of teachers attending the same in Bombay?

(2) Are Government further aware that the said applications were rejected by the said Agents with sententious replies?

- (3) Will Government be pleased to state:
- why such concessions cannot be granted?
 - whether, under the present rule, such concessions in fares are not granted to parties of holiday tourists and sporting teams undertaking railway journeys?
 - if so, why the same concession should not be extended to other classes of citizens engaged in similar or more desirable objects of public benefit?
 - if the present rules do not permit of such concessions being granted to teachers, whether Government intend to have the necessary changes made in the rules of the Railway Companies so as to give the benefit of such concessions to bodies of persons engaged as aforesaid?

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

(2) The Agents of the Great Indian Peninsula and the Bombay Barods and Central India Railways replied that the concession asked for could not be granted.

(3) The object of quoting special reduced passenger fares is to stimulate traffic, and for this reason reduced fares are quoted during certain holiday periods and to teams engaging in certain games, railways are not concerned with the objects which lead people to travel, but merely with the question whether travel will be stimulated by the quotation of a reduced fare. There is no rule preventing them from quoting reduced fares for delegates to educational conferences where they think that they will obtain additional revenue by doing so, and actually the Indian Railway Conference Association, which deal with such matters when more than one railway is concerned, have now under their consideration an application from the President of the All-India Federation of Teachers' Associations for the quotation of reduced fares to teachers attending Educational Conferences. I will enquire from the Indian Railway Conference Association of the decision they have reached on this application and will let the Honourable Member know.

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†105. *

TRANSFER OF PARGANNA GORHI FROM THE DISTRICT OF PURNEA TO THE SANTAL PARGANNAS.

106. *Kumar Ganganand Sinha: (a) Will Government be pleased to ascertain and state, if it is a fact that proceedings have been taken to take out Parganna Gorhi from the district of Purnea and tack it on to the Santal Pargannas, a non-regulated district? If so, how far has the matter progressed? What are the reasons urged in justification of the change of the boundary?

† For this question and its answer see at the end of starred questions for the day.

(b) Will Government be pleased to lay on table all correspondence that the matter has occasioned?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: (a) The Government of India have no information on the subject.

(b) There has been no correspondence with the Government of India on the subject.

PURCHASES OUT OF INDIA BY STATE RAILWAYS DURING THE LAST THREE YEARS.

107. *Kumar Ganganand Sinha: Will Government be pleased to state what articles were purchased out of India during the last three years by the different State Railways and at what cost, specifying, in every case, whether the article is produced in India or not, the reason for its purchase outside India, and the firm and country from which it was purchased?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: Government regret that they cannot undertake the extremely lengthy enquiries which a reply to the Honourable Member's question would entail. His attention is, however, drawn to the information given in Appendix A, to volume II of the Railway Board's reports on Indian Railways for the years 1925-26, 1926-27 and 1927-28, where he will find the value of stores imported direct, the value of imported stores purchased in India, and the value of stores of Indian manufacture and of indigenous origin purchased by the different State railways. He will also find in the reports on the work of the India Store Department, London, published by the High Commissioner for India, copies of which are in the Library, a detailed classification of the stores purchased through the High Commissioner for Indian railways.

ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INDIAN ACCOUNTANCY BOARD.

108. *Kumar Ganganand Sinha: (a) Is it a fact that Government are considering a proposal to establish an Indian Accountancy Board in order to advise the Government in maintaining proper standards of accountancy and on the qualifications required of the accountants? If so, will the Government be pleased to state what will be the status, prospects and privileges of the accountants deemed to be qualified by the Board, and in what respects if any, they will differ from London Chartered Accountants?

(b) Do Government propose to stop recruitment of Chartered Accountants of London to the service after the Board is set up? If not, why?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state how the scheme has originated and developed?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: (a) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to my reply to question No. 524 asked by Mr. M. R. Jayakar on the 13th September, 1928.

(b) The Government cannot at this stage say how far in future accountants qualified under the Accountancy Board Scheme will be employed in Government service in preference to chartered accountants (who, of course, might be Indians). That is a matter which must necessarily depend upon the success of the Accountancy Board Scheme.

(c) The Honourable Member is referred to the Commerce Department circular letter No. 131-T (2), dated the 20th August, 1928, a copy of which was placed in the Library last September during the Simla Session. Replies to this letter have not yet been received from all Local Governments.

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya: When do Government expect to bring the scheme before this House?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: I must ask for notice of that question. I could not give a definite answer to that at the moment.

NUMBER OF BENGAL DETENUS NOT YET RELEASE.

109. *Kumar Ganganand Sinha: Will Government be pleased to state the number of Bengal detenues who have not yet been released?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar: No one is any longer detained under the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act in jail or in village or home domicile, nor is any one confined to particular areas in Bengal or excluded from particular areas. Orders under section 11 (1) (a), (b) and (c) requiring notification of residence, are still in force against 31 persons.

PROCEEDINGS OF AGRICULTURAL CONFERENCE HELD IN OCTOBER, 1928.

110. *Kumar Ganganand Sinha: Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the detailed proceedings of the Agricultural Conference held in October last?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: As the proceedings of the Conference were informal and confidential, Government cannot comply with the request of the Honourable Member without the concurrence of Local Governments, whose representatives participated in the discussions. Local Governments have, however, been asked whether they have any objection to the publication of the proceedings, and a final decision on the question will be reached on receipt of their replies.

EXCAVATION OF MOUNDS NEAR THE ASOKA PILLAR IN LAURIYA, CHAMPARAN DISTRICT.

111. *Kumar Ganganand Sinha: (a) Are Government aware of the fact that there are a number of mounds near the Asoka Pillar in Lauriya (Champaran district) that have not yet been excavated?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state reasons for the same?

(c) Have Government ever considered the question of excavating them? If so, with what result?

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

(b) For lack of funds up to date.

(c) Government have considered the matter and excavations will be taken up when circumstances permit.

1
REINTRODUCTION OF THE RESERVE BANK BILL IN THE INDIAN LEGISLATURE.

112. *Kumar Ganganand Sinha: Have Government received any communication from the Secretary of State for India regarding the reintroduction of the Reserve Bank of India Bill in the Indian Legislature? If so, to what effect?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative and the second part does not arise.

IMPORTATION OF ARTIFICIAL GHEE.

113. *Kumar Ganganand Sinha: (a) Is it a fact that a representation has been made to the Government by the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay, regarding the importation of a large quantity of cheap artificial *ghee* into this country?

(b) Is it a fact that such artificial *ghee* does not contain the food properties of the indigenous *ghee*, but is getting popular on account of cheapness in price?

(c) If so, what steps are Government taking to protect the indigenous *ghee* from outside competition?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) The Government have consulted Local Governments on the question whether steps should be taken to prevent solidified vegetable oil from being sold as *ghee*.

HIGH RAILWAY FARES ON THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY.

114. *Kumar Ganganand Sinha: (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the letter of "Travelling Public" published in the *Searchlight*, dated Friday, October 12, 1928, under the heading "Bengal Nagpur Railway—High rate of Passenger fare"?

(b) Do Government propose to enquire and state why the general level of fare, especially that of the third class, is kept up high?

(c) Have Government impressed upon the Railway authorities the desirability of reducing the fare? If so, how and when? If not, why?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) Government have seen the letter referred to.

(b) and (c). The conditions with regard to passenger traffic on the Bengal Nagpur and East Indian Railways, between which the writer of the letter instituted a comparison, are in no way similar, and the Bengal Nagpur Railway, if it reduced its fares to the rates now prevailing on the East Indian Railway, could not expect to secure so large an increase in traffic as to compensate it for the loss in revenue which would otherwise result. The financial position of the Bengal Nagpur Railway is not at present such that it could afford to contemplate a reduction in passenger fares which could not be expected at least to pay for itself by the net return from an increase in traffic consequent on the reduction. The latest information, however, which the Railway Board have received from the Agent, is that the possibility of making some reduction is under his consideration.

INQUIRY INTO THE ACTION OF THE POLICE IN CONNECTION WITH THE DEMONSTRATION AGAINST THE SIMON COMMISSION AT LAHORE.

†115. ***Kumar Ganganand Sinha**: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) If they made any enquiry from the Punjab Government regarding the assault on Lala Lajpat Rai by the Lahore Police? If so, how and with what results?
- (b) Whether they received any communication from His Majesty's Secretary of State for India in this connection? If so, to what effect, and what reply did the Government of India give to him?
- (c) Why no enquiry was made into the matter by a responsible popular Committee?

COST OF GOVERNMENT HOUSE, NEW DELHI.

116. ***Kumar Ganganand Sinha**: (a) Is it a fact that the building for the Viceroy, constructed at New Delhi, cost nearly $1\frac{1}{2}$ crores of rupees, required 4,500,000 bricks, contains 340 rooms, has $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles of corridors and 14 lifts?

(b) What was the cost of the construction of the Viceregal Lodge at Old Delhi? How many rooms had it? What were its dimensions?

(c) Will Government be pleased to lay a statement on the table showing how each of the rooms in the new building will be used, and how the occupiers of those rooms are accommodated at present?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state how the Viceregal Lodge in Old Delhi will be used when the Viceroy occupies the New Delhi building?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state fully the extent to which non-Indian materials have been used in the Viceregal Lodge in New Delhi both in construction and furnishing it?

(f) Will Government be pleased to state the number of casualties that occurred during the construction of the building in New Delhi and the circumstances in which they occurred?

(g) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a detailed statement, showing the cost of constructing and furnishing the building in New Delhi?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) Yes, approximately. The cost includes the garden. The number of rooms includes all offices, basement cellars, etc., down to the smallest bathroom and godown.

(b) Roughly nine lakhs. Government do not think it necessary to prepare a statement of rooms in the temporary Viceregal Lodge. It must be remembered that this building has grown from the old Circuit House which has been added to from year to year. The accommodation therein is supplemented by other temporary buildings for the Press, godown and offices, and further by a very large number of tents which are used for both residential and office purposes. All these are accommodated in the New Government House.

† For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 73.

(c) I shall be pleased to show the Honourable Member, if he desires it, a plan showing the allotment of the rooms in Government House. The allocation is subject to minor alterations. As already stated under (b), a large proportion of the occupiers of the rooms are at present accommodated in temporary buildings and tents.

(d) No final decision has yet been arrived at.

(e) Non-Indian materials have only been used on the construction and furnishing in cases where such materials are not available of Indian Manufacture or origin. These are confined to such things as electric apparatus, water supply and sanitary fittings, and a few special fabrics for furnishing, which are not made in India. Exact information is not available as to the total cost of these items, but it is estimated that this does not exceed seven per cent. of the total cost.

(f) There have been three or four casualties. Further details are not readily available without research into old records.

(g) A statement of the estimated cost is placed on the table.

| <i>Statement.</i> | | | | | | Rs. |
|--|----|----|----|----|----|-------------|
| Main Building | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1,24,60,000 |
| Electric installation | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 9,70,000 |
| Water Supply and Sanitary installation | | | | .. | .. | 4,00,000 |
| Furniture and fittings | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 19,44,000 |
| Refrigerating Plant | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 33,000 |
| Formal Indian Garden | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 10,58,000 |
| Total | | | | | | 1,63,65,000 |

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: When is the new Viceregal Lodge expected to be ready for occupation by His Excellency the Viceroy?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: It is expected to be ready for occupation by His Excellency the Viceroy next cold weather.

Kumar Ganganand Singh: May I take it that His Excellency is very uncomfortable in his present Lodge?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: I cannot obviously answer that question.

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas: What is estimated to be the cost of upkeep of the new Viceregal Lodge as compared with the cost of upkeep of the present one?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: I am sorry I have not got the figures with me, I shall be obliged if the Honourable Member will put down a separate question.

REPORTED INTENTION TO ELECT MR. BYRT, PRESS REPORTER OF THE *TIMES OF INDIA*, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

117. *Kumar Ganganand Sinha: (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the message, dated Allahabad, December 6th, appearing in the *Searchlight* of Sunday, December 9th, 1928, entitled "To Embarrass President Patel—European Conspiracy—Move to send the Punished Reporter in the Assembly"?

(b) Have Government enquired to ascertain how far the allegations contained in the message are correct? If so, with what results? If not, why?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: The Honourable Member is referred to my reply to Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh's question No. 93 on the same subject.

SEPARATION OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FROM THE LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

118. *Kumar Ganganand Sinha: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) What steps, if any, did they take immediately to secure the sanction of the Secretary of State for India with regard to such portion of the scheme of separation of the Assembly Branch from the Legislative Department as was necessary and with what result?
- (b) Why did not the Government of India give effect to such part of the scheme as it could itself do from December 1, 1928, as agreed upon?
- (c) Was the Honourable the President consulted in this connection, when no action was taken on 1st December, 1928, in accordance with the Motion adopted by this House on the 22nd September, 1928? If not, why?
- (d) What attempts were made by the Government to meet the wishes of this House as far as possible in this matter?
- (e) How do Government desire to proceed in this matter now?

Mr. L. Graham: (a) The Government of India, after considering the Resolution of the Assembly, placed themselves in communication with the Secretary of State.

(b) Because no part of the scheme could be put into operation until the Secretary of State had sanctioned the appointments of the officers of the House.

(c) The Honourable the President was consulted before the Government of India addressed the Secretary of State. Thereafter no occasion arose to consult the Honourable the President.

(d) and (e). Do not arise in view of the setting up of the separate establishment.

EXPENDITURE INCURRED FOR THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE CONSTITUTED TO CO-OPERATE WITH THE SIMON COMMISSION.

119. *Kumar Ganganand Sinha: Will Government be pleased to state the expenditure so far incurred by the Government of India on account of the Central Committee constituted to co-operate with the Simon Commission and its budget estimate under this head?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: The actual expenditure incurred by the Indian Central Committee at the cost of Central revenues up till the 31st December, 1928, is reported to have been Rs. 40,711. This is the latest figure available.

The total estimated expenditure on the Indian Central Committee in the current financial year amounts to Rs. 2,80,000 and it is proposed to include a provision of Rs. 3,32,900 in the budget estimates for the year 1929-30 to defray the expenses of the Committee in that year.

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer: On a point of order, Sir, has it not been the practice of the House, under the Rules, to stop the putting of questions after 12 o'clock, the first one hour?

Mr. President: The Honourable Member had better read the Standing Orders (Laughter).

RECEPTION OF THE SIMON COMMISSION AT DIFFERENT PLACES IN INDIA AND BURMA.

120. *Kumar Ganganand Sinha: (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they had any correspondence with the Provincial Governments regarding the reception of the Simon Commission? If so, to what effect? Will Government be pleased to lay the correspondence on the table?

(b) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table an authentic account of the reception of the Simon Commission and the Central Indian Committee at different places in India and Burma, with special references to the boycott demonstrations and sequels, mentioning in each case the exact source of the information received by it?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: (a) The Honourable Member is referred to part (e) of the answer given to Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh's question No. 92.

(b) The proceedings are fully reported in the public Press. No official account has been prepared.

EXPENDITURE INCURRED BY PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS ON ACCOUNT OF THE VISIT OF THE SIMON COMMISSION.

121. *Kumar Ganganand Sinha: Will Government be pleased to call for and lay on the table a statement showing the amount of expenditure incurred by the various Provincial Governments on account of the visit of the Simon Commission and the Indian Central Committee?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: The information to which the Honourable Member's question refers is not available and cannot be available for some time. If the Honourable Member will repeat his question next session I shall be glad to consider whether I can furnish it.

REPORTED DESPATCH OF ARTILLERY TO CALCUTTA IN CONNECTION WITH THE MEETING OF THE INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS.

122. *Kumar Ganganand Sinha: (1) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the *Free Press* message of December 7th, to the effect that the *Daily Tej* understood that a large body of artillery had been despatched from Delhi to Calcutta on the 5th instant, and that it would stay at Calcutta till after the Congress week was over?

(2) Is the report correct? If so,

(a) to what extent?

(b) what was the necessity of sending the artillery? and

(c) what was the cost incurred in doing so?

Mr. G. M. Young: (1) Yes.

(2) There is no truth whatever in the report.

QUESTIONS NOT PUT, OWING TO THE ABSENCE OF THE QUESTIONER, WITH ANSWERS TO THE SAME.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A MUNICIPALITY AT KASULI.

1. *Mr. A. H. Ghuznavi: (a) Is it a fact that the civilian population of Kasauli pay approximately a sum of Rs. 10,000 a year as water-tax?

(b) Is it a fact that the Military Cantonment at Kasauli is now responsible for the supply of water at Kasauli?

(c) Is it a fact that the sum of Rs. 10,000 paid by the civilian population is made over to the Military Authorities who have got their budgeted allowance for the purpose?

(d) Is it a fact that there is a most generous supply of water in the cantonment area whereas there are most severe rules regarding the restriction of supply to the civil population?

(e) Are Government aware that the need for a municipality is very keenly felt by the civil population of Kasauli?

(f) Has the question of establishing a municipality at Kasauli been considered?

Mr. G. M. Young: (a) No, Sir. The total water-tax collected by the Cantonment Authority, Kasauli, from all sources is about Rs. 7,000.

(b) Under section 116(j) of the Cantonments Act, 1924, a Cantonment Authority is responsible for the supply of water where such a supply does not exist. There is a water supply in the Kasauli Cantonment under the control of the Military Engineer Services.

(e) The cost of water supplied in Kasauli Cantonment is collected by the Cantonment Authority and paid over to the Military Engineer Services, in accordance with section 234 of the Cantonments Act, 1924.

(d) No, Sir. Owing to shortages of water from the existing sources rationing is often resorted to in the months of May, June and July when the yield of the spring is low. Rationing is not confined to the civil population.

(e) and (f). Government are not aware that the need for a civil municipality is very keenly felt by the civil population of Kasauli, who already possess an elected Cantonment Board. No portion of Kasauli is geographically suitable for excision from the Cantonment. For administrative reasons the retention of the whole area as a cantonment is necessary.

GRANT OF COMMISSIONS TO MEMBERS OF THE INDIAN MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

2. *Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney: (a) Is it a fact that in the Indian Medical Department Commission ranks are given on the basis of ten per cent. of the total cadre?

(b) If so, what is the total cadre of the Department and the total number of Commissions?

(c) Is it a fact that since this proportion was arrived at about 40 to 50 have been added to the cadre of the Indian Medical Department?

(d) If so, has a corresponding number of Commissions been given to the Department?

Mr. G. M. Young: (a) No, Sir. The number of Commissions is 10 per cent. of the full establishment of Assistant Surgeons in military employ, plus the number of Assistant Surgeons in civil employ who have received promotion under the next below rule.

(b) The total cadre is 587 and the total number of Commissions is 131.

(c) No, Sir. No addition has been made to the sanctioned cadre.

(d) Does not arise.

PRICE OF JAVA SUGAR SUPPLIED TO INDIA.

66. *Haji Abdoola Haroon: (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether in November, 1928, they received any letters from the Sugar Merchants' Association, Bombay, in connection with the recent policy of the United Java Sugar Producers' Association for effecting sales of their sugar?

(b) Are Government aware of the following facts:

(i) that the United Java Sugar Producers' Association charge Fl.-1/50 per 100 kilogrammes of sugar more from India than from other countries west of Suez.

(ii) that if this policy of the United Java Sugar Producers' Association continues, India would apparently lose about Rs. 17,000,000 per year?

(c) If the reply to part (b) above is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state what measures they intend to adopt in this matter?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: (a) Yes.

(b) The Government understand that the United Java Sugar Producers' Association have been allowing a rebate, ranging from Fl. 1 to 1.50 per 100 kilogrammes, on sugar shipped to destinations west of Suez in order to dispose of their surplus stocks in European markets in competition with Cuban sugar.

(c) The Government do not propose to take any action.

ALLEGED DRILLING OF THE POLICE AT LAHORE WITH *LATHIS* AND *BATONS*.

84. ***Diwan Chaman Lall:** Is it a fact that certain members of the police force were drilled in the use of *lathis* or *batons* shortly before the occurrences of October 30th, 1928?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: The Government of India have no information.

VISIT OF GENERAL GOURAUD OF THE FRENCH ARMY TO INDIA.

98. ***Diwan Chaman Lall:** Will Government state:

- (1) on whose authority General Gouraud has been invited to India;
- (2) the position occupied by General Gouraud in the French Army;
- (3) the object of his visit to India; and
- (4) whether questions connected with the Indian Army will be discussed with him?

Sir Denys Bray: General Gouraud, the Military Governor of Paris, was invited by His Majesty's Government, with the approval of the Government of India, who have been glad to welcome so distinguished a visitor. His visit is of a purely informal and personal character for purposes of sight-seeing, and has no military significance whatsoever, and no questions touching the Indian Army will be discussed with him.

SEPARATION OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FROM THE LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

99. ***Diwan Chaman Lall:** Will Government state what action has so far been taken in regard to the question of the separation of the Assembly Secretariat?

Mr. L. Graham: The separation has been effected.

VISIT TO ENGLAND OF HIS EXCELLENCY SIR MALCOLM HAILEY.

100. ***Diwan Chaman Lall**: Will Government state the object of Sir Malcolm Hailey's visit to England and whether (a) the reports in the Press are correct that he intends to conduct political conversations with officials of the India Office or Members of the Cabinet, and (b) whether he has consulted the Government of India or any member thereof in regard to this matter?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: Sir Malcolm Hailey has proceeded to England in pursuance of the leave of absence granted him for urgent reasons of private affairs, and for no other purpose.

POPULATION OF FRONTIER TRIBES : NUMBER AND COST OF FORCES EMPLOYED ON THE NORTH WEST FRONTIER.

101. ***Diwan Chaman Lall**: Will Government state:

- (a) the population of the Frontier tribes that owe suzerainty neither to the British Government nor to the Afghan Government?
- (b) the total amount spent in active offensive operations on the Frontier during the year ending December 31st, 1928?
- (c) the numbers of the forces employed during the same period on the Frontier?
- (d) the grand total of the amount spent by the Military Department on the Frontier during the same period, exclusive of amounts spent on active offensive operations?

Mr. G. M. Young: (a) There are no such tribes.

(b) There was one small punitive operation conducted by the Air Force, costing not more than Rs. 30,000.

(c) I am afraid it would not be in the public interest to give the figures asked for, but I may say that no addition to the ordinary peace garrisons was made during the year 1928.

(d) I am endeavouring to obtain the figures for the Honourable Member, and will communicate them to him when received.

NUMBER AND COST OF AEROPLANES PURCHASED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA DURING THE LAST THREE YEARS.

102. ***Diwan Chaman Lall**: Will Government state:

- (a) the total number of aeroplanes purchased during the past three years?
- (b) how many of these are all-metal planes?
- (c) whether the price of all-metal German machines is considerably lower than that of the machines purchased in Great Britain?

Mr. G. M. Young: (a) and (b). I am assuming the Honourable Member refers to military aeroplanes purchased by Government. I do not

think it would be politic to publish the actual numbers, but rather more than one-third of the machines purchased in the last three years have been all-metal.

(c) There is no standard of comparison, as Germany does not produce military aircraft.

STATUS OF INDIANS IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

108. ***Diwan Chaman Lall**: Will Government state what action they have taken in regard to the status of Indians in the United States of America and their inability to secure the right of naturalisation?

Sir Denys Bray: I would refer the Honourable Member to my answer to a similar question put by the Honourable Mr. M. R. Jayakar on the 18th September last.

GRANT OF THE FRANCHISE TO INDIANS LIVING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

104. **Diwan Chaman Lall**: Will Government state what action they have taken or are taking in regard to the denial of the right of franchise to Indians living in British Columbia and the right of Indians generally to enter and live in Canada on the same terms as the Japanese?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: In regard to the grant of franchise to Indians in British Columbia, I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the report of the Right Honourable Srinivasa Sastri to the Dominions in 1922 and to the proceedings of the Imperial Conference of 1923, copies of which are available in the Library of the House. In 1925, the Government of Canada brought the question of conferring the Dominion franchise on Indians resident in British Columbia before a Committee of Parliament which was considering certain amendments to the Dominion Franchise Law. The Committee, however, could not see their way to recommend any change as regards Indians in British Columbia. The provincial franchise in British Columbia is a matter for the Provincial Legislature. The Government of India have had no indication so far that renewal of the representations made by Mr. Sastri in 1922 would meet with success; they have not, therefore, made any representations lately. But if the Honourable Member, who was recently in Canada, has returned with the impression that prospects have improved, Government will be glad to consider whether any action on their part is desirable.

As regards the right of Indians to enter and settle in Canada, I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reciprocity Resolution adopted by the Imperial Conference of 1918.

CONSTRUCTION OF A RAILWAY FROM TANGAIL TO THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE MYMENSINGH DISTRICT.

105. ***Mr. Dharendra Kanta Lahiri Chaudhury**: Will the Honourable Member in charge of Railways be pleased to state what progress, since my last interpellation on the subject, has been made in the matter of connecting Tangail by railway with the headquarters of the Mymensingh district?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply which I gave to Mr. Ghuznavi's starred question No. 29.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

LEVY OF A DEMURRAGE CHARGE FOR OVER-LOADING COAL WAGONS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1. **Mr. K. O. Neogy:** (a) Is it a fact that, over the East Indian Railway a demurrage charge is levied for over-loading of coal wagons above the maximum carrying capacity of the wagons supplied to the collieries?

(b) Is it a fact that a similar charge was in force over the Bengal Nagpur Railway and has been suspended a few months ago?

(c) Will Government state the reason for the special levy of this charge in connection with the coal wagons alone?

(d) Will Government state why the East Indian Railway has not fallen into line with the Bengal Nagpur Railway in suspending the charge temporarily; and do they propose to ask the East Indian Railway Administration to suspend the charge, at least temporarily?

(e) Had Government or the East Indian Railway Administration occasion to examine the legality of such a charge, and if so, will Government state if they satisfied themselves as to the soundness of the legal position of the charge realised?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) Yes, if more than five per cent. of a colliery's wagons are over-loaded, and the overloading in any month exceeds one per cent. of the amount despatched.

(b) Yes, the suspension of the charge is an experimental measure for one year from 1st April 1928.

(c) In the absence of weighbridges at collieries, loading is perforce done by guesswork. Loading of coal is done at outlying sidings, where Railway staff cannot possibly exercise any supervision, whereas the loading of other commodities is chiefly done at Railway stations, where the Railway staff have opportunities of supervision.

(d) The East Indian Railway Administration are not yet satisfied that the suspension of the charge will lead to more correct loading. Government proposed to await the result of the experiment on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway before taking any further action.

(e) The answer is in the affirmative.

STATUS ON THE BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY OF LICENTIATES OF CIVIL ENGINEERING OF THE POONA ENGINEERING COLLEGE.

2. **Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta:** (1) What is the status of Licentiates of Civil Engineering (or present Bachelors of Engineering) of the Poona Engineering College on the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway. *i.e.*, are they taken on as subordinates or officers (Assistant Engineers)?

(2) How many Licentiates of Civil Engineering are working in the Engineering Department on the permanent establishment, and are their prospects the same as those obtaining in the Bombay Public Works Department?

(3) Are they given acting chances in the officers' grade whenever they are deputed on special works? If not, why not?

(4) Is it a fact that the qualification (Licentiates of Civil Engineering or Bachelors of Engineering) has not the same recognition as the Civil Engineering of Roorkee College?

(5) Why are Licentiates of Civil Engineering who have put in over 15 years' service, not given any chance as Assistant Engineer?

(6) Have Europeans working as Assistant Engineers and Executive Engineers in the Railway all got equal qualifications?

(7) Will the Railway Department supply a list of Licentiates of Civil Engineering who joined the Department, but who left the same, because they saw that they were not given the same treatment as their brothers were getting in the Bombay Public Works Department?

(8) Is it a fact that most of the present Assistant and Executive Engineers are either Roorkee hands or practical hands? If so, why are Licentiates of Civil Engineering of approved service not given even a trial as officers?

(9) Is Indianisation being steadily proceeded with by promoting these Licentiates of Civil Engineering from the subordinate service to the officers' grade? If so, at what rate has it been done until now?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: I will send the Honourable Member the information for which he has asked as soon as I can get it.

NAMES OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO INVESTIGATE CAUSES OF, AND REMEDIES FOR, RECURRING FLOODS.

3. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Will Government please state the names of the members of the expert Committee formed for investigating the causes of and remedies for recurring floods (*vide* Government reply to my unstarred question No. 33 in the Assembly on 4th September, 1928)?

(b) Will they also please state by what time the report of the said Committee is expected to be submitted to Government?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) The expert Committee appointed to investigate the flood problem in Orissa was constituted as follows:

Chairman.

Mr. C. Addams Williams, C.I.E., Chief Engineer, Irrigation Department, Bengal.

Members.

Rai Bahadur Bishun Swarup, late Chief Engineer, Irrigation Department, Bihar and Orissa.

Mr. D. G. Harris, C.I.E., Consulting Engineer to the Government of India.

(b) The report of the Committee was submitted to the Local Government in August 1928.

GRANT OF CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE TO MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DURING THE SIMLA SESSION.

4. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Will Government please state if they are aware of the fact that in Simla Members use rikshaws for their conveyance from their places of residence to the Assembly Chamber?

(b) If so, will Government please state the reasons why they should not be entitled to conveyance allowance during the Simla Session (*vide* Government's reply to my unstarred question No. 35 in the Assembly on 4th September, 1928)?

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

(b) Government have nothing to add to the reply to which the Honourable Member refers.

CONSTRUCTION OF A RAILWAY BETWEEN MUZAFFARPUR AND SITAMARHI.

5. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** Will Government please state what further progress has been made in the project of the Muzaffarpur-Sitamarhi line, since Government's reply to my unstarred question No. 49 in the Assembly on 4th September, 1928?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: The Muzaffarpur-Sitamarhi line was found to hold out no prospects of being a paying proposition. The Government of Bihar and Orissa were given an opportunity of saying whether they would like the line constructed under a guarantee, and they replied that they were not prepared to guarantee it.

SUPPRESSION OF OPIUM SMOKING IN INDIA.

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

- (a) if they are willing to state if the phrase "smoking in company" used in Government's reply refers only to opium smoking dens or also to private houses?
- (b) the decision of the Central Provinces Legislative Council on the Bill aiming at the ultimate prohibition of opium smoking?
- (c) if the Government of Madras have undertaken legislation prohibiting opium smoking?
- (d) if the Bill to penalise smoking other than by registered smokers, which was being drafted by the Government of Bengal, has been introduced in the Legislative Council?
- (e) what progress has been made by the Government of Bombay in the matter of the ultimate suppression of opium smoking since Government's reply to my unstarred question No. 41 in the Assembly on 4th September, 1928? (*Vide* Government reply to my unstarred question referred to above.)

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (a) The phrase in question refers also to private houses.

(b) The Bill, as reported by the Select Committee, is being put before the Local Legislative Council at its current session.

(c) and (e). The Governments of Madras and Bombay propose to undertake legislation after the passing of the Dangerous Drugs Bill, which was moved in this House on the 21st September, 1928.

(d) No. The Bill is still under the consideration of the Local Government.

RULES UNDER THE INDIAN BAR COUNCIL ACT OF 1926.

7. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** Will Government please state if the Rules under the Indian Bar Council Act of 1926 are ready now in respect of the Bombay, Rangoon and Patna High Courts? (*Vide* Government reply to my unstarred question No. 50 in the Assembly on 4th September, 1928.)

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: Yes. They came into force on January 1st of this year.

IMPORT OF VEGETABLE *GHEE*.

8. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Will Government please state if they have received the views of the Local Governments referred to on the question of the import of vegetable *ghee* (*vide* Government reply to my unstarred question No. 54 in the Assembly on the 4th September, 1928)?

(b) If so, will they please lay the views received from the Local Governments on the table?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: The views of some Local Governments are still awaited.

PROTECTION OF WORKERS EMPLOYED IN DANGEROUS AND UNHEALTHY INDUSTRIES.

9. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Will Government please state if they have reached a decision in the matter of regulations for the protection of workers employed in dangerous and unhealthy industries? (*Vide* Government reply to my unstarred question No. 62 in the Assembly on 4th September, 1928.)

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

REPORTED ASSURANCE BY LORD PEEL TO LABOUR PARTY REGARDING BENGAL DETENUS.

10. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the paragraph published in the issue of the *Statesman* of the 17th November, 1928, page 9, under the heading "Bengal Detenus—Lord Peel's Assurance to Labour Party"?

(b) If so, will the Government please state if the statements made therein are correct?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: The Government of India have not seen a copy of the letter which Lord Peel is said to have written to Mr. Thomas. The position is that no one is any longer detained under the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act in jail or in village or home domicile, nor is any one confined to particular areas in Bengal or externed from particular areas. Orders under section 11 (1) (a), (b) and (c) requiring notification of residence, report to the police, etc., are still in force against 81 persons.

CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW HOSPITAL AT NEW DELHI.

11. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Will Government please state if they have arrived at a decision in the matter of the construction of a new hospital Delhi (*vide* Government reply to my unstarred question No. 109 in the Assembly on 4th September, 1928)?

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

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) and (b). Subject to the approval of the Legislative Assembly to the provision of necessary funds, the Government of India have decided that a new General Hospital on up-to-date lines should be constructed on a site in immediate proximity to the existing jail outside the Delhi and Turkman Gates, so as to serve both Old and New Delhi.

EXTRA PAY TO POSTAL OFFICIALS FOR WORKING ON SUNDAYS AND HOLIDAYS.

12. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Will Government please state if they have arrived at a decision in the matter of extra pay for Sunday and holiday work for postal officials? (*Vide* Government reply to my unstarred question No. 121 in the Assembly on 4th September, 1928.)

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

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

CONSTRUCTION OF THE ISHURDI-PABNA-SHADHUGANJ RAILWAY.

13. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Will Government please state if the Report of the Agent has been received (*vide* Government reply to unstarred question No. 140 (d) in the Assembly on 4th September, 1928) regarding construction of the Ishurdi-Pabna-Shadhuganj Railway?

(b) If so, will they please state if they have come to a decision in the matter?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: The report was received by the Railway Board in December, but it has not yet been examined.

VISIT OF THE MALARIA COMMISSION OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS TO INDIA.

14. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Will Government please state if they can give any further information on the subject of the visit of the Malaria Commission of the League of Nations to India (*vide* Government reply to unstarred question No. 144 in the Assembly on 4th September, 1928)?

(b) If so, will they please state what further information they can give?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) and (b). The Government of India have heard nothing further on the subject.

REMARKS IN THE STATESMAN ON THE TRAINING FOR THE SEA.

15. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the paragraph published in the issue of the *Statesman* of November 23rd, 1928, page 2, under the heading "Training for the Sea—H.M.S. 'Dufferin' " ?

(b) If so, will Government please state if the statements made in the paragraph referred to above are correct?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: (a) Government have seen the paragraph.

(b) Yes, except that the number of boys who actually sat for the Examination was 146 and not 160.

REPORTED DIPLOMATIC DIFFICULTIES OF THE INDIAN AIR SERVICE.

16. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the paragraph published in the issue of the *Statesman* of November 24th, 1928, page 9, under the heading "India Air Service—Diplomatic difficulties overcome" ?

(b) If so, will the Government please state if the statements made in the paragraph referred to above are correct?

Sir Denys Bray: (a) and (b). Yes.

FINAL REPORT OF THE DELEGATES OF INDIA TO THE EIGHTH (ORDINARY) SESSION OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

17. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** Will Government please lay on the table the copy of Part two of the "Final Report of the Delegates of India to the Eighth (Ordinary) Session of the Assembly of the League of Nations, together with the observations of the Governments referred to" (*vide* Government reply to my unstarred question No. 151 in the Assembly on 4th September, 1928, on the subject of 'Traffic in Women and Children')?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: The report referred to in the answer given to the Honourable Member's question of the 4th September was not that of the Indian Delegates but that of the Special Body of Experts who reported to the League. As Part II of this Body's report is a lengthy document, running to over 200 pages of print, and India is not one of the countries with which it deals, Government do not think that any useful purpose would be served by laying it on the table.

DACCA-ARICHA RAILWAY.

18. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if they have received any reply from the Secretary of State regarding the project of the "Dacca-Aricha Railway" (*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 18 in the Assembly on 4th September, 1928)?

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

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: The Secretary of State's reply has been received; it merely conveys sanctions to the construction of the proposed line.

PROVISION OF A WAITING ROOM AT SIRAJGUNJ GHAT STATION.

19. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Will Government please state if they have received any reply from the Agent of the Eastern Bengal Railway regarding the provision of a "Waiting Room at Sirajgunj Ghat Station on the Eastern Bengal Railway" (*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 20 in the Assembly on 4th September, 1928)?

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

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) and (b). No reply was asked for. The matter was one for the Agent to decide.

HARASSMENT OF PILGRIMS BY MOALLIMS.

20. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Will Government please state if they have come to a decision in the matter of "Harassment of Pilgrims by Moallims" (*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 33, in the Assembly on 4th September, 1928)?

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

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) and (b). The Bengal Government propose to introduce legislation in their Legislative Council with a view to securing some degree of control over the activities of Moallims.

ELECTRIFICATION OF CALCUTTA RAILWAYS.

21. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Will Government please state if they have come to a decision regarding the "Electrification of Calcutta Railways and its Suburbs" (*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 28 (d) in the Assembly on 4th September, 1928)?

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

(c) If not, by what time are they expected to come to a decision in the matter?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) I am afraid it is impossible to say.

UNBOOKED LUGGAGE OF THIRD CLASS PASSENGERS.

22. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Will Government please state if the Indian Railway Conference Association have come to a decision in the matter of "Unbooked luggage of third class Passengers" (*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 35 in the Assembly on 4th September, 1928)?

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

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: In the view of the Indian Railway Conference Association any relaxation of the existing rule would lead to a considerable increase in the amount of unbooked luggage, with resulting loss to Railways and inconvenience to passengers in general, owing to more luggage being taken in passenger carriages, and for this reason they have not recommended any alteration in the existing rule as to the free allowance of unbooked luggage. The question will be discussed with the Central Advisory Council for Railways at an early meeting.

RESULTS OF THE INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION HELD IN INDIA IN 1928.

23. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** Will Government please lay on the table a copy of the statement which they promised to furnish to Dr. B. S. Moonje on the subject of "Results of the I. C. S. Examination held in India in 1928" (*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 36 (a) and (f) in the Assembly on 4th September, 1928)?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: I am placing three copies of the statement in the Library of the House.

CONSTRUCTION OF A RAILWAY BRIDGE OVER THE RIVER GANDAK.

24. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** Will Government please state what further progress has been made in the matter of "Construction of a Railway Bridge over the Gandak" (*vide* Government reply to unstarred question No. 12 in the Assembly on 4th September, 1928)?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: The project report has just been received by the Railway Board and is under examination.

CONSTRUCTION OF A RAILWAY FROM RISHIKESH TO KARNPRAYAG.

25. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Will Government please state if the Railway Board have received the abstract estimate and revised traffic report from the Railway Administration regarding the "Construction of a Railway from Rishikesh to Karnprayag" (*vide* Government reply to unstarred question No. 25 (a) in the Assembly on 4th September, 1928)?

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

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: The estimate has not yet been received, but preliminary information in possession of the Railway Board does not suggest that the line will be remunerative.

SEPARATE WAITING ROOMS FOR FIRST AND SECOND CLASS PASSENGERS AT HARDWAR.

26. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** Will Government please state if the instructions of the Agent to the Divisional Superintendent in the matter of "Separate Waiting Room for first and second class European Passengers at Hardwar" has been given effect to (*vide* Government reply to unstarred question No. 28 in the Assembly on 4th September, 1928)?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: Yes.

DELHI UNIVERSITY.

27. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Will Government please state if they have arrived at a decision regarding the "Report of the Committee appointed to enquire into the affairs of the Delhi University" (*vide* Government reply to unstarred question No. 29 in the Assembly on 4th September, 1928)?

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

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) and (b). No final decision has as yet been reached on the recommendations made in the Report of the Delhi University Enquiry Committee.

SREAD OF EDUCATION ON THE FRONTIER.

28. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Will Government please state if the following statements, published in the issue of the *Statesman* of November 27th, 1928, page 18, under the heading "Spread of Education on the Frontier", are correct:

"The Islamic college authorities, however, urged that the increase of their maintenance grant from Rs. 70,000 to Rs. 80,000 was insufficient and that large building and equipment grants were necessary. A committee was, therefore, appointed to examine these claims and its recommendations are now being examined by the Government of India."

(b) If so, will they please state if they have arrived at a decision in the matter?

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

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a), (b) and (c). At the instance of the Government of India, a committee was appointed by the Chief Commissioner, North-West Frontier Province, in March, 1928, to enquire into and report on the administration of the Islamia College, Peshawar. As a result of the recommendations made by the Committee, the Government of India have sanctioned the payment to the College of (i) an additional recurring grant of Rs. 20,000, with effect from 1929-30, rising by annual increments of Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 25,000 in 1934-35, and (ii) a non-recurring grant of Rs. 2,02,500 to meet the cost of certain projects of improvement.

SMUGGLING OF OPIUM FROM NEPAL INTO BIHAR AND ORISSA.

29. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Will Government please state if they have come to a decision in the matter of "Smuggling of opium from Nepal into Bihar and Orissa" (*vide* Government reply to unstarred question No. 31 in the Assembly on 4th September, 1928)?

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

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: The Nepal Government have recently prohibited the production of opium in their territory except for medicinal purposes. This measure will, the Government hope, help materially to diminish the difficulty experienced by the Government of Bihar and Orissa in dealing with the illicit traffic.

CONSTRUCTION OF AN OVER-BRIDGE AT GULZARBAGH, ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

30. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Are the Government aware that there is no over-bridge at the Gulzarbagh, East Indian Railway station, Patna (Bihar and Orissa)?

(b) Is it a fact that passengers are put to very great inconvenience owing to the want of an over-bridge at the station?

(c) If so, do Government propose to consider the desirability of constructing an over-bridge at the station at an early date?

(d) If not, will they please state reasons?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: Government are making enquiries on the subject and will communicate with the Honourable Member in due course.

FLOOD PROBLEM IN ORISSA.

31. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Will Government please state if the statement "the first authoritative review of the flood problem in Orissa by the Expert Committee appointed by the Local Government last year has been issued", published in the issue of the *Statesman* of November 27th, 1928, page 10, is correct?

(b) If so, will they please state whether the Report of the Committee will be considered only by the Government of Bihar and Orissa or also by the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply to part (b) of his unstarred question No. 3.

(b) The Government of India have perused the report with interest, but it will be for the Local Government to decide what action shall be taken upon it.

CONSTRUCTION OF A RAILWAY BETWEEN CONTAI AND CONTAI ROAD.

32. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: Will Government please state what further action has been taken in the matter of "Construction of a Railway between Contai and Contai Road" (*vide* Government reply to my unstarred question No. 38 in the Assembly on 4th September, 1928)?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: None. It is not possible to provide funds for the construction of this line in next year's programme.

GRANT OF HELP TO THE WIDOW AND FAMILY OF MR. GANPATI AYER, LATE HEAD SORTER IN THE RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE, BANGALORE CITY.

33. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Will Government please state if they have arrived at a decision in the matter of "Grant of help to the widow and family of Mr. Ganpati Ayer, late Head Sorter, No. 8 Section, Railway Mail Service, Bangalore City" (*vide* Government reply to unstarred question No. 174 (c) in the Assembly on 4th September, 1928)?

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

Mr. H. A. Sams: (a) and (b). The matter is still under consideration.

REPORTED RAILWAY COLLISION ON THE BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

34. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the paragraph published in the issue of the *Statesman* of 29th November, 1928, page 10, under the heading "Rail Smash—2 killed in collision on Bengal and North Western Railway"?

(b) If so, will the Government please state if the statement regarding the collision, made therein, is correct?

(c) If correct, will Government please state who were held responsible for this accident and what action has been or is proposed to be taken against the offenders?

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

(c) The District Magistrate has ordered the prosecution of the station Jemadar.

DEPARTMENTAL EXAMINATIONS FOR SUBORDINATES IN POST OFFICES.

35. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Will Government please state if the Director-General has come to a decision in the matter of "Departmental Examinations for subordinates in Post Offices" (*vide* Government reply to unstarred question No. 185 (b) in the Assembly on 4th September, 1928)?

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

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) and (b). Government understand that the question is still under the consideration of the Director-General.

INDEBTEDNESS OF THE SUBORDINATE STAFF OF THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

36. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Will Government please state if they have received information regarding the "Indebtedness of the Subordinate Staff of the Eastern Bengal Railway" (*vide* Government reply to unstarred question No. 249 in the Assembly on 4th September, 1928)?

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

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: I am sending the Honourable Member the information supplied to Mr. Amar Nath Dutt. It is hardly of sufficient importance to warrant a copy being laid on the table.

PROMOTION OF DESPATCHERS AND TYPISTS IN THE ARMY DEPARTMENT.

37. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Will Government please state if the enquiry has been completed (*vide* Government reply to unstarred question No. 264 (c) in the Legislative Assembly on 4th September, 1928), on the subject of crossing of the Efficiency Bar in the 2nd Division by despatchers and typists in the Army Department?

(b) If so, will they please lay a copy of the result of their enquiry on the table?

Mr. G. M. Young: The enquiry promised in my reply to parts (c) and (d) of unstarred question No. 264 has been completed, and the result communicated to Mr. S. C. Mitra. It was to the following effect:

(c) The Department of Education, Health and Lands transferred six clerks of the lower division to the third division on the introduction of that division. The number of such clerks in the Department of Industries and Labour (Public Works Branch) was two. In the remaining Departments there were none.

(d) There are no clerks in any Department who have crossed the efficiency bar of the 2nd division other than those eligible and deemed fit to do so.

RAILWAYS PURCHASED AT A PRICE OTHERWISE THAN AS MULTIPLE OF THEIR AVERAGE NET EARNINGS.

38. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Will Government please state if they have got the information regarding "Railways purchased at a price determined otherwise than as a multiple of their average net earnings" (*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 86 in the Assembly on 5th September, 1928)?

(b) If so, will they please lay it on the table?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: All the railways except the Ranaghat-Krishnagar and the Tarkessur Railways were purchased at a price determined otherwise than as a multiple of their average net earnings.

-STATEMENT SHOWING RAILWAYS WHICH WERE UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT THE BEGINNING OF 1922-23 FROM STATE FUNDS.

39. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Will Government please state if the information regarding the "Statement showing Railways which were under construction at the beginning of 1922-23 from State funds" has been obtained (*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 91 in the Assembly on 5th September, 1928)?

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

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: I am sending the Honourable Member a copy of the information obtained. It is not, I think, of such general interest as to make it worth while laying it on the table.

REVISION OF STORES PURCHASE RULES.

40. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Will Government please communicate to the House the result of their consideration of the revision of the Stores Purchase Rules (*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 111 in the Assembly on 5th September, 1928)?

Has the attention of Government been drawn to the paragraph published in the issue of the *Statesman* of 2nd December, 1928, page 5, under the heading "Stores purchase for India-Calcutta office"?

(b) If so, will Government please state if the statements made therein are correct?

(c) Will Government also please state if the organisation referred to has been established?

(d) Will they please also state what the initial and recurring cost of the establishment of the branch office in Calcutta will be?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to the Government of India's Resolution, No. S.-217, dated the 13th September, 1928, on the subject, which was published in the *Gazette of India* (Part I), dated the 15th September 1928, and to the draft rules appended to that Resolution.

The answer to the second part of this question is in the affirmative.

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

(d) Initial, Rs. 5,400. Recurring Rs. 90,750.

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

41. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Will Government please state if they have considered and arrived at a decision in the matter of "Deputation of the Indian Police Association to His Excellency the Viceroy" (*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 156 (b) in the Assembly on 5th September, 1928)?

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

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: (a) and (b). It is not understood what the Honourable Member means by a decision in the matter of the deputation. As already explained various points were raised for consideration, and these are being examined.

NAMES AND NATIONALITIES OF PROBATIONARY SUPERINTENDENTS OF
POST OFFICES IN THE BIHAR AND ORISSA POSTAL CIRCLE.

42. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** Will Government please lay on the table the statement "showing the names and nationalities of ten probationary Superintendents who were attached to the Bihar and Orissa Circle for the purpose of training" (*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 136 (a) in the Assembly on 5th September, 1928)?

Mr. H. A. Sams: The statement is reproduced below.

Statement showing the names and nationalities of the Probationary Superintendents of Post Offices who were attached to the Bihar and Orissa Circle since its creation.

| Names. | Date of appointment. |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Mr. F. K. M. Thomas | .. 6th January 1914. |
| 2. Syed Md. Mansoor | .. 20th June 1914. |
| 3. Mr. F. E. N. Faithful | .. 10th August 1914. |
| 4. Mr. K. P. Misra | .. 26th June 1918. |
| 5. Syed Abdul Majeed | .. 29th July 1918. |
| 6. Mr. N. N. Banerjee | .. 4th September 1919. |
| 7. Mr. T. P. Scott O'Connor | .. 1st March 1921. |
| 8. Mr. G. E. Murtrie | .. 1st August 1922. |
| 9. Mr. H. K. Bose | .. 1st April 1924. |
| 10. Mr. N. C. Das | .. 2nd November 1925. |

All ten officers are Indians or Statutory Natives of India.

DUPLICATION OF IMPERIAL MAIL SERVICE FROM BOMBAY TO CALCUTTA.

43. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: Will Government please state if the Imperial Mail Service from Bombay to Calcutta has been duplicated (*vide* Government reply to 1st part of starred question No. 166 in the Assembly on 6th September, 1928)?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: Yes, on several occasions.

OPENING OF A CITY BOOKING OFFICE AT PATNA.

44. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the letter published in the issue of the *Searchlight* of the 2nd December, 1928, page 8, under the heading "City Booking-office at Patna"?

(b) If so, do they intend to consider the desirability of opening a City Booking and Parcel Booking-office in the heart of the town?

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

(b) The Agent of the East Indian Railway has been sent a copy of the Honourable Member's question and asked to take such action as he may consider necessary.

QUANTITY AND VALUE OF STEEL CASTINGS ORDERED FOR INDIAN RAILWAYS.

45. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: Will Government please lay on the table a statement regarding "Quantity and value of steel castings for Railway Rolling Stock ordered for the Indian Railways (*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 167 in the Assembly on 6th September, 1928)?"

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: I am sending the Honourable Member a copy of the statement which was supplied to Mr. Neogy. As it is only of ephemeral value it is hardly worth while laying a copy of it on the table of the House.

REPORT ON THE OIL INDUSTRY IN INDIA.

46. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: Will Government be pleased to state if the "Board's Report on the oil industry has been published" (*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 179 (b) in the Assembly on 6th September, 1928)?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: The Tariff Board's Report on the Oil Industry was published on the 12th September, 1928, and the Honourable Member was sent a copy on the same date.

VISITORS ON BOARD PILGRIM SHIPS.

47. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Will Government be pleased to state if the information asked for from the Local Government regarding "Visitors on board Pilgrim ships" has been obtained (*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 189 in the Assembly on 6th September, 1928)?

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

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

(b) It is not a fact that European ladies and gentlemen are frequently allowed on pilgrim ships, either at the time of embarkation or debarkation. Only two ladies have ever been permitted on board; one of these

was the wife of the Master of the ship. It is understood that members of the Anjumane Khudaman—Nabi or Harmain are permitted on the wharf and on ships, in order to give iced water to the pilgrims, and that in special circumstances Muhammadan gentlemen of position are also admitted.

ELECTRIFICATION OF THE KALKA-SIMLA RAILWAY.

48. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: Will the Government be pleased to state how matters stand now and what progress has been made in the investigation regarding the "Electrification of the Kalka-Simla Railway" since the reply given by Government to starred question No. 198 in the Assembly on 6th September, 1928?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: The Railway Board have not yet received the report from their consulting Electrical Engineers.

OFFICERS EMPLOYED IN THE OFFICES OF THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, BENGAL, AND THE PRESIDENCY POSTMASTER, CALCUTTA.

49. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Is it a fact that:

(i) In Bengal in the office of the Postmaster General there are three Deputy Postmasters General, one Office Superintendent, and four Assistant Postmasters General?

(ii) In the office of the Presidency Postmaster of Calcutta there are five Superintendents of Post Offices?

(b) Will they please also state the names of the officers of the (i) Postmaster General in Bengal, (ii) Presidency Postmaster of Calcutta?

Mr. H. A. Sams: The facts are not altogether as understood by the Honourable Member. A statement giving the numbers and names of the officers employed in the offices referred to by the Honourable Member is subjoined:

Statement showing the names of Gazetted Officers under the Postmaster General, Bengal and Assam, and Presidency Postmaster, Calcutta, in their Offices.

In Postmaster-General's Office.

| | |
|--|---|
| 2 Deputy Postmasters-General | Mr. S. N. Das (Postal). Mr. J. E. C. Looke (Traffic). |
| 5 Assistant Postmasters-General | Mr. B. K. Sen. Mr. N. K. Dutt. Mr. S. Bhattacharjee. Mr. N. C. Dutt. Mr. S. C. Mitra. |
| 1 Personal Assistant to Deputy Postmaster-General (Traffic). | Mr. J. C. Popen. |
| 2 Superintendents, Telegraph Traffic .. | Mr. R. H. D. Parrott. Mr. J. E. Franklin. |

In Presidency Postmaster's Office.

| | |
|---|---|
| 3 Superintendents of Post Offices | Rai Bahadur A. K. Mukerji. Mr. J. N. Datta. Mr. N. C. De. |
| 1 Deputy Postmaster | Mr. S. N. Das Gupta. |
| 2 Assistant Postmasters | Mr. Reginald Singh. Mr. D. N. Banerjee. |

LUGGAGE RULES OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

50. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) With reference to Government reply to unstarred question No. 287 in the Assembly on 11th September, 1928, re "Luggage Rules of the East Indian Railway", will Government please state if the Indian Railway Conference Association have come to a decision in the matter?

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

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: In the view of the Indian Railway Conference Association, any relaxation of the existing rule would lead to a considerable increase in the amount of unbooked luggage, with resulting loss to Railways and inconvenience to passengers in general, owing to more luggage being taken in passenger carriages, and for this reason they have not recommended any alteration in the existing rules as to the free allowance of unbooked luggage. The question will be discussed with the Central Advisory Council for Railways at an early meeting.

REPORTED DECREASE OF STATE RAILWAY EARNINGS.

51. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the information given in the issue of the *Statesman* of the 4th December, 1928, page 11, under the heading "State Railway Earnings"?

(b) If so, will the Government please state if the information is correct; and if correct, will they please state the cause of the decrease of earnings by 17 lakhs, as compared with the earnings of the week previous, and 15 lakhs less than the figures for the corresponding week of the previous year?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) Yes. It was provided by the Railway Board.

(b) The information is correct. The decrease of 17 lakhs, as compared with the earnings of the previous week, is partly attributable to the big Solar Eclipse Fair at Kurukshetra, the earnings of which were included in the previous week, and partly to less traffic on different railways. The decrease of 15 lakhs as compared with the corresponding week of the previous year is made up as follows:

| | |
|---------|---|
| 442,000 | B. N. R. due to coaching, coal, lime, manganese and iron ore, salt provision, gunny and timber. |
| 392,000 | E. I. R. due to coal and general merchandise. |
| 240,000 | B., B. and C. I. due to coal, grain and cotton. |
| 108,000 | G. I. P. due to goods traffic generally. |
| 102,000 | S. I. due to grains, salt and rice. |
| 98,000 | N. W. due to cotton and sugar. |
| 88,000 | B. R. due to slack trade. |
| 41,000 | Other Railways. |

1,511,000

CONDITION OF THE SUGAR INDUSTRY IN INDIA.

52. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the passage "The fact that the recommendations of the Sugar Committee have not operated for now nearly a decade

was sufficient indication that the economic condition of the sugar industry has not received the proper attention at the hands of the Government of India", published in the issue of the *Statesman* of December 5th, 1928, page 10, under the heading "Improving Sugar Production; India's Position"?

(b) If so, will they please state if the statement that the recommendations of the Sugar Committee had not operated for now nearly a decade, as suggested, is wholly or partially correct?

(c) Will Government please also state how matters stand as regards the sugar industry in India so far as the remarks made in the passage quoted above are concerned?

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

(b) The statements in question are only in part correct.

(c) If the Honourable Member will specify any particular matter in regard to which he desires information, I shall endeavour to supply it.

PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL LETTER BOXES AT SIMLA.

53. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: Will Government please state if the additional letter boxes have been provided by the Postmaster General, Punjab; and if so, how many (*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 194 (c) in the Assembly on the 6th September, 1928)?

Mr. H. A. Sams: The Postmaster-General reports that no additional letter boxes are required in Simla. No more have therefore been provided.

I would state, for the information of the Honourable Member, that there are no less than 97 letter boxes in and around Simla.

EXPORT OF OPIUM FROM INDIA.

54. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the passage "Further the Government decided entirely to extinguish exports to the Far East in ten years; that is, no opium will be exported for purposes other than medical and scientific after December 1935", in the address, published in the issue of the *Statesman* of December 6, 1928, page 5, under the heading "Opium habit decreasing; Position in India; Effects of Government control policy"?

(b) If so, will Government please state if the passage quoted above correctly represents the policy of Government in regard to opium export from India?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: The reply to both parts of the question is in the affirmative.

RULES FOR THE TRAINING OF INDIANS IN FLYING IN ENGLAND.

55. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Will Government be pleased to state if any rules on the subject of "Training of Indians in Flying in England" have been framed?

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

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) Rules have been framed regarding the grant of scholarships to Indians for training in Civil Aviation in England.

(b) A copy of the latest Rules will be laid on the table as soon as they are printed.

INCREASE IN THE PAY AND PENSIONS OF GOVERNMENT PEONS AND MENIAL STAFF.

56. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if they have arrived at a decision in the matter of "Increase in the pay and pensions of Government peons and menial staff" (*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 220 (b) in the Assembly on 8th September, 1928)?

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

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (a) and (b). The question is still under consideration.

FILLING OF VACANCIES AT SANDHURST BY SELECTED VICEROY'S COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.

57. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if the rules to regulate the filling of five or more vacancies a year by selected Viceroy's commissioned officers have been prepared (*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 232 in the Assembly, on 8th September, 1928)?

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

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

(b) A copy of the regulations referred to will be placed in the Library.

FORMATION OF A SAPPER AND MINER SECTION OF THE INDIAN TERRITORIAL FORCE IN BURMA.

58. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** Will Government be pleased to state if the Sapper and Miner section of the Burma Battalion has been formed?

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

GRANT OF A HIGHER FORM OF COMMISSION TO SELECTED OFFICERS OF THE INDIAN TERRITORIAL FORCE.

59. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** Will Government be pleased to state if orders on the grant of a higher form of commission to selected officers have been issued (*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 234 in the Assembly on 8th September, 1928)?

Mr. G. M. Young: The orders have been approved and are under issue from the Press.

HAJ COMMITTEES AT BOMBAY AND KARACHI.

60. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if the enquiries made from the Local Government have been completed (*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 237 (c) in the Assembly on 8th September, 1928) regarding Haj Committee at Bombay and Karachi)?

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

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

(b) The Haj Committee at Bombay was consulted when the present Protector of Pilgrims was appointed. At the time of the appointment of the present Protector of Pilgrims at Karachi, no Haj Committee existed at Karachi.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A BOARD OF INTERMEDIATE AND SECONDARY EDUCATION FOR RAJPUTANA AND AJMER-MERWARA.

61. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if they are now prepared to make a statement regarding the "Establishment of a Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education for Rajputana and Ajmer-Merwara (*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 243 (b) and (c) in the Assembly on 8th September, 1928)?

(b) If not, by what time are they expected to make the statement?

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

(b) It is regretted that it is not possible to give any indication on the point at this stage.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURE REGARDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE IN AJMER-MERWARA.

62. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if they have come to a decision regarding "Recommendations of the Royal Commission on Agriculture re development of Agriculture in Ajmer-Merwara (*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 244 (b) in the Assembly on 8th September, 1928)?

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

HANDING OVER OF THE LAL BUNGALOW IN DELHI TO A CHRISTIAN CLUB FOR RECREATION PURPOSES.

63. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if their enquiry in the matter of "Handing over the Lal Bungalow in Delhi to a Christian Club for Recreation purposes" has been completed (*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 250 in the Assembly on 8th September, 1928)?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the result of their enquiry to the House?

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

(b) The New Delhi Municipal Committee, which at present occupies a portion of the building, has been asked to evacuate it by the close of the present year.

PROMPT PAYMENT OF WAGES.

64. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if they have arrived at a decision in the matter of "Prompt payment of wages" (*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 263 in the Assembly on 8th September, 1928)?

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

(c) If not, by what time do they expect to arrive at a decision in the matter?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government is not yet in a position to say when a decision is likely to be reached.

a) SUPERINTENDENTS OF POST OFFICES IN BIHAR AND ORISSA; (b) NUMBER OF WOMEN SUPERINTENDENTS OF POST OFFICES IN BRITISH INDIA AND BURMA.

65. Khar Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Will Government be pleased to make a statement showing the number of Superintendents of Post Offices in the Province of Bihar and Orissa and the number of them who are Hindus, Sikhs, Muhammadans and Christians, with their names?

(b) Will Government please also state the number of women Superintendents of Post Offices in British India and Burma province by province?

Mr. H. A. Sams: (a) In the Bihar and Orissa Postal Circle there are 12 Superintendents, of whom:

2 are Christians; Messrs. R. F. Kalberer and C. V. Cunningham;

7 are Hindus; Messrs. D. N. Gossain, P. N. Banerjee, J. Kumar, K. P. Misra, T. G. Mukerji, Khusi Ram and D. N. Basu;

2 are Muhammadans; Messrs. Syed Azharul Haq and Syed Abdul Majeed; and

1 is a Sikh; Mr. Sardar Harbans Singh.

(b) There are no women Superintendents of Post Offices in British India or Burma. Mrs. M. Thompson, a departmental official, has however passed the Superintendents' examination, and is at present holding temporary charge of the Lucknow Postal Division.

LENGTH OF RAILWAY FROM PESHAWAR TO MANGALORE.

66. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the paragraph published in the issue of the *Statesman* of December 9, 1928, page 9, under the heading "Peshawar-Mangalore Longest Railway Service"?

(b) If so, will the Government please state if the statement made therein is correct?

(c) If so, will they please state when the new service is likely to be inaugurated?

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

(c) A time-table is being drawn up. The Railway Board hope that the new service will come into operation in the course of the next few months.

HOUSING CONDITIONS OF WORKMEN IN LILLOOAH.

67. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if the Agent of the East Indian Railway has completed his enquiry into the housing conditions of the workmen in Lillooah (*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 272 (b), in the Assembly on 8th September, 1928)?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the result of the enquiry to the House?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: The enquiry is not yet complete. The Agent has received reports from certain officers who were instructed to investigate the question, and these reports are now under his and the Railway Board's consideration.

REPRESENTATION FROM THE IMPERIAL SECRETARIAT DAFTRIES ASSOCIATION REGARDING QUARTERS IN NEW DELHI.

68. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** Will Government be pleased to state what action has been taken since Government reply to starred question No. 272 (c) in the Assembly on 8th September, 1928, regarding "Representation from the Imperial Secretariat Daftaries Association *re* Quarters in New Delhi"?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: Bath rooms and water taps have been provided in the quarters in question.

COMPLETION OF WORK ON THE AERODROME AT CALCUTTA.

69. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** Will the Government be pleased to state by what time the work of the aerodrome at Calcutta is expected to be completed (*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 371 (b) in the Assembly on 11th September, 1928)?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: It is hoped that the works connected with the improvements to the civil aerodrome at Calcutta (Dum Dum) will be completed during the course of the next official year.

TOTAL ADDITIONAL REVENUE EARNED BY THE IMPERIAL INDIAN MAIL RUN BETWEEN BOMBAY AND CALCUTTA.

70. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Will Government please state if they have obtained the figures regarding "Total additional Revenue earned by the Imperial Indian Mail run between Bombay and Calcutta (*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 378 in the Assembly on 11th September, 1928)?"

(b) If so, will they please state, for the information of the House, what those figures are?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) and (b). The total additional revenue earned by the Imperial Indian Mail between Bombay and Calcutta for the year ending 31st July 1928 was Rs. 46,257, as against the estimated additional revenue of Rs. 85,000. In addition, Rs. 2,842 were paid by the Peninsular and Oriental Company on account of their guarantee of 20 fares in respect of each train run during the slack months of the year.

INCREASE IN THE SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE OF PEONS IN THE TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.

71. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Will Government please state if they have arrived at a decision in the matter of "increase in the subsistence allowance of task work peons in the Telegraph Department (*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 899 in the Assembly on 11th September, 1928)?

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

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) and (b). No decision has yet been reached.

WATERWORKS FOR KASAULI.

72. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if they have completed their enquiries regarding "Water Works for Kasauli" (*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 461 in the Assembly on 11th September, 1928)?

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

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

(b) A copy of my letter on the subject dated the 26th September 1928, to Mr. Ghaznavi is laid on the table.

Copy of letter dated 26th September, 1928, from the Secretary to the Government of India, Army Department, to Mr. A. H. Ghaznavi, M.L.A.

With reference to my answer in the Legislative Assembly on the 11th September, 1928, to your starred question No. 461, I give below the information you asked for:

(a) No.

(b) A water supply system has been in existence since 1908. The supply is plentiful except in the months of May—July when, owing to the low yield of the spring at the source, rationing has to be resorted to. To improve the position storage for an extra 750,000 gallons is being provided.

(c) No. The source indicated is not satisfactory from a medical point of view.

DISCONTENT AMONG SUBORDINATES OF THE ELECTRICAL BRANCH OF THE POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.

73. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs has

come to a decision on the subject of "Discontent among the subordinates of the Electrical Branch of the Indian Postal and Telegraph Department (vide Government reply to starred question No. 470 in the Assembly on 11th September, 1928)?"

(b) If so, will they please communicate the decision of the Director General for the information of the House?

Mr. H. A. Sams: (a) No decision has yet been reached.

(b) Does not arise.

PAY OF THE HEADMASTERS AND TEACHERS OF INDIAN HIGH AND MIDDLE SCHOOLS MAINTAINED BY THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

74. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if they have completed their enquiries re "Pay of the Headmasters and Teachers of Indian High or Middle Schools maintained by the East Indian Railway" (vide Government reply to unstarred question No. 271 in the Assembly on 11th September, 1928)?

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

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: I am sending the Honourable Member a letter containing the information given in reply to the question mentioned by him.

RAISING OF THE PLATFORM AT GUDUR JUNCTION ON THE MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA RAILWAY.

75. **Mr. C. Duraiswami Aiyangar:** Will the Government be pleased to state what steps have been taken to raise the platform at Gudur junction of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway to avoid inconvenience to the travellers?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: Government are not aware of the exact arrangements at this station. They have sent a copy of the Honourable Member's question to the Agent of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway, who is competent to deal with such matters.

CROSSING OF THE RAILWAY LINE BY PASSENGERS ARRIVING AT RENUGUNTA JUNCTION STATION ON THE MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA RAILWAY.

76. **Mr. C. Duraiswami Aiyangar:** (a) Are Government aware that at Renugunta Junction on the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway the midnight shuttle trains are not taken to the platform but are left on the second line and that passengers are obliged to get down in the dark at the second line and cross the first line at risk?

(b) Do Government propose to direct that the practice must be stopped at once?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: Government are not aware of the individual lines at which particular trains are received at various stations. They have sent a copy of the Honourable Member's question to the Agent, Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway.

DISCONTENT AMONG GRADUATE CLERKS IN THE POST OFFICE IN
PRESIDENCY TOWNS.

77. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Will Government be pleased to state if they have come to a decision in the matter of "Discontent among Graduate Clerks in the Post Office in Presidency Towns" (*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 457 (a) in the Assembly on the 11th September, 1928)?

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

ISSUE OF MONTHLY TIME TABLES BY THE EASTERN BENGAL AND EAST
INDIAN RAILWAYS.

78. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if the Railway Board have arrived at a decision in the matter of issue of monthly time-tables by the Eastern Bengal and the East Indian Railways (*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 459 in the Assembly on 11th September, 1928)?

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

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: The matter was referred by the Railway Board to the Indian Railway Conference Association for their consideration, since it is really a question of the desirability and practicability of issuing more frequent time-tables on all railways. I understand that the Indian Railway Conference Association's Operating Committee for Interchange are likely to consider the subject in February, 1929.

PROVISION OF A RAISED PLATFORM AND SUITABLE WAITING ACCOMMODATION AT MEGNA ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

79. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Will Government be pleased to state if they have obtained the information *re* "Provision of a raised platform and suitable waiting accommodation at Megna on the East Indian Railway" (*vide* Government reply to unstarred question No. 341 in the Assembly on 11th September, 1928)?

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

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

(b) The Agent reported that there were more important demands at other stations, but this work would be taken in hand as soon as funds could be allotted for it, having regard to more urgent requirements.

UNWORKED RESOURCES OF COAL IN THE JHARIA COALFIELDS.

80. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Will Government please state if they obtained the information called for, in respect of "Unworked Resources of coal of 18, 14, 15, 17 and 18 Seam, left workable in the Jharia Coalfields" (*vide* Government reply to unstarred question No. 341 in the Assembly on 11th September, 1928)?

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

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

(b) A statement giving the required information was duly supplied to Mr. Neogy who put the question. A copy of the statement has now been laid on the table of the House.

Estimates of coal available in certain seams in the Jharia Coalfield up to a depth not exceeding 1,000 feet based on information obtained from mine-owners.

| Number of Seam. | | Quantity. |
|-----------------|-------|-------------|
| | | Tons. |
| 18 | | 35,074,000 |
| 17 | | 38,851,000 |
| 15 | | 158,390,000 |
| 14-A | | 12,929,000 |
| 14 | | 285,202,000 |
| 13 | | 190,135,000 |

NUMBER OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN RAILWAY COLLIERIES ON CERTAIN SPECIFIED SALARIES.

81. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Will Government please state if they have obtained the information called for in respect of "Number of persons employed in railway collieries on certain specified salaries, etc." (vide Government reply to unstarred question No. 389 in the Assembly on the 11th September, 1928)?

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

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

(b) The information is as follows:

| | Rs. 1,000 and above. | Between Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,000. | Rs. 250 to Rs. 500. |
|---|----------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Europeans | 16 | 15 | 3 |
| Indians and Anglo-Indians | Nil | 3 | 13 |
| <i>Appointments made during the last 2 years.</i> | | | |
| Europeans | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| Indians and Anglo-Indians | Nil | Nil | 1 |

RECOGNITION OF RAILWAY UNIONS.

82. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if the information re "Recognition of Railway Unions" has been obtained (vide Government reply to unstarred question No. 325 in the Assembly on 11th September, 1928)?

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

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: I am sending the Honourable Member a letter giving the information supplied in reply to the question mentioned by him.

WITHDRAWAL OF RECOGNITION FROM RAILWAY UNIONS.

83. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if information has been obtained in respect of "Withdrawal of Recognition from Railway Unions" (*vide* Government reply to unstarred question No. 323 in the Assembly on 11th September, 1928)?

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

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: I am sending the Honourable Member a letter giving the information supplied in reply to the question mentioned by him.

DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURE.

84. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Will Government please state if they have considered the Report of the Royal Commission on Agriculture and come to a decision (*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 484 (a) in the Assembly on 12th September, 1928)?

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

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: The Report of the Royal Commission on Agriculture is receiving careful consideration. The Government of India are examining the recommendations which affect them, and have no doubt that the Local Governments are doing the same with those with which they are concerned.

REPRESENTATION OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY ON THE INDIAN MINING ASSOCIATION, CALCUTTA.

85. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Will Government please state if their enquiries in the matter of "Representation of the East Indian Railway on the Indian Mining Association, Calcutta" have been completed (*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 507 in the Assembly on 12th September, 1928)?

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

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: The Agent of the East Indian Railway has been asked to withdraw from membership of the Indian Mining Association, after giving such notice as may be required by the rules of the Association.

AMELIORATION OF LEAVE AND PENSION TERMS OF INFERIOR SERVANTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

86. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if they have come to a decision in regard to the amelioration of leave and pension terms to inferior servants of the Government of India (*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 482 in the Assembly on 12th September, 1928)?

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

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (a) and (b). The matter of leave terms is still under consideration. The cost of certain proposals is being investigated with a view to ascertaining whether financial considerations would permit of any new expenditure on this account being admitted. As regards pensions, the Government of India are now inquiring of Local Governments what action they have taken, or propose to take, since it is important that, in a matter of this kind, the practice should be uniform.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE PROVINCIAL CIVIL SERVICE AS HIGH COURT JUDGES.

87. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Is it a fact (i) that four judgeships were conferred on members of the Provincial Civil Service in the Calcutta High Court, one in 1888 for a short period, one in 1918 for five months and four days, one in 1920 for one month, and one in 1928 for 3 months and 24 days; (ii) that there are Judges appointed from the Provincial Service in the Madras, Allahabad, Lahore and Rangoon High Courts?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state if a Judgeship in the Patna High Court has been conferred on any member of the Provincial Civil Service, so far? If so, how many, when and for what period?

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

(b) A member of the Bihar and Orissa Civil Service has been appointed Additional Judge of the Patna High Court from the 1st December, 1928, to the commencement of the High Court's vacation of 1929.

FURTHERANCE OF MEDICAL RESEARCH AND PUBLIC HEALTH IN INDIA.

88. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the paragraph published in the issue of the *Statesman* of 27th December, 1928, page 22, under the heading "Medical Research in India"?

(b) If so, will they please state if schemes for the furtherance of medical research and higher education in public health are under the consideration of the Government of India?

(c) If so, will Government please state if they have considered the schemes and arrived at a decision?

(d) If they have arrived at a decision, will they please communicate their decision to the House?

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

(c) and (d). The details of the schemes are still under consideration.

ASSESSMENT TO SUPER-TAX OF NON-INDIAN SHIPPING COMPANIES.

89. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) With reference to Government reply to the second supplementary question to starred question No. 751 in the Assembly on 20th September, 1928, regarding assessment of Non-Indian Shipping Companies to Super-tax", will the Government be pleased to state if they have looked into the matter and arrived at a conclusion?

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

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state if non-Indian Shipping Companies trading on the Indian coast did not pay any income-tax until the attention of the Government was drawn to that non-payment in the year 1922?

The Honourable Mr. George Schuster: (a) Yes.

(b) The Government are satisfied that no non-Indian shipping company escapes the payment of the super-tax to which it is liable under the Income-tax Act.

(c) Non-British shipping companies were exempted from the payment of income-tax until the 1st April, 1919, and British and Dominion Shipping Companies until the 22nd April, 1921. Since these dates, respectively, assessments have been duly made.

TRAINING OF INDIANS IN MARINE ENGINEERING.

90. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if their proposals regarding "Training of Indians in Marine Engineering" have been placed before the Standing Advisory Committee of the Commerce Department and before the Standing Finance Committee respectively (*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 752 in the Assembly on 20th September, 1928)?

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

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: (a) Yes.

(b) The proposals have been generally accepted by both the Committees and necessary provision is being made in the next year's Budget Estimates.

RAISING THE RESERVE OF NURSES IN INDIA.

91. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) With reference to Government reply to starred question No. 721 (c) in the Assembly on 20th September, 1928, will Government please state if they have considered the question of raising the reserve of nurses in India, and come to a decision in the matter?

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

Mr. G. M. Young: (a) and (b). No decision has been reached as yet.

DETAILS OF EXPENSES REQUIRED BY THE INCOME-TAX AUTHORITIES FROM ASSESSEES.

92. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if they have called for and received reports from the Commissioners of Income-tax regarding "Details of Expenses required by the Income-tax authorities from Assesseees" (*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 722 (a) in the Assembly on 20th September, 1928)?

(b) If the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state what steps they have taken or propose to take in the matter?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (a) Reports were called for and have been received.

(b) The reports disclose that assesseees who claim the allowance of payments on account of interest, brokerage, commission, etc., are usually asked to prove their claims by furnishing the names and addresses of the

recipients. Such proof has been found by experience to be essential, but an assessee is not necessarily penalised by its absence if the Income-tax officer is satisfied that the expenditure has been genuinely incurred. While the information obtained in this manner is used primarily for the proof of claims for allowances it is available for the check of the returns of income made by the recipients and also for the discovery of new assesseees. The information is treated in a confidential manner and has been used with discretion by the assessing officers. The Government will not hesitate to authorise the use of all legitimate means for ascertaining what income is liable to taxation. This is the duty of assessing officers, although in exercising their powers, they are instructed to consider the convenience of assesseees as far as possible. In order that these officers may be able to perform their duties without undue trouble and friction, the Government relies on the public spirit and assistance of those who are liable to tax. The reports received provide evidence that, in the vast majority of cases, co-operation between officers of the Income-tax Department and the private individuals with whom they come in contact is proceeding satisfactorily, and that there is no complaint that officers are abusing their powers in the sense of causing unnecessary inconvenience or otherwise. The practice now being followed is in accord with what it has been already for many years and the Government, in the absence of any evidence to justify a change, do not propose to issue contrary instructions.

ADMISSION OF INDIAN BOYS INTO THE RAILWAY ENGINEERING SERVICE.

93. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) With reference to Government reply to starred question No. 728 (d) and (e) in the Assembly on 20th September, 1928, regarding "Admission of Indian boys into the Railway Engineering Service", will the Government be pleased to state if the advice of the Public Service Commission has been obtained and a decision arrived at?

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

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: It has been decided that the selection shall be made normally at a date later in the year than the announcement of the results of the qualifying examinations, so that candidates may be able to compete for selection in the same year as they take the qualifying examination.

RECRUITMENT TO THE CENTRAL SERVICES.

94. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if they have consulted the records on the subject of "Recruitment to the Central Services" (*vide* Government reply to supplementary question to starred question No. 768 in the Assembly on 20th September, 1928)?

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

The Honourable Mr. J. Grewar: (a) and (b). Rules making a formal delegation of powers are under the consideration of the Secretary of State and Government of India. They will be issued as soon as their final form can be determined.

PROLONGATION OF THE STAY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA IN NEW DELHI.

95. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if they have arrived at a decision regarding "Prolongation of the stay of the Government of India in New Delhi" (*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 768 in the Assembly on 20th September, 1928)?

(b) If so, will they please make a statement on the subject?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: (a) and (b). After very careful consideration. Government do not at present contemplate any substantial change in the period of their stay in New Delhi.

WORKING HOURS OF THE OFFICIALS OF THE SAVINGS BANK DEPARTMENT OF THE GENERAL POST OFFICE, CALCUTTA.

96. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) With reference to Government reply to starred question No. 740 in the Assembly on 20th September, 1928, regarding "Working hours of the officials of the Savings Bank Department of the General Post Office, Calcutta", will the Government be pleased to state if they have enquired into the matter?

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

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) and (b). The enquiries are still in progress. The question of communicating to the House the result of the enquiries will be duly considered when the enquiries have been completed.

ANNUAL INCOME FROM THE COTTON CESS.

97. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if they have obtained information in respect of "Annual Income from the Cotton Cess, etc." (*vide* Government reply to unstarred question No. 405 in the Assembly on 20th September, 1928)?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the information obtained to the House?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: Final information has not yet been obtained. When available it will be supplied to the Honourable Member.

REPRESENTATIONS FROM TOWN INSPECTORS OF POST OFFICES.

98. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) With reference to Government reply to unstarred questions Nos. 387 and 388 in the Assembly on 18th September, 1928, will Government be pleased to state if they have considered the representations of the Town Inspectors, Service Associations and others and arrived at a decision in the matter?

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

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: I propose to answer questions Nos. 98 and 183 together. The Government of India reached a decision in the matter in their letter No. 14-P. T. E., dated the 2nd October, 1928, a copy of which I lay upon the table.

No. 14-Pte.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES AND LABOUR.

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS BRANCH.

Dated Simla, the 2nd October, 1928.

FROM

F. RYAN, Esquire, C.I.E.,
JOINT SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

TO

THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

SUBJECT:—*Appointments to the posts of Inspectors of Post Offices.*

SIR,

I am directed to inform you that the Government of India have given their careful consideration to representations, submitted by you for their

Letter No. 11-Pte., dated the 5th August, 1927, from the Department of Industries and Labour to the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs.

Letter No. 11 Pte., dated the 15th September, 1927, from the Department of Industries and Labour to the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs.

Memorandum No. E. A.-270-28, dated the 11th February, 1928, from the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, to heads of Postal Circles.

2. The Government observe with regret that the orders issued on this subject have been differently interpreted in different postal circles with the result that in some of these the existing incumbents of the posts of Town Inspectors were displaced to an extent considerably in excess of what was contemplated. Although it cannot be admitted that the then incumbents had an absolute claim to be retained in the posts, and while the Government of India do not see their way to a complete reversal of decisions already taken and made effective, they are of opinion that some measure of special consideration is called for in favour of the displaced officials, on the occurrence of vacancies; and that a concession should be made to officials with a reasonable length of approved service in regard to exemption from the selection grade examination before confirmation. The following instructions should accordingly be given effect.

3. Previous incumbents of the posts of Town Inspectors who have not been displaced in consequence of the orders contained in Industries and Labour Department letter No. 11-Pte., dated the 15th September, 1927, or your letter of the 11th February, 1928 and who still continue in those posts, should be regarded as being on probation in the posts until such date as they pass the new selection grade examination and have been ruled by the head of the Circle concerned to be in all respects suitable for confirmation as Town Inspectors. In the case of failure to qualify for confirmation within a period of two years from the date of this letter they should be reverted to the clerical grade. As an exception to the foregoing however those Town Inspectors who have already rendered three years' satisfactory service in that capacity may be confirmed in their posts at your discretion without examination; and all Town Inspectors who have already passed the examination for appointment as Sub-Divisional Inspectors and Divisional Head clerks should also be exempted from passing the new selection grade examination.

4. As regards those incumbents of the posts of Town Inspectors who, under the operation of the orders cited above, have ceased to hold those appointments, special consideration should be paid by you, on recommendations of Heads of Circle; to the cases of these displaced officials whenever a permanent vacancy of a Town Inspectorship of a first class Post Office has to be filled in future in a Circle in which they are employed. On promotion to be Town Inspectors these officials should be considered as on probation subject to the conditions and exceptions prescribed in paragraph 3 of this letter, the period of two years mentioned therein being counted from the date of promotion.

5. The orders contained in paragraph 4 relate only to promotion in permanent vacancies amongst Town Inspectors and are not to be interpreted as imposing any restrictions on the appointment of any of these displaced officials to officiate in temporary vacancies amongst Town Inspectors or in other vacancies, permanent or otherwise, in the selection grade, provided they are suitably qualified.

I have the honour to be,
SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

T. RYAN,

Joint Secretary to the Government of India.

REPORT OF THE INDIAN STATES COMMITTEE.

99. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) With reference to Government reply to starred question No. 879 (a) in the Assembly on 20th September, 1928, regarding "Report of the Indian States Committee", will Government please state if they have since examined the point and arrived a decision in the matter?

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

Sir Denys Bray: (a) Yes.

(b) The report will be submitted direct to the Secretary of State.

APPOINTMENT OF INDIANS AS TRADE COMMISSIONERS ABROAD.

100. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if they have considered and arrived at a decision regarding the "Appointment of Indians as Trade Commissioners abroad" (*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 758 in the Assembly on 20th September, 1928)?

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

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: The question of appointing Indian Trade Commissioners abroad is still under consideration.

SUPERSESSION OF MR. GANGADHARA MUDALIAR, JOINT SECRETARY OF THE MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA RAILWAY EMPLOYEES UNION.

101. **Mr. M. K. Acharya:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the claim for promotion of one Mr. Gangadhara Mudaliar, the Joint Secretary of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Employees Union, was overlooked nearly on eight occasions and junior men were put over his head by the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway authorities, and whether Mr. Mudaliar rose from a starting salary of Rs. 12 and whether his work has never been found fault with?

- (b) whether on an appeal by Mr. Mudaliar the Agent pronounced that he was not fit for more responsible work, although Mr. Mudaliar was never tried in any more responsible post and found wanting?
- (c) whether men drawing higher salaries in the same department as Mr. Mudaliar are doing exactly the same kind of work as Mr. Mudaliar, *viz.*, dealing with claims?
- (d) whether the overlooking of Mr. Mudaliar's claims has been due to his being an office bearer of the Union?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: Government have no information and regret that they are not prepared to interrogate the Agent as to his reasons for granting promotion to, or withholding promotion from, any of the Company's servants.

TRANSFER TO DISTANT PLACES OF MENIALS ON THE MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA RAILWAY.

102. **Mr. M. K. Acharya:** (a) Is it a fact that menials on the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway are often transferred to places nearly 800 miles away but are given passes only up to 100 miles and are asked to pay the fare for the rest of the distance?

(b) In view of the hardship caused to poor men in going far away from their homes, do Government propose to issue instructions that menials should not be transferred to places more than 100 miles distant from their homes?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: I am addressing the Agent and will communicate his reply to the Honourable Member on its receipt.

INDIAN REFRESHMENT ROOMS ON THE MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA RAILWAY.

103. **Mr. M. K. Acharya:** (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the series of articles entitled "Indian Refreshment Rooms" on the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway, in the August, September and October issues of the *Indian Railway Magazine*?

(b) Is it a fact that the cooks and staff of the Indian refreshment rooms are not allowed to take coffee or tiffin in the rooms and that they are given only rice and dhal for two meals and are refused food if they fall sick?

(c) Is it a fact that in the Manager's Book there are two columns "Quantity Wasted" and "Quantity Saved" and that Managers are debited for quantity wasted and are asked to show a saving, and that this leads to adulteration and deterioration in the quality of refreshments served to the public?

(d) Is it a fact that a junior Room Manager was formerly started on Rs. 40 but that he is now started on Rs. 35?

(e) Is it a fact that the pay of Inspectors of Refreshment Rooms is shown as Rs. 100—10—180 but that they are started only on Rs. 75?

(f) Is it a fact that the Officer-in-Charge of the Catering Department is managing it as a family concern, having 90 per cent. of the contractors and fruit stall contractors from among his own relations?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: I propose, with your permission, Sir, to reply to questions Nos. 103 and 104, together. Government have seen the articles referred to. They are not aware whether the statements made in them are correct, but have sent a copy of the Honourable Member's questions to the Agent of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway, with a request that he will investigate the matter and take such action as may seem to him to be necessary.

MANAGEMENT OF THE CATERING DEPARTMENT OF THE MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA RAILWAY.

†104. **Mr. M. K. Acharya:** (a) Is it a fact that the present officer, when he was Assistant Traffic Superintendent, was managing the Catering Department as a full time officer and that after becoming District Traffic Superintendent, he is still keeping it on with the help of the Manager of the Rates Section?

(b) Are Government aware of the fact that the Sieve-Wright Committee appointed by the Indian Railway Conference to enquire into the conditions of food and water supply to third class passengers, recommended the appointment of a whole-time officer?

(c) Do Government propose to issue instructions to the Agent to put the Department in charge of some other officer immediately?

NUMBER OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN LIGHT HOUSE SERVICES IN INDIA.

105. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) With reference to Government reply to starred questions Nos. 622 and 623 regarding "Number of persons employed in the Light House Services and Sea and Coast Lights Establishments in India", in the Assembly on 17th September, 1928, will the Government be pleased to state if the information is now available?

(b) If so, will they please lay it on the table?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: The information is not yet available. It will be supplied to the Honourable Member as soon as possible.

OPENING OF A BROAD GAUGE RAILWAY BETWEEN JAKHAL AND SIRSA, *via* FATEHABAD.

106. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) With reference to Government reply to unstarred question No. 359 regarding "The opening of a broad gauge Railway line between Jakhal and Sirsa *via* Fatehabad" in the Assembly on 17th September, 1928, will the Government be pleased to state if the recommendation of the Punjab Government has been considered and a decision arrived at?

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

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: The Railway Board have sanctioned the traffic survey of this line, but the results of the survey are not yet ready.

† For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 103.

REMOVAL TO NEW DELHI OF THE BRANCHES OF ARMY HEADQUARTERS.

107. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Is it a fact that the Branches of Army Headquarters and certain sections of the Military Finance Branch have been temporarily accommodated in the old Secretariat in Delhi?

(b) If so, will Government please state when they are likely to be removed to New Delhi?

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

(b) Government hopes that the move will be made next cold weather.

IMPORT OF ARTIFICIAL FLOUR.

108. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) With reference to Government reply to starred question No. 647 in the Assembly on 18th September, 1928, regarding "Import of Artificial Flour" will Government be pleased to state if they have completed their inquiries?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the result of their inquiries to the House?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) and (b). No imports of artificial flour have been noticed at any of the ports by the Customs authorities.

SAVING OF THE SUGAR INDUSTRY FROM EXTINCTION.

109. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) With reference to Government reply to starred question No. 648 in the Assembly on 18th September, 1928, regarding "Saving of the Sugar Industry from extinction in India", will Government please state if they have considered and arrived at a decision in the matter?

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

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: The information required by the Honourable Member will be supplied in reply to subsequent starred questions Nos. 219 and 220 by the Honourable Mr. Mukhtar Singh.

REVISION OF LEAVE RULES FOR SUBORDINATES OF THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA AND EAST INDIAN RAILWAYS.

110. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) With reference to Government reply "New leave rules for Railway Services as a whole have not yet been framed, but the Railway Board, as a separate matter, are going into the question of revising the leave rules for subordinates on the Great Indian Peninsula and the East Indian Railways, who were originally in the Company's Service", to starred question No. 572 in the Assembly on 17th September, 1928, will Government be pleased to state if the Railway Board have revised the Rules?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state when the Rules are expected to be published?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: I propose to reply to questions Nos. 110 and 111 together. The Railway Board have accepted a proposal of the Agent of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway that subordinates who have been acting in the superior grade continuously for a period of three years or more

should be paid leave allowances based on the average pay of their officiating appointments for the previous year and not on the pay of their substantive appointments as subordinates. Orders to this effect are under issue, and the Agent of the East Indian Railway is being informed that the Railway Board will have no objection to a similar alteration in the leave rules of his line.

SUBORDINATES OFFICIATING AS OFFICIALS ON RAILWAYS.

†111. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) With reference to Government reply to starred question No. 573 in the Assembly on 17th September, 1928, regarding "Subordinates officiating as officials on Railways", will the Government be pleased to state if they have arrived at a satisfactory conclusion in the matter?

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

TIME SCALE OF PAY FOR THE OUTDOOR CLERICAL STAFF OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

112. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if the information regarding "Time-scale of pay for the outdoor clerical staff of the North Western Railway", called for from the Agent, North Western Railway, has been received (*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 617 in the Assembly on 17th September, 1928)?

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

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: I am sending the Honourable Member a letter giving the information supplied in reply to the question mentioned by him.

GRIEVANCES OF PILGRIMS TO HEDJAZ.

113. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** Will the Government be pleased to state if the following grievances of the pilgrims to Hedjaz or any of them, are real? If real, will they please state what steps they propose to take to redress the grievances which are real?

- (1) The space allotted in the ships to each passenger is inadequate, and hence there is too much crowding, congestion and consequent discomfort.
- (2) The pieces of fire-wood supplied by the ships to the passengers are so thick that they require tools to cut them and make them serviceable. Usually tools cannot be had on the ships, and such tools as are available can be procured only on payment of tips to the ship's employees. It is extremely difficult for the passengers to cut these pieces of wood when the ship is crowded with passengers and the sea is rough.
- (8) Latrine arrangements are very bad. Latrines are ill-constructed. In some ships these latrines are exposed to view and the place is very narrow. Scavenging arrangements are practically *nil*.
- (4) Sufficient water is not given to passengers.

† For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 110.

- (5) Nominally there is always a doctor with a store of medicine on board the ship. But the doctor refuses to give medicine to the patient if he comes to him after the prescribed time, with the result that patients suffer for want of medical aid.
- (6) The most serious grievance has its root in the return ticket system. After the last pilgrimage, when the pilgrims did not get ships at Jeddah, they suffered unspeakable hardships. Pilgrims who hold return tickets of the Namazee Company or the Shustari Company, were the greatest sufferers. Hundreds of pilgrims, who could have reached India, died at Jeddah while waiting for ships. On their return journey, pilgrims are naturally short of money and they hurry to Jeddah in the hope of finding a ship for their return voyage, at the most say a week after their arrival at Jeddah. But contrary to their expectation they have to stop at Jeddah for a long time, sometimes for 20 or 25 days.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (1) Government have ordered that every pilgrim ship shall provide at least sixteen superficial feet and ninety-six cubic feet of space for each pilgrim in the between deck on which he may be accommodated. This accommodation is in accord with the provisions of the International Sanitary Convention, 1926,

(2) Government have no information, but will make enquiries. Under the rules, each pilgrim ship is required to carry hatchets for cutting wood.

(3) The Honourable Member is referred to rules 62 and 63 of the rules contained in Appendix 'E' to the "General Instructions for Pilgrims to Hedjaz", a copy of which will be found in the Library. Government are not aware that these rules are not observed, but will make enquiries.

(4) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to part (b) of his unstarred question No. 397 on the 14th March, 1928.

(5) Government have no information, but will make enquiries.

(6) Government are aware that, during the last pilgrim season, pilgrims holding return tickets issued by the Namazee Company had to wait at Jeddah for a return passage to India longer than usual and were put to inconvenience. As regards the adoption of a deposit system, to the exclusion of the return ticket system, the Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply given to Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim's starred question No. 165 on the 6th September, 1928.

DATE OF COMPLETION AND COST OF RAILWAY BETWEEN CHITTAGONG AND DUHAZARI.

114. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the paragraph published in the issue of the *Statesman* of December 19, 1928, page 10, under the heading "Railway Extension—Nucleus of Indo-Burma connection"?

(b) If so, will Government please state if the statement made therein is correct?

(c) Will Government please also state the approximate period during which the line referred to, namely, the Chittagong-Duhazari Railway, is expected to be completed, and the approximate expenditure on the construction of the Railway?

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

(b) and (c). As stated, the Railway Board have sanctioned the construction of a metre gauge line from Scholashahar Junction to Duhazari on the Assam Bengal Railway. The construction of the line is justified on its own merits, as providing railway communication in a very populous tract; it is for this reason, and not because it follows the alignment which an Indo-Burma railway connection might conceivably take, that the project has been taken up. The line is expected to cost 45½ lakhs and there is a big bridge over the river Kornafuli. It is hoped that it will open to traffic in the winter of 1931-32.

NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ASKED, RESOLUTIONS MOVED AND BILLS PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

115. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: Will the Government be pleased to make a statement showing:

- The total number of questions asked in the present Assembly up to the last Simla Session and the total number of questions asked in the last Assembly during the corresponding period?
- The number of Resolutions moved in the present Assembly till the last Simla Session and the number of Resolutions moved at the last Assembly during the corresponding period?
- The number of non-official Bills passed in the present Assembly up to the last Simla Session and the number of Bills passed in the last Assembly for the corresponding period?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: I lay on the table a statement which gives the information asked for by the Honourable Member.

Statements.

| Sessions. | *Questions put in the Legislative Assembly. | | Resolutions moved in the Legislative Assembly. | Non-official Bills passed in the Legislative Assembly. |
|------------------------------------|---|------------|--|--|
| | Starred. | Unstarred. | | |
| <i>Present Assembly.</i> | | | | |
| Delhi Session 1927 | 1,278 | 236 | 5 | 1 |
| Simla Session 1927 | 1,204 | 140 | 8 | 1 |
| Delhi Session 1928 | 570 | 494 | 8 | 3 |
| Simla Session 1928 | 929 | 568 | 4 | Nil. |
| Total | 3,981 | 1,438 | 25 | 5 |
| <i>Second Assembly.</i> | | | | |
| Delhi Session 1924 | 1,043 | 230 | 20 | Nil. |
| Simla Session 1924 (May and June). | 528 | 59 | 2 | Nil. |
| Simla Session 1924 (September). | 794 | 181 | 5 | 1 |
| Delhi Session 1925 | 1,279 | 265 | 14 | 2 |
| Simla Session 1925 | 999 | 191 | 12 | 1 |
| Total | 4,643 | 926 | 53 | 4 |

*N.B.—Excluding the short notice questions which approximately number about 6 in each session.

SCHEMES FOR RECRUITMENT OF LABOUR IN ASSAM.

116. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the statement "With regard to recruitment, the Secretary said that in October last, the Indian Tea Association at Calcutta forwarded to the Government of India for consideration two alternative schemes for future recruitment. So far as he was aware the schemes were still under the consideration of the Government of India", published in the issue of the *Statesman* of December 21, 1928, on page 7, under the heading "Labour Problem in Assam. Future Recruitment. Improved System of working"?

(b) If so, will Government please state if the statement made is correct?

(c) If correct, will they please state if they have come to a decision in the matter?

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

(e) If not, by what time are they expected to come to a decision?

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

(b) and (c). The alternative schemes for recruitment were submitted by the Indian Tea Association in connection with the question of the revision of the Assam Labour and Emigration Act (VI of 1901) which is still under the consideration of the Government of India.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Government of India hope to be able to arrive at an early decision.

EXPANSION OF INDIA'S TRADE WITH EUROPE.

117. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the paragraph published in the issue of the *Statesman* of December 21, 1928, page 9, under the heading "India's Trade Expansion—London Agency—Plans by the High Commissioner. More offices needed"?

(b) If so, will Government please state if the statement "The High Commissioner (Sir Atul Chatterjee) has submitted proposals to the Government of India for adequate trade representation in Europe and America" has been correctly reported?

(c) If so, will they please lay a copy of the proposals of the High Commissioner on the table?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) The High Commissioner's proposals are under consideration and Government do not propose to lay them on the table at present.

TRANSFER FROM COMPANY TO STATE MANAGEMENT OF RAILWAYS IN BURMA.

118. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** Will the Government be pleased to state if the Burma Railways, which have hitherto been company-managed, will pass over to State management from January 1, 1929, as reported in the paragraph published in the issue of the *Statesman* of December 21, 1928, page 10, under the heading "Burma Railways—State management from New Year"?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: They have done so.

DEPLORABLE CONDITIONS OF THE QUARTERS OF THE INDIAN STAFF OF THE OUDH AND ROHILKHAND SECTION OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

119. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) With reference to Government reply to starred question No. 521 in the Assembly on 18th September, 1928, regarding "Deplorable condition of the quarters of the Indian Staff of the Oudh and Rohilkhand Section of the East Indian Railway", will Government be pleased to state if the Agent, East Indian Railway, has considered the question sent to him and arrived at a decision in the matter?

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

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) and (b). The Agent proposes to spend considerable sums on improving present quarters and building additional quarters.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INDIAN CINEMATOGRAPH COMMITTEE.

120. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if they have secured the views of the Local Governments and come to a final conclusion in the matter of "Recommendations of the Indian Cinematograph Committee" (*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 318 in the Assembly on 10th September, 1928)?

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

SALE OF VEGETABLE OR VANASPATI GHEE IN INDIA.

121. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) With reference to Government reply to starred question No. 348 in the Assembly on 10th September, 1928, will Government be pleased to state if the views of the Local Governments regarding "Vegetable or Vanaspati Ghee" have been received?

(b) If so, will Government please state if they have considered the matter and come to a final decision?

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

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: I would refer the Honourable Member to the answer given to his Question No. 8 of date.

TRANSFER TO STATE MANAGEMENT OF THE BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

122. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Will the Government be pleased to state when the term of contract of the Bengal and North-Western Railway Company expires?

(b) If the term has expired, will the Government please state when they propose to bring the Bengal and North-Western Railway Company under State-management and control?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) 31st December, 1932.

(b) Does not arise.

DATE OF NEXT ELECTION OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

123. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** Will the Government be pleased to state if the next Assembly election will be held at its usual time or after the passing of the Bill in Parliament as a result of the report of the Statutory Commission on Reforms?

Mr. L. Graham: Government are not so far in possession of any definite information in this matter.

NUMBER OF GOVERNMENT COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS IN THE PROVINCE OF DELHI.

124. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** Will the Government be pleased to make a statement showing the number of Government colleges, primary and secondary schools in the province of Delhi?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: The information asked for is being collected and will be supplied to the Honourable Member in due course.

BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

125. **Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) Is it a fact that under the rules framed or approved by the Government of India, the Bengal and North-Western Railway Advisory Committee for Bihar and Orissa, consists of:

- (1) Agent of the Bengal and North-Western Railway;
- (2) a representative of the Bihar and Orissa Government (the Commissioner of the Tihut Division);
- (3) a member of the Legislative Council of Bihar and Orissa, to represent Industries and Agriculture;
- (4) a member of the Legislative Council of Bihar and Orissa, to represent the travelling public;
- (5) a representative of the Bihar Planters' Association;
- (6) the Senior Government Inspector of Railways?

(b) Are Government aware that the Bihar Planters' Association consists exclusively of Europeans; and that the only two seats that are allotted to the Indians, are confined strictly to the Members of the Bihar and Orissa Legislative Council?

(c) Are Government aware that, on many of the other railways in India, the rules and constitution of the Advisory Committees are more wide, and that many members of the general public and of this House have been allotted seats on the Committees?

(d) Have Government any objection to bringing the Rules of the Bengal and North-Western Railway Advisory Committee into line with those of many other Advisory Railway Committees in India, so as to secure a wider representation of interests, and a strengthening of the Committee?

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

(b) Government are not aware of the exact constitution of the Bihar Planters' Association. They are obtaining the information and will communicate it to the Honourable Member. There is nothing in the rules prohibiting Indians from occupying any of the seats on the Advisory Committee.

(c) It is hardly correct to say that the constitution of the Bengal and North Western Railway Advisory Committee is less wide than that of the Committees on other railways in India. The position is as follows:

When the Local Railway Advisory Committees were started it was laid down that the number of members should be decided by circumstances subject to a maximum of 12. When the information of an Advisory Committee for the Bengal and North Western Railway first came under consideration in 1922, it was held that the objects for which these committees were being formed would be best secured by having separate committees of equal status, one at Gorakhpur and one at Muzaffarpur. This was on account of the divergence of trade interests and local knowledge in the two areas. Action was taken accordingly and the membership of the Bihar and Orissa Committee at Muzaffarpur was fixed at six as detailed in part (a) of the Honourable Member's question, and at seven at Gorakhpur.

(d) Government are not aware that there is lack of sufficient representation on the Advisory Committee at Muzaffarpur, but will send a copy of the Honourable Member's question to the Agent for his consideration.

CONSTRUCTION OF A RAILWAY FROM MUZAFFARPUR TO SITAMARHI.

126. **Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) With reference to the reply to my question No. 17 of the 4th September, 1928, regarding the proposed construction of the Bengal and North-Western Railway line from Muzaffarpur to Sitamarhi, will Government kindly state what conclusions, if any, have been arrived at as a result of the traffic survey? If not, when is a decision likely to be arrived at?

(b) Are Government aware that the local public are very greatly interested in the early construction of this Railway line?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given to Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan's question No. 5.

REFUSAL OF LEAVE AND A GRANT FROM THE GENERAL PROVIDENT FUND TO MR. K. K. WARRIYAR, LATELY A CLERK IN THE OFFICE OF THE COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS, BOMBAY.

127. **Maulvi Sayyid Murtuza Saheb Bahadur:** (a) Have Government received a petition from Mr. K. K. Warriyar, late clerk in the Bombay Custom House, against the action of Collector of Customs, Bombay, in refusing leave and an advance from the General Provident Fund on the occasion of the death of his grand-mother?

(b) Are Government aware that such refusal on the part of the Collector compelled the petitioner to resign in order to save himself from excommunication by his community?

(c) Are Government aware that such refusal was at the suggestion of the Assistant Collector, who was a Brahmin hailing from Northern India?

(d) Was the truth or otherwise of the representation of the clerk verified by reference to any independent authority before his resignation was accepted?

(e) Does the Assistant Collector, Mr. S. C. Satywadi, possess any knowledge of the religious obligations of the Warriyar Caste in Malabar, Cochin State, and has he served at any time in Malabar or Cochin State? If not, why did the Government refuse to accept the petitioner's statement, supported by the opinion of the District Magistrate for the Cochin State, produced by the clerk?

(f) Have Government instituted, or do Government propose to institute any enquiries on the petition of the clerk, submitted to the Government, to ascertain whether the circumstances under which the clerk was compelled to resign were the result of the ignorance of the Assistant Collector?

(g) Do Government propose to enquire into the matter and see that justice is done to the clerk?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (a) The Government of India have received a petition from Mr. K. K. Warriyar asking for permission to withdraw his resignation, which followed upon the refusal of an advance from the General Provident Fund. This advance was refused under clause (8) of rule 20 of the rules governing that Fund, under which an advance was only admissible for strong reasons, to be recorded in writing. The Collector of Customs did not refuse him leave.

(b) The clerk resigned in order to obtain the balance at his credit in the Fund.

(c) to (e). The decision that there were not strong reasons to grant the advance within the spirit of the rules governing the Fund was one for the discretion of the Head of the Department, and the Government of India are not prepared to disclose the discussion upon which that officer's decision was based.

(f) The Central Board of Revenue and the Government of India have given careful consideration to appeals submitted by the clerk.

(g) No, Sir.

SUICIDE OF MR. LALKHAN, AN AGENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA IN THE NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE.

128. Maulvi Sayyid Murtuza Sahab Bahadur: (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to a communication in the Press that one Mr. Lalkhan, an Agent to the Government of India, in the North-West Frontier Province, committed suicide owing to the pressure of his official duty?

(b) What action have the Government taken to mend matters so that his successors also might not resort to such an irreligious act?

(c) Have the Government made any provision for the members of the bereaved family? If not, do they propose to do so?

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

COMFORT OF THIRD CLASS PASSENGERS ON INDIAN RAILWAYS.

129. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if matters affecting the comfort of third class passengers have been discussed with the Central Advisory Council (*vide* Government

reply to starred question No. 498 in the Assembly on 12th September, 1928)?

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

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

(b) The Central Advisory Council had only time to discuss two aspects of the question, namely, overcrowding in third class passenger carriages, and the cleanliness of latrines in passenger stock. Certain suggestions were made and the views of the Agents of Railways on these suggestions are being obtained. The discussion will be resumed at the next meeting of the Council.

APPOINTMENT OF SIR BASANTA KUMAR MULLICK AS A MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL BOARD OF OPIUM TRAFFIC.

130. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the paragraph published in the issue of the *Statesman* of December 18, 1928, page 12, under the heading "Opium Traffic Board, Sir B. K. Mullick as India's representative"?

(b) If so, will they please state if the news published therein that "Sir Basanta Kumar Mullick has been appointed as a permanent member of the Central Board of Opium Traffic" is correct?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: The answer to both parts of the question is in the affirmative.

INSTITUTION OF AN ALL-INDIA ACCOUNTANCY BOARD.

131. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if they have received the opinions of Local Governments in respect of the "Introduction of a Bill for the Institution of an All-India Accountancy Board" (*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 524 in the Assembly on 13th September, 1928)?

(b) If so, will Government please state if they propose to introduce legislation in the present Delhi Session?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: (a) and (b). The Government are still awaiting replies from some Local Governments.

COMPLETION OF GOVERNMENT HOUSE, NEW DELHI.

132. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** Will the Government be pleased to state when the Government House in New Delhi is expected to be completed and when His Excellency the Viceroy is expected to occupy it?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: It is expected that Government House, New Delhi, will be ready for His Excellency the Viceroy to move in at the end of October, 1929.

PAY OF TOWN INSPECTORS OF POST OFFICES.

+189. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) With reference to Government reply to unstarred question No. 411 in the Assembly on 20th September, 1928, regarding "Revised Scale of Pay for Town Inspectors of Post Offices", will the Government be pleased to state if the recommendations of the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs have been considered and a decision arrived at?

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

INTRODUCTION OF AN EXAMINATION FOR THE TRAFFIC BRANCH OF THE POST OFFICE.

134. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) With reference to Government reply to starred question No. 781 (e) in the Assembly on 21st September, 1928, regarding "Introduction of the Examination for the Lower Selection Grade Posts in the Post Office", will the Government be pleased to state if they have considered the question of prescribing an examination in the Traffic Branch, and arrived at a decision in the matter?

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

QUARTERS FOR CLERKS OF THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE.

135. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if they have since considered the question of providing quarters for the clerks of the Railway Clearing Accounts Office, Delhi (*vide* Government reply to unstarred question No. 466 (b) in the Assembly on 21st September, 1928)?

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

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) and (b). Government have decided to proceed with a scheme for providing quarters for 1,000 clerks of the Clearing Accounts Office.

OVERWORKED STAFF IN THE TRAFFIC AND LOCOMOTIVE DEPARTMENTS OF THE BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

136. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) With reference to Government reply to starred question No. 469 in the Assembly on 21st September, 1928, regarding "Overworked Staff in the Traffic and Locomotive Departments on the Bengal and North Western Railway", will the Government be pleased to state if they have completed their enquiries?

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

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: I am sending the Honourable Member a letter giving the information supplied in reply to the question mentioned by him.

† For answer to this question, see a answer to question No. 98.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ELECTIVE SYSTEM IN ALL THE MUNICIPALITIES AND LOCAL BOARDS OF THE NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE.

137. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) With reference to Government reply to starred question No. 823 in the Assembly on 21st September, 1928, regarding "Introduction of the Elective System in all the Municipalities and Local Boards of the North-West Frontier Province", will the Government be pleased to state if they have considered the question and reached a conclusion in the matter?

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

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) and (b). The details are primarily for consideration by the Chief Commissioner, North-West Frontier Province, who has been asked for a report.

SALE OF ADULTERATED QUININE.

138. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) With reference to Government reply to starred question No. 774 (e) in the Assembly on 21st September, 1928, regarding "Prevention of the importation and sale of adulterated drugs, and control of the sale of Poisons", will the Government be pleased to state if the considered report on the subject of sale of adulterated quinine, which was proposed to be asked from the Local Governments, has since been received and a decision arrived at?

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

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) and (b). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given to-day to Mr. A. H. Ghaznavi's starred Question No. 83.

ABSORPTION IN THE PERMANENT ESTABLISHMENT OF SUPERNUMERARY EMPLOYEES OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

139. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) With reference to Government reply to unstarred question No. 498 in the Assembly on 24th September, 1928, regarding "Absorption in the Permanent Establishment of the Supernumerary hands of the East Indian Railway", will the Government be pleased to state if they have completed their enquiries?

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

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: I am sending the Honourable Member a letter giving the information supplied in reply to the question mentioned by him.

REFUSAL OF CASUAL LEAVE TO THE STAFF OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

140. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) With reference to Government reply to unstarred question No. 500 in the Assembly on 24th September, 1928, regarding "Refusal of Casual Leave to the Staff of the East Indian Railway," will the Government be pleased to state if the Agent, East Indian Railway has considered and come to a decision in the matter?

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

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: Government left it to the Agent to decide whether any action was necessary, and are not aware whether, so far as casual leave alone is concerned, he thought that any specific action was required, I must remind the Honourable Member that casual leave cannot be claimed by anyone as of right. Government are however aware that the Agent considers some increase of relieving staff to be needed and the Railway Board have recently sanctioned the creation of 48 posts in the subordinate establishment of the Transportation (Traffic) department, and have agreed to an investigation by a special officer into the question what further relieving staff is required.

EXPENDITURE INCURRED BY THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY ON THE CREW DEPARTMENT AND TRAVELLING TICKET INSPECTORS.

141. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if they have collected the information regarding "Expenditure incurred by the East Indian Railway on the Crew Department and Travelling Ticket Inspectors" (*vide* Government reply to unstarred question No. 508 in the Assembly on 24th September, 1928)?

(b) If so, will they please lay the information on the table?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: I am sending the Honourable Member the information furnished in reply to the question mentioned by him. It is hardly of such general importance as to warrant its being laid on the table.

OVERWORKED STAFF ON THE BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

142. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if they have since completed their enquiries regarding "Overworked Staff in the Traffic and Locomotive Departments on the Bengal and North Western Railway" (*vide* Government reply to unstarred question No. 519 in the Assembly on 24th September, 1928)?

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

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: I am sending the Honourable Member a letter giving the information supplied in reply to the question mentioned by him.

CASUALTIES IN THE ACCIDENT BETWEEN HAYAGHAT AND KISHUNPUR STATIONS ON THE BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

143. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) With reference to Government reply to unstarred question No. 520-2 (a) in the Assembly on 24th September, 1928, on the subject of "Casualties in the accident between Hayaghat and Kishunpur Stations on the Bengal and North Western Railway" will the Government be pleased to state if they have completed their enquiry from the Agent of the Railway?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the result of their enquiry to the House?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: The Railway Board have ascertained that on January the 2nd, 1928, the driver and crew of the wrecked train were on duty for seven hours and 40 minutes during the run from Samastipur to Bairagnia. They were then off duty for one hour and 35 minutes, and they were on duty for seven hours and 15 minutes from Bairagnia to the time of the accident.

DETECTION OF BASE COINS AND FORGED CURRENCY NOTES ON THE BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

144. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if they have enquired into the matter of "Detection of Base coins and forged currency notes on the Bengal and North Western Railway" (*vide* Government reply to unstarred question No. 531 in the Assembly on 24th September, 1928)?

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

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

(b) I will communicate the information to the Honourable Member; it is hardly of sufficient importance to lay on the table of the House.

HOUSING CONDITIONS AT LILLOOAH.

145. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if the Agent, East Indian Railway, has completed his enquiry into the housing conditions at Lillooah (*vide* Government reply to unstarred question No. 544 in the Assembly on 24th September, 1928)?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the result of the enquiry to the House?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to his unstarred question No. 67.

REORGANISATION OF THE OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER OF PRINTING AND STATIONERY.

146. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) With reference to Government reply to unstarred question No. 552 (a) in the Assembly on 24th September, 1928, regarding "Reorganisation of the office of the Controller of Printing and Stationery", will the Government be pleased to state if the memorial received from the Controller has since been considered and a decision arrived at?

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

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) The memorial is still under the consideration of the Government of India.

(b) Does not arise.

PERMANENT LOCATION OF THE INDIAN STORES DEPARTMENT.

147. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Will Government be pleased to state if they have decided the question of the permanent location of the Indian Stores Department (*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 929 (c) (i) in the Assembly on 25th September, 1928).

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

(c) If not, by what time are they expected to arrive at a decision in the matter?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) The question has not yet been decided.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) I am unable to say definitely when a decision will be arrived at in the matter.

NUMBER OF EUROPEANS AND INDIANS EMPLOYED AS MEDICAL OFFICERS ON STATE RAILWAYS.

148. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if the information has been collected regarding "Number of Europeans and Indians employed as Medical Officers on the State Railways" (*vide* Government reply to question No. 3 in the Council of State on 11th September, 1928)?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the information collected to the House?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: I am sending the Honourable Member a letter giving the information supplied in reply to the question mentioned by him.

THE ISHURDI-PABNA-SADHUGUNJ RAILWAY PROJECT.

149. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) With reference to Government reply to question No. 12 in the Council of State on 11th September, 1928 regarding "The Ishurdi-Pabna-Sadhugunj Railway Project", will the Government be pleased to state if the Railway Board have received the Agent's report on the subject?

(b) If so, will they please state if they have arrived at a decision?

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

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

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

REGISTRATION OF ASSOCIATIONS OF GOVERNMENT SERVANTS UNDER THE TRADES UNION ACT.

150. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if they have considered the question of the registration of associations of Government Servants under the Trade Unions Act (*vide* Government reply to question No. 17 in the Council of State on 11th September, 1928), and arrived at a decision?

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

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: (a) and (b). The question is still under consideration.

CONTRACT FOR THE CARRIAGE OF MAILS BETWEEN ENGLAND AND INDIA.

151. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) With reference to Government reply to question No. 82 in the Council of State on the 17th September, 1928, regarding "Contract for the carriage of mails between England and India with the P. and O. Steam Navigation Company", will the Government be pleased to state if the information has since been collected?

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

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

(b) A copy of the statement, which, as promised in the Council of State, was furnished to the Honourable Sir Phiroze Sethna, is placed on the table of the House.

Separate contracts existed from 1850 for the conveyance of mails to India, China and Australia, the nett loss on the Indian and China contracts being shared equally between Great Britain and India.* Since 1867 the P. & O. Coy. have been carrying the East Indian and China mails under contracts made from time to time with His Majesty's Postmaster-General. During the years 1867-1888 the payments made by India ranged between £65,240 and £75,000 per annum. Since 1888 the Australian service has also formed part of these contracts from which year the mails were first carried through the Suez Canal. From 1876 to 1889 the contribution paid by India to the subsidy was apportioned on the basis of an arbitration in 1876, by Lord Halifax, of certain vexed questions. The share of subsidy paid by India ranged during this period from £67,820 to £69,380 annually. Questions of detail regarding the apportionment of cost arose between 1876 and 1889 and were duly settled at the time. In 1890, however, India gave up that system of apportionment and made a fixed payment of £59,900 every year and this continued until the year 1898.

2. In the latter year, a sixth contract was arranged with the P. & O. Coy. by the British Post Office for a subsidy of £330,000, for a period of 7 years. India raised at that time certain questions regarding the principles to be followed in the apportionment of the subsidy, and as these questions could not be settled by agreement, the matter was submitted to the arbitration of Lord Morley, who decided that the following main principles should be observed in apportioning the subsidy. This is known as Lord Morley's award.

- (a) The cost of the Australian service (which was then fixed at £85,000) should first be deducted from the subsidy.
- (b) The service should be divided into seven sections as shown in the margin and the cost of each section should be ascertained by dividing the subsidy in proportion to the annual mileage of each section.

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Brindisi to Port Said. | |
| Port Said to Aden. | and the cost of each section should be |
| Aden to Bombay. | ascertained by dividing the subsidy in |
| Aden to Colombo. | proportion to the annual mileage of each |
| Colombo to Singapore. | section. |
| Singapore to Hongkong. | |
| Hongkong to Shanghai. | |
- (c) India should pay for the cost of the sections up to Bombay according to the proportion of letters sent and received by it in relation to the letters sent and received by the other contributing countries.
- (d) The postage collections in India and the United Kingdom on correspondence conveyed over the service, and transit charges realized from non-contributing countries who availed themselves of the service should be pooled and after deducting payments for Continental transit and rates to other countries, the balance should be *equally* divided. This was called the pooling account.
- (e) The credit on account of this pooling should go to reduce the share of India's subsidy.
- (f) India should bear the whole cost of sorting at sea between Aden and Bombay.

3. The contract made in 1898 was extended to 1907 and an account was prepared in 1903 by the London General Post Office in accordance with the principles of Lord Morley's Award. According to this India's annual contribution was fixed at £59,330 from the year 1898. The subsidy to the Company was, however, increased on the 1st February 1905 by £10,000 (making the total subsidy £340,000), and, in consequence, India's share rose to £61,226 from 1905-06. In 1907, however, the Company agreed on certain considerations to accept a reduced subsidy of £315,000 with retrospective effect from 1st February 1905 and in consequence India's share for the years 1905-06 to 1907-08 was revised and stood at £56,485, the excess amount which had been already paid in accordance with the former assessment being adjusted in due course.

4. The P. & O. contract was again renewed for 7 years from 1st February 1908 on a reduced subsidy of £305,000 and in consequence India's contribution was reduced proportionately and was fixed at £54,588 as from the year 1908-09. India continued to pay at this rate until 1914-15.

* Just before 1867 the Indian share was £41,000.

5. In 1915 a refund of £30,000 on account of the three years 1912-13 to 1914-15 was made to India by the British Post Office. This refund appears to have been based on statistics taken in 1913 which revealed a position more favourable to this country than the previous accounts anticipated. In 1917, again, a fresh account was prepared in accordance with the principles of Lord Morley's Award on the basis of the figures of 1913, and further adjustments in respect of certain other items were also made in that account. As a result, India's total share for the 3 years referred to was calculated at £90,462, thus giving an average figure of £30,151 for each of the three years. This reduction in India's share was mainly due to credits in respect of the pooling account having increased to £27,772 as indicated by the figures of 1913, from £6,513 in the account of 1903. Simultaneously with the decrease in our share, the account of 1917 showed an increase of over £100,000 in the share of the United Kingdom.

6. About this time it appears that the British Post Office found that the principles of Lord Morley's Award were since 1913 reacting upon them unfavourably and they were dissatisfied with its application. They therefore addressed themselves to seeking the adoption of some alternative methods of determining a more equitable apportionment of the subsidy. When the account of 1917 showed an appreciable increase in the share of cost borne by the British Post Office this stimulated their desire to escape from the situation which the Award had created. The contract which expired in 1915 was extended from time to time but India continued to make provisional payments at the *old* rate of £54,558 until 1920. The total payments made in this manner during the period amounted to £249,038.

7. The provisional payments having been discontinued in 1921, the British Post Office called in question the equity of the principles of Lord Morley's Award and the whole question of the apportionment of subsidy came under review. A lengthy discussion ensued between the Government of India, the Secretary of State and the British Post Office and two Conferences were held at the London General Post Office in April and July 1923 at which Sir (then Mr.) Geoffrey Clarke and Mr. Sams were present. The British Post Office were able successfully to show that the strict application of the pooling arrangement under the Award would result in India eventually receiving a subsidy for allowing her mails to be carried by the P. & O. service instead of paying for this to be done. India on the other hand resisted their demand for arrear payments and required a modification of the methods it was proposed to follow in calculating her share of subsidy.

8. Eventually it was decided that the successive steps to be taken for the assessment of the share of India's subsidy were to ascertain :

(a) the gross amount to be apportioned by adding incidental expenses to the amount of the subsidy.

(These incidental expenses at that time were £15,000 a year for the Channel service and the net cost of the Indian Mail Officer service, about £200 a year).

(b) the net amount to be apportioned by deducting from the gross amount under (a) all receipts from foreign administrations and the sea postage on all parcels sent over the service whether by contributors or non-contributors.

(c) the Postal Union value* of the mails sent by each contributor at the appropriate sea transit rates for (1) letters and postcards and (2) other articles.

Having arrived at these facts the subsidy would be apportioned by dividing the net amount under (b) in the same proportions as the ascertained amounts under (c) amongst the several contributors.

9. The above method was applied to the figures of 1922, and worked out an annual subsidy of approximately £22,000. It was, further, decided that payments based on this method should come into force from the 1st April 1923. The rate of the annual subsidy ascertained under the method described in paragraph 8 will vary periodically on the basis of the Union statistics—which are taken every five years—and annually so far as the receipts from sea postage on parcels are concerned. The Union statistics were last taken in 1924 and are due to be taken next in 1929.

* Postal Union value means the transmit charges that would have been paid for the conveyance of correspondence by the P. and O. Service at the rates prescribed by the Universal Postal Union, had the service been owned by another Administration.

10. Regarding the past, the British Post Office renewed their claim, on the basis of the new method and the figures of 1922, for a sum of £68,511 in addition to the provisional payments which had been made. This included a sum of £12,467 on account of the cost of the Aden-Bombay sea post office up to July 1916. The Sea post office was actually abolished in September 1914, but in view of certain considerations it was agreed by the Government of India not to press for any rebate for the period prior to 1st July 1916. This whole question of arrears payment was ultimately decided by the British Post Office agreeing at the instance of the Secretary of State to consider the total amount of provisional payments already made, viz., £249,038 as adequate to cover India's contribution to the subsidy for the period from 1st February 1915 to 31st March, 1923. This works to an annual average subsidy of £30,494 for the period referred to, viz., 1915-16 to 1922-23.

11. The P. and O. contract which has been extended from time to time since 1915 cannot, as at present arranged, terminate before the 31st January 1931.

REPORT PUBLISHED IN THE STATESMAN OF DISPUTES IN INDIA.

152. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the Report published in the issue of the *Statesman* of January 6, 1929, page 8, under the heading—"Trouble in India—2.66,000 men involved in 85 disputes"?

(b) If so, will Government please state if the facts and figures published are correct?

(c) If correct, wholly or partially will Government please state the cause or causes of the disputes?

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

(c) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the press communiqué of the 4th January 1929, issued by the Government of India in the Department of Industries and Labour, a copy of which will be found in the Members' Library.

ADOPTION IN STATE RAILWAY WORKSHOPS OF THE SYSTEM OF ACCOUNTS SUGGESTED IN THE REPORT OF SIR ARTHUR DICKINSON.

153. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if the memorandum on the subject of "Adoption of the system of accounts suggested in the Report of Sir Arthur Dickinson in State Railway Workshops" has been prepared (*vide* Government reply to question No. 78 (a) in the Council of State)?

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

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: The Honourable Member will find the memorandum reprinted in pages 29 to 37 of the proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways, Vol. V, No. 4, a copy of which is in the Library.

DISCONTINUANCE OF THE PRESENT LINE BETWEEN BAKULAHA AND REOTE RAILWAY STATIONS.

154. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) With reference to Government reply to question No. 116 (c) and (d) in the Council of State on 19th September, 1928, on the subject of "Discontinuance of the present line between Bakulaha and Reote Railway Stations on the Bengal and North-Western Railway", will the Government be pleased to state if they have obtained the information from the Agent of the Railway?

(b) If so, will they please lay the information on the table?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: Yes. The land was taken up in 1925, but no compensation has yet been paid. The amount to be paid has not yet been settled by Government, who have appointed another special officer to report on certain points.

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR THE REGISTRATION OF MEAT CONTRACTORS IN BOMBAY.

155. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if the report called for has been received (*vide* Government reply to questions Nos. 121, 122 and 123 in the Council of State on 21st September, 1928)?

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

Mr. G. M. Young: (a) and (b). The report has been received and the information promised to Sir Ebrahim Jaffer has been furnished to him. I am sending a copy to the Honourable Member.

INCREASE OF THE GRANT TO PRINCESS RAUNAQ ZAMANI BEGUM.

156. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) With reference to Government's reply to question No. 125 in the Council of State on 21st September, 1928, regarding "Increase of the grant to Princess Raunaq Zamani Begum, grand-daughter of the ex-King of Delhi", will the Government be pleased to state if the information regarding the matter has been collected?

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

Sir Denys Bray: The information was furnished to the Honourable Member concerned in a letter, of which a copy is placed on the table.

No. D.-3124-C./28.

From—The Deputy Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign and Political Department.

To—The Hon'ble Sir Ebrahim H. Jaffer, Kt., Haroon Mansion, Poona Cantonment.

Dated New Delhi, the 14th November, 1928.

Sir,

With reference to the reply given to your question in the Council of State, No. 5, I am directed to convey the following information :

- (a) Yes. The quarters occupied by the Begum were condemned as unfit for human habitation and not likely to withstand rough weather. The Begum was therefore asked to vacate her quarters and move into a house to be engaged for her by the Commissioner of Police, Rangoon. This, however, the Begum refused to do.
- (b) The house belongs to Government and the Begum pays no rent.
- (c) The Begum is drawing a pension of Rs. 300 per mensem. The pension was raised from Rs. 200 to Rs. 300 in 1920. The Begum applied in October 1923 for an increase but in reply was informed by the Government of Burma that they could not see their way to move the Government of India on her behalf. The Begum was however given to understand that she could appeal to the Government of India, if she liked, against those orders, but no appeal has been received from her by the local Government against their orders refusing to move the Government of India to increase her pension.

- (d) & (e). In October 1926 the Begum applied for a motor car. As the Begum owns a brougham provided for her at Government expense and an Australian waler and the latter is a strong and healthy animal, which is quite capable of doing the work required of it, the local Government were unable to see their way to move the Government of India on her behalf in this matter.
- (f) The answer is in the negative. The Begum does rent the out-buildings attached to her present house for the stabling of gharries, carts, etc., but in the opinion of the local Government she does this not out of necessity, in view of the fact that she lives rent free and enjoys a pension of Rs. 300 a month.
- (g) & (h). There is no special grant for the maintenance of the descendants of the ex-King of Delhi. Charitable allowances of Rs. 10 per mensem for life have been granted to destitute persons among his descendants, but no fresh grants of this nature are now made. The allowances were granted in cases where the persons concerned were quite incapable of earning a livelihood and had no relations who were able and willing to support them.
- (i) It is not proposed to increase the allowances. The Burma Government report that it is not a fact that the cost of living has considerably increased in recent years and that index figures for cost of living in Rangoon indicate a substantial decline from 1921.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

(Sd.) H. WILBERFORCE-BELL,

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST RAI SAHIB A. C. CHUNDER, A SUPERINTENDENT IN THE CENTRAL STATIONERY OFFICE, CALCUTTA.

157. **Mr. Satyendra Ohandra Mitra:** (a) Is the Honourable Member in charge of the Labour and Industries Department aware that a large number of questions was asked in this Assembly during the last two sessions, concerning the activities of the Superintendent Rai Saheb A. C. Chunder, I.D.S.M., of the Central Stationery Office, Calcutta?

(b) Is he aware that a large number of publications were issued in daily papers questioning the activities of that gentleman mentioned in (a) above?

(c) Will he be pleased to say whether any independent enquiry was made at any time to find out the truth of the allegations made in the Assembly and the press?

(d) If the answer to (c) above be in the negative, will the Honourable Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Superintendent of the Stationery office furnished wrong facts in answer to questions put by me in this Assembly during the last Winter Session?

(e) If the answer to (d) above be in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member be pleased to say what step he has taken to prevent the recurrence of such a thing in future?

(f) If the answer to (c) above be in the affirmative, is the Honourable Member prepared to intimate the result of the enquiry?

(g) If the answer to (f) above be in the negative, will the Honourable Member be pleased to state the disciplinary measures taken against the Superintendent of the Central Stationery office?

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

(c) The Controller has been asked to make an enquiry into the irregularities in regard to the appointment, confirmation and promotion of clerks in the Central Stationery Office.

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

(f) The enquiry has not yet been completed.

(g) Does not arise.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST RAI SAHIB A. C. CHUNDER, A SUPERINTENDENT IN THE CENTRAL STATIONERY OFFICE, CALCUTTA.

158. Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra: (a) Will the Honourable Member in charge of the Industries and Labour Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that important papers and records, mostly relating to the appointments and confirmations in the Central Stationery Office, are found systematically missing?

(b) Is it a fact that the Superintendent of the Central Stationery Office is in charge of the General Branch of that office, which deals with establishment cases?

(c) If the answer to (b) above be in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member be pleased to say whether the Superintendent has been held responsible for such frequent missing of papers in the Central Stationery Office?

(d) If the answer to (c) above be in the affirmative, will he be pleased to say what disciplinary action has been taken against the Superintendent for such frequent missing of papers from the branch under his direct control?

(e) Is it a fact that he keeps all important papers in the almirahs under lock and key in his office room?

(f) Is it a fact that papers and records revealing utter neglect of duty or irregularities on his part, as pointed out in questions put in this Assembly in its last two sessions, are generally missing?

(g) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state what measures were adopted by the Controller of Printing and Stationery to guard against such frequent missing of papers and records in the Central Stationery Office?

(h) If the reply to (g) above be in the negative, will the Honourable Member be pleased to state the circumstances which prevented the Controller from taking any action in this connection?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: The Controller of Printing and Stationery is responsible to Government generally for the efficient administration of the Central Stationery Office, and Government do not propose to call for information regarding these administrative details, which are matters for his discretion.

REORGANISATION OF THE CENTRAL STATIONERY OFFICE, CALCUTTA.

159. Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra: (a) Will the Honourable Member in charge of the Industries and Labour Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Central Stationery Office was last reorganised

in January, 1925, under the direction of Mr. F. D. Ascoli, M.A., I.C.S., and a special officer deputed from the Industries and Labour Department for that purpose?

(b) Will he be pleased to put up a statement showing the strength of the Central Stationery Office and Store (officers and clerks in different grades):—(i) as it stood in March, 1925, after reorganisation, and, (ii) with additions temporary or permanent made at different times till the end of 1928?

(c) Will he be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a reorganisation scheme of the Central Stationery Office has been submitted to Government for sanction?

(d) If the answer to (c) above be in the affirmative, will he be pleased to state what additional strength (officers and clerks in different grades) has been proposed in the scheme recommended by the Industries and Labour Department?

(e) Is it a fact that the total cost of stationery supplied from the Central Stationery Office amounted to Rs. 62,52,000, Rs. 63,40,000 and Rs. 69,60,000 approximately during 1925-26, 1926-27 and 1927-28 respectively?

(f) Is it a fact that the reorganisation scheme submitted involves a recurring expenditure of about one lakh and twenty thousand rupees a year?

(g) Is it a fact that the increase of Rs. 6,20,000 approximately in 1927-28 over that of 1926-27 in the supply of stationery articles, requires the maintenance of a staff involving the expenditure as stated in (f) above?

(h) Does the Honourable Member propose to depute a special officer to enquire into the workings of the Central Stationery Office before the reorganisation scheme mentioned in (c) above is sanctioned?

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

(b) Government regret that they cannot undertake the preparation of the statement desired by the Honourable Member.

(c) Yes.

(d) and (f). The information will be available to the Honourable Member from the proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee which will shortly be published.

(e) Yes, except that the figures for 1927-28 are not yet available.

(g) The additional staff is required for the additional work that has devolved upon the Central Stationery Office since the last reorganisation. The increase is not based solely on the increase in the value of stationery supplied by the office.

(h) Government have at present no such intention.

ALLEGED IRREGULARITIES IN APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS IN THE CENTRAL STATIONERY OFFICE, CALCUTTA.

160. **Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra:** (a) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to put up a statement showing:

- (i) the names of persons, with dates of appointments in the Central Stationery Office, during 1925-26, with period or periods for which they were on probation,

- (ii) the dates of confirmation of persons who were so appointed, with a remark in cases where confirmations were not made according to seniority of appointments in spite of the expiration of the probationary period or periods,
- (iii) the number of vacancies in different grades till the end of 1928, and
- (iv) the names of persons confirmed in these permanent vacancies, either by promotions in the office or recruitment from outside, with a remark in each case why the persons appointed on probation were not confirmed in these vacancies?

(b) Will he be pleased to state what steps have been taken by the Controller of Printing and Stationery to rectify these irregularities in confirmations where seniority in service has been ignored?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) and (b). The collection of the information asked for in part (a) would entail an amount of time and trouble disproportionate to the result. The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given to questions Nos. 187 and 188 asked by him in the Legislative Assembly on the 4th September, 1928.

MEMORIAL OF THE MINISTERIAL STAFF OF THE FOUR OFFICES IN CALCUTTA UNDER THE CONTROLLER OF PRINTING AND STATIONERY.

161. Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra: (a) Will the Honourable Member in charge of the Industries and Labour Department be pleased to refer to question No. 541 at p. 687 of Vol. III, No. 8 of the Legislative Assembly Debates and say whether any action has since been taken on the memorial submitted by the ministerial staff of the four offices in Calcutta under the Controller of Printing and Stationery?

(b) If the answer to (a) above be in the negative, will he be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the memorial has been shelved because its consideration will clash with the sanction of the reorganisation scheme of the Central Stationery office also submitted to Government?

(c) If the answer to (b) above be in the negative, will he be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the reorganisation scheme has been submitted to the Standing Finance Committee for sanction?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) The memorial is under the consideration of Government.

(b) No.

(c) Government's proposals in connection with the reorganization scheme have been placed before the Standing Finance Committee.

EXPENDITURE INVOLVED BY THE PROPOSED REORGANISATION OF THE CENTRAL STATIONERY OFFICE, CALCUTTA.

162. Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra: (a) Will the Honourable Member in charge of the Industries and Labour Department be pleased to say (i) when the memorial from the staff of the Calcutta offices under the Controller of Printing and Stationery and (ii) the reorganisation scheme of the Central Stationery office were submitted to Government?

(b) Is it a fact that the reorganisation scheme contains the proposal for:

- (i) the enhancement of the salary of the Deputy Controller of Stationery,
- (ii) the creation of the post of a second Assistant Controller of Stationery,
- (iii) the creation of the post of an additional Head Assistant,
- (iv) the enhancement of the salary of the posts of Store Keeper and the Deputy Store-keeper of Stationery,
- (v) the creation of the post of a Store Supervisor,
- (vi) the creation of the posts of six senior assistants, and
- (vii) the creation of a number of posts in the assistants' grade as well as in the clerical grades in the Stationery Office?

(c) Will he be pleased to state separately the estimated annual expenditure involved in these two proposals (memorial and reorganisation) as recommended by the Controller of Printing and Stationery?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) The memorial of the clerical staff was submitted by the Controller of Printing and Stationery in the middle of September, 1928, and the reorganisation scheme of the Central Stationery Office on the 20th August, 1928.

(b) and (c). Government do not propose to publish the proposals made to them by the Controller.

SANCTION OF THE PERIODICAL INCREMENT OF SALARY OF THE SUPERINTENDENT, CENTRAL STATIONERY OFFICE, CALCUTTA.

163. **Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra:** (a) Will the Honourable Member in charge of the Industries and Labour Department be pleased to say whether there is any set of rules in the Central Stationery Office under which sanction to periodical increments in the different grades is withheld?

(b) Is it a fact that late attendance, or utter neglect of duty, or gross misconduct, generally leads to the stoppage of periodical increments of the clerks in the office?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) and (b). The withholding of increments is governed by Fundamental Rule 24.

GRANT OF CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE TO CLERKS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA NOT PROVIDED WITH QUARTERS IN NEW DELHI.

164. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) With reference to Government reply to question No. 138 (d) in the Council of State on 21st September, 1928, regarding "Grant of conveyance allowance to clerks of the Government of India not provided with quarters in New Delhi", will the Government be pleased to state if the question of the justification of the conveyance allowance has been re-examined?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the result of the examination to the House?

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

(b) It has been decided that the general policy must be to abolish this allowance as soon as it is possible to do so.

REPORTED CONSTRUCTION OF A STATION AT ALLAHABAD TO COPE WITH THE PILGRIM TRAFFIC TO THE KUMBH MELA.

165. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the report published in the issue of the *Statesman* of January 9, 1929, page 10, under the heading "Kumbh-Mela—Proposed new station to cope with traffic"?

(b) If so, will they please state if the statement made therein, "the E. I. Railway contemplate the building of a new station, near the junction of the two rivers at Allahabad, sufficiently large to cope with the next Kumbhmela traffic and the rush of pilgrims during the mela", is correct?

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

(b) There is no prospect of the remodelling, if it is undertaken, being completed by the time the next Kumbhmela takes place.

REPORTED DECREASE IN THE CUSTOMS REVENUE FOR DECEMBER.

166. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the report published in the issue of the *Statesman* of January 10, 1929, page 7, under the heading "Customs Revenue—Big drop in December figures"?

(b) If so, will the Government please state if the figures reported are correct?

(c) If so, will they please state the cause or causes of the big drop in December figures, as reported?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (a) The reply is in the affirmative.

(b) The figures are substantially correct.

(c) The December figures usually show a considerable drop, as compared with the November ones, presumably due to Christmas holidays. I may add that the figure for November, 1928, was unusually high, making the drop in December, more noticeable.

MARKETING OF INDIAN TIMBER.

167. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the report published in the issue of the *Statesman* of January 10, 1929, page 8, under the heading "Indian Timber"?

(b) If so, will they please state if they have considered the Tenth Report of the Imperial Economic Committee on "the preparing for markets and marketing of timber"?

(c) If so, have they arrived at any decision?

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

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

(b) to (d). So far as the Government of India's own forests are concerned, an active policy of utilising the demand abroad for their timbers is being pursued. The question, in so far as it affects the marketing of timbers to be found in provincial forests, is one for the Local Governments concerned to consider. The report referred to by the Honourable Member has been brought to the notice of Local Governments.

EXISTENCE OF SLAVERY IN PARTS OF BRITISH INDIA AND BURMA.

168. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the report published in the issue of the *Statesman*, of January 12, 1929, page 16, under the heading "Slavery abolished in Gwadur—British effort"?

(b) If so, will the Government please state if the statement made therein, "the slavery was abolished in all territories under the sway of the Sultan of Muscat", is correct?

(c) Will Government please also state if slavery still exists in parts of British India and Burma?

(d) If so, in what part or parts?

(e) If the answer to (c) be in the affirmative, will Government please state what steps they propose to take, and when, to abolish this moral evil from British India and Burma wherever it exists

Sir Denys Bray: (a) and (b). Yes. Government have no information beyond that contained in the newspapers.

(c), (d) and (e). I would refer the Honourable Member to my answers to similar questions put by him on the 29th August, 1927 and 4th September last. The anti-slavery operations are being vigorously continued and expeditions are again visiting the affected areas.

 DEATHS OF THE HONOURABLE MR. S. R. DAS AND LALA LAJPAT RAI.

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar (Home Member): Mr. President, a passage in the speech which we have just heard from His Excellency the Governor General was a melancholy reminder of the fact that, since this House adjourned last September, the Indian Legislature has lost two of its prominent Members. In view of what has fallen from His Excellency, I propose, with your permission, to add only a very few words, though I should be most reluctant to pass over this occasion in silence. The late Law Member, the Honourable Mr. S. R. Das, was not a Member of this House, but he frequently occupied his place on this Bench and participated in our debates. I am sure every section of the House will unite in a real feeling of regret that his familiar figure will not be seen again in our midst. We on this Bench have to deplore in his death the loss of a colleague whose advice and assistance we found invaluable and whose genial and kindly temperament endeared him to us all. In him the country and this House have lost a distinguished lawyer and a generous and devoted son.

The death of Lala Lajpat Rai has deprived the House of one of its most conspicuous and striking personalities. Those of us—and I am among the number—who had the experience of taking part with him in debate, or the privilege of friendly and private conversations with him could not but have been impressed by his manifest sincerity and earnestness. Whatever political differences there might be—and I cannot disguise that in my own case they were often and necessarily profound—no one could fail to recognise his deep devotion to the causes he advocated and

his intense and active solicitude for the poor, the weak and the suffering. This House will long be sensible of the vacancy which he has left and in him too the country will deplore the loss of an ardent and indefatigable spirit.

The sympathies of every Member present will, I am sure, flow forth in full measure to both the families which have been so grievously bereaved.

Pandit Motilal Nehru (Cities of the United Provinces: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, with your permission I desire to associate this side of the House with what has been said by the Honourable the Home Member. The late Mr. S. R. Das, though not a Member of this Assembly, was often among us, and we had ample opportunities of meeting him and appreciating his high qualities. He brought with him a high reputation as a lawyer, which he maintained fully on the floor of this House. His genial disposition and his unfailing courtesy will, I am sure, be remembered by all with whom he came into contact. We join in offering his family our condolence and sincere sympathy which we beg you to convey to them.

By the death of Lala Lajpat Rai the public life of this country has suffered an irreparable loss. His activities in this House, remarkable as they were for the fearless exposition of popular rights, were but a trifle compared with the great services which he rendered to his country outside this House. Those services began at a time long before the birth of this Assembly under its present constitution and long before the birth of its weaker predecessors. From his early youth, Lala Lajpat Rai dedicated his life to the service of the land of his birth, and to the last breath that he breathed, he never faltered in carrying out the resolve to give to the country the best there was in him. He was universally loved and honoured for his intense patriotism and for his great sacrifices and sufferings for the cause so dear to him. He was not a mere politician, but a true statesman. Nor were his activities confined to the political sphere. He was a great educationist, an ardent reformer—in fact there was hardly any public movement of a nation-building character with which he was not associated closely and in which he did not take a prominent and an active part. His death, Sir, leaves a void in the public life of this country which it will be very difficult to fill in the near future. We on this side tender our mournful tribute of respect to his undying memory and our sincere condolence and sympathy to his family and to the nation at large.

Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I join the previous speakers in expressing our sincere regret at the loss which the country has sustained at the death of Mr. S. R. Das and Lala Lajpat Rai. Mr. S. R. Das was an earnest lover of his country. Unfortunately, we differed with him in our political views, but no one ever doubted the sincerity and the earnestness of his character, and no one ever doubted that he was as earnest a lover of the motherland as any one else. He was all his life anxious to promote the good of the country in the best way he could: and particularly he very well recognised the necessity of building up an institution on the model of the great public schools of England, wherein character would be attended to as much as intellectual education. It is to me, alike to many of us, a matter for sincere and deep regret that he should not have been able to see the fulfilment of the object for which he laboured

[Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya.]

inevitably and for which he had collected a large fund. I join with my friends in extending our sincere sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

As for Lala Lajpat Rai, I do not know what I should say. His loss has been a severe blow to the country, and to many of us who were closely associated with him nearly all his life. I do not know of any other man who has lived within the last fifty or sixty years in India, who was a greater lover of his country than Lala Lajpat Rai. Sincere and earnest, intensely devoted to the cause of the motherland, from the earliest period of his life, from the time when he left college, there was one idea present in his mind, oppressing his mind. That was to raise his country from the unfortunate distressing position into which it has fallen to its proper place among the nations of the world. Leaving the college, he devoted the best part of his time and energy to the building up of that great institution which is known as the Dayanand Anglo-Vedic College at Lahore, for which he laboured along with Lala Hansraj. From the earliest period of his life he also took a prominent part in the politics of the country. In 1898 he wrote a pamphlet, an open letter to Sir Sayed Ahmad in which he poured forth his soul in the devotion of the motherland. And from that time up to the last moment of his life, as Pandit Motilal Nehru has said just now, up to the last breath of his life, there was one constant thought present in his mind and that was how to lift the country from its present position to its proper place among the several nations of the world. He was fearless in the advocacy of the cause of the country. He suffered much and unjustly in the service of the country. But never daunted, he pursued his course and pursued it to the last moment of his life. He was a great friend of education, he was a great friend of the depressed classes; there was no aspect of national life which did not appeal to him and which did not receive some part of his attention and devotion. In the field of religious reform, through the Arya Samaj he tried to build up character among his fellowmen; of social reform, he was a great preacher all his life; educational work he carried on wherever he was; and political work he devoted himself mainly to. Very few imagined that he would pass away so soon from our midst, after writing that book which will long be remembered, the "Unhappy India" in which he expressed in an unhappy frame of mind the present condition of his country. I have known, I have had the privilege of being associated with nearly all the best workers in this country during the last 50 or 60 years; but I have not known any one who was more intensely oppressed with the feeling that the country was so much in the present degraded position as Lala Lajpat Rai was. He was an extremely sensitive soul. He felt for the honour of the motherland as deeply as any other son of the motherland has done. He also felt the humiliation, the degradation, therefore all the more keenly. It was most deplorable that, just before his death, he should have received that disgraceful attack which was made upon him at Lahore. I saw him a few minutes after that attack was made. I was only a few paces behind him, at his request staying in the *tonqa* because I was not sufficiently strong to be there. I wish to say it because it is due to his memory. Neither he nor I had of course the desire to take that demonstration to the station; but having received a silly and illegal order from the Magistrate of Lahore saying that those who went with the demonstration to the station would be arrested and be taken into custody, we thought that we could not leave the young

men and others who were going to make that demonstration, to share that fate alone and by themselves. We felt it our duty to go at the head of the demonstration. We felt that if the Government of India or the Governments of the provinces considered it their duty to invite Indians of position to greet or welcome the Simon Commission in order to prove to the world and to the Commission that there was a body of opinion which welcomed them, it was equally the right of the people, that is those who did not agree with the Commission and did not wish to welcome the Commission, to show to the Commission and to the world, that they did not welcome the Commission. We felt that there was nothing absolutely wrong about it, nothing illegal about it; and it was under that feeling that Lala Lajpat Rai headed the demonstration. I saw him a few minutes after the attack, and I am sorry to say I saw him three times after that, but I never saw him happy again. It seemed that the effect and the shame of the attack had gone down deep into his heart, and it is a painful thought to me, as to so many others here, that his life should have ended with that unhappy thought in him, and that the Government of the Punjab and the Government of India should have lost the opportunity of making an apology to him for an attack which in any other country, would have provoked the greatest indignation and would have made the Government bow to public opinion. I am sorry, Sir, I have been led away into these digressions . . .

Mr. President: You have been.

Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya: But I felt they should be made here and were due to the memory of the late Lala Lajpat Rai. I mourn in him the loss of a personal friend and a very much venerated friend. His purity of character, his sincerity and earnestness, his intense devotion to the motherland, his fearless advocacy of the cause of the motherland, his earnest desire that India should be free and take its place among the comity of nations, have gone with him; but it has left this painful duty upon us that we should endeavour to do the best we can to achieve the object he had in view. Sir, I join with my friends in offering a tribute of respect to his memory and our sympathy to the members of his bereaved family.

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas (Indian Merchants' Chamber; Indian Commerce): Sir, I associate myself with all that has fallen from the previous speakers regarding the sad deaths of Mr. S. R. Das and Lala Lajpat Rai. Regarding Mr. S. R. Das, few of us suspected, when we left Simla last September, that we would not meet him here again, although many of us knew that Mr. Das was keeping very poor health. Our sympathy goes out to Mrs. S. R. Das in her great bereavement, and our sympathy is the greater because the lady could not see her husband alive, although she hastened from Bombay to Calcutta to see him before his death.

Regarding Lala Lajpat Rai, a lot, Sir, has been said before now both in the Press and on the platform. Lalaji's name will go down to future generations as one who gave the best in him for the uplift of India from her present condition. Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya has referred to one of the most tragic incidents connected with Lala Lajpat Rai's death. All that I will say, Sir, is that each one of us, Indians on this side of the House at least, feels that the blow given to Lala Lajpat Rai, whatever the excuse might have been, for it was a blow given to each one of us. Such high-handedness would not be tolerated in any other country except under

[Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas.]

the Indian constitution under which we are at present, and none of us will feel as if we had done anything for Lalaji's memory unless we do our best to get the present constitution changed to one which will make incidents like these impossible to occur in future. Sir, I associate myself, and the whole Party to which I have the honour to belong, with the Resolution that has been moved by the Honourable the Home Member.

Sir Darcy Lindsay (Bengal: European): Sir, on behalf of our Group I join in paying humble tribute to the memory of these two distinguished sons of India, whose loss she can very ill-afford. With Mr. S. R. Das I had a personal and intimate friendship of twenty years' standing. I am therefore in a better position to testify to his steadfastness of purpose and devotion, at great personal sacrifice, to the motherland he so dearly loved.

Lala Lajpat Rai was known to me only as a Member of the Assembly. While in some matters we might not have seen eye to eye with him, I can state with all sincerity that we always found him a generous and kindhearted friend and we admired him for the great vision he had so steadfastly before him of the advancement of India to nationhood and the upliftment of the masses. Sir, we join wholeheartedly in the expression of condolence that has been offered by other Members of the House.

Nawab Sir Sahibzada Abdul Qayum (North-West Frontier Province: Nominated Non-Official): Sir, on behalf of the Central Moslem Party, I associate myself with the sympathy expressed by the different sides of the House with the families of the late Mr. S. R. Das and Lala Lajpat Rai. I had not the honour of associating much with Mr. S. R. Das, except in that noble cause, which he had so much at heart, of starting a public school for India. In that I had the privilege of meeting him quite often and noticing the enthusiasm which he showed in pushing on that most essential scheme for the building of the character of the youth of India on the lines of the English public school system. I was in fact greatly charmed with the manner in which he advocated that cause. As regards his other qualities, Sir, I know that he was an eminent lawyer before he came to the Government of India; but there was another side of his character, the nobility of his heart, of which I saw several proofs in my short association with him.

As regards the late Lala Lajpat Rai, I knew him more thoroughly than I knew Mr. S. R. Das. I need hardly say much on his enthusiasm in advocating the cause of his country, as several detailed and eloquent remarks have been made by previous speakers on the subject, but I must say this much, that whenever he was convinced of a matter, whether he had to change his mind, or whether he was to follow some previous scheme, he put his whole heart into the work before him. He was an earnest worker and whatever he did he did it most enthusiastically and sincerely. Some of his traits of character were specially pleasing to a man like myself because he resembled us in so many ways, and that is one great reason why I associate myself, on behalf of my Party, with the remarks passed about his work and character.

Mr. President: It is with a heavy heart that I rise to associate myself with the expressions of regret which we have just heard. In the death of Mr. Das the Government of India have lost a valued colleague, whose sincerity was beyond question, and whose courage of conviction was proverbial. India indeed has lost an eminent lawyer.

In the death of Lala Lajpat Rai this Assembly has lost a leader of the front rank. India has lost a true and a great nationalist and a fearless fighter in the cause of freedom.

Lala Lajpat Rai's death is not only a loss to this House and a loss to India, but a loss to the world. The world has lost a staunch internationalist who fought for human progress all round. It will be my duty to convey the condolences of the House to the families of the departed.

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S ASSENT TO BILLS.

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

The Hindu Inheritance (Removal of Disabilities) Act, 1928.

The Indian Mines (Amendment) Act, 1928.

The Indian Succession (Amendment) Act, 1928.

The Indian Trade Unions (Amendment) Act, 1928.

The Indian Income-tax (Amendment) Act, 1928.

The Match Industry (Protection) Act, 1928.

The Repealing and Amending Act, 1928.

The Madras Salt (Amendment) Act, 1928.

The Indian Insurance Companies Act, 1928.

The Indian Succession (Second Amendment) Act, 1928.

BILL AMENDED BY THE COUNCIL OF STATE LAID ON THE TABLE.

Secretary of the Assembly: Sir, the following Message has been received from the Secretary of the Council of State to the Secretary of the Legislative Assembly :

"I am directed to inform you that the Bill to alter the order in which certain heirs of a Hindu male dying intestate are entitled to succeed to his estate, which was passed by the Legislative Assembly on the 22nd March, 1928, was passed by the Council of State at its meeting held on the 26th September, 1928, with the amendments indicated in the attached statement.

The Council of State requests the concurrence of the Legislative Assembly in the amendments."

Sir, I lay on the table the Bill as amended by the Council of State.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru (Agra Division : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : May I ask when the Honourable the Home Member proposes to make a statement with regard to the course of business for next week?

Mr. President: The Honourable Member might wait.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: I ventured to put the question as it was the usual custom to make the announcement immediately after question time, but if the Honourable Member chooses to make it later, I will wait till then.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE.

NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES OF EACH COMMUNITY IN THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION IN INDIA.

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra (Member for Industries and Labour): Sir, I beg to lay on the table the information promised in reply to questions Nos. 597 and 599 asked by Messrs. Gaya Prasad Singh and S. C. Mitra, respectively, on the 17th September, 1928, regarding the number of employees of the Office of the Director of Civil Aviation in India specifying their communities, etc.

Statement showing present substantive pay of the employees of the Civil Aviation Office and the date of their appointment to that Office.

| No. | Name. | Community. | Designation. | Substantive pay. | Date of appointment to Civil Aviation Office. | Remarks. |
|-----|-----------------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------|---|---|
| | | | | Rs. | | |
| 1 | Mr. E. W. F. Rodgers. | Anglo-Indian. | Superintendent. | 500 | 11th January 1927. | Transferred from the Department of Industries and Labour. |
| 2 | Mr. J. Hamilton | Anglo-Indian. | Assistant. | 390 | 5th December 1927. | Ditto. |
| 3 | Mr. Parmansid | Hindu. | Assistant. | 210 | 11th January 1927. | |
| 4 | Mr. Kidar Nath | Hindu. | Assistant. | 260 | 23rd January 1927. | |
| 5 | Mr. J. B. Fegredo | Anglo-Indian. | Assistant. | 152 | 27th February 1928. | Ditto. |
| 6 | Mr. U. P. Mukerjee | Hindu. | Clerk. | 70 | 11th January 1927. | |
| 7 | Miss M. Trutwein | Anglo-Indian. | Clerk. | 120 | 30th April 1927. | |
| 8 | Mr. Hamid Hasan | Muhammadian | Clerk. | 75 | 16th January 1928. | |
| 9 | Mr. D. Iyer | Hindu. | Stenographer. | 190 | 12th April 1927. | |
| 10 | Mr. Muhammad Ahmad. | Muhammadian | Draftsman. | 190 | 16th January 1928. | |

EXTRA PAY FOR ASSISTANT DIRECTORS-GENERAL OF THE POST OFFICE.

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra (Member for Industries and Labour): Sir, I beg to lay on the table the information in supersession of the reply given on the 18th September, 1928, to the Supplementary Question to Starred Question No. 651 put by Mr. S. C. Mitra regarding extra pay for Assistant Directors-General of the Post Office.

The Assistant Directors-General of the Post Office receive a special pay of Rs. 125 or Rs. 150 as the case may be, in addition to their grade pay.

ELECTION OF THE PANEL FOR THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES AND LABOUR.

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

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect in the manner described in the rules published in the Home Department notification No. F. 49, dated the 22nd August, 1922, as amended by the Home Department notification No. D. 794-C, dated the 30th January, 1924, a panel consisting of 9 members from which the members of the Standing Committee to advise on subjects in the Department of Industries and Labour, will be nominated."

Mr. President: The question is:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect in the manner described in the rules published in the Home Department notification No. F. 49, dated the 22nd August, 1922, as amended by the Home Department notification No. D. 794-C, dated the 30th January, 1924, a panel consisting of 9 members from which the members of the Standing Committee to advise on subjects in the Department of Industries and Labour, will be nominated."

The motion was adopted.

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

Mr. G. S. Bajpai (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President, a member to represent this House on the Council of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, in pursuance of the provisions of clause 9, secondly, of the scheme for the administration and management of the properties and funds of the Institute, which was published in the Gazette of India with the notification from the Department of Industries and Labour, No. I-10(T), dated the 12th February, 1926, *vice* Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., whose term of office has expired."

Mr. President: The question is:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President, a member to represent this House on the Council of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, in pursuance of the provisions of clause 9, secondly, of the scheme for the administration and management of the properties and funds of the Institute, which was published in the Gazette of India with the notification from the Department of Industries and Labour, No. I-10(T), dated the 12th February, 1926, *vice* Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., whose term of office has expired."

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION OF FOUR MEMBERS FOR THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster (Finance Member): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the non-official Members of the Assembly do proceed to elect, in the manner required by rule 51 of the Indian Legislative Rules, 4 Members to be members of the Committee on Public Accounts in place of the 4 members who have retired in accordance with sub-rule (4) of the same rule."

Mr. President: The question is :

“That the non-official Members of the Assembly do proceed to elect, in the manner required by rule 51 of the Indian Legislative Rules, 4 Members to be members of the Committee on Public Accounts in place of the 4 members who have retired in accordance with sub-rule (4) of the same rule.”

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES AND LABOUR, THE COUNCIL OF THE INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE, BANGALORE, AND THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

Mr. President: I may inform the Members that, for the purpose of election of Members to the Standing Advisory Committee for the Department of Industries and Labour, the Council of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, and the Public Accounts Committee, the Assembly office will be open to receive nominations up to 12 Noon on Wednesday the 30th January, 1929. The election for the Standing Advisory Committee for the Department of Industries and Labour, if necessary, will take place in this Chamber on Monday, the 4th February, 1929. The election for the Council of the Indian Institute of Science, if necessary, will be held on Tuesday, the 5th February, while the election for the Public Accounts Committee, if necessary, will take place on Wednesday, the 6th February, 1929. The elections will be held in accordance with the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote.

STATEMENT OF BUSINESS.

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar (Leader of the House): Sir, with your permission, I desire to make a statement as to the probable course of Government business in the week beginning February, the 4th. The House will sit, as at present arranged, on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, all of which days have been allotted for Government business. On Monday, the 4th, a motion will be made to take into consideration the Bill to amend the Indian Limitation Act, as passed by the Council of State. Thereafter a motion will be made to refer to Select Committee the Bill to amend the Workmen's Compensation Act. On that day, if time permits, and otherwise on the following day, a motion will be made for leave to introduce the new Public Safety Bill, of which copies are being circulated to Honourable Members to-day. Copies will also be available from to-morrow in the Notice Office. If the motion is carried, I shall proceed to move that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee.

APOLOGY FROM MR. BYRT, CORRESPONDENT OF THE *TIMES OF INDIA*, AND FROM THE PROPRIETORS OF THE *TIMES OF INDIA*.

Mr. President: Before I adjourn the House, I should like to make reference to one matter. Honourable Members will recollect the circumstances in which the Leader of the Opposition brought to the notice of this House the conduct of two journalists in the Press Gallery during the last session. The charges against them were that they had made criticisms and remarks reflecting on the conduct of the Assembly and impartiality of the Chair.

After full discussion, the House unanimously left me to deal with the offenders, and I cancelled the Press Passes of Mr. Rice, of the *London Daily Telegraph* and of Mr. Byrt, of the *Times of India*. In doing so, I made it clear that neither of these journalists would be permitted to re-enter the Press Gallery until they and their respective newspapers had apologised in fitting terms for their conduct, and such apologies had received adequate publication in the Press.

I have now received an apology from Mr. Byrt, correspondent of the *Times of India*, as also an apology from the proprietors of the *Times of India*, and I propose to read them to the House:

Apology from the Proprietors of the Times of India:

Times of India,
Bombay,
21st January, 1929.

“To

The Honourable Mr. V. J. PATEL,
President of the Indian Legislative Assembly.

SIR,

In the record of the Proceedings of the Indian Legislative Assembly on 14th September last, there is a report of a discussion during which a certain Despatch appearing in the *Times of India* of 8th September was arraigned.

The passages quoted from the Despatch under reference were as follow:

I. (In reference to the establishment of a Separate Assembly Secretariat):

The Home Member this afternoon made his promised statement in reply to that by the President yesterday in regard to the institution of a separate Assembly Secretariat. A good deal of publicity has been done in preparation for this discussion, in order, apparently to prejudice the Government position. Your correspondent makes no suggestion that this publicity was inspired by anybody. When the subject began to fill the air some time ago he asked in a proper official quarter whether any information could be given about it and was given, as a courtesy to the President, a polite but decided answer in the negative.

II. (On the point of order raised when Government first desired to move for consideration of the Public Safety Bill):

The President then, without mentioning the Government's plea of urgency or referring to what the Law Member had said, ruled that as copies of the Bill had not been made available for three days the matter should stand over.

These passages have been interpreted as an insinuation of partiality against yourself as President of the Indian Legislative Assembly. May we assure you and the House without qualification, fully and frankly, that no insinuation of partiality was intended; and that anything in the Despatch in question which may seem to impute partiality is withdrawn without qualification; and we offer to yourself and to the House our apologies for the appearance in our columns of anything which was open to any such construction.

We have the honour to be,

SIR,

Yours faithfully,

(Sd.) BENNETT COLEMAN & CO.

[Mr. President.]

Apology from Mr. Byrt:

The *Times of India*,
Swiss Hotel,
Delhi, 21st January, 1929.

To

The Honourable Mr. V. J. PATEL,
President of the Indian Legislative Assembly.

SIR,

In the record of the proceedings of the Indian Legislative Assembly, dated 14th September last, there is a report of a discussion during which a certain despatch of mine, which appeared in the *Times of India* of 8th September, was arraigned.

The passages quoted from the Despatch under reference were as follow :

I. (In reference to the establishment of a Separate Assembly Secretariat) :

The Home Member this afternoon made his promised statement in reply to that by the President yesterday in regard to the institution of a separate Assembly Secretariat. A good deal of publicity has been done in preparation for this discussion, in order, apparently, to prejudice the Government position. Your correspondent makes no suggestion that this publicity was inspired by anybody. When the subject began to fill the air some time ago he asked in a proper official quarter whether any information could be given about it and was given, as a courtesy to the President, a polite but decided answer in the negative.

II. (On the point of order raised when Government first desired to move for consideration of the Public Safety Bill) :

The President then, without mentioning the Government's plea of urgency or referring to what the Law Member had said, ruled that as copies of the Bill had not been made available for three days the matter should stand over.

These passages have been construed into allegations of partiality against yourself as President of the Indian Legislative Assembly.

I desire to assure you and the House, fully and frankly, that no allegation of partiality was intended; that I withdraw without qualification anything in the despatch in question which may seem to impute partiality; and that I offer you and the House my full and unqualified apology for anything in the despatch which was open to such construction.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Yours faithfully,

(Sd.) A. H. BYRT."

It would, in my opinion, have been more courteous to the Assembly as well as to the Chair if these apologies had been tendered at an earlier date instead of their being put off to this late hour, for it is now some four months since I made it clear that apologies would have to be made. I have, however, decided to accept these belated expressions of regret as a sufficient fulfilment of the first condition laid down in my order.

The second condition to be carried out by Mr. Byrt and his paper was to see that these letters of apology received due publication in the Press. This condition should also have been fulfilled along with the first, but having regard to the fact that an adequate apology has been made and will, in the ordinary course, find due publication, I have decided to excuse the omission. I, therefore, direct that the Secretary do issue the necessary Press Pass to Mr. Byrt on his compliance with the prescribed formalities.

REPORT OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE EAST AND CENTRAL AFRICAN TERRITORIES.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru (Agra Division : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, may I ask the Honourable the Home Member whether Government propose to set apart a day for the discussion of a question of great importance, to which attention was drawn by His Excellency the Viceroy this morning. The Report of the Royal Commission on the East and Central African Territories has been made public very recently, and I need not say how important a document it is. It raises questions of fundamental importance; it raises questions which are of a very highly controversial character, which have aroused acute, bitter and prolonged controversies in this country and in East Africa. His Excellency announced that the matter would be referred to the Emigration Committee. Now, Sir, if in dealing with this Report we had had to deal only with a few details, that would have been a different matter; but, as I have already stated, the whole subject involves questions of far-reaching principle, and I doubt whether any Committee could properly dispose of these questions without their being first considered by this House.

There is also another matter to which reference was made by His Excellency the Viceroy this morning in this connection. His Excellency announced that it had been suggested to the Government of India that they should send a Member of the Indian Civil Service to Kenya, who would be a Member of the Kenya Executive Council temporarily for the discussion of the report of the Hilton Young Commission. This too is a question of great importance and deserves early consideration. I know, Sir, that there is a day set apart for the discussion of non-official Resolutions in February, but I take it that Government would like to proceed with this question with all possible despatch. The question may be referred to the Emigration Committee at a very early date, and I hope it will be so referred. For this reason, I would ask that Government should set apart a day for the discussion of this very important question, and I am emboldened to make this request because the Government of India have in the past tried on the whole to the best of their ability, to espouse our cause and to voice our opinions in regard to our grievances in East Africa. Our points of view being the same, I hope the Government will find no difficulty in acceding to our request.

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar (Leader of the House): Sir, I shall be glad to consider the suggestion made by the Honourable Member, but I cannot give any definite promise on the point.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 29th January, 1929.