

# COUNCIL OF STATE DEBATES

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**MONDAY, 23rd NOVEMBER, 1931**

**Vol. II—No. 11**

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## OFFICIAL REPORT



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NEW DELHI  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS  
1931

*Price Five Annas.*

# COUNCIL OF STATE.

*Monday, 23rd November, 1931.*

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The Council met in the Council Chamber of the Council House in New Delhi at Eleven of the Clock, the Honourable the President in the Chair.

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## MEMBERS SWORN :

- The Honourable Sir Brojendra Mitter, Kt. (Law Member) ;
- The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain, K.C.I.E., Kt. (Education, Health and Lands Member) ;
- The Honourable Shaikh Mushir Hosain Kidwai (United Provinces East : Muhammadan) ;
- The Honourable Mr. Y. Ranganayakalu Naidu (Madras : Non-Muhammadan) ;
- The Honourable Sir Arthur Cecil McWatters, Kt., K.C.I.E. (Finance Secretary) ;
- The Honourable Mr. John Armstrong Shillidy (Industries and Labour Secretary) ;
- The Honourable Nawab Malik Mohammad Hayat Khan Noon, G.S.I. (Punjab : Nominated Non-Official) ;
- The Honourable Mr. Alan Hubert Lloyd, C.I.E. (Government of India : Nominated Official).
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## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

### ADDITIONAL INCOME DERIVED FROM THE INCREASED POSTAL RATES.

142. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA JAGDISH PRASAD : Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the additional income year by year derived from the increased postal rates since the rates were last revised as compared with the average annual income derived in the past from the old rates ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. A. SHILLIDY : It is not possible to furnish the required information as no account can be kept of the revenue derived from unregistered articles. A statement is, however, laid on the table showing the average yearly value of stamps and postal stationery sold before 1922-23, when the letter postage rate and the price of postcards were last raised, and the value realized each year from 1922-23 up to 1930-31. It is to be noted that the amounts shown in the statement include the value of the stamps used on telegrams and those used for revenue purposes.

*Statement showing the revenue derived from the sale of postage stamps, postcards, etc., since the year 1922-23 when the postal rates were last revised, as compared with the average yearly revenue derived from the same source based on the figures for three years previous to 1922-23.*

(Figures are in lakhs of rupees.)

	Average based on figures for 3 years 1918-20, 1920-21 and 1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.	Remarks.
Revenue derived from sale of postage stamps, postcards, etc.	7.40	7.78	7.86	8.09	8.22	8.36	8.62	8.69	8.94	8.57	

**AMOUNT OF CHARGES DEBITED TO INDIA IN CONNECTION WITH THE TRAINING OF BRITISH OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS OF THE INDIAN ARMY IN ENGLAND.**

**143. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA JAGDISH PRASAD :**

(a) What is the annual amount of charges debited to India in connection with the training of British officers and soldiers of the Indian Army in England ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Inchcape Committee recommended in this connection that a fresh regular settlement should be expedited, and expressed the opinion that the most equitable arrangement would be to allocate the cost to the War Office of training recruits between the India Office and the War Office *pro rata* to the normal colour service in each country subject to a due allowance for the potential value to the British Government of returned men available for the reserve.

(c) Is it the intention of the Government of India to arrange to give effect to this recommendation of the Inchcape Committee, and if so, when ?

**HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF :** (a) The following amounts were paid to His Majesty's Government on account of capitation charges :—

	£
1928-29	1,503,000
1929-30	1,506,000
1930-31	1,510,000

(b) Yes.

(c) The position was fully explained by the Honourable the Finance Member in his speech in the Legislative Assembly on the 10th March, 1931, reported at pages 1834 and 1835 of the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly for that day.

**DIVISIONAL SUPERINTENDENTS ON EACH OF THE STATE RAILWAYS.**

**144. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS :** Will Government kindly state the number of Divisional Superintendents (a) Europeans, (b) Anglo-Indians, (c) Indians in charge of administrative divisions on each of the State-managed Railways ?

**THE HONOURABLE MR. J. C. B. DRAKE :** Six Europeans and one Indian on the North Western Railway, six Europeans on the East Indian Railway and six Europeans on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway.

**APPOINTMENT OF INDIANS AS DIVISIONAL SUPERINTENDENTS ON THE EAST INDIAN AND GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAYS.**

**145. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS :** Is it a fact that on the East Indian Railway and on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway there is not a single Indian holding the appointment of a Divisional Superintendent? If so, does Government in the current or the coming year intend to put at least two divisions on each of these State-managed Railways in charge of Indian officers?

**THE HONOURABLE MR. J. C. B. DRAKE :** No Indian happens to be holding an appointment as Divisional Superintendent on either of these Railways at present. Such appointments are filled by strict selection, and without regard to race or community, and there is no intention of altering the procedure.

**PORTERS AT RAILWAY STATIONS.**

**146. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS :** Will Government kindly state whether the Railway Advisory Committees have within their purview matters affecting the station luggage porters and whether these Committees can advise on the composition of the porter staff in the interests of the travelling public?

**THE HONOURABLE MR. J. C. B. DRAKE :** Local Railway Advisory Committees may discuss matters, other than those of personnel, discipline and appointments, relating to luggage porters at stations.

**ADJUSTMENT OF ACCOUNTS RELATING TO THE GREAT WAR WITH THE WAR OFFICE.**

**147. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS :** Will Government kindly state whether its accounts with the War Office of the Great War period have yet been adjusted or not? If adjusted, with what result?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR ARTHUR McWATTERS :** It is presumed that the Honourable Member's question relates to whether there are any outstanding claims by India against the British Government and *vice versa*. As to this there are certain outstanding claims and counter-claims. They have been the subject of prolonged discussion and I hope that Government may soon be able to announce a final settlement of all war claims.

**SAVINGS BY THE ARMY DEPARTMENT IN EXPENDITURE ON RATIONS, CLOTHING AND STORES.**

**148. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS :** Will Government kindly state what savings the Army Department anticipates in the current year as compared to last year in expenditure on rations, clothing and stores owing to the abnormal fall in prices?

**HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF :** Between Rs. 25 and 30 lakhs more than last year.

**RAILWAY RATES ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

149. **THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS :** Will Government kindly state its decisions as regards the retention or otherwise of the Railway Rates Advisory Committee ?

**THE HONOURABLE MR. J. C. B. DRAKE :** The question of the retention of the Railway Rates Advisory Committee, as at present constituted, is under consideration. Meanwhile, the Railway Board have accepted the recommendation of the Railway Retrenchment Sub-Committee that the cost of the Railway Rates Advisory Committee should not exceed Rs. 50,000 per annum.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. SATYENDRA CHANDRA GHOSH MAULIK :** Will Government inform the House if a small permanent Secretariat staff attached to the Railway Board will be kept out of the present staff so that the work of the *ad hoc* committee may be facilitated by the experience of the staff ?

**THE HONOURABLE MR. J. C. B. DRAKE :** I am afraid I must ask for notice of the Honourable Member's question.

**MESSAGES FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.****INDIAN FINANCE (SUPPLEMENTARY AND EXTENDING) BILL.**

**THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT :** I have a Message for the Council from His Excellency the Governor General. The Message runs :

*"Whereas the Legislative Assembly has failed to pass in the form recommended by me the Bill to supplement the Indian Finance Act, 1931, and to extend the operation of its temporary provisions, a copy of which Bill in the form recommended by me is hereto annexed ;*

*Now, therefore, I, Freeman, Earl of Willingdon, in exercise of the power conferred by sub-section (1) of section 67B of the Government of India Act, do hereby certify that the passage of the said Bill is essential for the interests of British India.*

**WILLINGDON,**

*Viceroy and Governor General."*

There is a further Message to the Council from His Excellency which runs as follows :

*"In pursuance of the provisions of sub-section (1) of section 67B of the Government of India Act, I, Freeman, Earl of Willingdon, do recommend to the Council of State that it do pass the Bill to supplement the Indian Finance Act, 1931, and to extend the operation of its temporary provisions, in the form hereto annexed.*

**WILLINGDON,**

*Viceroy and Governor General."*

(The Messages were received by the Members of the Council standing.)

**INDIAN FINANCE (SUPPLEMENTARY AND EXTENDING) BILL  
LAID ON THE TABLE.**

**SECRETARY OF THE COUNCIL :** Sir, in pursuance of the provisions of section 67B of the Government of India Act, I lay on the table a copy of the Bill to supplement the Indian Finance Act, 1931, and to extend the operation

of its temporary provisions, which the Legislative Assembly has failed to pass in the form recommended by the Governor General, and which has been certified, under the provisions of the same section, by the Governor General as essential for the interests of British India.

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### GOVERNOR GENERAL'S ASSENT TO BILLS.

**SECRETARY OF THE COUNCIL :** Sir, information has been received that His Excellency the Governor General has been pleased to grant his assent to the following Bills which were passed by the two Chambers of the Indian Legislature during the Simla Session, 1931, namely :

- The Provisional Collection of Taxes Act, 1931.
  - The Indian Succession (Amendment) Act, 1931.
  - The Aligarh Muslim University (Amendment) Act, 1931.
  - The Land Customs (Amendment) Act, 1931.
  - The Sheriff of Calcutta (Powers of Custody) Act, 1931.
  - The Indian Mines (Amendment) Act, 1931.
  - The Heavy Chemical Industry (Protection) Act, 1931.
  - The Indian Press (Emergency Powers) Act, 1931.
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### INDIAN FINANCE (SUPPLEMENTARY AND EXTENDING) BILL.

**THE HONOURABLE SIR ARTHUR McWATTERS** (Finance Secretary) : Sir, I shall be giving notice this morning of my intention to move that the Bill which has been laid on the table in this House be taken into consideration. I wish to ask your direction as to when this motion will be taken up. I am entirely in your hands and the hands of the House in this matter and I am prepared to proceed with my motion at any time. I would only mention that it is important that the Bill should be passed at the latest by Friday evening.

**THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT :** As the House knows, the ordinary period for which a Bill should lie on the table is three days. I think it would clearly be unsuitable that the House should proceed with the Bill to-morrow. As Honourable Members are aware, there are reasons why this House should not sit on Wednesday. There is therefore no option but to take the Bill on Thursday, and I direct that there shall be a meeting on that day at which the Honourable Sir Arthur McWatters' motion will be put on the list of business. With reference to the Honourable Member's concluding remarks I may point out to the House that as it is necessary that the Bill should be passed on Friday, the House will have to sit on that day till it is passed.

The Council will now adjourn till Thursday, the 26th of November, at 11 o'clock in the morning.

The Council then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 26th November, 1931.

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**Copies of the Debates of the Legislative Assembly and of the Council of State are obtainable on sale from the Manager, Central Publication Branch, 3, Government Place, West, Calcutta.**

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