

25th September 1929

THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

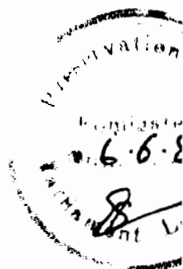
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Volume V

(18th September to 26th September, 1929)

FIFTH SESSION
OF THE
THIRD LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
1929

Chamber Famigated...



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1930

Legislative Assembly.

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THE HONOURABLE MR. V. J. PATEL.

Deputy President :

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, 25th September, 1929.

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

COVENANTED SUBORDINATES RECRUITED FOR RAILWAYS.

849. *Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney : How many covenanted subordinates have been recruited into (i) State Railways and (ii) Company-managed railways during the last three years in the grades of (a) Foremen in Railway Workshops, and (b) other classes ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : The information has been called for from the railways and will be communicated to the Honourable Member.

LEAVE RULES FOR STATE RAILWAYS.

850. *Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney : Will Government please state if they have arrived at any decision regarding the new leave rules pertaining to the State Railways ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : The drafting is practically complete now and Government hope to be able to issue the rules shortly.

APPOINTMENT OF A COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN MEDICAL QUALIFICATIONS AND STANDARDS.

851. *Dr. B. S. Moonje : (a) Will Government please state if any decision has been arrived at in the matter of creating a new appointment of Commissioner of Indian Medical qualifications and standards ?

(b) Is it a fact that under section 4, clause 1, of the British Medical Act, 1886, the General Medical Council has no authority on its own accord to refuse to continue recognition of Indian medical degrees ?

(c) Is it a fact that the General Medical Council has made a suggestion for the appointment of a Commissioner of Indian Medical qualifications and has threatened to refuse to accord recognition to Indian Medical degrees unless their suggestion is complied with ?

(d) Are Government aware that the General Medical Council cannot of itself refuse to recognise Indian Medical degrees but can only move the Privy Council to adopt such a course ?

(e) Are Government aware that the Privy Council cannot authorise the General Medical Council to refuse to recognise the Indian Medical degrees unless occasion is given to the Indian Universities concerned to show cause why the General Medical Council should not refuse to recognise their medical degrees ?

(f) Has any of the Universities of India thus been called upon to show cause as mentioned above ? If so, which are the Universities ?

(g) Are Government aware that inspection of Indian Medical examinations has been made this year on behalf of the General Medical Council ? If so, will Government please state if the report of the inspection bears out the alleged unsatisfactory standard of Indian Medical examinations ?

(h) If the standard of the Indian Medical examinations is not unsatisfactory, do Government intend to yield to the demand of the General Medical Council for the creation of a new post of a Commissioner of Indian Medical qualifications and standards ? If so, why ?

Sir Frank Noyce : (a) The Government of India propose to create the appointment of a whole-time Commissioner of Medical Qualifications and Standards on a temporary footing for a period of one year in the first instance.

(b), (d), (e) and (f). The Honourable Member appears to be under the misapprehension that clause 4 of the Medical Act, 1886, applies to Indian Medical degrees. The registration of practitioners with Indian degrees is regulated by Part II of the Act. Under section 13 of the Act, if the General Medical Council refuses to recognise an Indian degree, an application may be made by the aggrieved party to the Privy Council, who may, if they think fit, after considering the application and after communication with the General Council, order the Council to recognise the degree.

(c) It is for the applicant to satisfy the General Medical Council that a medical degree, granted by an Indian University, furnishes a sufficient guarantee of the possession of the requisite knowledge and skill for the efficient practice of medicine, surgery and midwifery in the United Kingdom. In the opinion of the General Medical Council, the only satisfactory solution of the difficulties of inspection of medical colleges and qualifying examinations of Indian Universities, until an all-India Medical Council is constituted, is the appointment by the Government of India of a whole-time Commissioner of Medical Qualifications and Standards.

(g) The medical examinations of the Universities of Madras, Bombay, Patna, Rangoon and the Punjab were supervised this year by Inspectors appointed on behalf of the General Medical Council. The Government of India have not seen the inspection reports as they are not submitted through them.

(h) Does not arise.

Dr. B. S. Moonje : Had the Government of India reason to believe before this proposal for the appointment of a Commissioner of Indian Medical Qualifications and Standards was made that the medical education and medical examinations conducted in India were not satisfactory ?

Sir Frank Noyce : It is difficult to answer that question, Sir. As I shall probably have a fuller opportunity of explaining the position later on this morning, all I can say now is that the General Medical Council wish to satisfy themselves that the standard of examinations is satisfactory.

Dr. B. S. Moonje : I did not quite follow what the Honourable Member said. Will he kindly repeat what he said ?

Sir Frank Noyce : The Government of India are aware that the General Medical Council wish to satisfy themselves that the standard of examinations is satisfactory.

Dr. B. S. Moonje : Were the Government of India themselves satisfied that the medical education and medical examinations conducted in India were not satisfactory ?

Sir Frank Noyce : The Government of India have had no opportunity of arriving at an opinion on such a technical matter as that.

Dr. B. S. Moonje : So the Government of India did not know that the medical education and medical examinations in India were satisfactory or not, or that they were being properly conducted or not. Were they so ignorant as all that ?

Sir Frank Noyce : I am certainly not in a position to answer that question, Sir. I can only repeat that the inspection of medical education and medical examinations in India is undertaken at the instance of the General Medical Council.

Dr. B. S. Moonje : Supposing the Government of India came to know that the result of the inspection of medical education and medical examinations in India by the Inspectors appointed by the General Medical Council was satisfactory, would the Government still be prepared to accept the threat or ultimatum ?

Mr. President : That is a hypothetical question.

Dr. B. S. Moonje : I am just quoting from the Inspection Reports, Sir, that the examinations are quite satisfactory, and it is upon that I based my supplementary question, and not on hypothesis.

Sir Frank Noyce : Neither the Medical Council nor the Government of India are in a position without inspection to guarantee that the examinations will continue to be satisfactory.

Mr. President : Is not this question coming up today ?

Dr. B. S. Moonje : Yes, Sir.

Mr. President : Then why ask supplementary questions now ?

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INDIA.

852. ***Dr. B. S. Moonje :** (a) Are Government aware that there is acute unemployment both among educated and uneducated classes in several provinces in India ?

(b) What steps have Provincial Governments taken to ascertain the extent and intensity of the unemployment in their respective Provinces, and also to find work or employment for the unemployed ?

(c) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the report and recommendations of a Departmental Committee, appointed to suggest a solution for the unemployment prevalent among the middle classes in the United Provinces, a report of which has been published in newspapers ?

(d) Will Government please state whether similar attempts, if any, have been made in any other province and if so, with what result ?

(e) Do Government propose to ascertain the real extent of unemployment in India, through their own Departments, or do they propose to instruct the Provincial Governments to take steps to find out the number of the unemployed, both educated and uneducated, in their respective provinces, and to start unemployment bureau on the lines suggested by the United Provinces Committee ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : (a) The Government of India are aware that there is unemployment among the educated classes in several provinces, but they have no reason to believe that either at the present time or normally, unemployment, as it is known in Europe, is a feature of the Indian industrial system.

(b) Certain Local Governments appointed Unemployment Committees, namely, Bengal, Madras, the Punjab and the United Provinces. The reports of these Committees have been published. A report on Middle Class Unemployment has also been published by the Labour Office, Bombay.

(c) Yes.

(d) As stated in my reply to part (b) of the question, Committees were appointed in Bengal, Madras and the Punjab. In the case of the last two provinces and the United Provinces, the Government of India have not received any information regarding the action taken by the Local Governments concerned on the recommendations made in the Committees' reports. As regards Bengal, it is understood that some of the recommendations made by the Committee have been accepted by the Local Government.

(e) The Government of India have already addressed Local Governments on the subject in their letter dated the 26th May, 1926, which has been published, asking them that the matter should receive their most careful consideration.

CASE AGAINST SETH POPATLAL SHAH OF BANOSA.

853. ***Dr. B. S. Moonje :** (a) Are Government aware of a criminal case against Seth Popatlal Shah of Banosa (Berar) decided by the 1st Class Magistrate of Bhusaval on the 3rd July, 1927 ?

(b) Does the Magistrate say in the judgment that some of the railway servants have admitted that the compartment of the accused was overcrowded ?

(c) Has not the Magistrate taken this admission to be true ?

(d) If the Court has found it to be true what action have Government taken against the Great Indian Peninsula Railway under section 93 of the Railway Act ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : Presumably the year 1927 is a mistake for 1929. On seeing newspaper reports of this case last month, Government called for a report from the Agent of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway. I shall address the Honourable Member later on the result of further investigations into the matter.

Dr. B. S. Moonje : May I know whether Seth Popatlal Shah of Banosa was convicted or acquitted ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : I cannot say, Sir, till I receive the Report.

DISCONNECTED ALARM SYSTEM IN A COMPARTMENT OF A TRAIN ON THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

854. ***Dr. B. S. Moonje :** Are Government aware of the fact that, on the 2nd May, 1929, the 2 Up Nagpur Mail was running between Nandura

and Bhusaval with one of its compartments having its automatic alarm system disconnected? If so, do Government propose to take action against the Great Indian Peninsula Railway for the infringement of the Railway Act by running a passenger carriage when the alarm in it was not in working order? If not, why not?

Mr. P. R. Rau : Government have received no report on this matter. The Agent of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway has been asked to submit a report and I shall communicate later with the Honourable Member.

OVERCROWDING OF RAILWAY COMPARTMENTS.

855. ***Dr. B. S. Moonje :** (a) Will Government please inquire and state at how many places railway trains, on account of their being overcrowded, were stopped by passengers by pulling the alarm chain, since last March?

(b) Are Government aware that a train was stopped between Bombay and Poona on 1st April, 1929, one between Wathar and Sangli on 22nd April, 1929, and one at Godhra on 29th May, 1929? Is it a fact that, on all these occasions, the railway authorities had to reduce overcrowding in the compartments?

(c) Are Government aware that the railway authorities had not paid any attention to complaints regarding overcrowding till the passengers pulled the alarm chain? Have Government taken any action against companies concerned under section 93 of the Railway Act?

Mr. P. R. Rau : Information is being obtained and communicated to the Honourable Member.

PROVISION OF AN ALARM SYSTEM IN CENTRAL PROVINCES RAILWAYS.

856. ***Dr. B. S. Moonje :** (a) Are Government aware that alarm chains are not provided in the trains on the Yeotmal, Murtizapur and Murtizapur-Elichpur lines of the Central Provinces Railways?

(b) Do Government propose to bring the matter to the notice of the Administration of the Central Provinces Railways and to see that provision is made at an early date for such means of communications, as are required under section 62 of the Indian Railway Act?

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a) Yes.

(b) The provision of such means of communication on these narrow gauge railways is not considered necessary, the speed of trains being low and the stations near each other.

COLLECTION OF 'A MINIMUM AMOUNT OF EXCESS FARES BY TICKET COLLECTORS.

857. ***Dr. B. S. Moonje :** (a) How many ticket collectors on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway line from Bhusaval to Nagpur were fined for poor collection of excess fares in the month of July?

(b) Is it laid down anywhere that the efficiency of ticket collectors will be judged on their collecting excess fares every month, which must not be less than a fixed minimum? If so, are Government aware that it

leads to all sorts of corrupt practices and offers an inducement to ticket collectors to harass, and also practice blackmailing on, poor ignorant passengers ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a) I am sending a copy of the question to the Agent of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway and, on receipt of his reply, will communicate with the Honourable Member.

(b) The Railway Board are not aware that any railway has laid down a fixed minimum of excess fares that every ticket collector should collect, and consider it most improbable that any railway should have done so.

Dr. B. S. Moonje : Does the Honourable Member know that there is an impression among the ticket collectors that, if they do not show good collections, they are considered inefficient ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : That impression must be incorrect.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : That impression is absolutely correct, Sir. Are Government aware that on the Bengal and North Western Railway an order has been issued by the railway authorities saying that, if the travelling ticket examiners do not collect a specified sum of money every day, their wages for that day will be forfeited, and that they are liable to be dismissed ? I brought this matter to the notice of the Agent, Bengal and North Western Railway.

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : I am indebted to the Honourable Member for drawing my attention to this, and we will certainly make inquiries.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Thank you, Sir.

GRANT OF BONUSES AND LOANS ON THE POST OFFICE INSURANCE FUND.

858. ***Dr. B. S. Moonje :** (a) Are Government aware that private Insurance Companies offer bonuses to their policy-holders and, if need be, even grant them loans on the security of their policies ?

(b) Do Government offer such facilities to the policy-holders of the Post Office Insurance Fund ? If not, do Government propose to consider the advisability of making such provisions ?

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

(b) Government declare periodically, when the working of the Postal Life Insurance Fund justifies it, simple reversionary bonuses on policies taken out in the Fund. They do not grant loans on the security of policies.

It is not proposed to make any change of the nature suggested in the rules of the Fund.

QUALIFYING EXAMINATION FOR SECOND AND THIRD DIVISIONS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA SECRETARIAT.

859. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra :** (a) Is it a fact that the Public Service Commission will shortly hold a qualifying examination for men holding substantive appointments in the 2nd and 3rd divisions in the Government of India Secretariat and attached offices ? If so, when ?

(b) What are the conditions laid down by the Public Service Commission for the said examination ?

(c) If any clerk employed in the Railway Board's office or in the Contracts Directorate, Army Headquarters, fulfils the conditions prescribed by the Commission, can he appear at the examination? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar : (a) The Public Service Commission will hold a qualifying examination in November, 1929, for men holding permanent appointments in the offices for which the Commission recruit, and for men holding temporary appointments in those offices, if they have already qualified for the divisions in which they are working temporarily.

(b) Candidates are required to be under 35 years of age and must not have appeared and failed twice already for the division for which they are competing.

The conditions admit to the examination 2nd division clerks and 3rd division clerks who have passed the Intermediate or equivalent examination, with the exception that, in attached offices, where there are only two divisions, no 2nd division clerk who has not already qualified for the 2nd division Secretariat or has not passed the Intermediate, or equivalent examination, will be admitted without the special recommendation of his Department.

(c) The Public Service Commission do not at present recruit for the Railway Board's office nor for the Contracts Directorate, Army Headquarters. Clerks employed in those offices do not, therefore, fulfil the conditions prescribed for the examination. The Railway Board desire, however, to recruit in future for purely clerical posts through the Public Service Commission and this matter is under consideration.

PROMOTION TO SECOND DIVISION OF QUALIFIED CLERKS IN ARMY HEADQUARTERS.

860. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra :** (a) Is it a fact that a number of men employed in the Branches of the Army Headquarters, including the Contracts Directorate, are qualified for 2nd division appointments but have been confirmed in the 3rd division owing to paucity of vacancies in the 2nd division? If so, what is their number and when are they likely to be promoted to the 2nd division?

(b) Will Government please state whether the men employed in the Contracts Directorate who are already qualified for the 2nd and 3rd division appointments are likely to be promoted to the next higher division in the near future? If so, when? If not, do Government propose to allow these men to sit for the next qualifying examination? If not, why not?

(c) Is there any bar to these men qualifying for the next higher division?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : (a) Yes. Ten. Their promotion to the second division depends upon the occurrence of vacancies and their fitness for the work required of 2nd division clerks.

(b) They will be promoted to the next higher division when vacancies occur for which they are considered suitable. It is impossible to say when this will be.

(c) They cannot sit for the departmental qualifying examinations, because the establishment of the Contracts Directorate is recruited independently of the Public Service Commission.

There is nothing, however, to prevent them from sitting for the competitive examinations of the Public Service Commission provided that they are qualified to do so.

PREPARATION OF SPECIAL APPRENTICES AT KHARAGPUR WORKSHOPS FOR TRAINING IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

861. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra** : (a) Is it a fact that Mr. H. L. Cole, O.B.E., Chief Mechanical Engineer, Bengal Nagpur Railway at Kharagpur (now on leave), recruited some Indians as Special Apprentices in the Kharagpur Railway Workshops, with a view to prepare them for training in the United Kingdom and thereafter to appoint them in the superior posts of the Loco. and Carriage Departments of the Bengal Nagpur Railway ?

(b) If the reply to part (a) is in the affirmative, will Government please state whether it is a fact that those Indian Special Apprentices were subsequently discharged, no sooner had Mr. H. L. Cole, gone on leave, and if so, what were the reasons for their discharge ?

(c) Will Government please state their (1) names, (2) qualifications, (3) age and (4) addresses (at the time of recruitment) ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : With your permission, Sir, I propose to answer questions 861, 862 and 863 together. The required information is being obtained from the Bengal Nagpur Railway, and will be communicated to the Honourable Member later.

TRAINING IN THE UNITED KINGDOM OF THE KHARAGPUR RAILWAY WORKSHOPS.

†862. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra** : (a) Will Government please state if there is any chance for any one being sent to the United Kingdom for training from amongst the existing "Grade A" Apprentices in the Kharagpur Railway Workshops ? If not, why not ?

(b) Has any "Grade A" Apprentice, or any other kind of apprentice, or any one outside these categories been sent to the United Kingdom for training by the Bengal Nagpur Railway ? If so, what are the names of these men and what were their qualifications, previous to their selection for training in the United Kingdom ?

TRAINING OF "GRADE A" APPRENTICES AT THE KHARAGPUR RAILWAY WORKSHOPS.

†863. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra** : (a) Is it a fact that European and Anglo-Indian apprentices of the Kharagpur Railway Workshops have to sit for the Board of Control Examinations, held under the supervision of the Bengal Engineering College, Sibpur ? If so, why are the "Grade A" (Indian) apprentices at the workshop not given training to enable them to sit for these examinations ?

(b) Do Government propose to instruct the Railway to make the training of the "Grade A" and European and Anglo-Indian apprentices uniform in all respects, i.e., both practical and theoretical ? If not, why not ?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 861.

APPOINTMENT OF A JUNIOR ASSISTANT TO HOLD CHARGE OF A NEW BRANCH IN THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT.

864. ***Sardar Kartar Singh** : (a) Is it a fact that a junior Assistant has been appointed to hold charge of a new Branch in the Finance Department ?

(b) Will Government please state the reasons why a junior Assistant was selected in preference to his seniors ?

(c) What is the name of the Assistant and does he possess any special qualifications which led to his superseding his seniors ?

(d) Will Government please state his religion, educational qualifications and the number of years' service he has had, and also what posts he has held during that period ?

(e) Do Government propose to consider the claims of senior men when the question of permanent appointment to the post arises ?

The Honourable Sir George Schnuter : I presume that the case to which the Honourable Member refers is one in which an Assistant half-way up the cadre of the Finance Department has been placed in charge of a new temporary sub-branch in the Finance Department called the "Schedule Branch" on his time scale pay plus a special pay Rs. 25 per month. If so, I can inform the Honourable Member that all the implications contained in his question as indeed is apparent from what I have already said, are misleading, and I can also inform him that I have personally satisfied myself that the appointment is in all respects in order. Beyond this I do not propose to furnish any detailed information, for I submit, Sir, that to seek information of a personal kind relating to subordinate officials is a use of the right of interpellation which is not in the public interest.

EMPLOYMENT OF SIKHS IN THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF CONTRACTS.

865. ***Sardar Kartar Singh** : (a) Will Government please state the number of Sikhs employed in the office of the Director of Contracts, Army Headquarters ?

(b) Has any of them been transferred to another office during the past year ? If so, was the vacancy thus caused filled in by a Sikh ? If not, why not ?

(c) What steps do Government propose to take to maintain the proper share of Sikhs in this Office ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : (a) Two.

(b) Yes, temporarily for three months. He was not replaced by a Sikh.

(c) The policy of Government is to prevent the preponderance of any single class or community, but not to prescribe a fixed percentage for each class or community. Sikh applicants are considered on their merits when vacancies occur.

EMPLOYMENT OF SIKHS IN THE INDIAN STORES DEPARTMENT.

866. ***Sardar Kartar Singh** : (a) Will Government please state the number of Sikhs employed in the office of the Indian Stores Department ?

(b) How many of them were transferred to other offices during the last six months ?

(c) Were the vacancies thus caused filled in by recruitment of new Sikhs ? If not, why not ?

(d) What steps do Government propose to take to maintain the proper share of Sikhs in this Office ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : Presumably the Honourable Member refers to the office of the Chief Controller of Stores, Indian Stores Department. If so, the answer is as follows :

(a) Ten.

(b) Three temporarily. None has been transferred permanently.

(c) No. A temporary clerk already employed in the office was absorbed in the first vacancy ; the second vacancy was filled by the appointment of a member of another minority community possessing the qualifications required for the post ; and the third vacancy was not filled.

(d) The claims of Sikhs, among members of the other minority communities, to appointments in the Indian Stores Department, will continue to receive due consideration at the time of recruitment.

EMPLOYMENT OF SIKHS IN THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF COMMERCIAL AUDIT, NEW DELHI.

867. ***Sardar Kartar Singh :** (a) Will Government please state the number of Sikhs employed in the office of the Director of Commercial Audit, New Delhi ?

(b) Has the question of securing the proper representation of Sikhs in this office ever engaged the attention of Government ? If so, with what results ?

(c) What steps do Government propose to take to satisfy the claims of Sikhs in this office ?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster : Inquiry is being made and a reply will be sent to the Honourable Member as soon as possible.

EMPLOYMENT OF SIKHS IN THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INFORMATION.

868. ***Sardar Kartar Singh :** (a) Will Government please state the number of Sikhs employed in the office of the Director of Public Information ?

(b) Did the only Sikh employed in this office resign his post last year ?

(c) When did the present Officiating Director first join this office as Deputy Director ?

(d) Since then how many vacancies have occurred in this office, and how many of them have been filled by Hindus belonging to the United Provinces ?

(e) What steps do Government propose to take to satisfy the claims of Sikhs in this office ?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar : (a) None, at the moment.

(b) Yes.

(c) 1st January, 1927.

(d) Since that date there has been one permanent vacancy and one new appointment was created. To neither of these was any Hindu from the United Provinces appointed. One Hindu with special qualifications has been appointed to a temporary vacancy.

(e) Government will consider in the future, as they have considered in the past, the claims of all communities.

EMPLOYMENT OF SIKHS IN THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE.

869. ***Sardar Kartar Singh :** (a) Will Government please state the number of Sikhs employed as Upper Division assistants and Second Division clerks in the office of the Director General, Indian Medical Service ?

(b) Is it a fact that there is no Upper Division Sikh assistant in that office ?

(c) Has the question of securing the proper representation of Sikhs in this office ever engaged the attention of Government ? If so, with what results ?

Sir Frank Noyce : (a) One Sikh is employed as a clerk.

(b) Yes.

(c) No, but if in future at the time of recruitment there is inadequacy of representation, action in accordance with the policy of Government will be taken.

SIKH HOLIDAYS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA SECRETARIAT.

870. ***Sardar Kartar Singh :** (a) Is it a fact that the question of grant of more holidays in the Government of India Secretariat is under consideration ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to include two holidays for the Sikhs, i.e. Guru Nanak's Birthday and Guru Gobind Singh's Birthday as closed holidays ?

(c) If the answer to part (b) be in the negative, will Government please say why ?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar : (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The suggestion will receive careful consideration.

SHORTAGE OF "B" CLASS CLERKS' QUARTERS IN PHAGLI, SIMLA.

871. ***Mr. Siddheswar Prasad Sinha :** (a) With reference to my starred question No. 1326, dated the 28th March, 1929, will Government please state why the number of "B" class quarters in Phagli (Simla) is so small as 60 while the required number is 300 ?

(b) Is it a fact that the demand for the quarters is increasing every year and the supply is far short of the required number ?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the question either of providing more quarters at Simla, or locating more offices at New Delhi throughout the year ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : (a), (b) and (c). It is admitted that there is a shortage of "B" class quarters in Phagli and that the demand for quarters of this class increases almost yearly. The question of constructing additional accommodation is under the consideration of the Government of India.

PERMANENT LOCATION AT NEW DELHI OF THE INDIAN STORES DEPARTMENT.

872. ***Mr. Siddheswar Prasad Sinha :** (a) Is it a fact that, for several years, Government have been considering the question of locating the Indian Stores Department permanently at New Delhi? If so, with what result?

(b) Is it a fact that there is shortage of accommodation for offices in Simla?

(c) Is it a fact that there is also a shortage of residential accommodation in Government quarters in Simla?

(d) Do Government propose to expedite the question of the permanent location of the Stores Department and other attached and subordinate offices at New Delhi?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : (a) The question of the permanent location of the Indian Stores Department at one place has been considered since the Department was created. For administrative convenience it has been thought necessary that the Indian Stores Department should be in close touch with the Department of Industries and Labour, with the Railway Department (Railway Board) and Army Headquarters until some time after the revised Stores Purchase Rules have been introduced and are in operation.

(b) and (c). The reply is in the affirmative.

(d) The question of the permanent location of the Indian Stores Department will be settled in due course as explained in the reply to part (a) of the question. As regards other attached and subordinate offices, the position is that 12 such offices were located permanently in New Delhi prior to 1928 and since then four additional offices have been so located. The permanent location of no other attached or subordinate office in New Delhi is under consideration.

ACTION AGAINST CLERKS FOR INDEBTEDNESS.

873. ***Mr. Siddheswar Prasad Sinha :** (a) Do Government take action under the Government Servants Conduct Rules against those clerks of the Government of India against whom attachment orders or complaints of indebtedness are received?

(b) Have Government invited the attention of all the Departments to rule No. 16 of the said Rules and impressed upon them the necessity for taking action under it whenever necessary?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar : (a) Yes, Sir, when they consider action to be necessary.

(b) No. The rule quoted by the Honourable Member is well known.

HEALTHINESS OF NEW DELHI FOR SUMMER RESIDENCE.

874. ***Mr. Siddheswar Prasad Sinha** : (a) Is it a fact that one of the reasons brought forward in favour of the move is that New Delhi is not healthy in summer months ?

(b) Will Government please state the death rate in New Delhi from October 1928, to March 1929, and from April 1928, to September 1928 ?

(c) Was there any epidemic in New Delhi during the current summer season ?

(d) Has anyone in New Delhi died of sun-stroke in the current summer season ?

(e) Did Government ever give an undertaking to the effect that they would consider the question of staying permanently in New Delhi when the new Secretariat building was completed ? If so, how far has the question been considered during the last three years ; and with what results ?

(f) Are Government aware that there is a general feeling among the clerks that the education of their children is suffering on account of the move ?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar : (a) Yes.

(b) The death rate in New Delhi for the period October, 1928—March, 1929 was 9.53 *per mille* and that for the period April, 1928—September, 1928 was 10.10 *per mille*.

(c) and (d). The information asked for is being collected and will be supplied to the Honourable Member.

(e) No.

(f) Government received certain representations, pointing out that a longer stay than five months in New Delhi would mean that the education of the children of the Secretariat staff would suffer.

Mr. K. Ahmed : May I know what was the highest temperature at Delhi last summer when people had sunstroke ?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar : I must ask the Honourable Member to give me notice of that question.

Mr. G. L. Winterbotham : Is it a fact that conditions in New Delhi during the summer months are any worse than in the other cities in the plains, such as Bombay and Calcutta ?

Mr. K. Ahmed : Is it a fact that the highest temperature was 120 degrees last year in New Delhi ?

Mr. Siddheswar Prasad Sinha : With regard to part (f) of the question, will the Honourable Member state what steps Government have taken for the education of children ?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar : I think that the question of arrangements for facilitating the education of the children of the Secretariat staff, is under consideration, but I must ask for notice of the question.

ELECTRIFICATION OF THE KALKA-SIMLA RAILWAY.

875. ***Mr. Siddheswar Prasad Sinha** : Have Government under consideration the question of the electrification of the Kalka-Simla Railway ? If so, what is the present stage of the scheme ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : Government have decided to postpone the investigation of this scheme for the present.

EXTENSION OF THE KALKA SIMLA RAILWAY TO NARKANDA.

876. ***Mr. Siddheswar Prasad Sinha :** (a) Have Government under consideration the question of the extension of the Kalka-Simla Railway Line to Narkanda ?

(b) If the reply be in the affirmative, when is the work likely to be started and completed, and at what cost ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : The extension of the Kalka-Simla Railway to Narkanda has been under examination, but the survey report has not yet been received. It is probable, however, that it will not be a remunerative line and the prospects of its construction are very remote.

CONNECTION OF THE KALKA SIMLA RAILWAY WITH THE NEW KANGRA VALLEY RAILWAY.

877. ***Mr. Siddheswar Prasad Sinha :** Have Government under consideration any proposal for connecting the Kalka-Simla Line with the newly laid Kangra Valley Railway Line ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : No.

SHORTAGE OF CLERKS' QUARTERS IN NEW DELHI

878. ***Mr. Siddheswar Prasad Sinha :** (a) What is the total number of Indian clerks' quarters in New Delhi and of the applicants for quarters (including the non-migratory clerks already occupying their quarters), for the ensuing winter ?

(b) How many more quarters do Government propose to construct in New Delhi to meet the requirements ; and when and where ?

(c) Do Government propose to sell land in New Delhi to clerks and private persons on an instalment basis for encouraging the construction of private houses to supply the demand ? If not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : (a) The total number of Indian clerks' quarters in New Delhi is 1,278 married quarters and 104 single quarters. The total applications for married quarters is 2,129. Applications for single quarters are sent to the Secretariat Association who lease these quarters.

(b) 150 quarters are under construction now, and the whole question of the further construction of clerks quarters is under the consideration of the Government of India.

(c) No proposal for selling land in New Delhi to clerks and private persons on an instalment basis is being considered by the Government of India. Government are inclined to think that such an arrangement is not likely to encourage the construction of private houses. In approved cases clerks can, however, obtain building advances from Government which they repay by instalments.

The Revd. J. C. Chatterjee : Are there any quarters for clerks working in the Railway Clearing Office at Delhi ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : No. The question is under consideration at present.

The Revd. J. C. Chatterjee : Is it a fact that Government promised to supply quarters for them at Kingsway by this cold weather ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : The site originally selected at Kingsway was not considered quite healthy by our medical advisers. The difficulty, as I explained to the House the other day, is that of selecting a suitable site.

The Revd. J. C. Chatterjee : When is it likely to select a suitable site ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : I wish I could say.

The Revd. J. C. Chatterjee : Are Government aware that the delay in selecting a site for quarters for these large numbers of Indian clerks is causing them very great hardship ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : I quite agree with the Honourable Member that it is important that a decision should be arrived at in this matter as soon as possible. I know the matter is engaging the special attention of the Railway Board and I will give my personal attention to it also, so that it may be settled as soon as possible.

The Revd. J. C. Chatterjee : Can Government give me any assurance as to when they are likely to take action in the matter ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : I am afraid I cannot be more definite than I have been. I cannot indicate a definite date.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta : Is it merely a question of site, or also of money ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : No. I should think it is mainly a question of site.

Maulvi Muhammad Yakub : If it is so difficult to find a suitable site in Delhi, why do not Government consider the question of transferring the Clearing House from Delhi to Lucknow ? (Laughter.)

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Which is so near to Moradabad !

Maulvi Muhammad Yakub : We will provide a suitable site there.

PROVISION OF A MUSEUM AND ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN IN NEW DELHI.

879. ***Mr. Siddheswar Prasad Sinha :** (a) Is it a fact that all important cities in India have got a museum, a zoological garden and public gardens ?

(b) What steps do Government propose to take to provide these things in New Delhi ? If not, why not ?

Sir Frank Noyce : (a) Most cities of importance in India possess public gardens, and some of them have a museum and zoological gardens as well.

(b) New Delhi already possesses public gardens. A small museum has already been established, and a project for the building of a larger museum is under consideration. There is no proposal at present for the establishment of a zoological garden.

The Revd. J. C. Chatterjee : Is this museum open to the public ?

Sir Frank Noyce : Yes.

An Honourable Member : May I know where it is located ?

The Revd. J. C. Chatterjee : Are any steps taken to popularize it ? So far as I know, no one in the city knows about it.

Mr. E. L. Price : May I ask a supplementary question ? Is not a museum rather superfluous when the whole city is a museum ? (Laughter.)

PROVISION OF A TRAMWAY FROM NEW DELHI TO DELHI CITY.

880. ***Mr. Siddheswar Prasad Sinha :** Will Government be pleased to state if the proposal to connect New Delhi by tramway with Delhi City has been dropped ? If not, how does the matter stand at present ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : No proposal to connect New Delhi by tramway with the Delhi City has been put before Government.

CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CASES AGAINST RESIDENTS INSTITUTED BY THE NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.

881. ***Mr. Siddheswar Prasad Sinha :** (a) Is it a fact that the New Delhi Municipal Committee institutes civil and criminal cases against residents without first serving any notice or giving them any opportunity to explain ?

(b) How many cases were instituted against the residents of New Delhi by the Municipal Committee during the last year, and how many of them were dismissed ?

Sir Frank Noyce : (a) No.

(b) The information asked for is not readily available. Only one register of cases is maintained which includes all cases whether against residents of New Delhi or against outsiders.

CONSTRUCTION OF MORE SHOPS IN NEW DELHI.

882. ***Mr. Siddheswar Prasad Sinha :** (a) Is it a fact that at the time of the last allotment of Municipal shops in New Delhi in September, 1928, 135 tenders (excluding the previous lease-holders) were received for the shops, and that out of them, only one succeeded in securing a shop and 134 had to go without any ?

(b) Is it a fact that the rent of the Diaz Square shops realised in 1927, was about Rs. 5,000 and in 1928, Rs. 10,000 ?

(c) Is it a fact that since the construction of the shops, their rental value has always been rising at the time of every change in the lease ?

(d) Do Government propose to construct more shops in New Delhi to meet the demand and to increase their revenue ? If not, why not ?

Sir Frank Noyce : (a) The total number of shops was 80 and the total number of tenders received (including those of the old tenants) was 214. All the old leasees were given the option of remaining on, with

the exception of one shopkeeper who had contravened the terms of his previous lease.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

(d) Government do not propose to construct more shops in New Delhi, but it is understood that the New Delhi Municipal Committee propose to do so as early as possible.

RESTRICTIONS ON THE SALE OF CERTAIN ARTICLES BY DIFFERENT CLASSES OF SHOPS IN NEW DELHI.

883. *Mr. Siddheswar Prasad Sinha : (a) Is it a fact that general merchandise shops in New Delhi are not permitted to sell *atta*, etc., in them which is meant for *bania* shops and that the latter are not allowed to sell tinned provisions, etc., which are meant for the former ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Diaz Square shops in New Delhi are classed as *bania* shops ?

(c) Is it a fact that the Diaz Square shops sell tinned provisions also ? If so, why ?

(d) Do Government propose either to remove the distinction or to enforce the restriction on *bania* shops also, just as they do in the case of general merchandise shops ?

Sir Frank Noyce : (a) No.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes. There is now no distinction and both general merchandise shops and *bania* shops can sell the same commodities if they so wish.

(d) Does not arise.

CONSTRUCTION OF UNORTHODOX QUARTERS FOR JUNIOR CLERKS IN SIMLA AND NEW DELHI.

884. *Mr. Siddheswar Prasad Sinha : Have Government under consideration the question of constructing unorthodox quarters for those employees of the Government of India in New Delhi and Simla, whose pay is less than Rs. 225 ? If so, how does the matter stand at present ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : 50 unorthodox quarters for clerks whose pay is less than Rs. 225 have just been commenced in Delhi. The Government of India are not at present considering the question of building more quarters for European clerks in Simla. The question regarding the construction of additional quarters for Indians is under consideration.

RESTRICTIONS ON THE SALE OF CERTAIN ARTICLES BY SOME SHOPS IN NEW DELHI.

885. *Mr. Siddheswar Prasad Sinha : (a) Is it a fact that, in the allotment of shops in New Delhi, a distinction is made between shops for *bania* stores and shops for general merchandise, etc. ?

(b) Is it a fact that the general merchandise shops can sell tinned butter, tinned cheese, Cocogem, etc., but are not allowed to sell pure ghee?

(c) Will Government please state why they impose this restriction in respect of ghee and not in respect of Cocogem?

(d) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of removing this restriction? If not, why not?

Sir Frank Noyce : (a) There is no distinction between the *bania* shops and the shops for general merchandise as regards the articles that may be sold.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

PUBLICATION OF THE BYE-LAWS OF THE NEW DELHI MUNICIPALITY.

886. ***Mr. Siddheswar Prasad Sinha :** (a) Is it a fact that the Delhi Municipality publishes its bye-laws in the form of a book for the information and guidance of its residents?

(b) Is it a fact that the New Delhi Municipality does not publish its bye-laws in a consolidated form? If not, why not?

Sir Frank Noyce : (a) Yes.

(b) The New Delhi bye-laws relating to building, drainage and water supply have been published in book form. It has not been thought worth while to bring out a complete edition of all the bye-laws in a consolidated form as any such edition would be out of date before it was published. It must be remembered that the New Delhi Municipal Committee is still in its infancy and that new bye-laws are continually being framed.

IMPOSITION OF A TERMINAL TAX ON GOODS ENTERING NEW DELHI.

887. ***Mr. Siddheswar Prasad Sinha :** (a) Is it a fact that the New Delhi Municipal Committee is considering the question of imposing a Terminal Tax on all goods entering its area? If so, when?

(b) Is it a fact that a double tax will be levied on goods that have to pass through Delhi city before entering New Delhi—one for Delhi city and one for New Delhi?

Sir Frank Noyce : (a) and (b). The position is that it is intended that the Civil Lines, Delhi City and New Delhi shall be considered as one unit for the purposes of collection of Terminal Tax. The necessary preliminaries are now under consideration.

SUPERSESSION OF CERTAIN CLERKS IN THE MEDAL SECTION OF THE ARMY DEPARTMENT.

888. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub :** (a) Is it a fact that Mr. W. C. Debenham, now Assistant Secretary, Army Department, on resuming charge as Officer-in-Charge, Medal Distribution, appointed the following persons as Assistants on Rs. 140 per mensem:

- (1) Mr. A. C. Swarries, a cousin of Mr. Debenham, then a routine clerk on Rs. 50 in the office of the Director General, Indian Medical Service.

(2) Mr. T. J. Baptist, nephew to Mr. P. P. Hypher, then Superintendent, Army Department.

(3) Mr. Moti Lal De, then Retired Cashier, Army Department.

(b) Is it a fact that Mr. H. S. Massih was senior to both Mr. Swarries and Baptist? If so, why were not his claims considered on making the appointments and why was a retired cashier given an appointment for the second time to the detriment of the interests of the persons already in service?

(c) Is it a fact that, after the revised establishment of the Medal Section of the Army Department was sanctioned, Mr. A. C. Swarries was promoted from Rs. 140 per mensem to Rs. 250 per mensem in supersession of (i) Mr. T. J. Baptist who was senior to him in service and grade, (ii) Mr. C. A. Roy Chowdhry, M.A., (iii) Mr. B. B. Sur, B.A., B.L., (iv) Mr. G. C. Banerjee, B.A., (v) Mr. J. N. Ghosh, B.A., and (vi) Mr. P. Nath, B.A.? If so, will Government please state the reason?

Mr. G. B. F. Tottenham : (a) The reply is in the affirmative.

(b) and (c). The Honourable Member is asking for information regarding decisions taken about 12 years ago and Government are not prepared after so long an interval to discuss the details of the action then taken. I can assure him, however, that all the appointments were made on the basis of the respective merits of the individuals concerned.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST MR. P. K. SETT OF THE MEDAL SECTION, ARMY DEPARTMENT.

889. *Maulvi Muhammad Yakub : (a) Is it a fact that a representation was made by the Muslim Association, Calcutta, in 1925, to the Army Secretary, in respect of injustice to and maltreatment of Mr. P. K. Sett, then Assistant-in-charge, Medal Section? Was an inquiry made into the matter? If not, why not?

(b) Is it also a fact that one Mr. Shyama Charan Chatterjee, an employee in the Medal Section, submitted a memorial to His Excellency the Viceroy, regarding the injustice to, and maltreatment of, the said Mr. P. K. Sett? Was that memorial forwarded to His Excellency the Viceroy or was any inquiry made into the complaints contained in the memorial? If not, why not?

Mr. G. B. F. Tottenham : (a) The Honourable Member appears to have been misinformed. I have been unable to trace any such representation.

(b) A lengthy memorial complaining of injustice and maltreatment by Mr. Sett—and not the injustice to, and maltreatment of Mr. Sett—was received and fully inquired into in 1925. The allegations made in it were found to be baseless.

DISCHARGE OF MR. A. K. GHOSE FROM THE MEDAL SECTION, ARMY DEPARTMENT.

890. *Maulvi Muhammad Yakub : Is it a fact that one Mr. A. K. Ghose, who had put in six years' service in the Medal Section, was discharged because he failed to pass the examination of the Public Service

Commission, held in 1926, while other employees much junior to Mr. Ghose, who had also failed in that examination, retained their posts ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : No, Sir. Mr. A. K. Ghose was discharged on reduction of establishment, because he had shown himself to be less efficient than those who were retained.

EMPLOYMENT OF UNPAID CANDIDATES IN THE MEDAL SECTION, ARMY DEPARTMENT.

891. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub :** (a) Can Government retain unpaid candidates in the Secretariat ? If so, under what rules ?

(b) Is it a fact that certain candidates were retained unpaid by the Medal Section of the Army Department in 1919-20 and were afterwards discharged without any remuneration ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given by the Honourable the Home Member to Mr. S. C. Mitra's starred question No. 216 on September 5th.

(b) Certain men were employed without pay in the Medal Section in Calcutta in 1919-20 under a misapprehension of the Officer-in-Charge and without authority, but they were not discharged without remuneration. As soon as the matter was reported, all of them were paid for the full period of their employment.

PRIVATE BUSINESS RUN BY MR. N. C. DAS, ASSISTANT-IN CHARGE, ARMY DEPARTMENT RECORDS, CALCUTTA.

892. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub :** (a) Are Government servants permitted to carry on private business or trade while in service ?

(b) Is it a fact that one Mr. N. C. Das, Assistant-in-Charge, Army Department records, Calcutta, has got a stationery shop and runs a hotel under bogus names ? Do Government propose to hold an inquiry into the matter and take necessary steps ? If not, why not ?

(c) Are there any rules permitting the grant of rewards in the form of cash to persons already in Government service ?

(d) Is it a fact that Mr. N. C. Das was awarded Rs. 500 as a reward in 1926 ? What were the special meritorious services for which this grant was made to him ?

(e) Does Mr. Das submit a report of his daily work as required in the case of other men of the Department ? If not, why not ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : (a) Not without the sanction of the competent authority.

(b) The Government of India have no information, but inquiries will be made. It would facilitate the inquiry if the Honourable Member would be so good as to supply me with the details of the information on which his question is based.

(c) Yes. Fundamental Rule 46.

(d) In 1928 (not 1926) Mr. Das was granted an honorarium of Rs. 500 for the continuous assistance he had given to the Mint in connection with the inscription of names and other details on medals from 1923

to 1926. The work was done in addition to his own duties, and made it necessary for him to work beyond office hours as well as on Sundays and holidays. The honorarium was given on account of the laborious rather than the meritorious nature of the work.

(e) No clerk in the Army Department is required to submit a report of his daily work.

EXEMPTION OF SENIOR CLERKS OF THE MEDAL SECTION FROM THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION EXAMINATION.

893. *Maulvi Muhammad Yakub : (a) Is it a fact that the Home Department exempted senior clerks of the Medal Section from the Public Service Commission examination ? If so, why was this concession not given effect to and why are these clerks forced to appear for the next departmental examination ?

(b) Is it a fact that certain clerks of the Medal Section of the Army Department have been allowed to appear for the Public Service Commission examination in different divisions while others have been refused this privilege ?

(c) Have all the retrenched clerks of the Medal Section and of the Army Canteen Board been granted permission to appear for the examination ? If not, why not ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : (a) No, Sir, the Home Department ruled that the clerks might remain in their existing appointments without examination, if the Army Department recommended such a course. The Army Department did not recommend this course, firstly because they were satisfied that justice would be done by giving the clerks special facilities to appear at a qualifying examination, and secondly because they did not wish to take on their permanent establishment several unqualified clerks who would be ineligible for employment in any other part of the office.

(b) Those clerks who are educationally qualified are being allowed to sit for the 1st and 2nd divisions, the remainder for the 3rd division.

(c) The only retrenched clerks of the Medal Section who are being allowed to appear at the qualifying examination are those who have been retrenched since the concession was sanctioned. As regards the retrenched clerks of the late Army Canteen Board, I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given by Mr. Mackworth Young to starred question No. 191 on the 14th February, 1928.

DISCRIMINATION SHOWN IN REGARD TO CERTAIN CLERKS IN THE MEDAL SECTION, ARMY DEPARTMENT.

894. *Maulvi Muhammad Yakub : Is it a fact that one Mr. M. L. Bhatnagar, routine clerk, Army Department, was exempted from the Public Service Commission examination and retained in service after having failed in the examination, while Mr. Habit Khan, who was in the service for the last ten years, was discharged, because he failed in the examination ? Why was this discrimination made between Mr. Bhatnagar and Mr. Habit Khan ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : The reply to the first part of the question is in the negative. As a result of the Staff Selection Board's examination held in 1922, Mr. M. L. Bhatnagar was declared qualified for employment as a routine clerk in the Army Department Secretariat. The other clerk referred to in the question failed three times in the examination, and was therefore declared unfit for permanent employment in any Department.

EXEMPTION FROM EXAMINATION OF CERTAIN CLERKS OF THE MEDAL SECTION, ARMY DEPARTMENT.

895. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub :** Do Government propose to exempt those clerks of the Medal Section who were appointed before the introduction of the Staff Selection Board from the Public Service Commission examination ? If not, why not ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : No, Sir, for the reasons given in my reply to question No. 893.

REDUCTION OF PAY OF CERTAIN CLERKS IN THE MEDAL SECTION, ARMY DEPARTMENT.

896. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the reasons why the pay of certain clerks of the Medal Section of the Army Department was substantially reduced when they were removed from Calcutta to Delhi without any fault on their part ?

(b) Is it not a fact that in their letter No. 99-C.S.R. of 1923, addressed to the Accountant General, Punjab, the Finance Department, intimated that the pay of the clerks who hold continuous temporary or permanent appointments could not, under any circumstances be reduced ? If so, why was the pay of the clerks in the Medal Section reduced ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : (a) Certain appointments in the Medal Section were converted from a temporary to a permanent basis with effect from the 24th September, 1926. The holders of the temporary appointments had not passed the Public Service Commission examination and consequently could not be confirmed in these permanent appointments. In consequence of their long connection with the Medal Section, they were, however, allowed to officiate in the permanent appointments with a view to confirmation if they passed the next examination. As they were only officiating, their pay had to be restricted to the rates prescribed by rule for that class.

(b) The Honourable Member probably refers to Finance Department letter No. 99-C.S.R. of 1926 (not 1923), which rules that a Government servant who, on the abolition of a temporary post held substantively by him, is appointed to another post, either temporary or permanent, is entitled to have his initial pay regulated with reference to the pay drawn in respect of the post which was abolished. This is not quite the same as the interpretation placed upon the letter by the Honourable Member.

EMPLOYMENT OF RETRENCHED CLERKS OF THE MEDAL SECTION, ARMY DEPARTMENT.

897. *Maulvi Muhammad Yakub : Do Government propose to employ the retrenched clerks of the Medal Section of the Army Department in preference to those who have been holding temporary appointments in the various Branches of the Army Headquarters since November, 1928 ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : Four of the retrenched clerks of the Medal Section are at present employed temporarily in various Branches of Army Headquarters. Applications from the others will be considered and dealt with on their merits, but the recent introduction of a leave reserve in all the main Branches of Army Headquarters has greatly reduced the chances of temporary employment in future.

NUMBER OF MUSSALMANS IN THE MEDAL SECTION OF THE ARMY DEPARTMENT.

898. *Maulvi Muhammad Yakub : (a) What was the total number of Mussalmans in the Medal Section of the Army Department and how many of them were retrenched ?

(b) What is the total number of clerks in the Medal Section of the Army Department and how many of them are the relations of P. K. Sett, Assistant in charge, Medal Section ?

(c) Is it not a fact that Messrs. R. R. Sett and S. C. Sett, relations of Mr. P. K. Sett, were retained in service while others who were senior to them were discharged under the retrenchment process ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : (a) When the Medal Section was at its greatest strength in 1923, there were four Mussalman clerks, three of whom have since been retrenched.

(b) The present strength of the Medal Section is 12, none of whom are relations of Mr. P. K. Sett.

(c) Yes, but not because of their relationship to Mr. P. K. Sett. Neither of them is now in the Medal Section.

PERCENTAGE OF HINDUS AND MUHAMMADANS EMPLOYED IN THE FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE.

899. *Maulvi Muhammad Yakub : (a) Is it a fact that the percentage of Hindu and Muhammadan employees in the Forest Research Institute is over 90 and below 10, respectively ?

(b) Will Government please state the qualifications of the present employees, both clerical and subordinate (technical) at the Institute ?

(c) Is it a fact that the majority of the subordinate technical staff possesses no qualifications while some have only read up to the middle standard ? If so, how do Government justify on grounds of efficiency the present disproportionate representation of minority communities ?

(d) Will Government please state if they propose to take some immediate and efficacious steps to set these matters right, and if so, what steps ?

(e) Will Government please state the number of clerical and subordinate technical appointments, both on the temporary and permanent

establishment, made in the Institute since 1928, and by whom they were filled ?

Sir Frank Noyce : (a) The percentages mentioned by the Honourable Member are roughly speaking correct in the case of the clerical and subordinate (technical) establishments of the Forest Research Institute. .

(b) and (c). A statement giving the information required by the Honourable Member is laid on the table of the House. It shows that 79, out of a total of 150 technical establishment posts, were held by men without academic qualification ; but all the men in question are thoroughly efficient manual workers, and have now been in Government service for many years.

(d) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given to part (d) of question No. 272 asked in this House on the 20th February, 1928.

(e) 44 appointments have been made to the clerical and subordinate technical establishments since 1928 ; of the persons appointed, 35 were Hindus, 6 were Muhammadans, 2 were Christians, and 1 was a Sikh.

The following table shows the qualifications of the technical and clerical establishment :

Examinations.	Hindus.	Muham- madans.	Christians.	Sikhs.	Total.
<i>I.—Technical Establishment.</i>					
Master of Science	6	..	..	..	6
Bachelor of Science	11	..	..	..	11
Bachelor of Arts	4	..	..	..	4
Intermediate of Science ..	8	..	..	..	8
Intermediate of Arts	4	..	..	..	4
Matriculation	6	2	..	..	8
Diploma of Agriculture ..	1	..	..	..	1
Electrical and Mechanical Engineering	1	..	..	..	1
Mechanical Engineering ..	1	..	..	..	1
School Leaving Examination	10	..	..	..	10
English Middle Examination	2	..	..	..	2
<i>Nil</i>	72	2	4	1	79
Matric and S. L. C.	2	1	..	..	3
Entrance	1	..	..	..	1
Vernacular Final Examina- tion	3	..	..	..	3
High School Examination ..	7	..	..	..	7
Diploma of Government Cen- tral Wood Workshop Insti- tute of Bareilly .. ..	..	1	..	..	1
Total ..	139	6	4	1	150

Examinations.	Hindus.	Muham- madans.	Christians.	Sikhs.	Total.
II.—Clerical Establishment.					
Bachelor of Arts	1	..	..	..	1
Matriculation	8	..	..	..	8
Matric and School Leaving Certificate	7	..	..	..	7
School Leaving Certificate ..	8	2	..	..	10
Entrance	6	..	1	..	7
English Middle Examination	3	..	..	..	3
Nā	6	2	..	..	8
Intermediate of Arts	1	..	..	..	1
Admission Examination ..	1	..	..	..	1
High School Examination ..	1	..	..	..	1
Total ..	42	4	1	..	47

CLERKS' QUARTERS IN NEW DELHI.

900. *Mr. S. C. Mitra : Will Government be pleased to state :

- what is the total number of each type of clerks' quarters in New Delhi, viz., A, B, C and D, at the disposal of the Estate Office on 1st September, 1929 ;
- the names of the offices (migratory or non-migratory) which are entitled to these quarters ;
- the total number of clerks in each of the offices (migratory or non-migratory) who are entitled to the ' A ', ' B ', ' C ' and ' D ' types of quarters for clerks in New Delhi ;
- how many quarters of each description the respective offices (migratory or non-migratory) are entitled to on the *pro rata* basis ;
- the total demand of the clerks' quarters for each type, office by office, both migratory and non-migratory, for the coming winter ; and
- how far has this demand been met by the Estate Office ?

• The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : Three statements giving the information required will be furnished to the Honourable Member.

GRANT OF A SEPARATION ALLOWANCE TO CLERKS NOT PROVIDED WITH QUARTERS IN NEW DELHI.

901. *Mr. S. C. Mitra : Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the clerks of the Government of India Secretariat who are required to move between Delhi and Simla are given a separation allowance if they are forced to keep their family away on account of their not being provided with Government quarters at Delhi ?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar : The reply is in the affirmative.

APPOINTMENT OF A LADY STENOGRAPHER TO THE ARMY SECRETARY.

902. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra :** (a) Is it a fact that a lady clerk is employed as stenographer to the Army Secretary ?

(b) When was this lady clerk appointed permanently as stenographer ?

(c) Has this lady clerk passed the stenographers' examination held by the Staff Selection Board or the Public Service Commission ?

(d) At the time when she was appointed stenographer, were there other duly qualified stenographers on the list of the Staff Selection Board or the Public Service Commission who were eligible for permanent employment ?

(e) Is it a fact that there are orders that no 1st or 2nd Division clerks or a stenographer should be appointed permanently in a Government of India Department unless he has passed the Staff Selection Board or the Public Service Commission examination ?

(f) If the reply to part (c) be in the negative, will Government please state the reasons why this unpassed lady clerk was appointed to a permanent post of stenographer in preference to other qualified candidates ?

(g) Were the Staff Selection Board or the Public Service Commission consulted before this appointment was made ? If not, will Government please state the reasons ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : (a) Yes.

(b) On 1st July, 1925.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Yes.

(e) Yes.

(f) and (g). Although the lady clerk in question had not passed the stenographer's examination, she was fully qualified for, and was holding, a permanent 1st division appointment in the Army Department Secretariat at the time of her appointment as stenographer. She was employed in this capacity under the orders of the Army Secretary of the time after satisfying him as to her qualifications. There is no record to show why the Staff Selection Board was not consulted, but I presume it must have been an oversight.

Maulvi Muhammad Yakub : In what manner were you satisfied with her qualifications ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : She satisfied the Army Secretary by taking down his notes very quickly and accurately.

APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANTS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA SECRETARIAT.

903. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of persons certified by the Public Service Commission as eligible

for appointment as assistants in the Government of India Secretariat, but who are employed, permanently or temporarily, in attached or subordinate offices ?

(b) Is it a fact that some of the Departments of the Government of India have in some cases obtained for some persons exemption from passing the Public Service Commission's test in making appointments of Assistants ?

(c) If the reply to part (b) is in the affirmative, do Government propose to consider the desirability of transferring qualified persons from the attached and subordinate offices to fill vacancies in the grade of assistants in the Government of India Secretariat in preference to those for whom exemption from passing the requisite examination may be granted or to those who may qualify themselves for these appointments in the future ?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar : (a) Of the candidates declared by the Public Service Commission qualified for the first division as a result of the 1926 examination, the only examination so far held by them, two are permanent and two are temporary assistants in attached offices.

(b) Yes.

(c) No. Only persons who are of exceptional merit or possess special qualifications for a particular class of work are exempted by the Public Service Commission from their examination.

APPOINTMENT PERMANENTLY OF CLERKS PROVISIONALLY APPOINTED IN ARMY HEADQUARTERS.

904. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra :** (a) Is it a fact that during 1928 and up to March 1929, permanent vacancies in the ministerial establishment of the Army Headquarters were filled up on a provisional basis pending the report of Mr. Macdonald ?

(b) Is it a fact that the making of these provisional arrangements in respect of both the new appointments and promotions was stopped in April 1929, even in those cases where vacancies had existed from dates prior to March 1929, but had not been filled on the due dates ?

(c) Is it a fact that in August last orders were issued that all provisionally permanent men [*vide* part (a) above] should be made substantively permanent and be considered supernumerary to the revised strength of the Branch concerned, if necessary ?

(d) In view of parts (a), (b) and (c) do Government propose to consider the desirability of filling up all such vacancies as occurred before 1st April, 1929 (or the last date in March on which provisional arrangements, which have since been allowed to be made permanent, were sanctioned), on a permanent basis, the incumbents thereof being considered supernumerary, if necessary ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : (a), (b) and (c). The facts stated are substantially correct.

(d) The matter is under consideration.

TIFFIN ROOM IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, SIMLA.

905. *Mr. S. C. Mitra : (a) Is it a fact that the tiffin room intended for the use of Christians employed in the Government of India Press, Simla, has been utilised as a mosque by the Assistant Manager and the Head Clerk, and great discontent prevails among the Christian employees on this account ?

(b) If the answer to part (a) is in affirmative, do Government propose to issue instructions to the Manager to take immediate steps to make the room available for the use of the Christian employees ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : It has been ascertained that there were originally four tiffin rooms in the Government of India Press, Simla, but that, by mutual arrangement, two of these were made into a prayer room leaving two tiffin rooms, one for the joint use of Muhammadans and Christians and one for Hindus. No discontent has ever been expressed by the Christian employees on this account.

OFFICE HOURS DURING THE WINTER OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, SIMLA.

906. *Mr. S. C. Mitra : (a) Are Government aware that the working hours of the Offices of the Government of India at Simla are from 10-30 A.M., to 4 P.M., during the winter months, but in the case of the employees in the Government of India Press, Simla, the hours of attendance are fixed from 9 A.M. to 6 P.M. ?

(b) If the answer to part (a) is in affirmative, do Government propose to take into consideration the trouble and the inconvenience experienced by the poor employees during the winter months and make a reduction in the number of hours as a special case ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : (a) and (b). I believe that the office hours are generally as stated by the Honourable Member ; and the hours of work of the industrial hands of the Government of India Press, Simla, on week days, excepting Saturdays, are also as stated. Government do not propose to make any reduction in them at present.

FILLING PERMANENT AND OFFICIATING APPOINTMENTS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, SIMLA.

907. *Mr. S. C. Mitra : (a) Is it a fact that, at the time of filling up the vacant posts and making officiating arrangements in leave vacancies, no consideration is given to the attendance, conduct, pay and service, etc., and that a number of senior claimants have been superseded by junior hands in the Printing and Office clerical staff in the Government of India Press, Simla, during the last three years ?

(b) Do Government propose to make a full inquiry into the matter and issue instructions to the Manager, Government of India Press, Simla, to maintain a proper list arranged in order of seniority for the purpose of making permanent or officiating appointments in future ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : (a) and (b). Government have no information. If the Honourable Member will bring to my

personal notice any specific case or cases, I shall be glad to inquire into the matter.

APPOINTMENT OF MEN UNDER TRAINING IN PRINTING IN ENGLAND.

908. *Mr. S. C. Mitra : Will Government be pleased to state as to how many men now under training in England in the printing line are likely to return to India after the completion of their studies and to which presses of the Government of India they are proposed to be allotted and on what appointments ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : Altogether four State scholarships have been awarded by the Government of India for training in England for the study of printing and allied arts. One of the scholars has recently returned to India, and a proposal to appoint him to a suitable post in one of the Government of India Presses is under consideration. The other three will also doubtless return to India at the end of their training, but it is too early to consider what particular appointments, if any, should be offered to them.

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF EMPLOYEES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, SIMLA.

909. *Mr. S. C. Mitra : (a) Is it a fact that a Sub-Assistant Surgeon is supposed to call at the Press thrice a week to attend on and report the general health of each and every employee of the Government of India Press, Simla, for which he receives an extra allowance from Government ?

(b) If the answer to part (a) is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to furnish a copy of the Inspection Report of each individual ? If no such record has been kept, do Government propose to ask the Manager to explain the reason ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : (a) With a view to afford medical facilities to such employees of the Simla Press as are in need of medical aid, Government have arranged that a Sub-Assistant Surgeon should visit the Press on alternate days. The doctor is not required to attend and report on the general health of each and every employee of the Press.

(b) Does not arise.

PROVISION OF QUARTERS OR ALLOWANCES TO EMPLOYEES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, SIMLA.

910. *Mr. S. C. Mitra : (a) Are Government aware that the present building of the Government of India Press, Simla, is situated at a distance of two miles from the city, on account of which great inconvenience is experienced by the employees, more particularly during the rains and snow and on occasions when they are required to work till late in the night ?

(b) If the answer to part (a) is in the affirmative, do Government propose to consider the advisability of :

- (1) constructing quarters, as in the case of the employees of the Delhi Press, somewhere near the Press building,

- (2) allotting to them the quarters previously occupied by the employees of the Foreign and Political Press, Simla, for so long as the construction is not completed, and
- (3) allowing house-rent allowance and conveyance charge if quarters cannot be provided ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : (a) Government are aware that some inconvenience is caused to the employees by reason of the fact that the Press is situated at some distance from the town.

(b) (1) and (3) Not at present.

(b) (2) No.

COMPARATIVE COST OF MECHANICAL AND HAND COMPOSITION AND SCALE OF CHARGES FOR THE FORMER.

911. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra :** (a) Is it a fact that the present system of mechanical composition by means of linotype and monotype machines is much more expensive than the old system of hand composition ? If not will Government be pleased to furnish a statement showing the cost per page by hand composition during the financial year 1915 to 1920, and by Linotype and Monotype machines separately, for the financial years 1922 to 1927, in the Government of India Presses at Simla, Calcutta, Delhi and Aligarh ?

(b) Is it a fact that the cost of the mechanical composition on linotype and monotype machines is charged at the rates of hand composition which has no comparison with the mechanical composition and thus the figures given by the Simla Press in the Annual Reports cannot be taken as accurate ? Will Government be pleased to state what procedure is adopted in all the other Presses of the Government of India for charging the mechanical composition on linotype and monotype machines and under what scale, as the rates given in the Printing Office Hand Book are only for hand composition and cannot possibly be applied to mechanical composition ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : (a) and (b). Inquiries are being made and the results will be communicated to the Honourable Member in due course.

PROMOTION OF ASSISTANT SECTION HOLDERS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESSES.

912. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that, after the Report of the Piece Workers Enquiry Committee, 1922, presided over by the late Sir Vithaldas D. Thackersey, orders were passed by Government to the effect that vacancies of section-holders in the Government of India Presses would be filled alternately from compositors and assistant section-holders ?

(b) Is it a fact that at present in the Delhi Press one operator and two compositors are officiating as section-holders ? If so, why has no chance been given to assistant section-holders who are entitled to alternate vacancies under the orders of Government ?

(c) Is it a fact that the assistant section-holders before accepting their present appointments in the Rs. 40—4—80 scale held posts of compositors on class pay of Rs. 60—65 and Rs. 80—85 and they were made to start from Rs. 40 per mensem ?

(d) Is it a fact that assistant section-holders accepted low pay after great sacrifice to better their prospects held out to them by Government ? If so, what steps do Government propose to take to safeguard the rights of the present incumbents ?

(e) Has there been any change in the Government orders referred to above ? If not, do Government propose to inquire why the Manager of the Delhi Press has not carried out the orders of Government ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : (a), (b) and (e). According to the orders of Government, vacancies in the grade of section-holders are to be filled alternately from assistant section-holders and duly qualified senior compositors. It has, however, been brought to the notice of Government that it is not always practicable to adhere strictly to these orders, and the question whether these orders require any modification is engaging the attention of the Controller of Printing and Stationery.

(c) and (d). Government have no information, but they are inquiring into the matter.

WORKS COMMITTEE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, DELHI.

913. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that elections to the Works Committee in the Delhi Press are not held according to rules ?

(b) Is it a fact that sufficient notice is not given to the workers to elect their representatives ?

(c) Is it a fact that in the last election intimation that an election would be held was given to the workers only a few minutes before the election ?

(d) Is it a fact that a wrong date was printed in the notice ?

(e) Is it a fact that other irregularities are committed ? Do Government propose to inquire and state the reason for these irregularities ?

(f) Is it a fact that authority to inflict punishment has been delegated by the Manager to the members of the Works Committee ? If so, is it a fact that a large number of men have been punished ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : An inquiry is being made, and the result will be communicated to the Honourable Member in due course.

DISTRIBUTION OF WORK BY SECTION-HOLDERS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, DELHI.

14. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra :** (a) Are Government aware that favouritism and petty oppression is practised by the section-holders in the Delhi Press in the distribution of work to piece-workers ?

(b) Are Government aware that serious discontent prevails amongst the piece-workers on account of unfair distribution of work by section-holders ?

(c) Is it a fact that a large number of compositors have made repeated representations to the Manager of the Press against the unfair distribution of work by section-holders, but no action has been taken by him against the section-holders concerned ?

(d) Is it a fact that the Piece-workers' Enquiry Committee, 1922, brought this matter of unfair distribution prominently to the notice of Government ? If so, is it a fact that strict orders were passed by Government to prevent favouritism and petty oppression by Foremen and section-holders ?

(e) Is it a fact that the piece-work system, except in the case of the favoured few, causes extreme trouble and allows starvation wages only owing to unfair distribution of work ? If so, do Government propose to abolish the system and introduce fixed pay for compositors, distributors, impositors and pressmen in the Government of India Press, Delhi ?

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

(b) Government are not aware of any such discontent.

(c) Government have no information.

(d) The answer to both parts of this question is in the affirmative.

(e) The reply to the first part of the question is in the negative. The second part of the question does not arise.

SUPERSESSION OF CLERKS IN THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE.

915. ***Mr. Abdul Qadir Siddiqi :** (a) Is it a fact that some clerks were newly appointed in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office on a pay higher than that of the men who were already in service in the office ? If so, why ?

(b) Is seniority in this branch of service determined by the pay of the official or the period of service ? If the former, why are the claims of the old servants overlooked ?

Mr. P. B. Rau : (a) The pay of the new recruits in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office is fixed under the rules of recruitment of subordinate establishment in the Railway Accounts Department approved by the Standing Finance Committee for Railways. A copy of these rules is available in the Library of the House. Under these rules, candidates who obtain more than a fixed percentage of marks in the competitive examination get a higher starting salary.

(b) The question of determining the seniority of the staff of the Railway Clearing Accounts Office is still under the consideration of the Committee which has been appointed for the purpose.

GRIEVANCES OF EMPLOYEES IN THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE.

916. ***Mr. Abdul Qadir Siddiqi :** (a) Is it a fact that one Mr. Smith has been placed on special duty to inquire into the grievances of the men serving in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office and to prepare a seniority list ?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government please state why the men have been asked to appear before Rai Bahadur Fakeerchand in that connection ?

(c) Did some men of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway object to submitting their grievances in the presence of Rai Bahadur Fakeerchand ? If so, what was the reply to their objection ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a) No.

(b) I understand no men have been asked to appear before the officer named.

(c) The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative and the second part does not arise.

CIRCULATION OF OFFICE ORDERS IN THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE.

917. ***Mr. Abdul Qadir Siddiqi :** Is it a fact that in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office, office orders are circulated only to the sub-heads and not to the clerks who are generally affected by them ? Do Government propose to inquire and remove this complaint ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : I understand the circulation of Office Orders referred to by the Honourable Member is not limited to sub-heads.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : With your permission, Sir, I shall put the questions standing in the name of Mr. B. Das.

EXTENSION OF CONTRACTS OF COMPANY-MANAGED RAILWAYS.

918. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy** (on behalf of Mr. B. Das) : (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether any of the Company-managed railways have had their terminations of the contract, and the provisions to come into effect thereon, renewed and revised ?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to name these railways and specifically mention in each case the period of extension of termination in each case ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : (a) Yes.

(b) A statement giving the information in regard to the five State-owned Company-managed railways is laid on the table.

Statement showing periods of extension of terms of contract already granted to the State-owned Company-managed Railways.

Name of Railway.	Period of extension of term of Contract.
Assam Bengal	10 years (from 31st December 1921 to 31st December 1931).
Bengal Nagpur	37 years (from 31st December 1913 to 31st December 1950).
Bombay, Baroda and Central India ..	11 years (from 31st December 1930 to 31st December 1941).
Madras and Southern Mahratta ..	30½ years (from 30th June 1907 to 31st December 1937).
South Indian	35 years (from 31st December 1910 to 31st December 1945).

PENAL PROVISIONS AND THE CONTRACT WITH THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY.

919. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy** (on behalf of Mr. B. Das) : (a) Is it a fact that in paragraph 89 of the original Contract of the Bengal Nagpur Railway (main contract dated the 9th March, 1887), the following penal provision occurred :

“ The Secretary of State may also, if default be made by the Company in duly paying any sum or sums payable by the Company under the 36th or 38th section of this Contract or in the construction and completion in conformity with this Contract or in the construction and completion in conformity with this Contract of any part of the undertaking or any of the Stations or other works thereof or in due equipment pursuant to this Contract of the undertaking or any part thereof with rolling stock machinery or plant or in case there shall be any breach on the part of the Company (whether by act, omission or default) of any of the stipulations or provisions of this Contract or in case the undertaking or any part thereof at any time in the opinion of the Secretary of State be in course of gross mismanagement by the Company or be worked at a loss as shewn by the revenue account and have been so worked for not less than three half-years continuously down to the time at which the Secretary of State shall give to the Company the stipulated notice of termination under this present power terminate this Contract by giving to the Company in England six calendar months' previous notice in writing of the termination of this Contract.”

(b) Will Government be pleased to state what were the reasons that led the Secretary of State in 1912 to cancel this penal provision for terminating the Contract by six calendar months' notice for gross mismanagement (Contract dated the 5th November, 1912—No. 7, page 58) ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : (a) Yes.

(b) There is nothing on record showing the reasons for the change.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : Do I take it that the Government of India were not consulted before this change was made ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : They were not consulted about this particular change.

REMOVAL OF THE PENAL CLAUSE FROM THE CONTRACT OF THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY.

920. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy** (on behalf of Mr. B. Das) : (a) Will Government be pleased to state if the Government of India in 1911-12 advised the Secretary of State to remove the penal clause from the Contract of the Bengal Nagpur Railway ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the opinion held by the then Railway Board (1910-12) on this point ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table all correspondence that passed between the Railway Board (Government of India) and the Secretary of State at the time ?

(d) Was the Finance Member of the Government of India during 1910-12 consulted on the removal of this penal clause and if so, will Government be pleased to state his opinion on the subject ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : (a) No.

(b) The question was not before the Railway Board and consequently no opinion could be expressed by them.

(c) & (d). This point was not a subject of discussion between the Secretary of State and the Government of India.

CONTRACT WITH THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY.

921. **Mr. K. C. Neogy** (on behalf of Mr. B. Das) : (a) Is it a fact that under the Contract of 1887 the Bengal Nagpur Railway system could have been acquired by Government in 1913 or every succeeding tenth year by giving to the Company a notice of 12 calendar months ?

(b) Is it a fact that the revised Contract of 5th November of 1912 which deleted the passage on penal acquisition specified that the Contract with the Bengal Nagpur Railway can be terminated in 1950 or every fifth year thereafter on a notice of 12 calendar months ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the comprehensive grounds that led them to hand over unconditionally the management of this Company-managed railway system for another 38 years ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : (a) & (b). Yes.

(c) It was apparently considered at the time that it was desirable in the interests of the State to continue the existing system of management on terms less favourable to the Company. Among the terms was the reduction of the guaranteed interest from 4 to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and of the share of the surplus profits of the Company from $\frac{1}{4}$ to the proportion their capital bore to the Secretary of State's capital. These were taken as £3 million and as £15½ million, respectively, on the 31st December, 1910.

Mr. E. L. Price : Is it not a fact that the more railways already in being you buy up, the fewer new railways you can build ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : I think I must ask for notice of that question.

PENAL PROVISIONS IN CONTRACTS WITH COMPANY-MANAGED RAILWAYS.

922. **Mr. K. C. Neogy** (on behalf of Mr. B. Das) : (a) Will Government be pleased to state if there were penal provisions in the original contracts of other Company-managed railways, e.g., the Bombay, Baroda and Central India, the Madras and Southern Mahratta and the South Indian Railways whereby the Contract of management could be terminated by six months' notice for gross mismanagement as in the main Contract of the Bengal Nagpur Railway in 1887 ?

(b) How many such penal provisions still operate and how many have been deleted as was done in the case of the Bengal Nagpur Railway ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the reasons that led them to make these alterations in the main contracts ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : There was no penal clause in the original contract of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, but there were such clauses in the contracts of the Assam Bengal, Madras and Southern Mahratta and South Indian Railways. The penal clause in the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway contract was deleted in a supplemental contract, dated the 26th June, 1908. The correspondence relating to this supplemental contract does not throw any light on the reasons that led to the deletion of the penal clause.

DIRECTORS OF THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY.

923. **Mr. K. C. Neogy** (on behalf of Mr. B. Das) : (a) Will Government be pleased to state if the present Managing Director of the Bengal Nagpur Railway was a former Member of the Railway Board ?

(b) How many former Members of the Railway Board have so far served as Directors on the Bengal Nagpur Railway and what are their names ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : (a) Yes.

(b) Two. Sir T. R. Wynne and Sir Ernest Bell.

Mr. M. S. Aney : Was the Managing Director of the Bengal Nagpur Railway a member of the Railway Board during the time when this alteration in the contract was brought about ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : I could not answer that without notice, I am afraid.

ACCEPTANCE OF DIRECTORSHIPS OF COMPANIES BY RETIRED HIGH OFFICIALS.

924. **Mr. K. O. Neogy** (on behalf of Mr. B. Das) : (a) Will Government be pleased to state if retired high officials—such as Governors of Provinces and Members of the Railway Board—are permitted to be Directors of companies working in India ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to make a statement on the principles that are laid down by the Secretary of State for India and the Government of India to guide high officials of State in this matter ?

(c) Is it a fact that a few years ago Sir Reginald Craddock, a former Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces, was working as a Director of a few manganese companies in the Central Provinces that were taken over from the Germans during the War ?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar : (a) and (b). I would refer the Honourable Member to the Home Department Resolution No. 1140, dated the 21st April, 1920, published in Part I of the Gazette of India of 24th April, 1920.

(c) Yes.

LOSS ON PIG IRON ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

925. ***Pandit Nilakantha Das :** With reference to para. 115 (page 60) of the Report of the Accountant General, Railways, on the Railway Appropriation Account, will Government please state whether the difference of Rs. 50 per ton on 34,000 tons of pig-iron was borne by the East Indian Railway Company or by Government ? If it was borne by Government, why ?

Mr. P. B. Rau : Before the termination of the contract with the East Indian Railway Company, an investigation into the stores balances of that Railway was undertaken, and it was proposed by Government that the book value of stores found surplus to current requirements, among which the pig iron referred to by the Honourable Member was included, should be written down to current market rate by a charge to revenue before the termination of the contract. The Company demurred to this proposal, basing their objection on a different interpretation of the relevant clause of the contract, and it was clear that the dispute would have to be referred to arbitration. Under the contract the share of the surplus profits accruing to the Company was only $\frac{1}{100}$, and even if the proposal had been accepted, and the difference debited to the revenues

of the undertaking, the difference in the Company's surplus profits would have been negligible—about Rs. 12,000. The sum at stake being so very small, and no time remaining for arbitration proceedings in view of the imminent winding up of the Company, Government decided not to press their claim on the point.

COST OF CAST-IRON SLEEPERS MANUFACTURED AT JAMALPUR.

926. *Pandit Nilakantha Das : (a) What is the manufacturing cost of cast-iron sleepers made at Jamalpur ? Is it Rs. 55-7-4 per ton, excluding the cost of pig iron ? If not, what is it ? How does it compare with the market price ?

(b) Are the sleepers manufactured by the Railway at the Jamalpur Workshop inspected by the Indian Stores Department ? If not, why not ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a) The manufacturing cost of cast-iron sleepers at Jamalpur in 1928 was reported to be about Rs. 17-12-0 per ton, excluding the cost of pig and scrap iron. The total cost, including materials, was about Rs. 79-8-0 per ton. This is somewhat above the present market price, on account of the price charged by firms for pig iron.

(b) No. As the Jamalpur shops are under the control of the East Indian Railway Administration, it has not been considered necessary to have such an inspection.

SALE OF WROUGHT IRON AND STEEL SCRAP ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

927. *Pandit Nilakantha Das : (a) Is it a fact that Mr. Bailey, the Controller of Stores, North Western Railway, sold 11,000 tons of wrought iron and steel scrap at Rs. 6-11-0 per ton last year ?

(b) Is it a fact that this price of Rs. 6-11-0 per ton was about one-fourth of the market price ?

(c) Is it a fact that the quantity of 11,000 tons was not in stock at the time when the sale was made, and the Railway delivered the materials long after the sale was made ?

(d) Is it a fact that the man in whose name the sale was made was not the man who took delivery, but some other firm paid for and took delivery of the materials ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : (a) 10,000 tons of heavy iron and steel scrap was sold in 1928, at Rs. 5-11-0 per ton f.o.r. Lahore. This scrap consisted of large pieces, such as boilers and underframes, which would have to be cut up by the user at heavy expense. The scrap was sold by tender and the highest offer was accepted. Ten offers were received.

(b) No. The highest tender was accepted.

(c) It was estimated that approximately 11,000 tons were available, but on delivery being made by weighment, the quantity delivered was 10,000 tons. Delivery took several months to effect. The conditions of tender stated that the quantity 11,000 tons was approximate.

(d) No.

CONTRACT FOR RAILS WITH THE TATA IRON AND STEEL COMPANY.

928. ***Pandit Nilakantha Das :** (a) On continuation of my starred question No. 362, this Session, will Government be pleased to state when the contract with the Tata Iron and Steel Company, Ltd., for rails was made ?

(b) What are the minimum and maximum quantities ?

(c) Will Government please supply a copy of the contract ?

(d) What was the price of rails which Government were paying to foreign manufacturers at the time when the contract was made with Tatas for rails ?

(e) What was the price paid by Company-managed railways for the same at that time ?

(f) Have Government ever purchased rails at Rs. 110 per ton or under from foreign countries before or after the contract made with Tatas ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : (a) to (c). A copy of the contract, which gives all the information required by the Honourable Member, is laid on the table.

(d) & (e). Before the contract with the Tata Iron and Steel Company was made, the orders for rails purchased abroad were placed by each Railway Administration separately, and not by the Railway Board. The information asked for is not therefore on record in the Railway Board's office. But my Honourable friend will find full information as to the prices paid by the Railway Administrations for imported rails during the years 1921-22 to 1925-26 on pages 101 to 124 of Volume V of the Evidence recorded by the Tariff Board in the course of the statutory inquiry into the steel industry in 1926. The Tariff Board came to the conclusions, after considering not only the prices for rails then ruling, but also the probable trend of prices in the next few years, that for the purpose of estimating the protection required by the Indian steel industry, the landed prices, without duty, of imported rails, should be taken on Rs. 105 a ton. With the addition of the ordinary 10 per cent. duty, this would mean a price of Rs. 115 a ton.

(f) Not since the War so far as I am aware.

One Rupee Stamp Paper.

THIS INDENTURE made the sixteenth day of October one thousand nine hundred and twenty-eight BETWEEN THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA IN COUNCIL (which expression shall be taken to mean and include the said Secretary of State for India in Council and his successors in office and assigns) of the one part and THE TATA IRON AND STEEL COMPANY, LIMITED, a Company duly registered under the Indian Companies' Act, 1882, and having its Registered Office at Bombay House, 24, Bruce Street, Fort, Bombay, hereinafter called "the Company" which expression shall be taken to mean and include the said Tata Iron and Steel Company, Limited,—their representatives and permitted assigns except where the context requires another or different meaning of the other part : WHEREBY it is agreed as follows :—

1. The Company shall for a period of seven years commencing from the First Day of April one thousand nine hundred and twenty seven supply to the Railway Board of the Government of India (hereinafter called the Board), upon the terms and subject to the conditions hereinafter contained, rails and fishplates rolled at the Steel Works of the Company at Jamshedpur in India and of such sections not being lighter than 50 lbs. nor heavier than 100 lbs. per yard as may from time to time be required by

the Board. The quantity of fishplates to be supplied shall not exceed the full quantity necessary for use with the rails supplied, namely, one pair of fishplates for each rail, plus an additional 5 per cent. of such full quantity.

2. Subject to *Force Majeure* as hereinafter defined the Company shall supply to the Board in each Government financial year during the continuance of this agreement such rails and fishplates as the Board shall require them to supply up to a maximum of 200,000 tons of rails with fishplates in the proportion as specified in clause 1 thereof.

3. The Board shall purchase from the Company during the continuance of this agreement not less than 90 per cent. of the total requirements of the railways mentioned in the Schedule hereto of rails and fishplates in each Government financial year, subject to clause 7 hereof, and subject to the maximum mentioned in clause 2 hereof.

4. The Board shall notify to the Company not less than 4 months before the beginning of each Government financial year, during the continuance of this agreement, the estimated requirements of rails and the corresponding fishplates in the proportion specified in clause 1 during such financial year.

5. The Board shall make monthly indent on the Company for their actual requirements giving at least three months' notice of each month's requirements. Such indents shall be limited to not more than 1/10th or less than 1/14th of the annual requirements.

6. If on account of *Force Majeure* the Company is unable in any month or year to deliver the quantity required, the Company shall give notice in writing to the Board as soon as possible, specifying the quantity which the Company will be unable to deliver and the Board shall thereupon have the option of ordering elsewhere such quantity as the Company is unable to deliver as aforesaid or of granting to the Company an extension of the time to deliver such quantity.

7. If for any reason other than those mentioned in clause 18 hereof, the Company shall fail to deliver in any month the quantity of rails or fishplates in accordance with the provisions of clause 5 hereof, then and in any such case, the Board shall be at liberty to purchase from other sources and at the risk and on the account of the Company rails or fishplates equivalent to such quantity which may be short delivered and the Company shall pay to the Board the difference between the price payable hereunder and the price paid by the Board after making due allowance for any variation in the cost of transport arising by reason of the fact that such rails or fishplates will not have been delivered free on rail at Tatanagar.

8. Such quantity of rails and fishplates as the Board may order from elsewhere under the provisions of clause 7 shall *pro tanto* reduce the maximum tonnage deliverable under this agreement unless the agreement is terminated on account of default, when no further supplies will be taken from the Company.

9. All rails and fishplates shall be delivered by the Company to the Board free on rail at Tatanagar.

10. Subject to the provisions of clause 14 hereof the Board shall pay the Company for the rails and fishplates duly passed, accepted and delivered free on rails at Tatanagar, at the following rates per ton :—

Rs. A. P.

1. (a) For all rails less than 40 feet in length and (b) for rails of 40 feet length up to a tonnage in any year not in excess of 20 per cent. of the total tonnage ordered during the year ...	110	0	0
2. (b) For rails of 40 feet length in excess of 20 per cent. of the total tonnage ordered during any year, and			
(b) For all rails exceeding 40 feet but not exceeding 45 feet in length	112	8	0
3. For fishplates	143	0	0

11. All rails and fishplates supplied under this agreement shall be manufactured and supplied in all respects in strict accordance with the Board's specifications for steel rails and fishplates for State-worked lines hereunto annexed subject to such modifications in the said specifications as may be introduced during the period of this agreement by the mutual consent of the parties hereto.

The said rails and fishplates shall be marked with the initials of the Company, the month and year in which they are rolled and the section of rails. Each rail

and fishplate shall be marked with the number of the cast from which it is produced.

12. The process of manufacture shall be either that known as the Basic Open Hearth or the Duplex Basic Open Hearth. The rails shall be not less than 50 lbs. nor more than 100 lbs. per yard and shall be supplied in standard lengths varying from 36 feet and upwards not exceeding 45 feet, but the Company shall be at liberty to supply 10 per cent. of rails shorter than these standards lengths by length which shall be multiples of 3 feet subject to no rails being shorter than 27 feet.

13. All rails and fishplates shall prior to delivery on rail trucks be inspected and passed by the Government Metallurgical Inspector at Jamshedpur or any other Inspector appointed by him in accordance with the provisions of the specifications hereunto annexed. The Company shall provide free of charge all tools and labour required by the said Inspector for the inspection of the said rails and fishplates, but subject as aforesaid the charges of the said Inspector for the inspection and passing of the rails and fishplates shall be borne by the Board.

14. Notwithstanding anything contained in this agreement it is hereby expressly agreed that provided the terms and conditions of supply offered by the Company (in the opinion of the Board whose decision shall be final) are as good as those obtainable elsewhere and the Company have not made any default under this agreement the Board shall during the continuance of this agreement give the option to the Company for the supply during the period of this agreement of their requirements of rails and fishplates of the specifications detailed in clause 11 hereof for the Railways specified in the Schedule hereto over and above the 90 per cent. of their actual requirements specified in clause 3 hereof. In the event of any such additional rails and fishplates being purchased as aforesaid the provisions of this agreement so far as the same are applicable (and have not been varied by the terms and conditions of supply offered by the Company as aforesaid) shall apply to the supply of such rails and fishplates.

15. Orders from the Board for rails and fishplates shall receive priority over all orders received by the Company from its other customers for rails and fishplates.

16. The Board shall pay to the Company 90 per cent. of the invoice value of rails and fishplates supplied and passed under this agreement against delivery of railway receipts and the balance of 10 per cent. within one month after receipt of the material at the destination specified by the Board.

17. The Company shall not be liable to for any shortage, loss or damage which may be incurred during the transit of the said rails and fishplates, it being expressly agreed that the responsibility of the Company shall cease on its delivering in rail trucks at Tatanagar the said rails and fishplates in good condition after being passed as aforesaid and the weight given in the Company's invoice shall be conclusive evidence of the amount delivered if it does not vary by more than 1 per cent. from the weight shown in the relative Railway Receipt.

18. If by reason of any strike, lockout, failure on the part of any Railway Company to supply sufficient wagons to carry essential raw materials to and finished products from the works, fire, breakdown or accident to machinery (not due to the Company's neglect), riots, war, insurrection or restraints imposed by Government, Act of Legislature or other authority or by reason of any other cause of whatsoever nature beyond the control of the Company (all of which were heretofore referred to as *Force Majeure*) the Company shall be unable to deliver to the Board its requirements, either wholly or in part, the Board shall be entitled to proceed under clause 6 hereof, but shall have no claim against the Company in damages or otherwise by reason of such non-delivery.

19. If by reason of the failure of the Company to supply any rails under this contract for a period of not less than four consecutive months it shall become evident to the Board that the Company will be unable satisfactorily to fulfil its obligations during the remaining period of the contract, whether the inability be due to insolvency of the Company or to arrangements with its creditors, not being in respect of shares or debentures, or to the winding up of the Company not merely for the purpose of reconstruction or to any other cause, the Board shall be entitled to terminate the agreement and recover on demand any loss suffered in consequence from the Company provided that failure due to *Force Majeure* shall not be regarded as failure for the purposes of this clause.

20. The Company shall not assign or sublet all or any part of this contract without the written sanction of the Board.

21. Any dispute between the parties to this agreement regarding either the interpretation of the agreement or any dispute arising in connection with this agreement, the settlement of which is not hereinbefore provided for, shall be submitted to the arbitration of two persons, one to be appointed by each party and arbitration proceedings shall be conducted according to the provisions of the Indian Arbitration Act, 1899.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF P. H. Maflin being the Secretary to the Railway Board on behalf of His Excellency the Governor-General-in-Council acting in the premises for and on behalf of the Secretary of State for India in Council has hereunto set his hand and seal and The Tata Iron and Steel Company, Limited, have hereunto caused their common seal to be affixed the day and year first above written.

SIGNED SEALED AND DELIVERED
by the abovesigned Secretary to the Railway
Board in the presence of

(Sd.) P. H. MAFLIN,

16-10-28.

(Sd.) CHAMBA RAM,
Assistant, Railway Board's Office,

16-10-28.

THE COMMON SEAL OF THE
TATA IRON AND STEEL COM-
PANY, LIMITED, was hereunto
affixed pursuant to a Resolution of
the Board of Directors of the Com-
pany passed at a Meeting of the
Directors held on the seventh day of
August, 1928 in the presence of



(Sd.) J. D. GHANDY,

Directors.

(Sd.) LALUBHAI
SAMALDAS,

of
The Tata Iron
and
Steel Company
Limited.

TATA SONS, LIMITED, Agents,
By their Constituted Attorney,
(Sd.) R. MATHER.

SCHEDULE.

Names of Railways referred to in clause 3 of the Contract.

North Western Railway.
Great Indian Peninsula Railway.
East Indian Railway.
Eastern Bengal Railway.
Bengal Nagpur Railway.
Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway.
Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway.
South Indian Railway.
Burma Railways.
Assam Bengal Railway.
Bengal and North Western Railway.
Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway.
Jodhpur Railway.

(Sd.) R. MATHER.

CAST STEEL CROSSINGS.

929. *Pandit Nilakantha Das : (a) In continuation of my starred question No. 363 of this Session, will Government be pleased to state why the use of cast steel crossings has been given up in India ?

(b) Will Government please furnish a copy of the specification for cast steel crossings suitable on Indian Railways ?

(c) How does the price of each set of points and crossings made out of steel rails of the same type vary in cases of different Railways (i.e., if different Railways pay different prices for the same type of points and crossings, then what is exactly that difference in case of each type) ? And how is that difference in prices explained considering that prices of rails out of which they are made remain stationary ?

(d) Are the purchases of points and crossings made from Richardson and Cruddas, Henry Williams, and Burn and Co., by private arrangement or by tender ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : (a) Cast-steel crossings were not found to be so satisfactory as the ordinary built-up crossings.

(b) No specification for cast-steel crossings for use in India has been prepared.

(c) The price quoted by a firm for points and crossings will depend on many factors, such as the size of the order, the date of required delivery, the amount of work already in hand or on order from the firm's works, and so on. The manufacture of points and crossings requires special expensive machines, and the output will depend on the number of such machines which the firm has available. Obviously if the machines are short of work, the firm will tender a low price, while if there is plenty of work on hand the price will be high, or the period of delivery quoted will be long. For these reasons it would serve no purpose to state the difference in price charged for points and crossings to different railways as requested by the Honourable Member.

(d) Government have no information, but inquiries will be made and I will communicate the result to the Honourable Member later.

NUMBER OF POSTS ALLOTTED TO MUSLIMS IN THE OFFICE OF THE IMPERIAL COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH.

930. *Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava : (a) Is it a fact that the present sanctioned strength of the ministerial staff of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research is twelve ? If so, is it a fact that out of these twelve posts five have been reserved for the Muslim community ?

(b) Is it a fact that according to the orders of the Home Department only 33 per cent. of the total establishment should be reserved for the Muslim community ? If so, will Government be pleased to say why a higher percentage than that laid down by the Home Department has been reserved for the Muslim community in the office of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research ?

(c) Is it a fact that a deputation on behalf of the 'Anjuman-i-Islamia, Simla, waited on the Honourable Sir Muhammad Habibullah in connection with communal representation on the staff of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research ? If so, will Government be pleased to state

whether four posts, instead of three due to them under the orders of the Home Department, were reserved for Muhammadans in the office of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research as a result of this deputation ?

Sir Frank Noyce : (a) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative and to the second part in the negative.

(b) All that the Home Department Memorandum referred to by the Honourable Member seeks to ensure is that a minimum of 33 per cent. of the total establishment should be reserved for the redress of communal inequalities. It is not meant that, if qualified candidates are forthcoming, a larger percentage of members of minority communities should not be employed. In the present case, the number of vacancies which should be reserved and which has, in fact, been reserved, is four.

(c) Government have no information as regards the first part of this question. The second part does not therefore arise.

RECRUITMENT OF A MUHAMMADAN STENOGRAPHER IN THE OFFICE OF THE IMPERIAL COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH.

931. ***Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava :** Is it a fact that the Muhammadan stenographer appointed to the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research has resigned his appointment, and that every effort is now being made to recruit another Muhammadan stenographer for this vacancy who has not passed the required examination of the Public Service Commission ? If so, will Government be pleased to state why a passed stenographer of any other community should not be appointed to this post ?

Sir Frank Noyce : The Muhammadan stenographer on the staff of the Secretariat of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research was, at his own request, reverted to his permanent post. In accordance with the policy enunciated in the Home Department memorandum mentioned in the answer just given, it has been decided to offer this vacancy to a Muhammadan and there is every prospect that a suitable Muhammadan will be obtained for the post.

GATE SERGEANTS IN WORKSHOPS OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

932. ***Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava :** Is it a fact that the posts of Gate Sergeants in the Workshops of the North Western Railway have always been filled by Europeans ? If so, why ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : The post of Gate Sergeant on the North Western Railway has in the past been filled by a European, but it is not reserved for Europeans. The Agent, North Western Railway, has explained that it was considered desirable, in making past appointments, to have an ex-service man of good education for the post. The Railway Board are instructing him that, at the next vacancy, the most suitably qualified person, irrespective of race, should be appointed.

ORDER BY THE CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

933. ***Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava :** (a) Have Government seen the North Western Railway Chief Medical Officer's Medical Order M. D. O. No. 53, dated 21st June 1928 ?

(b) What is the justification for such a stringent order in respect of such men ?

(c) Does the same or similar rule apply to officers falling sick at outstations ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a) Yes.

(b) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given by Mr. Parsons on the 20th February, 1929, to starred question No. 678, asked by Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh.

(c) Yes.

COMPENSATION AWARDED TO HEIRS OF SOLDIERS KILLED IN THE ACCIDENT AT PESHAWAR.

934. ***Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava :** (a) Has any compensation been awarded to the heirs of the soldiers and officers of the 17th Poona House who died as a result of the accident of the Aeroplane shooting at Peshawar on the 23rd January 1929 ? If so, what is the amount ?

(b) How many persons out of the injured were disabled and what compensation has been granted to them ?

(c) Is it a fact that these soldiers and officers were on duty when the accident happened ?

(d) Was Risaldar Tulsiram of Gudha Tehsil, Jhajjar District, Rohtak, killed in the same accident ?

(e) Have Government given any lands to the heirs of the said Risaldar Tulsiram ? If not, do Government propose to grant lands to his heirs by way of compensation ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : (a) Yes. They have been given the family pensions and special gratuities mentioned by Mr. Mackworth Young in reply to starred question No. 470, dated the 11th February, 1929.

(b) Nine men were injured, but I do not know how many of them have actually been invalided. Government sanctioned special disability pensions at field service rates for those who might be invalided, and I will inform the Honourable Member separately of the actual amounts that have been paid.

(c) Yes.

(d) Yes.

(e) No, Sir. The heirs have already received a gratuity of Rs. 1,200 in addition to family pension, and there is no land available for distribution.

ATTITUDE OF GOVERNMENT ON THE EAST AFRICAN QUESTION.

935. ***Mr. K. O. Neogy** (on behalf of Mr. B. Das) : With reference to the Government communiqué, issued on the 11th September, regarding the Indian Delegation from East Africa and their interview with the Honourable Sir Fazl-i-Husain, will Government be pleased to state if the promised conference of the leading Members of the Indian Legislature, and the Standing Emigration Committee and also the Indian delegates of East

Africa took place ? If so, will Government be pleased to make a statement as to the attitude of Government on the whole of the East African question ?

Sir Frank Noyce : The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the second part of the question, the telegram of the 19th March, 1929, laid on the Council table shows that Government have already, in conformity with the views pressed upon it by the Emigration Committee and the leaders of parties, formed its own views. The Government have now again had the benefit of a similar meeting, but I regret that I am not at present in a position to make the statement asked for by the Honourable Member, as the question is under correspondence with the Secretary of State.

NOMINATION OF A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA TO THE EAST AFRICAN DELEGATION.

936. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy** (on behalf of Mr. B. Das) : Have Government accepted the suggestion put forward by the East African Delegation for the nomination of a representative of the Government of India to accompany the East African Delegation to England ?

Sir Frank Noyce : The Honourable Member perhaps knows more about the East African Delegation than I have been able to gather from the Delegation itself. As soon as the personnel and plans of the proposed East African Delegation are finally settled and intimated to Government by the Delegation, Government will duly arrive at a decision.

EAST AFRICAN MANDATED TERRITORIES.

937. **Mr. K. C. Neogy** (on behalf of Mr. B. Das) : (a) Are Government aware that at the League of Nations meeting at Geneva the Right Honourable Mr. Henderson made a statement that, whatever action the British Government would take on the East African Mandated Territories would be first placed before the Mandate Commission of the League of Nations, and only when approval of that Commission had been secured that decision would be promulgated ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state what statement the representative of the Government of India did make on that occasion as regards safeguarding of the rights and privileges of Indian residents settled in Tanganyika Territory ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state whether the delegate of the Government of India at Geneva and the Government of India themselves have nothing to say in regard to the position of Indians in the East African Mandated Territory and if it was under the instructions of the Government of India that Sir Muhammad Habibullah took to the vow of silence at the League of Nations sitting ?

Sir Frank Noyce : (a) & (b). Government have no information beyond what is in the possession of the Honourable Member. The proceedings of the Assembly of the League, when received, are placed in the Library and it will be open to the Honourable Member to find the answers to these parts of his question.

(c) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply I have given to his question No. 935.

CONCESSION RATES ON RAILWAYS ALLOWED TO THE MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

938. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy** (on behalf of Mr. B. Das) : (a) Will Government be pleased to state if the railways allow special "military rates" to the Military Department ?

(b) Is this concession mutual ? Do the railways receive any special concession from the Army Department ?

(c) Are Company-managed railways bound to give these concession rates to the Military Department ?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state the loss of revenue per annum (i) to the State Railways, and (ii) to the Company-managed Railways on account of these special concessions in rates and freights to the Military Department ?

Mr. P. B. Rau : (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) Company-managed railways are bound to give the same special rates to the Military Department as State-managed railways.

(d) The arrangements by which military traffic is carried at special uniform rates have been in existence for a long time. These arrangements provide for the payment by Government at vehicle rates for the movement of troops and military stores, the primary object of the arrangement being (i) simplification, so as to dispense with the necessity for counting large bodies of men and weighing baggage and stores, and to provide a system suitable for application to the special conditions that would obtain in the event of mobilisation, when a sudden change of procedure would lead to confusion and delay, and (ii) to secure to railways a reasonable return on the traffic by fixing an average rate. In 1908 an enhancement of the rates was made on representation from railways that the then existing rates were too low, the enhanced rates being framed to give a reasonable return on the traffic to railways. In 1923, a further enhancement was made on account of the increased working expenses on railways. To ascertain the difference in revenue involved in consequence of the special rates allowed for military traffic would be a very lengthy and costly undertaking.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : Is the Honourable Member in a position to give a rough idea of the financial value of these concessions ?

Mr. P. B. Rau : No, Sir.

CONCESSION RATES ON RAILWAYS.

939. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy** (on behalf of Mr. B. Das) : (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether Departments of the Government of India other than the Military Department or any of the Provincial Governments receive any concession in rates and freights on railways and, if so, what are they ?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state if any concession in return is received by the railways ?

Mr. P. B. Rau : (a) Special rates are charged to the Postal Department for the carriage of mails. Certain railways quote special rates for Local Governments for stone for road-making and canal works.

(b) I am not aware of any general concessions received in return by all railways, but to give a complete answer to the question, I would have to consult each Railway Administration.

RATES CHARGED BY RAILWAYS FOR TOURS OF HIGH OFFICIALS.

940. ***Mr. K. O. Neogy** (on behalf on Mr. B. Das) : (a) Will Government be pleased to state if the railways charge any concession rates

- (i) for Viceregal tours ;
- (ii) for the tours of Provincial Governors ; and
- (iii) for the tours of the Commander-in-Chief when he travels in trains over their railway lines ?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the loss in revenue to the State per annum in each case ?

(c) Do the Honourable the Railway Member and Members of the Railway Board receive any concession rates when they travel over these Railways ?

(d) When railway officers travel in their saloons over the Railways, is the cost of such travels computed and debited to the respective heads on administration or operation ?

Mr. P. B. Rau : (a) The rates charged for the tours mentioned are detailed in paras. 98 and 104 of Indian Railways Coaching Tariff No. 6, a copy of which has been placed in the Library of the House. The rates chargeable to the public are detailed in paras. 96 and 103 of the same book.

(b) The basis on which these rates have been fixed is different from the basis on which public tariff rates have been fixed. Most of the stock used in these tours is not the property of the railway but owned and maintained by the Departments concerned. The rates are not therefore strictly comparable, and it cannot be said that there is necessarily any loss involved.

(c) Journeys of the Honourable the Railway Member are charged at rates shown in para. 98 of the Coaching Tariff referred to in part (a) above. The Members of the Railway Board travel, as other railway officers do, on free passes.

(d) No.

LOSS OF LIFE, ETC., CAUSED BY FLOODS IN THE NORTH WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE AND BALUCHISTAN.

941. ***Mr. K. O. Neogy** (on behalf on Mr. B. Das) : (a) Will Government be pleased to state what is the total loss (i) in human lives, (ii) in cattle, (iii) in crops, and (iv) in property, during the recent floods in the North West Frontier Province and Baluchistan ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state what precautionary steps—both preventive and palliative—were taken by the Government in the flood-affected areas directly under the Government of India immediately after the floods ?

(c) Did any of the officers of the Government of India—the Consulting Engineer or any of the other expert engineers—visit these flood-affected areas and, if so, did they submit any reports on the causes of floods and their remedies ?

(d) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table all such reports and also make a statement on the causes of these floods and the remedial measures they propose to adopt to prevent a recurrence of such floods in the North West Frontier Province ?

Sir Frank Noyce : (a) and (b). As regards the North West Frontier Province, I would refer the Honourable Member to the statement laid by me on the table on the 23rd September in reply to starred question No. 689. Later reports confirm that there was no loss of life in the administered districts, but over a hundred lives, I regret to say, were lost in the tribal country, mostly in the Swat State. Detailed reports from Baluchistan are still awaited, but we know that the kharif crops have been seriously damaged by floods.

(c) The Chief Engineer of the North West Frontier Province accompanied by the local engineers visited the affected areas, and the Chief Commissioner's review of their reports is awaited.

(d) Government propose to lay on the table any reports or information likely to be of interest to the House.

EMBANKMENTS AND DRAINAGE OF RIVERS IN THE NORTH WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE.

942. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy** (on behalf of Mr. B. Das) : (a) Will Government be pleased to state if they have in the North West Frontier Province any special division of engineers to look after the embankments and drainage of rivers ?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the negative, will Government be pleased to describe the present system of administration of the Irrigation, Embankment and Drainage Department in the North West Frontier Province ?

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

(b) The officers of the Irrigation Department in the North West Frontier Province deal with questions relating to embankments and drainage.

PROPORTION OF DIFFERENT COMMUNITIES IN THE IMPERIAL SECRETARIAT CLERICAL ESTABLISHMENT.

943. ***Mr. Mukhtar Singh :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the rules under which the proportion of different communities in the Imperial Secretariat clerical establishment is regulated ?

(b) Is it a fact that Anglo-Indians are not counted, for this purpose, as belonging to a minority community ?

(c) If the reply to part (b) be in the affirmative, why and under what orders ?

The Honourable Sir James O'rerar : (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given to starred question No. 523 on the 16th instant, in which it was explained that no such proportions are fixed by the Government of India.

(b) No. Anglo-Indians are treated as a minority community for the purposes of recruitment to the Secretariat.

(c) Does not arise.

PERCENTAGE OF HINDU CLERKS IN THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

944. *Mr. Mukhtar Singh : (a) Will Government be pleased to state the total strength and the proportion of the minority and non-minority communities in the clerical establishment of the Education Department ?

(b) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of raising the Hindu percentage to 66 per cent. of the total strength ?

Sir Frank Noyce : (a) A statement giving the information desired by the Honourable Member up to the 31st December, 1928, will be found in the Library of the House.

(b) Departmental promotion is regulated by seniority and merit ; fresh recruitment is made in accordance with the policy of Government which provides for the adoption of measures to ensure the representation in due proportion of the various communities and the Hindu community may rest assured of being adequately represented in the clerical staff of the Government of India.

EXTRA PAYMENT FOR WORKING OUT OF OFFICE HOURS IN THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

945. *Mr. Mukhtar Singh : (a) Will Government please state the amounts which are paid to their staff in the Finance Department when they have to work out of office hours up to a late hour, and the circumstances under which they are paid ?

(b) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of extending the same concessions to the members of the Education Department ?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster : (a) There are two classes of payments which might be covered by the Honourable Member's question. First, small bonuses are given at the conclusion of the budget season to the men of the Budget, Expenditure and Issue Branches in the Finance Department, who have to pass through exceptionally strenuous times during that season. This class of work is entirely exceptional and is confined to the Finance Department. All night work is often involved. Secondly, it has recently been found necessary to make small payments to men required to work up to exceptionally late hours in connection with the work of the Standing Finance Committee, on nights following the meetings of the Committee as a result of the Committee's own request that a summary of their proceedings should be communicated to the Press daily. These payments merely represent reimbursements for certain out of pocket expenses in the way of rickshaw hire, etc.

(b) If similar circumstances were to arise in the Education Department, consideration would be given to the establishment of a similar

practice. I must, however, point out that circumstances in the Finance Department are of a special nature and that the conditions applying to the payments of the first class to which I have referred in the previous part of my answer can hardly arise in the case of other Departments.

RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING APPOINTMENTS BY MR. E. W. GRINDAL IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DELHI.

946. *Maulvi Muhammad Yakub : Is it a fact that Mr. E. W. Grindal in his 12 years' service as Chief Superintendent and Personal Assistant to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, Delhi, dealt with the cases of subordinates and Sub-Divisional Officers and made his proposals for their appointments in the Delhi Public Works Department ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : No. As Chief Superintendent and Personal Assistant to the Chief Engineer, his duties were to note on proposals, but it was no part of his duties to initiate proposals for the appointment of subordinates and Sub Divisional Officers.

NUMBERS OF QUALIFIED SUBORDINATES AND SUB DIVISIONAL OFFICERS APPOINTED IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DELHI.

947. *Maulvi Muhammad Yakub (a) Will Government be pleased to state the respective numbers of qualified subordinates who have passed the sub-overseer's or overseer's examination from a recognised college or University and S. D. Os. (who are engineers by recognised examination) appointed from 1917 to 1924 in the Delhi P. W. D. ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the number of subordinates and S. D. Os. appointed during the Chief Superintendentship and Personal Assistantship of Mr. E. W. Grindal from 1917 to 1924 ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : (a) The number of qualified subordinates appointed from 1917 to 1924 and now in the service, who passed the sub-overseer's or overseer's examination, or the equivalent of these, of a recognized college or University is 33. The number of Sub Divisional Officers who are members of the regular establishment, appointed as such from 1917 to 1924, is 10.

(b) The total number of subordinates and Sub Divisional Officers appointed from 1917 to 1924 was 69 and 10, respectively.

APPOINTMENT BY MR. GRINDAL OF SUBORDINATES AS SUBDIVISIONAL OFFICERS IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DELHI.

948. *Maulvi Muhammad Yakub : With reference to replies to questions Nos. 24 and 25 in the Council of State on 8th February, 1928 (Vol. I, No. 4), regarding removing of Assistant Engineers and posting subordinates in their places in the Delhi P. W. D., will Government be pleased to state (a) whether it is a fact that Mr. E. W. Grindal, late Chief Superintendent and P. A. to the Chief Engineer, Delhi, was the first P. A. who introduced this system of posting subordinates as S. D. Os. in the Delhi P. W. D., and (b) if Mr. E. W. Grindal is an Engineer ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : (a) The reply is in the negative. The reply to question No. 25 of the 8th February, 1928, to which the Honourable Member has referred, clearly states the reason for

the practice in Delhi, which was the usual practice in the Public Works Department throughout India prior to the formation of the Provincial Engineering Services which were composed, in the first instance, largely of subordinates.

(b) No.

QUALIFICATIONS OF CERTAIN SUBORDINATES APPOINTED IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DELHI.

949. *Maulvi Muhammad Yakub : Will Government be pleased to lay on the table the copies of proposals made by the P. W. D. authorities for the appointments of B. Ragbir Singh, subordinate, Dehra Dun Division and B. Ramchand, subordinate, 8th Division, B. Nand Lall, S. D. O., 9th Division, B. Ram Chand, S. D. O., Sanitary Circle, and B. Udho Ram, S. D. O. (under suspension) in the Delhi P. W. D. ? What are their qualifications ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : The Honourable Member's meaning is not clear. The persons named were appointed in the ordinary way many years ago. The 3rd and 5th of those named were Roorkee trained Lower Subordinates. The others were qualified by practical experience.

EMPLOYMENT OF SUBORDINATES AS SUB-DIVISIONAL OFFICERS IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DELHI.

950. *Maulvi Muhammad Yakub : Are Government aware that the engineers who are in charge of sub-divisions in the Delhi P. W. D. felt it derogatory to deal with subordinates (working as S. D. Os.) and the P. W. D. authorities did not listen to them ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : Government have no knowledge of any such feeling.

TREATMENT OF ENGINEERS IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DELHI.

951. *Maulvi Muhammad Yakub : Is it a fact that the Engineers (S. D. Os.) in the Delhi P. W. D. are compelled to stand like subordinates (S. D. Os.) before the Executive Engineer and other authorities of the Delhi P. W. D. ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : The reply is in the negative.

EMPLOYEES GIVEN SPECIAL PAY IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DELHI.

952. *Maulvi Muhammad Yakub : Will Government be pleased to state the number of Muslim and Hindu clerks, draftsmen, subordinates and engineers in the Delhi P. W. D. who have been given special pay in the year 1929 ?

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The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : It is understood that the Honourable Member refers to posts in the Public Works Department, Delhi. The numbers are :

			<i>Muslims.</i>	<i>Hindus.</i>
Clerks	..	..	4	15
Draftsmen	..	..	-	-
Subordinates	..	..	1	1
Engineers	..	..	1	1

QUALIFICATIONS OF CERTAIN ENGINEERS IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DELHI.

953. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the technical and educational qualifications of Mr. Uttam Singh, Officiating Executive Engineer and B. Gurdit Singh, S. D. O., upper subordinate of Dehra Dun Division, P. W. D., Delhi ?

(b) On what pay was Mr. Uttam Singh, Offg. Executive Engineer, appointed in the Delhi P. W. D. ?

(c) Has Mr. Uttam Singh served elsewhere before joining the Delhi P. W. D. and how long ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : (a) Mr. Uttam Singh was a matriculate and completed the course of civil and mechanical engineering at the City and Guilds Institute, London, in 1915. Mr. Gurdit Singh has passed the IX Class and is a practical engineer.

(b) Rs. 600 per mensem.

(c) Yes, for many years from 1915 onwards.

REDUCTION OF MUSLIM DRAFTSMEN IN THE RAILWAY BOARD.

954. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub :** With reference to reply to question No. 162 in the Council of State on 19th March, 1929 (Vol. I, No. 13) will Government be pleased to lay on the table the proposal made by the Railway Board authorities for the reduction of three Muslim draftsmen Mr. Ahmed Ali, Mr. Amir Husain and another after questions Nos. 162 and 163, dated the 19th March, 1929, in the Council of State ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : The position is that certain posts of temporary draftsman in the Standardization Drawing Office were brought under reduction, and four of the temporary employees were discharged as the least efficient. These included one Hindu, and the three Mussalmans named by the Honourable Member.

REDUCTION OF MUSLIM DRAFTSMEN IN THE RAILWAY BOARD.

955. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of Sikh Draftsmen, Hindus and Muslims in the Railway Board (Drawing Branch) ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Sikh Superintendent of the Drawing Branch Railway Board, does not allow Hindus and Muslims in his branches and has reduced three Muslim Draftsmen ? If so, will Government kindly state what action has been taken in the Railway Board to remove the class monopoly ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a) Sikhs 6.

Muslims 4.

Hindus 2.

(b) The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. There has been no reduction in the Railway Board Drawing Branch. The Honourable Member apparently refers to the Central Standards Drawing Office (formerly known as Standardisation Drawing Office) in which the services of 1 Hindu, 3 Muslims, and 1 Sikh have been dispensed with since February last. The present relative strength of these three communities in that drawing office is Hindus 7, Muslims 6, Sikhs 4. The last portion of the question does not arise.

SIKH SUPERINTENDENTS IN THE RAILWAY BOARD.

956. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub :** Is it a fact that the Superintendents of Standardisation Branch and Drawing Branch, in the Railway Board, are Sikhs ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : There are no Superintendents in the Standardisation and Drawing branches of the Railway Board's office. The Head Draftsmen in these branches are Sikhs.

ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANTS IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DELHI.

957. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub :** Will Government be pleased to state (a) on which date the creation of posts of two Architectural Assistants in the Delhi P. W. D. was sanctioned by the Government of India ; (b) on which date Mr. Kasurwala and Mr. Yajnik, Draftsmen of the Delhi P. W. D., were appointed to these posts ; (c) from which date they have drawn their pay as Architectural Assistants, and (d) whether they have drawn any arrears, if so, why ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : (a) On the 25th February, 1929, with effect from 1st March, 1929.

(b) and (c). 1st March, 1929.

(d) They have drawn pay as Architectural Assistants only from the date of appointment.

RANK AND ALLOWANCE OF MR. KESURWALA, ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DELHI.

958. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub :** (a) Is it a fact that Mr. Kesurwala, Architectural Assistant, P. W. D., Delhi, is considered as a Gazetted Officer ?

(b) Is it a fact that Mr. Kesurwala, the Architectural Assistant, P. W. D., Delhi, is still getting the allowance of the post of the Draftsman, Mr. Dana Singh ? If so, why ? Is he eligible to get this allowance ?

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

(b) He is eligible for, and draws, a special pay for doing certain work, in addition to his regular duties, which was formerly performed by Mr. Dana Singh.

Maulvi Muhammad Yakub : What is that ' certain work ' ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : I regret I have not got that information at present. But I shall supply it to the Honourable Member.

SUPERSESSION OF SUBORDINATES BY MR. CHOPRA IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DELHI.

959. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub :** (a) Is it a fact that one Mr. Chopra was appointed as a subordinate in the 9th Division of the Delhi P. W. D. on Rs. 200 per mensem ? If so, when ?

(b) Is it a fact that Mr. Chopra, Subordinate, 9th Division, P. W. D., Delhi, has superseded many subordinates of the Delhi P. W. D. ? If so, will Government be pleased to state how many subordinates were superseded by his appointment on such a high pay ? What are his qualifications (both educational and technical) ?

(c) Is it a fact that Mr. Chopra was recommended in 1924 and before this by the Executive Engineer, 9th Division, to take him as temporary regular subordinate but the Chief Engineer, Delhi P. W. D., refused ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : (a) Mr. Chopra was appointed as a subordinate in June, 1929, on Rs. 185.

(b) He is getting more pay than 36 other subordinates. In addition to having practical experience, he is a matriculate and has passed the first examination in civil engineering of the Punjab University in the Upper Division.

(c) Yes.

Mr. E. L. Price : Does the Honourable Member understand that, if ever he appoints or promotes a Hindu, he has always got to answer for it to the Deputy President of this House ? (Hear, hear and Laughter.)

Maulvi Muhammad Yakub : If Honourable Members who belong to the European community in India will leave our country, then these questions will go away. If the European exploiters of this country will leave India, these questions will not be put. (Hear, hear.)*

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : The Deputy President of this House should not put such communal questions.

Mr. E. L. Price : Will the Honourable Member give an answer to my question ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : I am sorry it is not possible for me to answer that question.

Mr. President : Mr. Price.

Mr. E. L. Price : I beg your pardon, Sir.

Mr. President : Any more supplementary questions ? (Laughter.)

Mr. E. L. Price : No, Sir.

APPOINTMENT OF ESTATE OFFICERS IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DELHI.

960. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub :** (a) Is it a fact that Mr. E. W. Grindal, Central Accounts Officer, P. W. D., Delhi, is getting Rs. 300 per mensem as allowance for the duties of Estate Officer ?

(b) Is it a fact that Mr. Ellis, temporary Engineer, P. W. D., Delhi, is an Assistant Estate Officer under Mr. E. W. Grindal? If so, will Government be pleased to state why Mr. E. W. Grindal, Accounts Officer, has been given the duties of Estate Officer? Why has not Mr. Ellis, temporary Engineer, P. W. D., Delhi, been given the direct charge of the duties of Estate Officer?

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

(b) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, the combination of the post of the Estate Officer with that of the Accounts Officer was introduced as an experimental measure, as a large portion of the work of the Estate Officer in connection with the rents and allotment of quarters is intimately connected with the accounts work. The experiment has been a success and has facilitated the disposal of the work. With regard to the third part, the existing arrangement was considered to be the most suitable and the question of appointing Mr. Ellis to the post did not arise.

WAR CASUALTIES AMONG COMBATANT TRIBES.

961. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the names of the combatant tribes in British India?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the casualties amongst combatant tribes of India in the Great War from 1914 to 1919 and in Afghan troubles from 1919 to 1920?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : (a) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given in this House on the 6th September, 1927, to starred question No. 888.

(b) The records of casualties were not maintained in the form desired by the Honourable Member. I can only refer him to pages 176 and 177 of the book entitled "India's Contribution to the Great War", a copy of which is in the Library.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

DISMISSAL OF MR. N. B. PURANDARE, FROM THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

Mr. M. S. Aney : (1) Are Government aware that one N. B. Purandare Honorary General Secretary, Great Indian Peninsula Railwaymen's Union, applied for one day's leave without pay to attend to Union work to his immediate superior officer and the said officer refused to grant the same?

(2) Are Government aware that the said applicant preferred an appeal to the Agent, Great Indian Peninsula Railway, and left to attend to the work of the Union for one day, anticipating that his leave for one day would be sanctioned by the Agent to whom the appeal was already preferred?

(3) Is it a fact that Mr. Purandare was, on return to his work, immediately served with notice of suspension?

(4) Is it a fact that he was summarily dismissed from service on the 17th of September without being given an opportunity to explain his conduct ?

(5) Are Government aware that this summary dismissal of Mr. Purandare from service by the Agent, Great Indian Peninsula Railway, has caused great discontent among the members of the Great Indian Peninsula Railwaymen's Union, and is being treated by them as an act of victimisation by the railway authorities concerned ?

(6) Will Government be pleased to state whether they propose to issue instructions to the Agent to stay execution of the order of dismissal and institute an immediate inquiry into the case through some independent responsible officer of the Railway Board, with a view to allay the prevailing discontent among the members of the Union, and secure justice to Mr. Purandare who seems to have been victimised ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : (1) Yes. On the 31st August Mr. Purandare applied for one day's leave without pay for the 5th September in order to visit certain Union centres. The Divisional Superintendent replied on the 3rd September refusing sanction as Mr. Purandare had resumed duty on the 28th August after two months and 12 days' leave.

(2) The applicant telegraphed to the Agent on the 5th September in the following terms :

"Leave without pay for the 5th not sanctioned by Divisional Superintendent. Leaving in anticipation. Solicit favour."

(3) Yes. At the same time he was informed that it was proposed to dismiss him summarily for absence without leave and disobedience of orders, and he was instructed to give in writing as early as possible any reasons he might have to put forward why he should not be summarily dismissed.

(4) No. Mr. Purandare sent his reply arguing against his summary dismissal on the 12th September. His reply was considered by the Agent and he was dismissed on the 17th.

(5) No.

(6) The serious point in this case is that Mr. Purandare after his leave had been refused left his work without leave. Deliberate disobedience of the orders of a superior officer is a grave offence and cannot be treated lightly. The only question is whether the punishment of dismissal is too severe, and in awarding punishment regard must be had to the length of the offender's service and the nature of his record. I have called for information on these points and when I receive it I will consider whether the Agent's order should be confirmed.

Mr. M. S. Aney : May I ask whether the order of dismissal passed by the Agent is not, in spirit at any rate, in contravention of the conditions under which the Unions are recognised by Government ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : I do not think so. I am quite willing to look into the point, but to the best of my belief there has been no breach of those conditions.

Mr. M. S. Aney : May I further draw the attention of the Honourable Member to the statement made by Mr. A. A. L. Parsons here in

February, 1928, to the effect that no railway will refuse leave to servants for attending Union work ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : I cannot answer that without referring to the reply given by Mr. Parsons, but I cannot remember any such unqualified statement being made. I quite recognise that the facilities which ought to be given to Union officials to attend to the work of the Union is a perfectly fair subject for discussion, but the serious point in this case is, as I have said, that he simply left his work and went away in defiance of the orders of his superior officer.

Mr. M. S. Aney : Does the order of the Agent show that the absence of Mr. Purandare from the duty for one day prejudiced the work in any way ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : No, Sir. The report we have received from the Agent does not deal with the point as to whether his absence without leave resulted in actual inconvenience and embarrassment to the Department in which he was working.

Mr. M. B. Jayakar : Will the Honourable Member tell this House, if he is in a position to do so, what is the nature of the record of service of this gentleman ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : That is precisely the point on which I have called for further information. I have not got it at present.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta : Will the Honourable Member also examine the nature of the work which took Mr. Purandare from his duty ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : Yes, Sir. I am quite prepared to consider that point.

ADDITIONAL GRANT TO THE ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY.

Maulvi Muhammad Yakub : (a) With reference to the statement made by the Honourable the Finance Member in the course of the budget speech on the 5th March, 1929, have Government received any application from the authorities of the Aligarh Muslim University requesting additional grants ?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state what decision, if any, has been reached on that application ?

Sir Frank Noyce : (a) Yes.

(b) The Government are prepared, subject to the acceptance by the authorities of the Aligarh Muslim University of such safeguards as may be considered necessary to ensure the efficient financial and general administration of the University, and subject, also to the approval of the Standing Finance Committee, and to the amount not already voted by this House being voted by it in future years, to sanction the same grants as have recently been sanctioned to the Benares Hindu University, namely :

- (i) a non-recurring grant of Rs. 15 lakhs, spread over a number of years, dependent on the ability of the University to spend the amount on approved schemes ; and

- (ii) the enhancement of the existing recurring grant from Rs. 1½ lakhs to Rs. 3 lakhs a year with effect from such year as may be fixed by the Governor General in Council.

The Government are further willing to endeavour to make some grant during the current financial year should the University authorities be in a position to satisfy them that money is immediately required for any of the approved purposes mentioned in their application.

BILL PASSED BY THE COUNCIL OF STATE LAID ON THE TABLE.

Secretary of the Assembly : Sir, in accordance with rule 25 of the Indian Legislative Rules, I lay on the table a Bill further to amend the Provident Funds Act, 1925, for certain purposes which was passed by the Council of State on the 24th September, 1929.

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL OF STATE.

Secretary of the Assembly : Sir, a Message has been received from the Secretary of the Council of State which runs as follows :

“ I am directed to inform you that the Council of State have, at their meeting held on the 24th day of September, 1929, agreed without any amendments to the following Bills which were passed by the Legislative Assembly at their meeting held on the 9th September, 1929 :

1. A Bill to provide for the levy of a cess on soft coke despatched by rail from collieries in the provinces of Bengal and Bihar and Orissa ;
2. A Bill further to amend the Indian Boilers Act, 1923, for certain purposes ;
3. A Bill to provide for certain matters in connection with the taking of the Census ; and
4. A Bill further to amend the Calcutta Pilots Act, 1859, and the Indian Ports Act, 1908, in order to vest the control of the Bengal Pilot Service in the Governor General in Council.”

THE INDIAN PATENTS AND DESIGNS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE.

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra (Member for Industries and Labour) : Sir, I beg to present the Report of the Select Committee to which the Bill further to amend the Indian Patents and Designs Act, 1911, for certain purposes, was referred.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS.

SALT.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster (Finance Member) : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 100 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1930, in respect of ‘ Salt ’.”

Sir, I think it is necessary for me to give a short explanation of the reason for putting in this supplementary demand. I informed the House on Monday, in answer to a short notice question put by my Honourable friend Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas, of the state of affairs which had made it necessary for Government to take certain emergency measures in order to ensure that there should be no shortage of salt in certain markets. I explained then that, owing to the destruction by flood of about 10 lakhs of maunds at Sambhur, Government had to consider means for making salt produced in other centres available for the area usually supplied from Sambhur.

The salt to which I refer will come from Kharagoda, Khuda and Khewra. I also explained to this House that we had been able to make arrangements with the railway companies concerned to offer special reductions in freight so as to enable that salt to be put into the markets generally supplied from Sambhur at competitive prices. I hope that these railway freight concessions will achieve our object without any further assistance on the part of Government; but it is possible that the Government may find it necessary to give some further assistance in the form of special reductions in the price of salt to be sold in the particular area concerned. In that case it will be necessary to make a grant for their purpose and charge it as expenditure against the Salt Grant. It is impossible to estimate what the amount would be, but it will certainly not exceed one lakh—I am told that probably it would not be more than Rs. 50,000; and it may be nothing; but in view of these circumstances I thought it right to make this token demand in order that the Assembly might be informed of the circumstances. Sir, I move.

The motion was adopted.

MEDICAL SERVICES.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster : Sir, I beg to move :

“That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 100 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1930, in respect of ‘Medical Services’.”

In moving this demand, I feel it my duty to inform this House that I am taking a somewhat unusual course. As appears from the notes which have been already circulated to Honourable Members, this particular demand was considered by the Standing Finance Committee and that Committee by a majority of votes—I think the voting was 5 to 4—voted against this proposal. It is unusual in such circumstances for the Government to come forward with the demand. But in this case the circumstances are exceptional. The financial significance of the proposal is negligible. The question of policy involved is very important. We discussed the matter very fully on the Standing Finance Committee, and I think the Members of that Committee will bear me out in saying that they quite appreciated the point of view which I put forward that the question of policy involved in this case was one which ought to be debated on the floor of this House; but, as they themselves were opposed to the policy, and as the proposal had come before them, they felt themselves unable to refrain from recording an adverse vote. I wish to make this explanation, because I should be the last person who would wish to do anything to weaken the authority of the Standing Finance Committee. Sir, I move.

Dr. B. S. Moonje (Nagpur Division : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, I move :

" That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 100 to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1930, in respect of ' Medical Services ' be omitted."

In view of the questions and answers asked and given this morning I have been confirmed in my view that no case has been made out by the Government for the creation of this new post of a Commissioner of Indian Medical Standards and Qualifications. It seems that the General Medical Council of England made a demand and gave a threat to the Government of India that, if either a medical council is not established in India or this post is not created, they will refuse recognition to the medical degrees of Indian Universities. I am surprised that the Government of India should have fallen an easy victim to this kind of threat. I should have expected that the Government of India would have made inquiries as to the condition of medical education in India and the methods of medical examinations before submitting to the threat. I am positive, by the proofs that I shall immediately quote just now, that if the Government of India had made that kind of inquiry, they would have been quite sure that the system of medical education and the method in which medical examinations are carried out are quite satisfactory ; matters have been proved to be quite satisfactory even to the General Medical Council of England. That is one point. Before accepting what cannot be but a kind of slight on the condition of medical education in India, they did not make this preliminary inquiry to satisfy themselves that the slight was least deserved ; nor, having satisfied themselves after making inquiry afterwards that the medical education in India was satisfactory, have they taken any action yet to appeal to the Privy Council.

(At this stage Mr. President vacated the Chair which was taken by Sir Darcy Lindsay.)

The General Medical Council in England is acting under authority given to it under the Medical Act of England. They have been given authority to refuse recognition to medical degrees where they find that the degrees do not indicate a sufficient standard of medical education, and the Privy Council is acting as appellate authority. Those bodies which conduct these medical examinations have been given a right to appeal to the Privy Council. I should have expected that the Government of India, before yielding to this threat, would have approached the Privy Council, bringing the facts of the sufficiency of our system of medical education and examinations to their notice and stated that the threat of the General Medical Council in England was absolutely baseless and had no foundation in fact. I say the General Medical Council had no reason to doubt the insufficiency of the system of our medical education and, in spite of that, they gave that threat. The whole thing has assumed the simple appearance that one party gives an ultimatum and another party quite submissively accepts that ultimatum and submits to it. I cannot understand when we, in this House, who are the guardians of the Government of India today, aspiring to be the makers of the Government of India tomorrow, are prepared to stand firmly by their side why they should have accepted this ultimatum so submissively and been ready to carry out the bidding, the insolent bidding, of the General Medical Council

of England. (*An Honourable Member* : "They are their servants.") From that point of view I am inclined to look at the affair—and it is right that the Indian Universities also have taken it in that light—I cannot but say that this ultimatum is nothing less than a national insult and gratuitous slight to the whole system of medical education in India. India is not a country undeveloped intellectually and scientifically like some other countries of the world. It is known in the world for high intelligence and had developed its own system of medical education, which is said to be the mother of the western system of medical education. India has produced best intellects even in modern times, intellects which can compare with the best intellects of other countries of the world. India has at present a Sir Jagadish Bose and a Sir C. V. Raman, who have made names in the western world. India has got at the present moment practising surgeons and doctors who can stand the test of competition with most people of the Indian Medical Service. I can say from my own personal experience that in a place like Nagpur, where I come from, if there is a difficult operation in ophthalmology, people prefer to come to me rather than go to the high officers of the Indian Medical Service there. (Hear, hear.)

I say this, not because of my personal qualifications, but because there are other medical practitioners in Nagpur to whom people generally go in difficult cases in preference to going to men belonging to the Indian Medical Service and occupying high places in the Service. I might, for the edification of my friend Colonel Gidney, mention an instance that I personally know. About 32 years ago, or a little more than 32 years ago, I was a student in the Grant Medical College in Bombay. I had passed all my examinations at the first shot. There was a friend of mine who could not pass his examination unless he went through it twice or thrice. So he had already spent about 9 years in the Medical College. For the final examination he was preparing to appear along with me. (*An Honourable Member* : "Is that friend here?") and my Principal, a Colonel, a very experienced surgeon, was so disgusted with my friend that one day he told him, "Get away from this College; you are not fit for this profession; you cannot be of any use in this profession; you better get away and take to some other profession." But my friend was not disheartened or discouraged. He had a big purse, and he said that he was not going to have the medical degree of the Bombay University, and that he would go to England and get an L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S. degree. A gentleman who was not considered fit for the medical profession and could not hope to pass the final examination of the Bombay University at the first shot, a gentleman who had already passed 8 or 9 years in the Medical College attempting unsuccessfully to get through the examination, a gentleman who has had no chance of passing the final examination along with me, went to England and returned to India, in six months before I could take my degree, with an L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., which is regarded as a higher degree than the degree of the Bombay University or that of any other University in India. When I asked him afterwards how it was that he, who could not hope to pass the L.M.S. examination of the Bombay University, could get the L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S. degrees in six months' time, he said, "Oh what is there? Here the examiners try to know what a student does not know and ask questions on such points but in England the general standard is this: The Examiners in England for these degrees only want to know if a boy, if allowed to pass out, would likely be dangerous, and leave the rest to his

[Dr. B. S. Moonje.]

intelligence and study. That is the test there. (Laughter.) They thought that I would not be a dangerous man in this line and granted me the degrees." (Laughter.)

Nawab Sir Sahibzada Abdul Qaiyum (North West Frontier Province : Nominated Non-Official) : The Indian system is wrong and bad and requires improvement.

Dr. B. S. Moonje : The British Examiners belonging to the Indian Medical Service are certainly not so considerate and reasonable, I thoroughly agree, but the education and the training imparted in the Indian Medical Colleges cannot be said to be in any way inferior generally to that imparted in England. So, my first complaint is that the Government of India, which represent the Indian nation, which represent the Indian intelligence. (*An Honourable Member*: "Question?") or shall I say, which is taken to represent in the outer world the self-respect incarnate of India, accepted that threat or ultimatum and admitted that the system of medical education and methods of examinations as conducted in India are inferior, and therefore they require to be examined by the Inspectors who have been sent out from England. That, Sir, I say is an insult to our national honour, and we feel that the Government of India has forfeited our confidence to that extent, and we cannot entrust our national self-respect in the keeping of the Government of India. Sir, I am speaking from a larger aspect, and I wish the Government of India would keep this fact in mind before resolving to give effect to the proposal which they have brought forward today.

As regards the actual results of the inspection of our system of medical education and methods of examinations by the Inspectors sent out by the General Medical Council of England, I am surprised at the reply given by my Honourable friend this morning. Government did not seem to have taken even the least care to know the results of the inspection of the examinations held in India before admitting the charge that the examinations and the system of medical education in India are deficient. I will just quote the results of the inspection of the final medical examinations held in India. Take for instance the Bombay University. It is not an inspection held by an Indian but it is an inspection held by a British Officer of the rank of a Lieutenant-Colonel known as Lieutenant-Colonel Dutton, belonging to the Indian Medical Service....

Sir Frank Noyce (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands) : On behalf of the General Medical Council.

Dr. B. S. Moonje : That is the point I am making here that an examination was made of the Medical Faculties of the Universities of India by the General Medical Council of England, and the Government of India has been so negligent as not to have made themselves aware of the results of such inspection before accepting the threat or ultimatum. That is the point I am making here.

Mr. G. L. Winterbotham (Associated Chambers of Commerce : Nominated Non-Official) : Will you give us the Officer's name again ?

Dr. B. S. Moonje : Lieutenant-Colonel Dutton belonging to the Indian Medical Service.

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney (Nominated : Anglo-Indians) : He does not belong to the Indian Medical Service.

Dr. B. S. Moonje : He does belong to the Indian Medical Service, but evidently my friend has forgotten that he also belongs to that service.

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney : I tell you again that he does not belong to the Indian Medical Service ; I am telling you a fact.

An Honourable Member : He belongs to R. A. M. C.

Dr. B. S. Moonje : I do not want to take the time of the House unnecessarily, but for the edification of my friend Colonel Gidney, I will read out his name which is printed here, H. R. Dutton, M.R.C.P., Lieut.-Colonel, I. M. S. General Medical Council, etc., etc. I would request my friend to be careful in contradicting me in future.

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney : I am not contradicting.

Dr. B. S. Moonje : I can understand differences of opinion, but I cannot understand un-warranted contradiction of facts. The result of the inspection, as reported by Lieut.-Colonel Dutton is like this.

Bombay University.

1. Hygiene :

“ The standard of questions was good and practical and questions on preventive medicines were asked ”.

2. Medical Jurisprudence and Toxicology :

“ The questions asked were good and practical and a fair standard of knowledge was demanded ”.

3. Materia Medica and Pharmacology :

“ The examination was thorough and satisfactory and the standard of knowledge shown was good ”.

4. Pathology and Bacteriology :

“ The standard of knowledge shown was generally good, especially in Bacteriology ”.

5. Medicine :

“ The whole examination was nicely conducted and a good standard of knowledge expected ”.

6. Midwifery and Gynæcology :

“ The whole examination was well planned and conducted and a good standard of knowledge demanded ”.

7. Surgery :

“ The whole examination was thoroughly practical and well conducted ”.

Eventually Lieut.-Colonel Dutton, I.M.S., if my friend Colonel Gidney will allow me to proceed without contradiction, says as follows :

“ I am of opinion that the final examination for the M.B., B.S., of the Bombay University held under the revised regulations (1923) is ‘ sufficient ’ and the recognition of the General Medical Council may be continued ”.

Lieut.-Colonel Dutton further remarks :

“ A general desire was evinced that the examination of this University should be of a high standard ”.

[Dr. B. S. Moonje.]

So much about the Bombay University. Now, let us see what another Inspector on behalf of the General Medical Council says about the examinations held by the Madras University. These are the remarks of Colonel Megaw. (*An Honourable Member* : "Is he also an I. M. S. ?") I could not say that, perhaps our friend Colonel Gidney will be able to tell that.

Sir Frank Noyce : I can assure the Honourable Member that he is a member of the Indian Medical Service.

An Honourable Member : Colonel Gidney confirmed.

Dr. B. S. Moonje : Thanks for the timely assistance, but I am concerned more with his opinion because he is an officer who was deputed as an Inspector by the General Medical Council of England itself which has given us this threat. Colonel Megaw says as regards the Madras University :

"Taking the examination, as a whole, it was conducted on sound practical lines and a high standard of answering was maintained, so that I have no hesitation in recommending the continued recognition of the M.B., B.S., Examination of the Madras University." ("Hear, hear.")

I do not want to tire the House by quoting the reports about the medical examinations of the other Universities in India. They are more or less on the same lines. This ought to give food for thought to my Honourable friend acting on behalf of the Government of India. This ought to warn him that, before accepting that threat, it is his duty to inquire and know as to how things actually stand ; before pocketing the humiliation of the condemnation of the Indian System of Medical Education and methods of examination by the General Medical Council of England it is the duty of the Government of India, as the custodian of the national honour of India, to warn the General Medical Council of England to be sure of their facts, which ought to make the General Medical Council to be respectful towards the Medical Faculties of the Universities of India. I hope my quotations and the information that I have placed before this House will make an impression upon the Government.

(At this stage Mr. President resumed the Chair.)

Now, as regards the question of the creation of the new post, taking for granted, for the sake of argument, that the system of medical examination in India is deficient, is the proposal of the General Medical Council, England, for the appointment of a Commissioner of Medical Standards feasible for the purposes for which the proposal is made ? Is it a practicable and useful proposition ? Will it conduce to the attainment of a high standard of medical education in India ? People using their common sense can understand what an amount of bad blood will be created when an officer who is imported over the heads of all the Universities in India against their wishes comes here and acts almost like a dictator and says to the Universities in India like those in Bombay, Calcutta or Madras, "Your examinations will not do, your system of medical education is bad",—perhaps that University may have a professor, may have a teacher, may have a demonstrator, who is far superior in intelligence, experience and skill to the Inspector sent out from England ! Can you expect that University to submit to the dictatorship of that person, even though he comes clothed with the authority as Inspector from the British Medical Council ? It is impossible, human nature being as it is ; just as individuals have got their sense of self-respect, so the institutions have got their sense

of self-respect, and nobody, and much less a University of long standing, would be able to put up with the insult involved in the affair. If this kind of reasoning is correct, if human nature is as I have described above, do you think that the appointment of this Commissioner would make for efficiency, would make for the attainment of a higher standard in the system of medical examinations in India? On the other hand it will create friction, it will create bitterness, it will create jealousy, in fact the whole system of medical examination will be upset, and instead of obtaining any advantage we will have to go through a period, if the Government were still to insist upon this appointment, during which the whole medical education in India will be at the lowest ebb possible. That is my opinion, and I am supported in that by the opinion of a responsible body, the opinion of the Bombay University. The Bombay University has considered this proposal and has come practically to the same conclusion to which I have come. I may quote the opinion of the Faculty of Medicine of the Bombay University; it is as follows in regard to this proposal:

"It is agreed that it will take some time to set up such a machinery and Sir Norman Walker suggests the appointment of a Commissioner of Medical Qualifications and standards as a temporary measure, and observes that the General Medical Council would willingly accept such an official as their visitor and that his regular reports will be of much assistance in determining whether recognition to Indian Degrees could be accorded. The Faculty is strongly opposed to the suggestion of Sir Norman Walker and is of opinion that the appointment of a Central Officer is neither conducive to the dignity nor to the independence of the Universities....."

Bravo Bombay University. They have maintained the dignity, the independence and the sense of self-respect of the Indians represented by that Faculty:

".....and would create difficulties and lead to friction, for the Commissioner will occupy a position similar to that of a Dictator to the Universities."

Further, as pointed out by Sir Norman Walker, the General Medical Council appoints three Inspectors,—three different persons proficient in three different departments of medical knowledge. They come here, they examine, and inspect the systems of examinations throughout the several Universities in India. In place of those three Inspectors that are at present being sent out by the General Medical Council, the proposal of the Government of India is to appoint one officer, and that one officer is supposed to be or is expected to be an expert in all the different departments of medical knowledge. He is supposed to be an expert in surgery; at the same time he is supposed to be an expert in medicine; in toxicology; in gynaecology; in children's diseases; in so many other departments. At one time when I was a student in the Medical College 35 years ago, it was a common saying in joke that a member of the Indian Medical Service was omnipotent, was omniscient, and, like an amphibious animal, expert both in medicine as well as in surgery, was a person who expected to be regarded as efficient and expert in all the different departments of medical knowledge wherever he might be put. 'A member of the Indian Medical Service can be today a professor of medicine, tomorrow he can be transferred to toxicology and he becomes a great toxicologist. The third day he is appointed professor of anatomy, and he becomes a great anatomist; on the fourth day he is appointed a teacher of chemistry and he becomes an expert on chemistry. (*An Honourable Member*: "Subjantewala".) That was thirty-two years ago, when perhaps the medical conscience of Indians on the western pattern had not been sufficiently developed. It could have been said so then, but to say the same thing today on the floor

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of this House with the knowledge that there are Indian practitioners, both as surgeons and medical men, many times superior to many of the officers of the Indian Medical Service is nothing short of arrogant hypocrisy ; it is only people, who are in authority, who are in political domination, that alone can say so and others like us who are in political subordination are expected to submit to it even without a protest. Supposing that we agree to the proposal of the Government of India for the appointment of one person as Commissioner, we have to take it that he must be an expert in all the departments of medical knowledge, and could he be expected to be so ?

It should not be said that I am purely a destructive critic. I am not in the habit of making purely destructive criticism. I have also a constructive suggestion to make. Do you think that the Government of India is at present in a mood to listen to constructive criticism from our side or are they already too much committed ? (*An Honourable Member* : " No ".) Will they keep their mind open ? Will they divest themselves of their previous prejudices, of their previous commitments and keep an open mind ? Will they stand before this House with an open mind, absolutely blind to their previous prejudices and previous commitments and take this constructive suggestion of mine ?—And I am sure they will find that there is some merit in that and that it should not be thrown into the waste paper basket. My constructive suggestion is that, instead of appointing one individual as a Commissioner of Medical Examinations,—however high-placed officer he may be, however capable he may be, however skilful he may be,—he could not be supposed to be proficient in all the different departments of medical knowledge—let the medical faculties of all the different Universities in India be asked to appoint one representative each so as to form a Central Board, for the time being before any permanent arrangements could be decided upon, the Central Board representing the medical faculties of the different Universities, so that the Universities may feel that their self-respect has been consulted, that they take a hand in the determination of the system of medical education in the country and the manner of conducting their medical examinations. Instead of one person, you will thus have about 5 or 10 experts in different departments of medical knowledge conducting the examinations and carrying on the duties which this one man is expected to discharge.

I hope the Government of India will give due consideration to this proposal of mine, made with the best of intentions, with the idea of providing for continuous supervision of the system of medical education in India, so that it should be maintained on a level of sufficiency and efficiency.

From all these points of view I have not been able to convince myself that the Government have been able to make out a case for the creation of a new post, and I appeal to Government that, instead of bringing forward such an important proposal at the fag end of the Assembly, when most of our people have left, they should defer this question till the next Session if theirs be the desire to ascertain what the true opinion of the people is on this question. I hope my appeal will not go in vain and I therefore oppose this motion of the Honourable the Finance Member.

Mr. President : I think Dr. Moonje has made an appeal to the Government that this motion involving as it does such an important question of policy should not be taken up for discussion at this fag end of the

Session and asked them to postpone its further consideration to the next Sessions.

Dr. B. S. Moonje : Particularly as it is not a very urgent matter, Sir.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Hussain (Member for Education, Health and Lands) : The appeal that has been made to Government by the Honourable Member who has made such an eloquent speech on this rather dry subject has not fallen on deaf ears. If he imagines that the proposal before the House is one to make a permanent appointment, I am here at once to tell him that, had such a proposal been contemplated by the Department, it would certainly not have obtained my support. I cannot conceive the Government of India embarking upon a proposal to engage a permanent Inspector of Medical Education to go all over India in order to make his reports in due course to the British Medical Council. The position is perhaps not made quite clear to the House on account of this supplementary demand having come by way of a supplementary demand and not as the main theme of discussion enunciating the policy of Government. You will permit me to mention how this little business has come before the House in this way. Almost all the Local Governments, which means Ministers in charge of Medicine and Public Health, have asked the Government of India, as a temporary measure, to appoint this Commissioner for the current year, so that they may have time to consider some constructive scheme under which they could organise provincial medical institutions, in order to so conduct themselves as to maintain the prestige of India and of their provinces, and then be in a position to negotiate with the British Medical Council. It is their desire, when they are trying to do so, that the Government of India may not intervene, and take the position of the British Medical Council, lest they, instead of getting rid of one master, be in the difficult position of having two masters. I trust that this Assembly will not, by any action of its own, create this impression, which I have no doubt would be a wrong impression, on the mind of Provincial Governments that the Government of India or the Assembly in any way are attempting to work out a position in which the Local Governments have to serve, not only the British Medical Council, but also the Government of India and the Assembly. I assure the Honourable Member that the subject that he has mentioned is already under the consideration not only of the Government of India but of all the Ministries of Public Health and Medicine throughout India, and will not be decided without the Assembly having a full opportunity of considering the whole problem on its own merits.

Dr. B. S. Moonje : On a point of information. Is it a fact that, before all the Local Governments could give their consent to the proposal to the Government of India, the Government of India itself was committed to the proposal of creating this post.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Hussain : I feel doubtful about these points of information and etiquette, and so on, for the present. The position is this, that the Government of India desired to have an institution of the sort just indicated by the Honourable Member on the floor of this House, namely, an all-India organisation on which the Universities would be represented and the profession would be represented. After all the Government of India under the reformed constitution, is not as supreme

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as it used to be ten years ago. It has to mind the public opinion of India and also the public opinion as expressed by the Ministers who have elected Legislative Councils behind them. I trust I am not committing any breach of the Government of India etiquette in disclosing these facts. The Government of India did not have their way because the Ministers insisted that they would not have an All-India Medical Council till they were satisfied that it was in the best interests of the country, and on that the Honourable Member in charge in the Government of India had no option but to say, "I hold my hand. I will not decide this matter till I have gone again through the matter with my officers, and possibly after consulting the Assembly and the public opinion. I may be in a position to agree with your request and meet you again to confer with you, in order to arrive at a further stage of this difficult problem."

Therefore, this unfortunate temporary post really is not the creation of the Government of India, but is the creation of circumstances.....

Dr. B. S. Moonje: Is it as the result of a threat of the British Medical Council ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Hussain : Oh ! No ; not in the least. It is not the threat of the British Council as much as it is the suspicion, the grave suspicion, of Ministers of the fact that this All-India Medical Council may not be as good a thing as it appears to be on the face of it. Therefore, they said, "We are going to contribute funds (Rs. 3,000 or so a year from each Local Government) in order to employ a man who will be able to certify that everything that is taught in our colleges is good, that our method of conducting examinations is above all suspicion", and therefore they said, "We are going to club together, organise ourselves into a sort of co-operative society", and does the Honourable Member opposite desire to prevent them from doing so ? This grant, I understand, is nothing more than a temporary loan to this co-operative venture of Ministers in India, and will be recouped from contributions from various Provincial Governments. And mind you, they have agreed to do so for only one year. Therefore there is no question of a general policy having been started by the Government of India to the prejudice of the prestige of India or anybody. I can assure the Honourable Member, Sir, that, although I may not have his eloquence to express my regard for the prestige of India, still, in feeling, in sentiment I do not give place to him in this matter. I trust, Sir, I have made it absolutely clear that this little matter of a supplementary grant, which is a temporary loan to various Local Governments' Ministers for the time being, is essentially of a transitory and temporary nature, and that it does not involve any expression of policy in a way that might prejudice the decision of this matter in the future. It is a matter which I trust the Assembly will recognise is as much the concern of Local Governments and their Ministers as either of the Government of India or of this Assembly. We must not show that, in this matter, we dictate to them ; we must try to show that, in spite of the fact that medical education is a transferred subject and the setting of the standard is a reserved subject, still we could pull together and pay sufficient regard to the wishes of Ministers even when we do not see entirely eye to eye with them. (Cheers.)

Dr. B. S. Moonje : I rise, Sir, on a point of further information, from the Honourable Member. Of course being accustomed for long to what is called the thin end of the wedge, we are not prepared to accept in full what the Honourable Member has said ; so I want information on this point. The question as I understand that was placed before the Provincial Ministers was either to have a General Medical Council or to agree to the creation of this post. This third alternative, which I have suggested and which means that the co-operation of all the Universities in India has to be requisitioned in the matter of supervising the medical examinations and medical education in India, was not before them. Is the Honourable Member therefore prepared now to say that no action will be taken until he has brought this suggestion to the notice of all the Ministers, or until another conference of the Ministers is held, and that, before this suggestion is considered by the Ministers, no further action will be taken ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Hussain : I should like, Sir, to be quite clear as to what the Honourable Member means by " further action". As for drawing the attention of Local Governments to the Honourable Member's suggestion for requesting each University to elect a representative of its own in order to serve on an all-India institution of the sort contemplated by the Honourable Member, I have not the slightest hesitation in bringing that to the notice of the Local Governments' Ministers in charge of the subject. As for taking no further action, I assure you, Sir, that the Government of India will take no further action than that which I have already outlined, *viz.*, to engage one person temporarily for this year in order to do the work. (*An Honourable Member :* " That is the only proposal before the House ".) That is undoubtedly the only proposal before the House, but as the Honourable Member wanted that information, I have supplied it. So far as this interruption is concerned, if you, Sir, say that the debate should proceed, then I shall be prepared to show to the House on the merits, that this temporary arrangement is in no way intended or likely to affect the dignity or prestige either of this House or of the country.

Mr. M. R. Jayakar (Bombay City : Non-Muhammadan Urban) : Sir, I may be permitted to enter my protest on a question which is, in a way, outside my usual region of knowledge. Sir, I have risen to enter my strongest protest against the proposal which is before the House. I congratulate the Honourable Member who spoke just a few minutes ago on the speech which he has made. I see the Honourable Member leaving the House. I wish that he had remained here to listen to my comments. It is a courtesy which he owes to this House that having made a controversial speech, he should remain to listen to the reply which is based upon his comments. His is a very seductive speech, Sir, and I hope to draw the attention of the House to its seductive character. The Honourable Member who spoke last wanted to justify this proposal on the ground that it was only a temporary measure. But that is no concession to our sentiments and it is not as if in consideration of the feeling of the House he was reducing a permanent proposal to a temporary one. If the Honourable Member will turn to the proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee, it will be more than clear that when the Standing Finance Committee turned down this proposal by a majority as the Honourable Sir George Schuster made clear in his speech, it was only the proposal for a temporary post. There is no question before this House of appointing a

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permanent individual at all. It is not therefore a fact that the Honourable Member was making a concession to this House in treating his proposal as tentative. But even the temporary proposal is a vicious proposal. I must say, Sir, that I admire the effrontery of that proposal. (Hear, hear.) It is nothing more than an apotheosis of the I. M. S., I do not propose to go into the question of the racial distinction involved in appointing a European I. M. S. officer. I shall only examine the policy underlying the proposal in the dry light of reason and argument. What is the proposal, Sir?

Mr. President : Order, order. I should like to know from the Honourable Member for Government whether he really considers it proper that this question of policy, on which the Opposition feel so strongly, should be discussed at this fag end of the Session when the opposition Benches are so thin and whether he would not agree to take this matter up next Session.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Hussain : Had I known, Sir, that a discussion on an important question like that would be raised, I can assure you that I would have liked nothing better than a discussion at any stage that the House might have considered more favourable than the present one. But my trouble is this. This is a supplementary demand which has come in the ordinary course (*An Honourable Member :* "It is a token demand.") and not by design.....

Mr. President : It could have come earlier?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Hussain : Had we known that this subject would be taken advantage of to discuss the question of general policy.....

Mr. President : When was it placed before the Standing Finance Committee?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Hussain : A meeting of that Committee was held only a few days ago.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster : May I make an explanation, Sir? The proposal came up before the Standing Finance Committee, I think, at their second meeting. It was just at the beginning of this month. It was then represented to me by various Members that it was a question which they felt involved an important matter of principle, and they asked that it should stand over in order that they might consult various bodies about it. For that reason, it was delayed. As far as the Standing Finance Committee is concerned, the Government and my Honourable friend's Department brought this proposal up at the earliest possible moment, and it was really in deference to the wishes of the Members that it was held over so long. That, I think, explains one part of the discussion.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : (Dacca Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): May I ask, Sir, what dire results would follow if this officer, instead of being appointed today, were to be appointed in January next?

Mr. President : How can he be appointed in January?

Mr. K. C. Neogy : In February, Sir.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Hussain: How can it be February either ? Does the Honourable Member think that a supplementary demand or a token demand made in the month of February and accepted by the House will result in the immediate appointment of the person concerned ?

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta (Bombay City : Non-Muhammadan Urban) : If the individual is waiting, yes.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Hussain: Is he waiting ? The Honourable Member knows more than I do.

An Honourable Member : This House knows more than that.

Dr. B. S. Moonje : Why do you not accept my constructive proposal in the meantime ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Hussain: I should like you to be a little clearer as to what you would like us to do, because here is a . . .

Mr. President : Order, order : The Chair has only made a suggestion to the Government whether they could not conveniently postpone the consideration of so important a question of policy till the House was more full, that is, till the next Session ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Hussain: If, Sir, that is the wish of the House, there will be nothing for me but to bow to it. (Hear, hear.)

Several Honourable Members : That is the wish of the House.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Hussain : But may I, Sir, through you remind the House that the matter is not quite between me and that part of the House which desires a fuller meeting of the House ? It seems to me that we are having a fairly full meeting now, so far as I can see. It is a matter in which the parties vitally concerned are Ministers in charge of the Medical Department, including the medical colleges which are imparting medical education. They are directly concerned in the matter.

Dr. B. S. Moonje : We the parents are directly concerned.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Hussain: No doubt the Honourable Member may be directly concerned, as he belongs to the medical profession, but the persons directly concerned are those who are responsible for the administration of those colleges and who are responsible to the elected representatives of the people for their due administration. Sir, I may inform the House that members of local Legislatures have as much regard for the privileges of their Houses as the Honourable Members sitting opposite, and they can also act in the same way as the Honourable Members opposite act. If the Minister went wrong in any way, is there any reason to believe that the Members of the Local Council will not take him to task as the Honourable Members are trying to do now ? The Honourable Members must remember that the reformed Government is a Government conducted on party lines. Is there any Member present here who can say that the Minister in charge, who is not having the confidence of his party, can have any proposal passed in the Council ?

Several Honourable Members : Yes ; by Government block.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Hussain : That would never do. The issue is plain one. I am placing before the Assembly a matter in which

[Sir Fazl-i-Hussain.]

the Local Governments, that is, the Ministers on behalf of their Legislatures are vitally concerned. They have come to a unanimous decision—I believe it is almost unanimous, probably it is quite unanimous—to the effect that they would like to appoint a man for a year in order to settle their differences with the British Medical Council. The Government of India comes into the picture only as an intermediary, as a person collecting these contributions from Provincial Governments. Mind you, Sir, the responsibility of the Assembly by standing in the way of that being done is a very serious one, is an extremely serious one, and, before the House decides either in favour of proceeding with this question or throwing out the demand, it will have to be determined whether the Ministers cannot of their own accord carry on this act. Is there anything to prevent them from agreeing amongst themselves to have an Inspector who would co-ordinate the expenditure on education? Can the Assembly for a moment assume the position that, even in the case of a transferred subject which these Ministers are administering, with the full concurrence of their Legislatures,.....

Several Honourable Members : No, no.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Hussain : You may say “No, no,” but I do say “Yes” in the case of many provinces from personal experience. The question is, do you think that it is a matter with which you are directly and primarily concerned to the extent of obstructing the Government of India from trying to carry out the wishes of all the Local Governments put together? This House has nothing to do with medical education. I mean no disrespect to the Honourable Members when I say this, but I am relying on the constitution as it is, and it never does any harm for a higher institution like the Assembly, *vis-a-vis* the local Legislatures, to know that, just as this House not unoften resents what may look like interference from a higher Legislature, say, the mother of Parliaments, the younger sisters of this Legislature may also resent and call this an interference with their business. I wish to impress this point on the House most emphatically in the hope that this matter will not be allowed to develop into a question of the highest constitutional importance between the Provincial Legislatures and the Assembly in which it will be extremely difficult for the Government to.....

Mr. President : Order, order. The Chair is not at all concerned with the constitutional aspect of the question so vividly described by the Honourable Member. All that the Chair wants to know is whether the Government are prepared to meet the Opposition in the suggestion that they have made, that the consideration of this question of policy should not be taken up this Session. That is all that the Chair is concerned with.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Hussain : I extremely regret my inability to agree to that suggestion, Sir.

Mr. G. L. Winterbotham : Will some Honourable Member intimate to the House whether there is not a third party interested in this question? Whether the students who want to get their degrees recognised are not involved in this question and whether, if the appointment of this officer is delayed, there will not be a large number of medical students....

Mr. President : Order, order. The discussion would proceed, because the Government do not agree to the suggestion for postponement.

Mr. M. R. Jayakar : Sir, the question raised by my Honourable friend Mr. Neogy has not been answered by the Honourable Member in charge of the Department. What dire results would follow if this appointment were deferred till February or March next ? That was the question. No answer has been given to it. The Honourable Member has drawn a very lurid picture before this House as if there was a mandate given to the Government of India and to this House by the Local Governments and their Ministers. But may I ask the Honourable Member, is he in a position to state to this House whether the Local Legislative Councils have been consulted on this question ? (*Voices : "Not a bit."*) If they have been so consulted, is there any vote in favour of this proposal ? Is there even any vote in favour of the proposal that this question should be referred to the Government of India ? My information is that the Local Provincial Councils, of which so much has been made by the Honourable Member in charge, have never been consulted on this point at all. Speaking of the Ministers, to whom the Honourable Member has referred more than once, this House is aware that they turned down the proposal of an All-India Medical Council. That was apparently on the ground that such a Council would interfere with the autonomy of the transferred departments ; and yet curiously enough the same body of Ministers gave its consent to the proposal of having an all-India dictator and his autocratic interference. I do not wish to say anything about the Ministers ; they are all estimable and honourable men. But, Sir, I cannot understand a body of responsible men who turn down the idea of an all-India Council of Indian medical men on the ground that it would cause an interference with provincial autonomy submitting to an all-India dictator in the person of an I. M. S. European officer. The less we talk of such Ministers the better for this House, and if I may give a tip to the Honourable Member, the less he mentions such Ministers and their views the better for his proposal and its favourable reception in this House. Sir, the point is this, that this money is going to be voted from the Central Legislature in the first instance. A sum of Rs. 39,000 is going to be voted for this officer. My Honourable friend opposite said that the men most directly concerned are the Ministers. I absolutely repudiate that suggestion. The man most directly concerned is the taxpayer out of whose pockets Rs. 39,000 are going to be paid towards the salary and the establishment of this officer. (Hear, hear.) I warn this House not to be drawn out of its usual way of scrupulously examining such proposals on the mere ground which the Honourable Member repeated nearly twenty times, " Oh ! the Honourable Ministers of the Provincial Governments all have agreed—so this House must agree and not obstruct ". May I ask if this House is here simply to record the decrees of Local Governments and their Ministers ? This House has the right to examine every proposal on its merits, and I propose to do that. I do hope that the Honourable Member will not again frighten us with the mumbo jumbo of Provincial Governments and their decisions.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Hussain : He will, if he is permitted.

Mr. M. R. Jayakar : This House has got to examine the proposal on its merits. The proposal, Sir, is practically to establish a medical dictator for India. At present, owing to India's dependent condition, the Indian Universities are in this unfortunate position, that whatever the qualifications of their students, the nature of their studies and the depth of their knowledge, their *alumni* have to go England and qualify for an English medical degree to obtain high employment. It is the vicious policy of the Government to give preference to English qualifications. I take it to be a necessary consequence of the dependent position of India. The desire therefore is that the acquisition of British medical degrees should be made more easy by reason of concessions in studies or terms being granted to Indian medical degrees. I entirely agree with what my Honourable friend Dr. Moonje said about the undeserved inferiority attached to Indian degrees, but I will not labour that point. The present arrangement is this, that the British General Medical Council has appointed three Inspectors to test the worth of Indian degrees conferred after proper qualifications. These three Inspectors are, one in midwifery, one in medicine and one in surgery. They examine and report on the worth of the Indian degree. The British Medical Council was up to now satisfied with this arrangement. These three medical Inspectors—autocrats in a way—inspected, examined and pronounced on the efficiency of the medical degrees granted by Indian Universities. Now, the British Medical Council says, "Oh ! this arrangement of three medical Inspectors does not suit us. We want to have these three medical Inspectors replaced by one autocrat". And as if to make the proposal more obnoxious to Indians, the British Medical Council wants that autocrat to be a member of the I. M. S.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Hussain : It is not there.

Mr. M. R. Jayakar : It is stated in the proposal before the Standing Finance Committee that the officer was to be an I. M. S. Officer. May I read it for the benefit of the Honourable Member ? Possibly he is not well informed on this point. It is stated that "the intended officer is to be an I. M. S. officer of sufficient seniority and experience." Is the Honourable Member willing to go back on this and state whether he is prepared to appoint a qualified Indian of medical experience ? If so, I shall modify, to some extent, my opposition to this proposal in so far as it arises on racial grounds. This is the entire proposal, Sir, and we cannot take away the I. M. S. part of that proposal when we have to judge it on its merits. The proposal, therefore, is that an officer of the I. M. S. should be appointed as the sole authority in India, like Caesar, to control, examine, supervise and pronounce upon the merits of Indian medical degrees. As my Honourable friend Dr. Moonje stated when this proposal went before the Bombay University Senate which happens to be a body consisting of educational experts, professional and businessmen—a very important body of responsible men, they turned it down. The Senate as well as the Syndicate both expressed themselves strongly against the proposal in the following terms :

"The Faculty is strongly opposed to the suggestion of Sir Norman Walker and is of opinion that the appointment of a Central Officer is neither conducive to the dignity....."

Honourable Members will mark these words :

"is neither conducive to the dignity nor to the independence of the Universities and would create difficulties and lead to friction, as the Commissioner will occupy a position similar to that of a Dictator to the Universities. Further, as pointed out by

Sir Norman Walker, the General Medical Council appoints three Inspectors—presumably all of them specialists in their own subjects—one in medicine, one in surgery and one in midwifery. It takes these Inspectors about two years to complete their cycle of inspection. If the suggestion of Sir Norman Walker is adopted in India, all this work will fall on one Commissioner who will have to complete his inspection of all the Indian Universities within an extraordinarily short time to be able to present an annual report. Moreover, such a Commissioner will have to be a specialist in all the three subjects. The task is too great for one individual."

Well, Sir, this is the opinion, the well reasoned opinion, not of political agitators, but of a sedate body of specialists, including the Vice-Chancellor, who is a very important official in Bombay, the leading business and professional men and a number of educational experts. The Honourable Member has not said a word about this expression of opinion. Further I am surprised that this proposal has come up, although it was turned down by the Standing Finance Committee, as the Honourable Sir George Schuster frankly stated. Sir I congratulate him on the frankness of his speech and I am sure if the matter had rested solely with him and if the vested interests which are behind this proposal had not compelled him to bring it before the House we would have seen the last of this proposal long ago. But now that it has come before this House, I submit that it should be unceremoniously turned down. There is no other alternative. The grounds made out are unconvincing. My Honourable friend Mr. Winterbotham stated that students' interests were involved in the question. May I know from the Honourable Sir Fazl-i-Hussain, if the British Medical Council were informed that, having regard to the debate in this House and the strong feeling which the proposal has evoked, and having special regard to the point that you suggested, Sir, from the Chair that a question of this importance ought not to be put before the House when it is nearly completing its Session, that having regard to all these considerations, this proposal cannot be proceeded with until the next Session. The Honourable Member thinks that, if this wish of the House were communicated to the British General Medical Council, that Body would be so unreasonable as peremptorily to say, "No, we hold the pistol at the head of the Indian Universities. Sanction this proposal today. If you postpone it till February, we would cancel all recognition." Is that likely? My answer to the Honourable Member Mr. Winterbotham is this: "the Heavens are not going to fall if we waited till next March." I am quite agreeable to this, Sir, and I wish the Honourable Member once more to consider the suggestion of my Honourable friend Dr. Moonje, namely, that this matter should come before the House when it has more time, larger attendance, and more information. I myself may go back to the University and the medical men of Bombay and ask for more details and I will be better prepared to accept or reject the proposal if it is brought before us in the month of March. But if my Honourable friend will take the risk of rushing the proposal in the present depleted state of the House, my answer will be, we will unceremoniously turn it down so far as we can do so. Sir, as my Honourable friend Dr. Moonje has pointed out, the system of having three Medical Inspectors has gone on for some time. The reports made by these Inspectors have been very favourable. We have no grounds to believe, except the *ipse dixit* of the British General Medical Council in England, that the system has not worked well. I certainly feel the humiliation of a foreign Inspector going over Indian Universities and examining the mental calibre of the students and the quality of the examinations, but as long as India is a dependency, we have to submit to the humiliation. But what is there to show, beyond the mere *obiter*

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dictum of the British Medical Council, that this system has not worked well. I do not wish to tire the House by reading out the reports made by these Inspectors which are very favourable to Indian Universities. Honourable Members must not take it that Indian education has been found wanting by these Inspectors. On the contrary the reports of these Inspectors are a very good testimonial. There is no reason why the system should not be continued for some time more until we evolve an All-India Medical Council. No grounds have been stated to us explaining why this system cannot go on for a short time more, except the peremptory "No" of the British Council. If this system does not work, how will the scheme of having one medical autocrat for the whole of India will work? I want Honourable Members to closely apply their minds to that main question; is it a desirable thing that one officer should sit in Simla or Delhi with a stenographer and control the whole of Indian medical education? His establishment will consist of one stenographer and two peons. His office will be in Delhi and Simla. He will be an I. M. S. officer, not a man drawn from among the people sympathising with and having contact with the people. He will be an isolated individual, a member of the Indian Medical Service, and I am stating nothing derogatory when I say that he will be an isolated individual wrapped up in his own ignorance and superior ideas. He will be working through files and red tape. Do the Honourable Members think that this autocrat will work in harmony with the several Universities of India, each growing up in its infancy and requiring delicate handling? The task is well nigh impossible. I am surprised Sir, that the Department over which an Indian like my Honourable friend presides should not have seen the national aspect of this question, the question of Indian self-respect and the independence of the Universities. This preposterous proposal is before the House and we are asked to sanction Rs. 39,000 a year for it. Honourable Members will not fail to remember that nothing has been shown to prove that so far the progress of Indian Universities has been bad. All University degrees have been recognised by the British Medical Council except those of two, Patna and Rangoon.

Sir Frank Noyce : The recognition of the degrees of the Calcutta University was withdrawn for three years.

Mr. M. R. Jayakar : My statement was that it was recognised at one time. The only two Universities which have not been recognised are Patna and Rangoon. That statement is correct.

Sir Frank Noyce : The new ones.

Mr. M. R. Jayakar : That is so. Therefore it is not a case where we can say that the whole system of medical education in India has been proved to be inferior and therefore a drastic remedy is needed. The onus is very heavy on the other side to prove that a proposal, which is *prima facie* obnoxious and impossible to work, should be accepted by this House specially if it costs Rs. 39,000 of the tax-payers' money. I submit, Sir, that the proposal should be rejected.

Lient-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney : Before I commence to make any comments on the motion that is before the House I desire to tell Dr. Moonje that when he in his speech mentioned the name of Colonel Dutton, I misheard him and thought he said Colonel Duggan, a name more familiar in Bombay than Colonel Dutton. No doubt, Sir, this was due to either my

defective hearing or to the indistinct speech of the Honourable Member which was delivered at some distance. I am sorry that I confused these names and that is the explanation for my intervention, but, here I must ask my friend Dr. Moonje not to misconstrue this error of mine and look upon me in any way as an obstructionist or to think that I have no sympathy with the motion that he moved. I hope Dr. Moonje will accept this as my explanation of my interruption of his speech.

Sir, I have a motion against my name. . . .

Mr. President : The Honourable Member knows that it is the same as Dr. Moonje's. The Honourable Member now wants to amend that motion. He should have given separate notice for that purpose, but, I think for the convenience of this debate he had better confine himself to the motion now before the House.

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney : Sir, for reasons already communicated to you, I will not move my motion and will speak on the motion of Dr. Moonje. At the outset I wish to assure the House that I yield to no one here, even those on the opposite Benches in their desire to maintain the dignity of the medical profession in India and the prestige of its various medical colleges and Universities. I submit that too much value—too much market—is made of medical education in England and English degrees. I submit that India should not be singled out as the only part of the British Empire from whom it is demanded that she should send her sons to another country for education to qualify for employment in our own country. This is not demanded from any other Dominion ; and, therefore, what I have to say on this motion is the outcome of deep conviction and deep thought as a son of India and as a medical man with some administrative experience. Sir, what are the facts of the case ? In September, 1921, Mr. Subrahmanayam moved a Resolution in this House protesting against a similar action on the part of the British General Medical Council. That Resolution was discussed at great length in this House and I took part in it. The House in no uncertain terms expressed its disapproval of the distinct discourtesy of the Medical Council conveyed in a curt letter, and it was considered that a revolver was being held at our heads. I have no desire to minimise the position today, for, I consider that a revolver is again being held at our heads and I object to being threatened by anyone even that all powerful body, the British Medical Council ; but, when that Resolution was discussed in 1921, what was the standard of medical education in this country ? My friend Mr. Jayakar must not think he has a monopoly of intelligence in this House or in this matter. As a barrister, I am willing to accept his opinion on legal matters, but, when he talks on medical questions, I am sorry I cannot accept his opinion, and it seems as if barristers dare to step where doctors fear to tread. Sir, when this Resolution was moved in 1921, the training of midwifery in Indian colleges was the following : Bombay was not up to the standard required by the British General Medical Council, because each student performed only 7 cases of labour and on this he received his degree to practice. In Calcutta each graduate had only done 10 cases of labour. Madras was well up to the standard. Now we come to the Punjab, where 50 students had 23 labour cases divided among themselves to attend, which works out at the appalling rate of less than half a labour case per student, and yet, he was given his degree to practice midwifery. Could anything be more lamentable, more dangerous, more defective ? Such was the disgraceful and appalling condition of our mid-

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wifery training in 1921, and that was the reason, Sir, why Sir Norman Walker on behalf of the British Medical Council visited this country to investigate our medical standards. Sir Norman Walker, I may tell this House, is an eminent dermatologist and when I heard that he was coming to India to improve our training in midwifery, I was surprised and hoped he was coming here to eradicate our cursed colour prejudice and to kill our pigmentary handicap as a dermatologist, and as such, I should have welcomed him. But, being an expert on medical standards also, he was eminently fitted for his inquiry.

Sir, in 1922 I had the honour of moving a resolution in this House which, for want of a better term, I called my medical Swaraj resolution. The resolution ran thus :

“ This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that he be pleased to appoint a Committee of professional experts half to be obtained from the United Kingdom in consultation with the General Medical Council, and the other half from India, to tour India and to inquire into the training that is obtained in the various medical and surgical institutions, both official and non-official, and to submit recommendations with a view to bringing the Indian institutions, in all respects, on a level with those of the United Kingdom and thereby creating in India a suitable field of recruitment for its entire medical services.”

This Resolution, Sir, was discussed at great length and it was this House, especially the opposite Benches, that turned it down. In the course of my speech I said :

“ I want to inculcate some national medical pride ; I want to put our house in order, to raise the standard of medical training and make it equal to the very best in Europe ; to demand equal recognition by deserving before desiring ; to improve our training and to get the best staff possible ; to kill the European hall mark and all these distinctions that stand in our way ; to supply our own medical men for the entire medical services, including the Army and civil ; to make the service more popular ; to have it a first class service and open to the best men in the world ; to recruit freely in India, instead of depending on other countries for our medical men ; and to be independent like other Dominion States, to let others come to us, not we to them. To shake off the control of the General Medical Council ; and to have our own General Medical Council. Such is the Nirvana that I am trying to portray ; such is the medical Swaraj that I am trying to put before you to obtain for India and which, I submit, will be obtained by accepting my Resolution.”

“ There is no use saying with one breath ‘ we want Swaraj ’ and in the next ‘ borrow our medical needs from other countries.’ Can we obtain this Nirvana with the present system which is in force in India ? I say emphatically no. It is impossible with the present type of medical men who are coming to India. It merely results in inferior training at the hospitals when compared with the European Schools.”

“ We must, therefore, look for our future men from and in India, and now is the time to put our schools in order so that within a few years they will be able to supply our medical needs. If I had the choice, I would say that I would rather have best men from India than the mediocres from Europe. India today demands of the very best. She must have that. She cannot supply it herself today, but, I want her to supply it within a few years. She must do so. My Resolution asks and seeks for this, nothing more and nothing less.”

Such was the atmosphere in which the discussion took place then. What has happened since ? Since then Sir Norman Walker and a distinguished Officer of the I. M. S., Colonel Dutton, toured India and visited our institutions. They made certain reports on certain institutions and it was brought to the notice of the General Medical Council that the standard of education at some of our Universities was not quite up to the mark as demanded by the British Medical Council. Now, Sir, I have not seen the

reports that were sent to the General Medical Council, but one of the Universities—Bengal—refused to be inspected by Sir Norman Walker and what was the result ? The British General Medical Council, acting under its Parliamentary Statutory rights, declined to recognise Bengal, with the dire result that for over three years medical graduates from Bengal were refused recognition. Recently at a session of the All-India Medical Congress, which I attended, and of which Council I am an executive member, this matter was discussed and it was felt that Bengal had acted unwisely and that steps should be taken to secure recognition. This I understand was acted upon by the University and accordingly, the British Medical Council had consented to recognise all these graduates. That, Sir, was the penalty these graduates paid for the indiscretion of their University, and this is what I fear will result if this House today refuses to recognise the inherent—the Parliamentary—rights the British Medical Council possesses and which action it can repeat if it chuses to do. Does this House consisting of laymen, of politicians, desire to prejudice the future prospects of those of India's medical graduates who want to proceed to England ? Surely this is not the desire of the opposite Benches. Surely we cannot dispute the rights of the British General Medical Council to insist on its standards being maintained. The General Medical Council is anxious that India should have an All-India Medical Council ; the Government of India is also anxious to have an All-India Medical Council ; but the Provincial Governments, in the shape of their Ministers of Health, who assembled in Simla this year, unanimously rejected it. Why ? To my mind for two reasons among others. I may be wrong, but, I think one of these reasons was that they were zealous of their own transferred subject, medicine ; and stoutly resented any interference from the Government of India. The second reason was, I believe, they did not trust the Government of India and no doubt they have reasons for this mistrust. I mean no disrespect, and I have no desire to discredit the Government of India, but I think that in such matters the Government of India have to be very careful before they interfere with a transferred subject like medicine. The All-India Medical Congress and the entire profession in India want an All-India Medical Council. Yet, the Provincial Governments have turned it down. Why ? Surely, it is the duty of Honourable Members to persuade their Provincial Councils to insist on such an organisation. Now, Sir, since we are not going to have an All-India Medical Council what is the next best thing ? The General Medical Council says that till an All-India Medical Council is formed, we must appoint an experienced Commissioner or Inspector of Medical Standards and Qualifications, who will inspect our institutions and report to them on the standards maintained. My friend, Dr. Moonje, for whom I have great respect because he is a constructive politician and not an aerial one, said that because Bombay and Madras were up to the standard required by the General Medical Council, therefore such an Inspector was not necessary. But, he was remarkably silent as regards the standard of medical training that obtains today in the Punjab, Burma, Bihar, United Provinces, Central Provinces and other provinces. He was not in a position to say anything about those places. We do know that Bombay and Madras are well up to standard. But, the British General Medical Council, I understand, feels that Rangoon and Patna and some other provinces are below the standard required and so do not recognise these Universities. They are anxious to do so, but demand an adequate standard which can only be ascertained by the appointment of an Inspector as they suggest.

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Sir, I talk as a medical man, and I talk with some considerable feeling of sympathy with Dr. Moonje. I do not talk merely from the point of view of the blood-letting operation which Mr. Jayakar was prepared to indulge in as proof of his injured national feelings. I would be the last man to allow India to be insulted and to be denied an equal place with the rest of the British Empire. But, I am bound to admit that the medical training in some of the provinces of India is not as it should be and is not up to the standard required by the British General Medical Council. Some of the Honourable Members see no reason why Indians should go to England for further degrees and think that our own degrees are good enough. I should have every sympathy with such views if our training were better, and it was to obtain this that I moved my medical Swaraj Resolution in 1922. But, it is our own medical men who want to go to England and it is they who help to develop that pseudo-superiority complex which may attach to an European medical degree, who themselves place a high premium on these degrees and a discount on Indian-obtained degrees, and so, place our Universities under the authority and demands of the British General Medical Council. It is our own Indian doctors and the public who look up to the England-trained man and look down on the man trained in their own country, and this is a reason why we to-day find ourselves under the supervision of the British General Medical Council and whose standard we are bound to comply with.

Now what is the remedy? The General Medical Council has the power and right to say, "I will not recognise nor will I permit students or graduates from India to take their degrees in England till I am satisfied that their training is up to the standards I demand." To take a parallel case, say, I invite my friend Mr. Jayakar to dinner, and in my invitation I demand that he should wear "shorts". Well, if he disregards my demand and comes dressed in long trousers, I have every right to refuse him admission to my house. Similarly, you want the General Medical Council to recognise your training and degrees, but when they exercise their right and say, "Well, if you want that, you must furnish us with evidence that your training is up to our standard and till you do this, be it by an All-Indian Medical Union or Inspectors, I regret I cannot recognise your University". This is exactly the position to-day, and you object to this demand of the British Medical Council. If our training were adequate, I should gladly join you, but, the difference between you and me is that you talk as laymen and legislators defending a political matter as you call it, whereas I, as a medical man, look at it from the medical students' point of view. You may puff up and satisfy your political dignity and refuse the demand of the British General Medical Council, and call it an insult to your national pride; but, of what help is this to the student or the graduate who desires to go to England? These are the sufferers—200 to 300 annually. Do you want them to suffer as they did for three years in Bengal, the result of the Calcutta University refusing to recognise these very demands of the British General Medical Council. Of course, you yourselves as legislators will not suffer. But the students will, and it is therefore in the name, interests and future of the students, I ask you carefully to consider this question before rejecting the supplementary grant wanted by Government—not as indignant politicians and legislators, but as sensible laymen.

Mr. M. R. Jayakar : May I know whether the aggrieved party has not the remedy under the Act of going to the Privy Council and whether the Government of India have exhausted those remedies ?

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney : The Medical Act of 1886 has two parts ; one refers to medical institutions in England and the other to institutions abroad—as India. It is not the duty of the Government of India but of the Provincial Government or the aggrieved University to appeal to the Privy Council for redress, but it must not be forgotten that till such time as the appeal has been settled, the British General Medical Council can continue to refuse to recognise students and graduates from that University, thereby penalising a number of students. But let us come down to practical politics. What chance of success would Patna or Rangoon have if they appealed to the Privy Council ? Dr. Moonje was rather silent on this point. I say the General Medical Council would not recognise any students or graduates.....

Mr. M. R. Jayakar : Is that a reasonable position for the British Council to take ?

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney : I agree with the Honourable Member that it is not, and I join with him in resenting the revolver that is pointed at our heads. I agree it is not desirable nor is it fair that students trained in Madras or Bombay, where the standard is adequate, should have a pistol held at their heads and be refused recognition by the British General Medical Council simply because the training at Patna is inadequate and it refuses to be inspected by the British General Medical Council. Of course, the British General Medical Council can refuse one province and admit another, but such discriminatory legislation is undesirable, and so it makes this demand of inspection on all provinces alike, and we must accept or reject it. Though a retired officer of the I. M. S., I am not one who thinks that I. M. S. men should have everything, for we have just as good men outside the Service—men of international repute, and I therefore appeal to Honourable Members opposite to realise that there is no desire to make this appointment an I. M. S. monopoly, nor is this a threat. The General Medical Council says, "Your students and graduates come to England for their degree, but before we confer those degrees, we want to make sure that they have undergone certain standards of training in India". If our Universities do not and cannot satisfy that standard, we are at fault, and we cannot object to the demand of the British General Medical Council and charge it of threatening India at muzzle end of a revolver and we have no cause for complaint, nor are we right in confusing this simple plain issue with high politics as a grave constitutional issue. Nor is there any racial discrimination involved in the issue before the House, nor any I. M. S. monopoly. I cannot understand the mentality of some Members who, whenever they disagree with Government, promptly cloak the issue with the garb of a "grave constitutional matter". The issue before the House is a simple one. If we want to secure English degrees we must conform to the standard demanded by the British General Medical Council. If we refuse this, then the British General Medical Council is right when it declines to accept our graduates and there the matter ends.

Then, Sir, a few words about my friend Dr. Moonje's alternative proposal. I look on it as a camouflaged All-India Medical Union. I think, Sir, no time should be lost in coming to a decision because those

[Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney.]

students who will pass out next year must be protected and we, as representatives of the country in this House.....

Dr. B. S. Moonje : Why not let the present arrangements continue ?

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney : Why not protect those students who will pass out next year and till an All-India Medical Union is a *fait accompli*. It is in the name of those students that I appeal to all sides of the House to accept this supplementary demand for an Inspector of Qualifications and Standards and which is a purely temporary appointment. In making this appeal, I desire to make it clear that if I felt the profession in India was being insulted by the demand of the British General Medical Council, I would join you whole-heartedly in opposing it, for I am as zealous of India's pride as you are, but as a medical man I can see no such motive in the demand, nor is this a political issue. To my mind it is an issue of dire necessity. You must either take or leave it on the terms of the British General Medical Council.

Mr. M. R. Jayakar : Is the appointment of an I. M. S. a dire necessity ?

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney : The I. M. S. is as little a dire necessity in India as is the barrister qualified in England. What I want to impress upon the House is this.

If we are to sanction the appointment of this Inspector some one must be found with the requisite medical and administrative experience, and I really doubt if my friend Mr. Jayakar will be able to suggest any one else who has had as much experience, both administrative and professional, as Colonel Needham, I. M. S. Moreover, he is very familiar with this subject, having devoted many years to a close study of it.

Now, Sir, the alternative suggested by Dr. Moonje is that we should have a Board or Committee representing the various Medical Faculties in the various provinces. As I have already said, this is nothing but a camouflaged All-India Medical Union already turned down. I am, of course, in entire agreement with my friend Dr. Moonje that we must have an All-India Medical Council, and if the provinces refuse this, the Government of India Act empowers the Central Government to create such a Council. But until that is constituted, something must be done to protect our students who will be passing out next March, as also those graduates who desire to proceed to England for study.

I desire to exercise my vote, and before I do so, I desire certain assurances, and in this connection I would ask the Government Member to please listen to me for a minute. I want two assurances from Government. One is that the proposed appointment of Commissioner of Medical Qualifications and Standards in India will be purely a temporary measure, and for one year only, and the other is that Government will assure this House that within a year an All-India Medical Council will be constituted.

Then, Sir, there was another suggestion made by my friend Mr. Neogy from Bengal. He asked that the matter should be postponed till February next, and Mr. Jayakar supported this suggestion. The suggestion is undoubtedly worthy of sympathetic consideration and I should advise the Government Member to do so. But, what will happen to our students and graduates in case the British General Medical Council refuses to extend the period beyond next February or March ?

Mr. K. C. Neogy : How many of them go to England ?

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney : I should say at least three to four hundred.

Sir Frank Noyce : I have ascertained from the High Commissioner that there are 450 Indian students studying medicine.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : How many of them are actually medical graduates of Indian Universities ? We are concerned with them and not with all the Indian students studying medicine in England, because several go to England after passing the Intermediate Examination for Medicine.

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney : The majority who go to England have already graduated or qualified in this country. Now, Mr. Neogy's proposal is certainly both reasonable and attractive to me. Is it difficult, I ask the Government Member, for him to communicate with the General Medical Council in England and say : " This House stoutly resents the ultimatum it has presented to the medical profession and the Universities in this country ; (*I do not admit it is a question of high policy or of grave constitutional importance*) ; that the Government of India is anxious to form an All-India Medical Council and that this House also desires it, but, that in view of the strong protests expressed in this House on this important matter, the British General Medical Council should postpone its demand for the appointment of a Commissioner for another year or six months or until such time as an All-India Medical Council is constituted ? " If Government is willing to do this, I wholeheartedly join Mr. Neogy in his request and would urge that it be done rather than refuse this supplementary demand. Sir, this is a matter of practical importance, and I ask every Member of this House to forget politics for the moment. This question has nothing to do with politics. It is a matter of dire necessity, and I urge on all to look solely to the future prospects of the students who will graduate from our colleges before an All-India Medical Council is constituted. What will become of them if we arrive at a hasty conclusion ? I, therefore, appeal to all sides of this House to consider seriously the interests of the students, and in their name I hope the House will pursue a reasonable course, i.e., ask for a postponement of the demand of the British General Medical Council for a year, and failing such an assurance from the Government, to pass this supplementary grant for the appointment of a Commissioner, provided the two assurances I demand from Government are granted.

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

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

Mr. Amar Nath Dutt (Burdwan Division : Non-Muhammadian Rural) : I am grateful to you, Sir, for kindly calling on me to place my views on the subject that is under discussion before the House. Dr. Moonje's grievance is against the proposed creation of a new post of Commissioner of Medical Qualifications and Standards, and he has therefore moved this token cut of Rs. 100 to show our disapproval of such a proposal.

[Mr. Amar Nath Dutt.]

Sir, the education of medical men here has been said to be not inferior in any way to that on the Continent or anywhere else. I may go further and say that medical education in India is superior to medical education of other countries generally. There may be one or two exceptions of medical men who, having qualified themselves in Great Britain or on the Continent, are superior, but it must be remembered that ordinarily graduates passing out of the medical colleges in India are more efficient and skilful than those who come out from the United Kingdom, and consequently people have less faith in the latter than in those who have taken their diplomas in India. That is the case in the town of Calcutta, and as regards the mofussil, I may tell this House that people have ordinarily got more faith in those medical men who have been educated in the Medical College of Calcutta than in those who were educated in London or Edinburgh. Of course, there are some degrees of the United Kingdom which are prized. But that is in order to enter the Indian Medical Service. The first batch of students who went out for the Indian Medical Service when that service was first open to the Indians were all brilliant men, and there was not one in India or elsewhere who could rival them in their knowledge of the science of medicine or surgery. That was not due to their education abroad ; it was due to their education here. Though it will not be proper to mention names here, still one can recall to memory the names of students who were ornaments of the Indian Medical Service. The names of Surja Kumar Chuckerbutty and Major Bholanath Bose, are household words in Bengal, and they were educated in the Calcutta Medical College. In this connection the name of another brilliant medical graduate occurs to me, and that is Lieut.-Colonel R. L. Dutt. I can tell Honourable Members on the opposite Benches, who still are not convinced by the cogent reasons advanced by my Honourable friend, Dr.

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Moonje, the reason why Colonel R. L. Dutt went to England. In former days there were no Sub-Assistant Surgeons of the present type ; those who graduated from the Calcutta Medical College used to be made Assistant Surgeons and Sub-Assistant Surgeons. From the result of the Medical College examination Assistant Surgeons and Sub-Assistant Surgeons were recruited. Ultimately that distinction vanished, and the Sub-Assistant Surgeons' appointments came to be given to the students of medical schools as now-a-days. In the early sixties, there was that grade of Sub-Assistant Surgeons which was only open to Indians passing out of the Medical College, and Colonel R. L. Dutt, after taking his degree from the Medical College, was offered the post of Sub-Assistant Surgeon and not an Assistant Surgeon. He said he was not going to submit to that, and therefore he went to England and came out, and what a brilliant practice he had in regard to malarial and other diseases ! Every one in Bengal knows that, and I do not think there is any name on the rolls of the Indian Medical Service that can compare with Colonel R. L. Dutt. Assuming for argument's sake that education here is not up to the mark which is necessary for the preservation of life in India. I fail to understand why this system has been kept up for such a length of time. Since a Hindu first took up the knife and dissected the body of a dead man in violation of the prescribed rules of his caste with the booming of canons from Fort William in the year 1835, nearly a century has elapsed, and if the Government have not done anything to improve medical education in

India during all this time it is their fault. It must not be forgotten that India had a science of medicine which was far superior to that of any other country in the world and a succession of foreign rulers and foreign occupation of this land has killed that science to a great extent. Slowly the foreigners replaced the Ayurvedic system of medicine during the past century and brought in their own system. If we have been able to hold our own still, it is a great achievement for Indians, and no other nation could have achieved that. Sir, if after a lapse of one hundred years, they say that the medical education in India is not up to the British standard, Government stand self-condemned. Either it is the studied policy of Government not to impart to us all the knowledge that is available according to modern advancement in science, or they are bringing in teachers here who are not qualified to teach the subjects. In either case the Government are to blame. Sir, from whatever standpoint you look at this subject, you cannot but condemn the Government. I am very sorry to do it no doubt, but when necessary we must give expression to our feelings. You have replaced our indigenous system and brought in your own system.

Mr. President : On this motion, it is not relevant.

Mr. Amar Nath Dutt : Well, Sir, they want to create a new post of medical Commissioner.

Mr. President : That is the important point.

Mr. Amar Nath Dutt : When did they discover that such a post was necessary ? Was it when they found that some one had to be provided with a post ? In this connection, without being irrelevant, you will permit me to tell you a story. There was a favourite wife of a Nawab who insisted on her brother being provided with some appointment. The Nawab could not find any and he asked his ministers to find out some employment for his brother-in-law.

Mr. T. A. K. Shervani (Cities of the United Provinces : Muhammadan Urban) : Why a Nawab ?

Mr. Amar Nath Dutt : Say a king or a raja. Then the King said to his ministers, " You must find out some employment for my favourite wife's brother ". Then he gave the job of counting the waves of the ocean. That was a very comfortable appointment. I do not know whether the Department has in its mind to provide for some near or dear relation of theirs, or anybody who may be in the good books of Government. We as taxpayers of this country have a duty towards our constituents. We cannot take this lying down. You want to provide for some favourite of yours and you ask us to accept the proposal. Why should we, unless you convince us of the necessity of such an appointment ? We have told you that it is wholly unnecessary. It will be graceful on the part of Government if they do not thrust this appointment on us. In the Standing Finance Committee we put forward many cogent arguments. Has any one of these arguments been met by the Government ? No. They are unanswerable arguments, and they stand on the solid basis of reason and logic. Sir, the Government want to appoint a Commissioner of Medical Standards and Qualifications. What medical standard ? I suppose they mean the European system of medicine. I see the Honourable Member in charge of the Department is there. May I know what standard is meant ? Probably he knows as much of medicine as I do.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazli-Hussain : A little less !

Mr. Amar Nath Dutt : Be that as it may, why should he ask for a post like this. I know that the Honourable Member who holds this portfolio is an Indian, and I sympathise with his position. We are asked to find jobs for members of the ruling race who will come and sit on judgment over our Universities. Without being irrelevant, I may tell you that, when Dr. Sadler came on the University Commission, he found in India a master mind which compelled him to observe, when he found that gentleman, that there was no necessity for bringing him out. His name is well known throughout the length and breadth of this country.

No self-respecting Indian, who has got any respect for his *alma mater* will submit to such scrutinisation of the qualifications of those who graduated from the medical colleges in India. They are as self-respecting as members of the professions of law and engineering. If Government do not realise what we say to them in unmistakable terms, then I can only pity them. We have seen a change to some extent in the attitude of the Honourable Members on the Treasury Benches in the past few days, and I hope they will also consider this in a sympathetic spirit. I hope that that change will grow daily, so that we may be able to meet and discuss together. I ask you not to treat us in the way in which you have been treating us. I appeal to the Honourable the Home Member, because he is the Leader of the House and is the guiding voice. I hope the change of spirit which he has shown will be shared by other Honourable Members holding portfolios, and that they will not inflict this insult upon educated Indians who have taken to the profession of medicine. Of course everything is evident on the face of the objection, which has been made by my Honourable friend Dr. Moonje, to the creation of a new post of Commissioner of Medical Standards and Qualifications. No doubt Dr. Moonje will feel it very keenly, because it means an insult to his profession, as in other professions too people feel this and to remedy which they are obliged or compelled to bring in Bills for introduction. Sir, I hope the time has come when the Government will see the reasonableness of giving us Indians the respect (*An Honourable Member*: "You expect too much.") to which we are entitled, as they also expect the respect which we ought to show to them, and which we have been showing. I congratulate Government on their change of heart, and I hope that will grow more and more.

Diwan Chaman Lall (West Punjab : Non-Muhammadian) : Sir, first of all let me state that I am not a medical man. I nearly became one, and now when I see my friend, Colonel Gidney, I am almost constrained to exclaim, "But for the grace of God, there goes Chaman Lall." (Laughter.) This question that is now before the House is a question which affects chiefly not a layman like myself but the medical profession in this country. But it does affect the layman to a certain extent, as we consider that the dignity of the people of this country is involved in the proposition that has been placed before us by the Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Hussain. What is the proposition? First of all, I would like to ask the Honourable Member—to whom I extend my congratulations for the most excellent and lucid speech which he delivered on this subject (*An Honourable Member*: "Question?")—I repeat again, for the most excellent and lucid speech (*An Honourable Member*: "Question?") which he delivered—the first thing I would like to ask him is this. What is the position of the Government of India in regard to this matter? Is it or is it not a fact that the Government of India themselves are against the principle which is involved in the appointment of this supervisor or dictator or director as the case

may be to look into medical qualifications and standards in this country ? If it is not a fact that they are themselves against any such appointment, and if I am challenged by any Member on the opposite side who denies this fact, all that I have to say is to remind Honourable Members opposite of the fact that they were willing to bring in a Bill for the constitution of an All-India Medical Council. I take it that that is a fact.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Hussain : It is better to answer that point in a speech, rather than by way of interruption.

Diwan Chaman Lall : If that is the position, then why did they resile from that position ? The answer that the Honourable Member gave was that they called a conference of Ministers together and that this Conference decided that they would not look at the proposition for the setting up of an All-India Medical Council ; and because they would not look at that proposition, therefore they suggested that, until they could themselves provide some sort of machinery, this appointment must be sanctioned. Now I want to ask Honourable Members opposite as to whether there is any urgency for this appointment. If that is the position taken up by the Ministers, why cannot the present state of affairs continue without an appointment of this nature being made ? Is there any urgency ? The Honourable Member himself, in his speech, stated that this matter would eventually, indeed very soon, be brought before the Legislative Assembly, and that Ministers of various provinces, whose department it is to consider this matter, will again revise their opinion and put forward certain suggestions.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Hussain : They may.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Now if that is the position, that they are really thinking of revising their opinions, and if it is the case that this matter has got to come before the House—it must be so because the Honourable Member himself stated that this is a temporary measure—well, if it is a temporary measure, then some other measure has to come in its place, sooner or later. This measure is only for one year, therefore after a year, something has got to be done. As to what that is, the Honourable Member will tell us, but if this is the position, where is the urgency for it ? Is it or is it not a fact that the Medical Council in Great Britain have decided that, until January or February 1930, they are not going to take any action in regard to medical standards and qualifications in this country ? Is that a fact ? Then I take it that, until the month of February, 1930, they are not going to take any action. Now if they are not going to take action until February, 1930, I ask the Honourable Member, what urgency is there ? Why cannot he wait until the next Session of the Legislative Assembly in Delhi ? Why, at the fag end of this Session, bring in a proposition which has elicited a great deal of opposition from these Benches ? And if there is no urgency, it is possible that the Honourable Member might plead that there is no certainty as to what the Legislative Assembly may do. Well, let us grant that there is no certainty, but that proposition will arise only after February, 1930. I go further than that. I say that the Medical Council in Great Britain cannot take the action which is contemplated by the Honourable Member ; and I want to remind the Honourable Member of the provisions of the Medical Act of 1886. Section 13 (2) says :

“ If at any time it appears to the General Council that the standard of proficiency in medicine, surgery and midwifery or in any of those subjects or any branch thereof

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required from candidates at the qualifying examinations held by any of the bodies for the time being holding such examination is insufficient, the General Medical Council shall make a representation to that effect to the Privy Council, and the Privy Council, if they think fit, after considering such representation and also any objections thereto made by any body or bodies to which such representations relate, may by order declare that the examinations of any such body or bodies shall not be deemed to be qualifying examinations for the purpose of registration under the Medical Acts and Her Majesty, with the advice of Her Privy Council, if upon further representation from the General Council or from any body or bodies to which such order relates it seems to Her expedient so to do, shall have power at any time to revoke any such order."

Sir Frank Noyce : That, Sir, does not apply to India.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Does section 4 of the Act apply to India ? Of course it does. I am only giving you exactly what the provisions are in regard to the action to be taken by the Medical Council in Great Britain and elsewhere in the Colonies, as well as in India. Now this is what they have to do as far as Great Britain is concerned.

Section 4 (1) says :

"Where the General Council have refused to recognize as aforesaid any colonial or foreign medical diploma, the Privy Council, on application being made to them, may, if they think fit after considering such application and after communication with the General Council, order the General Council to recognise the said diploma, and such order shall be duly obeyed."

Now if that is the position, that the matter has got to come before the Privy Council,—suppose the Medical Council take the action that is contemplated by Honourable Members opposite and representations are made from India, from medical authorities and medical councils in India, to the effect that the action that is being taken by the Medical Council in Great Britain is detrimental to the interests of the medical profession in this country ? Is it not a fact that those representations will be duly considered by the Privy Council ? And is it not a fact that the Privy Council has the right summarily to order the General Medical Council in Great Britain, preventing them from taking the action that is being contemplated by Honourable Members on the other side of the House ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Hussain : That will still need a supplementary demand for engaging counsel there.

Diwan Chaman Lall : The Honourable Member need not be afraid of the passing of such a supplementary grant, and I can assure him from this side of the House that, when the matter comes to that stage—it is not likely to come to that stage—there will not be a single Member in this House who will oppose such a supplementary grant. (Hear, hear.) This matter concerns a constitutional right, and the dignity of the medical profession, and the Honourable Member may rest assured that, where the right and the dignity of the medical profession in this country are involved, there will be nobody on this side of the House who will oppose any amount of necessary expenditure in order to vindicate that right and dignity. (Hear, hear.) (There was an interruption.) I did not hear what the Honourable Member said.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Hussain : I said this is what is called the litigious spirit.

Diwan Chaman Lall : The Honourable Member has had several years' experience of the litigious spirit, and I submit that the spirit with which this proposition is being mooted on the floor of this House shows a spirit

very much akin to the litigious spirit. It shows this—and I am coming to the second point now—that the Honourable Member has not really gone into the merits of this question properly. For, Sir, I urge, first of all, that I have established that there is no urgency in regard to this matter, and that the other side have not shown that there is any such urgency. It is not established that any qualifications that are still being held, or any qualifications that are going to be held until the 30th February, are ever likely to be affected if this measure is not passed by this House. But it might be urged quite conceivably, as it was urged by the Honourable Member in a side issue, which personally, I submit had absolutely nothing whatever to do with the merits of the case—I see that the Honourable Member is not paying attention to what I am saying.....

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Hussain : I am listening to every word you are saying.

Diwan Chaman Lall : The Honourable Member in a side issue, raised a constitutional point. He said that, under the Reforms scheme, there are these transferred departments, and they feel that this House is interfering with the dignity, the liberty and the freedom of the transferred departments, or some words to that effect. Now, I want to ask the Honourable Member whether it is not a fact that, by the appointment of a Director of this nature, there would still be that interference in the liberty and freedom of the transferred subjects ? Colonel Gidney says “ No ”.

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney : I did not say “ No ” to you.

Diwan Chaman Lall : I thought my friend Colonel Gidney had a great deal more courage than that. (Laughter.) (*Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney :* “ Courage for what ? ”) Now, Sir, if it is a fact that the liberty and hard-won freedom of the transferred departments under the Montagu-Chelmsford scheme would still be interfered with if a Director were appointed, then I want to ask the Honourable Member what strength does his argument possess, namely, the constitutional argument that he has raised ?

In fact, the proposition that the medical profession has raised, and which proposition this side of the House would be prepared to support, is that an All-India Medical Council should be instituted. We are prepared to support a proposition like that. That would not interfere with the liberty, the freedom and the constitution of the transferred departments. That proposition would be, not the one that the Government of India have raised, namely, that the transferred departments in the provinces should not be adequately and properly represented on the All-India Medical Council, nor that they should not control it, but the proposition from our side of the House would be that each province would be given adequate representation on the All-India Medical Council in order that the money they spend and the work they do should be supervised or controlled by each province. Now, that is the proposition that we would be prepared to listen to. But what is the proposition of the Government ? This Director who will be in charge of this business, shall not be responsible to us nor even to the provinces, but he shall be responsible to a body sitting 6,000 miles away. And as to the self-respecting Ministers in the provinces, may I ask, Sir, what do they mean by submitting themselves and their dignity and their self-respect to the dictates of a man who is responsible to a body 6,000 miles away, and why are they not prepared to listen to a proposition of a different nature

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whereby they themselves would be controlling the destiny of an organisation set up by themselves ? (Hear, hear.)

Now, Sir, I consider that the constitutional argument raised by the Honourable Member has no force whatsoever, nor has the argument that there was any urgency in regard to this matter. Let me for a minute look at the constitutional position. The Medical Act, as I have said already, was passed in 1886, and from the constitutional position it is perfectly clear that there can be no difficulty whatsoever in continuing without a representative of the Medical Council in charge of the destiny of the medical profession in this country. The history of this question is a very simple one. Every medical man knows the history of this question. The practice in England was that every important branch of the medical profession was responsible for the handing in of a report to the Medical Council. The experts attached to each important institution, in their various branches, were responsible for sending in their reports. What was the system here ? The system here was this, that recognition was given by the Medical Council of Great Britain and Ireland, first in 1892, and for a period of 30 years—from 1892 to 1922—that recognition continued. Were there any Visitors and Inspectors appointed in those days ? There was not a single Visitor nor a single Inspector on behalf of the Medical Council in those days to look into the working of the medical institutions in this country. And yet the recognition was granted by the Medical Council. Why has the Medical Council suddenly realised the necessity of appointing Visitors and Inspectors ? What was the real reason behind it ? The real reason, which my friend Mr. Jayakar in a very excellent speech wanted to mention, but said he would not mention, is this, that until the Reforms scheme it was considered by the Medical Council in Great Britain that the control was vested in the European I. M. S. staff in this country, and therefore they were safe in ignoring the necessity of having Visitors or Inspectors in this country. Has the medical profession, or have the medical institutions in this country deteriorated to this extent since 1920, that suddenly the Medical Council has realised the necessity of appointing Inspectors and Visitors ? If it is admitted that the reason was purely racial, or that the reason was merely this, that the control had passed from the hands of the European I. M. S. into the hands of the popularly elected Ministers.....

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Hussain : The reason was the transfer of control from Parliament to the local Legislatures.

Diwan Chaman Lall : How that improves matters, I do not know. In fact, it ought to improve matters the other way. If the control has passed from Parliament to local Legislatures, which are on the spot and capable of looking after their own institutions, so much the better. Why should there be a necessity for the appointment of a Visitor or an Inspector ? If you grant this proposition that the local institutions, that the Local Governments, are better able to look after their own institutions than an organisation 6,000 miles away, then what is the necessity of the Visitor and the Inspector ? You can only prove the necessity of the Visitor and the Inspector if you can show that there has been any deterioration in the standards. If there has been any deterioration, what is the basis of it ? What is the Inspector for and what is the Visitor for ? Sir, I submit most humbly that the business of the gentleman who is going to be appointed

will be to look into the standards of qualifications, that is to say, the efficiency, or the lack of efficiency, of the medical institutions here. That will be his business. If that is his business, then, unless you can prove that there is today more lack of efficiency than there was before, or that the standards have deteriorated, you cannot justify the appointment of a Visitor or an Inspector. But if you cannot prove any deterioration in the standards, then what is the idea of appointing an Inspector, whose sole object will be to look into the standards of efficiency or the standards of qualifications of the medical institutions in this country ? My Honourable friend objected to this. He said that it was due to the passing of the control from Parliament right down to the local Legislatures. May I remind him of the report that was submitted by Sir Norman Walker in 1927, on the 11th July I believe, in which he admitted that the real reason was the passing of the control from the European I. M. S. ? (Hear, hear.) May I read it to the Honourable Member ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Hussain : It is hardly necessary.

Diwan Chaman Lall : The Honourable Member knows it perfectly well, that the report of Sir Norman Walker actually said so. Now Sir Norman Walker was specially deputed to make the report on this very point. Does he or does he not substantiate the charge that I am making ? He does substantiate the charge that the necessity arose not merely because of the transfer of the control from Parliament to local bodies.

Now, Sir, I should like to know what this gentleman is going to do. Until this proposition was mooted that this gentleman would be appointed for a short period, for a temporary period, we had the arrangement that three men were in charge of this, one in charge of midwifery, one in charge of surgery and one in charge of medicine, and the reports themselves show that the work was so difficult, so important according to them, that they actually took two years in inspecting the institutions of this country. If three men took two years to inspect the institutions of this country, and were able to report only after two years' inspection as to the standard of efficiency and qualification of the medical institutions, in the name of all that is sensible and all that is decent, I would like to know whether one man is going to do the work of three men and do that in the period of a few months and submit a report that would be worth reading ? (Hear, hear.) If this man is going to be appointed for a period of a few months in order to do the work that was being done by three men, who took two years to do that work, if this man is going to be appointed for such a short period, what sort of report can he furnish ? Will that report be worth the paper that it is written upon, and if it is not worth the paper on which it is written, I want to ask the Honourable Member opposite what necessity is there for appointing him ? He will not be able to visit any one of these institutions and submit a proper report upon the working of the various institutions in this country. It is impossible for any one man to do that throughout the length and breadth of the country within the period of a few months that he will be in charge of this job. If that is the proposition, then again, I ask the Honourable Member opposite, what is the necessity ? Is the necessity simply to do what the British General Medical Council says, or is the necessity simply to find a job for one gentleman,

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta : Who is migrating from one department to another.

Diwan Chaman Lall : for one gentleman, who, according to my Honourable friend, is migrating from one department to another ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Hussain : Who is that man ?

Diwan Chaman Lall : Well, Sir, we have had the name of Colonel Needham mentioned on the floor of this House a hundred times. It is not the first time that we are hearing his name. We have heard his name from 1924 and onwards. I would like to know, firstly, if there is no urgency, secondly, if the necessity is not shown, and thirdly if it is conceded that he will not be able to do the work, then what remains of the arguments advanced by my Honourable friend ? The constitutional argument has gone by the board, the necessity is not proved, urgency is not proved, expediency is not proved, then what remains ? Why can't my Honourable friend then wait until the next Session of the Legislative Assembly and bring this proposition up then ? Let us take this proposition. The Honourable Member, Sir Fazl-i-Hussain, actually let the cat out of the bag when he was speaking on this subject. He said, " We have no guarantee that this man will be available next year." If he will not be available next year, are there no men who can be made available next year ? Can you not fill his place with equally capable men ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Hussain : I never said this man or that man.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta : Some man.

Diwan Chaman Lall : All right, some man, if he likes. But if the Honourable Member will read the report of his speech, he will find what he actually said. He will find that he said, " There is no guarantee that this man will be available," or " a man will be available ".

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta : It is a case of now or never.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Do I take it that the medical profession is so bankrupt of first class men in this country that you cannot find a single man of the required efficiency and calibre to look after what is, after all, a post of inspection ? I would not be so uncharitable as to suggest that the I. M. S. profession is bereft of a single capable man who can fill this post.

Maulvi Muhammad Yakub (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions : Muhamadn Rural) : Probably the House will agree to make a present of the Honourable Colonel Gidney in order to fill the post.

Diwan Chaman Lall : I do consider that it is a very honourable profession. I consider that this profession has done a great deal of good to this country. I consider that some of the best medical men to be found in this country belong to this service, the I. M. S. I will not be uncharitable to this service.

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney : Thank you.

Diwan Chaman Lall : I merely ask my Honourable friend in his turn not to be uncharitable to this country when he postulates a proposition of this nature, that this man and nobody else, that now and now only and not at any other time, can fill in this office. He is asking us to swallow something that we cannot accept from him.

Now, Sir, I ask my Honourable friends opposite, when they realise the volume of opposition on this side of the House, when they realise that it is a matter of grave principle involved, when they see that the entire Indian medical profession in this country is up in arms against a proposition of such a nature, which is being mooted on the floor of the House, when they realise also that there is no argument of any kind which has been expressed which is capable of carrying any weight with us, and considering that there is neither urgency, nor expediency nor any constitutional issue involved in the rejection of this proposition, when they look upon this matter in this light, then I submit it is for them to take the step and say to us, "Well, we realise that there is a strong feeling on your side of the House; we realise that there is strong reason on your side of the House, and we are quite prepared to wait for a few months and place the matter before the Legislative Assembly when it meets in Delhi next winter".

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas (Indian Merchants' Chamber: Indian Commerce): Sir, if I rise to speak on this motion it is more with a view to ask for, and, gather some further information before I make up my mind, than to give the House any useful information myself on the subject matter before the House. I have followed with very close attention the two speeches in support of this motion, and especially the one delivered by the Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Hussain. If I have understood him correctly, he particularly emphasised the fact that this arrangement of one all-India Commissioner on behalf of the British General Medical Council is only a temporary device. He has emphasised it so much, that I would venture to ask the Honourable Member why, when this question was put before the Standing Finance Committee for the first time, the following sentence occurred. I am reading from page 69 :

"It was accordingly proposed to ask the Legislative Assembly for a supplementary grant of Rs. 2,400 for the current year and to include a provision of Rs. 39,000 in the budget estimates of 1930-31."

It is not a question of bridging over the gap of the next six months. It appears to me that the temporary period indicated by the Honourable Member in charge is at least going to be eighteen months from today. If that is so, it ceases to be as temporary a post as was given to understand at least to me, before I read this latter portion of the Standing Finance Committee proceedings. I venture to ask the Honourable Member—and before I ask him that, I wish to assure him that as far as I am concerned, I give him the fullest *bona fides* for being as keen on India's prestige and self-respect being preserved in this question as any one in this House,—whether it is not a fact that the Government of India are not satisfied with the control which the British General Medical Council exercises at present, and are not satisfied with the orders which they give regarding what are to be the qualifications of and handicaps on medical students in India. The present arrangement of three Inspectors for all the Universities and medical colleges, it is agreed, is not adequate. I take it that my understanding is correct, and the Government of India themselves feel that that is not a satisfactory arrangement. It is now suggested by the Government of India that, as a temporary measure, we should agree to one man to control the whole arrangement, until when? Until, as I have read out, at least the next eighteen months. May I ask, for my own information, whether the

[Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas.]

Honourable Member expects that the various Provincial Governments, Ministers, and educational bodies, are likely to be unanimous on any scheme before that period has expired? I have heard a good deal about the provincial efficiency, as one Member put it, of Bombay and Madras in regard to medical education. I have also heard something about the comparative backwardness, as somebody said, of Patna and Rangoon regarding medical education. What guarantee is there that all these various bodies and medical experts, etc., in these various Presidencies will agree upon one scheme, by which the Government of India can substitute or replace this one-man control which we are now asked to sanction as a temporary measure? And if these various Provincial Governments and provincial Universities should differ, am I incorrect in inferring that this one-man control may continue for ever? That, Sir, is the reason for the attitude of the opposition, of my Honourable friends to my right, so far as I have been able to understand it. It is not necessary to go into, or to over-emphasise, what is called the racial jealousy in this question. I am one of those who feel that the I. M. S. has had control of the Indian medical education long enough, and I would like non-I. M. S. personnel to be utilised now. But let that not be the main question in this debate. The main question is that Government now ask this House to replace the three Inspectors by a one-man control. They tell us that it is temporary; and Government at the moment ask us to sanction it for a period of six months. But the intention of the Department in the Finance Committee was not six months, but a year and a half at least.

The Honourable Member has told us that there are differences of opinion between the various provincial Ministers; whether the Ministers have or have not consulted their local Councils is a matter which we may leave to them to decide. Prominent Universities, well-conducted Universities, have expressed views strongly against this motion. Government want this House to sanction this temporarily: I am quite prepared to give the fullest weight to their suggestion, but I want to understand whether the Government of India have reason to expect that the various provincial interests will agree upon a common scheme; and if not, do the Government of India propose to force them to come to a common agreement? That may not be feasible, because I heard the Honourable Member speaking quite a great deal about the independence which must be left to Provincial Governments. And should that happen, I venture to ask the Honourable Member, in all earnestness, whether he would not be exposing the whole medical education of this country to the continued control, for a long period, of one man. I therefore feel that, unless and until I know what reply the Government of India have to give to this apprehension of mine, it would be my duty strongly to oppose the motion.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Sir, I am very sorry to find the Honourable the Finance Member associated with this proposal. The Honourable Member himself has said that he realises the seriousness of the step he has taken. He said that it is an unusual step that he has taken. May I tell him that he is asking this House to break a very valuable convention that has been established? May I tell him that, although decisions of this Assembly in financial matters have been over-ruled in the past by virtue of the special provisions of the Government of India

Act, this is the first time that the Honourable Member has asked this House to over-rule the decision of the Standing Finance Committee ?

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta : This is the second time.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : Is this the second time ?

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta : In the matter of the appointment of the fifth Member of the Railway Board the decision of the Finance Committee was over-ruled.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : I am talking of the Standing Finance Committee for the General Revenues, and I am talking of the convention that has been in operation all these nine years. Sir, even if I were not convinced about the merits of the case against this proposal, I would have voted against it simply because of this particular aspect of the question.

Sir, Colonel Gidney questioned the authority of a barrister from Bombay to deal with this question. Now, Sir, may I tell him that lawyers are sometimes drawn into these controversies even by doctors themselves, and against their own wishes ?

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney : And *vice-versa*.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : The Honourable and gallant gentleman gave us several of his credentials, and one of those was that he was a member of the Executive Committee of the All-India Medical Conference. I may tell him that on one recent occasion this Executive Committee of the All-India Medical Conference sent me, among others, an invitation to attend its meeting.

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney : At my request.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : I am very thankful to the Honourable Member, but that shows that the Honourable gentleman himself recognises the value of the advice which lawyers can sometimes give. However, Sir, the Honourable Member, although he induced his friends to give me the invitation, was himself absent from this meeting ; and I may tell the House that it was at this very meeting that this particular question was discussed. I may also tell the House that the decision taken at that meeting by the Executive Committee of the All-India Medical Conference was against this particular proposal. I have the advantage of speaking in the presence of one other Honourable Member who was present there. I mean Mr. S. C. Mitra. He also attended that particular meeting on invitation. That was a meeting attended by some very distinguished medical men in Calcutta and it was presided over by no less a man than Sir Nilratan Sarcar.

Sir, the question that has been raised very prominently by the Honourable and gallant Colonel is this : why, when we are discussing this particular problem, should we not bear in mind the interest of the students ? He has also told this House that, for a number of years, the recognition of the Calcutta University, so far as the British Medical Council was concerned, was withdrawn. May I know from him as to what results followed the withdrawal of that recognition ? I am a resident of Calcutta as much as he is. I did not see the doors of the University shut down during these years : I did not see the medical students turned out by the Universities and roaming about the streets simply because they could not claim recognition at the hands of the

[Mr. K. C. Neogy.]

British Medical Council of Registration. As a matter of fact, I may tell my Honourable friend that, at that very meeting of the Executive Committee of the All-India Medical Conference, the view that prevailed was that it does not matter whether this recognition is there or not. There are very few people indeed who are affected by the withdrawal of the recognition. The Honourable Secretary of the Education Department gave us a figure of the total number of students that are at the present moment taking their medical education in Great Britain. That is absolutely beside the point. The number that we want to know is of the medical graduates of Indian Universities who go to England for post-graduate studies and who are the people who are really going to be affected; we are not concerned with those students that go straight away from the Intermediate classes here to England and get their admission into some University or other there, for the first time to study medicine. We have absolutely nothing to do with that class.

Now, Sir, what would be the practical effect, supposing this proposal of Government were to stand over till Delhi Session? Let us come to concrete facts. How many Universities would be affected? How many students would be affected if the decision were not taken today but in February? That is the practical point before the House. I do not know whether my Honourable friend, Sir Fazl-i-Hussain is in a position to give me definite information on these points. It is no use talking in a general way about the trouble which is likely to befall the Indian student of medicine. Sir, the great inducement for the Indian students for going to England for prosecuting higher studies in medicine no longer exists at the present moment, because for all practical purposes the door of the Indian Medical Service is shut against them: I do not know when it is going to be opened. But if it is a mere question of acquiring proficiency in medicine, surely there are institutions, which are not inferior, on the Continent where the students can easily go. For instance there are famous medical institutions in Vienna, Paris, Berlin and other places; and besides, we know that, as far as the treatment of Indian students in the British Universities goes, it is not of a very inviting character at the present moment. I for myself would not be sorry to see the number of Indian students going to England diminished.

Mr. G. L. Winterbotham: Is it not rather a question of what the students themselves want?

Mr. K. C. Neogy: I leave it to my Honourable friend, Mr. Winterbotham, to enter into the minds of the Indian students if he wants to; but I want to remind him of this, that the only authorities who can say that they have got the interests of the students at heart are the Universities. We have got here an opinion that the University of Bombay holds in this matter. I challenge the authority of anybody in this House to support the Government proposal in the name of the students, when particularly we find that a distinguished University like that of Bombay has expressed itself definitely against this proposal. Can it be said that the University of Bombay was absolutely ignoring the interests of its own students? Well, it has been said that, so far as the Calcutta University is concerned, they would not tolerate these visitations. I know the treatment that the Calcutta University accorded

to one of the visitors when he went to inspect the University institutions ; they simply refused him permission to inspect their colleges. (Hear, hear.) That is the attitude which has been taken up by the Calcutta University, and can it be said by anybody here that he has got the interests of the Calcutta students better at heart than the University itself ?

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney : What did they do three years afterwards ? They ate their own words and capitulated to the British Medical Council terms.

4 P.M.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : Three years afterwards they got what they wanted on their own terms.

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney : Not on their own terms, and during this period over three hundred graduates were refused recognition in England.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : Where ?

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney : In England.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : Nothing of the kind at all ; I was told at that very meeting, which the Honourable and gallant Colonel did not attend, in Calcutta, that only a handful of students were affected and that they themselves did not complain. One or two doctors who had secured employment on some coasting vessels found that this question of British registrable qualifications was raised when they touched ports like Singapore ; that is, when they went beyond the limits of British India.

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney : Shipping companies accept Indian degrees freely. The refusal applied only to members of the I. M. Department, which has since been rectified.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : I am stating what I heard at the meeting of the Medical Conference which the Honourable Member himself did not attend. The Honourable gentleman says 300 were refused degrees. Nothing of the kind. The Honourable Member ought to make sure of his facts and he ought to make it a point to attend meetings of the Executive Committee of the Medical Conference of which he is a member.

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney : You know why I did not attend : I was ill that day.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : Another fact which I was told at that meeting was that, whereas this Medical Council of Registration is so very punctilious about the Indian standards, they are very charitable so far as certain medical institutions in Great Britain are concerned. I was given the names of certain minor medical institutions in Great Britain—I forget the names—where the number of midwifery cases that fall to the lot of a student is far less than the number of such cases that a student gets in any Indian University, including the Punjab and Calcutta and other Universities ; and yet the General Medical Council in England has never raised any objection so far as recognition of the degrees of these institutions is concerned. I expect some information from the Honourable and gallant Colonel on this head.

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney : I am not the Registrar, so you had better seek this information elsewhere.

Mr. K. O. Neogy : He accepts my statement, I take it.

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney : I certainly do not accept any of your statements.

Mr. K. O. Neogy : Now, talking of standards reminds me of another fact, that here are members of the Indian Medical Service who come out to India and none of whom, I think, possesses sufficient experience of tropical diseases ; and yet no objection is taken on behalf of Government to their being allowed to practise in India. If I had my way, I would make it compulsory for them to undergo a sufficient course in tropical medicine before they were permitted to practise in this country ; but that is only by the way. I think we have to get our Central Medical Council set up before we can take any action on these lines.

Now, a good deal has been made of the fact that the Ministers favour this proposal. The Honourable Sir Fazl-i-Husain, in his most persuasive manner, says, " Oh, we are only acting as the bankers of the Provincial Governments ; why are you so much perturbed about it ? " Well, Sir, I do hope that the credit of the provincial Ministers is not so low as not to enable them to obtain a loan from the Imperial Bank of India ; if they choose to do it, let them come together and meet at some central place : I do not mind if you, Sir, permit them the use of the hall downstairs : I do not mind even that. Let them meet and let them come to a general conclusion, and let them appoint the Imperial Bank of India as their bankers—I do not at all mind. But if you come up before us for money—it may be as a short accommodation—even then, I think we are entitled to discuss the merits of this proposal : we cannot merely be registering decrees, as my Honourable friend, Mr. Jayakar, said, of the provincial Ministers. Then again, Sir, reference has been made to the Conference of Ministers. What information about it have we before us at the present moment beyond the statement made by the Honourable Member in charge—and I fully accept that statement ? What detailed information have we at the present moment before us regarding that particular Conference ? The Honourable Member himself has said this is merely a temporary proposal, and the necessity has arisen because of the fact that the Ministers did not support the other alternative that was put before them. Now, we want to know what that other alternative was : it may be that we would be prepared to consider that very favourably ; it may be that there was sufficient ground for the Ministers for not accepting the alternative scheme ; we have absolutely no information on these points. I do not know if there is any insuperable objection to placing the proceedings of that Conference before this House before we are asked to agree to this particular proposal. I feel, Sir, that I would not be conscientiously discharging my duty till I have seen those papers. I have no intention of belittling the Ministers. I am prepared to help them if they deserve our assistance, but before that, I must satisfy myself as to the exact position which they have taken up at this Conference. For all these reasons, Sir, I think that an adjournment is well justified till the Delhi Session.

Sir, the Honourable Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas has pointed out a very important fact, that the Finance Committee were asked to endorse the scheme not for the temporary period of a few months in the current year, as the Honourable Member in charge gave us to understand, but for a year more. Now, Sir, if the total period contemplated by the Government for which this officer will be appointed amounts to 18

months, would very much be lost if we were to defer the decision of this question, say, for four months from now? I do appeal to the Government to accede to the very modest proposal which we have made, namely for the adjournment of this debate till the Delhi Session.

Several Honourable Members : Sir, the question may now be put.

Maulvi Muhammad Yakub : I hope, Sir, you will realise that Honourable Members have been sitting very late in the evenings for the past few days, and I would, therefore, request you kindly to adjourn the House early today.

Several Honourable Members : The question may now be put, Sir.

Mr. M. K. Acharya (South Arcot *cum* Chingleput : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, it seems to me the temper of the House is impatient and wants to get through this business as quickly as possible. I will therefore make a very few remarks only. I have been watching with interest and amusement the battle that has been raging today between the bureaucracy on that side and the bureaucracy on this side,—between those who have been accustomed to have their will implicitly obeyed by the people of India up to this day and those who want to have their will implicitly obeyed by the people of India after the 31st of December 1929. I myself being a representative of those whose lot is only to obey the bureaucracy there or the bureaucracy here,—very often I am unable to say which is the better bureaucracy I am to obey, the white bureaucracy over there or the brown bureaucracy on this side,—I have been trying to make out if really the arguments that have been put forward on either side will help me in coming to any decision; and I feel only very much perplexed by the arguments.

Sir, if I were asked to state my honest opinion, I believe the whole thing has come out as a result of our slave mentality. We have been anxious to get some recognition from some people far, far away, and the whole trouble has been that we want that our Indian graduates should secure some recognition from Great Britain for the purpose of registration in Great Britain. I do not know why we should have gone into this muddle, why we should have gone on our knees to ask for recognition from Great Britain by some body which probably is composed of all kinds of people, good, bad and indifferent. I know, Sir, that in Madras we have very capable Indian doctors who can beat any doctor from England or from America. I may speak from my personal experience that some very able doctors who have gone to or are from England have told me that there is no one in Madras, or for the matter of that in the whole of India, that can come up to Dr. S. Rangachari in the matter of surgery; and, mind you, Sir, he is a graduate of the Madras University. Whenever there is a very hard or difficult case in the General Hospital in Madras, which the big European doctors cannot properly handle, they beg of Dr. Rangachari to go and help them. (Hear, hear.) That is, Sir, from my own personal experience. Therefore, I say that all this trouble has arisen from the fact that we wanted recognition for our Indian medical graduates from some body of white men far, far away. There ought to have been established some kind of All-India Medical Council in India itself, which is probably going to be done in course of time; but this desire to go and plead before somebody else to acknowledge or recognise our medical graduates as worthy of being called doctors,

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of being enabled to be qualified to practise, to get recognition from a foreign country, all this is the result of our woeful slave mentality. I cannot at all understand the logic of some of my friends in this matter who generally take pride in such slave mentality. My friends only last week pleaded that, because in England hundreds of girls become mothers before or without marriage, that because in America companionate marriages take place by thousands, therefore we must have a Marriage Law in order to have similar things in India. Therefore, I ask leaders with such slave mentality, "Why should you object to have an Inspector or Commissioner of Medical Education in India in order to please the medical gods in England or America?" I do not at all understand the logic of some of my friends when they say that, in this matter alone, their national self-respect has been hurt. Self-respect demands that we should not, in all the larger ideals of life, meekly submit to or lightly follow the whims of other countries. I am very much surprised, Sir, that these people should now object when the Honourable Member in charge comes forward and says practically, "You who have been for a long time meekly submitting to us as slaves, meekly as slaves ought to submit to whatever we have been decreeing, so you should submit for a little while more to what we say". The people who are most concerned are the medical men who not only deal with the Western system of medicine, but adopt Western ideals and Western standards. Why they should rebel now I cannot understand. But anyway, I am very glad that my friends do rebel at least in small matters. They, the bureaucracy on this side (Interruption by Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas).—I am only a humble servant or slave of the bureaucracy on this side or on the other side,—want to impose something about the arrangements for registration; they want the appointment of an Inspector or Commissioner on Rs. 1,000 or Rs. 2,000 and things of that kind; but these are really matters of detail into which I for one would not condescend to enter. All that I can say is that I am really very sorry that the Honourable Member in charge should have brought this subject on this day, a subject which seems to raise very many issues of very large import. It does not seem to be a simple question of voting a few hundreds of rupees, but involves very many issues of momentous importance, of very large import; and on that account, without going into the merits of the case at all, if we are to solve this question satisfactorily, I would appeal to the Honourable Member in charge to consider whether he could not adjourn the discussion of this subject till next February or March, as was suggested by some speakers who preceded me. But as he has pointed out that the Government cannot put off this question till February or March and that we must have a decision today, I really do not know which way I should vote. Probably my old habit will lead me to obey the bureaucracy that is in power; probably my national self-respect, if I have still any left in this House, may lead me to vote on this side. I am really very much perplexed. I would very much like that the Government should not proceed with this motion today. After all, it is this Government which is responsible for all this muddle. Having created the muddle, they cannot now shirk their responsibility. This is not the first time that the Government of India has got into a muddle; and having created the muddle I

think they should themselves get out of it ; they cannot expect me or people like me to go and assist them to get out of a muddle which they themselves have created, and if their reformer friends on this side are ungrateful enough to beat them, I would ask the Government to take the beating cheerfully.

Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, I am strongly in favour of an All-India Medical Council being instituted to advance, where necessary, and to maintain the standard of medical examinations in this country. I say that, not because I have any suspicion that the existing universities do not perform their duties satisfactorily, but because I am anxious that, in all departments of education and science, India should aim at and achieve the highest standard ; particularly in the matter of medical education which deals with life and health is it essential that we should not fall below the standard which obtains in other civilized countries. I am, therefore, strongly in favour of the institution of a General Medical Council for the whole of India. I can quite understand the reasons which are urged in favour of it. India stands to the outside world, both to the political and the scientific world, as one unit. The outside world does not recognise Bombay, Bengal, Madras or the United Provinces as different units. It recognises the whole of India as one unit, and it is necessary that the standard of knowledge which our Universities insist upon should, as far as possible, subject to such variations as may be essential, be of a uniform standard ; or to put it in another way, that the minimum standard prescribed by any of our Universities should not fall below the minimum standard prescribed by other Universities in the world. I am most anxious that advance in this direction should be rapid and great, and I regret to learn that some of the Ministers who were called to the Conference referred to in this debate objected to the creation of such a Council on the ground that that would take away from them some of the power that belongs to their own provincial spheres. I think that, if some of the Members of this Assembly had been honoured by being invited to that Conference, they might have persuaded the Ministers who objected to this proposal, to look at it in a broader way and possibly to waive their objections and unanimously support the proposal for an All-India Medical Council. I still venture to throw out the suggestion that if such a conference should again be invited I think those Ministers who objected to the creation of such a Council may yet be persuaded to look at the question from a broader standpoint and to accept the proposal which I personally believe is a very sound one and which will make for a satisfactory advance in the direction of our medical education.

But after having said that, I feel that I must oppose the proposal to appoint an I. M. S. officer temporarily as an Inspector of Medical Education to inspect the courses of medical studies and to report on the medical examinations of the Universities in India. I consider that no proposal involving a greater disrespect to the Universities of India could have been put forward. I am sorry that some of our University graduates have to go out to obtain foreign degrees. Personally I have always been of the opinion that we should so raise the standard of our degrees that they shall count as good as any that are conferred by outside Universities. I am happy to be able to say that the first Doctor of Science of the Benares Hindu University—I beg your pardon, the Benares Hindu

[Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya.]

University has the honour of having His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales as its first Doctor of Science—but the second Doctor of Science is Dr. Mata Prasad. He was appointed by the Bombay Government in competition with persons who had foreign degrees and he was sent out to England for further advanced research. He did a great deal of research there under the most distinguished Professors of chemistry in England. But I am glad to say that he did not supplicate for a degree of the University of London. He was proud of the degree of the Benares Hindu University and I am proud of him. (Hear, hear.)

I feel, Sir, that we should encourage our students to honour the degrees of their own *Alma mater* in India. But I do not blame them for hankering after foreign degrees. It is the system of administration that obtains in this country which gives preference to foreign degrees, that compels our students, after having completed their education here, to go to Edinburgh or London or some other place for obtaining an English degree. I submit that this is the reason why several students desire to go to England. I know of a very promising young man, a distinguished Doctor of Medicine of the Lucknow University, who is regarded as a very competent man—he had to go to Edinburgh to obtain an M. R. C. P. degree in order that he might improve the chances of his rise in his service. I submit, therefore, that the governments here, both in the provinces and in the Centre, ought to honour the degrees conferred by Indian Universities and thereby encourage students not to go out to other countries for obtaining a second foreign degree, merely to better their chances in service. I am most anxious that they should go out to all corners of the world to obtain the highest knowledge that is available, to obtain the highest skill that they can acquire ; but I am opposed to their going out of India to obtain a second degree merely because, being a British degree, it will ensure to them a better prospect of rising in their profession.

I also think it a misfortune that the British Medical Association should have a voice in regulating the qualifications of our medical practitioners. I cannot understand why it should be necessary to have degrees recognised by the British Medical Association. I do not want British registration for the Indian graduates whom we send out of our Universities. If the University education we provide is not of a sufficiently high standard, I think the sooner our Universities are closed the better will it be for the students and for the country. I do not want British registration of our degrees, but if we want it, and so long as we want it, we will have to submit to their dictation. I submit, therefore, that the right course to pursue is that we should cease to regard British registration as of any value to the medical profession in India.

I submit, Sir, that those who have favoured the proposal of the appointment of an Inspector by an outside body to go about and inspect our University courses and examinations, and to pronounce an opinion on their efficiency or otherwise, have not realised what an insult it means to our Universities. The Universities in India are constituted under Acts of the Legislatures. The Universities have got their Senates and Syndicates. They prescribe the courses of studies and examinations. They prescribe the courses after studying those which obtain in other Universities in the world. Those courses can be altered by them ; they

are regularly considered and improved upon or modified according to the knowledge that is growing in the rest of the civilised world. When a University has prescribed its own courses, has offered those courses to its students, has appointed examiners among whom you will find at least one external examiner in every subject—in Benares we have under the Act to appoint an external examiner for every subject which the student is permitted to offer for examination, and we choose for our highest examinations the very best examiners we can,—eminent men like Dr. Donnan from England and Dr. Ostwald from Germany, men who stand at the very top in their departments in the scientific world. After having prescribed the courses, after having given the students all the help for study that we can, after we have had them examined, we confer the degrees on the recommendation of the Senate in an open convocation, and proclaim to the world that the student has satisfied the standard laid down by the University, and I consider it an insult to the University that, after all that, any man from outside our constitution should come and tell us that our standard is not up to the mark. I would close down the University rather than submit the University to such an examination. If the Indian Universities are not discharging their functions properly, it is better that the Government of India should use its influence to close them down rather than allow them to go on conferring degrees which are suspected to be below the standard which obtains in other parts of the civilised world.

Now, Sir, I feel that the moment the gravity of this proposition is realised it will be dropped ; I strongly hope that in fairness to the Universities it will be so dropped. I think there is no man in this House who does not recognise that the standard of education obtaining in Berlin, London, Paris and other places in America is higher than it is in India. Every fibre of my soul is anxious that we should raise our standards to the highest pitch. If money were available, there is no standard to which the Indian intellect cannot attain. It is the want of money that stands in our way, and if Universities are to be improved, Provincial Governments and the Central Government ought to find money to enable them to rise to a higher standard. But we must not forget that the standards which have been prescribed have been prescribed after a great deal of care and consideration. The Universities at Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Lahore and other places have been doing their work for decades. Indian medical men used to be treated as untouchables so far as appointments to medical colleges were concerned. No Indian could be appointed a professor in these medical colleges until a few years ago. Now, happily they are being appointed. For the largest period of the existence of these Universities, the members of the I. M. S. presided over and guided the educational activities of these medical colleges. Did they deliberately prescribe a low standard ? That would be a most unjust charge to lay on their heads. I submit that there is no reason to suspect that the medical degrees of India are so very inferior to the medical degrees that obtain in other countries as the correspondence before us suggests. Every University will be happy to invite scientific men—men of eminence—from abroad to inspect its laboratories and equipment, to lecture to its students, to point out to it its deficiencies. Help of that kind would be gratefully welcome. But such men should come to us at our invitation. Here you are bringing in an authority outside the University body to impose its opinion upon us. He may

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be the most distinguished man of science, but if you bring him in against the University's wish, I can not welcome him to the University while I am in charge of it.

Mr. President : The Honourable the Deputy President has made a request that I should adjourn the House today at the usual time. If the Honourable Member is going to be long, I should like to adjourn now.

Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya : I shall be very short. I submit that the Government of India must strive to establish a General Medical Council, which will do all it can to promote medical education to a high degree, and I hope that every Member of this House, on this side as well as on the other side, will agree in desiring that the Department of Education will convene another conference of Ministers and others to discuss this question. But I earnestly submit that the proposal before the House to appoint temporarily an Inspector of Medical Education should be rejected and that this dictation of the British Medical Association should be thankfully declined.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 26th September, 1929.

CORRIGENDUM.

In the Legislative Assembly Debates, dated the 21st March, 1929, page 2299, in the last paragraph, *for* the words beginning with " My second reason is " and ending with " bring in such an amendment. ", *substitute* the following :—

" My second reason is that it is not possible for us separately to change the tariff duty perhaps on this occasion. Had I wished to change that tax, I am afraid, Sir, I could not have done so. It is only the duty on excise salt which I propose to remit—perhaps some of my friends do not understand the significance of it ; I apologise to them as I have not perhaps been intelligible. The Bill says ' salt manufactured in, or imported by land into ' India and not Burma. That is, if we pass this Bill as it is, we levy a duty on indigenous salt alone. This Bill is for excise salt duty only. Our difficulty arises there. In this Bill, by no amendment can we suitably change the duty on imported salt. That duty, I mean tariff duty, is, according to the Tariff Act, levied on the basis of this excise duty, which, by rules made under section 7 (2) of the Indian Salt Act, can be remitted by the Governor General in Council. Thus the duty will remain leviable for the purpose of taxing imported salt, and will not be realised on indigenous salt on account of the remission proposed here. Now, I hope, it is clear that any other change of tariff duty on salt is forbidden ground so far as this Act is concerned, and we shall have to take the previous sanction of His Excellency the Viceroy before we can bring in such an amendment."