

17th September 1929

THE

# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

(Official Report)

Volume IV

*(2nd September to 17th September, 1929)*

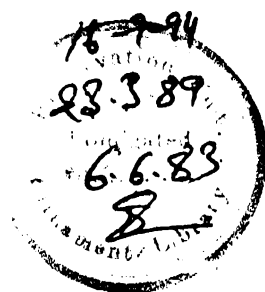
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## FIFTH SESSION

OF THE

## THIRD LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

## 1929



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1930

# Legislative Assembly.

## *President :*

THE HONOURABLE MR. V. J. PATEL.

## *Deputy President :*

MAULVI MUHAMMAD YAKUB, M.L.A.

## *Panel of Chairmen :*

PANDIT MADAN MOHAN MALAVIYA, M.L.A.

SIR DARCY LINDSAY, KT., C.B.E., M.L.A.

SIR PURSHOTAMDAS THAKURDAS, KT., C.I.E., M.B.E., M.L.A.

MR. JAMNADAS M. MEHTA, M.L.A.

## *Secretary :*

MR. S. C. GUPTA, BAR.-AT-LAW.

## *Assistant of the Secretary :*

RAI SAHIB D. DUTT.

## *Marshal :*

CAPTAIN SURAJ SINGH BAHADUR, I.O.M.

## *Committee on Public Petitions :*

MAULVI MUHAMMAD YAKUB, M.L.A., *Chairman.*

MR. DWARKA PRASAD MISRA, M.L.A.

SIR PURSHOTAMDAS THAKURDAS, KT., C.I.E., M.B.E., M.L.A.

MR. DHIRENDRA KANTA LAHIRI CHAUDHURY, M.L.A.

NAWAB SIR SAHIBZADA ABDUL QAIYUM, K.C.I.E., M.L.A.

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

*Tuesday, 17th September, 1929.*

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

## MEMBER SWORN :

Mr. John Reginald Trevor Booth, M.L.A. (Government of India :  
Nominated Official).

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

### LABOUR SITUATION IN GOLMURI.

546. **\*Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh :** Are Government aware that the labour situation in Golmuri is extremely bad ? And have Government received any representations from the Indian Chamber of Commerce, or other bodies and individuals, regarding the present labour situation in Golmuri ? What steps have Government taken, or do they propose to take to bring about a settlement of the trouble there ?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra :** Government are aware that there have been labour troubles in the Tinplate Company's works at Golmuri. They have received representations from certain bodies, including the Indian Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta, who have been informed that under section 3 of the Trade Disputes Act, 1929, the question whether a Board of Conciliation or a Court of Inquiry should or should not be constituted in connection with the strike rests entirely within the discretion of the Local Government.

**Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh :** Sir, are Government aware that the Bihar and Orissa Legislative Council carried an adjournment motion the other day by way of censure upon the Local Government for their attitude in this strike ?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra :** I have seen a report to that effect in the papers, Sir.

**Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh :** Are Government aware that the Local Government is taking sides with the Company in this matter ?

**Mr. President :** Order, order.

**Diwan Ohaman Lall :** May I ask the Honourable Member whether it is not a fact that the Local Government sent a Commissioner to inquire as to the feasibility of setting up a Court of Inquiry or a Board of Conciliation ?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra :** I have no information on that point, Sir.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** May I ask the Honourable Member why if the facts are correct, the Government of India did not make a representation to the Local Government asking them to set up a Board of Conciliation or a Court of Inquiry in regard to this matter ?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra :** I have already stated that the matter is one in regard to which the discretion rests solely with the Local Government under the provisions of the Trade Disputes Act.

**Mr. Ghanshyam Das Birla :** Is it a fact that the Bihar and Orissa Council has passed a vote of censure on the Government ?

**Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh :** Are Government aware that section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code is used against the strikers but not against the Pathans who are employed by the Company ?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra :** I have no information on that point, Sir.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** Has the Honourable Member the latest information in regard to the strike situation at Golmuri ?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra :** I have seen the account given by the Member of the Bihar Council in charge of this particular subject in the provincial Legislative Council in connection with the motion for adjournment. I dare say that in due course we shall receive some official information from the Local Government.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** Do I take it that the Honourable Member does not intend to use his good offices with the Local Government in order to bring about a settlement of the situation ?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra :** I am pretty sure that the whole question will be raised in this House in connection with the Resolution which is coming on on the 24th, and I prefer not to express any opinion on the question now.

**Mr. B. Das :** Do I take it that the Government of India cannot interfere in the trade dispute at Golmuri, because the Local Government takes cover under the Trade Disputes Act and do not want to appoint a Conciliation Board ?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra :** That is the position, Sir. The power under the Act rests with the Local Government. The Government of India have undoubtedly certain powers of superintendence, etc., but so far they have thought it undesirable to exercise those powers.

**Mr. B. Das :** May I inquire if the Honourable Member considered whether he was giving too much power to the Local Government when he passed this Trade Disputes Act ?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra :** Well, Sir, that Act was passed by this House, not by me.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** May I ask the Honourable Member whether he has any information as to why the Local Government refused to act in this matter when they were asked to do so by a large number of representative bodies throughout India ?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra :** The spokesman of the Local Government has fully explained their position in the matter in

the course of the debate on the motion for adjournment in the provincial Legislative Council the other day.

**Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru :** Have Government called for a report from the Local Government on this matter ?

**Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh :** Has the Honourable Member asked the Local Government for a report ?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra :** We have been in constant communication with the Local Government in regard to the matter.

**Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru :** What is the latest report which the Local Government have sent to the Government of India ?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra :** That, Sir, is embodied in the statement made by the Honourable Mr. Whitty in the Bihar and Orissa Legislative Council in connection with that particular debate.

**Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru :** Do the Government of India propose themselves to take any further action or to suggest any further action to the Local Government ?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra :** That is a matter which is still engaging the consideration of the Government of India.

#### HEALTH OF BOYS IN MUNICIPAL BOARD PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN DELHI.

547. **\*Lala Rang Behari Lal :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that, after the introduction of compulsory primary education in Delhi, the health of boys in Municipal Board primary schools has gone down, so much so that a very large number have consumptive tendencies and a similarly large number have defective eyes ?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the causes of this trouble, and what steps, if any, have been taken to check the growth of the disease ?

**Sir Frank Noyce :** (a) Compulsory primary education has, since 1926, been gradually introduced and is now in force in six of the nine areas of the Delhi Municipality. Systematic medical inspection of school children was started in 1928. Medical examination in that year showed that 7.4 per cent. of the children examined were suffering from enlarged glands generally of tuberculous origin ; that 35.8 per cent. suffered from trachoma, and 11.4 per cent. from a slight, and 20.3 per cent. from a serious, degree of defective vision. There are no figures for the period prior to 1928 with which comparison could be made and it is impossible to say whether the health of school children has been improving or deteriorating.

(b) In view of the answer to (a), this question hardly arises, but it may be stated that special hours have been set apart in the Civil Hospital for the treatment of Municipal school children, and efforts are being made to ensure that children who require treatment shall receive it. The present school buildings are often unsuitable and overcrowded, but Government are informed that the Committee are doing what they can to improve the accommodation.

### GRANT OF AN ALLOWANCE TO OFFICERS OF THE PUNJAB GOVERNMENT SERVING IN DELHI.

548. \*Lala Rang Behari Lal : (a) Will Government be pleased to state if at the time of the creation of the Delhi province there was an understanding that the Punjab Government would lend officers for ten years ? Does the same understanding still continue ?

(b) Do these officers get any special allowance for serving in Delhi ? If not, are Government prepared to consider the question of allowing them a special allowance ?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar : (a) The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. The second part does not arise.

(b) No allowances are given for service in Delhi as such, but special allowances have been sanctioned for specific reasons and in particular cases. The Government of India do not consider that there is sufficient reason for revising the existing arrangements.

### NUMBER OF RESIDENTS OF DELHI APPOINTED TO THE PROVINCIAL CIVIL SERVICE OF THE DELHI PROVINCE.

549. \*Lala Rang Behari Lal : (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of residents of Delhi who have been taken in the judicial and executive line of the Provincial Civil Service from the time of the creation of the Delhi Province up to date ?

(b) Have Government found this number to be adequate for the province ?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar : (a) and (b). Local Governments of Governor's provinces control recruitment to their respective provincial services. The Government of India have no information of the total number of inhabitants of the Delhi Province who have been admitted to the provincial services of the different provinces, but since the creation of the Delhi Province, 24 inhabitants of that Province have been admitted to the Punjab Civil Service, 10 on the executive and 14 on the judicial side.

### ESTABLISHMENT OF A CIRCUIT COURT AT DELHI.

550. \*Lala Rang Behari Lal : (a) Will Government be pleased to state if there is any truth in the information that a Circuit High Court will be established in Delhi from 1930 ?

(b) Is it a fact that the establishment of a Circuit High Court in Delhi has the approval of the Honourable the Chief Justice and other Judges of the Lahore High Court ?

(c) If the answer to part (a) be in the negative, do Government propose to consider the advisability of establishing a Circuit High Court in Delhi ?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar : I have nothing to add to the answer given to Mr. Abdul Haye's question No. 421 on the subject on the 11th September.

**EMPLOYMENT OF OFFICERS OF THE ARMY IN INDIA RESERVE OF OFFICERS ON DUTIES OF REGULAR ARMY OFFICERS.**

**551. \*Nawab Sir Sahibzada Abdul Qaiyum :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if any officers of the Army in India Reserve of Officers, other than Government servants, have ever been called to service other than that referred to in para. 26-A of Regulations for the Army in India Reserve of Officers ? If so, under what other regulations has the employment been ordered or made ?

(b) If no other regulations exist, are Government prepared to modify the restriction in Appendix F so as to enable such officers, if they so desire, being employed freely, like other Regular Army Officers, on any special or ordinary duties under the Army Department of the Government of India or at Command Headquarters, if they possess the necessary qualifications and experience for the performance of such duties in order to relieve the Indian Army Officers for their more important and purely military duties ?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham :** (a) Yes. Owing to a shortage of regular officers, a few officers of the Reserve have been employed temporarily with the Indian Signal Corps, and also certain others have been called up for service with irregular corps under the Foreign and Political Department. These officers were obtained by calling for volunteers, and it was not necessary to make use of any particular regulations.

(b) I am not sure that I understand the Honourable Member's question. If the suggestion is that certain regular officers attached to Army Headquarters and Command Headquarters are not now engaged on important and purely military duties, I can assure him that this is not the case. When occasions arise on which the services of officers of the Reserve can be usefully employed on part time military duties, the provisions of Appendix 'F' of the Regulations have been found adequate for the purpose, and Government do not see any grounds for modifying them. If, however, the suggestion is that officers of the Reserve could be employed permanently on duties now performed by regular officers, the answer is that this would practically amount to opening a new field of recruitment for the regular Army and there would be no justification for retaining the officers themselves in the Reserve.

**PERIOD OF TRAINING FIXED FOR ARMY IN INDIA RESERVE OF OFFICERS.**

**552. \*Nawab Sir Sahibzada Abdul Qaiyum :** Are Government aware that the period of training fixed for the Army in India Reserve of Officers, as per para. 20 of their Regulations, is considered short and inadequate, particularly in the case of officers belonging to the categories other than 2, 3 and 6, and do Government propose to increase their training period to at least 30 days, particularly in the case of categories other than 2, 3 and 6, if these officers so desire ?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham :** Government recognise that the periods of training fixed for some categories of Army in India Reserve officers might with advantage be extended. They do not, however, propose at present to introduce any change in this respect, firstly, owing to the considerable extra cost involved, and, secondly, because many officers

of the Reserve cannot spare more time from their civil employment than they do at present for military training.

#### EXTENSION OF RAILWAY CONCESSIONS TO THE ARMY IN INDIA RESERVE OF OFFICERS.

**553. \*Nawab Sir Sahibzada Abdul Qaiyum :** Is it a fact that all captains and subalterns serving with the Army in India, including those of staff services and Departments, and regular Officers of the Royal Air Force, not above the rank of Flight-Lieutenant, and Indian officers and sub-assistant surgeons with the honorary rank of Captain or Lieutenant, when travelling by rail at their own expense, are, on production of leave concession voucher Form D, allowed to travel 1st class on payment of 2nd class fares ? If so, do Government propose to extend this concession to the Army in India Reserve of Officers ?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham :** The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. The same concession is admissible to an officer of the Army in India Reserve while he is actually serving with the Army, but not at other times. Government see no reason to alter the present rule.

#### BRIBERY IN VILLAGE POST OFFICES.

**554. \*Dr. B. S. Moonje :** (a) Will Government please state if it is a fact that the Honourable Additional Judicial Commissioner of Nagpur, (C. P.) in his judgment on the 26th November, 1928, in criminal appeal No. 2133 of 1928, upholding the conviction, has cast aspersions to the effect that postal stamp marks on post-cards, which were exhibits in defence, could be easily secured by anybody by bribing menials at village post offices, and whether the towns of Chhindwara, a district headquarters, and of Chandur, a tahsil headquarters, are mere villages as the Honourable Additional Judicial Commissioner remarks ?

(b) Have Government made any inquiries in the matter and, if so, will Government be pleased to lay the results of the inquiries on the table ?

(c) If bribery is so rampant in such village post offices, what steps have Government taken or do they propose to take to root out the hated system of bribery ?

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

#### FIELD MANŒUVRES OF THE INDIAN TERRITORIAL FORCE AND UNIVERSITY TRAINING CORPS.

**555. \*Dr. B. S. Moonje :** (1) Will Government please state if field manœuvres of Territorial Forces and Officers Training Corps in England are ever held ?

(2) If so, how many manœuvres were held during the last five years ?

(3) Are such manœuvres held of the Indian Territorial Forces and the University Training Corps ? If so, how many such manœuvres were held during the last five years and, if not, why not ?



(4) Is it a fact that the regular Army participates in such manœuvres in England? If so, does the Indian Army similarly participate in the manœuvres of the Indian Territorial Forces?

(5) Do Government propose to hold an All-India manœuvre of the Indian Territorial Forces?

**Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham :** (1) to (4). Organised manœuvres are not held specially for the Territorial Army and Officers Training Corps in England. Units of the Territorial Army and Officers Training Corps go into camp for about a fortnight every year, during which field operations are sometimes carried out in conjunction with regular troops, if there are any stationed in the neighbourhood. Similarly, the training of Indian Territorial Force units is performed in an annual camp and when regular troops are available they are used to assist the Territorial units in carrying out elementary field operations.

(5) I am afraid that the distances in India, the expense entailed in carrying out field operations on a large scale and the stage of development so far reached by the Indian Territorial Force make it quite impossible to contemplate holding Territorial manœuvres in this country on the scale suggested by the Honourable Member.

**Dr. B. S. Moonje :** Has the Honourable Member seen in the papers that the Territorial Forces in England are taking part in general manœuvres?

**Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham :** Yes, Sir; I have seen that. It is not strictly correct to call them Territorial manœuvres. They were manœuvres in which the Territorials and the Regular Army both took part.

**Dr. B. S. Moonje :** Will the Honourable Member say if a similar arrangement could be made in India?

**Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham :** As I have explained, when the Territorial units of this country go into camp, the Regular units in the neighbourhood do take part in the operations which are performed by the Indian Territorial Force.

**Dr. B. S. Moonje :** What I want to know is that, if there are regular manœuvres of the Regular Army, will the Territorial Forces be allowed to take part in them?

**Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham :** Government will consider that point.

#### NOMINATION OF CADETS FROM UNIVERSITY TRAINING CORPS IN INDIA.

556. **\*Dr. B. S. Moonje :** Are Government aware that in addition to the cadets admitted half-yearly on the results of the competitive examination, a certain number are also admitted on the nomination of Headmasters of approved schools maintaining contingents of the Officers Training Corps? If so, do Government propose to introduce a similar system of nominations from the University Training Corps of India, as one of the means of adding to half-yearly recruitments through competitive examinations as at present prevailing for the filling up of yearly vacancies which remain mostly unfilled?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham :** In the first part of his question I assume that the Honourable Member is referring to the practice in England. If this is the case, the answer is in the affirmative ; except that the nomination of the Headmaster does not absolve the boy from passing the examination. Government do not propose to introduce a similar system in India chiefly for the reason that the majority of the Principals and Headmasters of educational institutions in this country can have had little or no opportunity of coming in contact with Army life and of knowing its requirements, and it is not desired to reduce the vacancies available by open competition in favour of any particular institutions.

**Dr. B. S. Moonje :** Does the Honourable Member mean to say that the students who have been recommended by the Headmasters are also required to pass the competitive examination ?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham :** Yes, Sir ; they have to pass the competitive examination as well. The privilege given to Headmasters at home was of distinct value at a time when the number of boys who qualified for Sandhurst was greater than the number of vacancies at the college. That is to say, when a large number of boys qualified themselves for admission to the college and there were not sufficient vacancies to take them. In that case, the nomination by the Headmaster was useful. That position no longer obtains at home and any boy who qualifies for Sandhurst is now practically certain of getting a vacancy.

**The Revd. J. C. Chatterjee :** Are Government aware that there are certain Headmasters and Principals of Colleges in this country who have got experience of military life and have been officers in His Majesty's Army ? In their case, are Government prepared to attach special value to their recommendations for the nomination of cadets ?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham :** I am aware of that fact, but I have given the answer already in the answer to the main question. I have said that it is not desirable to reduce the number of vacancies available by open competition in favour of any particular institutions.

**The Revd. J. C. Chatterjee :** In view of the fact that the vacancies which are available for open competition are not, as a rule, filled in, is it not possible to fill them by means of such recommendations ?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham :** No, Sir. As I have already explained nomination does not absolve the boy from passing the competitive examination either in England or anywhere else. If the Headmaster were to nominate a boy, he would still have to go up for the competitive examination.

**The Revd. J. C. Chatterjee :** What I meant to say was whether Government are prepared to attach special value to the recommendations made by such Headmasters and Principals who have had a good record of military life themselves ?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham :** There is no provision in an open competitive examination for attaching special importance to recommendations from anybody.

**The Revd. J. C. Chatterjee :** There is some provision so far as the *viva voce* examination goes, where special marks are allotted for the candidate's general capabilities. In view of that, should not special

consideration be shown to candidates who are recommended by competent Headmasters and Principals ?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham :** The school record is certainly taken into consideration, but I do not think it is possible for Government to discriminate between the recommendations of one Headmaster and another.

**Dr. B. S. Moonje :** Will the Honourable Member say if the information is correct that boys recommended by the Headmasters are not required to pass through Sandhurst and are taken directly into the Commission ?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham :** No, Sir. The boys who are nominated at home are required to compete in the open examination and pass through Sandhurst exactly like any other boys.

**Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru :** Have Government tried to establish officers' Training Corps at schools or colleges in India by instituting.....

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham :** I do not think that question arises out of the answer I have already given.

**Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru :** The Honourable Member said that Headmasters of schools here were not in a position to nominate boys. I want to know whether Government themselves have provided them with opportunities to nominate boys ?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham :** I was merely stating an existing fact, which is that the Principals and Headmasters of Educational institutions in this country do not, as a rule, possess the knowledge of Army requirements which the Headmasters of schools and colleges at home do possess.

**Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru :** May I know whether members of the Officers' Training Corps are taken as officers in the Supplementary Reserve in England without being asked to pass any examination ?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham :** I must ask for notice of that question.

# INTRODUCTION IN THE CENTRAL PROVINCES LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF A BILL FOR PHYSICAL TRAINING, ETC., OF STUDENTS.

557. **\*Dr. B. S. Moonje :** (a) Are Government aware that in 1925, Dr. B. S. Moonje, when he was a member of the Central Provinces Legislative Council had given notice of a Bill to provide for physical training, military drill and rifle practice for the Central Provinces school students and that the Governor General had held that the Bill fell within the scope of section 80-A (3) (e) of the Government of India Act, that is, that the Bill sought to regulate a Central Subject and that he had therefore refused to grant the necessary sanction ?

(b) Are Government aware that Dr. Moonje, after he became a member of this Assembly, had given notice of a similar Bill to provide for physical training, military drill and rifle practice for Indian boys attending educational institutions, and that previous sanction was refused to the Bill here also on the ground that, in so far as the training proposed by the Bill was to be carried out by the Provincial educational authorities, the measure was one which should be introduced in a Provincial Council ?

(c) Are Government aware that thereafter a similar Bill with suitable modifications was again sought to be introduced in the Central Provinces Legislative Council by Mr. V. V. Kaliker, B.A., LL.B., M.L.C., who had given notice of the Bill on 30th October 1928, and that he was informed in November 1928 that previous sanction is required for the Bill and that "action is being taken in respect of the requisite sanctions?"

(d) Are Government aware that, though nearly 11 months have passed the matter has not yet been definitely settled as to whether the necessary previous sanction will or will not be granted?

(e) In view of the reply given to Dr. Moonje that "in so far as the training proposed by the Bill was to be carried out by the provincial educational authorities, the measure was one which should be introduced in a Provincial Council", will Government please state if they propose to grant the necessary sanction to the Bill of Mr. V. V. Kaliker, M.L.C., of which he has given notice in the Central Provinces Legislative Council?

**The Honourable Sir Brojendra Mitter :** (a) Government are aware of the Bill submitted by Dr. Moonje when a Member of the Central Provinces Legislative Council. Sanction was refused by the Governor General to that Bill not, as suggested in the question, because the Bill regulated a Central Subject, but because it regulated a Central Subject in a manner not acceptable to the Government of India.

(b) The reply is in the affirmative.

(c) The Honourable Member is presumably referring to a communication addressed to Mr. Kaliker by the Local Government. On this point the Government of India have no information.

(d) and (e). The Government of India first became aware of Mr. Kaliker's Bill on receiving a letter dated the 5th January, 1929, from the Government of the Central Provinces. The matter has been under the consideration of the Departments of the Government of India concerned, and in view of the importance of the principles raised in the Bill it has been decided to address all Local Governments before making any recommendation to the Governor General.

**Dr. B. S. Moonje :** Eleven months have already passed. How much more time will the Government of India take to decide whether the previous sanction is or is not necessary, and if it is necessary, whether it should or should not be given?

**The Honourable Sir Brojendra Mitter :** The Government of India, as I have already said, have decided to address Local Governments before making any recommendation to the Governor General. It follows that, until the Government of India receive replies from the Local Governments, no action could be taken.

**Sardar Kartar Singh :** Is the legal point to be considered or is it something else?

**The Honourable Sir Brojendra Mitter :** It is not the legal point, but it is the matter of policy that has to be considered.

**Dr. B. S. Moonje :** Is the objection based on the ground that it is a Central Subject or that it is a Central Subject regulated in a particular

manner ? I shall give the Honourable Member the reply which I received from the Central Provinces Government :

" I am to say that your Bill requires the previous sanction of the Governor General under section 80-A (3) (c) and (e) of the Government of India Act ".

That was the reply I received. I should like to know how these clauses apply to this Bill ?

**The Honourable Sir Brojendra Mitter :** Section 80-A (3) (e) of the Government of India Act says, " regulating any Central Subject ". The answer I gave was that sanction was refused because it regulated a Central Subject in a manner not acceptable to the Government of India.

**Dr. B. S. Moonje :** My point is which is the Central Subject that is regulated and how it is regulated.

**The Honourable Sir Brojendra Mitter :** The Central Subject is " control of arms and ammunition ". If the Honourable Member would look at the Devolution Rules, Schedule I, part I, item 32, he will find that " control of arms and ammunition " is a Central Subject.

**Dr. B. S. Moonje :** Does the Honourable Member know that it is already provided that the subject of granting licenses to Rifle Associations should be entrusted to Local Governments by Rule 32 of the Arms Act ? (Hear, hear.)

**The Honourable Sir Brojendra Mitter :** I am not aware of that. If the Honourable Member wants any further information on the subject, I should be obliged if he will give notice.

**Dr. B. S. Moonje :** I should like the Honourable Member to consider it from that point of view.

**The Honourable Sir Brojendra Mitter :** Yes.

**Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh :** But the notice of a question would require ten days' time ?

**The Honourable Sir Brojendra Mitter :** Then wait till the Delhi Session.

**Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru :** Are Government aware that a Resolution dealing with the physical training of students and their instruction in the use of rifles was passed in the last Session of the Legislative Assembly ?

**The Honourable Sir Brojendra Mitter :** Yes.

**Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru :** Are Government aware that that Resolution was passed with the consent of Government ?

**The Honourable Sir Brojendra Mitter :** I am aware of that.

**Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru :** When did the correspondence with the Local Governments begin ?

**The Honourable Sir Brojendra Mitter :** That I am not in a position to say off-hand, because I have not got the dates in my head.

**Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru :** Perhaps the Army Secretary will give the dates.

**Mr. G. B. F. Tottenham :** That Resolution was accepted by the Government of India in the Department of Education, Health and Lands. (Laughter.)

**Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru :** As we have got a representative of the Department of Education, Health and Lands in this Assembly, will he throw some light on the point ?

**Sir Frank Noyce :** In giving a reply to this question, I am forestalling the answer which is shortly to be given to a similar question on the subject. The Local Governments have recently been addressed in regard to that part of the Resolution which relates to the introduction of compulsory games and physical training. They have yet to be addressed with regard to that part of the Resolution which relates to the encouragement of the use of miniature rifle ranges.

**Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru :** Why have the Local Governments not been addressed on a subject on which the Legislative Assembly laid so much stress ?

**Sir Frank Noyce :** That really is a question for the Home Department (Laughter) which, I understand, proposes to address them shortly

**Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru :** This House has the significant good fortune of having the Honourable the Home Member also in its midst and I am sure he will be able to give us final reasons for not dealing with the subject till now.

**The Honourable Sir James Crerar :** The matter is one which requires very careful consideration and the Government of India has not yet finally arrived at a conclusion as to the terms in which the Local Governments should be addressed.

**Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh :** Why not pass it on to the Foreign Secretary ? (Laughter.)

**Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru :** Is the Honourable the Home Member aware that that Resolution was passed with the consent of the Government of India during the last Session ?

**The Honourable Sir James Crerar :** Yes, Sir.

**Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru :** Was not then the object of the Resolution accepted by the Government of India ? If so, what is it that is engaging the consideration of the Government now ?

**The Honourable Sir James Crerar :** I should not like to give the Honourable Member a reply on the spur of the moment, because the matter is one of great complexity. If the Honourable Member gives me notice, I shall be glad to consider the terms of my reply.

**Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh :** But the Resolution was passed with the consent of the Government.

**Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru :** May I know whether the principle of the matter is being considered, or whether the Home Department is engaged in evolving a suitable scheme for reference to the Local Governments ?

**The Honourable Sir James Crerar :** We are considering the terms in which the Local Governments could be addressed in a manner which will cover the whole question adequately.

**APPOINTMENT OF SIKHS TO THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE.**

**558. \*Sardar Kartar Singh :** (a) Is it a fact that there are 25 officers in the senior grade of the Railway Clearing Accounts Office and that there is not a single Sikh ?

(b) Is it a fact that there is no Sikh gazetted officer in this office ?

(c) Is it a fact that there is no Sikh accountant even ?

(d) To show that steps are being taken to safeguard the Sikh interests in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office since the issue of the Home Department Memorandum No. F. 176/25-Estts., dated the 15th March 1926, will Government be pleased to state the number of Sikhs taken in this office as against Hindus and Muhammadans ?

**Mr. P. B. Rau :** (a) There are 7 Gazetted Officers in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office.

The answer to part (b) is in the affirmative and to part (c) in the negative.

(d) Government regret that, for reasons already stated in the House, they are unable to give figures of the communal composition of individual offices, but I may assure the Honourable Member that the rules for recruitment of staff in the Railway Accounts Department make provision to prevent the preponderance of any one community in that Department. These rules were promulgated in consultation with the Standing Finance Committee.

**APPOINTMENT OF SIKHS AS ENGINEER SUPERVISORS IN THE TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.**

**559. \*Sardar Kartar Singh :** (a) Is it a fact that an examination for Engineering Supervisorship in the Telegraph Department was held recently at different centres ?

(b) If so, (1) how many Sikhs applied for the examination, (2) how many of them were permitted to compete, and (3) how many of them were selected for appointment ?

(c) In view of the fact that there is not a single Sikh in the Service, do Government propose to take a sufficient number of Sikhs ? If not, why not ?

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

(b) (1) Fourteen, of whom only eleven appeared before the Selection Board.

(2) Five, of whom only one actually appeared at the examination.

(3) The results of the examination have not yet been declared.

(c) The rules framed for the examination reserve 30 per cent. of the vacancies to be filled by Government by nomination, with reference to the results of the examination. In filling these vacancies the interests of the Sikhs and of other minority communities will be given due consideration by Government.

## PERCENTAGE OF SIKHS IN THE RAILWAY BOARD.

560. \*Sardar Kartar Singh : Will the Government be pleased to place on the table a statement showing the percentage of Sikhs, Muhammadans, Hindus and Anglo-Indians in the Railway Board office on the 1st April, 1929, as against the previous year ? If there is a decrease in the percentage of Sikhs what are the reasons therefor ?

Mr. P. B. Rau : I am laying the required statement on the table. The decrease in the percentage of Sikhs is due to the discharge of one man for misconduct.

*Statement showing the percentage of Sikhs, Muhammadans, Hindus and Anglo-Indians in the Railway Board on the 1st April, 1928, and 1st April, 1929.*

Community.						1st April 1928.	1st April 1929.	Remarks.
Sikhs	..	..	..	..	..	3.25	2.5	
Muhammadans	..	..	..	..	..	15.44	15.00	
Hindus	..	..	..	..	..	65.04	66.66	
Anglo-Indians	..	..	..	..	..	9.75	9.16	

## RULES FOR RECRUITMENT TO THE RAILWAY AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS SERVICE.

561. \*Sardar Kartar Singh : (a) Have any rules for recruitment in the Railway Audit and Accounts Service been framed ? If so, will Government please place a copy of them on the table ? If not, how is recruitment to this service being made ?

(b) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of holding competitive examinations for this service and for other subordinate accounts services ? If not, why not ?

Mr. P. B. Rau : (a) Recruitment to the Railway Accounts Service is to be partly by direct appointment by competitive examination in India conducted by the Public Service Commission and partly by promotion from the subordinate grades. In the latter case the selection for promotion will be made in consultation with the Public Service Commission. The rules for the examination were issued in a Finance Department Resolution of the 25th July, 1929, published in the Gazette of India of the 27th July, 1929.

(b) Recruitment to subordinate establishments will be made as stated in the rules issued with the Railway Board's circular No. 5565-F. of the 31st July, 1929, a copy of which is in the Library of the House. All first appointments to the subordinate establishments, except the transfer of qualified men from other Government Departments or Railways will be made by competitive examination. Thereafter promotions to higher ranks will be subject to passing the departmental examination and will be by selection, depending on merit and seniority.



**PROPORTION OF SIKHS IN THE IMPERIAL POLICE SERVICE IN THE PUNJAB.**

562. \*Sardar Kartar Singh : (a) What is the proportion of Sikhs as against Hindus, Muhammadans and Europeans in the Imperial Police Service in the Punjab ?

(b) If the percentage of Sikhs is far less than their share, do Government still propose to give the next vacancy to a Muhammadan ? If so, why ?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar : (a) The proportions are as follows :

Europeans	..	..	..	75 per cent.
Muhammadans	..	..	..	13 per cent.
Hindus	..	..	..	3 per cent.
Sikhs	..	..	..	4 per cent.

(b) It will be observed that Sikhs constitute 20 per cent. of the Indian members of the service. The Government of India have not laid down any definite percentage for the representation of minority communities, and there is no proposal before them to give the next vacancy to a member of any particular community.

**APPOINTMENT OF SIKHS AS SUPERINTENDENTS AND ASSISTANT SECRETARIES IN CERTAIN DEPARTMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.**

563. \*Sardar Kartar Singh : Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Sikh community has no representation in the Superintendent's and Assistant's grades in the Commerce Department, Industries and Labour Department, Army Department, Home Department, Legislative Department, and Legislative Assembly Department ? If so, do Government propose to take steps to check the preponderance of other communities and appoint Sikhs in the future vacancies to give them their adequate share in these grades ? If not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar : The reply to the first part of the Honourable Member's question is in the affirmative. As to the second part, vacancies in the grade of Superintendent are ordinarily filled by departmental promotion. As explained recently in this House, the measures adopted by Government to redress communal inequalities refer to fresh recruitment and not to departmental promotions, which must continue to be regulated by considerations of seniority and merit. As regards the Assistants' grade, the new scheme of recruitment sanctioned last December provides for the recruitment of external candidates direct to the First Division for half of the vacancies which occur, and this will provide an avenue for the employment of members of minority communities, including Sikhs, in accordance with the principles already laid down by Government.

**ABSENCE OF SIKHS IN CERTAIN GOVERNMENT OFFICES.**

564. \*Sardar Kartar Singh : (a) Is it a fact that there is no Sikh in the Office of the Controller of Railway Accounts ?

(b) Is it also a fact that there is no Sikh in the Office of the Controller of Railway Audits ?

(c) If the replies to parts (a) and (b) are in the affirmative, how do Government justify the absence of Sikh representation on the staff of these offices ?

**Mr. P. R. Rau :** (a) No. There are two Sikhs on the staff.

(b) I presume the Honourable Member is referring to the office of the Director of Railway Audit which was known as the office of the Accountant General, Railways, before the separation of accounts from audit. There were, I understand, three Sikhs in that office, of whom two were among the staff transferred to the office of the Controller of Railway Accounts in April last with the accounts work transferred under the new system. The third was selected to join the Training School of Accounts in Calcutta. At present there is no Sikh in the office of the Director of Railway Audit.

(c) As I explained in answer to a question put by my Honourable friend Maulvi Muhammad Yakub the other day, it is impossible for each individual office, particularly when the clerical staff employed is small, to be recruited on communal lines.

#### RECRUITMENT OF SIKHS IN THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

565. **\*Sardar Kartar Singh :** (a) Is it a fact that the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs, issued to his subordinate offices a general letter No. A.M.-516/12-27, dated the 22nd November, 1927, on the subject of representation of minority communities and that these orders referred to fresh recruitments ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the exact number of officiating, temporary and permanent vacancies which occurred in the office of the Director General as well as in the Amritsar, Lahore and Jullundur Divisions since the issue of the above letter, and how many of the posts were given to Sikhs ?

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

(b) Information is being collected and will be supplied to the Honourable Member in due course.

#### NUMBER OF SIKHS APPOINTED TO CERTAIN POSTS IN THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

566. **\*Sardar Kartar Singh :** Will Government be pleased to state how many vacancies amongst clerks, T. T. Inspectors and Audit Inspectors have been filled up by the Chief Auditor, North Western Railway, since 1st April, 1928, and how many of them have gone to Sikhs as against other communities ?

**The Honourable Sir George Schuster :** The information has been called for and will be furnished to the Honourable Member as soon as it is received.

#### MILITARY SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES IN INDIA.

567. **\*Dr. B. S. Moonje :** (a) How many military schools and colleges, if any, are there in India ?

(b) Where are they situated ?

(c) What is the curriculum of literary and military education in them ?

(d) Are the final examinations of these schools and colleges recognised by any of the Universities, and, if so, what are the standards to which they are equivalent ? If not recognised, and if a boy passing the final examination chooses not to enter into the Army, how are his educational qualifications computed for civil avocations ?

(e) What average monthly or yearly charges has a student in these schools and colleges to pay for his education ?

(f) Which of them are open to the general public and which of them only to the sons and wards of men already serving in the Army ?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham :** (a) Three.

(b) The Prince of Wales' Royal Indian Military College is situated at Dehra Dun and the two King George's Royal Indian Military Schools at Jhelum and Jullundur.

(c) The curriculum of the Dehra Dun College is based on the syllabus of the Entrance Examinations for the Army, Air Force and Indian Marine. The syllabus of the Jhelum and Jullundur Schools is arranged so as to give a boy a general education up to the ordinary 8th Standard.

So far as literary education is concerned, no purely military subjects are included in the curriculum of any of these institutions. In fact the education can only be called military to this extent, that the boys have a military career in view, and the general policy and discipline of the College and Schools are directed towards the development of soldier-like qualities.

(d) The Dehra Dun diploma examination, which all cadets take before going up for the Army Entrance examination, is the same examination as that for the Chiefs' Colleges diploma. It has been recognised by almost all the Universities in India as equivalent to their Matriculation or corresponding examination. The Final examination of the King George's Military Schools is equivalent to and carries with it the advantages of the " Vernacular Final " examination.

The second part of the question does not arise.

(e) The fees for an ordinary boy at Dehra Dun are Rs. 1,500 per annum. Soldiers' sons are eligible for admission at reduced fees, according to their financial circumstances, at the discretion of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

The normal fees at Jhelum and Jullundur are Rs. 7-8-0 a month. Fatherless boys and boys whose fathers are in receipt of a 50 per cent. or higher disability pension are educated free, provided that their total pension is less than Rs. 30 a month.

(f) The Dehra Dun College is open to the general public. The King George's Schools are only open to the children of men who have served in the Army.

**Dr. B. S. Moonje :** Is the Honourable Member aware that on an average a student has to spend about Rs. 300 per month for his education in the Dehra Dun College ?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham :** As I have said, the fees at the College amount to Rs. 1,500 a year. There are of course other incidental expenses, which parents have to defray on behalf of their boys, such as clothes, holiday expenses, and so on, but our information is that the total cost to a parent should not in any case exceed Rs. 2,000 a year.

**Dr. B. S. Moonje :** Does this fee of Rs. 1,500 a year also include his boarding and lodging charges ?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham :** Yes, Sir.

**Dr. B. S. Moonje :** If there is nothing military about these schools and colleges, why are they called military schools and colleges ?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham :** Because they are military schools and colleges and they cannot be called anything else. If the Honourable Member will have patience, I think I might be able to explain at greater length later on when....

**Mr. President :** Order, order. I am sorry to have to say that, for some time past, the Honourable Member from Madras, Mr. M. K. Acharya, is not observing the decorum of this House. He goes in and out of the Chamber unceremoniously and I hope it is not deliberate.

**Mr. M. K. Acharya :** No, Sir. I have been bowing when going out and coming in.

**Dr. B. S. Moonje :** If there is nothing specially military about these schools, why is their expenditure borne on the military budget and why should not they be treated as ordinary schools ?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham :** They are military schools, as I said.

**Dr. B. S. Moonje :** In what way ?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham :** As I have explained in the answer to part (c) of the question, these schools are intended to train boys for the Army. They are paid for by the Army, they are run by the Army, and the boys in the schools go into the Army. Therefore they must be called military schools.

**Sardar Kartar Singh :** Are all the successful boys admitted into Sandhurst ?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham :** The boys who wish to go to Sandhurst have to pass an examination for admission to that College.

**Sardar Kartar Singh :** Are those who pass the examination sent to Sandhurst ?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham :** Those who pass for Sandhurst are sent to Sandhurst, those who pass for Cranwell are sent to Cranwell, those who pass for Woolwich are sent to Woolwich and those who pass for the Royal Indian Marine, are sent to training institutions for that purpose.

**Dr. B. S. Moonje :** In that way all the schools and colleges in India can be called military colleges, because any student from any school or college can appear at the competitive examination for Sandhurst. In that way cannot all schools and colleges in India be called military schools and colleges ?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham :** No, Sir, unless they are particularly designed to train boys for that particular examination, and unless they are paid for from Army funds.

**Dr. B. S. Moonje :** In what particular way are they trained for the Army when the curriculum does not contain any subject pertaining to the Army ?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham :** They are trained, as I have explained, by the policy and general system of discipline of the school, which is directed towards the development of soldier-like qualities in the same way in which public schools at home train boys for that purpose.

#### GAZETTED POSTS IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DELHI.

568. **\*Mr. Abdul Latif Sahib Farookhi :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the names and numbers of gazetted posts which occurred in the Delhi P. W. D. in year 1929 ; and the names, educational and technical qualifications, present age, present and past pay of the persons appointed or promoted to the gazetted posts in the Delhi P. W. D. in 1929 ?

(b) How many of the above mentioned gazetted posts have been given to Muslims ?

(c) Are the persons appointed to gazetted posts in the Delhi P. W. D. taken into provincial services ?

(d) Are the persons appointed in the Delhi P. W. D. in 1929 to gazetted posts the residents of the Delhi Province ?

(e) What are the names and qualifications of the candidates belonging to the Delhi P. W. D. only who also applied for the gazetted posts which occurred in the Delhi P. W. D. in 1929, with the positions they were holding in the P. W. D., Delhi ?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra :** (a) A statement giving the particulars asked for is being supplied to the Honourable Member separately.

(b) None.

(c) No Provincial Service has yet been created for the Delhi Public Works Department.

(d) Mr. Tandan is the only resident of the Delhi Province.

(e) A statement giving the information asked for is being supplied to the Honourable Member separately.

#### CREATION OF TWO POSTS OF ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANTS IN THE DELHI PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

569. **\*Mr. Abdul Latif Sahib Farookhi :** (a) Is it a fact that two posts of Architectural Assistants have been created in the Delhi P. W. D. in 1929, and two draftsmen promoted to these posts ? If so, will Government please state if they ever appointed Architectural Assistants during the construction of the New Capital at Delhi ?

(b) What is the amount of P. W. D. budget this year for the construction of the New Capital buildings ?

(c) How much additional expenditure per month do Government incur by the creation of these two posts of Architectural Assistants in the Delhi P. W. D. ?

(d) What are the duties of the Architectural Assistants just created in the Delhi P. W. D. and what is the use of these posts ? Do they know estimating and designing of buildings ? If so, will Government be pleased to lay on the table the estimates and designs they prepared this year ?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra :** (a) Yes. No such posts have been created in the past.

(b) The gross figure is Rs. 1,23,56,000 against which recoveries amounting to Rs. 51,90,000 are anticipated.

(c) Rs. 1,074 per mensem.

(d) Their duties are to assist the Architect both in the Drawing Office and on the works, and one of the objectives is that they may be fitted to become Assistant Architects in due course.

They are not estimators, but are acquainted with the work of designing buildings. They have been only recently appointed and have not as yet prepared complete original designs. In any case Government cannot place on the table of the House estimates and designs except where any public advantage is likely to be gained thereby.

#### APPOINTMENT OF MESSRS. KASARWALA AND YAJNIK AS ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANTS IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DELHI.

570. **\*Mr. Abdul Latif Sahib Farookhi :** (a) Is it a fact that Mr. K. P. Kasarwala and Mr. S. C. Yajnik, draftsmen in the P. W. D., Delhi, have been promoted to the post of Architectural Assistants in the year 1929 on Rs. 530 and Rs. 550 per mensem ? If so, will Government be pleased to state what was their pay when they were promoted to the post of Architectural Assistants ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the length of service and pay of each draftsman in the P. W. D., Delhi, senior to Messrs. Kasarwala and Yajnik ?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra :** (a) Yes. Their pay prior to their appointment as Architectural Assistants was Rs. 270 per mensem each.

(b) A statement giving the information required is being supplied to the Honourable Member separately.

#### ARCHITECTS AND DRAFTSMEN APPOINTED TO THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DELHI.

571. **\*Mr. Abdul Latif Sahib Farookhi :** (a) Is it a fact that the post of Mr. Russell, Chief Architect, Delhi, is being brought under reduction to save money in the Drawing Branch ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state how many Architects have been appointed in the P. W. D., Delhi, in 1929 ?

(c) Is it a fact that Mr. Kasarwala and Mr. Yajnik moved the Chief Architect, Delhi, to call Bombay men in their vacancies on high pay ?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state the names, age and pay of the draftsmen appointed in the vacancies of Mr. Kasarwala and Mr. Yajnik in P. W. D., Delhi, in 1929 ?

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

(b) One.

(c) No.

(d) Mr. Shroff, age 49 years, pay Rs. 300 ; Mr. Suther, age 31 years, pay Rs. 280.

# **RATES OF PAY OF ARCHITECTURAL DRAFTSMEN IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DELHI.**

572. **\*Mr. Abdul Latif Sahib Farookhi :** Will Government please state the number and the minimum and maximum rates of pay of Architectural draftsmen (excluding estimators) in the P. W. D., Delhi ? Do they all prepare tracings ?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra :** (a) The number of Architectural Draftsmen is 12, and the minimum and maximum rates of their pay are Rs. 75 and 300 per mensem, respectively.

(b) They are all expected to prepare tracings, if called upon to do so, but this work is usually given to junior men.

# **ALLEGED HARASSMENT OF A CHRISTIAN DRAFTSMAN BY MR. KASARWALA IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DELHI.**

573. **\*Mr. Abdul Latif Sahib Farookhi :** (a) Is it a fact that Mr. Kasarwala harassed one Mr. Joseph, a Christian draftsman (Record Keeper) of the Chief Architect's Branch, P. W. D., Delhi, got his promotion stopped and made him to go on long leave ?

(b) Is it a fact that Mr. Kasarwala is annoying a Christian draftsman, Mr. Dhairyam Mudaliar, Officiating Superintendent in the Architect's Branch, P. W. D., Delhi, and is trying to get the draftsman reduced or reverted to the Madras Presidency ?

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

# **CIRCULARS ISSUED BY THE CHIEF ENGINEER, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DELHI.**

574. **\*Mr. Abdul Latif Sahib Farookhi :** (a) Is it a fact that the Chief Engineer, P. W. D., Delhi, issued a circular that no P. W. D. employee could seek an interview for explaining grievances without getting definite permission of his superiors ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Chief Engineer, P. W. D., Delhi, issued a circular in July-August 1929 that no P. W. D. employee could individually represent his case for promotion and special pay ?

(c) Is it a fact that the Chief Engineer, P. W. D., Delhi, issued a circular in August, 1929, that a medical certificate should be produced for more than two days sick leave ?

(d) Is it a fact that in the P. W. D., Delhi, lower officers are oppressing their subordinates and do not allow them to go to higher authorities to represent or to seek interviews for their grievances ?

(e) Is it a fact that the Delhi Chief Engineer's circulars have been a great nuisance and harassment among the P. W. D. staff ?

(f) Will Government be pleased to state the rules under which such orders are issued by the Chief Engineer, P. W. D., Delhi ?

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

(b) No, the circular merely said that such representations were to be deprecated.

(c) Yes.

(d) and (e). Government have no information, nor do they propose to take any action which may interfere with the disciplinary control of the Chief Engineer over his staff.

(f) There are no rules. The Chief Engineer issues his orders in his capacity as head of the Department.

#### SERVICE AND QUALIFICATIONS OF THE CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT, CENTRAL OFFICE, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DELHI.

575. **\*Mr. Abdul Latif Sahib Farookhi :** Is it a fact that the Chief Superintendent, Central Office, P. W. D., Delhi, has been called from the Indian Stores Department, Government of India ? If so, will Government be pleased to state (a) if he has served elsewhere in the P. W. D., (b) if he is a passed Accountant, and (c) the length of his service in the P. W. D., Delhi ?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra :** Yes.

(a) He has not served elsewhere in the Public Works Department.

(b) No.

(c) 14 months.

#### NUMBER OF MUSLIMS APPOINTED AS TEMPORARY ENGINEERS IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, IN DELHI.

576. **\*Mr. Abdul Latif Sahib Farookhi :** With reference to the reply to question No. 101, dated 12th March, 1929 in the Council of State, will Government be pleased to state how many posts of temporary Engineers occurred in the P. W. D., Delhi, and how many Muslim Engineers were appointed as temporary Engineers ? If none, why not ?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra :** Seven temporary engineers are at present employed in the Delhi Public Works Department. None of them is a Muslim. Of these, six men have been employed in the Delhi Public Works Department for periods varying from 16 to 5 years, and only one man has been engaged since the issue of the Home Department orders of 1927 granting certain concessions to minority communities in connection with future recruitment into Services under the Central Government.

#### NAMES AND PAST PAY OF CERTAIN SUBORDINATES IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DELHI.

577. **\*Mr. Abdul Latif Sahib Farookhi :** Will Government be pleased to state the names and the present and past pay of the work-charged subordinates whose services were brought into the regular establishment in



1929 on the recommendation of the Executive Engineer, 6th Division, P. W. D., Delhi ?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra :** Mr. Mohd. Usman ; present pay on the regular establishment Rs. 157 *plus* a conveyance allowance of Rs. 15 ; past pay on the work-charged staff Rs. 171 inclusive of a conveyance allowance of Rs. 15.

**CONTRACT FOR WOOD-PANELLING OF GOVERNMENT HOUSE, DELHI.**

578. **\*Mr. Abdul Latif Sahib Farookhi :** (a) Is it a fact that the Executive Engineer, 6th Division, P. W. D., Delhi, gave the work of wood-panelling in the Government House without any tender to S. Sundar Singh, Contractor ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Executive Engineer, 6th Division, P. W. D., Delhi, was asked to call for tenders for the wood-panelling in the Government House by the higher authority of the P. W. D., Delhi ? If so, will Government be pleased to state the rate paid to S. Sunder Singh, Contractor, and the rate offered in the lowest standard ? What is the difference between these two rates and how much money in excess has been paid to S. Sundar Singh, Contractor ? Who is responsible for this loss of Government money ?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra :** The information is being collected and will be supplied to the Honourable Member later.

**CONTRACT FOR THE EXTENSION OF THE MIDDLE SCHOOL, NEW DELHI.**

579. **\*Mr. Abdul Latif Sahib Farookhi :** Is it a fact that the Executive Engineer, 6th Division, P. W. D., Delhi, has given the work of extension of the Middle School, New Delhi (now to be changed to Civil Hospital, New Delhi), to S. Sundar Singh, Contractor ?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra :** No. The work was given to the lowest tenderer who was not S. Sundar Singh. S. Sundar Singh obtained the contract for the staff quarters attached to the hospital as being the lowest tenderer for these quarters.

**NUMBER OF CONTRACTS GRANTED TO S. SUNDAR SINGH.**

580. **\*Mr. Abdul Latif Sahib Farookhi :** Will Government be pleased to state how many contracts are in the hands of S. Sundar Singh, contractor in the wood workshop, P. W. D., Delhi ?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra :** 13.

**COLLAPSE OF CERTAIN QUARTERS UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN NEW DELHI.**

581. **\*Mr. Abdul Latif Sahib Farookhi :** Is it a fact that a complete *chajja* of menial quarters in Body Guard Lines fell down during construction in July-August 1929, and one waterman died and the legs of two labourers were broken and many men were injured ? If so, will Government state the names of the Engineers in charge of the construction and what action has been taken against them ?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra :** A portion of a newly erected *chajja* of the menials' quarters fell owing to an exceptionally severe

storm which occurred while the masonry was "green", and two men and one woman were injured in consequence. The injuries to one man proved fatal.

The names of the Engineers in charge are :

Sub-Divisional Officer—Mr. M. S. Mathur.

Executive Engineer—Mr. T. S. Malik.

No action was taken against them. There is no reason to believe that they were in any way to blame.

#### RESOLUTION REGARDING PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT ON THE SCORE OF WAR SERVICE.

582. \*Mr. Abdul Latif Sahib Farookhi : Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the Resolution issued for preferential treatment to be accorded for civil employees on the score of War services ?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar : There are two resolutions, one of the 8th August, 1919 and the other of the 15th September, 1921—copies of both the resolutions have been placed in the Library of the House.

#### QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT ASKED IN THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

583. \*Mr. Abdul Latif Sahib Farookhi : Is it a fact that S. Shujaat Ali, Upper Subordinate, P. W. D., Delhi, was asked by the Chief Engineer, Delhi, in September, 1928, to explain about the P. W. D. questions asked in the Legislative Assembly in February and September, 1928 ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : S. Shujaat Ali was asked in September, 1928, to explain, with reference to a question asked by the Honourable Mr. Mahmood Suhrawardy in the Council of State on the 17th of that month, the disclosure or leakage of the information on which the question was apparently based.

#### STOPPAGE OF PROMOTION OF SAYAD SHUJAAT ALI, UPPER SUBORDINATE, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DELHI.

584. \*Mr. Abdul Latif Sahib Farookhi : (a) Is it a fact that Sayad Shujaat Ali was told in S. E.'s No. 0459-E., dated 3rd May, 1929, that he was considered unfit for the post of Sub-Divisional Officer in the Delhi P. W. D. ?

(b) Is it a fact that Sayad Shujaat Ali, Upper Subordinate, was informed in C. E.'s Notification No. 0366, dated 13th May 1929 that his promotion was stopped for a year and there would be a further effect of this stoppage of promotion in the Delhi P. W. D. ?

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

#### SUPERSESSION OF SAYAD SHUJAAT ALI.

585. \*Mr. Abdul Latif Sahib Farookhi : Is it a fact that B. Gurdatt Singh and B. Din Diyal, Upper Subordinates junior to Sayad Shujaat Ali, have been promoted to the post of Sub-Divisional Officers in 1929 in the Delhi P. W. D. ?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra :** At the time of their appointment to the charge of Sub-Divisions, both Babus Gurdit Singh and Din Diyal were senior to S. Shujaat Ali in the matter of pay, but junior to him as regards length of service.

**STOPPAGE OF PROMOTION OF SAYAD SHUJAAT ALI.**

586 **\*Mr. Abdul Latif Sahib Farookhi :** Will Government be pleased to lay on the table the copies of proposals made to stop the promotion of Sayad Shujaat Ali, Upper Subordinate, P. W. D., Delhi, along with the copies of the notice given to Sayad Shujaat Ali to explain about the Council questions and the proposal making him unfit for the post of S. D. O. ?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra :** No proposals of the nature referred to have been received by Government. Government are not prepared to comply with the request contained in the latter part of the question.

**PROMOTION OF UPPER SUBORDINATES IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DELHI.**

587. **\*Mr. Abdul Latif Sahib Farookhi :** Is it a fact that B. Diwan Chand, Upper Subordinate, P. W. D., Delhi, is senior to B. Din Diyal, S. D. O. ? If so, will Government be pleased to state the reasons for not appointing B. Diwan Chand as S. D. O. ?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra :** Yes. Appointments to the post of Sub-Divisional Officer are made by the Chief Engineer by selection and of the two officers mentioned, B. Din Dayal was considered by him to be the more suitable.

**TECHNICAL STAFF OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DELHI.**

588 **\*Mr. Abdul Latif Sahib Farookhi :** (a) Is it a fact that clerks of the Establishment Section, Central Office, P. W. D., Delhi, submitted a proposal in writing re the pay, rank, etc., for the technical staff to be appointed in the Delhi P. W. D. ?

(b) Is it a fact that the proposal of the establishment clerk for the technical staff is accepted by the Chief Engineer, P. W. D., Delhi, without any alteration and objection ? If so, will Government please state if he has authority to do so ?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra :** (a) and (b). Government have no information, nor do they propose to call for any information in regard to a matter relating to the internal procedure of the office of the Chief Engineer.

**LACK OF TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE BY THE P. A. TO THE CHIEF ENGINEER, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DELHI.**

589. **\*Mr. Abdul Latif Sahib Farookhi :** Is it a fact that the P. A. to the Chief Engineer, P. W. D., Delhi, is not a technical man ? If so, will Government be pleased to state how he understands the work of technical staff ?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra :** The Personal Assistant to the Chief Engineer is not a technical man and does not, therefore, deal with the work of technical staff.

#### MEMOIRS PUBLISHED BY ARCHÆOLOGICAL OFFICERS.

590. **\*Mr. Abdul Latif Sahib Farookhi :** (a) Will Government please lay on the table a statement showing the number of memoirs published by each and every one of the Archæological Officers ?

(b) Is it a fact that when several of the gazetted officers of the Archæological Department did not publish any memoir, some of the non-gazetted members of the Epigraphical Branch of the Archæological Department were asked to contribute articles for publication as memoirs ?

(c) Is it also a fact that memoirs submitted for publication by some of the Archæological Officers have not yet seen the light of the day, and if so, why were they not published ?

**Sir Frank Noyce :** The information asked for is being collected and will be supplied to the Honourable Member later.

#### APPOINTMENT OF A MUHAMMADAN IN THE AGRA CIRCLE OF THE ARCHÆOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT.

591. **\*Mr. Abdul Latif Sahib Farookhi :** (a) Will Government please state the number and religion of the men dismissed by the Superintendent, Archæological Survey, Muhammadan and British Monuments, Agra Circle, since the date of his taking over charge of the Circle ?

(b) Are Government aware that there is not a single Muhammadan Head Clerk in any of the Archæological Offices ?

(c) Is the post of the Head Clerk in the Agra Circle lying vacant, and if so, do Government propose to consider the desirability of offering it to a Muhammadan ?

**Sir Frank Noyce :** (a), (b) and (c). Inquiries have been made and the information asked for will be supplied to the Honourable Member later.

#### DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ARCHÆOLOGY FOR EXPLORATION.

592. **\*Mr. Abdul Latif Sahib Farookhi :** (a) Will Government lay on the table a statement of the work done by the Deputy Director General for Exploration during his tenure of three years, and state how many new sites he explored during this period ?

(b) Will Government please state when the term of the present Deputy Director General of Archæology for Exploration expires, and whether the three years' period fixed for the Deputy Director General of Archæology will also apply to the Deputy Director General of Archæology for Exploration ? If not, why not ?

(c) Do Government intend that all Archæological Officers should be given chances to work as Deputy Director General of Archæology for Exploration ? If not, why not ?

**Sir Frank Noyce :** (a) The information asked for is being collected and will be supplied to the Honourable Member later.

(b) The term of office of the present Deputy Director General of Archaeology for the Exploration expires on the 10th November, 1929. The three years' period of tenure fixed for the post of Deputy Director General of Archaeology applies also to the post of Deputy Director General of Archaeology for Exploration.

(c) Yes, the claims of all officers are considered when appointments are made to this post. The latter part of the question does not therefore arise.

#### ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ARCHAEOLOGY.

593. \*Mr. Abdul Latif Sahib Farookhi : (a) Will Government please state the academic qualifications of the present Deputy Director General of Archaeology, and why he was selected to fill the post in preference to other senior officers in the Department ?

(b) Will Government please also state how they regulate promotions to the posts of Deputy Directors General of Archaeology and Superintendents of the Circles ?

(c) Are promotions in the Archaeological Department regulated by seniority or by merit ?

Sir Frank Noyce : (a) The present Deputy Director General of Archaeology is an Associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects. He was selected for the post, because he was considered better qualified for it than any other officer who was available for appointment.

(b) and (c). Appointments to the posts of Director General and Deputy Director General of Archaeology are made by merit. The tenure of the appointment of Deputy Director General of Archaeology is ordinarily three years. Promotions to Superintendentships of Circles are normally regulated by seniority, but regard is paid in the case of these posts also to considerations of merit.

#### PURCHASE BY THE AJMER-MERWARA EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OF A CINEMA MACHINE FROM J. NATH AND SON.

594. \*Mr. Abdul Latif Sahib Farookhi : (a) Is it a fact that a cinema machine with its accessories was purchased for Rs. 5,000 by the Ajmer-Merwara Education Department in the financial year 1927-28 ?

(b) Is it a fact that the said machine was purchased from J. Nath and Son, Ajmer ? If so, which Government officer ordered J. Nath and Son to supply the machine ?

(c) Did the Government officer concerned give the order to J. Nath and Son for the machine orally or in writing ? If in writing, will Government please place on the table a copy of the said order ?

(d) Will Government please inquire and state whether J. Nath and Son purchased the said machine from a Lahore firm ? If so, will Government please state why, in the interest of economy, the Ajmer-Merwara Education Department did not purchase it direct from the Lahore firm ?

(e) Are J. Nath and Son dealers in cinema machines ?

(f) What was the name of the person who, on behalf of J. Nath and Son, signed the acknowledgments of receipt of money paid by Government for the cinema machine ?

(g) Did Government consult some mechanical and cinema experts, other than those connected with the selling firms to satisfy themselves that the machine was purchased economically ?

**Sir Frank Noyce :** With your permission, Sir, I shall deal with questions 594—597 together. The information asked for in these questions is being collected and will be supplied to the Honourable Member later.

#### CINEMA PURCHASED FOR SCHOOLS IN AJMER-MERWARA.

†595. **\*Mr. Abdul Latif Sahib Farookhi :** (a) Will Government please put on the table a list of the schools in Ajmer-Merwara where the cinema machine referred to in the previous question was used, giving against each school the dates on which the cinema demonstrations took place in it ?

(b) Do Government find that the use made of the cinema justifies the expenditure which its purchase entailed ?

(c) Is it a fact that money for the purchase of the cinema was provided by reappropriation from the sums allotted for the five-year programme ? If so, will Government please state why the money was not utilised for the purposes for which it was demanded by Government and voted by the Assembly in that year's budget estimates of the five-year programme ?

#### PURCHASE OF BOOKS FROM J. NATH AND SON BY THE AJMER-MERWARA EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

†596. **\*Mr. Abdul Latif Sahib Farookhi :** (a) Is it a fact that the Ajmer-Merwara Education Department purchased books for the libraries of the vernacular secondary schools from J. Nath and Son, Ajmer ? If so, which Government officer gave orders to J. Nath and Son for the supply of the books and what was the total amount of money spent by Government on the purchase ?

(b) Is it a fact that the said books purchased from J. Nath and Son could be purchased direct from publishing firms in India ? If so, will Government please inquire and state whether the books could be purchased by the Government at a less cost directly from the publishing firms than the cost incurred by the purchase through J. Nath and Son ?

(c) Will Government please state whether estimates for the said supply of books were called for from various book-sellers in Ajmer before orders for the supply were given to J. Nath and Son ? If so, from which book-sellers ?

(d) Are J. Nath and Son dealers in books ?

(e) What was the name of the person who, on behalf of J. Nath and Son, signed the acknowledgments of receipt of money paid by Government for the said supply of books ?

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†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 594.

**PURCHASE OF FURNITURE FROM THE PROCLAMATION MANUFACTURING COMPANY  
BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, AJMER.**

†597. \***Mr. Abdul Latif Sahib Farookhi :** (a) Is it a fact that furniture for the vernacular schools was purchased by the Ajmer-Merwara Education Department from the Proclamation Furniture Manufacturing Company, Ajmer? If so, which Government officer gave orders to the said company and what was the total expenditure incurred in the purchase?

(b) Were tenders called for from various firms in Ajmer before giving orders for the supply to the Proclamation Furniture Manufacturing Company? If so, from which firms?

(c) Will Government please state why orders were given for the supply to the Proclamation Furniture Manufacturing Company in preference to other firms?

(d) What was the name of the person who, on behalf of the Proclamation Furniture Manufacturing Company, signed the acknowledgments of receipt of money paid by Government for the supply referred to in part (a)?

**RIGHTS OF OWNERS OF BUNGALOWS IN CANTONMENTS.**

598. \***Mr. Muhammad Ismail Khan :** (1) With reference to the reply given by Government to my unstarred question No. 254, on the 25th February, 1929, will Government be pleased to state whether the assurance given by Lord Reading to the Deputationists in 1922 was in the following terms :

“ The next question referred to by you concerns the non-interference in the rights of the owners of bungalows in Cantonments to live in their bungalows themselves. About this, I assure you that in the amended House Accommodation Act which is at present under the consideration of my Government no interference has been allowed to be made in the rights of the owners of bungalows which they enjoy at present under Section 11 (c), and that according to the new law, too, the owners of bungalows will continue, as heretofore, to enjoy their rights of living in their bungalows themselves ” ?

If so, will Government be pleased to state the real object of the proposed amendment of the House Accommodation Act requiring owners of bungalows to give six months' notice to the Officer Commanding the Station of their intention to live in their bungalows themselves, when the owners will not be allowed to live in them if they are required for the residence of military officers?

(2) Will Government be pleased to state if, under the circumstances mentioned in part (1) above, the proposed amendment by the Secretary, Army Department, is not actually a marked departure from Lord Reading's assurance?

**Mr. G. B. F. Tottenham :** (1) The Honourable Member has not quoted Lord Reading's reply quite correctly. As he was informed in answer

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†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 594.

to his unstarred question No. 254 of the 25th of February, 1929, what Lord Reading actually said was :

“ That owners of houses in cantonments, who were at that time protected under section 11 (c) of the House Accommodation Act, would not be deprived of that protection.”

As a member of the Select Committee on the Bill to amend the House Accommodation Act, which is at present before this House, my Honourable friend is no doubt aware that the amendment originally proposed in the terms he has quoted has been dropped in favour of a simpler amendment, which is designed to make it clear that all existing occupants of their own houses will be protected, but only *bona fide* residence, as distinct from temporary occupation, will confer exemption in future.

(2) Neither the amendment originally proposed nor the amendment now proposed constitutes a departure from the terms of Lord Reading's assurance.

#### RULES FOR THE GRANT OF BUILDING LAND IN CANTONMENTS.

599. \***Mr. Muhammad Ismail Khan** : Will Government be pleased to place on the table a copy of the rules in force in the Bengal Army Presidency, showing their application to the Punjab also, on the subject of the specific condition on which Cantonment lands had been granted to grantees by Government for the purpose of building bungalows for the use of military officers, etc. ?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham** : A copy of the rules has already been placed in the Library. The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to pages 5-6 of these rules.

#### QUALIFICATIONS OF MR. INAYETULLAH KHAN.

600. \***Mr. Muhammad Ismail Khan** : With reference to the reply given by Government to my starred question No. 658, on the 19th February, 1929, will Government be pleased to verify and state why the following qualifications possessed by Mr. Inayetullah Khan had been omitted in the statement placed on the table ?

- (a) He was the first Indian who in the course of five years earned four honours, rewards, and scholarships ;
- (b) He worked as Assistant Secretary to the Government of India, Education Department, for two years ;
- (c) Before his appointment as Assistant Secretary he filled the appointments of Principal, and Vice-Principal, of the Islamia College for four years ;
- (d) He was recommended by the Chief Commissioner of the North West Frontier Province in 1919 for the post of Assistant Secretary, Education Department, and
- (e) while Principal of the Training College, he also worked as Inspector of High Schools, and Registrar of Departmental Examinations in the North West Frontier Province.

**Sir Frank Noyce** : With your permission, Sir, I shall deal with questions Nos. 600—602 together. The information asked for is being collected and will be supplied to the Honourable Member later.



**NON-APPOINTMENT OF MR. INAYET-ULLAH KHAN AS DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION, NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE.**

†601. \***Mr. Muhammad Ismail Khan :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that Mr. Inayetullah Khan's experience of educational problems in the North West Frontier Province extends over about 16 years ?

(b) When the officiating appointment of Director of Public Instruction of that Province had fallen vacant in 1922, was it given by Government to an Officer who had only about six years service in the Indian Educational Service in preference to Mr. Inayetullah Khan who was at the time in the Province ?

(c) As a result of incapacity was that Officer either compelled to resign the service or did he resign voluntarily ?

(d) Since Mr. Inayetullah Khan took charge of the Government High School at Peshawar, did the number of students double, while in the history of the School relating to the last fifteen years in which generally European Head Masters held charge of the same, the number of students did not exceed 170 ?

(e) Were the results of examinations in Mr. Inayetullah Khan's time very satisfactory as compared with those in that of European Head Masters ?

(f) Did he introduce the system of imparting theology in his school, and, did the Education Department subsequently sanction its introduction in all schools in the Province ?

(g) Had the Government of India, after Mr. Inayetullah Khan had refused to sign the usual agreement with the Secretary of State, declared that the Local Government would, doubtless, consider his claims to the appointment of Director of Public Instruction in the North West Frontier Province when it fell vacant and advised Mr. Inayetullah Khan to sign the agreement ?

**NON-APPOINTMENT OF MR. INAYETULLAH KHAN AS DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION, NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE.**

†602. \***Mr. Muhammad Ismail Khan :** (a) Have the Government of India made recommendations to the Government of the North West Frontier Province regarding the claims of Mr. Inayetullah Khan to the appointment of Director of Public Instruction in the Province ?

(b) Had his claims to the appointment of Director of Public Instruction in the North West Frontier Province been overlooked when Mr. Carna had succeeded Mr. Jones in 1921, when Mr. Towle succeeded Mr. Carna in 1922, when Mr. Geach had succeeded Mr. Towle for seven months, when Mr. Tydeman succeeded Mr. Towle who proceeded on leave in 1925, and when Mr. Orgill succeeded Mr. Towle in a leave vacancy in 1928 ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state why Mr. Inayetullah Khan was deprived of well-earned promotion ?

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† For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 600.

**LEGALITY UNDER THE CANTONMENTS (HOUSE-ACCOMMODATION) ACT OF A NOTICE SERVED ON THE OWNER OF A BUNGALOW.**

603. **\*Mr. Muhammad Ismail Khan :** With reference to part (b) of the reply given by Government to question No. 252 on the 25th February, 1929, will Government be pleased to state whether the notice dated the 9th November, 1926, served on the owner of Bungalow No. 2, Roos Keppel Lane, was in conformity with the provisions of Articles 7 and 12 of the Cantonments (House-Accommodation) Act ? Have Government consulted the Military Advocate General as to legality of this notice ?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham :** The answer is in the affirmative. Government have not consulted the Judge Advocate General because there was no doubt about the legality of the notice.

**ENACTMENT OF A JUVENILE SMOKING ACT.**

604. **\*Rai Sahib Harbilas Sarda :** (1) Have the Government of India under consideration any legislation for prohibiting the selling of *bidis*, cigarettes or other smoking mixture to children below 14 years of age ?

(2) Are Government aware that a Juvenile Smoking Act has been passed by the Central Provinces Legislative Council and that the Bombay Corporation has also recommended the enactment of similar legislation for Bombay ?

**Sir Frank Noyce :** (1) The answer is in the negative. The matter is primarily one for the consideration of Local Governments.

(2) The Government of India have no information as to whether the Central Provinces Juvenile Smoking Bill has yet become law or as to any recommendation on the subject by the Bombay Corporation. I may, however, state for the Honourable Member's information that Juvenile Smoking Acts have been passed in Assam, Bengal and the Punjab.

**RULES TO PREVENT THE ADULTERATION OF GHEE.**

605. **\*Rai Sahib Harbilas Sarda :** Does the Ajmer Municipalities Regulation provide for rules to be made to prevent adulteration of food-stuffs sold within municipal limits in Ajmer, Beawar and Kekri ? If so, have any rules been made to prevent adulteration of pure ghee with the so-called *banaspati* or vegetable ghee ? If not, do Government propose to do so now ?

**Sir Frank Noyce :** The reply to the first two parts of the question is in the negative. As regards the third part, the Honourable Member's attention is invited to section 141 of the Ajmer-Merwara Municipalities Regulation, 1925, in which a penalty has already been prescribed for selling any article of food or drink which is not wholly of the nature, substance or quality of the article demanded by the purchaser.

**Mr. K. Ahmed :** Has the Honourable Member seen in the newspapers a copy of the Resolution forwarded by the Calcutta Corporation to the Government of India recommending that the sale of vegetable and adulterated ghee in the markets should be restricted as being injurious to health and as having no nutrition in it ?

**Sir Frank Noyce :** No, Sir. I have not seen it.

**ALLOWANCES OF FIRST CLASS POSTMASTERS FOR INSPECTING POST OFFICES.**

606. \*Rai Sahib Harbilas Sarda : (a) Is it a fact that prior to the 1st February, 1928, First Class Postmasters used to be given the actual expenses incurred by them in inspecting the Post Offices under their control ?

(b) Is it a fact that from the 1st February, 1928, the allowance admissible to First Class Postmasters for inspecting the Post Offices under them was fixed at As. 4 a mile, but the Government of India orders actually reached the First-Class Postmasters about the middle of March, 1928 ?

(c) Was any representation made by some of the Postmasters that they were actually out of pocket as retrospective effect was given to the revised orders ? If so, do Government propose to pay the Postmasters the actual expenditure incurred by them ?

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

(b) It is a fact that Government orders introducing the revised rates with effect from 1st February, 1928, were issued on 15th February, 1928, and were received by the Postmasters concerned through the Heads of Circles generally about the middle of March, 1928. As regards the rates of allowance fixed by these orders, the Honourable Member is referred to the reply given by me in this House to Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim's starred question No. 86 on the 3rd September, 1929.

(c) Government understand that such a representation was made to the Postmaster General, United Provinces, by six Postmasters of the United Provinces Circle, but no individual representation has reached either the Director General or Government. Such representations, if and when received by Government through the proper channel, will be given due consideration, but it cannot now be stated what final orders will be passed on them.

**POST OFFICE GUARANTEE FUND.**

607. \*Rai Sahib Harbilas Sarda : (a) Will Government be pleased to state what the amount of Post Office Guarantee Fund was when the separate existence of the Fund was abolished ?

(b) Is it not a fact that the Fund was built up solely by the contributions of Post Office employees ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the amount of interest that would have accrued under the rules on the money from the date of the abolition of the Fund up to the end of March, 1929 ?

(d) Will Government please state what amount of compassionate gratuity was paid during the said period showing separately, to (1) purely Postal and Railway Mail Service employees, and (2) employees of the Telegraph Branch ?

(e) What was the total amount of compassionate gratuity paid to the employees of other Departments of the Government of India during the same period ?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra :** (a) The amount at credit of the Fund was Rs. 10,75,654 when it was closed on 1st April, 1926.

(b) Yes.  
L12CPB(LA)

(c) Roughly Rupees 1½ lakhs.

			Rs.
(d) Postal and R. M. S. employees	..	..	46,196
Telegraph employees	..	..	12,669
Other employees	..	..	1,015
			<hr/>
Total	..	..	59,880
			<hr/>

(e) Rs. 64,927.

#### RENTING OF SHOPS ON THE GOMTI BRIDGE, JAUNPORE.

608. \***Mr. Abdul Hays** : (a) Are Government aware that the shops on the Gomti Bridge, Jaunpore, which used to be let out for the last so many years are now not to be let out under the recent orders of the Archaeological Officer at Agra ? If so, will Government please state the reason for issuing these orders ?

(b) Is it a fact that the tenants were prepared to pay higher rents on condition that they should not be turned out ?

(c) Is it a fact that the Collector, Jaunpore, suggested to the Archaeological Officer to let these shops out through District Officers ?

**Sir Frank Noyce** : (a) Yes, because if they are leased, it is impossible to keep this bridge, which is a protected monument, in a state befitting its archaeological, architectural and historical importance.

(b) and (c). Yes, but in view of what is stated above, their offers could not be availed of.

#### USE OF AIRCRAFT IN PALESTINE.

609. \***Mr. Abdul Hays** : (a) Did Government send in any protest to His Majesty's Government against the use of aircraft in Palestine from which the Arabs were recently fired upon ?

(b) Are Government aware that the Muslims of India are greatly agitated over this treatment accorded to their co-religionists in Palestine ?

**Sir Denys Bray** : As stated in my answer to Maulvi Muhammad Yaqub's question on the 4th September and also in the Foreign Office communiqué of the 10th September, His Majesty's Government are being kept fully apprised of the deep concern felt by the Indian Muslims over events in Palestine. As regards the use of Aircraft, the Government of India have so far no information beyond the fact that the Royal Air Force assisted in the speedy restoration of order. The Honourable Member may be sure that this and other forces were employed solely for the prevention of disorder and further bloodshed.

**Mr. B. Das** : Is the Honourable Member aware that non-Muslim Indians also have equal sympathy with the Muslim Indians over the problem of Palestine ?

**Sir Denys Bray** : I am well aware, Sir, that there is very general sympathy, not of course confined to the Hindus. (Hear, hear.)

**Mr. K. Ahmed :** Are Government aware that a sum of Rs. 500 was subscribed by a Hindu gentleman of the name of Mr. Bajaj, I think, from Peshawar and that the money was transmitted to alleviate their suffering ?

**Sir Denys Bray :** Not, I am sorry to say, through myself.

**EVIDENCE OF THE AGE OF CONSENT COMMITTEE.**

610. **\*Mr. Abdul Haye :** (a) Do Government propose to publish the evidence recorded by the Age of Consent Committee ? If so, when will it be made available to the Members of the Indian Legislature ?

(b) If the publication of the evidence is not intended, will Government please state their reasons ?

**The Honourable Sir James Crerar :** (a) Yes, Volumes I and II have been published, and Volumes III, IV and VI are expected very shortly. The other volumes will be published as soon as possible. Copies of the volumes which have been printed have been placed in the Library of the Legislative Assembly, and the rest will be placed there in due course. Copies will be supplied to any Honourable Members who may ask for them.

(b) Does not arise.

**Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya :** Are Government prepared to supply these volumes of evidence free of cost to Members of the Assembly as recommended by the Finance Committee ?

**The Honourable Sir James Crerar :** The matter was considered, I understand, at a recent meeting of the Standing Finance Committee, and it was decided, with the concurrence of the Honourable the Finance Member, that any Member of the Legislature who asked for a copy of the evidence volumes should be supplied with them.

**An Honourable Member :** Free ?

**The Honourable Sir James Crerar :** I think that was the intention.

**APPOINTMENT OF A JUNIOR DRAFTSMAN AS A COMPUTOR IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DELHI.**

611. **\*Mr. Abdul Haye :** (a) Is it a fact that with effect from 1st April 1929, the post of a Computor (equal in status to an Assistant Engineer, Provincial) was created on the recommendation of the Chief Architect, P. W. D., Delhi, to assist him in designing the structures proposed by him ?

(b) Is it a fact that a junior draftsman has been appointed as Computor while an Engineer and some senior draftsmen were available for appointment ?

(c) Will Government please state why a mere draftsman has been appointed in preference to an engineer ?

(d) Is it a fact that the newly appointed Computor is not at present assisting the Chief Architect in his designs but is only doing his previous duty of estimating ?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra :** (a) The facts are not as stated by the Honourable Member. The post of Computor was not

created on the recommendation of the Chief Architect to assist him in his designs, but on the recommendation of the Chief Engineer to assist the Assistant Quantity Surveyor, who is in charge of the General, as distinguished from the Architectural, Drawing Branch of the Chief Engineer's Office, and who is mainly concerned with estimating.

(b) No, a senior draftsman was appointed. It is not clear to which Engineer the Honourable Member is referring.

(c) The man appointed was considered by the Chief Engineer to be the most suitable for the post.

(d) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply to part (a) of this question. The man is not employed only on his past work of estimating.

#### REPLACEMENT BY HINDUS OF MUHAMMADAN CHOWKIDARS OF MONUMENTS IN DELHI.

612. **\*Mr. Abdul Haye :** (a) Is it a fact that most of the protected monuments in Delhi are of Muslim origin ?

(b) Is it a fact that the present Superintendent of Archæology is a non-Muslim ?

(c) Is it a fact that the Superintendent of Archæology removed most of the Muhammadan chowkidars of these monuments and replaced them by Hindus ?

(d) Is it a fact that this caused considerable resentment and dissatisfaction amongst the Muslims, who made representations to the Chief Commissioner of Delhi and the Director General of Archæology ?

(e) Will Government please state what action they have taken in the matter ? If no action has been taken, will Government please state their reasons ?

**Sir Frank Noyce :** (a) and (b). Yes.

(c), (d) and (e). The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to parts (3), (4) and (5) of question No. 447 on the 12th September, 1929.

#### NUMBER OF BIHAREES AND ORIYAS APPOINTED AS SUPERINTENDENTS OF POST OFFICES IN BIHAR AND ORISSA.

613. **\*Mr. Siddheswar Prasad Sinha :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of Biharees and Oriyas appointed as Superintendents of Post Offices since the creation of Bihar and Orissa as a separate province ?

(b) Will Government please state the number of Superintendents of Post Offices ? How many of them are Biharees ?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra :** (a) 3 Biharees and 1 Oriya.

(b) 179, of whom 4 are Biharees.

#### SALE OF CALVES BY MILITARY DAIRY FARMS.

614. **\*Mr. Siddheswar Prasad Sinha :** (a) Is it a fact that Government have agreed to sell calves of some military dairy farms after rearing them for 2 months from their birth ?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state (i) the name of the Association to which they have agreed to sell the calves, (ii) the names of the dairies of which the calves have been agreed to be sold, and (iii) the terms and conditions of such sale ?

(c) Are Government prepared to sell calves of the remaining dairy farms under them, if any, on the same conditions ?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham :** (a) Yes, as an experiment at one dairy only.

(b) (i) The Shri Mahajan Association, Ltd., Bombay.

(ii) The Government Military Dairy Farm, Kirkee.

(iii) I lay a statement on the table showing the terms and conditions of sale.

(c) Not at present, Sir. Government propose to wait and see the results of the present experiment before proceeding further.

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The conditions of the sale of calves are :

- (a) The Shri Mahajan Association, Ltd., should deposit with the Assistant Controller of Dairy Farm, Southern Circle, Jubbulpore, Government paper to the face value of Rs. 1,000 by way of security and in token of their good faith.
- (b) The Association should take over all live calves reserved for them, irrespective of their condition, on or before the 60th day after birth and to pay at the rate of Rs. 30 per calf.
- (c) The Director of Farms will have the right to reimburse Government by deduction from the security deposit of the Association up to Rs. 30 per calf for each calf specially reserved for the Association and for any reason left alive on his hands after the 60th day from the date of its birth.
- (d) The Association will be informed by the Manager, Military Dairy, Kirkee, on the 1st and 15th of every month what numbers of calves have been reserved for the Association since the last report.
- (e) If a calf reported to the Association as having been reserved for them dies before the expiry of 60 days, the Association will pay for the keep of the calf at the rate of annas eight per day from the date of birth to the date of death.

The Association has agreed to take over the male and female calves of cows only for the present.

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#### THE HAJ INQUIRY COMMITTEE.

615. **\*Mr. Siddheswar Prasad Sinha :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state when the Report of the Haj Inquiry Committee is expected to be published ?

(b) Will Government please state (i) the total estimated cost of the Committee, (ii) the amount spent up to the end of the last month, and (iii) the amount spent on allowances of the President and each member separately, and on the witnesses ?

**Sir Frank Noyce :** (a) The Report of the Committee is expected to be ready for submission to the Government of India by the end of November next and will be published as soon as possible after its receipt.

(b) (i) Rs. 2,03,150.

(ii) Rs. 1,01,522-10-9.

(iii) The Honourable Mr. H. B. Clayton, C.I.E., I.C.S. (Chairman)	..	..	11,825	6	0
Khan Bahadur Haji Abdoola Haji Kasim, M.L.A.	..	..	8,463	5	0
Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon, M.L.A.	..	..	5,246	13	0
The Honourable Sir Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer	..	..	6,445	9	0
Mr. Fazal Ibrahim Rahimtullah, M.L.A.	..	..	5,537	14	0
Mr. Hasanally P. Ebrahim	..	..	8,085	0	0
Haji Chaudhury Mohd. Ismail Khan, M.L.A.	..	..	8,833	14	0
Maulvi Mohd. Shafee Daoodi, M.L.A.	..	..	7,911	7	0
Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur, M.L.A.	..	..	8,221	5	0
Khan Bahadur Makhdum Sayed Rajan Bakhsh Shah, M.L.A.	..	..	7,390	8	0
Witnesses	..	..	3,657	15	0
Total			81,619	0	0

These figures include the Chairman's salary for the period 27th March to 30th June, 1929, and halting allowance up to the 31st August, 1929, and remuneration, and halting allowance of members as well as the travelling allowance drawn by them whenever they did not avail themselves of the reserved railway accommodation to which they were entitled. The salary of the Chairman for July, 1929, amounting to Rs. 3,300, was drawn by him during the current month. The figures relating to the cost of reserved railway accommodation up to the 31st August, 1929, are not known at present.

**Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh :** Is there any other seat vacant on the Committee, Sir ?

**An Honourable Member :** Do you want it ?

**Mr. Ghanshyam Das Birla :** Sir, in view of the large expenditure incurred on these committees and commissions, will the Government consider the desirability of reducing the allowances of Members on future committees and commissions ?

**Sir Frank Noyce :** That is a question for the Honourable the Finance Member.

**Mr. Ghanshyam Das Birla :** Will the Honourable the Finance Member give me an answer to this question ?

**The Honourable Sir George Schuster :** I am afraid I must ask the Honourable Member to repeat his question. I was thinking of something else.



**Mr. Ghanshyam Das Birla :** In view of the large expenditure incurred on these committees and commissions, will the Government consider the desirability of reducing the allowances of Members who are either working now, or who will in future be appointed to such committees or commissions ?

**Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta :** Reduced to what level ?

**The Honourable Sir George Schuster :** If the Government have any evidence before them of an opinion in this Assembly on that subject, they will certainly give due weight to an expression of that opinion. Speaking for myself as Finance Member, I should of course welcome anything which would tend to reduce the cost of these committees and commissions of inquiry. I think I may say that it is becoming quite a serious matter in the cost of carrying out the work of Government. Again, speaking for myself, I should take it as evidence of a very commendable public spirit if there were to be an expression of a general desire on the part of non-official Members of this House for reducing the rates paid to members of committees and for restricting the travelling and other expenses to a minimum. I do not think I can say any more on the subject now, but if the Honourable Member has any suggestions to make on the matter, I should be very pleased to discuss them with him.

**Mr. K. C. Roy :** Is the Honourable the Finance Member aware that any further reduction of the allowances given to Members of committees and commissions will result in the exclusion of the poorer Members of the Assembly from serving on such committees and commissions in future ?

**The Honourable Sir George Schuster :** I am aware, Sir, that the question is not at all a simple one, and the consideration which has just been given voice to by my Honourable friend, Mr. Roy, will have to be weighed very fully in deciding upon any policy in this matter. It would of course lead to very undesirable results if, in trying to cut down expenditure, we were to confine the ability to serve on these committees to Members in possession of large private means. I am sure every one will recognise that. But I still think that there is room for economy in this matter without leading to the undesirable result suggested by my Honourable friend.

**The Revd. J. C. Chatterjee :** Is it open to Members appointed to committees and commissions to forego their allowance or to take a smaller allowance if they so desire ?

**The Honourable Sir George Schuster :** It is of course possible for any Member of a committee to take action of that kind, but I am sure my Honourable friend will recognise that that may lead to very invidious results. Although I know that it often happens that Members who are in possession of large private means feel some compunction in accepting fees, I also know that, in certain particular cases, they have felt themselves constrained not to make an offer to forego them because they have felt that they would be placing other members of the committee in an unfair position.

**Mr. Ghanshyam Das Birla :** In view of the fact that the Assembly Members are paid at the rate of Rs. 20 per day as allowance, and if in

spite of this lower allowance, we are in a position to get the best brains of India, may we not expect, if we reduce the allowance of the Members of these committees and commissions, to get as good men for them ?

**The Honourable Sir George Schuster :** I think the fact which has just been mentioned by my friend is extremely relevant in a consideration of this question.

**Mr. Ghanshyam Das Birla :** May I inquire what steps Government propose to take to ascertain the view of the Assembly on this point ?

**The Honourable Sir George Schuster :** I think that if it is a question of giving expression to un-official opinion in this Assembly, the steps that can be taken are steps which are well known and which are open to my friend opposite. It is quite possible for him to give notice of a Resolution on the subject, and I should think that that will be the most proper means for raising a discussion on this whole question.

**Mr. Ghanshyam Das Birla :** Will the Government be prepared to give time in case some non-official Member cares to move a Resolution of that nature ? Will Government be pleased to give a day for the discussion of this question ?

**The Honourable Sir George Schuster :** Does my Honourable friend ask for a day for the discussion of this question during this current Session ?

**Mr. Ghanshyam Das Birla :** Yes, Sir.

**Nawab Sir Sahibzada Abdul Qaiyum :** Will Government be pleased to consider the desirability of not paying any allowances to Members of this House when appointed to committees except their actual travelling expenses ?

**The Honourable Sir George Schuster :** I think, Sir, that it would be going rather too far to say that that would be our attitude in the matter. I think we all must recognise that there are certain Members of this House whom it is very desirable to have as Members of committees and commissions who could not afford to serve on such committees and commissions unless they received some remuneration beyond the recovery of their actual out of pocket expenses.

**Mr. E. L. Price :** I want to ask the Honourable the Finance Member whether it is a fact that these allowances are paid right up to the moment that the Report is signed ? That seems to be unnecessary.

**Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh :** Are Government aware.....

**Mr. President :** Order, Order.

**The Honourable Sir George Schuster :** I am not quite sure that I understand the purport of the question put by my friend Mr. Price. As far as I know, the daily allowances are only paid for the actual days on which service is given. I think it is highly probable that, in the last two or three days before a Report is actually signed and submitted, such service will be given, because a committee will certainly be occupied in considering its Report and signing it during the last two or three days. I think that supplies the answer.

**Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh :** Are Government aware, I want to ask only one question, Sir.....

**Mr. President :** Order, order. This is now degenerating into a debate and I must intervene. Only one question put by Mr. Birla has not been answered, I think, and that is, whether Government are prepared to give time during this Session to consider and discuss this question.

**The Honourable Sir James Orerar :** Sir, there is still a pretty heavy programme of work before the House, and I doubt myself whether an extension of the Session

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in order to consider this particular matter which, though a very important question, is not one of immediate urgency, is a suggestion which the House would generally desire should be complied with. If the question is whether time should be allowed in the ensuing Session for this matter, I cannot, of course, give a definite engagement, but I can say this that it will receive very careful consideration having regard to the business at the time before the House.

#### INTRODUCTION OF COMPULSORY PHYSICAL TRAINING IN SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES.

616. **\*Mr. Siddheswar Prasad Sinha :** (a) Will Government please state what steps they have taken for introducing compulsory physical training in schools and colleges of the provinces directly administered by them ?

(b) How many, and which of the provincial Governments have accepted the principles of Dr. Moonje's Resolution passed by this Assembly on the 15th February, 1929 ?

**Sir Frank Noyce :** (a) Local Administrations have been addressed.

(b) Local Governments have been addressed in regard to the introduction of compulsory physical training, games and drill, but have not yet had sufficient time in which to report the action, if any, taken by them in this direction. They have not yet been addressed in regard to the provision of miniature rifle ranges and the encouragement of their use, but it is proposed to do so shortly.

#### UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

##### EMPLOYMENT OF MUSLIMS IN CERTAIN OFFICES IN THE NORTH WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE.

178. **Mr. Muhammad Ismail Khan :** (1) Will Government be pleased to state the total number of clerks serving at present in the offices of the District Headquarters, and in those subordinate to them including those of Executive Officers in the North West Frontier Province and the number of Muslims among them ?

(2) Will Government be pleased to state how they propose to reconcile the disproportion, and whether the claims of the qualified local Muslims are given due consideration when filling up vacancies ?

(3) Will Government be pleased to refer to Army Department Establishment Officer's Circular Memorandum No. 33346[1 (A.D.), dated

the 19th November, 1926, addressed to all Heads of Military Departments on the subject of measures to be adopted for securing appointments of minor communities in the Government of India Secretariat Offices, and in those subordinate to them, and to state whether the Government had considered the treatment to be meted out to a majority community in a Province like the North West Frontier Province ?

(4) Will Government be pleased to state whether they propose to give more posts in the military offices to the non-Muslim minority community in the Province or to limit the future filling up of vacancies to Muslims of the country ?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham :** (1) The Honourable Member is referred to the figures I gave him in my letter of 8th May, last and in the reply given on the 16th September to part (a) of his starred question No. 521.

(2) Yes, but most of the military clerical appointments in the North West Frontier Province are held by men who are liable to be transferred to any part of India, and recruitment cannot therefore be made entirely on a local basis.

(3) and (4). I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given in this House on the 11th March, last by the Honourable Sir B. N. Mitra to starred question No. 984.

#### NUMBER OF NON-MUSLIM HIGH SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS IN THE NORTH WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE.

179. **Mr. Muhammad Ismail Khan :** (1) Are Government aware that the grievances of the Muslims of the North West Frontier Province have been recently published in several issues of vernacular newspapers on the subject of inconsiderate treatment meted out for a long time to the Muslims by the Education Department of the Province in the way of appointments of a large number of non-Muslim teachers, and the apportionment of a smaller number of High schools for Muslims in the Province ?

(2) Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of non-Muslim teachers who are working in the rural, and urban schools separately ;
- (b) the consideration or special policy determined by the Local Government necessitating the appointment of non-Muslim teachers as a special case in preference to Muslims to deal with an entirely Muslim community in the country ; and
- (c) the number of Hindu and Muslim High schools existing in the Province ?

**Sir Frank Noyce :** (1) Yes, but it is not correct that a large number of non-Muslim teachers have been appointed or that Government High Schools, which are not sectarian, have been apportioned on a communal basis.

(2) (a). The information asked for is being collected and will be supplied to the Honourable Member later.

(b) No such policy exists.

(c) There are six Hindu and five Muslim aided High Schools.

### EMPLOYMENT OF MUSLIMS IN THE TELEPHONE DEPARTMENT, NORTH WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE.

180. **Mr. Muhammad Ismail Khan :** (1) Will Government be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of Operators now working in the Telephone Department of the Frontier Province ;

(b) the number of Muslims and non-Muslims of the North West Frontier Province among them ; and

(c) the number of Muslims and non-Muslims of other Provinces ?

(2) Do Government intend to consider the long-standing grievances of the local Muslims of the country as regards their claims to their proper representation in the Department consistent with their majority of population in the Province, and take such action in the matter as may pacify them ?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra :** (1) (a). (69).

(b) 34 Muslims and 14 non-Muslims.

(c) 10 Muslims and 11 non-Muslims.

(2) The figures given in reply to part (1) of the question do not indicate that the Muslims have any grievance on the score of inadequate representation in the Telephone Branch of the Department in the North West Frontier Province and Government do not propose to take any action in the matter.

### EMPLOYMENT OF MUSLIMS IN CERTAIN OFFICES OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

181. **Mr. Muhammad Ismail Khan :** (1) Will Government be pleased to state the total number of clerks serving at present in the Offices of the (a) Agent, North Western Railway, Lahore, (b) Audit Officer, North Western Railway, Lahore, and (c) Divisional Superintendent, North Western Railway, Rawalpindi, and the number of Muslims in each of the above Offices ?

(2) Will Government be pleased to state how they propose to adjust the serious disproportion of posts held by Muslims in the above-mentioned Offices ?

**Mr. P. R. Rau :** (1) Government regret that, for reasons already explained, they are not prepared to furnish figures of communal representation in individual offices.

(2) The Agent, North Western Railway, is aware of the policy of Government to prevent the preponderance of any particular community in railway service, and Government have no reason to believe that this policy is not being followed on the North Western Railway.

### GRIEVANCES OF OWNERS OF LAND IN THE BED OF THE BISLA LAKE, AJMER.

182. **Rai Sahib Harbilas Sarda :** (a) Is it a fact that great hardship is caused to owners of land in the bed of the Bisla lake at Ajmer by allowing water to collect in the lake for some months and then letting it flow out when the time for cultivating the land is passed ?

(b) Have any representations been made to Government in the matter? If so, do Government propose, in view of the representations made by cultivators, not to let water collect at all in the lake or, to restore the lake and keep it full like the Anasagar lake all the year round?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra :** (a) Government are not aware of any great hardship caused to owners of land in the bed of the Bisla Lake in Ajmer by allowing four feet of water to collect in the lake to assist water levels of surrounding wells between June and the middle of October every year.

(b) No serious representation has been received by Government since the order to store water was given in 1921, but very recently two petitions were received by the Commissioner, Ajmer, one asking for water to be let out and the other for a longer period of storage. Both were replied to the effect that water would be retained till the middle of October as usual. Government do not propose to disturb the existing order of things.

#### RESOLUTION *RE* THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PANCHAYATS IN VILLAGES—*contd.*

**Mr. President :** The House will now resume further discussion of the following Resolution moved by Mr. K. V. Rangaswami Ayyanger on the 3rd September, 1929 :

“ This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that he do appoint a mixed committee of officials and non-officials to examine the rural conditions obtaining in the various Provinces, and to recommend ways and means for establishing in each village, or group of villages with a population of not less than 1,000 inhabitants, an efficient Panchayat which will mainly be elected on the audit franchise system, and possess sufficient legal powers and financial resources for administering all village concerns, such as agriculture, minor irrigation and forests, cottage industries, village sanitation, education, co-operation, trade and banking, and for deciding civil and criminal suits up to a certain limit, subject only to the general control and technical advice and appellate jurisdiction of district and provincial officers and courts of law.”

There are, as Honourable Members will notice, two amendments tabled, one by Mr. Mukhtar Singh and the other by Mr. M. K. Acharya. As regards the amendment of Mr. Acharya, I understand that he has already spoken to the original motion and I feel some difficulty in admitting his amendment at this stage. If he will kindly explain how he is in order, I will consider.

**Mr. M. K. Acharya** (South Arcot *cum* Chingleput : Non-Muhamadan Rural) : I thought, Sir, that the amendment differed from the original Resolution in curtailing the scope of the inquiry suggested in the Resolution and in trying to meet some of the points raised by the Government Member in replying to the debate that day. That is how I think it improves and amends the original Resolution.

**Mr. President :** My difficulty is this. The Honourable Member was responsible for this Resolution at the last Session. He gave notice of this Resolution this Session and he supported it wholeheartedly at the last meeting. I believe he was responsible for the wording of the Resolution, and now, after having spoken to the original motion, he gives notice of an amendment. That is the difficulty in which I am placed, and therefore

I should like the Honourable Member to explain how I can rule that amendment in order. I do not consider this to be a legitimate use of the procedure of this House.

**Mr. M. K. Acharya** : I leave it to you, Sir.

**Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar** (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly : Non-Muhammadian Rural) : May I also draw your attention to the Standing Order at page 117 where you find :

“ If notice of such amendment has not been given two clear days before the day on which the Resolution is moved, any Member may object to the moving of the amendment.”

Now, Sir, this amendment has been given notice of after the Resolution was moved at the last meeting, and it is quite open to any Member of this House to object to the moving of this amendment....

**Mr. President** : Is the Honourable Member taking objection to the moving of this amendment ?

**Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar** : Yes, Sir.

**Mr. President** : I desire to inform Honourable Members that the recognised Parliamentary practice is that, when a Member speaks to the original motion without moving any amendment and resumes his seat, he is not entitled at any further stage to rise to move an amendment, and that practice I am bound to follow. I think it is a salient rule of Parliamentary practice, and apart from the objection taken by Mr. Rangaswami Iyengar, I think on this ground and on this ground alone I cannot allow the Honourable Member to move his amendment. **Mr. Mukhtar Singh**.

**Mr. Mukhtar Singh** (Meerut Division : Non-Muhammadian Rural) : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That for the original Resolution the following be substituted :

‘ This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council (a) to immediately rehabilitate in villages within the territories under its direct control the panchayats on an elective system based on a sufficiently broad franchise and equip them with legal powers and funds sufficient for the administration of village concerns, viz., village sanitation, disease of livestock, minor irrigation, forests, cottage industries, primary education, co-operation, petty civil and criminal cases, registration of births, deaths and marriages and the like, and (b) to formulate in consultation with Local Governments and lay down a uniform policy for Provincial Governments to build up such autonomous panchayats on an elective basis based upon a sufficiently wide franchise in all the provinces of India (specially where such institutions do not exist), directing the Local Governments to appropriate sufficient funds from the provincial revenues for such panchayats to function properly and if Local Governments are unable to cope with the demands for funds, to apportion sufficient funds for the purpose from the Imperial revenues ’.”

The Resolution, as originally drafted, makes it necessary for the Government to institute a Committee of Inquiry. That is the first thing that I have eliminated in this amendment. The second thing which differentiates this amended Resolution from the original Resolution is that it has been divided into two parts. When the original Resolution was moved, objection was taken by some of the Members that it was a transferred subject and therefore it would not be within the province of this Government to give effect to this Resolution. In order to meet that objection, I have divided this Resolution into two parts. The first part deals with the areas

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administered directly by the Imperial Government and the second part lays down the general policy for the Local Governments after consultation with them.

Sir, when the present Government assumed the governance of this country, we know very well that there were panchayats in existence practically in every village. Each village was administered by the elders of the village or the community of that village. In spite of invasions from outside and times of distress, this institution could not be wiped off, but during the regime of the present Government, it has practically disappeared. I may be excused for quoting from a paper written and signed by Mr. A. H. A. Simcox, dated the 24th April, 1922. This is what he says :

"The Indian village system has lived and prospered through many fierce attacks. It is still living in spite of the insidious erosion of modern life. There is probably not a man in the Government of India who would not willingly preserve and strengthen it, and yet it is in greater danger from the British Government than it was from Mohammed of Ghazni or Aurangzeb. Unwillingly and unwittingly, we have dealt it many shrewd blows, and are doing so yet. The more damage we do to it, the worse for us and for India, for it is the strongest foundation of Indian social life."

This will clearly show that the necessity for the village panchayats is recognised not only by the political agitator as the Government calls him, but also by Englishmen themselves. The necessity for the village panchayats was recognised by the Decentralisation Commission also. There is a point which pains me very much when I find that the present Government tried to disorganise the organisations that existed in this country, and I consider that this is the greatest charge against the Government, that they did not allow the old institutions to prosper. As far as the panchayats are concerned, I may be allowed to say that the village accountant who is known as the *patwari*, the village headman who is known as the *lambardar* and the village watchman who is known as the *chaukidar* were the necessary persons in a village. These three exist even today with this difference, that the accountant, the village headman and the watchman in olden days were paid by the village people, and today they are paid by the Government. This makes a very great difference. Formerly the *patwari*, the headman and the watchman knew that they were the servants of the village and today they understand, and quite rightly that they are the servants of Government. I may be asked what does it matter? From my point of view, it matters very much. If you go to a village, you will find that the village *patwari* is responsible for more than 75 per cent. of the litigation in the village. It may be all right so far as the *Patwari* Manual goes but we know as a matter of fact that many of the revenue and civil cases are due to a wrong entry in the papers. Similarly, the village watchman does not consider himself to be the servant of the village. He thinks that he is the servant of the police and the Criminal Intelligence Department. The same is the position of the village headman. That is why the panchayats of today are mostly the panchayats of the community or the panchayats of religious people. They do not and cannot have the same force of public opinion that they used to have. The village panchayat was an institution which appealed to the heart of the people and the panchayats that the Government have appointed in certain villages do not appeal to the heart of the people. That makes the whole difference. I would submit that Government should realise this difference and institute these village panchayats accordingly. I may be told that it was for the Provincial Governments to take steps in



this matter. I would point out that the Decentralisation Commission was a Royal Commission and they laid down certain principles which were necessary for the Government to follow. In order to give effect to these recommendations, the Government ought to have enacted an Imperial Act and thus ought to have initiated a uniform policy for all the Local Governments. But the Government did not do so and this is why it has been found necessary to move this Resolution in this Assembly. The first principle laid down by the Commission was that the panchayats should be formed on an elective basis and that the elections should be held, not in accordance with any complicated rules, but in an informal meeting of the inhabitants of the village. This recommendation has not been followed and today we find there are different rules in different provinces. If you take the United Provinces Panchayat Act, you do not find the elective principle there. It is the Collector who appoints the panchayat, and it is the Collector who fills the vacancy. The very idea of election is taken away. The result of it is that those people who have a voice in the village are not elected as panches as they are generally the people who do not care to see the officials and the whole thing becomes a failure. The second principle laid down by the Commission was that these panchayats should not be asked to levy taxes but this recommendation too has not been followed. Take for instance the case of Madras and the Punjab and you will find that in both these provinces the Government has given powers for taxation. This has been done for obvious reasons. The Government do not want to spend a pie from their treasury, but still they want these panchayats to prosper. Unless they have sufficient money, how can the village people find the money for village improvements, for education, for sanitation and other things? The Government want to say: "Here we have given you local self-government. You govern your own village and tax the people". So that from the very beginning the panchayat becomes unpopular. This was the point guarded against by the Decentralisation Commission's Report. That has not been given effect to. There are also other points which clearly show that the points which were raised before the Decentralisation Commission have not been given effect to. Therefore from my point of view it is quite necessary for the Government of India to lay down their policy by an uniform legislation.

The amended Resolution has been split up into two parts. The first part asks the Government to introduce the system in the area administered by themselves directly. As far as I know, Sir, there are no panchayats in the North-West Frontier Province, in Ajmer-Merwara and in Delhi. That clearly shows how far the Government have trust in these institutions. The Central Government ought to have, at least by their own conduct, created model institutions in the area administered directly by themselves. This they have not done, and that is why the first part of my Resolution demands that the Government should show to the Local Governments that panchayats should be instituted in every village, and that a uniform policy is followed in the entire area under their control.

The second thing that I demand is that the Government should consult all the Local Governments and then lay down a clear policy stating in what way these panchayats should work. I have tried, Sir, to go through all the different pieces of legislation in the different provinces, and I find that practically in every province there is difference in the legislation. Take, for instance, Bombay. There, no judicial or criminal powers are

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given to the panchayats, and the same is the case in Madras ; though it was clearly laid down by the Decentralisation Commission in their Report that the Government should give these powers to these panchayats. That Sir, is necessary. If no power is given, how will they be able to administer peace and prosperity for the people ? I may be told perhaps that, in olden days, there was no act of legislation to regulate the working of these panchayats successfully. I submit, Sir, this will not be a proper reply to the question. We know that in olden days village communities had public opinion, and by the force of public opinion, they could very well administer what they wanted to administer. What is the position today ? The times have changed. Even the Government of India do not care for public opinion. How then can public opinion be regarded in a village unless and until powers are granted by the Legislature ? It has been said that the village people are not taking the initiative themselves and that they have to be practically asked by the officials in what way they should do their work. I consider, Sir, that if that has happened, it is all due to the method of administration that we have adopted. If we have not allowed the old institution to grow, we cannot say that the people have no initiative. We have not educated them, we have not given them the Western ideals of administration, and we have taken from them the ideals that they had before them in the olden times. Sir, the people were more educated then than they are today. Last Session I quoted certain figures to show that, in old India, people were more educated than they are today ; and if education has not gone higher up than 8 per cent. or even less than that, it is the duty of Government to see that education should spread. The greatest income of Government is from land revenue, and, Sir, only a very small amount out of that is spent on education in villages. The Government will not be correct in saying that, if the people want certain improvements, they ought to pay for them. When the people have already paid much more than a poor man should pay, then I submit it is for the Government to see that ordinary things that a State is bound to provide are provided. Education is the first thing to be provided for these villages ; and as far as I know, excepting the Punjab, these village panchayats have nothing to do with education. In the Punjab too there is no special amount of money placed at their disposal. I know that cess, levied along with land revenue, is assessed for running the district or the local boards. But in the first place that amount is very very small considering the work they have to do, and in the second place the amount spent on education, even out of the district boards' funds is very very small. The Government give very small grants for the dissemination of education. As for instance year before last the United Provinces Government granted, if I remember aright, the sum of three lakhs for the whole of the province for compulsory education. When you introduce compulsory education and give a very small amount of money, it is impossible for the people to create facilities for compulsory education. I submit that compulsory education can not be successfully introduced unless you create an atmosphere in which the village people may be able to understand the value of education.

**Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan** (United Provinces : Nominated Non-Official) : May I ask the Honourable Member if it is not a fact that about Rs. 80,000 have been given by the Local Government to the Meerut District Board alone for education ?

**Mr. Mukhtar Singh** : Not for compulsory education. I was speaking about compulsory education. The District Board of Meerut was the first

to apply for compulsory education and yet they have been allowed to introduce compulsory education only in six villages.

**The Revd. J. C. Chatterjee** (Nominated : Indian Christians) : May I ask my Honourable friend if there is any distinction drawn in the matter of grants given by Government as between primary education and compulsory primary education ? Can it not also be used for compulsory primary education ?

**Mr. Mukhtar Singh** : The grant given for compulsory education is a distinct grant from the grant for primary education.....

**The Revd. J. C. Chatterjee** : You mean it is earmarked as such ?

**Mr. Mukhtar Singh** : Yes, it is so. The grant allotted for primary education is hardly enough to meet the expenditure involved in running the ordinary schools which are already in existence....

**Mr. President** : Order, order. The Honourable Member should know that we are discussing a Resolution and not a Bill.

**Mr. Ghazanfar Ali Khan** (Central Provinces : Nominated Official) : Sir, I had no intention of intervening in this debate, but I am convinced that I would be failing in my duty as Official Member for the Central Provinces if I omitted to enter a very strong protest against the violent attack made on the officials of that province by the Honourable Mr. Aney in his speech on the 3rd September. He not only roundly accused the local officials of apathy in this important matter, but he went further and asserted that they deliberately hindered the establishment of panchayats from sordid and selfish motives. Mr. Aney said that they considered the panchayats as a nuisance and a potential rival to their own authority. I am paraphrasing his words. I have not got his exact words but that is the gist of what he said. (*Voices* : "Louder please".) Sir, I have no hesitation in characterising these sweeping charges against a large body of officials as grossly exaggerated, if not entirely devoid of foundation. I may inform the House that similar charges were made against the officials in the course of a debate in the Central Provinces Legislative Council on a Resolution moved in March, 1925 by Mr. Y. M. Kale, also from Berar, recommending that instructions should be issued to all Deputy Commissioners that they should take active steps to encourage the establishment of village panchayats. It was urged that the attitude of Deputy Commissioners and other local officers towards this movement was one of suspicion, obstruction and hostility. A curious feature of the debate was that all the speakers, without exception, were representatives of the Berar Division, of which my Honourable friend Mr. Aney is a representative in this House. Now, I happened to be in charge of that Division during the greater part of the year 1925, and before I took over the charge, I spent about four months at Amraoti, the headquarters of the Division, partly as the Deputy Commissioner of that district. I therefore submit that I am in a position to speak on this matter from intimate local knowledge. But before doing so, I will read out to the House the comment on Mr. Kale's Resolution by the Conference of Commissioners held at Pachmarhi in June 1925. This is what the Commissioners said :

"It was there pointed out that a former Minister for Local Self-Government had held that village panchayats could only be established satisfactorily by non-official agency and that the proposal now to place responsibility for initiative in this connection upon the district officer was a definite reversal of the previously accepted policy ; that in certain districts Deputy Commissioners, who had been in full sympathy with

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proposals for establishing village panchayats, had had to complain of lack of support from local bodies ; and that, in two instances, district councils had definitely declined to give their support to the movement. Finally, it was urged that the main obstruction to progress was the apathy of the people for whom an administrative panchayat constituted an entirely novel experiment ; and that, in the form in which the Village Panchayat Act was finally passed, administrative functions, to which villagers are unaccustomed, were given special prominence, with the result that the new panchayats found little or no support in traditional respect for the indigenous institution which was designed for the settlement of disputes."

And the Local Government in their Resolution on this Report say :

"The most important is the proposal made for the appointment of a provincial panchayat officer. This recommendation involves to some extent a departure from the policy hitherto pursued of leaving the initiative in regard to the working of the Act to non-officials and discouraging the establishment of panchayats by official enterprise."

That was the avowed policy of the Government which was adopted in deference to the opinion of the then Minister.

I now turn to my personal experience of Berar. I may mention that all the Deputy Commissioners in that Division were imbued with a very keen desire to support the movement as far as lay in their power, *vis-a-vis* the policy laid down by a former Minister. But their efforts in this direction were largely frustrated by two main causes beyond their control, namely, the apathy of the people and the almost ineradicable factions which divided the larger villages into hostile camps. The then Deputy Commissioner of Amraoti, the late Mr. Armitage, who was an officer of great energy and initiative, addressed himself to the question of accelerating the progress of the movement as soon as he took over charge. That was in 1925 when I was Commissioner, Berar. But after a few months' practical experience of the local difficulties due to the causes mentioned above, he was obliged to relax his activities.

Sir, my experience is not confined to Berar. During the five years, 1924-28, I held charge of three out of the five Divisions in the province, and I regret to say that the same causes militated against the development of the institution in the other two divisions also. In Chattisgarh all the Deputy Commissioners happened to be Indian gentlemen of proved ability, zeal and energy. Although I wrote to them as soon as I took over charge and urged on them the desirability of furthering the growth of the movement, they were unable to achieve any appreciable measure of success owing to these difficulties.

Another cause which contributed to this unfortunate result was the fear entertained by the villagers that village panchayats involved additional taxation. As pointed out by the Commissioners' Conference, special prominence was given to administrative functions which necessitated expenditure on sanitation and other needs of the village, and the villagers were naturally averse to taxing themselves for these objects of which they were not fully appreciative. Thanks to the recommendations of the Village Panchayat Committee, this drawback has now been removed to a large extent. I may mention that the Provincial Government make initial grants to the newly formed panchayats to enable them to provide the necessary equipment in the shape of books, furniture, etc.

A whole-time provincial officer has been appointed in accordance with the unanimous recommendation of the Committee. This does not by any means indicate any apathy on the part of the Provincial Government or

of the local officers in the past. The object of the appointment is briefly stated on page 7 of the Report. It says :

" But the appointment of a whole-time provincial officer will be a visible sign of Government's approval of the establishment of panchayats if the village people will but consent to have them. Moreover such an officer will be of practical assistance in the districts. To give the experiment a fair trial, it is clearly desirable, in the earliest stage, that some one should make a special study of the difficulties which beset its introduction ; that this expert should go from district to district, giving to one the benefit of experience gained in another, co-ordinating the system of work, stimulating local effort, advising district officers and local bodies, and where local workers lack experience, himself persuading villagers to submit to panchayats and guiding the panchayats after they are formed. His functions will, of course, be advisory and not executive."

He will be under the control of the Deputy Commissioners, whose powers have not been in any way impaired. The incumbent of the post is a Provincial Service officer who had previous experience of the movement in a Feudatory State, in Central India. Although the majority of the members of the Committee were non-officials, I can find nothing in their Report impugning the good faith of the Provincial Government or the local officials in this matter. Surely this is significant. Had there been any truth in the assertion of my friend Mr. Aney that the Provincial Government and the local officers deliberately hindered this movement, the non-official members would undoubtedly have mentioned the fact.

Sir, before I sit down, I wish to make one observation on the Resolution before the House. I entirely endorse the opinion of the Honourable Sir Frank Noyce that an all-India committee cannot possibly grapple with a problem of this magnitude, having regard to the immense diversity of conditions prevailing in the different provinces. Obviously, the proper course is that adopted by the Central Provinces Government, namely, the appointment of a Provincial Committee in those provinces where the movement is not progressing satisfactorily.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai** (Sind : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, I rise to support the amended Resolution. The original Resolution has already been read by you, soon after it was moved. I will now read the amended Resolution.

**Mr. President** : It has already been read.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai** : Then, I submit that I support the amended Resolution and my reasons are these. The first difference that I find between the original and the amended one is with regard to the appointment of a Committee for the purpose of investigation into this question. I am against the Committee from this point of view, that committees are always tardy and take a very long time to come to a conclusion. They are besides expensive. It was only today at question time that it was urged that the committees are always very expensive and their cost should be curtailed. I would therefore submit that this question might be gone into by the Central Government itself, and that would be easy enough since there are certain Acts in each Province regulating the panchayat system which can be gone through, and certain suggestions of Committees which were appointed in different provinces could be investigated into by the Government of India. What I do therefore submit is that the Central Government should take up this question in their own hands and make a uniform policy to revive these panchayats and to keep them on a solid and substantial basis. We were not formerly without panchayats. It is well known that those panchayats

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were all self-supporting and self-sufficient. The system was elective. It is well known that these panchayats and the heads of the panchayats called *Mukhis* used to be selected by the people of the village, and the whole village administration and authority were in their hands. The villagers had their pastures, for cattle and certain lands to cultivate. They maintained their own *Mahrars* and watchmen and at the time of harvest, these panchayats were paid contributions in order to defray these expenses. The panchayats were getting on well, but those days are gone, they have now got deteriorated. I submit it is not the fault of the people, but that of the Government—due to their undue interference in the affairs of the old panchayats. The fact is that the district and taluqa officers arrogated to themselves the powers of the panchayats and brought them to ruin. The object of this Resolution is to ask the Government to revive the panchayats on the old system and to constitute them in such a manner that they may be carried on without official interference. The panchayat system is the basic principle of self-government. It is, I say, the backbone of all reforms, and if these panchayats are not revived, I do not know what these reforms that are coming will do to us. (Hear, hear.) I would therefore urge that it is very important that the Central Government should pay all attention to their consolidation. The old panchayats used to do criminal as well as civil work, and they also discharged social and other functions. The remnant that however remains is that the panchayats have now some control in social matters only. There again, I submit they are exposed to dangers and get jeopardised many times when they exercise those powers. The unwritten law of these panchayats is that they could excommunicate a man who is a member of their panchayat and who has in any way misbehaved or done any social wrong. But what is the danger? Those who are in touch with courts know how the powers of the panchayats, even in social matters, are set at naught. As soon as a panchayat passes a resolution excommunicating a certain member, they are dragged into courts for defamation and have no protection. We know how many panchayats are dragged into court and made to dance attendance from day to day, with the result that they are forced to come down and compromise with the complainant or wait the weary length of the criminal proceedings which eventually end either in conviction or acquittal. I therefore submit that, even in social powers, there is great interference, and it is high time that these panchayats were placed on a better basis, not only socially but also politically. My own view is that in social and other matters, their powers should be supreme without interference from any outside body.

Now, Sir, public opinion on this question has matured long since, and I know it was in 1908-09, when the Government was awakened and they appointed the Decentralisation Commission which went into this question of panchayats and decided that the system should be revived on such basis that it could be made workable. When this Commission sent in its Report in 1909, what did the Government do? They did nothing, as I find from the information collected. They did nothing up to 1920 and it was only in that year that the slow process came to an end and the Provincial Governments were asked to pass enactments in regard to the creation and constitution of the panchayats. The Bombay Presidency passed an Act, No. 9 of 1920, though I should say to the great misfortune of Sind, the Government of Bombay treated Sind so callously and negligently as not

to enforce it in Sind. They introduced it only in the northern, southern and the central divisions of the Presidency. They did not apply it to Sind. Up to this time nothing has been done in Sind towards this reform. I am very sorry for it, and I hope early steps will be taken to form panchayats in Sind. The Bombay Act was passed in 1920, and a similar one was passed in the Central Provinces, and I believe in other Provinces as well, but I am open to correction on this point. Though the Bombay Presidency passed an Act which was more advanced and much wider than in other places, yet all the same it had its own defects. By section 7 of Act IX of 1920, it was provided :

“that subject to the foregoing provisions and such rules as may be made by the Governor in Council, elections shall be made in each village by adult male residents living therein.”

That means that the elective system with a wide franchise was introduced there, but again the wholesomeness of it was whittled down by the provisions of section 3 whereby they provided the procedure as to how election was to be initiated. Section 3 says :

“On application in writing being made either by the district local board after previous notice to the Collector or by the Collector after previous notice to the district local board, the Commissioner may by notification declare any area to be a village for the purpose of this Act”.

Thus, Sir, the power has not been given to the public to ask for the area being declared a village for the purposes of this Act.

Then, Sir, subsequent to this Act, a Committee was appointed, because this Act was absolutely unworkable. That Committee was appointed by Resolution No. 5428, dated the 24th June, 1925, to examine the question of the future of village panchayats, and what did that Committee recommend with regard to this section ? In paragraph 2 of their Report they said :

“The villagers themselves should be given a voice in the question of instituting a panchayat and therefore a provision should be introduced on the lines of section 5 of the Central Provinces Village Panchayat Act, 1920, so that the Collector or the Commissioner could move on the application of 20 adult residents of a village”.

Now, Sir, this Committee also gave their opinion as to how these panchayats had been carried on in those places where this Act had been applied, and I say they had not been carried on properly. This is what is contained in paragraph 3 of that Report :

“At our first meeting after a short general discussion of the terms of reference, we recorded our opinion that, apart from a few exceptional cases, the village panchayats are not flourishing but on the contrary they are likely to disappear unless special measures are taken to revive them, and that such measures should take the form of sub-conventions, the bestowal of more responsibilities, and the grant of judicial and criminal powers in suitable cases”.

Now, Sir, I am open to correction by my Honourable friends from Bombay, but my information is that these recommendations have not up till now been put into force.

I say, Sir, these panchayats, as they are constituted at present, will never be workable, because difficulties and impediments have been placed in their way, which have been recognised even by the Decentralisation Committee and other Committees. The first hindrance is with respect to the imposition of a leviable tax. The Decentralisation Committee said at page 244, paragraph 718 :

“We consider essential to the popularity and efficiency of the panchayat system that it should not be associated with any new form of local taxation, for the evidence shows that the imposition of taxation of this character has made such bodies as the existing unions and sanitary committees unpopular”.



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It may be asked, Sir, how are these panchayats to be carried on then. I say, Sir, the panchayat question relates to the villages, and from the villages the revenue comes to the Imperial Government by way of assessment of land tax, and it is therefore the duty of the Government to see first of all that these poor men who till that land and give that revenue to the Government are looked after first from the Imperial revenues.

In the Report of the Decentralisation Committee they say—paragraph 719 :

“ The panchayats’ revenue should be derived from the following sources :

- (1) the assignment to it of a portion of land cess levied for local board purposes in the village. We have had evidence that many villages do not now receive any material advantage in return for the share of this cess which they now pay ”.

Again, Sir, it is said in paragraph 720 :

“ Finally, it is most desirable that the work of the panchayats should be free from the interference of the Local Governments’ subordinates ”.

We know, Sir, how much they torment the village people and the heads of the panchayat. Men of this class have their own reasons for opposing any real local control.

This proves, Sir, that taxation is an impediment, and that should be removed. Then there is the control of the officers to which I have already referred. I will further submit that these panchayats should also be given sufficient funds for the purpose of carrying out drainage. The drainage question, Sir, is one which has been attracting the attention of the public at the present moment. Those who know of the heavy rains and the floods that have been devastating Sind, Punjab, Assam, the Central Provinces and other places know fully well that it is the drainage system that is responsible for these villages being drowned. There is absolutely no drainage system in villages and towns, and it is the first duty of the Central Government to see that the drainage system in the provinces is attended to. What is the state of things at present ? When there is heavy rain, the ponds and depressions in the towns and villages get filled up, and if to them are added the floods, what happens ? The water rises and all the villages and towns get submerged. It is only then—too late—that the Government think of doing something. They begin to spend thousands and lakhs of rupees for the purpose of making and protecting bunds, but these bunds give way and a calamitous condition follows.

**Mr. President :** Order, order. The Honourable Member is exceeding his time limit.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai :** Sir, I was just going to finish and I will require less than a minute now. I will just conclude by observing that, for these questions it is very necessary that the Central Government should take the formation and revision of panchayats into their own hands. In that case there will be uniformity of the system. Otherwise, one Government may be tardy, another lax and nothing will be done and we will remain where we are. This reform is a very necessary reform and I therefore support the motion whole-heartedly.

**Pandit Thakurdas Bhargava** (Ambala Division : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, the amended Resolution as it stands demands two things : first, that in the territories directly administered by the Government of



India, the panchayat system should be rehabilitated. So far as that is concerned, I tried to find out if there were any panchayats in Ajmer-Merwara and Delhi, and I could not find that any such system of pauchayats was working in these provinces. As regards the latter portion of the amended Resolution, it would appear that though the subject is a provincial one, yet the amended Resolution seeks to recommend that a uniform and central policy be formulated in consultation with the Local Governments, and that sufficient funds be provided with a view to work these panchayats. It cannot be gainsaid that the entire fault lies at the door of the Government. The Government killed these indigenous institutions and true Nemesis lies in the fact that they should try to rehabilitate them. In fact the Report of the Decentralisation Committee has clearly pointed out that such institutions did exist and that it is the clear duty of the Government to rehabilitate them. In paragraph 696 of the Report they pointed out :

" The Indian villages formerly possessed a large degree of local autonomy, since the native dynasties and their local representatives did not, as a rule, concern themselves with the individual cultivators, but regarded the village as a whole, or some large landholder, as responsible for the payment of the Government revenues, and the maintenance of local order. This autonomy has now disappeared owing to the establishment of local, civil and criminal courts, the present revenue and police organisation, the increase of communications, the growth of individualism, etc., etc.

Nevertheless the village remains the first unit of administration ; the principal village functionaries—the headman, the accountant and the village watchman—are largely utilized and paid by Government, and there is still a certain amount of common village feeling and interests."

Now, today it might be regarded as simple pedantry on my part to refer to the old history of these village panchayats.

1 P.M. Suffice it to say that the old indigenous system of panchayats worked very well and was rightly regarded as the basic foundation for a complete system of self-government. I submit that the village organisation is the unit and foundation for any complete system of self-government, and unless and until the foundations are stable and strong, it is idle to think that we shall have the superstructure of self-government in its full measure. In this connection I would read from the book " Ancient Law " by Sir Henry Maine. Speaking of Indian village communities he says :

" It is an organised society, and besides providing for the management of the common fund it seldom fails to provide, by a complete staff of functionaries, for internal government, for police, for the administration of justice, and for the apportionment of taxes and public duties."

Having cleared the ground, I would like to see how the Government of India have been discharging their duties in this connection during the last ten years. After the Report of the Decentralisation Commission was out and their recommendations were fully considered, the Government of India issued a Resolution in 1915, and then again in 1918. After that, during the course of the last ten years, I understand no inquiry has been made by the Government of India to find out how those Resolutions were given effect to in the various provinces. Going through the latest legislative Acts of the different provinces, we find that, though an attempt was made in the last ten years to give some sort of shape to the underlying idea of the recommendations of the Decentralisation Committee, yet the attempts have unfortunately failed to achieve the result which those recommendations contemplated. Taking the Bombay Act, I find that even the Preamble of that Act shows that the Government did not want to

[Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava.]

evolve an autonomous village in the Bombay Presidency. All that the Preamble says is this :

“ In order to afford an opportunity of providing the requirements of water-supply, sanitation and other works of public utility with the object of encouraging the people to take an interest in local self-government,”

Now, Sir, under this Act, as has been pointed out by several speakers before, no criminal or civil powers were given to the village people ; and then again no powers were given to these village panchayats to impose any sort of cess or local taxation. Here, Sir, with due deference, I beg to differ from the recommendation of the Decentralisation Committee when they say that no powers of local taxation should be given. So far as the elective system is concerned, I have to congratulate the Bombay Government on their providing that every male resident of the village will be given the right to vote ; but, Sir, barring this good provision, all that I find in the Bombay Act is the very negation of local self-government. Under the Bombay Act, the powers of control are vested in the district boards, and the village panchayat is a sort of a department of the district local board instead of being an autonomous unit of administration. The Bombay Act only provides that the village panchayat is a subordinate department of the district local board, and all the powers of control are vested in the local board. The Madras Village Panchayats Act proceeds on a similar basis, and I have no hesitation in saying that these two Acts do not contain any elements for development on right lines. Coming, however, to the United Provinces Act, I find that that Act deals more with legal powers and less with administrative powers ; and the village fund, as provided by the United Provinces Act, is one which it will be difficult to collect and utilise. The supervision imposed by the United Provinces Act is much too great, and cannot leave proper scope for ordinary village panchayats to develop. Coming to the Act of my own province, I would submit that the Act as such is certainly an improvement on all the other Acts, and it provides ample scope for development ; but whereas it supplies ample scope for development, what do we find in practice ? Mian Abdul Aziz, the Deputy Commissioner of the district from which I come, made a speech in this connection in this House the other day and I congratulate him on that speech. But you will find Sir, that if the facts as detailed forth by the Honourable Member are true, they disclose a state of things at which any government worth its name should hide its face in shame. He said—and I shall quote his exact words :

“ If I were a cynic, I could say that those human dwelling places were really not fit for cattle and it was hardly fair to human beings to be compelled to live there.”

If that depicts the real state of things, I cannot find a greater denunciation than this. When on the last occasion he made a speech in the last Session at Delhi, he was pleased to observe that, in the Hissar district, there were people who non-co-operated with vegetables, meaning thereby that the mentality of those people was such that they would not, though it was to their benefit, grow vegetables instead of grain on account of their pride of birth and so forth. Now, you find that the habits of these people and the mentality of these people, if what Mian Abdul Aziz has said is absolutely true, show that the Government have not done their duty. He has put a question to this House as to how these village panchayats are to be worked and he has supplied the reply himself. When he said that the higher strata of society was not for the development of these village

panchayats, I think he was certainly wrong ; but when he spoke of going to the village people in a spirit of service and asking them to do the right thing and stimulating their imagination, I think he was laying his finger on the right point. The complaint which he made, and very rightly made, was that the funds at the disposal of these village panchayats were not sufficient. This was the complaint made by Mr. Kelkar also, and I also think that the real complaint is that these village panchayats do not get sufficient funds, and they cannot work properly. I quite agree with the Report of the Decentralisation Committee when they say that, even now, the village people are such that they can evolve the ancient form of self-government which they had in times of yore in their midst. The Decentralisation Committee said at page 238 :

“ Some witnesses hold that the disintegration of the village communities which has taken place under our administration has gone so far that it is not possible to reconstitute them as reliable entities in any scheme of local self-government. There is, however, a large and strong body of opinion in favour of enlisting the help of the people in local administration in villages, by the establishment of administrative village councils which should bear the time-honoured title of panchayat. . . . . We are of opinion also that the foundation of any stable edifice which shall associate the people with the administration must be the village, as being an area of much greater antiquity than administrative creations such as tahsils, etc., etc.”

Sir, I submit that, even now, in the villages, on account of the ancient culture of India and on account of the religious-mindedness of the people, we find that the people respond nobly to all sincere efforts at progress and that they are amenable to all good influences, and are thus capable of evolving the best system of government known to mankind, but it is the apathy of Government which is really responsible for the non-establishment of these panchayats. My Honourable friend, Mr. Aney brought this out very forcibly in his speech on this Resolution the other day, and today we have heard from the last but one speaker that the Government have rightly done their duty in this matter. In this connection, may I ask my friend Mian Abdul Aziz, who said the other day something about the Hissar district, consisting of 1,008 villages, as to how many new panchayats have come into existence during his term of three years in that district. Twenty years after the issue of the Report of the Decentralisation Commission, only 38 panchayats have been brought into existence in the district of Hissar, and out of them 18 during the term of three years' regime of my friend Mian Abdul Aziz. I should really congratulate him on the work that he has done. Does not this demonstrably prove, Sir, that the Government have not done their duty by the people in regard to the establishment of these panchayats ? On the other hand, this Government have reduced and ground down the people to such a state of misery that they have lost all power of understanding what is good and what is bad for them. They do not understand what is to their benefit. Then again, the Government take away such a large amount of money from them that very little is left for those people even to make both ends meet. I therefore submit that the essential requirement is that the Local Governments should give sufficient funds to these bodies, and if the Provincial Governments are unable to cope with the demand, then it is up to the Imperial Government, which takes so much in taxes from the people, to return the money back to those people so that they may prosper and evolve these self-governing institutions which make for peace and prosperity.

**Pandit Nilakantha Das** (Orissa Division : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, I do not know whether I shall be allowed to speak for long . . . .

**Mr. President :** Only 15 minutes are allowed.

**Pandit Nilakantha Das :** There is, it appears, a danger of want of a quorum in the House. But I must say that this is a subject which is *prima facie* very alluring, because it speaks of panchayats, a name which is so famous in the ancient history of the world, and especially of India, and in our studies of ancient law, we heard much about these panchayats, I mean, village communities. The village panchayats were thriving under a system in India which I am afraid is daily being destroyed. I am sure many of us are under the impression that we have come here to have some constitution under which we shall run our own Government. I do not know if many of us realise whether the constitution in which we are being trained, rather spoon-fed, is one which is being evolved from within the country itself. In India all institutions were evolved from villages, and our real life was in the village. Now, the system is quite topsy-turvy. In everything that we think of, we imagine placing ourselves under conditions obtaining in countries across the ocean, where the system of culture is something quite different from our own system, a system which is Indian and is the best suited for India. We now try to impose things on our people, and that from above. We are imitating things every day from the West, and I do not know whether, in the existing state of affairs, in our fatherland, which is a vast agricultural country, and where the real life is still to be found in the villages alone, such imitation can ever be assimilated. ....

**Mr. K. Ahmed** (Rajshahi Division : Muhammadan Rural) : You have got your central offices at the headquarters in the provinces.

**Pandit Nilakantha Das :** There should be central offices, but there are central offices and central offices. Central offices may be the apex of a synthesis of village units or it may be that, analytically, things may be forced down into villages from cities and central places. There are two ways of getting the very self same thing in appearance. That does not matter. That which comes I am afraid cannot be avoided. We are destined to imitate without assimilating, and we will have to submit to our lot. But coming to village panchayats I was not much enamoured of the Resolution as it was expounded by the Mover the other day, but after hearing the speech in support of the amendment of my friend Mr. Mukhtar Singh, I feel that I should make the best of a bad case. I have not studied the panchayat system as it exists in the different provinces of India. I do not know if it exists in the North West Frontier Province, and if it exists there, I do not know in what form it exists. Perhaps it does not exist there. But I know something of the panchayat system which is called the Chaukidari Panchayat as it exists in the province which I should formally call mine in this House. I expected to hear something from the representative of this province, Rai Bahadur Shyam Narayan Singh, but unfortunately he does not care to enlighten us in matters of importance when there is need for such enlightenment. However, I know the chaukidari village panchayat system in Bihar has existed for a very long time. It is a sham something, planned, promulgated and artificially kept up by those who apparently never care to understand Indian life or culture. Now, as the political life in India is growing this village panchayat system has come to be an organised system of espionage. It is nothing less than that. That system of espionage is being run at the cost of the chaukidari taxpayer. The villager pays the taxes and that too with much reluctance. He knows

only that the system is one of paying fresh taxes. He pays them in order to be relieved of the difficulty and harassment of his household articles being attached and sold away as often happens in case of non-payment. He pays the tax, and that is all he knows about the village panchayat system. (Mr. K. Ahmed made an interruption.) I am a little bit hard of hearing so far as my Honourable friend is concerned. The villager knows that much alone. It is also a fact that the appointment of the panchayat whosoever's duty it might be under the law, is made not by the District Magistrate but by a raw Deputy Magistrate or a Sub-Deputy Collector, as he is called in our province. I speak of the practice.

**Mr. K. Ahmed :** That is not correct.

**Pandit Nilakantha Das :** He goes and makes a report that the villagers have elected such and such people as panchayats, whereas the villagers do not know anything about it at all ; as a matter of fact, they do not know that they have got any right at all to select the panchayats. The chaukidars who are employed are appointed practically by the local police, with the sanction of the raw Deputy Collector or Sub-Deputy Collector, and the villagers who pay for these chaukidars have not got a word to say about what they do. Once it actually happened that some crops were stolen from a villager's fields. He approached the police and complained that the chaukidar did not keep watch. He was told that the chaukidar was not the guard of the things in the fields, but that he was to keep a guard over the *mohalla*. When there is a theft in the *mohalla* itself I do not know how much the chaukidar is paid, and through the chaukidar the Thana police too, so that there may not be any further trouble in the village due to police inquiry and all that sort of thing.

Thus I submit that you are practically breaking the ancient village life. When this is the state of things, it can well be imagined why litigation increases. Why there are parties and factions in villages, and police rule reaches every door. Our new village panchayat should therefore be based on the beautiful system of the village community, the remains of which can still be traced. Even now if you go into our villages and look into the remains of the old village community system, what do you find ? There are commune lands in the villages including pasture lands, and those lands which are still there, unprotected by any law ; any man,—the zemindar or any big man—can encroach upon those lands. The pastures are gone and the beautiful village irrigation system is now out of repairs completely. No village panchayats look after it. It is not their duty. You know, like the present Sind, Assam and many other places, Orissa perhaps yields to very few provinces in India in the matter of her floods. But do you know how these floods actually submerge villages there in Orissa ? It is because the ancient system of irrigation planned and protected under the time-honoured system of village communes has now been abandoned. Any Member who is interested may come with me and I shall show him the very village from which I come and he will see how things were all right and how those embankments and canals, which are there even now, the remnants of the past, have been neglected and spoiled. Under the present village chaukidari system they are all practically abandoned. Nobody looks into the sanitation, or education of the villages. It is only, as I have said, a system of police espionage, and we realise that there are so many chaukidars, an army of them, in the district, only when a Governor or any such big official comes, for then these village chaukidars

[Pandit Nilakantha Das.]

have to guard the railway line for days and nights, and I don't know what provision there is for guarding even the *mohallas* or the villagers' houses when such an official comes, and for days villages are without a *chaukidar*. (*An Honourable Member* : " But they guard your house also, don't they ? ") I did not hear you. That is the use of the *chaukidari* panchayat made by the Local Governments. I know that we must evolve this aspect of our national life through these our national institutions. The Central Government should take an interest in evolving that system of village panchayat and not the system which would carry the police espionage to the doors of the villagers only to destroy life and organisation in the village. It should not be done by putting things from above. The institution must grow from within and must be synthesised in our coming national constitution.

I am very glad that there has not been want of a quorum and I submit that the Central Government, if it is going to give place to a national government, should take an interest in that beautiful system of village communities in a land where the population is purely agricultural and where industrial cities will not very easily grow and change the entire atmosphere of our culture and constitution. I therefore support this motion, with a recommendation that the Central Government should take an interest in village communities.

**An Honourable Member** : Let the question be now put.

**Sir Frank Noyce** (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands) : I may say at the outset that I am glad that the Honourable Mover of this amendment has divided it into two parts, as I am in a position to give him more satisfaction in regard to the first part of his amended Resolution than in regard to the second. I must, however, point out to him that it is hardly possible for the Governor General in Council to rehabilitate immediately a thing which does not exist. Honourable Members opposite are, so far as I have been able to discover in the short time at my disposal, since I learnt of this amended Resolution, perfectly correct in stating that there are no panchayats in the North West Frontier Province or Delhi. The reason, I understand, is that the Punjab Village Panchayats Act, which was passed in 1922, has not yet been extended to those provinces. Again, so far as I know, there are no village panchayats in Baluchistan or Coorg. Whether Baluchistan is a favourable ground for experiments in this direction I am not in a position to say, though I imagine no Member of this House will suggest that the other directly administered province which has not been mentioned, I mean, the Andamans, would afford a suitable field for experiment. (*Mr. Lalchand Navalrai* : " What about Sind ? ") It is news to me that Sind has been taken over by the Central Government. I am dealing with directly administered territories, and Sind is not a directly administered territory. (*An Honourable Member* : " What about Ajmer-Merwara ? ") I have not yet come to Ajmer-Merwara. The Honourable Member is quite right in reminding me of it. In the Ajmer-Merwara Rural Boards Regulation, there is no provision for the constitution of panchayats. In regard to this part of the Resolution I can assure the House that the Government of India will be very glad to consult Local Administrations on the possibility of introducing into the directly administered areas, legislation for the constitution of village panchayats more or less on the lines of those which are in force in the major

provinces. I must, however, add that, judging from the second part of the amended Resolution, financial considerations will be involved. My Honourable friend Mr. Khan has told us that the Central Provinces Government make grants to enable village panchayats to start their work. How far we should be able to do that in the directly administered territories remains to be seen. A Primary Education Committee is just now sitting to deal with the educational problems of Ajmer-Merwara, Delhi and the North West Frontier Province and if its recommendations are to be carried into effect, considerable expenditure will probably be involved. Again my Honourable friend, Mr. Sarđa, is crying out for improvements in sanitation in Ajmer-Merwara and, as the Royal Commission on Agriculture has pointed out, a very great deal can be done for agriculture and co-operation in the directly administered provinces. How much, after all these demands have been met, would be left for village panchayats, remains to be seen, but I can assure the House that the matter will be carefully considered.

Now, Sir, as regards the second part of the amendment, I really have very little to add to what I said at the outset. The resolution has been changed in form but not in substance and the new form in which it has been put is no more acceptable to the Government of India than that in which it was originally placed before this House. Instead of an all-India Committee, the Government of India are now asked to formulate, in consultation with Local Governments, and lay down a uniform policy for Provincial Governments. I am sorry to see that, in spite of the arguments which have been adduced on this side of the House, Honourable Members opposite are still in favour of laying all Provinces on a Procrustean bed. When I was listening to the speeches from the Benches opposite, I wondered whether I was sitting in this Assembly in the year 1929 or in the year 1919. Great stress has been laid on the recommendations of the Decentralisation Commission, but some of my friends opposite seem to have forgotten what has happened since then, and especially the important constitutional changes which have taken place. It is hardly for me, one of the most junior Members of this House, to instruct the House on the constitutional position. Under the terms of this Resolution the Government of India are asked to direct Local Governments to appropriate sufficient funds from Provincial revenues. What power, I ask, have the Government to direct Local Governments to set aside any part of their revenues for objects over which the Government of India themselves have no power whatsoever of supervision, direction or control. Again, Sir, the Government of India are asked, if Local Governments are unable to cope with the demand for funds, to apportion funds for the purpose from Imperial revenues. It is, I understand, an accepted principle that the Government of India are not in a position to spend Imperial revenues on purely provincial subjects. It is for this reason that I am compelled to oppose the amended Resolution, except to the extent which I have just indicated. I can assure the Honourable Mover of the amendment and also the Mover of the Resolution, who is not in his place today, that I personally have great sympathy with the objects they have at heart and, if I may strike a personal note, I may say that, when I was in charge of a division in Madras, I did my very best to help the panchayats in that division which were struggling into existence, some of which, I am glad to say, are now in a very flourishing condition. Before I sit down, there is an analogy which I should like to draw from the co-operative movement. That movement was started with great hopes and great enthusiasm. It has conferred, and I am convinced will continue to



[Sir Frank Noyce.] .

confer, great benefits on the rural population of India. At the outset, the provinces vied with each other in the progress they could show in the number of their societies but what is the position today? In no less than four provinces, committees of inquiry have had to be appointed recently to inquire into the defects which have revealed themselves in the course of time. I have no doubt that those defects can be put right but in two provinces at least, it is going to be uphill work.

The point I wish to make, Sir, is that. If the Government of India were to formulate what Honourable Members call a uniform policy, they would be giving what may be described as an artificial stimulus to the formation of village panchayats and there is a grave risk that in the course of ten, fifteen or twenty years time, the provinces may find themselves compelled to constitute committees of inquiry into the defects which have revealed themselves in the panchayat movement. I submit for the consideration of this House that, not only from the point of view of the constitutional position but from the point of view of the soundness, stability and strength of the panchayat movement, it is desirable that the provinces should develop in this matter on their own lines. The Panchayat Acts were passed, most of them, nine or ten years ago. The provinces have been developing on their own lines during that period. What hope is there now of inducing them to adopt a uniform policy laid down by the Government of India without any consideration of the diversities of local conditions? If the amended Resolution were accepted, the Government of India could not formulate a satisfactory policy without a detailed inquiry into the local conditions. From that point of view, the original Resolution appeals to me more than the amended one. If the provinces want help, want outside experience as regards the steps they should take to foster the growth of the panchayat movement, it will be easy for them to get it. The provinces I have mentioned which established committees of inquiry into the progress of co-operation, went outside for help and advice. The Co-operative Committees in Madras and Burma,—Honourable Members who come from the Punjab will be glad to know,—sought advice from the Punjab and obtained it. I may express the hope that, if Local Governments want similar help in regard to panchayats, they will turn to my own province which has as flourishing a co-operative panchayat movement as any other. For these reasons, Sir, I regret that I must oppose the amended Resolution.

**Mr. President :** The original question was that the following Resolution be adopted :

" This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that he do appoint a mixed committee of officials and non-officials to examine the rural conditions obtaining in the various Provinces, and to recommend ways and means for establishing in each village, or group of villages with a population of not less than 1,000 inhabitants, an efficient panchayat which will mainly be elected on the Adult Franchise system, and possess sufficient legal powers and financial resources for administering all village concerns, such as agriculture, minor irrigation and forests, cottage industries, village sanitation, education, co-operation, trade and banking, and for deciding civil and criminal suits up to a certain limit, subject only to the general control and technical advice and appellate jurisdiction of District and Provincial officers and Courts of Law."

Since which the following amendment has been moved :

" That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council (a) to immediately rehabilitate in villages within the territories under its direct control the panchayats on an elective system based on a sufficiently broad franchise and equip them with legal powers and funds sufficient for the administration of village concerns, *viz.*, village sanitation, disease of livestock, minor irrigation, forests, cottage industries, primary education, co-operation, petty civil and criminal cases, registration of births,



deaths and marriages and the like, and (b) to formulate in consultation with local Governments and lay down a uniform policy for provincial Governments to build up such autonomous panchayats on an elective basis based upon a sufficiently wide franchise in all the provinces of India (specially where such institutions do not exist), directing the local Governments to appropriate sufficient funds from the Provincial Revenues for such panchayats to function properly and if local Governments are unable to cope with the demands for funds to apportion sufficient funds for the purpose from the Imperial Revenues."

The question I have now to put is that that amendment be made.

The motion was negatived.

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

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

**Mr. President :** I will now put the original Resolution standing in the name of Mr. K. V. Rangaswami Ayyangar.

**Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta** (Bombay City : Non-Muhammadan Urban) : May I be permitted, Sir, to withdraw it. My friend Mr. Rangaswami Ayyangar, when he left for Madras, had authorized me to be in charge of the Resolution with your permission. With the assurance that Sir Frank Noyce has given that he would send copies of the debate to the Provincial Governments for their consideration, I am perfectly satisfied ; and if permission is given to me to withdraw the Resolution, I will withdraw it.

**Mr. President :** The Honourable Member can have permission to move a Resolution according to the Standing Orders.

**Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta :** I am entirely in your hands, Sir.

**Mr. President :** The question I have to put is that the following Resolution be adopted :

" This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that he do appoint a mixed committee of officials and non-officials to examine the rural conditions obtaining in the various Provinces, and to recommend ways and means for establishing in each village, or group of villages with a population of not less than 1,000 inhabitants, an efficient panchayat which will mainly be elected on the adult franchise system, and possess sufficient legal powers and financial resources for administering all village concerns, such as agriculture, minor irrigation and forests, cottage industries, village sanitation, education, co-operation, trade and banking, and for deciding civil and criminal suits up to a certain limit, subject only to the general control and technical advice and appellate jurisdiction of district and provincial officers and courts of law."

The Assembly divided :

AYES—35.

Abdul Matin Chaudhury, Maulvi.  
Abdullah Haji Kasim, Khan Bahadur  
Haji.  
Acharya, Mr. M. K.  
Aney, Mr. M. S.  
Belvi, Mr. D. V.  
Bhargava, Pandit Thakur Das.  
Birla, Mr. Ghanshyam Das.  
Chunder, Mr. N. C.  
Das, Mr. B.  
Das, Pandit Nilakantha.  
Dutt, Mr. Amar Nath.  
Farookhi, Mr. Abdul Latif Saheb.  
Jayakar, Mr. M. B.  
Jogiah, Mr. V. V.  
Kartar Singh, Sardar.  
Kelkar, Mr. N. C.  
Kidwai, Mr. Rafi Ahmad.

Kunzru, Pandit Hirday Nath.  
Mehta, Mr. Jamnadas M.  
Misra, Mr. Dwarka Prasad.  
Mittra, Mr. S. C.  
Moonje, Dr. B. S.  
Mukhtar Singh, Mr.  
Munshi, Mr. Jehangir K.  
Murtuza Saheb Bahadur, Maulvi Sayyid.  
Naidu, Mr. B. P.  
Neogy, Mr. K. C.  
Rang Behari Lal, Lala.  
Rao, Mr. G. Sarvotham.  
Sarda, Rai Sahib Harbilas.  
Shervani, Mr. T. A. K.  
Sinha, Kumar Gangnanand.  
Sinha, Mr. Rajivaraajan Prasad.  
Tok Kyi, U.  
Yusuf Imam, Mr.

## NOES—33.

Abdul Qaiyum, Nawab Sir Sahibzada.  
 Ayangar, Mr. V. K. Aravamudha.  
 Bajpai, Mr. R. S.  
 Booth, Mr. J. R. T.  
 Bower, Mr. E. H. M.  
 Chalmers, Mr. T. A.  
 Cosgrave, Mr. W. A.  
 Covernton, Mr. S. H.  
 Crerar, The Honourable Sir James.  
 Ferrers, Mr. V. M.  
 Hira Singh, Brar, Sardar Bahadur,  
 Honorary Captain.  
 Keane, Mr. M.  
 Lindsay, Sir Darcy.  
 Mitra, The Honourable Sir Bhupendra  
 Nath.  
 Mitter, The Honourable Sir Brojendra.  
 Mukharji, Rai Bahadur A. K.

Mukherjee, Rai Bahadur S. C.  
 Noyce, Sir Frank.  
 Pai, Mr. A. Upendra.  
 Philip, Mr. J. Y.  
 Porter, Lieut.-Colonel L. L.  
 Price, Mr. E. L.  
 Rainy, The Honourable Sir George.  
 Rau, Mr. P. R.  
 Roy, Mr. K. C.  
 Singh, Rai Bahadur S. N.  
 Stevenson, Mr. H. L.  
 Stewart-Smith, Mr. D. C.  
 Sykes, Mr. E. F.  
 Tin Tut, Mr.  
 Tottenham, Mr. G. R. F.  
 Winterbotham, Mr. G. L.  
 Yakub, Maulvi Muhammad.

The motion was adopted.

**Mr. President :** I understand the Honourable Member (Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim) in whose name the next Resolution\* stands does not desire to move it. I, therefore, call upon Mr. Jayakar to move his Resolution.

RESOLUTION *RE* MILITARY SCHOOLS.

**Mr. M. B. Jayakar** (Bombay City : Non-Muhammadan Urban) :  
 Sir, the Resolution that stands in my name runs as follows :

“ This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that the Military Schools that have been started in India for the sons and wards of Indian soldiers and officers of the Army be thrown open to all Indian boys, irrespective of caste, creed or family connections, and that they be allowed admission into such schools subject to their passing the prescribed examination for ascertaining their fitness to be trained for recruitment as non-commissioned officers and for the Viceroy's Commission.”

Sir, at this time of the day, I do not propose to take a long time over this Resolution. The Resolution is perfectly clear. It recommends to the Governor General in Council that the military schools which at present exist in the country for the training and the recruitment of non-commissioned officers and for the Viceroy's Commission, and which have so far been restricted only to certain classes of individuals should be thrown open to all the boys in India. Sir, this Resolution is only another attempt to get for the middle classes of India opportunities of military training. It is a counterpart of other Resolutions which have been moved in this House and under some of which the Indian Sandhurst Committee sat with reference to the training of Commissioned officers. It is a counterpart of that motion. This Resolution is concerned with inferior military officers. Whatever the historical reason for restricting these schools to certain classes might have been at one time, into which I do not propose to go and raise any controversies, it is necessary that they should be thrown open now to all. The Resolution suggests that in the widening and enlargement of a liberal policy which the Government of India should adopt, these schools should be thrown open to all the middle class boys who may wish to qualify themselves.

\*“ This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that he be pleased to abolish the export duty imposed on raw hide in India.”

Viewed as such, I do not think that even the worst opponent of Indian ambitions for military life can say that it is an extravagant claim. The claim, as the Resolution puts it, is a very modest one, and I do not propose to raise any controversy on this question. The basis of that claim is that there exists in this country abundant material for military training. I do not agree with the Government Benches when they say that they do not find cadets for the superior military services in the country. The non-official opinion in India is that there is abundant material and energy in the country which has to be harnessed in order that the defence of the country, when the time comes, may be made more easy. During the short time at my disposal, I shall refrain from doing one thing, namely, going into excursions of my own. I propose to restrict myself to more or less the authoritative opinions which have been expressed by those who made the unanimous report of the Indian Sandhurst Committee. There I am on perfectly safe ground. That Committee, as the House is well aware, went into all the important considerations, although its inquiry related to another purpose, namely, the commissioned ranks of the Army. It has gone into the whole question of military training for Indian boys, and brought up an amount of material which I propose to use for supporting this Resolution. One of the witnesses who was examined before that Committee put forward an aspect of this question which is very material from my point of view. That witness is no less a person than Sir Prabhashankar Pattani, an administrator of a very high order, who at one time was an Executive Councillor of the Bombay Government and who has adorned many administrative offices in Indian States. The Skeen Committee, at page 12 of their Report, state what Sir Prabhashankar Pattani said as regards this aspect of the question, *viz.*, the necessity of developing all the available talent in the country with a view that India should play its proper part as a Member of the Empire. It is stated at page 12 of the Report :

“ Sir Prabhashankar Pattani in his evidence has stated the other and wider aspect of the matter :

‘ My point of view is not from the point of view of Indianisation against Europeanisation. I am only treating it as an Imperial question. It is in the interest of the Empire itself that every component part, every limb of the Empire should be equally strong so that no weak limb or organ, no weak part of the body should be so weak as to hamper the whole of the body in the event of a great danger ’.”

I submit these are very weighty words proceeding from a person who has qualified himself by experience and training to take a dispassionate and large view, not necessarily a political view, but a very comprehensive and national view of the question.

There is another reason which the Skeen Committee referred to in another part of their Report, at page 39, and that is also a very important consideration, to which I invite the attention of the Government of India. The Committee refer to the necessity of harnessing all the Indian talent in this connection in anticipation of a contingency which may arise in case another war breaks out. The Committee recommends that the Government of India should immediately start on a clear policy and take advantage of the material which exists in this country with a view that they may not be found wanting and unprepared when that contingency occurs.

This is what the Skeen Committee say :

“ We think military opinion will agree that it would be an immediate necessity if war on a considerable scale were to break out. If that is so, then it is obvious that

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it would be better to have military colleges already in being and fully organised than to be dependant upon improvisation after the emergency has arisen."

Then going into further details on this question the Report says :

"On these grounds alone we think that it would be in the judgment of many a sound policy to lay the foundations of an Indian military college as soon as possible, and so commence without delay not merely the building of the college structure but the buildings also of the tradition and sentiments which in India as in England would be indispensable to the achievement of success. The process is one which takes time and the start should not be postponed."

This is the opinion of the Skeen Committee, and it is entitled to very great weight.

The next question, which arises and which has often been debated in this House whenever any military question crops up and disappointing answers are given by the Government, is whether the experiments which have been made in this connection so far have been successful. That is certainly a legitimate test to apply, whether the experiments for giving facilities for military training which have so far been made have proved successful, so as to encourage the hope that, if those facilities were increased, better results would follow. On that point again, I have the opinion of the Sandhurst Committee entirely in favour of my view. Referring to this question and the success which the Dehra Dun, Military College, has achieved, this is what the Sandhurst Committee said :

"The success achieved at that institution in developing the qualities specially required in an aspirant to a Commission is amply shown by the records of the Dehra Dun boys who have been at Sandhurst and by the reply of the Commandant of that institution, when asked whether from his point of view any difference was apparent in the outturn of that particular type of institution in India, 'Dehra Dun an easy first, the rest nowhere'."

Therefore I am on entirely safe ground when I say that there is reason to hope that, if the Government of India would courageously march forward and not be restrained by idle fears, the experiment is bound to prove more and more successful.

Speaking of this Dehra Dun institution, Sir, it is the experience of everybody who has anything to do with military education of the young that that institution is too costly for the ordinary middle class Indian on whose behalf my plea is raised. I am asking for cheapening military education. That is one of the objects I have in view. It is the decided opinion of experts that the middle class population of India cannot afford to keep their sons in the Dehra Dun College, though it is situated in India, because the expenses of education in that college are prohibitive. To take the figures which are available in the Skeen Committee's Report it is said that for a soldier who enjoys certain concessions in fees for his children at Dehra Dun the total expense is Rs. 5,000 for educating his son ; for a non-soldier civilian, it is double that amount, i.e., Rs. 10,000. That is only for educating the boy in India. Then when he proceeds to Sandhurst, without doing which his education is not complete, the expense is Rs. 7,000 for a soldier who gets a concession, and Rs. 11,000 for a civilian who does not get any concession. Therefore, for a civilian, the total expense of educating his son so as to get a Commission will be Rs. 21,000, minimum, and for a soldier it will be Rs. 12,000, minimum. I ask my Honourable friends to realise how many people in India can afford to put their children at Sandhurst or at Dehra Dun. Therefore my plea is that a cheaper method ought to be

found by throwing open all the schools, where education can be more cheaply given.

Another reason which is very weighty in my opinion and to which I wish to invite the attention of the Government of India is that the facilities and opportunities of training young Indians in England by their very nature are limited. Honourable Members are aware that it is the apprehension of the universities and colleges in England, even on matters not connected with military questions, and in places like Oxford and Cambridge, that by an inundation of Indian students in a particular college, the characteristics and the atmosphere of that college would be destroyed. Every college can therefore only take a certain minimum amount of foreign material. If it proceeds beyond that minimum, there is a danger of the atmosphere of that college losing its traditional characteristics. This may be a wrong or right view,—I am not concerned with that. But the rule exists under which only a few Indian students can find accommodation in English colleges and schools. So great an authority as the Skeen Committee, sympathetic as it was to Indian wishes and aspirations, had to take serious note of this view. This is what that Committee stated at page 39 of their Report :

“ In every educational institution there comes a time when the authorities responsible for its efficiency must decide to set a limit to the further acceptance of foreign students for fear lest the character of the institution may be changed. This point of view was clearly expressed in 1921 by Sir Theodore Morrison, K.C.S.I., Principal of the Armstrong College,”

He stated :

“ I beg the Committee to realise that no university can absorb more than a limited, and rather small number of foreign students. A university is a corporate body with traditions and a certain characteristic tone. It has a personality which is distinctive, of which it is proud and which it desires to retain. This personality would be destroyed or distorted by the influx of a large number of strangers and no university would tolerate this transformation.”

This is the prevailing view in England. Honourable Members who are concerned with sending their sons to England are aware of the great difficulty they find in getting admission into a good school or college, the plea always being that no school or college in England can afford to take beyond a certain minimum number of Indian students. I am not at the present moment concerned to characterise this claim as just or otherwise ; but it does exist, and it is a powerful plea urged on behalf of British universities and colleges and it has found a place even in the sympathetic Report of the Indian Sandhurst Committee. Now, the percentage which the British universities and colleges will accept is 5 per cent. of Indian students in a college, 30 cadets at Sandhurst, 12 at Woolwich. The House can well imagine therefore what a small percentage of Indian military students can be absorbed in English schools and colleges. A vast amount of material has therefore to be trained in this country. Consequently, I submit that if the Government of India do really intend to prepare India for taking up her own defence, as they must some time do,—it lies in the hands of the Government of India to delay or accelerate that day—wisdom requires that the beginning should be made at once. It should not be delayed, otherwise we may come to a catastrophe when India may find herself absolutely unprepared for an emergency. This demand has gone up from the non-official Benches from time to time ; it has no doubt so far fallen on unwilling and deaf ears. It has been urged by the Indian National Congress for forty years. For forty years the cry has gone up that there is plenty of fighting material in this country ; we have here so many tribes, so

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many races who have spent their whole life-time in fighting. Government are not here dealing with uncivilized or uncultured races amongst whom the tradition for fighting cannot be said to exist. Government are dealing with a country which has got a great military past. And yet we find that the Government of India are still unwilling to face the issue. One has only to refer to the answers that Mr. Tottenham gives every day to non-official questions. Still the Government of India are fighting shy of the problem. They ignore the great problem before them—and I say that that is the problem of problems—how to intertwine the ambitions of the middle classes with the military defence of the country. It is no use Government saying “Oh, we give facilities to a few loyal and soldierly families.” That is only a part of the question; the more important part is now that large middle class, from which the educated community comes, can be trained for military careers. That is the great problem before the Government of India; and the sooner they apply their mind to it the better for the Government and for the defence of the country.

In a somewhat pessimistic tone, the Skeen Committee note the several attempts which have been made by non-official Indian opinion to obtain recognition of this view. I say in a somewhat pessimistic tone, because the Skeen Committee, after noticing all that had been done for so many years by Indian Nationalists, express their opinion in the following terms, (page 6) :

“For more than forty years the exponents of the political and national aspirations of the Indian people had demanded insistently on the platform of the Indian National Congress and elsewhere that the Indians should be given an opportunity of service in the Indian Army equal to those enjoyed by their British fellow-subjects. But this demand has so far met with no substantial response from Government.”

That, Sir, is the decided opinion of the Skeen Committee, which cannot be described as a body of political agitators.

To note, for the benefit of my Honourable friends, only three instances of these demands which are the most recent, I may remind the Honourable Members that the predecessor of this House in 1921 passed a very important Resolution on the 28th March. Honourable Members are aware that that House was very different in constitution, personnel and temper from this House. That House was far more friendly to Government than this House can be under present conditions. Even that House passed a Resolution in 1921—the date seems almost ante-diluvian and that Resolution has not at all been carried out by the Government of India. That was a Resolution moved from the same point of view from which my Resolution is being moved today, namely, to harness and utilize the traditional military talent of the middle classes in this country. I will only read the material part of that Resolution for the information of this House. Resolution No. 7, passed on the 28th March, 1921 :

“This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that the King Emperor's Indian subjects should be freely admitted to all arms of His Majesty's military, naval and air forces in India and the ancillary services and the auxiliary forces,—and that every encouragement should be given to Indians, including the educated middle classes, subject to the prescribed standards of fitness, to enter the Commissioned ranks of the Army.”

I do not want to go into other details. Honourable Members who are curious will find the terms of that Resolution fully set out at page 7 of the Skeen Committee's Report. Government have so far taken no notice

of the requirements of that Resolution, although the matter is nearly eight years old. Somewhat impatient, the same House passed, on the 4th July, 1923, another Resolution asking the Government to give effect to its previous Resolution. When that was not done, ultimately on the 19th February, 1925, a Resolution was passed by the successor of that House by which the Indian Sandhurst Committee was appointed. On that Committee sat many important men, who cannot be described as anti-government. They made a unanimous Report and that Report has been before the Government for a long time and the Government have taken practically no action on that. Therefore, Sir, the time has now come when, once more, the attention of the Government should be drawn to this question, at least so far as the non-commissioned ranks and the Viceroy's Commission are concerned. I am therefore asking them to throw open all military schools which have so far been restricted only to certain classes. I have purposely avoided expressing any adverse or condemnatory opinion upon the policy of Government in restricting admission to these schools so far. After all, I am very glad that at least one section of Indians, of loyal and military antecedents, should have received the benefit of these schools. I have no quarrel with the policy which Government have followed so far. I am concerned with the future, and I want to carry the Government with me, if I can, if at all the Government is capable of being carried with us on military questions. I have therefore put my plea in a very moderate way in order that it should find acceptance at the hands of Government. I am not however sure whether I shall succeed. Sir, I move.

**Mr. President :** There are two amendments on the paper, one by Dr. Moonje and the other by Mr. Misra. I am not quite sure whether those amendments are not outside the scope of the original Resolution and therefore I should like to hear the Honourable Members if they have got to say anything. At the same time I should like to express an opinion that Members had better confine themselves to the one issue raised by Mr. Jayakar.

**Dr. B. S. Moonje (Nagpur Division : Non-Muhammadan) :** Sir, the object of the Resolution is to have military schools for the training of the Indian boys....

**Mr. President :** To throw open the present schools to boys of all classes and communities.

**Dr. B. S. Moonje :** There are two schools at present in India already established, and therefore my first view was to throw open these schools to the public. Afterwards I learned, in reply to certain questions asked this morning, that Government do not intend to throw open those schools to the public, and therefore, desiring not to leave any loophole to the Government to escape their responsibility, I thought at the last moment of giving notice of this amendment, so that that amendment might be added at the end of the original Resolution. Through a little oversight, it was put down as an amendment that was to be substituted for the original Resolution ; but the intention was that, if the Government were to make it an excuse,—in order that there might be no loophole—this amendment might be added at the end of the Resolution. I should like to know the position of the Government in this matter before deciding whether I should insist upon the amendment or not.

**Mr. President :** There is no question of his insisting on his amendment : the question is whether the Honourable Member's amendment is in order.

**Dr. B. S. Moonje :** As I have said, the object of the original Resolution was to have military schools for the training of Indian boys, and I believe if this amendment is added at the end of the Resolution it will be perfectly in order.

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham (Army Secretary) :** Sir, our view in this matter is that we ought to go strictly by the rules and Standing Orders of the House. The rules lay down that a Resolution shall raise substantially one definite issue, and the Standing Orders also lay down that an amendment to be in order must come within the scope of the original Resolution. Now, the scope of the Resolution as proposed by the Honourable the Mover is simply whether certain military schools which are now reserved for particular classes should be thrown open to the general public. That, Sir, is the issue before the House, and it seems to me that the amendment which my Honourable friend wishes to move raises an entirely different issue which relates to the question of starting more schools either of the same character as the existing schools or possibly of a somewhat different character. I must say that it seems hardly fair either to Government or to other Honourable Members who have succeeded in drawing later Resolutions in the ballot that the scope of this very restricted Resolution should be enlarged in this way.

**Mr. President :** How is it unfair to Government ?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham :** In this way, Sir. We do not know what form of schools my Honourable friend Dr. Moonje has in mind, and it is difficult therefore to prepare our replies.

**Mr. President :** When was this amendment on paper ?

**Dr. B. S. Moonje :** Three days ago.

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham :** I received notice of this amendment late on Saturday night, but I do want to make it clear that Government have no desire to stifle discussion on this important matter or to shirk the issue in any way. I am quite prepared, when my time comes, to give a statement of the views of Government on this important matter and to indicate to what extent Government will be able to meet the wishes of Honourable Members opposite. But I would suggest, Sir, that it would be better if the amendment on the paper were not moved and if Honourable Members so wish, they might bring out the points they have to make in their speeches without moving a formal amendment which seems to be in contravention of the rules and Standing Orders.

**Pandit Hirdaynath Kunzru (Agra Division : Non-Muhammadan Rural) :** Sir, perhaps the difficulty which confronts you in this connection is this. The Resolution moved by my friend Mr. Jayakar asks that boys in general should be allowed to be trained in the military schools at Jhelum and Jullundur in order that their fitness may be ascertained for recruitment as non-commissioned officers and Viceroy's Commissioned officers. Dr. Moonje's amendment, on the other hand, asks for the establishment of a military school where Indian boys between the ages of 12 and 18 years could be given military training. At first sight, Sir, it seems as if the two purposes are entirely different, but it must be remembered that the military schools at Jhelum and Jullundur receive boys at tender ages....

**Mr. President :** Not between 12 and 18 ?



**Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru :** Much earlier than 12. I further think that all the boys who are trained there cannot be absorbed in the Army either as non-commissioned officers or as Viceroy's Commissioned officers. Therefore, it is clear that the principal object of the Resolution moved by Mr. Jayakar is that opportunities should be given to Indian boys in general and not merely to the sons of Indian officers for receiving military training.....

**Mr. President :** That is not the object. The object is quite clear. One definite issue has been raised that the existing schools should be thrown open to all classes of people.

**Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru :** The only point that remains to be considered, in my opinion, is whether it would be proper to move an amendment to Mr. Jayakar's Resolution asking that if the present schools cannot be thrown open to boys in general, other schools should be started for the purpose.

**Mr. President :** That is a different proposition. You may move another Resolution for that purpose, but you cannot have it in this Resolution.

**Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru :** We are all of course subject to the ruling given by you, but it seems to me that the object of both the Resolutions being general training, it ought to be permissible for us to say at this stage that if Government find some difficulty in throwing open the schools at Jhelum and Jullundur to boys in general, they should start other schools which will have the same purpose in view.

**Mr. President (to Mr. Tottenham) :** Perhaps the Honourable Member has no objection if Honourable Members in their speeches refer to that matter ?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham :** Not at all.

**Mr. President :** That settles the question. Dr. Moonje can speak on the original Resolution and can refer to these matters without moving his amendment.

**Dr. B. S. Moonje :** Sir, My object in moving such a Resolution and also in giving notices of Bills for compulsory military training and rifle practice has been described in greater detail in one of my speeches in this House. In short, the world situation as regards the defence of a country has so changed, that if India wants to remain unaffected by foreign aggression, she has to be prepared for her defence. That is one point. The second point is that the Government must understand now that the changes in the world situation have been great that if they think that in the event of another emergency occurring just as it occurred 10 or 12 years ago, the British people alone, without the trained co-operation of the Indian intelligentsia, will be able to cope with the defence as they have been able to do in the past, they are entirely mistaken. That is my second point. It is, therefore, why I thought it wise often and often to bring this subject forward on the floor of this House. My idea is that every attempt must be made to make India self-sufficient and self-contained, so that.....

**Mr. President :** The Honourable Member is raising a wider issue. The question is whether the existing schools should be thrown open to all classes.

**Dr. B. S. Moonje :** I am just coming to the point raised by Mr. Tottenham as to what forms of schools we want. The forms of schools that we want for the training of our boys could not be better described than what have been established in certain countries of the world. I take Japan as my model. The social conditions in Japan were almost identical with the social conditions of India, and I take their school as a model because knowing their own social disabilities, they have taken very intensive measures to convert the whole nation into a military nation. I may say, here in brief, what those methods were by which Japan turned out to be a first class military power. The military education in Japan is organised as follows :

“ Military preparatory schools located at Tokyo, Heroshima and Mumamoto are the lowest ladder in the scale of education for candidates aspiring to become officers. .... ”.

**Mr. President :** I think the Honourable Member is going far beyond the necessities of the case. The question of the defence of India as a whole is not raised by this Resolution. It is a very simple issue, viz., whether the existing schools should be thrown open to all classes of boys, and I think the Honourable Member is not justified in traversing beyond that.

**Dr. B. S. Moonje :** We have found it difficult to fill up the very few vacancies for the King's Commissions in the Army that are thrown open yearly for Indians, and the complaint generally is that the boys that appear at the competitive examinations are not the right sort of boys. We might differ in that, but at least the contention on the part of the Government is that the boys that appear for these competitive examinations are not of the right sort. We do not want to provide an excuse to the Government to say, after these schools are thrown open, that the boys who appear at these examinations are not suitable. There are no schools available at present in India for the training of all classes of Indians and the only schools that are before my eyes are those at Jhelum and Jullundur. Therefore, unless Government are prepared to take a broader view and to say, that, if these schools cannot be thrown open to the public, they are prepared to start one model school at least for the whole of India, so that the provinces may follow their example—I think that our exercise of the right that has been given to us of competing for the King's Commissions in the Army will fail to achieve its end and there will always be a standing grievance or complaint on both sides—the Government complaining that boys of the right sort are not available and the people complaining that even though the boys are fit for Commissions, the selecting officers do not think that they are the right sort of people that ought to go up for these competitive examinations. It is for these reasons that I had given notice of the amendment that in case the Government feel difficulty in throwing open the military schools at Jhelum and Jullundur to the public the Government should start a model military school at an early date for Indian boys, irrespective of their caste creed or previous family connections with the army, to serve as a model to follow to the Provincial Governments. In short, I may say, that we want Government military schools for the training of our boys, whatever they may be. I hope that the Government will feel inclined to help us and co-operate with us in organising national defence and in establishing a system of military education in India with its own traditions and its own curriculum of education. With these few words I support the Resolution.

**Mr. M. S. Aney** (Berar Representative) : It is a pity that the Resolution, as it is moved, is circumscribed in its scope and that the broader question cannot be discussed. I shall confine myself only to that narrow aspect of the case which is under discussion now. In the first place, I should like to know what is the reason for the Government to initiate military training only for certain classes of boys and not keep the two existing institutions open to all boys who can avail themselves of that training. That is my first question to the Honourable the Army Secretary. The idea in making a limited start of that character seems to be that Government will not be able to find, in other classes, boys competent enough to take advantage of the military training. Unless there is that idea underlying the Government's policy, there is no meaning in the fact that in the two schools which they have started admission should be strictly restricted to boys of particular officers only. It is not true that because certain persons have had the advantage of working as officers in the Army for some time therefore their progeny would be fit for taking up a military career. That sort of proposition does not appeal to me, and it ought not to appeal to anybody who has studied the military traditions of the Indian people as a whole. There are other people in this country who have had a brilliant record of a military career in their past history and if proper avenues for military training are given to these classes, there will be no dearth of candidates who will be fit for recruitment as commissioned officers or officers getting the Viceroy's Commission. If we really want to have our Army officered by Indians, it is necessary that Indians of all classes should be admitted into these schools, and unless the Government have got any serious objection to the admission of other classes of boys, there is no reason why they should not accept this Resolution. The burden of proof is really on the Government to show what is the proper reason for their confining the scope of admission to boys coming from particular classes only. It is the taxpayer that is spending the money on these schools, and that money should be utilised as far as possible without prejudice to any class of the Indian population as such. Military training is a necessity not only for the sons of those who have served or are at present serving in the Army, but it is a necessity, in my opinion, for every future citizen of this country. Of course, Government cannot make provision for every body today and the Resolution also does not throw that burden upon Government. It makes a very modest demand, and I believe that, if the existing two institutions could be broadened by Government so as to allow for the admission of a large number of boys of other classes out of whom they can have a reasonable number of recruits which they want every year, Government will find, in the near future, that they will have to start similar institutions in other parts of India to satisfy the growing requirements of military training in this country. The charge that the people of this country are not generally fit for a military career holds good today because of the restricted opportunities which the Government have created in the country in the matter of military training and military careers, and the Resolution is intended not only to secure admission of boys of other classes to these two institutions but also to prove, within a short time, that this country has really got abundant materials which can be worked up into military officers of the proper type. With these words I support the Resolution.

**Sardar Bahadur Honorary Captain Hira Singh, Brar** (Punjab : Nominated Non-Official) : Sir, in my humble opinion the Honourable

[Sardar Bahadur Honorary Captain Hira Singh, Brar.]

Mr. Jayakar moves this Resolution from the wrong end. These two schools at Jhelum and Jullundur were opened as a war memorial in order that the sons of those Indian officers and non-commissioned officers who were actually killed on active service might be given education. In other words they may be called charitable military schools. Now, I may be asked what sort of war services were rendered by the fathers of these boys in the schools at Jhelum and Jullundur. The parents of these boys were actually killed on active service. To throw open these schools to other boys seems to me rather a difficult question. If the Honourable Member had asked that more schools of this type should be started under the supervision of experts, that would have been more suitable. I was a member of the Skeen Committee. We found that no preparatory schools existed in India for feeding the recruitment to the King's Commission. Dehra Dun is the only one and it is not the sort of thing my Honourable friend Mr. Jayakar wants.

**Mr. President :** Mr. Jayakar ?

**Sardar Bahadur Honorary Captain Hira Singh, Brar :** In the first place many Honourable Members in this House do not know how the Indian Army is constituted and how it is recruited. The present scheme for providing an opening for the boys in these schools is very unsatisfactory. I doubt myself if these boys will be received later on in the Indian Army. It is 15 years ago now when their fathers or near relations were killed on active service. Since then a long time has passed, and there has been a great change in the Indian Army. Probably when these boys join, they will not find any British or Indian officer who knew their fathers. To put in outside men into the Indian regiments as non-commissioned officers would create a lot of discontent and resentment. To talk about giving them the Viceroy's Commission is a long way yet. If you put into a Rajput Regiment a non-commissioned officer who does not belong to the same class, I wonder how it will be received by the rank and file. I do not think the outside boys will be received with great enthusiasm. The rank and file will not like it, because the soldiers already in service expect their promotion. However, that is a matter for the authorities to decide. To put in any other class of boys as non-commissioned officers or Viceroy's commissioned officers in the Rajput, Gurkha, Pathan or Sikh regiments is absolutely out of the question.

**Diwan Chaman Lall** (West Punjab : Non-Muhammadan) : Why ?

**Sardar Bahadur Honorary Captain Hira Singh, Brar :** I will tell you. I think, then, it will be better if the constitution of the Army is changed. If you try to persuade the Army Council in India and in England to change the constitution of the Army, then will be the time to bring such a Resolution as that moved by my Honourable friend Mr. Jayakar.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** There will be no necessity then.

**Sardar Bahadur Honorary Captain Hira Singh, Brar :** I do not know who can change the constitution of the Army. I do not think the Government of India can change it. Suppose the Indian Army is organised for A, B, C and D, and you want to shove in X, Y and Z, how are you going to do that ? It is meant for A, B, C and D.

**Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta** (Bombay City : Non-Muhammadan Urban) : Very good reasoning !

**Sardar Bahadur Honorary Captain Hira Singh, Brar** : The reasoning is here. You want to keep the discipline of the Army. When you are in the Army, you know what the difficulties are in the caste battalions. You have to win the confidence of the soldiers. These two schools are worked on a class platoon system—so many Mussulman platoons send their boys to Jhelum, so many Dogra platoons to Jullundur and so on. These schools are not meant to take outsiders. The admission to these schools of outsiders would not do any good. How are you going to fit them in ? There is no room there. Everything is cut and dried—so many Indian officers, so many Mussulman officers, so many Rajputs and so on. If the Government can increase the number of non-commissioned officers and Viceroy's commissioned officers, then surely you can put in the other classes. But if that cannot be done, then this Resolution cannot be given effect to. As for the new preparatory schools, I believe my Honourable friend, the Army Secretary, will be prepared to supply the staff for these preparatory schools, but that is a provincial concern. That is what is my experience. (*Mr. K. C. Roy* : "What do these schools teach ?") They teach a little drill, the A. B. C., of reading and writing, mathematics, a little geography, a little about their country, a little about their forefathers' traditions—things which may be useful to them in the Army. I do not find myself, Sir, in a position to support this Resolution, and with these words I oppose the motion.

4 P.M.

**Pandit Dwaka Prasad Misra** (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, in view of the fact that you have ruled Dr. Moonje's amendment to this Resolution out of order, I feel that my amendment is much more objectionable, and therefore, I shall content myself with making a few observations on the Resolution moved by my Honourable friend from Bombay. To me, Sir, the essential point in that Resolution seems to be the emphatic protest that it has entered against the new system of caste which has come into existence during the British regime. As for the speech of my Honourable friend, Captain Hira Singh who has just resumed his seat, I only take that to be a speech made by a Member of the Military caste for the preservation of his own caste in this country. (Hear, hear.) I do not think the House should attach any more importance to it. Sir, this division of Indian society into military and non-military classes has produced two evils in this country. The first and more obvious evil is that it has been sapping the manhood of India all these years, and the speeches of my Honourable friends, Mr. Jayakar and Dr. Moonje have drawn pointed attention to it. My purpose, in rising to speak in support of this Resolution, is to focus the attention of this House on another aspect of the evil, less obvious but even more injurious to the future of the country. If we exclude about 60,000 British soldiers from the Indian Army, we find that this Army is composed of about 1,60,000 Indian soldiers. If we scrutinise these figures on "provincial basis" we find that about three-fifths of these soldiers are recruited from the province of the Punjab. To some Honourable Members, on the first sight, this may appear a small thing, but I would like the House to realise that if we are really to have democratic self-government in this country it would be impossible without democratic self-defence. If our friends on the Treasury Benches are really sincere to the promise made by England

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in the year 1917, by which we find them swearing piously in season and out of season, I say, Sir, it is for them to democratise the national defence of this country. It may be said that other provinces of India are not martial enough to furnish their quota to the Indian Army, I emphatically deny this charge.

**Mr. President :** The Honourable Member is talking on the general question of the defence of India ; he is not talking on this Resolution.

**Pandit Dwarka Prasad Misra :** I think, Sir, I am confining myself most strictly to the Resolution of my Honourable friend, and I am only pointing out another aspect of the evil to which our attention has been drawn by the Mover.

Sir, my Honourable friends from the Punjab may feel that my suggestions will affect adversely the interests of the people of the Punjab, but I would like to say to my Honourable friends coming from the Punjab, that even in the real interests of the Punjab, this evil must be remedied. The population of the Punjab, Sir, is only about one-fourteenth of the population of India, and the Punjab lies today, as it always lay, on the direct route of the possible invaders. I, therefore, repeat that the interests of the Punjab as well as of the whole country demand that this provincial disproportion in the Army should be remedied. Now, Sir, the only way to remedy this evil is to abolish this new caste system of military and non-military people which has been introduced by our present rulers. The day that we abolish this division of Indian society into military and non-military classes, that very day the Indian Army will begin to be democratised, and we will find men coming from all the provinces to play their part in national defence. Sir, it is by now quite obvious that the majority of Honourable Members in this House welcome the first step in social reform taken by Government. May I hope that the Government will prove their sincerity by taking another step in the matter of this social evil by throwing open the doors of Jhelum and Jullundur Military Schools to the general public and abolish this new caste system which denies a military career to the vast majority of the Indian population ? With these few words, Sir, I support the Resolution of my Honourable friend, Mr. Jayakar, which seeks to remedy the evil to the extent its scope permits it to do.

**Lieut.-Colonel L. L. Porter (Madras : European) :** Sir (Applause). I should like to say a few words with reference to the formation of these schools. There is no doubt that the two schools that now exist, the one at Jhelum and the other at Jullundur, are entirely for the use of the sons and relations of men who served as soldiers during the Great War, and I do not see how these schools could be opened to anybody else. All the same, Sir, I think the idea of starting schools on somewhat the same lines as these schools is a very sound one (Applause.) There is no doubt that, if you want to create a class of men of the same physique and the same stamp that have served in the Indian Army, it will not do to put the boys into school and educate them only in books ; I think that if a school of this type were started, very great stress during the education of the boys will have to be laid upon the physical part of the training. As far as I understand, in these two schools, the one at Jhelum and the one at Jullundur, the boys are taken in from the ages of ten to sixteen and they

are given practically a sound literary education which qualifies them to earn their promotion if they eventually go into the Army, or such education as, if they do not go into the Army, is going to be of use to them, and also that a certain number of the staff in these schools is of a military character. With regard to the training of other races in India for military service, I do not see, Sir, why this should not be done, or why any distinction should be made.

There are no doubt certain difficulties that must arise when you start a school and where you have men perhaps of different castes in the same school whom it may be very difficult to closely associate together. It might, therefore, possibly be necessary to start schools down in other parts of India, which would not exactly be caste schools, but where there would be some division of a local kind between men of different castes. If the schools were to be started and the boys in these schools were well and physically trained, then I think the next step towards starting military education and training in the country would be perhaps to start cadet corps. If a cadet corps was started for boys, say of over 16 years of age, then these cadet corps could be attached to Territorial Battalions. (Hear, hear.) If this was done, the cadets from the school would be attached to a Territorial Battalion, which probably is very largely formed out of men from their own district or their own part of the country ; so that a great many difficulties which would arise if boys were to be sent to a great distance for training from one province to another would be overcome.

With regard to the physical training, which I think is the chief part of all military education, that is to say, to turn out hefty fellows to undertake military service, it might, of course, be made compulsory on very much the same lines as it was in my own old days when I was at school in England. The compulsion there was probably of a different sort from what we find now. If we did not roll up say to football, we got the stick. It worked well and I do not think it was objectionable. I do think that to these schools would have to be attached some sort of men with military training who would be able to keep discipline going in the schools. I also think that some care would have to be taken in choosing athletic instructors, who would teach these boys not only the physical training but the games which form so very large a part of physical training. That is all I have to say on this Resolution.

**Sardar Kartar Singh** (East Punjab : Sikh) : Sir, I am sorry that I have to oppose this Resolution. This Resolution is very unhappily worded, and I do not think that it conveys and will carry out the object of my Honourable friend Mr. Jayakar. The reason for restricting these schools to the sons of the Indian soldiers and military officers was that they had shed their blood in the Great War. These schools were opened at a time when the Government wanted to reward these ex-soldiers, and it is not dignified on the part of the Members of this House to grudge the favour shown to the sons of Indian soldiers and military officers. There are at present only two schools—one at Jhelum and the other at Jullundur. They are hardly sufficient to meet the needs of the sons of the Indian soldiers and Indian military officers. If these schools were to be thrown open to all the people of India, then it would mean that we would deprive the sons of Indian soldiers from getting admission into them. I do not



[Sardar Kartar Singh.]

think that that is the object of my Honourable friend in moving this Resolution. He does not want that the sons of Indian soldiers should be deprived of the present privilege and should not be admitted into these schools. What he wants is that some more schools should be opened. He should have framed his Resolution in such a form, therefore, that the Government would have been induced to open more schools in different parts of the country, so that the sons of all Indians might get a chance of getting military training. The language which my friend has adopted for wording his Resolution is not good. It will not be effective ; it will not give a chance to all the Indians to send their sons to these schools because the accommodation there is limited, and only a very few boys will get the chance of joining them. And the result of the admission of these boys would be that the sons of the Indian soldiers and ex-military officers who have shed their blood, who have lost their arms and legs, in the Great War would be deprived of their rewards. These schools were opened as a reward for the services done by the military people. Supposing the Government, instead of opening these schools, had given a larger amount of pensions to these military soldiers and officers, so that they might educate their sons, would my friend then have said : " Do not give them this extra pension " ? This is a part of the reward for service which they rendered during the war, and we should not grudge it.

My friend Mr. Misra said that there was a class war. I do not agree with him there. It is simply a means of rewarding the services done by the fathers and relations of these students. Sir, the time has come when the Government should open more schools and should give a chance to Indians for military training in order that they may be able to qualify themselves for military service. But, Sir, the Resolution will not give the Indians this chance and I submit that my friend should withdraw it and bring forward another Resolution in the form which was suggested by my friend Dr. Moonje. That is the sort of Resolution which would have the support of the whole House, but the Resolution as it stands now cannot have the support of the whole House because, by passing it, you are forcing the hands of the Government of India to deprive certain people of their rightful due. I submit, Sir, that this House should be the last to adopt such a course. My friend, Colonel Porter, said that it is not easy to get qualified and physically fit boys for these schools. Sir, the sons of military soldiers have got this advantage that they do possess good physique and consequently they are better fitted to join these schools. The sons of other people also can qualify themselves and can get military training and also can acquire good physique if they are properly trained. But there are 33 crores of people inhabiting India and I do not think that these two schools would be sufficient to accommodate them. So, our demand should be that several such schools should be opened for our boys. Therefore, I oppose the Resolution because it is not happily worded, and is liable to give an impression to Indian soldiers and military officers that the Members of this House feel jealous of them and grudge the favour shown to their sons.

**Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham :** Sir, I am labouring under two disadvantages. The first is that this is the first occasion on which I have ever attempted to make a serious speech, either in this House or anywhere else. Here, however, I feel sure that I can rely on the indulgence of the House. My



second difficulty is perhaps even greater. As I said just now, the form of the Resolution left no doubt whatever in my mind as to what the intention was, and it seemed to me that it would not be very difficult to deal with. The trend of the debate, however, has shown that what Honourable Members really have at heart is a matter that goes considerably beyond the scope of the actual wording of the Resolution, and there has been a desire to discuss wider issues. The Honourable the Mover of the motion took up most of his speech in referring to the recommendations of the Skeen Committee, the success that the college at Dehra Dun had attained, the expenses of Dehra Dun, the expenses of Sandhurst and the difficulties of education at Home for Indians. He also referred to certain Resolutions which were passed by this House in 1921 and subsequently, and to other matters of that kind, all of which relate primarily to the question of the method by which Indians of all castes and creeds should enter the commissioned ranks of every branch of the Army. That, Sir, is quite a different matter and a much larger matter.

**Mr. M. R. Jayakar :** My Honourable friend has misunderstood the trend of my argument. I did not refer to a single recommendation as such of the Skeen Committee. I used only the opinions of that Committee for the purpose of proving that the time has come when military training ought to be cheaply provided for the middle classes of India.

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham :** I quite realise that. I perfectly understood the intention of the Honourable Member's speech, and I hope I shall give him some satisfaction. I was merely pointing out that the debate had gone into wider channels than I had originally anticipated. I do, as I said before, want to give the House the impression that Government are distinctly sympathetic in this matter, and it will be my honest endeavour to give the House an explanation of the existing facts and an indication of what the Government can do to meet what we think to be the wishes of the House.

The Resolution proposes that certain schools which are now reserved for the sons of Indian officers and men should be thrown open to Indians of all castes and creeds, irrespective of family connections and so on ; and my first duty is to explain why it is that the Government of India regret that they cannot accept this Resolution, as it stands. As certain Honourable Members have already said, there are only two military schools in India which answer the description given in the Resolution. Those schools have only been in existence for the past four or five years. Before that, there were no schools at all. They are entirely an innovation. These schools are the King George's Royal Military Schools at Jhelum and Jullundur. There are no other schools which have been started for the purpose of training the sons of Indian officers and men for entry into the non-commissioned and Viceroy's commissioned ranks of the Army. The Dehra Dun College, to which the Honourable the Mover and other Honourable Members have referred, is quite a different institution, which is already open to Indians of all castes and creeds, irrespective of their family connections. Therefore, I take it that we are strictly concerned only with the King George's schools at Jhelum and Jullundur. These schools are entirely military schools. They are run by Army officers ; they are paid for from Army funds ; the boys there are the sons of Indian officers and men, and the boys themselves are under an obligation to join the Army when they leave the school. There is no question, as my Honourable friend Pandit

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Hirday Nath Kunzru seems to think, that some of these boys will not be taken into the Army after they pass out. Every boy at the King George's schools at Jullundur and Jhelum must go into the Army. He is under an obligation to do so.

Now, I may say that the Army is proud of these two schools, and I think we are rightly proud of them. As I have said, they were started some four or five years ago. The first generation of boys has not yet passed out of them, but they have proved a success already, and I may repeat here an invitation that has been given before on the floor of this House. Government are anxious that Honourable Members of this House should go and visit these schools and see the good work that they are doing. If any Honourable Member would like to do so, we shall be glad to make all arrangements for him. I am glad that my Honourable friend Dr. Moonje is going to pay a visit to these schools in the very near future. I wish he had done so before.

Now, it may interest Honourable Members to hear certain facts about these schools. There has been, I think, a little misapprehension about them. The Jhelum school is confined to Pathans, Baluchis and Punjabi Muhammadans. The Jullundur school is confined to Sikhs, Dogras and Punjabi Hindus. Both these schools have just reached their full strength; Jhelum, 330 and Jullundur, 244. The Jhelum school cost six lakhs to build and the Jullundur school cost about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  lakhs. Each of them costs about Rs. 80,000 a year to run, irrespective of the cost of maintaining the buildings. There is no entrance examination for these schools. The boys are taken in at an early age, at the age of 10 to 11, by nomination from the units concerned. They remain in the school for five years. The literary education given in the school, as I explained this morning, has nothing military about it whatever. It is simply a general education up to the ordinary eighth standard, and the final examination of the school is equivalent to the "vernacular final" examination. On leaving the school the boys are under an obligation to join the units which have nominated them, and thereafter their progress in the Army is entirely a matter of merit. But, of course, we do hope that the education they have received will help them towards early advancement, including the grant of the Viceroy's Commission at an early age, selection later on to be sent to the newly opened Kitchner College at Nowgong and possibly later still selection for the annual batch of Viceroy's Commissioned officers who are sent Home at Government expense to Sandhurst, as what is known as "Y" cadets, with a view to obtaining the King's Commission. I might add that the fees at the schools are extremely low—they are only Rs. 7/8/0 a month and, in many cases, the boys get in entirely free. As I have said already, the boys are not taught any specifically military subjects, such as military science, tactics, surveying and so on. They are too young for that. That will come later on. But the most important feature of all is the tone and the spirit of the school. The whole system of discipline, the whole atmosphere and the combined efforts of the staff are all directed towards the development of character, initiative, smartness, self-reliance and all the qualities which go to make a good soldier and an efficient leader of men. The success of the schools in this respect is rendered possible largely on account of the fact that they are boarding schools and not day schools.

Now, Sir, I have yet to show why it is that these particular schools cannot be thrown open to the general public. The immediate reason is that they are definitely war memorials. They are the most fitting tribute that the Army could devise to the memory of those Indian officers and men who gave their lives for their country—and for my country also—in the Great War.

**Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya** (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Are only the sons of those who died in the War admitted ?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham** : The buildings were constructed from a fund which owes its existence to the generosity of the Princes and Ruling Chiefs of India.

**Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya** : Are only the sons of those officers who died in the War admitted into these schools ?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham** : No, Sir ; the sons of officers or soldiers who are serving in the Army are admitted.

**Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya** : How is it a war memorial then of the limited character you claim it to be ?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham** : The point is that the schools themselves are a memorial to those who died in the war. The buildings were paid for out of a fund which was collected as a war fund for that purpose. I feel sure that the House will respect the objects to which that fund was devoted, and I hope that they will agree that the character of these particular schools should remain as it is.

Now, Sir, if that is accepted by the House, I have actually disposed of the narrowest interpretation of the Resolution, but I am conscious of a feeling that I have not said enough. The fact that these schools are war memorials and therefore cannot be thrown open to the general public does not really answer the wider criticism of our policy, that is to say, our Army policy, of confining our schools to the sons of soldiers. It is true, Sir, that the Army contemplate extending these schools as and when funds permit, and I have already shown that they are by no means cheap. Our intention is very shortly to open a school for Jats and Rajputs ; we hope later on to open a school for Mahrattas in Bombay and so on ; and our hope eventually is that we shall have about a thousand boys under education in schools of this kind, but of course boys drawn from the classes which are recruited at present for the Army. That, Sir, I think is a programme on which we may have just cause for congratulating ourselves in the Army when we complete it. But I am still aware that it does not meet the wishes of my Honourable friends opposite. They want us to open schools for those who are not at present recruited for the Army. Well, Sir, I should like the House for a minute to consider the facts as they are. It has often been explained before on the floor of this House that the Army is at present constituted on a class system under which we recruit men only of particular classes.

**Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya** : Which is an evil.

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham** : We know that there are many races in India who are not recruited at present but who would make good soldiers. But it is our duty, and I submit it is the duty of the Commander-in-Chief of any

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army, to recruit not only good material, not even the better, but the very best, and that is why we have been unable, and we are unable at present, to recruit those classes that my Honourable friends opposite would wish us to recruit. That is the situation purely from the Army point of view, and assuming that that system remains,—and I am only considering the facts as they are,—there are I think two conclusions we must draw. The first is that the duty of the Army, taken by itself, is primarily towards its own people, the people who have served it faithfully ; and the second conclusion is that the Army budget cannot afford to spend money on educating boys for whom, when they have been educated, we cannot find a place in the Army. That, Sir, as I said, is the position looked at purely from the Army point of view. I admit that it leaves the wider question unsettled. If Government say that they sympathise with the desire of Indians of all classes and creeds to fit themselves for the defence of their country, then I admit it is up to Government to do something to help them. I am now, I think, in danger of trespassing outside my own boundaries and of referring to matters relating to the general educational system of the country, matters with which my Honourable friend the Education Secretary would be better qualified to deal. But what I say is this : let the Army schools alone ; let the Army complete their programme of military schools. There is no doubt that the money is being well spent and usefully spent ; and let us consider quite separately what can be done about the wider question.

Well, Sir, that brings me to my Honourable and gallant friend Dr. Moonje. What is it that Dr. Moonje wants ? He recognises, I think, that our King George's schools should be allowed to go on as they are. He recognises that, even if other schools are started on the same lines, it may not be possible for us to guarantee to the boys in those schools an Army career. But I do not think he minds that. What he wants is to get something done. He does not mind whether the boys get into the Army immediately, but he does want Indians generally to have an opportunity of fitting themselves for the defence of their country, so that when the time comes, India may have material to call upon with which to found a national army. For this purpose he suggests that the Government of India should start a model school for the Provinces to follow if they wish. I am still not quite clear as to what the exact character of that school is and perhaps it would be going outside the scope of the Resolution if I were to deal with that matter here. But whatever it is that Dr. Moonje wants, or that other Honourable Members want, whether it is a model school for the education of Indians up to the standard of non-commissioned officers, or whether it is a model college for training boys to take the Sandhurst and other Army examinations, I say, Sir, that the models are there. They are before the country already. The Army, in fact, has given the country a lead in this matter. If you ask us to design a model school or a model college, we can only point to the King George's schools or to the Dehra Dun College, according to what you want, and say, that is our idea of a model school or a model college. We know that these are costly institutions, but if you want a good thing you must pay for it ; and the question is, is it for the Army budget, is it even for the Government of India to provide the money for more of these schools and colleges ? And that, Sir, brings me to the conclusion of the matter. Government realise that there

is a genuine feeling among Honourable Members in this House, firstly, that some practical step should be taken to give boys of every caste and creed an opportunity of fitting themselves for a military career, and secondly, that the most practical way, in their opinion, of doing so would be by starting and founding a number of schools all over the country. Now, the Government view is that, although education is necessary for any programme of that kind, you cannot attain the objects that Honourable Members have in view by providing educational facilities alone. Literary education never did, and never will, make a soldier by itself; games, physical drill, rifle practice, by themselves, are equally useless. It is the spirit behind these things that matters, and no Government in the world, with the best will in the world, can produce that spirit unaided. They can help it: if it appears they can encourage it. But that spirit must be the offspring of public opinion and the outcome of a genuine desire on the part of the people themselves and especially of the rising generation to fit themselves for an Army career. Home life and home discipline are just as important as, if not more important than, school life and school discipline; and surely if that desire is present in the country at large, it must express itself. No government can stop it expressing itself, and the door is wide open.....

**Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru :** What door ?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham :** Education is a provincial transferred subject under the control of Ministers elected by the people, and it is through that door—through the Provincial Governments and Provincial Councils—that Honourable Members must make this demand felt. Let Dr. Moonje continue the efforts that he has made and is making in his part of the country. Let other Honourable Members make similar efforts in their own parts of the country, and we on our side of the House will be prepared to do what we can to help. I take it the position is that there are certain features about our military schools which appeal to Honourable Members of this House, which they think are admirable and which they consider should find a place in schools all over the country. Well, Sir, if that is the position, we on our side are quite prepared to help; we can bring these features of our schools prominently to the notice of Local Governments; we can draw their attention, if you like, to the feeling on the subject as expressed by Honourable Members in this House; and we can inform them that, if they decide to start schools of that kind themselves, we shall be prepared to do what we can in the way, for instance, of providing military instructors or providing for inspection by military officers and so on. There is only one stipulation that we must make, and that is that we cannot guarantee to take boys from these schools, if the Local Governments wish to start them, into the regular Army. We can suggest that use should be made of the Indian Territorial Force and the suggestion made by my friend, Colonel Porter, about cadet corps might be useful in this connection. We can also take a special interest in the schools and do what we can to make them a success. But beyond that I do not think we can go.

Now, Sir, I think I have said enough, or I hope I have said enough, to show that, if there is a genuine feeling on the other side of the House in this matter, there is also a genuine desire on this side of the House

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to help ; and in particular I should like to say a word to my Honourable friend Dr. Moonje. We all know Dr. Moonje's sincerity and singleness of purpose ; we admire him for it and we wish there were more men like him. And I particularly do not wish that he should carry away the impression that in this matter—because we have been unable to accept his amendment in so many words—his effort has been in vain. What Dr. Moonje and men like him are trying to do is a big thing no less a thing than the reformation of a nation—and that must take time. But Dr. Moonje and men like him have sown the seed and that seed is bound to bear fruit ; it has not fallen on stony ground and I say that it will bear fruit.

Finally, Sir, I would appeal, if I may, to the Honourable the Mover of this motion and ask him whether he can see his way, in view of the assurances I have given him.....

**Mr. M. R. Jayakar :** What assurance has the Honourable Member given beyond pious hopes and blessings ?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham :** The assurance that we shall bring this matter to the attention of Local Governments and do our best to help them if they wish to start schools themselves. I would ask him if he would on that assurance be prepared to withdraw his Resolution. If not, Sir, I regret, and I regret very sincerely, that I must oppose it.

**Mr. President :** It is getting late and I think that Honourable Members who wish to speak may do so at the next meeting.

**Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya :** Sir, it is a very important matter and I should like that the debate should continue for some time longer.

**Mr. President :** I am entirely in the hands of the House and I am perfectly prepared to sit if necessary till 9 o'clock.

**Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya :** Sir, the questions raised are of such importance that I ask the indulgence of the House at this hour for a short while. In the first instance I want to make it clear that the policy which the Army Secretary has enunciated is out of date now. That policy would have been very suitable if India was not going to have self-government, but India is going to have self-government and it is going to be responsible for defending the whole country through the hands of Indians. If my friend would bear that fact in mind, if the Army Department would keep that fact before its mind, then I think they would be able better to appreciate the needs of the situation and to understand the opinions and feelings of those of us on this side who want a satisfactory and adequate provision made for imparting military education in the country. Now, personally I feel that, as soon as we get power, which I hope and trust we are going to get next year,—as soon as we get power, one of the first things that we shall take in hand will be the creation and development of an Indian army officered by Indians. For that purpose we shall have to follow the example of the civilised powers of the world, and of England in the first instance. The system of education provided for in England is not that there are a few—two or three—selected schools for preparing boys to be admitted for training as officers for the Army, but that in all the district—the county schools of England—students are afforded an opportunity for preliminary military training, and these students are not drawn from any particular class. The military class as such has ceased to exist in

England ; they are drawn from all classes ; and those students, who have benefited well by the military exercises and training provided for them in the county schools and show themselves to be competent to be picked up and sent to a central institution for military training, are so sent up. When we have to build up our organisation for national defence, we shall have to have recourse to the same system, namely, that in every district school, in every high school in the country, there should be a sufficient measure of military training given to our boys.....

**Mr. President :** Order, order : what the Honourable Member will do when he gets Swaraj is not relevant ; the question raised by the Resolution is a narrow one.

**Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya :** I am coming to that very soon ; this is absolutely necessary ; the road must be properly laid before.....

**Mr. President :** I must ask the Honourable Member to be relevant and to confine himself to the Resolution.

**Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya :** Certainly, Sir, I am confining myself to the Resolution, as you will see in a minute. I say that the system I have indicated would be the right system for us to adopt. In that case, the question of having two schools, like the Jhelum and Jullundur schools, will have to be looked at in a different light. I am standing here to support the Resolution in order to point out the evils which attach to this system of continuing two such schools confined to the sons of soldiers who either died in the war or who are serving in the Army to-day. That it is not a war memorial in the sense in which it was claimed by the Army Secretary is clear from the answer he gave to my question that it is not only the sons of those who died in the war who are taken into these schools but also the sons of those who are serving in the Army at present. Therefore I submit that it should be regarded as a school for providing military training to students of all castes and classes. I have a very special objection to the schools being confined to the sons of those who died in the war, because it is a wrong to them and a wrong to the country. It is a wrong to the country because they are brought up in a special class atmosphere ; the Baluchis and the Pathans and others being as one class and centred in one place and the Rajputs and Dogras and others being educated in another place. In the India of the near future, we want to train patriots in the first instance. No soldier is worth his salt unless he is a patriotic man. In the Japanese Army they say that a soldier who is lacking in patriotism is no good to the army ; and we want to fight against this principle of class selection, and of Mussalmans being centred in one place and Hindus being centred at another place. We want that they should be brought up together in the same institution under the same rules, play in the same play grounds and sit in the same classes and work and develop that sense of patriotism upon which the future of India rests. I, therefore, object to this system of selection from particular classes only and their being educated apart at particular centres. I also object to it because this system is a wrong to the students. Under it our students cannot get that advantage of association with fellow students of other classes and communities and develop the best in them by competition. And, Sir, as intelligence is not the monopoly of any particular class, so is the military spirit not the monopoly of any particular class. The sons of very fine soldiers have proved to be quite the reverse, and the sons of



[Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya.]

very ordinary men have proved to be very capable soldiers. The right course to follow, therefore, is to throw open these schools to all classes. I do not want to shut out the sons of any soldiers who have served the King. I want that they should be admitted, but it does not follow that, because they are admitted, others should not be admitted. If the schools are insufficient for the purpose, let there be more schools started. Let every son of a soldier who fought or died in the war receive admission there. Perhaps the fact of his being the son of a gallant soldier would be a circumstance which would give him preferential admission. I should not object to it. But beyond that let the sons of other classes also have a chance.

It must be remembered that this confining of selection of soldiers to particular classes is not a sound policy to follow for any country. In Japan there was a Samurai class, but they threw open the army to all classes of people, and the experiment has succeeded immensely, and the Japanese army of today is a most powerful body. In India too we have instances of a similar policy to guide us. The army of Guru Gobind Singh did not consist entirely of the then fighting classes. He did not confine his army to Kshatriyas or Rajputs. He took men from all classes of people and trained them and made the Khalsa a powerful body. In the same way, when Shivaji Maharaj raised his army, he did not confine the selection only to Marathas. He picked up his soldiers from all classes of people, Brahmans, Rajputs, Marathas, and so on, and with an army so raised he was able to re-establish Hindu dominion in the greater part of the country. Therefore, Sir, for the India of the future, of the near future, it is an evil practice that military schools should exist for particular classes only and that students of those classes should be educated separately from students of the other classes. I therefore urge that the Army Department should revise its policy, and if they find that the schools are not sufficient to admit the sons of the brave soldiers who laid down their lives in the service of the King and of those who are now serving as also of those young men who desire to serve the King and the country, then the number of such schools should be multiplied. Money shall be found. The money is not found from the War Memorial Fund alone. The Government of India is supplying the money for keeping up these schools, and the Government of India must supply more money for keeping up more schools for military education in future, but the schools should not be confined to sons of particular classes, because it is an evil both to them as well as to the country. You may train up soldiers in such schools who will be very dutiful, very smart, very active and very efficient soldiers, but if they lack patriotism, they will not be soldiers of whom the India of the near future will have need. The India of the future will have need for soldiers who are imbued with a spirit of patriotism. Therefore, I think, Sir, that this policy ought to be revised, and the schools, even though they are only two in number, should be thrown open as a matter of principle to students of other classes also, and that the insufficiency in the number of schools should be made up by establishing other schools to provide military education to those young men who pass the prescribed tests and who desire to adopt a military career.

**Several Honourable Members :** Sir, the question may now be put.



**Mr. President :** The question is that the question be now put.

The motion was adopted.

**Mr. M. R. Jayakar :** Sir, I have very little to add to what I said before, except that the answer which came from the Army Secretary was extremely disappointing. Sir, two points have been urged in the course of this debate, first that these schools which have been already established in the country cannot be thrown open to outsiders. I am told that they cannot be so thrown open for two reasons which have been given by the Army Secretary, one, because they are a War Memorial, whatever that may mean, because they have been founded for the purpose of commemorating the services of those who fell in the war. A pertinent question went up from this Bench, from my Honourable friend Pandit Malaviya, whether these schools were confined to the sons of those who fell in the war. The answer was "No". If so, I cannot understand, Sir, how the War Memorial character of these institutions will be destroyed if they are thrown open to the sons of people who do not belong to the families who fell in the war. Well, may I point out to the Army Secretary, if he is ignorant of the fact, how India contributed to the expenses of the war? He is perhaps not aware that the predecessor of this House voted for the War 150 crores on one occasion. This large amount this poor country gave for the war, in which it was only distantly interested. Surely, if so, the people of this country are entitled to the fullest benefits of any War Memorial that might have been raised in this country. I submit, Sir, that it is a sufficient ground in this behalf that this country has given its munitions, men and money for the purposes of the War. I was waiting for some one to tell me whether there is anything in the rules and regulations or in the constitution of these schools which prevents a departure, but not one word has been suggested to that effect.

The other ground mentioned was that Indian Princes have contributed to the expenses of these schools. May I know if these Princes have contributed on the distinct condition that the schools should not be thrown open to boys of the middle classes? If not, I should like to know if there is anything in the constitution or charter or regulations of these schools which prevents them from being thrown open to outsiders. On the wider issue involved in my Resolution, I expected that although Government might not be able to accept my Resolution for some technical reason,—and none has been given,—they would at least be able to satisfy this part of the House by stating what their general policy on the question is; and I must say, Sir, that the statement of the Army Secretary has been most disappointing. I was surprised when he made an appeal to me to withdraw this Resolution. If anything, Sir, his speech made me more firm in pressing this Resolution. His reply is full of pious hopes and blessings. He says that Government are aware of the general desire of the House; Government will be prepared to meet it. After having said that, I asked him what his practical proposals were. His practical proposals were, "Government will provide military instructors if schools are started, but Government will not guarantee to take up boys for military careers from these schools". Then he went on adding insult to injury when he said that Government could not create the spirit. The spirit must be created apparently by the people; if the desire is there, the door will open. He wound up with very pious blessing, "Let Dr. Moonje go on casting his seeds; they won't fall on stony soil; some day they will bear fruit".—I

[Mr. M. R. Jayakar.]

am quoting his words, Sir. I therefore submit, Sir, that it is a most disappointing answer. Government do not extend the least hope that they are going to do anything in the way of a practical programme. The Army Secretary further stated. "Government are looking on with great sympathy and *eventually*"—one qualification—"when funds permit,"—another qualification—"Government will think of starting some schools". And he mentioned Bombay, from which place I come, as one of the places which is going to be honoured in the future with a school of this description. This is the answer which the Army Secretary gave. But what is really provoking, and that is the point to which I would invite his particular attention, was this. He suggested there was no military spirit; the spirit has to be created; Government cannot do it. When I heard these words, I felt extremely amused. Let me tell him that the spirit is there, and if he will permit me, I will give one incident of which I was myself a witness. The difficulty is that Government by their policy are diverting all this incipient martial spirit of our young men into channels of revolution and murder. ("Hear, hear" from the Swarajist Benches.) I will mention to this House the instance of the courage and nerve of one young man who later on committed a political murder, with whom I came into contact. I do not justify political murders, but the point I desire to make out is different. The Honourable Member suggested that there is no spirit and it has to be created by the Indians themselves....

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham :** I never said that the spirit was not there.

5 P.M.

I merely said that, if the spirit was there, it should surely find expression through certain channels.

**Mr. M. R. Jayakar :** The implication behind that statement is this, that there is not sufficient spirit in the country; if there were, it would have found expression. I am right in putting this interpretation, relying on the general trend of the Army Secretary's statement. His speech distinctly conveyed to the House the impression that the spirit is not there in sufficient measure; people must create it; Government cannot do so; if the spirit is there it will express itself; if it is not there, it cannot express itself.

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham :** No, Sir.

**Mr. M. R. Jayakar :** Sir, I will not proceed further with this unpleasant topic. I may tell him that I have myself seen some instances of the spirit he wants. Honourable friends must likewise have seen a number of such instances. I said I came across a political murderer. In his time he was having great ambitions of a career of valour and prowess. He eventually died on the gallows as a political murderer. The general policy of the Government turns these men into political murderers because Government won't give any scope and opportunity for their interpedity and courage. This young man was of such iron nerve and will that he had to be roused from deep sleep at 6 o'clock and led to the gallows after a few minutes. He was fast asleep! When he once met me, he said, "Will you tell me to do anything which will show you my courage and iron nerves?" In those days there was no electric light in my house. There was a lamp burning with a ball burner. He said, "Will you be satisfied if I hold the chimney in my hand?" And in a moment, without flinching he held the chimney fast until his flesh was burnt and we had to extricate

him. This iron will I have been a witness to, and I am sure my Honourable friends can vouch for several such young men whom Government turn into political revolutionaries and murderers. And yet in the presence of all this incipient material in the country, the Army Secretary says that, if the spirit is there it will find expression ; let Dr. Moonje go on, his seeds won't fall on stony ground, and they will bear fruit some day ; in the meanwhile Government will look on, at best providing instructors if necessary, but will not guarantee to take a single boy for the purpose of giving him a military career. My surprise, Sir, is that, at the end of such a disappointing speech, he should ask me, " Will the Honourable Member withdraw his Resolution ? " May I tell him that the Honourable Member will do nothing of the kind.

**Mr. President :** The question is :

" That the following Resolution be adopted :

" This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that the Military Schools that have been started in India for the sons and wards of Indian soldiers and officers of the Army be thrown open to all Indian boys irrespective of caste, creed or family connections, and that, they be allowed admission into such schools subject to their passing the prescribed examination for ascertaining their fitness to be trained for recruitment as Non-Commissioned Officers and for the Viceroy's Commission '."

As many as are of that opinion will say " Aye ".

(*Cries of " Aye ".*)

As many as are of the contrary opinion will say " No ".

**Mr. E. L. Price :** " No ".

**Mr. President :** Division.

(After the Division Bell was rung, Mr. President put the question again.)

As many as are of the same opinion will say " Aye ".

(*Cries of " Aye ".*)

As many as are of the contrary opinion will say " No ".

(There were no cries of " No ".)

The " Ayes " have it. I am sorry the Honourable Member, Mr. Price, is not a free agent.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 18th September, 1929.

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