

THE

12th March 1930

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

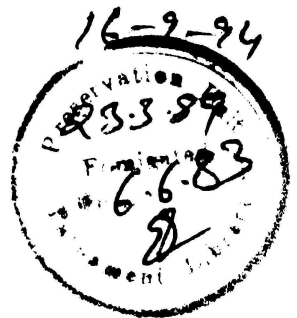
(25th February to 20th March, 1930)

SIXTH SESSION

OF THE

THIRD LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1930

Chamber Fumigated. 18.10.73.....



DELHI
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS
1930

Legislative Assembly.

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THE HONOURABLE MR. V. J. PATEL.

Deputy President :

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SIR ZULFIQAR ALI KHAN, KT., C.S.I., M.L.A.

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

Assistant of the Secretary :

RAI SAHIB D. DUTT.

Marshal :

CAPTAIN SURAJ SINGH BAHADUR, I.O.M.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, 12th March, 1930.

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

MEMBER SWORN:

Mr. P. T. Kumaraswamy Chettiyar, M.L.A. (Madras City: Non-Muhammadan Urban).

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

SELECTION OF CANDIDATES FOR THE INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE.

501. ***Sardar Gulab Singh:** (a) Will Government please state in continuation to my unstarred question No. 98 of the 20th January, 1930:

- (i) the total number of Indian candidates who applied for permanent commissions in the Indian Medical Service in July 1929 only; and
 - (ii) the number of Indian candidates who applied, through the India Office, while residing in England, for consideration by the Selection Board in India in July 1929 only?
- (b) Will Government please state:
- (i) if the India Office had had any preliminary selection of such candidates; and
 - (ii) if so, the number and qualifications of the candidates, marked definitely unsuitable by the India Office?
- (c) Will Government be pleased to state:
- (i) the number and qualifications of the candidates from England as placed into the three different categories "suitable", "possible" and "definitely unsuitable" by the Selection Board in India in the selection of July 1929 only;
 - (ii) the number and qualifications of candidates from India, who applied for the July 1929 selection only, arranged into the three different groups of "suitable", "possible" and "definitely unsuitable"; and
 - (iii) the number and qualifications of candidates marked "suitable" from both India and England who have been finally approved by the India Office for permanent commissions in the Indian Medical Service for the July 1929 selection only?

(d) Will Government please state if all the candidates marked "definitely unsuitable" were passed fit by the Medical Board held either in India or England?

(e) Will Government please state:

(i) if it is a fact that there ~~are~~ a good number of Indian candidates, who have been marked "definitely unsuitable" and debarred from appearing before any subsequent selection by the Selection Board in India, and who have neither held any temporary commission nor had any bad remarks in their service records; and

(ii) What action do Government propose to take, so as to give them all (candidates from India and England) an equal chance till some other amendments for the methods of recruitment to permanent commissions of the Indian Medical Service are put into force?

Mr. G. M. Young: (a) (i) and (ii). The numbers that were considered by the Board in July, 1929, are, respectively, 80 and 12. They applied at various times.

(b) (i) At the request of the Government of India, the India Office interviewed certain candidates who were in England at the time.

(ii) A statement showing the qualifications is placed on the table.

(c) (i) 3 were considered suitable.

6 were considered possible.

3 were considered definitely unsuitable.

(ii) 20 were considered suitable.

26 were considered possible.

22 were considered definitely unsuitable.

(iii) 23.

A statement showing the qualifications is placed on the table.

(d) In India, yes. No report has been received about the 3 candidates rejected in England.

(e) (i) Yes, Sir.

(ii) All candidates have an equal chance under the present system.

STATEMENT I.

Qualifications of candidates considered suitable and selected (23).

From England (3).

M.B.B.S. (Madras), F.R.F.P. and S. (Glas.), L.M. (Dub.), M.M. and P. (Lond.), Primary F.R.C.S. (I), preparing for final F.R.C.S. (I), M.R.C.P.

M.B. (Cal.), M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.), preparing for B.Sc. (Honours), and D.O.M.S. (Lond.).

M.B.Ch.B. (Edin.), D.T.M. (Liverpool), M.D. (Edin.), Clinical.

From India (20).

M.B.B.S. (Punjab), M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.O.M.S. (Lond.), D.L.O. (Lond.).

M.B.B.S. (Allahabad).

M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L. R. C. P. (Lond.), L.M.S.S.A. (Lond.).

M.B.B.S. (Punjab), L. M. (Dublin), D. T. M. (Liverpool), D.P.H. (Lond.).

M.B.B.S. (Bombay), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), M.R.C.S. (Eng.), passed Primary F.R.C.S.I.

M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.).

M.B.B.S. (Bombay), M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), studying for F.R.C.S.

M.B. (Cal.), M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.).

M.B.B.S. (Bombay), D.P.H. (Camb.), D.T.M. and H. (Camb.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.). Preparing for M.R.C.S. (Eng.).

M.B.B.S. (Aberdeen).

B.Sc. (Punjab), M.B.Ch.B. (Edin.).

M.B.Ch.B. (Edin.).

M.B.Ch.B. (Edin.).

M.D. (Harvard, U. S. A.), M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), L.M.S.S.A. (Lond.), L.M. (Dublin).

B.A. (Punjab), M.B.Ch.B. (St. And.), D.T.M. and H. (Lond.).

M.B.B.S. (Punjab), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), M.R.C.S. (Eng.), D.T.M. and H. (Lond.).

M.B.B.S. (Punjab), F.R.C.S. (Edin.).

M.B.Ch.B. (Edin.), D.T.M. (Liverpool), M.D. (Edin.), Clinical.

M.B.Ch.B. (St. And.), L.D.S. (St. And.).

M.B.B.S. (Bombay), M.R.C.P. (Edin.), D.T.M. (Liverpool), T.D.D. (Wales).

STATEMENT II.

Qualifications of candidates considered suitable but not selected (32).

From England (6).

L.R.C.P. (Lond.), M.R.C.S. (Eng.), Primary F.R.C.S. (Eng.), preparing for final F.R.C.S. (Eng.).

M.B.B.S. (Madras), M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.O.M.S. (Lond.).

M.B.B.S. (Bombay), D.P.H. (Lond.), D.O.M.S. (Lond.).

M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.).

M.B.B.S. (Punjab), D.T.M. and H. (Lond.).

M.B.B.S. (Madras), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), M.R.C.S. (Eng.), Primary F.R.C.S. (Eng.).

From India (26).

M.B.B.S. (Punjab), M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H. (Lond.), D.T.M. (Liverpool).

L.R.C.P. and S. (Edin.), L.R.F.P. and S. (Glas.).

L.R.C.P. (Lond.), M.R.C.S. (Eng.).

M.B.B.S. (Punjab), D.T.M. (Liverpool), D.P.H. (Lond.).

M.B.B.S. (Bombay), M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.).

M.B.B.S. (Lucknow).

M.B.B.S. (Bombay), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), M.R.C.S. (Eng.).
 M.B.B.S. (Bombay), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.M. (Dublin), D.T.M. (Liverpool), D.P.H. (Lond.).
 M.B.B.S. (Bombay).
 M.Sc. (Cal.), M.B. Ch.B. (Edin.).
 B.A. (Bombay), M.B.B.S. (Bombay), D.T.M. and H. (Lond.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), M.R.C.S. (Eng.).
 M.B.B.S. (Bombay), L.M. (Dublin).
 M.B.Ch.B. (Liverpool), M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.).
 M.B.Ch.B. (St. And.), L.M.S.S.A. (Lond.), L.D.S.R.F.P.S. (Glas.), L.M. (Dublin).
 M.R.C.P. (Edin.), M.R.C.P. (Ireland), M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.T.M. and H. (Lond.).
 M.B.B.S. (Punjab), M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H. (Lond.), D.T.M. (Liverpool).
 M.B.B.S. (Bombay).
 M.B.Ch.B. (Edin.), L.M. (Dublin).
 M.B.Ch.B. (Edin.).
 M.B.Ch.B. (Edin.).
 M.B.B.S. (Bombay), F.R.C.S. (Edin.), D.L.O. (R.C.S. Eng.).
 M.B.B.S. (Madras).
 B.A. (Allahabad), M.B.B.S. (Bombay).
 M.B.B.S. (Punjab).
 M.B.B.S. (Bombay).
 M.B.Ch.B. (Edin.).

STATEMENT III.

Qualifications of candidates considered definitely unsuitable (25).

From England (3).

L.R.C.P. and S. (Lond.), L.R.F.P. and S. (Glas.), studying for M.R.C.P. (Edin.).
 M.B. (Cal.), L.R.C.P. and S. (Edin.), L.R.F.P. and S. (Glas.), M.R.C.P. (Edin.).
 F.R.C.S. (Edin.), M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.O.M.S. (Lond.), D.O. (Oxon.).

From India (22).

M.B.B.S. (Punjab).
 M.B.B.S. (Madras).
 M.B.Ch.B. (Leeds).
 M.B.B.S. (Allahabad), D.P.H. (Lond.).
 M.B.B.S. (Bombay), D.P.H. (Lond.), D.T.M. and H. (Lond.).
 M.B.B.S. (Lond.), M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.).
 L.R.C.P. and S. (Edin.), L.R.F.P. and S. (Glas.), D.T.M. (Liverpool), L.M. (Dublin).
 M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.).
 M.B.B.S. (Madras), B.Sc. (Madras).
 M.B. (Cal.), B.Sc. (Cal.).
 L.M. (Dublin), L.R.C.P. and S. (Edin.), L.R.F.P. and S. (Glas.).
 M.B.B.S. (Punjab), D.P.H. (Lond.), D.T.M. and H. (Lond.).
 M.B.B.S. (Madras), D.O.M.S. (Lond.), F.R.C.S. (Edin.).

L.R.C.P. and S. (Edin.), L.R.F.P. and S. (Glas.).

M.R.C.P. (Edin.), L.R.C.P. and S. (Edin.), L.R.F.P. and S. (Glas.), D.T.M. (Liverpool), L.M. (Dublin), D.T.M. and H. (Camb. Pt. 1).

M.B.B.S. (Punjab), D.P.H. (Lond.), D.T.H. and H. (Lond.), L.M. (Dublin).

M.B.B.S. (Punjab), D.P.H. (Lond.), D.T.M. (Liverpool).

F.R.C.S. (Edin.), L.R.C.P. and S. (Edin.), L.R.F.P. and S. (Glas.).

M.B.B.S. (Punjab), D.O.M.S. (Lond.), D.P.H. (Lond.), L.M. (Dublin).

M.B.B.S. (Punjab), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H. (Lond.), D.T.M. (Liverpool).

L.R.C.P. and S. (Edin.), L.R.F.P. and S. (Glas.).

M.B.B.S. (Punjab), D.T.M. (Liverpool), D.P.H. (Lond.), L.M. (Dublin).

IMPORT DUTY ON CIGARETTES.

502. ***Mr. G. Sarvotham Rao:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that, till 1925, the import duty on cigarettes was on an *ad valorem* basis and that, since 1925, it has been changed into a specific duty?

(b) If so, will Government state the reasons which induced them to make the change?

(c) Are Government aware that the result of this change has been the elimination of cheaper brands of cigarettes from the import trade?

(d) Are Government also aware that it is in the cheaper classes of cigarettes that the demand in the country is growing apace?

(e) Are Government also aware that the consumption of the cheaper brands of cigarettes has gone up by 75 per cent. since 1925?

(f) Is it a fact that, though cheaper cigarettes have come to be manufactured within India, this has not appreciably increased the Government's revenue?

(g) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of taking early steps in the matter?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: (a) Yes. The specific rates of duty came into force on the 30th March, 1925.

(b) The Honourable Member is referred to the Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to the Indian Tariff (Amendment) Bill, 1925, which is available in the Library.

(c) No.

(d) and (e). Government have no reason to doubt that this is the case.

(f) The answer is in the affirmative in so far as customs revenue alone is concerned. But the Honourable Member will no doubt realise that Government probably do stand to gain something by way of income-tax, for example, though it is not possible to estimate the amount so gained.

(g) Government do not propose to make any change at present.

Mr. W. S. Lamb: Is it not a fact that certain importers were invoicing cigarettes for customs purposes at very low rates whilst selling them at the full prices charged by their indigenous competitors?

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

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: Are Government aware that cigarettes are very injurious to health and it is desirable to discourage their use by imposing heavy import duties?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: That is a point of view which I have no doubt Government would take into consideration if it were pressed upon them by the Benches opposite.

Mr. W. S. Lamb: With regard to answer (f), is it not a fact that, since 1925, the receipts from the import duty on cigarettes have increased by 54 per cent. and on unmanufactured tobacco by 47 per cent.?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: I am quite willing to take these figures from my Honourable friend.

CONSTRUCTION OF A BRIDGE OVER THE GANGES AT MOKAMEH GHAT.

503. ***Mr. Adit Prasad Singh:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state what steps, if any, are in contemplation or being taken for the construction of a bridge over the Ganges at Mokameh Ghat?

(b) If so, when is it expected to be taken up?

(c) Are Government aware of the fact that due to the silting up of the Ganges at Mokameh Ghat passengers are put to endless trouble due to the shifting of the ferry ghats every year?

(d) Are Government aware of the fact that the number of the travelling public has almost doubled in the course of few years and the carrying capacity of the train and steamer being as before, great hardship and trouble is felt by the public at this place, and the Bengal and North Western Railway has no regard for the convenience and ease of the passengers?

(e) Are Government also aware of the fact that Mokameh Ghat is one of the biggest transshipment stations in India, and that bridges have been constructed at places of lesser importance (*vide* Railway Commission Report and Railway Police Commission Report)?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: Government are aware that Mokameh Ghat is an important transshipment station, and that the construction of a bridge over the Ganges there would be a convenience to the public. But on an estimate made in 1928 the cost of a bridge to carry a metre gauge line is likely to be nearly 2 crores, and at this figure it would not at present be a paying proposition. The Railway Board cannot therefore hold out any hope that the bridge will be taken up in the near future.

NAUTICAL TRAINING IN ENGLAND AND IN INDIA.

504. ***Dr. B. S. Moonje:** (a) Will Government please state:

- (i) How many preparatory nautical schools there are in England;
- (ii) How many students there are in all who receive training in these schools;
- (iii) What subjects, scholastic and technical, are taught to students;
- (iv) The duration of the course of training; and
- (v) At what ages boys are admitted into the schools?

(b) What arrangements are made in India, in view of the Government proposals for the expansion of the Indian marine and for establishing a Royal Indian Navy for similar training of Indian boys?

(c) How many Indian boys, if any, are under similar training at present in India?

(d) Besides the ordinary book education, what other technical subjects are taught to Indian boys under training on the "Dufferin" ship to give a speciality of its own to it?

Mr. G. M. Young: (a) (i), (iii) and (iv). Government have no precise information.

(a) (ii), (v), (b), (c) and (d). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the answer I gave about a week ago to his starred question No. 419 which was couched in almost identical terms.

COMPULSORY PHYSICAL TRAINING, ETC., FOR INDIAN BOYS.

505. ***Dr. B. S. Moonje:** With respect to my question No. 557, asked on the 17th September, 1929, regarding a Bill to provide for compulsory physical training, military drill and rifle practice for Indian boys, and the several supplementary questions thereon and the answers given by the Honourable Sir B. L. Mitter, the Honourable Sir Frank Noyce and the Honourable Sir James Crerar, and particularly with respect to the answer given by the Honourable the Home Member that, "The matter is one which requires very careful consideration and the Government of India have not yet finally arrived at a conclusion as to the terms in which the Local Governments should be addressed", and that "We are considering the terms in which the Local Governments could be addressed in a manner which will cover the whole question adequately", will Government please state:

- (a) If they have come to any decision in the matter, and
- (b) If the Government are now prepared to recommend the grant of the necessary sanction to the Bill of Mr. V. V. Kaliker, M.L.C., of which he has given notice in the Legislative Council of the Central Provinces and Berar to provide for compulsory physical training, military drill and rifle practice for Indian boys?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: (a) Local Governments were addressed in September last on the question of providing compulsory physical training, games and drill for Indian boys between the ages of 12 and 20 attending schools. They were addressed in January last on the possibility of encouraging the use of miniature rifle ranges in schools and colleges. A number of replies are still awaited.

(b) The matter is still under consideration.

RECRUITMENT FOR THE IMPERIAL FOREST SERVICE OF INDIA.

506. ***Dr. B. S. Moonje:** (a) Will Government please state if there are two systems of recruitment to the Imperial Forest Service of India—one of direct recruitment from the schools, colleges and universities of England by selection or nomination and the other of open competitive examination?

(b) If so, will Government please state :

(i) If any of the Indian educational institutions or colleges or Universities have been given the privilege of nominating candidates or offering candidates for selection ;

(ii) If Indians are also eligible for such nomination or selection from British educational institutions ; and

(iii) If Indians with British or foreign or Indian degrees in science and forestry are eligible for direct recruitment ?

(c) If not, will Government please state the reasons therefor ?

(d) Is the open competitive examination held both in England and in India ?

(e) If so, is there any proportion fixed between British and Indian candidates in the matter of recruitment to the Imperial Forest Service of India ?

(f) What are the subjects fixed for the competitive examination ?

(g) What are the subjects for the B.Sc. (Forestry) and B.Sc. (Pure Science) degrees of British Universities ?

(h) Are British candidates of B.Sc. (Pure Science) degrees eligible for direct recruitment to the Imperial Forest Service ?

(i) Are they without having any training in forestry science subjects, preferred to Indians with forestry science degrees ? If so, why ?

(j) Is it not a fact that graduates in pure science will have to spend some time in learning forestry, whereas graduates in B.Sc. (Forestry) have not to ?

Sir Frank Moyce : (a) The various methods of making appointments to the Indian Forest Service are set out in Rule 2 of the Indian Forest Service (Recruitment) Rules, 1928, which were published in the Gazette of India, dated the 22nd February, 1930, under notification No. 232-F. The Honourable Member's attention is invited to this notification. Recruitment of British candidates in England is effected by nomination, but candidates are not selected from schools and colleges. They are men who have obtained theoretical and practical training in forestry generally in some University.

(b) The reply to parts (i) and (ii) of part (b) is in the negative. As regards part (iii), I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to rule 10 of the rules in part III of the notification already mentioned by me. In exceptional cases the Public Service Commission may treat a candidate possessing non-Indian qualifications of a standard equivalent to recognised Indian standards as qualifying for admission to the competitive examination in India, provided that the other conditions included in part III of that notification are satisfied. I should, however, add that there are no Indian degrees in Forestry.

(c) The main reason for not resorting to nomination of Indian candidates, except in so far as this may be necessary to redress communal inequalities, is that none of the Universities in India impart instruction in Forestry. Such training has to be given at the Forestry College, Dehra Dun, and the best means of securing candidates for it is by means of a preliminary competitive examination designed to test the general intelligence, the scientific

aptitude and the physical fitness of those desirous of entering the Indian Forest Service.

(d) The open competitive examination is held in India only.

(e) In accordance with the recommendation made by the Lee Commission, the percentage of European and Indian recruits was fixed at 25 and 75, respectively, with effect from the 1st April, 1924, in those provinces in which Forest administration is at present a reserved subject.

(f) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to regulation 8 of the regulations for admission to the competitive examination, 1930, published in the issue of the Gazette of India already mentioned by me.

(g) It is regretted that the information required is not readily available.

(h) I have attempted to answer this part of the question in my reply to part (a).

(i) No. The second part does not arise.

(j) Yes.

Dr. B. S. Moonje: Is it a fact that British boys with purely Science B.Sc. degrees are preferred to Indian boys with Science and Forestry degrees?

Sir Frank Noyce: No, Sir; as I have already explained to the Honourable Member, the British candidates are candidates who have obtained theoretical and practical training in Forestry.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: With reference to the answer to part (e) of the question, is the Honourable Member aware that the Public Service Commission of 1912 recommended, in their Report, that recruitment to the Forest Service should, as early as possible, be made in India only?

Sir Frank Noyce: I think the recommendation of that Commission has been superseded by the recommendation of a later Commission.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: On what grounds has that recommendation been superseded by that of the Lee Commission?

Sir Frank Noyce: Because the latter Commission came later.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Did the latter Commission at all consider the question of recruitment to the technical services in the way in which the Islington Commission did?

Sir Frank Noyce: I must ask for notice of that question.

APPOINTMENT OF A MUHAMMADAN TO A SENIOR RAILWAY ACCOUNTS POST.

507. ***Maulvi Abdul Matin Ohaudhury** (on behalf of Mr. Muhammad Ismail Khan): (a) Is it a fact that the posts of Deputy Director, Finance, Railway Board, Deputy Controller of Railway Accounts and Accounts Officer, Class I in the office of the Controller of Railway Accounts fell vacant recently or are likely to fall vacant shortly?

(b) Is it a fact that there is only one Muhammadan Gazetted officer in the office of the Financial Commissioner, Railways, and none in that of the Controller of Railway Accounts?

(c) If the replies to parts (a) and (b) are in the affirmative, are Government prepared to consider the desirability of appointing a Muhammadan officer to one of the senior appointments at the time of filling the above posts?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) and (c). A vacancy recently occurred in the post of Deputy Controller of Railway Accounts, owing to the transfer of an officer of the Indian Audit and Accounts Service to Foreign service, and has been filled by another officer of that service lent by the Auditor General.

A vacancy of Accounts Officer, Grade I, in the Controller of Railway Accounts Office is likely to occur shortly, when an officer of the Indian Audit and Accounts Service now filling that post goes on leave. The vacancy, when it occurs, will be filled by an officer lent by the Auditor General from the Indian Audit and Accounts Service.

(b) Yes.

Maulvi Abdul Matin Chaudhury: With regard to the appointment that is going to fall vacant, do Government propose to suggest, or have they already suggested, any name to the Auditor General?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: Under the arrangements at present in force there is no question of the Railway Board or of the Financial Commissioner of Railways suggesting any name to the Auditor General. Nor could I give any undertaking that appointments of this description in the ordinary line will be filled by members of any particular community. I believe, however, that in this particular instance, the post will happen to be filled by a Muhammadan.

APPOINTMENT OF A MUHAMMADAN TO A SENIOR OFFICER'S POST IN THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT.

508. ***Maulvi Abdul Matin Chaudhury** (on behalf of Mr. Muhammad Ismail Khan): (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the names and religion of the Indian officers holding Gazetted appointments above the rank of Superintendent in the Secretariat under the control of the Honourable Member, Finance?

(b) In view of the great paucity of Muslims in these posts, are Government prepared to consider the advisability of appointing a suitable Muhammadan officer to one of the senior posts at an early date?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (a) A statement is laid on the table.

(b) Of the nine officers included in the statement, four belong to the Indian Audit and Accounts Service, and, as explained in reply to part (a) of Nawab Sir Zulfiqar Ali Khan's unstarred question No. 238 on the 7th March, 1928, officers of this Service are liable to transfer all over India, and communal considerations are not taken into account in distributing them over individual offices. The rest of the officers have been promoted from the rank of Superintendent; and, as the Honourable Member is no doubt aware, in these cases of departmental promotions also, which must be governed by considerations of seniority and merit, communal considerations are not allowed to operate. I may add that one of the officers is a Muhammadan, one a Christian and one a Sikh; in other words, minority communities hold one-third of the nine posts held by Indian officers.

Statement showing the names and religion of the Indian Officers holding Gazetted appointments above the rank of Superintendent in the Finance Department Secretariat.

Name.	Designation.	Religion.
Finance Department—		
Mr. H. Shanker Rau, B. A. .	Budget Officer	Hindu.
Sardar Bahadur Sital Singh, M.A.	Under Secretary	Sikh.
Mr. J. Santos, B. A. . . .	Assistant Secretary	Christian.
Mr. K. Sanjiva Row, M.A. .	Ditto	Hindu.
Khan Sahib Shah Mohammed, M.A.	Ditto	Muhammedan.
Military Finance—		
Rai Bahadur K. O. Maulik, B.A.	Assistant Financial Adviser .	Hindu.
Rai Sahib H. D. Banerji .	Ditto	Hindu.
Mr. Gaya Pershad	Ditto	Hindu.
Mr. Amar Nath	Offg. Assistant Financial Adviser	Hindu.

GRANTS SANCTIONED FOR LOCAL BODIES IN DELHI.

509. ***Rai Sahib Harbilas Sarda:** Will Government kindly state what grants have been sanctioned to be given from Central Revenues, both recurring and non-recurring, during the years 1926-27, 1927-28, 1928-29 and 1929-30 to—

- (a) The Delhi Municipal Committee,
- (b) The Delhi District Board,
- (c) The Delhi Administration for all other purposes?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar: The information is being collected and will be supplied to the Honourable Member.

UNDUE PROPORTION OF CIVILIAN JUDGES IN THE PATNA HIGH COURT.

510. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) Is it a fact that at present there are eleven Judges in the Patna High Court, nine of whom are permanent, and two additional?

(b) Is it a fact that out of these eleven Judges, as many as six were members of the Indian Civil Service, and only five were lawyers?

(c) Is there any other High Court in India in which the number of Civilian Judges exceeds the number of judges drawn from the legal profession?

(d) Do Government propose to make a more equitable proportion either by reducing the number of Civilian Judges, or by increasing the number of lawyer Judges at the next opportunity?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar: (a) The permanent strength of this High Court is nine and there are two additional Judges.

(b) The fact is as stated. It is due to the appointment of a civilian to officiate in the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. Justice Das, pending the appointment of a permanent successor. The proportions prescribed by section 101 (4) of the Government of India Act have reference to permanent judges only and not to officiating and temporary additional judges. Of the 8 permanent judges now present, 5 are lawyer judges.

(c) Not at present.

(d) The statutory proportion of civilian judges is the number required under the Government of India Act for the permanent judgeships. As regards other vacancies or appointments I am unable at present to say what proposals will be made when the occasion arises.

Mr. Gays Prasad Singh: Sir, is it a fact that Mr. Justice Macpherson and Mr. Justice Sir Jwala Parshad are shortly going on long leave, and that it is contemplated that two members of the Civil Service, Mr. Rowland and Mr. Luby, are to officiate for them?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar: I am afraid I must ask the Honourable Member notice of that question.

Mr. B. Das: Is the Honourable Member aware that, since the establishment of the Patna High Court, no Oriya High Court Judge has been appointed, and will the Government consider, when the next vacancy arises, the appointment of an Oriya gentleman to the Patna High Court?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar: I have no doubt that, when the occasion arises, the claims of every eligible candidate will be most carefully considered, including any eligible candidate from the Honourable Member's community.

Mr. Gays Prasad Singh: Including an Oriya engineer. (Laughter.)

UNRELIABILITY OF VOTERS' REGISTERS FOR THE PESHAWAR MUNICIPALITY.

511. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact:

- (i) that municipal election was introduced in the City of Peshawar for the first time in 1929;
- (ii) that an inexperienced young Pathan official belonging to a village and absolutely ignorant of Peshawar City was deputed for the preparation of voters' registers;
- (iii) that the officer refrained from exercising due supervision of the important registers, and the work was left entirely in the hands of the inexperienced and raw youths employed as Munshis;
- (iv) that both Hindus and Muslims complained of the voters' registers being unreliable, incomplete, and worthless on the ground

that many educated and respectable people had been omitted, and men of straw and minors who were eligible were enfranchised;

- (v) that the officer mentioned in part (ii) who was appointed as a presiding Magistrate, sanctioned numerous applications for correction of wrong entries in the registers presented in the course of voting proceedings and that the anomalous proceeding was ordered by the Deputy Commissioner to be cancelled?

(b) If answers to the above questions be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state if:

- (i) the District Authority has inquired into the reliability or otherwise of the registers; if not, why not?
- (ii) the Local Government has caused inquiries to be made into the conduct of the official under reference; if not, why not; and
- (iii) Government propose to have the registers mentioned above, now in existence, corrected? If not, why not?

Sir Frank Noyce: Information is being obtained and will be supplied to the Honourable Member on receipt.

Maulvi Muhammad Yakub: Will the information be laid on the table of the House?

Sir Frank Noyce: Certainly.

BAD CONDITION OF ROADS IN THE CITY OF PESHAWAR.

512. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that the residents of certain mohallas of the city of Peshawar have submitted recently a representation to the Honourable the Chief Commissioner, North-West Frontier Province, and other officers concerned regarding the greatest inconvenience involved to them, on account of accumulation of mud on all the roads inside the town, which are rendered impassable after rain, and that no such trouble exists in the mohallas and bazaars in the Cantonment?

(b) If answers to the above questions be in the affirmative, do Government propose to cause inquiries to be made regarding the present condition of the roads and the reasons for the inconvenience caused; and have the old and constant complaints of the residents of the town removed as soon as practicable by having the roads properly remodelled?

Sir Frank Noyce: (a) Yes.

(b) The present unsatisfactory condition of the roads in the city of Peshawar is due partly to congestion and partly to the inadequate resources of the Municipal Committee. The congestion in the city will be remedied to some extent when the City Extension Scheme is completed. As regards municipal finances, it is for the Local Body to discover other sources of income and to effect the necessary improvements in the condition of roads.

Maulvi Muhammad Yakub: Has the attention of the Army Secretary been drawn to this question, who has already introduced a Bill in the Assembly on this matter?

Mr Frank Hoyer: I am sorry I did not quite catch the Honourable Member.

Maulvi Muhammad Yakub: My question was addressed to the Army Secretary and I asked him whether his attention was drawn to this matter as he has already introduced a Bill on this subject?

Mr. G. M. Young: I can hardly introduce a Bill in the Assembly on a subject to which my attention has not been drawn.

Maulvi Muhammad Yakub: I am asking him about this particular question which is now put, whether his attention has been drawn to this question or not?

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

Maulvi Muhammad Yakub: What does he think of it?

(No answer.)

Maulvi Muhammad Yakub: Does he know what is my question?

Mr. G. M. Young: That sounds like a demand for an expression of my opinion on a matter with which my Department does not deal.

CHANGE FOR WATER METERS IN PESHAWAR CANTONMENT.

513. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that house-owners in the Cantonment of Peshawar have now been warned, under the orders of the Northern Command, to pay for the water connection meters, or their connections will be cut off?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state if water connections have been given to house-owners in the City of Peshawar without meters?

(c) If the answer to part (b) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the special reasons which necessitate the house-owners in the cantonment paying for the meters and not those who live in the city?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state whether water connection meters have been provided at the cost of Government or house-owners in other cantonments and towns in India and why uniformity of system is not adopted when connections are given?

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

ENHANCEMENT OF LAND REVENUE IN THE CHARSAKKA TAHSIL.

514. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that, against the enhancement of revenue assessed lately by the Settlement Officer, Peshawar District, the Landlords of the Charsakka Tahsil submitted a written protest to that officer for the consideration of the Local Government giving reasons against the enhancement of the existing amount of the revenue of the Tahsil?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the brief purport of the objections raised; and whether the Local Government considered the representation and furnished the applicants with a reply?

(c) If the answer to the latter part of (b) be in the negative, will Government be pleased to state why the Local Government gave no reply at all?

Sir Frank Noyce: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The objection raised were briefly as follows:

- (1) That effect should not be given to the new assessment in the Charsadda tahsil earlier than in the Nowshera and Peshawar Tahsils.
- (2) That the estimates of agricultural income framed in the settlement were fallacious.
- (8) That land revenue should not be fixed at higher than one-fifth the net assets.
- (4) That water rates should not be revised except at Settlement.
- (5) That certain specified roads should be metalled and that Canal roads should be opened for use to the public.
- (6) That drainage was urgently required to prevent water logging.
- (7) That no new water mills on Canal Channels should be erected.
- (8) That leniency should be shown in the assessment of revenue on water mills.
- (9) That the enhancement on the tahsil revenue should not exceed the 29 per cent. sanctioned at the last Settlement.
- (10) That statistics of sales and mortgages showed the financial weakness of land owners.
- (11) That the rate of remuneration fixed for village headmen should be increased.
- (12) That in view of the geographical position of the district, frontier remissions and *Inams* should be generously given.

No formal reply was given to the petitioners but the points raised were carefully considered in detail by the Chief Commissioner in consultation with the Revenue Commissioner and Settlement Officer and the orders passed in so far as they related to assessment were embodied in the Revenue Secretary's letter No. 1252-R., dated the 17th September, 1926, to the Revenue Commissioner which was published with the Assessment report of the Charsadda Tahsil.

COMPLAINTS AGAINST CERTAIN FOREST OFFICERS IN THE NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE.

515. *Maulvi Muhammad Yakub: (a) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that, last year, the public of Saran Division had submitted a statement of grievances to the Honourable the Chief Commissioner, North-West Frontier Province, against the Forest Extra Assistant Conservator of the Division, who is said to have held charge of the same for the last seven years, and that a deputation of the district had waited upon the Honourable the Chief Commissioner about it?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state if action was taken by the Local Government and, if so, with what result?

(c) Will Government please state whether as a result of complaints made by the samindars against the Forest Ranger in charge of Donga Gali range, who is said to have held charge of the *Ilaqa* for the last eight years, the Deputy Commissioner of the district or the Deputy Conservator had appointed a *Jirga* to give a finding about his conduct, and that the Ranger was reported to be guilty of the offence or the offences brought to notice?

(d) If the answer to part (c) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state what action was taken in the matter?

Sir Frank Moyer: (a) Yes. Eighteen petitions dealing with Forest matters were presented to the Chief Commissioner, North-West Frontier Province in the year 1928. The complaints contained in them were not directed against the Extra Assistant Conservator of Forests personally but against the Forest Department Officials generally.

The petitions were enquired into separately by the Deputy Commissioner, Hazara, and were found to be in general baseless.

(b) The question does not arise.

(c) and (d). No complaints were made against the conduct of the Forest Ranger referred to. In September, 1928, a charge of petty extortion was brought against a forest guard and an assistant supervisor. The charge was investigated by a *Jirga* and was found not proved. The *Jirga*, however, reported that these men habitually took "*faslana*". The forest guard and assistant supervisor were punished departmentally.

APPEARANCE OF COUNSEL IN REVENUE COMMISSIONERS' COURTS IN THE NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE.

516. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that the former Revenue Commissioners in the North-West Frontier Province, were in the habit of freely granting permission to counsel to appear in their courts for the benefit of parties concerned in cases relating to *Lambardari*, partition of lands and other similar cases, and are Government aware that, recently, the permission is being refused involving considerable dissatisfaction and inconvenience to the public of the Province?

(b) If answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government please state:

(i) the number of cases in which permission had been sought by parties concerned, and refused by the Revenue Commissioner during the last three years,

(ii) the legal grounds on which the grant of permission had formerly been based, and

(iii) the valid reasons necessitating the deviation now being made?

(c) Do Government propose to have the practice now enforced in the North-West Frontier Province, cancelled as soon as possible?

Sir Frank Moyer: The information is being obtained and will be supplied to the Honourable Member on receipt.

Maulvi Muhammad Yakub: The information will be placed on the table of this House, I presume?

Sir Frank Noyce: Yes, Sir.

LAND ATTACHED TO THE KACHERI MASJID IN PESHAWAR.

517. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** (a) Are Government aware that with the permission of the Cantonment authority at Peshawar a *mali's* hut had been constructed in the compound of the mosque known as Old Kacheri Masjid, and that a part of the same mosque was used for dumping of manure for gardening purposes?

(b) Do Government know that, on questions asked in this House by Khan Bahadur Haji Wajih-ud-Din Khan in 1926, the hut was removed, and, as suggested by a special Sub-Committee appointed by the Cantonment Board for inquiry and report in the matter, the Government had decided to have the mosque land, as verified by the Sub-Committee, cleared, planted with grass, and leased to the Muslims in perpetuity without rent for religious purposes?

(c) Do Government know that the District Headquarters took possession of the land by force and included the same in the garden attached to that office giving cause for complaint to the Muslim public in respect of their religious land?

(d) Do Government know that on the representation of the Waqf Committee of Peshawar, the Government of India, Army Department, had called for a report from the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command, after consulting with the local civil authority, as to whether the land should be given over to that institution?

(e) If the answers to parts (a) to (d) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to—

- (i) place on the table a copy of the report mentioned in part (d) and of the orders passed thereon by the Government; and
- (ii) also state if the land had since been leased to the Committee as originally decided by Government? If not, why not?

Mr. G. M. Young: The Honourable Member's questions were fully answered by my reply to Haji Chaudhury Mohammad Ismail Khan's starred question No. 282 on the 30th January, 1920.

THE LAW OF REVISION IN THE NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE.

518. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** (a) Will Government please state if it is a fact:

- (i) that the law of revision in the North-West Frontier Province is more restricted than that in force in the High Courts;
- (ii) that the North-West Frontier Province Law and Justice Regulation is now being amended;
- (iii) that in the High Courts the stamp on a petition for revision is Rs. 2; and
- (iv) that in the North-West Frontier Province the stamp charged on revisions is required to be *ad valorem* on the value?

(b) If the answers to the above are in the affirmative, will Government please state the reasons why the people of that Province should be treated differently from what is being done in other Provinces of India by charging them *ad valorem*?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar: (a) (i) The relevant law is contained on the one hand in section 84 of the North-West Frontier Province Law and Justice Regulation, 1901, and on the other hand in section 115 of the Code of Civil Procedure. If the Honourable Member will undertake a comparative study of these sections, he will, I think, agree that the answer to this part of his question is in the negative.

(ii) The question of revising the Regulation is under consideration.

(iii) Item 1(d) in Schedule II to the Court Fees Act, 1870, which the Honourable Member presumably has in mind has been amended by provincial legislation in all the major provinces except the United Provinces. The court fees now chargeable vary from province to province and in several provinces they are now chargeable at an *ad valorem* rate on the value of the suit.

(iv) Yes.

(b) This does not arise.

IMPROVEMENT OF THE INDUSTRIES OF THE NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE.

519. *Maulvi Muhammad Yakub: (a) Is it a fact that the North-West Frontier Province Government some time ago obtained the services of an experienced officer of the Department of Industry of the Punjab to investigate, and submit a detailed report regarding the best means of effecting improvement of the existing local industries in the province?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state:

(i) if the report has been received, and

(ii) if so, has the same been published for the information of the Muslim public of the Province, and opinion of the Press?
If not, why not?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state if they propose to improve the existing local industries in the North-West Frontier Province?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given in this House on the 11th September, 1929, to a somewhat similar question (No. 420) asked by Mr. Abdul Haye. The Chief Commissioner, North-West Frontier Province, has since reported that the report prepared by the Industrial Investigator on industrial possibilities in the North-West Frontier Province is still under his consideration in consultation with various officers.

Government are fully alive to the importance of improving local industries in the North-West Frontier Province and they will be glad to give due consideration to any recommendations to this end which the Chief Commissioner may put forward.

EXAMINATION AND PAY OF CERTAIN CLASSES OF CLERKS.

520. *Maulvi Muhammad Yakub: Will Government please state whether:

- (i) before the creation of the third division in the ministerial staff of the Government of India Secretariat, there were different test standards for the typists of the Secretariat and attached offices;
- (ii) in the notification giving particulars of examinations held prior to 1923 by the Staff Selection Board, the scale of pay for the typists was shown as Rs. 100—8—300? If so, are the clerks, who passed under the conditions laid down in the Board's notification now eligible for the scale referred to?
- (iii) such clerks as were fixed in the Army Headquarters have been confirmed in the second division up to the end of 1923;
- (iv) such clerks of the third division have not even been allowed to sit in the recent qualifying examination owing to the educational restrictions imposed; and
- (v) the routine clerks of the attached offices were allowed to sit in the examination, irrespective of their educational qualifications?

The Honourable Sir James Ormerod: (i) Yes.

(ii) The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. All those who were holding permanent posts in the lower division when the third division was created in June, 1924, are eligible for the scale referred to subject to the provision that they are not allowed to cross the efficiency bar unless they have proved their fitness for the performance of duties other than routine.

(iii) Yes.

(iv) Only such third division clerks in the Secretariat as had passed the Intermediate examination and were below the age of 35 years were eligible to appear for the qualifying examination held by the Public Service Commission last November.

(v) Yes, when specially recommended by the head of the office.

THE APPOINTMENT OF JOINT SECRETARY IN THE INDUSTRIES AND LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

521. *Maulvi Muhammad Yakub: Will Government be pleased to refer to the reply to starred question No. 248, dated the 9th September, 1929, and state:

- (i) whether there was a Joint Secretary in the Industries and Labour Department when Sir Atul Chatterjee was Member-in-charge;
- (ii) whether the temporary post of Joint Secretary has since been abolished;
- (iii) if the reply to part (ii) above be in the negative, whether the temporary post of Joint Secretary has been extended with a view to assist the present Member-in-charge of the Industries and Labour Department till the term of his office expires; and

- (iv) whether there is any proposal before Government to abolish the post of Joint Secretary and to make provision for Mr. T. Ryan in the Posts and Telegraph Department after the present Member-in-charge of the Industries and Labour Department vacates his office, and if so, what post will he hold there?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (i) and (ii). The replies are in the negative.

(iii) No. The post of Joint Secretary was sanctioned as a temporary measure for a period of three years from the 1st April, 1928, which has not yet expired.

(iv) No such proposal is before Government.

CONCESSIONS UNDER THE SIMLA ALLOWANCES CODE.

522. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** Will Government be pleased to refer to the reply to starred question No. 245, dated the 9th September, 1929, and state whether the ministerial staff of the offices referred to at (1) to (4) of the reply are in receipt of *all* the concessions of the Simla Allowances Code which are admissible to the ministerial staff of the office mentioned at (5)? If not why not? Will Government kindly state why such offices have been treated like the Wireless Branch and state reasons for such treatment?

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

Mr. Lalchand Navai Rai: Will the Honourable the Home Member kindly state whether, whenever any information is promised to be given to the Members, such information will always be placed on the table of the House, since, if it is not placed on the table of the House it is not printed in the debates and the attention of the Members of the House is not called to such information?

The Honourable Sir James Ormerod: This question is rather frequently asked. Whether or not the information will be placed on the table of the House depends a great deal both on its volume and the contents. I cannot possibly undertake that, in all cases, information which is of an extremely bulky character will be laid on the table of the House, as it would involve very heavy printing expenditure and the inclusion of matter which may not be of permanent value in the records of the House.

Mr. Lalchand Navai Rai: But it may be done when it is not very lengthy?

The Honourable Sir James Ormerod: As I say, that is a matter for consideration on the merits of each particular case.

PAY OF LADY CLERKS IN THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

523. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** Will Government be pleased to refer to parts (a) and (d) of starred question No. 184 answered on the 4th September, 1929, and starred question No. 341, answered on the 10th September, 1929, and state:

- (a) Whether in the office of the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs a lady clerk in the grade of Rs. 55—155 can reach the

maximum of the grade within seven years and has to cross no efficiency bar, whereas, on the other hand, a male clerk will have to linger for at least 20 years, provided he is favoured to cross two efficiency bars at the stages of Rs. 80 and Rs. 115? If so, will Government be pleased to state the reasons for this difference?

- (b) Whether the pay of lady typists and stenographers in that office is consolidated? If so, why their Simla local allowance, etc., is not stopped? Is it a fact that no allowance for such employees is at all admissible under the Simla Allowances Code quoted?
- (c) Is it a fact that the pay of these lady employees is graded pay in the scales of Rs. 55—155 and 100—300, respectively, but that they are immediately brought to the Rs. 120 point? If so, why are their annual increments not withheld till they reach the point of Rs. 120 after 13 years and 4 years, respectively, by absorbing their annual increments?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, a higher minimum pay has been fixed by the Government of India for women clerks in the Director General's office with reference to the special economics conditions of this class of labour.

(b) The reply to the first part is in the negative and the second part does not arise. The reply to the last part is in the negative.

(c) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply already given to part (a) of this question.

I may, however, add that the question of the remuneration of lady clerks in the office of the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs will be further examined by Government.

LACK OF ACCOMMODATION FOR A LADY TYPIST IN NEW DELHI.

524. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** Will Government be pleased to refer to starred question No. 255, answered on the 9th September, 1929, and state how and why it was considered that it would be easier for a male clerk than for a lady typist to find accommodation in New Delhi?

Mr. H. A. Sams: A man can usually more easily find accommodation in a Mess or with friends than a woman can.

EXPENDITURE FOR THE MIGRATION TO DELHI OF A PORTION OF THE WIRELESS BRANCH OF THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

525. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** (a) Will Government be pleased to refer to answers to paragraphs (b) to (d) of starred question No. 251, dated the 9th September, 1929, and state:

- (i) how Government arrived at the decision of quoting the additional expenditure of Rs. 2,100 for the migration of the remaining staff of the Wireless Branch, and
- (ii) why the additional expenditure will not be either nil or a nominal sum of Rs. 100, at the most, if the remaining staff of the Wireless Branch also migrates to Delhi?

(b) Will Government be pleased to look at the following calculations carefully and state whether they are correct, and if so, whether the amount shown at (a) (i) above is correctly quoted?—

(i) <i>Expenditure.</i>	Rs.	(ii) <i>Savings.</i>	Rs.
On account of railway fares, etc., from and to Simla for two officers	750	On account of travelling allowance and halting, etc., for one officer who is usually required to go to Delhi at least twice during each winter	250
On account of railway fares, etc., from and to Simla for nine clerks	1,450	On account of Winter Allowance of Wireless Branch staff for five months	1,800
On account of railway fares, etc., from and to Simla for six peons	150	On account of coal and electric consumption, etc., for five months	150
On account of coolie hire for carriage of records containing at the most 200 bags to Simla and Delhi Post Offices only	50	On account of pay of sweeper for five months, because an entirely separate sweeper will not be required at Delhi for Wireless Branch	100
On account of carriage of records which are carried on Postal Service in the Postal Mail Van	<i>Nil</i>		
Total	<u>2,400</u>	Total	<u>2,300</u>

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) and (b). I am unable to trace now the precise details of the figure of Rs. 2,100 previously given to the Honourable Member, but it seems to have been a gross figure corresponding to the Honourable Member's figure of 2,400.

The Honourable Member's calculation appears to be approximately correct, so far as it goes, but it takes no account of the cost of office accommodation in New Delhi debitable to the Posts and Telegraphs Department. The Wireless Branch is located in Simla in the Telegraph Office which is a building of the Department and for which the Department as a whole has not to pay rent though inter-branch adjustments are made in the accounts. If the Wireless Branch is stationed at Delhi for the whole year or a part of the year, it will have to be located in a building other than that of the Posts and Telegraphs Department and the Department will have to pay rent for the accommodation which is calculated to amount to above Rs. 4,500 a year.

DUTIES IN DELHI OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE WIRELESS OFFICE.

526. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** Will Government be pleased to refer to the reply to starred question No. 247, dated the 9th September, 1929, and state:

- (i) what are the details of daily duties performed by the Superintendent, Wireless Branch, during winter months while in Delhi;
- (ii) what are the details of daily duties of *special nature* performed by the Superintendent, Wireless Branch, in Delhi, during the absence of Director of Wireless on tour;

- (iii) whether the Superintendent, Wireless Branch, while in Delhi *ever* deals with any files of the branch which are of a technical nature and submits draft letters or notes, etc., if so, the number thereof per day;
- (iv) whether the Director-General has decided on the retention of non-Anglo-Indian Superintendents only at the headquarters of the branches concerned; and
- (v) whether the Superintendent, Wireless Branch, is exempted in any way from the operation of the Director-General's orders referred to at (iv) above, only because this Superintendent is an Anglo-Indian?

Mr. H. A. Sams: (1) The Superintendent scrutinises all cases before they are submitted to the head of the branch. He notes on certain cases, and checks the correctness and completeness of references, supplements the notes and amends drafts, etc., in others, as may be necessary. He also arranges for the disposal of all correspondence for and from the head of the branch and sees to the proper disposal of work sent out by him.

(2) In the absence of the Director Wireless on tour the Superintendent in addition to carrying out the foregoing duties, in correspondence with the Director, deals as far as possible in cases of non-technical matters or, at his discretion submits these for orders to such other officers of the Directorate as can best deal with them. He also furnishes other officers in Delhi with such information and assistance relating to the affairs of the Wireless Branch as may be available and is required by them.

(3) The Superintendent handles both technical and non-technical cases as explained in reply to (1) dealing with an average of about 12 to 14 files daily. The files connected even with technical matters require attention from a non-technical point of view as regards referencing, recording and other detail of office procedure.

(4) No.

(5) Does not arise.

LOCATION OF THE WIRELESS OFFICE.

527. *Maulvi Muhammad Yakub: Will Government be pleased to refer to the replies to starred question No. 481, dated the 19th March, 1928, unstarred question No. 439, dated the 21st March, 1928, starred questions Nos. 226 and 227, dated the 8th September, 1928, and Nos. 243, 244, 246, and 251, dated the 9th September, 1929, and state:

- (i) in detail the intention of Government about (1) the transfer of the headquarters of the Wireless Branch, from Simla to Delhi, (2) the migration of the Wireless Branch, and (3) the location of the Wireless Branch in "Kennedy House" so long as the Branch is required to remain in Simla either in its entirety or as a camp office?
- (ii) whether any decision in the matter referred to at (c) of answer to question No. 489, quoted above has since been arrived at? If not, how long it will take more?

- (iii) whether any decision on the modification to give effect to the Wireless Branch also as referred to at (c) of answer to question No. 248, quoted above, has since been arrived at? If not, how long it will take more?
- (iv) what was the decision arrived at on the question of accommodating the Wireless Branch in "Kennedy House" referred to at (a) of answer to question No. 251 quoted above?
- (v) in 1929, before surrendering several rooms in "Kennedy House" whether the Director General (keeping in view the question of location of the Wireless Branch in that building) considered the question of shifting the Wireless Branch from the Central Telegraph Office building to "Kennedy House"? If so, what was the decision? If not, why not, and why was the question overlooked?
- (vi) whether the Estate Officer, New Delhi, has ever been asked for the provision of office and residential accommodation for the Wireless Branch and its small staff at New Delhi? If so, when and what reply was received from that officer? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (i), (ii) and (iii). The question of the location of the headquarters of the Wireless Branch is at present under consideration and it is expected that a final decision in the matter will be reached shortly. As already explained in my reply to the Honourable Member's starred question No. 525, the Branch is at present located in Simla in a building of the Posts and Telegraphs Department and this arrangement is economical to the Department as a whole.

(iv) For reasons already referred to the decision taken at the time was that no change should be made in the arrangements in regard to the Wireless Branch.

(v) The matter had not been overlooked; it was however considered desirable for reasons already given not to alter the existing arrangements of the Branch.

(vi) No, as the question of bringing the Wireless Branch down to New Delhi or otherwise has not yet been finally settled.

PAY AND DUTIES OF CLERKS IN THE SECRETARIAT AND IN THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

528. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** Will Government be pleased to refer to the starred question No. 165, answered on the 5th September, 1929, and state, in detail, the difference in the duties and pay between each class of assistants and clerks (including routine clerks) in the Secretariat proper and the office of the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: The scales of pay for assistants and clerks in the Government of India Secretariat and in the office of the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs compare as follows:—

(a) In the Secretariat there are in the First Division two time-scales, the upper being Rs. 375—25—500 and the lower Rs. 200—15—500. In the Second Division the scale is Rs. 100—8—300 with a special grade (for 10 per cent. of the permanent staff in the division) rising to Rs. 350. There is a Third Division of routine clerks and typists on Rs. 90—4—170.

(b) In the Office of the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs, the divisions are at present an upper one on Rs. 100—6—160—10—300 and a lower one on Rs. 55—5—155, and there are two head clerks on Rs. 160—10—200.

Subject to the provision of funds, it is however intended that from the 1st April, 1930, the scales for the Director General's office should be those usual in Attached Offices of the Government of India, being for Assistants Rs. 120—8—160—10—350 and for Clerks Rs. 75—4—115—5—155 with two head clerks on Rs. 160—5—175.

There are of course also Superintendents, stenographers, etc., both in the Secretariat and the Directorate but as regards these, I observe, the Honourable Member does not require information.

The Honourable Member will observe that the classes are not organised in precisely the same way in the Secretariat and in the Directorate. In any case it would be impossible to compare the duties of the several classes in the detail desired by the Honourable Member since the distinction is, as already indicated in the Honourable Sir James Crerar's reply on the 5th September, 1929, a difference of standard or quality of work. The Honourable Member will realise that generally speaking more important and more complicated questions connected with the higher administrative duties of Government have to be dealt with in the Secretariat than those handled in an attached office or subordinate department, and that a higher class of ministerial assistance is required.

The fact that the standards of qualification in the Secretariat and in the Attached Offices are different and that there could be no question of equalisation of pay was recognized by the Llewellyn Smith Committee on Secretariat procedure.

CONCESSIONS TO CLERKS FOR FEMALE DEPENDANTS TRAVELLING WITH THEM.

529. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** Will Government be pleased to refer to the starred question No. 397 answered on the 11th September, 1929, and state what reasonable objections (keeping in view the strict consideration of sex only) Government may have in extending the concession in question towards the *female* dependants accompanying clerks on move or transfer in receipt of pay less than Rs. 200 per mensem?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: Dependants of Government servants derive their right to travelling facilities from officers on whom they are dependent, and Government could not contemplate giving them privileges to which the officers on whom they are dependent are not themselves entitled.

RAILWAY ACCOUNTS EXAMINATIONS.

530. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** (a) Is it a fact that, in the case of the Subordinate Accounts Service examination held under the control of the Financial Commissioner, Railways, the passing marks are much higher than those of the Subordinate Accounts Service examinations held by the Auditor General, Director of Railway Audit and Military Accounts Departments? If so, why?

(b) Is it a fact that the scale of pay of the railway service is less? If so, why?

(c) If the answers to parts (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, what immediate steps do Government propose to take to remove these anomalies?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) Yes. Because the syllabuses are entirely different, the examination for the Railway Subordinate Accounts Service being designed to meet the requirements of Accounts after its separation from audit. The Railway Accounts Examination requires a more intensive study over a smaller field. The rules for the examination were approved by the Standing Finance Committee for Railways.

(b) For some grades in the Railway Subordinate Accounts Service the scale of pay is lower and for some it is higher. The organisation and conditions of service are different in the several departments.

(c) In view of the answer to questions (a) and (b), this question does not arise.

TEST ROOMS IN TELEGRAPH OFFICES.

531. *Maulvi Muhammad Yakub: (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that "test rooms" have been introduced in certain telegraph offices in India, and if so, where and when?

(b) What is the individual cost per each such test room installed?

(c) Do the introduction of test rooms involve extra cost of maintenance, if so, how and how much in each case?

(d) How does the additional cost compare in each such case above, with and without the test room?

(e) What is a test room actually? Is it correct to presume, that it indicates really the test or research bureau of a telegraph office in the technological sense?

(f) Has the test room been stabilized or standardised in the department as yet and its construction undertaken by the departmental works at Calcutta, or entrusted entirely to an expert, and if so, who may he be?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) Yes. A test room was installed in the Central Telegraph Office, New Delhi, when that office was being fitted for the first time in 1925. A similar test room is now being installed in the Agra Central Telegraph Office.

(b) No additional cost on account of a test room is incurred when a new telegraph office is being first fitted. In the case of the Agra Central Telegraph Office the estimated cost of the work is Rs. 47,940, but this represents largely cost of additional apparatus, like repeater sets, etc., for the more efficient disposal of traffic which, I understand, would have been required in any case later on.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The term 'Test Room' means that the complicated technical apparatus instead of being spread out on individual tables in the instrument room of a telegraph office is centralised in a separate room and is solely under the supervision of the technical staff. It is not in the nature of a "Test or Research Bureau" of a telegraph office.

(f) The question of standardising the test room system will be examined after experience has been gained of its working in the Delhi and Agra offices.

The departmental works at Calcutta provide the required apparatus which is fitted up locally by the technical staff.

Mr. M. S. Aney: Why is it called the "test room" in view of the definition which the Honourable Member has given?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: That is the name given to it by the technical officers, probably because they test the apparatus from there.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF MINORITY COMMUNITIES IN RAILWAY AUDIT OFFICES.

532. ***Mr. Abdul Latif Sahib Farookhi:** (a) Is it a fact that, out of 871 subordinate staff employed in the various Government Audit Offices on Railways and in the office of the Director of Railway Audit on the 31st December, 1929, 797 are Hindus, 42 Muhammadans, 11 Anglo-Indians, 9 Sikhs, 8 Indian Christians and 4 of other communities?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state what steps the Accountant General, Railways, now the Director of Railway Audit, has taken to recruit the members of minority communities as per instructions of the Government of India promulgated in their Home Department letter No. F-176/25-Est., dated the 5th February, 1926, and as per instructions issued by the Auditor General in his letter No. 652-NGE/94-E-28, dated the 25th April, 1928?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state if preference is given to the members of minority communities in making appointments of accountants, senior accountants and Assistant Audit Officers out of qualified persons available? If not, why not?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state how many persons of minority communities have been confirmed as accountants and senior accountants in preference to others in railway audit offices since 1926? If the answer be in the negative, will Government please state reasons for the Government of India's orders not having been followed in railway audit offices?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state how it is proposed to fill up the newly created posts of two Assistant Audit Officers, eight senior accountants, 15 accountants and 63 clerks recently sanctioned in connection with the "extended audit scheme" on Company railways? Will an opportunity be taken to recruit the members of minority communities to increase their percentage representation in railway audit offices? Is it a fact that such percentage at present is 4.87 Muslims, 1.3 per cent. Anglo-Indians, 1 per cent. Sikhs, 0.9 per cent. Christians, and 0.9 other communities, against 91.5 per cent. Hindus.

(f) Will Government be pleased to state how many senior accountants, accountants and clerks qualified as accountants, belonging to the minority communities are employed in the office of the Director of Railway Audit and in the offices subordinate to him and how many of these will be able to get a lift as a matter of course due to their position on

seniority lists, and how many out of turn in view of communal representation, against the posts of two Assistant Audit Officers, eight senior accountants, and 15 accountants recently sanctioned by the Government of India in connection with the "extended audit scheme"?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (a) The figures mentioned by the Honourable Member are approximately correct.

(b) Recruitment to clerical grades is made by the heads of the various Railway Audit Offices themselves, who have strict instructions to follow the orders of the Government of India referred to by the Honourable Member. The position in respect of the recruitment of candidates during each calendar year is also reviewed annually both by the Director of Railway Audit and by the Auditor General.

(c) Appointments of senior accountants and Assistant Audit Officers are made by promotion on grounds of seniority and merit from the ranks of accountants and senior accountants, respectively; and no preference is given to the members of any community in respect of such appointments. Appointments to the rank of accountants are made partly by direct recruitment as probationary accountants and partly by promotion of qualified clerks who are already in service, and the orders of the Government of India are always borne in mind when appointing direct recruits.

(d) In view of the answer I have just given to paragraph (c), the question of preference can arise only in respect of direct appointments as probationary accountants. Only 4 such appointments have been made since 1926. Two out of the 4 recruits were members of minority communities appointed on the results of a competitive examination. The question of preference has, therefore, not arisen so far.

(e) The answer to the first question is that the matter is still under consideration, but it is unlikely that the number of new appointments otherwise than by examination will be large. The answer to the second question is that the percentages are likely to be increased, inasmuch as, in making all new appointments, the orders of the Government of India in respect of recruitment of minority communities will be fully borne in mind. The percentages mentioned in the third part of this question are approximately correct.

(f) The numbers of senior accountants, accountants and clerks qualified as accountants belonging to the minority communities and borne on establishments under the control of the Director of Railway Audit are 8, 12 and 5, respectively. In view of the position explained in the answers to questions (c) and (e), it is not possible at present to give any reply to the second part of this question.

APPOINTMENT OF INDIANS AS DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES.

533. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if Indians are eligible for appointment as diplomatic representatives in any Asiatic country, or elsewhere?

(b) Is it a fact that rules and regulations in this connection prescribe that candidates for the Diplomatic Service "must be natural-born British subjects, and born within the United Kingdom, or in one of the self-governing Dominions, of parents also born within those territories"? If so, how are Indians excluded from holding such appointments?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state how many diplomatic representatives are at present employed, whose salaries or other expenditure fall on Indian revenues? What is the approximate annual expenditure out of Indian revenues in connection with such appointments, and in what countries are they appointed?

Mr. E. B. Howell: (a) and (b). Indians are not eligible for employment in His Majesty's Diplomatic Service in virtue of the rule quoted by the Honourable Member.

(c) The whole cost of the diplomatic representative in Afghanistan and half the cost of the diplomatic representative in Persia are borne from Indian revenues. A lump sum contribution is paid from Indian revenues towards the cost of diplomatic and Consular representation in China, and of certain Consulates in Siam.

The exact figures are being ascertained and will be communicated to the Honourable Member in due course.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: Are Government aware, that, in the House of Commons, replying to a question of Major Graham Pole, Mr. Arthur Henderson said that the regulations prescribe that candidates for the Diplomatic Service must be natural-born British subjects and born within the United Kingdom, or in one of the self-governing Dominions, of parents also born within those territories? I have got this from a copy of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* dated the 23rd February, 1930, in my hand.

Mr. E. B. Howell: Sir, that is the same wording as the regulation quoted in the question of the Honourable Member.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: But you said Indians are eligible.

Mr. E. B. Howell: I said they were not.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: I am sorry, I could not hear you properly.

Sir Hari Singh Gour: Will the Government be pleased to state why Indians are not eligible for the Diplomatic Service?

Mr. E. B. Howell: I have no information, Sir, except the rule which has just been quoted.

Sir Hari Singh Gour: When was that rule made?

Mr. E. B. Howell: It is an old rule; I cannot tell you exactly when it was made.

Sir Hari Singh Gour: Have the Government considered the advisability of altering the rule or amending it so as to remove this racial discrimination against Indians?

Mr. E. B. Howell: Might I ask for notice of that question?

Sir Hari Singh Gour: Would the Honourable Member take this question as notice and see that the injustice is redressed as early as possible?

Mr. Arthur Moore: Is it not a fact that, under the operation of the rule, if India became a self-governing Dominion, Indians would automatically become eligible for such posts?

Mr. E. B. Howell: That would appear to follow, Sir.

Sir Hari Singh Gour: The Honourable Member has not replied to my question.

Mr. E. B. Howell: I do not think a matter of ten days will make any great difference.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Have the Government of India made any representations to His Majesty's Government on the subject?

Mr. E. B. Howell: I require notice of that question too.

Mr. M. S. Aney: Have the Government of India ever thought that this meant any injustice to Indians?

Mr. E. B. Howell: What the Government of India think is a matter of opinion.

**CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY INDIA FOR RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING OF
ROYAL AIR FORCE UNITS.**

534. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** Will Government be pleased to state the total amounts contributed by the Government of India every year during the last five years to the Air Ministry on account of recruitment, and training of personnel of the Royal Air Force, including transport charges, and direct expenditure on pay and maintenance of the Royal Air Force units in India?

Mr. G. M. Young: A statement giving the information is laid on the table.

Statement laid on the table with reference to starred question No. 534.

Year.	Total cost of R. A. F. to Indian Revenue.	Payment to Air Ministry in respect of recruitment and training.	Cost of sea transport.	Charges other than (3) and (4) including pay and maintenance i.e., column (2) <i>minus</i> columns (3) and (4).
1	2	3	4	5
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1925-26	1,87,29,000	10,00,000	1,80,000	1,75,69,000
1926-27	1,79,02,000	10,00,000	2,50,000	1,66,52,000
1927-28	1,85,15,000	10,00,000	2,50,000	1,72,65,000
1928-29	2,26,50,000	13,33,000	4,66,660	2,08,50,340
1929-30	2,38,00,000	14,40,000	3,67,000	2,19,93,000

CONVEYANCE OF **MAILS IN CALCUTTA BY GARAGE (CALCUTTA) LTD.**

535. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra:** (a) With reference to paragraph 16 of the agreement between the Garage (Calcutta) Ltd., Calcutta and the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs, for the conveyance of mails of the Calcutta General Post Office and the town sub-offices by motor cars, will Government be pleased to state whether any record is kept of the failure on the part of the Company in conveying any mail bag or postal articles in time?

(b) Is it a fact that, during the year 1929, sectional mails had to be detained on many occasions for the failure of the Company to take mail or parcel bags to the railway stations?

(c) Have Government inquired from the Eastern Bengal Railway, Bengal Nagpur Railway and East Indian Railway authorities, on how many days the mail trains had to be detained due to the failure on the part of the said Company to convey the mails in time?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state how many reports were received by the Postmaster General, Bengal and Assam Circle, about the failure of the Company to convey mails, etc., in time or for breakdown for other causes? If so, what action was taken by the Postmaster General? If not, why not?

Mr. H. A. Sams: (a) The answer to the Honourable Member's enquiry is in the affirmative.

(b) and (c). No. Only on two occasions during the last ten months have detentions of a few minutes only taken place.

(d) Reports of the breakdowns mentioned in the reply to part (b) of this question were received by the Postmaster-General. No action was taken against the contractors owing to the very short duration of the detention. Breakdowns of an unimportant nature come under the notice of the Presidency Postmaster, Calcutta, who takes such action as the occasion demands.

APPOINTMENT OF TOWN INSPECTORS OF POST OFFICES IN CALCUTTA.

536. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra:** (a) Is it a fact that five officials of the mofussil, who passed the Inspectorship examination, were appointed as Town Inspectors of Calcutta and afterwards absorbed in the lowest selection grade posts of Calcutta to make room for old Town Inspectors?

(b) Is it a fact that the above selection grade appointments were reserved for the officials of the Calcutta General Post Office and the vacancies in that grade should therefore have been filled up by the senior clerks of the Calcutta General Post Office?

(c) Is it a fact that, as a result of the representation of the Union, one of the five imported passed Inspectors was retransferred to the mofussil?

(d) If the reply to part (c) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state why the other four imported men have not yet been transferred from Calcutta, so as not to block the promotion of senior men?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state, how many vacancies there were in the Bengal and Assam Circle, in the line of Inspectors and Head Clerks to Superintendents during the year 1929-30, and give an idea when these four men will be transferred to the mofussil?

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

APPOINTMENTS IN THE POSTAL DEPARTMENT IN CALCUTTA.

537. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra:** (a) Is it a fact that in spite of several vacancies existing in the lowest selection grade posts in Calcutta, they have not been filled up by the Postmaster General Bengal and Assam Circle?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state why these appointments have not been filled up?

(c) Is it a fact that the Postmaster General has not filled up all vacancies and that he intends to fill up one vacancy of Supervisor of Accounts Department of the Calcutta General Post Office by a man who passed the accountants' examination?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) No. The vacancies have been filled temporarily pending the publication of the results of the selection grade examination held in December last.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As regards the first part, it will be seen from the reply to part (a) of the question that the reply is in the negative. As regards the second part, the Postmaster-General has recently filled the post of Supervisor of the Accounts Department of the Calcutta General Post Office, the designation of which post has now been changed to "Assistant Accountant", provisionally by an official who has passed the Accountants' examination.

APPOINTMENT OF AN ACCOUNTANT IN THE CALCUTTA GENERAL POST OFFICE.

538. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra:** (a) Is it a fact that Mr. J. N. Gupta, Investigating Inspector of the office of the Postmaster-General, Bengal and Assam Circle, was appointed as Accountant, Calcutta General Post Office, in the grade of Rs. 250—350 in October, 1928, superseding the claims of about 199 officials in the grade of Rs. 160—250 who were senior to him?

(b) Is it a fact, that after representation from the Union, his appointment order has been cancelled, but that he has been allowed to act in that appointment provisionally?

(c) If so, will Government be pleased to state why such special favour has been shown to Mr. Gupta? Is there no senior official in the Calcutta General Post Office who can work as an accountant there?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) Yes, Mr. Gupta was appointed by superseding the claims of 192 not 199 officials.

(b) Yes, but he has been promoted to the post provisionally so long as he works in and is considered suitable for the appointment.

(c) Mr. Gupta was promoted by the Postmaster General, Bengal and Assam Circle, in 1928 in consideration of his special qualifications. On a representation being made by the men who had been superseded, the Postmaster-General's order was modified by the Director-General to the extent that Mr. Gupta's promotion to the post should be provisional, that he should be made permanent in the grade of Rs. 250—20—350 when his

turn comes in the ordinary course and that his seniors in the grade of Rs. 160—10—250 will, on promotion to the grade of Rs. 250—20—350, be placed above him.

GRATUITIES PAID FROM THE INTEREST OF THE POSTAL GUARANTEE FUND.

539. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra:** (a) With reference to the reply to Rai Sahib Harbilas Sarda's starred question No. 607 of the 17th September, 1929, in the Legislative Assembly, will Government be pleased to state why, out of the interest of the guarantee fund, which was built up solely by the contributions of the postal employees, compassionate gratuity was paid to employees other than those of the Postal Department?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state how many applications praying for compassionate gratuity were received by the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs during the period from (i) families of the postal employees (ii) other employees and how many of (i) and (ii) were granted compassionate gratuity?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) The Honourable Member's attention is drawn to the reply given by the Honourable Mr. A. C. McWatters on the 4th September, 1928, in the Legislative Assembly to unstarred question No. 45 by Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan, and also to the reply given by the Honourable Sir B. N. Mitra on the 17th February, 1930, to starred question No. 353 by Mr. M. Anwar-ul-Azim. Compassionate gratuity is no longer paid out of the interest of the Guarantee Fund. This Fund was abolished with effect from 1st April, 1926, and the balance at its credit was credited in the accounts of the Posts and Telegraphs Department. Since the year 1926-27 a sum of Rs. 20,000 is being provided annually in the budget of the Department for the payment of compassionate gratuity to the dependents of its employees (both Postal and Telegraph), who are left in indigent circumstances. This amount includes a sum of Rs. 18,000 which is approximately equal to the average annual payments of compassionate gratuities to dependents of Postal employees during the last few years of the Post Office Guarantee Fund's existence and a sum of Rs. 2,000 which was formerly provided every year in the budget for gratuities to Telegraph employees or their dependents.

(b) The number of applications received from the beginning of 1926-27, to the end of 1928-29 from families of (i) Postal employees, (ii) other employees, was 790 and 152 respectively, and the number of cases in which compassionate gratuity was granted was 301 and 37 respectively.

TRANSFER OF POSTMASTERS.

540. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra:** (a) Is it a fact that the gazetted Postmasters drawing a pay of Rs. 350 per mensem and upwards and the Superintendents of Post Offices and R. M. S. and Assistant Postmasters General, have got the same administrative powers?

(b) Is it a fact that the Superintendents and Assistant Postmasters-General but not the gazetted Postmasters are transferred after every three years?

(c) If so, will Government be pleased to state why these gazetted Postmasters or gazetted Deputy Postmasters are not transferred after every three years?

Mr. H. A. Sams: (a) The administrative powers of Superintendents of post offices and gazetted Postmasters in charge of first class head offices are almost the same in their respective jurisdictions. Assistant Postmasters-General do not exercise any independent administrative powers.

(b) Superintendents are ordinarily transferred every 8 years and Assistant Postmasters-General every 5 years. No period has been fixed for the transfer of gazetted Postmasters.

(c) The exercise of administrative control has no connection with the periodical transfers of Superintendents and Assistant Postmasters General. There is, therefore, no question of transferring gazetted Postmasters and Deputy Postmasters on the analogy of Superintendents of post offices.

ACCOMMODATION FOR INDIAN APPRENTICES AT THE KHARAGPUR RAILWAY WORKSHOPS.

541. *Mr. S. C. Mitra: (a) With reference to their answer to my starred question in the Legislative Assembly No. 491 (a) and (b), dated the 16th September, 1929, will Government please state how the question of accommodating the Indian apprentices in the existing hostel for European and Anglo-Indian apprentices in the Bengal Nagpur Railway Workshops at Kharagpur now stands, and when the decision is expected?

(b) Are Government aware that the Indian apprentices of the Kharagpur Railway Workshops have been without accommodation ever since the system of apprenticeship training for Indians was introduced by the Railway?

(c) Are Government prepared to instruct the Railway to expedite their consideration of this point in particular? If not, why not?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: With your permission, Sir, I propose to answer questions Nos. 541, 542 and 546 together. A Report on the matters referred to has been called for from the Agent, Bengal Nagpur Railway and I will send the Honourable Member a reply to his enquiries when it is received.

TRAINING OF INDIAN AND ANGLO-INDIAN AND EUROPEAN APPRENTICES AT THE KHARAGPUR RAILWAY WORKSHOP.

†542. *Mr. S. C. Mitra: With reference to their answers to my starred questions in the Legislative Assembly, Nos. 494, 496 (a) and 563 (a) and (b), dated the 16th and 25th September, 1929, respectively, will Government be pleased to state how the proposal for removing all distinctions in theoretical training of the Indian Grade "A" apprentices in the Bengal Nagpur Railway Workshops at Kharagpur, in order to bring them to the level of the training for all purposes with that given to the Anglo-Indian and European apprentices there, now stands, and when the decisions are expected?

INCREMENTS OF PAY OF APPRENTICES AT THE KHARAGPUR WORKSHOPS.

543. *Mr. S. C. Mitra: With reference to the Government's answer to my starred question in the Legislative Assembly No. 493, dated the 16th September, 1929, regarding increments to count for *entire* probationary

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 541.

period of services of apprentices in the Bengal Nagpur Railway Workshops at Kharagpur, will Government be pleased to reconsider the question once again and give the proper and requisite answer? If not, why not?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: I presume that the Honourable Member wishes to know how the period of probation in excess of 6 months which might have been allowed in particular cases has been treated for purposes of reckoning increments.

I have called for a full report from the Agent, Bengal Nagpur Railway on this point and will communicate with the Honourable Member when it is received.

RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN GRANT OF PROVIDENT FUND TO APPRENTICES OF THE KHARAGPUR WORKSHOPS.

544. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra:** Is it a fact that the European and Anglo-Indian apprentices of the Kharagpur Railway Workshops are eligible, on their confirmation, to join the Railway Provident Fund of the Bengal Nagpur Railway, but that the Indian "A" Grade apprentices are not allowed to do so? If so, will Government be pleased to state what are the reasons of this discrimination?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: I am obtaining the required information from the Bengal Nagpur Railway and shall communicate later with the Honourable Member.

GRANT OF A GOOD CONDUCT BONUS TO ANGLO-INDIAN AND EUROPEAN APPRENTICES AT KHARAGPUR.

545. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra:** Is it a fact that, under the rules, a good conduct bonus of Rs. 200, with a further sum of Rs. 100 to their credit in the Provident Fund, is given to the Anglo-Indian and European apprentices in the Bengal Nagpur Railway Workshops at Kharagpur, on satisfactory completion of their terms of apprenticeship? If so, will Government please state whether this concession is also allowed to the Indian "A" Grade apprentices there? If not, why not?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: I am obtaining the required information from the Bengal Nagpur Railway and shall communicate later with the Honourable Member.

PROBATIONARY PERIOD FOR INDIAN AND ANGLO-INDIAN AND EUROPEAN APPRENTICES AT KHARAGPUR.

†546. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra:** Is it a fact that, under the rules for recruitment of apprentices in the Kharagpur Railway Workshops, the probationary period of the Indian "A" Grade apprentices has been fixed as six months and in the case of the Anglo-Indian and European apprentices, it is three months? If so, will Government please state the reasons for this differential treatment?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 541.

**ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS OF SUPERINTENDENTS AND ASSISTANT
SUPERINTENDENTS OF THE ARCHÆOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA.**

547. Sheikh Mushir Husain Kidwai: (a) Will the Government of India be pleased to state what academic qualifications are considered necessary for the appointments of Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents of the Archæological Survey of India?

(b) Is it a fact that, as in other scientific departments of the Government of India, a high technical knowledge of archæology or any of the branches of study comprising the subject is not considered essential for admission to gazetted posts in this Department?

(c) Are Government aware that the standards of scholarship and learning have lamentably deteriorated of late owing to the appointment of persons not properly qualified?

Sir Frank Noyce: (a) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the answer given to part (a) of the Honourable Mr. G. S. Khaparde's question No. 69 on 27th February 1928, in the Council of State. Persons when first appointed to the Archæological Department are expected to have a sound working knowledge of one or more of the following subjects, i.e., Architecture, Indian languages, history, pre-historic antiquities and excavations, etc., according to the branch of the work for which recruitment is made. Fitness for promotion to the superior posts of the Department such as those of Superintendents is acquired by practical experience which in India the Department alone can provide.

(b) As I have already explained to the honourable member in my answer to part (a) of the question, selection for first appointment to the Department is based primarily on the possession by candidates of a foundation of linguistic, historical or architectural knowledge or of proficiency in more than one of these subjects according to the nature of the work for which recruitment is made. The Archæological Department differs from the other Scientific Departments of Government in that, outside it, there exists no agency which provides facilities for specialisation such as are available in respect of the various branches of Physical Science, e.g., Chemistry, Mineralogy, etc.

(c) No.

UNSATISFACTORY ARCHÆOLOGICAL REPORTS.

548. *Sheikh Mushir Husain Kidwai: Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the circular No. 883-69, dated 1st July, 1929, issued by the Director General of Archæology in which the officer admits that many of the contributions to the annual reports were lamentably poor, drawn up carelessly and illogically and in such indifferent literary style that it has been necessary to rewrite them?

Sir Frank Noyce: Government's attention was not drawn to the circular referred to by the Honourable Member until receipt of his question. The circular was issued by the Director General of Archæology in India in order to draw attention to the lapses of some members of the Department rather than to reflect upon the capacity of the personnel of the Department as a whole. It was intended to be treated as confidential, and Government would like to know how its contents came to be known to the Honourable Member. Government are assured by the Director General of Archæology that there is no justification whatsoever for thinking

that the efficiency of the Department as a whole is today in any way below the high level which has always been characteristic of the Archæological Survey of India.

STANDARD OF SCHOLARSHIP IN THE ARCHÆOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT.

549. ***Sheikh Mushir Husain Kidwai:** (a) What steps do Government intend to take to raise the standard of scholarship in the Archæological Department?

(b) Do Government intend to thresh out the whole question of appointments in this Department, if necessary, with the help of an expert committee?

Sir Frank Noyce: (a) In view of the answer given by me to question No. 941 Government do not consider that any action is necessary to raise the standard of scholarship in the Archæological Department.

(b) No.

APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ARCHÆOLOGY.

550. ***Sheikh Mushir Husain Kidwai:** (a) Have Government considered the question of appointing a successor to Sir John Marshall, as Director General of Archæology?

(b) What are the names and qualifications of the officers who have been appointed to act in his place during the last three years?

Sir Frank Noyce (a) An officer has already been appointed to officiate as Director General of Archæology in place of Sir John Marshall.

(b) A statement giving the information asked for is laid on the table of the House.

Statement.

Year.	Name of officer.	Period for which he officiated as Director-General of Archæology.	Qualifications.
1927 . . .	No officiating appointment was made in this year. .		Both Messrs. Hargreaves and Blakiston are experienced officers of the Department in which they have been serving since 1909 and 1911 respectively. Mr. Hargreaves did admirable conservation work in the Northern Circle and has also made valuable contributions to archæological research. Mr. Blakiston is a first class architect. Both officers have shown great administrative ability in all the appointments they have held.
1928 . . .	Mr. J. F. Blakiston	6th September 1928 to 7th October 1928.	
	Mr. H. Hargreaves	8th October 1928 to date.	
1929 . . .	Mr. Hargreaves officiated for Sir John Marshall throughout the year.		

QUALIFICATIONS OF OFFICERS OF THE ARCHÆOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT.

551. ***Sheikh Mushir Husain Kidwai:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state what are the qualifications of the Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents of the Archæological Department?

(b) How many officers in the Archæological Department have passed the age of superannuation?

(c) On what grounds have Government considered it necessary to retain them in service?

(d) Have Government considered the question of filling these appointments by appointment of competent persons?

(e) How many officers of the grade not lower than Superintendents are expected to reach the age of superannuation within the next four years?

(f) Do Government intend to appoint persons in the grade of Assistant Superintendents or to raise fresh incumbents to the post of Superintendents?

(g) How many officers of the general line, i.e., Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents of the Archæological Survey are graduates of Indian or foreign universities?

(h) How many of them are conversant with oriental languages like Sanskrit, Pali and Prakrit, Arabic, Persian, etc.?

(i) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is considered necessary to have a larger proportion of people with linguistic qualifications in the cadre of the Archæological Department? If not, why not?

Sir Frank Noyce: (a) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the answer given by me to part (a) of question No. 547.

(b) Two.

(c) In the interests of the public service. Both the officers are engaged upon literary work which cannot be entrusted to others.

(d) Yes.

(e) Seven.

(f) If the Honourable Member wishes to know whether it is intended to appoint men from outside the Archæological Survey to succeed Superintendents now in service, the answer is that Government have no such intention at present, as no difficulty is anticipated in finding from the junior ranks of the Department officers who would be fully qualified to fill vacancies among Superintendents as and when these occur.

(g) 17 out of a total strength of 21 permanent officers.

(h) 19.

(i) No. The existing proportion of officers possessing linguistic qualifications to the total strength is fully adequate.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL PUBLICATIONS.

552. ***Sheikh Mushir Husain Kidwai:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state what steps have been taken to popularise the work of the Archæological Department among the general public?

(b) Is it a fact that the chief provincial publications have been discontinued during the last few years?

(c) Is it a fact that the Director General of Archæology in India has prohibited the publication of any article, even in the vernacular, by the provincial Superintendents or any of their staff?

(d) Does this rule obtain in all the scientific departments of the Government of India or does it apply exclusively to the Archæological Department?

(e) Is it the policy of Government to give every encouragement to the officers and the staff of the Archæological Survey to disseminate knowledge about India's past by all possible means?

Sir Frank Noyce: (a) The work of the Archæological Department is given publicity by means of departmental publications such as Annual and Special Reports, Memoirs and the like. Whenever a new discovery of importance is made, a press communiqué is also issued. The work of the Department is also reviewed annually by the Director of Public Information in his book "India".

(b) Yes; primarily as the result of Archæology having become a central subject under the Reforms.

(c) The contribution of articles, whether in an Indian vernacular or in English is not prohibited. All that is required is that, before such articles appear in publications other than departmental, the approval of the Government of India should be obtained. This condition is necessary in order to ensure that the results of Government Archæological work are made available simultaneously and on equal terms to every one.

(d) I am making inquiries and shall let the Honourable Member know the result in due course.

(e) Yes; Government are not aware that the practice observed by them in this matter in any way conflicts with the objective described by the Honourable Member.

PROMOTION OF ANGLO-INDIAN ACCOUNTS OFFICERS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

553. ***Mr. B. Das:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that all the six Divisional Accounts Officers on the East Indian Railway are Anglo-Indians?

(b) Is it a fact that a large proportion of these officers were promoted from the Anglo-Indian Inspectors of Station Accounts?

(c) What is the reason for raising the post of the Inspector of Station Accounts to the officers' rank and putting them in the General Branch? Is it only to increase the number of Anglo-Indian element in the higher post?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) Three are Anglo-Indians and three are Europeans.

(b) One of the three Anglo-Indians is a promoted Inspector of Station Accounts but he had been promoted by the Auditor General before he was loaned to the Financial Commissioner.

(c) In view of the replies to clauses (a) and (b) the question does not arise.

**PROMOTION OF ANGLO-INDIAN ACCOUNTS OFFICERS ON THE
EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.**

554. *Mr. B. Das: (a) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that six more Divisional Accounts Officers will be required on the East Indian Railway for the six Divisions to introduce the Local Traffic accounts scheme?

(b) Is it a fact that the scheme is now being carried out by an Anglo-Indian officer who was previously the Head Booking Clerk of Delhi?

(c) Is it a fact that all these six officers are being selected from the Anglo-Indians? Is it a fact that two Anglo-Indian Inspectors also are to be given promotion under this scheme?

(d) Are Government aware that invariably the members of this community are monopolising all the higher posts on the East Indian Railway? Why are they getting preference?

(e) Are Government prepared to look into this and put a stop to this preferential treatment to the members of a particular community?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) Yes, but only three of the posts are additional, as there will be a reduction of three posts in the head office.

(b) No. The previous Head Booking Clerk of Delhi, who is an Anglo-Indian, is only one of the six District Traffic Accounts Officers.

(c) Only one appointment has been made so far, viz., the promoted Head Booking Clerk of Delhi mentioned in the answer to (b) above. The question of filling the remaining two additional posts has not yet arisen.

(d) and (e). No one is getting any preference in the matter of promotion because he belongs to a particular community. The majority of the upper grade subordinates that have come to the State from the East Indian Railway Company are Anglo-Indians.

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney: Arising out of the Honourable Member's reply to part (d) of this question, will he state whether it is or is not a fact that, during the year 1929, while there was a marked increase of Indians in the upper subordinates grade, the number of Anglo-Indians employed on the East Indian Railway including upper subordinates was reduced by 253, or 10 per cent. of their total number; and if that is a fact, is it preferential (as is stated in part (d) of the question) or differential treatment?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: The Honourable Member will not expect me to carry the figures in my head; I am content, if the figures appear in a public Report, to accept them from him.

FACILITIES IN INDIA GRANTED TO THE DUTCH AIR SERVICE.

555. *Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: Is it a fact that the question of giving "further facilities" to the Dutch air flights across India is being considered by Government, and if so, will they be pleased to make a statement on the subject so as to allay any apprehension that the Indian revenues may be charged for providing facilities to a foreign air service, or that a foreign air service may establish itself in India?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: The permission of Government for further trial flights between Holland and the Dutch East Indies has been asked for and the matter is now under consideration by Government. If permission is given, no facilities other than those referred to in the reply given by me in this House on 20th January, 1930 to part (c) of the Honourable Member's question No. 19, will be afforded.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: I was then not here as I had resigned; will the Honourable Member kindly repeat that answer?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: I have not got the answer with me at the present moment; but my Honourable friend will find it printed in the reports of the House.

CLASSIFICATION OF COMMUNITIES FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE SERVICE.

556. ***Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state, whether the following Resolution was passed by the Assembly on the 10th of March, 1923?

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that in making new recruitment for the services under the control of the Central Government, steps be taken to secure, that the services are not unduly overweighted with representatives of any one community or province and that as far as possible claims of all communities and provinces are considered."

(b) Has any effect been given to this Resolution as yet?

(c) Does the classification of communities into majority and minority date from the passing of the said Resolution?

(d) Are the depressed classes, the Sikhs, Parsis and Indian Christians counted with the majority community for the purposes of representation in the services of the Crown under this Resolution?

(e) Which are the minority communities contemplated by the Government of India Circular No. F-176/25-Ests., dated the 5th February 1926?

(f) Are not the depressed classes numbered as sixty millions in this country? Are they classed with the minorities?

(g) Who are these "others" mentioned in the Railway Board's Report for 1928-29, who are also considered as belonging to the minority communities?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar: (a) and (b). The reply is in the affirmative.

(c) I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to his question No. 64, on the 3rd September last.

(d) Sikhs, Parsis, and Indian Christians are among the classes generally recognised as requiring consideration in accordance with the principles of the Resolution.

(e) There has been no precise definition of the term "minority communities".

(f) It was computed at the Census of 1921 that the depressed classes numbered between 55 and 60 millions in India proper. It is understood

that certain castes included under the general description of depressed classes are treated as minority communities by certain local Governments.

(g) The term "other classes" refers to communities not specifically mentioned in the statements included in the report.

Nawab Sir Sahibzada Abdul Qaiyum: Have the Government of India ever considered how the caste Hindus, who appear to have monopolised or captured Government services, compare with Muslims in numbers after excluding the Buddhists, the Sikhs and other smaller communities now forming part of the majority community and whether untouchables, who form a very large part of the Indian population and are classed as Hindus or as part of the majority community, are counted as such in securing services for the Hindus?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar: I think, if the Honourable Member will re-peruse the various debates in this House and the answers that have been given, he will find that these matters have been carefully considered.

As regards the specific question he asked regarding the depressed classes, I have already pointed out that some Local Governments do feel that certain sections included under that general definition are minority communities.

Nawab Sir Sahibzada Abdul Qaiyum: Do Government propose to isolate the Mussalmans from the rest of the population of India for the purposes of services, just as has been done with respect to representation in the Assembly and Local Councils, by declaring certain constituencies as Muhammadan and the rest as Non-Muhammadan? Will Government see the advisability of separating or isolating the Muhammadans altogether from the rest of the Indians and give them a share in the services according to their numbers?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar: I shall examine the suggestion made by the Honourable Member.

Mr. M. S. Aney: Is the Honourable Member aware that, at the All-India Minorities Conference, the covenant had also invited the depressed classes to attend it?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar: I am afraid I could not catch the Honourable Member. Will he kindly repeat his question?

Mr. M. S. Aney: Is the Honourable Member aware that at the All-India Minorities Conference the depressed classes were also invited to attend it? Is the Government aware of it?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar: I do not think that arises out of this question.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: Have claims of all the different provinces been taken into account in terms of the Resolution to which reference has been made in the question?

(No answer was given.)

TRAINING OF INDIANS FOR RAILWAY SERVICES.

557. ***Mr. Bhupatiraju Sitaramaraju:** Will Government be pleased to state what progress has been made with regard to the technical training of Indians in the several provinces of India, both for the superior and the subordinate grades of the railway services, and the system of selection and training of the young men appointed probationers in the Traffic Department on Indian Railways, and if so, what is the number that are being trained now, and how many of them are Hindus, how many Mussalmans, and how many Anglo-Indians, and how many Indian Christians?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: Information on the subject is not available by Provinces. On the State-managed railways there are 39 special apprentices who are receiving training for the Mechanical Engineering and the Transportation Power branches. The distribution of this number among the communities is as follows:

Hindus	..	..	..	..	..	22
Muhammadans	..	..	..	..	..	9
Anglo-Indians	..	..	..	..	..	5
Indian Christians	..	..	..	..	..	2
Parsee	..	..	..	..	..	1
Total						39

There are also at present 19 probationers of Asiatic domicile in the Superior establishment in the Transportation Traffic and Commercial Branches of State-managed railways. The distribution of this number among the different communities is as follows:

Muslim	..	..	..	..	..	1
Hindus	..	..	..	..	..	16
Indian Christian	..	..	..	..	..	1
Sikh	..	..	..	..	..	1
Total						19

Government are not in possession of information showing the number of apprentices and probationers in the Superior establishments of Company-managed railways.

The regulations for the recruitment of probationers in the Superior Traffic Transportation and Commercial Branches of State-managed railways are in the Library of the House.

Each railway administration has prescribed its own rules for the training of the subordinate establishment, but the question of obtaining some uniformity on State-managed railways is under consideration.

Government are not aware of the number of subordinates who are at present receiving training in the Traffic Department of Indian Railways.

HIGH RATE OF INTEREST FOR RECENT STERLING LOAN.

558. ***Mr. Bhupatiraju Sitaramaraju**: Will Government be pleased to state (i) why the sterling loan was borrowed at six per cent.; (ii) whether the amount could not be raised in India, and (iii) whether the high rate offered had anything to do with the Lahore resolutions?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to paragraphs 92 and 93 of my budget speech where he will find my answers to his queries.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE VIZAGAPATAM HARBOUR.

559. ***Mr. Bhupatiraju Sitaramaraju**: (a) Will Government be pleased to state when the harbour construction at Vizagapatam is likely to be finished, and what is the amount already spent and what amount is yet to be spent for the purpose?

(b) Will the Vizianagram to Raipur Railway be completed by the time the Vizagapatam Harbour work is completed, and is there any prospect of opening both in 1931, as originally contemplated?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) It is hoped that work on the construction of the Vizagapatam Harbour will be sufficiently advanced to allow ships to be berthed in 1932. The amount spent on construction of the Harbour up to the 30th September, 1929, was approximately Rs. 161.98 lakhs. The latest forecast of total expenditure is Rs. 286½ lakhs.

(b) Yes. Portions of the Raipur-Vizianagram Railway between Raipur Jhonk and Parbatipur-Vizianagram have already been opened and the balance of the line is expected to be ready in 1932.

DESTINATION OF THE BUDDHA RELIC FOUND AT PALNAD.

560. ***Mr. Bhupatiraju Sitaramaraju**: Will Government be pleased to state whether they have decided the destination of the real find in Palnad taluk in the Krishna district by Mr. Longhurst of the Indian Archaeological Survey, of Buddha's relic?

Sir Frank Noyce: No. The matter is still under consideration.

CLAIM BY INDIA FOR WAR SERVICES RENDERED TO BRITAIN.

561. ***Mr. Bhupatiraju Sitaramaraju**: Will Government be pleased to state whether India's claim of seventy million sterling in Britain in connection with war services, apart from one hundred million pounds sterling voluntarily given by India, has been settled by the War Office?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: There has never, so far as I can ascertain, been any question of a claim by India of seventy million sterling in connection with war services. I have ascertained from the Honourable Member that his question refers to the general settlement of war claims and that he wishes to know:

- (a) the net amount paid by India over and above the original contribution of one hundred million sterling; and
- (b) whether there are any outstanding claims by India against the British Government and *vice versa*.

As to the first point, a further contribution of £13,600,000 was made in accordance with a Resolution passed by the Imperial Legislative Council in September 1918. This payment was made at the time, but still awaits formal ratification by a Resolution of Parliament.

As to the second point, there are certain outstanding claims and counter-claims. These have been the subject of prolonged discussion, and I can indicate that Government expect shortly to be able to announce a final settlement of all war claims.

DETERMINATION OF LAND REVENUE POLICY BY PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURES.

562. *Mr. Bhupatiraju Sitaramaraju: (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether the Government of India allow freedom to Local Governments to deal with land revenue policy as they deem best, and if so, have the provincial legislatures any determining voice in the matter?

(b) If so, have such powers so far been exercised by any of the provincial legislatures?

(c) If the provincial legislatures are not given this freedom, do the Government of India propose to take steps to give such freedom to them?

Sir Frank Noyce: (a) Under the Devolution Rules land revenue administration is a provincial subject and Local Governments are free to deal with questions affecting land revenue policy in their respective provinces, subject to the general powers of superintendence, direction and control possessed by the Government of India. The powers of local legislatures are defined in the Government of India Act.

(b) The general principles of land revenue assessment have been embodied in Acts passed by the local legislatures of the United Provinces, Central Provinces and the Punjab. Similar legislation is under consideration in Bombay and Assam and the necessary Bills will be introduced in due course in the local Legislative Councils.

(c) Does not arise.

PERCENTAGE OF VACANCIES IN THE INDIAN FOREST SERVICE FILLED BY PROMOTION OF OFFICERS OF THE PROVINCIAL FOREST SERVICE.

563. *Mr. S. C. Mitra: (a) In reply to Mr. K. C. Neogy on the 12th September, 1928, the Government stated "12½ per cent. of the total Indian Forest Service cadre was set apart in 1921 for promotion of Provincial Forest Service Officers as a result of the recommendation of the Islington Commission. This proportion of posts is now held by Provincial Forest Service officers and it is the intention of Government to fill each vacancy in this portion of the cadre by promotion from the Provincial Forest Service. This will give, during the period 1928—34, officers of the Provincial Service 10 vacancies out of 24 or 41.66 per cent. of the total number of vacancies."

Will Government be pleased to state why particularly a period of seven years was taken for the purpose of calculation? Is it that, in that year, the figure for the posts likely to be held by provincial officers is at its highest, or is there any other reason?

(b) Is it not a fact that according to the calculations shown by Government there ought to be 14 vacancies within the period 1928—34 to be

filled up by direct recruits? Is it a fact that already six Indians and four Europeans have been recruited and seven more are undergoing training, four of whom will be appointed in 1930 and three in 1931?

Sir Frank Noyce: No special significance attaches to the period of seven years for which vacancies among promoted Provincial Forest Service officers were calculated in answering the question referred to by the Honourable Member. This period was chosen merely because figures for it happened to be readily available. In calculating vacancies due to superannuation, fairly long periods have to be taken into account; otherwise no clear indication could be obtained of the average rate of retirement. If the period in question had been three years, say to the end of 1931, the share of Provincial Forest Service officers of the total number of vacancies then expected would have come to 40 per cent. or only 1.66 less than the percentage mentioned in the answer given to Mr. Neogy.

(b) The facts are as stated. The increase in the actuals of direct recruitment is explained by the fact that the figure 14 mentioned by the Honourable Member related only to vacancies due to superannuation.

LACK OF LISTED POSTS IN THE FOREST DEPARTMENT.

564. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra:** (a) Is it a fact, that there has been a substantial increase in the number of listed posts in almost all other departments except Forest, subsequent to the Lee Commission?

(b) If the reply to part (a) is in the affirmative, will Government explain if there are any particular reasons for this differential treatment of the provincial officers of this Department?

Sir Frank Noyce: (a) There has been an increase in the number of listed posts in the Indian Civil Service and Indian Police Service.

(b) The main question is one of Indianisation rather than one of the sources from which Indian recruits should be drawn. In the Indian Forest Service the proportion of posts reserved for Indians is higher than in either of the other two all-India Services mentioned in the answer to part (a). In order that Indians should receive higher training in Forestry in India before appointment to the Indian Forest Service, the Government of India expanded the College of Forestry at Dehra Dun at a cost of nearly five lakhs on buildings and equipment and an additional expenditure of approximately Rs. 86,000 on the staff. The number of Indian probationers who have been receiving instruction at the College before appointment to the Indian Forest Service in any one year works out at an average of 4, and the chances are that in the near future it may fall even below this number. The proportion of posts reserved for promoted Provincial Forest Service officers can be increased only at the expense of direct Indian recruits and consequently at the expense of the College of Forestry at Dehra Dun which might as well be closed if the number of direct recruits is to fall well below the small figure of 4 a year. The Government of India, therefore, thought that it would be better to await the Report of the Indian Statutory Commission, when the future of the control of Forests could be clearly visualised, before deciding to vary the existing system of recruitment for the Indian Forest Service. For, if the next step should be assimilation of the position of the Indian Forest Service to that of other all-India Services operating in the transferred field, the question of increasing the proportion of

posts open to promoted officers would become largely one for each Local Government to decide. Government are, however, now considering whether anything can be done in the meantime to increase the proportion of posts open to Provincial Forest Service officers without materially reducing the average number of Indians now annually chosen for training at Dehra Dun and the Honourable Member may rest assured that, if something can be done in this direction, it will be done.

RECRUITMENT IN THE INDIAN FOREST SERVICE.

565. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra:** (a) Is it a fact that the Government of India, in letter No. 1270, dated 12th October, 1922, in reply to the memorials submitted by the Provincial Forest Service officers said "having regard to the similarity in the character of the duties to be performed in the so-called 'major' and 'minor' charges, it may be that we shall propose some increase in the number of posts in the Imperial Service as open to the Provincial Service"?

(b) If the reply to part (a) is in the affirmative, will Government state whether they have come to any decision on this point, within the last seven years?

(c) Is it a fact that four Europeans have been directly recruited in the Indian Forest Service against six Indians within the last two years? Will Government explain how this is consistent with the proportion fixed by the Lee Commission (i.e., 75 per cent. should be Indians and 25 per cent. Europeans)?

Sir Frank Noyce: (a) No.

(b) I have already explained the position in my answer to part (b) of the immediately preceding question.

(c) Four Europeans were appointed to the Indian Forest Service in 1929, but this was not as against six Indians, but in order to make up the European ratio of 1 = 3 which, but for these four appointments, would have fallen to 3 = 26.

PROMOTION OF PERMANENT ENGINEERING SUPERVISORS, TELEGRAPHS.

566. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) Have the Government of India in the Department of Industries and Labour in their letter No. 107-PTE. dated the 18th April, 1927, sanctioned the withholding of promotions of permanent Engineering Supervisors, Telegraphs (General Branch), appointed according to the old method in force prior to January, 1929, to the grade of Deputy Assistant Engineers, or does this letter only sanction recruitment to the grade of Engineering Supervisors?

(b) How many Engineering Supervisors (recruited according to the old method) have been thus affected by this sanction and debarred from rising above the rank of Supervisors? Is it not a fact that some Supervisors were given only one chance to appear for the examination referred to in part (b) of my unstarred question No. 177 of the 16th September, 1929, regarding the system of recruitment to Telegraph Engineering Branches?

(c) If Government have not sanctioned the withholding of further promotions of Engineering Supervisors (recruited according to the old method) to the grade of Deputy Assistant Engineers, how do Government propose to reconcile their reply to part (b) of my unstarred question No. 177 of the

16th September, 1929? Are Government aware that in answer to the same question Government refused to take five Indians? If so, why then Engineering Supervisors, Messrs. J. E. W. Underwood, W. C. Duncan, T. P. D'Abreu, were sent to the Chief Electrician's Office, Calcutta, for training? What was the object of training these three men in the Chief Electrician's office?

(d) Did the above three Supervisors fail to pass the examination referred to in part (b) of my unstarred question No. 177 of the 16th September, 1929? If so, why were these persons selected for training in the Telegraph Store-yard, Calcutta, in the office of the Chief Electrician?

(e) Is it not a fact that no permanent Indian Engineering Supervisor, Telegraphs, was admitted for training in the Chief Electrician's Office, Calcutta, while 14 Anglo-Indians in 1927, and three more this year have been sent up for subsequent appointments as Deputy Assistant Engineers?

(f) Do Government propose to make inquiries whether this is due to favour shown to a particular community?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) In the letter quoted the Government of India issued orders introducing a revised method of recruitment and training of candidates for the cadre of Engineering Supervisors. Consequent on the issue of these orders, the method of training Engineering Supervisors for subsequent promotion to the cadre of Deputy Assistant Engineers which was previously in force was abolished.

(b) The number is 21. The reply to the second part of the question is in the affirmative.

(c) In view of the reply at (a) above the first part of the question does not arise. The answer to the second part is in the affirmative.

Although Messrs. Underwood, White (not Duncan) and D'Abreu failed in the examination held in 1927, they had passed a previous similar examination in 1926, but owing to being over age they were not permitted to join training class in 1926. On reconsideration it was admitted by the Director-General that, as from the point of view of practical fitness they were thoroughly qualified to perform the duties of Deputy Assistant Engineers and they had passed an examination as already stated they deserved exemption from the age limit. The Government of India therefore permitted them, as a special case, to undergo the same course of training as was prescribed for appointment as Engineering Supervisors, selected under the new method in 1929, for subsequent employment as Deputy Assistant Engineers on successful completion of the course.

(d) The reply to the latter part of (c) covers this part.

(e) Yes—as only one Indian candidate qualified at the admission examination in 1927 and he subsequently failed to pass the examination held at the conclusion of six months' training.

(f) No. Government are satisfied that no favour has been shown to any particular community in this matter.

DISCHARGE OF ONE IMAMUDDIN, A DRIVER IN THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

567. ***Mr. Abdul Latif Sahib Farookhi:** (a) Will Government please state the reason or reasons why one Imamuddin, son of Kasam, who was a F. P. driver in the North Western Railway on the Wazirabad-Lahore section, was discharged from service?

(b) Is it a fact that the said Imamuddin was injured, while on duty, twice,—once in 1925, and for the second time in 1927?

(c) If the answer to part (b) be in the affirmative, was any compensation paid to him under the Workmen's Compensation Act? If not, why not?

(d) Has any gratuity been paid to the said Imamuddin? If not, why not?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: I have asked the Agent, North Western Railway, for a report, and will communicate with the Honourable Member on its receipt.

UNDERWRITING COMMISSION PAID FOR FLOATATION OF THE RECENT STERLING LOAN.

568. ***Mr. Ghanshyam Das Birla:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the amount of underwriting commission, if any, paid in connection with the floatation of the recent Sterling Loan of £6 millions?

(b) What is the figure to which the rate of interest works out taking into consideration the discount, interest, premium, underwriting commission, and other charges, if any?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (a) Underwriting commission paid was at the usual rate of 1½ per cent.

(b) Taking into account all charges, the rate of interest works out to £7-5-8 per cent. if the loan is repaid in 1932 and £7-3-9 per cent. if repaid in 1933. It is of course obvious that in the case of a short loan like the present one the underwriting and other charges on issue if calculated in the form of an annual percentage work out at a comparatively high figure. These charges are the normal expenses on issues payable by all borrowers in London and do not reflect in any way on the credit of the borrower.

FALL IN THE PRICE OF SILVER.

569. ***Mr. Ghanshyam Das Birla:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the following Reuter's message, dated London, the 17th February, appearing in the newspapers of February 19th, 1930?

"Mr. Li Ming, Chairman of the Bank of China, has issued a statement that "the present low value of silver is entirely due to the Indo-China change to the gold standard, combined with indiscriminate selling of surplus of silver by the Indian Treasury."

"Shanghai stocks", he says, "are not too large because the bulk are reserves against notes in circulation." Mr. Li Ming anticipates an increased need for silver in China, and adds that the adoption of a gold standard by China is impossible in the near future. If, and when it is adopted, no gold coins are contemplated and therefore China must continue to be a large buyer of silver for coinage purposes."

(b) Is the Honourable the Finance Member prepared to modify the statement made by him while replying to Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas in the Legislative Assembly on the 4th February, 1930, when, as reported in the papers, he said, among other things that "it was not primarily the action of the Government of India which brought about the fall in silver prices" and that "the depreciation had been caused by the fact that China, Indo-China were selling silver"?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (a) Yes.

(b) I maintain that the reply which I gave to Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas was substantially correct. I cannot agree with the statement quoted by the Honourable Member to the effect that the selling by the Government of India has been 'indiscriminate' and the chief factor in the recent fall. According to my information, the chief factors in the fall in the last three months (during which the Government of India have made no sales in the London market) have been sales of 50 million ounces from Indo-China, and substantial forward operations in the market by Chinese holders of silver. I would call the Honourable Member's attention particularly to the fact that whereas the Government of India have only sold 67·8 million ounces since the Currency Commissioner's Report (i.e., in 3½ years) the Banque d'Indo-China are reported to have sold 50 million ounces in the last few weeks. I would also call attention to the fact that the Government of India have not sold any refined silver below a basis of 22½ pence per ounce in London. I agree that India has been a factor in the general world position, but this was unavoidable because the known large surplus stocks held by us would have been a depressing factor whether we had sold or not.

TOTAL OF SILVER RUPEES IN CIRCULATION.

570. ***Mr. Ghanshyam Das Birla:** Will Government be pleased to give their estimate of the total silver rupee circulation at present?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: Statement XXX of the last annual report of the Controller of the Currency gives the total of rupees coined. As no information can be obtained as to the total amount of rupees melted, exported and lost, Government prefers not to give an estimate of the silver rupee circulation.

PROPORTION OF THE REGISTERED DEBT OF INDIA IN RUPEES HELD BY EUROPEANS.

571. ***Mr. Ghanshyam Das Birla:** Will Government be pleased to state the proportion of the registered debt of India in rupees held by Europeans on the 31st December of 1917 and 1929?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: The information is not available. As a very small portion of the rupee debt is registered, any conclusions regarding the total debt based on the figures of the registered debt would be misleading.

MAJORITY AND MINORITY COMMUNITIES IN BURMA AND NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE.

572. ***Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim:** Will Government be pleased to state which are the majority and minority communities in Burma, and the North-West Frontier Province, and what method is adopted in those provinces in the matter of recruitments in the public services, which are under the Central Government?

The Honourable Sir James Ormer: In regard to the first part of the question, further enquiries are being made, and I shall be glad to furnish the Honourable Member with the information in due course.

As to the second part, the Government of India hope shortly to be in a position to issue instructions in the matter.

DELHI ELECTRIC SUPPLY AND TRACTION COMPANY.

573. *Mr. K. C. Roy: (a) Is it a fact that the Delhi Electric Supply and Traction Company is a company of foreign domicile with a completely foreign Board of Directors?

(b) Is it a fact that the Company has, in the course of 28 years ending the 31st December, 1928, built up assets worth about three times the subscribed capital, that for several years it has been paying a high dividend of 12 per cent., and that in addition shares to the extent of one third of the original number have been recently issued free to the existing shareholders?

(c) Is it a fact that the Municipal Committee and the Delhi public have made strong complaints against the rate charged by the Company for the current supplied, and against the working of the tramways?

(d) What steps do Government propose to take in order to stop the exploitation of the public of Delhi by a rich company of foreigners?

(e) Is it a fact that the Company have applied for the extension of their licence for fifty years from date, although their existing licence does not expire till 1947? What are the considerations underlying this course?

(f) Have Government considered the inadvisability of extending the licence of a foreign company for such a long time?

(g) In any case are Government prepared to give an undertaking that they will not commit the future generations irrevocably to any arrangement without giving this House an opportunity to discuss the matter?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: With your permission, Sir, I propose to answer questions 573 and 574 together.

The information asked for is being collected and will be supplied to the Honourable Member in due course.

Mr. B. Das: In view of the national importance of the reply to these questions, will the Honourable Member lay it on the table of this House?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: My Honourable friend is going back to the matter which was dealt with by my Honourable friend the Leader of the House a little while ago. When we get the answers, we shall duly consider whether they should be placed on the table of the House or copies placed in the Library, with reference to the practice which has been started on a suggestion made, or a ruling given, by a previous President of this House.

Mr. B. Das: On a point of order, Sir. If the answer is a long statement, the Honourable Member can place it in the Library or send it to the Member concerned. Here a definite question of public importance has been asked, and if the answer is sent to the Honourable Member, the House will be entirely in the dark. I hope you will give your ruling on the point whether in such cases the answer should not be given on the floor of the House.

Mr. President: The Honourable Members have a remedy if they choose to utilise it.

DELHI ELECTRIC SUPPLY AND TRACTION COMPANY.

†574. ***Mr. K. C. Roy:** (a) Is it a fact that a considerable part of the profits of the Delhi Electric Supply and Traction Company is being used in purchasing current from the Government Power Station at a cheap rate and selling it to the public at a much higher rate? What is the extent of the Company's profits through this arrangement?

(b) Is it a fact that on this account Government refused to supply current for street lighting to the Delhi Municipality and thereby forced it to pay much higher rates to the company?

(c) Is it a fact that negotiations are being carried on between the Director of the company and the Government for selling the Government power installation or failing that for supplying current from this installation at still cheaper rates?

(d) Are Government prepared to give an undertaking that they will take this House and the public fully into confidence in the matter?

DIFFERENCE IN PRICE OF ELECTRIC CURRENT SUPPLIED TO GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS IN NEW DELHI.

575. ***Mr. K. C. Roy:** (a) Is it a fact that electric current is supplied from the Government Power House at the rate of three annas a unit to Government officials in New Delhi and at the rate of six annas a unit to private individuals in the same area?

(b) If the reply to part (a) is in the affirmative, what is the difference due to?

(c) What is the extent of loss, if any, which Government incur in supplying electric current at reduced rates to Government officials? If there is a gain what is the extent of the gain?

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

(b) The higher rate for private consumers was fixed to correspond with the rate charged by the Company which supplies current in Delhi. I may add that the question of making a uniform charge for all consumers in the New Delhi area is now under the consideration of Government.

(c) Government incurs no loss in supplying current at a rate of three annas per unit. It is difficult to state what profit, if any, there is by supplying current at this rate, because a large amount of energy is supplied as power in different forms at different rates.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: If three annas per unit is charged to Government officials, why is double that rate charged to private consumers?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: I have already answered that part of the question. If the Honourable Member had listened to the answer given to part (b) of Mr. Roy's question, he would have got the answer.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Replying to part (b), the Honourable Member said that the question was under consideration. I was asking him, if it was a fact that three annas per unit was sufficient to cover the cost of generation of electricity, why private consumers were so long charged six annas. That question was not answered.

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: I shall read out the answer again.

"The higher rate for private consumers was fixed to correspond with the rate charged by the Company which supplies current in Delhi."

That is the answer to the question put by my friend Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru. The additional statement that I made was:

"I may add that the question of making a uniform charge for all consumers in the New Delhi area is now under the consideration of Government."

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: That does not answer the question why there was a difference? Why did you permit that difference to continue?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: There is no question of Government permitting it. The Company has levied the rate charged so far under the terms of its licence.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Who is considering the question of equalising the rates?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: I have already answered that question in my reply to the original question. I shall read the answer again.

Mr. President: Order, order.

Mr. B. Das: Has power been given in the licence to the Company to charge Government officials a smaller rate than the private consumers?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: My Honourable friend has wholly misunderstood the answer. If he will kindly read the answer I have given, he will be able to understand the position more fully.

The Revd. J. O. Chatterjee: Have Government received a request from the Delhi Municipality that they should not sell the Government Power House to any company without consulting them nor enter into a lease with any company?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: I submit that that question does not arise out of the questions that I have been so far answering.

Mr. M. R. Jayakar: In whose power is it to charge the new uniform rate, the Government or the company?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: It is in the hands of Government. It is for the Government to consider that question, and that has been stated in my reply.

CLASSIFICATION OF GOVERNMENT QUARTERS IN NEW DELHI.

576. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra:** (a) With reference to sub-paragraph (a) of the reply to part (f) of Mr. G. Sarvotham Rao's starred question No. 78, dated the 20th January, 1930, regarding the classification of the types of Government quarters in New Delhi, will Government be pleased to state how many times the pay has been revised?

(b) Is it a fact that the pay has been revised only once since the fixation of the original classification? If so, why has the re-classification been introduced as many as three times after the original classification in 1921-22?

(c) With reference to sub-paragraph (b) of the reply to part (f) of Mr. G. Sarvotham Rao's starred question No. 73, dated the 20th January, 1930, will Government be pleased to state the number of different types of quarters built after each re-classification since 1921-22, both for orthodox and unorthodox men?

(d) Is it a fact that after each re-classification the number of the lowest types of quarters, i.e., 'D' type orthodox quarters were built beyond proportion to the building of other types? If so, will Government be pleased to state the reasons why only 'D' type quarters were constructed? Is it a fact that men with higher pay were forced to occupy them by means of re-classification and raising of the pay limits?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state why the equalisation of the percentage of quarters in each class was not made by the building of more higher types of quarters? Will they be pleased to state whether they adopted the method of re-classification and raising of the pay limits for the different types of quarters for equalising the percentage of the quarters in each class? If so, why?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: With your permission, Sir, I propose to answer questions Nos. 576 and 577 together. The information is being collected and will be supplied to the Honourable Member in due course.

CONSTRUCTION OF "E" TYPE ORTHODOX AND "D" TYPE UNORTHODOX QUARTERS IN NEW DELHI.

†577. ***Mr. S. O. Mitra:** (a) Is it a fact that Government are constructing 'E' type orthodox quarters and 'D' type unorthodox quarters in New Delhi? If so, will Government be pleased to state the reasons for their doing so? Have Government under contemplation any revision of pay?

(b) Is it a fact that men who were living in 'D' type orthodox quarters and 'C' type unorthodox quarters since 1921-22 will be forced to live in quarters like those built for duffries by another impending re-classification? If there has been no revision of pay now, why do Government propose to have another re-classification?

GOVERNMENT QUARTERS AT KATHU IN SIMLA.

578. ***Mr. S. O. Mitra:** (a) With reference to the reply to my starred questions Nos. 222 to 224, dated the 5th September, 1929, will Government be pleased to state whether the Kathu quarters in Simla are in the form of blocks or are separate cottages? If they are in the form of separate cottages, will Government be pleased to state the reasons why these cottages have been reserved for Europeans only?

(b) Do Government propose to classify these quarters as Indian quarters? If not, why not?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the reasons why Europeans and not Indians are given the benefit of living in cottages located so near the Secretariat?

(d) Do Government propose to remove this preferential treatment to Europeans?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 576.

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a), (b), (c) and (d). All quarters in Kaithu are in separate houses—some houses contain one set of quarters, some two, while a few contain four sets of quarters. These quarters have been allotted to Europeans for the past 40 years at least and the quarters recently constructed at Phagli were expressly built to meet the needs of Indians. It is hardly correct to say that the quarters in Kaithu are nearer the Secretariat than those at Phagli, and I understand that there is little to choose between the two as regards the time taken to reach Government offices from them. Nor does the arrangement constitute a preferential treatment in favour of clerks living in the Kaithu quarters. As a matter of fact the quarters in Phagli are on the sunny side of the hill, while those in Kaithu are on the north side and many of them get little sun; the Phagli quarters are new and the Kaithu quarters are old; and the former have water laid on and modern sanitation while the latter have not these conveniences.

REFUSAL OF EUROPEAN STAFF TO OCCUPY GOVERNMENT QUARTERS AT SUMMER HILL, SIMLA.

579. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra:** (a) Is it a fact that the European staff of the Imperial Secretariat refused to go to Summer Hill European quarters? Will Government be pleased to state how many quarters for Europeans in Summer Hill were vacant in each of the years since they were constructed?

(b) Is it a fact that all European tenants of Kaithu quarters have selected old rates of house rent with a view to evading compulsory occupation of Summer Hill quarters built for the Europeans?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the number of tenants of the 44 Kaithu quarters who selected finally the old rates of house rent?

(d) Is it a fact that men under the new rates of house rent are compelled to occupy Government quarters? If so, will Government be pleased to state how many Europeans under the new rates have been compelled to occupy European quarters at Summer Hill?

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

MEMORIAL FROM THE CENTRAL BOARD OF REVENUE MINISTERIAL OFFICERS' UNION, BOMBAY.

580. ***Mr. Bhupatiraju Sitaramaraju:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they received a memorial from the Central Board of Revenue Ministerial Officers' Union, Bombay, requesting a revision of the time-scale of pay of the ministerial staff of the Customs, Salt, Income-tax, Cotton Industry and Cotton Cess Departments of Bombay?

(b) If so, has the memorial been rejected?

(c) Have Government since sanctioned, subject to the vote of the Assembly, a revision of the time-scale of pay of the Income-tax officers of Bombay?

(d) What are the reasons for sanctioning a revision mentioned in (c) above and rejecting the memorial mentioned in (a) above?

(e) Is it a fact that the time-scale of pay of ministerial servants in all the departments in Bombay under the control of the Central Government except those under the Central Board of Revenue have been revised since 1922, while in the case of those under the Central Board of Revenue repeated requests and memorials have been negatived?

(f) What are the reasons and grounds for this refusal to the ministerial employees in Bombay under the control of the Central Board of Revenue?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

(d) The principle that has been followed in fixing the pay of establishments under the Central Board of Revenue has been to regulate the scales of pay with close reference to the scales allowed by the Local Governments to their corresponding establishments. Judged by this criterion, the time scale of pay of Income-tax Officers in Bombay required alteration while those of clerks in the Central Revenue Departments in Bombay did not require any change.

(e) It is a fact that some of the ministerial establishment serving under the Central Government in Bombay especially those in the Audit and Accounts, Post and Telegraph and Currency and Mint Departments have had their pay revised since 1922, while the pay of ministerial ranks in the Departments under the Central Board of Revenue in Bombay has not been revised since 1922. I would observe that the Departments under the Central Board of Revenue were administered through Local Governments till comparatively recent times; and that the transfer of control was effected in Bombay between 1922 and 1926. The mere change in control did not, in the opinion of the Government of India, justify an increase of the pay of the staff.

(f) I am not prepared to admit that the staff in the Departments under the Central Board of Revenue in Bombay are not in receipt of a living wage.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

CONTROL OF INTER-PROVINCIAL AIR SERVICES.

230. Mr. H. P. Mody: (a) Has the attention of the Government of India been drawn to a circular letter issued by Imperial Airways Limited, to various commercial firms in connection with a proposal to extend the London-Karachi service to Bombay?

(b) Have the Government of India been approached for a subsidy, and if so, will they be pleased to state what their attitude is going to be in view of their declared policy with regard to the direction and control of inter-provincial services?

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

(b) The answer to the first part is in the negative. The second part of the question does not, therefore, arise.

LAND OUTSIDE PESHAWAR CITY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN ISLAMIA HIGH SCHOOL.

231. **Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** With reference to paragraph 4 of the reply given by Government to question No. 661, asked by Mr. Muhammad Ismail Khan, on the 19th February, 1929, on the subject of the refusal by the Peshawar District Headquarters to grant a piece of land outside Edwards Gate of Peshawar City for the construction of an Islamia High School, Peshawar Cantonment, on the ground that it was left open as a sanitary cordon between the city and cantonment, will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that the land applied for has actually been used hitherto for public latrines?

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

INCONVENIENT TRAINS AND PLATFORMS AT ALIPUR SAYADAN STATION.

232. **Mr. Abdul Haye:** (a) Is it a fact that Alipur Sayadan on the Narowal Sialkot section of the North Western Railway is a mere flag station and has at present no siding?

(b) What is the ordinary stoppage of passenger trains at this station?

(c) Are Government aware that Alipur Sayadan, being the headquarters of a famous Muslim Pir, passengers from all parts of the country usually flock to this place in large numbers and that they are put to great inconvenience on account of short stoppage of passenger trains?

(d) Is it a fact that some time back, when a special train for this station was ordered, it had to be kept at Narowal for want of a siding at Alipur Sayadan?

(e) Are Government prepared to construct a siding at this station and remove the inconvenience due to short stoppage of trains?

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

(b) Of the eight trains which are booked to stop at this station daily, seven are scheduled to halt for three minutes and one for two minutes.

(c), (d) and (e). I will obtain information on these points and communicate later with the Honourable Member.

INCONVENIENT TRAINS ON THE NAROWAL SHAHDARA LAHORE SECTION OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

233. **Mr. Abdul Haye:** (a) Is it a fact that on the Narowal Shahdara Lahore section of the North Western Railway no separate goods trains are run and that goods wagons are usually attached to the passenger trains?

(b) Is it a fact that passenger trains cannot observe scheduled timing on account of this arrangement and arrive at destination considerably late?

(c) Cannot this inconvenience to passengers be removed by running goods trains twice or thrice a week as need be?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: I see from the Working Time Table of the North Western Railway that the running of goods trains on this section has been provided for. I am ascertaining from the Agent of the North Western Railway whether, in actual practice, goods trains are run on the section and I will then address the Honourable Member further.

BREEDING CENTRES FOR COWS.

234. Raja Raghunandan Prasad Singh: (a) Will Government be pleased to name the breeding centres, if any, under Government control in the different provinces of India where cows in towns and cities going dry may be sent and kept until such time as they begin to give milk again?

(b) Have Government taken any steps to reduce the railway freight for transit of such cows to such centres? If not, do they propose to take any?

Sir Frank Noyce: (a) There are no such centres.

(b) Does not arise.

APPOINTMENT OF INDIANS TO THE INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE AND OTHER SERVICES.

235. Mr. B. Sitaramaraju: Will Government be pleased to state the percentage of Indians in the Indian Civil Service and the other all-India Services, giving the percentage of Indians to the total strength and maximum percentage of posts intended to be given to Indians, and the rates at which the appointments are at present being filled by Indians to the total number of appointments filled, and the number of years that will be necessary for Indians to attain the maximum percentage of posts open to them?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar: The Honourable Member is referred to the statement showing the progress of Indianisation in the Superior Civil Services which is annually placed in the Library of the House. This gives the number of European and Indian officers in service on the 1st January 1929, from which he will readily be able to ascertain the percentage of Indians in the various All-India Services to the total strength.

As regards the maximum percentage of posts which is aimed at the rate of Indianisation and the number of years in which the maximum will be reached, the Honourable Member is referred to chapter V of the Lee Commission's report, the recommendations in which have been generally accepted and are being acted upon.

CAPITATION CHARGES FOR THE ARMY.

236. Mr. B. Sitaramaraju: In view of the statement made by the Secretary of State for India that the incidence of capitation charges on India is under discussion with His Majesty's Government, will Government be pleased to state whether any decision has been arrived at even now?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the answer which I gave on the 5th March to a similar question (No. 480) asked by Sir Hari Singh Gour.

WAGES OF WORKERS IN THE CALCUTTA MINT.

287. Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: (a) Is it a fact that the workers of the Calcutta Mint are all daily-paid labourers, whereas the clerks and other supervising staff are all monthly-paid employees?

(b) Is it a fact that the workers of the Bombay Mint are mostly monthly-paid? Will Government please state the reasons of such differential treatment, and do Government propose to convert the daily-paid workers of the Calcutta Mint to monthly-paid? If not, why not?

(c) Is it a fact that the rate of wages of the workers of the Calcutta Mint is much less than that of the Bombay Mint?

(d) Is it a fact that the Calcutta Mint works on an average eight months in a year, and the workers are paid for the period they are put to work?

(e) Is it a fact that, according to the Mint rule, the workers are considered part and parcel of the permanent staff, and their conditions of service are similar to those of permanent monthly-paid staff, whereas they are not paid wages for the full 365 days?

(f) Is it a fact that the Calcutta Mint workers do not get any wages for Sundays and gazetted holidays, numbering 110 days in a year?

(g) Is it also a fact that the workers do not get any wages for the last Saturday of every month, on which day the Mint is closed for work?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: With your permission, Sir, I will answer questions Nos. 237 to 243 together.

Government are obtaining certain information to enable them to reply fully to the Honourable Member's questions. A further answer will be sent to him as soon as possible.

PROVISION OF PENSIONS OR PROVIDENT FUND FOR WORKERS IN THE CALCUTTA MINT.

†**238. Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) Is it a fact that the Calcutta Mint is purely a Government concern? Is it a fact that there are yet many employees on pensionable service? Is it a fact that, before 1910, the services of all the workers of the Calcutta Mint were governed by the pension rule? If so, will Government please state the reasons why the workers alone have been deprived of the advantage of pension, whereas the system has altogether not been withdrawn? Do Government propose to reintroduce the pension system again? If not, why not?

(b) When the pension system was withdrawn, what provisions were made for the workers after retirement? Do Government propose to extend the advantage of Provident Fund and gratuity to them as given in the case of State Railway workers?

HOUSING PROBLEM OF WORKERS IN THE CALCUTTA MINT.

†**239. Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** Are Government aware that the workers do not get any house or house allowance, whereas it is extended to the Mint Guards and high paid officials? Are Government aware that, in a busy city like Calcutta, even a hovel cannot be had on a rent of Rs. 8 per mensem in the interior of the city at a distance of five to six miles from the Mint, where the workers live? Do Government propose to consider this acute question of housing problem?

† For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 237.

MEDICAL AID FOR WORKERS IN THE CALCUTTA MINT.

†240. **Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** Is it a fact that the workers, who live a long distance from the Mint, do not get any advantage out of the doctor in the Mint and that the doctor does not attend to them when they fall sick at home? Do Government propose to make a better arrangement for medical aid?

FINES AND DISMISSALS IN THE CALCUTTA MINT.

†241. **Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) What is the average fine imposed on the workers of the Calcutta Mint in a calendar year? How is the Fine Fund disposed of?

(b) Is it a fact that the workers are often discharged without a month's notice or without a month's wages in lieu thereof? If the answer be in the affirmative, do Government propose to stop this practice?

INDEBTEDNESS OF WORKERS IN THE CALCUTTA MINT.

†242. **Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** Is it a known fact that the workers often fall victims of Kabuli and other money-lenders by borrowing money at a very high rate of interest? To save this situation, do Government propose to start a co-operative credit society for the Mint workers?

GRIEVANCES OF WORKERS IN THE CALCUTTA MINT.

†243. **Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** Has the attention of Government been drawn to the *Basumati and Advance*, dated 21st February, 1980 under the heading "Mint Workers' Grievances", "Direct action contemplated" in which an ultimatum has been given to the Mint authorities that, if their grievances are not redressed by the 7th March, they may resort to direct action any day after the 7th? Is it a fact that the Mint Workers' Union submitted appeals and applications to the authorities during the last two months to secure their sympathy, but to no effect? If so, do Government propose to appoint a committee of inquiry to avoid an unhappy situation? If not, why not?

EVIDENCE RECORDED BY THE PRIMARY EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

244. **Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether the Primary Education Committee did not record the oral evidence of Pandit Sohanlal or any other witness from Pushkar? If not, what are the reasons?

(b) Were all the public institutions and eminent public workers like Messrs. Gouri Shanker, H. Ojha, B. S. Pathik, and Hari Bhau Upadhyas approached by the Education Committee to give their views on the subject of primary education in Rajputana?

Sir Frank Moyce: (a) The Committee received a written reply from Pandit Sohan Lal to the questionnaire issued by it. He was not examined orally as the memorandum he had submitted was clear and comprehensive and did not require elucidation. No witness from Pushkar was orally examined as, with the exception of Pandit Sohan Lal, no one from that centre had asked for or submitted a reply to the questionnaire.

(b) Representatives of all the more important public institutions as well as the more important public workers were furnished with copies of the questionnaire of the committee and asked to submit their views. The gentlemen mentioned by the Honourable Member were not furnished with copies of the questionnaire but it was open to them to ask for a copy and to submit their written replies thereto. The Committee's tour in Ajmer-Merwara was widely known and various persons interested in primary education in Rajputana who had not been furnished with a copy of the questionnaire by the Committee asked for copies, which were furnished to them and to which they submitted replies.

ADMINISTRATION OF PUSHKAR BY THE SHAMLAT COMMITTEE.

245. **Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) What is the average annual income of Pushkar Fair?

(b) What part of that income is spent for the welfare of Pushkar people, and what is done with the rest?

(c) What steps are being taken to save the pilgrims from rain and sun, and for the construction of wells in Pushkar?

(d) What was the object of the formation of the Shamlat Committee?

(e) Is it the fact that the Shamlat Committee spends more money than its income? If the reply is in the affirmative, why is it being maintained? And does its election take place annually? If not, why not?

(f) Is it a fact that Pandit Sohanlal's election is being rejected every time? If so, why?

(g) Are Government aware of the loss thus incurred and suffered by Mr. Sohanlal and others of his position? Who is responsible for this?

Mr. E. B. Howell: With your permission, Sir, I will answer questions Nos. 245, 246, 247, 248, 251 and 252 together. The information is being collected and will be communicated to the Honourable Member in due course.

LACK OF PUBLIC LATRINES IN PUSHKAR.

†246. **Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** Is it a fact that there are no public latrines and urinals in Pushkar, and yet people are prosecuted for the offences?

REPAIRS TO BARAHJI TEMPLE.

†247. **Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** Is it a fact that, though the temple of Barahji is auctioned every year, yet it is never repaired? If so, in what work is the income derived from the auction utilised?

CONSTRUCTION OF A METALLED ROAD IN PUSHKAR.

†248. **Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) Is it a fact that no metalled road has been constructed in Pushkar town, which is only a half mile in length? Has the District Board constructed about eight miles of metalled road from Ajmer to the skirts of Pushkar?

(b) Did the people of Pushkar apply to the Commissioner of Ajmer-Merwara, demanding the construction of a road and the establishment of their own municipality?

ESTABLISHMENT OF A DISPENSARY AT PUSHKAR.

249. **Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** Is it a fact that the question of establishing a dispensary at Pushkar has been under consideration of the Local Government, since about a year, and yet nothing has been done up to this time, in spite of the peoples' repeated requests and reminders? If so, what is the reason?

Sir Frank Noyce: The information asked for has been called for and will be supplied to the Honourable Member on receipt.

CLEANLINESS OF THE PUSHKAR GHATS.

250. **Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** What arrangement has been made to keep the 'Ghats of Pushkar " clean " ? What amount is being spent on it annually?

Sir Frank Noyce: The information asked for has been called for and will be supplied to the Honourable Member on receipt.

MUHAMMADAN POLICE AT PUSHKAR.

†251. **Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** Is it a fact that, though Pushkar is a Hindu pilgrimage place with 90 per cent. of its population purely Hindu, all the police and other officers there are Muhammadans and the Hindu Sabha has protested against it?

ACCOUNTS OF THE SHAMLAT COMMITTEE.

†252. **Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** Is it a fact that, in case No. 280, Shamlat Committee *versus* P. Sohanlal Sharma, the Sub-Judge has observed, in his judgment on the 7th February, 1930, that the accounts of the Shamlat Committee were not reliable? If so, who is responsible for it?

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER.

MESSAGE FROM HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT RE COTTON DUTY.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: (i) Will the Government kindly lay on the table the message of His Majesty's Government referred to by the Finance Member in his budget speech and the correspondence between the Government of India and His Majesty's Government in connection with the same?

(ii) Will the Government kindly state if the budget proposals, at least the Tariff part of them, were placed before His Majesty's Government before they were presented to this House?

(iii) Is it a fact that the British cotton cloth manufacturers have reduced the prices of cotton cloth by ten per cent. in respect of such goods as are contracted to arrive in India in April 1930?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: (i) I lay on the table a copy of the message of His Majesty's Government referred to by the Finance Member in his budget speech, together with the reply sent by the Government of India and the final message from His Majesty's Government.

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 245.

(ii) Proposals involving changes in taxation are invariably communicated to the Secretary of State for India before they are presented to this House..

(iii) The Government of India have received no information to this effect.

Telegram from the Secretary of State to His Excellency the Viceroy, dated the 8th February, 1930.

The Cabinet, with reference to proposed increase of Indian cotton duties, resolved, at a special meeting held this morning, that it would not be inconsistent with procedure governing now well-recognised Fiscal Autonomy Convention to make at this stage the following representations to the Government of India :

Firstly, probability that such an addition to duty would be likely to raise price of goods in India itself to great detriment to poorer classes generally in that country, and secondly, probability that such an addition to duty would have a disastrous effect here at this moment, an effect which Cabinet feels sure that you and your Legislature do not desire to create.

From both points of view Cabinet views with gravest apprehension proposed addition to duty and hopes that full weight will be given to above consideration.

Telegram from His Excellency the Viceroy to the Secretary of State, dated the 12th February, 1930.

Please see your telegram of the 8th instant. I have discussed with my Council the Cabinet representation and we are deeply impressed by a message of this nature. Nevertheless we feel bound to adhere to our main proposals.

It must be remembered, first, that we want revenue; secondly, that customs is our chief source; thirdly, that the general revenue tariff stands at 15 per cent., while the duty on cotton piece-goods is only 11 per cent.; fourthly, that Indian industry is suffering from deep depression, and that, as regards Bombay, the mills are approaching a desperate position which may affect the whole future of this important centre of Indian commerce and finance. Moreover in a year like the present when we have to impose heavy new taxation we could not, for revenue purposes, leave cotton duties alone.

As regards raising of the cost to the consumer, we believe that in those goods where external competition is chiefly felt, namely, plain grey shirtings and light sheetings and the cheaper coloured goods, internal competition will in any case keep prices down. As regards bleached goods and the finer qualities of grey and coloured goods which Lancashire mainly supplies a 4 per cent. increase in price cannot be represented as a crushing burden.

As regards the second point in the Cabinet representation, the danger to British interests, we recognise that the possible decline in the consumption of Lancashire goods may be a serious matter, but we are clearly bound to put India's interests first. We also recognise how important it is to India not to antagonise British opinion, and quite apart from this, we are of course concerned at this time to avoid unnecessary injury to British interests. We have carefully considered what we could do in this respect, and while we cannot modify the general application of the 15 per cent. revenue duty, we are prepared to propose to the Assembly that, as regards any additional and temporary protective measures, their application might be limited to non-British goods, and that in these circumstances there should be imposed in addition to the 15 per cent. revenue duty a 5 per cent. protective duty with a minimum of $3\frac{1}{4}$ annas per pound, on plain grey goods against all cotton piece-goods from outside the United Kingdom. We should propose the protective duty for three years only and undertake to have its effects examined by the Tariff Board before the end of this period. We think it unlikely, having regard to the immense preponderance of British imports in the classes of bleached goods, of bordered grey goods and the finer coloured goods, that the additional duty would have any appreciable effect on prices.

In placing our proposals before the Assembly, we shall point out that, so far as we are aware, this is the first occasion on which the considered opinion of the Cabinet has been conveyed in this form to the Government of India and we are impressed with the significance of the precedent so established. We cannot ask the Assembly to commit

themselves to Imperial Preference as a principle, but merely to adopt a particular course which, in our judgment, is consistent with India's interests, at a critical juncture when much may depend on Indian response to British Government's appeal. We shall have to make it plain to the Assembly that while there are grounds for treating plain grey goods exceptionally we could not in any circumstances agree at the present stage and for the emergency purpose which we have in view to an additional protective duty of 5 per cent. on all classes of piece-goods irrespective of the country of origin, since the immediate benefit to the Indian producer would be wholly incommensurate with the burden imposed on the Indian consumer. We desire also to make it clear that, in a matter of this kind, after frankly stating our case, we should desire to elicit the most free expression of opinion from the Legislature, with whom the final decision must rest.

Telegram from the Secretary of State to His Excellency the Viceroy, dated the 19th February, 1930.

The Cabinet has received your telegram and recognising position of India under Tariff Autonomy Convention is precluded from offering any further comments on your proposals.

THE ABOLITION OF DEFERRED REBATES BILL.

APPOINTMENTS TO THE SELECT COMMITTEE.

Mr. Sarabhai Nemchand Haji (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muham-
madan Rural): Sir, I beg to move that Mr. B. Das, Sir Cowasji Jehangir,
Mr. L. V. Heathcote and Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty be appointed to
the Select Committee on the Bill to provide for the abolition of the defer-
red rebates in the Coasting Trade of India.

Mr. President: You mean that those names be added to the names of
the members of that Committee which has already been appointed.

Mr. Sarabhai Nemchand Haji: Yes, Sir. This motion is necessitated by
the fact that, since the Select Committee was appointed, three of its mem-
bers have resigned their seats in the Legislative Assembly, and I have put
in the names of Mr. Das, Sir Cowasji Jehangir and Mr. Chetty in their
places. Moreover, at the suggestion of the European Group, the name of
Mr. Heathcote has also been added to serve in place of Colonel Crawford.

Sir, I move.

The motion was adopted.

THE GENERAL BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS—contd.

DEMAND No. 17—TAXES ON INCOME.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 71,99,000 be granted to the Governor General in
Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year
ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Taxes on Income'."

Mr. President (to Mr. Lalchand Navalrai): What question does the
Honourable Member wish to raise on this motion?

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai (Sind : Non-Muhammadan Rural): That the income-tax should not exist at all.

Mr. President: But the Honourable Member has mentioned in the motion, "Increase in Income-tax and super-tax".

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I will try to speak on both these subjects.

Mr. President: There are other cuts on which the Honourable Member might speak on these subjects.

Cutting down a Lump Sum of five per cent. to balance the Budget.

Sir Hari Singh Gour: (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I wish to try my luck once more at a 5 per cent. cut and if I do not fare better than I did yesterday I shall make no more motions. I just want to point out that the Honourable the Finance Member, in replying to my motion yesterday, either misunderstood me or I have not been able to explain myself correctly to him as well as to the House. When I asked this House to agree to an all-round 5 per cent. cut, I made it abundantly clear that I did not intend, nor, indeed, was an all-round 5 per cent. cut intended, to be a cut specifically under each Demand. The procedure that I asked the House to follow is a procedure which was successfully followed by the first Assembly in the years of deficit. The reason which led the first Assembly to adopt this all-round 5 per cent. cut was that the whole of the Budget had not been placed before the House. The Military Budget, which loomed then large and looms large now, was entirely outside the votable part of the Budget and we, the Members of the Assembly, could not revise nor, indeed, justify each individual item of expenditure, for the very simple reason that, even if we had the time to scrutinise each item of expenditure under each Demand, there would not be the time to go into the specific cuts justifying the cuts under each item. Therefore, the only course that we could think of was to lay down the policy of an all-round cut, and thus force the Government to make a further retrenchment in their general expenditure and to save the country from additional taxation.

Sir, in reply to my argument, the Honourable the Finance Member drew a red herring across the trail and said that, if the House were to allow this cut, the Customs Department would be a loser because certain staff will have to be dismissed or discharged and other reasons of that kind were given. In replying to me, however, he has entirely misunderstood the standpoint from which I approached this question, and those who voted with me yesterday had, I think, no doubt whatever in their mind that the reason why I had tabled that motion and why they went with me into the lobby yesterday was to force the hands of the Government and compel them to effect a general retrenchment in their Central expenditure. I pointed out yesterday, Sir, that this is perfectly possible, because the Honourable the Finance Member has appointed a retrenchment officer, and small retrenchments are expected on the recommendations which he is likely to make. The Honourable the Finance Member further assured the House that, so far as the military expenditure is concerned, the military are themselves now engaged upon the task of retrenching their expenditure. Consequently, the possibility of having some retrenchment in the near future is absolutely certain. As to what would be the amount of the retrenchments made under these two heads is a matter of conjecture, but let us hope that the retrenchments effected

[Sir Hari Singh Gour.]

both by the military and in the civil departments would suffice to balance the Budget.

My second point was this. I pointed out yesterday, and this point has been borne out by actual facts, that some of the additional expenditure is due to abnormal causes, not permanent but abnormal causes, due to the depression of world trade, and certain expenditure which is not of a recurring character. I said that, on that ground, this House would not be justified in permanently adding to the taxes of the country. I have a small book here entitled, "Statement showing additions and reductions sanctioned by the Governor General in Council in the non-voted grants for the year ending 31st March 1930". This book has been supplied to Honourable Members. Now, if Honourable Members would only turn to the pages of this small book, they would find that under the various heads mentioned in this book, there was over-budgeting, and Honourable Members know that, in various departments there is a practice of over-budgeting. If we are to make this cut of 5 per cent., the result will be that all these departments will apply their minds to the various heads under which they have asked for additional expenditure and there will be a general revision. In the Simla Session, if they are not able to make a five per cent. cut under one head, but are able to make only a two per cent. cut under one head, they can come back for a supplementary grant. That is what they did in the first Assembly. But some of my Honourable friends adorning the Nationalist Benches, some of my Honourable friends who follow Mr. Jinnah and some of my Honourable friends who form Members of the Central Muslim party yesterday abstained from voting because they were not quite sure as to what they were voting for. If they would only go into the lobby today, they will carry the motion and they would be entering a united protest against the increase of taxation, which is wholly unjustifiable in the circumstances of this year. I, therefore, ask, Sir, once more that the elected Members of this House should support this motion.

I have one more word to say in reply to my Honourable friend, Sir Hugh Cocke. He is, Sir, the author of the motion in favour of retrenchment. He pressed for a Rs. 100 token cut to force the hands of the Government to make all-round retrenchment and when the Government plainly asked him, "Are you pressing this motion, we are doing our best"—they always do their best and they never do anything else—he said, "No, I am going to press my motion", and this House went with him into the lobby and carried the motion. In view of the policy which this House has adopted, I ask this House, once more, to re-affirm that policy, by forcing the hands of the Government to make this all-round cut in the expenditure. Some of my Honourable friends say, "Five per cent. is too much, make it three per cent."; some others say, "Make it two", while some others say, "Make it one". I have already pointed out that, by making this five per cent. cut, this House does not stand committed to a five per cent. cut under every head, but what it does stand for is that there must be an all-round reduction of expenditure, and that the Government must revise their Demands under each head, and when they come to the Simla Session, they must tell us as to how far they have been able to retrench their expenditure. I hope that, if this House passes this motion, it will save the country from additional taxation and at the same time it will force the Government to revise their Budget.

One more word and I have done. I wish to point out to this House that the Honourable the Finance Member has told you, in answer to the speeches from various quarters in this House, that he is not in a position now to adopt or to recommend any change of policy. As regards military expenditure, I submitted to this House a few days ago, and I wish to recall what I said, that the fact that the constitutional changes are impending is no reason whatever why the Government of India should not have forced the hands of His Majesty's Government during the last ten years to give effect to the united wishes of the Members of this House with which the Government of India had concurred. Sir, as I pointed out in the first Assembly, a series of Resolutions was moved, and the whole question had been gone into by a special Committee, and this House even affirmed that the Army in India must be kept primarily and solely for the defence of India. That was the view which prevailed with the Government of India, and I have said, and I repeat it, that that view has been overruled by the Home Government, and the Home Government say, "Oh! no, we will not keep your Army for your own purpose, that is a very selfish policy for you to pursue. That Army must be kept as part of the Imperial forces". My submission is that it is in consequence of that policy that they are now adding an air squadron, and that they are having re-equipment and mechanisation of the Army. I pointed out, Sir, that a distinguished soldier contributed an article, from which I have quoted in my note as a part of the Report of the Indian Central Committee, that the mechanisation of the Army is by no means necessary as an integral part of the Indian Army, if its purpose is limited to the defence of India. I submit, therefore, that the mechanisation and the re-equipment of the Indian Army must be primarily and solely for the purpose of the defence of India. That, I submit, being the point of view which the Government of India have taken,—and I have no doubt that they still take that view—and as a matter of fact if they were free people, if they were free to vote, they should vote with me rather than vote against me—that being the view of the Government, the least they can do is to keep quiet and allow this motion of mine to be carried.

Dr. A. Suhrawardy (Burdwan and Presidency Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): They are all quiet.

Sir Hari Singh Gour: I, therefore, once more, appeal to my Honourable friends—those who voted with me and those who wavered and lingered—to combine in seeing that this motion is passed today. Sir, I move.

Sir Cawasji Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I was one of those who lingered and hesitated yesterday and did not go into the lobby, but however much I may sympathise with all my Honourable friend has just stated, I intend to go into the lobby against him. I will tell you the reason why. Sir, we are very irresponsible on this side, I admit—perfectly irresponsible; we do exactly as we please knowing full well that the cut can be restored. But I really do not see the necessity of making ourselves more irresponsible than we really need be. I would sympathise with my Honourable friend to the extent of going into the lobby with him, if he would tell us what is the amount of the cut he requires in the whole Budget. (*An Honourable Member*: "Five per cent.") Five per cent. would lead us into crores. (*An Honourable Member*: "That

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is not what he means.") Oh, yes. What he means is this. He is moving a five per cent. cut under each Demand as it comes up, knowing full well that he will not be able to move a five per cent. cut on each and every Demand as it is presented in the Budget, for lack of time. He would then leave it to Government to distribute whatever reduction this House may make in the Departments as they think best, by coming up with supplementary Demands at another Session. Sir, therefore, we must know what percentage of the whole cut we are making on each Demand. We must know the amount of the whole cut my Honourable friend desires this House to make. We must know what is the gap that will be left ultimately to be filled up by taxation when the Finance Bill comes up. All these preliminaries have been left out by my Honourable friend, for which I do not blame him one bit, Mr. President, for he had no time. But I do blame him to a certain extent for having gone in for this method without consultation. Perhaps he had not the time. All these things require time, two, three, or even four days, before they can be matured and brought to the House after mutual consultation on all sides. You must be able to make up your mind definitely what is the cut you propose to effect and how you are going to effect it, and then tell the Government clearly. "This is what we propose to do; we want 2 crores or 2½ crores or whatever it is in the whole Budget". You tell Government clearly that you intend to do it by moving a cut out of each Demand as it is brought up for discussion. You know very well, Mr. President, that we have not the time to discuss all the Demands as they come up, and therefore that method is not possible in the present circumstances. I intend to go into the lobby against my Honourable friend, not because I am not in sympathy with his great desire for retrenchment, but because the method he has adopted does not seem to be sound and practical; and I trust and hope that, when the next Budget comes up, he will be here to evolve a better scheme than the one he has placed before us, which I consider is immature and lacking in consideration.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (Ambala Division: Non-Muhammadian):

Sir, I am not impressed by the speech of the gentleman who preceded me. I think that, if the only defect in the proposal of Sir Hari Singh Gour is that it is not methodical, that is not a good ground for not going into the lobby with him. The only point that has been made by the previous speaker is that, while agreeing in principle with Sir Hari Singh Gour and believing that retrenchment is necessary, the Honourable Member thinks that, as the method adopted by Sir Hari Singh Gour is not such as would give Government the proper convenience in adjusting its own Budget, he cannot walk into the lobby with him. The second ground advanced by him is that it would not show much of responsibility in any Member who goes into the lobby with Sir Hari Gour even if he accepts the proposal.

Now, Sir, so far as responsibility is concerned, may I ask the Honourable gentleman who preceded me, whether he thinks that Government have shown any sense of responsibility? Did Government take this side of the House into their confidence while framing the Budget, or while going in for the various items which are regarded as non-votable in this House? So far as the question of responsibility is concerned, Government have to blame themselves if their attitude is regarded on this side of the House as

irresponsible. If it is the general sense of the House that increased taxation should not have been levied and that for the normal expenses of Government recourse should not be had to increased taxation, it is the duty of every Honourable Member to support this cut. That this particular cut of 5 per cent all-round has come under the head Taxation makes no difference in my opinion, because, after all, it is a token cut, as has been explained by Sir Hari Singh Gour. If particular Departments affected by this cut cannot meet their expenses by cutting their Demands all-round to the extent of 5 per cent. they can come in subsequently with a supplementary Budget, and therefore there need be no apprehensions on this score.

So far as the question of retrenchment in respect of Income-tax is concerned, I have one thing more to say. Sir, I do not grudge any increase in income-tax if fat incomes of Rs. 15,000 and over are taxed; but the question is what for are we taxed? Are we being taxed for the purpose of introducing compulsory education into this country? Are we being taxed for the purpose of reducing the price of postcards or for any other popular measure? We are being taxed now because the Government of India cannot meet their normal expenses. In a country like India, where the average income is very little, where every person who tills a *bigha* of land is being taxed by way of land revenue, it is too much to come in with a fresh measure of taxation; and if this cut of Sir Hari Singh Gour succeeds to the extent of 5 per cent., I think the taxpayer will feel some sort of relief. I therefore support this cut whole-heartedly.

Sir Darcy Lindsay (Bengal: European): Sir, my Honourable friend, Sir Hari Singh Gour, may be a most excellent lawyer, but he is not a tactician. Otherwise he would not have ventured to bring forward his cut of 5 per cent. in two such essentials as the Customs Department and Income-tax. When a similar cut was brought forward in 1922, I can remember speaking on it and assuring the Mover that my pocket was in entire sympathy with him, but my common sense was the other way, and on the ground that the more the expenditure in the Department, the greater the income which will be received from the general public. Whenever papers come before us in the Standing Finance Committee for an increase in Income-tax establishment, I think I am correct in saying that they meet with the most sympathetic treatment at our hands, because we consider the expenditure as absolutely necessary in order to collect the income-tax. Now, Sir, the result of Sir Hari Singh Gour's proposal of a cut of 5 per cent. would mean, and must mean, a diminution of the very staff that, at least this year, we have sanctioned, and by so doing it will mean a loosing up of the whole system and the escape of parties from paying their income-tax. On these grounds, Sir, and very strong grounds, I hope the whole House will oppose the proposed cut of 5 per cent.

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya (Madras: Indian Commerce): Sir, I rise to support the motion of my Honourable friend Dr. Sir Hari Singh Gour, and I would appeal to the House to judge the question on its own merits and not be prejudiced simply because it comes from the Hon'ble Dr. Sir Hari Singh Gour. There is a certain amount of prejudice against him, partly for joining the Simon Commission Indian Central Committee, and partly for transferring himself from this side of the House to the other. So I wish the House to discuss and consider the question on its own merits and not be carried away by any personal prejudice against any individual Members.

[Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya.]

Then regarding the criticism of the method which has been made on this side, if I am not wrongly informed, the Honourable Dr. Sir Hari Singh Gour did make an attempt and did meet the Leaders of the various parties to consider his amendments, and he pleaded very earnestly with them that, when the House was first constituted in 1921, a similar method was adopted and it was successfully carried out. But unfortunately, in these days, when there is a certain amount of conspiracy between the leaders of parties on one side and Government on the other, it is very difficult for a Member who is not attached to any particular group or party, to express his views in such matters. As such, if for no other reason, I would support the Honourable Dr. Sir Hari Singh Gour as a protest against the tyranny of the leaders of the various parties in joining in conspiracies in so many matters; and I am sorry, Sir, that, in that matter unfortunately, they have got the support of the President also.

Mr. President: Order. order.

(Cries of "Withdraw, withdraw.")

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya: No, I assert . . .

Mr. President: Order, order. The Honourable Member is asked to withdraw that remark at once.

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya: Very well, Sir; then I shall withdraw it.

Now, if the proposal had been accepted by the party leaders when it was made by the Honourable Dr. Sir Hari Singh Gour, we would have saved all this unnecessary discussion in the House, and we could have balanced the Budget by this cut of 5 per cent. But as the different party leaders wanted to press their particular items and impress on the Government the desire to make retrenchment in certain heads, they sacrificed the main proposition of the Honourable Dr. Sir Hari Singh Gour, and the result was, they lost that entirely, and now if they will not support Dr. Sir Hari Singh Gour's amendment, they will be losing yet another opportunity of making an effective cut, and thus saving us from extra taxation. Sir, I support the Honourable Dr. Sir Hari Singh Gour, and again request the Members of the House not to be carried away by any prejudice in the matter.

Sardar Kartar Singh (East Punjab : Sikh) : Sir, I strongly support this cut. Taxation is already telling on the people and everybody is feeling the pinch of direct and indirect taxation. We want Government to retrench. The people are becoming poorer and poorer every day. How can we make the Government retrench unless we pass this cut? They are proposing new taxation, and when the Finance Bill comes before us and this Budget is passed in this present form, with what face will we be able to oppose the Finance Bill, unless we make certain cuts now and we can show that they can reduce their expenditure in this way? So the best way to oppose the Finance Bill would be to pass these cuts now and to tell the Government that their expenditure is not as much as they propose and they could reduce their expenditure and should not propose fresh taxation. I submit that the time has come when everybody feels the pinch of this taxation, and the time has come when we should whole-heartedly support this reduction in the expenditure. We have not been party to the framing of the Budget, and to this extent, it is not our duty to point out what reductions can be made.

It is for the Government to make reductions and Government should take the hint from our speeches, that we do not agree to further taxation, and it will be for the Government to reduce their expenditure without increasing the taxation. Therefore, whether the cut is moved by Sir Hari Singh Gour or by anybody else, we are for this principle that we will never agree to further taxation. The Government should make it a point to reduce taxation and to reduce expenditure. The expenditure is growing day by day and cannot they think that they can reduce it, and should they make up that expenditure by further taxing the people? Therefore, I submit that this cut should be passed, and everybody on this side of the House should support it.

Mr. M. K. Acharya (South Arcot *cum* Chingleput: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I was very glad that my Honourable friend, Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya, spoke very frankly, although I know that his voice like the voice of anybody else who speaks equally frankly may be only a voice in the wilderness. Yet it is sometimes refreshing to find people who will speak the bare truth frankly, and I certainly appreciate what he has said with regard to the way in which there seems to be some conspiracy going on between the party leaders, or the so-called party leaders, and the Government Benches on many matters. I am also glad that he made this earnest request, that the matter before the House should be judged on its own merits; and here again, unfortunately I must in truth say that there does not seem to be a disposition this year—during the past six years that I have been here I believe the charge could not be brought against the non-official Members to the same extent as it can be brought this year—that there does not seem to be a disposition to judge each question before the House on its bare merits. I hope, Sir, that the electorate will take good note of this, will demand an explanation of the elected Members as to why they should not, on many issues like the one before the House just now, where the interests of the vast majority of the country are involved, why they should not be all in their places and should not strenuously oppose Government in their proposals to increase taxation on the common people. I see a very thin House, so far as the non-official side is concerned, and I should not be surprised if, when the vote is taken on this, the Government win. Therefore, I hope it will be realised by my non-official colleagues, who have a very serious duty to perform in this matter—almost a religious duty—that we cannot afford to let the Government have their own way, at any rate so far as additional taxation is concerned.

Now, Sir, with regard to my Honourable friend, Sir Cowasji Jehangir—I am glad his heart was with my friend, Sir Hari Singh Gour, but his head seems to have been a little puzzled as to the great responsibility which he seems to have felt in the matter—probably he will have to be longer in this House to know that we have no responsibility at all . . .

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: I have already said that we are irresponsible.

Mr. M. K. Acharya: Therefore, it is the Government that must come forward and consider this question seriously and take two or ten or even twenty days for that matter. If they take the matter seriously, and definitely bring forward proposals for reducing the whole Budget expenditure, we are ready to sit any number of days. The matter is entirely in the hands of the Government. We say that we do not want additional taxation any further, and in order not to have the additional taxation, we say there is

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a practical proposal, namely, that the expenditure should be cut down by 5 per cent., and necessarily as a corollary, 5 per cent. expenditure all round. I cannot understand how this is impracticable at all. I quite realise it will have to be worked out. That is exactly the Government's business. They are here for that very purpose. They are paid for it, and it is not Sir Hari Singh Gour's business to do it. Therefore I cannot understand my friend, Sir Cowasji Jehangir, when he said that the proposal is good but there are difficulties of many kinds and so on. That is exactly what we are prepared to meet as far as we can. We want the Government to work out in all seriousness, so as to avoid additional taxation. I was a little amused when I heard Sir Darcy Lindsay say something about the conflict between his pocket and his discretion or common sense. I always thought that Sir Darcy Lindsay and others of his class had always their common sense, nay their consciences in their pockets. (Laughter.) In the matter of income-tax at least all the capitalists all the world over never find conflict between their conscience and their pockets. However, Sir Darcy Lindsay is evidently a very rare exception, and I certainly pay him all honour for it, if he is really an exception; if he is always prepared to discuss every question in the same way without letting his pocket or the contents of his pocket interfere with his common sense and conscience. I cannot understand what there is for such a conflict with common sense in Sir Hari Singh Gour's proposal. Some very great writer has said, and probably Sir Darcy Lindsay would again say that common sense is a very uncommon thing. Anyway what he calls common sense may be the reverse from our standpoint; for to me it seems to be quite a common sense proposal that expenditure all round should be cut down by 5 per cent., and as my friend has already pointed out, it is not a new proposal either. It seems that in 1921, when some of us were not here, the same proposal was made.

Sir Hari Singh Gour: It was in 1922.

Mr. M. K. Acharya: Then the Government probably had some good reason to be sympathetic in their attitude towards proposals coming from non-officials. The proposal was made, the proposal was accepted, the proposal was worked out, the Budget was revised, and there was a reduction of almost five per cent. all round. What is the great difficulty today in doing that which was done in 1922? I put that question to the Finance Member, and I hope he will give us an answer. No doubt he wants more money, according to his estimate, but the estimate can be revised. It was revised at one time, by his predecessor in 1922, because perhaps in 1922 he could not have been sure of his majority in the House. Then also the Finance Member could have said that he had taken all possible pains, that he had exhausted all his talents for balancing the Budget or minimising expenditure, and that he was asking for what was absolutely necessary. That is just what I think the Finance Member today says, that every possible item has been carefully looked into already, and will be again looked into; that some special officer will be appointed, and so on and so forth. All that could have been said in 1922 also, had the then Finance Member been sure of a majority of votes in the House in favour of whatever additional taxation he then proposed. Probably, if I were in the Finance Member's place, I too might be tempted to make the same pleas, put forward the same excuses. All these are

very old excuses to make such as that the Finance Member has done everything he can and he still wants more money, and must have it by additional taxation. Well, let him take Sir Hari Singh Gour into his confidence and let them both sit together for a week and see whether they can or cannot reduce under almost every item of expenditure without any Department losing in efficiency. That is the whole point. Therefore, Sir, where there is a will, there is a way. When it was said that it was impossible, in the present circumstances, to accept Sir Hari Singh Gour's proposal, I was wondering whether that could be really true. I say there is nothing impossible under the sun. It is very possible, and it is a very easy thing, and I think it would be a very good thing too in view of what is coming. It will be a very desirable thing if Government do not go about proposing additional taxation in a year when probably there will be many exceptional factors to reckon with. For these reasons I should strongly support the motion of Sir Hari Singh Gour, and I think I must join issue, draw swords, though I am not a knight, with Sir Darcy Lindsay, who predicted very disastrous consequences as the result, as the inevitable result, of adopting Sir Hari Singh's proposal. Nothing disastrous will happen by reducing expenditure by 5 per cent. Therefore, I think, Sir, the whole matter is very simple. We, the elected non-official Members of this House, owe a duty, whatever our personal views may be, whatever the vested interests may be on this or that side of the House; and that duty demands that we should go and vote with Sir Hari Singh Gour. We must demand that expenditure should be reduced by 5 per cent. under this Department and under every other Department. And in discharge of that duty, I must stand with Sir Hari Singh Gour.

Mr. K. V. Rangaswami Ayyangar (Madras: Landholders): Sir, I am afraid, a great deal of influential support has been given to retrenchment and to reductions under the Departments of Customs and Income-tax. I see some other motions also for reductions of staff under the Postal Department. I am afraid, Sir, I cannot lend my support to these reductions in the civil Departments. I do not think that there can be any reduction of either the lower staff, or the upper staff or any other staff. The other day we heard the Finance Member making the statement that the upper staffs are all overworked. The subordinate branches of the civil Departments are not at all overstaffed or overpaid. We have not forgotten the grim tragedy enacted a few years ago by the Inchcape Retrenchment Committee, and it may be within the remembrance of the House that, when reductions of about Rs. 20 crores were suggested, we were under the delusion that a corresponding amount of Rs. 20 crores would be reduced from our taxation. But, Sir, not a pie was reduced in our taxation. On the other hand, they increased taxation. Sir, we are now told that a special officer has been deputed to go into the question of reduction of expenditure. The House would have greater confidence had an Indian been appointed as retrenchment officer. Sir, we are not wanting in Indian officers of high capacity. Mr. Rama Rau is just now coming back from his duties on the Statutory Commission. Had he been appointed instead of Mr. Jukes, an officer who is going to retire, we would have the utmost confidence in the retrenchments that might be proposed. I just now reminded the House, Sir, of what the Inchcape Retrenchment Committee did. They proposed very great cuts in the subordinate Indian staffs, and it may be within the remembrance of the House that many Indian people were deprived of their employment on

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account of the Inchcape cuts. Also, Sir, I quite agree with my Honourable friend, Sir Cowasji Jehangir, in pointing out that these 5 per cent. or 6 per cent. cuts, if accepted by this side of the House, will not be a practicable proposition, and I oppose this motion of the Honourable Sir Hari Singh Gour.

Mr. N. C. Kelkar: (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Sir, I rise just to offer one argument against the line of argument put forward by Sir Cowasji Jehangir. He seemed to base his whole argument upon this, that he sympathises with the object of the cut, but wants the cut to be made if possible in some other way, as the particular method chosen by Sir Hari Singh Gour is somewhat out of fashion. That seemed to be his argument. But directly after that the precedent of five or six years ago was mentioned. It was mentioned in detail, and I need not therefore go into that. That precedent should prove that the particular method chosen by Sir Hari Singh Gour is not anything extraordinary. I will further say this, that the very form in which the Demands are put before us necessitates following this particular method and no other. Here are 98 Demands put before us, item by item. I do not see here a Demand numbered 99, representing a Demand for the whole total, made up of all the items under the 98 heads. If such a Demand were on the paper, perhaps, when that total Demand was made, then Sir Hari Singh Gour could have moved a 5 per cent. cut, on that. But there is no such Demand before us, as Demand No. 99, giving the total of all the Demands that have gone before. The only way for him to make a cut therefore is to make such a cut somewhere in the preceding and foregoing items. Then the question comes up whether the cut is on merits or whether it is a round or lump cut. I think it is obvious that lump cuts are a recognised thing. In the Budget itself we sometimes find amounts put down as rounding up figures, that is, lump provision. Also when expenditure is provided for, certain lump sums are provided, and if I remember aright, the Inchcape Committee not only directed that certain lump cuts in expenditure should be made under certain heads, but also a round lump cut on the whole expenditure. I do not know exactly what that figure was. If I am wrong I may be corrected

Sir Hari Singh Gour: Twenty crores and some lakhs.

Mr. N. C. Kelkar: Therefore it appears to me that such a lump cut is not an out-of-the-way remedy certainly. The object of the lump cut is to cut down expenditure to that extent and to call upon the departments concerned to cut their cost according to the cloth that has been provided for them. It may be said that we may follow the alternative method of defeating or rejecting some of the items in the Finance Bill, and thereby reduce the supplies to Government, so that they may be indirectly compelled to cut down their expenditure. But we can only reduce the revenue and not directly cut down the expenditure; the two things are not the same. And even supposing we defeated or rejected some of the items in the Finance Bill, does that not amount to a cut in the lump? For, after all, a cut made by reducing the revenue has absolutely no bearing on the merits of particular departments. Therefore, whether we reject or defeat any particular items in the Finance Bill, or make lump cuts, I think the result is practically the same and I should

say that the proposal of Sir Hari Singh Gour ought not to be rejected by my friend, Sir Cowasji Jehangir, on that ground. He says he has sympathy, but his common sense does not permit him to vote for the thing for which he feels sympathy. It would be a very strange thing to say that, because the logical conclusion of that is that my friend, Sir Coswasji Jehangir, sympathises with a thing which is not based on common sense, or which is not justified by common sense. Does he admit that he sympathises with things which are not borne out by common sense? He does not do that certainly. There is a certain recognised distance between the heart and the head in the anatomy of man, but I never thought the distance was so great as seems to have been made out by Sir Cowasji Jehangir. Probably his heart is shifting from its proper place to somewhere else—I do not know whether it is into his pockets, or whether it has gone down into his feet.

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: Sir, I have heard the reason that has been given by my Honourable friend, the Knight from Bombay Sir Cowasji Jehangir, in opposition to this motion. Sir, I support the Honourable the Mover of this motion. The reason that was advanced in opposition was that it will not be methodical to reduce every Demand by 5 per cent. Sir, I cannot understand why it cannot be methodical. If a five per cent. cut is made in this Demand under the head of Income-tax, it would serve as an example to show that a five per cent. cut could be made in every Demand that has been made in this House. The amount that is asked for under this Demand is Rs. 71,99,000. Five per cent. of this would come to Rs. 3,59,950. May I ask why it is that this cut would not be methodical or proper, especially when I am ready to show to the House that this increased income-tax is asked for, not to meet a deficit, but with a view to keep it as a surplus only? Now, Sir, my main ground is that the income-tax is an odious and unpopular tax. History shows that, in India, this income-tax has from time to time been very unpopular. History further shows that it had been abandoned many a time under pressure of public opinion.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member might reserve these general observations till the Finance Bill comes up.

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: Very good, Sir. I shall do that. Then I come to the question whether there is any justification for raising the income-tax on the merits as shown by the Finance Member. It has been said that there is a deficit in the Budget, and on that account 70 lakhs of rupees are required to be raised in this way, by a rise in the income-tax of one pie on incomes of Rs. 15,000 and over, but the facts show that there is no deficit which requires this sum of 70 lakhs. To start with, the deficit having been shown, the question—which I am not at present going into in detail—is as to who is responsible for it. I find unwarranted predictions and professions were made by the Honourable Sir Basil Blackett in this House for surplus Budgets and he is now responsible for the present gap in the Budget. The deficit is shown to be 440 lakhs. Now, Sir, let us see how it is proposed to be met with. The levy of the proposed tax on cotton piece-goods is expected to bring in 125 lakhs, silver 100 lakhs, kerosene 35 lakhs, and sugar 180 lakhs. Total it up, Sir, and see how much it comes to; it comes to exactly 440 lakhs. Why is it then that 70 lakhs more are going to be assessed by increase in income-tax? It is said then that they are needed for the purpose of keeping them as a surplus. Is it not a fact that, in 1928-29, and 1929-30,

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there were no surpluses in the Budget at all and yet they were carried on? There is thus no necessity for it, and why should this odious tax be sought to be raised? Why should the popular mind be disturbed? I submit, in these days, it will simply be annoying the public to increase this tax. With these words I support the motion of Dr. Sir Hari Singh Gour, that a five per cent. cut be made in the Demand under the head "Taxes on Income".

Sir Parshotamdas Thakurdas (Indian Merchants' Chamber: Indian Commerce): Sir, I did not intend to take part in this debate, but in view of the interest which has been evoked in the course of the debate, I feel that I cannot give a silent vote. I am for every possible reduction that can be made in expenditure, and my constituency has been pressing upon Government the necessity of economy in expenditure. I however feel that that expression of opinion from this side of the House has been sufficiently emphasised on the motion which was pressed to a division—I mean the motion moved by my Honourable friend from Bombay, Sir Hugh Cocke. He wanted a committee composed of non-officials to be attached to the officer whom the Finance Member promised to appoint. Several Members who voted for that motion did not approve of a committee being associated with the officer at this stage, but voted for Sir Hugh Cocke's motion because they desired to impress on the Government of India that they wanted an inquiry in which every possible retrenchment could be made in expenditure. Now, Sir, this motion of Sir Hari Singh Gour seeks to take the House one step further; he now desires that a five per cent. cut should be made under every head of expenditure now and today. We have been told by responsible persons like my friend from Bombay, Sir Cowasji Jehangir, that his side of the House is irresponsible. That has been re-echoed by others on various sides of the House. I do not know in what sense my friend, Sir Cowasji Jehangir, meant that, but I feel this, that what Sir Cowasji Jehangir could have meant was that he had no responsibility in framing the Budget. I am sure that neither Sir Cowasji Jehangir nor even my friend, Mr. Lalchand Navalrai, would like it to be conveyed that they vote in this House in a manner which is irresponsible. I submit that even my friend, Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya, would not like anybody to say that he votes in a manner which involves no responsibility at all. I feel that everybody from this side of the House, who either expresses an opinion or gives a vote, does so after being convinced that what he is voting for is feasible and desirable and can be carried through.

Now, I wish to ask if my Honourable friend, who moved this motion, has made out a case that there is room for a five per cent. reduction under the head Income-tax on the expenditure side. It is all right for Sir Hari Singh Gour to say that this House did that in the year 1922. And my friend Sir Cowasji Jehangir may remember that when he was a member of the Bombay Government in 1922, he also agreed to a lump cut of Rs. 60 lakhs which was distributed by the Government of Bombay among the various departments. But, Sir, between 1922 and 1980, there is a tangible difference. It is not merely the period of years; it is the fact that, in 1922, we were at the top of the boom period, when everything had gone up and when even the Government departments, under the most careful supervision, had tended to expand unduly. I therefore feel that a 5 per cent. cut effected in 1922 can be said to be extremely modest in comparison to the 5 per cent. cut which is proposed today.

I think, after the inquiry which the Honourable the Finance Member has promised, and after the report of the officer is placed before the House within the next three or four months, we can consider this proposal, and unless my friend Sir Hari Singh Gour can point out that, under the head of Income-tax expenditure, certain officers are not required, or certain emoluments which are now given can be usefully reduced without impairing the efficiency of that department, I feel that it will be in the highest sense irresponsible on our part to press this motion.

Mr. M. K. Acharya: No.

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas: I wonder who said "No".

Mr. M. K. Acharya: I said it.

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas: I am not sorry, Sir, that Mr. Acharya said "No", because "capitalists" as he is fond of calling them, whom he runs down, may escape income-tax. I do not very much mind his "No". Mr. Acharya asked if the heavens would fall if a 5 per cent. cut were made. According to Mr. Acharya, the heavens were going to fall only when the Sarda Bill was enacted. I must leave Mr. Acharya to his logic.

Mr. M. K. Acharya: Very bad logic.

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas: It is a little better than yours.

Mr. M. K. Acharya: I expected better from you.

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas: If you interrupt me in this way, you cannot expect anything better than what you deserve from me. Now, Sir, we all want retrenchment. All that we have not is patience. Here is the Finance Member who says that he is going to appoint an officer and to place his Report before the House. He wants four or five months, and until then the House should have patience.

Sir Hari Singh Gour: Will he then remit taxation?

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas: I think the Finance Member will give a reply to his question. I can't say what he is going to do. All that I do know is one thing, that when an officer of the Government of India in the position of the Honourable the Finance Member, in response to consistent demands from this side of the House, makes a definite statement on the floor of the House, what is wanted from this side of the House is to watch for the next stage and to see what he has been able to achieve. It is wrong to press this motion at the same Session and to compel the impression, which I am sure is not warranted, that this side of the House does really at times take irresponsible action. Whilst, therefore, I am for all possible economies, I also feel that the Member in charge should be given an opportunity to examine for himself what is feasible and to tell us what can be done, and if after that Report, we are satisfied that either the inquiry has not been complete or it has left a few loose strings, this House will be quite justified in pulling those up and in pressing our motion. In the meantime

Sir Hari Singh Gour: Pressing what motion?

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas: Pressing the motion for retrenchment. There will be supplementary grants.

Sir Hari Singh Gour: Are you going to wait until

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas: I think you understand what I am recommending. All I say is that we must wait to see what is feasible, unless Sir Hari Singh's idea is to put forward something which will appeal to the gallery which, I am sure, is not his idea.

Now, Sir, a good deal has been said especially by my friend Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya regarding what he was pleased to call a conspiracy between the leaders of parties and the Government. On inquiry of the leader of my party, I understand that Mr. Jinnah was approached by my friend Sir Hari Singh Gour regarding his motion before the House only yesterday, and that there has been no conference between him and the Members of the Treasury Benches except on the question of the cotton duties. If, therefore, my friend Sir Hari Singh Gour feels that others on this side of the House have not been able to see his point of view, it is not because they were either reluctant or unwilling to do so, but because he did not approach them. Sir Hari Singh Gour did mention this to me very soon after the Budget was presented, and I think he will bear me out when I say that I told him that, if he could get the 5 per cent. cut all round, none would be more happy than myself, but I also asked him, at the same time, if he could find out from Government if they were willing to make it in the Military Budget. I wonder if, in 1922, the Assembly was able to do it by negotiations with Government

Sir Hari Singh Gour: I absolutely and emphatically deny it. The Government passed it and carried it over the head of the Assembly

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas: You cannot deny my conversation.

Sir Hari Singh Gour: I had no conversation whatever, Sir.

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas: With me?

Sir Hari Singh Gour: No, not in 1922.

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas: I was wondering whether he was denying the conversation he had with me when he approached me about it. I then told him to go round and see the other party leaders and find out from them what their view was. I find that, as far as Mr. Jinnah is concerned, Sir Hari Singh Gour approached him and talked to him only yesterday. I do not know when he talked to Pandit Malaviya or to my friend Sir Zulfiqar Ali Khan or Sir Darcy Lindsay. I do think, however, whilst my friend Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya may have some grievance regarding what may have taken place last month in connection with another matter, it is a little hard and unfair on his part to say that there has been any "conspiracy" between any Members on the Front Benches on this side and the Members of the Government on the other side. If Sir Hari Singh Gour will press motions here without having them thoroughly examined and discussed by Members on this side of the House, whose votes he wants, I am afraid he may continue to have the imaginary grievance regarding "conspiracy" which, I may say, exists more in Mr. Pandya's imagination than in fact.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah (Bombay City: Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I am almost forced to take part in this debate. Sir, I can assure you and the House and my friend Sir Hari Singh Gour that, so far as my party is concerned, it respects no person, nor does it hate any person in this House. I think my friend, Sir Hari Singh Gour, will admit it in all frankness. It decides on the merits of each question that comes before the House. We

have maintained this principle, and we hope to maintain it as long as the Independent Party stands on the floor of this House. Therefore, Sir, if there is any feeling in the mind of any Honourable Member that, because this motion is brought by my friend Sir Hari Singh Gour and therefore he is not going to get our support, it is entirely wrong. I say the day when we do that, we shall be unfit to sit in this House. We, Sir, want to examine every question on its merits, and honestly to the best of our judgment, either support or oppose it.

Now, Sir, having said so much, so far as my friend Sir Hari Singh Gour is concerned, I would say only one word. I am surprised that my friend Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya or even my friend Mr. Acharya should suggest that there is any conspiracy between the Government and my party. I am really surprised. At any rate they should be the last persons to make any suggestion of that character. When you make these suggestions, do you not also judge us with a certain amount of prejudice? Is that worthy of you? Should you not ask us, "What are your grounds for not supporting this cut"? Should you not ask us, rather than say, that we have made up our minds in conspiracy with Government. Is that worthy of you? If you ask me what are my difficulties, I will tell you straight and frankly. As my Honourable friend, Sir Purshotamdas, has pointed out, the first time that Sir Hari Singh Gour approached me was yesterday. The implications of his proposal are very serious, although he put it in a manner which seemed as if it was nothing. Let us examine this issue. This House has deliberately expressed its opinion on the cut of Sir Hugh Cocke yesterday. It was this—retrenchment. We forced that down upon the Government, that they did not sufficiently retrench. You passed a vote of censure on the Government. That is what it means in constitutional language. Now, Sir, if the Government understand the meaning of that vote, it means, Retrench, Retrench, Retrench.

Mr. M. K. Acharya: Do they understand it?

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: I think they have got as much intelligence as my friend Mr. Acharya. Now, my Honourable friend Sir Hari Singh Gour's proposal for a cut of 5 per cent. means roughly five or six crores of rupees. Now, Sir, if he had followed up his proposal logically, he would not have said, "Let us wait till the Simla Session; let us wait for the supplementary Demands that may come up". From where will the Finance Member give the supplementary grants if he has got no revenue? Pushed to its logical conclusion, Sir Hari Singh Gour wants a 5 per cent. cut here and now, and when the Finance Bill comes up, he will say, "Reject every proposal for fresh taxation". Is that what you want?

Sir Hari Singh Gour: Yes.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: Then why do you talk of supplementary grants? Where will the Finance Member get the money from?

Sir Hari Singh Gour: From the Military.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: Then my Honourable friend had no business to say "Wait". I can quite understand if the House chooses to take that responsibility. 5 per cent. must be cut down in every department. It may be 8 per cent. in some department, 2 in others and 3 in others, but the total should be 5 per cent. I understand that perfectly. The implication is this, that we must have this 5 per cent. cut, and when the Finance Bill

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comes up, we must reject every proposal for taxation. Now, my friend Sir Cowasji Jehangir said it in a manner which made me think that he did not quite realise the implication of it. He thought that we are not responsible here.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: The constitution makes us irresponsible. That is why we brought that cut on the Executive Council.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: My friend is entirely wrong. We are not irresponsible in this House. I dissent from that proposition. We owe a responsibility to our people and to our constituencies. Every one of us carries a certain amount of responsibility. Our responsibility is this—that we have to examine every proposal that comes before us and not only express our opinion and offer our criticism, but record our vote with the utmost responsibility that we can command. I am not here merely to go into the lobby on this side or that as I please, according to my whims and fancy. I do not record my vote in this House unless I am convinced for or against the proposition. That is our responsibility. Do you deny that? Are you going to vote here according to your fancy?

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: When I spoke of irresponsibility, I referred to the system. You can make a cut of ten lakhs and the Government will certify it. The irresponsibility consists in the certification. We are irresponsible to that extent. That is what I meant.

Mr. President: Don't make confusion worse confounded.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: My Honourable friend is getting deeper and deeper into the constitutional position of this House. I am not discussing the constitutional position of this House or of the Treasury Benches or the non-official Members of this House.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Then what are you discussing?

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: I am discussing a thing you don't understand. I am discussing this, and I say most emphatically that no man worth his salt can say that I am standing here as an irresponsible man. I have to discharge my responsibility here as much as anybody else.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Who doubted that?

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: Therefore I say we have to deal with every question on its merits fearlessly, express our opinions and record our votes, according to our own judgment. Therefore, do not be carried away by fanciful arguments about this 5 per cent. cut. It was made in 1922. You can do that certainly. My difficulty is this. If I endorse this cut and the principle underlying this cut, I must be logically driven, when the Finance Bill comes here, to reject every new taxation that is proposed by the Bill. I am not prepared to take that responsibility on my shoulders and my party therefore cannot give their support to the underlying principle of this cut which my Honourable friend has moved.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: We have had a very interesting and representative debate, and I think my duty does not call upon me to make a long reply on a subject which has been so fully discussed. I should like to say, at the outset, that, as far as the principle of the motion is concerned, I am myself as whole-heartedly as any Member of this House

in favour of retrenchment. I should also like to say, in justice to the Honourable and learned Mover of this motion, that I quite admit that there may be occasions in which the form of procedure which he has chosen may be the best course to effect the purpose which he has in mind. My only argument against him has been that this is not one of those occasions. Sir, we had another form of action taken only yesterday in this House, and in regard to that I should also like to say that, although the Government, inasmuch as the motion had in a sense the form of a vote of censure, as my Honourable friend Mr. Jinnah has pointed out, felt it necessary to oppose that motion, I am nevertheless very glad to find that what was in the mind of my Honourable friend, who moved that motion, was almost exactly what is in my own mind on this matter. I am sure, Sir, this House will think no worse of me if I admit a tactical mistake. If I had had an opportunity to discuss the matter with him more fully beforehand, I should have advised the Government not to go into the lobby against that motion because I am entirely in favour of what I now understand to have been the purpose of my Honourable friend in moving this motion. Now, that brings me to the point of explaining to this House precisely what I do propose. It has already been explained, but in order to avoid any misunderstanding I should like to go over the matter again. We propose that the retrenchment officer, who is to be appointed, shall conduct or rather shall complete the very careful inquiries which we have already started into the growth of expenditure in every department of the Government. When these inquiries are completed, I think we shall be in a position to put before this House a very informative report on the exact situation. I want to make it quite clear that this is only a first step. My whole point in this matter has been that, if we are to pursue a policy of retrenchment now, it must be pursued not only with determination, but also with intelligence. Our shots must be carefully aimed; they must not go at large all over the landscape, otherwise we will probably do more harm than good. I do think that, with this report before them, Honourable Members will be able to decide much better than they could otherwise do what course they want the Government to follow, and I have little doubt that we shall find ourselves in agreement on the lines to be followed on main points.

Now, it has been suggested to me by one speaker in this debate that more confidence would have been felt on the other side in this inquiry if it had been undertaken by an Indian officer. I can at once assure the House that there has been no question of racial discrimination in this matter. It so happened that the officer who has been selected was available for this duty at this moment, as otherwise he would have been on the point of retirement. And I believe I am right in assuming that all Members of this House who have had knowledge of the work of this particular officer in the Auditor General's Department will admit that we could not have selected one who has a more close knowledge of all the subjects which he has got to examine or a more fearless sense of justice in recording his opinions. Now, Sir, it has been suggested to me that Mr. Rama Rao, who is shortly to be released from his duties in connection with the Statutory Commission, would have been a very suitable officer to undertake this work. I quite admit it, and if it is possible to make use of the services of Mr. Rama Rao in connection with Mr. Jukes' inquiry, I shall be very glad indeed to do so. As a matter of fact, I do not know exactly when Mr. Rama Rao's services will be again at the disposal of

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the Finance Department. And another consideration is that in connection with the examination of the Statutory Commission's Report, when it is before us, and also the examination of those difficult financial problems which we will then have to face, I think it is extremely probable that we shall have to employ Mr. Rama Rao on special duty to help us in this matter. Personalities at the present time must be used where they can perform the most valuable services, but if there is an opportunity of employing an Indian officer in connection with this inquiry, I certainly will do so. I would, however, remind this House that, in the Finance Department, we rely almost entirely on the Indian officers, and they will all, of course, be closely associated with the work in connection with this inquiry.

Now, Sir, I come back again to the motion moved by my Honourable friend, Sir Hari Singh Gour. He has suggested that his purpose in moving this motion has not been properly understood. Sir, in answer to that, I would say that Sir Hari Singh Gour does justice neither to my intelligence nor to his own powers of expression. His purpose was perfectly clear, and I understood it exactly as he has repeated it today. But, Sir, my answer after his second explanation is exactly the same as that which I gave to him yesterday. He says he is out for general retrenchment. I say retrenchment is a subject which you cannot discuss in the abstract; you must come down to the practical details of the departments with which you are dealing. I have prepared some very full notes on the growth of expenditure in the Income-tax Department during the last five years, and I should have liked to go through those with this House, because I myself welcome this opportunity of going, one by one, through the various heads of the Demands for Grants in order to explain to this House exactly how and why expenditure has grown in the last years. But, Sir, as time is short, I propose to omit that explanation now. All this ground will be fully gone over again in the Report which we propose to present to the House. But I feel quite confident that, in this particular case, as in the case of the Customs yesterday, I can make out a most convincing statement to this House showing why expenditure has grown, and that the apparent growth does not represent extravagance.

Then, Sir, my Honourable friend says that, possibly in the case of the Income-tax or the Customs Department, you will not be able to achieve this 5 per cent. cut. "What I am out for", he says, "is a 5 per cent. reduction on the total, and it is for you to distribute the details of cuts that would be made". And, then, he always comes back to the same point, namely, that it is to a reduction in military that he really looks for the achievement of his purpose. As a justification for adopting his procedure, he attacks the whole system of non-voted grants. He says that in moving his cut in this way he is making a protest against the system by which a very large portion of the Budget is not presented to this House. Now, Sir, that exactly illustrates the point which I had in mind when I asked this House to agree with me that, at the present moment, just on the eve of the consideration of the Report of the Statutory Commission and of the consideration of all kinds of constitutional reforms, we could not deal with these large questions of policy. I have no doubt that the whole question of the control to be exercised by the representatives of the people over matters such as military expenditure will be one of the major questions which has to be considered in the next stage of constitutional evolu-

tion. If any one wishes to make a protest against the present system now, he is at liberty to do so, but to blame the Government for not giving effect to a change in policy in that particular respect just at the present moment is, I submit, to make an attack which misses the mark.

Sir, my Honourable friend also complained of the system of over-budgeting and he suggested that, if we were to revise our estimates, we might find room for the economy which he has proposed. If the results of the last few years are examined, it will be found that there has, in fact, been no over-budgeting, taking revenue and expenditure together. Of course on certain items we go wrong. It would be impossible to avoid mistakes, dealing with a country such as India, where all sorts of uncertainties affect the budgetary results. But on the whole, there has not been any large variation from the estimates which have been presented with the Budget to this House, and I am quite confident in making the statement that there is no evidence now to show that the practice of over-budgeting expenditure is carried out.

One further point, Sir, and I have done. The question has been asked whether, supposing this House approves the taxes which we are proposing this year and supposing events turn out favourably, and supposing that next year we can look forward to a year of moderate prosperity and recovery from the depression which India undoubtedly is suffering from today, will the Government remit taxation? That, Sir, is a question which of course it is difficult to answer, for it would depend on many factors. But I think I have indicated to this House very clearly what sort of answer I myself should give to that question. I feel that we have before us now, in the next stage of constitutional evolution, in the next chapter of the history of this country, a period when above everything, it is necessary that money should be available for constructive expenditure, for expenditure which will go to improve the condition of the people both as regards their education and (what is so closely connected with it) as regards their economic opportunities and conditions. I believe that, in the next stage of constitutional evolution, if the provinces, if the Provincial Governments, are to have greater power and greater responsibility and greater opportunity to work for the good of the people, they will certainly require larger funds at their disposal than they at present have. In putting the proposals which I have put before the House, and in recognising that I am budgeting this year for a year when results have certainly dropped down from the normal line of progress and advance which has been followed in the preceding six years, in making those proposals, I have opened the way when the normal line of advance is again resumed for a fairly substantial surplus. I pray that things will go well enough for such a surplus to be realised. It cannot be more than a prayer, because, as things are, and facing the situation which we have to face, I feel that we want all the revenues which I have asked you to vote for the immediate period which is before us. But that does not prevent our hoping and praying for better times in future, and, when those better times come, I say that what is really required is larger resources for the provinces in order that they may undertake that constructive expenditure which India so badly needs. But, Sir, taking a line of that kind does, I recognise, put a very heavy responsibility on the Government and on the Finance Member in particular, for there is nothing so difficult as to resist demands for expenditure when you have a certain margin of money in your purse and when you cannot dispose of the demands

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by the simple answer that the money is not there. It is for that reason that I attach special importance to the appointment of a retrenchment officer, and to the conduct of a retrenchment inquiry at the present stage. It is the most difficult task that any Finance Member has to perform to prevent the growth of waste when he has any money to dispose of. I am fully conscious of the duty which rests upon me in that respect, and from that point of view I welcome the strengthening which is given to my arm in that respect by such motions as were passed by this House yesterday. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. President: The question is:

"That the Demand under the head 'Taxes on Income' be reduced by five per cent."

The motion was negatived.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till a Quarter to Three of the Clock.

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

Grievances of the Income-tax Office Establishments.

Mr. N. G. Kelkar: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Demand under the head 'Taxes on Income' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The object of the motion is to draw the attention of the House to the grievances of the Income-tax Office establishments. It is, of course, a small point in itself, but I think it is a somewhat important point also. In the first place, I am not asking for increased expenditure to better the conditions of these people. After having voted for a cut in the Demands, it would be inconsistent for me to ask Government to spend more. But that is not my point. My point is about the injustice that seems to be done in the recruitment of the establishment in some of the Income-tax offices; and this does not necessarily refer to one place like Bombay, but it is, I am told, common to several other places also. Persistent complaints reach us, sometimes even by post, about these things, and circumstances and details are told which, for the moment at any rate, until we get an explanation to the contrary, convince us that the complaints are real. It is for that reason that we take up these complaints, and I am not one of those who think it beneath their dignity to take notice of these things in this House. If the appeals of the subordinates in the services always received proper attention and anxious consideration at the hands of the departmental heads, then these complaints would not surely come to us; and because these complaints are not removed, therefore unions also are formed of these services and that makes it clear that grievances do exist, for which effort has got to be made by these people till they are redressed. One thing more I have to make clear. When I, for instance, bring these complaints to the notice of the departmental head here, I may say once for all, the complaint may be taken to be absolutely impersonal, both subjectively and objectively. I have not before my mind's eye any person, A. B. C. or X Y. on whose affairs the question I am raising may have a bearing. At the same time, I have not before my mind's eye anybody

as X. Y. Z., who may be supposed to be wrong in this matter as head of a particular department. I do not know to whom injustice is being caused, I do not know personally who is causing the injustice. I know the facts; the facts have been placed before me, and I am taking up this question because I believe there is some truth in the complaints.

On the 4th February last, I put a detailed question to the Honourable the Finance Member, asking for certain information and embodying in this question certain facts about certain cases of injustice. In reply to one of the clauses I was told:

“I wish to repudiate, in the strongest possible manner, the insinuation directed in this part of the question against an Indian gentleman in high official position in whose absolute impartiality I have complete confidence.”

I have certainly no quarrel with the confidence reposed in that officer by the head of this department. I was much obliged for the information given to me in that reply that the person to whom the complaint related was an Indian gentleman. But I did not want that information. Whether he was an Indian gentleman or not did not make any difference to me, if injustice can be brought home to him, and therefore the only purpose of my question was to know whether such injustice had taken place in particular cases, or whether the state of things generally obtaining in the department with regard to recruitment was such that injustice of that kind might be likely and possible. My question went over seven or eight heads and to most of them the reply given was:

“I am calling for a report after which I will furnish a written reply to the Honourable Member. I am also calling for a report with reference to the other clauses.”

Therefore, beyond practically censuring me for seeking to bestow censure upon an Indian gentleman, who happened to be the head of the office, I was not given any information in reply to this question. Since then, I have not got any reply from the Honourable the Finance Member. Therefore I am bringing up this question now to the notice of the Honourable Member, and I hope that this time, at any rate, I shall get the required information.

The grievances relate to both the branches, the subordinate service as well as the superior service. As regards the subordinate services, I understand that the Union of these services under the Central Board of Revenue have made another representation to the officers concerned, and I am told that a final reply has not yet been given, or even if it has been given, it is in dispute. The subordinate service people do not seem to be satisfied with it, and they are still making representations. With regard to the higher appointments, the point of injustice seems to be that, either there are no rules or there are no examinations, or if there are rules and examinations, these rules are not observed and the results of these examinations are not given weight in matters of recruitment. Outsiders seem to be brought into the Department; in one case it may be a stenographer from outside who has made some impression upon the Commissioner; in another case it may be a hand from the allied Department of Customs who sees no prospects for himself in the Department, or in a third case it may be a man from the Imperial Bank, who is finding his position uncomfortable there and has got to be provided for somewhere else. Of course these are not personal instances in the sense that I know A. B. C. or X. Y. who are affected or who are mentioned in these particular cases; nor are

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they exhaustive cases, but they are illustrative cases and, I may also say, specific cases. Therefore, if an inquiry is going to be made, it will of course be found out whether the instances I have quoted are to the point or not. The process of selection is always a dangerous one, and it naturally leads to such complaints. Therefore my point is, in the first place, that I may be informed whether there are definite rules about recruitment, rules about selection and rules regulating examination, and the progress of those who have passed the examination and have been brought into line. The people of this Department have certainly a legitimate grievance that it is made a dumping-ground for outsiders.

It is difficult to say what is precisely the qualification required for an officer of the Income-tax Department. But it seems to me to be somehow taken for granted that any man who seems to be clever may be just put in this Department. It is difficult to accept that proposition, that anybody, simply because the Commissioner finds that he is clever or impressionable, should have a place in the higher services. The higher services are very important services. The clerks in the Department who have acquired long experience naturally look forward for promotion to these posts, and certainly they may be permitted to appear for examination if there is any. But in any case, where recruitment is to be made by a local promotion of the people already in service who have acquired experience, or where it is made through a definite examination, selection and favouritism and these sorts of things should not come into operation. That is the only point I wish to raise. I only want information and nothing more, and my purpose will be served if this discussion is brought to the notice of the departmental officers concerned and they take a warning from this discussion.

The Honourable Sir George Schnitzer: Sir, in dealing with questions of detail of this kind, I am obviously in something of a difficulty, because I have no knowledge beforehand of what precise points are going to be raised in discussion, and it is clearly impossible for me, in my position, to keep in my head all the details of the various departments which are technically under my charge. My Honourable friend has referred to a question which he asked and as regards which I promised him some information which he has not yet received. I must apologise if that is so. I understand that an answer was recently sent to him in reply to certain questions. I do not know whether that refers to the particular question which he had in mind. I am told that some information had been sent to my Honourable friend within the last few days. Possibly he has not yet received that letter. But in any case, it seems that, if he asked the question on the 4th February, 1929, and if he has only just received the particulars, I think it is fairly clear that I owe him an apology, and, if that is the case, I hope he will accept my apology now for the long delay which has taken place in giving him the information. Even after I have heard what my Honourable friend has said, I am not quite clear as to the precise nature of his grievance, and I feel in cases of this kind, as I felt earlier in the Session when the question of the grievances of the Currency Officers was brought up, that it is exceedingly difficult to discuss these details across the floor of the House. I gather that the chief point of his charge was that clerks in the Income-tax Department in Bombay are not promoted sufficiently freely to executive posts and that such posts are filled by outsiders with no special claims to them.

Mr. N. C. Kelkar: To the prejudice also of people who have passed the examination.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: And he did make some suggestions that there was a certain amount of favouritism in dealing with these matters. That, I am afraid, is a charge which I must still reject, because I still have the greatest confidence, not only in the particular gentleman to whom I referred in the course of my answer last year, but in the justice of all the officials in the Department who are responsible for making these appointments. I am told that, normally, clerks are only promoted to the posts of senior clerks, Head Clerks, Assistant Superintendents and Superintendents, and it is only in exceptional cases that clerks are promoted to the higher grades of Inspectors, Examiners and Income-tax Officers. There are no special rules on the subject, since it is not contemplated that such promotions will ordinarily be made. That is the system on which we are working. I presume that the system has been adopted after careful consideration, having regard to the nature of the qualifications that are required for Income-tax Officers and to the qualifications which are ordinarily available in the clerical grades. If my Honourable friend would submit a reasoned statement on the subject, I should be very glad to go into it. But at present, I must presume that the practice which has been adopted, after careful inquiries, is the best practice in the public interests. I am told that clerks who wish to do so are not debarred from appearing for the departmental examinations. But, as I have already explained, the Income-tax Officers are selected from an approved list, and mere success in departmental examinations is not regarded as in itself a sufficient qualification for inclusion in that list. My Honourable friend has said that he is talking in general and not with reference to any particular cases. But it is very difficult to deal with a question of this kind unless one has particular instances put before one for examination, and I think that I could investigate the case very much more effectively if my Honourable friend could supply me with the definite illustrations which he has in mind in advancing his argument. I feel, Sir, that I cannot at present say any more in reply. I am perfectly willing to go into the matter, and I would suggest that, in confidence, my Honourable friend should tell me precisely what he has in mind.

Mr. N. C. Kelkar: I beg leave to withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Mr. President: Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh.* Does he wish to discuss the amendment of Income-tax law?

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh (Muzaffarpur *cum* Champaran: Non-Muhamadan): Yes.

Mr. President: I am afraid he cannot discuss amendment of any law by budget cuts. The Honourable Member is at liberty to give notice of a Bill for that purpose.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: Can I discuss it on the Finance Bill?

Mr. President: Certainly.

* "To move that the Demand under the head 'Taxes on Income' be reduced by Rs. 100. (Amendment of Income-tax law)."

Income-tax Administration in Bengal.

Mr. K. O. Neogy (Dacca Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I beg to move:

'That the Demand under the head 'Taxes on Income' be reduced by Rs. 100.'

I confess that I did not altogether feel overweighed with a sense of responsibility even after hearing Mr. Jinnah. I would, therefore, ask the Honourable the Finance Member to agree to surrender Rs. 100 out of his Budget of several lakhs, unless his answer to the point that I desire to raise satisfies my friend, Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas. (Laughter.) Sir, I had several points in mind when I gave notice of this particular motion, but in view of the progress that we have made in the disposal of the Demands, I propose to confine myself to just one point and I may state to the House that I have already given an indication of my particular point to a representative of the Finance Department, who is also an Honourable Member of this House, so that the Honourable the Finance Member should not have any difficulty in dealing with this particular point. Sir, I understand that a few years back a special Income-tax Officer was appointed in Calcutta and he was charged with certain duties. The view was taken by assesses that this procedure was illegal; that the Income-tax Act did not contemplate the appointment of such an officer for the purpose of discharging the kind of duties that were laid on him. This objection was taken formally before the Income-tax Officer, and I am told that it was also brought to the notice of the higher authorities, the Central Board of Revenue, but with that irresponsibility that seems to be peculiar to the administration of the Income-tax Department, no heed was paid to it. This illegal proceeding went on till the matter came up before the Calcutta High Court, which stated that the entire proceedings before this particular officer were illegal, with the result that the Department has already refunded the income-tax or super-tax collected as a result of the activities of this officer to the tune of several lakhs. Now, Sir, as a revenue earning department we have considerable sympathy with the administration of the Income-tax Department, but I should like to know whether the action taken by the authorities in this particular case really justifies the confidence which it is claimed on behalf of Government that this Department should enjoy at the hands of this House.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: Sir, my Honourable friend has suggested a somewhat surprising new form of constitutional procedure. He seems to suggest that this House should resolve itself into a sort of arbitration tribunal presided over by my Honourable friend, Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas. Sir, I cannot leave

Mr. K. O. Neogy: I said I was prepared to surrender my judgment in favour of Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: That is precisely the result of my Honourable friend's suggestion. But, Sir, I do not know that we need carry this particular point to the length of inventing new constitutional forms by which to deal with it. The matter is a small one and I think quite clear. Undoubtedly a mistake was made in the appointment of that particular Income-tax Officer. The ground on which the Calcutta High Court declared the assessments to be illegal was purely a technical ground, namely, that, while it was open to the Commissioner to appoint an Income-tax Officer to perform these functions "in respect of such classes of persons

and such classes of income and in respect of such areas as the Commissioner may direct", it was not open to the Commissioner to appoint an Income-tax Officer to perform all the functions of an Income-tax Officer in respect of those persons whose cases may be made over to him by the Commissioner from time to time. In fact, he tried, under his powers for delegation of his duty, to delegate it in too wide terms, because the order did not specify the class of persons or the class of income within the meaning of the section. Actually what has happened is that most of the assessment declared invalid by the High Court will have to be made afresh by other Income-tax Officers having jurisdiction, who will naturally use the notes prepared by this special Income-tax Officer. The fresh assessments will probably be quite formal, though it is possible that a few of the assessments will not be able to be made afresh because the period of limitation may have expired. I suggest that the mistake is a purely technical one, and one which does not justify the public or this Assembly in withdrawing its confidence from the Income-tax Department. Actually the Calcutta decision has brought to light a real defect in section 5 of the Income-tax Act, which will probably have to be amended before long. Pending the amendment of that section, I am told that the Central Board of Revenue have issued a detailed circular to all Commissioners of Income-tax explaining the provisions of section 5, and suggesting methods by which the section can be worked with the least administrative inconvenience. I trust, Sir, that the explanation which I have given will be satisfactory not only to my Honourable friend but also to Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas, to whom my Honourable friend, the Mover of this motion, has delegated his responsibility in a way no less reprehensible than that of which this particular Commissioner of Income-tax was guilty. (Laughter.)

Mr. K. C. Neogy: I am afraid my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, has missed my point. Is it not the fact that this particular technical objection was taken at the earliest possible moment, even before the matter was taken to the High Court, and that the procedure was continued, despite this warning, and in absolute disregard of all the objections that were urged on behalf of assessee before the different Income-tax authorities, which shows the absolutely irresponsible manner in which the Department is administered?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: I very much regret, Sir, that, on that particular point, I have no information. I will look into exactly what happened. But I still venture to suggest that, the nature of the irregularity was of such a purely technical kind, that it hardly merits the very eloquent phrases which have just fallen from my Honourable friend's lips.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That the Demand under the head 'Taxes on Income' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The motion was negatived.

Sir Hugh Oocké (Bombay: European): Sir, there are one or two general remarks I wish to make on this vote, if I may. I shall not take many minutes. I have noticed in the Annual Report of the Central Board of Revenue for 1927-28 (paragraph 14 on page 4) that it says that "arrears at the end of the year stood at the same level as at the end of last year. The collections continued to be satisfactory". But looking into the figures, it does not seem that they stood at the same level. I wonder if the paragraph has crept in from a previous Report. I see that as regards income-tax, the uncollected income-tax at the end of March for the three years 1925-26,

[Sir Hugh Cooke.]

1926-27 and 1927-28, rose from Rs. 45 lakhs, in the first year, to Rs. 51½ lakhs in the next, and to Rs. 54½ lakhs in the third, so that there has been a steady increase in the uncollected balance of income-tax. As regards super-tax, the figures are still more striking in that, at the end of 1925-26, they were Rs. 19 lakhs, a year later they were practically Rs. 40 lakhs, and at the end of 1927-28, they were nearly Rs. 58 lakhs. So I do not think that that statement, in paragraph 14, is quite correct. I hope it will be possible, in future, to get this Report out somewhat earlier. I understand that Government close their accounts at the end of March, and that anything received after the 31st March, goes into the next year. If that has been so, I should have thought that it should be possible to get all these figures within a month or two and to issue the Report very much earlier than now. This Report for 1927-28 reached the Library here in June 1929, that is, fifteen months after the end of the year.

On one other point I wish to say a few words for future information. You, Sir, just now ruled out of order the out of Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh to raise the question of the amendment of the income-tax law. I presume that, had he been going to discuss the recent enactments and their effect on the administration, he would have been quite in order. I understand he was ruled out because he was going to discuss future legislation.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: I was going to discuss the existing law on the subject and to point out the anomalies and deficiencies of the existing law, and I wanted to suggest amendments to some of the sections in the interests of the assesses.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 71,99,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Taxes on Income'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 18—SALT.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: Sir, I move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 88,31,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Salt'."

Abolition of the Salt Tax

Mr. Amar Nath Dutt (Burdwan Division: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Sir, it is gratifying to me that I have the high privilege of moving a motion* in this House before the representatives of the Indian people, which has been taken up by a far greater individual to carry on a religious war. It is also a curious coincidence that the discussion of the subject should fall on the same day here in this House along with the first day of commencement of the non-violent war. It is a special privilege for every one of us here that we are also participators in the great struggle that is being carried on for the liberation of India. Sir, Mahatma Gandhi, the saint and seer of modern India has declared that, in order to liberate India from foreign domination, the first battle that has to be fought with the Bureaucracy

*"That the Demand under the head 'Salt' be reduced to Re. 1."

is on the issue of salt. Why did he do so? Because he felt with all the warmth of feeling that a great heart like his alone could feel for the masses of the people who have to pay this salt tax. My amendment, Sir, is totally to deny any grant, save and except one rupee, to this Department. If the Government can carry on this Department with one rupee, let them do so; but we wish to record our protest against this iniquitous tax. Before foreign rule, salt was free, like water, light and air; but these are now taxed, except air, and if air is taxed, we shall not be surprised, and we shall be obliged to shut our noses and cease breathing or pay air-tax, for it is not possible to live without breathing air. So it is also not possible to live without salt; it is one of the necessities of life to keep up health and to take in a morsel of food. That a civilised government, as the present Government claims to be, should choose, of all other things, salt, leaving aside tobacco and other luxuries, as an object to be taxed for revenue, is not only surprising but perplexing. The debates of this House will show that all that can be said about this salt tax has been said, and to say anything further, would merely be repetition of those very things over again. It is a prime necessity of life, both for men and cattle and without repeating all that has been said for the abolition of this pernicious tax, I make my humble appeal to the Government so long they happen to rule this country to abolish the salt duty.

I do not know whether the religious war that has been begun today will succeed or not. According to my own conceptions of success, I believe that no great movement has ever failed. To ordinary mortals it might appear that it has been a failure, while it is not so. To a superficial observer it may appear that Srikrishna, Gautama Buddha and Christ have failed, but a careful study of the history of human civilisation will convince you that they have moulded the destinies of the human race, and true success lies there. They are the great forces that govern this world. Sir, I believe that this religious war is bound to succeed, and I invite the Government to join in this religious war and help Mahatma Gandhi in having free salt for the masses of India. That will be to their great credit, and I hope that Englishmen on the other side will not be deaf to my appeal, will not be deaf to the appeal of the greatest man of the world, who in order to make the Government moral and religious, has launched this non-violent religious war. Hence, Sir, I am asking that this Demand be reduced to one rupee, and in this I am helping the Government at least to become moral, to become more religious; and I hope that they will appreciate my views.

***Pandit Nilakantha Das** (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I am here to oppose this Demand for Grant as it stands on the paper and to support the amendment that has been moved, and I do so with a very heavy but responsible heart. I have not come here today to argue or to reason on this particular subject; because whatever can be said has been said in previous years in this House as well as elsewhere. But, Sir, this year, it has come to be a subject in the forefront of all Indians and of all Government men. It is a queer coincidence, as my Honourable friend to my left has said, that it is today, the 12th March, that, in order to liberate the masses of India, Mahatma Gandhi has launched a religious war and he has selected this weakest point of the Government. This is a tax which

[Pandit Nilakantha Das.]

pinches even the poorest, and every one, every poor man particularly, feels it to be so. If I reason today, it is not on the iniquities of the salt tax; I say, today and now you must abolish this entire Department. If I may reason, I may discuss whether, if the salt tax is not levied, such a department will still be necessary. It may be necessary, and it may be the duty of the Government to deal out salt prepared by the people free all over the country. I know that, and it is not for me to argue on that point now. I say emphatically and deliberately, abolish this Department all at once, for it is only then we can put our heads together and form a small department to deal out salt all over the country. Sir, this is a subject over which today a national war has begun; it is a war of Independence. It is not reason which will convince the mailfisted Bureaucracy or band of Imperialists. We are told that we are a part of what is called the Commonwealth of Nations, and here somebody else said we enjoy Dominion Status in action. There are Dominions which have got a status, and my friends on the opposite Benches well realise what reason they gave to demand or carve out the status which they now have, and I am sorry to say that, so long as that reason is not shown, perhaps they will depend on the brute force, of which they are past masters. If I can help them to put any sense in their brains, I should advise them, particularly at the present juncture, to abolish this Department altogether, to disband the whole band of officers, and thus show their *bona fides* and show that they join hands with the Indian Nationalists who are crying for Independence, who are rightly demanding it, and begin a new era in the world of peace and prosperity, which perhaps will sooner or later dawn on this country, despite the attempts of the Bureaucracy. Sir, with these few words I support the motion.

Mr. M. S. Aney (Berar Representative): Sir, I have a cut motion* given under this very Demand, which was intended to draw the attention of the Government to a careful consideration of the salt policy they have been pursuing, in view particularly of the present political situation. As my friends, Messrs. Amar Nath Dutt and Pandit Nilakantha Das, have practically argued on the same grounds, I thought it would be better for me to participate in the debate raised on Mr. Amar Nath Dutt's motion. But my object is really this. The motion which I want to make and which I believe is the one that was moved by my friends, is not brought in with the object of inflicting any defeat on the Government or getting any success in this House. That is not the purpose of it at all. On the other hand, if I put it in different language, the object is to draw the attention of the Government to the gravity of the present situation and to call upon them to realise the supreme necessity of revising their policy with a view to abolish the duty against which the people of this country have been complaining ever since the advent of British rule in this country so to say. My Honourable friend, Mr. Jinnah, when he spoke on the last motion, very appropriately remarked that the Members on this side of the House are not irresponsible men, and no Member can think that he is irresponsible. He resented that allegation, which unfortunately my friend, Sir Cowasji Jehangir, probably meant in a different sense. I want also the Members on this side to realise that, in considering this motion, they realise the

*"That the Demand under the head 'Salt' be reduced by Rs. 100. (Abolition of Salt duty as an effective expedient to ease the political situation in the country)."

responsibility to which pointed attention was drawn by my friend, Mr. Jinnah, in his speech. The responsibility to which he has drawn our attention was to the effect that we are responsible at any rate to our constituencies, and when we consider questions of broad policy affecting our country which is larger than our constituency, our responsibility is to our country men, and without being sanguine of any success, or without any desire even of taking a motion like this to a division, I desire that those who wish to take part in this debate should realise this responsibility, and with a full sense of their responsibility, they will fearlessly offer their views and advise the Government on this occasion. It is in that sense they should approach the question. That is my earnest desire.

Sir, the question which we have to consider is, whether the salt duty has been telling upon the people and affecting them prejudicially or not. This is a question, the reply to which, even on the admissions made by responsible officers from time to time in different capacities, does not admit of any doubt at all. In fact, it has been freely recognised that this duty on one of the prime necessities of life is imposed because that is the only way in which the poorest man in the country can make his contribution to the exchequer of the State. The famous despatch of the Duke of Argyle, which has been frequently relied upon in this connection, discloses the whole case on the point so far as Government are concerned. The question which weighs with the Government is, what is the contribution which the poorest man in the country can make today to the exchequer of the State, and which, as a citizen receiving benefits of state protection he is bound to make? And they satisfy themselves with a reply that the duty on salt is the most inoffensive form in which the poorest man can be taxed, and it is not materially felt by him. Government think that there is no harm in securing from him the contribution in the form of the salt tax. Sir, these arguments have been answered times out of number. The late Mr. Dadabhai Nowrojee, who is the father of that national movement which is today culminating in the form of what may be called a non-violent war between the people of this country and the Government of this country, has in his famous book "Poverty and Un-British rule in India", demolished this theory of the poor man's contribution to the exchequer of the State. He says:

"Whether you tax that man in the form of salt duty or not, there are a thousand other ways in which he is already taxed, and there is no tax which you have imposed which is not ultimately paid by the poorest man in this country."

Sir, the same arguments have been repeated on the floor of the House, which is the predecessor of this House, the pre-reform Imperial Legislative Council, by the late Mr. Gopal Krishna Gokhale. In his famous budget speech of 1903,—I do not wish to saddle my speech with quotations from his speech, but I will only give reference for the benefit of the Members on the treasury Benches,—in his famous budget speech of 1903, he dealt with this argument exhaustively, and exposed the hollowness of the plea that this is the only contribution which the poorest man makes. He showed that the poorest man is contributing to the revenues of the State on account of the forest policy, on account of the land revenue policy, on account of the customs policy and on account of the excise policy, and in sundry other ways. Every article of consumption in this country which is taxed by the Government is ultimately paid for from the pocket of the poorest man.

[Mr. M. S. Aney.]

So on that ground it is not necessary to retain this salt duty at all. These arguments have been exhaustively dealt with before, and I do not want to go into them.

The iniquity of the salt tax is obvious to those who know the medical opinions on this point. It has been admitted that salt is one of the primary necessities of life. Every human being must take it in certain quantities if he wants to retain his health and strength. It has been shown that the ordinary consumption of salt *per capita* in this country is only 12 pounds. I doubt whether that is the proper figure at all. The total quantity of salt available for consumption in 1928-29 comes to 2,672,100 tons only. It may even, perhaps, be less. This figure of 12 pounds even is very much below the figure of *per capita* consumption of salt in other civilised countries. In England it stands at 40. Even if we make allowance for the consumption of salt for industrial purposes in England, it will stand at higher than 25 pounds. This has been arrived at after careful calculations by Mr. Ratton, who is cited by the writer of this monograph, a copy of which I have been favoured with. It has been published by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce. I have gone through a portion of that monograph, and it is a very useful book. I wish the Members of the Treasury Benches would read it, and I am sure it will help them immensely and benefit them. I find here a careful study of this question from the historical point of view as well as its effect upon the economic condition of the people. The consumption is only 12 pounds per head here while it stands at 40 in England. Even making allowance for industrial consumption, the figure will not stand below 25 in England. Why is there this low consumption and what is its effect? As regards salt, the theory which the medical authorities have propounded is this. The general food of the people of India, of those who live a vegetarian life so to say, is of such a nature that it is very poor in salt, and unless they take greater quantities of salt, they cannot be expected to be as healthy and strong as they ought to be. Now, I do not wish to give the House any quotations in support of this proposition. It is admitted by medical experts as well as other persons who were examined as witnesses before the Committee of 1888. Those are matters of record, and the Court of Directors, approving the opinion of this Committee have recognised that the monopoly of salt goes to diminish the power of consumption, which again tells heavily on the general health of the people. It goes to weaken the people.

Today the position is like this. What is the total burden which the Indian people have to bear on account of this salt duty? A sum of 7 crores is realised from the salt duty. In 1928-29, we had the figure of 7,59,92,000 or something like that. Put it roughly as 7.60 crores. That is not the only thing which the consumer of India has to pay for his salt. It has to be taken into the interior and you will see, Sir, that 2 crores went to the Railway Department as freight for the carriage of salt in the year 1928-29. The total contribution made by the Indian people to the Government Treasury in that year was therefore something like 9 crores, 60 lakhs. When you take that as the real figure of taxation, which directly or indirectly is imposed on the people of India, the incidence of taxation per head of the Indian population, for the purpose of getting salt, which is a primary necessity of life, comes to something like Re. 0.4-8, or something more than that. The figure of 3 annas, three pies is based on the calculation

of 7 crores, but when you take this additional 2 crores, which virtually goes to the Government Treasury, you will find that the incidence does not come to less than 4 annas 8 pies. That is really a heavy and severe poll tax, as the Taxation Inquiry Committee have pointed out, on one of the primary necessities of life.

Sir Hugh Cocke: Does the Honourable Member suggest free salt and free carriage of salt?

Mr. M. S. Aney: At least the Honourable Member knows that there is today free carriage of salt so far as the passage of imported salt to the Indian ports is concerned. I am not going to propound the proposition that the salt should necessarily be carried free by the State railways. But the question of freight can be easily considered in a different way. All that I am propounding today is that there should be a policy adopted by the Government towards a gradual reduction of the salt duty, ultimately leading to abolition. That is the line on which I am arguing this case, and if the Government accept this policy, then matters of detail can be gone into later on. All I want them to do now is gradually to reduce the duty with a view to abolish the same within a course of, say, five years, as they have done in the matter of opium. It may be said that Government will lose their revenues to the extent of 7 or 9 crores, and how can they afford this loss? It is a serious loss which they have to suffer. I, however, know that, whenever matters of urgent importance were concerned or emergencies had arisen, the Government of India had not always been unnecessarily supercilious about their own revenues. Why have they consented, I ask, to the gradual abolition of the revenue which they were making out of opium till only a few years ago? Is it not a fact that they have submitted to suffer a loss of seven or eight crores by the end of the year 1935, in order to fulfil the international obligations which they have accepted to discharge? They have played the role of the philanthropists at our cost, in trying to oblige some other nation, but whenever any relief to the people of our own country is concerned, they plead financial difficulties and financial exigency. My main complaint is that on account of their obstinate policy, they are not giving any consideration to the subject at all, in spite of the protests that have been made on behalf of the people ever since the dawn of public life in this country and even before. That is the reason why the leaders have been driven to despair and the no-tax campaign is going to be launched against this very duty from today. I submit this is an opportunity for the Government of India to make an honest endeavour and come to a resolve that they must make a beginning in the matter of removing this duty, instead of allowing the events to run to a point where they must clash with the people. There is yet time and I hope saner counsels will prevail and something may be done to avert the actual state of war between the people of India and the Government of India which now seems otherwise inevitable. I desire to remind them that we voluntarily made a contribution of 100 crores of rupees in order to help England in the last war with Germany and other nations in Europe. So in order to avert war with your own subject-people, a little sacrifice leading after five years to actual loss of seven crores of rupees is really not much and it is certainly worth making. You may laugh at the suggestion; you may even treat the present agitation appearing like a small cloud not bigger than your hand with contempt; but those who know the great personality, respected all over the world, which is at the helm of this campaign, and those who know the momentum which

[Mr. M. S. Aney.]

the movement is bound to receive in a short time, owing to his dynamic, decisive and determined lead, which enforces homage from every Indian, be he on this or that side of the House, cannot but feel that this is the psychological moment for the Government of India to act in a statesman-like manner. It is to that statesmanship of the Treasury Benches, if they have any, I desire to appeal, and I want them to pounder seriously to see whether it is not the proper time for them to make a clear declaration from the floor of this House with regard to the salt tax. Let them say; "We do not merely sympathise but fully realise the significance of the point for which the people are going to enter on the fight, and therefore, we voluntarily declare that our policy shall be to abolish this salt duty within the course of, say, five years from now and we are making a beginning from this year and are prepared to suffer such losses of revenue as may be occasioned by the abolition of this duty.

What is the ultimate intensity of the interest you feel for the masses about whom you speak so often? That is the real point. The masses are undoubtedly behind Mahatma Gandhi, notwithstanding the roseate pictures of co-operation in the speeches that are being drawn by some of the high officials on their tours here and there. All the people may perhaps not be able to make the sacrifices which Mahatma Gandhi expects of them in this struggle. But a very large number will. And the hearts of all will be with him wishing him success all the time, irrespective of your efforts to the contrary. Why are you allowing the people to run into that mentality? That is the point. You should try to rule over the people with their consent, their goodwill and their good wishes. I do not wish to ask the Members of this House, whether they be on this side or on the other side, to go to a division. On the other hand, I have given an opportunity to Government to give expression to their policy on this subject. If they have the imagination to visualise the dramatic change such a declaration will make in the political situation, they can take advantage of it, otherwise they should be prepared to face the situation that will undoubtedly arise in the country. I want all my countrymen, on this side of the House at least, to take up an attitude on this question which will indicate that they wish to stand for the crusaders who are resolved to carry on the battle of the country, in the success of which lies our real salvation. It is for the Government to see that the ultimate issue of our liberty is not solved by the people by having recourse to a severe struggle with the authorities but is solved by means of negotiations based on a goodwill between the Government and people of India. For the sake of restoring that goodwill the Government must show that they are prepared to make the necessary sacrifice and adopt a reasonable policy which I presume is likely to appeal even at this late hour to the great man who has left his home with his brave soldiers this morning and begun the crusade. Today is the first day of his great march and there are yet nine or ten days more before the actual fight begins. Before the brave band of crusaders reaches the destination, and before the first shot is fired, there is yet time for you to rectify the past mistakes and revise your policy. I earnestly desire the Honourable Members on the Treasury Benches to realise the gravity of the situation and do their duty to the people who have been supporting them willingly or unwillingly at immense sacrifice for the last 150 years. Be true to the salt you have been eating for all these years; that is all I want to say today in commending this cut on the Salt motion, for your consideration.

***Mr. Fazal Ibrahim Rahimtulla** (Bombay Central Division: Muhammadan Bural): Sir, I am glad my friend, Mr. Aney, agrees with the leader of my Party that every Member who speaks from this part of the House, or any part of it, speaks with the full responsibility attaching to his statement. It is therefore unfortunate that my friend, Mr. Aney, should have dragged in the political issue on this question. I, for my part, would not like to go into the details of this political question, except to say that I do not think my countrymen would favour the launching of the civil disobedience which the movement at present started means. I also do not think that the other point raised by my friend, Mr. Aney, is correct, namely, that, by the reduction of the salt duty, you will be able to ease the situation in the country. I think the Leader of the Opposition has made it clear that, as far as the Indians are concerned, if the Hindu-Muslim question is settled, they will not accept anything less than full Dominion Status. Therefore, I think that the question of the reduction of the salt duty ought to play a secondary part in the question that is now engaging the attention of the country outside this House.

As regards the abolition of the salt duty, I think my friend, Mr. Aney, has forgotten its past history. The Deputy Leader of my party, Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas, last year had taken a very strong attitude on this subject when the motion of my friend, Mr. Kelkar, was debated in this House, and I must say, to the credit of Government, that they accepted that motion and instituted an inquiry into the subject of salt, in order to find out the ways and means to make India self-contained so far as salt was concerned. I say, therefore, that it is inopportune at this juncture, either to press this motion, or vote against this grant, unless and until we see the Report of the Tariff Board, and this House gets an opportunity of expressing its views on it. I think my friend Mr. Kelkar's speech on this subject was a very telling and strong speech, and this House practically by a large majority adopted that motion. Unless, therefore, that Report is placed in our hands and a separate day is allotted for its discussion, I think, I will be right in saying that the House would be well advised in not supporting this motion at this juncture. Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas practically voiced the opinion of our party when he said that, if they did not carry out the intentions of this particular part of the House, he was prepared to go to the extent of reducing the duty to 8 annas. I do not think a stronger case than that could have been made out, so far as the attitude of our party is concerned. I therefore hope that the Members will not support this motion, but will allow the Demand to be passed because we do not wish to raise the issue at present about the abolition of the salt duty, unless we get the Report of the Tariff Board inquiry.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: Sir, one is in a difficulty in replying to a debate on this question, because obviously very important issues have been raised which I would not wish to touch upon at all deeply at the present stage. Also the subject, as has already been remarked by several speakers, is a well known and well-worn subject. The unfortunate article of salt has to bear a multitude of sins, and discussions of this subject are as experience has proved to us, not free from passion. I maintain, Sir, that we are no less the friends of the people if we insist that reason also should be introduced into the consideration of our policy on these matters.

*Speech not revised by the Honourable Member.

[Sir George Schuster.]

In the present debate, two main points have been raised—the question of the present political danger and the question of the economic burden of the salt tax on the people. Now, I do not believe, as regards the political danger, that any of my Honourable friends on the opposite Benches would maintain the view that the case would have been met and the political danger would disappear if we were to abolish the salt tax with one stroke of the pen today. As regards the economic burden it is there that I would ask my Honourable friends to apply reason to the consideration of the matter. If one investigates the figures, one finds that the actual burden, as has often been stated in this House, is just over three annas per head of the population per annum. That, no doubt, may be quite a serious burden to the very poorest classes, but if one is considering the advantage of the poorer classes, surely there are other ways by which a much more substantial advantage can be conferred upon them. For instance, take the results of a constructive agricultural policy. The total receipts from the salt tax are now about seven crores per annum. I have been told that, in the Punjab alone, and in the canal colonies alone, the introduction of improved qualities of wheat meant an increase in return to the cultivators, brought about in a period of five years, by something like eight crores per annum. Those are the sort of figures which count when you are considering the welfare of the masses of the country. Or again, as was mentioned by some Honourable Member in the course of a recent debate in this House, if we were to consider the burden which interest payments in respect of their indebtedness puts upon the poorer classes of the country, that is a hundredfold more than the figures of the burden on salt. We hope, I certainly hope, that as a result of the measures which may arise out of the banking inquiry we may be able to attack that problem, and I maintain that, if it is the advantage of the poorer classes that we are considering, there are far more effective ways of pursuing these advantages than by the abolition of the salt tax. Or, again to come to salt itself, I think it is quite possible that, by improving the marketing conditions and the general system of administration, it may be possible to put a better quality of salt and greater quantities of salt at lower prices into the reach of the people of this country, and that, in that way, you will be able to confer a much greater benefit on them than you could by merely abolishing the salt tax.

That brings me to the point mentioned by my Honourable friend, Mr. Fazal Ibrahim Rahimtulla, namely, the question of the Tariff Board Report. I have reason to believe that the Tariff Board will go into the whole question of the salt administration in this country in a very wide manner, and it is one of those subjects which I hope will be fully considered by the public in this country and fully debated in this House. I hope that we shall have before us recommendations which will improve matters in this connection and which will touch all those practical points which I keep always present in my own mind, and which were made in the debate on this subject last year, and particularly in the speech made by my Honourable friend, Mr. Kelkar, which I have before me now and to which reference has already been made. Sir, I believe that, in these ways, we can advance the interests of the poorest classes of this country far more effectively than by this gesture of abolishing the salt tax and leaving the country itself in financial difficulties for which at present we could find no exit.

Mr. President: The question is:

“That the Demand under the head ‘Salt’ be reduced to Re. 1.”

The motion was negatived.

Damage done by the Khewri Salt Mines to the Neighbouring Fields and the Jhelum District Board Property.

***Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan** (North Punjab: Muhammadan): Sir, I beg to move:

“That the Demand under the head ‘Salt’ be reduced by Re. 1.”

Sir, I tabled a similar motion in 1927, to invite the attention of the Government of India to two matters. One was the grievances of the Khewri Salt miners, and the other was damage by Khewri salt mines to the neighbouring fields and the Jhelum District Board property. The Honourable the Finance Member was kind enough to hold an inquiry into this question with the help of a Member of the Revenue Board and also the Deputy Commissioner of the Jhelum district. I was also invited to join and was present there. The first question was more important, and therefore it naturally attracted more attention of the Committee, and I must express here my thanks to the Finance Department that a large number of those grievances, which I pointed out, have been removed, but there are others which remain and which have been the subject of inquiry by the Labour Commission which went there, and therefore I would not like to raise that question now. I may also express

Mr. President: Does the Honourable Member wish to move his amendment?

Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan: Yes, Sir, I am moving. I may also submit that I am thankful to the Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra, who personally went to Khewri to look into these matters, and he promised to take a keen interest in them, and so was the late Mr. S. R. Das interested in the matter.

Now, this question of the damage done by the mines to the District Board property and the fields around is such a serious technical question, that I do not expect any discussion on the floor of the House would help the matter at all. My only object in moving the cut is to place before the Honourable the Finance Member the question whether it will be possible to hold an inquiry into this matter, which very seriously concerns not only my district, but my constituency, with a large number of cultivators, and if he would be good enough to hold a further inquiry into the matter, he himself presiding with the help of a Member of the Revenue Board, and asking the Punjab Government to send one of their officials on that Committee, preferably Mr. Brayne, Deputy Commissioner of Jhelum District, who is also the *ex-officio* President of the District Board, and who takes a keen interest in the welfare of the zamindars, and if he has no objection, also asking me to give my help in finding some solution,—if the Honourable the Finance Member would be good enough to promise and consider the desirability of holding such an inquiry, I would not like to press this motion to division.

*Speech not revised by the Honourable Member.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: Sir, I have great pleasure in assuring my Honourable friend that I shall take the earliest possible opportunity to have the matter inquired into as nearly as possible on the lines which he himself has suggested.

Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan: I beg leave to withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 88,31,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Salt'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 19—OPIUM.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 63,69,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Opium'."

Checking the Consumption of Opium and Opium Smoking.

Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan (Patna and Chota Nagpur cum Orissa: Muhammadan): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Demand under the head 'Opium' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Sir, I shall not press my motion to a division if I am satisfied with the information which the Honourable the Finance Member may give on the two points that I am going to mention. I want to know as to what steps Government have taken so far as the consumption of opium is concerned, and so far as the prevention of opium smoking is concerned. It is only with regard to these two matters, with which I am very much concerned, and with which everybody must be concerned—that is opium smoking and consumption of opium—that I want an answer from the Honourable Member. If I get a satisfactory answer, I shall withdraw my motion.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: Sir, I think the Government's policy as regards opium has been made public many times, and I do not know that I have very much to say to enlighten my Honourable friend on this subject. My Honourable friend is perhaps aware that, some two years ago, the Provincial Governments were asked to make inquiries, particularly into what have been commonly described as "black spots" for opium consumption. The inquiries are now complete, and there is to be a conference held at Simla in May of this year, the proceedings of which will be opened by His Excellency the Viceroy. All the important questions in connection with opium will be discussed at that Conference.

As regards opium smoking to which my Honourable friend particularly referred, the Provincial Governments are taking steps to prohibit smoking altogether, or to register and ration addicts.

I hope, Sir, that that is sufficient to give my Honourable friend the information which he requires.

Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: Sir, I am satisfied so far as opium taking is concerned, but so far as opium smoking is concerned I do not know what the Provincial Governments are doing to prevent it, or how far the matter has progressed. Some action seems to have been taken, but if the Honourable Member can enlighten me as to what that action is, I shall withdraw my motion.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: Sir, I think I gave my Honourable friend the information which he asks for. It is impossible for me now to go into the exact details of the action that has been taken in all the provinces, but I informed him that, as regards opium smoking, the policy of Provincial Governments is to prohibit smoking altogether and to supplement that ultimate purpose by the registration and rationing of addicts.

Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: Sir, I beg leave to withdraw my motion.

Mr. President: Is the Honourable Member satisfied?

Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: Yes, Sir.

The motion was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 63,69,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Opium'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 20—STAMPS.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Stamps'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 21—FOREST.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,39,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Forest'."

Revision of the Indian Forest Act, Forest Development and Policy in its Relation to Agriculture.

Mr. M. S. Aney: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Demand under the head 'Forest' be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Mr. M. S. Aney.]

The points which I wish particularly to bring to the notice of the Honourable Member are mentioned by me in brackets in the motion* on the Agenda which is probably before him. The first point is this. It will be remembered by Honourable Members of this House that some years ago the Government of India brought a Bill to consolidate the Indian Forest laws into one Act before this House as well as before the Council of State. When the Bill was before the Council of State, there was a good deal of debate over it. Attempts were made there first to raise certain points with a view to amend that Bill. Similar attempts were also made in this House, but on certain technical grounds it was found that, being a consolidation measure, it was not proper to move amendments of substance to that Bill. In the Council of State particularly an assurance was given on behalf of Government that they were fully aware that it was an old Act and probably it had outlived its time, and a radical change might be necessary also. But the difficulty which Government felt, in taking any immediate action on their own initiative in connection with the Forest Act, was that it was a provincial subject, and it was eminently a matter which could not be taken up unless the opinions of the Provincial Governments were known. They suggested that, after receiving the opinions of the Provincial Governments as regards the points on which they wanted the Indian Forest Act to be amended, Government would consider the appointment of a committee to see if the Act could be revised in that way or not. After that, more than once, by interpellations, I tried, without success, to draw the attention of the department concerned to the matter and asked what had been done in the way of getting the opinions of the Provincial Governments, and if they had got them, what those opinions were. In my province, of course, certain steps have been taken, a committee has been appointed, which is investigating the question of the forest policy in the province, and the Committee is expected to submit its Report shortly. But I want to know what the Government of India have done to carry out the promise which they gave in the other House, and how far they have progressed in that direction; whether they have received the opinions of the Provincial Governments, and what are the conclusions they have arrived at—if they have received those opinions—as regards the desirability of appointing a committee, or doing something to revise the Indian Forest Act. Nothing is known to us up to this time, although more than four years have passed. That is the first point I want to know. I am not going to make a speech detailing the points on which I want the Indian Forest Act to be amended; I think it will not be appropriate to discuss that question here. The point on which I want Government to give me a reply is why they have not, up to this time, informed the House about anything that they might have done to carry out the promise they gave in the other House and repeated here on the floor of this House also, when the Indian Forest Consolidation Bill was under discussion. Nothing is known to us. That is the first point which I want Government to answer.

* (Non-appointment of a committee to revise the Indian Forest Act; Growth of expenditure on forest development in administered areas; recommendations of the Royal Commission on Agriculture regarding Forest policy and its relation to Agriculture.)

The second point is this. I need not read out the figures from the big book of Demands for Grants, because the Honourable Member in charge of the Department is better conversant with them than I am. But he will see that, in the administered area, particularly in the administration of the Nicobar and Andaman Islands, there is an extraordinary rise from 1,291 thousand in 1928-29 to 1,690 thousand in the Budget for 1930-31 under Forests. There is a similar rise in some other administered areas also. What are the reasons for making such a big expenditure or increase in expenditure in regard to these islands for convict settlements, under Forests? Here, in the volume before us, we have got only these high figures of expenditure, and we are asked to sanction them about which not a word of explanation is given in justification in these big volumes. The Explanatory Memorandum also is silent on that point. The Honourable the Finance Member, in his speech, has drawn attention to the fact that there is some rise in the expenditure on Forests on account of the reclamation of these islands. But what are the reasons for the rise of the expenditure under this particular head? It is a point on which there is absolutely no explanation. The rise is considerable, as it goes up to several lakhs and I want the Honourable Member to give us the reasons for the extraordinary rise in expenditure under this particular head, particularly in administered areas. I want to know whether they are widening the forest areas there and narrowing down the areas under cultivation, or whether they are taking certain steps to develop forests and forest industries in those areas, or whether the expenditure has gone up for any other reason. These are the points on which explanation ought to be given to this House before it is called upon to vote the extraordinary amounts put down under this head.

The third point is this. The Indian Agricultural Commission's Report is published and their recommendations have been before the Government for a fairly long time. There is a special chapter devoted to forests, particularly forest administration in relation to agriculture. They have made certain drastic suggestions as regards the classification of forests. They have disapproved of the existing classification of forests, and have suggested that the classification should altogether be changed, that instead of the present classification there should be three classes of forests based on certain definite principles. I have not got the Report here just at present, but I read it some time ago, and I can give the purport of it. They say that the first class, Class A or Class I, should include forests which contain valuable timber and are useful mainly as commercial forests. Then there should be a second class containing forests which will be useful for what they call *nisthar*, that is, useful for agricultural purposes, fuel and so on, the third class, which may be useful for grazing as pasture-areas. The Royal Commission clearly recommended that the forests should be classified on some definite and intelligible principles, and I want to know whether any attempt has been made by the Government of India to bring this classification into effect, as also the various other suggestions that have been made with a view to make the Forest Department helpful to agriculture, and whether any steps have been taken by the Government of India in that direction, and if so, what are

[Mr. M. S. Aney.]

the suggestions, and what are the steps taken by the Provincial Governments, in pursuance of the instructions issued by the Government, and what are the ways in which the Government of India want to impress upon the Provincial Governments the necessity for taking prompt action to give effect to the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Agriculture, particularly in regard to forests. This is the third point which I want my Honourable friend, Sir Frank Noyce, to deal with in his reply. I think I have made my points clear. I do not want to go into the details, because I do not want to take up much time. I believe that definite information on these points will be of immense value to the Members on this side in voting the grant under this head.

Sir Frank Noyce (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands): Sir, I believe that this is the first time, at any rate for many years, that the Department with which I am connected has emerged into the lime light during the discussion on the grants. (Hear, hear.) I wish it had done so on this occasion with reference to points regarding which it has greater responsibility than those it has at present under Forests. Forests, as the House is aware, is a provincial reserved subject, except in Bombay and Burma where it is a transferred subject. As regards the three points raised by my friend, Mr. Aney, I would, in the first instance, express my gratitude to him for putting them so clearly before the House. I hope I am in a position to give him a satisfactory reply in regard to all three of them. As regards the first, the question of the revision of the Indian Forest Act and, if necessary, the appointment of a committee to advise in that matter, I can tell him that the subject was referred to the Local Governments in 1927 and that the majority of them—practically all of them. I think—certainly the balance of opinion—were against the revision of the Act.

Mr. M. S. Aney: May I just interrupt the Honourable Member? Is the Honourable Member aware that the Central Provinces Government had already appointed a committee to investigate into this question and that that Committee is carrying on its investigation at this time?

Sir Frank Noyce: I am very glad to hear that, because that exactly proves the point which I am now about to make. The point is, as I have already said, that Forests is either a provincial reserved subject or a transferred subject and that the best way, therefore, of approaching this matter is for Local Governments to revise the Act on their own account as they have full authority to do, except in one comparatively unimportant respect, I think, and that is the disafforestation of forests over a certain area in extent.

Mr. M. S. Aney: May I again interrupt the Honourable Member? I want to know whether it would be possible for the Honourable Member to inform us what Provincial Governments have expressed their opinions against the necessity of revising the Act? Is it possible for the Honourable Member to specify this?

Sir Frank Noyce: I can only repeat that the reasons against the Government of India undertaking a revision of the Act are that the provinces are in a far better position to do it themselves with reference to the local

conditions and local needs. At this stage of constitutional development, it would, I think, be inadvisable to revise the Act on general lines for the whole of India, especially as we are on the eve of a further constitutional advance which, I think I may safely say, will involve further devolution in respect of forests to provinces, in which it is at present a provincial reserved subject. The proper way for this question to be dealt with is by the provinces themselves, and the Government of India have wisely abstained from interfering with their discretion in this matter.

Now, I come to the second point. My Honourable friend has drawn attention to what he considers has been the great growth of expenditure on forests in the centrally administered areas. I have figures, Sir, showing the annual expenditure for the last 29 years. I do not think it is necessary to go back further than 1921-22, and in that year I find that the expenditure on the Forest Department in Coorg was Rs. 6,30,000; in 1927-28, it was 2½ lakhs. In the North West Frontier Province, in 1921-22, it was 7½ lakhs and in 1927-28, it was just under 7 lakhs. In the Andamans it was nearly 13 lakhs in 1921-22 and 14½ lakhs in 1927-28. I need not refer to Baluchistan and Ajmer, as the forests in those arid tracts are not very extensive, and neither the revenue nor the expenditure on them amounts to very much. Now, Sir, even if the figures I had given showed that there had been a great increase of expenditure on forests—actually there has only been an increase in the Andamans—I submit that it would have been perfectly justified. The complaint which I think might justly be brought against the Government in this matter is that they have not spent enough on the forests in the North West Frontier Province or in the Andamans, and that it is only now that they are beginning to make an endeavour to remedy deficiencies in this respect.

Nawab Sir Sahibzada Abdul Qaiyum (North West Frontier Province: Nominated Non-Official): Is it not a fact that a large tract under forests in the tribal area of the North West Frontier Province has been taken over by the Government of India, for which the Indian taxpayer has not paid a single penny, and the income of which will come to the Government of India in due course?

Sir Frank Noyce: I am sure the Honourable the Finance Member will be glad to hear that. I have before me a Report by Mr. Parnell, a member of the Indian Forest Service, who was appointed to investigate certain forest questions in the North West Frontier Province. He reported that at present there is no scientific management of the forest areas lying in the unsettled tracts of the Province, and in the tribal territory beyond; in fact, he has stated that the forests have been destroyed rapidly by indiscriminate felling. The management of these forests on scientific lines is of the utmost importance for conserving water in the important tributaries of the Indus river and for ensuring the growth of suitable timber for agricultural and domestic purposes. I submit, Sir, that, at any rate, the Members of this Assembly, who come from the Punjab, should whole-heartedly support the Government of India in any measures they take for the conservation and development of the forests in the North West Frontier Province for on the conservation of these forests depends in a large measure the economic welfare of the Punjab, especially on the conservation of the forest areas on the headwaters of the great rivers which flow from that Province into the Punjab. A proposal has been submitted to the Standing Finance Committee, and approved by them, for an expenditure. I think,

[Sir Frank Noyce.]

of about Rs. 80,000 on this measure of conservation during the forthcoming year, against which Government hope to realise about a lakh and a half on the timber imported.

Now, Sir, I turn to the Andamans. There again I want the House to realise that, in the forests of that island, covering, as they do, I think, about five-sixths of the whole island, the Government of India have an asset of the greatest potential value.

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

The Budget of this year for the Andamans contains proposals for expenditure of about Rs. 4½ lakhs on forests. I wish to follow the example of my Honourable friend, Mr. Aney, and not to make too long a speech, and therefore I will not repeat passages from the lengthy memorandum which has been submitted to the Standing Finance Committee, showing the present financial position and the future economic progress of the Forest Department in the Andaman Islands. I will refer my Honourable friend to the substance of that memorandum, which has been included in the proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee, and hope that it will convince him that Government are acting wisely in proposing, as they do, to expend some Rs. 4½ lakhs on the organisation and conservancy of forests, on the replacement and improvement of the present plant and on the introduction of mechanical extraction to supplement extraction by animals. The position as regards the Andamans is, Sir, that we are developing a most promising market abroad. If, as we hope, economical measures to extract timber and also to bring the supply up to the demand can be satisfactorily organised and if also freight can be satisfactorily arranged, so as to ensure prompt and regular compliance with orders, the forests of the Andaman Islands should prove a source of steadily increasing revenue to Government. I think, Sir, we are very wise in developing this asset on business lines.

The third point which my Honourable friend Mr. Aney raised was in regard to the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Agriculture in regard to forests. He asked, what had been done about them. They were referred to Local Governments, and I hope very shortly to place before this House a document showing the progress which has been made by the Local Governments, and not only by the Local Governments, but also by the Government of India, in giving effect to them. It is, as the House will see, a rather lengthy document. The only point Mr. Aney raised in regard to it, was to ask what the Local Governments have done in regard to the classification of their forest areas. It is all set down here. I do not know whether he would wish me to read it. Perhaps I think the best plan would be for me to give him one short extract—that relating to the Punjab. The Punjab Government reported:

“There is no room for any such reclassification—that is the reclassification proposed by the Royal Commission—in the Punjab. Practically all the major forests have already been handed over for cultivation and the question of the remainder is under consideration. The remaining forests in charge of the Forest Department are protective and commercial forests in the hills and low hills and must be preserved.”

Mr. M. S. Aney: Is that typical of the opinions received from other provinces?

Sir Frank Noyce: There are also reports from Madras, the United Provinces, Burma, Bihar and Orissa and the Central Provinces. The Honourable Member will be interested to hear what the Central Provinces have said. They say that the matter will come under consideration by the Forest Inquiry Committee, to which it has been referred. I am afraid, Sir, that the majority of the Local Governments were not able to do very much in carrying out the recommendations of the Royal Commission on this matter. Possibly, owing to my own connection with the Commission, the Commission laid too great stress before what has been done in Madras in this matter, perhaps not realising sufficiently that conditions in Madras are rather different from those elsewhere. However, the Honourable Member will very shortly be able to satisfy himself not only why the provinces have not been able to do more than they have done in this respect, but also as to what they have done in regard to other matters; that is not only in regard to forests, but in regard to all the other recommendations contained in that very bulky volume, the Report of the Royal Commission on Agriculture. I hope my Honourable friend will find this explanation sufficiently satisfactory and will not desire to press his motion.

Mr. M. S. Aney: I ask the leave of the House to withdraw my motion.

The motion was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,39,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Forest'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 22—IRRIGATION (INCLUDING WORKING EXPENSES), NAVIGATION EMBANKMENT AND DRAINAGE WORKS.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 20,26,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Irrigation (including Working Expenses), Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works'."

The Famine Fund, Famine Protection and Irrigation.

Mr. N. C. Kelkar: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Demand under the head 'Irrigation (including the Working Expenses), Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Sir, I wish to draw attention by this motion to the question of the famine fund, famine protection and irrigation. It may appear at the outset that we are again up against a provincial reserved subject. I know that irrigation is a provincial subject, but I intend to deal with the subject from an all-India point of view, and not from a provincial point of view. The Honourable the Finance Member is bent upon looking into many things and trying to solve many problems. Here is one problem which I would like to put before him, and it is such a problem that, if he will be able to solve it to some extent, I think he will be quite pleased. The point I wish to make is about the insufficiency of the amounts spent on irrigation works. In order to make out my point, I shall just give a

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few facts briefly. The total irrigated area in this country is only 18 per cent. of the total cropped area: that means that 82 per cent. of the area is still at the mercy of the monsoon; and for this area we are not able to do much practically. Then coming to the provinces, we find that, out of this 18 per cent. of irrigated area, Bombay has got as its share only, 12 per cent., the United Provinces and Madras have got 24 per cent. each, and Punjab has got the largest share, namely, 45 per cent. Of course all these figures are out of the 18 per cent. of the total cropped area in the country. Out of this, let us take Bombay; and I am bringing up this question with special reference to Bombay, though it is an all-India question. When we turn to Bombay, we find that, out of 328 lakhs of acres under cultivation, only 41 lakhs of acres are under irrigation; and out of that 41 lakhs of acres, 30 are in Sind alone. Therefore it comes to this, that the Bombay Presidency proper has got to its credit at present only 11 lakhs of acres out of 218 lakhs of cropped area. That is, not more than four per cent.; and I suppose it is generally recognised that the Bombay Presidency stands in the greatest need of irrigation—more than any other province in India. Out of these 11 lakhs of acres under irrigation, again, the State canals do not irrigate even half of these lands: the rest is done by well irrigation from private wells.

I have given this House, in a small compass, what a small area is really benefitted by irrigation in the Bombay Presidency proper. Now, Sir, special engineers were appointed from time to time to consider this question, because it was found that the Bombay Presidency suffered perhaps more than some other presidencies from famines, and the reports of the engineers were before the Bombay Government for about 25 years. Some works, out of the works suggested, were of course taken in hand; and one of them is the Nira canal. But two or three other works and projects are remaining yet in the files of the Department and they have not been tackled. I may give one specific instance of the condition of the Bombay Presidency in this matter, and that is about the special inquiry which was set on foot by Sir Chunilal Mehta, when in charge of irrigation, by appointing a special engineer with an establishment under him. That was in 1925, and the latest I hear is that that Department has been closed from the 1st of March. I understand some projects have been prepared by that engineer and perhaps one of them has been put into operation; but, generally speaking, all these efforts and investigations have ended only in paper projects, which will now remain on the shelf. What is the reason for this? The reason alleged is of course financial stringency. We all know that the Bombay Government are on the point of bankruptcy. It was a wonderful sight to see the Bombay Government somehow balancing its Budget this year; but we must remember that, in whatever way Bombay may be balancing its budget, we know for a fact that the Bombay Government have already spent crores of rupees and wasted them, for example, in development schemes which refuse to develop, reclamation schemes which no one claims to be wise or prudent—not even its authors, and building of chawls which refuse to be tenanted. That is the sum and substance of the different projects upon which the Bombay Government have actually wasted crores and crores of rupees. Of course I cannot say that about the Sukkur Barrage which will require a cost of about Rs. 20 crores, I am told. There are two opinions about the success of the Sukkur Barrage, but I will not go into that now—no

one knows what is going to happen, considering especially the vagaries of the Indus River; but we all hope, at any rate, that in return for the great cost that is being incurred, Sind will be greatly benefited by this barrage.

But, what about the Bombay Presidency proper? As I have just now told the House, a very small percentage of the cropped area is under irrigation. It is this presidency which is the most liable to the vagaries of the monsoon; it is more or less a hilly country, arid country; and that presidency therefore requires more than any other the artificial aid of irrigation. But it is precisely in that province that, while crores of rupees have been spent upon these mad projects, sufficient money is not being found to carry on the Department which was set up in 1925 and to give effect to the projects which are already in existence and for preparing new projects. That is the state of things in the Bombay Presidency. Now, why is this happening? I say this happens because the Provincial Governments are abusing their financial powers, and the Central Government have not got sufficient control. Of course I do not wish to say that there should be no provincial financial autonomy. Certainly Provincial Governments should be entitled to claim that autonomy, but why I bring in the Central Government is this; that just as the railways are an all-India department, and the Government of India regard themselves as responsible for their advancement, similarly irrigation is a subject which is really an all-India subject, though for the sake of administrative convenience it might have been handed over to the provinces.

With regard to loans raised for these schemes, I think they have, first of all, to get the consent of the Indian Government, and no project is put forward or can be kept back, once it is in progress, without the consent of the Central Government.

Now, Sir, why do I bring together these two things, railways and irrigation? I do it for this reason, that somehow Government have had a soft corner in their hearts for railways and not for irrigation; though it can be proved definitely on paper that irrigation is after all more beneficial to the people at large than railways. What is the service that the railways render? They carry food. But how can the railways carry food if the fields do not produce the food crops? Therefore we must primarily concern ourselves with helping agriculture to produce the food crops, rather than the railways or roads to carry the food. That is the problem, and it can be conclusively shown that, whereas crores and crores have been spent upon railways and especially guaranteed railways, money has always been denied to irrigation works. Now, if there are famines, it is the primary duty of the Government to spend on famine relief, and Government have spent not a little on that head. In 1865 they spent one crore of rupees on famine relief, in 1876 they spent 8½ crores of rupees, in 1896 they spent something like 7 crores, and in 1899, a year in which India had seen one of the greatest famines, Government had to spend about 15 crores of rupees. Of course, I quite recognise that, in famine times, the railways do help to carry the food from one tract to another, from one province to another, and in that way they help to keep down the misery of famine. But that is once in a way. Now, what do the Railways do with regard to the rural population in ordinary times? I do not think they are so serviceable. They only, instead of helping the villager to produce more food, I suppose, bring to his very door many

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really useless trinkets for which he bargains his food. I wish he could be prevented from bargaining his food for the trinkets, which are ultimately practically useless to him.

Now, look at the financial aspect of it. Have the Railways paid Government more or has Irrigation paid more? From the facts I have got, I can say that, after all, irrigation has paid Government more than the Railways have paid. In respect of irrigation we have got an estate worth about 108 crores of rupees, and it pays us 6·47 per cent. of interest. On the other hand, we have got on a Railway estate of 700 crores of rupees that pays us, I suppose, over 5·4 per cent. of interest. There is a clear difference of one per cent., taking all investments for all these years together, and therefore it is obvious that we must spend more on irrigation, because irrigation is a more beneficial and business-like proposition than the Railways

Mr. Deputy President: I hope the Honourable Member will now conclude his remarks.

Mr. N. C. Kelkar: I shall not read any extracts now. I will simply call the attention of the Honourable the Finance Member to paragraph 351 of the Famine Commission's Report of 1901. In that Report it is stated that preference should be shown to Irrigation works rather than to Railways. Then I will read out just one remark, and it is this:

"The test of a productive work requires that within ten years of its commencement, the project should meet all the working expenses as well as the interest charged from the date of its initiation. None of the Railways" (*here is an observation which should be borne in mind by the Government*)—"none of the Railway Companies could have satisfied the rigid test laid down for productive irrigation works, or shown a satisfactory position after meeting all charges that the irrigation works show."

Mr. Deputy President: Order, order. I think the Honourable Member must now conclude.

Mr. N. C. Kelkar: Sir, that brings me to the end of my theme, and that theme is that Government ought to spend more on irrigation than on railways, and let us all welcome the break in the mad career of the extension of the railways which we seem to have reached.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: Sir, I am replying to my Honourable friend's motion, although the subject with which he is dealing is really and properly, according to its title, the responsibility of my Honourable colleague, the Member for Industries and Labour. But, Sir, I am speaking in reply for two reasons, first because my friend addressed his remarks very particularly to myself, and secondly because,—and I hope that you, Sir, and my friend will excuse me for saying so,—the whole of his speech was entirely irrelevant to the motion before the House. The motion before the House relates to irrigation in centrally administered areas, and my Honourable friend's speech, I think, dealt entirely with irrigation in the provinces

Mr. N. C. Kelkar: I want the Government to extend their operations in respect of irrigation to

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: But when my Honourable colleague, the Member for Industries and Labour, brought this point to my notice, I particularly asked him not to raise a point of order, because I myself was so much interested in what my Honourable friend was saying on the subject. The subject which he has raised is one in regard to which I must tread very warily, for it is almost impossible for me to avoid stepping on somebody else's toes if I gave a sympathetic reply. For instance, if I expressed my whole-hearted agreement with him that the Government of India had attempted in the past to consider railway developments almost exclusively, to the detriment of other forms of economic development, I should obviously offend my friend the Member for Commerce. But perhaps he will allow me to go so far as to say that I have listened to the case which has been made, with very great interest and with a very great measure of sympathy. For, after all, what we are aiming at is, as the Honourable the Mover has pointed out, economic production, and economic production begins with agriculture, and the surest form of agriculture in a country like India is that with irrigation. But it is impossible to say very much on this subject, because it is so very largely at present a provincial subject. But there again I would like to venture on an expression of sympathy with my friend's arguments, because, although irrigation is a provincial subject, the Government of India as the bankers for the provinces, have a very close interest in the results.

My friend has referred to the Sukkur Barage scheme. There, although the Government of India have no control over the policy of development, the Government of India unfortunately have to find funds for carrying it out, and if the results are unsatisfactory, it is on the Government of India that the chief financial burden, so far as ways and means are concerned, will fall. I would only like to say this, as regards the province of Bombay, to which my friend referred. So far as I have had an opportunity, I have, in virtue of my position as a banker primarily to the province, attempted to take a great interest in what has been done and what is being done, and although we are now in a state of considerable financial stringency, and although it is the policy of the Government to restrict capital expenditure, I have gone so far, in dealing with the Government of Bombay, as to say that, if money is required for the proper development of a project like the Sukkur Barage scheme, and especially the proper development of the agricultural side of such a project, the Government of India would do their very best to see that money was available on terms which did not make the burden too heavy for the Government of Bombay. It is essential that our financial resources should be applied to those purposes which are going to give increased production of wealth in the country. On that I think I need say no more except this, that possibly in the course of the discussions which I hope to have shortly, together with my colleagues, with the representatives of non-official parties on a suggestion which was made in the course of the debate by my friend, Mr. Shanmukham Chetty, as regards the constitution of something on the lines of an Economic Advisory Council, it may be possible that such a subject as this will find an appropriate place. I feel that this is one of the subjects on which it is necessary for us to have some means of combining the various departments and sharing our views with representatives of public opinion. Sir, I hope that, if my friend will agree with the view I have taken, that his speech was irrelevant to the motion which he has moved, he will be prepared to withdraw his motion for the out he has asked for.

Mr. N. C. Kelkar: I withdraw my motion, Sir.

The motion was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is :

"That a sum not exceeding. . . ."

Mr. B. Das (Orissa Division : Non-Muhammadian) : I also have a motion No. 88,* Sir, and I want to speak.

Government's Embankment Policy.

Mr. E. F. Sykes (Bombay : European) : Sir, I move :

"That the Demand under the head 'Irrigation (including Working Expenses), Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works' be reduced by Rs. 100."

I am moving this cut in the hope that Government will give some further explanation of their embankment policy. The only exposition of the policy which we have had is the one that was given during a debate in another place during the September Session, and the view of the Government of India and its professional advisers, which was then given to the Council of State, was that the method of controlling floods by the erection of bunds on the banks of the rivers concerned was not a suitable one, and the reason given was that, as a result of this procedure, the beds of the rivers would almost certainly rise.

That may or may not be the case. Most people of experience in works of this class would probably hold that the construction or non-construction of bunds has very little to do with the levels of the rivers. The view of the Government therefore requires justification on other grounds, and as no others have been given those interested in this matter, they are curious to know how the Government have arrived at their conclusion. The more so as some ten years ago the Government of India spent large sums of the British taxpayer's money on works of precisely this character on the Euphrates and the Tigris. I have therefore moved this cut in order to enable Government to explain their policy.

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra (Member for Industries and Labour) : Sir, I have not got much time to reply at length to my Honourable friend Mr. Sykes, but I am afraid he has misapprehended as a declaration of policy a quotation made by the Secretary in the Department of Industries and Labour in another place from a note by the Consulting Engineer to the Government of India. However, Sir, I find that a committee of expert irrigation engineers, which dealt with the question of the Orissa floods, and which consisted of Mr. Addams Williams, Mr. Bishan Svarup and Mr. D. G. Harris have more or less subscribed to the same view. I shall read a passage from that Report. This is from paragraph 17, on page 8 of the Report, and I give the reference in case I cannot finish reading the quotation :

"It must be clearly grasped that, in a deltaic area, there must be flooding; it is nature's method of land formation, and any efforts to prevent it are doomed to failure from the outset. It might, for example, be suggested that every river should be embanked on both sides from the point where it leaves the hills to the sea; the result would merely be that it would deposit silt in its bed, the bed would rise, the floods would rise and the embankments have to be raised to correspond, until eventually these embankments would reach a size at which they could no longer be maintained, etc. etc."

"That the Demand under the head 'Irrigation (including Working Expenses), Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works' be reduced by Rs. 100. (Appointment of Water-way Engineers to control floods and waterways.)"

If after the expression of that opinion by this Committee the Government of Bihar and Orissa follow that advice, they are welcome to do so, but the Government of India have so far not declared any policy in the matter.

Mr. Deputy President: Order, order. Do you want to press your motion Mr. Sykes?

Mr. E. F. Sykes: I am waiting to hear the Government explanation.

Mr. Deputy President: The time is up. Do you want to withdraw?

Mr. E. F. Sykes: I do not wish to withdraw.

Mr. Deputy President: The time is now over (it being Five of the Clock).

5 P.M. The question is :

"That the Demand under the head 'Irrigation (including Working Expenses), Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 20,26,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Irrigation (including Working Expenses), Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 23.—INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT (INCLUDING WORKING EXPENSES).

Mr. Deputy President: The question is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 11,34,04,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including Working Expenses)'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 24.—INDO-EUROPEAN TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT (INCLUDING WORKING EXPENSES).

Mr. Deputy President: The question is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 20,33,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Indo-European Telegraph Department (including Working Expenses)'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 25.—INTEREST ON DEBT AND REDUCTION OR AVOIDANCE OF DEBT.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,35,33,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Interest on Debt and Reduction or Avoidance of Debt'."

The motion was adopted

DEMAND No. 26.—INTEREST ON MISCELLANEOUS OBLIGATIONS.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 47,37,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Interest on Miscellaneous Obligations'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 27.—STAFF, HOUSEHOLD AND ALLOWANCES OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,97,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Staff, Household and Allowances of the Governor General'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 29.—COUNCIL OF STATE.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,22,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Council of State'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 30.—LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEPARTMENT.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,47,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Legislative Assembly and Legislative Assembly Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 31.—FOREIGN AND POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,66,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Foreign and Political Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 83.—PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 92,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Public Service Commission'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 84.—LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,57,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Legislative Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 85.—DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, HEALTH AND LANDS.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,22,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Department of Education, Health and Lands'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 37.—SEPARATION OF ACCOUNTS FROM AUDIT.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 16,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Separation of Accounts from Audit'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 38.—COMMERCE DEPARTMENT.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,57,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Commerce Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 40.—DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES AND LABOUR.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,15,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Department of Industries and Labour'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 41.—CENTRAL BOARD OF REVENUE.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,04,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Central Board of Revenue'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 42.—PAYMENTS TO PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS ON ACCOUNT OF ADMINISTRATION OF AGENCY SUBJECTS.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,25,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Payments to Provincial Governments on account of Administration of Agency subjects'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 43.—AUDIT.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 92,72,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Audit'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 44.—ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 58,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Administration of Justice'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 45.—POLICE.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,93,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Police'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 46.—PORTS AND PILOTAGE.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 11,60,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Ports and Pilotage'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 47.—LIGHTHOUSES AND LIGHTSHIPS.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 12,64,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Lighthouses and Lightships'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 48.—SURVEY OF INDIA.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 32,84,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Survey of India'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 49.—METEOROLOGY.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 18,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Meteorology'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 50.—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,74,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Geological Survey'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 51.—BOTANICAL SURVEY.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,84,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Botanical Survey'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 52.—ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,92,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Zoological Survey'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 53—ARCHÆOLOGY.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 16,33,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Archæology'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 54.—MINES.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,72,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Mines'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 55.—OTHER SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENTS.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,32,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Other Scientific Departments'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 56.—EDUCATION.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 15,72,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Education'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 57.—MEDICAL SERVICES.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,89,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Medical Services'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 58.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 11,87,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Public Health'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 59.—AGRICULTURE.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 32,46,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Agriculture'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 60.—CIVIL VETERINARY SERVICES.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,82,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Civil Veterinary Services'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 61.—INDUSTRIES.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Industries'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 62.—AVIATION.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 26,24,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Aviation'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 63.—COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE AND STATISTICS.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,21,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Commercial Intelligence and Statistics'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 64.—CENSUS.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,34,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Census'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 65.—EMIGRATION—INTERNAL.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 38,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Emigration—Internal'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 66.—EMIGRATION—EXTERNAL.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,03,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Emigration—External'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 67.—JOINT STOCK COMPANIES.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,37,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Joint Stock Companies'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 68.—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,91,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Departments'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 69.—INDIAN STORES DEPARTMENT.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,03,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Indian Stores Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 70.—CURRENCY.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 49,27,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Currency'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 71.—MINT.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 25,49,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Mint'."

The motion was adopted

DEMAND No. 72.—CIVIL WORKS.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,74,65,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Civil Works'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 73.—SUPERANNUATION ALLOWANCES AND PENSIONS.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 40,40,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Superannuation Allowances and Pensions'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 74.—STATIONERY AND PRINTING.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 51,34,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Stationery and Printing'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 75.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 22,52,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Miscellaneous'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 76.—REFUNDS.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 62,32,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Refunds'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 78.—BALUCHISTAN.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 33,19,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Baluchistan'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 79.—DELHI.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 44,48,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Delhi'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 80.—AJMER-MERWARA.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 15,52,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Ajmer-Merwara'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 81.—ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 49,26,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Andamans and Nicobar Islands'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 82.—RAJPUTANA.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,55,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Rajputana'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 83.—CENTRAL INDIA.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,80,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Central India'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 84.—HYDERABAD.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,36,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Hyderabad'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 85.—EXPENDITURE IN ENGLAND—SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 17,66,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Expenditure in England—Secretary of State for India'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 86.—EXPENDITURE IN ENGLAND—HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 35,64,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Expenditure in England—High Commissioner for India'."

The motion was adopted.

B.—Expenditure charged to Capital.

DEMAND No. 87.—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON SECURITY PRINTING.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 45,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Security Printing'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 88.—FOREST CAPITAL OUTLAY.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Forest Capital Outlay'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 89.—IRRIGATION.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 94,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Irrigation'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 90.—INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 69,61,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 91.—INDO-EUROPEAN TELEGRAPHS.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Indo-European Telegraphs'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 92.—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON CURRENCY NOTE PRESS.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,88,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Currency Note Press'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 93.—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON VIZAGAPATAM HARBOUR.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 34,18,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Vizagapatam Harbour'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 94.—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON LIGHT HOUSES AND LIGHT SHIPS.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Lighthouses and Light Ships'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 95.—COMMUTED VALUE OF PENSIONS.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 27,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Commutated Value of Pensions'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 96.—NEW CAPITAL AT DELHI.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,00,08,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'New Capital at Delhi'."

The motion was adopted.

C.—Disbursements of Loans and Advances.

DEMAND No. 97.—INTEREST FREE ADVANCES.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 94,56,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Interest free Advances'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 98.—LOANS AND ADVANCES BEARING INTEREST.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,62,15,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Loans and Advances bearing interest'."

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 18th March, 1930.