

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

MONDAY, 2nd FEBRUARY, 1931

Vol. I—No. 13

OFFICIAL REPORT



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DELHI
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS
1931

Price Five Annas.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Monday, 2nd February, 1931.

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

MEMBER SWORN:

Mr. Tarun Ram Phookun, M.L.A. (Assam Valley: Non-Muhammadan).

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

SEIZURE BY THE POLICE AT THE GAUHATI POST OFFICE OF A PACKET RECEIVED FROM THE ALL-INDIA CONGRESS COMMITTEE.

213. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) Is it a fact that in September, 1930, a packet insured for Rs. 50 from the Acting General Secretary of the All-India Congress Committee, Allahabad, addressed to the General Secretary of the Assam Provincial Congress Committee was seized at the Gauhati Post Office by the police, while it was being delivered to the addressee?

(b) What did the packet contain?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: I am informed that the packet was seized by the police after it had been delivered to the addressee. I regret I am not in a position to disclose its contents.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: Sir, may I know whether the packet was returned to the man who despatched it or to the man to whom it was addressed?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: My information is that it was delivered to the addressee.

LOSS OF INSURED ARTICLES IN THE RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE AT ITARSI.

214. ***Mr. Goswami M. R. Puri:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether there was any case of loss of insured articles in the Itarsi Railway Mail Service? If the answer be in the affirmative, what was the value of the insured articles lost?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether the case has since been detected and the articles delivered to their respective addressees? If the answer be in the negative, will Government be pleased to state the steps taken to compensate the owners for the loss?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the names of the officials with their communities involved in this case and what disciplinary action has been taken against them?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy: (a) A case was reported on May 29th, 1929, of the loss at Itarsi of letters insured for Rs. 5,174-12-0.

(b) The reply to the first part of the question is in the negative. As regards the second part, the senders of the insured articles have been compensated for the loss.

(c) Government are not prepared to divulge either the names of the officials involved in this case, or the communities to which they belong. Disciplinary action has been taken either in the form of monetary recoveries or of stoppage of annual increments.

†215—219.

APPOINTMENT OF GUARDS ON THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

220. ***Mr. Goswami M. R. Puri:** (a) Will Government please state if the guards in "A" grade of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway are recruited direct or are promoted from those in "B" grade?

(b) What are the qualifications for direct appointment in "A" grade?

(c) What is the total number of guards in "B" grade and how many of them are non-Indians?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: I have called for information from the Agent and will communicate with the Honourable Member on its receipt.

APPOINTMENT OF A TRADE COMMISSIONER FROM THE CENTRAL PROVINCES.

221. ***Mr. Goswami M. R. Puri:** (a) Will Government please state how many Trade Commissioners have been sent to foreign countries this year and how many do Government contemplate sending next year?

(b) Will Government please state whether Trade Commissioners sent to foreign countries include any nominated from the Central Provinces? If so, were they from the official class or from the business class?

(c) If reply to part (b) be in the negative, will Government please state why no person was appointed from the Central Provinces?

(d) Will Government please state the qualifications required for the post of a Trade Commissioner, and will Government please state whether they are prepared to nominate some business man from Central Provinces?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: (a) One Indian Trade Commissioner will be appointed this year at Hamburg. When further appointments will be made depends upon the financial situation.

(b) The officer who has been selected for appointment at Hamburg does not belong to the Central Provinces. The latter part of the question does not arise.

(c) Nominations were invited from Provincial Governments and certain other authorities for the Trade Commissionership at Hamburg and the candidate who was considered best qualified for the post was selected.

(d) Different qualifications are required for different posts. So far as appointments of non-officials are concerned, these will be made on the advice of the Public Service Commission, who will notify the qualifications required for each post as and when applications are invited by them. It was open to business men in the Central Provinces to apply to the Commission when that body recently called for applications for the post of Trade Commissioner at Milan, and it will be open to them to do so in future if and when the Commission invites applications for any other post of Trade Commissioner.

† Questions withdrawn by the questioner.

ASSESSMENT OF INCOME-TAX FROM BUSINESS MEN.

222. ***Mr. Goswami M. R. Puri:** (a) Are Government aware that in every business, some expense is incurred, of which it is not in the interest of business to give details or to make a record?

(b) Is it a fact that Income-tax officers do not accept the above expenditure as a valid deduction from income owing to the details thereof having not been given?

(c) Are Government aware that the above practice is very adversely affecting the interest of business?

(d) What do Government propose to do to remove this hardship to business men?

(e) Do Government propose to fix a certain percentage of income to be considered as *bonâ fide* expenditure under head on an assessee's filing an affidavit as to the expenditure having actually been incurred in the interest of business?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: With your permission, Sir, I will answer questions Nos. 222, 223 and 224 together as the answer is the same in each case. I invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the answer that I gave to an exactly similar question asked by Rai Bahadur L. Panna Lal on the 14th July, 1930.

ASSESSMENT OF INCOME-TAX FROM BUSINESS MEN.

†223. ***Mr. Goswami M. R. Puri:** (a) Are Government aware that under the existing Income-tax Act even the income-tax paid in a year is not deducted from the assessable income-tax of that year?

(b) Will Government state on what principle is this *bonâ fide* expenditure not recognised?

(c) Are Government aware that much heart-burning has been caused by this method of determination of assessable income?

(d) Do Government intend to do anything in the direction of removing this disability of the assesseees?

ASSESSMENT OF INCOME-TAX FROM BUSINESS MEN.

†224. ***Mr. Goswami M. R. Puri:** (a) Are Government aware that a large number of petty traders and contractors have neither the necessity nor the means of keeping accounts according to the system acceptable to income-tax officers?

(b) Is it a fact that in all those cases the income-tax officers apply an arbitrary flat rate of profits to determine the income?

(c) Are Government aware that owing to the arbitrary application of flat rate of profit there is great discontent among the petty traders, affected thereby?

(d) Is it a fact that suggestions have been made to the Government to have a Standing Advisory Committee of business men formed at every place to advise the Income-tax Officer in the determination of the flat rate of profit?

† For answer to this question, see answer to starred question No. 222.

(e) Do Government propose to carry out the above suggestion? If not, how do Government propose to ensure that the flat rate of profit so arrived at, is not unduly excessive?

ASSESSMENT OF INCOME-TAX FROM BUSINESS MEN.

225. ***Mr. Goswami M. R. Puri:** (a) Is it a fact that, under the existing Income-tax Act, loss in a business is set off against income only in the year in which that loss occurs, even if the amount of loss is considerably in excess of the income of the year?

(b) Is it a fact that several Chambers of Commerce have protested against the above system and have urged the setting off of the whole loss, even if this process extends to the years succeeding the one in which the loss has occurred?

(c) What action have Government taken on this protest?

(d) Do Government propose to so alter the law that a business loss is set off against assessable income till the whole amount of the loss is thus accounted for?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) and (d). I refer the Honourable Member to the reply that I gave in this House to an unstarred question on the same subject asked by Sardar Sant Singh on the 28th January.

PASSES ISSUED TO SUBORDINATE RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.

226. ***Mr. Goswami M. R. Puri:** (a) Is it a fact that passes to railway employees drawing Rs. 75 or less are not issued for foreign lines beyond a certain distance?

(b) Are Government aware that the vast majority of railway subordinates belong to this grade and that the present restriction is causing great hardship to them?

(c) Is it a fact that representation has been made by the railway employees to redress certain grievances in connection with issuing of passes?

(d) Do Government propose under the circumstances to remove the above restriction?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply given by me in Simla on the 14th July, 1930, to Rai Bahadur Lala Panna Lal's question No. 64 which was identical with the present question.

Mr. K. Ahmed: I rise to a point of order. Honourable Members giving notice of the same question, sometimes word for word, an identical question, and asking for answer from the Government is a matter of great regret.

Mr. Goswami M. R. Puri: May I know, Sir, if the Honourable Member is entitled to criticise another Honourable Member?

Mr. President: I am listening to the Honourable Member's point of order.

Mr. K. Ahmed: Now, Sir, the question therefore arises whether the Honourable Members, without disturbing the office, without disturbing the Honourable Members of the Treasury Bench, can put questions which have been answered. The Honourable Member who has put questions now knows that only a few months ago the same question was put, and there is no doubt that interested persons very often hand over the same copies of questions to send to the Secretary for answers.

Mr. B. Das: He was not a Member then.

Mr. K. Ahmed: He should not put the same question again in order to prevent all this unnecessary botheration. Repetition of same questions is not allowed unless one year has already elapsed.

Mr. President: I do not see that there is any point of order.

Maulvi Muhammad Yakub: Is it not a point of disorder?

Mr. President: Order, order.

Mr. K. Ahmed: If the same question is asked in the same Session or within a year—within a year, I think, is the rule or the Standing Order—that question cannot be put again, and it should not have been allowed.

Mr. President: It would be a very good thing for every new Member to look up all the proceedings of the Assembly ever since it was constituted. In that case he would be fully aware of everything that has gone before. But as that is rather a tall order.

Mr. K. Ahmed: The Rules and Standing Orders supplied to us, and I think, Sir, you have got a copy before you. . . .

Mr. President: I have told the Honourable Member that it is not a point of order.

ADVISORY BOARDS ON RAILWAYS.

227. ***Mr. Goswami M. R. Puri:** (a) What is the existing arrangement for the provision of Advisory Boards in railways in India?

(b) What is the constitution of these Boards?

(c) What is the representation of the commercial and industrial classes on those Boards?

(d) Are Government prepared to consider the desirability of creating Advisory Boards in every division of Railway in case it has proved useful, where it exists at present?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply which I gave on the 14th of July, 1930, to an identical question put by Rai Bahadur Lala Panna Lal.

OVERCROWDING OF THIRD CLASS RAILWAY CARRIAGES AND PROVISION OF FANS IN INTERMEDIATE CLASS COMPARTMENTS.

228. ***Mr. Goswami M. R. Puri:** (a) Are Government aware that there is still a good deal of overcrowding of third class carriages on all lines, especially on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway?

(b) Do Government proposed to issue instructions to the railway officers concerned that the number of passengers actually seated in a compartment should not exceed the maximum number permitted to be accommodated in that compartment?

(c) Do any arrangements exist at present for duplicate trains at important stations to convey passengers left behind? If so, where? If not, do Government propose to consider the desirability of arranging duplicate trains at times of need when there is a rush of traffic?

(d) Is there any proposal of providing fans in intermediate class and third class carriages in the Summer season? If so, when is this reform likely to take effect?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) The inconvenience of overcrowding in third class carriages has been reduced during recent years by the provision of more passenger coaches. Railways have been taking a periodical census of third class passengers in running trains, and of the actual seating accommodation, to enable an opinion to be arrived at as to what extra carriages may be required. These census figures indicate that the overcrowding in trains is decreasing and not growing and the question of the provision of an adequate number of trains and coaches is a matter which receives the constant attention of Railway Administrations. The census figures do not show that overcrowding occurs especially on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, and the matter is one which receives the constant attention of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Administration and of its Local Advisory Committee.

(b) Government are aware that Railway Administrations are giving attention to the question of overcrowding and do not consider that the issue of instructions is called for at this stage.

(c) An arrangement for running duplicate trains is not normally feasible. Information as to the number of passengers intending to entrain is not available beforehand, and it is not known whether the number of passengers for whom it will not be possible to find accommodation in the regular service will be adequate to justify the running of an unscheduled train.

(d) Government do not propose to introduce fans in intermediate and third class carriages, at any rate, at present.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: Is it not a fact that some of the Railway Administrations have cut down the number of trains on their systems recently?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: That is so, Sir, owing to a reduction in the traffic offering.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: Has the Railway Board issued any orders not to overcrowd compartments in trains?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: The orders which have been issued either by the Railway Board or the Railway Administrations are those which I have described in my answer to the question, namely, a census is taken at regular intervals in order to see if there is any overcrowding in particular trains, and if it is proved that there is any overcrowding, necessary action is taken.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: May I take it that the provisions of the Indian Railways Act are being applied to those railways on which overcrowding occurs?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: To which provisions does the Honourable Member refer?

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: To the provisions that the railways are to pay a penalty every day for each train on which overcrowding occurs?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: No, Sir. I think you may take it for granted that that provision is not being applied.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: May I know the reason why?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: Because, as I have explained, the action we are taking to prevent overcrowding appears to Government to be sufficient, and therefore they do not propose to take further action at this stage.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: Is any punishment prescribed for not observing these rules about overcrowding?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: I think there is some misunderstanding: at present there is no question of applying any punishment.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: Is it left to the free will of the station staff whether they do observe or they do not observe the rules about overcrowding?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: I should not draw that conclusion myself.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: But others do draw that conclusion.

APPOINTMENTS IN THE TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT OF THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

229. ***Mr. Goswami M. R. Puri:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state how many appointments in the Traffic Department carrying a salary exceeding Rs. 150 per mensem have been made since 1924 in the Great Indian Peninsula Railway?

(b) How many of the above appointments have gone to new men? What are their qualifications and what procedure was adopted in their selection?

(c) What are the rules affecting the prospect of a railway employee working on the maximum pay of his post for some years?

(d) Is there any system under which a railway employee working on the maximum pay of a post in a certain Department for some years and having no opening for promotion in that branch, can be transferred to some other railway branch? If so, what is that system and are there any rules governing the same?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) and (b). The information sought by the Honourable Member cannot be obtained except with considerable expenditure of time and labour, which Government regret they are not prepared to incur.

(c) I am sending the Honourable Member a copy of the instructions relating to this matter.

(d) Individual cases are considered on their merits. There are no rules.

ALLEGED RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN THE PAY OF IMPROVERS ON THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY.

230. ***Mr. Goswami M. B. Puri:** (a) Is it a fact that the starting pay for the Anglo-Indian improvers in the Bengal Nagpur Railway Workshops has been fixed at Rs. 120 per mensem but for improvers recruited from "A" grade apprentices, a pay of Rs. 45 per mensem has been fixed?

(b) If so, what are the reasons for this differential treatment?

(c) Are Government prepared to reconsider this racial discrimination in matters of pay? If not, why not?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: With your permission, Sir, I propose to reply to this and the following question together.

The Honourable Member's attention is invited to my reply to questions Nos. 81 and 82 of Mr. S. C. Mitra of the 14th July, 1930, which are identical with his questions.

ALLOWANCES OF APPRENTICES AT THE KHARAGPUR RAILWAY WORKSHOPS.

†231. ***Mr. Goswami M. B. Puri:** (a) Are Government aware that two different scales of subsistence allowance have been fixed for the apprentices in the Kharagpur Railway Workshops, viz., (i) for the Anglo-Indian apprentices, Rs. 33 to Rs. 65 and (ii) for the Indian grade "A" apprentices, Rs. 20 to Rs. 33 per month, during the tenure of their five years apprenticeship?

(b) Are Government prepared to consider once again the anomaly and discrepancy in fixing those two separate scales of subsistence allowances for the apprentices in the Kharagpur Railway Workshops? If not, why not?

(c) Do Government propose to instruct the Bengal Nagpur Railway to fix a uniform scale of subsistence allowance for all their apprentices in Kharagpur Railway Workshops, irrespective of their birth and colour, and to start and train them all on equal terms for all purposes? If not, why not?

TENURE OF OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE MEMBERS OF PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS.

232. ***Mr. Goswami M. B. Puri:** Will Government be pleased to state what the tenure of office of executive members of Provincial Governments under the Government of India Act is, and to state the authority for this?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given to U. Dwe's starred question No. 70 on the 14th July, 1930.

† For answer to this question, see answer to starred question No. 230.

Mr. K. P. Thampan: May I ask whether, in Madras, the Honourable Sir Muhammad Usman, the Home Member, is proposed to be given a further extension of his office?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: I have no information on that subject.

EARNINGS FROM DIFFERENT CLASSES OF PASSENGERS ON THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA AND BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAYS.

233. *Mr. Goswami M. R. Puri: Will Government be pleased to state the amount of earning from the passengers travelling in first, second, intermediate and third classes of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway and Bengal Nagpur Railway for the year 1929-1930?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: In 1929-30, the earnings were as follows:—

—	1st Class.	2nd Class.	Intermediate Class.	3rd Class.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Great Indian Peninsula Railway	23,28,000	30,49,000	8,72,000	3,61,77,000
Bengal Nagpur Railway .	7,76,000	8,75,000	16,83,000	1,93,74,000

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: Have the various classes of the travelling public, first, second, intermediate and third been a paying proposition to the Railway Board?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: I should not like to express an opinion on that merely in reply to a question.

INVESTMENTS IN POSTOFFICE CASH CERTIFICATES AND INTEREST THEREON.

234. *Mr. Goswami M. R. Puri: (a) What is the total amount of investment in Post Office Cash Certificates in the year 1929-30?

(b) What is the amount of interest Government paid in the year 1929-30 for investment in Cash Certificates?

(c) What is the rate of interest which Government actually pays on Cash Certificates?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (a) The net increase in the total of Post Office Cash Certificates outstanding in 1929-30 was Rs. 2,70,33,000. The total outstanding at the end of the financial year was Rs. 35,00,59,000.

(b) Rs. 73,20,000.

(c) The rate of interest now being paid on new Cash Certificates works out at 6 per cent. compound interest, if the Certificates are held for the full period of five years. If they are repaid earlier, the rate is lower, i.e., 5 per cent. if held for four years, 4½ per cent. if held for three years, 4¼ per cent. if held for two years and 4 per cent. if held for one year. No interest is paid if the Certificate is cashed within a year.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: This is the rate of interest which is officially allowed. But, can the Honourable Member tell me what is the rate of interest which the Government is actually paying on these Cash Certificates? It will probably work out to about 3 per cent. only.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: The answer to that question depends on the actual encashments in any particular year, and we can only give an answer to that question in relation to a particular year for which the figures are available. The Honourable Member is, I am sure, aware of the new system of calculating interest on Post Office Cash Certificates, that is to say for calculating the amount of interest for which we make provision in the annual Budget, which I proposed to this Assembly last year. I am afraid I cannot answer the Honourable Member's question more exactly than that.

PROSECUTIONS UNDER THE CHILD MARRIAGE RESTRAINT ACT.

235. *Mr. Goswami M. R. Puri: (a) Will Government please state if there has been any prosecution in any of the provinces of India in connection with the Child Marriage Restraint Act of 1929, and if so, how many and with what results?

(b) Have Government ascertained how many child marriages as defined by the Act, have been performed between the 1st October, 1929, and the 30th September, 1930, in each of the provinces of India? If not, are Government prepared to make an enquiry into the matter and lay the information on the table?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: (a) The information is being obtained from the Local Governments, and will be supplied to the Honourable Member when it is received.

(b) I invite attention to the reply given by the Honourable Mr. Haig to part (b) of unstarred question No. 104 on the 16th July.

EXTRA EXPENDITURE AND FALL IN REVENUE CAUSED BY THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CONGRESS.

236. *Mr. Goswami M. R. Puri: Will Government be pleased to state what extra expenditure and what extent of fall in revenue the Government anticipate as a direct result of the Congress movement and how do they propose to meet the deficit?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: With your permission, Sir, I shall deal with questions Nos. 236 and 238 together. As I stated a few days ago in reply to a question by Mr. B. Das, I hope to discuss the position at length in my budget speech. Meanwhile, I am afraid, the Honourable Member will have to be content with such information as is available in the published returns.

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.

237. *Mr. Goswami M. R. Puri: Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing (a) the total number of railway accidents which occurred in India in the year 1929-30, (b) a statement from the Railway Board giving the results of the enquiries into those accidents made by the Government Inspector of Railways, and (c) compensation

paid to the injured and to the family members of the persons who succumbed on account of the same?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) The total number of accidents of all descriptions on Indian Railways during 1929-30 was 23,526.

(b) Reports for the half years ending the 30th September, 1929, and the 31st March, 1930, of enquiries made by the Government Inspectors of Railways into accidents have been published, and copies of them are in the Library of the House.

(c) This information is not readily available and to collect and compile it would involve a considerable expenditure of time and labour.

DEFICIT IN CUSTOMS REVENUES.

†238. ***Mr. Goswami M. R. Puri:** Will Government be pleased to state the deficit in the Central Revenues, particularly Customs, during the last half-year (1st April to the end of September 1930) as compared with the corresponding part of the last year, and the estimate of receipt during the half year in question?

APPOINTMENTS ON THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

239. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra:** (a) Will Government please refer to the reply given to my unstarred question of the 16th July, 1930, and state what is the number of appointments of (i) Yard Controller, (ii) Yard Foreman; (iii) Loco. Foreman; (iv) Transportation Inspector; and (v) Station Superintendent on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway?

(b) How many vacancies occurred in each of these appointments since the five recruits in question completed their training? How many of them have been filled by: (i) Europeans and Anglo-Indians; and (ii) by Indians? What appointments did they hold, and what special qualifications did they acquire before they were called upon to fill those vacancies?

(c) Will Government please also state whether the claims of the aforesaid recruits were considered in connection with those vacancies? If not, why not?

(d) If the answer be in the negative, will Government please state on what grounds the claims of these recruits were ignored?

(e) Is it not a fact that these recruits have been taken to hold appointments mentioned in part (a) above at an earlier age? If so, why have they been started so low as Goods Driver? What objection is there to their being appointed straight away as Yard Foreman, Loco. Foreman?

Is it a fact that they have been especially trained to hold those appointments?

(f) How far the plea of "no vacancies" is tenable in regard to the above posts? Is it a fact that the same plea may be advanced in regard to posts of Goods Drivers? If not, why not?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: With your permission, Sir, I propose to answer this and question No. 240 together. I have called for certain information from the Agent, Great Indian Peninsula Railway, and will communicate with the Honourable Member on its receipt.

† For answer to this question, see answer to starred question No. 236.

APPOINTMENTS ON THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

† 240. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra:** (a) What is the difference between the emoluments of a Yard Controller and those of a Goods Driver on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway?

(b) Will Government please state whether the posts of Station Superintendents have been abolished? If so, whether any new appointments have been created corresponding to those appointments? What is the designation of, and what rates of pay have been fixed for, these new appointments?

(c) Will Government please also state how the trained recruits referred to in the preceding question will attain the grade of Station Superintendents at existing rates of pay, if no corresponding appointments at these rates or higher rates of pay have been created or are not to be created?

(d) Will Government please refer to the reply given to my question No. 135 on the 16th July, 1930, and state why these recruits are further being tested as Goods Engine Driver when they have already passed as Goods Engine Drivers and have also worked in that capacity during the stipulated period of training in accordance with the terms of agreement?

(e) Is it a fact that the appointments such as those mentioned in part (a) of the preceding question on the Railway are some times kept vacant for years together, and acting arrangements are made to fill them up? Under whose authority are these acting arrangements made? Why do these acting arrangements remain in force for so long a period?

(f) How many such acting appointments have been made since these recruits have completed their training?

(g) Is it a fact that these men had been trained as mechanical engineers in some technical or engineering college for some years before their selection as Transport Apprentices? If so, why have these trained men not been provided with appointments as Assistant Loco. Foreman or other similar appointments? Have they, in addition to their training in a recognised institution, been trained for a further period of five or six years in the Railway itself?

OUDH AND ROHILKHAND RAILWAY STAFF EMPLOYED ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

241. ***Lala Brij Kishore:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether employees of the old Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway are still employed on the East Indian Railway Administration at Calcutta and divisions outside the United Provinces; if so, what is their exact number;
- (b) whether this staff desires a transfer to East Indian Railway divisions in the United Provinces; and
- (c) whether any steps have been taken to transfer the staff wishing to return to the United Provinces as early as possible?

† For answer to this question, see answer to starred question No. 239.

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) Very elaborate enquiries would be necessary to discover exactly how many employees of the old Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway are serving within the United Provinces; and owing to transfers in the daily course of business, the information collected would be out of date before it was received. It can, however, be taken for granted that there are some such employees.

(b) This could only be ascertained by enquiries from each individual.

(c) Government have no doubt that the Agent and other officers of the East Indian Railway attempt to meet the wishes of individuals in this way, when they can do so without prejudicing public interests.

LOCAL RECRUITMENT OF SUBORDINATE STAFF OF RAILWAYS.

242. *Lala Brij Kishore: Will Government be pleased to state whether any instructions have been issued to the Agents of the State Railways to confine their selections for the posts of subordinate staff to the residents of provinces on which the railway system runs and where the staff is required to work?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: The answer is in the negative.

EXPENDITURE OF FINE FUNDS ON RAILWAYS.

243. *Lala Brij Kishore: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) what is the amount of Fine Fund realised on each railway;
- (b) what percentage of this Fund is realised from Indian staff;
- (c) what percentage is spent for the benefit of Indian staff and under what heads;
- (d) whether any steps have been taken to ensure a greater percentage of this fund being spent on the Indian Staff;
- (e) how many Indian Institutions exist on each railway system and what is their membership;
- (f) whether any difficulty has been experienced in opening out more Indian Institutes; if so, what; and
- (g) whether in view of the social habits, environments and economic position of the Indian staff the desirability of spending the Fine Fund, on the Indian staff in some other way like better maternity provision, suitable health homes on the hills has been considered?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) I am sending the Honourable Member a statement showing for Class I Railways the balance in the fund on the 31st of March, 1929, and the fines inflicted, bonuses forfeited, other credits, and interest on the balance during the year 1929-30.

(b) The accounts are not kept so that it is possible to give these figures.

(c) I am doubtful whether these figures are readily procurable, but I am making enquiries from Railway Administrations and will communicate the result to the Honourable Member.

(d) Yes, this is one of the objects of the Staff Benefit Fund which is about to be introduced in place of the Fine Fund.

(e) I am having this information collected for the Honourable Member.

(f) The Railway Board are not aware of any such difficulty, though it is possible that want of capital funds may have delayed the opening of Indian Institutes in certain places.

(g) I will send the Honourable Member a copy of the rules of the new Staff Benefit Fund which he will see permit expenditure on objects such as those he mentions.

Lala Brij Kishore: May I know, Sir, if the expenditure for running these institutions is wholly met by Government or the railway staff also has to contribute something?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: Do I take the Honourable Member to inquire whether these Indian Institutes are wholly maintained by Government? The answer, I think, is in the negative. They receive grants from the Fine Fund, or what will in future be known as the Staff Benefit Fund, but I believe the members also pay subscriptions.

GRANTS FOR EDUCATION OF THE CHILDREN OF RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.

244. ***Lala Brij Kishore:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it has issued any rules governing the grant of educational aid to children of the railway staff;
- (b) whether under these rules Indian staff working on large stations where schools exist do not get any benefit; and
- (c) whether Government propose to extend the benefit of its grants to this staff in some form?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) Yes. The latest rules are in the Library. They are provisional and are liable to revision pending certain investigations that are at present being made.

(b) Yes, as assistance is limited to those cases where an employee is compelled to send his children away from the station at which he is posted, owing to the absence of a school or schools of requisite standard at that station.

(c) No.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: Will Government be pleased to lay a copy of the rules on the table, with reference to part (a) of this question?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: I will see how long the rules are. Copies of the rules are in the Library, and it is open to question whether they should be printed also in the proceedings of the House.

HOUSE RENT GRANTED TO INDIAN STAFF ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

245. ***Lala Brij Kishore:** Will Government be pleased to state whether a sum of Rs. 3 only is permitted as house rent to Indian staff on the East Indian Railway system, irrespective of their pay and place of service?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: Yes; the rule applies only to certain station staff under the old East Indian Railway rules not provided with free quarters

ALLEGED INFECTIOUS DISEASE OF THE MACHINE FOREMAN, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, CALCUTTA.

246. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra:** (a) Is it a fact that, in accordance with the Government Servants' Conduct Rules, the Civil Service Regulations, the Workmen's Compensation Act, and the Indian Factories Act, no Government employee suffering from infectious disease is allowed to remain in Government service?

(b) Is it a fact that Government have received a petition dated the 19th December, 1930, addressed to the Honourable Member in charge, Industries and Labour, through the Manager, Government of India Press, Calcutta, from one Abdul Halem of Bauria, Howrah, Bengal, alleging that Md. Ishaque, Machine Foreman of the Government of India Press, Calcutta, has been suffering from an infectious disease for the last three months?

(c) If the reply to part (b) is in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member be pleased to enlighten the House with the contents of the petition?

(d) If the reply to parts (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member be pleased to state what action Government have taken or intend to take in the matter? If not, why not?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy: (a) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given to part (a) of his starred question No. 665 in the Legislative Assembly on the 23rd September, 1929.

(b) No.

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

TEMPORARY POSTS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, CALCUTTA.

247. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra:** (a) Is it not a fact that, in accordance with the Resolution in the Board of Industries and Munitions No. A.-31, dated the 15th July, 1920, a Provident Fund has been established for the employees of the Government of India Presses who were recruited on or after the 15th July, 1920?

(b) Is it not a fact that there are numerous employees in the Government of India Press, Calcutta, who were appointed before the 15th July, 1920, and have been working as temporary hands for a considerable length of time?

(c) Is it not a fact that the temporary hands appointed before the 15th July, 1920, and who are still working in the Government of India Press, Calcutta, are neither entitled to medical leave nor leave on average pay?

(d) Is it not a fact that all temporary hands, appointed before the 15th July, 1920, and who have not completed twenty-five years' service, have to go without any benefit in the shape of either pension or Provident Fund in case of their retirement or reduction or death?

(e) Is it not a fact that the Manager, Government of India Press, Calcutta, received a petition, dated the 20th July, 1930, from the binders to be forwarded to the Honourable Member in charge, Labour and Industries, Government of India, through proper channel?

(f) Is it not a fact that the Manager, Government of India Press, Calcutta, noted in his order on the petition that he had already forwarded his recommendation for making nearly all the temporary posts in the Press permanent?

(g) If the answers to parts (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f) are in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state what action they intend to take to place the temporary hands of the Government of India Press, Calcutta, on a permanent footing? If not, what benefit, if any, Government intend to bestow on these temporary hands for their services rendered?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy: (a) Yes, it is a fact.

(b) Government have no definite information regarding the number of temporary hands in the Government of India Press, Calcutta, who were employed before the 15th July, 1920, and are still continuing on a temporary basis. There is, however, a regular temporary staff employed in the Press and the question of reducing its number and increasing the number of permanent hands is under the consideration of the Controller of Printing and Stationery.

(c) This is not correct. Temporary press hands recruited after the 22nd May, 1929, are, under orders specially relating to the Government of India Presses, allowed 16 days' leave on full pay per annum on medical or other grounds. Temporary press hands, recruited before that date, are allowed the option of either coming under these rules or of remaining under the old arrangements under which they were entitled to casual leave, *plus* the leave admissible to temporary Government servants under supplementary rule 285.

(d) Temporary hands employed before the 15th July, 1920, and who are obliged to retire before completing 25 years' service, are given a bonus by Government. When the service is terminated by death, the bonus is payable to the heirs.

(e) and (f). Government have no information.

(g) Does not arise.

PRESS WORK DONE UNDER CONTRACT BY PRIVATE PRESSES.

248. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra:** (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the amounts paid for work done under contract by private presses in the years 1920 to 1930 respectively?

(b) Is it not a fact that heavy reductions in the Government of India Press, Calcutta, are due to this system of placing contracts with outside presses?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the reason why work is given out to private presses on contract?

(d) Was any work, which the Government Press at Calcutta are capable of doing, given out on contract to private companies during the period 1926 to 1930?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy: (a) The amounts paid to contractors for printing work in the years 1920-21 to 1929-30 are as follows:

	Rs.		Rs.
1920-21 . . .	6,23,564	1925-26 . . .	4,67,868
1921-22 . . .	8,03,672	1926-27 . . .	3,71,994
1922-23 . . .	5,64,241	1927-28 . . .	4,01,998
1923-24 . . .	2,58,868	1928-29 . . .	3,99,393
1924-25 . . .	2,48,886	1929-30 . . .	4,02,000

(b) No.

(c) The Government of India Presses are not capable of doing all the printing work required by Government.

(d) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given to part (a) of question No. 8 asked in the Council of State by the Honourable Mr. G. S. Khaparde on the 18th August, 1926.

THE PRINTING CLEARING OFFICE.

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

- when the Printing Clearing Office was started;
- what is its function;
- what is the number of men working in it; and
- the number of officials which compose the management, their respective designations and salaries?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy: (a) 9th June, 1922. Since the 1st November, 1924, the designation of the Printing Clearing Office has been changed to Central Printing Office.

(b) Its principal functions are:

- to ensure an even flow of work to the various Presses;
- to regulate the printing and binding work of the Central Departments and offices, with a view to the prevention of unnecessary charge on this account;
- to scrutinize the charges for printing work done in private presses;
- to deal with questions relating to the administration of the Government of India Presses; and
- to reproduce the duplicating work required by Central Departments and offices at the headquarters of the Government of India.

(c) The total number of men employed, including gazetted officers, non-gazetted establishment and inferior servants, is 56.

(d) One Deputy Controller of Printing; the pay of the present incumbent is Rs. 750—50—1,000 plus Special pay of Rs. 150—10—200—250 per mensem.

One Assistant Controller of Printing, Rs. 600—40—800 per mensem.

REDUCTIONS OF STAFF IN GOVERNMENT PRESSES.

250. *Mr. S. C. Mitra: (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of reductions carried out in the Simla, Delhi and Calcutta Government Presses in the years 1922 to 1930, respectively, together with the time of such reductions?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the names of the private contractors with whom Government have entered into contract from the years 1922 to 1930 with dates?

(c) Is it a fact that the Honourable Mr. H. A. F. Lindsay, in answer to question No. 149, dated the 20th September, 1922, stated in the Council of State that as regards the printing of work for which the Government of India had entered into contract with private contractors, it would not be possible to have the printing work done at the Government presses without committing a breach of the contract?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state whether the practicability of providing employment for the reduced hands by reducing the amount of work given out to private contractors has been considered?

(e) Is it not a fact that the Honourable Mr. A. H. Ley stated in his reply to question No. 8, dated the 18th August 1926, in the Council of State that the Government Presses have equipment of the proper type for the work given to contractors?

(f) Is it a fact that the Honourable Mr. A. H. Ley stated in the Council of State in answer to question No. 8, dated 18th August 1926, that there has been a reduction in expenditure under the head "Payment to Contractors"?

(g) If the answer to part (f) is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the agencies which are responsible for the reduction in expenditure under the head "Payment to Contractors"?

Mr. J. A. Shalidy: (a) and (b). The Government of India regret that they cannot undertake to collect the information asked for by the Honourable Member, as it would involve an amount of time and labour disproportionate to the result.

(c) Yes.

(d) The Honourable Member appears to be under the misapprehension that the placing of work with private contractors has resulted in a reduction in the number of hands in the Government of India Presses. This is not the case, and the question of reducing the amount of work given out to private contractors with the object of providing employment for retrenched hands does not arise.

(e) and (f). The answer is in the affirmative.

(g) The reduction in expenditure under the head "Payment to Contractors" was due to the following causes:-

- (i) Since 1924-25 forms of the Posts and Telegraphs Department only are being printed by the contractors while in previous years all stock forms were printed by them.
- (ii) A Central Forms Press was established in 1924;
- (iii) The Central Forms Store, which was created in 1923, exercises strict control over the printing and consumption of forms.

EARNINGS OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS EMPLOYEES.

251. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra:** (a) Is it a fact that the compositors, distributors, binders, pressmen and machinemen of the Government Presses at Calcutta, Simla, Delhi and Aligarh are all in the superior service?

(b) Is it a fact that the class and class rates of the compositors, distributors, binders, pressmen and machinemen of the Government Presses at Calcutta, Simla, Delhi and Aligarh were the same till June 1928?

(c) Is it a fact that the class and the class rates have been made different on and from June 1928?

(d) If the answers to parts (a) and (b) are in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state reasons thereof?

(e) Is it a fact that both the inkmen and galley-proof pressmen of the Government of India Press, Calcutta, were in the inferior service till 1920?

(f) Is it a fact that the earnings of the inkmen were more than the galley-proof pressmen at the Government Press at Calcutta?

(g) Is it a fact that the Galley-proof Pressmen were placed in the superior service after 1920?

(h) Is it a fact that according to the rules the employees, the earnings of whom exceed Rs. 15 per mensem, are to be regarded as superior servants?

(i) Is it a fact that the earning of the Inkmen varies from Rs. 25 to Rs. 35 per mensem?

(j) Is it a fact that the Inkmen are still in the inferior service?

(k) If the answers to parts (a) to (j) are in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the reasons for placing the inkers in the inferior service?

Mr. J. A. Shillady: (a) Yes.

(b) to (d). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given by Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra to his starred question No. 724 in the Legislative Assembly on the 21st March, 1930.

(e) Yes.

(f) Government have no information.

(g) Yes.

(h) Yes, subject to exceptions.

(i) Government have no information.

(j) Yes.

(k) The work of inkmen is of a mechanical nature not involving any particular skill.

EARNINGS OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS EMPLOYEES.

252. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra:** (a) Is it a fact that, on recommendation of the Piece-Workers' Committee of 1922, Government accepted the principle that necessary steps should be taken to keep the earnings of the piece-workers of the Government Presses constant?

(b) Is it a fact that the earnings of the compositors, distributors, and the hand press section of the Government of India Press, Calcutta, are daily decreasing?

(c) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the earnings of the distributors, pressmen, and inkmen of the Government of India Press, Calcutta, for the years 1925 and 1930, respectively?

(d) If the answers to parts (a) to (c) are in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member be pleased to state the reasons for the fluctuations in the earnings and the steps taken to put a stop to such fluctuation?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy: (a) Certain recommendations were made by the Piece-Workers' Committee, 1922, with the object of avoiding undue fluctuations in the wages of piece-workers in the Government of India Presses, and the recommendations were accepted by the Government of India.

(b) No.

(c) Government regret that they cannot undertake to collect the information asked for.

(d) Does not arise.

LEAD-POISONING OF EMPLOYEES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, CALCUTTA.

253. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra:** (a) Are Government aware that the Secretary, Press Employees' Association of Calcutta, a registered body under the Indian Trade Unions Act stated in their memorandum to the Royal Commission on Labour that 25 *per cent.* employees of the Government of India Press, Calcutta, are suffering from lead-poisoning?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state how many cases have been examined in the Government of India Press, Calcutta, during the last three years by the Government doctor?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state:

(i) the result of such examinations;

(ii) how cases of lead-poisoning have been detected: and

(iii) how many have been discharged on pension or have been awarded compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act on the ground of lead-poisoning?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy: (a) No.

(b) None.

(c) (i) and (ii). Do not arise.

(iii) None.

ABOLITION OF THE PIECE-WORK SYSTEM IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, CALCUTTA.

254. *Mr. S. C. Mitra: (a) Is it a fact that the Government of India have recently abolished the piece-system in the East Indian Railway and Eastern Bengal Railway Presses at Calcutta?

(b) Is it a fact that the piece-system is still in vogue at the Government of India Press, Calcutta?

(c) Is it a fact that the employees of the Government of India Press, Calcutta, submitted a memorial to the Government for the abolition of the piece-system in the Government of India Press, Calcutta, so far back as 1920?

(d) If the replies to parts (a), (b) and (c) are in the affirmative, do Government intend to abolish the piece-system in the Government of India Press, Calcutta? If not, why not?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy: (a) The piece-system has not been abolished in the East Indian Railway and Eastern Bengal Railway Presses at Calcutta, but since the 1st November, 1930, all employees in these Presses have been placed on monthly rates of pay. The piece-work system is, however, being applied to specified classes of employees side by side with the monthly rates of pay, and extra payment is made to men who are able to turn out work the piece values of which exceed their monthly rates of pay.

(b) Yes, for certain classes of industrial employees.

(c) Yes.

(d) Does not arise.

PAY OF FORME-CARRIERS AND LABOURERS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, CALCUTTA.

255. *Mr. S. C. Mitra: (a) Is it a fact that both the forme-carriers and labourers of the Government of India Press, Calcutta, were on the same status before 1920?

(b) Is it a fact that after general revision in 1920 the pay of the forme-carriers was enhanced to Rs. 20—1—30?

(c) Is it a fact that the labourers were allowed the maximum of Rs. 18?

(d) If the answers to parts (a), (b) and (c) are in the affirmative will Government be pleased to state the reasons of this discrimination?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy: (a) Prior to 1920 forme-carriers and labourers were on similar rates of pay though not identical.

(b). No. The pay of forme-carriers was enhanced to Rs. 20—1—30 in 1928.

(c) No. The maximum pay of labourers is Rs. 19.

(d) The reason for giving higher pay to forme-carriers is that some skill and experience is required of them while none is required of labourers.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A PROVIDENT FUND FOR GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESSES.

256. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra:** (a) Is it not a fact that Government in their Resolution No. A.-31, para. 21, dated the 15th July 1920, Department of Industries and Labour announced the establishment of a Provident Fund and all men with the exception of day extra men, who join the Government of India presses will be required to join this Fund?

(b) Is it not a fact that the Government subsequently, in their Resolution No. A.-204, dated the 5th August, 1930, decided that not only the day extra men but the inferior servants also would not be allowed to join this Provident Fund?

(c) If the answers to parts (a) and (b) are in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member be pleased to state the reasons thereof?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy: (a) The Honourable Member's information is substantially correct with the exception that the announcement was not of a Provident Fund, which had been created, but of a Provident Fund which was to be created.

(b) Yes. But this was a re-affirmation of a decision originally made in 1922.

(c) It was found impracticable for administrative reasons to admit the inferior servants of the Government of India Presses to the benefits of a contributory Provident Fund. These men will of course continue to enjoy the alternative benefit of being eligible for pension on the same basis as other inferior Government servants.

GRIEVANCES OF MONO-CASTERS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS ; CALCUTTA.

257. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra:** (a) Is it a fact that the mono-casters of the Government of India Press, Calcutta, have to work standing in close proximity to the heated furnace in which type materials are constantly melting?

(b) Are Government aware that the gases generating out of this melting process seriously tell upon the health of the mono-casters?

(c) Is it a fact that few of the mono-casters can avail themselves of pension?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy: (a) The duties of the mono-casters in the Government of India Press, Calcutta, require that they should work in proximity to the heating furnace, but do not require that they should stand.

(b) No. The gases are drawn off by an electrically driven "Exhaust system".

(c) No.

RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE PRESS EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION, CALCUTTA.

258. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra:** (a) Is it a fact that Government received from the Honorary Secretary, Press Employees' Association, Calcutta, a copy of the resolutions passed at the annual general meeting of the Association held under the Presidency of Mr J. N. Basu, M.A., B.L., Solicitor, M.L.C., and a delegate to the Round Table Conference, drawing attention of the Government to resolutions Nos. 6, 7, 8, and 9?

(b) If the answer is in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member be pleased to state what action has been or is being taken in the matter?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy: (a) Government have received a copy of the resolutions referred to.

(b) No action has been taken. The Association is not recognised by the Government of India.

MEDICAL LEAVE FOR PIECE-WORKERS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, CALCUTTA.

259. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the amount of medical leave granted to the piece-workers appointed in the Government of India Press, Calcutta, after 15th July 1920?

(b) Is it a fact that no medical leave is granted to the piece-workers appointed after the 15th July, 1920? If not, why not?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy: (a) and (b). Permanent piece-workers employed in the Government of India Presses, who are not classed as "inferior", earn leave on medical certificate on half average pay at the rate of one month's leave for every complete period of 11 months' duty, and as regards incomplete periods, one day's leave for every 11 days' duty. The leave is cumulative and is granted only when no average pay leave is admissible. Temporary piece-workers are granted 16 days' leave on full pay in a year to cover absences on account of holidays, sickness or leave. No distinction is made between the piece-workers recruited before or after the 15th July, 1920.

APPOINTMENT OF SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION, DELHI AND AJMER-MERWARA.

260. ***Lala Jagan Nath Aggarwal:** (a) Is it a fact that as a result of the recommendations of the Committee presided over by Lord Inchcape to abolish the post of Educational Commissioner with the Government of India, Government decided not to have a separate Superintendent of Education for Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara, but combined the post of the Superintendent of Education, Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara with that of the Educational Commissioner with the Government of India?

(b) Is it a fact that Mr. J. A. Richey carried on satisfactorily the duties of the combined post with the assistance of the Head Master of the Government High School, Delhi, a senior officer of the Provincial Educational Service, who received a small allowance for his work as Assistant Superintendent?

(c) Do Government now intend to revive the post of Superintendent of Education, Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara as a separate post?

(d) If so, will Government kindly indicate in what respects the work and responsibilities of this combined post have increased of late so as to necessitate the revival of a separate post?

(e) In view of the country's finances this year and the desirability of effecting retrenchment in all directions, are Government prepared to consider the advisability of continuing the present arrangement till financial conditions improve?

(f) If the answer to part (e) be in the negative, are Government prepared at least to postpone action in the matter of filling up the separate post of Superintendent of Education, Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara, till this House has had an opportunity of knowing and discussing the next Budget, particularly the demand relating to Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (a) Yes.

(b) No; both Mr. Richey and Mr. Littlehailes, the present Educational Commissioner with the Government of India, found that the arrangement prevented them from doing justice to the duties of either appointment.

(c) Yes; the Centrally administered areas in Central India which do not at present possess any satisfactory inspecting machinery of their own will also be added to the Superintendent's charge.

(d) The expansion of education in these areas has entailed increased work and responsibility. But, apart from this consideration, the present arrangement, under which the Educational Commissioner holds collateral charge of the duties of Superintendent of Education for Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara, which was adopted as a measure of economy, has not proved to be in the best interests of educational administration in these areas. Both the auxiliary Committee of the Indian Statutory Commission and the Primary Education Committee have recommended its termination.

(e) No; the appointment of a whole-time Superintendent of Education for these areas, in particular the backward areas of Ajmer-Merwara, is necessary in the interests of efficient educational administration.

(f) Arrangements have been made to fill the post and I trust the Honourable Member, on studying the subject, will arrive at the conclusion that it is desirable to fill it.

TRAINING OF INDIANS AT THE SECURITY PRINTING, INDIA, CURRENCY NOTE PRESS AND CENTRAL STAMP STORES.

261. ***Mr. K. P. Thampan** (on behalf of Dewan Bahadur T. Rangachariar): (a) Will Government be pleased to state, who is the officer-in-charge of the administration of the Security Printing, India, Currency Note Press and the Central Stamp Stores, situated at Nasik Road? How long has he been in charge, his age, length of service, and qualifications?

(b) How long has the institution or institutions been in existence; how many persons have been trained in the institutions for becoming qualified as officers in the several Departments?

(c) Will Government be pleased to place on the table a list of apprentices, so trained for the last ten years, showing their nationality, and the present posts held by such apprentices?

(d) Will Government be pleased also to place on the table a list of officers in the various Departments of that institution drawing Rs. 200 and upwards, per mensem, stating their nationality, qualification, length of service and the terms on which they were first entertained?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state how many officers were entertained on a five-year contract system; and whether any of them are retained after the five-year period, giving reasons for such retention, if any?

(f) Was it the intention of Government, in importing officers from abroad on a five-year contract basis, that they should, in the meanwhile, train Indians so as to qualify them, to take up those posts?

(g) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a list of apprentices now being trained in the various Departments of the institution, showing their nationality and qualifications?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (a) Colonel Sir George Willis (late Royal Engineers), who has been in charge since the beginning of the building of all three establishments. His age is 55 years, length of service 35½ years; his qualifications are his experience of administration of security establishments as Deputy Master and Master of the Indian Mints for nineteen years, and his close connection with and study of the subject of security printing from 1914 to the present time.

(b) Security Printing has been in existence for five years, the Currency Note Press and Central Stamp Store for nearly three years. Eight persons who have been trained have been given posts in the operative Departments and it is proposed to fill all future vacancies from the same source if suitable candidates are forthcoming. One other person trained in Security Printing has received an appointment under the Controller of Printing and Stationery.

(c), (d), (g). Statements containing the required information are laid on the table.

(e) Eleven officers have been entertained on five-year agreements from England, of whom four have completed their first term. Of these Government have decided to retain three, with their consent, in view of their specialised knowledge. One has returned to England on completion of his first term. Another, who has not completed his five years, is under notice of discharge on account of reduction of establishment. Of the remainder, only those whose work is specially valuable will be considered for retention on the termination of their first agreement.

(f) The answer is in the affirmative.

Combined List of Apprentices entertained in Security Printing, India, and Currency Note Press.

Serial No.	Name.	Nationality.	Date of Appointment.	Qualification.	Remarks.
	<i>A Grade.</i>				
1	Mr. F. C. Cackett	European .	11th January 1928	Senior Cambridge and scholarship.	Completed and proceeded to England.
2	" V. R. Godbole	Hindu .	1st June 1927	First year Arts	In England for further studies in the printing line as a State scholar.
3	" D. Skinner	Statutory Indian	13th June 1927	8th Standard.	
4	" E. Griffin	Do.	14th June 1927	7th Standard.	
5	" L. Bessent	Do.	15th August 1927	(Metric. class).	
6	" P. W. Adams	Do.	4th November 1927	7th Standard.	
7	" J. E. Lobo	Indo-Portuguese Christian.	6th December 1927	Metric.	
8	" W. M. H. Corby	European .	3rd January 1928	8th Standard.	
9	" D. P. Gaynor	Statutory Indian	3rd January 1928	Do.	
10	" S. Desilva	Do.	12th March 1928	7th Standard (Metric class).	
11	" V. R. Hildreth	Do.	18th June 1928	Junior Cambridge.	Discharged.
12	" J. V. Hate	Hindu .	10th September 1928	First Year Arts.	
13	" S. V. Upadhye	Do.	8th October 1928	8th Standard.	
14	" F. T. Jones	Statutory Indian	17th January 1929	Metric.	Promoted from B Grade.
15	" V. T. Rege	Hindu .	1st August 1929	3 years training in England.	
16	" Shafi Ahmed	Muslim .	3rd September 1929	Do.	Discharged.
17	" Sultan Ahmed	Do.	3rd September 1929	Do.	Resigned.
18	" B. A. Deshmukh	Hindu .	29th November 1929	7th Standard.	Resigned.
19	" T. Bessent	Statutory Indian	20th January 1930	Metric.	Resigned.
20	" A. C. Fernandez	Christian .	10th February 1930	3rd year V. J. Technical School Examinations.	
	<i>B Grade.</i>				
1	Mr. Y. S. Sant	Hindu .	1st November 1927	Metric.	Promoted to A Grade on 1st August 1929 (vide 15 above).
2	" V. T. Rege	Do.	12th March 1928	6th Standard.	
3	" B. S. Chitnis	Do.	10th September 1928	4th Standard.	
4	" Karma Singh	Sikh .	10th September 1928	S. L. C.	
5	" B. Nandlal	Hindu .	3rd October 1929	Do.	Discharged.
6	" Tinkari Mukherji	Do.	11th February 1930	Do.	

As the duration of apprenticeship is 4½ years and as none of the present apprentices have finished their training no appointments from among the apprentices have so far been made.

LIST OF OFFICERS DRAWING RS. 200 AND UPWARDS PER Mensem.

SECURITY PRINTING DEPARTMENT.

Gazetted Officers.

Serial No.	Name.	Designation.	Present pay.	Nationality.	Qualification.	Length of Service.	Terms and Grade on which first entertained.	Remarks.
1	Colonel Sir George Willis, C.I.E., M.V.O.	Master	Rs. 3,675	European	Royal Engineers, M. I. Mech. E. & M. I. E. (Ind.), 19 years experience in Indian Mints.	Yrs. 36	Pay of Sir George Willis is personal.	
2	Lt.-Colonel W. E. Perry, M.C., R.E.	Deputy Master	1,700 100 special pay. £30 overseas pay.	Do.	Royal Engineers and Survey Department of India with experience of map printing.	26 nearly.	Pay is personal to Lt.-Col. W. E. Perry.	
3	M. G. W. Coster	Deputy Controller of Stamps.	1,250	Do.	Home trained printer. Transferred from office of Controller of Printing and Stationery.	21	Rs. 800—50—1,400	

LIST OF OFFICERS DRAWING RS. 200 AND UPWARDS PER MENSEM—contd.

Non-gazetted Officers.

Serial No.	Name.	Designation.	Present Pay.	Nationality.	Qualification.	Length of service.	Terms and Grade on which first entertained (in S.P.I.)	Remarks.
			Rs.			Y. M.		
<i>Security Printing, India.</i>								
1	Mr. F. G. Cackett	Chief Supervisor, Printing.	1,200	European	Home Training	7 0	Contract for 1 year. Contract for 5 years. Rs. 1,000—50—1,200 with free quarters.	On leave.
2	Mr. E. A. Batchelor	Supervisor, Letterpress.	800	"	Ditto	5 6	Contract for 5 years. Rs. 600—40—800 with free quarters.	
3	Mr. S. K. Bose	Junior Supervisor, Printing.	230	Indian	Full apprenticeship in India and local training.	5 6	Assistant Suvr., Printing, Rs. 100—10—150—15—300.	At present officiating as Suvr., L.' Press, on Rs. 440 per mensem.
4	Mr. K. N. Sathe	Ditto	215	"	Locally trained	5 0	Assistant Storekeeper, Rs. 100—10—150—15—300	
5	Mr. H. W. Barr	Engraver	1,250	European	Home training	5 6	Contract for 5 years Rs. 1,000—50—1,200 with free quarters.	Includes Deputation period for study at the Royal Mint.
6	Mr. T. E. Jones	Supervisor, Workshop.	700	Anglo-Indian.	Fully trained Mechanical Engineer.	10 0	Supervisor, Workshop, Rs. 450—50—750.	
7	Mr. J. V. Hildreth	Chief Supervisor, Control.	1,000	"	Long Mint Experience.	26 0	Chief Supervisor, Control, Rs. 750—50—1,000.	

8	Mr. A. E. Bulmer	Storekeeper	380	European	Trained Military Storekeeper.	6 0	Store-keeper, Rs. 300—20—400
9	Mr. V. R. Shivapurkar.	Office Superintendent.	325	Indian	Transferred from Currency Office.	15 0	Superintendent, Rs. 250—15—400—25—550.
10	Mr. A. K. Narasimachariar.	Head Accountant	280	"	Trained in Commercial Audit work.	5 0	Head Accountant, Rs. 200—15—500
11	Mr. G. D. Agarkar	General Cashier	230	"	Previous Government Accounts office experience.	21 0	Accounts Clerk Rs. 60—6—120—5—200.
<i>Central Stamp Store.</i>							
12	Mr. H. Rees-Jones	Storekeeper	340	Welsh	Locally trained	3 0	Store-keeper, Rs. 300—20—400
13	Mr. M. S. Srinivasan.	Assistant Controller of Stamps.	205	Indian	Graduate of the Madras University, Previous Government office experience and local training.	5 0	Correspondence Clerk, Rs. 40—4—160.
<i>Currency Note Press.</i>							
14	Mr. R. J. Allison	Senior Supervisor, Offset.	750	European	Home training	3 0	Senior Supervisor, Offset, 5 years Agreement.
15	Mr. H. A. Gilder-sleeves.	Junior Supervisor, Offset.	650	"	Ditto	2 2	5 years agreement.
16	Mr. H. H. Johnson	Ditto	480	"	Locally trained	3 0	Daily paid.
17	Mr. W. S. C. Macey	Ditto	520	"	Home training	3 2	5 years agreement.
18	Mr. R. N. Price	Junior Supervisor, L'Press.	520	"	Ditto	3 2	Ditto.
19	Mr. W. H. Jones	Junior Supervisor, Guillotine.	520	"	Ditto	3 3	Ditto.
20	Mr. H. E. Smith	Junior Supervisor, L'Press.	520	"	Ditto	3 2	Ditto.
21	Mr. B. L. Weir	Ditto	440	Statutory Indian.	Locally trained	2 11	Daily paid.

Transferred from A. G.'s office, Bombay.

Now officiating as Dy. Controller of Stamps on Rs. 500 per mensem.

Under notice.

LIST OF OFFICERS DRAWING Rs. 200 AND UPWARDS PER Mensem—concl'd.

Serial No.	Name.	Designation.	Present Pay.	Nationality.	Qualification.	Length of service.	Terms and grade on which first entered (in C. N. P.)	Remarks.
Rs. <i>Currency Note Press—cont'd.</i> Y. M.								
22	Mr. T. E. Ley	Assistant Supervisor, Offset.	205	European	Mint and local training.	2 11	Daily paid.	
23	Mr. G. K. Griffin	Assistant Supervisor, Guillotine.	220	Statutory Indian.	Locally trained.	3 1	Ditto.	
24	Mr. T. I. Archer	Junior Supervisor, Engraving.	520	European	Home training	3 0	5 years agreement.	
25	Mr. Indu Madhav Das.	Assistant Supervisor, Engraving.	205	Indian	Undergraduate & trained in Germany.	2 11	Rs. 175—15—325.	
26	Mr. P. H. Peacock	Storekeeper	340	European	Locally trained	2 11	Rs. 300—20—400.	
27	Rao Bahadur Wasudev Anant.	Chief Supervisor, Control.	850	Indian	Previous service in Mint.	23 7	Rs. 750—50—1,000	Transferred from post of Bullion Keeper, H. M.'s Mint, Bombay.
28	Mr. N. G. Wandrekar.	Junior Supervisor, Control.	230	"	B.A.	9 8	Rs. 200—15—350—20—550.	
29	Mr. B. S. Jakkli	Ditto	230	"	Undergraduate	9 4	Ditto.	
30	Mr. G. H. Kapadia	Ditto.	230	"	B.A.	5 4	Ditto.	
31	Mr. G. K. Bhagwat	Ditto	230	"	Undergraduate	5 1	Ditto.	
32	Mr. S. C. Ganguli	Ditto	230	"	B.Sc.	2 2	Ditto.	
33	Mr. T. N. Adwani	Ditto	230	"	B.Sc.	2 2	Ditto.	

LOSSES INCURRED AT THE SECURITY PRINTING AND CURRENCY NOTE PRESSES AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST INDIAN APPRENTICES.

262. ***Mr. K. P. Thampan** (on behalf of Dewan Bahadur T. Rangachariar): (a) Who are the officers holding the position of Chief Supervisor of Control in the Security Printing and the Currency Note Press, respectively; has any security been taken from each of them; and if no security is taken from either of them, will Government please state the reason therefor?

(b) What is the extent of the loss incurred by Government by the theft of currency notes in 1928? Was any enquiry held in respect of that loss, and if so, will Government kindly state whether any of the officers were found guilty of stupidity, insufficient supervision, or carelessness; and what was the punishment awarded for such carelessness?

(c) What was the salary they were receiving at that time and what is the salary they are receiving now?

(d) Is it a fact that under the standing orders issued by the Master, Europeans and Anglo-Indians need not possess any educational qualification; whereas the Indian apprentices have passed the Matriculation Examination, subject also to an age limit? If so, what is the reason for this distinction?

(e) Have the Government of India received complaints from the Indian employees and apprentices in those institutions of unfair and harsh treatment at the hands of the European superior staff? What action was taken on those complaints, if any—whether any enquiry was held thereon, and if so, with what result?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (a) In Security Printing, Mr. J. V. Hildreth; in the Currency Note Press Rao Bahadur Vasudev Anant. From the former no security has been taken in view of his long previous service in the Mint and the security which Government holds in the form of his earned pension; in future appointments of persons not thus qualified, security will be required. Moreover the products of Security Printing, stamps, postal stationery and stamped papers, though valuable, are not readily convertible in any quantity into cash, whereas in the Currency Note Press all the products are legal tender and therefore the Chief Supervisor, Control, of that Press gives a security of Rs. 30,000.

(b) The losses of notes in 1928 were 155 of Rs. 10 and one of Rs. 100. The nett loss after recoveries was Rs. 1,272-8-0. The Master held an enquiry and reported to Government that the theft in the case of the Rs. 10 notes was due to insufficient supervision, stupidity and carelessness on the part of the probationary Chief Supervisor, Control, and a probationary Assistant Supervisor. They were both removed from their posts, the former being reverted to his previous employment as a letterpress printer and the second to the daily paid establishment.

(c) The probationary Chief Supervisor, Control, was receiving Rs. 350 while on probation as part of the pay of the post, Rs. 750—50—1,000. He now receives as a letterpress supervisor Rs. 440 in the grade of Rs. 400—40—560. The Assistant Supervisor was receiving Rs. 100 in the grade of Rs. 100—10—150—15—300; after a period on daily wage he has now been appointed probationary junior Supervisor Printing on Rs. 135 as part of the pay of the post Rs. 200—15—350—20—550.

(d) No.

(e) No complaint has been received by the Government of India, though I may mention that I personally have received an anonymous communication. It is obviously impossible to take action on such communications.

APPOINTMENT OF INDIAN CHRISTIANS AS TRAFFIC INSPECTORS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

263. ***The Revd. J. C. Chatterjee:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of Traffic Inspectors on the operating side of the North Western Railway, according to communities to which these Inspectors belong?

(b) Is it a fact that no Indian Christians have been so far appointed Traffic Inspectors on the operating side of the North Western Railway?

(c) If the answer to part (b) is in the affirmative, are Government prepared to consider the reasonable claims of the Indian Christian community, for representation in this particular branch of the North Western Railway?

(d) Will Government be pleased to furnish a comparative statement, showing the number of European, Anglo-Indian, Hindu, Muhammadan, Sikh and Indian Christian Traffic Inspectors and senior subordinates, who have either been posted or earmarked for Gazetted rank on the North Western Railway?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) Government regret that they are not prepared to supplement with figures for particular classes of posts the information in regard to communal representation in Railway Services given in the Annual Administration Report on Indian Railways.

(b) Government understand that since 1920 no one, who can be identified as an Indian Christian, has been appointed as a Traffic Inspector on the North Western Railway.

(c) Promotion to the class of Traffic Inspector is made from classes below, with due regard to seniority and merit and not on communal considerations.

(d) No subordinates are earmarked for promotion to gazetted rank. The selection of subordinates for promotion to gazetted rank is made by the Railway Board from recommendations made periodically by Railway Administrations.

The Revd. J. C. Chatterjee: May I ask what the Honourable Member means by the description "No one who can be identified as an Indian Christian"?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: To answer the Honourable Member's question as it was put, it would be necessary to make inquiries from each Traffic Inspector as to what his religion was.

The Revd. J. C. Chatterjee: Are not the employees of the railway required to declare their nationality as well as their religion?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: I am afraid I shall have to ask for notice of that.

ABOLITION OF THE OFFICES OF THE DEPUTY CONTROLLER OF CURRENCY IN INDIA.

264. ***Mr. S. G. Jog:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether there were three offices of the Deputy Controller of Currency in India?

(b) Has one of them now been abolished and by doing so, is any saving effected?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state what will be the annual saving if the remaining two offices are abolished?

(d) If the answer to part (b) is in the affirmative, are Government prepared to take steps to abolish the remaining two by transferring the work to the Currency Offices, as in Cawnpore and Lahore, in order to effect a saving in view of the present financial position? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (a) Yes.

(b) The post of Deputy Controller of the Currency, Northern India, was abolished in July, 1928. The annual saving is roughly Rs. 44,000.

(c) This part of the question apparently contemplates the abolition of the two offices and not merely the abolition of the posts of the Deputy Controllers. It would be quite impossible to do without the administrative work done by these officers, and I am unable to see how any other suitable arrangements could be made. It is impossible to estimate savings in a hypothetical contingency which could never arise.

(d) When the post of the Deputy Controller of the Currency, Northern India, was abolished, his duties in connection with local resource were only partially transferred to the Currency Officers in Cawnpore and Lahore, the control over the more important questions being transferred to the Deputy Controller of the Currency, Calcutta, to whom the whole of the work of Government securities was also transferred. In addition to their work in connection with local resource and Government securities, the Deputy Controllers of the Currency, Bombay and Calcutta, have very important duties in connection with the administration of the general currency policy of Government, such as liaison with the Imperial Bank and the banking and commercial community generally, transactions connected with sterling remittance, etc. The Deputy Controller of the Currency, Calcutta, has also to act for the Controller when he is on tour. These duties could not possibly be transferred to Currency Officers, nor can any retrenchment of these posts be considered while Government retain responsibility for the management of the currency. Government, therefore, do not consider it necessary to examine the possible annual saving if these two offices were abolished and their duties transferred, because they are convinced that any direct saving would be much less than the losses which they would incur if the posts were abolished.

Mr. S. G. Jog: Who was the occupant of the post that was abolished? Was he an Indian, Anglo-Indian or European?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: As far as I understand the question it is, when one of the Deputy Controller's offices was abolished, who was the officer holding that post? I am afraid I must have notice of that question. It happened before my time. I do not know who was holding the post at that time.

DEFECTIVE RAILROAD SUBWAY BETWEEN BADAMI BAGH AND LAHORE RAILWAY STATIONS.

265. ***Mr. B. R. Puri:** (a) Are Government aware of the fact:

- (i) that railroad subway No. A/6 between the Badami Bagh and the Lahore Railway Stations is too narrow for general traffic;
- (ii) that owing to the low level of the said subway, water collects there during the rains and that, as a result, pedestrians find it impossible to pass through the subway; and
- (iii) that owing to the said defects, the people belonging to such neighbouring villages as Bhamman-Khokhran, Jhuggian, Karaul and Bela Basti Ram have no convenient outlet or passage for their goods and that they are being put to much inconvenience?

(b) If the answer to part (a) is in the affirmative, are Government prepared to consider, at an early date, the removal of the aforesaid defects?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: Government are not aware of the position, but have sent a copy of the Honourable Member's question to the Agent of the North Western Railway for his consideration.

PROVISION OF A CHILDREN'S WARD AT THE PESHAWAR HOSPITAL IN MEMORY OF THE CHILDREN OF SARDAR GANGA SINGH.

266. ***Mr. B. R. Puri:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government of the North-West Frontier Provinces have agreed to construct a children's ward in the local hospital at Peshawar in memory of the minor children of Sardar Ganga Singh, Supervisor, Government Military Dairy Farm, Peshawar, who were shot dead by a European soldier during the recent Peshawar disturbances?

(b) If so, what amount of money are Government prepared to spend in this direction and when is the work of construction likely to begin?

Mr. J. G. Acheson: The information will be conveyed to the Honourable Member as soon as a reply is received from the Chief Commissioner, who has been addressed.

Mr. B. Das: May I suggest that the reply be published in the Assembly Debates. It should be laid on the table and not communicated to the Honourable Member.

Mr. J. G. Acheson: If there is no objection to that, I propose to do so.

HIGH BANK RATE IN INDIA.

267. ***Lala Hari Raj Swarup:** (a) Are Government aware that the bank rate in the United States of America and France has come down to 2 per cent. and in England to $2\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.?

(b) Are Government further aware that it has recently been raised to 7 per cent. in India by the Imperial Bank?

(c) Are Government in a position to state any special reasons why there is such a great difference between the Indian and the foreign bank rates?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (a) The bank rate of the New York Federal Reserve Bank and of the Bank of France is 2 per cent. and that of the Bank of England is 3 per cent.

(b) Yes.

(c) The bank rate is adjusted according to the financial conditions of the country concerned. If the Honourable Member will consult Table XIV of the monthly Bulletin of the League of Nations—which I shall be pleased to show him—he will find an interesting statement of the bank rates in various countries, and will see that many countries have as high or higher bank rates than India.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: Is the financial credit of India so bad as to necessitate the raising of interest to 7 per cent.?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: It is not a question of the financial position of India in the sense to which the Honourable Member refers. It is a question of the position of the money market and the exchange position which necessitate some regulation of the bank rate.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: Are not these regulated by the Government themselves?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: As I understand the question, it is "Are not these regulated by the Government itself?" I presume the Honourable Member refers to the bank rate. The bank rate is the bank rate of the Imperial Bank of India and is fixed by the Directors of the Imperial Bank of India. In the present conditions in India, as the Honourable Member is very well aware, unlike conditions in most countries, the duty of currency control is in the hands of the Government, and the duty of credit control, and the control of the money market is in the hands of the Imperial Bank. In countries where there are Central Banks, these two duties are united. It is, as I think everybody agrees, very desirable that these duties should be united. That is one of the strong reasons for setting up a Reserve Bank in India. At present the two duties being in the hands of separate authorities, it is of course necessary that these two authorities should act in close consultation, and the Government, as currency authority, is in close consultation with the Managing Governors of the Imperial Bank and seeks to obtain their co-operation in a common policy.

Sir Hari Singh Gour: Seeing that the establishment of a Reserve Bank in India is necessary, what steps does the Honourable Member propose to take to establish such a bank?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: I do not think, in answer to a supplementary question on a matter of this kind it is really conducive to the interests of the conduct of the ordinary business of this House that we should enter into a long debate on the question of the formation of a Reserve Bank for India. The Honourable Member is fully aware of my own attitude on this question and of the Government's policy on this question. In answer to a supplementary question the other day, I stated that in my opinion and speaking on behalf of the Government of India, it was most desirable that a Reserve Bank for India should be set up at the earliest possible moment. I pointed out that it was a matter not merely of formal arrangements but of material arrangements, which

were not in all cases matter of great ease. I am quite convinced that this House and the country will have early opportunities of considering the setting up of a Reserve Bank. If there is anything that I can do to expedite that desirable consummation, I can assure Honourable Members that I will do it.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: What was the amount of the reserve balance of the Imperial Bank which necessitated the raising of the bank rate to 7 per cent.?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: I understand the Honourable Member, Sir, to ask me what was the state of the cash balance of the Imperial Bank at the time when the bank rate was put up to 7 per cent. I am afraid I must have notice of that question, as I should not like to answer it incorrectly, and have not got the figure in my head at the time.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon: Is it a fact that, on account of the borrowings of Government and of the issue of Treasury Bills, the bank rate was raised to 7 per cent.?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: Again, Sir, I am not quite certain that I understood the question, but I think the purport of it was to ask me whether the necessity for putting up the bank rate to 7 per cent. was caused by the borrowings of the Government of India.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon: Yes.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: I think the most accurate answer that I can give to that question, Sir, is to say that the two have no connection at all.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: Did Government approve of the action of the Imperial Bank in raising the bank rate to 7 per cent.?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: Yes, Sir.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon: Are Government paying at present $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for Treasury Bills?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: That is about the rate which is at present paid by the Government on three months Treasury Bills.

COST OF THE MEERUT CONSPIRACY CASE.

268. ***Lala Hari Raj Swarup:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state which Government is bearing the cost of the trial in the conspiracy case at Meerut?

(b) What amount of money has so far been spent?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: (a) Expenditure on all matters connected with the case, which are dealt with by the Government of the United Provinces with their ordinary machinery and as a matter of routine is met by that Government. All other charges are met from Central revenues.

(b) The approximate expenditure up to the end of 1930 amounted to Rs. 7,32,000.

Mr. Jagan Nath Aggarwal: May I suggest to the Government the desirability of withdrawing the prosecutions in the present case?

EXPENDITURE BY GOVERNMENT ON THE INDIAN BROADCASTING COMPANY.

269. ***Lala Hari Raj Swarup:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state how much public money has been spent on the Indian Radio Company since it has been taken over by Government?

(b) When was it taken over by Government?

(c) What have been the results of its working under the charge of Government.

Mr. J. A. Shillidy: (a), (b) and (c). I presume that the Honourable Member is referring to the Indian Broadcasting Company, the assets of which were purchased by Government for Rs. 3,00,000 in March, 1930. A statement showing the financial results of the working of the Indian State Broadcasting service from April 1st, 1930, when Government assumed direct control, to September, 1930, has already been placed on the table of the House in reply to part (a) of question No. 134 by Mr. K. C. Roy on the 28th January, 1931.

FRANCHISE OF INDIAN SETTLERS IN FIJI.

270. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) Are Government aware of the proceedings of the Round Table Conference of the Indian community in the Fiji Colony, a report of which is published in the *Tanganyika Opinion*, weekly edition, dated the 17th January, 1930, at page 16?

(b) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the fact that the Indian community in Fiji have unanimously asked for a common electoral roll?

(c) Are Government aware that in protest against the application of a communal franchise in Fiji, the three nominated Indian members of the Legislative Council resigned their seats?

(d) What steps have Government taken so far to bring the Indian community of Fiji on to a basis of common electoral roll with the Europeans, and what further steps do they intend to take for the purpose?

(e) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the motion on common franchise in the Fiji Legislative Council brought by Mr. Vishnu Deo and the debate thereon published in the *Tanganyika Opinion* of the 27th February, 1930, at pages 5 and 6?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (a) Yes.

(b) So far as Government are aware, the demand for a common electoral roll has the support of the bulk of the Indian community in Fiji.

(c) Yes.

(d) Government are giving their most careful consideration to this matter, and are not losing sight of it.

(e) The Honourable Member is presumably referring to the *Tanganyika Opinion* of the 7th February, 1930. Government have seen it.

APPOINTMENT OF A TRADE COMMISSIONER IN EAST AFRICA.

271. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** Will Government kindly state when the appointment of Trade Commissioner in East Africa is to be made, in the interests of overseas trade there?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: Government are not in a position to say when the appointment of an Indian Trade Commissioner in East Africa will be made, as progress with the recently sanctioned scheme for the appointment of Indian Trade Commissioners abroad has been delayed by the existing financial stringency.

DIFFICULTIES OF DECK PASSENGERS TRAVELLING BETWEEN BOMBAY AND EAST AFRICA.

272. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the Memorandum on the difficulties of deck passengers voyaging between Bombay and East Africa, presented by the Social Service League of Mombassa to the Passengers and Traffic Relief Association of Bombay, as published in the *Tanganyika Opinion*, dated the 2nd May, 1930, at pages 4 and 5?

(b) Will Government state what steps they have so far taken and what steps they further propose to take to remove the grievances of the deck passengers?

(c) Are Government prepared to sponsor an Indian steamship company to run its vessels between Bombay and East Africa?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: (a) Government have seen the memorandum referred to.

(b) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply to part (d) of unstarred question No. 185 published at pages 1117-1118 of the Legislative Assembly Debates, dated the 27th February, 1930.

(c) No proposal for the grant of financial assistance to an Indian line of steamers between Bombay and East Africa is under consideration by the Government of India.

RAID ON A MOSQUE IN TANGANYIKA.

273. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the following:

(i) a leading article under the heading "Tanga Mosque Sensation" published in the *Tanganyika Opinion*, dated the 13th June, 1930, at page 5;

(ii) a report of the proceedings of a mass meeting published in the same paper at pages 8 and 9 in regard to the outrage on a mosque at Tanga in the Tanganyika territory; and

(iii) the text of a telegram from Tanga published in the same paper at page 12 under the heading "Tanga-Bohra Mosque Raided by the Armed Police with Fixed Bayonets and Shoes on";

in which it is stated that while the Bohra community of Tanga was busy in their mosque in performance of religious worship on the tenth Moharrum day, the Superintendent of Police suddenly appeared in that sacred place

with shoes on, and asked the worshippers to disperse, and eventually called the armed police with fixed bayonets and used unwarranted force to disperse the peaceful worshippers, including women and children?

(b) Have Government taken care to ascertain the facts of this occurrence, the steps taken against the offending police officer to punish him, and asked for a guarantee for the non-recurrence of similar outrages.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (a) Yes.

(b) Immediate action was taken by the Governor of Tanganyika, who appointed a senior Magistrate to enquire *inter alia* into all the circumstances connected with the action of the police, and particularly of the Acting Superintendent. The order appointing the Commission of Enquiry was published in the Tanganyika Territory Gazette Extraordinary of the 12th June, 1930. Government have not seen the Commission's findings, but it appears from a report in the *East African Standard* of the 2nd August, 1930, that the officer concerned was removed from his command at Tanganyika.

SETTLEMENT IN THE KENYA HIGHLANDS AND UNION BETWEEN TANGANYIKA AND KENYA.

274. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the opinion of the Executive Committee of the East African Indian National Congress, Nairobi, on the two White Papers issued by the Imperial Government in East Africa as published in the shape of resolutions in the *Tanganyika Opinion*, dated the 4th July, 1930, at page 8?

(b) Do Government propose to ask the Imperial Government to re-open the question of throwing open the Kenya Highlands to all non-native communities for settlement?

(c) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the *Tanganyika Opinion*, dated 4th July, 1930, at page 8 publishing a text of the cable sent by the Tanganyika Indian Association to the Secretary of State for the Colonies expressing their opinions on the two White Papers?

(d) Are Government aware that the Indian community of Tanganyika is opposed to any kind of closer union with Kenya, whether administrative, political or economic?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (a) Yes.

(b) No such proposal is under consideration at present.

(c) The Honourable Member is presumably referring to the telegram reproduced on page 12. Government have seen it.

(d) The statement made by the Honourable Member may be taken as correct, if the views of the Indian Association, Dar-es-Salaam, represent the views of the Indian community of Tanganyika as a whole.

INDIAN REPRESENTATION BEFORE THE JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON EAST AFRICA.

275. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to page 10 of the *Tanganyika Opinion*, dated the 7th November, 1930, to a Reuter's news under the heading "East African Indian Representation"?

(b) Will Government state what arrangements have been made by them to make their representations before the Joint Parliamentary Committee on East Africa?

(c) Have Government made necessary arrangements through the Tanganyika Indian Association, Dar-es-Salaam, and the East African Indian National Congress, Nairobi, to enable co-operation between the witnesses of the Government of India, and those of Tanganyika and Kenya, so far as the combined demands of the colonial East African Indian community are concerned?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (a) Yes.

(b) Subject to the Joint Select Committee's agreement to the suggestion of the Government of India that they may be permitted to present their case through a representative, the Right Honourable Srinivasa Sastri will be deputed for the purpose.

(c) The Government of India have no information whether the Tanganyika Indian Association and the East African Indian National Congress have been invited to give, or have made arrangements to offer, evidence before the Joint Parliamentary Committee. In case either or both institutions are represented, our representative will be duly requested to maintain close touch with them and to give them all the assistance he can.

GRIEVANCES OF INDIANS IN TANGANYIKA.

276. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the following:

- (i) a report of the speech of the Chairman of the Reception Committee of the Tanganyika Indian Conference held at Dar-es-Salaam on the 28th and 29th December, 1930, as published in the *Tanganyika Opinion*, dated 2nd January, 1931, at page 3;
- (ii) a report of the speech of the President of the said Conference as published in the same paper at pages 8 and 9; and
- (iii) the text of the 21 resolutions passed at the same Conference and published in the same paper at pages 10 and 11?

(b) What steps have Government taken, or do they propose to take, with reference to matters mentioned above?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (a) Yes.

(b) The resolutions have not yet been communicated by the Conference to the Government of India. According to the report in the Press, to which the Honourable Member has invited my attention, the resolutions cover a variety of subjects, with many of which the Government of India are not concerned. The Government of India will communicate to their representative before the Joint Select Committee of Parliament such of the resolutions as appertain to matters that will be considered by the Committee.

OBJECTION BY INDIANS TO FILMS PRODUCED IN DAR-ES-SALAAM.

277. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to a report published in the *Tanganyika Opinion*, dated the 21st February, 1930 (pages 12-13), in which it is stated that the "Light of Asia" film which was exhibited, in Dar-es-Salaam, was strenuously objected to by the Sinhalese Buddhist Association, as containing matters, some of which were incorrect, and some objectionable from the religious point of view?

(b) Are Government aware that the picture was banned in Ceylon, in Zanzibar, and other places where a Buddhist population exists?

(c) Are Government aware that there are no Indians appointed on the Film Censor Board in Dar-es-Salaam to protect the legitimate religious susceptibilities of the Indians, which are outraged by the production of objectionable pictures by non-Indian film companies? Have Government taken any steps, or do they propose to take any now to safeguard the interests of the Indians in this respect?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (a) Government have now seen this report.

(b) and (c). Government have no information beyond what is contained in the report, to which the Honourable Member has drawn their attention. No representation from the Indian community in Tanganyika has been received.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: Now that the attention of the Government has been drawn to that matter, what steps do Government propose to take with regard to it?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: To try to acquire knowledge.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: Will they try to have sufficient accurate knowledge in order to be able to take some practical steps in the matter so as to prevent a recurrence of such incidents?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: That we always do. (Laughter.)

SEARCH OF THE DAUGHTER OF THE LATE MAULANA MUHAMMAD ALI BY THE RAILWAY POLICE.

278. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** Is it a fact that the daughter of the late Maulana Muhammad Ali, while going to Rampur from Delhi, on receiving the news of her father's death, was searched by the Railway Police at Moradabad, at the instance of some excise official of Ghaziabad? If so, what action was taken by Government in the matter? Do Government propose to move the United Provinces Government in the matter, in order to vindicate the honour of the bereaved lady?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: I have asked for the full facts of the case from the Local Government and will inform the Honourable Member of the result as soon as possible.

Maulvi Muhammad Yakub: Will Government be pleased to lay the reply on the table of the House instead of informing me individually?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: I shall be prepared to consider that when I am in receipt of the full information.

Mr. Amar Nath Dutt: Are not Government under an obligation to lay the reply on the table of the House so that we may have an opportunity of putting supplementary questions?

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: Have not all other Members got the right to know the answer to every starred question, which can only be done if the answer is laid on the table of the House, instead of being communicated only to the individual Member putting the question?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: I shall very carefully consider all these suggestions when I am in receipt of the full information.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: Sir, we have a right to know the replies; it is not a matter merely for the Honourable Member's consideration.

PAY OF TEACHERS IN EAST INDIAN RAILWAY SCHOOLS.

279. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if all the East Indian Railway High Schools have been allowed time-scale of pay as in the Local Government Schools?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state if all the East Indian Railway Middle Schools have been put in the same category as the High School with regard to scale of pay?

(c) If the answer to part (b) be in the negative, do Government propose to sanction for the two Railway Middle Schools of the United Provinces (Bareilly and Mughal Sarai) the same scale of pay as that of the East Indian Railway High School?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) Yes, subject to the condition that the new rates of pay are applicable only to such of the existing incumbents as possess educational qualifications equivalent to those laid down by the Local Government for teachers on corresponding rates of pay. But I would add with reference to this condition that the Agent, East Indian Railway, has recently been empowered to extend the benefit of the new rates of pay to particular teachers not so qualified when this is considered to be justified on account of the character of the work of the individual.

(b) and (c). I have made enquiries and will communicate with the Honourable Member later.

ENSUING PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION EXAMINATION.

280. ***Mr. Bhuput Sing** (on behalf of Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury): (a) Is it a fact that an examination by the Public Service Commission for the recruitment of the ministerial staff of the Government of India and attached offices is going to be held in February next?

(b) Is it a fact that departmental candidates will also be allowed to sit for the examination?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the class of candidates who are being treated as departmental candidates?

(d) Is it a fact that many candidates who did not conform to the age restrictions imposed by the Public Service Commission nor to the educational qualifications were allowed to sit at the last qualifying examination held for departmental candidates?

(e) If the answer to part (d) above be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the reasons why they were allowed to appear?

(f) Do Government propose to extend the same concession to persons similarly placed and who are working in the Government of India Secretariat and attached offices and who desire to appear at the ensuing examination? If not, why not?

(g) Will Government be pleased to state the educational qualifications, period of service, and special qualifications if any of Messrs. Moti Ram, Abdul Latif, Feroze Jang, Gajjan Singh, N. K. Puri, Amar Nath Dhonn, S. C. Seth, R. R. Seth and Mr. Abdul Haq, clerks of the Army Headquarters, who were allowed to sit at the last qualifying examination and will they be pleased to state the reasons whether any preferential treatment was accorded to them? If so, why?

(h) Will they be pleased to state the reasons in each case why they were permitted to sit for the Third Division test of the Public Service Commission in the last departmental examination as a special case?

(i) Is it a fact that there are several clerks in the Government of India offices who hold substantive appointments and who do not possess the educational standard required by the Public Service Commission?

(j) Is it also a fact that such clerks are not being allowed to sit in the ensuing Public Service Commission examination, which will be held for the departmental candidates, on the ground that they are either age-barred or are educationally below the standard required by the Public Service Commission?

(k) Is it a fact that many of them are working in the Government of India offices for periods ranging over years?

(l) If the answer to the part (k) is in the affirmative, do Government propose to exempt them from the Public Service Commission examination and confirm them in their posts? If not, why not?

(m) Is it a fact that several departmental candidates, having the necessary educational qualifications, but age-barred, being above 24 years of age, are permitted to sit only for the Third Division Examination?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes, provided they satisfy the rules as to age and educational qualifications which are applicable to external candidates.

(c) Any person who is permanently or temporarily employed in the Government of India Secretariat or its attached offices.

(d) The condition regarding age was relaxed in one case only, so far as I am aware, while the condition in respect of educational qualifications was relaxed in several cases.

(e), (g), (h) and (i). The Public Service Commission are empowered to admit to the examination persons with educational qualifications other than those prescribed and to exempt from the examination, or to admit to a particular division, persons who, by reason of their previous record, can in their opinion properly be exempted or admitted as the case may be. I am satisfied that this discretion has been exercised properly. No useful purpose will be served by calling for the details asked for in part (g).

(f) No. The concession was granted for special reasons which do not apply in the case of a competitive examination.

(i) It is possible, but any such person must have been recruited before the Staff Selection Board was instituted or have received exemption on special grounds.

(j) and (k). Yes.

(m) The matter is under consideration.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

ILLNESS OF SIR NORMAN BOLTON, LATE CHIEF COMMISSIONER, NORTH WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE.

147. **Mr. Bhuput Sing:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Sir Norman Bolton, late Chief Commissioner, North-West Frontier Province was ailing before the Peshawar disturbances?

(b) How many hours after the disturbances did he leave Peshawar?

(c) To whom did he make over charge of his office when he relinquished it?

(d) The details of the letter or telegram by which he made over charge?

Mr. J. G. Acheson: (a) No, Sir. Sir Norman Bolton had been in charge of heavy responsibilities as Chief Commissioner, North-West Frontier Province, for seven years, but there was no reason to anticipate the grave breakdown which compelled him, under medical advice, to leave Peshawar on 30th April, 1930.

(b), (c) and (d). Sir Norman left Peshawar for England seven days after the outbreak of the first disturbances, having made over charge to Mr. Latimer, then Revenue Commissioner, North-West Frontier Province. The report of the transfer of charge does not contain any further details.

PEACE PROPOSALS OF SIR TEJ BAHADUR SAPRU AND MR. M. R. JAYAKAR.

148. **Rai Bahadur Sukhraj Rai:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state at whose initiative peace proposals were undertaken with Mahatma Gandhi and other Congress leaders by Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru and Mr. M. R. Jayakar? Was it at the instance of His Excellency the Viceroy or of their own accord?

(b) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table the whole correspondence that passed between His Excellency the Viceroy, Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru and Mr. M. R. Jayakar on the one hand and Mahatma Gandhi and Congress leaders on the other?

The Honourable Sir James Ormerod: (a) and (b). I would refer the Honourable Member to the correspondence which has already appeared in the Press, and particularly to Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru's letter dated the 13th July, and to His Excellency's reply of the 16th July, 1930, to which there is nothing to add.

IMPROVEMENT OF THE BRIDGES OVER THE RIVERS POONPOON AND MORHAR.

149. **Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if their attention has been drawn to resolution No. 45 of the proceedings of an ordinary meeting of the Patna District Board held on the 25th July, 1928?

(b) If reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the said resolution?

(c) Do Government propose to take steps, as requested by the Patna District Board, for the improvement of the bridges on the river Poonpoo and Morhar on the Patna-Gaya Railway line in such a way that carriages may pass over them like the Railway bridge over the Ganges at Benares?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) and (b). No.

(c) I am making enquiries and a further communication will be made to the Honourable Member.

APPOINTMENT OF NON-MUSLIM CLERKS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, SIMLA.

150. **Mr. S. C. Mitra:** Are Government aware that in the clerical branch of the Government of India Press, Simla, all the posts in the upper grade are held by Muslims and is it a fact that one of them fell vacant recently on transfer of the Stationery Keeper to the Government of India Press, Aligarh? If so, do Government contemplate to issue instructions to the Manager of the said Press to see that this post is given to the community that remains unrepresented in the upper grade now?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy: The three upper grade posts are held by Muslims. That of Stationery Keeper was filled by the promotion of the seniormost man, who was the only one qualified. Government do not propose to issue any further instructions in the matter.

APPOINTMENTS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, SIMLA.

151. **Mr. S. C. Mitra:** Is it a fact that when any officiating or permanent chance occurs in the clerical branch of the Government of India Press, Simla, the claims of many clerks are overlooked as there is kept no gradation list; if so, are Government prepared to instruct the Manager of the Press to see that the claims of senior clerks are considered first when filling such vacancies and that a gradation list is kept for open inspection?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy: The reply to the first part of the Honourable Member's question is in the negative; the latter part of his question does not therefore arise.

EMPLOYMENT OF SIKHS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, SIMLA.

152. **Mr. S. C. Mitra:** Is it a fact that in the Government of India Press, Simla, there are only half a dozen Sikhs, out of which only two or three are in regular posts; if so, are Government prepared to instruct the Controller of Printing and Stationery to issue orders to the Manager of the Press to see that a suitable number of the Sikh community is employed in each and every section of the Press?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy: There are eight Sikhs employed in the Government of India Press, Simla, of whom five are on the regular establishment, two are on probation and one is officiating in a leave vacancy. The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the latter portion of my reply to question No. 82.

REDUCTION OF EXPENDITURE ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

153. **Lala Brij Kishore:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether they have appointed any officer or officers to effect economy on the East Indian Railway Administration by reducing posts;
- (b) what expenditure has been incurred in the form of salaries and travelling allowances of these officers and their staff;
- (c) what savings have been effected by these officers under the following heads:
 - (i) Senior scale officers, (ii) junior scale officers, (iii) subordinate cadre but posts held by European and Anglo-Indian staff, (iv) subordinate cadre but posts held by the Indian staff and (v) menial staff;
- (d) whether any staff has been thrown out of employment or given compulsory leave as a result of these economies; and
- (e) whether instructions have been issued to the Agent and these officers that this staff is provided first in vacancies occurring?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) Government appointed two officers to investigate and report on the possibility of reducing the periodical returns prepared by State-managed railways and to make proposals for revising procedure with a view to effecting economies in establishment charges and contingencies. These officers have so far been employed on the East Indian Railway only.

(b) The expenditure to the end of the current financial year is estimated at Rs. 1,14,000.

(c) The proposals already made by these officers are calculated to secure an annual reduction of expenditure of Rs. 1,20,000 in establishment charges alone. No reduction in the posts borne on the superior cadre have been made, but it is understood that some reduction will be proposed. As regards the posts in the subordinate cadre and in inferior service, I have called for information showing the total number of posts in each of these classes brought under reduction, and will communicate with the Honourable Member when it is received. Information as to what communities held these particular posts has not been called for as proposals for the abolition of particular posts are made without any reference to the community to which the holder belongs.

(d) I have no information whether any staff have already been thrown out of employment, but I would mention that instructions were issued by the Railway Board to the Agent, East Indian Railway, that in all cases where he accepted the recommendations of the officer on special duty he should bring surplus posts under reduction, and discharge the individuals who held such posts, unless other employment can be found for them. Instructions have also been issued to the Agent to grant to such staff as

may have to be discharged on reduction of establishment, the leave standing to their credit on the termination of their services upto the maximum of four months.

(e) Particular instructions to this effect have not been issued as regards this case, but under general instructions the Railway Administration is expected to consider the claims of such persons in preference to others. In order that this may not be lost sight of, the Agent's attention will be drawn to the Honourable Member's question and my reply.

MANAGEMENT OF THE BUDDHA GAYA TEMPLE.

154. **Lala Brij Kishore:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether they have received any representation from the Buddhist community of India, Burma and Ceylon with regard to the possession and management of Buddha Gaya Temple;
- (b) whether Government have taken or propose to take any steps to satisfy the legitimate grievances of the Buddhist community in the matter?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

BUDDHA RELICS.

155. **Lala Brij Kishore:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any relics of Lord Buddha are in their possession;
- (b) whether any requests have been received for its proper enshrinement in India;
- (c) whether Government have taken or propose to take any step to ensure their early enshrinement in India; and
- (d) what conditions if any are imposed for the grant of these relics for purposes of worship?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (a) Of the several Buddhist relics excavated by the Archaeological Department, one from Taxila in the Punjab and another from Nagarjunikonda in the Madras Presidency could be identified with a certain measure of probability as relics of the Buddha himself.

(b), (c) and (d). Such requests were received in 1916 from the Mahabodhi Society of Calcutta and the Bengal Buddhist Association. Government expressed their willingness to present three relics to the former and one to the latter, provided that a guarantee could be given that the relics would be enshrined in worthy *viharas* and adequately safeguarded, and provided that the shrines were constructed before the relics were distributed. The Mahabodhi Society has repeated its request, now that the erection of the *vihara* at Sarnath is nearing completion.

MEMBERS RETURNED BY JOINT ELECTORATES TO THE CENTRAL AND PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURES.

156. **Kunwar Hajee Ismail Ali Khan:** Will Government be pleased to lay on the table the following information:

- (a) names of the special constituencies which send Members by joint electorate to the Central and different Provincial Legislatures; and

- (b) the number of Muslim and Non-Muslim Members returned by each of these constituencies respectively since the inauguration of the present reforms?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: (a) The information required by the Honourable Member is contained in the Electoral Rules for the Central and Provincial Legislatures and the Schedules thereto.

(b) I would refer the Honourable Member to the election returns, copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

CURTAILMENT OF SPECIAL ALLOWANCES TO GOVERNMENT SERVANTS OF NON-ASIATIC DOMICILE.

157. Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon: (a) Will Government be pleased to state the average annual expenditure involved in granting special allowances to men of non-Asiatic domicile in the Imperial service under the heads (i) overseas pay, (ii) exchange compensatory allowance and (iii) free passage for Government servants and their families?

(b) Are Government aware that (i) overseas pay and (ii) free passages were recommended by the Lee Commission only as a temporary measure to meet the increased cost of living and rates of passage? Are Government aware that the cost of living and passage rates have come down? If so, do Government propose to do away with these allowances and, if so, from what date?

(c) Are Government aware that in many cases the allowances drawn by officers amount to between 60 to 70 per cent. of their substantive salary? In view of the financial stringency are Government contemplating the desirability of curtailing these allowances to a minimum?

(d) Have Government any schemes for effecting retrenchment in the various Departments, and if so, what are they?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (a) Figures collected in 1926 showed that the actual cost of Lee Concessions to the All-India Services in 1924-25 and their estimated cost in 1925-26 were 49.83 and 54.19 lakhs respectively. Of these amounts only 3.94 and 4.91 lakhs in each year fell upon the Government of India; the balance being a charge upon local Governments. The payments in question were not confined to officers of non-Asiatic domicile. Some of them were made to officers domiciled in Asia. These figures were given in Sir Basil Blackett's reply to questions Nos. 96, 431 and 439 on the 25th January, 1926. I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the explanations given by Sir Basil Blackett in his reply.

Possibly these figures will suffice for the Honourable Member's purpose as they cover very much the same ground as the particulars for which he has asked. If he is not satisfied, the exact figures for which he asks will be collected, but the work of collection will occupy several months.

(b) Overseas pay was introduced in 1919, several years before the appointment of the Lee Commission as a result of whose recommendations a small increase only was made in the maximum rate of this allowance. Free passages were sanctioned on the recommendation of the Lee Commission, which justified its proposals mainly on the ground that rates of pay were insufficient to cover the cost of passages. In regard to the various considerations which influenced the Lee Commission in making their recommendations, I would refer the Honourable

Member to Chapters VI and VII of their report, from which he will see that the increased cost of living was only one factor of several that were taken into account.

(c) The reply to the first part of the question is in the negative. As regards the second part please see the reply to (d).

(d) I hope to deal with the question of economy in my Budget speech.

RECRUITMENT OF MUSLIMS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

158. Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of recruitments made in the North Western Railway under various classes of clerical and technical Departments during the period 1st April, 1929 to 31st March, 1930;
- (b) how many of such posts were advertised in the newspapers;
- (c) the number of Muslims who applied for these posts, (1) from all Divisions and (2) from Karachi Division;
- (d) the number of Muslims selected and the number of Muslims selected from Karachi Division;
- (e) the number of Muslims appointed or entertained in the Training School?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: The information asked for is not available and Government do not consider that its value would be commensurate to the labour and expense of its collection.

SHARE OF SURPLUS PROFITS AND NET EARNINGS PAID TO RAILWAY COMPANIES AND NATIVE STATES.

159. Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: Will Government please state:

- (a) on what principle the shares of surplus profits are paid to Railway Companies; and
- (b) on what principle the shares of net earnings are paid to Indian States?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: The division of surplus profits in each individual case is governed by the terms of the contract. A summary of these terms is contained in the "History of Indian Railways", a copy of which is available in the Library. The principles in general are as follows:

In the case of the principal State-owned Company-managed railways, the surplus profits are divided between the Government and the Company in the ratio of their respective shares of capital in the undertaking.

In the case of branch lines owned by Companies and built with financial assistance from Government, the surplus profits, after paying a fixed rate of interest on capital, are divided equally between Government and the Company.

In the case of branch lines owned by Companies and built without financial assistance from Government, the whole of the surplus profits are paid to the Company.

When a line is constructed partly in an Indian State, and the State makes a contribution to the capital expenditure, the net earnings or losses are divided between Government and the State in proportion to the capital contributed by each.

GRATUITY PAID TO AN OFFICER OF THE RAILWAY INSPECTION DEPARTMENT.

160. **Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** (a) Is it a fact that a gratuity of about Rs. 22,000 was paid to an officer of the Railway Inspection Department on retirement in the current financial year?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in affirmative, will Government please state the name and post of the officer who received that amount?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: I understand a retiring gratuity of Rs. 25,000 has been sanctioned for Mr. Buyers, Senior Government Inspector of Railways, Circle No. 5, Bombay.

CONTRIBUTIONS PAID FOR PROVIDENT FUND FOR ESTABLISHMENT IN THE RAILWAY BOARD.

161. **Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** (a) What amount was actually paid as contribution to the Provident Fund for non-pensionable establishment under the Railway Board, the Railway Inspection Department and the Railway Audit Department in the year 1929-30?

(b) What are the names and posts of the officers under the Railway Board, the Inspection Department, and the Audit Department who received gratuity in the year 1929-30 and what amount each of them received?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) The figures readily available show the total amounts of expenditure in 1929-30 on Provident Fund bonus and gratuities under the Demands Railway Board, Inspection and Audit, were Rs. 57,000, 16,000, and 57,000 respectively.

(b) The information is not available and cannot be obtained without an amount of labour incommensurate with the advantage likely to be gained by its collection.

TYPES AND CLASSES OF LOCOMOTIVES ON INDIAN RAILWAYS.

162. **Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** (a) Will Government be pleased to say how many types and classes of locomotives, boilers, carriages, luggage and brakes and wagons are used on different Indian railways?

(b) What is the difference between the different types and classes of rolling stock and what are their special peculiarities?

(c) What was the total number of different types and classes of locomotives, boilers, carriages, luggage and brakes, and wagons at the end of the year 1930 under the different railways?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) It would be impossible, without an exceedingly laborious census, to discover the exact number of types of locomotives, boilers, etc., in use on all the railways of India. In all cases they probably number over 100, and in some, carriages for example, very many more.

(b) It is impossible to give this information without an elaborate technical exposition accompanied by drawings of each type.

(c) Information as to the number of locomotives, boilers, etc., of different types and classes in service at the end of 1930 is not available, but the figures for 31st March, 1930, were as follows:

about
 9,474 locomotives,
 9,663 locomotive boilers, including those in locomotives,
 22,329 carriages, luggage and brakes,
 225,926 wagons.

NUMBER OF MUSSALMANS IN THE TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE DEPARTMENTS.

163. **Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) What was the total number of telegraphists, Telegraph Masters and Telegraph Superintendents as well as the total number of employees of the engineering branch of the Telegraph and Telephone Department at the end of the year 1930?
- (b) What was the total number of the various appointments held by the Mussalmans in the Telegraph and the Telephone Departments?

Mr. H. A. Sams: (a) and (b). Information asked for by the Honourable Member is available up to the 31st March, 1930, and is being furnished to him separately.

PROPORTION OF APPOINTMENTS HELD BY MUSSALMANS IN THE RAILWAY DEPARTMENT.

164. **Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** Will Government be pleased to say what was the proportion of the various appointments held by Mussalmans in the Railway Department at the end of the year 1930?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: I would refer the Honourable Member to Appendix "F" in Volume I and to Appendix "C" in Volume II of the Railway Board's Report on Indian Railways for 1929-30, copies of which are in the Library. They give the latest information available.

APPOINTMENT OF INDIANS IN THE CARRIAGE AND WAGON SHOPS OF THE BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY AT AJMER.

165. **Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) Will Government please state the number of Indian (excluding Anglo-Indian) Foremen, Assistant Foremen, Head Chargemen, in the Carriage and Wagon Shops, Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, Ajmer, on the 31st December, 1925, and on the 31st December, 1930?

(b) Will Government please state the steps taken so far by the Carriage and Wagon Superintendent, Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, Ajmer, for Indianization of the higher services in his department?

(c) Will Government please lay on the table a statement showing separately the number of apprentices trained and absorbed in the higher services by (1) the Loco. Department and (2) the Carriage and Wagon Department of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway at Ajmer, during the last five years, and the present pay of those retained in services, explaining the difference, if any, in the system obtaining in the two departments of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) Government regret that they are not prepared to supplement with figures for individual offices or posts the information in regard to communal representation in railway service given in the Annual Report on Indian Railways.

(b) and (c). I have called for the information and will communicate with the Honourable Member on its receipt.

LACK OF SECOND CLASS COMPARTMENTS ON THE FUTWAH-ISLAMPUR RAILWAY.

166. **Mr. Badri Lal Rastogi:** (a) Are Government aware that there is no second class carriage or compartment in the Futwah-Islampur Railway, and in absence of this, the intermediate class or first class compartments are sometimes packed to their utmost capacity?

(b) Do Government propose to take immediate steps to remove the grievance of the second class passengers by supplying a second class compartment in that Railway?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) and (b). Government are aware that there is no second class carriage or compartment on this short narrow gauge feeder line of 27 miles. They have received no complaints of overcrowding of the intermediate or first class compartments, but will bring the Honourable Member's question to the notice of the Managing Agents.

CONVEYANCE OF PASSENGERS IN WAGONS ON THE BUKHTIARPORE-BIHAR LIGHT RAILWAY.

167. **Mr. Badri Lal Rastogi:** (a) Are Government aware that in the Bukhtiarpore-Bihar Light Railway passengers are conveyed by trucks and wagons which are meant only for carrying goods?

(b) Do Government propose to take immediate steps to put a stop to this risky process of conveying passengers in wagons by adding to the number of carriages?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) Messrs. Martin and Company, who are Managing Agents of the Bukhtiarpur-Bihar Light Railway, were requested in 1926 to report to the Railway Board every case in which it was found necessary to carry passengers in goods vehicles, and the Railway Board cannot trace that any report of such an occurrence has been received from Messrs. Martin and Company since then.

(b) The matter is being referred to Messrs. Martin and Company, and on hearing from them, I will communicate with the Honourable Member.

LACK OF WAITING ROOMS AT THE BUKHTIARPORE-BIHAR LIGHT RAILWAY STATIONS.

168. **Mr. Badri Lal Rastogi:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the fact that there is not a single waiting-room for first and second class passengers at any of the stations of the Bukhtiarpore-Bihar Light Railway?

(b) Do Government propose to remove this grievance of the public by constructing at least four waiting rooms for 1st and 2nd class passengers at four stations, viz., Bukhtiarpore Junction, Behar, Nalanda and Rajgriha?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: Government are not aware of the situation. Two copies of the question are being sent to the Railway Administrations concerned for their consideration.

LENGTHY HOLD-UP OF TRAFFIC AT A LEVEL CROSSING.

169. **Mr. Badri Lal Rastogi:** (a) Are Government aware that the whole traffic is held up, sometimes for an hour continuously, at the crossing of the railway line near the Bukhtiarpore Junction Station on the East Indian Railway and is a great inconvenience to the public in general?

(b) Are Government prepared to take immediate steps to construct an underground bridge for the traffic?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) and (b). The Honourable Member presumably refers to road traffic held up at a level crossing. Government have received no complaints on this score, but if there is inconvenience to road traffic, the matter might suitably be taken up by the Calcutta Advisory Committee of the East Indian Railway.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE SALT INDUSTRY COMMITTEE.

Mr. President: The House will now proceed to elect ten Members for 12 Noon. the Committee to examine the Report of the Tariff Board on the salt industry. There are 16 candidates whose names are printed on the ballot papers which will now be supplied to Honourable Members in the order in which I call them.

I should like to inform Honourable Members that Sirdar Harbans Singh Brar has withdrawn his candidature since.

Mr. S. C. Sen (Bengal National Chamber of Commerce: Indian Commerce): I understand my name is also included in the list of candidates for the Committee. I beg to withdraw from the election.

Mr. President: Mr. S. C. Sen has also withdrawn his candidature.

(The ballot was then taken.)

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON ROADS.

Mr. President: Order, order. Members will now proceed to elect six Members to serve on the Standing Committee on Roads. There are 15 candidates, whose names are printed on the ballot papers which will now be supplied to Honourable Members in the order in which I call them.

I should like to inform Honourable Members that Mr. K. P. Thampan, one of the candidates has now withdrawn.

Mr. B. N. Misra: Sir, I also inform you that I withdraw.

Mr. President: Mr. K. P. Thampan and Mr. B. N. Misra have both withdrawn.

(The ballot was then taken.)

THE GOLD THREAD INDUSTRY (PROTECTION) BILL.

The Honourable Sir George Rainy (Member for Commerce and Railways): Sir, I move that the Bill to provide for the fostering and development of the gold thread industry in British India be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Mr. W. Alexander, Kunwar Raghubir Singh, Mr. A. Das, Rai Sahib Pandit Hari Das, Mr. K. P. Thampan, Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali, Mr. N. N. Anklesaria, Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty and Maulvi Muhammad Yakub with instructions to report on or before the 12th February, 1931, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five.

[Sir George Rainy.]

I do not think it will be necessary, Mr. President, for me to speak at any great length about this Bill. The reasons for the provisions which it contains are set forth clearly in the Tariff Board's Report—not a very long one which is in the hands of Members, and I do not doubt that most of them have read it. Those who were Members of the last Assembly will remember how the inquiry into this matter originated. When last year's Finance Bill was before the House, one of the provisions it contained was the imposition of a duty of four annas an ounce upon silver bullion.

(At this stage, Mr. President vacated the Chair which was taken by Mr. Deputy President.)

It was then represented that the imposition of this duty might have a detrimental effect upon those industries in India for which silver is a raw material and a modification was therefore made in the Bill by which articles made of silver and liable to the 30 per cent. import duty under the luxury schedule were subjected also to an additional duty of 8 per cent., making 38 per cent. in all. That duty, was to remain in force up to the 31st March, 1931, and meanwhile a Tariff Board inquiry was to be held to determine whether or not this increase of duty should be permanent, and whether these industries required protection. The result of this inquiry is the Report which is in the hands of Honourable Members. The Tariff Board's recommendations and the provisions of the Bill are limited to what is called the gold thread industry. No application for protection was received by the Tariff Board for protection in respect of articles other than gold thread and such things as lametta, which are not exactly gold thread but are connected with it, and therefore this Bill contains no provisions relating to the manufacture of silver plate or similar articles.

One interesting feature of the gold thread industry is this. It is I think the first industry which the Tariff Board has investigated where the conditions are largely those of a cottage industry. It is true that small factories exist, particularly at Surat, but a great deal of the gold thread made in India is produced on a cottage industry basis. Now, when that is so, it is obvious that the Tariff Board cannot have the same facilities for obtaining accurate figures as they have when they are dealing with a large organized industry where the manufacturers have a skilled accounting staff and are in a position to determine accurately what their costs are. Nevertheless, I think, the Tariff Board adopted the right method when, in the course of their inquiry at Surat, they assembled together a number of manufacturers, went into the whole question very closely in oral discussion, and eventually arrived at the figures which the Board believed to be reasonably accurate and which the manufacturers themselves were prepared to accept. That is, I think, the only possible method you can adopt when you are investigating the question of protection for an industry that works on a very small scale such as I have described. But when I talk of a small scale, I would not be misunderstood. Each individual unit of the industry is small, but the aggregate of all the units has become considerable. The Tariff Board estimate that the value of the gold thread manufactured in India in a single year may be as much as a hundred lakhs and that there may be as many as ten thousand men employed. That is by no means a negligible value or a negligible amount of employment.

When the Tariff Board discuss the question why the industry has grown rapidly in the last ten years, they admit, and indeed every one must admit, that the raising of the duty from 15 per cent. to 30 per cent. some eight years ago must have had a strong tendency in that direction. But they draw attention to another fact which has also to be taken into account. They point out that simultaneously with the growth of the Indian production there has been an increase in imports, eight or nine years ago prices were very much higher than they are today, yet nevertheless the actual value of the imports has not gone down; but has gone up, and must therefore represent a larger quantity.

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

It is necessary at this point, however, to distinguish. In Northern India the Board find, and I think their reasoning is cogent, that the indigenous product already commands the whole market, that the imports of real gold thread from abroad are negligible, and that the price of gold thread in that part of India today is no longer regulated by the cost of importation, but is regulated by internal competition between the Indian manufacturers themselves. Therefore, if they are correct, as I believe they are in that finding, in Northern India where these conditions prevail, the manufacturer cannot be assisted, nor can the consumer be prejudiced by the raising of the duty. The duty has in fact ceased to be effective in the sense which a protective duty ought to be, and the whole problem of protection for the industry is narrowed down to this, that even with the help of the 30 per cent. duty, the manufacturers in Northern India have so far failed to capture the market in the Madras Presidency. Therefore, the effect which Government hope for from this measure is that, with the imposition of the additional duty, it will be possible for the Indian manufacturer of gold thread gradually to supply the demand which comes mainly from handloom weavers in the Madras Presidency. Now, on this point I should like to say one thing. If the manufacturers carry on as they are doing at present, without trying to improve their methods and if it is not found possible to give them assistance by the provincial Departments of Industries, then I could not feel sanguine that the manufacturers in Northern India would capture the Madras market. My reason for saying so is this, that the gold thread that is used in the Madras Presidency is used mainly for high class handloom made goods, which sell at comparatively high prices, and where quality is of first class importance. At present, the Board tell us, the handloom weaver in the Madras Presidency does not find that the Indian made gold thread is suitable for his requirements, partly because the gold thread they import from abroad—from France for example,—is generally of a better quality, and partly owing to the lack of uniformity of the Indian gold thread so that the weaver never knows what he is getting. Therefore, in effect, what the Board hope for, and what Government hope for is not that the Indian manufacturer will be able to sell in Madras gold thread of a quality no higher than he produces today; what they hope for is that, under the stimulus of the duty and with the assistance of the provincial Departments of Industries, he will take serious steps to improve his methods to attain a higher standard and a greater degree of uniformity. If that is so, then I think within the period of ten years for which it is proposed that the higher duty should remain in force, I have every hope that he will be able to capture the market in Southern India.

[Sir George Rainy.]

When the Tariff Board came before Government, Mr. President, they considered very carefully the effect it might have upon the handloom weaving industry in Southern India. They had hoped that all that could be said on behalf of that industry would have been brought prominently to the notice of the Board in the course of its inquiry. Owing to some accident the letter which was addressed to the Director of Industries, Madras, as I have recently been informed by the Madras Government, did not reach that officer, and no evidence was tendered by the provincial Department of Industries on that subject. On the other hand, I think it is clear from paragraph 22 of the Report that the Board appreciated the importance of this aspect of the question and did their best to find out all that was necessary on the subject. I am informed by my Honourable colleague, Sir Joseph Bore, that the firm of Messrs. Pearce Leslie and Co., who are mentioned in that paragraph of the Report, are in close and intimate touch with the handloom weaving industry in Southern India, and probably have more full information as to the conditions prevailing than any one else would be likely to have. Now, what is brought out in that paragraph is this. The Board took as example a particular kind of silk *sari* made at Salem, which contains, according to the information they received, more gold thread than any other of the products of the handloom in Southern India. What they found was this that the *sari* would sell at Rs. 116, with the existing duty, on gold thread and that if the duty was raised to the extent recommended by the Board, the price would have to be increased to Rs. 119, that is, by something less than 3 per cent. I think it is a fair conclusion from that that the effect on the handloom industry, which it is always our duty to safeguard as much as we can, is not likely to be serious as a result of this increase in the duty on gold thread. If Government had not felt reasonable satisfaction on that point, they would not have placed this Bill before the House.

I do not know, Sir, that I need go in any detail into the figures as to the amount of protection required. I have always found it very difficult, in speaking on protection questions in this House, when it comes to figures, because when other people are speaking about figures I always find great difficulty in understanding them and I always fear that other Members would find equal difficulty in understanding me. But what, in effect, it comes to is this. The Board found that the fair selling price of gold thread of the quality necessary to displace the imported gold thread in Southern India was Rs. 41-9-0 per marc of 8 ounces, that the price of the imported product on which the duty was assessed was Rs. 25-4-0, and that the amount of the additional duty required was Rs. 12-5-0, which is approximately 48 per cent., and the Board rounded off that figures to 50 per cent.

Before I sit down, I should like to say a word or two about the reason why we have agreed with the Board that not only gold thread proper—perhaps I ought to have explained earlier that this gold thread would be more accurately described as gilt thread because the precious metal principally employed is silver, and gold is used only as a thin outer film—but in addition to this gold thread proper, there is a great deal of what is called half fine imitation gold thread, where the silver is replaced by some base metal and the gilding is retained and imitation gold thread where no precious metal is used at all. There were two reasons why it was decided that it would be advisable to make the half fine imitation and the imitation

gold thread subject to the 50 per cent. duty. One is an administrative reason, which is fully explained by the Board. If the imitation gold thread contains any precious metal at all, it becomes subject to the 30 per cent. duty. Traders represented that this was not quite reasonable, and Government fixed a limit of one per cent. and undertook to ignore smaller quantities than that. But this did not solve the difficulty and a series of cases began to occur which involved a great deal of trouble, because it was necessary to determine by chemical examination what, in fact, was the percentage of gold or silver in the thread. But apart from that, the Board found that the half fine imitation gold thread and the imitation gold thread do actually compete with the lower qualities of the gold thread made in India. For these two reasons it was thought right that the imitation and half fine imitation gold thread should both be subject to the 50 per cent. duty.

The details of the Bill, Mr. President, can, of course, be more appropriately considered in Select Committee; but I should like to say that the sum and substance of the Bill is contained in clause 5, which is the main operative section. Clauses 2, 3 and 4 are merely drafting matters which have had to be put in in what looks rather a complicated form, because of the fact that the additional duty imposed last year will expire on the 31st March next, that this Bill may possibly become law before that date and that we have to provide for that contingency. That creates a somewhat complicated problem for the draftsman. But, as I have said, the sum and substance of the Bill is contained in clause 5.

Sir, I move.

The motion was adopted.

THE STEEL INDUSTRY (PROTECTION) BILL.

The Honourable Sir George Rainy (Member for Commerce and Railways): Sir, I move that the Bill to provide for the modification of certain import duties relating to the fostering and development of the steel industry in British India be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Mr. E. F. Sykes, Sirdar Harbans Singh Brar, Mr. B. N. Misra, Pandit Satyendranath Sen, Mr. S. G. Jog, Mr. B. Sitaramaraju and Maulvi Muhammad Yakub, with instructions to report on or before the 12th February, 1931, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five.

This Bill does not raise any important question of principle, and, indeed, it may be described as a small appendix to the Steel Industry (Protection) Act of 1927. It originated in a request by a particular firm which has undertaken the manufacture of such things as rivets, fish bolts, gibs, cotters and keys,—which I understand are fastenings used for iron and steel sleepers. The firm represented that, whether they bought in India or abroad, the price of the steel they bought for making these things was increased by the amount of the protective duties imposed by the Act of 1927. On the other hand the duty on the finished products when imported from abroad was either only 10 per cent. *ad valorem*, or, if they came within the protective schedule, it was, in fact, not sufficient to compensate the Indian manufacturer for the cost which he had to

[Sir George Rainy.]

incur in the duty on his materials. The Tariff Board inquired into the matter and they found that in fact that was the case. In some cases, as for instance, fish bolts and nuts, the duty was only 10 per cent. whereas the duty on the material from which the fish bolts were made was very much higher. I do not think that I need weary the House by going into the details which are fully set forth in the Tariff Board's Report, but I ought to explain that there are two groups of materials dealt with. The first includes bolts and nuts, fish bolts and nuts, dogspikes, gibs, cotters and keys. These are the ones of which I have already spoken and all that we propose to do is to fix the duty at such a level that the Indian manufacturer will not be handicapped by the fact that there is a protective duty on his raw material. The other group consists of chrome steel switches and crossings and stretcher bars. The reason why these were not included in the Act of 1927 was that at that time chrome steel was not made in India, and it is only quite recently that the Iron and Steel Company at Jamshedpur have begun to manufacture chrome steel, and I am glad to say that the results have been satisfactory. While they were making this inquiry, this fact came to the notice of the Board and quite properly they included it in their Report. Once chrome steel is made in India, there is no reason why chrome steel switches and crossings should not be treated for protective purposes exactly as any other switches and crossings, and as time goes on, this may be a matter of increasing importance, because where traffic is very dense, the wear and tear on switches and crossings at junctions becomes very great, and at such places I think railways in all countries are tending more and more to use something harder than the ordinary mild steel switch and crossing. For that reason, Sir, these were included in the Bill. I do not think I need add anything further in moving my motion. I have already said that no important question of principle is involved and the Bill is simply an appendix to the Act of 1927.

The motion was adopted.

THE INDIAN PARTNERSHIP BILL.

Sir Lancelot Graham (Secretary, Legislative Department): Sir, I rise to move that the Bill to define and amend the law relating to partnership be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar, Mr. S. C. Sen, Sir Hari Singh Gour, Mr. L. V. Heathcote, Sir Abdur Rahim, Rai Sahib Harbilas Sarda, Lala Rameshwar Prasad Bagla, Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz, Lala Jagan Nath Aggarwal, Mr. S. C. Mitra and the Mover and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five.

Sir, I do not think that at this stage we should have a debate at any length on the Bill which is now before the House. I think, however, it is due to the House that I should explain to them why at this stage I am making a motion for Select Committee in respect of this Bill and not for circulation. The Bill, it is quite true, is a Bill of very considerable magnitude, and ordinarily we should have made a motion for circulation in respect of it. The actual position is this: that the Bill being

of considerable magnitude, it will not be possible to find time during the Session, either in Delhi or in Simla, for a Select Committee to sit and examine this Bill. It is therefore desirable that the Bill should be referred to a Select Committee which will be able to meet in Simla, and having met in Simla, it should be able to go on in the comparatively peaceful atmosphere in Simla with the consideration of this Bill from day to day and complete its deliberations. In order to enable this to be done and at the same time in order that the members of the Select Committee may have before them a proper statement of all the opinions of the bodies who ought to be consulted, Government will now, if the House accepts this motion, proceed to the circulation of the Bill by executive order, so that when the Select Committee meets in Simla, they will have before them all the necessary opinions. I do not think, Sir, it is necessary for me to speak at any great length on the Bill itself, but at the same time the Bill is one of considerable magnitude and I do not think I should entirely refrain from making remarks on it. Honourable Members will remember that one of the most important pieces of legislation passed by this House recently was a Bill to regulate the sale of goods. That Bill took out from the Contract Act and enlarged a certain section of the law. The Bill now before us proposes to do the same thing with another section of the Contract Act, that is to say, with Chapter XI of the Contract Act, which deals with the law relating to partnership. The law relating to partnership, as dealt with in the Contract Act, is contained in 27 very brief sections of that Act; and it does not profess to be a complete statement of the law of partnership, as these provisions were embodied in the law as far back as 1872, since which time there has been a tremendous increase in the development of business organization in India: and the time, it is felt, has come when the Contract Act should be relieved of those provisions, and that a separate enactment should be made containing, if not completely at any rate something far more near to being complete, the law of partnership, and that, Sir, is the primary object of this Bill. The new provisions of the Bill, Sir, are largely modelled on, if not the form at any rate the substance of, the English Partnership Act of 1890, and Members of the Select Committee will I trust make, if they have not already done so, a very careful study of that Act before applying their mind to the Bill before the House. The Act, it may be said, falls naturally into seven parts, the first of which is preliminary and the second is of the nature of definitions. The third chapter of the Act deals with the relationship of partners to one another, the fourth with the relations of partners to third parties, the fifth to incoming and outgoing partners, and the sixth deals with the dissolution of firms. Added to these is another chapter, which is so intimately bound up with the law of partnership that it was felt that it should be included in the same Bill, and that is, Sir, the chapter dealing with the registration of firms. The idea of registering firms, either compulsorily or by making it optional, has been before the Executive for a great many years, and actually there was a Bill to that effect brought forward in Burma. We are now taking steps to add these provisions to the Bill relating to partnership, and I may say here, without going into any detail on the subject, that the distinctive feature of this chapter is that it makes the registration of firms optional. But while it is making the registration of firms optional, it will, we hope on a long way to making the registration of firms of any magnitude at all a matter of course, and this we hope will be done by the inducements

[Sir Lancelot Graham.]

held out for registration. I do not propose, Sir, to go into this in detail. I think I have now said enough to ask the House to join me in sending this Bill to a Select Committee, which will meet in the circumstances described by me. Sir, I move.

Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I move that the name of Rai Bahadur Pandit T. N. Bhargava be added to the Committee.

Sir Lancelot Graham: Sir, I naturally do not wish to put myself in the invidious position of opposing the addition of any Member, but it would have been more convenient for me if the name had been suggested to me at an earlier stage of the proceedings. However, I agree to the addition of the name proposed.

Mr. S. C. Sen (Bengal National Chamber of Commerce: Indian Commerce): Sir, at this stage it is unnecessary for me to deal with the provisions or with the principles underlying the Bill, but there is one matter which I trust will be dealt with in the Select Committee, and that is a matter which is now covered by the English Act on limited partnership. Sir, you know that capital in this country is very shy and people do not wish to invest their money in partnership with others who are capable of doing business. That can be avoided by inserting in this Bill the provisions of the limited partnership Act in England, which have been found to be very useful. The English Act relating to partnership, referred to by Sir Lancelot Graham, did not deal with that subject because there is already a statute there dealing with that, and I trust in the Select Committee Members will deal with that matter; and with these observations, I support the motion.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That the Bill to define and amend the law relating to partnership be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Dewan Bahadur T. Rangachariar, Mr. S. C. Sen, Sir Hari Singh Gour, Mr. L. V. Heathcote, Sir Abdur Rahim, Rai Sahib Harbilas Sarda, Lala Rameshwar Prasad Bagla, Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz, Lala Jagan Nath Aggarwal, Mr. S. C. Mitra, Rai Bahadur Pandit T. N. Bhargava and the Mover, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till half past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half-past Two of the Clock, Mr. President in the Chair.

THE INDIAN MERCHANT SHIPPING (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Sir George Rainy (Member for Commerce and Railways): With your permission, Sir, I desire to move that the Select Committee to which this Assembly referred the Indian Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Bill be instructed to present its Report not later than Monday, the 9th February, 1931.

I think Honourable Members will remember that when I moved my motion for referring that Bill to a Select Committee, I said that I would wish to ascertain the views of the Committee on the question whether the Bill should be reported and proceeded with this Session. or whether the papers should be circulated before the Committee considered the Bill. I have consulted the Members of the Select Committee and the general opinion is that the Bill ought to be reported as soon as possible and should be proceeded with this Session. Accordingly, as no time limit was fixed in the original motion, I have now moved the motion which I have read, namely that Committee should report by Monday, the 9th February.

The motion was adopted.

THE CANTONMENTS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Mr. G. M. Young (Army Secretary): Sir, I move that the Bill further to amend the Cantonments Act, 1924, for certain purposes, be taken into consideration.

Sir, this Bill consists of a number of minor amendments on points of administrative detail or on drafting points, the necessity of which has become apparent during the last few years either on the recommendation of the Local Government or in some other manner. The amendments have no common principle underlying them and, with the exception of clauses 4 and 5 which go more or less together, they have nothing in common with each other. I think therefore, Sir, it might suit the convenience of this House better if, with your permission, instead of speaking on the points raised in the various clauses now, I were to offer a short explanatory statement of the intentions of the Government when we come to deal with the Bill clause by clause. I have in mind, especially, the three clauses of which notice of amendment has been given, but if any Honourable Member desires further information beyond what is given in the Statement of Objects and Reasons on any other clauses, I shall of course be very glad to supply that information.

Sir, I move.

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 5 were added to the Bill.

Mr. President: Clause 6. There is an amendment by Rai Sahib Pandit Hari Das.

Rai Sahib Pandit Hari Das (Ambala Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I beg to move:

"That clause 6 be omitted and the subsequent clauses be renumbered accordingly".

Sir, I have personal knowledge of a good many of the cantonments scattered over the Punjab, and I think that any measure that is calculated to affect the income of these cantonments should be very carefully considered before the House gives its assent to it. If these words are omitted, it means that Government will have the authority to exempt goods that may not belong to Government but to any other private

[Rai Sahib Pandit Hari Das.]

agency. The idea is to extend the operation of these exemptions. The need for funds is always very great, especially when questions arise such as some expansion in education or some request to meet the most elementary requirements of schools maintained or aided by Cantonment Boards, or some improvement in sanitation, or of the roads leading to Indian locations, if I may so call them. They are so dirty and so miserable that a visit to them, when contrasted with the places where the more favoured people reside, is a very depressing experience. When attention is drawn to such requirements the want of funds is always pleaded. So, what I mean to say is that, if this measure leads to a further dwindling down of the funds then better not pass it. With these few words, I beg to oppose the proposed change in the Regulations and move my amendment.

Mr. G. M. Young: Sir, I think I should perhaps give an account of how section 99A, which it is proposed to amend, came into being. Originally under the Cantonments Act, 1910, Government had the power by notification to exempt not only persons, but also property, and not only the property of the Secretary of State. This provision followed that of the various Municipal Acts. I may cite, for instance, section 71(1) of the Punjab Municipal Act which runs as follows:

"The Local Government may by order exempt in whole or in part from the payment of any such tax any person or class of persons or any property or description of property."

That is how the situation stood before the enactment of the Cantonments Act, 1924. When that Act was passed, for some reason, probably oversight, no power of exemption was reproduced, either of persons or of property. Very shortly after this Act had been passed this defect in its provisions became apparent. Accordingly an amendment Act was passed in 1926, which inserted the existing section 99A. Section 99A runs thus:

"The Local Government may by notification in the local official Gazette exempt either wholly or in part from the operation of any tax proposed under this Act any person or class of persons or any property or goods or class of property or goods belonging to the Secretary of State for India in Council."

It is not clear why opportunity was not taken to restore the provisions of the old Cantonment Act as they stood, and incidentally to keep the Act in harmony with provincial Municipal Acts in this respect. It may have been due simply to the fact that it was the necessity of exempting Government military goods from octroi that led to the amending Act, or it may have been that at the time of passing the Act it was thought that the exemption of any person or class of persons would be sufficient to cover exemption of property owned by those persons or class of persons, and that the only reason for bringing in goods which were the property of the Secretary of State in Council was the doubtful propriety of regarding the Secretary of State for India in Council as a "person" within the meaning of the section. However that may be, Government are informed by their draftsmen that, as the section now stands, it is impossible to exempt any property or goods other than those belonging to the Secretary of State for India in Council. Now, the object of the amendment moved by Government is not to open the door to exemption on a large scale and thereby, as my Honourable friend suggested, reduce the income of Cantonment Boards. The object is simply to provide means of relieving

individual cases of hardship. Cases might quite easily arise where exemption from some tax in respect of goods or property was required.

Sir Hari Singh Gour: (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan): Give us an example.

Mr. G. M. Young: Supposing, for instance, there was in a cantonment a private hospital which was doing good work, and it was desirable to exempt medical stores belonging to that hospital, which was not a Government institution, from octroi tax; the Cantonment Board might desire to do that. And I should like to point out further that this is not an indiscriminate power that we are asking for. In the first place, the cantonment authority will itself be disinclined to grant a large number of exemptions, because it will thereby reduce its own income. In the second place, the Local Government, to whom the cantonment authority has to make the recommendation, will not have any desire to grant a large number of exemptions because, although such action would not affect its own pocket directly, it might lead the way to, or form a precedent for, similar exemptions in municipalities, and thereby reduce the income of its local self-governing institutions. In the third place, the Government of India are not in the least interested in granting a large number of exemptions, because when there is any deficiency in the income of the Cantonment Board, that deficiency has to be made good from the Army Estimates. So that all the parties concerned are interested, and rightly interested, in maintaining the revenues of the Cantonment Boards, so as to have as much money as is available for the purposes which my Honourable friend mentioned. This is, as I said, simply a proposal to give power of exemption in cases of individual hardship, and not to confine this particular kind of exemption to goods which belong to the Secretary of State. As I have pointed out, the power of exempting persons already exists. This is simply following the same analogy in respect of goods, going back to the original state of affairs in cantonments, and following what is the present state of affairs in municipalities. I trust that, after what I have said, my Honourable friend will be prepared to accept this explanation and withdraw his amendment.

Rai Sahib Pandit Hari Das: Sir, I have listened with great interest to the explanation which has been furnished by my Honourable friend the Army Secretary. There is a good deal of force in his explanation. But what troubles me is that, in the absence of definite instructions to those who administer these laws, these wishes may be mere pious wishes and the discretion that we are now giving them might be used in an indiscriminate way.

Mr. President: Order, order. The Honourable Member has no right of reply.

Rai Sahib Pandit Hari Das: Sir, I was just going to beg the leave of the House to withdraw my amendment.

The amendment was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That clause 6 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 6 was added to the Bill.

Mr. President: The question is that clause 7 stand part of the Bill.

Mr. Jagan Nath Aggarwal (Jullundur Division: Non-Muhammadan):
Sir, I beg to move:

"That in clause 7 for the words 'or a sergeant' the words 'or an Inspector' be substituted."

Sir, this clause seeks to amend section 236 of the Cantonment Act, 1924, which reads as follows:

"1. Whoever in a cantonment loiters for the purpose of prostitution . . . shall be punished, etc., etc.

2. No prosecution for an offence under this section shall be instituted except on the complaint of the person importuned, or of a military officer . . . or of a police officer not below the rank of a Sub-Inspector, etc., etc."

After the word "sub-inspector" the clause seeks to add the words "or a sergeant". Now, Sir, I originally proposed an amendment to the effect that, instead of the words "or a sergeant" the words "or inspector" should be substituted. I will explain to you my reasons for the amendment, and the subsequent change which I submit with your leave may be permitted in this amendment. The House will notice that this is one of those sexual offences in which it is very easy to make a charge and equally difficult, perhaps more difficult, to disprove it. The word of one person weighs against the word of another. In such cases it should be jealously guarded that no one is permitted to make any accusation on frivolous grounds. Now, it was with that idea in my mind that I objected to the institution of these complaints by any person below the rank of a sub-inspector. I thought that we would be making it open to any havildar employed in the Cantonment, whose action in this matter cannot be subject to scrutiny, to make a complaint, and that it would lead to very frivolous complaints. In that view I proposed that the institution of these complaints should be by persons of the class of a sub-inspector or inspector. Since then I am told that my object would hardly be achieved by moving the amendment of which I had first given notice, because I am told that in some places these sergeants are above the rank of sub-inspectors. So what I intended by having the word "inspector" is served by having the word "sergeant", because there is no uniformity in the nomenclature of the police in the various cantonments all over British India. Therefore, it was thought desirable to have a formula which will serve the same object and which ensures that persons who institute these complaints or who are authorised to institute these complaints should be responsible persons. With that end in view, with your permission, I have drafted an amendment which reads like this:

"That at the end of clause 7 the following be added, namely:

'and after the words "Officer Commanding the station" where they occur the second time, the words "with the concurrence of the District Magistrate" shall be added'."

In other words, the position comes to this, that the initiation of these complaints would be left to police officers not below the rank of a sub-inspector or a sergeant but they shall be authorised by the Officer Commanding with the concurrence of the District Magistrate. The civil authorities as represented by the District Magistrate would have some say in the appointment of these sergeants or sub-inspectors who will be authorised to institute these complaints, and I submit that my object will be achieved by having the concurrence of the District Magistrate to the

appointment, so that he would not be an ordinary sergeant but would be some person whom the Officer Commanding will approve and who shall be appointed with the concurrence of the District Magistrate. I submit that this amendment will achieve the purpose I have in view. I move the amendment.

Mr. G. M. Young: On behalf of the Government I am quite prepared to accept this amendment.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That at the end of clause 7 the following be added, namely:

'and after the words "Officer Commanding the station" where they occur the second time, the words "with the concurrence of the District Magistrate" shall be added.'

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That clause 7, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 7, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Mr. President: Clause 8.

Lala Jagan Nath Aggarwal: Clause 8 of the Bill adds a section, 286A, to the Cantonments Act, which says:

"The Cantonment Authority may empower any of its officers to exercise or perform all or any of such powers or duties of an Executive Officer under this Act as the Governor General in Council may, by notification in the Gazette of India, specify in this behalf."

From the Statement of Objects and Reasons we understand that in small cantonments there is sometimes one Executive Officer doing duty in more than one cantonment, and they say it is inconvenient to have an Executive Officer coming to a cantonment after the lapse of some weeks or months, and therefore the need has been felt that in these small cantonments the other officers in the cantonments should be authorised to carry out the duties of an Executive Officer. The object of my amendment is that not only the officers employed by the Cantonment Authority should be enabled to do these duties, but any member of the Board may be authorised to perform these functions of an Executive Officer. My point is this. The officers of the Cantonment Board sometimes may be persons in very ordinary positions, who will not be able to realise their responsibility to an elected Board, and it will be just as well to authorise the members of the Board to carry out these duties. I therefore move the amendment which runs as follows:

"That in clause 8 before the word 'officers' the words 'members or' be inserted, and after the word 'perform' the words 'in the absence of the Executive Officer from the Cantonment' be inserted."

Mr. G. M. Young: I am willing to accept the amendment proposed by my Honourable friend, with one small addition later in the clause. The amendment which he has proposed has brought to notice the fact that there is nothing in the clause itself which indicates that these duties are only to be delegated in the absence of the executive officer from the cantonment. The Statement of Objects and Reasons itself shows exactly what was required by this amendment, but as has been pointed out to me, once the

[Mr. G. M. Young.]

Bill has become law, the Statement of Objects and Reasons goes, so to speak, into the blue, and those who administer the law do not know anything about it. It would be clearly undesirable, I think, to use these powers of delegation while the executive officers are in the cantonment, that is to say, to empower the cantonment authority to entrust to persons who are officers of the cantonment authority or members of the Cantonment Board, the powers which are rightly now performed by the executive officers. Therefore I would be prepared, on behalf of the Government, to accept an amendment that ran as follows:

"That in clause 8 before the word 'officers' the words 'members or' be inserted, and after the word 'perform' the words 'in the absence of the Executive Officer from the Cantonment' be inserted."

Lala Jagan Nath Aggarwal: I think that is what the real intention of my amendment is.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That in clause 8 before the word 'officers' the words 'members or' be inserted, and after the word 'perform' the words 'in the absence of the Executive Officer from the Cantonment' be inserted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That clause 8, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 8, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

Mr. G. M. Young: Sir, I move that the Bill, as amended, be passed.

The motion was adopted.

THE INDIAN TERRITORIAL FORCE (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Mr. G. M. Young (Army Secretary): Sir, I move that the Bill further to amend the Indian Territorial Force Act, 1920, for a certain purpose, be taken into consideration. The object of this Bill is

3 P.M. to regularise extra voluntary training. Selected personnel, officers and non-commissioned officers are permitted to perform voluntary training in addition to the compulsory training prescribed by law; but there is no provision in the Act which regularises such training; and as a consequence, such persons, performing such training, do not come under the Indian Army Act, and it is doubtful whether they can legally be paid. The training has been going on for several years and no difficulty has arisen actually, but the fact remains that there is a defect in the law which this Bill seeks to cure.

Sir, I move.

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

Mr. G. M. Young: Sir, I move that the Bill be passed.

The motion was adopted.

THE AUXILIARY FORCE (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Mr. G. M. Young (Army Secretary): Sir, I move that the Bill further to amend the Auxiliary Force Act, 1922, for a certain purpose, be taken into consideration. This Bill also seeks to cure a small defect in the law as it now stands. The Act does not entitle the Governor General in Council to make regulations prescribing the pay and allowances of all persons enrolled under the Act, but only of those who are liable to perform military service. Members of the force who are between the ages of 16 and 18 years are not liable to perform military service; they are liable to perform military training. The result is that, when they come to camp, no allowances are payable to them. This is a purely unintentional circumstance in the wording of the Act, and, as a matter of fact, during past years allowances have been regularly paid to these persons. The error was discovered in audit, and Government now have to ask this House to make the necessary amendment to the Act.

Sir, I move.

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

Mr. G. M. Young: Sir, I move that the Bill be passed.

The motion was adopted.

THE VIZAGAPATAM PORT BILL.

The Honourable Sir George Rainy (Member for Commerce and Railways): Sir, I move that the Bill to make special provision for the administration of the port of Vizagapatam be taken into consideration. This measure is a very simple one. It proposes to transfer from the Local Government to the Government of India, with certain exceptions, all the powers vested in the Local Government at present under the Indian Ports Act, and the Madras Outports Landing and Shipping Fees Act. When it was decided some five years ago to undertake the construction of a new port at Vizagapatam, Vizagapatam was declared to be a major port. Since then the position has been that the legal powers of administration were vested in the Local Government, who acted merely as the agents of the Government of India. Very much the same legal position exists in the case of five other major ports, Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Karachi and Rangoon. But there is this difference, that whereas these great ports have their Port Trusts to whom in very large measure the administration of the port is committed, at Vizagapatam there is no Port Trust, and indeed on the scale on which the port existed prior to the commencement of construction of the new harbour, it would not have been possible. I think,

[Sir George Rainy.]

to constitute a Port Trust. For the last four or five years we have been able to carry on without too much difficulty with the system I have described, that is the legal powers in the hands of the Local Government, and the ultimate control in the hands of the Government of India, but I do not think it will be possible to carry on in that way much longer, for the construction of the harbour has now reached an advanced stage. It was opened last November to lighter traffic, and it is expected that ocean-going steamers will be able to enter the harbour towards the end of 1932. As a result of these big changes, there will be a good deal to do in the way of introducing revised shipping charges under the Landing and Shipping Fees Act, and a good deal of rule-making to undertake. It does not seem possible or desirable that this should nominally be done by the Local Government, who are merely acting as the agents of the Government of India, and it was, therefore, thought desirable that at this stage these powers should be transferred to the Government of India. At the same time, it was decided that we had better not attempt to meddle at present with the port health powers, because the general question how port quarantine and port health generally is to be administered is still under consideration. We found it was not likely that leaving these powers to the Local Government would cause any practical inconvenience, but all the other powers are being transferred to the Government of India. I think, that, Sir, is sufficient to explain to the House what the provisions of the Bill are.

Mr. B. Sitaramaraju (Ganjam *cum* Vizagapatam: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, coming as I do from Vizagapatam, it gives me great pleasure to welcome this Bill, not because it is going to give us anything more at present than the mere transfer of the powers of the Local Government to the Government of India, but I see in this Bill the hope that the scheme for the development of the Vizagapatam port is at last nearing completion. This port of Vizagapatam, Sir, though situated in the province of Madras, is, by its position on the coast, intended to serve the needs of more than one provincial area, inasmuch as the opening of the Vizianagram-Raipur Railway will directly connect the Central Provinces with this port, and those areas which are now inhabited mostly by the Oriya people on the borders of the Madras Presidency will also receive the benefits arising out of this development. Therefore, Sir, I feel that the control and administration of this port should, without further delay, be entirely vested in the Government of India, inasmuch as the port is to serve more than one provincial area.

Sir, in this connection I must say that it is a long time since the development of this port has been taken on hand, and the Vizianagram-Raipur Railway, which is to open up tracts of land in the Central Provinces, is not yet completed. Neither is the Vizagapatam Harbour, which is a main feature of this development, completed. We are told, Sir, that the construction of this harbour will have sufficiently advanced before the close of the next year so as to allow ocean-going steamers to enter the harbour. Sir, so long ago as 1924, in answer to my father in this House, Sir Charles Innes, the then Commerce Member, while admitting that there had been considerable delay even then with regard to the development of this port, assured him that rapid progress would be made. Seven years have since elapsed, and neither the railway nor the harbour is completed. I hope the Government of India will be pleased to take such early steps as are necessary to complete the construction at an early date.

Just one word more, Sir, and I have done. The Honourable the Commerce Member says that there can be no Port Trust for the present. I hope that if these harbour works are completed as early as possible, the Honourable the Commerce Member will see his way to create a Port Trust with adequate Indian representation to safeguard the interests of the people living there.

Mr. S. C. Shahani (Sind: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I think the installation of Loud Speakers would be a great improvement.

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: Sir, my friend expressed regret,—and I must try to prove myself a loud speaker if we have none at present—that we had not finished the harbour at Vizagapatam as rapidly as we had hoped. I hope he will take this Bill as a harbinger of the dawn, for if we did not think that the time of opening was approaching, we should not have taken the trouble to transfer the powers.

Then another point to which he referred was about a Port Trust in Vizagapatam. I do not think he quite understood what I said on that subject. What I said was this, that on the scale on which the Port of Vizagapatam existed before we began construction, that at that time I did not think it would have been possible to constitute a Port Trust. But undoubtedly what we aim at, as soon as the new port is completed, will be the constitution of a Port Trust. Only I think it will be desirable that the construction should be completed first and that we should be in a position to hand over the port to the future Trust as a going concern. There would be some difficulty, I think, in making the transfer until then, but undoubtedly what we shall aim at is the constitution of a regular Port Trust.

Mr. President: The question is:

“That the Bill to make special provision for the administration of the port of Vizagapatam taken into consideration.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: Sir, I move that the Bill be passed.

The motion was adopted.

THE INDIAN NAVAL ARMAMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Mr. G. M. Young (Army Secretary): Sir, I move that the Bill to give effect in British India to the Treaty for the Limitation and Reduction of Naval Armament be taken into consideration.

Sir, the first international treaty for the limitation of naval armaments was signed at Washington in 1922. India was a party to that treaty, and so, in due course, the Indian Naval Armament Act of 1923 was passed

[Mr. G. M. Young.]

by the Indian Legislature to give effect to it so far as India was concerned. In 1930 a second treaty for the limitation of naval armaments was signed in London. India was a party also to that treaty, and it now becomes necessary to give effect to its provisions by law in India.

The object of this Bill is to effect that, by amendment of the Indian Naval Armament Act of 1923. I do not think, Sir, that I need dilate upon the actual provisions of the Bill. They do not affect India at present, for we have no vessels that exceed the limits proposed by this Bill; it is, however, necessary for India, as a party to the treaty, to give legal effect to its provisions.

Sir, I move.

Mr. B. Das (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, the provisions of this Bill which is supposed to give effect to the limitation and reduction of naval armaments were settled by the League of Nations at Geneva. My Honourable friend Mr. Young said that India was a party to it. I wish to record the protest of India, as represented by this side of the House, that India has never been any party, though the Government of India had been represented at the League of Nations, to any such proposal, because those gentlemen who represented India at the League of Nations have not been permitted by the Government of India and the British Government to represent the view point of India.

Mr. Arthur Moore (Bengal: European): This is not the League of Nations. This is the London Conference.

Mr. B. Das: It may be the London Conference, but it is all the same as it met at the instance of the League of Nations. But what I wanted to draw my Honourable friend Mr. Moore's special attention to, because he controls the best press in India, is that if the European nations to-day are thinking of reduction of armaments, I ask, does India get a chance to speak out its mind? The Indian delegates—I do not care who they are, they may be even ex-Executive Councillors—represent the Government on the Treasury Benches, and do not represent the views of the people of India. India is suffering under a heavy burden of army expenditure. I want to record that protest. I do not want, and this is not the time, to discuss the point that India is suffering from heavy defence charges, because probably there will be another Round Table Conference soon in India, where we will discuss these things and where we will say what is the limit of money that India is prepared to spend on defence. If the League of Nations can sit in arbitration, why should not the League of Nations be asked to decide the total amount of expenditure that India should spend on its defence? To-day we spend 55 crores of rupees; it is nearly 40 per cent. of the total amount that is at the disposal of my Honourable friend Sir George Schuster. I feel that India cannot afford such heavy expenditure. I have heard it stated at Geneva, when I was a visitor there, that India is mistrusted by the other European nations because India is considered as the handmaid of England, and whatever England orders the Indian delegates cast their votes accordingly. I hope the day will come when the representatives of the Government of India will speak out their honest mind about the defence of India, but I think the time is coming very shortly when we shall have to go into it in detail. (*An Honourable Member*: "Is it coming soon?") It is not

coming? I hope it is coming, but whatever Bill my Honourable friend Mr. Young may bring forward he should not take it that India was a party to this agreement. As long as you do not reduce the expenditure on the defence of India from Rs. 55 crores to the limit of Rs. 25 crores, till then you cannot have consent from this side of the House. We have to agree to it because we have no other alternative.

Mr. Arthur Moore: I quite sympathise with Mr. Das's point about the representation. I quite agree, and I think His Excellency the Viceroy in a speech in Simla himself drew attention to the fact that, although India was represented at the League of Nations, and although every care was taken to see that the representatives were able to speak and to adopt a line which would receive support in India, still the fact did remain that the selection of those representatives did not lie in India but ultimately rested with the Secretary of State. That is a perfectly good point, but I would remind Mr. Das that what we are discussing is the navy and naval armaments, and this is a Bill which is being passed to bring India into line with an agreement to reduce naval armaments. But so far as India is concerned, it is not applicable at all, first of all, because this House has refused to create an Indian navy. . . .

Mr. B. Das: All the same it exists.

Mr. Arthur Moore: . . . and secondly, because India does not contribute to the upkeep of the British Navy. Therefore, I think that Mr. Das's protest is, in this particular instance, singularly beside the point.

Sir Hari Singh Gour (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan): I had not intended to intervene in this debate, but I find that my Honourable friend Mr. Moore is going entirely off the track in this matter. Any student of constitutional law knows that with the Resolution passed at the War Conference of 1917, India was admitted to the Imperial Conference, and when the Imperial Conference of 1918 ratified India's permanent admission to the Imperial Conference, India became an international State and it was in consequence of that position that India was called upon to sign the Treaty of Versailles. In 1920, when the League of Nations was started, it was under the Covenant of the League of Nations that only self-governing countries were entitled to be its members, and India became its original member. That international status, which India acquired in consequence of the Resolution passed at the War Conference of 1917, ratified in the Imperial Conference of 1918 and given effect to in the League of Nations in 1920, placed India exactly in the same position as other self-governing Dominions of the British Commonwealth, and it is in consequence of that international status which India achieved, that she was invited to be a signatory to this London Naval Pact. That being the position, what we on this side of the House have been complaining of, and that complaint has been reiterated ever since the inauguration of the Legislative Assembly in 1921, is that if India is to have an effective representation in international conferences, the people of this country must be consulted. And who are the people of this country except the representatives of the country in this House? That, Sir, has been the grievance of the people of India. That has been the grievance of three Assemblies, and I am sure it is the grievance of this

[Sir Hari Singh Gour.]

Assembly as well. That is what Mr. Das has been trying to bring to the notice of the occupants of the Treasury Benches. They select their men to go to the League of Nations to sign a treaty in London and go to the Conference in Washington and elsewhere, but they are not our representatives. They are not the true representatives of this House. So far as the other self-governing Dominions are concerned, they are represented by their Prime Ministers and other Ministers of the Crown. So far as India is concerned, we are not treated on the same footing as the other self-governing Dominions. That, I think, is the position which this House takes in respect of its representation in international conferences, and it is that protest which we on this side of the House wish emphatically to lodge before this Bill becomes law. We have no grievance against this law at all. As the Honourable Mr. Young pointed out, the signature to this treaty and our enactment of this measure is purely a formal matter. We have not got ships of that tonnage and consequently we lose nothing by signing this treaty, but that is not the point. The point is this. A treaty has been made by a representative who is not the accredited representative of this Indian Parliament and in matters of international conferences, it is the representatives of this House who should represent India, in the same way as the representatives of the self-governing Dominions are the representatives of their respective Parliaments. That, Sir, is our grievance, and that is the grievance to which my Honourable friend Mr. B. Das has given expression, and I think he has done a public service in informing the occupants of the Treasury Benches and the House generally how dissatisfied we are with the representation of India, not only in the League of Nations but in the Imperial Conference and in all international conferences, in which all the members of the British Commonwealth are invited to take part.

Mr. N. R. Gunjal (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I oppose this Bill.

Mr. G. M. Young: With reference to what has fallen from my Honourable friend Sir Hari Singh Gour, so far as I am aware, the representatives of the various nations at these treaties and conferences were not the representatives of their Parliaments but the representatives of their Governments. So far as India itself is concerned, India's representative at the first of these treaties was the Right Honourable Srinivasa Sastri, and, at the second, Sir Atul Chatterjee, the High Commissioner for India. I cannot see what objection could be taken to either of these two gentlemen representing the Government of India on those occasions.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That the Bill to give effect in British India to the Treaty for the Limitation and Reduction of Naval Armament be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2, 3 and 4 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

Mr. G. M. Young: Sir, I move that the Bill be passed.

Mr. Amar Nath Dutt (Burdwan Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, at this late stage when the Bill is about to be passed, I have one observation to make in order to clear up the position which apparently seems to be a little clouded. Speaking of India's representation, the Government has named Sir Atul Chatterjee. But, the complaint of my Honourable friends Sir Hari Singh Gour and Mr. B. Das is that India is really not represented. Those who happen at the present moment to govern this ancient land very unjustly proclaim before the world that India is represented, while the fact remains that the alien Government sends its nominee, and that is what Sir Hari Singh, in his forcible speech, wanted to bring home to the Official Benches. It was unnecessary for Sir Hari Singh Gour and Mr. Das to do so, because the Government want to shut their eyes to the real facts and try to justify themselves before the world. It suits the Treasury Benches to keep up the appearance and show to the world that India is represented, while they know in their heart of hearts that it is not India but British Imperialism that is represented there. No Englishman, if he is really honest and if he is really truthful, should take shelter under this cloak. That is my criticism on the observations made by the Official Benches.

The Honourable Sir George Rainy (Member for Commerce and Railways): There is one point which I should like to make in reply to my Honourable friend, and that is to point out that it is not British India which is a member of the League of Nations but India. That being so, it is clear that only the Crown can appoint the representatives of India. I think it is well to remember that, because it is sometimes forgotten, but my Honourable friends opposite may rest assured that we understand what their point is. All it amounts to is this—that they want the Government of India to be responsible to the Legislature. That is a demand of which even the Government of India have heard in the last few months.

Mr. President: The question is:

“That the Bill to give effect in British India to the Treaty for the Limitation and Reduction of Naval Armament be passed.”

The motion was adopted.

THE INDIAN INCOME-TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster (Finance Member): Sir, I beg to move that the Bill further to amend the Indian Income-tax Act, 1922, for a certain purpose, be taken into consideration. I think the object of this Bill is very clearly explained in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, and perhaps the best thing I can do is to read from that Statement:

“Under sub-section (1)(e) of section 58 C of the Indian Income-tax Act (XI of 1922), a private provident fund must be vested in two or more trustees. It appears desirable to amend the Act so as to enable the Official Trustee to be appointed sole Trustee of the fund, should those concerned desire to appoint him.”

[Sir George Schuster.]

Sir, I move.

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: Sir, I move that the Bill be passed.

Mr. President: The question is :

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Income-tax Act, 1922, for a certain purpose, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 3rd February, 1931.