

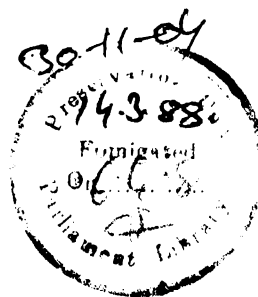
Saturday, 10th February, 1934

THE
COUNCIL OF STATE DEBATES

VOLUME I, 1934

(8th February to 27th April, 1934)

SEVENTH SESSION
OF THE
THIRD COUNCIL OF STATE, 1934



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Council of State

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THE HONOURABLE MR. SATYENDRA CHANDRA GHOSH MAULIK

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA JAGDISH PRASAD.

} *Members.*

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COUNCIL OF STATE.

Saturday, 10th February, 1934.

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

QUESTION AND ANSWER.

INCOME-TAX DEPARTMENT, BENGAL.

19. THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHMOOD SUHRAWARDY (on behalf of the Honourable Khan Bahadur Syed Abdul Hafeez) : (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether the policy of maintaining the communal percentage was kept in view at the time of selection for the last retrenchment in the Income-tax Department, Bengal ?

(b) What were and are the respective percentages in each of the cadres (i.e., the Assistant Commissioner, the Income-tax Officer, the Additional Income-tax Officer, the Examiner of Accounts, the Head Clerk, the Upper Division Clerk, the Lower Division Clerk, and the Orderly) of the Muslims in the Income-tax Department, Bengal, before and after retrenchment ?

(c) Is the proposed Muslim percentage of 45 per cent. in Bengal being given effect to ? If not, why not ? If the percentage is not being maintained, is it the intention of Government to maintain it in the near future ? If not, why not ?

(d) Have any and if so what instructions been given to the Income-tax Commissioner, Bengal, regarding Muslim representation in Bengal in the Income-tax Department and how are they being carried out ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. B. TAYLOR : (a) Yes.

(b) A statement giving so much information as is readily available is laid on the table.

(c) and (d). I would draw attention to the information in reply to parts (4), (5) and (6) of the Honourable Mr. Mahmood Suhrawardy's question No. 168 asked on the 11th September, 1933, which was laid on the table on the 14th December, 1933.

Statement showing the communal composition of the staff of the Income-tax Department, Bengal, before and after retrenchment.

	Before retrenchment.			After retrenchment.		
	Total strength.	Muslims.	Per-centage.	Total strength.	Muslims.	Per-centage.
Assistant Commissioners of Income-tax on Rs. 1,500—100—2,000 .	2	1	50	2	1	50
Assistant Commissioners of Income-tax on Rs. 1,000—100—2,000 .	3		..	2		..
Income-tax Officers .	35*	8	24·24	29	8	27·6
Assistant Income-tax Officers and Examiners of Accounts .	57	21	36·8	59 (six of them were officiating as Income-tax Officers in September last).	19	32·2
Ministerial .	386†	140	36·8	386	140	36·8

*Two posts were lying vacant before retrenchment.

† Six posts were lying vacant in July, 1933.

BILL PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY LAID ON THE TABLE.

SECRETARY OF THE COUNCIL: Sir, in pursuance of rule 25 of the Indian Legislative Rules I lay on the table copies of the Bill to regulate the use of the words "Khaddar" and "Khadi" when applied as a trade description of woven materials, which was passed by the Legislative Assembly at its meeting held on Thursday, the 8th February, 1934.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE ELECTION OF TWO NON-OFFICIAL MUSLIM MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR PILGRIMAGE TO THE HEJAZ.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: I have to announce the names of Members nominated for election to the Standing Committee on Pilgrimage to the Hejaz. They are:

- (1) The Honourable Khan Bahadur Chaudri Muhammad Din,
- (2) The Honourable Khan Bahadur Syed Abdul Hafeez, and
- (3) The Honourable Mr. Hossain Imam.

As the number of Members nominated exceeds the number to be elected an election will be necessary. I shall announce in due course the date on which the election will be held.

RESOLUTION *RE* INDIANIZATION OF THE INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA JAGDISH PRASAD (United Provinces Northern : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, I beg to move the following Resolution :

" This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council to take steps to increase substantially the percentage of recruitment of Indians to the Indian Civil Service with a view to secure the Indianization of the Indian Civil Service within a measurable distance of time."

Sir, it goes without saying that the Indian Civil Service is one of the most important Services, if not the most important Service, in this country. Recruitment to this Service is, as we know, made simultaneously in England and India on the basis of fifty-fifty per cent. recruitment of Europeans and Indians, respectively, according to the present arrangement. This scheme of recruiting Indian and European candidates in equal numbers to the Civil Service was, I understand, decided upon by the Government on the recommendation of the Lee Commission. But, as the Government must be aware, the country was strongly opposed to the appointment of that Commission, and Indian public opinion has never accepted the recommendations of that body. Let us see what has been the result of the scheme of recruitment to the Indian Civil Service that has been followed by the Government so far. In answer to a question asked by my Honourable friend, Mr. Jagadish Chandra Banerjee, in this House in the last session, the Honourable Mr. Hallett informed the House that the total number of Indian Civil Service officers in service on the 31st December, 1932, was 1,177, of whom 368 were Indians. Or, in other words, Indians form only about 31 per cent. of the total cadre of the Indian Civil Service. It will be interesting to recall in this connection that in 1911, when a debate was raised in the old Imperial Legislative Council on the position of Indians in the Civil Service, the total number of Civilians was 1,300, of whom 64 were Indians. That is to say, during the last 22 years there has been an increase of only about 300 Indians in the Indian Civil Service. It is obvious that at the present rate of recruitment—I mean in the ratio of 50 Indians to 50 Europeans—the Indian Civil Service will not be completely Indianized at any time in the future. This, Sir, is not a satisfactory position. I hope the Government will agree that it is a legitimate demand of India that Indians should be associated in ever-increasing numbers in the governance of their country. Advanced public opinion in India has in fact been demanding that British recruitment to the Indian Civil Service should stop altogether. But I do not go so far. I do not suggest that British recruitment should cease entirely, because I think it will not be an advisable step, at least for some time to come, circumstanced as India is at present. But what I suggest is that the pace of Indianization of the Indian Civil Service should be accelerated so that it may be possible to Indianize the Civil Service within a measurable distance of time. I think, Sir, this is by no means an unreasonable proposal. For, even in regard to the Indianization of the Army, it was the considered opinion of an authoritative body of experts who were appointed by the Government to conduct an inquiry and make recommendations, that it was possible to Indianize the commissioned posts within 30 years. Therefore, it should be much easier still to Indianize the Civil Service within that period, since there is no dearth of Indian university graduates who would make as competent public servants as Europeans. But I am not in my Resolution laying down any definite period for this purpose. I only wish to urge on the Government that their present policy by which the Indian Civil Service will never be completely Indianized at any time in the future should be replaced by a scheme

[Rai Bahadur Lala Jagdish Prasad.]

which may accelerate the pace of Indianization with a view to secure the Indianization of the Indian Civil Service within a measurable distance of time. Mark the words "measurable distance of time", so that I am leaving the question of time entirely to the discretion of the Government, only hoping that it will be a reasonable period. Thus the Council will see that my proposition is an eminently reasonable one and ought therefore to commend itself to the House.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : Resolution moved :

"This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council to take steps to increase substantially the percentage of recruitment of Indians to the Indian Civil Service with a view to secure the Indianization of the Indian Civil Service within a measurable distance of time."

Honourable Mr. Banerjee, you have got a Resolution which is styled an amendment but which is really in the nature of an alternative Resolution. I call upon you now to address the House, but I would request you to bear in mind that you will have only 15 minutes' time as your Resolution is in the nature of an amendment.

THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE (East Bengal : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, the amendment that stands in my name runs thus :

"That for the original Resolution the following be substituted, namely :

'This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council to take steps to increase substantially the percentage of recruitment of Indians to the Indian Civil Service and especially to increase the percentage of recruitment of Indian members of the Civil Service in the superior posts of the Government of India Secretariats with a view to secure the Indianization of all posts reserved or usually held by the Indian Civil Service within a period of ten years'."

In moving my amendment, Sir, I heartily thank the Honourable Rai Bahadur Lala Jagdish Prasad for giving us this opportunity of bringing to the notice of the Government the fact about their not being very vigilant over the question of Indianization. I know that unless and until the whole system of administration is thoroughly overhauled and changed the mere Indianization of posts will not bring us to our goal of *Swaraj*. I admit that at the present moment the major portion of the administration of the country is run by my own countrymen in the subordinate services and still the position of Indians within and abroad remains what it was during the days of the East India Company. This state of affairs is only due to the system of the bureaucratic administration. In this present wheel of administration everyone, be he an Indian or an European, shapes himself into the wheel and after a time there remains no distinction between a brown or a white bureaucrat to choose between the two. Still I have my reasons for this demand of Indianization of the cadre of the Indian Civil Service. My friend the mover of the Resolution desires Indianization of the cadre of the Indian Civil Service at a more rapid pace and I know the Government will come forward with a long list of their arithmetical proportions by which Indianization is going on apace according to a definite programme chalked out by the Lee Commission. I admit that Indianization is being carried out from below and if we are to wait to have the full effects of this type of Indianization it will take another 25 or 30 or even 50 years before we can appreciably see a larger number of Indian members of the Indian Civil Service in the sacred rooms reserved for Secretariat officers.

The subject-matter of my amendment is not a new one. It is a twice-told tale. It is as old as the year 1911 when the Honourable Mr. Subha Rao moved a Resolution that Indians should be employed on a larger scale in higher offices of the public service. The Honourable Mr. Earle in replying to the debate on behalf of the Government said as follows :

“ There is nothing to prevent the Government of India from appointing a Secretary to the Government of India from among the ranks of Indian officials if they think fit ”.

Then on the 15th September, 1921, the attention of Government was drawn to this question of Indianization by a question put by Mr. Joshi in the other House which revealed the following facts in connection with the posts in the Indian Civil Service. Sir, I think it will take some time to read this information which is contained in the debates of the Legislative Assembly. I will refer my Honourable friends to those debates. I will not waste the time of the House by reading it.

From the statement I have just referred to, it is revealed that in nine years Indians will attain the maximum percentage of posts open to them which was 48 per cent. according to the orders which existed then. That being so, I think by 1930 48 per cent. of the posts are held by Indians and as such we could very well expect to see at least that percentage to be reflected in the higher posts of the Government of India Secretariats but, Sir, I will presently show that the number of Indians holding such posts are decreasing probably in inverse ratio with the number of years or if not it remains more or less where it was then. On the 26th of September of the same year, *i.e.*, 1921, the Honourable Saiyid Raza Ali brought in a Resolution in this House on the subject of Indianizing the posts of Secretaries, Joint Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries in the Army, Marine, Education, Foreign, Political and Public Works Department of the Government of India. In the course of replying to this debate the Honourable Mr. Craik on behalf of Government stated amongst other things as follows :

“ As I say, Indians are eligible for all the posts mentioned in the Resolution and the sole test of selection for those posts is to select the fittest man, be he English or be he Indian ”.

Sir, I may remind the House that the Honourable Mr. Craik in the year of grace 1921 repeated exactly what the Honourable Mr. Earle stated in the year of grace 1911.

On the 11th February, 1922, the question of the Indianization of the Services was again brought before the Government in the House by a Resolution moved by Mr. Jamnadas Dwarkadas and I need not go into it in detail. On the 16th January, 1923, a question was again asked in the Legislative Assembly and what Government said in their reply is contained in the debates of the Legislative Assembly for 1923 and I do not propose to read it for want of time. Here, again, the Government's reply was the same stereotyped reply to the effect that the man best fitted for the post should be selected.

On the 19th February, 1923, another Resolution regarding opportunities to Indians for qualifying for the appointments of Secretaries, Joint Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries and Under Secretaries was brought before the House by the Honourable Saiyid Raza Ali.

On the 28th February, 1923, the Right Honourable Srinivasa Sastri again moved a Resolution for the appointment of at least one Indian member of the Indian Civil Service as Secretary, Joint Secretary or Deputy Secretary

[Mr. Jagadish Chandra Banerjee.]

in every section of the Government of India. Sir, as usual on that occasion the Honourable Mr. (now Sir James) Crerar, the Home Secretary, used the same well worn terms and which is as follows :

" But I do not think I am doing more than stating an obvious and palpable fact when I say that to the Departments of the Government of India are entrusted in a very exceptional degree and in a very exceptional sense many of the highest interests of the Indian public and of the State. If that is so, I do not think it is a questionable inference to draw that in making appointments to these departments the Government of India must adhere scrupulously and strictly to the principle of selection on the basis of proved merit and ability."

The Indian Legislature either in this House or in the other House did not lose sight of this question and on the 10th September, 1924, Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas put a question on the subject but I will not read that question and other interpellations for want of time.

On the 30th January, 1925, again Mr. Jamnadas Mehta put another question on the same subject as my amendment which also I am not going to read.

This question was kept in front of the Government of India all these years and as the list of questions and answers will be too long to enumerate here in detail I will simply refer to two other questions put on this subject on the 6th September, 1932 and 7th November, 1932, in the other House as to the progress of Indianization of these Secretariat appointments. I was rather surprised to find, Sir, that the number of Indian officers have been decreased rather than increased in such posts and at the present moment are lesser in number when compared with the year 1923. To make the position clearer I am giving a comparative statement of Indians and Europeans holding Secretariat appointments in 1923 and 1933. The 1923 figures are the figures given by Sir Phiroze Sethna in this House in 1923 when speaking on the Resolution moved on this subject by the Right Honourable Srinivasa Sastri and the figures of 1933 have been taken from the Government of India Directory published by the Home Department in November, 1933.

In the year 1923 in the Foreign and Political Department there were no Indians.

In the year 1933 in the Foreign and Political Department there is only one officer from the Accounts Service whose duty it was to look after the Budget of the Department.

In the year 1923 in the Education, Health and Lands Department an Indian was Deputy Secretary temporarily.

In the year 1933 in the Education, Health and Lands Department there were three Indians filling the five Indian Civil Service appointments, i.e., one Secretary, one Joint Secretary and one Officiating Additional Deputy Secretary. In this Department only is progress satisfactory and is probably due to the fact that the Department does not deal with high political policies of the State.

In the year 1923 in the Army Department there were no Indians.

In the year 1933 in the Army Department there were no Indians though there are two Indian Civil Service appointments.

In the year 1923 in the Home Department there were no Indians.

In the year 1933 in the Home Department one Indian Deputy Secretary out of five Indian Civil Service appointments.

In the year 1923 in the Legislative Department there was one non-Indian Civil Service Indian Deputy Secretary.

In the year 1933 in the Legislative Department there were no Indians in the three Indian Civil Service appointments.

In the year 1923 in the Commerce Department there were no Indians.

In the year 1933 in the Commerce Department there were two Indians. One was the Member in charge, the Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore and the other a Deputy Secretary. There are five Indian Civil Service appointments in the Department.

In the year 1923 in the Industries and Labour Department there was an Indian Secretary.

In the year 1933 in the Industries and Labour Department one Indian Under Secretary held one of the five Indian Civil Service appointments.

In the year 1923 in the Finance Department one Indian Under Secretary and one Indian Deputy Secretary, both non-Indian Civil Service.

In the year 1933 in the Finance Department one Budget Officer, non-Indian Civil Service, out of nine Indian Civil Service appointments including the Central Board of Revenue and Military Finance.

I think it will be agreed that Indianization of the Indian Civil Service is going apace but the pace at which it is moving is not what we want. It is not what the country demands. We want acceleration of the process of Indianization. In the proposed constitutional reforms we are going to have full provincial autonomy and a partial responsible government at the centre. Is it any wonder that just on the eve of these momentous constitutional changes we demand rapid Indianization of the Indian Civil Service. But, Sir, that is not all. As I have already said I want Indianization both from below and from the top. By the top I mean the posts in the Government of India Secretariats. We do not like to be lulled to sleep by those well worn epithets of Government, viz., posts in the Government of India Secretariat must be filled with men best fitted for them. Sir, taking into consideration the dwindling number of Indian Secretaries and Deputy Secretaries and Joint Secretaries do Government want us to believe that amongst the present Indian members of the Indian Civil Service there are no competent men fitted for such posts. If they think so let them throw off their mask and openly declare it so or otherwise let them admit that such posts in the salubrious hill station of the summer headquarters must be reserved for Europeans. I am surprised, Sir, that efficient Indians can be found to fill the posts of Governor, Executive Councillors and Ministers and only for the few posts of Secretaries, Joint Secretaries and Deputy Secretaries suitable Indians even from the ranks of the heaven-born Indian Civil Service are not available! Government should not forget that the India of today is not the India of 25 years ago and therefore the catch phrases which satisfied Indians of a decade ago cannot satisfy the country now. Therefore, Sir, I commend my amendment for the acceptance of the House.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : Substituted Resolution moved :

"That this Council recommends to the Governor General in Council to take steps to increase substantially the percentage of recruitment of Indians to the Indian Civil Service and especially to increase the percentage of recruitment of Indian members of the Civil Service in the superior posts of the Government of India Secretariats with a view to secure the Indianization of all posts reserved or usually held by the Indian Civil Service within a period of ten years."

[Mr. President.]

The debate will now take place simultaneously on both these Resolutions. After hearing the debate it will be open to me to put either of these Resolutions to the House.

THE HONOURABLE MR. M. G. HALLETT (Home Secretary) : Sir, I am grateful to you for allowing these two Resolutions to be discussed together, although the amendment moved by the Honourable Mr. Banerjee raises an entirely different question from the very important issue raised by the Resolution of the Honourable Rai Bahadur Lala Jagdish Prasad. The main Resolution raises an important issue which is prominently before the country at the present time and is one of the most important questions being considered by the Joint Select Committee in London and it is a clear-cut and definite issue that Indians should be recruited in greater numbers than at present to the Indian Civil Service. Mr. Banerjee raises what I might almost call a side issue ; that is to say, he recommends that within the Service itself more Indians should be appointed to the posts such as I and my colleagues on the Government Benches at present hold. I recognize that that question has been discussed frequently in the past. I am afraid I have not gone as far back as he has into the previous discussions, but I had gone back to the discussion in 1923 on the Right Honourable Mr. Sastri's Resolution debated and adopted by this Council. The Honourable Mr. Banerjee has explained the view taken by Government at that time. Perhaps I may somewhat amplify the points that were then made. Whatever may be the method of recruitment to a service, whatever proportions may be fixed for different races or nationalities or communities for initial recruitment, it is a recognized principle of Government that within a service promotion shall be made strictly on merits and irrespective of all other considerations. That is a fundamental principle which is followed by Government in all their services ; it must be followed, otherwise there might be a grave deterioration of the public service. Officers enter the Service on this understanding and they understand that all appointments are to be made on considerations of their merits. Now, the posts under the Government of India are selection posts, posts for which officers have to be selected with great care. After the debate in this House in 1923 the whole question was considered and I think I may make the position of Government clear to the House by reading out the orders that were then issued. What was stated at that time was as follows :

"The principle adopted in filling the posts in the Government of India Secretariat has always been that experienced and suitable men should be selected and in the majority of cases a previous training in the Provincial Secretariats has been regarded as necessary. His Excellency the Viceroy has directed that on the occurrence of vacancies in the appointments mentioned in the Resolution, the possibility of obtaining a suitable and competent Indian officer from the Provincial Secretariats should be definitely considered. In pursuance of this object, he desires that on every occasion on which Local Governments are asked to submit names for nomination to Secretariat appointments in the Government of India, they should be asked to give the names of Indian officers, where suitable, as well as of Europeans."

Those were the orders issued in 1923 and those orders have been faithfully carried out by the various Departments of the Government of India. But the Honourable Member has argued that the results have not been satisfactory. I quite admit that there are at present more British officers holding Secretariat posts and superior Secretariat posts in the Government of India than Indians. There are, however, Indians in practically every department holding high and responsible posts and the claims of Indians have not been in any way neglected. What then is the reason why we have so few Indians

in the Secretariat posts ? It is really I think a perfectly simple one. At the time when I and my fellow Secretariat officers were recruited to the Service the total number of Indians recruited to the Service was very small. I think in my year there were about 50 or 60 British officers recruited and probably only three or four Indians and the same thing happened in subsequent years—in fact during all the time up to and after the Great War in 1914-18. It was only in recent years practically since 1923 when the Lee Commission proposals were adopted that Indians have been recruited in larger numbers to the Indian Civil Service and in equal proportion to Europeans. Now, a Secretary or a Joint Secretary has to be an officer of considerable seniority—15, 18, 20, 25 years—and with seniority of those years there are very few Indians in the Service ; even for the posts of Deputy Secretaries, there are few Indian officers available for, as I have pointed out, recruitment of Indians in large numbers only began about 1923—that is ten years ago—so an officer of ten years' service has certainly hardly got sufficient experience for the post even of Deputy Secretary. One of the qualifications is that he should have experience of a Provincial Secretariat ; it is desirable also that he should have general district experience. It is generally only after about 15 years' service that he is qualified for the post of Deputy Secretary in the Government of India, so that it is due to circumstances, due to the history of the past, that we have so few, comparatively few, Indians in the Secretariat. The position will rectify itself in time because you will have more Indians rising in position and in seniority who will be available to fill these posts in the future and I can well anticipate that in four or five years hence or even in a shorter time there will be far more Indians in the Secretariat than there are at present. The Honourable Mr. Banerjee has quoted statistics showing the number in the various departments. I do not propose to follow him into all these statistics, but I think I may again assert that the principles laid down by His Excellency the Viceroy in 1923 have been fully carried out and that every effort is made to secure suitable Indians for these Secretariat posts. But I would again emphasise the fact that these posts are selection posts, that appointments are made to them on considerations of the merits of various officers and it would be undoubtedly hard on the British members of the Service if they were held to be ineligible for appointment to these posts. I am certain that their Indian colleagues in the Service itself would not agree to any such system. If promotion is made by merit, it must be merit alone and in view of no other considerations and I feel certain that in a short time we shall have Indians who have obtained these posts fully on their merits.

All that I have said up to now relates really to the subsidiary question and I will now get back to what is the main Resolution and which I agree raises a very important subject, that is to say, that there should be more recruitment of Indians to the Indian Civil Service in order to secure the Indianization of the Indian Civil Service within a measurable distance of time. This question, as the Honourable mover of the Resolution reminded us, owes its origin to the proposals of the Lee Commission in 1923. He contended that that Commission was not acceptable to Indian opinion. Sir, our experience is that the reports of very few Commissions are acceptable to Indian opinion. However that may be, the recommendation of the Lee Commission was that we should recruit at the ratio of 50 Europeans and 50 Indians till the Service consisted of half Europeans and half Indians and it was anticipated that that result would be obtained in about 1939. That proposal was accepted by Government. It has been reconsidered and was accepted by the Statutory Commission. I recognise that the Report of the Statutory Commission is no more acceptable to Indian public opinion than the Report of the Lee

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Commission. It was accepted by the Government of India and all Local Governments at the time when they were considering the Constitutional Reforms and the proposals contained in the Simon Report. The majority of the Services Sub-Committee of the Round Table Conference agreed that there should be a continuance of British recruitment and I am glad to see that my friend the Honourable Rai Bahadur Lala Jagdish Prasad supports that view. There was also a minority on that Committee which agreed that the ratio of recruitment should be maintained as at present. Finally, these proposals were accepted by His Majesty's Government and have been embodied in the White Paper which is now under the consideration of the Joint Select Committee. I quite admit that these decisions are in no way binding on this Council. I have no desire to ask them to accept them simply because they have been accepted by these influential bodies. But I would pass on to the point as to what has been the effect of the proposals of the Lee Commission and how Indianization stands at present. That is really the important point. The Honourable Rai Bahadur Lala Jagdish Prasad drew a somewhat pessimistic view of the situation and contended that we had made very little progress and I think that the Honourable Member contended that the position was not much better than it was in the days of the East India Company. The figures which I have before me show that there has been a very great change made in the constitution of the Indian Civil Service since the Lee Commission proposals were adopted in 1924, only nine or ten years ago. At the end of 1925 the proportion of British officers to Indian officers was 77 to 22. On the 1st January, 1933, a year ago, it was 63 to 37. That is to say, the number of British officers had decreased from 966 to 819, while the number of Indian officers had increased from 283 to 478. I think therefore there is very little doubt that in the near future we shall be getting up to a Service of which quite half the members are Indians. These figures by themselves quoted in the abstract are possibly slightly misleading. The actual position in the provinces is very often rather different, because it must be remembered that the Indian Civil Service not only consists of the officers working in the various provinces but that also of a large number of officers employed in miscellaneous posts, in the Foreign and Political Department and other Departments of the Government of India, and consequently actually in a province itself the percentage of Indians to Europeans is often greater than appears from these total figures. In support of that view I would like to quote a report which I have received from a province which shows to what extent and how rapidly Indianization has proceeded in recent years. This is a report from the Government of Madras but I think the same position exists in very many other provinces of British India. They report that as the Indian Civil Service cadre of this province stands at present, among the officers of from 12 to eight years' service, that is, officers who are just beginning to hold the important post of Collector, there are 20 Indians as against five Europeans. Of the latter three are serving under the Government of India and one has announced his intention of retiring as soon as the new constitution is inaugurated. It follows therefore that from 1934 there is likely to be an almost unbroken flow of Indians to fill the posts of Collectors and District Judges for a period of five or six years. That, I think, is a very good example of what has been the effect of the policy adopted by Government as a result of the Report of the Lee Commission and as a result of the efforts made previous to that Commission to increase the number of Indians in the Service. We have got in the provinces a very large number of Indians holding these responsible district posts. After all, the district officer is the keystone

of the administration and they are holding these posts with credit and success. But the facts that I have quoted show clearly that Indianization has got to a stage when Indians hold in a province very many of the most important key posts.

Another point that I would make is that we shall very soon get up to or above the fifty-fifty ratio because in the last few years we have had to recruit a larger number of Indians than we have of British officers. During the last four years for example, we have recruited 195 officers in all out of whom 80 were British officers and 115 Indian officers, that is to say, there were 35 more Indian officers than British officers. If recruitment goes on on these lines it is very probable that even before 1939, the date fixed by the Lee Commission, the constitution of the Service will have reached the fifty-fifty ratio of Europeans and Indians. We cannot tell what will happen under the new constitution, we cannot tell what will happen in the next few years. It may be that, as in the years 1921-22, a large number of British officers may take the opportunity (I regret to make such a forecast) of retiring to their own country on a proportionate pension. If they go in large numbers, their place will be taken by Indians recruited under the present system.

Another point I would make is this. We are cutting down our recruitment to the Indian Civil Service as much as possible and, although in the old days we used to recruit some 50 or 60 annually, now our recruitment figure is much lower and I anticipate that in the future we shall not recruit many more than about 40 officers in all a year; that would mean that we would only recruit, if we maintain the ratio, 20 British officers. Now, the proposal contained in the White Paper is that the present ratio should be maintained till five years after the institution of the new constitution, that is to say, six or possibly seven years hence. In that period you will only get 100 to 140 British officers. Is that a very large number? I have tried to show that Indianization is going on very rapidly. If we accept the view—and the Honourable the mover of the Resolution does I think fully accept that view—that there should be a nucleus of British officers in the Service, do we want to abandon the present system which is giving us on the whole such satisfactory results, which has resulted in the ten years in which it has been in force in making a very material change in the constitution of the Service? It is effecting the object which Government have in view of ultimately making the Indian Civil Service an Indian Service. But are we wise to make a change in the percentage of recruitment at this stage? The view that has frequently been put forward during the discussions in the Round Table Conference and in the Joint Select Committee is that we do not want to make big administrative changes at the same time as we are making a very big constitutional change. Surely that policy is wise? Will it not be far better to leave this question of the number of Indian recruits and the number of British recruits to be decided as proposed by the White Paper by a Royal Commission? I may here make a quotation from the Secretary of State's evidence on that point before the Joint Select Committee. He was arguing in favour of the view that the discussion of this question and other kindred questions might be left to the Commission which it was proposed to appoint five years after the institution of the new constitution.

"I think we shall have the five years' experience of the autonomous governments in the provinces. We shall see how things are going; we shall see what is the state of public opinion; we shall see what is the state of law and order. My own view would be that when the immediate excitement of the initiation of the constitution has blown over, both sides will look much more calmly at these problems than they could now. I would have said that in about five years time we should have quite a considerable amount of data for the specific point for which the inquiry is needed, namely, what is the best way of recruiting officials for the Secretary of State's services in the future."

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Finally, there is one point that I would make which I think is in favour of these questions being decided five years hence when the new Provincial Governments have got firmly established and when they know their needs. And that is this: this problem of the recruitment of Indians and Europeans is interconnected with many other important problems of the recruitment of the two security Services, the Indian Civil Service and the Indian Police. There is the important question whether recruitment of Indians should continue to be on an all-India basis, as it is at present, or whether it should be on a provincial basis? At present we do experience some difficulty by reason of the predominance of candidates from certain provinces of India. It may be desirable and in my view it will be desirable, and would be more in accordance with the principles of provincial autonomy that officers recruited for Services in a province should come from that province and not from some province outside. That is a very important question and it is clearly a question which should be decided in the light of the experience of future Provincial Governments.

Those, Sir, are the points I wish to make. Briefly, they are that the present system has achieved the object with which it was started, that Indianization is going ahead very rapidly and that certainly by 1939, or possibly before that date, the Service will consist of 50 per cent. British officers and 50 per cent. Indian officers, that the system is working well, that it will be better to reconsider the position when the new Provincial Governments have got firmly established, know exactly what they want, know what system of recruitment they would prefer and put their views fully before His Majesty's Government when that Commission is appointed. For these reasons, Sir, I must oppose this Resolution. There is no desire in my mind or certainly in the mind of Government to check Indianization. But we do not wish to go ahead too rapidly, and if as is admitted British officers do serve and will continue to serve a useful purpose in this country during the difficult first years of the new constitution, then I say that the present principles should continue to be followed and the present system of recruitment should be maintained for a short period longer during which we shall only get quite a modest number of British recruits for service in India.

THE HONOURABLE NAWAB MALIK MOHAMMAD HAYAT KHAN NOON (Punjab : Nominated Non-Official): Sir, with due deference to the views of my Honourable friends the mover of the Resolution and the mover of the amendment, I beg to say that I do not find any strong reasons for the moving of these Resolutions. Indianization of the Indian Civil Service is taking place at a reasonable pace. In my own province there are now Indian officers holding Indian Civil Service posts twelve times the number of what it was 30 years ago. Neither in the Resolution nor in the amendment has any definite method been suggested as to how to increase the pace of Indianization. It is all very well to make general suggestions, but to put up definite proposals is a different thing. Indians are admitted into the Service by open competition in England and also by the competitive examination in India and I cannot believe that my friend means that the standard of examination should be lowered. I am certain that Honourable Members of the House will not agree to a suggestion that Indians with lower qualifications than are necessary for the efficient discharging of the duties of the Service should be taken.

Then, Sir, I am afraid I cannot agree with my Honourable friend the mover of the amendment as to why so much importance should be attached to the

posts in the Secretariat (Hear, hear). I think the work in the district is just as important, if not more important, than work in the Secretariat. I hope the officers in the Secretariat will not mind my being a little frank. In the district, officers have administrative work to do. It requires tact on their part to discharge their duties successfully. Then they are in direct touch with the people. In the Secretariat, the officers deal mainly with rules and regulations. I admit that high ability is required in the Secretariat. I also admit that a certain number of Indians should be there in the Secretariat. But I am not prepared to say that the work of the Secretariat is of such importance that the work in the districts should be considered very inferior to it.

With these few remarks, Sir, I oppose the Resolution.

THE HONOURABLE MR. VINAYAK VITHAL KALIKAR (Central Provinces : General): Sir, I have heard with rapt attention the speech of my Honourable friend Mr. Hallett. I do not see from the reasons given by him why he is opposed to the Resolution moved by the Honourable Rai Bahadur Lala Jagdish Prasad. Of course, the amendment of my Honourable friend Mr. Banerjee is not so wide as the Resolution moved by my Honourable friend Lala Jagdish Prasad. It is admitted by my Honourable friend Mr. Hallett that Indianization is taking place in the Services. The complaint of my Honourable friend Lala Jagdish Prasad is that the progress is very slow. He has not given any definite period within which the Service ought to be Indianized. He says that "within a measurable distance of time" the Service should be Indianized. My submission is this. It has been admitted by my Honourable friend Mr. Hallett that Indians have been found competent to do the necessary work in the Service. Indians have been found competent to hold the responsible posts of Executive Councillor and Minister. Indians have also been found competent to hold temporarily the post of Governors in the various provinces. I therefore submit that other things being equal, that is, if you can find Indians fit for the Service, you should appoint them, and you should not stick to the percentage laid down by the Lee Commission so that you will be able not only to solve the question of unemployment amongst the educated classes but you will also be able to support the national demand about the Indianization of the Service and you will thereby help the Indians to manage their own affairs. Therefore, Sir, in supporting this Resolution of my Honourable friend Lala Jagdish Prasad, I do not in any way under-estimate the qualities and the virtues of the Europeans in the Indian Civil Service. There are some of my best friends in that Service and I really appreciate their sense of duty, their sincerity of purpose, their discipline and their honesty in performing the duties entrusted to them. I am not at all against Europeans entering that Service. My point only is that Indians should be given an opportunity of discharging their duties and of being co-opted in the management of their own affairs, that is, in the administration of India. This demand has been put forward for a very long time. If Government accept this Resolution, they will be allaying the feelings which unfortunately to some extent exist in the minds of the public that Government do not desire the Indianization of the Service. The demand made by my Honourable friend Mr. Banerjee refers to a particular point and I have nothing to say on that as he has given figures and facts. My only point is that if the Council supports this Resolution, it will strengthen the hands of those who are fighting for this particular proposition. I therefore support the Resolution moved by my Honourable friend Rai Bahadur Lala Jagdish Prasad.

THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHMOOD SUHRAWARDY (West Bengal : Muhammadan) : Sir, I heard with patience the arguments of my Honourable friend the mover of the Resolution and also the cogent arguments given by my Honourable friend the Home Secretary, Mr. Hallett. If I have understood him aright, my friend Mr. Hallett said that as far as practicable the recruitment of Europeans and Indians is on a fifty-fifty ratio and that is working satisfactorily. If that be the view of the Government and of His Majesty's Government, then I should ask my friend the mover of the Resolution and Mr. Banerjee to consider the matter again in the light of the White Paper proposals. I confess to feeling doubtful if all the Honourable Members of this House are aware that the White Paper proposals contemplated no change in the present system of recruitment or in the present conditions of service in the early years of the new constitution. Then why not let the matter wait till the proposed Commission comes out five years after the inauguration of the Reforms. If the Government is prepared to give that assurance that Indians will receive a larger proportion of places with the gradual march of time then I will support my friend Mr. Hallett on the floor of this House and I would advise my friend Lala Jagdish Prasad to withdraw this Resolution. If he is adamant about it then I will vote with Government and oppose the Resolution.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA JAGDISH PRASAD : Sir, I am glad that the reply of the Honourable Mr. Hallett to the debate on my Resolution is on the whole sympathetic. We in this House are accustomed to an adamant attitude on the part of the Government on every non-official Motion that emanates from this side of the House, but I am glad to see that at least in relation to this Resolution the attitude of Government is on the whole sympathetic, perhaps more sympathetic than the attitude taken up by my Honourable friend Nawab Malik Mohammad Hayat Khan Noon. The Honourable Mr. Hallett has said that the question of recruitment of Indians in greater numbers to the Indian Civil Service is engaging the attention of the Joint Select Committee in England, that five years after the inauguration of the new constitution a Commission will be coming out which will review the whole position in the light of experience gained by that time and that the Government of India will put forward their views in this behalf before that Commission. I am prepared to wait till that time, Sir, but I hope that the Government of India will put forward this demand of Indian public opinion strongly before that Commission and before His Majesty's Government, *viz.*, that Indian public opinion wants the pace of Indianization of the Indian Civil Service to be accelerated. The Honourable Mr. Hallett has observed that there are very few Commissions which are acceptable to Indian public opinion. Sir, if Commissions are not acceptable to Indian public opinion it is either because of their unsatisfactory constitution or because of their reactionary recommendations. The Honourable Mr. Hallett has argued that the present system of recruitment to the Indian Civil Service has given satisfactory results. But, Sir, my point is that if the present ratio of recruitment of Indians and Europeans to the Indian Civil Service continues, the Indian Civil Service will not be completely Indianized at any time in the future. I wish that the Governor General in Council should take steps to increase the percentage of recruitment of Indians to the Indian Civil Service so that it may be possible to Indianize the Service within a measurable distance of time. I do not want that British recruitment should stop altogether, as I have already said in my first speech. What I want is that the pace of Indianization of the Indian Civil Service should be accelerated. And as the Government of India seems to be in substantial agreement with this view and as the Joint Select Committee is already examining this question, I do not think I need press my Resolution to vote. I only hope that the Government

of India will keep this demand of Indian public opinion in view and will press it on the attention of His Majesty's Government and the Commission when the time comes for them to do so.

With these words, Sir, I beg leave of the House to withdraw the Resolution. The Resolution* was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : And therefore the substituted Resolution† necessarily falls also.

The Honourable the President next called upon the Honourable Mr. Hossain Imam whose Resolution‡ stood next on the List of Business but the Honourable Member was absent.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : As the Honourable Member is not here to support his Resolution it must be deemed to have been withdrawn. However I wish to point out to the Council that Honourable Members whose Resolutions are on the List of Business and are not able to be present should at least show the courtesy to send timely notice to the Department which is concerned with the Resolution and notice should also be sent to the Council Secretary.

The Council then adjourned till Eleven-of the Clock on Tuesday, the 13th February, 1934.

* *Vide* page 23, *ante*.

† *Vide* page 24, *ante*.

‡ "This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council to advance extensive long term credit through the Local Governments to persons affected by the earthquake for re-construction purposes on low rates of interest."