

Thursday, 14th December, 1933

THE
COUNCIL OF STATE DEBATES

VOLUME II, 1933

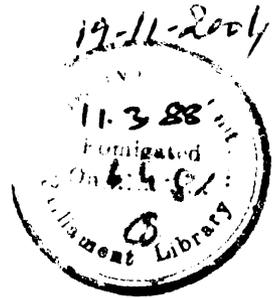
(29th August to 16th December, 1933)

SIXTH SESSION

OF THE

THIRD COUNCIL OF STATE

1933



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COUNCIL OF STATE.

Thursday, 14th December, 1933.

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

MEMBERS SWORN :

- The Honourable Mr. Ronald Evelyn Leslie Wingate, C.I.E. (Government of India : Nominated Official).
- The Honourable Mr. David George Mitchell, C.S.I., C.I.E. (Industries and Labour Secretary).
- The Honourable Sir Guthrie Russell, Kt. (Chief Commissioner of Railways).
- The Honourable Mr. Charles Alexander Souter, C.S.I. (Madras : Nominated Official).
- The Honourable Mr. George Hemming Spence, C.I.E. (Government of India : Nominated Official).
- The Honourable Sir Kurma Venkata Reddi, Kt. (Madras : Nominated Non-Official).
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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

REPATRIATION OF TERRORIST PRISONERS FROM THE ANDAMANS.

214. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA MATHURA PRASAD MEHROTRA : Has the attention of Government been drawn to a press statement issued by a large number of leading Indians including the Poet Rabindra Nath Tagore, P. C. Roy, Srimati Sarojini Naidu, C. F. Andrews, C. Y. Chintamani, and many others, urging Government immediately to repatriate to India the political prisoners sent to the Andamans and requesting to stop altogether transfer and compulsory transportation of any class of convicts ?

(For reply see under No. 215.)

REPATRIATION OF TERRORIST PRISONERS FROM THE ANDAMANS.

215. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA MATHURA PRASAD MEHROTRA : (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it has given any reply to the representation referred to in the previous question ?

(b) If the answer is in the negative, what are the reasons for not replying to it ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. M. G. HALLETT : With your permission, Sir, I propose to reply to questions Nos. 214 and 215 together.

I would refer the Honourable Member to the Honourable the Home Member's speech of 11th September, 1933, in this House which contained a complete answer to his questions.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA MATHURA PRASAD MEHROTRA : May I know if the Government attaches any value or gives any consideration to these representations, however important they are ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. M. G. HALLETT : If the Honourable Member had been present when the Honourable Home Member delivered his speech, he would have realised that he referred to this representation in the course of that speech. I have nothing to add to what the Honourable Home Member said on that occasion.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA MATHURA PRASAD MEHROTRA : Was any reply given to the members who made this representation ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. M. G. HALLETT : I think no reply other than that given in the speech was given. As far as I recollect, the representation or the memorandum was not sent direct to Government.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA MATHURA PRASAD MEHROTRA : Was it forwarded through any Provincial Government ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. M. G. HALLETT : I must ask for notice of that question. As far as I recollect the memorandum was not sent to Government officially by these gentlemen who had signed it. It was merely published in the press. Hence it was not sent to any Local Government.

TRANSFER OF TERRORIST PRISONERS TO THE ANDAMANS.

216. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA MATHURA PRASAD MEHROTRA : (a) Is it a fact that a fresh batch of prisoners or detenus has been sent to the Andamans ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state their number and names as well as the reasons for sending them ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. M. G. HALLETT : (a) and (b). Twenty-five terrorist prisoners were sent to the Andamans on 3rd September, 1933. Government do not propose to publish their names. The policy of Government in this matter was fully explained by the Honourable the Home Member in his speech in this House on 11th September, 1933.

THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE : Was it a fact that the Home Member gave a definite reply during the last Simla session that no further batches of prisoners will be sent to the Andamans ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. M. G. HALLETT : The Honourable Member, I understand, is asking whether further batches will be sent. They will certainly be sent if need arises in accordance with the policy of the Government.

CIVIL SURGEON, BAREILLY.

217. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA MATHURA PRASAD MEHROTRA: (a) Is it a fact that the Civil Surgeon, Bareilly, used to get an allowance from the Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway for looking after the railway colony?

(b) If so, why and since when has the allowance been stopped?

(c) Is it a fact that it has been stopped owing to an Indian member of the Indian Medical Service being recently stationed there?

(d) If so, what consideration was paid to the large number of Indian staff in the colony?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL: (a) Yes.

(b), (c) and (d). The Agent, Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway, reports that with the expansion of the Railway Medical Department of that Railway it was not considered necessary to retain the services of the Civil Surgeon, Bareilly, any longer and they were accordingly dispensed with. The medical needs of the Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway staff at Bareilly are attended to by the Railway Medical Officer stationed at Izatnagar.

DELHI CAMP ALLOWANCE DRAWN BY CLERICAL STAFF OF ATTACHED OFFICES AND ARMY HEADQUARTERS.

218. THE HONOURABLE MR. V. C. VELLINGIRI GOUNDER: (a) Is it a fact that the Attached Offices and the Army Headquarters clerical staffs draw an allowance called "camp allowance" in Delhi in lieu of the house rent allowance drawn by the clerical staffs of the Secretariat departments?

(b) Is it a fact that the members of the Secretariat departments have to surrender their entire house rent in Simla when provided with quarters, whereas the members of Attached Offices and Army Headquarters pay only 10 per cent. rent for the same quarters?

(c) Is it a fact that A of a Secretariat Department drawing a salary of, say, Rs. 100 per mensem and entitled to a house rent of Rs. 260 has to surrender it when he is allotted a quarter whereas B of an Attached Office or Army Headquarters drawing the same pay, pays for the same type of house only 10 per cent. of his pay as rent which comes only to Rs. 70 in all for the season? If so, does it not mean that A pays Rs. 260 and B pays Rs. 70 for the same type of house? If so, will Government please explain why there is this distinction and whether they propose to eliminate it? If not, why?

THE HONOURABLE MR. M. G. HALLETT: (a) The camp allowance drawn in Delhi by the clerical staff of Attached Offices and Army Headquarters is not in lieu of the Simla house rent allowance admissible to men in the Secretariat proper. It is intended to meet the extra expenditure involved in maintaining two establishments when members of the staff are away from their headquarters, namely, Simla.

(b) and (c). The clerical staff of the Secretariat proper is entitled to certain concessions in regard to accommodation in Simla. In the case of those under the old rules who are allotted quarters, the rent of which exceeds the house rent allowance admissible, the allowance is withheld in full and the men concerned have to pay Government the difference. When the rent of the quarters is less than the allowance admissible, the difference is paid to the clerk. In the case of those under the new rules who are allotted Government quarters,

there is no question of paying the difference, if any, either to Government or to the clerk, as the quarters are given free, whatever their rent. Clerks in Attached Offices are not, as a general rule, entitled to free accommodation in Simla. They therefore pay as rent up to 10 per cent. of their pay under Fundamental Rule 45B. IV. There is no analogy between the two cases but I cannot admit that Secretariat men, the whole or whose house allowance is withheld, are unfairly treated. It is a well-known principle that an allowance of this kind is not to be a source of profit. If Government provides accommodation free of rent in Simla, it has fulfilled its undertaking and it is not called upon to pay anything more on that account.

BEMLOE QUARTERS.

219. THE HONOURABLE MR. V. C. VELLINGIRI GOUNDER: Is it a fact that the rental of Bemloe quarters which are intended for gazetted officers and men drawing more than Rs. 600 is much less than the rental of the A type quarters in Summer Hill? If so, how is this justified and is Government prepared to eliminate the distinction? If not, why?

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. G. MITCHELL: No. In the case only of class "F" bungalows of types "C" and "D" at Bemloe, the rents are slightly lower than the rent of an "A" class quarter at Summer Hill. As rents are assessed in accordance with settled principles, Government see no reason to eliminate the distinction. I may add, however, that the rents of houses in Simla are under revision.

BEMLOE QUARTERS.

220. THE HONOURABLE MR. V. C. VELLINGIRI GOUNDER: (a) Is it a fact that the rental of Bemloe quarters is calculated on a seasonal basis and not on an annual basis?

(b) Is it a fact that the rental of quarters of all types in Summer Hill and particularly of "A" type is calculated on an annual basis?

(c) If so, how do Government justify the differential treatment as between the officers living in Bemloe and the staff living in Summer Hill, especially when the former are in receipt of larger emoluments? Is Government prepared to abolish this distinction? If not, why?

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. G. MITCHELL: (a) No. All rents are calculated on an annual basis and charged for the period of allotment.

(b) Yes.

(c) Does not arise.

SUMMER HILL QUARTERS.

221. THE HONOURABLE MR. V. C. VELLINGIRI GOUNDER: (a) Is it a fact that Government quarters in Summer Hill are available for allotment to the staff in the Secretariat as well as in the Attached Offices who have adopted the unorthodox style of living?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the basis on which allotment of these quarters is made as between the staff of the Secretariat and the staff of the Attached Offices?

57 (c) Is it a fact that in the allotment of these quarters preference should be shown, in accordance with the rules framed by the Government of India, to persons employed in the Secretariat? If so, will Government be pleased to state whether this rule has been strictly followed in the allotment that has been made for the summer season of 1934? If not, will Government kindly explain the reasons for the deviation from the rule?

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. G. MITCHELL: (a) Yes.

(b) The allotments are made in accordance with the accommodation rules, under which there is no express distinction between Secretariat staff and staff of Attached Offices. Priority is, however, given to those in receipt of Simla house rent allowance, and this allowance is paid mainly to members of the Secretariat staff.

(c) No. The rules provide *inter alia* that those entitled to a house rent allowance shall have priority over those not so entitled. These rules have been strictly followed in making the allotments for the summer season of 1934.

SUMMER HILL QUARTERS.

222. THE HONOURABLE MR. V. C. VELLINGIRI GOUNDER: (a) Is it a fact that Government recover by way of rental on these quarters less from persons belonging to the Attached Offices like Army Headquarters, Civil Aviation and Indian Stores Department, than from those belonging to the Secretariat? If so, how do Government justify the allotment of certain quarters, especially of the highest type in Summer Hill, to persons of the Attached Offices, especially when persons from the Secretariat who are otherwise entitled to these quarters have applied for them?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state how much loss there has been to Central Revenues by such allotment?

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. G. MITCHELL: (a) Yes. In most cases Government receives less rent from persons belonging to the Attached Offices than would be received from members of the Secretariat staff. Allotments are made strictly in accordance with the rules and no question of justification arises.

(b) The information is not readily available. The allotments for Simla quarters are, however, made in order of juniority and the object in view is not the realization of the maximum amount of rent.

SUMMER HILL QUARTERS.

223. THE HONOURABLE MR. V. C. VELLINGIRI GOUNDER: Will Government be pleased to state the principles on which the different types of quarters, namely, "A", "B" and "C" in Summer Hill are allotted?

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. G. MITCHELL: The quarters are allotted in accordance with the accommodation rules,* a copy of which is laid on the table.

SUMMER HILL QUARTERS.

224. THE HONOURABLE MR. V. C. VELLINGIRI GOUNDER: (a) Is it a fact that, in connection with the allotment of these quarters for the summer season of 1934, it was found that not all the "A" type quarters

could be allotted to the persons who are entitled to them, i.e., to those persons of the Secretariat who are in receipt of house rent allowance of Rs. 450 and over? If so, what is the number of such quarters and to whom have these quarters been allotted?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether in such allotment consideration has been shown to those who have already been living in Government quarters but who are entitled only to lower types of quarters? If so, what are the principles that have been adopted? If not, why?

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. G. MITCHELL: (a) There were 15 "A" class quarters surplus after meeting the demands of officers entitled to them and these were allotted as follows:

Seven to entitled "B" class officers.

Five to entitled "C" class officers.

Three to technical clerks of Army Headquarters entitled to free quarters.

(b) Allotments are made in accordance with Supplementary Rule 317-E. IV. Officers who reside in accommodation out of their class do not establish any claim to similar accommodation for the succeeding year.

SUMMER HILL QUARTERS.

225. **THE HONOURABLE MR. V. C. VELLINGIRI GOUNDER:** (a) Is it a fact that certain persons who are entitled to house rent allowance and entitled to Government quarters in Summer Hill but to lower types like "C" and "B" have applied for "A" type quarters and offered to pay for them the full assessed rent calculated on a seasonal basis, i.e., Rs. 392?

(b) Is it a fact that their offers have not been accepted and that they are being asked to pay the assessed rent on an annual basis, i.e., Rs. 668, in spite of the fact that they would occupy the quarters only during the summer season?

(c) Is it a fact that, on the other hand, certain members of the staff of the Attached Offices, for instance, Mr. C. N. Sen, of the Civil Aviation Office and several European and Anglo-Indian employees of Army Headquarters have been allowed to occupy these "A" quarters on payment of less rent than Rs. 392? If so, how do Government justify such allotment?

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. G. MITCHELL: (a) Yes. Such offers are not in accordance with the rules.

(b) Yes, in accordance with the rule which lays down that allotments shall be made for the financial year except in certain specified cases.

(c) No. They have been allotted a higher class of accommodation on the assessed rental of that class.

SUMMER HILL QUARTERS.

226. **THE HONOURABLE MR. V. C. VELLINGIRI GOUNDER:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the principles on which allotment of a higher type of quarters than that to which they are entitled is made as between persons who will be occupying the quarters in Summer Hill for the first time during the summer season of 1984 and those who have already been in occupation of quarters for a year or two?

(b) Is it a fact that in the allotment for the summer season of 1934 of certain "A" type quarters preference has been shown to those who have applied for these quarters for the first time as against those who have already been in occupation for a year or two, and that in some cases the class of quarters to which both the sets of persons are entitled is the same? If so, how do Government justify such allotment?

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. G. MITCHELL: (a) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the rules,* a copy of which has been laid on the table.

(b) Allotments have been made strictly in accordance with Supplementary Rule 317-E. IV, under which officers who reside in accommodation out of their class do not establish any claim to similar accommodation for the succeeding year.

AMOUNT OF HOUSE RENT ALLOWANCE PAID UNDER THE NEW RULES.

227. THE HONOURABLE MR. V. C. VELLINGIRI GOUNDER: Is it a fact that a considerable portion of the staff of the Government of India Secretariat are in receipt of house rent allowance under what are called the new rules? If so, what is the total amount given that way in the different offices?

THE HONOURABLE MR. M. G. HALLETT: There are at present 423 persons in the Government of India Secretariat who are in receipt of house rent allowance in Simla under the new rules. The allowance paid to them in 1933 amounted to Rs. 1,30,008-2-0.

RENTAL PAID BY CLERICAL STAFF OF ATTACHED OFFICES WHEN ALLOTTED QUARTERS IN SIMLA.

228. THE HONOURABLE MR. V. C. VELLINGIRI GOUNDER: Is it a fact that persons employed in the Attached Offices of the Government of India have to pay 10 per cent. of their pay as rental when allotted quarters in Simla?

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. G. MITCHELL: Persons employed in the Attached Offices pay the standard rent or 10 per cent. of their monthly emoluments, whichever is less, in accordance with rule 45A of the Fundamental Rules.

ALLOTMENT OF QUARTERS IN SIMLA.

229. THE HONOURABLE MR. V. C. VELLINGIRI GOUNDER: Is it a fact that several quarters, especially unorthodox, have had to be allotted to Attached Offices staff in past years because of the fact that sufficient number of Secretariat staff have not been forthcoming to occupy these quarters? If so, have Government considered the possibility in the interest of economy of compelling the Secretariat staff to occupy Government quarters, especially unorthodox?

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. G. MITCHELL: Yes. It is not considered necessary to compel officers to occupy Government residences when other eligible rent-paying officers are willing to take them.

INDIAN RAILWAY CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION.

230. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE :
(a) Will Government be pleased to state the aims and objects of the annual session of the Indian Railway Conference Association ?

(b) Do Government bear any expense of the annual sessions of the said Association ? If so, what is the amount ?

(c) Since when has the annual session been held ?

(d) Do the Company-managed Railways make any contributions towards the cost of the annual sessions of the said Association ? If so, will Government be pleased to state their quota, line by line ?

(e) What was the total cost of this year's session at Simla and to what extent have Government and the Company-managed Railways contributed towards it ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL : (a) The Indian Railway Conference Association is constituted to frame regulations for the management of traffic interchanged between the Railways represented in the Association and to advise on other subjects relating to Indian Railways which may be referred to them by Railways or by the Government and the annual session is held in furtherance of these objects.

(b) Government do not bear any part of the expenses of the Conference directly, but the expenses are shared among the Railways which are parties to the Association. A large proportion of these are State-owned lines.

(c) The Railway Conference has been held annually for the last 30 years.

(d) Yes.

(e) The total cost of the session at Simla in October, 1933, was approximately Rs 3,465. A statement showing the allocation of the cost between the Railways is placed on the table of the House.

—————

Statement showing the allocation to State Railways and Company-managed Railways of the cost of 1933 session of Indian Railway Conference Association, including cost of printing of the proceedings.

	Amount.
<i>State Railways.</i>	Rs. a. p.
Burma	138 9 4
Eastern Bengal	155 9 4
East Indian	630 8 4
Great Indian Peninsula	243 8 4
North Western Railway	229 8 4
	—————
Total	1,397 11 8
	—————

Statement showing the allocation to State Railways and Company-managed Railways of the cost of 1933 session of Indian Railway Conference Association, including cost of printing of the proceedings—contd.

	Amount.		
	Rs.	a.	p.
<i>Company-managed Railways.</i>			
Assam Bengal	101	11	0
Assam Railways and Trading Co. (the Dibru Sadiya Railway)	20	14	4
Barai Light	24	14	4
Bengal and North Western	126	9	4
Bengal Dooars	34	14	4
Bengal Nagpur	219	8	4
Bengal Provincial	10	7	2
Bhavnagar State	51	14	4
Bikaner State	36	5	0
Bombay, Baroda and Central India	298	8	4
Bombay Port Trust	15	7	2
Calcutta Port Commissioners	10	7	2
Darjeeling Himalayan	10	7	2
Dholpur State	10	7	2
Gaekwar's Baroda State	35	5	6
Gondal	40	14	4
Gwalior Light	20	14	4
H. E. H. the Nizam's State	198	11	0
Jamnagar and Dwarka	56	14	4
Jodhpur	65	12	8
Junagad State	25	14	4
Madras and Southern Mahratta	245	8	4
Madras Port Trust	10	7	2
Messrs. Macneill & Co. (the Jorhat Provincial Railway)	10	7	2
Messrs. McLeod & Co. (the A. K., B. D. R., etc., Light Railways)	10	7	2
Messrs. Martin & Co. (the Howrah-Amra, etc., Light Railways)	29	14	4
Messrs. Octavius Steel & Co. (the Dehri-Rohtas Light Railway)	10	7	2
Morvi	36	14	4
Mysore	40	14	4
Porbandar State	10	7	2
Rohilkund and Kumaon	39	5	6
South Indian	195	9	4
Udaipur Chittorgarh	10	7	2
	<hr/>		
Total	2,067	11	4
	<hr/>		
Grand Total	3,465	7	0
	<hr/>		

SAFEGUARDING OF RAILWAYS FROM MOTOR BUS COMPETITION.

231. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will Government be pleased to state what steps they have taken to safeguard the interests of Railways from the effects of the competition of motor buses?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL: I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given by Mr. Brayshay to the Honourable Raja Raghunandan Prasad Singh's question No. 22 on the 29th August, 1933.

MR. POPE, RAILWAY RETRENCHMENT EXPERT.

232. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Is it a fact that Mr. Pope, the railway retrenchment expert, is expected to visit India during this cold weather for the purpose of suggesting means for further retrenchment on Railways? If so, on what honorarium?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL: The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the latter part the terms of Mr. Pope's employment are as follows:

- (1) Pay during absence from England at the rate of £2,400 a year.
- (2) First class accommodation by steamer and P. and O. special train across France both on the outward and return journey.
- (3) Allowance of Rs. 1,000 a month while in India; and an allowance of £66-13-4 per mensem while on board ship.
- (4) Cost of first class travel in India (except when provided free of charge) and a daily allowance of Rs. 10.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE POPE ENQUIRY COMMITTEE AND ECONOMIES EFFECTED ON STATE-MANAGED RAILWAYS.

233. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will Government be pleased to state, line by line, in how many departments of the State-managed Railways, economies have been effected on the recommendation of the Pope Enquiry Committee and in what form?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL: For the Honourable Member's information I may explain that when Mr. Pope's investigation was concluded last March, special organization officers were appointed on all the important Railways to carry out the detailed examination of various railway operations recommended by him, and Railway Administrations were asked to submit six-monthly progress reports on these activities. Not all these reports have yet been received and the Government are not yet in a position to give the Honourable Member the information he has asked for.

CREW SYSTEM.

234. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE: (a) Will Government be pleased to state on how many Railways in India the crew system is still in existence?

(b) When was the crew system introduced on the East Indian Railway and why was it stopped?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL: (a) The crew system is in force on the suburban sections of the Eastern Bengal Railway and on the Bhusaval-Harda, Bhusaval-Badnera and Armaer-Jalgaon sections of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway.

(b) The crew system was introduced on the East Indian Railway on 1st August, 1926, and stopped on 1st June, 1931. The reasons for its being abandoned will be found in paragraphs 35 to 41 of the Moody Ward Committee's Report, a copy of which is in the Library.

THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE: May I ask, Sir, why the crew system which was introduced on the East Indian Railway has been stopped for the present?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL: I have already told the Honourable Member that he will find that information in the Moody Ward Report, a copy of which is in the Library.

MEASURES ADOPTED BY RAILWAYS TO STOP TRAVELLING WITHOUT TICKETS.

235. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will Government be pleased to state what measures they have adopted to stop ticketless travelling on the Indian Railways?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL: I am afraid I cannot enumerate here all the measures adopted by Railways to stop ticketless travelling. Some of the more important are checking of tickets at gates and enforcement of purchase of platform tickets in the case of non-passengers, employment of travelling ticket examiners to check tickets *en route* and of flying squads to make surprise checks both on trains and at selected stations, appointment of Railway Magistrates at certain specified stations to deal with ticketless passengers, surprise checks in the presence of Railway Magistrates, appointment of lady ticket examiners, provision of unclimbable fencing at stations, and so on.

I am sorry to say, however, that in spite of these measures illicit travelling without tickets is still very prevalent and the suggestion has been made in the past and again only recently that the only way to stop this practice is to make the offence of travelling without a ticket a cognizable one.

HARDINGE BRIDGE, EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

236. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE: (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the news item published in *Forward of Calcutta*, of the 3rd October, 1933 (town edition), regarding the present condition of the Hardinge Bridge embankment on the Eastern Bengal Railway?

(b) Is it a fact that there have been wide breaches in the stone embankment to the west of the bridge and that the depth of the river at the danger spot is nearly 90 feet?

(c) If so, what steps have Government taken to save the bridge and the embankment from the fury of the river Padma?

(d) Has the bridge and embankment ever been visited by any expert engineer since it was open to railway traffic?

(e) If so, what was his opinion about the bridge?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) The Eastern Bengal Railway Administration has been carrying out protective measures to prevent further damage to the embankment and the bridge, which have been successful. Sir Robert Gales, who was in charge of the designing and construction of the bridge and is now a partner in the firm of Messrs. Rendel, Palmer and Tritton, Consulting Engineers to the Government of India, has arrived in India for the purpose of advising on the further work that should be done before next flood season.

(d) and (e). The bridge and its protective works are subject every year to special inspections by a Senior Government Inspector of Railways and the Chief Engineer of the Eastern Bengal Railway and the former submits reports to the Railway Board after such inspections. Any protection works found necessary as a result of such inspections are carried out. Certain special works found necessary after the 1931 flood season were referred to the Consulting Engineers for their advice, which was received in due course and acted on.

AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT, ASSAM BENGAL RAILWAY.

237. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE:

(a) Will Government be pleased to state the cadres of the Audit and Accounts Department in the Assam Bengal Railway ?

(b) How many Indian officers are there in the Department ?

(c) How many of the auditors in the Department are qualified auditors ?

(d) Is it a fact that Mr. R. Roy, a Chartered Accountant, is holding the post of assistant auditor in the Department ?

(e) How long has Mr. Roy been working as an assistant auditor ?

(f) Is it a fact that the present Chief Auditor is going to retire very shortly ?

(g) What is the number and percentage of Indian officers in the Traffic Department ?

(h) Is it a fact that a recent vacancy in the Traffic Department has been filled by a non-Indian ? If so, what are his qualifications ?

(i) Were there any applications from qualified Indians for the said vacancy ?

(j) How many Indian officers in the Traffic Department have British railway training and experience ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL: (a) The cadre of the Audit and Accounts Department is as follows :

Chief Auditor	1
Deputy Auditor	1
Assistant Auditors	4

(b) Four.

(c) They have all received training in the Audit and Accounts Department.

(d) Yes.

(e) From the 4th June, 1917.

(f) He has already retired.

(g) The number of officers in the Traffic Department is 14 of whom six are Indians.

(h) A post of Assistant Traffic Superintendent which fell vacant recently was filled by the promotion of an Indian.

(i) In view of the reply to part (h) above, this question does not arise.

(j) Two.

NUMBER OF BENGALIS EMPLOYED IN THE SUPERIOR AND MINISTERIAL STAFF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA SECRETARIAT, ETC.

238. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE :

(a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of Bengalis in each Department of the Secretariat of the Government of India ?

(b) How many of them are Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries, Superintendents, Assistants and Clerks ?

(c) How many of them are Hindus and how many Muslims ?

(d) What is the total number of Indians serving in the various departments of the Government of India ?

(e) How many of them are—

(i) Hindus.

(ii) Muhammadans.

(iii) Christians.

(iv) Jews.

(v) Parsees, and

(vi) Buddhists ?

(For reply see under No. 239.)

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF THE SUPERIOR AND MINISTERIAL STAFF IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA SECRETARIAT AND NUMBER OF INDIANS SERVING IN THE DIFFERENT DEPARTMENTS WITH THEIR PROVINCE OF ORIGIN.

239. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE :

Will Government be pleased to state the number of Indians serving in the different departments of the Government of India, province by province ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. M. G. HALLETT : With your permission, Sir, I propose to reply to questions Nos. 238 and 239 together. The information required is not readily available, and I do not think that any useful purpose will be served by the collection of the statistics, as the Government of India have decided that it is not practicable to take special measures to secure representation for provinces either generally or in terms of particular communities in services under their control which are recruited on an all-India basis. I would, however, refer the Honourable Member to the annual statements showing the communal composition of the various services, which I hope will be of some use to him.

STRENGTH OF THE INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE AND THE NUMBER OF INDIANS THEREIN.

240. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE: (a) What is the total number of members of the Indian Civil Service in India and how many of them are Indians?

(b) How many Indian members of the Indian Civil Service are at present serving in the Government of India and how many of them are Bengalis?

THE HONOURABLE MR. M. G. HALLETT: (a) The total number of Indian Civil Service officers in service on 31st December, 1932, the most recent date for which information is easily available, was 1,177, including 368 Indians.

(b) Nine Indian I. C. S. officers are at present serving in the Government of India, including one Member of the Executive Council. None of them is a Bengali.

THE HONOURABLE SIR KURMA VENKATA REDDI: Sir, may I ask a supplementary question arising out of the last answer? May I know from Government how many of these are Madras Brahmins?

THE HONOURABLE MR. M. G. HALLETT: I am afraid I cannot answer that question without notice.

NUMBER OF INDIANS IN THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS SECRETARIAT.

241. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will Government be pleased to state the number of Indians with their names working in the Secretariat of the League of Nations at Geneva and the salaries they are drawing?

THE HONOURABLE MR. G. H. SPENCE: The total number of Indians at present employed in a permanent or temporary capacity is believed to be nine. A statement containing the desired information with reference to the six Indians permanently employed is laid on the table. No particulars are available with reference to the temporary employees.

Statement showing the names of Indians permanently employed in the League of Nations Secretariat, and the International Labour Office and the salaries drawn by them.

Name.	Salary.
<i>League of Nations Secretariat.</i>	
Mr. A. C. Chatterjee	20,000 Swiss Francs.
Mr. S. N. Ghose	7,900 Swiss Francs.
Mr. J. J. Dalal	18,500 Swiss Francs.
Mr. S. M. Dhuzee	19,800 Swiss Francs.
<i>International Labour Office.</i>	
Mr. K. Kuriyan	20,900 Swiss Francs.
Mr. R. K. Das	23,000 Swiss Francs.

ANNUAL COST OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE, NEW DELHI BRANCH.

242. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will Government be pleased to state the cost of the Office of the International Labour Bureau of Geneva at New Delhi including the salaries of the members of the staff, and whether the entire cost or any portion thereof is borne by the Government of India?

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. G. MITCHELL: According to the budget estimates of the League of Nations the total annual cost of the New Delhi Branch of the International Labour Office is about Rs. 40,000. The funds are wholly provided by the International Labour Office, and no part of the cost is directly borne by the Government of India.

DEATH OF SAILESH CHANDRA CHATTERJI, DETENU IN THE DEOLI DETENTION JAIL.

243. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE: (a) Will Government be pleased to make a statement regarding the illness and recent death of detenu Sailesh Chandra Chatterji at Deoli Detention Camp? When was he removed from Bengal and why?

(b) Is it a fact that he had not been keeping well since he was removed from Bengal?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state whether the parents and relatives of the deceased detenu Sailesh Chandra Chatterji were given any previous intimation regarding his illness at the detention camp? If not, why not?

THE HONOURABLE MR. M. G. HALLETT: (a) The detenu was removed from Bengal to Deoli on the 12th September, 1933, because he was an important member of the terrorist party and his removal was considered desirable in the public interest. He died in the jail hospital on 17th October, 1933, from malignant tertian malaria.

(b) I have no information to that effect.

(c) No, because there was no reason to anticipate a fatal end to the illness.

BASANTA KUMAR ROY, DETENU IN THE DEOLI DETENTION JAIL.

244. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will Government be pleased to state why detenu Basanta Kumar Roy of Dacca has been removed from Buxar Detention Camp to Deoli?

THE HONOURABLE MR. M. G. HALLETT: He was removed to Deoli because he was an important member of the terrorist party and his removal from Bengal was considered desirable in the public interest.

RESULT OF THE ENQUIRY INTO THE LEVEL CROSSING ACCIDENT AT BHADOHI, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

245. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE: (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether there was any enquiry by the Divisional Superintendent of the East Indian Railway or by any other authority of the said Railway into the level crossing disaster at Baidani near Benares on the East Indian Railway?

(b) If so, what was the result?

(c) Is there any mention in the enquiry report as to who was responsible for the disaster,—the guard or the driver of the bus?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state whether the said level crossing is worked by hand or mechanically?

(e) Will Government be pleased to make a statement regarding the situation of the railway track and the motor road that intersects the said level crossing and the distance of the signal post that lies near it?

(f) Have the authorities of the East Indian Railway since the said disaster put right the level crossing and made any improvement regarding the future safety of pedestrians and passengers by cars and buses ?

THE HONOURABLE SIB GUTHRIE RUSSELL: (a) A departmental enquiry of Deputy Heads of Departments was held at Bhadohi (not Baiduni) on the 12th June, 1933.

(b) The gateman and the driver of the bus were prosecuted but both were acquitted.

(c) The finding of the departmental enquiry was that the primary cause of the accident was that the gates at the level crossing were open but that the gateman could not be held entirely culpable and that there was contributory negligence on the part of the driver of the motor bus.

(d) The level crossing gates, which are coupled, are worked by hand.

(e) The railway crosses the Mirzapur-Jaunpur road about 400 feet outside the up outer signal of Bhadohi station.

(f) The gates of this level crossing comply with the safety regulations and no action has been taken by the Agent, East Indian Railway, since the accident, beyond issuing instructions to ensure that level crossing gates are closed and locked before the approach of trains.

NUMBER OF INDIANS EMPLOYED AS CUSTOMS PREVENTIVE OFFICERS AND APPRAISERS IN THE DIFFERENT PORTS OF INDIA AND BURMA.

246. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE :

(a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of Indian Customs Preventive Officers and Appraisers in the different ports of India and Burma ?

(b) How many of them are Hindus, Muslims and Christians ?

(c) How many of the Customs Preventive Officers and of the Appraisers are Bengalis ?

(d) Are there any Burmese Preventive Officers and Appraisers in any port in Burma ? If so, what is their number and where are they posted at present ?

(e) If the answer to the first part of (d) is in the negative, will Government be pleased to state why Burmese are not appointed either as Preventive Officers or Appraisers in any port of Burma ?

(f) Will Government be pleased to state the number of Anglo-Indians and Europeans in the Customs Service as Preventive Officers and as Appraisers in India and Burma ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. B. TAYLOR: (a), (b) and (f). A statement is placed on the table.

(c) Eighteen Appraisers and 67 Preventive Officers are Bengalis.

(d) Yes. Two Appraisers, both at Rangoon and ten Preventive Officers, three at Rangoon, one at Akyab, one at Moulmein, two at Mergui and three at Tavoy.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement showing the communal composition of the Appraisers and Preventive Officers in the different parts of India and Burma.

	Preventive Officers.					Appraisers.							
	Indians.					Indians.							
	Hindus.	Muslims.	Christians.	Others.	Total.	Hindus.	Muslims.	Christians.	Others.	Total.			
Bombay	5	2	9	7	23	13	31	3	6	10	26	1	3
Calcutta	42	27	3		74	150	3	4	2		19	16	1
Karachi	8	6		1	15	6	12	2	5	1	17	2	1
Madras	18	9	2		30	6	4	7			7	4	1
Rangoon and Burma Subjects.	..	..	..	..	..	76	1	1			1	8	2
Chittagong	3	4	..	..	7	11		1			1	1	..
	76	48	17	8	149	262	56	37	13	11	71	26	8

TRANSFER OF THE CENTRAL PUBLICATION BRANCH FROM CALCUTTA TO DELHI.

247. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE :

(a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Central Publication Branch, Government of India, has lately been transferred from Calcutta to Delhi? If so, how much was expended on account of the transfer?

(b) Has it been represented to Government that the Bengali staff of the office has been confronted with serious difficulties by reason of transfer?

(c) Is it a fact that most of the staff do not get more than Rs. 60 per mensem after various kinds of deduction?

(d) What is the number of the permanent clerical staff?

(e) How many of the staff of the office draw salaries up to Rs. 60 per mensem?

(f) How many of the clerks get above Rs. 60 and below Rs. 100?

(g) How many of the staff get Rs. 100 and above?

(h) Is it a fact that a clerk of the office drawing Rs. 60 per mensem has to subsist on Rs. 25 to Rs. 30 throughout the whole month after submitting to the following compulsory obligations:

(i) Ten per cent. house rent cut?

(ii) Water tax Rs. 2-8-0 per month?

(iii) Five per cent. emergency cut?

(iv) Life insurance premium?

(v) Provident fund?

(vi) Cut on account of advance loan?

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. G. MITCHELL: (a) Yes. Rs. 1,36,400 approximately.

(b) Yes.

(c) and (h). I am not in possession of particulars of the amounts spent by the clerks under all the heads mentioned by the Honourable Member and therefore cannot give a categorical reply. The compulsory deductions are made according to the usual rules, but the Honourable Member appears to have included certain voluntary payments and to assume that other sums already advanced by Government are not available for the maintenance of those receiving them.

(d) Sixty-six.

(e) Thirty, of whom four are holding posts in an officiating capacity.

(f) Twenty.

(g) Sixteen.

CONDITION OF QUARTERS ALLOTTED TO THE STAFF OF THE CENTRAL PUBLICATION BRANCH.

248. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE :

(a) Is it a fact that the quarters allotted to the staff of the Central Publication Branch, Government of India, were condemned by the Public Works Department as being unfit for residential purposes?

(b) If so, why were condemned quarters allotted to the staff?

(c) What is the general sanitary condition of the locality and the condition of the quarters ?

(d) How many amongst the permanent staff have gone on leave for three days or longer periods in the course of the last six months ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. G. MITCHELL: (a) No. The quarters are admittedly in a bad condition but they are still useful and are in demand.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The locality is healthy except during the malarial season which, in Delhi, is of short duration. As regards the condition of the quarters, I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply given to part (a) above.

(d) Ninety-seven.

PERSONAL PAY GRANTED TO THE STAFF OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

249. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE: (a) Is it a fact that the staff of the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs, were granted some personal pay to be absorbed in future increments on transfer of the said office from Calcutta to Delhi ?

(b) If so, what are the reasons that prompted Government to grant the personal pay ?

(c) Is it a fact that the staff of the Central Publication Branch sent a memorial to Government for some advance increment to be absorbed in future increments ?

(d) Is it a fact that the said memorial was rejected ?

(e) Do Government propose to review the matter ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. G. MITCHELL: (a), (c) and (d). Yes.

(b) There were no special considerations underlying this particular concession. The considerations underlying all the concessions then given will be found on page 341 of Volume V of the Proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee of the 16th January, 1926.

(e) No.

PROPOSED BRIDGE OVER THE MEGNA RIVER, ASSAM BENGAL RAILWAY.

250. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will Government be pleased to state how the project for building a bridge over the Megna river between Bhairab and Ashuganj on the Assam Bengal Railway now stands ? Has it been dropped or temporarily shelved ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL: The question of taking up the construction of the bridge referred to is now under consideration again, and the Assam Bengal Railway Administration have been asked to submit a detailed financial justification of the expenditure involved, and have also been authorised to take in hand the preparation of the design of the bridge.

SCHEME FOR CONSTRUCTING A RAILWAY FROM CHITTAGONG TO AKYAB.

251. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will Government be pleased to state the present position of the scheme for constructing a railway line from Chittagong to Akyab? Has the work been commenced? If so, when is the work likely to be finished?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL: The Chittagong-Dohazari Branch of the Assam Bengal Railway which follows the alignment which a railway to Akyab if constructed is likely to take was opened for traffic on the 10th June, 1931. The construction of the branch line in question was justified on its own merits, as providing railway communication in a very populous tract, and it was for this reason that it was taken up and not as the first stage of a railway to Akyab or beyond. The extension of the line beyond Dohazari is not under consideration at present.

SIGNAL, INTERLOCKING AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT, ASSAM BENGAL RAILWAY.

252. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE: (a) Is there any separate Signal and Interlocking Engineers' Department in the Assam Bengal Railway? If so, what are the qualifications and experience of the Engineer?

(b) Are there any Indians in the Department? If so, how many and what posts are they holding?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL: (a) There is a combined Department for Signals, Interlocking and Telegraphs. The Signal Engineer has the following qualifications and experience:

Qualifications.—Certificate, the Polytechnic City and Guilds. Final, Mechanical Engineering, Division II, Associate Membership Examination, the Institution of Electrical Engineers. Member of the Institution of Railway Signal Engineers, Associate Member of the Institution of Electrical Engineers and Affiliated Member, American Railroad Association, Signal Section.

Experience.—Two years, Siemens Bros., London, Railway Signal Department. Three years, Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, as Assistant Signal Engineer and Acting Signal Engineer (Construction). Five years, Assam-Bengal Railway, as Signal Engineer.

(b) The following Indians are employed in the Department (excluding those in inferior service):

Signal and Telegraph Inspectors	3
Assistant Signal and Telegraph Inspectors	4
Senior Apprentices under training	5

AMOUNT PAID TO MESSRS. TATA SONS, LTD., FOR CARRYING AIR MAILS IN INDIA.

253. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE: (a) Will Government be pleased to state the amount that is being paid as subsidy to Tatas for carrying air mails in India?

(b) Do Government pay any subsidy to Imperial Airways for carrying mails? If so, what is the amount?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state what are the terms of the ten-year contract with Tatas for carrying air mails in India?

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. G. MITCHELL : (a) No "subsidy" is paid to Messrs. Tata Sons, Ltd., for the air service operated by them, but payment is made according to the weights of mails and distances over which they are carried, according to an agreed schedule of charges.

(b) No.

(c) The service is a weekly one in both directions with stoppages at Ahmedabad, Bombay, and Bellary. All air mail letters, postcards and packets paid with air surcharge for and from places served by this air line are given to the Company to carry except these inland air mail articles which would suffer delay in reaching their destination on account of the service being a weekly one. The Company is paid conveyance charges in the manner which I have described under part (a).

AMOUNT OF SAVING EFFECTED BY THE ABOLITION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY POSTMASTER GENERAL, EASTERN BENGAL AND ASSAM RANGE.

254. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE : Will Government be pleased to state whether there has been any saving of money by abolishing the office of the Deputy Post Master General, Eastern Bengal and Assam Range? If so, how much?

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. G. MITCHELL : The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply given in this House on the 23rd September, 1932, to part (3) of his own question No. 86.

CONSUMPTION OF COTTON PIECEGOODS IN INDIA AND THE TEXTILE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOMBAY MILLOWNERS AND LANCASHIRE.

255. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE : (a) Will Government be pleased to state the total quantity of consumption of cotton piecegoods in India annually? What were the respective quotas of India, Japan and Lancashire in the year ending 1931-32?

(b) Will Government be pleased to make a statement regarding the textile Agreement between Lancashire and India?

(c) What are the terms of the Agreement and when is the Agreement coming into force?

(d) Has Lancashire agreed to take a definite quantity of Indian cotton?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state whether the Agreement contains provisions designed to protect the interests of the Indian cotton-growers?

(f) Has any reduction of duties been agreed to in the case of artificial silk from Lancashire?

THE HONOURABLE MR. T. A. STEWART : (a) The quantity of cotton piecegoods available for consumption in India during the year 1931-32, including handloom production, is estimated at about 5,150 million yards. Of this, the share of India was 4,400 million yards and those of Japan and the United Kingdom 330 and 370 million yards, respectively.

(b), (c), (d), (e) and (f). The text of the Agreement entered into between the Lancashire Delegation and the Bombay millowners has already appeared in the press.

PUBLIC DEBT OF INDIA.

256. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE : (a) Will Government be pleased to state the total amount of India's Public Debt? Since when has the Public Debt been incurred and why?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the nature and the amounts of the loans raised in England and India, separately and item by item, up to 31st January, 1931 ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state how much of the Public Debt has up to now been repaid and in what manner ?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state how much was paid to the East India Company by way of principal and interest between 1874 and 1933 ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. B. TAYLOR: (a) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the Monthly Return of Rupee Debt, which is published in the *Gazette of India*, and to Account No. 82 of the Finance and Revenue Accounts. The objects for which the Government of India have borrowed money from time to time are explained in the annual Budget Statements.

(b) and (c). The compilation of the information asked for would involve an amount of work which would be incommensurate with the value of the results secured.

(d) The whole of the debt to the stock-holders of the East India Company was paid off in 1874, so that nothing either by way of principal or interest has been paid to them since. If the Honourable Member wishes further information on the financial adjustment with the East India Company he will find them briefly summarised in paragraph 118 of the Welby Commission Report.

RETRENCHMENT IN THE POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT SINCE 1ST APRIL, 1933.

257. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE : (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether there has been any retrenchment up to now in the Posts and Telegraphs Department since the beginning of the financial year in April last ? If so, will Government be pleased to state the number of hands so far retrenched, province by province, and how many of them were Europeans, Anglo-Indians, Indian Christians, Hindus, Muslims and Buddhists ?

(b) Has there been any retrenchment of Superintendents and of Inspectors of Post Offices ? If so, how many and in what provinces ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the approximate total saving so far effected by retrenchment in the Posts and Telegraphs Department ?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state why the Dacca Central Telegraph Office has been converted into a second class office ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. G. MITCHELL: (a) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As for the last part, 1,525 officials have been retrenched in the various postal circles and a detailed statement is laid on the table.

(b) The reply is in the affirmative. A statement giving the detailed information is laid on the table.

(c) Government regret that up-to-date figures are not readily available, but retrenchments carried out up to the 31st March, 1933, are expected to result in an annual approximate saving of about Rs. 80,00,000.

(d) The change was made over 20 years ago when telegraph offices used to be classified with reference to their working hours.

STATEMENT "A."

	Euro-peans.	Anglo-Indians.	Indian Chris-tians.	Hindus.	Muslims.	Bud-dhists.	Other commu-nities.	Total.
Bengal and Assam.		1		259	62	..		322
Bihar and Orissa.		2	1	52	11	..		66
Bombay	..	10	3	191	30	..	2	236
Burma.		8	1	46	4	14	..	67
Central Circle	..	4	..	48	14	..	2	68
Madras	..	3	8	63	3	..	..	77
Punjab and North-West Frontier.	2	21	1	110	100	..	8	242
Sind and Balu-chistan.		1	..	10	7		1	19
United Pro-vinces.	1	10	1	323	93	..		428
Total	3	60	15	1,096	324	14	13	Grand Total-1,525.

STATEMENT "B."

	Superintendents of Post Offices.	Inspectors of Post Offices.
Bengal and Assam Circle	8	3
Bihar and Orissa Circle	2	3
Bombay Circle	7	Nil.
Burma Circle	3	Nil.
Central Circle	2	5
Madras	6	4
Punjab and North-West Frontier Circle	4	13
Sind and Baluchistan Circle	1	Nil.
United Provinces Circle	3	1

Note.—The figures relate to retrenchment since the beginning of the retrenchment campaign.

**DISSOLUTION OF THE CENTRAL LEGISLATURE AND THE HOLDING OF ELECTIONS
UNDER THE NEW CONSTITUTION.**

258. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE : Will Government be pleased to state whether the Central Legislature will be dissolved by the latter part of 1934 ? If so, will Government be pleased to state whether the next election will be held under the new constitution ? If not, when will the Central Legislature be dissolved ?

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN : In the absence of resort by His Excellency the Governor General to either of the alternative powers conferred upon him by clauses (a) and (b) of the proviso to section 63D of the Government of India Act, the existing Legislative Assembly would expire on the 14th January, 1934, while the existing Council of State would remain in being till the 10th February, 1936. In respect of the Assembly, His Excellency's intentions have been announced in the Message to that Chamber which the Honourable Member will find reproduced in the report of the proceedings for the 6th March, 1933. In respect of the Council of State, Government do not anticipate that occasion will arise for His Excellency to consider dissolution in 1934. I am not in a position to give any further information with reference to the concluding portions of the question.

DETENUS IN THE DEOLI DETENTION JAIL.

259. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE : (a) Will Government be pleased to state the total number of Bengali detenus in the Deoli Detention Camp with their names and the districts to which they belong ?

(b) Have Government made any arrangements at Deoli for the stay of the relatives of the detenus, who go there to interview the detenus ? If not, why not ?

(c) How many detenus have up till now been interviewed by their relatives at Deoli since they were removed from Bengal ?

(d) Are the detenus examined every day by any medical officer ? If not, why not ?

(e) What are the arrangements for treatment of the detenus at the Deoli Detention Camp ?

(f) Is there any contractor for supplying rations to the detenus suitable to the taste of the Bengalis. If so, what is the name of the contractor ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. M. G. HALLETT : (a) There are at present 388 detenus in the Deoli Detention Jail. It would not be in the public interest to give their names.

(b) No. When assistance is applied for it is secured through local contractors.

(c) Three.

(d) No, because it is unnecessary. Regular visits are paid to each camp by the medical staff.

(e) There is a well equipped hospital for the medical treatment of detenus under a retired civil surgeon with a staff of one assistant surgeon, three sub-assistant surgeons and seven compounders. The Chief Medical Officer in Rajputana is also in visiting charge of the jail hospital.

(f) Yes. I do not propose to publish the name of the contractor.

REFUSAL BY MR. VALLABHAI PATEL, STATE PRISONER, OF THE CONDITIONAL RELEASE OFFERED HIM FOR THE PURPOSE OF ATTENDING HIS BROTHER'S FUNERAL.

260. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA MATHURA PRASAD MEHROTRA : (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether the Bombay Government refused of its own accord to release Mr. Vallabbhai Patel for performing funeral rites of his brother ?

(b) Were the Government of India consulted in the matter ?

(c) If the answer to (b) is in the affirmative, what was the advice given by the Government of India ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. M. G. HALLETT : (a), (b) and (c). I would refer the Honourable Member to the press communiqué issued by the Director of Information, Bombay, on the 10th November, 1933, from which he will observe that Mr. Vallabbhai Patel refused the conditional release offered him by the Bombay Government for the purpose of attending his brother's funeral. The Government of India were informed of the action that the Local Government proposed to take and concurred.

REFUSAL OF THE BOMBAY GOVERNMENT TO ALLOW THE CREMATION OF THE BODY OF MR. VITHALBHAI PATEL AT CHOWPATTI.

261. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA MATHURA PRASAD MEHROTRA : (a) Was the Bombay Government's refusal to allow the cremation of the body of Mr. Vithalbhai Patel at Chowpatti effected in consultation with the Government of India ?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, will Government state the reasons for their attitude ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. M. G. HALLETT : (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

AGREEMENT ENTERED INTO BETWEEN THE LANCASHIRE DELEGATION AND THE BOMBAY MILLOWNERS.

262. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA MATHURA PRASAD MEHROTRA : (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the opposition to the so-called pact made by a few cotton millowners of Bombay with the representatives of the Lancashire millowners ?

(b) Was the pact made with the consultation of or at the instance of Government ?

(c) If the answer to (b) is in the negative, will Government be pleased to make a statement of its position in the matter ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. T. A. STEWART : (a) Government are aware that the Agreement referred to has not met with the entire approval of a certain section of the textile industry in India.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The Honourable Member is referred to the Government of India, Commerce Department press communiqué, dated the 17th August, 1933, and to Sir Joseph Bhore's letter, dated the 25th October, 1933, to Sir William Clare Lees, Chairman of the United Kingdom Textile Delegation, copies of which are in the Library.

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR DR. SIE NASARVANJI CHOKSY : Is it not a fact that the pact was entered into not by the Bombay millowners alone but by a large number of millowners who were consulted and they all combined in bringing about this arrangement with the Lancashire representatives ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. T. A. STEWART : The Honourable Member is I think correct. The Agreement was between the Millowners' Association, Bombay and the Lancashire Delegation. The Millowners' Association, Bombay, has amongst its membership very many upcountry mills.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA MATHURA PRASAD MEHROTRA : May I know if all the millowners were consulted or only the Bombay Millowners' Association ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. T. A. STEWART : I must refer the Honourable Member to the Association in question. The Government of India was no party to the Agreement and has no information as regards the details of the negotiation.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA MATHURA PRASAD MEHROTRA : Will the Government give an opportunity to other mill-owners of India before accepting the Agreement made by the Bombay Mill-owners' Association ?

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : The Honourable Member need not answer that question.

STERLING LOAN.

263. **THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE :** Will Government be pleased to make a statement regarding the policy that prompted them to raise the new Sterling Loan of £10 millions bearing interest at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum, information whereof was given in the press communiqué of the Controller of Currency issued from New Delhi on the 7th November, 1933 ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. B. TAYLOR : The loan was raised with a view to replace the outstanding balance of £10 million 6 per cent. sterling bonds, 1933-34, and to improve our sterling resources generally at a time when the monetary conditions in London were highly favourable.

ATTENDANCE OF AND PARTICIPATION IN THE DELIBERATIONS OF THE INDIAN TRADE UNION CONGRESS BY RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.

264. **THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE :** Will Government be pleased to state whether the railway employees are allowed to attend and participate in the deliberations of the Indian Trade Union Congress ? If not, why not ?

THE HONOURABLE SIE GUTHRIE RUSSELL : I would refer the Honourable Member to rule 23 of the Government Servants' Conduct Rules which applies to railway employees who are Government servants.

NUMBER OF RAILWAY EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATIONS RECOGNISED BY GOVERNMENT.

265. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE : How many Railway Employees' Associations have been recognised by Government and the authorities of the Railways and where are they located ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL : The Honourable Member is referred to the information laid on the table by Mr. P. R. Rau, on the 31st August, 1933, in the Legislative Assembly, in reply to part (c) of starred question No. 1219 asked by Mr. B. N. Misra on the 12th April, 1933.

COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED FROM RAILWAY EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATIONS ON THE SUBJECT OF RETRENCHMENT.

266. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE : Have Government received any applications from any of the Railway Employees' Associations protesting against the present policy of retrenchment? If so, from which Associations and from which departments of the Railways ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL : I lay on the table a statement giving particulars of communications received by the Railway Board from Railway Employees' Associations in the matter in so far as is readily available from records in the office of the Railway Board.

Statement showing the details of communications received from Railway Employees' Associations on the subject of Retrenchment.

From whom received.	Nature of communication received.
Great Indian Peninsula Railway Staff Union, Bombay.	Telegram, dated the 27th February, 1931, protesting against the retrenchment of Indian ticket collectors on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway.
Great Indian Peninsula Railway Staff Union, Bombay.	Letter, dated the 28th February, 1931, on the subject referred to in its telegram of 27th February referred to above.
National Union of Railwaymen of India and Burma.	Telegram, dated the 2nd March, 1931, protesting against the retrenchment of subordinate staff on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway.
National Union of Railwaymen of India and Burma.	Letter, dated the 3rd March, 1931, on the subject referred to in its telegram of 2nd March, 1931.
Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway Employees' Union.	Letter of the 5th March, 1931, protesting against retrenchment on all Railways.
Great Indian Peninsula Railway Staff Union, Poona.	Telegram of the 10th March, 1931, protesting against the Commercial Division, Poona, Great Indian Peninsula Railway.
All-India Railwaymen's Federation .	Telegram, dated the 17th March, 1931, asking for suspension of all retrenchment of staff.
North Western Railway Union . . .	Letter, dated the 19th March, 1931, protesting against retrenchment, with particular reference to methods employed in retrenchment.
North Western Railway Union . . .	Letter, dated the 19th March, 1931, protesting against retrenchment on all Railways.
Bengal and North-Western Railway-men's Association.	Letter, dated the 24th March, 1931, protesting against retrenchment on the Bengal and North-Western Railway.

Statement showing the details of communications received from Railway Employees' Associations on the subject of Retrenchment—contd.

From whom received.	Nature of communication received.
National Union of Railwaymen of India and Burma.	Letter, dated the 25th March, 1931, protesting against the general methods of retrenchment on Railways with particular reference to retrenchment on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway.
National Union of Railwaymen of India and Burma.	Letter, dated the 25th March, 1931, on the subject referred to in its letter of the same date referred to.
East Indian Railway Union	Telegram, dated the 27th March, 1931, protesting against retrenchment on Railways.
National Union of Railwaymen of India and Burma.	Telegram, dated the 27th March, 1931, protesting against retrenchment on Railways.
National Union of Railwaymen of India and Burma.	Letter, dated the 27th March, 1931, protesting against retrenchment on Railways.
All-India Railwaymen's Federation	Letter, dated the 28th March, 1931, criticising the policy of retrenchment on Railways and asking the Railway Board to meet them to discuss the subject at a special meeting.
Anglo-Indian and Domiciled European Association.	Letter, dated the 30th March, 1931, protesting against the retrenchment with particular reference to retrenchment of Anglo-Indian staff on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway.
Sikh Association, Rawalpindi	Letter, dated the 7th April, 1931, asking for the protection of Sikh employees employed in the Accounts Branch of the North Western Railway in connection with the retrenchment.
Anglo-Indian and Domiciled European Association.	Letter, dated the 24th April, 1931, protesting against the retrenchment of Anglo-Indian employees of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway.
Anglo-Indian and Domiciled European Association.	Telegram, dated the 30th April, 1931, protesting against the retrenchment of Anglo-Indians on Railways.
All-India Railwaymen's Federation	Letter, dated the 28th June, 1931, forwarding a copy of Resolutions passed by the Federation protesting retrenchment of staff on all Railways.
East Indian Railway Union, Dinapore	Letter, dated the 1st November, 1931, protesting against general retrenchment on Railways.
Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway Employees' Union.	Letter of 11th January, 1932, protesting against the policy of retrenchment on Railways.
South Indian Railway Central Labour Union.	Letter, dated the 21st February, 1933, protesting against retrenchment on Railways.
Kanchrapara Railway Workers' Union.	Letter, dated the 15th May, 1933, protesting against retrenchment in the Eastern Bengal Railway Workshops.
Sikh Guradwara Managing Committee	Letter, dated the 14th April, 1933, praying for the cancellation of retrenchment in the Bengal Nagpur Railway Workshops, Khargpur.
Bengal Nagpur Railway Indian Labour Union.	Letter, dated the 3rd May, 1933, protesting against retrenchment in the Bengal Nagpur Railway Workshops, Khargpur.
Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Employees' Union.	Letter, dated the 7th May, 1932, protesting against retrenchment on all Railways.

NUMBER OF CASES ASSESSED UNDER SECTION 23 (4) OF THE INDIAN INCOME-TAX ACT IN THE DACCA DISTRICT.

267. **THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE :** Will Government be pleased to state the number of cases assessed under section 23 (4) of the Indian Income-tax Act, in the district of Dacca in the year 1932-33 and the total number of petitions filed under section 27 during the same year and the total number of cases reopened ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. B. TAYLOR : The number of cases assessed under section 23 (4) of the Indian Income-tax Act in the Dacca district in 1932-33 was 227. The total number of petitions filed under section 27 during that year was 104 and the total number of cases reopened 31.

NUMBER OF SALT WORKS IN INDIA.

268. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE : (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of salt manufacturing works in India ?

(b) How many of them are being conducted by Government and how many by private concerns ?

(c) How many salt manufacturing works are there in Aden ?

(d) Are all of them run by Indians ?

(e) If not, how many of them are purely Indian concerns and how many of them are European concerns ?

(f) Is there any Italian concern manufacturing salt in Aden for India's consumption ?

(g) What is the quantity of salt manufactured in Aden ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. B. TAYLOR : (a) and (b). According to the latest information available, there are 676 salt works in India, of which 18 are conducted by Government and 658 by private individuals or concerns.

(c) Five.

(d) and (e). Three are Indian concerns and one is a European (Italian) concern. The fifth, namely, the Arab Salt Works, is also presumably Indian (but not mainland Indian).

(f) Yes, there is one.

(g) The quantities manufactured by the four principal works in the eight years 1924—1931 are given below. The figure of output of the Arab Salt Works, which is small, is not on record.

Year.	Quantity produced. Tons.
1924	1,73,196
1925	1,82,314
1926	1,88,269
1927	1,76,631
1928	2,15,613
1929	2,38,536
1930	2,06,754
1931	2,85,459

QUANTITY OF SALT IMPORTED FROM EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

269. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE : (a) Will Government be pleased to state the quantity of European salt imported into India up till the month of November since January, 1933 ?

(b) What is the total quantity of salt manufactured in India by Government and in which salt works was this quantity manufactured ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the respective quantities manufactured by each salt works in India ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. B. TAYLOR : (a) The total quantity of salt imported into British India from European countries during the period 1st January to 30th September, 1933, was 10,87,543 maunds. The figures for October and November are not yet available.

(b) and (c). A statement is laid on the table covering the same period. It is not possible to furnish information in the detail required since there are about 700 factories.

Name of salt works or area of manufacture.	Quantity of salt manufactured during the period 1st January to 30th September, 1933.
	Maunds.
<i>Northern India Salt Revenue Department—</i>	
<i>Sambhar</i>	70,14,826
<i>Pachbadra</i>	5,92,172
<i>Didwana</i>	1,94,886
Total Rajputana	78,01,884
<i>Khetra</i>	20,26,767
<i>Warcha</i>	4,98,900
<i>Kalabagh</i>	2,63,040
Total Salt Range	27,88,707
<i>Jatta</i>	2,43,080
<i>Bahadur Khel</i>	1,00,539
<i>Karak</i>	20,594
Total Kohat	3,64,213
<i>Mandi</i>	70,330
<i>Sultanpur Salt Works</i>	11,708
<i>Internal Branch</i>	87,951
Total Northern India	1,11,24,793
<i>Madras—</i>	
<i>Ganjam</i>	7,84,134
<i>Naupada</i>	16,06,823
<i>Penuguduru</i>	12,27,850
<i>Chinnaganjam</i>	10,51,450
<i>Krishnapatam</i>	16,75,579
<i>Madras Dept</i>	3,65,659
<i>Cheyur</i>	14,78,466
<i>Tranquebar</i>	3,55,179
<i>Adirampatnam</i>	6,28,740
<i>Vattanam</i>	1,22,148
<i>Tuticorin</i>	27,37,914
Total Madras	1,20,33,942

Name of salt works or area of manufacture.	Quantity of salt manufactured during the period 1st January to 30th September, 1933. Maunds.
<i>Bombay—</i>	
<i>Kharagoda</i>	30,33,800
<i>Dharsana</i>	4,00,913
<i>Maroli</i>	19,712
<i>Bassein</i>	11,94,391
<i>Rai</i>	11,23,650
<i>Trombay</i>	6,81,613
<i>Bhandup</i>	4,03,319
<i>Dadar</i>	5,74,832
<i>Belapur</i>	7,50,981
<i>Shewa</i>	12,24,140
<i>Uran</i>	7,30,127
<i>Karanja</i>	3,64,957
<i>Pen</i>	2,30,838
<i>Shiroda</i>	26,865
<i>Sanikatta</i>	78,687
Total Bombay	1,08,38,825
<i>Sind—</i>	
<i>Government Salt Works</i>	4,376
<i>Grax Salt Works</i>	5,14,876
<i>Star Salt Manufacturing Works</i>	60,678
<i>Laxmi Salt Works</i>	2,36,896
<i>Nussarwanjee Salt Works</i>	1,35,844
<i>Gulbai Salt Works</i>	1,08,096
<i>Darwari Salt Deposit</i>	26,202
<i>Eduljee Dinshaw Salt Works</i>	56,468
Total Sind	11,43,436
<i>Burma—</i>	
<i>Akyab District</i>	2,845
<i>Kyaukpyu District</i>	37,622
<i>Sandoway District</i> . . . . .	..
<i>Hanthawaddy District</i>	3,860
<i>Bassein</i>	79,336
<i>Myaungmya</i> . . . . .	..
<i>Thaton</i>	6,499
<i>Amherst</i>	6,96,001
<i>Tavoy</i>	48,697
<i>Mergui</i>	17,677
Total Burma	8,92,546
GRAND TOTAL	3,60,33,542

Note 1.—Figures for the months of October and November, 1933, are not yet available.

Note 2.—Quantities shown against items italicized were manufactured by Government.

IMPORTS OF PORT SAID, ETC., SALT INTO THE CALCUTTA MARKET.

270. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE :

(a) Are Government aware that four large salt works, at Port Said, Massowah, Ras Hafun and Assab are trying to dump their products in the Calcutta market, the two latter with the help of their Government ?

(b) If the answer is in the affirmative, what steps do Government propose to take to prevent the threatened dumping ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. B. TAYLOR : (a) No. On the contrary there have been no imports of Port Said, Massowah or Assab salt into Calcutta in the first nine months of the calendar year 1933, while imports from Ras Hafun have diminished considerably, the quantity imported in the nine months January to September, 1933, being only three lakhs of maunds compared with nearly 13½ lakhs of maunds imported in the corresponding period of 1931.

(b) Does not arise.

ANNUAL CONSUMPTION OF KHEWRA SALT IN THE CALCUTTA MARKET.

271. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE :

(a) Will Government be pleased to state the quantity of consumption of Khewra and Pachbadra salt in the Calcutta market ?

(b) Have Government given any licence to any Bengali concern or concerns to manufacture salt in Bengal ? If so, who are they ? Are their products available in the Calcutta market ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. B. TAYLOR : (a) The normal annual consumption of Khewra salt in the Calcutta market, i.e., Bengal and Assam zone, is 10,000 maunds. No salt is imported into this market from Pachbadra.

(b) Yes. The following Bengali concerns have been granted temporary permits for the manufacture of salt on an experimental basis :

- (1) The Bengal Salt Manufacturers' Association.
- (2) The National Salt Manufacturing Co., Ltd.
- (3) The Premier Salt Manufacturing Co., Ltd.
- (4) Babu Binoy Krishna Banerjee.
- (5) Babus R. C. Dutt and S. P. Guha.

The Premier Salt Manufacturing Company alone has actually manufactured salt and their outturn is available in the Calcutta market, a part of it having been sold already.

PRESENT POSITION OF THE SALT INDUSTRY.

272. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE :

(a) Will Government be pleased to state the present condition of the salt industry in India ?

(b) Has the Salt (Additional Import Duty) Act, 1933, given any impetus to the Indian salt industry? If so, will Government be pleased to give some facts and figures about this?

(c) What is the effect of the Salt (Additional Import Duty) Act, 1933, on the Indian salt industry?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. B. TAYLOR: (a), (b) and (c). I would refer the Honourable Member to the report by the Central Board of Revenue on the working of the Salt (Additional Import Duty) Act during the period 1st January, 1933 to 30th September, 1933, a copy of which has been placed in the Library of the Council and another copy of which I will send to him personally.

DELAY IN THE DELIVERY OF THE CALCUTTA MAILS AT DACCA.

273. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE: (a) Will Government be pleased to state why the *dak* from Calcutta was not delivered at Dacca on the afternoon of the 15th November, 1933?

(b) Was the India General Steam Navigation Company's steamer carrying mails from Calcutta late in reaching Narayanganj? If so, by how many hours and why?

(c) Is it a fact that the steamer carrying the Calcutta mail generally reaches Narayanganj at 1 P.M. and that the Calcutta *dak* is delivered at Dacca by about 4 or 4-30 P.M.?

(d) Is it a fact that the steamer carrying mails from Calcutta reached Narayanganj at 2-30 P.M. on the 15th November, 1933? If so, will Government be pleased to state why arrangements could not be made either by the postal authorities or the railway authorities for the despatch of the mail bags from Narayanganj station to Dacca even within a couple of hours of their arrival at Narayanganj?

(e) Who was or were responsible for the delay and non-delivery of the Calcutta mail at Dacca on the 15th November, 1933?

(f) Is it a fact that the arrival at Narayanganj of the British soldiers who are to be billeted at Dacca, was mainly responsible for the delay and non-delivery of the Calcutta mail at Dacca on the 15th November, 1933?

(g) When did the Calcutta mail reach Dacca on 15th November, 1933?

(h) If the India General Steam Navigation Company's steamer carrying the Calcutta mail was found to be late in arrival at Narayanganj on the 15th November, 1933, for no fault of Government, will Government be pleased to state whether they will impose any penalty on the Company for causing such inconvenience to the public?

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. G. MITCHELL: (a) The Calcutta mails reached the Dacca Post Office on the 15th November, 1933, at 17-30 hours when it was too late to issue them for delivery. I may mention that I am giving standard time throughout this answer.

(b) The steamer carrying the Calcutta mail reached Narayanganj at 13-20 instead of 12-00 mid-day. The exact cause of delay is not known but unusually heavy military traffic seems to have, at least, contributed to it.

(c) The scheduled time of arrival of the steamer at Narayanganj is 12-00 (mid-day), and the mail is usually delivered at Dacca at about 16 hours in the afternoon.

(d) No; the steamer arrived at Narayanganj at 13-20. The Calcutta mails connected as usual with Eastern Bengal Railway No. 7-Up Train by which they are conveyed to Dacca, but the train was late in starting; the question of making any special arrangement for the conveyance of mails from Narayanganj to Dacca did not arise.

(e) The delay and non-delivery of the Calcutta mails at Dacca on the 15th November were caused by the late arrival of Eastern Bengal Railway No. 7-Up Train at Dacca.

(f) I have explained the delay in reply to parts (b) and (e).

(g) The Calcutta mail reached the Dacca Railway Station at 16-55 hours and the Dacca Head Post Office at 17-30 hours.

(h) The question whether the Company is liable to pay any penalty in this case is under reference to the Postmaster-General, Bengal and Assam.

TERMS OF THE CONTRACT BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND THE INDIA GENERAL STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY FOR THE CARRYING OF THE CALCUTTA MAILS FROM GOALUNDO TO NARAYANGANJ.

274. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE :

(a) Will Government be pleased to state the terms of contract between them and the India General Steam Navigation Company for carrying the Calcutta mail from Goalundo to Narayanganj ?

(b) Have Government ever received any application from any Indian steamer company regarding the carrying of mails from Goalundo to Narayanganj ? If so, how have they disposed of the matter ?

(c) Is the Royal mail carried by any Indian company either by bus or steamer, in any part of Bengal ? If so, where and what is the name of the company and the terms of the contract ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. G. MITCHELL : (a) The service between Narayanganj and Goalundo is a daily one in both directions with stoppages at intermediate stations. The Company have to carry safely all the mails made over to them by an authorised agent of the Posts and Telegraphs Department within the stipulated time, and the service is paid for at a rate which has been agreed upon between the Company and the Secretary of State. The Company are also liable to pay a penalty if they fail to complete the journey between Narayanganj and Goalundo and *vice versa* within the prescribed time, unless the delay is due to circumstances over which the Company have no control.

(b) No.

(c) There is no Indian company carrying mails by steamer in any part of Bengal. A statement shewing the particulars asked for in respect of motor mail services in Bengal is laid on the table. The Contractors have to execute agreements in the standard forms prescribed by the Department, copies of which have been placed in the Library of the House.

Statement showing the motor services in Bengal on which mails are carried by Indian firms.

1. Calcutta General Post Office and town sub-offices.	The Garage (Calcutta) Ltd., Calcutta.
2. Belgharia-Kanchrapara	D. G. Engineering and Co., Calcutta.
3. Chuadanga-Jhenidah	Pal Bros. Motor Service, Jhenidah.
4. Chuadanga-Meherpur	Mr. S. C. Biswas, Meherpur.
5. Jessore-Simakhali Jessore-Keshabpur	M. N. Kundu Bros., Jessore.
6. Majdia-Kotchandpur	Pal Bros. Motor Service, Majdia.
7. Jessore-Jhenidah Jessore-Shibnagore .	Mr. A. K. Datta, Majdia.
8. Tamluk-Panskura	East India Transport Co., Tamluk.
9. Chandrakona Road R. S. Ghatal	} Jack Paul and Sons., Chandrakona.
10. Belda-Contai	
11. Bankura-Ranigunge	K. M. Dass Bros., Bankura.
12. Andal-Ukhra	Mr. A. B. Sen, Ukhra (Burdwan).
13. Berhampore-Kandi	Mr. N. C. Mukerjee, Berhampore (Bengal).
14. Hili-Balurghat	Mesars. Balwant Singh Hazra Singh and Harnam Singh, Balurghat.
15. Nilphamari-Nilphamari R. S.	Tarapada Majumdar, Nilphamari.
16. Rangpur-Mahiganj	Mr. Jugal Meah, Rangpur.
17. Pabna-Ishurdi	Pabna-Biswas Motor Service Ltd., Pabna.
18. Faridpur-Faridpur R. S.	Messrs. K. C. Guha and B. C. Mitra, Faridpur.
19. Santahar-Naogaon-Balihar	Mr. D. P. Thakur, Naogaon.
20. Dacca Head Office-Dacca R. S.	Mr. N. C. Gupta, Dacca.
21. Jainti-Newlands	Messrs. S. C. Guha and Juthanram Kalwar, Newlands.
22. Alipur Duar-Saontalpur	M. Immamuddin Khan, Alipur Duar.
23. Maynaguri Road R. S.-Gairkatta	Afgan Motor Service, Jalpaiguri.
24. Darjeeling Head Office-Lebong	N. R. Jagooram and Sons, Darjeeling.

CINCHONA PLANTATIONS IN INDIA.

275. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE : Will Government be pleased to state the names of the Cinchona plantation stations in India, province by province ?

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN : The plantations are :

Under the Government of India—

Mergui Plantation in Burma.

Under the Government of Madras—

(i) Dodabetta.

(ii) Naduvattam.

(iii) Annamalai.

Under the Government of Bengal—

(i) Mungpoo.

(ii) Mungsong.

HEALTH OF SUBODH KUMAR MUKHERJEA, DETENU IN THE DEOLI DETENTION JAIL.

276. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE :
(a) Will Government be pleased to state the present condition of the health of detenu Subodh Kumar Mukherjea of Swamibag Road, Dacca, now confined at Deoli Detention Camp ?

(b) How long has he been in detention since his arrest ?

(c) Is it a fact that his hair is falling off and that he has been suffering from chronic baldness ?

(d) Has any medicine been prescribed for him ? If not, why ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. M. G. HALLETT : (a) His health is good and he has gained two lbs. in weight during the period he has been in the Deoli Detention Jail.

(b) Since the 30th November, 1930.

(c) He has a small patch of baldness on the right side of his head. He is not suffering from chronic baldness.

(d) Yes.

PATENT FOR NON-SLIP FASTENINGS FOR SECURING SLEEPERS TO RAILS TAKEN OUT BY MESSRS. J. D. WRENCH AND J. C. MAHINDRA.

277. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE :
(a) Is it a fact that Mr. John Dallas Wrench, Mechanical Engineer, Railway Board and Mr. J. C. Mahindra obtained a patent for non-slipping fastenings for securing railroad sleepers to rails ? If so, is it the same Mr. Wrench who is now a Member of the Railway Board ?

(b) Are Government servants allowed to take patents for articles supplied to the Department in which the officer is employed ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the total cost of such fastenings supplied to the Indian State Railways since 1928 ? Are those fastenings still being used by the State Railways in India ? If so, are Government officers allowed to carry on such business when they are in service ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL : (a) Yes.

(b) Government servants are permitted to patent any of their inventions.

(c) Approximately Rs. 4,000. The fitting in question was incorporated in the original designs of W. M. sleeper of which only about 7,500 were ordered, and is not now used.

DEATH OF HARI PADA BAGCHI, DETENU IN THE DEOLI DETENTION JAIL.

278. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE :
(a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the article headed "Death of Deoli Detenu" published in the *Liberty*, dated the 25th August, 1933 ? If so, when was their attention drawn to the said article ?

(b) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the editorial comment regarding the death of detenu Hari Pada Bagchi as published in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, dated the 29th August, 1933. If so, when was their attention drawn to it ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. M. G. HALLETT: (a) and (b). My attention had not previously been drawn to these articles.

DEATH OF HARI PADA BAGCHI, DETENU IN THE DEOLI DETENTION JAIL.

279. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE: (a) Is it a fact that one Hari Pada Bagchi, son of late Sarat Chandra Bagchi of Seroil, Rajshahi (Bengal) and Anil Kumar Batabyal, son of late Prasanna Kumar Batabyal of Rajshahi, were kept in the Deoli Detention Camp under the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act ?

(b) Is it a fact that the said Hari Pada died while kept in the said Detention Camp ?

(c) If the answer to part (b) is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the date when he died ?

(d) What was the disease with which he was attacked as a result of which he died, and when was he first attacked ? How long did he suffer from the disease ; when was he removed to the Ajmer Hospital ?

(e) Was the said Prafulla Chandra Bagchi informed of the illness of his brother Hari Pada ? If so, when ?

(f) When was the news of the death of Hari Pada Bagchi sent to the said Prafulla Chandra Bagchi and by whom ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. M. G. HALLETT: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). Hari Pada Bagchi died in the Victoria Hospital, Ajmer, on the 21st August, 1933.

(d) He was removed to hospital on the 8th August, 1933, and an operation for appendicitis was successfully performed on the 9th August, 1933. When recovering from the operation he developed bronchitis which subsequently developed into pneumonia of which he died.

(e) and (f). The information is being obtained and will be laid on the table in due course.

HEALTH OF SAROJ RANJAN ACHARYYA, DETENU IN THE DEOLI DETENTION JAIL.

280. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will Government be pleased to state what is the present state of health of detenu Saroj Ranjan Acharyya, B.A., in Deoli Detention Camp ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. M. G. HALLETT: His health is good and he has gained two lbs. in weight during the past month.

DEATH OF MR. VITHALBHAI PATEL.

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN (Leader of the House): Sir, at Simla the House had to mourn the loss of Dr. Besant. Since then, India has lost another great leader: I am referring to the untimely and sad death of Vithalbai Patel. He had a remarkable public career. His services to the local self-government of the country are evidenced by the great impression he made when he served in the Bombay Corporation as a member and then as chairman. His services to the country as a Member of the Legislature were long and meritorious. He was a Member of the old Imperial Legislative Council. He was also a Member of the Bombay Legislative Council, and since 1924 he was a Member of the Legislative Assembly. In all these institutions he took a prominent and leading part. Outside the Legislatures, he was a prominent Congressman who made his presence felt in all the committees and deliberations of that body. It was, however, as President of the Legislative Assembly that he distinguished himself and excelled himself too. His was a very striking and forceful personality. Endowed with great ability, habituated to strenuous hard work, dominated by a keen and intense desire to see his country advance rapidly, he knew no fear in fighting for his objective and displayed great resourcefulness, pertinacity of purpose and indomitable courage. His early death has cut short a great career. May his soul rest in peace.

Sir, on behalf of myself and the House, I request you to convey the deep sense of sorrow of the whole House at his untimely death to the relatives of Vithalbai Patel.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS (Punjab: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I wholly associate myself with the noble sentiments that our Honourable Leader of the House has expressed on the untimely death of the Honourable Mr. Vithalbai Patel and of his virtues and of his high character. He was a great Indian and was the first non-official President of the Legislative Assembly. He always upheld the dignity and the tradition of that House. In him India has lost a great and charming personality who loved India and did his best for her. We all mourn the loss of this great well-wisher of India.

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. MILLER (Bombay Chamber of Commerce): Sir, on behalf of the Non-Official European Members of this House I beg to associate myself with the remarks made by the Honourable Leader of the House.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: I also desire to associate myself with the observations which have fallen from the Honourable Leader of the House and the Honourable Members. The high tribute which the Honourable Leader of the House has paid to the deceased makes it unnecessary for me to make many remarks. There is no doubt that the deceased was a strong and forceful personality. I knew him ever since he was a Member of the late Imperial Legislative Council and this House is only concerned with the deceased's legislative career in the late Imperial Legislative Council and also in the Legislative Assembly. There, of course, he distinguished himself by his strong personality, his intimate knowledge and acquaintance with the Rules and Standing Orders and the manner in which he controlled that Assembly. I shall certainly convey the sympathy and condolence of this House to the relatives of the deceased.

MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Honourable Members, I have
12 Noon. a Message to convey to you from His Excellency the
Governor General.

The Message reads thus :

PANEL OF CHAIRMEN.

" In pursuance of the provisions of sub-section (2) of section 63A of the Government of India Act, I, Freeman, Earl of Willingdon, hereby nominate the Honourable Mr. Ernest Miller, a Member of the Council of State to be on the Panel of Chairmen of the said Council vice Mr. Ganpati Agrakaram Annadhurai Ayyar Natesan.

(Sd.) WILLINGDON,

The 1st December, 1933.

Viceroy and Governor General."

(The Message was received by the Council, standing.)

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Honourable Members are aware that our old colleague, the Honourable Mr. G. A. Natesan, has been taken away to other spheres of activity and his resignation has made it necessary to appoint an Honourable Member in his place in the Committee on Petitions. Under Standing Order 76 I have discretion to fill this vacancy during the currency of the session and I have decided to do so. I accordingly have much pleasure in nominating, with the consent of the Members concerned, as Chairman of the Committee the Honourable Raja Charanjit Singh and in his place as a Member of the Committee the Honourable Rai Bahadur Lala Jagdish Prasad.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: I have also to announce that the resignation of Mr. Natesan created a vacancy on the Library Committee. I am glad to inform the House that the Honourable Mr. Spence has accepted my invitation to fill that vacancy.

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S ASSENT TO BILLS.

SECRETARY OF THE COUNCIL: Sir, information has been received that His Excellency the Governor General has been pleased to grant his assent to the following Bills which were passed by the two Chambers of the Indian Legislature during the Simla Session, 1933, namely :

The Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Act, 1933.

The Land Acquisition (Amendment) Act, 1933.

The Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933.

The Indian Income-tax (Second Amendment) Act, 1933.

The Indian Railways (Amendment) Act, 1933.

The Cotton Textile Industry Protection (Second Amendment) Act, 1933.

The Indian Arbitration (Amendment) Act, 1933.

The Murshidabad Estate Administration Act, 1933.

The Cantonments (House-Accommodation Amendment) Act, 1933.

The Indian Tea Control Act, 1933.

The Indian Merchant Shipping (Second Amendment) Act, 1933.

The Dangerous Drugs (Amendment) Act, 1933.

The Indian Medical Council Act, 1933.

REPORTS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEES ON THE BILL TO CONSTITUTE A RESERVE BANK OF INDIA AND ON THE BILL FURTHER TO AMEND THE IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA ACT, 1920, FOR CERTAIN PURPOSES LAID ON THE TABLE.

SECRETARY OF THE COUNCIL : Sir, I lay on the table the Reports of the Joint Committees on the Bill to constitute a Reserve Bank of India and on the Bill further to amend the Imperial Bank of India Act, 1920, for certain purposes.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA MATHURA PRASAD MEHROTRA : Sir, the Reserve Bank Bill is not here.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : No. You will hear something about it later on.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE.

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. G. MITCHELL : Sir, I lay on the table the information promised in reply to question No. 48 asked by the Honourable Mr. Hossain Imam on the 20th September, 1932.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS ACCOUNTS ENQUIRY COMMITTEE.

Items of Recommendations.	Action taken by the Government of India.
Relief to be granted in respect of surplus and obsolete stores in stock on 1st April, 1925 (paragraphs 29 and 30 of the Committee's Report).	The recommendation has been accepted by the Government of India.
Treatment of surplus receipts arising out of the disposal of assets (paragraph 31 of the Committee's Report).	With the concurrence of the Auditor General, it has been decided that the existing detailed head "Receipts on Capital Account" is sufficient to meet all practical requirements and that no further action need therefore be taken on the recommendation of the Committee.
Enhancement of effective "lives" of Capital Assets (paragraphs 38 to 40 of the Committee's Report).	Accepted by the Government of India. Effect has been given to these recommendations in the Budget for 1933-34.
Expenditure on repairing damage due to storms, floods, accidents, etc., to be charged to Depreciation Fund (paragraph 45 of the Committee's Report).	The investigation made into the matter showed that the Committee's recommendation was already being followed.
Reconstitution of the Depreciation Fund and the Capital Account (paragraphs 70 to 74 of the Committee's Report).	The recommendations of the Committee have been accepted by the Government of India in a somewhat modified form and in the Memorandum furnished by the Auditor General in India for submission to the last Central Public Accounts Committee it was made clear that he had accepted all the decisions of the Government of India in the matter.
Equalisation of rate of interest allowed on Depreciation Fund balances with that charged on fresh capital outlay with effect from 1st April, 1925 (paragraphs 85 and 86 of the Committee's Report).	Commencing with the accounts for 1930-31, the Government of India have been allowing the same rate of interest on the Depreciation Fund balances as are being charged on capital outlay. They were unable, however, to grant retrospective effect from 1st April, 1925.
Equalisation of rates of interest charged by Railways on postal mail vans with that paid by State Railways on their own capital outlay (paragraph 90 of the Committee's Report).	It has been decided that no action is necessary at present but that arrangements should be made to observe the rates of interest charged by the Railway Departments in comparison with that paid by Railways to General Revenues.
Adoption provisionally of a percentage of 7.465 for the purpose of determining the pensionary liability of the Department (paragraphs 100, 101 and 107 to 109 of the Committee's Report).	The Government of India have accepted the percentage rate of 7.5 with retrospective effect from 1st April, 1925, and necessary adjustments were made in the accounts for 1931-32.
Reintroduction of separate revenue stamps (paragraphs 123 and 124 of the Committee's Report).	It has been decided by the Government of India to reintroduce separate revenue stamps, as a permanent measure with effect from 1st April, 1934, and orders have been issued accordingly.

Items of Recommendations.	Action taken by the Government of India.
<p>The rates charged on inland press telegrams are neither remunerative in their results nor commercial in their basis and the Department incurs a large annual loss on this traffic. The Departments should be reimbursed this loss as measured by the estimated savings, etc., which would result if this traffic were abolished (paragraph 132 of the Committee's Report).</p>	<p>The Government of India have decided that the Department should normally work to a profit which will cover the loss on inland press telegrams. The Department will appropriate any smaller profit in any year towards covering in part the loss on press traffic during the year, the uncovered loss being excluded from the calculation of the cumulative deficit on which interest is payable by the Department. The profit in excess of the loss on press traffic will be taken in reduction of past cumulative interest-bearing deficit. The decision was given effect to retrospectively from 1st April, 1925, and necessary adjustments on account of the loss incurred during 1925-26 to 1930-31 were made in the accounts for 1931-32.</p>
<p>Reimbursement to the Posts and Telegraphs Department of the loss sustained on account of the concessional rates charged for foreign State telegrams, (paragraph 138 of the Committee's Report).</p>	<p>This recommendation has been accepted by the Government of India with retrospective effect from 1st April, 1925, and the loss sustained by this Department up to 1931-32 amounting to Rs. 3,80,000 has been deducted from the accumulated loss of the Department.</p>
<p>Prevention of the use of service stamps, included in the free grants to Indian States, for telegraph purposes (paragraphs 142 and 143 of the Committee's Report).</p>	<p>It has been decided by the Government of India to defer action on this matter till the constitutional issues have been settled.</p>
<p>Recovery of extra cost incurred on account of the retention of the departmental telegraph offices from the departments opposing their conversion into combined offices (paragraph 149 of the Committee's Report).</p>	<p>The Posts and Telegraphs Department has accepted the conclusions arrived at by the Committee and will give effect to them as occasion arises.</p>
<p>Due allowance to be made for "idle time" in preparing claims for services rendered (paragraph 166 of the Committee's Report).</p>	<p>It has been decided that when presenting claims to other Departments, the Bewoor time test which made due allowance for idle time should be applied.</p>
<p>Resort to arbitration for the settlement of inter-departmental claims (paragraph 169 of the Committee's Report).</p>	<p>The Government of India do not consider it necessary to supplement the existing machinery for determining inter-departmental claims.</p>
<p>Inclusion of certain indirect charges in claims preferred for services rendered (paragraphs 171 and 172 of the Committee's Report).</p>	<p>The recommendations have been accepted by the Government of India and steps have been taken to include the requisite instructions in the proper code.</p>
<p>Grant of various reliefs proposed with full retrospective effect from 1st April, 1925 (paragraph 183 of the Committee's Report).</p>	<p>The Government of India have accepted this recommendation.</p>

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. B. TAYLOR: Sir, I lay on the table the information promised in reply to questions Nos. 168 and 172 asked by the Honourable Mr. Mahmood Suhrawardy and the Honourable Mr. Jagadish Chandra Banerjee, respectively, on the 11th September, 1933.

INCOME-TAX DEPARTMENT, BENGAL.

(1) and (2). Numerical strength and the number of Muslim officers in each cadre after the retrenchment in July, 1933, and the respective proportion to the total strength in each cadre in the Income-tax Department, Bengal.

	Strength before retrenchment.	Strength after retrenchment in July, 1933.	Number of Muhamadans.	Proportion to the total strength.
Assistant Commissioners of Income-tax on Rs. 1,500—100—2,000.	2	2	1	50%
Assistant Commissioners of Income-tax on Rs. 1,000—100—2,000.	3	2		Nil.
Income-tax Officers.	35	29	8	27·6%
Assistant Income-tax Officers	57	19 (six of them are officiating as Income-tax Officers)	6	31·6%
Examiners of Accounts		40	13	32·5%
Income-tax Assessors	17	17	5	29·4%
Income-tax Bailiffs	6	6*	2	40%
Ministerial	386	386†	140	36·8%

(3) No further retrenchment in the grade of gazetted officers is in contemplation. Retrenchments in ministerial and menial grades are under consideration.

(4) and (5). No. The percentage of 45 has been fixed by the Local Government for their own offices. The Government of India have fixed no percentage for any particular community.

(6) The Government of India have issued orders that, as far as possible; retrenchment should be effected so as not to disturb the communal proportions presently existing at the time of retrenchment.

* One post is lying vacant.

† Six posts were vacant in July, 1933.

DESIRABILITY OF INVESTING ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS OF INCOME-TAX IN BENGAL WITH SPECIAL POWERS.

(c) (i) In Calcutta, the experiment was tried in one case but in view of certain legal difficulties, it had to be dropped. The suggestion for its adoption generally is not considered practicable. Its desirability otherwise has not been considered.

(ii) In the early stages of the organisation of the Income-tax Department, Assistant Commissioners in almost all provinces were invested with the powers of Income-tax Officers in order to make important or difficult assessments. When the department was thoroughly organised and the assessing staff well trained in their task the Assistant Commissioners were withdrawn from assessment work and confined to appellate and inspection work alone. In some cases it was found that assessment work placed a strain on the Assistant Commissioner and hampered his legitimate appellate work. The Government do not propose to invest Assistant Commissioners of Income-tax with powers of assessment as a general rule in all provinces.

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. E. L. WINGATE: Sir, I lay on the table the information promised in reply to question No. 169 asked by the Honourable Rai Bahadur Lala Mathura Prasad Mehrotra on the 11th September, 1933.

TRANSFER OF SRI BADEI NATH TEMPLE.

(a) and (b). The question of the management of the Badri Nath Temple has been before the Hindu public since 1929 as a result of certain proposals made by a Sub-Committee of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Committee after a special enquiry into the management of the Temple. These proposals involved an alteration of the existing scheme of management which was settled in 1899 by the High Court of Kumaon. The Government of the United Provinces examined the proposals in consultation with His Highness the Raja of Tehri who, under the present scheme, is vested with general supervisory powers. No agreement was reached and no further action was then taken on the proposals.

His Highness has expressed his willingness to make himself personally responsible for management if the temple and the village in which it stands are made over in full sovereignty to him. In the present year His Excellency the Governor of the United Provinces took steps to elicit Hindu opinion on this proposal by means of local and general enquiries and it is as a result of these enquiries that a large number of resolutions and other representations has been received from Hindu Sabhas in various parts of India, some in favour of, and some opposed to, the transfer. Owing to the great divergence of views the Government of the United Provinces have decided not to pursue the matter further at present.

(c) The present resources of the temple are utilised for worship, payment of staff and the maintenance of the buildings at Badri Nath and of a number of subordinate temples, *dharamsalas*, etc. The entertainment of important pilgrims is also a charge on the temple funds.

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL: Sir, I lay on the table the information promised in reply to question No. 170 asked by the Honourable Rai Bahadur Lala Mathura Prasad Mehrotra on the 11th September, 1933.

NUMBER OF WAGONS WITH LAVATORIES ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

(a) There are only nine I, II and Inter class bogie composite carriages without lavatories.

There are eight other I, II and Inter class bogie composite carriages in which the 1st and 2nd classes and two of the four Inter class compartments are provided with lavatories.

(b) These carriages were designed for suburban traffic only.

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL: Sir, I also lay on the table the information promised in reply to question No. 194 asked by the Honourable Mr. Hossain Imam on the 16th September, 1933.

RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE.

Two statements giving the information asked for by the Honourable Member are laid on the table. It is regretted that the information relating to 1930-31 in respect of part (2) of the question is not available.

STATEMENT 1.

Total expenditure of Railway Clearing Accounts Office.

Year.	Rs.
1930-31	17,97,629
1931-32	17,98,188
1932-33	16,44,722

This includes the cost of Accounts, Statistical and T. Tax work and the work done for other Government departments and the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, which is also a party to the Clearing Accounts Office.

STATEMENT II.

Statement showing total credits. Total debits. Total credits due to one State-managed Railway from the other three and total debits against one State-managed Railway by the other three, for the year 1931-32 and 1932-33.

Particulars.	North-Western Railway.		Great Indian Peninsula Railway.		East Indian Railway.		Eastern Bengal Railway.	
	1931-32.	1932-33.	1931-32.	1932-33.	1931-32.	1932-33.	1931-32.	1932-33.
	Rs. A.	Rs. A.	Rs. A.	Rs. A.	Rs. A.	Rs. A.	Rs. A.	Rs. A.
(a) Total credits, i.e., earnings of each State-managed Railway in respect of traffic interchanged with all the railways.	2,64,53,154 4	2,42,48,568 8	5,79,61,053 8	5,90,51,535 5	8,39,15,721 3	6,81,29,948 7	1,84,99,324 10	1,55,14,717 13
(b) Total debits, i.e., the amount collected on outward paid and inward to-pay trains.	3,69,35,274 4	3,80,92,707 12	4,50,55,293 9	4,59,16,536 12	5,13,60,080 5	5,15,50,807 10	1,97,40,424 1	1,88,82,714 2
(c) Total credits due to one State-managed Railway from the other three.	1,66,23,934 2	1,40,44,518 4	1,66,45,363 7	1,62,72,684 13	3,19,06,732 0	3,12,91,741 9	38,01,457 12	36,46,416 12
(d) Total debits against one State-managed Railway by the other three.	2,35,19,595 15	2,36,05,702 2	1,15,23,006 1	1,08,66,871 8	2,76,34,447 14	2,53,49,412 4	63,01,437 7	54,33,373 9
(e) Net payments (Dr.) or Receipts (Cr.) of the Railway.	68,94,661 13 (Dr.)	95,61,185 14 (Dr.)	51,22,357 6 (Cr.)	54,05,618 5 (Cr.)	42,72,284 3 (Cr.)	59,42,329 5 (Cr.)	24,99,976 11 (Dr.)	17,86,966 13 (Dr.)

THE HONOURABLE MR. T. A. STEWART: Sir, I lay on the table the information promised in reply to questions Nos. 180 and 181 asked by the Honourable Mr. Hossain Imam on the 16th September, 1933.

RETRENCHMENT IN THE OFFICE AND WORKSHOPS OF THE PORT COMMISSIONERS,
CALCUTTA.

(a) Each section of the Trust being considered as a separate unit, retrenchment was carried out on the following principles:

Any men who had clearly proved themselves unsatisfactory workers were retrenched. The number so retrenched was inconsiderable. Temporary men, including men of short service who were put on no pay leave under the 1931 retrenchment scheme and who had since been recalled to duty, were retrenched. If the necessary reduction of men in each grade was not thus obtained, any man who had been promoted from a lower grade to act in a higher grade were required to revert to the lower grade. Thereafter, if necessary, the junior most men in each grade other than the lowest, were given the option either of reverting to a lower grade or of being retired. These measures usually resulted in an excess number of men in the lowest grade, and in this grade all men who had completed 25 years' pensionable service were first retired, and, if further reductions were still necessary, the junior most men were retrenched. A similar procedure was adopted as far as possible with inferior staff.

The Commissioners have throughout reserved to themselves the right to depart from this procedure whenever a departure appeared to them likely to ensure greater efficiency.

(b) The full Board of the Commissioners in meeting.

(c) Yes.

(d) Mr. J. C. Banerjee, Rai B. R. Singh Bahadur and Mr. G. L. Mehta.

RETRENCHMENT IN THE OFFICE AND WORKSHOPS OF THE PORT COMMISSIONERS, CALCUTTA.

(a)	495.*						
(b)	(i) Europeans	.	.	.	.	.	27*
	(ii) Anglo-Indians	.	.	.	.	.	71
	(iii) Indians	.	.	.	.	.	397
(c)	69.*						
(d)	Yes.						
(e)	(i) Europeans	.	.	.	.	.	Nil*
	(ii) Anglo-Indians	.	.	.	.	.	Nil
	(iii) Indians	.	.	.	.	.	19
(f)	No.						
(g)	Does not arise.						
(h)	No.						

* The above figures are for the three years commencing from 1931-32.

ANNOUNCEMENT *RE* LAYING OF INFORMATION ON THE TABLE.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Honourable Members, with reference to the information which has just been laid on the table, my attention has been called to the fact that certain observations from the Chair in connection with questions asked on the 11th and 16th September last might be taken as implying that I dissent from the decision contained in my predecessor's considered ruling of the 20th September, 1932, to the effect that when the information sought in a question is still being collected on the date when the question is put, an interim answer undertaking to supply the information in due course to the Honourable Member putting the question would continue to be in order in this Council and that where an interim answer in this sense is given, it would not be necessary to lay the information on the table. I therefore desire to explain to the Council that I entirely agree with my predecessor's ruling and do not propose to introduce any general change in the practice which as he observed has been in force throughout the existence of this Council.

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 further to amend the Indian Tariff Act, 1894, the Indian Finance Act, 1931, and the Sea Customs Act, 1878, for certain purposes, which was passed by the Legislative Assembly at its meeting held on the 12th December, 1933.

MOTION FOR THE ELECTION OF ONE NON-OFFICIAL MEMBER TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON EMIGRATION *VICE* MR. G. A. NATESAN, RESIGNED.

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN (Leader of the House): Sir, I move:

"That this Council do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, one non-official Member to sit on the Standing Committee on Emigration, *vice* Mr. G. A. Natesan."

It has become necessary to make this motion because of Mr. Natesan's resignation.

The motion was adopted.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: With reference to the motion which has just been adopted by the Council, I have to announce that nominations for the Standing Committee on Emigration will be received by the Secretary up till 11 A.M. on Saturday, the 16th December, 1933.

RESOLUTION *RE* RATIFICATION OF THE SILVER AGREEMENT.

THE HONOURABLE Mr. J. B. TAYLOR (Additional Finance Secretary):
Sir, I move :

"That this Council recommends to the Governor General in Council that he do ratify the Memorandum of Heads of Agreement entered into by the Delegates of India, China and Spain as holders of large stocks or users of silver, and of Australia, Canada, the United States, Mexico and Peru as principal producers of silver, at the Monetary and Economic Conference held in London, July 1933."

Sir, this Council is already to a certain extent familiar with the subject-matter of this Resolution, because on a Resolution moved by the Honourable Rai Bahadur Lala Mathura Prasad Mehrotra at the Simla session in connection with the deal which was effected by the Government of India with His Majesty's Treasury in respect of the silver required for a token payment of war debt to the United States last May I took occasion to explain in answering him the policy of the Government of India in selling silver. But I will repeat it briefly again. In past years India was a country whose currency was based on silver, the silver rupee. At that time there were three main groups of currencies in the world; some countries depended on silver, others depended on gold and others had both. Up to 1893 the majority of countries were either on a silver basis or on a bi-metallic basis, that is to say, a basis which included both silver and gold. After that there was a gradual swing away from silver and more and more countries went on to gold. But though India went on to a gold basis it still continued to use silver to a very large extent for the purposes of its internal currency. The silver rupee was the main token of exchange within the country itself. During the war this use of silver within the country necessitated very large purchase of silver outside and roughly 100 crores of rupees had to be coined during the war to meet the internal demand for currency. After the war owing to the development of the currency system, the opening of Imperial Bank branches with currency chests and various other reasons, the popularity of the note issue in India has developed to a very large extent, with the result that since the war up to now very roughly the 100 crores of rupees which were coined during the war for currency purposes have been returned to the vaults of the Government of India. The Government of India is therefore confronted with the problem of what to do with this silver. The silver reserve is quite excessive. The question was carefully examined by the Hilton Young Commission. It was examined in London and, more recently still, it was examined by the Joint Committee, of which Members of this House formed part, on the Reserve Bank Bill, and that Committee had the advantage of consulting expert witnesses from various parts of India. They came to the conclusion which had already been reached by Government that an amount of 50 crores of rupees would be roughly adequate as a reserve to meet the internal demands for the exchange of notes. This means that a large surplus has to be disposed of and I think that the international arrangements which I am now going to explain to you will to a certain extent help in its disposal and are therefore altogether to the advantage of India. India obviously had to sell, and the selling of silver owing to the fact that practically no country uses it for its currency now except China is a very difficult problem. It aroused considerable criticism from the United States of America and other producing countries. Naturally the miners who produced the silver objected very strongly to this extra amount being thrown on to the market. Also there was a certain class of theorists who, following a train of thought which I personally have not been able to follow, attributed a great part of the present

[Mr. J. B. Taylor.]

economic depression in the world to the sale of silver by the Government of India. As I have said, the Government of India have never accepted that argument. At the same time we recognized the fact that our sales of silver were raising a certain amount of hostility and we therefore took the opportunity of the World Economic Conference to put our side of the question before the representatives of the United States and the producing countries. Our side of the question was that these large purchases during the war were to a very large extent not only made from the United States—everybody is familiar with the Pittman Act under which approximately 50 crores of silver were sold to us by the United States Government—but even apart from that they were made in pursuance of a common policy during the war. We are very glad to say that the United States Government saw the force of that argument and were prepared to cooperate with the Government of India in taking off a certain amount of the silver which they realized that we must sell. That in short is the meaning of this Agreement. The Government of India are to be enabled to sell an amount not exceeding 140 million ounces in a period of four years beginning on the 1st January next, that is to say an amount roughly equivalent to 40 crores of rupee coin and we can sell that at a rate which does not exceed 35 million ounces a year, that is, a quantity of silver containing 10 crores of rupees. If we confine ourselves within these limits the Government of the United States and certain other producing Governments undertake that they will themselves purchase from their own producers an equivalent amount, thereby relieving an overburdened market of the strain of this extra offering being thrown upon it. On this basis of a 50 crores reserve and in view of the further fact that our present holding in the currency reserve is 104 crores, it means that even at present we have approximately a surplus of 54 crores, and this Agreement, by enabling us to dispose of 40 crores, will materially lighten our task and enable us without difficulty to store the remainder for the meantime in anticipation of any future expansion or demand. Also if this Agreement holds it should enable us to obtain a materially higher price than we otherwise would, and, what is more important, enable us to dispose of our stocks without injuring those who hold silver, among whom it must be remembered are the poorer classes in India who are large holders of silver as ornaments and so on. I therefore ask this Council with confidence to recommend the ratification of this Resolution, on which we may also congratulate ourselves as being the one constructive piece of work that emerged from the World Economic Conference and one clearly to the advantage of India.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: I would like the Honourable Member to furnish some further information to the House as it will be helpful to the debate. I would like in the first instance to know what 35 million ounces represents in rupees ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. B. TAYLOR: Sir, 35 million ounces represent 10 crores of rupees in quantity and 140 million ounces represent 40 crores.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: How many rupees are now in circulation ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. B. TAYLOR: I am sorry, Sir, I thought I had mentioned 104 crores—

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: You said 104 crores are in stock. I want to know what is in circulation.

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. B. TAYLOR: I am afraid, Sir, that the amount of rupees in circulation is a question quite impossible to answer. The Government of India in the Finance Department at the time of the Hilton Young Commission made a careful investigation of this but the estimate was largely based on guess work. The total coinage so far has been about 650 crores and the amount in stock is 104 and re-coinage 50 crores; so, if 50 crores had been sold that would leave 450 crores in circulation. But that does not allow for the large amount which has been privately melted or exported. I think the usual estimate is that the amount of rupees in circulation in this country is somewhere between 150 and 250 crores of rupees. I am afraid it is impossible to form any closer approximation than that, and even that is a pure guess.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: I understand that this Agreement does not legally or morally bind India to sell up to that quantity? It is only the maximum quantity which India may sell.

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. B. TAYLOR: That is correct; it is a maximum. The Agreement means that India in no year will sell more than 50 million ounces and on an average not more than 35 million ounces.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: What is the world's production of silver now?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. B. TAYLOR: I think, Sir, off-hand that this year's estimate is very roughly 150 million ounces.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Does this 35 million include the two crores which we sold to Great Britain for payment to America for the war debt?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. B. TAYLOR: No, Sir. It is specified in the Agreement that if any silver is sold as a result of any governmental transaction, it will be outside this Agreement. This refers to sales on the market. Similarly the producing Governments undertake to take an equivalent amount off the market. Inter-governmental transactions are excluded.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Shall we receive our payments in gold or in sterling securities?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. B. TAYLOR: That, Sir, is not specified in the Agreement, because, as I say, these are market transactions. The point is that the Government of India undertakes to sell not more than that on the market. What it gets for it is a matter within its own discretion. Whether it is prepared to sell in India for rupees or in London for sterling or in America for gold is a matter left entirely to its own discretion.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA JAGDISH PRASAD (United Provinces Northern : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, it is very difficult to follow the subtleties of international financiers. The Finance Secretary has argued that the Silver Agreement is in the interests of India, whereas the United Provinces Merchants' Chamber, I understand, in a communication to the Government of India expressed doubts regarding any monetary benefit to India emerging out of the Agreement. However, I am not opposed to the Agreement. But I am of opinion that the Government should not sell silver without the previous consent of the Legislature and that the money realised from the sales of silver should go towards the gold standard reserve and not towards meeting debt obligations. I am not sure if the Government gave an undertaking to this effect in the Legislative Assembly, nor has the Finance Secretary, if I have understood him rightly, given an undertaking to this effect today.

THE HONOURABLE MAHARAJA JAGDISH NATH RAY OF DINAJPUR (Bengal : Nominated Non-Official) : Mr. President, Sir, if I rise to take part in the discussion on this Resolution I do not do so in any carping spirit of criticism. A matter so intricate and having a bearing on the economic position of practically the whole world cannot but be a problem of immense difficulty to the average man. And that is why to clarify my own ideas and also to help others in my position I discuss some aspects of the Agreement as I have understood them so far.

Sir, it is really a point of great gratification that in a Conference of sixty-six nations, which met under so high auspices in July of this year, India was given an important position ; and although it resulted in utter failure so far as the large issues were concerned India's participation does not seem to have been altogether profitless. What I could gather from the Press reports at the time the Monetary and Economic Conference, which had been heralded with much fanfare in London, separated ultimately with nothing tangible but one or two Agreements of this nature. The Sub-Commission II of one of its Commissions must therefore be highly congratulated for having been able to arrive at an unanimous resolution on the sale and purchase of silver. It may be to the advantage of those who desire to sell silver that the producers of the same metal absorb it themselves. But, Sir, even in my first speech in the House at Simla, I felt it my duty to give expression to the feeling that runs rampant even in our country districts regarding the propriety of the sale of gold and silver. I also gave out that in spite of the Honourable Mr. Taylor's argument in favour of the quick disposal of "distress gold," I was not fully convinced. He is up again today to advocate in a way the sale of "surplus silver." I repeat, it is really very difficult for us to think with equanimity the disposal of gold and silver in stock. Moreover, as China is on a silver currency basis and as about the silver position of Spain we have no data, although I support the Resolution I cannot take full comfort in the fact that China and Spain also have entered the Agreement along with India. What is good for revolution-ridden Spain may not also be good for us ; and this strikes us all the more because, while the hoarding of silver is now deemed good for the United States of America—the chief silver-producing country—we are asked to consider it a good fortune that we are able to dispose of all available gold and silver. The position seems to be a little anomalous : it confronts us somewhat like a riddle.

However, I do not fail to note that the Agreement is only of a negative character as it binds the Government not to dispose of more than a given quantity of silver for four years from the 1st of January. There are now, I understand, 104 crores of silver coins in stock and 50 crores of rupees have

been disposed of since 1926, and from the price obtained thereof 10½ crores worth of gold was bought and put in the Currency Reserve. I agree that considering the difficult years which have been tided over with the help of the sale of silver and taking into account the replenishment of the Currency Reserve by gold, as also the interest that has been earned or saved on the proceeds, the deal was not quite a bad one. It is useless to rake up here the episode of the transaction over the token payment of the British Government's war debt to the United States of America. In any case, frankly speaking, we find it extremely hard to reconcile ourselves to the views of the Government here in the face of expert non-official opinion to the effect that the sale of surplus rupees, either today or in the near future, would involve substantial losses as "the silver was bought for coining at prices much higher than those now ruling". And I think the loss talked of here is something more real than "the book loss" referred to in Government's Memorandum attached to the Reserve Bank Bill. It is also feared that as silver commands the confidence of the mass of people the Currency Authority will have to buy silver again at a higher price in the event of an unexpected demand for rupee coins. The Silver Redemption Reserve foreshadowed in the aforesaid Memorandum may however be regarded as somewhat of a safeguard against undue sales of silver.

There is, Sir, the argument that an improvement in the course of world's trade is much better a consideration than any apparent advantage with regard to silver. But he would be a very bold man who could say that this Agreement would tend to the increase of India's purchasing power. We have also heard it said that this Agreement will promote international cooperation and will in particular better our relations with the United States of America. Sir, as we are in some despair about our future, and as it is indispensable that some measures must be concerted to sell abroad our jute, cotton, oil-seeds, etc., in greater quantities and at higher prices, we live on in the distant hope that America at least will do us a good turn in a spirit of reciprocity by ordering jute in abundant quantities hereafter. But the point is still there that the sale of so-called "surplus silver" may facilitate the flight of "distress silver" also. If, however, there is any real surplus of silver, I should like it to be utilized in the best way possible to relieve the acute distress of those in the country that are suffering the most on account of the economic depression.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS (Punjab : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, this being a very intricate subject, it is rather difficult for a layman like me to fully deal with the points raised by my friend, the Honourable Mr. Taylor. I do not oppose the ratification. What I wish to say is that the proceeds of the silver which the Government of India may sell under this Convention ought to be invested in gold. I do not believe in parting with bullion and investment in paper. As far as the prophecy which the Honourable Mr. Taylor has made that by adopting this Resolution there will be general rise in the prices and of silver it will have the same fate as has been the case with the recent prophecy by the Honourable the Finance Member and which time has proved to be untrue. I might mention that when the question of an embargo on the export of distress gold was being discussed in the House, the Honourable the Finance Member said that that was the right time for the agriculturists and others who held gold to sell it. Now, Sir, after a short lapse of time we find that the anticipations and the prophecy of the Honourable the Finance Member in that respect proved to be wrong. The prices of gold very much appreciated thereafter and the

[Rai Bahadur Lala Ram Saran Das.]

result was that those who sold gold then realised that if they had waited and sold the gold later they would have gained much. However, Sir, I want to press upon the Finance Department that the proceeds from sales which they might make of Indian silver ought not to be invested in paper but in bullion.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA MATHURA PRASAD MEHROTRA (United Provinces Central: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, we on this side of the House are very thankful to you for putting some questions to my friend Mr. Taylor and eliciting many points which we would have asked from him. But as the Leader of the Opposition has just said, this question is very intricate and we on this side of the House are not in a position to grasp those important issues which may be involved from the international point of view. For us there are two very simple questions on which we would like my friend Mr. Taylor to satisfy us. The question that arises in our mind is whether the effect of this Agreement would be harmful or beneficial in the interests of the agriculturist.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Order, order. He said that it would be helpful in maintaining stability in the country in the matter of silver prices.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA MATHURA PRASAD MEHROTRA: Sir, I wanted to understand whether the prices of the agricultural products will rise as the effect of this Agreement and therefore I have put this question. Secondly, the point of view from which I will judge the result of this Agreement is whether, whatever the quantity of silver which has been left with the millions of people of this country will fetch higher prices or will go down still further. As my friend the Leader of the Opposition has just stated, in the case of gold the people were led to believe then that the prices of gold would still go down but what we find is that the prices have enormously increased and now the people who gave away their gold thinking that it may fetch less price, are sorry for having done so. Enormous quantities of gold have been exported. Now, what we find is that the silver is going to meet the same fate. During the last ten years, that is from 1920 to 1930, I find that about 320 crores of silver were exported every year. In 1931-32 it suddenly fell to 135 crores but I believe that was due more or less to the export of gold that the prices fell. So, Sir, these are two very pertinent questions so far as India is concerned. We all know that the great Economic Conference that met, on which India was represented, achieved nothing but this Agreement on Silver concerning the eastern countries. But, Sir, so far as the internal question of India is concerned, we would certainly like to know the policy of the Government in this matter. We are certainly of opinion that both gold and silver should be kept in stock as much as possible. America is doing the same and is hoarding as much gold and silver as she can. I do not know why, if that policy is good for that country, it should not be good for our own.

Then, Sir, Mr. Taylor referred in his speech to the Resolution that I moved in September about the sale of silver, when many questions were asked on this side of the House and my friend said that they would come up in connection with the ratification of the Silver Agreement. Sir, I would certainly lay once more emphasis on the point that I made then, that if Government is going to sell silver or give silver to America or any other country

in payment of their war debt, they must certainly take the Finance Committee into their confidence and then they ought to come for ratification before the Legislatures. That point I will certainly lay emphasis on. I shall not oppose this Resolution but shall feel gratified if my Honourable friend Mr. Taylor will give answers to the questions that I have raised for our satisfaction.

*THE HONOURABLE SIR KURMA VENKATA REDDI (Madras : Nominated Non-Official) : Sir, as far as I have been able to understand the trend of the discussion in this House I find that there is no serious objection to the acceptance of this motion but that one or two questions have been raised which perhaps can be answered by me, if I may. The question has been raised whether this Agreement would in any way help us, help the agriculturists of this country, in raising the level of prices. We all know, we all deplore, that the prices today are so very low indeed that utter misery prevails in this country. But unfortunately the condition of the prices has nothing to do with the gold stores or the silver stores or with the sales of these commodities. They do not depend upon these any more than upon the ratio question which has been so much trotted out in this country by persons who are in commercial circles. I think, Sir, I can claim with some authority to represent the community of agriculturists as I myself come from that community. No doubt Providence willed that I should be in some other profession, but millions and millions of my community are the tillers of the soil and are labouring in the fields. I deplore the lowering of these prices as much as anybody does. But I maintain that this policy of selling silver or gold has nothing to do with the level of prices. Sir, gold and silver have been investments in our country. Whereas in European countries they invest their monies in companies, in stocks, in gilt-edged securities, we in India have contracted the habit of investing in gold and in silver and though in our school days, in our younger days, we were told that the hoarding of gold in this country was a great calamity, recent events have shown that the hoarding of gold was not such a grave mistake at all (Hear, hear) for our people have been able to sell them at a price which they never contemplated when they bought this gold. Men who bought sovereigns at Rs. 10, Rs. 12, or Rs. 15 have been now able to sell them at Rs. 20 and more and thereby tided over the crisis with which this country has been visited of late. The lower prices of commodities is a world calamity due to this great world depression. The horrid war and the still horrid peace treaties are responsible for the present condition of the world. In no country in Europe do we find anything like satisfaction or economic happiness and the unhappiness and the depression of Europe has spread its wings over the rest of the world, and we have come under those wings because of the misery which was the result of those causes. Financiers and economists will have to devise means other than preventing us from selling our gold or silver and I do not think that any economist or financier will be able to help us in this matter by reserving gold with us and with our Government. As has been said by the Honourable Member in charge of this motion, there is a large quantity of silver in the country and I am glad that this Agreement binds only the Governments and does not prevent Indians from selling the silver that they have in their homes, and if as it is hoped this Agreement stabilises the value of silver in the world, a great service would really have been done for these poorer classes who have hoarded silver and retained silver in their homes.

* Speech not corrected by the Honourable Member.

[Sir Kurma Venkata Reddi.]

The next question, Sir, that I would address myself to is about the request that has been made that the Government of India might see that when this silver is sold, the money realised thereby is invested in gold. I am afraid that I cannot subscribe myself to that proposition. I am not quite sure whether it would be wise on our part, when gold is selling at Rs. 20 a sovereign to invest in gold for the day might come when these prices might be lowered. Apart from the question of losing the interest which we might naturally expect by investing this money otherwise or by discharging our debts and our obligations whereby we might be saved the need for borrowing money on which we shall have to pay interest, I should think that this investment in gold might land us in difficulties at a later stage. I should rather think that great consideration will have to be given in arriving at a conclusion whether the money that we might hereby obtain can be used either in gold or in sterling or in some other form of investment and I think we must trust the Government of India on that matter and leave it to them. It is rather difficult to prophesy in any direction. They say that to prophesy is not wise, but in matters connected with finance, prophecies are likely to go the wrong way more than in any other field.

Now, Sir, I have great pleasure in supporting this motion. I join the others in congratulating the members of the Government of India who have been able to bring about this Agreement. Members have already stated in what ways we will be benefited by this Agreement. The first and foremost, of course, is the stability of the price in silver. We have also been told that China would be profited to some extent and if that is so, certainly it ought to have our great sympathy. China, Sir, is a country which has the largest population in the world and it is an Asiatic country and a neighbour to us, and it is surprising how little trade we have with that country. It is often difficult to find out the exact statistics that show how much we export to China and how much China is importing from other countries. From a Year Book I discovered that something like 150 crores are being imported, and another Book disclosed 300 crores as the imports of that country. In any case, the imports from India are only 10 crores—the exports from India to China—and I was wondering how it was that we, living so close to China, the next best populated country in the world, have not been able to extend our trade relations with that country, and if by this measure we are able to assist China in the matter of stabilising their currency, in the matter of improving their trade, I think we will have a claim upon that country for an increase in the trade between that land and ourselves.

The third advantage, Sir, which has been mentioned is the international co-operation between India and other countries. I have already referred to the havoc committed by the Great War and the peace treaties, and if the world is ever to be restored at all to its normal conditions, to the conditions which it enjoyed before the war, I think the only solution lies in international co-operation and goodwill between the nations. And we, Sir, as a rising nation, notwithstanding our great ancient traditions and great ancient culture and civilization, we need more than any other the help and co-operation of other nations, and by this Agreement the Government of India have contributed in a small degree towards that international co-operation. I, for one, would join every one in the congratulations which the Finance Member rightly deserves.

Sir, I support the Resolution.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : I congratulate the Honourable Member on his excellent maiden speech in this House today.

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. B. TAYLOR : Sir, the last speaker has gone so exhaustively through the various advantages which will accrue to the Government of India through this Agreement and has dealt so fully with the various points in the very friendly criticism of those who found various points to criticise, that I have very little to say. There are, however, three points which I would like to pick up from Sir Kurma Reddi's speech. In the first place, the Honourable Lala Ram Saran Das said that I was prophesying a rise in the price of silver. Sir, I refuse to prophesy about anything and still less would I prophesy about silver. What I did say was that this Agreement would enable the Government of India to dispose of its silver at a higher price than it otherwise could, and in that very guarded form I think the remark is almost self-obvious. Then, Sir, he went on to allege some occasion, I do not know when, on which the Honourable Finance Member similarly indulged in a prophesy about gold. I do not know when he gave this advice to people to sell gold on the ground that it would fall later. But in any case, so far as I can remember the price of gold rose to about Rs. 31 a tola in December, 1931, and with minor fluctuations has remained there ever since. So even if that advice was given, and I have no recollection of it, I think that anybody who at that time turned an investment of gold into an investment in Government of India securities would have found that he profited very handsomely by the change.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS : Did not gold rise to Rs. 32 a tola and even more than that and touch Rs. 33 ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. B. TAYLOR : It may have risen slightly above Rs. 32. It is now, I think, Rs. 31-8-0, and that, in comparison with the previous price of Rs. 21, is so material a rise that I do not think these fluctuations affect the question. The main point in any case is that as regards silver this Agreement will enable not only the Government of India to sell at a higher price than it otherwise would but, much more important, that it will enable the agriculturist and other people in India who hoard silver to dispose of it if they so desire at a higher price than would have been possible otherwise. That I think has been very clearly brought out by Sir Kurma Reddi.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS : I would like to know whether since this deal the price of agricultural produce has gone down ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. B. TAYLOR : I am afraid that I was not discussing the price of agricultural produce but the case of the man who wished to sell silver. I am afraid one cannot widen this discussion to cover the whole realm of currency. What we are discussing is the Agreement to sell silver and the second point raised is the method in which the proceeds should be invested. Here, Sir, I must ask this House not to confuse the issue, and here again I am particularly thankful to Sir Kurma Reddi for putting the issues

[Mr. J. B. Taylor.]

very clearly before the House. The question of selling silver is one thing and the question of the method in which the proceeds should be invested is another. We are turning what is an unrealizable asset into something realizable and the manner in which it should be invested is one which must be considered when we are discussing the manner in which the reserves of the Government of India generally should be held. That is a question which will come before this House shortly in connection with the Reserve Bank Bill. The Reserve Bank Bill provides that the currency investments of the Government of India shall be held in a certain way. If Members feel that the provision for holding gold or sterling securities or anything else is inadequate, they can raise the point in that connection. But before you can arrange your reserves you must sell something which will enable you to acquire them; and that is the stage at which I would like to leave this particular point, that is to say, to make it clear that we are selling an unrealizable asset so as to give ourselves freedom of action to dispose of the proceeds.

Finally, Sir, the Honourable Lala Mathura Prasad Mehrotra asked for the approval of the Legislature. I think that I discussed that question at considerable length when we last dealt with this question and I pointed out the two separate aspects of the question. In the first place, as regards individual transactions secrecy is essential because silver is a highly speculative commodity and it would be unthinkable that on each occasion we should come up for approval by the Legislature or a Standing Committee of the Legislature before effecting a particular deal. On the other hand, as regards the general policy there is no question of our not being willing to put our policy before the Legislature to seek its approval. That is what I am doing now with this present Resolution. One aspect of it, a much wider aspect of it will come before this House shortly in connection with the Reserve Bank Bill. In that Bill there is a provision for a certain holding of silver as a reserve and provisions for interchange of silver between the Reserve Bank and Government. In addition Government was asked by the London Committee on the Reserve Bank to examine the question of the disposal of surplus silver and the realization of the proceeds generally, and we have prepared a Memorandum on that question which is attached to the Report of the Joint Committee on the Reserve Bank Bill which is now on the table of this House. This House will be given a full opportunity then to discuss that aspect of the silver problem and the whole question of the amount of silver which it considers should be held as a reserve for the internal security of the currency.

Sir, I think that I have answered all three points and can confidently recommend this Resolution to the House.

Sir, I move.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: The question is:

“That the following Resolution be adopted:

‘That this Council recommends to the Governor General in Council that he do ratify the ‘Memorandum of Heads of Agreement entered into by the Delegates of India, China and Spain as holders of large stocks or users of silver, and of Australia, Canada, the United States, Mexico and Peru as principal producers of silver, at the Monetary and Economic Conference held in London, July 1933.’”

The motion was adopted.

RESOLUTION *RE* NON-RATIFICATION AND NON-ACCEPTANCE OF THE DRAFT CONVENTION AND RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING FEE CHARGING EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES ADOPTED AT THE SEVENTEENTH SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE.

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. G. MITCHELL (Industries and Labour Secretary) : Sir, I move :

"That this Council, having considered the Draft Convention and the Recommendation concerning fee charging employment agencies adopted at the Seventeenth Session of the International Labour Conference, recommends to the Governor General in Council that he should not ratify the Draft Convention nor accept the Recommendation."

Sir, the Seventeenth Session of the International Labour Conference was opened on the 8th June of this year by the Chairman of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office, Sir Atul Chatterjee, who was the leader of the Indian Delegation and was at one time a Member of this House. Sir Atul's connection with the International Labour Conference began in 1919 and since then his share in its deliberations has been more than usually important, for he has held practically every high office from President downwards which it is within the power of that body to confer upon any Delegate. He has been an invaluable emissary to India. His wide knowledge of affairs—not only of Indian affairs—his moderation, his cogency and his eloquence within the Council rooms of the Conference have given him an international reputation which has been strengthened by his kindly personality in the more intimate social contacts which occur even in such an austere body as the International Labour Conference. Sir, I am sure that this House joins with me in giving our sincere thanks to Sir Atul for his great services at Geneva.

Sir, the Draft Convention we are now considering opens with a definition of fee charging employment agencies, which it divides into two classes—those which are conducted with a view to profit and those which are not conducted with a view to profit.

The first class—those which are conducted with a view to profit—are to be abolished within three years from the date of ratification and during that period are to be subject to official supervision and to have their scales of charges officially approved. No new agency of this description may be established during these three years.

The second class—*i.e.*, agencies which are not conducted with a view to profit—will have to be licensed, will have their scales of charges subjected to maximum rates and will otherwise be subject to official control.

The Recommendation which is attached to the Convention urges Members to adapt their free public employment agencies to the needs of those occupations in which recourse is often had to the services of fee charging employment agencies.

Honourable Members will see that the Convention and the Recommendation are supplementary, and taken together contemplate the establishment within three years of a system of free public employment agencies covering a large part of the industrial field. In other words, the State is very shortly to assume responsibility for the organisation of the labour market in India.

Sir, there is little likelihood of free public agencies being established or expanded to the extent contemplated by the Convention and the Recommendation within the next three years. This means that, if we ratify the Convention, we must abolish within three years all agencies which are run

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for profit, and the placing of labour will then be very largely confined to those charitable agencies which are not run for profit. There seems to be no justification for such a drastic step in India at present. We are all aware that abuses have occurred, and we shall all sympathise with any practicable scheme for preventing the exploitation of the poor labourer by dishonest and selfish men. But occasional abuse notwithstanding, private employment agencies run for profit do render useful services to the working population of India, and Government is unable to agree that they should be abolished entirely simply in order to avoid occasional abuse. Nor does Government agree that these agencies are not entitled to a reasonable remuneration for the services rendered by them. Some sympathy could be expressed for a proposal to forbid the charging of fees to labourers, but even if such a course were practicable—which is doubtful—an incomplete scheme of this kind would not be sufficient to enable us to ratify the Convention.

To sum up, the Convention and the Recommendation are too drastic and the Government ask this House to agree that they should not be accepted.

Sir, I move.

The motion was adopted.

RESOLUTION *RE* NON-RATIFICATION AND NON-ACCEPTANCE OF THE DRAFT CONVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING INVALIDITY, OLD-AGE AND WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' INSURANCE ADOPTED AT THE SEVENTEENTH SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE.

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. G. MITCHELL (Industries and Labour Secretary): Sir, I move:

"That this Council having considered the Draft Conventions and the Recommendation concerning invalidity, old-age and widows' and orphans' insurance adopted at the Seventeenth Session of the International Labour Conference, recommends to the Governor General in Council that he should not ratify the Draft Conventions nor accept the Recommendation."

Honourable Members will have received copies of the Conventions and of the Recommendation, and also of the Report of the Indian Delegates at Geneva, but they will pardon me if I give a brief summary of the Conventions as an introduction to my remarks. They may be divided into two groups of three, one group relating to persons employed in industrial or commercial undertakings, in the liberal professions, and to out-workers and domestic servants; the other group relating to persons employed in agricultural undertakings. Each group of three consists of a Convention relating to old-age pensions, a Convention relating to pensions for workers who become permanently incapacitated by ill-health and a Convention relating to pensions for the widows and orphans of workers. Taken altogether, the Conventions seek to set up a comprehensive insurance scheme, covering workers of almost every kind except seamen, under which the worker will secure a pension in his old age, a pension if he should become permanently incapacitated and whereby his wife and his children will receive pensions if he predeceases them. The various schemes are to be fully contributory, i.e., the periodical payments, required to build up the necessary funds, are to be shared by the employer, the employee and the State. The old-age pensions are to begin not later than the age of 65, and orphans are to be entitled to relief up to the age of 14.

The various pensions or allowances are to be paid on a scale sufficient to meet the essential needs of the recipient.

Such, in brief, is this very sweeping scheme. There is no doubt that it is most desirable that the scheme should be adopted in those countries where labour and financial considerations render it feasible; but my contention is that these conditions do not prevail in India just yet. It was in accordance with this view that our Delegates at Geneva took up a neutral attitude and refrained from voting in the final stages of the discussions. I do not think I need go into the scheme in greater detail in order to convince Honourable Members that it is quite unsuited to Indian conditions at present, but I desire to place before them some indication of the difficulties and the anomalies which lie in its way.

Let me take up first the administrative difficulties involved. To begin with, consider the stage where the worker is working actively. Every man will have to keep, or have kept for him, some kind of docket showing his periodical payments and those by his employers. This, in itself, will not be easy, for the vast majority of the men concerned will be illiterate and will not be fully acquainted with the contents in detail of their books. In certain highly organised industries, where the worker lives all the year round close to his work, the difficulties will perhaps only be of a routine nature; but as a special instance take the very common case in India of the seasonal factory, which works for six months in the year, closes down for the remaining six months and then re-opens again probably with a different set of workers. During the close season the workers go back to their villages, some to work as agricultural labourers, others to cultivate their own holdings. Take the case of the man who goes back and cultivates his own holding. In so far as he is a ryot he will not come under the Conventions and will not be entitled to a pension of any kind. In so far as he is a worker in a seasonal factory he will be entitled. Is he then to get half pension or is he to double his contribution? That is only an indication of one of the difficulties which will crop up in India. Take now the agricultural population. As we all know, the ryot is as poor a man as the industrial labourer. It will be a somewhat anomalous thing if the labourer drawing somewhere about Rs. 150 a year is to receive this relief whereas the poor ryot who makes no more and whose need is just as great, will receive no relief whatsoever. Many other difficulties special to India will occur if this scheme is adopted: as one instance only, take the case of the village servant who receives his remuneration from every cultivator in the village. I cannot imagine any system under which the contribution from his employers could be recovered.

Let us come to the stage where the worker has retired or is sick or dies. Small sums will have to be disbursed to millions of people scattered in every village and town in India, and an enormous staff will be needed to see that each recipient gets 16 annas in the rupee of his allowance and gets it promptly and regularly. The widow and the orphan will present special difficulties. In the absence of registration, both of marriages and of births, it is difficult to imagine a machinery which will on the one hand secure that every widow and orphan will get the relief they are entitled to, and on the other hand prevent fraud on a very large scale.

I come now to the financial aspect of the question. It would require prolonged actuarial inquiries to arrive at a working estimate of the cost involved in this scheme for India; but it will certainly cost the State and the employers and the employees between them many crores of rupees, if all the Conventions are accepted. The State at present cannot find the money,

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the employers may or may not object very strongly, but the majority of the poor employees will certainly object to having their small earnings docked for even the small amount that will be required of them. From the last census reports, I find that there are at present in India in very round figures, eight million people over 65 years of age, 26 million widows and 200 million people between the ages of 15 and 65, of whom perhaps one million will be incapacitated. I cannot find figures for fatherless children, but I make the rough guess of one for every three widows. This will give about eight million fatherless children. This makes a grand total of well over 40 millions of old people, incapacitated people, widows and orphans. However, we have to make very large deductions for the Indian States and for persons not within the scope of the Conventions. For the purposes of this very rough approximation, I make a fairly safe guess in saying that probably not less than one-eighth of the 40 millions will be in receipt of relief at any one time—that is, five millions or half a crore of people. At Rs. 5 a month or Rs. 60 a year, this works out at 30 crores of rupees a year. The real figure may be much less than this; it may be much more. But the rough calculation is enough to show that the sums involved will not be expressed in lakhs or in tens of lakhs but will certainly be expressed in crores of rupees and perhaps in tens of crores of rupees, and I submit that until the average earnings per head in India have risen a great deal above their present level, the scheme is not practicable.

Sir, I move.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA JAGDISH PRASAD (United Provinces Northern: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, although I am in favour of the Resolution, but I feel that the Government of India should examine the question if the time has not come when a beginning should be made with the initiation of some scheme of insurance for factory workers. It may be that a number of industrial workers may be quite ready to contribute towards pension funds or at least towards sickness insurance. I hope that the Honourable Sir Frank Noyce, whose presence here today I welcome, will be pleased to examine this question.

THE HONOURABLE SIR FRANK NOYCE (Industries and Labour Member): Sir, it may interest my Honourable friend to know that only this morning I, in consultation with the Standing Advisory Committee of my Department, which is drawn from the Members of this as well as from those of the other House, have been examining the question of sickness insurance. I can only tell him that we are going to find it an extremely difficult problem. The collection of even the scantiest material on which to base our calculations is bound to take a long time, but we shall go ahead with it; we shall consult Local Governments, we shall consult employers' organisations, and see what we can do. I must honestly confess that I am afraid we shall have to come to this House sooner or later with a statement of the immense difficulties which lie before us.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Resolution moved:

"That this Council having considered the Draft Conventions and the Recommendation concerning invalidity, old-age and widows' and orphans' insurance adopted at the Seventeenth Session of the International Labour Conference, recommends to the Governor General in Council that he should not ratify the Draft Conventions nor accept the Recommendation."

The question is:

"That this Resolution be adopted."

The motion was adopted.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : Before I ask the Honourable the Leader of the House to make a statement regarding the course of public business, I might just inform the Honourable Mr. Mehrotra, in response to his query, that only the Reserve Bank Select Committee's Report was formally placed on the table this morning, copies of which have been already furnished to all the Honourable Members. I presume the Honourable Member has received it ?

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA MATHURA PRASAD MEHROTRA : No, Sir, I have not received it.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : I am sorry. You will be supplied with a copy of the report.

STATEMENT OF BUSINESS.

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN (Leader of the House) : Owing, Sir, to the unexpectedly protracted nature of the debate elsewhere on the Reserve Bank Bill, the only business not included in today's agenda of which the Council will be asked to dispose before dispersing is the Tariff Bill which has been laid on the table today. The Reserve Bank Bill and the Bill to amend the Imperial Bank Act, assuming them to be passed by the other House, will be proceeded with in this Council at the commencement of the next ordinary session. In case Honourable Members think that they have been treated with a lack of consideration in being brought to Delhi for the transaction of so scanty a volume of business, I may inform them that it would in any case have been necessary to hold the present meetings of this Council for the purpose of disposing of the Tariff Bill, the early enactment of which is urgently required in the interests of the public revenues. I think, Sir, that in the circumstances Honourable Members will probably wish to be in a position to leave Delhi as soon as possible, and I would suggest that the Bill which has been laid on the table today might be taken with one day's curtailment of the normal period of notice on Saturday next.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : In view of the circumstances stated by the Honourable the Leader of the House I have decided to suspend the Standing Orders and the Rules of Business and to take up the Tariff Bill on Saturday next. As regards any amendments which Honourable Members may like to submit, I will permit them being forwarded to the Office till 5 P.M. tomorrow.

The Council then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Saturday, the 16th December, 1933.