

Tuesday, 8th February, 1927

**THE  
COUNCIL OF STATE DEBATES**

**VOLUME I, 1927**

*(8th February 1927 to 29th March 1927)*

**THIRD SESSION  
OF THE  
SECOND COUNCIL OF STATE, 1927**



CALCUTTA : GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CENTRAL PUBLICATION BRANCH  
1927

# Council of State.

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THE HONOURABLE SIR HENRY MONTEFF SMITH, KT., C.I.E.

## *Panel of Chairmen :*

THE HONOURABLE SIR PHIROZE SETHNA, KT.

THE HONOURABLE SIR S. R. M. ANNAMALAI CHETTIYAR, KT.

THE HONOURABLE SIR. J. W. A. BELL, KT.

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MAULVI ABDUL KARIM.

## *Secretary :*

MR. L. GRAHAM, C.I.E., I.C.S.

## *Assistants of the Secretary :*

MR. W. T. M. WRIGHT, C.I.E., I.C.S.

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

MR. G. H. SPENCE, I.C.S.

## *Committee on Petitions :*

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS, C.I.E.,  
*Chairman.*

THE HONOURABLE RAJA SIR RAMPAL SINGH, K.C.I.E.

THE HONOURABLE SIR HAROON JAFFER, KT.

THE HONOURABLE SIR SANKARAN NAIR, KT.

THE HONOURABLE MR. P. C. DESIKA CHARI.



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THE  
**COUNCIL OF STATE DEBATES**  
**(OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE THIRD SESSION OF THE SECOND  
COUNCIL OF STATE).**

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**VOLUME I—1927.**

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**COUNCIL OF STATE.**

*Tuesday, the 8th February, 1927.*

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The Council met in the Council Chamber of the Council House in New Delhi, at Eleven of the Clock, being the first day of the Third Session of the Second Council of State, pursuant to section 63 D (2) of the Government of India Act, the Honourable the President (the Honourable Sir Henry Moncreiff Smith, Kt., C.I.E.) was in the Chair.

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**MEMBERS SWORN:**

- The Honourable Mr. Harry Graham Haig, C.I.E. (Home Secretary);  
The Honourable Mr. Albert Frederic Lucas Brayne, C.I.E. (Finance Secretary);  
The Honourable Mr. Arthur Cecil McWatters, C.I.E. (Industries and Labour Secretary);  
The Honourable Mr. Frederick Buisson Evans, C.S.I. (Madras: Nominated Official);  
The Honourable Mr. George Arthur Thomas, C.I.E. (Bombay: Nominated Official);  
The Honourable Diwan Tek Chand, O.B.E. (Punjab: Nominated Official);  
The Honourable Mr. Henry Telford Stonor Forest (Bihar and Orissa: Nominated Official);  
The Honourable Maharajadhiraja Sir Bijay, Chand Mahtab, of Burdwan, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I., I.O.M. (Bengal: Nominated Non-Official).



## MESSAGES FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

### PANEL OF CHAIRMEN.

**THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT:** I have a Message for the Council from His Excellency the Governor General. It is as follows:—

*"In pursuance of the provisions of sub-section (2) of section 63-A of the Government of India Act, 1, Edward Frederick Lindley, Baron Irwin, hereby nominate the following Members of the Council of State to be on the panel of Chairmen of the said Council of State:*

*In the first place, the Honourable Sir Phiroze Cursetji Sethna; in the second place, the Honourable Sir S. R. M. Annamalai Chettiyar; in the third place, the Honourable Sir John William Anderson Bell; and lastly, the Honourable Khan Bahadur Maulvi Abdul Karim.*

*Sd. IRWIN,*

*Viceroy and Governor General."*

(The message was received by the Members of Council standing.)

### PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF THE RAILWAY BUDGET.

**THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT:** There is a further Message from His Excellency, as follows:—

*"For the purposes of sub-section (1) of section 67 A of the Government of India Act and in pursuance of Rules 43, 46 and 47 of the Indian Legislative Rules and of Standing Order 70 of the Council of State Standing Orders, 1, Edward Frederick Lindley, Baron Irwin, hereby appoint the following days for the presentation to the Council of State and to the Legislative Assembly of the statement of the estimated annual expenditure and revenue of the Governor General in Council in respect of Railways and for the subsequent stages in respect thereof in the Council of State and in the Legislative Assembly, namely:—*

*Friday, February 18th, Presentation in both Chambers;*

*Monday, February 21st, General discussion in the Council of State;*

*Tuesday, February 22nd, General discussion in the Legislative Assembly;*

*Wednesday, February 23rd,*

*Thursday, February 24th,*

*Friday, February 25th,*

*Saturday, February 26th,*

*} Voting of demands for grants in the Legislative Assembly.*

*Sd. IRWIN,*

*Viceroy and Governor General."*

(The message was received by the Members of Council standing.)

### COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS.

**THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT:** Under Order 76 of the Council of State Standing Orders I am required at the commencement of the Session to constitute a Committee on Petitions consisting of a Chairman and four Members. The following Honourable Members have at my request kindly consented to preside over and serve on the Committee. I hereby accordingly have much pleasure in nominating as Chairman of the Committee the Honourable Raj Bahadur Lala Ram Saran Das, and as Members the Honourable Raja Sir Rampal Singh, the Honourable Sir Ebrahim Jaffer, the Honourable Sir Sankaran Nair and the Honourable Mr. P. C. Desika Chari.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

### WEIGHTMENT OF PASSENGERS' LUGGAGE.

1. THE HONOURABLE MR. MANMOHANDAS RAMJI: (a) Is it a fact that passengers' luggage especially in the third class, is weighed in moving trains of Railways under State control; and, if found even slightly in excess of the allowed weight, is charged for the total weight without deducting the allowance?

(b) If the answer be in the affirmative, do the Government propose to discontinue this practice and arrange in future to enforce stricter vigilance before allowing passengers to enter the platform?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. F. L. BRAYNE: (a) Government understand that when luggage in excess of the free allowance is found unbooked *en route*, the whole is weighed and charged for, as free allowance is only admissible when luggage is booked at the starting station. Passengers who have, however, booked a portion of their luggage and received the free allowance and who are subsequently found with additional luggage are charged only on the weight of such additional luggage.

(b) It is understood that the prevention of excess unbooked luggage being taken into trains is receiving attention.

### BOOKING OF PICTURE-FRAMES, MOTOR TYRES, ETC., AT PARCEL RATES ON STATE RAILWAYS.

2. THE HONOURABLE MR. MANMOHANDAS RAMJI: (a) Is it a fact that, on certain State-managed Railways, passengers carrying certain articles of luggage, such as picture-frames, motor-tyres, etc., are compelled to book them separately at parcel rates without their being allowed to include their weight in the allowances?

(b) Is it a fact that, before the Government took over the management of the Railways from the Companies, passengers had the privilege of booking such articles as their personal luggage?

(c) If the answer to (b) be in the affirmative, what is the reason for this departure under Government management?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. F. L. BRAYNE: (a) Government have no information but understand that articles that are not *bond fide* luggage and bulky articles of any description which are considered inconvenient to carry as luggage are not accepted by railways as such.

(b) Government have no information.

(c) Does not arise.

### EQUIPMENT OF THIRD CLASS CARRIAGES ON STATE RAILWAYS WITH ELECTRIC FANS.

3. THE HONOURABLE MR. MANMOHANDAS RAMJI: (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether third class carriages of long distance trains of Railways under State management are equipped with electric fans, at least during the five hot months of the year, March to July?

(b) If not, do they propose to provide this convenience?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. F. L. BRAYNE: (a) and (b). Government do not propose to provide electric fans in lower class stock. The initial and recurring expenditure would be much too heavy.

**DELIVERY BY THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY OF PARCELS AT WADI BUNDER INSTEAD OF AT VICTORIA TERMINUS.**

4. THE HONOURABLE MR. MANMOHANDAS RAMJI: Is it a fact that the delivery of parcels booked over the Great Indian Peninsula Railway to Bombay is now made at Wadi Bunder instead of at Victoria Terminus where it was made till recently?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. F. L. BRAYNE: Government have no information.

**PURCHASE OF SILVER.**

5. THE HONOURABLE MR. MANMOHANDAS RAMJI: Will the Government be pleased to give the following figures:—

(a) quantity of silver purchased by ~~them~~ every year during the last ten years;

(b) average prices at which these purchases were effected; and

(c) quantity of silver lying at present with the Government for currency purposes?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. F. L. BRAYNE: (a) and (b) The information required by the Honourable Member may be obtained from the Finance and Revenue Accounts of the Government of India *vide* Accounts No. 87A and 87B in the Finance and Revenue Accounts up to 1920-21 and Nos. 91 and 91A thereafter showing the profit and loss on rupee coinage.

(c) The weekly statement of the accounts of the Currency Department, which is published in the Gazette of India, gives the quantity of silver held on currency account.

**SALE OF SILVER IN INDIA OR ABROAD.**

6. THE HONOURABLE MR. MANMOHANDAS RAMJI: Do Government propose to effect sales of silver either in this country or abroad?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. F. L. BRAYNE: The Government are not prepared to make any statement on this subject at present.

**NUMBER OF INDIANS IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE IN GREAT BRITAIN AND THE COLONIES.**

7. THE HONOURABLE LALA SUKHBIR SINHA: Will Government lay on the table a statement showing the number of Indians in Government service in various Departments in Great Britain and in the British Dominions and Colonies in the year 1926?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. G. HAIG: The Government of India do not consider they would be justified in putting other Governments to the trouble involved in the collection of this information.

THE HONOURABLE LALA SUKHBIR SINHA: May I put a supplementary question, Sir? Can the Honourable Member have a statement prepared of Indians in Great Britain only?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. G. HAIG: I think, Sir, it would cause a good deal of trouble to all the Departments in Great Britain to supply the information.

THE HONOURABLE LALA SUKHBIR SINHA: If Government do not mind I would like to have the statement that I require.

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. G. HAIG: I will consider the matter.

THE HONOURABLE LALA SUKHBIR SINHA: Thank you.

BAR AGAINST INDIANS BEING EMPLOYED IN GREAT BRITAIN AND IN THE DOMINIONS.

8. THE HONOURABLE LALA SUKHBIR SINHA: Is there any bar against Indians getting service in Great Britain and in the British Dominions?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. G. HAIG: The Honourable Member is presumably referring to legal disqualifications having special application to Indians. The Government of India are not aware of any.

ORIGINAL SIDES FOR THE LAHORE AND ALLAHABAD HIGH COURTS.

9. THE HONOURABLE LALA SUKHBIR SINHA: Will Government be pleased to state why an Original Side has not yet been opened in the Punjab and Allahabad High Courts?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. G. HAIG: The Letters Patent of the Lahore and Allahabad High Courts do not confer on them ordinary original civil jurisdiction and there is therefore of course no Court exercising that jurisdiction. The Presidency High Courts inherited this jurisdiction which is not inherent in the constitution of a High Court from the former Supreme Courts, on the abolition of which it became necessary either to give the jurisdiction to the Courts which took their places, or to create new Courts for its exercise. The jurisdiction was conferred on the Presidency High Courts by their Letters Patent, and was practically confined to the towns of Calcutta, Madras and Bombay. The Calcutta High Court which was succeeded by the High Court for the North-Western Provinces did not possess such jurisdiction over those Provinces, and it was considered neither necessary nor desirable to confer it on the Allahabad High Court. Such jurisdiction also did not vest in the Punjab Chief Court before its conversion into a High Court, and the Letters Patent of the Lahore High Court consequently did not confer it. Government are not aware of any practical necessity for altering the arrangements in Allahabad and Lahore where conditions similar to those of the Presidency-towns do not obtain.

THE HONOURABLE LALA SUKHBIR SINHA: A supplementary question, Sir. Has not the Chief Court of Oudh this power at present?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. G. HAIG: No, Sir.

THE HONOURABLE LALA SUKHBIR SINHA: Yes, Sir.

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. G. HAIG: To the best of my information it has not that power.

THE HONOURABLE LALA SUKHBIR SINHA: I think it has.

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. G. HAIG: The power only exists in the three Presidency-towns of Calcutta, Madras and Bombay.

THE HONOURABLE LALA SUKHBIR SINHA: Will the Honourable Member kindly inquire and let me know whether the Chief Court of Oudh has the power or not? I think it has.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: The Honourable Member has had an answer.

#### APPOINTMENT OF INCOME-TAX OFFICERS.

10. THE HONOURABLE LALA SUKHBIR SINHA: Is the previous sanction of the Appointment Board or of the Local Government obtained to appointments made by Income-tax Commissioners to the office of Income-tax Officer?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. F. L. BRAYNE: The Income-tax Officers are appointed by the Commissioners of Income-tax subject to the approval of the Local Government.

#### PROVISION OF INTERMEDIATE CLASS ACCOMMODATION ON THE CEYLON BOAT MAIL TRAINS OF THE SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY.

11. THE HONOURABLE RAO SAHIB DR. U. RAMA RAU: (a) Is intermediate class accommodation provided in the up and down Ceylon Boat mail trains of the South Indian Railway metre-gauge?

(b) If intermediate class accommodation is provided, when was it first introduced, and what is the fare charged per mile?

(c) What was the average number of passengers per day that travelled in the intermediate class during the past three years, and what was the amount realized from passenger fares from that class during the same period?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. F. L. BRAYNE: (a) Yes.

(b) On the 1st June, 1922. The fare is 7½ pies per mile.

(c) During the past three years, intermediate class passengers by this train averaged slightly over 41 per diem, and the earnings from them averaged about Rs. 91,000 per annum.

#### INTERMEDIATE CLASS ACCOMMODATION ON THE SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY.

12. THE HONOURABLE RAO SAHIB DR. U. RAMA RAU: Has the attention of Government been called to the statement made in the proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways, dated 20th January 1926, Vol. II, No. 6, page 68, that "there is no Inter class on the South Indian Railway"? Is this statement correct?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. F. L. BRAYNE: As the Honourable Member points out there was a slight inexactitude in the statement which is otherwise correct, since on one train only, the Ceylon boat mail, intermediate class accommodation is provided on the South Indian Railway.

**EXHIBITION OF THE EARNINGS FROM FIRST, SECOND AND INTERMEDIATE CLASS PASSENGERS IN THE BUDGET ESTIMATES.**

13. THE HONOURABLE RAO SAHIB DR. U. RAMA RAU: Will the Government kindly explain why the earnings from first, second and intermediate class are not separately exhibited in the Budget estimates submitted to Government by the Railway Companies, but are grouped under the heading "upper class"? To what head was the income from intermediate class in the South Indian Railway credited since its introduction—upper or third class?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. F. L. BRAYNE: There is a limit to the amount of details that can be exhibited in the budget estimates without making them too unwieldy for the practical purpose of this House and of the Legislative Assembly, and Government are therefore averse from making additions to the forms in which the estimates are prepared, which were approved by the Standing Finance Committee for Railways, unless there is clear necessity for doing so. But the income from each of the upper classes, including the intermediate class, is shown separately by Railways in the accounts, and the Honourable Member will find the figures for past years in volume II of the reports by the Railway Board on Indian Railways for those years. The statement for 1925-26 is on page 89 of the report.

The income from intermediate class on the South Indian Railway has been included in the income from upper class passengers.

**SPECIAL POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH FACILITIES TO HEADS OF PROVINCES.**

14. THE HONOURABLE RAO SAHIB DR. U. RAMA RAU: Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) the total expenditure incurred annually by the Post and Telegraph Department in affording special postal and telegraph facilities to Heads of Provinces, *e.g.*, such as is involved in the establishment of separate camp post offices for their benefit?

(b) whether, in view of the commercialization of the Post and Telegraph Accounts, these charges are debited to the respective provinces and, if not, whether the Government will consider the desirability of transferring this expenditure to the Provincial Revenues in future?

(c) Is it a fact that, in the Province of Burma, the offices of Postmaster General, Director of Telegraph Engineering and Deputy Director of Railway Mail Service are combined in a single official, as against three distinct officers in the Presidencies and other Provinces?

(d) If so, what is the saving effected annually by this arrangement?

(e) Have the Government considered the possibility of extending the system now obtaining in Burma, namely, of concentrating in a single individual the separate functions now devolving on the Postmaster-General, Director, Telegraph Engineering, and the Deputy Postmaster General, Railway Mail Service, and have they tried the experiment in other places; if so, will the Government kindly publish the results of the experiment conducted by them?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. C. MCWATTERS: (a) The information is being collected and will be furnished to the Honourable Member as soon as possible.

(b) These charges are not debited to the respective provinces. The Director-General is considering the desirability of reducing the special postal and telegraph facilities referred to in (a).

He is also considering the possibility of relieving the Department of the loss, if any, incurred in giving special postal and telegraph facilities to Heads of Provinces.

(c) Yes.

(d) The saving in having a combined Postmaster-General, and Director of Telegraph Engineering in Burma, is Rs. 26,796 a year. There is no saving in respect of the R. M. S., because in Burma, there is only one R. M. S. Division, which would not in any case warrant the appointment of a Deputy Postmaster-General, R. M. S.

(e) Yes, in the Bombay and Central Circles the Postmasters-General are, as an experimental measure, responsible both for postal and for telegraph engineering work. Government are not yet in a position to publish the results of the experiment. In the Bombay Circle, the Postmaster-General has recently been put in charge also of the Foreign Mail Division and of the "B" and "W" Divisions of the Western Circle, R. M. S.

#### THE MAKUT FOREST EXPLOITATION SCHEME, COORG.

15. THE HONOURABLE RAO SAHIB DR. U. RAMA RAU: (a) Will the Government be pleased to state:—

- (i) if it is a fact that the Makut Forest in Coorg was ordered by the Government of India to be exploited for wood for aeroplanes during war time;
- (ii) whether the scheme proved a failure resulting in loss to the Government of Coorg; and
- (iii) if so, the amount of loss incurred on this account and the officer responsible for the failure?

(b) Have the Government of India made or caused to be made any inquiries in regard to the Forest administration of Coorg with particular reference to this scheme?

(c) Are the Government aware that the Makut Forest exploitation has since ceased to operate?

(d) If so, has the previous sanction of the Government of India or of the Inspector-General of Forests been obtained to the winding up of this concern and, if not, why not?

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH: Information is being collected and will be supplied to the Honourable Member as soon as possible.

#### REPRESENTATION OF COORG IN THE CENTRAL LEGISLATURE.

16. THE HONOURABLE RAO SAHIB DR. U. RAMA RAU: (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Province of Coorg is represented in the Central Legislature and, if not, why not?

(b) Is it a fact that the Legislative Council of Coorg has passed a Resolution demanding a seat for that Province in the Central Legislature and that their request has been forwarded to the Government of India with the favourable recommendation of the Coorg administration thereon?

(c) Will the Government kindly place on the table of the House all the correspondence that passed between the Government of Coorg and the Government of India on this subject, and state if the Government of India are prepared to reconsider their decision refusing to comply with the request of the Coorg administration to allot a seat for that Province in the Central Legislature?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. G. HAIG: (a) No. I invite the Honourable Member's attention to the considerations stated by Lord Reading in his reply to the address presented to him by the Coorg Landholders Association in 1928.

(b) Yes.

(c) Government are not prepared to place the correspondence on the table nor to revise their decision, which was reached after careful consideration of the factors involved.

#### SURPLUSES FROM THE DIRECT ADMINISTRATION OF COORG BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

17. THE HONOURABLE RAO SAHIB DR. U. RAMA RAU: (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the total amount of surpluses accrued from the direct administration of Coorg by the Government of India and appropriated by them during the period 1857—1924 or for any lesser period for which figures may be available?

(b) What was the opening balance left with the Government of Coorg at the time when its administration was provincialised in 1924?

(c) Is it a fact that the Coorg administration asked for a substantial opening balance to be allotted for them? Has any allotment been made and, if so, how much?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. F. L. BRAYNE: (a) Separate figures for the revenue and expenditure of Coorg are not available in the published accounts prior to the year 1924-25, when Coorg was constituted as a separate province.

(b) No opening balance was left with Coorg.

(c) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, the matter is under consideration.

#### CIVILIAN APPRENTICE STORE-HOLDERS IN ARSENALS.

18. THE HONOURABLE RAO SAHIB DR. U. RAMA RAU: (a) Is it a fact that, in pursuance of the policy of the Indianization of the Army Department, the Director of Equipment and Ordnance Stores invited applications for the appointment of civilian apprentice store-holders in the various Arsenals in India in February, 1924?

(b) If so, what was the number of applications received and how many were finally selected and appointed?



(c) How many of the civilian apprentice store-holders so appointed were Indians and how many Anglo-Indians, and what was the pay offered to each of them during apprenticeship?

(d) Has any scheme been submitted by the Military Department to the Government of India, with regard to the Indianization of the Army Stores Department and, if so, when and what orders have been passed by the Government of India thereon?

(e) Will the Government kindly lay on the table of the House the scheme, if any, so submitted and all the correspondence, together with the final orders of the Government of India on this subject?

(f) Is it a fact that all these civilian apprentice store-holders have been given a month's notice of discharge and, if so, on what date?

(g) Will the Government be pleased to state if the notice of discharge was the outcome of their inefficiency; if not, what was the specific reason for dispensing with their services?

(h) Will the Government kindly place on the table all the periodical reports submitted by the officers of the various Arsenals, relative to the work of these civilian apprentice store-holders and to their character and capacity?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: With your permission, Sir, I will deal with all the eight clauses of this question as a whole.

With a view mainly to economy, an experimental scheme for the appointment of civilian store-holders in arsenals was inaugurated in February, 1924. The permanent appointments are at present held by British warrant and non-commissioned officers. Applications were invited for 20 posts of civilian apprentice store-holders. 53 candidates applied, and 20 were appointed. 18 of them were Indians and 7 Anglo-Indians. All were paid Rs. 4 per working day. Promising candidates were obtained with great difficulty, and of those who were originally appointed, one Anglo-Indian resigned very soon; one Indian has already been given other employment; and one Anglo-Indian has resigned recently. The appointed candidates were given clearly to understand at the time that they were on probation and had no claim to permanent employment.

The experiment was originally sanctioned for one year, but at the end of that time (as was stated in reply to a question asked in the Legislative Assembly, on the 9th September, 1925), the reports were not sufficiently satisfactory to warrant its permanent adoption, and the period was extended for another year. This extended period expired on the 31st October, 1926, and a month's notice was served on each apprentice on the 1st October. The notices were, however, subsequently cancelled.

Reports received at the end of last year confirm the view that a permanent scheme is most unlikely to prove successful. The difficulty is that these store-holders are required to deal almost entirely with British subordinate military personnel, to do which successfully, previous military training is in all but exceptional cases obviously necessary. Qualifications are therefore required which differ from those expected of ordinary store-keepers. Moreover, owing to the nature of their duties, the majority of the establishment must always consist of British warrant and

non-commissioned officers. The opening for civilian store-holders is thus very much restricted, and the prospects are not such as, generally speaking, to attract candidates with the requisite qualifications. A mixed personnel of civilians and subordinate military ranks does not, in practice, function efficiently or without friction. Government therefore have reluctantly abandoned for the present the idea of an expanding scheme of civilisation of the establishment of store-holders in Arsenals; but they do not wish to close the door permanently to the appointment of civilians. Civilians will continue to be eligible if they possess the qualifications required to enable them to work satisfactorily with British military personnel.

Of the 17 apprentice store-holders still remaining, 3 Indians and 3 Anglo-Indians have been reported on as efficient and likely to be fit to replace British store-holders. Their cases are being examined with a view to their permanent retention in place of British personnel. As regards the remainder, orders have been issued that those who are likely to be suitable for employment as clerks will be given the option of transfer to clerical appointments, while those who are unlikely to prove efficient in any capacity will be discharged.

The periodical reports submitted on the work, character and capacity of these apprentice store-holders are confidential reports, and cannot therefore be laid on the table; but if the Honourable Member would care to satisfy himself by applying either to me or to the Army Secretary, we should be glad to give him all the information that we can.

#### LEVY BY THE EAST AFRICAN GOVERNMENT OF A POLL-TAX ON INDIANS.

19. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR ROY CHOUDHURI: Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the fact that the Government of East Africa propose to levy a poll-tax on Indians? If so, what steps do the Government propose to take in the matter?

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH: Yes. Ordinances have recently been passed in Kenya imposing taxes of 30s. and 20s. per head on European and Indian adult males for the purpose of raising funds to cover the cost of education in these two communities. Government are in communication with the Colonial Government on the subject.

#### RELEASE OF PERSONS DETAINED UNDER REGULATION III OF 1818.

20. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR ROY CHOUDHURI: Will the Government be pleased to state whether they contemplate bringing the persons arrested under Regulation III of 1818 to trial or setting them free at an early date? If so, when?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. G. HAIG: The policy of Government in regard to the release of persons detained under Regulation III of 1818 is to release them as and when considerations of the public safety permit. As stated recently by His Excellency the Viceroy, Government are prepared to release individuals as soon as they are satisfied that their release would not defeat the object for which they have been put under restraint, namely, the prevention of terrorist outrages.

### DEFLATION OF CURRENCY AND SALE OF REVERSE COUNCIL BILLS.

21. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR ROY CHOUDHURI: Will the Government be pleased to state on how many occasions during the last five years they have adopted the policy of deflating the currency and selling Reverse Council Bills?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. F. L. BRAYNE: There were no sales of Reverse Council Bills between September, 1920 and April, 1926. At the beginning of April, 1926, it was announced that the Imperial Bank of India would sell sterling without limit of amount on behalf of Government at the export gold point corresponding to the ratio of 8·47512 grains of fine gold per rupee, i.e., at 1s. 5½d. for telegraphic transfers. No offers were made until last December when sterling to the amount of nearly £1¼ millions was sold and the corresponding deflation of currency was effected. Net contractions of the currency, apart from seasonal operations, were also effected in the years 1921-22, 1922-23 and in the current year.

### PROSECUTIONS UNDER SECTION 153A OF THE INDIAN PENAL CODE DURING THE LAST FIVE YEARS.

22. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR ROY CHOUDHURI: Will the Government be pleased to state how many prosecutions have been instituted under section 153A of the Indian Penal Code during the last five years in the different provinces of India, respectively, and with what results?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. G. HAIG: The information will be obtained from Local Governments, and when collected will be laid on the table of the House.

### DELAY IN THE DELIVERY OF LETTERS TO PLACES LIKE JAYAGANJ IN THE DISTRICT OF DINAJPUR IN BENGAL.

23. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR ROY CHOUDHURI: Is it a fact that letters take nearly 3 or 4 days to go from Calcutta to places like Jayaganj in the district of Dinajpur in Bengal, which is only about 8 miles distant from Nilphamari, a railway station on the northern section of the Eastern Bengal Railway? If so, what is the reason for such delay?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. C. McWATTERS: It is a fact that letters from Calcutta have been reaching Jayaganj on the morning of the third day, as the Nilphamari post office was despatching mails for Jayaganj before the receipt of the Calcutta mails. Orders have been issued for the despatch of Jayaganj mails from the Nilphamari post office after the receipt of Calcutta mails so that Calcutta letters may reach Jayaganj on the second day.

### ABSENCE OF PLATFORM AND WAITING ROOMS AT FARIDPUR STATION.

24. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR ROY CHOUDHURI: Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the absence of a platform and waiting rooms at the Faridpur (East Bengal) railway station?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. F. L. BRAYNE: No. The matter is one that the Agent of the Eastern Bengal Railway can settle himself and a copy of the question and this answer will be sent to him.

**SELECTION OF THE ROUTE FOR THE DINAJPUR-RUHIA RAILWAY LINE.**

25. **THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR ROY CHOUDHURI:** Will the Government be pleased to state whether the route for the Dinajpur-Ruhia railway line has been finally selected? If so, through what important places will it pass?

**THE HONOURABLE MR. A. F. L. BRAYNE:** The alignment, as selected for the Dinajpur-Ruhia Railway, will pass through Bochaganj, Pirganj and Shibganj and within a couple of miles of Thakurgaon, the headquarters of a Sub-division of the District. This alignment has had the approval of the local authorities and the approval of the Government of Bengal has been applied for.

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INDIAN TERRITORIAL FORCE, INDIAN MERCANTILE MARINE AND INDIAN TAXATION ENQUIRY COMMITTEES.**

26. **THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR ROY CHOUDHURI:** Will the Government be pleased to state when and in what manner they are going to give effect to the recommendations of—

- (a) The Indian Territorial Force Committee;
- (b) The Indian Mercantile Marine Committee; and
- (c) The Indian Taxation Enquiry Committee?

**THE HONOURABLE MR. A. F. L. BRAYNE:** (a) The views of the Government of India on the Report of the Auxiliary and Territorial Forces Committee are now before the Secretary of State and Government are unable to make any further statement.

(b) The S. S. "Dufferin" is being adapted as a training ship and is expected to be ready for use by September next. For the rest the Honourable Member is referred to the debate in the Legislative Assembly on Sir Sivaswamy Aiyar's Resolution on the subject in March last.

(c) The recommendations of the Committee are still under the consideration of the Central and Provincial Governments, and in this connection I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the debates on the subject in Simla last August.

**PUBLICATION OF THE REPORT OF THE INDIAN SANDHURST COMMITTEE.**

27. **THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR ROY CHOUDHURI:** Will the Government be pleased to state when they will publish the report of the Indian Sandhurst Committee?

**HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF:** The Government of India are now in correspondence with the Secretary of State on the question of the publication of the Report and connected matters.

As soon as a decision is reached an announcement will be made.

**ARRIVAL OF TRAINS AT INCONVENIENT HOURS AT BOGRA, COMILLA AND NOAKHALI IN BENGAL.**

28. **THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR ROY CHOUDHURI:** Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the inconvenient hours at which trains reach the towns of Bogra, Comilla and Noakhali in Bengal? If so, what steps do they propose to take?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. F. L. BRAYNE: No, but a copy of the Honourable Member's question has been sent to the Agents of the Assam Bengal and Eastern Bengal Railways.

#### ABSENCE OF A THROUGH TRAIN FROM GOALUNDO TO NORTH BENGAL.

29. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR ROY CHOUDHURI: Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the absence of a through train from Goalundo to North Bengal and to the late hour of the change at Poradah? If so, what steps do they propose to take?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. F. L. BRAYNE: No, but a copy of the Honourable Member's question has been sent to the Agent, Eastern Bengal Railway, within whose competence it is to take any action that may be desirable and practicable.

#### TRAIN SERVICE FROM RAJBARI TO FARIDPUR

30. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR ROY CHOUDHURI: Will the Government be pleased to state why a train starts from Rajbari (Eastern Bengal Railway) for Faridpur at 11 A.M., instead of at 11-40 A.M., at which hour she could also take passengers going by the up Chandpur mail from Calcutta and other places?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. F. L. BRAYNE: I am afraid I do not know, but I have had a copy of the Honourable Member's question sent to the Agent, Eastern Bengal Railway, who will no doubt consider the matter.

#### COMPARISON OF FARES ON THE MYMENSINGH-BHAIRAB BAZAR RAILWAY AND THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

31. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR ROY CHOUDHURI: Will the Government be pleased to state whether the rate of passenger fares prevailing in the Mymensingh-Bhairab Bazar Railway is higher than that of the Eastern Bengal Railway? If so, why and what steps will the Government take to have them reduced?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. F. L. BRAYNE: Third class passenger fares on the Mymensingh-Bhairab Bazar Railway are higher than on the Eastern Bengal Railway, but are the same as those on the Assam Bengal Railway which is the working agency. Government have at present no intention of proposing a reduction in them to the Managing Agents of the Mymensingh-Bhairab Bazar Railway Company.

#### SLOW SPEED OF THE MYMENSINGH-BHAIRAB BAZAR TRAINS.

32. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR ROY CHOUDHURI: Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the slow speed of the Mymensingh-Bhairab Bazar trains? If so, what steps do the Government propose to take?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. F. L. BRAYNE: No, but I have had a copy of the Honourable Member's question sent to the Agent, Assam Bengal Railway.

**RETURN JOURNEY FARES ON THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.**

88. **THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR ROY CHOUDHURI:** Is the rate for return journey fares prevailing on the Eastern Bengal Railway higher than that on the East Indian Railway? If so, do the Government propose to bring it down?

**THE HONOURABLE MR. A. F. L. BRAYNE:** Return journey fares are generally higher on the Eastern Bengal Railway than on the East Indian Railway. The financial results from the Eastern Bengal Railway do not at present warrant a reduction.

**FLOODS IN THE SARAN DISTRICT IN 1923.**

84. **THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHENDRA PRASAD:** (a) Is it a fact that a serious flood affected the eastern portion of the Saran district in 1923, and caused great damage to houses and crops there?

(b) Is it a fact that the committee appointed to consider measures for protection from flood suggested the construction of an embankment along the bank of the Ganges to protect the country from the havoc of the Ganges flood?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state what the cost of such an embankment will be, and when the work is likely to be taken up?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to state what action is being taken by Government to ask the Bengal and North-Western Railway authorities to provide sufficient waterways in the new line between Sonapore and Dighwara to allow the flood water accumulating on the south of the line to pass down into the Chaunr on the north of it?

(e) Will the Government be pleased to state what action is being taken by the Local Government to drain off the rain or flood water of the Chaunr on the north of the new line, known as Hardia Chaunr, so as to make the land culturable after rains?

**THE HONOURABLE MR. A. F. L. BRAYNE:** (a) The reply is in the affirmative.

(b) The Government of India have been unable to find any recommendation in the report of the Committee appointed by the Government of Bihar and Orissa to investigate the matter in the terms mentioned. On the contrary the Committee were generally of opinion that the construction of a continuous embankment on the Ganges was not desirable.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Government have not taken and do not propose to take action in the direction suggested by the Honourable Member as the Committee have made no recommendations of the kind in their report.

(e) The Government of India have no information.

**INCOME OF EACH PROVINCE AND ITS EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION.**

85. **THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHENDRA PRASAD:** Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the income of each Province and its expenditure on (a) Education, total, and (b) on Sanskrit education?

**THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH:** A statement is laid on the table.

*Statement showing the income of each province and its expenditure on (A) Education as a whole and (B) Sanskrit Education, 1925-26.*

Province. (1)	Total income of the province. (2)	Total expenditure on education. (3)	Expenditure on Sanskrit education. (Approximately). (4)
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Madras . . . . .	16,93,59,763	1,87,44,520	54,296
Bombay . . . . .	15,00,05,496	1,92,38,243	10,086
Bengal . . . . .	10,70,58,000	1,31,72,599	2,19,811
United Provinces . . . . .	12,71,10,478	1,85,00,000	86,000
Punjab . . . . .	12,66,40,000	1,33,04,875	Not available.
Burma . . . . .	10,56,02,968	(a) 97,01,124	Nil.
Bihar and Orissa . . . . .	5,78,64,000	88,47,414	(b) 1,49,924
Central Provinces . . . . .	5,46,15,475	53,47,607	63,019
Assam . . . . .	2,58,83,000	25,11,000	16,000
Coorg . . . . .	13,96,266	1,43,483	1,500
Delhi . . . . .	22,60,782	5,81,147	Not available.
Baluchistan . . . . .	22,00,000	2,78,000	840
Ajmer-Merwara . . . . .	21,73,223	2,70,597	Not available.
North-West Frontier Province . . . . .	Not available.	18,39,567	(b) 1,982

(a) Exclusive of expenditure on buildings.

(b) Exclusive of expenditure on Sanskrit teachers in ordinary schools and colleges.

#### NUMBER OF DISPENSARIES IN THE DIFFERENT PROVINCES.

36. THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHENDRA PRASAD: Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the area of each Province and the number of dispensaries in them, giving the average area served by each dispensary?

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH: A statement giving the information as far as available is laid on the table.

*Statement showing the area of each province and the number of dispensaries in them with average area per dispensary.*

Province.	Area in square miles.	Number of dispensaries at the end of 1925.	Average area per dispensary (square miles.)	Remarks.
Madras . . . . .	142,260	(a) 959	148.3	(a) During 1924, the figures for 1925 not being available.
Bombay . . . . .	123,541	(a) 637	193.9	
Bengal . . . . .	76,843	986	77.9	
United Provinces . . . . .	106,295	557	190.8	
Punjab . . . . .	99,846	666	149.9	
Burma . . . . .	283,707	(a) 291	803.1	
Bihar and Orissa . . . . .	83,161	580	143.4	
Central Provinces and Berar . . . . .	99,878	303	329.6	(b) Figures for 1924-25.
Assam . . . . .	58,015	237	228.6	
N. W. P. Province . . . . .	13,419	(b) 85	157.7	
Coorg . . . . .	1,582	(b) 12	131.8	
Delhi . . . . .	593	25	23.7	

PAY OF CERTAIN OFFICERS OF THE PROVINCIAL CIVIL SERVICES.

37. THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHENDRA PRASAD: Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the scale of pay given to (a) Officers of the Provincial Civil Service (Judicial and Executive, separately), (b) Officers in the Provincial Educational Service, (c) Graduate teachers in Government High Schools other than Head Masters, and (d) Graduate Sub-Inspectors or Sub-Deputy Inspectors of schools in each Province?

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH: (a), (b), (c) and (d). Information regarding the Provincial Civil and Educational Services is given in the Provincial Civil Lists, and paragraphs 53, 54 and 141 of the Eighth Quinquennial Review on Education, volume I, furnish the information desired in respect of the subordinate educational services in a consolidated form. The Honourable Member is referred to these publications.

FREE AND COMPULSORY EDUCATION IN EACH PROVINCE OF BRITISH INDIA.

38. THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHENDRA PRASAD: Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the names of District Boards or Municipalities in each Province of British India which have made education (1) free and compulsory, and (2) only free, and the extent and stage to which education has been made free or compulsory?

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH: Primary education where compulsory is always free. It is free in the North-West Frontier Province without being compulsory. For further information the Honourable Member is referred to page 22 of the publication "Education in India in 1924-25", a copy of which has been placed in the Library.

SEPARATION OF JUDICIAL AND EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS.

39. THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHENDRA PRASAD: Will the Government be pleased to state what steps have been taken in each Province for separation of the Judicial and Executive and where the separation has actually been effected?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. G. HAIG: Proposals have been received from the Governments of Madras, Bengal, the United Provinces and Bihar and Orissa which are being examined by the Government of India.

SUPPLY OF GOOD SEEDS AND IMPROVED IMPLEMENTS TO AGRICULTURISTS.

40. THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHENDRA PRASAD: Will the Government be pleased to state what steps are being taken for the supply of good seeds and improved implements of cultivation, such as ploughs, etc., to the village agriculturists by the Agriculture Department in each Province?

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH: The information asked for is contained in Chapter V of the Review of Agricultural Operations in India for the year 1924-25, a copy of which is available in the Members' Library.



**OVERCROWDING OF TRAINS ON THE BENGAL AND NORTH-  
WESTERN RAILWAY DURING FAIRS.**

41. THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHENDRA PRASAD: (a) Is it a fact that great overcrowding occurs in the trains of the Bengal and North-Western Railway during fairs, and that the passengers are carried in goods trains for want of a sufficient number of carriages for passengers?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state what action, if any, has been taken by Government to compel the railway authorities to have a sufficient number of carriages always in stock to meet the exigencies of fairs and big gatherings and other occasions of a rush of pilgrims?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. F. L. BRAYNE: A certain amount of crowding is inevitable during heavy *mela* traffic, and occurs on all railways during similar occurrences.

As regards the employment of goods wagons for the conveyance of passengers, the Bengal and North-Western Railway have been advised of the earnest desire of the Government of India that the carriage of passengers in goods wagons should be avoided, and that the possibility of pooling resources with other metre gauge railways to meet *mela* demands should be considered. All railways have also been asked to report all cases of the use of goods wagons for the carriage of passengers.

**PROVISION OF WAITING ROOMS AT STATIONS ON THE BENGAL AND  
NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.**

42. THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHENDRA PRASAD: Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the names of the stations on the Bengal and North-Western Railway in the Province of Bihar, where 1 Up and 2 Down trains stop, which have no waiting rooms? Have the Government ever asked the Bengal and North-Western Railway authorities to provide waiting rooms at least at such stations? If not, do they intend asking the railway authorities to do so now?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. F. L. BRAYNE: The Government have continually pressed on Railway Administrations, including the Bengal and North-Western Railway in recent years, the desirability of increasing amenities for passengers, third class passengers in particular, and if the Honourable Member will refer to the Administration Reports for the last 3 years he will find much information on the progress made by the different Railways in this respect. But they cannot undertake to decide on the relative urgency of such improvements as may be required. They must leave that to the Agent.

**PROVISION OF AN INTERMEDIATE-CLASS WAITING ROOM AT KHARAGPUR.**

43. THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHMOOD SUHRAWARDY: Is it proposed to provide a separate Intermediate-class waiting room at the Kharagpur Railway station of the Bengal Nagpur Railway in the District of Midnapore (Bengal)?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. F. L. BRAYNE: We have no information to this effect, but a copy of the Honourable Member's question has been sent to the Agent, Bengal Nagpur Railway.

RAILWAY BETWEEN SANTRAGACHI AND VISHNUPUR.

44. THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHMOOD SUHRAWARDY: (a) Will the Honourable Member in charge of the Railway Department be pleased to state if any scheme was set on foot and acted upon by the Bengal Nagpur Railway to open a railway line between Santragachi and Vishnupur in the District of Bankura (Bengal), but subsequently abandoned owing to the outbreak of the last Great War?

(b) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state if the aforesaid scheme will again be taken up by the railway authorities?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. F. L. BRAYNE: (a) and (b). A survey of the line has been carried out but its consideration has been deferred until better estimates can be made of the flow of trade and the development of suburban traffic. It will be taken up again at a favourable opportunity.

NUMBER OF PROBATIONERS APPOINTED AS POSTAL SUPERINTENDENTS IN  
BENGAL.

45. THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHMOOD SUHRAWARDY: (a) Will the Government of India be pleased to state the number of Probationers appointed as Postal Superintendents in Bengal during the last five years?

(b) How many of these probationers are Muhammadans, and how many of them have been confirmed as Superintendents of Post Offices?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. C. MCWATTERS: (a) Two, (b) One, who has not yet been confirmed.

THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHMOOD SUHRAWARDY: May I know from the Honourable Member when the information will be laid on the table of this House?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. C. MCWATTERS: I do not quite follow the question. I have answered the question as it is on the paper.

NUMBER OF MUHAMMADAN CLERKS IN THE POSTAL DEPARTMENT IN  
THE BURDWAN DIVISION.

46. THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHMOOD SUHRAWARDY: Will the Government of India be pleased to state the number of Muhammadans appointed as clerks in the Postal Department in the Burdwan Division, stating separately the numbers in Midnapore, Bankura and Hooghly?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. C. MCWATTERS: The information is being collected and will be furnished to the Honourable Member in due course.

REDUCTION OF POSTAL RATES ON LETTERS AND POSTCARDS.

47. THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHMOOD SUHRAWARDY: (a) Will the Government of India be pleased to state if it is in contemplation to reduce the rates of letters and postcards and to bring them to the pre-war level?

(b) If the answer be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state the date when the intention will be given effect to?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. C. MCWATTERS: (a) and (b). It is impossible to answer the question in anticipation of the budget statement.

### RECENT COMMUNAL RIOTS AT KHARAGPUR.

48. THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHMOOD SUHRAWARDY: (i) Will the Honourable Member in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state if an attempt was ever made by the Government to inquire into the cause of the recent communal riots that took place at Kharagpur in the District of Midnapore (Bengal)?

(ii) If so, will the Honourable Member in charge please state the result of the enquiry?

(iii) Will the Government be pleased to state what precautions have been taken by them to prevent the recurrence in future of such communal troubles at Kharagpur within the railway area at the Bengal Nagpur Railway Workshops? Did the Government ever suggest ways and means to the railway authorities to put a stop to such communal troubles within the workshops at Kharagpur in the District of Midnapore, Bengal?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. G. HAIG: A report on the outbreak was received from the Government of Bengal.

(ii) The ultimate cause of the riot was the widespread communal tension, which had been aggravated at Kharagpur by reports of the disturbances which had taken place a little previously in Calcutta. The immediate cause was a quarrel which arose between some Muhammadans and a party of Telegus, while the latter were escorting a corpse with music past a mosque. Exaggerated rumours of the affair were quickly circulated and led to an outbreak of rioting.

(iii) Various precautionary measures for the future were under the consideration of the Local Government when they sent their report but, as the matter is primarily one for the Local Government, I am not in a position to say exactly what steps have been taken. The Government of India did not make any suggestions to the railway authorities.

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### BILLS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY LAID ON THE TABLE.

SECRETARY OF THE COUNCIL: Sir, in accordance with Rule 25 of the Indian Legislative Rules, I lay on the table copies of a Bill further to amend the Indian Limitation Act, 1908, for certain purposes (Amendment of sections 20 and 21); a Bill further to amend the Indian Registration Act, 1908, for a certain purpose; and of a Bill further to amend the Indian Limitation Act, 1908, for a certain purpose (Amendment of Article 182 of Schedule I), which Bills were passed by the Legislative Assembly at its meetings held on the 31st January and 2nd and 7th February, 1927.

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### MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

SECRETARY OF THE COUNCIL: Sir, the following Message has been received from the Legislative Assembly. The Message runs as follows:

"In accordance with Rule 36 (1) of the Indian Legislative Rules I am directed to inform you that the amendment made by the Council of State in the Bill to provide for the constitution of Bar Councils in British India and for other purposes, was taken into consideration by the Legislative Assembly at their meeting to-day, the 2nd September, 1926, and that the Assembly have agreed to the amendment."

## 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:

- The Usurious Loans (Amendment) Act, 1926.
- The Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Act, 1926.
- The Negotiable Instruments (Interest) Act, 1926.
- The Indian Evidence (Amendment) Act, 1926.
- The Administrator General's (Amendment) Act, 1926.
- The Indian Companies (Amendment) Act, 1926.
- The Sind Courts (Supplementary) Act, 1926.
- The Cantonments (Amendment) Act, 1926.
- The Code of Criminal Procedure (Third Amendment) Act, 1926.
- The Indian Succession (Amendment) Act, 1926.
- The Indian Bar Councils Act, 1926.
- The Provincial Insolvency (Amendment) Act, 1926.
- The Indian Succession (Amendment) Act, 1926.

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## AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND ESTONIA RE TONNAGE MEASUREMENT OF MERCHANT SHIPS.

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. F. I. BRAYNE (Finance Secretary): On behalf of the Honourable Mr. Corbett, I lay on the table the Agreement between the United Kingdom and Estonia regarding Tonnage Measurement of Merchant Ships, together with Notes exchanged.

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## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO INQUIRE INTO THE PRIVILEGES AND STATUS OF MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: I lay on the table the Report of the Committee appointed to inquire into the privileges and status of Members of the Council of State.

Members of the House will remember that this Committee was appointed at the instance of Mr. K. C. Roy, who was a member of the Committee and who would in the ordinary course have presented the Report. As he has gone to another place, I have laid it for him as Chairman of that Committee.

I desire to explain to the House that having laid the Report I propose personally, for obvious reasons, to take no further steps in the matter. The proper course, if any Member desires to pursue the matter further, is for him to give notice of a Resolution recommending to the Government that it should give effect with or without modification or should not give effect to the various recommendations contained in the Report. That Resolution, if admitted and if it obtains a place in the ballot, will then come on for discussion in the ordinary course.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE HONOURABLE SIR JOHN BELL.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Before proceeding to the legislative business of the Session—a notable Session in that it takes place in this spacious building which was opened by His Excellency the Viceroy three weeks ago—I have to ask the House to join with me in offering our congratulations to one who has been honoured since we last met. I do not propose to speak of the Honourable Sir John Bell's labours outside the Legislature, in public life and in the world of commerce. They are well known all over the country. Sir John Bell has been a Member of this Council for several Sessions. Latterly he has been one of the Chairmen appointed by His Excellency the Governor General. In debate Sir John has invariably followed the rule which so many Members of this House have set for themselves—never to speak unless he has a thorough mastery of his subject; and it is for that reason that I from my place here have noticed that whenever Sir John rises to speak his words are listened to with interest, care and attention, and that his views command respect from all sides of the House. Moreover, Sir John Bell, though his activities outside are numerous and must indeed at times be overwhelming, has invariably been assiduous in attending to his duties in the Legislature. I would ask the House to join with me in congratulating the Honourable Sir John Bell on the dignity of knighthood recently conferred upon him and in hoping that he may live long to enjoy the honour.

THE HONOURABLE SIR JOHN BELL (Bengal Chamber of Commerce): Sir, I desire to thank you very warmly for the very kind reference you have made to me and I also am very much indebted to my Honourable friends, the Members of the Council of State, for the manner in which they have received your remarks. It adds very much to the pleasure that I feel at having received the honour to know that it is approved of by you, Sir, and by my Honourable friends the Members of this Council.

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## PROVIDENT FUNDS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH (Education, Health and Lands Member): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Provident Funds Act, 1925, for a certain purpose.

The Bill, as Honourable Members will have noticed, is a very small one and of a non-controversial nature. It proposes to confer certain benefits on a class of servants employed in the Educational Department who, owing to the law being what it is, are denied that privilege. At the present moment, only teachers employed in educational institutions have the benefit of becoming members of any provident fund which the Government might organise. Cases have come to the notice of the Government of India in which similar concessions are called for but which could not be granted in view of the wording of the present Act. The cases that I have in view relate to the clerical establishments employed in the offices of the educational councils which have come into existence, particularly in the Madras Presidency, as a result of the Elementary Education Act of 1920 which the Madras Legislature passed. The two other cases which are intended to be brought under the ambit of this privilege, if this Bill is sanctioned, relate to librarians and clerks employed in educational institutions. These small officials are, in common with the

teachers who already get the benefit, in non-pensionable service, and it is only meet and proper that some provision must be made for their old age.

I therefore move, Sir, for leave to introduce the Bill.

The motion was adopted.

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH:  
Sir, I introduce the Bill.

### BENGAL TENANCY (AMENDMENT) BILL.

THE HONOURABLE MR. S. R. DAS (Law Member): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Bengal Tenancy Act, 1885, for a certain purpose.

As Honourable Members will have noticed this is even a smaller Bill than that introduced by my colleague. It is intended to give effect to one of the recommendations of the Civil Justice Committee and refers to the Bengal Tenancy Act. Under that Act, the appeal to the High Court in rent suits of Munsifs or Subordinate Judges are restricted to decrees above the value of Rs. 50 and Rs. 100, respectively, and the object of this Bill is to raise that limit to Rs. 100 and Rs. 200, that is Rs. 100 for Munsifs and Rs. 200 for Subordinate Judges and District Judges. But it does not affect the present right of appeal even from decrees of smaller values where these decrees affect the question of title or rate of rent. The recommendation has been approved by the Government of Bengal and the Calcutta High Court and the necessity for bringing it in the Central Legislature is that it affects the appellate jurisdiction of the High Court.

Sir, I move.

The motion was adopted.

THE HONOURABLE MR. S. R. DAS: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

### MADRAS SALT (AMENDMENT) BILL.

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. F. L. BRAYNE (Finance Secretary): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Madras Salt Act, 1889, for a certain purpose.

This, Sir, is a very tiny measure indeed and has been fully stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons. I do not think it is necessary for me to add any further statement.

Sir, I move for leave to introduce the Bill.

The motion was adopted.

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. F. L. BRAYNE: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

### STATEMENT OF BUSINESS.

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH (Education, Health and Lands Member): Sir, the list of business for to-morrow is already in the hands of Honourable Members. The business

[Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Habibullah.]

on the next official day will include a motion by the Honourable Mr. Corbett for leave to introduce a Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to the provision, maintenance and control of lighthouses by the Government in British India, and motions for the consideration of the Bills which have been introduced to-day, as well as of the Bills passed by the Assembly which have been laid on the table to-day.

As the three days' interval referred to in Rule 27 of the Indian Legislative Rules and in the proviso to Standing Order 37 will not expire in the case of these Bills till Friday next, it is suggested that the next official meeting might conveniently be held on that day instead of on Thursday.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: The Council will now adjourn till 11 o'clock to-morrow morning and thereafter, in view of what the Honourable the Leader of the House has just said, the next meeting will be one for the disposal of Government business on Friday, the 11th February.

The Council then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 8th February, 1927.

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