

Tuesday, 11th April, 1933

THE  
COUNCIL OF STATE DEBATES

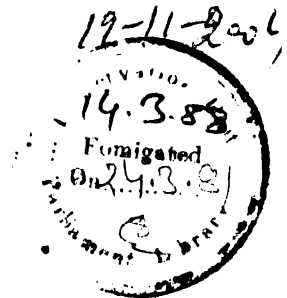
VOLUME I, 1933

*(16th February to 15th April, 1933)*

FIFTH SESSION

OF THE

THIRD COUNCIL OF STATE, 1933



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## COUNCIL OF STATE.

Tuesday, 11th April, 1933.

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

### SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER.

**THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT :** The Honourable Mr. Kalikar has got leave to ask a short notice question. As it has not been circulated, will the Honourable Member please read it ?

**LETTER FROM MR. GANDHI TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE VICEROY.**

**THE HONOURABLE MR. VINAYAK VITHAL [KALIKAR :** Will Government be pleased to state :

(a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to an Associated Press message in the *Hindustan Times* of 9th April regarding a letter from Mahatma Gandhi to His Excellency the Viceroy ?

(b) Is it a fact that His Excellency the Viceroy or the Government of India requested Mahatma Gandhi to express his views on the White Paper proposals ?

(c) If the answer to part (b) is in the affirmative, was Mahatma Gandhi supplied with a copy of the White Paper and given other facilities to express his views ? If not, why not ?

(d) Does Government propose to secure the co-operation of the Indian National Congress in framing the new constitutional proposals ?

(e) In view of the opinions expressed by Mahatma Gandhi in his above-mentioned letter regarding the civil disobedience movement, does Government propose to give him necessary facilities to consult his colleagues on the executive body of the Indian National Congress on the question of calling off the civil disobedience movement and taking part in the framing of the new Government of India Bill ?

**THE HONOURABLE MR. M. G. HALLETT :** (a) Yes. I shall answer parts (b), (c) and (e) together, with your permission, Sir.

(b), (c) and (e). There is no truth whatever in the statement appearing originally in the *Bombay Chronicle* of 8th April that it had been decided to ask Mr. Gandhi to give to the Viceroy a statement of his views as to the present situation and the proposals which emerged from the third Round Table Conference and are now embodied in the White Paper. Nor has Mr. Gandhi of his own initiative addressed any such statement to the Viceroy or to the Government of India. As there has been no such correspondence questions (c) and (e) do not arise.

(d) It is always open to the Indian National Congress to co-operate in framing the new constitutional proposals should they wish to do so.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA MATHURA PRASAD MEHROTRA : May we understand, Sir, that the report as published in the papers was incorrect ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. M. G. HALLETT : It was entirely without foundation, Sir.

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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 Merchant Shipping Act, 1923, for certain purposes, which was passed by the Legislative Assembly at its meeting held on the 10th April, 1933.

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STATEMENT OF BUSINESS.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : Is the Honourable Leader of the House in a position to make any statement regarding the course of public business ?

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN (Leader of the House) : Sir, the course of events in the other House has been more than usually uncertain. There is, however, reason for me to believe that certain Bills will be passed in the course of today and tomorrow. I therefore suggest that we meet tomorrow at 7 P.M. to enable these Bills to be laid on the table in accordance with rules, and then meet again on Saturday in order to proceed with the Bill that has been laid today and the Bills which will be laid tomorrow.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : I entirely approve of the suggestion made by the Honourable Leader of the House. Tomorrow evening we will only meet for the purpose of laying on the table any Bills that are passed by the Legislative Assembly. I may also inform Honourable Members—and I know that many of them are anxious to go back to their homes—that on Saturday I propose to take up all the Bills and if necessary to sit till a late hour and finish them all.

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The Council then adjourned till Seven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 12th April, 1933.