

Thursday, 8th February, 1934

THE
COUNCIL OF STATE DEBATES

VOLUME I, 1934

(8th February to 27th April, 1934)

SEVENTH SESSION
OF THE
THIRD COUNCIL OF STATE, 1934



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THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA JAGDISH PRASAD.

} *Members.*

THE
COUNCIL OF STATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE THIRD
COUNCIL OF STATE)

VOLUME I—1934

COUNCIL OF STATE.

Thursday, 8th February, 1934.

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 Seventh Session of the Third Council of State, pursuant to section 63D (2) of the Government of India Act. The Honourable the President (the Honourable Sir Maneckji Dadabhoy, K.C.I.E., Kt., Bar.-at-Law) was in the Chair.

MEMBERS SWORN :

The Honourable Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe, C.S.I., C.I.E., M.V.O. (Foreign Secretary).

The Honourable Mr. J. B. Taylor, C.I.E. (Additional Finance Secretary).

The Honourable Mr. J. A. Hubback, C.S.I. (Bihar and Orissa : Nominated Official).

The Honourable Rai Sahib Pandit Gokaran Nath Ugra (United Provinces : Nominated Non-Official).

The Honourable Major-General C. A. Sprawson, C.I.E., K.H.P. (Government of India : Nominated Official).

DEATH OF MR. ABDUL HAMID.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : Honourable Members, before we proceed with our prescribed business for the day I have to ask you to join with me in an expression of regret at the death of one of our colleagues, the late Mr. Abdul Hamid. He was an elected representative from Burma and joined the Third Council of State in 1930. He intended to attend the sitting of this Council today and had arrived at Peshawar after a long absence of 35 years to visit the land of his birth before attending this Council, but meanwhile the hand of death has taken him away. I feel certain that you all wish me to convey the unanimous sympathy of this Council to his bereaved family.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

CINCHONA BARK AND QUININE, ETC.

1. THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR DR. SIR NASARVANJI CHOKSY: (a) Will Government be pleased to state the quantity of cinchona bark in stock on 31st March, 1933? Has production been reduced as contemplated? What quantity of the bark has been worked off during 1932-33?

(b) What was the quantity of quinine in stock on 31st March, 1933?

(c) How much quinine was disposed of by sale during 1932-33, and at what rate? Did Government make any profit on the sale?

(d) Has the scheme to popularise the use of quinine tablets in glass tubes been a success? What are the areas in which it is in operation? What loss is likely to be entailed by its adoption on a bigger scale?

(e) Is it a fact that the cinchona plantations in Burma made a profit of Rs. 1½ lakhs during 1931-32? Was any profit made by plantations in Bengal and Madras? Did those plantations sell their products to the extent of Rs. 5½ and Rs. 6 lakhs, respectively, during that year?

(f) How much quinine was distributed free during 1932-33? Was any sold at a cheaper rate? What was the outlay on both these measures?

(g) Have Government received any reports from the Director of Malarial Survey and the Government of Madras on the observations undertaken to test the efficacy of totaquina in the prevention and treatment of malaria? Will Government be pleased to publish the same? Is it a fact that totaquina has been placed on the market by the Government of Madras? What is the form in which it is put up and the price at which it is sold?

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN: A statement giving the information desired by the Honourable Member is laid on the table of the House.

Statement regarding stocks of cinchona bark and quinine, etc.

(a) 7,35,071 lbs. All extension of plantings has been stopped. About 1,21,388 lbs.

(b) 2,82,759 lbs.

(c) 11,369 lbs. The rate varied from Rs. 18 to Rs. 20 per lb. A sum of Rs. 39,000 may be taken as the approximate profit on sales of quinine.

(d) The scheme did not commend itself to Local Governments and was dropped.

(e) The revenue from the sale proceeds of cinchona products exceeded the budget expenditure on cinchona plantations by Rs. 1½ lakhs during 1931-32. The Government of Madras report a profit of Rs. 29,790 in that year, and the Government of Bengal a profit balance of Rs. 2,10,564 for the same period. Products from the plantations in Madras and Bengal of the value of Rs. 5½ and 6 lakhs respectively were sold during 1931-32.

(f) The Honourable Member is referred to paragraph 18 of the Annual Report of the Public Health Commissioner for 1931, which gives the latest available information. A copy of the report will be found in the Library of the House.

(g) At the instance of the Director, Malaria Survey of India, arrangements are being made for experiments with totaquina as well as with the other alkaloids of quinine. The reports of medical officers in the Madras Presidency show that totaquina is as efficacious as quinine sulphate in the treatment of malaria. It has been placed on the market by the Madras Cinchona Department in powder form at the rate of Rs. 13-8-0 per lb.

AREA UNDER FOOD CROPS.

2. THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR DR. SIR NASARVANJI CHOKSY : (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether the cultivation of food crops has increased *pari passu* with the growth of the population in India as revealed by the Census of 1931 ? What was the area under cultivation of food crops in 1932-33 as compared with 1921-22 ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state what varieties and quantities of food grains were imported into India during each successive year from 1921-22 to 1932-33 and their value ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state what provinces in India are deficient in the production of food crops, having regard to their population, and the causes of such deficiency ?

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN : (a) No, but India still has a large not exportable surplus of food grains. The area under food crops in British India was 215 million acres in 1921-22 and 216 million acres in 1931-32, which is the latest year for which complete returns are available.

(b) The Honourable Member is referred to Volume 1 of the Annual Statement of the Sea-borne Trade of British India, copies of which are in the Library.

(c) As figures for inter-provincial rail-borne trade have not been compiled since 1921, I regret it is not possible to give a definite answer to this part of the question. The Honourable Member is, however, doubtless aware that some provinces are better adapted to the production of particular food-stuffs than others and that an interchange of agricultural products takes place between practically all provinces.

INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE.

3. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA JAGDISH PRASAD : Will Government be pleased to state the number of Indians and Europeans respectively, in the Indian Medical Service ?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : There are at present 403 Europeans and 214 Indians with permanent Commissions in the Indian Medical Service. In addition there are 30 Indians with temporary Commissions.

WAR OFFICE AND ARMY HEADQUARTERS.

4. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE : Will Government please state whether the functions of the War Office, London, and those of the Army Headquarters in India are identical in nature and importance ? Are the clerical personnel serving in the War Office in receipt of rates of pay in any way inferior to those admissible to clerical establishment employed in other principal departments of the British Government ?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : The War Office in England is composed of various departments some of which correspond to

Army Headquarters in India, while others correspond to the Army Department and Military Finance Branch in this country. The civil service personnel employed in the latter draw the same rates of pay as civil service personnel in other departments of the British Government. On the other hand the clerical establishments in those departments of the War Office which correspond to Army Headquarters consist of soldiers and ex-soldiers with separate rates of pay of their own.

ARMY HEADQUARTERS.

5. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE :

(a) Will Government please state the reason why the clerical personnel serving in the Army Headquarters, India, receive rates of pay and are subject to other conditions of service which are inferior to those enjoyed by the ministerial establishment employed in the Army Department Secretariat and Military Finance Department ?

(b) Is it a fact that the personnel of the three departments mentioned are all employed on identical classes of work and that the work of the Army Department Secretariat is of a more routine character ?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : (a) Because the nature of the duties on which the clerical establishments of Army Headquarters are employed is not the same as in the Army Department and the Military Finance Department.

(b) No.

ARMY HEADQUARTERS.

6. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE :

(a) Is it a fact that by a recent reorganisation of the clerical establishment of Army Headquarters, Indian clerks joining Army Headquarters service after 31st December, 1933 will have to serve on rates of pay far inferior to those prescribed for members of the British wing of the Indian Army Corps of Clerks ? Is the reason for this decision that Indians will in future be debarred at Army Headquarters from discharging superior clerical duties which will be reserved for British personnel ?

(b) Will Government please state the rates of pay that will be drawn by members of the British and Indian wings of the Indian Army Corps of Clerks and also state the reason for the difference in the rates between the two wings ?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : (a) Members of the British wing will have an advantage at the initial stages, but there is not much difference in the maximum rates admissible to members of both categories employed on purely clerical duties. In the earlier portion of their service the military personnel will be employed on more responsible work, but as the Indians advance in service the tendency will be for their work to approximate more and more closely to that on which military personnel are employed and for the difference between their rates of pay to get less and less. Indian personnel will certainly continue to be eligible for officer supervisor and higher appointments as hitherto.

(b) A statement is laid on the table.

The reason for the difference in rates between the two categories is that members of the British Army require higher rates of pay than Indians living in their own country, and also that they will start with military knowledge and some previous clerical experience. Military personnel are not even now employed on the routine duties performed by third division clerks.

Statement showing the rates of pay of the Indian Army Corps of Clerks asked for in part (b) of question No. 6.

MILITARY.		Pay of rank.
		Rs.
Sergeants		210
Staff Sergeants		250
Sub-Conductors		335
Conductors		370
CIVILIANS.		Rs.
<i>Upper Division—</i>		
Selection grade	250—10/1—300	} <i>Plus</i> 20 per cent.
Ordinary grade	100—7½/1—250	
<i>Lower Division</i>	50—4/1—90 E. B. 3/1—120	

ARMY HEADQUARTERS.

7. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE :
 (a) Is it a fact that under the existing order of things, for doing the same work in the Army Headquarters the minimum pay drawn by a British soldier clerk is Rs. 190 per mensem, by a lady clerk Rs. 100 per mensem and by an Indian clerk Rs. 90 per mensem ? What is the reason for this discrimination ?

(b) Is it a fact that irrespective of the amount of pay drawn by a British clerk and a lady clerk, they enjoy second class travelling allowance in connection with the moves between Simla and Delhi and that this concession is denied to Indian clerks whose pay does not exceed Rs. 200 ? What is the reason for this discrimination ?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : (a) It is not a fact that the British soldier clerk on joining Army Headquarters does the same work as the Indian clerk. He has always had some previous clerical experience in military offices ; and his pay is fixed at the minimum on which it is reasonable to expect him to live in Simla and Delhi.

Lady clerks are given a starting pay of Rs. 100 in view of their sex, quite irrespective of nationality.

(b) According to rule 17 (c) of the Supplementary Rules made under the Fundamental Rules all Government servants in superior service in receipt of actual pay not exceeding Rs. 200 per month who are subject to the Fundamental Rules are third grade officers for the purpose of travelling allowance, but under Supplementary Rule 18 lady clerks, irrespective of nationality, are treated as second class officers for this purpose in consideration of their sex. British military clerks are not subject to the Fundamental Rules. They are governed by Military Regulations under which they are entitled to second class accommodation.

DIRECTOR, REGULATIONS AND FORMS, ARMY DEPARTMENT.

8. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE :
 (a) Will Government please state the pay drawn by the Director of Regulations and Forms in the Army Department and the duties performed by him ? Does he prescribe regulations for the Indian Army ?

(b) What is the designation and pay of the corresponding appointment on the civil side ? If there is no such post there, to which post are such duties as the Director of Regulations and Forms performs for the Army, assigned ?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : (a) The Director, Regulations and Forms, receives the pay of his grade *plus* Rs. 400 per mensem. His duties are :

- (i) The co-ordination and review of all amendments to regulations, and also some original work in connection with the drafting of new sets of regulations for the Army in India.
- (ii) The control of forms.
- (iii) The control of expenditure on printing and forms and matters relating to office machinery.
- (iv) The superintendence of all matters relating to the establishments of Army and Royal Air Force Headquarters.

(b) As far as I am aware, there is no corresponding appointment in any other department, because no other department has so many regulations and forms to deal with.

MASTER GENERAL OF THE ORDNANCE BRANCH, ARMY HEADQUARTERS.

9. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE :
 (a) Is it a fact that the 11 warrant officers employed in the office of the Master General of the Ordnance at Army Headquarters as technical military clerks are not replaced during their attachment at Army Headquarters in the arsenals from which they were drawn ?

(b) Is it a fact that if duties assigned to men could be carried on without their presence for years together, such men are for practical purposes surplus ? If so, why have these 11 surplus men not been retrenched ?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : (a) and (b). No, Sir. There are only four technical clerks in the Master General of the Ordnance Branch who have not been replaced in arsenals. It is immaterial however where the clerks are employed. The point is that they are employed where they are most wanted, and they are not therefore surplus to requirements.

MASTER GENERAL OF THE ORDNANCE BRANCH, ARMY HEADQUARTERS.

10. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE :
 (a) Is it a fact that there is at present a dearth of work in the Master General of the Ordnance Branch and that officers and technical military clerks in that office are employed on work which, had there been enough work in the office, would fall to be dealt with by low paid clerks ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Assistant Master General of Ordnance (pay Rs. 2,050 per mensem) accompanied by a technical military clerk (a Conductor—pay Rs. 550 per mensem) proceeds to the Imperial Bank at New Delhi on the 1st of each month to help the Cashier of the office in drawing a few thousand rupees to pay the clerical establishment of the camp office ?

(c) Will Government please state whether such work as mentioned at (b) above is part of the technical work for which the technical military clerk in question is intended ?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : (a) Certainly not, Sir.

(b) In the absence of the Officer Supervisor of the Branch in Simla, the Assistant Master General of Ordnance, as the most junior officer in the camp office of the Master General of the Ordnance Branch in Delhi, attends the Bank with the Assistant Cashier to draw the pay of the office establishment. The presence of an officer is required by the Regulations. He is not accompanied by a technical military clerk.

(c) Does not arise.

FRAUD AND MISAPPROPRIATION ON THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

11. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE : (a) Is it a fact that there was recently a fraud and misappropriation of Government money in connection with the sale proceeds of cinders and scrap materials in one of the workshops on the Eastern Bengal Railway ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether the Head Clerk and the Accounts Clerk were found guilty of the charges of misappropriation ? If so, will they be pleased to state what action was taken against them ?

(c) Is it a fact that the permanent records were destroyed in this case ? If so, by whom were they destroyed ? If so, has any action been taken against the persons concerned and, if not, why not ?

(d) Is it a fact that a departmental enquiry has been ordered in this case ? If so, what are the findings of this departmental enquiry ? Has any disciplinary action been taken against the persons concerned ?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state how this fraud was detected and by whom ? Has any reward been given to the persons responsible for the detection of this fraud ? If not, why not ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL : I have called for information and will communicate the result to the Honourable Member in due course.

CYPHER BUREAU.

12. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE : (a) Will Government be pleased to state if they have a Cypher Bureau ? If so, will Government be pleased to state what is the function of that Cypher Bureau ?

(b) Are there any Indians in the Cypher Bureau ? If so, how many ?

(c) If the answer to the first part of the question (a) is in the negative, will Government be pleased to state why Indians are not appointed and engaged in the Cypher Bureau ?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state if the Cypher Bureau will ever be Indianized ? If so, when ? If not, why not ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. A. F. METCALFE : (a) Yes. Its function is to encypher and decypher confidential and secret telegrams sent and received by the Departments of the Government of India and to keep in safe custody the various codes and cyphers.

(b) No.

(c) The rules of the London Foreign Office do not permit of certain of their codes being handled by Indians.

(d) Yes. Government hope to be able to commence recruiting Indians to the Cypher Bureau as soon as certain new codes now under preparation are ready for use.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER'S OFFICE, DACCA, EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

13. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE : (a) Will Government be pleased to state why and when the Executive Engineer's Office of the Eastern Bengal Railway at Dacca was abolished ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the approximate amount of savings effected by abolishing the Railway Executive Engineer's Office at Dacca ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the strength of the clerical staff of the Railway Executive Engineer's Office at Dacca when that office was abolished ?

(d) Have they been provided for in other departments of the Eastern Bengal Railway Offices at Dacca ? If not, what have Government done with them ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL : (a) The Agent, Eastern Bengal Railway, reports that the office of the Executive Engineer, Dacca, will, as a measure of economy, be converted into a sub-divisional office from 9th February, 1934.

(b) There will be an approximate annual saving of Rs. 23,000.

(c) The strength of the clerical staff, including drawing office staff, is 17.

(d) Three of the staff will be retained in the Dacca sub-division and the rest will be absorbed in other districts of the Engineering Department.

RETRENCHMENT IN THE DACCA-NARAYANGANJ AND MYMENSINGH-JAGANNATHGANJ SECTIONS, EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

14. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE : Has there been any retrenchment of hands in the Traffic, Loco. and the Railway Engineer's Departments in the Dacca-Narayanganj and Mymensingh-Jagannathganj sections of the Eastern Bengal Railway during the financial year 1932-33 and till December, 1933 ? If so, how many hands were retrenched and why ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL : Government have no information as regards the retrenchment carried out in the particular sections and departments mentioned by the Honourable Member. If any retrenchment has taken place, it must have been due to the fall in traffic.

GUARD E. I. WRIGHT, EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

15. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE : Will Government be pleased to state whether there was a departmental enquiry against Guard E. I. Wright of the Eastern Bengal Railway attached to the Dacca-Mymensingh section for an alleged crime on a Muhammadan woman ? If so, will Government be pleased to state the result of the enquiry, the facts of the case and how the said Anglo-Indian guard has been dealt with ?

(For reply, see under question No. 16.)

GUARD E. I. WRIGHT, EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

16. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE : (a) Is it a fact that a certain young Muhammadan woman whose presumed motive was to commit suicide was, on the 9th August, 1933, found standing on the railway lines between Sen Bari and Ram-amritganj stations in the Dacca-Mymensingh section of the Eastern Bengal Railway by Guard S. C. Pal of Down train No. 284 and was handed over by him to the station master of Ram-amritganj for necessary action ?

(b) Is it a fact that the said Muhammadan woman was sent by the said station master to Mymensingh along with a guard for handing over to the police there, and was taken over by the guard to the guards' running room and was confined there for immoral purposes ?

(c) Is it a fact that the said woman is alleged to have been criminally assaulted by the guard in question ?

(d) Is it a fact that on the complaint of the woman, the Railway Police Inspector of Saidpur, Eastern Bengal Railway, held an enquiry into the matter ? If so, will Government be pleased to state the purport of his enquiry and what has become of his report ?

(e) Is it a fact that the Sub-Inspector of Police of Mymensingh Kotwali Police Station also held an enquiry into the case and submitted a report to the higher authorities that the case was true ?

(f) Is it a fact that on the strength of the police report, a case was instituted against the guard in question before the Sadar Sub-divisional Officer, Mymensingh ?

(g) Is it a fact that the case was withdrawn for want of witnesses and was then referred to the Railway Department for punishment ? If so, will Government be pleased to state whether any punishment has been inflicted on the said guard ? If none, why ?

(h) Is it a fact that the guard was temporarily suspended and then reinstated in his post ?

(i) If so, will Government be pleased to state the reasons for the guard's temporary suspension and reinstatement in his post ?

(j) If the case of the confinement and molestation of a young Muhammadan woman by an Anglo-Indian guard was found to be true or partly true by the authorities who enquired into that case, how do Government propose to deal with the case ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL : With your permission, Sir, I propose to answer questions Nos. 15 and 16 together.

Government have no information about the alleged crime. They expect that the administration of the Eastern Bengal Railway and the Provincial Government of Bengal will deal suitably with the matter.

THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will the Honourable Member institute an enquiry by the Department concerned as to what is the actual state of affairs and let the House know the result of such an enquiry in due course ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL: Government do not propose to enquire. This is a matter which is entirely within the competence of the Agent of the Eastern Bengal Railway.

PUBLIC DEBT OF INDIA.

17. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE: (a) Will Government be pleased to state the amount of India's Public Debt in sterling loans and in rupee loans up to 31st March, 1933 ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the different amounts of interest they paid during the last financial year and till December, 1933, on sterling loans as well as rupee loans ?

(c) Are Government considering the possibility of converting the sterling loans into rupee loans ? If so, what amount of the sterling loans will be converted into rupee loans and when ?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state the percentage of sterling loans held by Indians and Europeans ?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state the percentage of rupee loans held by Europeans in India and abroad and Indians ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. B. TAYLOR: (a) and (b). The Honourable Member is referred to the monthly statement of the Rupee Debt of the Government of India published by the Controller of the Currency and to the half-yearly return of East India loans raised in England published by the Secretary of State. Copies of these statements have been placed in the Library of the House. The total debt charges paid during 1932-33 were on the Rupee Debt Rs. 23,46,90,386 and on the Sterling Debt Rs. 20,22,62,647. Figures for the current financial year are not yet available.

(c) This is the policy of Government so far as is practicable but it is impossible to give any forecast of future operations.

(d) and (e). The information desired by the Honourable Member is not obtainable.

TATA IRON AND STEEL CO., LTD.

18. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE: (a) Will Government be pleased to state the total amount of bounty given to Tatas by way of protection since 1923 up to the last financial year ?

(b) What was and is now the capital of Tatas ?

(c) Is it a fact that nearly as much amount has been given to Tatas as bounty and protection as was their capital when the Company was started ?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state the amount of net profit of Tatas from the end of the war to the last financial year ?

(e) Have Tatas been able to declare any dividend for the last financial year ? If so, what is the amount ?

(f) Is it a fact that Tatas once made a profit of Rs. 200 lakhs of which Rs. 166 lakhs were given away as dividends ? If so, when ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. T. A. STEWART. (a) Rs. 2,08,70,400.

(b) The authorised capital of the Tata Iron and Steel Company when it was first formed was Rs. 2,31,75,000. The authorised capital of the Company in 1932-33 was Rs. 10,52,12,500.

(c) Yes.

(d) A statement giving the information is laid on the table.

(e) The dividends declared during the last financial year were :

- (i) On First Preference Shares Rs. 9 per share.
- (ii) On Second Preference Shares Rs. 5 per share.

(f) No, Sir.

Statement showing the net profits of the Tata Iron and Steel Co., Ltd., during the years 1918-19 to 1932-33.

	Lakhs of Rs.
1918-19	67.18
1919-20	115.31
1920-21	116.95
1921-22	88.38
1922-23	20.87
1923-24	31.32
1924-25	64.71
1925-26	95.73
1926-27	148.34
1927-28	109.81
1928-29	No profit Loss 6.8
1929-30	82.26
1930-31	99.13
1931-32	87.58
1932-33	121.85

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE.

INCOME-TAX OFFICERS, BENGAL.

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. B. TAYLOR : Sir, I lay on the table information promised in reply to question No. 173, asked by the Honourable Mr. Jagadish Chandra Banerjee on the 11th September, 1933.

(a)

Serial No.	Names of Income-tax Officers and Assistant Additional Income-tax Officers.	Total period of service in the Department as Income-tax Officer upto 31st March, 1933.	Total period served in Calcutta upto 31st March, 1933.	Total period served in mofussil upto 31st March, 1933.
		Y. M. D.	Y. M. D.	Y. M. D.
	<i>Income-tax Officers.</i>			
1	Mr. J. C. Gupta	11 0 0	6 3 14	3 8 28
2	„ S. Ahmed	10 7 13	8 8 2	1 6 10
3	„ S. K. Ghosh	10 8 0	7 7 17	2 6 4
4	„ F. A. Robertson	11 0 0	11 0 0	Nil
5	„ Ahsanullah	10 8 0	6 6 10	3 9 10
6	„ K. P. Mukherjee	11 0 0	7 5 13	2 3 27
7	„ D. S. Bhattacharjee	11 0 0	7 5 5	2 10 14
8	„ K. C. Goswamy	11 0 0	7 7 0	3 1 22
9	„ P. N. Das Gupta	11 0 0	8 1 18	2 8 26

Serial No.	Names of Income-tax Officers and Assistant Additional Income-tax Officers.	Total period of service in the Department as Income-tax Officer upto 31st March, 1933.	Total period served in Calcutta upto 31st March, 1933.	Total period served in mofussil upto 31st March, 1933.
		Y. M. D.	Y. M. D.	Y. M. D.
<i>Income-tax Officers—contd.</i>				
10	Mr. K. C. Gupta	11 0 0	5 4 6	4 2 25
11	„ D. B. Banerjee	11 0 0	7 6 4	2 9 28
12	„ B. M. Sen Gupta	11 0 0	2 10 15	7 10 15
13	„ N. B. Banerjee	11 0 0	4 2 23	6 1 12
14	„ M. Osman	10 8 0	4 9 9	5 5 5
15	„ S. G. Sen Gupta	10 8 0	2 6 7	7 9 8
16	„ M. Ameen	10 8 0	6 8 5	3 1 2
17	„ J. P. Gupta	10 8 0	4 7 27	5 9 12
18	„ A. K. M. Ehya Sadique	10 8 0	5 0 13	5 5 7
19	„ M. Ahmed	10 8 0	5 6 4	4 3 15
20	„ A. Khan	10 8 0	3 2 20	5 4 23
21	„ H. C. Choudhury	10 8 0	8 10 18	1 5 19
22	„ S. P. Roy	10 8 0	9 0 13	0 7 21
23	„ P. C. Dutta	9 6 8	9 6 8	Nil.
24	„ J. N. Sett	9 0 4	4 7 21	3 9 20
25	„ N. K. Paul	9 7 14	3 5 12	6 1 14
26	„ S. L. Nandi	9 5 3	8 1 16	0 6 14
27	„ Nuruzzaman	9 6 17	4 8 15	4 0 15
28	„ P. C. De	9 0 6	1 11 3	6 10 22
29	„ S. C. Choudhury	9 0 6	8 9 25	0 1 23
<i>Assistant (Additional) Income-tax Officers.</i>				
1	Mr. R. Som	8 1 16	7 3 28	..
2	„ A. M. Bcse	9 0 5	3 3 3	5 5 20
3	„ S. K. Dhar	9 0 1	5 10 13	2 11 25
4	„ P. N. Mukherjee	9 0 0	3 11 26	4 9 3
5	„ M. K. Banerjee	8 10 6	4 3 3	4 4 7
6	„ S. J. Ahmed	8 9 27	4 4 9	4 2 0
7	„ M. Mannan	8 8 5	4 9 7	3 4 24
8	„ M. N. Roy Mitter	7 8 29	6 1 25	1 6 4
9	„ A. R. Mukherjee	7 8 28	4 10 12	2 8 7
10	„ S. P. Lahiri	7 8 28	2 4 17	5 2 11
11	„ J. C. Bhattacharjee	7 8 26	2 6 1	5 1 3
12	„ N. K. Banerjee	7 8 26	5 11 15	0 11 28
13	„ S. A. Khandkar	7 8 23	1 9 4	5 8 18
14	„ G. Rahman	7 8 19	3 7 14	3 5 24
15	„ A. Aziz	7 8 18	3 9 26	3 4 21
16	„ S. B. Roy	7 8 2	5 9 1	1 6 29
17	„ A. K. Mitter	7 0 0	5 0 28	1 5 25
18	„ H. K. Das Gupta	6 11 15	3 0 21	3 9 3
19	„ A. Islam	6 9 25	3 5 15	2 8 29

Note.—The periods of service in Calcutta and the mofussil taken together do not in most cases come up to the total service put in due to the exclusion of periods of leave taken by the officers from the entries in the last two columns.

(b) Yes. Three Income-tax Officers have served throughout in Calcutta.

(c) Mr. Martin now retired, and Mr. Phillippe now acting as Assistant Commissioner and Mr. Robertson have served throughout in Calcutta because of their special fitness for the districts to which they were attached.

(d) The present postings of the officers named were considered to be the most suitable in the general interests of administration.

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

THE HONOURABLE MR. M. G. HALLETT: Sir, I lay on the table information promised in reply to question No. 279 asked by the Honourable Mr. Jagadish Chandra Banerjee on the 14th December, 1933.

(e) Yes, on the 12th August, 1933.

(f) The Chief Medical Officer, Ajmer, telegraphed to Prafulla Chandra Bagchi on the 22nd August, 1933, informing him of his brother's death.

MESSAGES FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Honourable Members, I have four Messages to communicate to you from His Excellency the Governor General. The Messages are in the form of the following Orders :

The first Order :

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 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 Mr. Ernest Miller ; in the second place, the Honourable Rai Bahadur Lala Ramsaran Das ; in the third place, the Honourable Mr. Bijay Kumar Basu ; and lastly, the Honourable Major Nawab Sir Mahomed Akbar Khan.

New Delhi ;
The 20th January, 1934. }

(Sd.) WILLINGDON,
Viceroy and Governor General."

The second Order :

RAILWAY BUDGET.

"For the purposes of sub-section (1) of section 67A of the Government of India Act and in pursuance of rule 43 of the Indian Legislative Rules and of Standing Order 70 of the Council of State Standing Orders, I, Freeman, Earl of Willingdon, hereby appoint Saturday, the 17th February, for the presentation to the Council of State, and Tuesday, the 20th February, for the General Discussion in the Council of State, of the statement of the estimated annual expenditure and revenue of the Governor General in Council in respect of Railways.

New Delhi ;
The 7th February, 1934. }

(Sd.) WILLINGDON,
Viceroy and Governor General."

The third Order :

GENERAL BUDGET.

"For the purposes of sub-section (1) of section 67A of the Government of India Act and in pursuance of rule 43 of the Indian Legislative Rules and of Standing Order 70 of the Council of State Standing Orders, I, Freeman, Earl of Willingdon, hereby appoint Tuesday, the 27th February at 5 p.m., for the presentation to the Council of State, and Monday, the 5th March, for the General Discussion in the Council of State, of the statement of the estimated annual expenditure and revenue of the Governor General in Council in respect of subjects other than Railways.

(Sd.) WILLINGDON,
Viceroy and Governor General."

New Delhi ;
The 7th February, 1934. }

The fourth Order :

"In pursuance of the provisions of sub-section (3) of section 67A of the Government of India Act, I hereby direct that the heads of expenditure specified in that sub-section shall be open to discussion by the Council of State when the Budget is under consideration.

(Sd.) WILLINGDON,
Viceroy and Governor General."

(The Messages were received by the Council, standing.)

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Under Standing Order 76 of the Council of State Standing Orders, I am required at the commencement of each 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 accordingly have much pleasure in nominating as Chairman of the Committee the Honourable Raja Charanjit Singh and as members, the Honourable Khan Bahadur Syed Abdul Hafeez, the Honourable Sir David Devadoss, the Honourable Mr. Satyendra Chandra Ghosh Maulik and the Honourable Rai Bahadur Lala Jagdish Prasad.

RESOLUTION *RE* PLACING ON RECORD THE DEEP SYMPATHY OF THE COUNCIL WITH SUFFERERS IN THE RECENT EARTHQUAKE.

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

"That this Council places on record its deep sympathy with all who have suffered in the province of Bihar and Orissa and elsewhere from the recent disastrous earthquake."

This earthquake took place on the 15th of January at about two in the afternoon. It is admitted on all hands that it was one of the very worst earthquakes that have taken place during living memory. It spread over a vast area—from Bengal to the Punjab and from Nepal down to Orissa. It

did a great deal of damage both in Nepal and in North Bihar. As investigation into the damage done proceeds our knowledge of the damage done continues to increase. According to the latest reports available the loss of life amounts to something over 6,000. The towns of Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga, and Monghyr have suffered most. As regards land, it appears that the area above and below Bhagalpur has practically been twisted. Roads and railways, have been, so to speak, twisted about and the general level also seems to have got tilted. It is difficult at present to assess all the damage done. This great calamity evoked a rapid and great response from all quarters. Government lost no time in taking steps to obtain information and to give relief. All Departments of Government co-operated and the civil administration is very much obliged indeed to the Army for the very efficient and generous response they made to the requirements of the civil in this connection. It is occasions like these where the catastrophe is exceptional, where a great trouble has overtaken the people, that call for a united effort on the part of all people and lead also to the co-operation of the people and the Government; they have a tendency to bring people together and also the people and the Government together. I am sure the House will agree with me that this is a matter in which the efforts made by Government have evoked an excellent response and we trust thereby the sufferers' troubles have been reduced very considerably.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA MATHURA PRASAD MEHROTRA (United Provinces Central: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I rise to support the Resolution moved by the Honourable the Leader of the House on my own behalf and on behalf of the Party to which I have the honour to belong. Sir, as the Honourable the Leader of the House has said, the calamity was unprecedented in the history of India. We are very thankful to His Excellency the Viceroy for the prompt appeal he has made and to our countrymen who have risen equal to the occasion and are liberally subscribing to the Relief Fund in all possible ways. Sir, this relief will be only a temporary measure. We think that many years will be required to bring North Bihar to the state in which it was existing before this calamity occurred. For that, Sir, I hope Government will devise means for permanent relief in the way of remissions of revenue and rent as well as of giving loans at the cheapest possible rates of interest in order to build the demolished houses.

With these words, Sir, I support the Resolution moved by the Honourable the Leader of the House.

*THE HONOURABLE SIR KURMA VENKATA REDDI (Madras: Nominated Non-Official): Sir, may I on behalf of Madras associate myself and the other representatives of Madras with what has been so well said and so pathetically represented by the Honourable the Leader of the House and the other Honourable Member who has just spoken. Sir, Bihar's loss is India's loss. It is a national calamity that has befallen us, and, as has been seen during the last few days, India is rising to a man to do all that she can to relieve stricken Bihar. Sir, it has already been pointed out that the calamity is of an unprecedented nature not only in this country but also, if you take into account the wide area affected—140 miles by 90 miles—in the whole history of the world's earthquakes. Fortunately, thanks to the prompt lead given by His Excellency the Viceroy and the action taken by the Government as well as by Indian leaders, both Indians and Europeans, the immediate needs have been met. Food and raiment have been found, wells which have

* Speech not corrected by the Honourable Member.

[Sir Kurma Venkata Reddi.]

been choked with sand are being cleared, medical associations and individual physicians and surgeons have rushed to the spot to see what help they can give to the injured persons amongst the survivors; but the real work yet remains to be done. The real work consists in the reconstruction of the numerous houses in the various towns which have been levelled to the ground. Bridges, both of railroads and ordinary roads, have been demolished beyond recognition and houses are nowhere to be seen. It is a whole heap of debris in towns like Monghyr, Darbhanga and Muzaffarpur. Ordinary help will not do. I do hope that this country, man to man, every man and woman, will rise equal to the occasion and contribute as much as he or she can contribute. Speaking for Madras, Sir, I may assure this House and Bihar that that province will not be behind other provinces in what may be expected reasonably of her. We are not a rich people; all the same we are willing to do our very best. The moment the news reached Madras province, His Excellency the Governor of Madras, our popular Governor, who was on tour, immediately returned to headquarters and issued an appeal to the country and followed it up by opening a branch to the Viceroy's Relief Fund. The *Hindu* and the *Madras Mail*, two influential journals in the province, have also opened Relief Funds, and sums are being, I think, subscribed liberally. Sir, there will be no difficulty so far as that province is concerned as in the case of other provinces. Let me for the present join others in giving expression to the sorrow that we all feel in the disaster which has overtaken unfortunate Bihar.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR PROMODE CHANDRA DUTT (Assam : Non-Muhammadan): Sir, having been through a similar experience myself some years ago I think I can more fully sympathise with our brothers and sisters in Bihar. On the 12th June, 1897, we had an earthquake in Assam which was at the time regarded as the most disastrous one. There was considerable loss of life and property and personally I suffered grievously. But compared to what has taken place in Bihar that earthquake seems to have been a mild affair. Our hearts go out to our brothers and sisters suffering in Bihar. All that we can now do is for each of us to contribute our mite to alleviate their sufferings. So far as Assam is concerned, His Excellency the Governor has taken the lead, and I am sure that Assam, although a poor province, will do its bit.

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. MILLER (Bombay Chamber of Commerce): Sir, may I also on behalf of the non-official Europeans in this House express our great grief and our sympathy with the victims of this terrible disaster and with their relatives? I wish to associate myself with the Resolution that has been moved.

***THE HONOURABLE SAYYED MOHAMED PADSHAH SAHIB BAHADUR** (Madras : Muhammadan): Sir, I rise to associate myself with all that has been said by the Honourable the Leader of the House and the other Honourable Members who have spoken in expressing our deep sense of grief and sympathy over the great calamity that has recently overtaken Bihar. Sir, the havoc caused by this earthquake was really tremendous and one which has never been experienced so far either in India or anywhere else in the world. Sir, tremendous harm has been done to those places where the earthquake took place. Not only has the earthquake caused a tremendous loss of life

* Speech not corrected by the Honourable Member.

but it has also caused great damage both to dwelling houses and communications in those places. Sir, it is gratifying to note that both the Government and the people in this country have risen equal to the occasion. The measures taken both by the Government of India and the Local Governments have been quite prompt and quite equal to the occasion. As far as our own province is concerned, as has already been remarked by my Honourable colleague, Sir Kurma Reddi, the Governor of our province has taken prompt steps to see that every possible measure is adopted to do everything possible to alleviate the sufferings of the people in those provinces. The *Hindu* and the *Madrass Mail* have also opened funds with a view to subscriptions being collected in order to afford relief to the stricken people of Bihar.

*THE HONOURABLE MR. VINAYAK VITHAL KALIKAR (Central Provinces : General) : Sir, I heartily support the Resolution moved by the Honourable the Leader of the House on behalf of the Central Provinces and Berar and endorse every word that has fallen from the other speakers in this House.

Sir, our Governor has made an appeal and has started a fund to which you, Sir, and Lady Dadabhoj have liberally contributed. We have also started funds and the local journals of the Central Provinces are taking great interest in collecting funds and necessities for relieving the sufferings of Bihar. So far as the Central Provinces are concerned, I submit that the Central Provinces and Berar will not lag behind in supporting our brethren in Bihar and will do their best to relieve Bihar's sufferings.

*THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM (Bihar and Orissa : Muhammadan) : Sir, as a representative of Bihar I wish to thank the House for the sympathy which it wishes to convey. The calamity in Bihar, as has been pointed out by various speakers, is not of a local nature ; it is a national calamity, and as such I am happy to say that India has responded and taken up the cause as its own. Not only that. The Empire as a whole is going to take it up. The King Emperor has shown his sympathy by donating a handsome sum to the Viceroy's Relief Fund and the Lord Mayor of London has issued an appeal. It is to be hoped that this calamity will act as a cement and join all the different sections as it has already done in my province. Then, Sir, those who were out and out Congress men, who never wished to co-operate with Government, and those whose duty it has always been to be with Government, they have all joined hands. Leaders of the Congress and members of the Government are in daily contact. They are working together and doing everything to alleviate the miseries of the people, and in this humane cause they have forgotten their political differences. It is time, Sir, that not only lip sympathy should be shown but that Government should come out with concrete proposals and find ways and means to help Bihar to stand again on its feet.

With these words, Sir, I support the Resolution of the Honourable the Leader of the House.

THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE (East Bengal : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, coming from the province of Bengal I have to associate myself with what has fallen from the lips of the Leader of the House and various other Members who have spoken this morning to what magnitude the population of the affected areas have suffered by the recent terrible earthquake. In this connection, Sir, in the Legislative Assembly the

* Speech not corrected by the Honourable Member.

[Mr. Jagadish Chandra Banerjee.]

President has started a fund to which all the Members of the Assembly have subscribed very liberally, and I should also like to suggest if it may be possible for you, Sir, to start a fund of that nature in the Council of State to which all Members may liberally subscribe.

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR DR. SIR NASARVANJI CHOKSY (Bombay : Nominated Non-Official) : Sir, in the absence of the senior Members from Bombay I beg to associate myself entirely with the sentiments expressed by the Honourable the Leader of the House and other Honourable Members. The heartrending calamity which has overtaken India is of an exceptional nature and I believe the hearts of all people, both in India and all over the world, will go forth to the succour and support of the people involved in it. The City of Bombay has never lagged behind in such circumstances and I am glad to say that the fund started by the Mayor of Bombay has been very largely supported by several Charity Trusts, the mercantile community and private individuals. It is hoped that all the help which is needed will be forthcoming to rehabilitate the country and put the people on their feet. But I am afraid the question of public health will loom very large in the circumstances because the people have been deprived of their houses, they are living in the open or in temporary shelters and are likely to be hard hit by the inclement weather and through overcrowding. I am however confident that the Department of Public Health will take every possible precaution to minimise the risks involved in the matter and prevent all preventible illness.

With these few words, Sir, I heartily support the Resolution of the Honourable the Leader of the House.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : Honourable Members, before I put this Motion to the House I desire to associate myself with the expression of sympathy which this Resolution conveys and with the sentiments which have been expressed by the Leader of the House and Honourable Members. This has been the most disastrous event in India within living memory. The magnitude of the disaster can only be appreciated by reference to the salient and succinct report in which Dr. Dunn of the Geological Survey has summarized the situation. I will only read one paragraph from that report to the House which will convey to you the gravity of the disaster.

“This has been one of the biggest and most extensive earthquakes in history. The recent earthquake which shook almost the entire continent of India and took a heavy toll in the shape of human life and property, denuding populace cities and the property of the inhabitants and laying desolate an area in Bihar alone as big as that of Scotland and supporting five times its population.”

It is a matter of great satisfaction that all over the country deep sympathy, has been aroused and every province in India has set to work rendering substantial relief to this much stricken province of Bihar and Orissa. You Honourable Members have also not only expressed your sympathy, but from the lists that I have seen printed in newspapers have already supported the Viceroy's Earthquake Fund liberally, and therefore there is no necessity for me to carry out the suggestion of our Honourable colleague Mr. Banerjee. The work of reconstruction will take many years and I yesterday received a heartrending letter from one of our Honourable colleagues the Maharaja-dhiraj of Darbhanga. He writes to me that he himself is rendered homeless and that he had to temporarily resign his seat in order to work for the people of his own province. I am glad to see from this morning's newspaper that

he has very liberally contributed a sum of Rs. 25 lakhs towards the reconstruction of Darbhanga. I have no doubt that towards the cost of reconstruction which will amount to many crores of rupees donations will be contributed not only by the wealthy classes but also by the poor. One thing I would like you to bear in mind in this connection and that is with reference to the middle class sufferers. It is the middle class of India who have suffered silently on account of the high commodity prices and in many other ways, and owing to their peculiar position some special provision should be made for the relief of sufferers of this class, because in the work of reconstruction the labouring and working classes who have equally suffered will at least find work and provision will be made for their maintenance in the meantime. It is the poor middle class sufferer who will find it difficult to tide over this troublous time. I therefore hope your sympathy and mercy will extend to those classes.

Resolution moved :

“This Council places on record its deep sympathy with all who have suffered in the province of Bihar and Orissa and elsewhere from the recent disastrous earthquake.”

The Question is :

“That this Resolution be adopted.”

The Motion was adopted.

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S ASSENT TO BILL.

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 Bill which was passed by the two Chambers of the Indian Legislature during the November-December session, 1933, namely :

The Indian Tariff (Second Amendment) Act, 1933.

BILLS 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 following Bills which were passed by the Legislative Assembly at its meetings held on the 22nd December, 1933 and 31st January, 1934, namely :

A Bill to constitute a Reserve Bank of India ; and

A Bill further to amend the Imperial Bank of India Act, 1920, for certain purposes.

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

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN (Education, Health and Lands Member) : Sir, I move :

“That this Council do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, two Muslim Members to sit on the Standing Committee on Pilgrimage to the Hejaz.”

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 Pilgrimage to the Hejaz will be received by the Secretary up to eleven o'clock on Saturday, the 10th February, 1934.

STATEMENT OF BUSINESS.

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN (Leader of the House): There will be no business for tomorrow, Sir, and the List of Business for Saturday is already in the hands of the Honourable Members. Monday next being a holiday, the Council will not meet on that day. On Tuesday the Council will commence discussion of the Reserve Bank Bill and will, if necessary, continue the same on Wednesday and Thursday, while the Imperial Bank (Amendment) Bill will be taken as soon as the Reserve Bank Bill is finished. If any further Bills are in the meantime passed by the Legislative Assembly, further course of business during the rest of the next week will be stated in due course.

The Council then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Saturday, the 10th February, 1934.