

21st January 1935

THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

(Official Report)

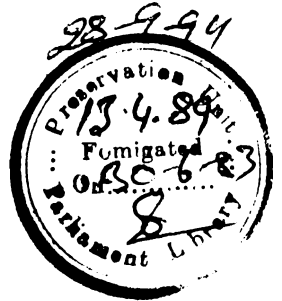
Volume I, 1935

(21st January to 18th February, 1935)

FIRST SESSION

OF THE

FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
1935



NEW DELHI
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS
1935

Legislative Assembly.

President :

THE HONOURABLE SIR ABDUR RAHIM, K.C.S.I., KT.

Deputy President :

MR. AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA, M.L.A.

Panel of Chairmen :

SIR MUHAMMAD YAKUB, KT., M.L.A.

MR. S. SATYAMURTI, M.L.A.

LIEUT.-COLONEL SIR HENRY GIDNEY, KT., M.L.A.

SARDAR SANT SINGH, M.L.A.

Secretary :

MIAN MUHAMMAD RAFI, BAR.-AT-LAW.

Assistant of the Secretary :

RAI BAHADUR D. DUTT.

Marshal :

CAPTAIN HAJI SARDAR NUR AHMAD KHAN, M.C., I.O.M., I.A.

Committee on Petitions.

MR. AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA, M.L.A., Chairman.

MR. S. SATYAMURTI, M.L.A.

DR. ZIAUDDIN AHMAD, C.I.E., M.L.A.

RAJA SIR VASUDEVA RAJAH, KT., C.I.E., M.L.A.

MR. N. M. JOSHI, M.L.A.

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THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTH
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY)

VOLUME I—1935.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Monday, 21st January, 1935.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House in New Delhi at Eleven of the Clock, being the first day of the meeting of the Fifth Legislative Assembly, pursuant to S. 63D (2) of the Government of India Act.

MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Secretary of the Assembly: The following Message has been received from His Excellency the Governor General:

(The Assembly received the Message standing.)

"In pursuance of the provisions of sub-rule (2) of rule 3 of the Indian Legislative Rules, I, Freeman, Earl of Willingdon, hereby appoint Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney, Kt., M.L.A., to be Chairman of the Legislative Assembly with effect from the morning of Monday, the 21st January, 1935.

(Signed) WILLINGDON,
Viceroy and Governor General."

NEW DELHI;

The 18th January, 1935.

[Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney (Nominated Non-Official), amidst applause, proceeded from his seat in the Chamber and ascending the steps stood before the Chair, where he made the oath of allegiance.]

Mr. Chairman (Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney): In order that this, the first meeting of the Fifth Legislative Assembly, may be fully constituted, Members will now take the oath or make the affirmation of allegiance to the Crown in the manner prescribed in the order in which their names are read out by the Secretary.

(The Chairman then occupied the Chair, and the following Members took the oath or made the affirmation of allegiance.)

MEMBERS SWORN:

- The Honourable Sir Nripendra Nath Sircar, Kt. (Law Member);
 The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., C.B.E.
 (Member for Commerce and Railways);
 The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce, K.C.S.I., C.B.E. (Member for
 Industries and Labour);
 The Honourable Sir Percy James Grigg, K.C.B. (Finance Member);
 The Honourable Sir Henry Duffield Craik, Bart., K.C.S.I. (Home
 Member);
 Mr. S. Sātyamurti, M.L.A. (Madras City: Non-Muhammadan
 Urban);
 Mr. V. V. Giri, M.L.A. (Ganjam *cum* Vizagapatam: Non-Muham-
 madan Rural);
 Mr. Kasinadhuni Nageswara Rao Pantulu, M.L.A. (East Godavari
 and West Godavari *cum* Kistna: Non-Muhammadan Rural);
 Mr. Gogineni Ranganayakulu Garu, M.L.A. (Guntur *cum* Nellore:
 Non-Muhammadan Rural);
 Mr. M. Anantasayanam Ayyangar, M.L.A. (Madras ceded Districts
 and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural);
 Mr. T. S. Avanashilingam Chettiar, M.L.A. (Salem and Coimba-
 tore *cum* North Arcot: Non-Muhammadan Rural);
 Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar, M.L.A. (South Arcot *cum* Chingle-
 put: Non-Muhammadan Rural);
 Dr. T. S. S. Rajan, M.L.A. (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-
 Muhammadan Rural);
 Mr. P. S. Kumaraswami Raju, M.L.A. (Madura and Ramnad *cum*
 Tinnevely: Non-Muhammadan Rural);
 Mr. Samuel Añfon, M.L.A. (West Coast and Nilgiris: Non-Muham-
 madan Rural);
 Mr. Umrlisha, M.L.A. (North Madras: Muhammadan);
 Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur, M.L.A. (South Madras:
 Muhammadan);
 Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait, M.L.A. (West Coast and Nilgiris:
 Muhammadan);
 Mr. F. E. James, M.L.A. (Madras: European);

- *Raja Sir Vasudeva Rajah, Kt., C.I.E., M.L.A. (Madras: Landholders);
- Mr. Sami Vencatachellam Chetty, M.L.A. (Madras: Indian Commerce);
- Sir Cowasji Jehangir, Bart, K.C.I.E., O.B.E., M.L.A. (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban);
- Mr. Lalchand Navalrai, M.L.A. (Sind: Non-Muhammadan Rural);
- Mr. B. J. Desai, M.L.A. (Bombay Northern Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural);
- Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer, M.L.A. (Bombay Central Division: Muhammadan Rural);
- Mr. K. M. Jedhe, M.L.A. (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural);
- Mr. N. V. Gadgil, M.L.A. (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural);
- Mr. S. K. Hosmani, M.L.A. (Bombay Southern Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural);
- Mr. M. A. Jinnah, M.L.A. (Bombay City: Muhammadan Urban);
- Mr. Nabi Baksh Illahi Baksh Bhutto, M.L.A. (Sind: Muhammadan Rural);
- Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon, M.L.A. (Sind: Muhammadan Rural);
- Mr. William Bartlet Hossack, M.L.A. (Bombay: European);
- Sir Leslie Hudson, Kt., M.L.A. (Bombay: European);
- Sir Ghulam Hussain Hidayatallah, K.C.S.I., M.L.A. (Sind Jagirdars and Zamindars: Landholders);
- Mr. Mathuradas Vissanji, M.L.A. (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce);
- Dr. Pramatha Nath Banerjee, M.L.A. (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban);
- Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra, M.L.A. (Presidency Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural);
- Mr. Suryya Kumar Som, M.L.A. (Dacca Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural);
- Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta, M.L.A. (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural);
- Sir Abdur Rahim, K.C.S.I., Kt., M.L.A. (Calcutta and Suburbs: Muhammadan Urban);
- Mr. Abdul Halim Khan Ghuznavi, M.L.A. (Dacca cum Mymensingh: Muhammadan Rural);
- Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim, M.L.A. (Chittagong Division: Muhammadan Rural);
- Maulvi Abdulyahel Baqui, M.L.A. (Rajshahi Division: Muhammadan Rural);
- Mr. George Morgan, C.I.E., M.L.A. (Bengal: European);
- Mr. J. A. Milligan, M.L.A. (Bengal: European);

- Babu Dhirendra Kanta Lahiri Chaudhury, M.L.A. (Bengal: Landholders);
- Babu Baijnath Bajoria, M.L.A. (Marwari Association: Indian Commerce);
- Dr. Bhagavan Das, M.L.A. (Cities of the United Provinces: Non-Muhammadan Urban);
- Chaudhri Raghubir Narayan Singh, M.L.A. (Meerut Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural);
- Mr. Shri Krishna Dutt Paliwal, M.L.A. (Agra Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural);
- Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant, M.L.A. (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural);
- Mr. Sri Prakasa, M.L.A. (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural);
- Munshi Iswar Saran, M.L.A. (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural);
- Babu Mohan Lal Saksena, M.L.A. (Lucknow Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural);
- Sirdar Jogendra Singh, M.L.A. (Fyzabad Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural);
- Maulana Shaukat Ali, M.L.A. (Cities of the United Provinces: Muhammadan Urban);
- Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi, M.L.A. (Meerut Division: Muhammadan Rural);
- Mr. Tasaddug Ahmad Khan Sherwani, M.L.A. (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural);
- Sir Muhammad Yakub, Kt., M.L.A. (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhammadan Rural);
- Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad, C.I.E., M.L.A. (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural);
- Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali, M.L.A. (Lucknow and Fyzabad Divisions: Muhammadan Rural);
- Mr. J. Ramsay Scott, M.L.A. (United Provinces: European);
- Maharaj Kumar Vijaya Ananda Gajapatiraj, M.L.A. (United Provinces: Landholders);
- Mr. Sham Lal, M.L.A. (Ambala Division: Non-Muhammadan);
- Lala Fakir Chand, M.L.A. (Jullundur Division: Non-Muhammadan);
- Bhai Parma Nand, M.L.A. (West Punjab: Non-Muhammadan);
- Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang, M.L.A. (East Punjab: Muhammadan);
- Mr. K. L. Gauba, M.L.A. (East Central Punjab: Muhammadan);
- Mr. H. M. Abdullah, M.L.A. (West Central Punjab: Muhammadan);
- Nawab Sahibzada Sir Sayad Muhammad Mehr Shah, Kt., M.L.A. (North Punjab: Muhammadan);
- Khan Sahib Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha, M.L.A. (North-West Punjab: Muhammadan).

Mr. Chairman (Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney): I have just received intimation from the Honourable Member, Khan Bahadur Makhdum Syed Rajan Bakhsh Shah, of his inability to come here to the Secretary's table to take the oath. I, therefore, direct the Secretary to be good enough to proceed to the Honourable Member's seat to enable him to take the oath.

(The Honourable Member then took the oath in his seat).

Khan Bahadur Makhdum Syed Rajan Bakhsh Shah, M.L.A.
(South-West Punjab: Muhammadan);

Sardar Mangal Singh, M.L.A. (East Punjab: Sikh);

Sardar Sant Singh, M.L.A. (West Punjab: Sikh);

Mian Ghiasuddin, M.L.A. (Punjab: Landholders);

Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha, M.L.A. (Darbhanga *cum* Saran: Non-Muhammadan);

Mr. Bepin Behari Varma, M.L.A. (Muzaffarpur *cum* Champaran: Non-Muhammadan);

Mr. Bhubanananda Das, M.L.A. (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadan);

Pandit Nilakantha Das, M.L.A. (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadan);

Mr. Anugrah Narayan Sinha, M.L.A. (Patna *cum* Shahabad: Non-Muhammadan);

Mr. Shri Krishna Sinha, M.L.A. (Gaya *cum* Monghyr: Non-Muhammadan);

Mr. Deep Narayan Singh, M.L.A. (Bhagalpur, Purnea and the Sonthal Parganas: Non-Muhammadan);

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh, M.L.A. (Chota Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan);

Mr. Muhammad Nauman, M.L.A. (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa: Muhammadan);

Maulvi Muhammad Shafi Daudi, M.L.A. (Tirhut Division: Muhammadan);

Seth Govind Das, M.L.A. (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan);

Mr. Ghanshiam Singh Gupta, M.L.A. (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan);

Khan Sahib Nawab Siddique Ali Khan, M.L.A. (Central Provinces: Muhammadan);

Seth Sheodass Daga (Central Provinces: Landholders);

Srijut Nabin Chandra Bardaloi, M.L.A. (Assam Valley: Non-Muhammadan);

Mr. Basanta Kumar Das, M.L.A. (Surma Valley *cum* Shillong: Non-Muhammadan);

Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury, M.L.A. (Assam: Muhammadan);

Mr. Frederick Weston Hockenhull, M.L.A. (Assam: European);

12 Noon.

Dr. Thein Maung, M.L.A. (Burma: Non-European);

Mr. M. Asaf Ali, M.L.A. (Delhi: General);

Rai Bahadur Seth Bhagchand Soni, M.L.A. (Ajmer-Merwara: General);

Dr. Khan Sahib, M.L.A. (North-West Frontier Province: General);

Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sir Jawahar Singh, Kt., C.I.E., M.L.A. (Nominated Non-Official);

Rai Bahadur Sir Satya Charan Mukherjee, Kt., C.B.E., M.L.A. (Nominated Non-Official);

Rao Bahadur Mylai Chinnathambi Rajah, M.L.A. (Nominated Non-Official);

Mr. Ramaswami Srinivasa Sarma, C.I.E., M.L.A. (Nominated Non-Official);

Dr. Ratanji Dinshaw Dalal, M.L.A. (Nominated Non-Official);

Dr. Francis Xavier DeSouza (Nominated Non-Official);

Captain Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand, O.B.E., M.L.A. (Nominated Non-Official);

Captain Sardar Sher Muhammad Khan, C.I.E., M.B.E., M.L.A. (Nominated Non-Official);

Major Nawab Ahinad Nawaz Khan, C.I.E., O.B.E., M.L.A. (Nominated Non-Official);

Khan Bahadur Nawab Malik Allah Baksh Khan Tiwana, M.B.E., M.L.A. (Nominated Non-Official);

Mr. L. C. Buss, M.L.A. (Nominated Non-Official);

Sir Lancelot Graham, K.C.I.E., M.L.A. (Secretary, Legislative Department);

Mr. Girja Shankar Bajpai, C.I.E., C.B.E., M.L.A. (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands);

Mr. Herbert Aubrey Francis Metcalfe, C.S.I., C.I.E., M.V.O., M.L.A. (Foreign Secretary);

Mr. George Richard Frederick Tottenham, C.I.E., M.L.A. (Army Secretary);

Mr. Panambur Raghavendra Rau, M.L.A. (Financial Commissioner, Railways);

Mr. Andrew Gourlay Clow, C.I.E., M.L.A. (Government of India: Nominated Official);

Mr. Tennant Sloan, C.I.E., M.L.A. (Government of India: Nominated Official);

Mr. Abraham Jeremy Raisman, C.I.E., M.L.A. (Government of India: Nominated Official);

Mr. Hugh Dow, C.I.E., M.L.A. (Government of India: Nominated Official);

Mr. Chettur Govindan Nayar, M.L.A. (Madras: Nominated Official);

Rao Bahadur A. A. Venkatarama Ayyar, M.L.A. (Madras: Nominated Official);

- Mr. A. K. Fuzlul Huq, M.L.A. (Bakargunj *cum* Faridpur: Muhammadan Rural);
- Mr. John Monteath, M.L.A. (Bopibay: Nominated Official);
- Mr. Hiranand Khushiram Kirpalani, M.L.A. (Bombay: Nominated Official);
- Mr. Jatindra Mohan Chatterji, M.L.A. (Bengal: Nominated Official);
- Mr. Nrisinha Ranjan Mukharji, M.L.A. (Bengal: Nominated Official);
- Mr. Leonard Owen, M.L.A. (United Provinces: Nominated Official);
- Khan Bahadur Nawab Muzaffar Khan, C.I.E., M.L.A. (Punjab: Nominated Official);
- Mr. Pradyumna Prashad Singh, M.L.A. (Bihar and Orissa: Nominated Official);
- Mr. Donald Henry Charles Drake, C.I.E., M.L.A. (Central Provinces: Nominated Official);
- Mr. Walter Lawrence Scott, C.I.E., M.L.A. (Assam: Nominated Official); and
- Mr. Bernard Winthrop Swithinbank, M.L.A. (Burma: Nominated Official);

Mr. Chairman (Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney): In case any Honourable Member has entered this House after his name had been called out, he may come forward and take his oath or make his affirmation of allegiance.

(There was no such Member.)

DEATHS OF SIR ABDULLA SUHRAWARDY, MR. M. V. ABHYANKAR, MR. B. N. SASMAL, MR. PRICE AND RAI BAHADUR LALA BRIJ KISHORE.

Mr. Chairman (Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney): Members of the Legislative Assembly, since last this House met, the hand of death has been very active and has deprived us of very valuable and esteemed Members. I will now call upon the Leader of the House.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar (Leader of the House): Mr. Chairman, I am grateful to you for giving me this opportunity of mentioning the deaths of no less than five persons who were either Members of this House, or who having been elected, were prevented by death from joining in our activities.

Sir Abdulla Suhrawardy was a Member of this Assembly from 1926 to 1934. He was re-elected to this Assembly but could not join it, he died very recently. He represented the Muslim rural constituency of Burdwan and Presidency Divisions. He was also a Member of the Bengal Legislative Council from 1910 to 1926. He was the Deputy President of

[Sir Nripendra Sircar.]

that Council from 1923 to 1926. He was a member of the Southborough Committee and a member of the Indian Central Committee co-operating with the Royal Commission on Reforms. He was the founder of the Central Muslim Party in this House. He had a brilliant academic career, and the depth of his culture and the amount of his knowledge could easily be estimated from the several publications which bear his name. He was awarded the Delhi Durbar Medal in 1911 and was created a Knight in 1931.

I had not the honour of personally knowing Mr. Abhyankar, but of his great reputation I have some idea and the publications in the Press and the statements made immediately after his death will give Honourable Members some idea of the esteem and respect with which the late Mr. Abhyankar was held. I am sure, there are Members in this House who are more competent to speak about him from their intimate knowledge of the late Mr. Abhyankar.

Mr. B. N. Sasmal, whose death was very tragic because he practically died the moment his success at the polls was announced, was a very prominent man in Bengal, and he took an active part in the political life of the province. He was elected to the Legislative Assembly from the Burdwan Division this time. He was for many years a Councillor of the Calcutta Corporation, and he was also a member for some time of the Bengal Legislative Council.

Mr. Price was a Member of the Legislative Assembly representing the Bombay Europeans from December 1920 to November 1921. He was a man of very large activities. He was a Municipal Councillor of Karachi. He was a trustee of the Karachi Port Trust, a member of the Sind Separation Committee and a member of the Sind Administrative Committee. He was acknowledged, I find, in some of the statements made in the Press to have one of the keenest brains in Sind.

As regards the late Rai Bahadur Lala Brij Kishore, this House will remember that the honour conferred on him by His Majesty was announced in the papers only 48 hours after his lamented death. He was a Member of the Legislative Assembly representing the Lucknow Division Non-Muhammadan Rural Constituency from the 10th July, 1930, to the end of the third Assembly, and from the 9th October, 1930, to the end of the fourth Assembly. It has seldom happened that so many deaths have occurred which had to be mentioned on the first sitting of this House. On behalf of this side of the House, I convey to you, Mr. Chairman, and to the House our great sense of loss and our deepest regret for the death of these gentlemen and for the loss which the country has suffered from not having had the benefit of the activities of these gentlemen.

Mr. B. J. Dessai (Bombay Northern Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Mr. Chairman, it is a matter of sincere regret to me that on the very first occasion on which I have the honour to say a few words in any assembly whatever of a legislative nature I have to associate myself with the Honourable the Leader of the House in expressing our sense of loss—loss which appears to have been unusual in number and in quality from the account that is given—of the men who have left us. As to three of them, I have a certain amount of personal knowledge and acquaintance. As to the other two, I have credible information as to their valuable qualities.

Referring to Sir Abdulla Suhrawardy, his erudition is a matter of such general repute that it does not require any further elaboration. As regards his position in politics, he gave it all the energy that he possessed and the sincerity with which he discharged his duties from time to time is well known. As the Honourable the Leader of the House mentioned, he was at one time associated with the late Mr. C. R. Das in the Swaraj Party of those days.

As regards Mr. Sasmal, I have had the honour of knowing him. The outstanding quality of courage which characterised the man in whatever opinions he held was admirable and always evoked the esteem even of his opponents.

My friend, Mr. Abhyankar, died untimely, because notwithstanding the large experience to his credit he was a very young man at the time of his death. Belonging to my profession, he was a man who, had he desired to confine his activities merely to his professional life, would have made his mark almost anywhere. He chose, however, to occupy the larger part of his time in the service of the country according to his ideas and lights, and it is a matter of sincere regret that his absence will be felt by the whole House and particularly by us.

As regards Rai Bahadur Brij Kishore, I am informed that he was an unostentatious man whom it was impossible to offend and it is a great deal to be able to say that of a man particularly engaged in struggles of this character. He was a man of affable character, and I have no doubt that he will be missed by all those who knew him and by those who, had he been spared, would have been associated with him.

Mr. Price I happen to have known. I cannot claim any very great friendship with him, but I knew him as an active business man, a good speaker and a man who sacrificed his time and considered it his duty to devote whatever energy was required for the purpose of giving his service to the legislative labour of this Assembly.

Sir, I also wish to convey the sincere regret of those who sit on this side of the House, for in the presence of death, I am quite certain you will agree with me, there can be no two sides at all. Had these gentlemen been spared, they would have rendered valuable service, for I regard service sincerely done by a man on either side as of equal value.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah (Bombay City: Muhammadan Urban): I associate myself with the remarks that fell from the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition. I am sure that every one feels great sorrow that we have been deprived of five Members of this House at the very beginning of our proceedings today. As the Leader of the Opposition said, in the presence of death, controversy ceases. Whatever Party they belonged to or whatever political faith they followed, they were men who played a very important part in the public life of India and we cannot but mourn their deaths and regret the loss that this House has particularly suffered, and I wish on behalf of my Party to express our deepest sorrow and our sincerest sympathy with the members of the family of these five Members of this House. Sir, I associate myself with the previous speakers.

Mr. A. H. Ghuznavi (Dacca cum Mymensingh; Muhammadan Rural): I beg to associate myself with all that has been said by the Honourable the Leader of the House and the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the Independent Party. We have lost five Members. Three of them we have lost in the course of a month. Sir, to me, the death of Sir Abdulla is the loss of one who was more than a friend. He and I lived and worked like brothers and I fail to find words which will give adequate expression to the tribute I can pay to his loyalty, his charm and his sterling character. He was, Sir, a patriot who lived and worked for the betterment and prosperity of India. In fact, his life was a sincere and unostentatious dedication to the public of Bengal and if I may say so of India as a whole. He brought to bear on everything he did his versatile gifts. He was a scholar of international reputation, and it will always remain a matter of pride to his friends that the several books he wrote are rightly regarded as classics on those subjects. His untimely death at this most momentous period in the history of our country is a national loss, and to a very old and intimate friend like myself his death is a tragedy which even time, the great healer, cannot heal. I am sure, he has left for us all the imperishable tradition and the illustrious example of one who had lived and died in the service of his fellow-men. No words of ours, Mr. Chairman, no human sympathy can possibly console his widow in her bereavement, but when she will know that today this Assembly deeply and sincerely mourns Sir Abdulla's loss, it will undoubtedly lighten the burden of her sorrow.

Sir Leslie Hudson (Bombay; European): Mr. Chairman, I desire to associate myself and my Party with the remarks that have fallen from the Leader of the House, the Leader of the Opposition, the Leader of the Independent Party and Mr. Ghuznavi. I had not the pleasure or the honour of knowing Mr. Sasnal and Mr. Abhyankar, but the other three gentlemen who have unfortunately been taken away from us were very well-known to me.

All of us here who had the pleasure of knowing Sir Abdulla Suhrawardy recognized his very considerable attainments and culture, and those of us who met him, as we often did outside the House, appreciated his charm of manner and his social characteristics. We deeply lament his departure from this life. We shall miss him in this House and we shall miss him outside.

Rai Bahadur Brij Kishore was also well-known to us in this House, and as the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition has said, he was an unostentatious man and he was liked by all.

Mr. Price was perhaps better known to some of the members of my Group. Mr. Price was for many years one of the leading personalities in Karachi. He was a very keen and competent business man. He took a leading part in most of the commercial activities in Karachi and did a great deal of public work for the good of Sind. In this House he will be remembered, by those who sat with him, for his great common sense, his plain speaking and the grip which he had upon anything connected with commerce and more particularly anything connected with the trade of Karachi. I desire to associate myself with the request that the condolences of the Members of this House be conveyed to the relatives of the five gentlemen who have passed away from us.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Sir, on behalf of the Congress Nationalist Party, I beg to associate myself with this condolence motion relating to the deaths of as many as five gentlemen. I shall not take up the time of the House by referring to the activities and the patriotism of all of the five gentlemen who have been taken away from us and who cannot now participate in these meetings. I should, however, like to say one or two words, especially about Mr. Sasimal whom I knew more intimately for many years. He was a unique man in many matters. The most remarkable feature of Mr. Sasimal's public life was his courage of conviction. Once he was convinced that a certain course of action should be taken, nothing could prevent him from doing it. He was not really a talker at meetings, but his energy and capacity for work were simply marvellous. In fact, his activities of a varied character in his own district of Midnapore made him the idol of that district, so much so that he used to be called the "uncrowned king of Midnapore". That alone is sufficient to give us some idea as to the highest respect and esteem in which he was held by his fellow countrymen. Sir, another feature of his public life was that he was not a popularity hunter. He had, therefore, on many occasions to differ from his friends and colleagues and at times he became very unpopular on that account. To me personally his loss is extremely painful, because it was at my insistence that he was induced to stand as a candidate for the Assembly this time. It was with the utmost difficulty that I could overcome his disinclination. He has gone away even before he could know the result of the polling. We all mourn his loss which is simply irreparable.

I knew one other gentleman out of these five, namely, Mr. Abhyankar. It is no good taking up the time of the House by referring to his activities. His record remains a clean and unbroken one of public service and sacrifice. Recently he suffered so heavily on account of his service to his motherland, and all these facts are all fresh in the minds of all of us. Sir, I associate myself with this motion in respect of the five gentlemen who have been taken away even before the first meeting of this Session.

Seth Govind Das (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions: Non-Muhammadian): Sir, I also wish to associate myself with the regrets which have been expressed here at the deaths of five Members of the Legislative Assembly, especially at the sad death of Mr. Abhyankar. In Mr. Abhyankar, my Province has lost one of the greatest of men. In fact, his health was undermined while he was in jail during the last Civil Disobedience Movement and his lost health could never be recouped. Then, his untimely death was due to his standing for the Assembly owing to the call of the Congress. He became seriously ill after his election and the result, Sir, was his death. He lost his all and himself in the service of the motherland, and it would be very difficult to fill his place. I associate myself, Sir, with this motion.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai (Sind: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Sir, on behalf of myself and on behalf of the Sind Members who are present in this House, I wish to associate myself with this Resolution. Sir, one of the Members, whose deaths we are now deploring, belonged to Sind, or rather lived in Sind, I mean Mr. Price. Out of these five deceased Members I knew three and those three Members were my colleagues.

[Mr. Lalchand Navalrai.]

So far as Mr. Sasmal and Mr. Abhyankar are concerned, their popularity is well known, and, therefore, they are persons who have rendered a great public service.

So far as Mr. Price is concerned, I must say that he was a very straightforward man. He did a great deal of good to Sind. He was a member of the Brayne Committee and he was also a member of the Sind Administrative Committee. He had a great desire to see the unity prevailed in Sind and he took great interest in bringing about the welfare of Sind. In him Sind has lost a great patriot.

So far as the other two Members are concerned, Rai Bahadur Lala Brij Kishore was a very active Member of this House and we all know that he was doing a great service. So far as Sir Abdulla Suhrawardy is concerned, he was a great man and a great scholar and his utterances in this House were always appreciated. Sir, I fully associate myself with the motion.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali (Lucknow and Fyzabad Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I shall be failing in my duty if I did not associate myself with the motion before the House. Rai Bahadur Lala Brij Kishore hailed from my own constituency and was a very active and patriotic Member of this House. This House has lost in him a very energetic Talukdar. He also rendered great service to the Government for which he was honoured with the title which was published in the Gazette the very day the late Rai Bahadur died. Sir, he was not only an active Member of this House, but he also rendered great service to the country and especially to his own district. He not only served as an Honorary Magistrate on the criminal side, but also on the civil side he served as an Honorary Subordinate Judge. Now, this is a great distinction which is conferred on people on my side. He was a Talukdar and a banker. He was very friendly with the old Members of this House, who surely will remember him very well.

Sir, I knew Sir Abdulla Suhrawardy very well. He was also a great friend of mine. Sir, I associate myself with all that has been said previously by the other Members of the House.

Mr. Chairman (Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney): I feel I cannot allow this sad moment to pass without expressing my personal tribute to the sad and honourable memory of the loss of five of our very valuable colleagues. As one of the very oldest Members of this House, it was my honour and privilege to have known all the five deceased Members. There are many in this House who can call to memory the closest association with some of the deceased colleagues of ours.

I remember Babu Birendra Nath Sasmal as being one of the most courageous men I have ever met. In his dignity and courage there was no arrogance, but humility and determination, and this made him a great personality, and, if I may say so, the Congress Party has lost in him a great asset. His place they will find very hard to fill.

Rai Bahadur Lala Brij Kishore was a familiar figure in this House and we remember him as a very excellent man who rendered in his quiet way a great service both to this House and the country.

It was many years ago that I was associated with the late Mr. Abhyankar, but I closely associate myself with all the remarks made by the Member from the Central Provinces in memory of this great man. That he played a great part in his own province and also in India in his political life, I am sure this House will agree.

As regards our late colleague, Sir Abdulla Suhrawardy, my Honourable friend, Mr. A. H. Ghuznavi, with whose every word I associate myself, has so eloquently referred to him that it is needless for me to add any more in tribute to the Honourable Member's death. I can only add that he showed the great talents of a great statesman and a politician, and if anyone needed any evidence of that it was to be found in that great and memorable note which he wrote on the Central Committee Report as a member of the Central Committee attached to the Simon Commission. As a great and worthy son of a great and worthy family, this House has, indeed, lost in him a great statesman and the Muslim community loses in him a great and noble son of Islam.

As regards Mr. Price, I had the pleasure of knowing him very closely and I can associate myself with all that has fallen from the lips of my friend, Sir Leslie Hudson. Mr. Price, as a Member of this House and also outside this House, showed himself to be a person possessed of a dynamic personality in all things that he took up in the interests of India's national life. He had a courage of opinion which might not have been appreciated by many men, but he carried that opinion with honest conviction in all the things that he undertook. He played a great part in India's national development.

I can only add a few words to the able manner in which the Leader of the House has referred to the memory of these great men. We have lost at a moment when both India and England can ill-afford to lose such personalities, men who played a great part in the development of this country. As the spokesman and Chairman of this House, it will be my duty to convey to the members of the bereaved families the sentiments that have been expressed here today in honour of five Honourable Members of this House.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE.

Information promised in reply to starred questions Nos. 1110 to 1112 asked by Sir Abdulla-al-Māmun Suhrawardy on the 3rd April, 1933.

GRANT OF MONEY FOR THE REPAIRS TO THE TOMBS OF THE MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY OF HYDER ALI AND TIPU SULTAN.

1110. (a) 1st sentence. Yes.
 (a) Last sentence. No.
 (b) 1st two sentences. Yes.
 (b) Last sentence. No.
 (c) Yes.
 (d) No.

PAYMENTS OF STIPENDS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY OF HYDER ALI AND TIPU SULTAN.

1111. (a) Yes, but the sum mentioned in the concluding portion of the question appears to be inaccurate.

(b) The information is not readily traceable.

(c) No.

BALANCE OF THE APPROPRIATED MYSORE DEPOSIT FUND ON ACCOUNT OF THE FAMILIES OF HYDER ALI AND TIPU SULTAN.

1112. (a) The information is not readily traceable.

(b) No.

(c) Yes

Information promised in reply to starred questions Nos. 1 and 2 asked by Mr. S. C. Mitra on the 22nd August, 1933.

MAINTENANCE OF THE FAMILY OF HYDER ALI AND TIPU SULTAN.

1 (a) to (e) and (h). Yes.

1. (f) to (g) and 2. The Government of India, after careful consideration of the various points raised in the joint memorial from the descendants of Haidar Ali and Tipu Sultan, have rejected the memorial, but have told the Government of Bengal that they should examine the cases of any destitute members of the family, whose claims have not been previously submitted, and that such cases should be considered on their merits.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 229 asked by Bhai Parma Nand on the 24th February, 1934.

TRANSFERS MADE IN THE PUNJAB POSTAL CIRCLE FROM THE HIGHER TO THE LOWER SCALES OF PAY.

(a) The total number of such transfers was 58, viz., 47 time-scale clerks and sorters, three postmen and eight inferior servants.

(b) No, the men were transferred on their own pay to other posts in the same cadre owing to their original posts having been retrenched. The fact that the time-scales of pay of the posts to which they were transferred were lower is due to local conditions, the transfers having been made to places in which the cost of living was lower and the sanctioned scales of pay therefore less. The transfers were in the interests of the men themselves as otherwise it would have been necessary to dispense with their services.

(c) No.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 331, asked by Mr. S. C. Mitra on the 2nd March, 1934.

DISABILITY PENSION TO MILITARY EMPLOYEES INVALIDED DURING THE GREAT WAR.

The various rules regarding the assessment of disability pensions of non-combatants are shown in the attached statement. They show that, in the case of those whose monthly pay was Rs. 200 or more, pensions granted in Great War cases, owing to disease, are to be determined by the pay drawn at the time of final invalidment from the service and that pensions granted, in similar cases, owing to wounds or injuries are to be assessed on the pay drawn at the time the wound or injury was received. If the Honourable Member is referring to pensions granted owing to wounds or injuries, these have been correctly assessed by the Pension Controller. If on the other hand he is referring to pensions granted owing to disease, it has been found that in some cases these have been assessed incorrectly, i.e., as if they had been granted owing to wounds or injuries. Orders have been issued that cases of this nature shall be reviewed and reassessed where necessary.

STATEMENT.

(1) *If due to disease.*

- (a) *Under the Civil Service Regulations, i.e., non-combatants on pay of Rs. 200 or over.* See Article 741-A, Civil Service Regulations.

Relative military rank determined by pay drawn at time of final invalidment.

- (b) *Under Pension Regulations, i.e., non-combatants on pay of under Rs. 200.*

- (i) *Prior to 1st May 1930, the rank was based on pay on final invalidment.*

See Pension Regulations, Paragraph 224-A prior to its amendment by correction slip 13 of May 1930.

- (ii) *After 1st May, 1930, the rank was based on the pay drawn when the illness was contracted or on the date of final invalidment, whichever is more favourable.*

See Pension Regulations, paragraph 224-A as amended by correction slip 13 of May 1930.

(2) *If due to wound or injury.*

- (a) *Under the Civil Service Regulations, i.e., non-combatants on pay of Rs. 200 or over.* Assessed under Article 740-Civil Service Regulations on pay drawn when wound or injury received and pensions granted under old rules in Pay and Allowance Regulations (1923 Edition), same as Army Regulations India, Volume I (1915 Edition).

- (b) *Under Pension Regulations, i.e., non-combatants on pay of under Rs. 200.* As at (1) (b) above.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 480, asked by Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney, and the supplementary questions asked in connection with it, on the 14th March, 1934.

REPRESENTATION BY A RECOGNISED LABOUR UNION OF THE GRIEVANCES OF ITS MEMBERS TO THE AGENTS OF STATE RAILWAYS.

Government have considered the three principal points arising from starred question No. 480, asked by Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney and the supplementary questions asked in connection with it, on the 14th March, 1934, and the replies to these three points are given below in *juxta-position* to each such point:—

Points.

- (i) Whether a Labour Union which has been recognised as such by the Railway Board is entitled to represent the grievances of its members to the Agents of State-managed Railways?
- (ii) Whether the Railway Board are prepared to issue instructions to Agents of State-managed Railways to recognise those Unions which are affiliated to the All-India Railwaymen's Federation?
- (iii) Whether the Railway Board will consider an appeal from a Labour Union in the event of the Agent of a State-managed Railway refusing to grant recognition?

Replies.

- (i) The Railway Board have not recognised any Labour Unions as such as they consider that recognition of particular Unions is a matter for the Agents of Railways.
- (ii) The fact that the Railway Board have dealings with the All-India Railwaymen's Federation in its corporate capacity does not entitle those unions affiliated to it to recognition from Agents of State-managed Railways.
- (iii) The Railway Board will consider an appeal if submitted by a Labour Union in the event of the Agent of a State-managed Railway refusing to grant recognition to it.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 669, asked by Mr. S. C. Mitra, on the 10th April, 1934.

LEAVE FACILITIES TO OFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE INDIAN MEDICAL COUNCIL.

All official members of the Medical Council of India, whether nominated or elected, will in future be treated as on duty when they attend meetings of the Council.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 40, asked by Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh on the 16th July, 1934.

EMPLOYMENT OF PANAMA NATIVES BY THE SIND INDIAN MERCHANTS.

(a) and (b). His Majesty's Minister Panama, who was consulted in the matter, states that there have been no cases of resistance or threatened ejection. The actual state of the Law is as follows :

From December 1930 until December, 1932, a percentage of 30 per cent. of Panamanians had to be employed; from December, 1932 until December, 1935 the percentage is 50 per cent.; after December, 1935, the percentage will have to be 75 per cent. This latter percentage is found to be unduly high by the merchants and efforts will doubtless be made to change it.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 70, asked by Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh on the 18th July, 1934.

DEPORTATION OF ONE KARAM SINGH FROM CHINA.

(a) and (b). Karam Singh was sentenced by His Britannic Majesty's Supreme Court in China (and not by the Police Court) to one month's imprisonment and deportation from China in 1929 on a charge of sedition. He returned to China without the permission of the Secretary of State, contrary to Article 90 (8) of the China Order in Council 1925, was re-arrested for this offence and sentenced by His Majesty's Supreme Court to the maximum penalty of two months imprisonment followed by redeportation from China.

Second sentence of (c). Does not arise.

Information promised in reply to unstarred question No. 16, asked by Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen on the 18th July, 1934.

APPOINTMENTS IN THE LILLOOAH RAILWAY WORKSHOP.

(a) to (c). The Agent, East Indian Railway, reports that the appointment of technically trained apprentices in the technically trained grade is subject to there being vacancies in that grade, that when no such vacancy exists, but vacancies are available in a lower grade, apprentices are given the option of appointment in such lower grade vacancies, on the understanding that their future promotions will be subject to the rules and principles applicable to employees serving in those lower grades.

The Agent reports that Mr. N. C. Nandy was appointed under those conditions and that if he had not received special training in the newly formed Production Section, he would not have been appointed as his seniority was much less than that of other candidates.

(d) No.

Information promised in reply to starred questions Nos. 141 and 142 asked by Sir Muhammad Yakub on the 19th July, 1934.

FARMANS, ETC., OF THE MOGHAL EMPERORS RELATING TO THE GRANT OF LANDS TAKEN BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.

No. 141. Records of the Moghal Emperors are not available in the Imperial Record Department of the Government of India. There are only copies of certain *farmans* granted by them to the East India Company. These copies are not ordinarily open to the public, but the Government of India will be prepared to consider any application for their inspection or the supply of copies thereof.

RECORDS OF GRANTS OF VILLAGES MADE BY THE MOGHAL EMPERORS TO THE SYEDS OF AMROHA IN THE MORADABAD DISTRICT.

No. 142. The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. The suggestion in the second part is, therefore, impracticable.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 195, asked by Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin on the 23rd July, 1934.

PERCENTAGE ALLOTTED TO EUROPEANS AND ANGLO-INDIANS OF THE CONTROL STAFF ON THE BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY.

The Agent, Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, reports as follows :

"(a) the reply is in the negative.

(b) Messrs. Bickers and Garlinge were not "promoted" from the Control Branch. They were originally in the Station Master's grade, were tried in the Control Branch and re-transferred to the Station Master's Branch for which they were more suitable. The pay and promotion in the Control Branch is better than that of the Station Master's Branch.

(c), (e) and (f). The reply is in the negative.

(d) Does not arise.

(g) The question does not arise as there is no racial discrimination for the posts of Traffic Controllers on the Metre Gauge."

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 225, asked by Mr. Bhuput Sing on 25th July, 1934.

RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN ALLOWING THE USE OF THE CAB ROAD BETWEEN PLATFORMS NOS. 6 AND 7 AT HOWRAH STATION.

The Agent, East Indian Railway, reports as follows :

(a) Yes.

(b) to (f). All passengers, whether European or Indian, by outgoing trains, are required to alight at one of the porches provided at Howrah Station, so that their luggage may be booked, and labelled and they may purchase tickets. Were this not insisted on, it would not be possible to control the hooking of luggage and check excess weight when such is taken. Exceptions are however made to this rule in the following cases in which cars are allowed to pass inside the gates and up the cab way :

(1) For invalids.

(2) For passengers leaving by the Imperial Indian Mail.

(3) For occupants of tourist cars leaving by trains departing from Nos. 6 and 7 platforms.

(4) For Indian Nobility.

(5) For cars belonging to Government House and to Railway and Police Officials
There is no racial discrimination.

(g) The road is a private one, within the station precincts, to provide for the movement of cars in the exceptional circumstances detailed above, and it is essential that entrance to it should be closed for normal traffic to control the booking of luggage and of passengers.

(h) It is not proposed to provide any side fencing or barrier as this would interfere seriously with the efficient working of the station.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 313, asked by Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra on the 31st July, 1934.

FACILITIES FOR THE CARRIAGE OF CHILKA FISH TO CALCUTTA MARKET.

(b) Yes.

(c) The Agent reports that the trade is of some importance but not to the extent implied in the question.

(d) No. The Agent, Bengal Nagpur Railway, reports that the traffic is carefully watched and everything possible is done to assist the trade.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 326, asked by Maulvi Muhammad Shafi Daudi on the 31st July, 1934.

PROMOTIONS IN THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF'S BRANCH, ARMY HEADQUARTERS.

(a) to (f). Three vacancies occurred in each of the 1st and 2nd Divisions of the clerical establishment of the Engineer-in-Chief's Branch since 1st April, 1930. They were all filled by departmental promotion owing to misinterpretation of the orders on the subject. The mistake is now being rectified.

Information promised in reply to starred questions Nos. 329 to 333 asked by Mr. Muhammad Muazzam Sahib Bahadur on the 1st August, 1934.

ENQUIRY INTO THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE AJMER MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.

329. (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) No evidence was recorded for the purpose of impugning the conduct of individual members. The Committee were given an opportunity to reply in regard to any allegations contained in the Report which might be construed as reflections on the capacity of the Committee.

(d) Yes.

(e) Yes. The report was submitted first to the Local Government who then invited the Municipal Committee to explain the allegations against them. The misconduct of individual members was not in question, *vide* the answer to (c) above.

(f) and (g). Yes

ENQUIRY INTO THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE AJMER MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.

330. (a) Serious defects have been found all round. It is incorrect to say that these departments were always placed under the direct supervision as Convenors of the Government officers referred to, as recently the Convenors have generally been elected members of the Committee. The officers moreover when serving on these departmental sub-committees were not in a position of unfettered control.

(b) No.

(c) Yes, the Municipality submitted a Sanitation Scheme to Government in 1932. It also applied for the requisite loan from Government. As the scheme required certain modifications it was returned to the Municipal Committee for further consideration and is still with them. The question of granting the loan being contingent on the nature of the scheme finally approved, it has accordingly been held up.

(d) Yes.

(e) All the defects had been in existence for a long time. No efforts for their removal were made beyond submission of schemes, which had to be returned to the Committee for modifications, *vide* answer to (c) above.

(f) No.

ENQUIRY INTO THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE AJMER MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.

331. (a) Several public meetings were held in September 1933, about Municipal affairs, but their purpose was to condemn the Municipal administration and solicit Government's interference.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

ENQUIRY INTO THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE AJMER MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.

332. (a) No. It was not referred to the Chairman of the Enquiry Committee, but was transmitted in the usual course by the Commissioner with his comments. The same gentleman happened to be holding both offices, but the two capacities were quite distinct.

(b) This question does not arise.

ENQUIRY INTO THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE AJMER MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.

333. Government regret their inability to do so as they consider that the expense and labour involved will not be commensurate with the results to be achieved.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 350 asked by Seth Liladhar Chaudhury on the 6th August, 1934.

SCHEME OF PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN THE RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE.

(a) In speaking of the Provincial Scheme, the Honourable Member is apparently referring to the scheme under which the Railway Mail Service has been placed under the control of Heads of Postal Circles after the abolition of the separate Railway Mail Service Circles. Both the C-27 and the C-28 sections run through three postal Circles, the first named section works in the Punjab mail from Howrah to Lucknow and back on the East Indian Railway main line while the C-28 section works in the Bombay mail on the East Indian Railway via Grand Chord, from Howrah to Allahabad and back. This arrangement is not in contravention of the new scheme.

(b) The F-2 and P-15 sections work on different railway routes; the F-2 section works in the Calcutta mail over the Great Indian Peninsula Railway from Allahabad to Jubbulpore and back, while the P-15 section works over the East Indian Railway from Gaya to Allahabad and back. Both these sections work in two post circles; the F-2 in United Provinces Circle and Central Circle, and the P-15 in the Bihar and Orissa Circle and the United Provinces Circle. They cannot both be made to work between Allahabad and Jubbulpore.

(c) The reply is in the negative. The scheme to which the Honourable Member refers has been examined. Its adoption would mean additional expenditure as well as inconvenience to the staff concerned and to the administration.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 357, asked by Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin on the 6th August, 1934.

MODIFICATION IN THE MOODY-WARD SCHEME ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

- (a) No modification in the present Moody-Ward Scheme is contemplated.
- (b) No.
- (c) Does not arise.

Information promised in reply to starred questions Nos. 363 and 364, asked by Mr. Muhammad Muazzam Sahib Bahadur on the 6th August, 1934.

SELECTION BOARDS OF THE OPERATING AND COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENTS OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

363. (a) Selection Boards have been functioning on Divisions from the 1st October, 1932, when the rules for the recruitment and training of subordinate staff were brought into force. As regards selection posts in Headquarters offices of the Transportation and Commercial Department (other than clerical posts) owing to retrenchment there has not been any occasion for promotions recently but Selection Board will be called for when such occasion arises. The recruitment rules do not apply to the clerical staff.

(b) Substantive promotions to selection posts in the groups to which the recruitment rules referred to above apply are made on the recommendation of Selection Boards only.

(c) and (d). Yes, as far as possible, unless due to administrative reasons temporary local arrangements become necessary.

PROMOTIONS IN THE COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

364. (a) The posts in the category of "special grades" in the commercial department are filled by selection, due consideration being given to seniority when qualifications and suitability are equal.

(b) Yes.

(c) Does not arise.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 406, asked by Bhai Parma Nand on the 6th August, 1934.

USE BY MEMBERS OF THE DEPRESSED CLASSES OF PLATFORMS OF GOVERNMENT-OWNED WELLS.

The Centrally administered areas are Delhi, Coorg, Ajmer-Merwara, and Baluchistan. There are no such wells in Baluchistan. In Coorg and Ajmer-Merwara no restrictions are imposed. In Delhi, so far as it has been possible to ascertain, wells situated in most of the institutions of the kind referred to by the Honourable Member are not open to the public but are utilised by the members of the staff, students and others connected with them. No restrictions have been imposed on the use of the well in the Delhi courts by the public. If Bhanga and Chawara were to come to the well when not engaged in their professional work, it is improbable that the public would raise any objection to their using it.

Information promised in reply to unstarred question No. 37, asked by Seth Liladhar Chaudhury on the 6th August, 1934.

TOURS OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL AND THE SENIOR DEPUTY POSTMASTER-GENERAL, PUNJAB AND NORTH-WEST FRONTIER CIRCLE.

(a) The Postmaster-General worked in Simla from the 1st June, 1934 to the 21st July, 1934.

(b) Yes.

(c) No.

(d) The object of the visit was (1) discussion of cases with the Postmaster-General, (2) visits to Offices, and (3) enquiries into certain cases on the spot. The expense involved was Rs. 168-0-0.

(e) No. The Deputy Postmaster-General was already at Abbottabad when the Postmaster-General arrived there on his way from Srinagar to Simla.

(f) The object of the visit was "enquiries".

(g) No.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 418, asked by Rai Bahadur Lala Brij Kishore on the 7th August, 1934.

PAY, ETC., GRANTED TO THE OLD OUDH AND ROHILKHAND RAILWAY STAFF ON PROMOTION.

Government are informed that if an employee drawing pay in the old Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway grade (Rs. 70-5-100) is transferred to the old East Indian Railway area, he will be entitled to draw pay on the corresponding old East Indian Railway scale (Rs. 105-5-120), and on promotion, while employed on the East Indian Railway area, he will be entitled to draw the East Indian Railway scale (Rs. 126-8-150).

A clerk on the old Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway scale (Rs. 104-6-140) on transfer to the East Indian Railway area will draw pay in the corresponding East Indian Railway scale (Rs. 126-8-150), but on promotion to the next higher grade he will draw pay in the old Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway grade (Rs. 150-10-220), which is better than the corresponding East Indian Railway grade, namely, Rs. 160-10-300, provided that in both cases mentioned above the employees concerned had not elected the revised co-ordinated scales of pay introduced in 1922.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 434, asked by Bhai Parmo Nand on the 7th August, 1934.

FUNCTION, DUTIES AND SCALES OF PAY OF JOURNEYMEN EMPLOYED IN THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

On the North Western Railway the functions and the scales of pay of Journeymen employed in the various branches are similar but their duties vary according to the trade. Journeymen appointed to service before 1st April 1927 are governed by the Fundamental Leave Rules. Those appointed from 1st April 1927 were according to their service conditions, considered as governed by the rules contained in Annexure II of the New State Railway Leave Rules as they have been classified as labour staff. On a representation from the All-India Railwaymen's Federation, Government have decided that Journeymen should be classed as subordinate staff for the purposes of leave and granted leave under Annexure I of the New State Railway Leave Rules issued under Railway Board's Resolution No. 8373-E, dated the 20th February, 1930, a copy of which is already in the Library of the House.

Information promised in reply to parts (b) to (g) of starred question No. 450, asked by Maulvi Syed Murtuza Saheb Bahadur on the 7th August, 1934.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THE TRANSPORTATION (TRAFFIC) INSPECTOR OF THE MORADABAD DIVISION, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

(b) The reply is in the negative except that the Inspector referred to travelled by 3 MD train from Moradabad to Gajroula.

(c) (i) to (iv). Government understand that the Inspector referred to travelled on the 21st April, 1934, in connection with a report which he was required to submit. Government regret that they are not prepared to place on the table of the House the report of his enquiry as it is purely a departmental document not intended for publication.

(c) (v). Government are informed that no girls, relatives or friends, travelled with him on his duty pass on the 21st April, 1934.

(d) Yes. He was ordered to look after the work of Assistant Superintendent, Commercial, who was sick for a fortnight.

(d) (i) and (ii). Eight punishments were imposed of which six were fines, one was a reduction in pay and one a warning.

(d) (iii). No gazette notification was issued.

(d) (iv). None.

(e) and (f). Government understand that he made such tours during the period as were considered necessary.

(g) Government do not consider any enquiry necessary.

J.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 471, asked by Bhai Parma Nand on the 7th August, 1934.

SELECTION OF A MAN FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE POST OF W. I. X. ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

The Agent, North Western Railway, reports as follows:—(a) Divisional Superintendent's letter No. 925-E/1/III dated 27th May, 1933, notified a Selection Board on 31st May, 1933, to fill new posts of Watch and Ward Inspectors in Grade Rs. 150—10—190 (subsequently changed to Rs. 100—5—140 before these posts were actually filled) from existing Inspectors, Assistant Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors and also instructed all the existing Head Watchmen and Watchmen demoted or reverted from Head Watchmen's posts to appear before this Selection Board.

(b) Yes.

(c) This Selection Board which was held in the Agent's office on the 31st May, 1933, was convened in order to examine staff as to their fitness for both Watch and Ward Inspectors and Head Watchmen and actually examined both these classes. The Divisional Superintendent's letter quoted in reply to part (a) above omitted to mention that this Selection Board would also select men for the posts of Head Watchmen, through an oversight, although as explained in the reply to part (a) above, it ordered all existing Head Watchmen and Watchmen demoted or reverted from Head Watchmen's posts to appear before this Selection Board.

(d) Prior to 1st October, 1933, the post of Head Watchman in the scale of Rs. 33—3—60 existed on Delhi and Karachi Divisions only. Their duties were confined to the supervision of a group of watchmen at a single station. The Watch and Ward Scheme was reorganised and extended to all other Divisions, except Quetta, with effect from 1st October, 1933. The designation and the previous scale of pay of Head Watchmen were retained but the duties and responsibilities of the post were increased entailing the supervision of the work of groups of watchmen over a section of the line and necessitating a sufficient knowledge of English to be able to write reports.

(e) Yes.

(f) Prithi Singh and Ganga Parshad were senior to the three persons referred to in part (e) of the question while Alamgir Khan was junior to Altaf Hussain and Chandi but senior to Abdul Ghani.

(g) The recommendations were not ignored but in view of the alteration in duties and the increase in the responsibilities of the post of Head Watchmen it was necessary to impose selection to ensure that those who filled these posts were suitable in all respects. The names of those not selected are still borne on the waiting list for repromotion to a post of equivalent or lower rank to that formerly held by them.

(h) Para. 9 of the North Western Railway Extraordinary Gazette dated the 20th June, 1932, is a reproduction of para. 9 of Government of India *Communiqué* dated the 6th June, 1932, and deals with re-employment of staff discharged during the economy campaign in the inverse order in which they were discharged subject to adjustment of communal proportions.

(i) No. As stated in reply to part (d) above, staff who were considered most suitable were selected by the Selection Committee for the posts of Head Watchmen under the new scheme.

(j) and (k). Orders of the Government of India referred to in parts (g) and (h) of the question were not contravened as the appointments referred to were made to new posts. As already stated persons who were considered most suitable for the posts were selected by a Selection Committee appointed for the purpose.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 549 asked by Khan Bahadur H. M. Wilayatullah on the 14th August, 1934.

REPRESENTATION OF MUSLIMS OF BERAR IN THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

(a) One.

(b) The member from Berar is first elected by an electorate consisting of Hindus and communities other than Muhammadans and then nominated by the Governor General after election.

(c) Yes.

(d) No one at present.

(e) A Muslim from Berar was nominated to the Legislative Assembly in 1921, and the Honourable Member may take it that in making nominations to the next Assembly the Governor General will consider all relevant circumstances.

Information promised in reply to parts (b) to (g) of starred question No. 550 asked by Mr. Lalchand Navalrai on the 14th August, 1934.

PAY OF EMPLOYEES DEMOTED ON ACCOUNT OF RETRENCHMENT ON THEIR RE-EMPLOYMENT ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

(b) and (e). Yes.

(c) Government are informed that certain Guards, Grade II, temporarily demoted or transferred to lower posts were, on restoration to their former grade, allowed the same rate of pay drawn by them at the time of demotion.

(d) The decision of the Agent referred to is in accordance with the orders issued by the Railway Board in the matter.

(f) and (g). The Agent reports that the Unionists representation has since been replied to. Government do not consider that any further action is necessary.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 581, asked by Maulvi Muhammad Shah Daudi on the 14th August, 1934.

CONVICTION OF KHAN ABDUL SAMAD KHAN OF BALUCHISTAN.

(a) Yes.

(b) It was not a representative public meeting of the citizens of Karachi. A public meeting was announced in handbills which were jointly signed by the Secretaries of the Sind National League, the Khilafat Committee and the Muslim Welfare Association—all political organisations—and was held in the Khalikdina Hall on Sunday the 14th January, 1934. It was attended by about 400 persons, mostly illiterate, of whom the following, were the only persons of any importance:

1. Mir Ayub Khan, Bar.-at-Law, Special First Class Magistrate.
2. Haji Abdulla Haroon, M.L.A.
3. Sheikh Abdulmajid Lilaram.
4. R. K. Sidhva.
5. Hakim Fateh Muhammad.
6. Sanaullah, a grocer.
7. Hatim B. Tayibji, Barrister, Assistant Public Prosecutor.
8. Jethmal Parasram Gulrajani.
9. Dr. Tarachand J. Lalwani.
10. Naraindas A. Bechar.
11. Jethi T. Sipahimalani.
12. N. D. Mallick.
13. Shivanand Shewakram.
14. D. P. Dastur.
15. Qazi Muhammad Mujtaba Muhammad Mustafa.
16. Nawab Yussafali Magsi.
17. Jamshed Mehta, Mayor of Karachi.

There was no title holder at the meeting. Jamshed N. R. Mehta, the Mayor of Karachi presided over the meeting.

(c) What are elementary rights of civil and political life must be a matter of opinion and Government are not prepared to express their views on this point.

(d) Yes.

(e) Abdul Samad Khan was arrested in Baluchistan on the 29th January, 1934.

(f) The Extra Assistant Commissioner Pishin was at first instructed to hold an enquiry into Abdul Samad's behaviour for the purpose of Section 40, Frontier Crimes Regulation.

Pending completion of the necessary enquiry under Section 42 Frontier Crimes Regulation, Abdul Samad refused to give bail and was, therefore, kept under arrest. During the enquiries further information showed that there was evidence supporting a charge of sedition, and sanction was therefore given to a complaint against him under Section 124-A., Indian Penal Code. Proceedings under Section 42, Frontier Crimes Regulation were therefore terminated.

(g) No.

(h) He was found guilty of seditious utterances, which utterances were circulated in Baluchistan.

He was not classed as an A Class prisoner.

On the recommendation of the Jirga he has, however, been accorded certain facilities.

(i) See answer to (h) above. The Jirga recommended rigorous imprisonment with certain special facilities.

The Jirga recommended that, on release, Abdul Samad should be required to furnish security in Rs. 2,000 to be of good behaviour for three years.

The Political Agent in his order directed that on release Abdul Samad should be produced before his Court for such security proceedings.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 585, asked by Bhai Parma Nand on the 14th August, 1934.

PERCENTAGE ALLOTTED TO EUROPEANS AND ANGLO-INDIANS OF THE CONTROL STAFF ON THE BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY.

The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the information laid on the table of the House today in reply to starred question No. 195 asked by Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin on the 23rd July, 1934.

Information promised in reply to starred questions Nos. 586, 587, 588 and 589 asked by Mr. S. C. Mitra on the 14th August, 1934.

STOPPAGE OF TRAFFIC AT KANDAGHAT ON THE KALKA-SIMLA CART ROAD.

586. (a) Questions on the subject have been asked in the Legislative Assembly on two previous occasions, namely in September, 1932 and July, 1934.

(b), (c) and (d). Government have not received any specific complaints.

(e) Steps are being taken to give timely notice in future.

(f) and (g). Government have no information.

STOPPAGE OF TRAFFIC AT KANDAGHAT ON THE KALKA-SIMLA CART ROAD.

587. (a) From one and a quarter to one and a half hours.

(b) No.

(c) *First part*: No: but such communication would have been in accordance with general instructions.

Second and third parts. No. There were no restrictions on traffic by rail.

(d) The Honourable Member is referred to the answer to part (e) of the preceding question.

STOPPAGE OF TRAFFIC AT KANDAGHAT ON THE KALKA-SIMLA CART ROAD.

588. (a) The exact figures cannot be worked out without an expenditure of time and labour which will be quite incommensurate with the results obtained; but the cost of road arrangements is somewhat cheaper than those by rail.

(b) Since 1930.

(c) No. Government do not consider that an enquiry into the matter will serve any useful purpose.

(d) *First part*: eight occasions.

Second part: Government have no record.

STOPPAGE OF TRAFFIC AT KANDAGHAT ON THE KALKA-SIMLA CART ROAD.

589. (a) Both parts: No.

(b) No.

Information promised in reply to parts (a) to (h) of starred question No. 606, asked by Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin on the 14th August, 1934.

TEST CHECK EXERCISED AT CERTAIN STATIONS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

(a) to (e) and (g). Yes. Except that the staff are Commercial and not Operating staff.

(f) No. It is a purely departmental document not intended for publication.

(h) No. Government do not consider that the results show that it is the system of not having the ticket checking staff under the Accounts Department that is at fault.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 630, asked by Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh on the 15th August, 1934.

PERIODICAL TEST OF GUARDS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

"(a) Guards are required to pass an oral test in train working every three years irrespective of age.

(b) Up to 1929, Assistant Station Masters and Station Masters were also subjected to a similar test on divisions but with the introduction of Refresher Courses for Assistant Station Masters and Station Masters in the Walton Training School in 1929, these classes of staff were no longer required to pass this local test.

(c) Yes, as leave with allowances, if due, otherwise leave without pay.

(d) Assistant Station Masters and Station Masters considered by Divisional Transportation Officers to be unfit to work as such are relieved at once of their duties and sent to the Walton Training School for examination. Any period of time spent in waiting for room at the school is treated as leave due".

Information promised in reply to unstarred question No. 59, asked by Seth Liladhar Chaudhury on the 15th August, 1934.

ELECTRIC AND BUILDING OVERSEER IN THE LAHORE GENERAL POST OFFICE.

(a) A statement showing the duties of the Electric Mistri and building overseer, Lahore General Post Office, is attached.

(b) Yes.

(c) It is a fact that there is a qualified Conservancy Inspector for the Lahore General Telegraph Office; there are also Building Overseers attached to the Punjab Circle Office and to the office of the Divisional Engineer, Telegraphs, Lahore, but these officials are not required to look after the Lahore General Post Office; they have different duties of their own in their respective offices.

(d) Such an offer has been made on one occasion only.

(e) No, the latter part of the question does not arise.

(f) No.

Duty sheet of M. Azim Baksh, Electric Mistri and Building Overseer, Lahore General Post Office.

1. To supervise the cleaning of the Circle office, General Post Office building and Postal Stables and Compound attached.

2. To supervise the work of the gardener, water carriers, Farrashes and the Chowkidars.

3. To take the Electricity meter reading of Lahore General Post Office and of the Town Sub-Offices.
4. To take water meter reading of the Lahore General Post Office and of the Postal Stables.
5. To close the main electric switches at 20 hrs. after close of the office and to open them in the morning before 6 A.M.
6. To replace the fused bulbs in the General Post Office.
7. To remove the waste papers to Stock Depot every 2nd or third day.
8. To look to the cleanliness of the glasses of the doors, windows of the General Post Office building.
9. To keep the old furniture of the Post Office in the Godown in his charge.
10. To shift the furniture of any branch from one room to another when necessary.
11. To maintain the record of electricity bills received for General Post Office and the Town Sub-Offices.
12. To stamp with electric machine in the sorting branch from 16-0 to 19-0 hours the letters, etc., posted for despatch.
13. To see that the Chowkidars are alert and perform their duties properly.
14. To maintain the record of officials living in the premises of the General Post Office and postal stables.

Information promised in reply to unstarred question No. 62, asked by Seth Liladhar Chaudhury on the 15th August, 1934.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THE TOWN INSPECTOR, DELHI HEAD POST OFFICE.

(a) The fact is not exactly as stated by the Honourable Member. Three Town Inspectors of Delhi General Post Office were concerned in the case referred to by him and disciplinary action against them was taken by the Postmaster, Delhi, who was competent to deal with them. They were also ordered by the Postmaster-General, Punjab and North West Frontier Circle, to be transferred as clerks but the Postmaster-General subsequently cancelled this order for administrative reasons. The last part of the question does not arise.

(b) As regards the first part, it is not a fact that the Town Inspector absented himself from Air Mail duties or prepared false diaries. He, however, posted wrong test-cards, and, for this, disciplinary action against him was taken by the Postmaster, Delhi, who was competent to deal with him. The remainder of the question does not arise.

Information promised in reply to unstarred question No. 64, asked by Seth Liladhar Chaudhury on the 15th August, 1934.

INITIAL PAY OF GRADUATES IN THE POSTAL DEPARTMENT.

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Government have been unable to trace any such circular.
- (c) The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative, the second part does not arise in view of the reply to part (b) above.
- (d) (i) The concessions were allowed in order to attract men of superior educational qualifications to the ordinary time scales of the clerical cadre. They were withdrawn as their continuance was not considered necessary.
- (ii) No special facilities are granted to the new entrants referred to by the Honourable member. They are expected to take their chances with other officials in the clerical cadres where promotions are not made according to educational qualifications but according to seniority and merit, and in some cases, according to the results of departmental examinations.
- (e) No, the Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to parts (d) (i) and (ii) above.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 633, asked by Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh, on 20th August, 1934.

SENIORITY OF EAST INDIAN RAILWAY AND OLD OUDH AND ROHILKHAND RAILWAY STAFF.

The Agent, East Indian Railway, reports :

"(a) On the assumption that these questions only refer to divisional staff, it is only Engineering staff for whom separate seniority lists are maintained and among such staff East Indian Railway staff are not promoted to Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway vacancies any more than Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway staff are promoted to East Indian Railway vacancies. This does not mean that old Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway subordinates have not been transferred to the old East Indian Railway sections or *vice versa*, but it does mean that promotions have only been, and are only being made, in vacancies arising in their respective cadres. The only exception to the above was when the holders of two Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway Sub-Engineers posts retired, the posts were converted into Grade II Inspectors of Works and these were filled by East Indian Railway men although an adjustment was shortly after made by filling the next two vacancies in that grade by Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway men, thus maintaining the correct proportions.

It is not proposed to amalgamate seniority lists of the staff of both sections on account of the difficulties governing such an amalgamation. There is no necessity to alter the existing proportions of the posts held respectively by old East Indian Railway and old Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway staff as the proportions which existed prior to the amalgamation have not been changed.

(b) Presumably the Honourable Member refers to the revised (co-ordinated) scales of pay of 1928. These revised scales of pay for the subordinate staff on the East Indian Railway were intended for new entrants, but the existing staff were permitted to exercise the option to elect them. The staff on the Oudh and Rohilkhand and East Indian Railway scales of pay when promoted to posts outside their normal avenue of advancement automatically came on to the revised scales of pay. If promoted in their normal avenue of advancement they were not brought on to the revised scales unless they elected those scales.

(c) and (d). As far as the Railway is aware there are no cases of men who were brought on to the revised scales otherwise than in accordance with the existing rules."

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 669, asked by Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad, on the 20th August, 1934.

RECESS ON FRIDAYS TO MUSLIM EMPLOYEES IN THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY WORKSHOP AT LUCKNOW.

The Agent, East Indian Railway, reports as follows :

"(a) Prior to 1922, short leave was given to Muhammadan employees for prayers on Fridays only if the state of the work permitted. Since August 1922, one hour's leave on Fridays has been sanctioned to all Muhammadan workmen daily or monthly paid, but pay is deducted.

(b) In the locomotive shops at Lucknow, pay has been deducted for the time taken for Friday prayers in the case of journeymen and chargemen since 1922. In the case of the Carriage and Wagon Workshops at Lucknow, no deduction of pay was made in the case of journeymen and chargemen for prayer leave till last year, but this appears to be due to the fact that none of these men specified on their applications that the leave was required for the purpose of prayers. Orders were issued last year that the same procedure must be observed as in the locomotive workshops."

(c) The reply is in the negative. While it is possible for a railway administration to grant leave to an employee for special reasons without inconvenience or loss, it is obvious that the grant of leave simultaneously to a large body of men in a workshop will involve difficulties and cause loss.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 690, asked by Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen, on the 20th August, 1934.

PRIVILEGES IN THE MATTER OF PAY, ALLOWANCES, ETC., TO TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

(a) Mr. Bishan Singh earned allowance on the vehicle mileage basis previously in force on the ~~Kalka Simla~~ **Kalka Simla** Railway prior to the abolition of the posts of Travelling Ticket Examiners. He is now drawing pay as a Special Ticket Examiner *plus consolidated travelling allowance* admissible.

(b) The Agent, North Western Railway, reports that :

"Mr. Bishan Singh's pay as Travelling Ticket Examiner on Kalka Simla Railway was Rs. 75 per mensem in the scale of Rs. 55—5—105—10—155 at the time of his temporary transfer on 20th August, 1936, to Delhi Division to work as Special Ticket Examiners' Batch-in-Charge of Flying Squad ~~when~~ he was temporarily given Rs. 140 in the scale Rs. 105—5—140. He was also given daily allowance admissible under the rules."

(c) Yes, he was given Rs. 90 per mensem in his substantive scale of Rs. 55—5—105—10—155.

(d) Yes.

(e) In the scale of Rs. 105—5—140 which is the standard scale for Special Ticket Examiners, Grade III. No special scale has been created for this particular individual.

(f) and (g). Government are informed that the Pay of all Travelling Ticket Examiners was fixed in the scale of Special Ticket Examiners in accordance with Fundamental Rule 22(a).

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 694, asked by Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen, on the 20th August, 1934.

NON-PAYMENT OF GRATUITY TO TWO PERSONS OF THE DINAPORE DIVISION.

Government understand that Mr. Lall was not eligible for a gratuity as he was dismissed for misconduct.

Mr. Bose was paid his gratuity in October 1934. Government regret that there was some considerable delay in the payment.

Information promised in reply to unstarred question No. 70, asked by Mr. S. C. Mitra, on the 20th August, 1934.

CONSTRUCTION OF A BRIDGE ON THE CHITTAGONG-LAKSHAM BRANCH OF THE ASSAM-BENGAL RAILWAY.

(a) No.

(b) Government are informed that there has been no flooding due to the cause mentioned.

(c) Government understand that the 66 miles length of line from Chittagong is amply provided with waterways, as there are several very large bridges on this length, one of them at mile 65½.

(d) No.

(e) Government are informed that there have been requests for an opening at mile 66½ but enquiries made showed that there is no justification for it.

(f) There appear to be no grounds for any further enquiry.

Information promised in reply to unstarred questions Nos. 79, 80 and 81 asked by Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad, on the 20th August, 1934.

REDUCTION OF THE STATUS OF THE POST OF THE HEAD CLERK, MEDICAL BRANCH, NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

79. The Agent, North Western Railway, reports :

(a) No. The main work of the Medical Sections of the Chief Medical and Health Officer's Office has not been affected by the amalgamation of his office with that of the Headquarters Office.

(b) Does not arise.

REDUCTION OF THE POST OF SUPERINTENDENT, MEDICAL BRANCH, NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

80. (a) The reply is in the negative.

(b) No. The main work of the Medical branch is Medical and Sanitary work which has not been affected by the amalgamation of Chief Medical Officer's Office with that of the Headquarters Office.

(c) First part of the question does not arise. As regards the latter part there is also an Office Superintendent in charge of the Medical Branch, East Indian Railway, while on the Eastern Bengal, Great Indian Peninsula and Burma Railways Chief Clerks are in charge of Medical Branches of these Railways.

RESIDENTIAL ARRANGEMENT FOR THE RELIEVING STAFF ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

(a) and (d). The Agent, North Western Railway, reports :

Employees provided with free quarters while absent from duty on account of sickness or on leave of over 30 days are required to arrange before leaving to provide their reliefs with their quarters.

(b) In view of the reply given to part (a) above, the question of building relieving lodges does not arise. No such lodges have been built on the North Western Railway. The introduction of the Hours of Employment Regulations has, however, resulted in the provision of about 1,157 quarters on the Railway.

(c) The information asked for is not readily available.

(e) No. Rest Houses and Rest Rooms are intended for the use of officers and subordinates travelling on duty and exist only at a few important stations. Waiting rooms are intended for the use of members of travelling public, and Guards Running Rooms are provided exclusively for the use of members of the running staff and it would not be possible to determine the amount of accommodation that might be available at any particular time for other than running staff.

(f) No.

(g) Government are not aware of any such cases.

(h) and (j). Attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given to part (f) of question No. 84 asked by him on the 20th August, 1934.

(i) No maximum limit has been prescribed for the employment of relieving staff out of headquarters as it depends on the exigencies of the service. However, when it can be foreseen that a relieving hand will be required to remain at any one station for more than six weeks, he is temporarily posted there and allowed necessary passes for his family and luggage to enable him to carry out a temporary transfer. In cases in which the duration of a vacancy cannot be foreseen or where it is initially for a period of six weeks or less relieving staff are granted daily allowance up to 30 days. In deserving cases daily allowance beyond six weeks' halt at a station is allowed with the sanction of the Agent.

Information promised in reply to unstarred questions Nos. 90 and 91 asked by Mr. Bhuput Sing on the 20th August, 1934.

**TIME OF ATTENDANCE IN THE OFFICES OF THE TELEGRAPH STOREYARD,
ALIPORE, CALCUTTA.**

90. (a) Yes.

(b) The reply to the first part of the question is in the negative. The second part does not arise.

(c) So far as the offices of the Controller of Telegraph Stores and Accounts Officer, Telephone Revenue, Stores and Workshops, Alipore, are concerned, the reply is in the affirmative. The closing hour of the offices of the Electrical Engineer-in-Chief, Superintendent, Telegraph Workshops, Alipore, and Divisional Engineer, Eastern Wireless Division, Alipore, is 2 P.M. on Saturdays and 5 P.M. on week days.

(d) The facts are not as stated by the Honourable Member.

(e) No such circular is traceable. But it has not been the practice in these offices to grant last Saturday holidays. Half holidays on Saturdays, however, have never been stopped.

(f) In view of the replies given to parts (c) and (d) above, the question does not arise.

(g) In view of the replies to parts (a) to (f) of the question, no modification of the existing rules is necessary.

HOLIDAYS IN THE OFFICES OF THE TELEGRAPH STOREYARD, ALIPORE, CALCUTTA.

91. (a) Government have made inquiries and ascertained that in some of the offices in the Telegraph Storeyard, Calcutta, some clerks are required to attend office occasionally on some of the holidays to which the Honourable Member refers, in order to deal with urgent work.

(b) There is a General Order of the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs directing that the instructions issued by the Home Department regarding the grant of holidays to ministerial establishments should be followed by all offices of the Posts and Telegraphs Department. These instructions lay down that as a general rule, offices should be closed entirely on Gazetted holidays subject to the condition (i) that a holiday notified under the Negotiable Instruments Act may be stopped in the case of any individual guilty of idleness or inattention to duty and (ii) that very urgent work may be required on a holiday provided that a man who has to attend on a holiday shall get another one in its place. These instructions are followed in the offices in the Telegraph Storeyard.

(c) No such discrimination is made.

(d) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given above to part (a) of his question.

(e) The reply to the first part of the question is in the negative. The latter part does not arise.

Information promised in reply to part (b) of starred question No. 720 asked by Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin on the 21st August, 1934.

PROMOTION OF SUB-ASSISTANT SURGEONS EMPLOYED ON RAILWAYS.

(b) The provision in the rules is only meant for the Railway Sub-Assistant Surgeons and not for those whose services are lent temporarily to the Railway Department.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 729 asked by Sardar G. N. Majumdar on the 21st August, 1934.

APPOINTMENT OF GUARDS IN THE DINAPORE DIVISION, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

The Agent, East Indian Railway, reports as follows :
“(i) and (ii).

(a) The Anglo-Indian fireman passed the examination in guard's duties including Absolute Block System on the 23rd August, 1933, and passed the Assistant Station Master's Refresher Course held at Chandausi from the 6th January, 1934 to 4th February, 1934.

(b) The Anglo-Indian shunter passed in guard's duties on the 8th April, 1934. He has also passed second class goods driver's grade examination at Asansol Training School on the 23rd September, 1933, gaining 96 per cent. of the possible marks. Prior to this, on the 29th May 1932, he was certified by the Staff Inspector as having passed in rules (general and subsidiary), forms, train and engine lights, engine working, vacuum brake and signals.

(iii) No Indian driver, fireman or shunter who failed in eyesight during the period from the 1st January, 1933 to 26th August 1934 has received the same treatment as the Anglo-Indian fireman and shunter referred to above for the following reasons :

(a) *Indian firemen*.—These men were illiterate and obviously unfit for absorption as guards in either grade I or grade II or even in any clerical grade.

(b) *Indian shunters*.—Three shunters failed in eyesight test during the period from the 1st January 1933 to 26th August, 1934. One of them was declared unfit on account of defective vision in any category and the other two shunters were declared fit for category A-3*. Consequently it was out of the question to absorb any of them as guards who come under category A-2*. One of the shunters fit for category A-3* who was drawing Rs. 40, in grade Rs. 30-5-40 was absorbed as a cleaner Tindal on Rs. 32 and after three months as a Pump Engineman on Rs. 40, the pay he was drawing as a shunter. The third shunter was declared fit for category A-3* only “with glasses” but could not provide himself with glasses and had to leave the service. He was nearly 49 years of age and was drawing Rs. 35 in grade Rs. 30-5-40.

Indian drivers.—Four Indian drivers were declared unfit on account of defective vision during the period in question and three of them were pronounced unfit on account of defective vision in any category. The fourth driver who was on Rs. 65 grade Rs. 65-5-85, was passed fit in category B-2*. He could not be absorbed as a guard under category A-2* but was absorbed as a shedman on Rs. 45”.

*Details of the staff which fall under various categories are given in the “Regulations for the Medical examination of Candidates and Employees, Non-Gazetted (including Inferior) and Labourers’ grades, Indian State Railways”, copies of which are in the Library of the House.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 734 asked by Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen on the 21st August, 1934.

CONFIRMATION OF TEMPORARY STAFF ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

The Agent, North Western Railway, reports that it is not possible to fit the conditions quoted in the above question to any regulation imposed by the North Western Railway Administration on temporary clerks.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 735 asked by Sardar G. N. Majumdar on the 21st August, 1934.

POSTS OF CONTROLLERS IN THE MORADABAD DIVISION, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

Government have been assured that the allegation of racial discrimination in filling the posts of Controllers in the Moradabad Division of the East Indian Railway is unfounded. Several Indians have held the post during the period in question.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 809, asked by Mr. Bhuput Singh, on the 22nd August, 1934.

AUDIT OF THE ACCOUNTS OF THE SHAHDARA NOTIFIED AREA COMMITTEE.

(a) Yes.

(b) The Secretary's resignation was accepted by the President two weeks after the commencement of his leave.

(c) The Secretary was not in charge of the accounts for which an accountant is employed.

(d) The accounts are audited annually and the Government do not consider that any special audit is necessary.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 833, asked by Sardar Sant Singh, on the 28th August, 1934.

CLOSING OF THE GATE NEAR LYALLPUR RAILWAY STATION ON THE GATI SIDE.

(a) Thirty-two.

(b) Yes. The gates are closed 31 times in 24 hours.

(c) The period of closure is six minutes for passenger trains and eight minutes for goods trains. Government are informed that it is not considered that any undue hardship is caused to motor traffic justifying the expense of providing an over-bridge.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 896, asked by Sardar Sant Singh, on the 30th August, 1934.

STATION MASTER'S EXAMINATION IN THE MORADABAD DIVISION, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

The Agent, East Indian Railway, reports :

"(i) Audit Order Books are provided at each station and can be referred to by staff who wish to study for the Goods Accounts Examination.

(ii) These books are not supplied to each member of the staff individually but they are available for reference at stations.

(iii) No. The Station Masters' examination is not considered equivalent to the Goods Accounts Examination which is the necessary qualifying examination for station masters and Inspectors."

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 902, asked by Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad, on the 30th August, 1934.

ALLEGED NEGLIGENCE OF POLICE IN AJMER.

(a) Yes.

(b) A copy is given below.

(c) Enquiries are in progress.

Copy of Resolution passed by the Muhammadans of Ajmer at a meeting held on the 26th July, 1934.

"This meeting of the Muslims expresses its grief and indignation at the tyranny practised by the Police in connection with the riot at the Ghantaghar mosque and requests the Government to institute enquiries and decide the matter which has been pending for a long time".

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 918, asked by Mr. Lalchand Navalrai, on the 30th August, 1934.

TRAIN CONDUCTORS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

The Agent, North Western Railway, reports as follows :

"(a) Train conductors are not employed on the North Western Railway. Conductor guards are employed on certain mail trains but there is no separate fixed cadre for this category, individuals being drawn from the senior most grade IV guards, who usually work mail and express trains.

(b) At present the senior most guards grade IV who are employed as conductor guards are Europeans and Anglo-Indians.

(c) The regular conductor guards are drawn from the senior most grade IV guards, Scale Rs. 125—10—185—15/2—200—210, who usually work mail and express trains, while extra conductor guards required to accompany trains on which there is no regular conductor guard when lady passengers may be travelling alone at night, are usually drawn from the guards stationed on waiting duty. The duties of those utilized as conductor guards are given below :

- (I) To keep a complete chart of the upper class accommodation available on the train and how it is occupied;
 - (II) To see that 1st and 2nd class passengers for whom berths are reserved are accommodated in their respective compartments;
 - (III) To accommodate other 1st and 2nd class passengers in the vacant berths and seats;
 - (IV) To wake up at night 1st and 2nd class passengers at stations as required by them;
 - (V) To telegraph to the next station provided with refreshment rooms for meals required by passengers;
 - (VI) To look after lady passengers' safety at night;
 - (VII) To examine all door bolts and window fasteners on compartments occupied by lady passengers and see that they are in thorough working order and to instruct lady passengers in their use;
 - (VIII) To take over charge of trains in addition to their own duties if the guard-in-charge falls sick or meets with an accident on the road; and
 - (IX) To render general assistance to passengers of all classes.
- (d) No. A Ticket collector is stationary and fully occupied in manning the gates and checking and collecting the tickets of passengers. A Special Ticket Examiner is either employed in a stationary capacity in the same way as a Ticket Collector or in travelling with a train when he is similarly employed in checking the tickets of passengers in the train and his berth seldom commensurate with those of Train Guards. Moreover, neither employee, is required to be a qualified guard and would be unable to take over charge of a train, if required.

(e) As explained in reply to part (a) of the question the senior most guards are utilized as Conductor Guards but in no case is any individual given an extension of service for such employment.

(f) Yea."

Information promised in reply to starred questions Nos. 922 and 923, asked by Mr. S. G. Jog, on the 30th August, 1934.

RE-INSTATEMENT OF THE DEMOTED DRIVERS OF THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

922. Yes.

The Agent, Great Indian Peninsula Railway, reports :

"(i) to (iii). It is not possible to say what material difference there may be between the meaning of the expressions given unless it is known in what connection they have been or are to be used. No special or peculiar meaning is attached to them apart from what could be understood from the manner of their use. In the instance, however, referred to, the term 're-instated' meant that the drivers who had been demoted from the 'A' grade to the 'C' Grade were promoted again to the 'A' Grade, and those who had been demoted from the 'B' Grade to the 'C' Grade were promoted again to the 'B' Grade. There is no rule under which the period of duty performed in a demoted post can be allowed to count for increments in another post to which the man is repromoted.

(iv) Fundamental Rule No. 26 is applicable.

(v) No increments were due on re-instatement."

INCREMENTS OF STAFF IN THE MORADABAD DIVISION, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

923. (a) Government are informed that none of the staff were called upon to forego their arrears on account of increments.

(b) In view of the reply given to part (a) above, the question does not arise.

Statement promised in reply to part (c) of unstarred question No. 123, asked by Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra, on the 30th August, 1934.

TELEPHONE OPERATORS.

123.

Circle.	Number of Telephone Operators employed.	
	Class I.	Class II.
Bengal and Assam	61	15
Bihar and Orissa	18	20
Bombay	40	18
Burma	28	7
Central	12	*31
Madras	17	†54
Punjab and N.-W. F.	123	106
United Provinces	36	71
Sind and Baluchistan	4	14

* Includes 3 temporary Operators and excludes 2 temporary Operators on fixed pay.

† Includes 4 temporary Operators.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 971, asked by Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury, on the 31st August, 1934.

PROMOTION OF SUBORDINATES OF THE AUDIT DEPARTMENT OF CERTAIN RAILWAYS.

(a) (i) *Great Indian Peninsula Railway.*

4 Assistant Auditors and Accountants (Senior Scale).

7 Assistant Auditors and Accountants (Junior Scale).

Direct recruits—7.

(ii) *East Indian Railway.*

5 Auditors.

7 Assistant Auditors.

Direct recruits—2.

(iii) *Burma Railways.*

2 Auditors (Senior Scale).

3 Auditors (Junior Scale).

Direct recruits—3.

(b) I understand that no definite proportion had been prescribed for recruitment by direct appointment and by promotion. Promotions were made with due regard to efficiency provided suitable candidates were available. The promotion of a fairly large number from subordinate ranks appears to have been a special feature of the war and the post-war periods.

(c) Yes, more or less.

(d) Yes.

(e) It is usual for subordinates to get promotion to the Lower Gazetted Service in the first instance and then work their way up to the superior ranks. There is no bar against the promotion of a subordinate directly to the superior ranks.

(f) and (g). Recruitment is now made for the Accounts Department of State-managed Railways as a whole and not separately for each Railway, and the posting and composition of the officers on each Railway depends on the exigencies of service. The number of superior posts and the number held by officers of the Indian Audit and Accounts Service and the Indian Railway Accounts Service (which includes ex-company officers holding superior posts) and the number of posts of the Lower Gazetted Service on each of the three railways at present are as follows:

Superior Posts.

	Sanction	Held by officers of the I. A. & A. S.	Held by officers of the I. R. A. S.
Great Indian Peninsula Railway	8	1	7
East Indian Railway	13	5	7 (1 post temporarily vacant.)
Burma Railways	4	1	2 do.

Lower Gazetted Service

	Sanction.
Great Indian Peninsula Railway	2
East Indian Railway	8+2 (temporary).
Burma Railways	2+1 (temporary).

(h) A certain number of posts in the Railway Accounts Department is temporarily reserved for members of the Indian Audit and Accounts Service. The number was based on a consideration of the posts actually held by them before the separation of Accounts from Audit.

Information promised in reply to starred questions Nos. 982, 983, 984 and 985, asked by Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra, on the 31st August, 1934.

COOLIES WORKING IN TEA GARDENS AT CERTAIN PLACES.

982. (a) General information as to the number of persons engaged in the cultivation of tea will be found in the occupational tables of the census of 1931. In Assam, the only Province for which annual statistics are collected, the number of adult labourers (working and not working) and children living in garden lines and on garden land was 1,089,490 at the close of the year ending the 30th June, 1933. Separate statistics for working labourers are not available. Government have no information other than that given in the census reports regarding the places mentioned in the question other than Assam.

(b) and (c). The information asked for is not available.

(d) Statistics for the number of children of school going age are not available. The number of pupils in all classes of the tea garden (primary) schools in Assam is about 5,000. There are no secondary schools on the tea gardens, but in a few exceptional cases managers of tea gardens have been known to give secondary education to intelligent workers' children and employ them afterwards as clerks or the like.

(e) Instruction in tea garden schools is imparted in Assamese in the Assam-Valley and in Bengali in the Surma-Valley.

(f) Government have no reason to suppose that the position is as stated in the first part of the question. The latter part does not arise.

(g) No.

(h) The labour rules govern the enticing of labour from one garden to another. Wages are regulated by wage agreements fixing the level of wages by areas or districts.

(i) Government do not possess a copy of the "labour rules" or wage agreements.

(j) Yes. The reason is that families are more likely than single men to settle permanently in Assam.

(k) No.

(l) No. The proposition is not feasible.

FEE CHARGED FOR EACH COOLY RECRUITED TO THE ASSAM TEA GARDENS.

983. (a) No fee is charged by Government. A cess called the Emigrant Labour Cess, the proceeds of which are applied exclusively to meet expenditure incurred in connection with the emigrant labour control established under the Tea Districts Emigrant Labour Act, is payable in respect of the entry into Assam of each assisted emigrant by the employing interest on whose behalf he was recruited. The rate of the cess, which is fixed by the Governor General in Council, was Rupees five during the year, ended 30th September, 1934, and is Rupees three for the current year.

(b) No.

MONETARY VALUE OF THE PROPERTIES ACQUIRED BY THE ORIYA COOLIES IN ASSAM.

984. (a) Government have no information.

(b) Yes. Figures of the amount remitted are not available.

(c) The position is not as stated. The Tea District Emigrant Labour Act which came into force on the 1st October, 1933, confers certain definite rights of repatriation on all emigrant labourers recruited since that date.

RECRUITMENT OF COOLIES IN TEA GARDENS.

985. (a) No.

(b) The recruitment of tea garden labourers is made by licensed local forwarding agents. Their duty is to recruit those whom they consider suitable for labour on tea gardens and they must use their own discretion in each case.

(c) The position is not as stated.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 991, asked by Lala Ramashwar Prasad Bagla, on the 31st August, 1934.

ASSISTANT STATION MASTERS SENT FOR REFRESHER COURSE TO CHANDAUSI.

991. (a), (b), (d), (e) and (i). Assistant Station Masters over 45 years of age are not required to attend a refresher course.

(c) The refresher courses make for improvement in efficiency, a factor which cannot be ignored in railway working.

(f) The average monthly budgetted expenditure on the Chandausi School is Rs. 6,483.

(g) 41 per cent.

(A) Yes. They receive training and have to pass an examination on appointment in the following subjects :

- (i) Train Passing Rules.
- (ii) Train Movement Rules.
- (iii) Elementary Rules in Coaching and Goods Duties.

For the sake of efficiency assistant Station Masters below 45 years of age are required to attend a refresher course every 5 years in accordance with the rules for recruitment and training of subordinate staff on State-managed Railways copies of which are already in the Library of the House. Assistant Station Masters are also required to qualify and pass an examination in the handling of Block Instruments and the Refresher Courses as a preliminary to this examination.

(i) Government understand that according to the latest orders in force on the East Indian Railway a special report is required to be sent to the Divisional Superintendent concerned in regard to each Assistant Station Master who may fail in any subject at the Training School and it rests with the Divisional Superintendent to allow him to continue in his post or to remove him from that post and provide him with any other suitable post which may be available.

Information promised in reply to starred questions Nos. 996 and 997, asked by Maulvi Muhammad Shafi Daudi, on the 31st August, 1934.

PERMISSION GIVEN TO THE ELECTRICAL ENGINEER, PUSA RESEARCH INSTITUTE, TO RUN A CINEMA.

996. (a), (b), and (c). In November, 1931, permission was granted by the Director of the Pusa Institute to the wife of the Electrical Engineer of the Institute, to hold occasional Cinema shows for the entertainment of the residents of the estate, subject to certain restrictions. About eight shows were held during 1932 and a small fee was charged to cover the incidental expenses. The shows were not run for profit. A sum of Rs. 39-11-9 was recovered by Government on account of the consumption of electric current which was metered.

(d) and (e). The reservoir supplies water for the ice plant and for the staff of the power house and the workshop. Electric current is used for pumping up water from the well into the reservoir. As there is no well in the compound of the Electrical Engineer's house he has been permitted by the Director to take a pipe to his house from the reservoir at his own expense. No charge is made for the water,

RETRENCHMENT OF STAFF IN THE PUSA RESEARCH INSTITUTE.

Question No. 997.

Section or office.	Class I posts.		Class II and other gazetted officers.		Non-ministerial.		Ministerial.		Inferior Establishment.	
	Pre-trenchment staff.	Staff re-trenched since 1931. (-).	Pre-trenchment staff.	Staff re-trenched since 1931. (-).	Pre-trenchment staff.	Staff re-trenched since 1931. (-).	Pre-trenchment staff.	Staff re-trenched since 1931. (-).	Pre-trenchment staff.	Staff re-trenched since 1931. (-).
Director's office including artists.	1	..	..	..	9	..	31	7	18	..
Central Bureau of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Bangalore.	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	..
Imperial Dairy Expert.	2	1	..	..	..	..	5	..	6	1
Physiological Chemist.	1	..	..	..	6	1	2	1	7	1
Chemical Section.	3	2	1	..	6	..	2	..	9	..
Entomological Section.	2	1	1	..	18	2	3	..	8	..
Mycological Section.	2	1	2	..	7	1	2	..	7	..
Bacteriological Section.	1	1	3	..	7	..	2	..	14	1
Agricultural Section including Agronomist.	3	2	2	..	28	2	8	1	22	6
Botanical Section.	2	..	1	..	8	..	2	..	11	..
Karai Farm.	..	..	1	1	5	..	5	1	..	..
Wellington Farm.	..	..	1	..	2	..	4	1	..	..
Bangalore Farm.	..	..	1	..	4	..	4	..	..	..
Medical Establishment.	..	..	1	..	7	..	1	..	4	..
Estate Establishment.	..	..	..	..	4	..	3	..	1	..
Gas, ice and electric installations.	..	..	1	..	20	..	3	..	20	..
Sugarcane Expert.	2	..	1	..	15	..	5	..	11	..
Total	19	-7	17	-1	146	-6	94	-13	138	-9

NOTE 1.—Entries in columns under the heading "staff re-trenched" include posts which were lying vacant and which were abolished as a measure of retrenchment.

NOTE 2.—No reduction was found possible in the Power House establishment as it was considered that the Power House could not function efficiently with a smaller staff.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 999 asked by Mr. S. G. Jog, on the 31st August, 1934.

GRANT OF PASSES TO THE TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS AND INSPECTORS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

The position on the East Indian Railway is as follows :

(a) *Duty passes.*—Each Travelling Ticket Examiner is issued a pass on the reverse of which is a certificate authorising him to check tickets.

To avoid multiplicity in the type of passes in use, this certificate was printed on the reverse of a number of inter class pass forms intended for the use of Travelling Ticket Examiners, as the majority are in receipt of pay which entitles them to that class of pass.

Certain Travelling Ticket Examiners entitled to second class passes were, through an oversight, included in the number of those to whom these special inter class passes were issued. This mistake, on being brought to notice, was corrected, and second class passes issued to them.

Privilege passes.—Privilege passes are granted to Travelling Ticket Examiners according to their salaries as follows :

Class.	To men under East Indian Railway Rules.	To men under Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway Rules.
2nd . .	From Rs. 116 and above . .	From Rs. 126 and above.
Inter . .	Below Rs. 116	From Rs. 125 below to Rs. 50.
3rd . .	.. . . .	Below Rs. 50.

(b) There are no Travelling Ticket Inspectors under the Accounts Department.

(c) In view of the answer to (b), this does not arise.

Information promised in reply to parts (e) to (g) of unstarred question No. 135, asked by Mr. S. G. Jog, on the 31st August, 1934.

MEETINGS OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAYMEN'S UNION, LUCKNOW.

The Agent, East Indian Railway, reports :

(e) No action was taken by the Railway authorities either directly or indirectly to check the Conference activities of Union officials.

(f) It is not a fact that Mr. B. K. Mukerjee was reprimanded by the Employment Officer of the Locomotive Shops, Lucknow just before the Conference because he received a notice of a meeting of the Committee.

The facts of the incident to which it is presumed reference is made are as follows :

"One day the Head Clerk brought to the Employment Officer's notice that an official of the Union had entered the office without permission (as is required under Standing Orders), bringing with him several letters belonging to the Union for Mr. B. K. Mukerjee's signature.

The Head Clerk saw Mr. Mukerjee signing some of these papers and he reported the fact to the Employment Officer who sent for Mr. Mukerjee and informed him that whilst he was in the office, he was expected to devote his full time to office work."

(g) The Workshop gates in question apparently refer to the main gates of the Carriage and Wagon Works at Alambagh Lucknow. Beyond the gates there is a fenced area which encloses the Time Office, cycle shed and tiffin room. It appears that prior to the latter part of last year, Union officials, money lenders and others entered this area in order to collect subscriptions from the workmen as they left the workshops, and it was therefore decided, during the latter part of last year, that with the exception of licensed vendors who supply foodstuff to the workmen, no outsiders were to be permitted within the fenced area.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

CONFIDENTIAL CIRCULAR ISSUED BY THE HOME DEPARTMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ON THE DECISIONS OF THE BOMBAY CONGRESS.

Mr. Chairman (Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney): I have received a notice from Mr. Satyamurti that he proposes to ask for leave to move a motion for adjournment of the business of the Assembly for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance as follows:

"The issue of a confidential circular of the Government of India, Home Department, Political, dated November 23rd, 1934, addressed to all Local Governments and Administrations on the situation arising out of the decisions of the Bombay Congress."

To enable the Chair to arrive at a clear opinion on this motion for the adjournment of the House, I should like to hear from the Honourable Member who has given notice of this motion the reasons for which he considers the issue he has raised to be (a) a definite matter and (b) a matter of urgent public importance. After hearing what the Honourable Member has to say on this motion and after hearing further opinions, if I may so desire, I shall come to the conclusion as to the acceptance or otherwise of this motion for adjournment.

Mr. S. Satyamurti (Madras City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me the opportunity to address you on these two matters. In the first place, that it is a definite matter, I may say that it refers to a circular of the Government of India in the Home Department which undoubtedly refers to many points, but the matter to which I wish to attach importance is the act of the Government of India—that they have issued this communiqué. There will be many reasons which I shall advance when the due time arrives, and I hope to convince the House that the action of the Government of India in issuing this circular is a matter to be censured by this House. The definite matter that I wish to raise is not the contents of the circular but the issue of the circular itself which is a definite act of the Government of India. As to the second point as to how it is urgent, it has been held both in Parliament and in the rulings of the Indian Legislatures that I am acquainted with, that if a matter arises between one Session and the other of the Legislature, and if the matter is raised on the very first day, it is a matter of urgency. I have not lost any time in bringing up the matter before this Legislative Assembly.

1 P.M. There was no opportunity either for the old Assembly or for the new Assembly to deal with this matter. If my information is correct, after the issue of the circular, the old Assembly, although it continued to exist, did not meet. There was no meeting of the old Assembly after the issue of the circular, and this is the first meeting of the Assembly at which the matter could have been dealt with by the Assembly, and,

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therefore, I submit on both these matters that it is a matter of very definite character, namely, the action of the Government of India in issuing this circular, and, secondly, that it is urgent, because, between the issue of the circular and this meeting of the Assembly, there was no other meeting and this is the earliest opportunity on which I could have brought up this matter. I, therefore, submit that this motion is in order.

Mr. Chairman (Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney): Will the Honourable Member please inform the Chair as to what specific matter he actually refers in this circular that has been issued by the Government? In the motion I have before me, it is stated that it arises out of the decisions of the Bombay Congress. The decisions are multifarious. The rules allowing motions for adjournment state that the matter that comes up for discussion here must be restricted to a specific matter. I do not desire to refer to the question of recent occurrence, because, I agree with the Honourable Member that this is the first opportunity the House has been given since it last met to discuss the issue of this confidential circular. I should like to hear from him what is the specific nature, not the general nature.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: If the circular has actually been issued by the Government and if the contents are as I find them in the newspapers, then the specific matter is the attitude which the Government of India want their district and other officials to take towards the activities of Mahatma Gandhi in connection with the Village Industries Association. The circular no doubt gives various reasons, but the operative part of the circular is this. In the last paragraph of this long circular they say:

"The Government of India will be glad to have the comments of the Local Government both on this appreciation of the situation and on the measures suggested to meet it. They trust that if 'the Governor-in-Council agrees—you agree—generally with their views he will take steps to distribute this letter widely to district officers and others for they feel that even though the implications of the Bombay Congress are fully appreciated by the Local Government—you—local officers may not be fully aware of them.'"

The specific matter I want to be discussed, Mr. Chairman, is this, the attitude which the Government of India want their district and other Government officials to take towards the activities of Mahatma Gandhi's Village Industries Association. No doubt the letter is a long one, it gives various reasons, but the operative part is towards the end in paragraph 21 where the circular says what attitude the Government officers should take towards the Village Industries Association. The circular says:

"In particular, district officers and others may feel doubtful what attitude they should take, if for example Mr. Gandhi or any local leader asked for their assistance in this work."

That is a very specific matter. They give a lot of reasons as to why Government officials ought not to co-operate with Mahatma Gandhi even in this innocent scheme, when he stays out of politics and starts a purely non-political organisation. The operative part of the whole document is where the Government of India direct the Local Governments and through them the district and other officers to take a definitely hostile attitude towards the activities of Mahatma Gandhi in this direction. That is a specific matter which I want to raise on the floor of the House.

Mr. Chairman (Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney): Will the Honourable Member for the information of the Chair state whether the Village Industries Association, as initiated by Mahatma Gandhi, formed part of the decisions of the Bombay Congress?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Yes, Sir. By a Resolution.

Mr. Chairman (Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney): Will the Honourable Member inform this House what is the authenticity of this circular?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: The Honourable Members on the Government Benches can easily tell the Chair as to whether the circular has been issued or not. From the information in my possession, I honestly believe that such a circular has been issued. If the circular has not been issued and if the Government say so, then there is an end of the matter. But if the Government say, yes, then we shall proceed to discuss the motion. I cannot give any authentic information as to whether the circular has been issued or not. I believe, to the best of my ability, that this circular as published in the newspapers contains internal evidence as to its authenticity, because the numbers and the dates of certain previous circulars are given in this circular. I, therefore, think it is an authentic circular. Let the Government deny it, there will be an end of the matter.

Mr. Chairman (Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney): I call upon the Honourable the Home Member to hear what he has to say on this matter.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik (Home Member): The Government do not for a moment deny that the circular has been issued. (Hear, hear.) The Government welcome a discussion on this motion this afternoon and they do not for a moment desire to raise any obstacle in the way of the discussion which it is proposed to have. (Applause.)

Mr. Chairman (Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney): I have to enquire whether any Honourable Member has any objection to this motion.

Sardar Sant Singh (West Punjab: Sikh): May I just explain some matters?

Mr. Chairman (Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney). Has the Honourable Member any objection to raise in regard to this motion for adjournment? I do not desire to give the Honourable Member any opportunity for explanation except it be to confine his remarks to any objection he may have to the motion for adjournment.

Sardar Sant Singh: Mr. Chairman, I am not raising any objection to the motion.

Mr. Chairman (Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney): Then, I must rule the Honourable Member out of order.

[Mr. Chairman.]

As no objection has been taken to this motion and as the Honourable the Mover has explained to my satisfaction the authenticity of the circular which has been accepted by the Government and as he has also explained to the satisfaction of the Chair that this matter is one of urgency in that no previous opportunity had been afforded to this House to discuss this matter after the publication of this circular, there can be no doubt that this matter is one of public importance. I rule that this motion for adjournment is in order. I consider that the House should be given an opportunity to express itself freely and frankly on any matter which in its opinion consists of absence of co-operation of whatever nature it be. I, therefore, accept this motion for adjournment, and I appoint four o'clock today as the time for moving this motion.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. Chairman (Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney) in the Chair.

ELECTION OF THE STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg (Finance Member): Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to the election, for the rest of the financial year, 1934-35, in such method as may be approved by the Chairman, of a Standing Finance Committee of the Assembly not exceeding fourteen in number, to which shall be added a Member of the Assembly to be nominated by the Governor General. The Member so nominated shall be the Chairman of the Committee."

Mr. Chairman (Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney): The question is:

"That this Assembly do proceed to the election, for the rest of the financial year, 1934-35, in such method as may be approved by the Chairman, of a Standing Finance Committee of the Assembly not exceeding fourteen in number, to which shall be added a Member of the Assembly to be nominated by the Governor General. The Member so nominated shall be the Chairman of the Committee."

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION OF THE STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR RAILWAYS.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré (Member for Commerce and Railways): Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect in such manner, as may be approved by the Chairman, eleven Members from the Assembly who shall be required to serve on the Standing Finance Committee for Railways, as provided for in clause 5 of the Resolution adopted by the Legislative Assembly on the 20th September, 1924, on the subject of the separation of Railway Finance."

Mr. Chairman (Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney): The question is:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect in such manner, as may be approved by the Chairman, eleven Members from the Assembly who shall be required to serve on the Standing Finance Committee for Railways, as provided for in clause 6 of the Resolution adopted by the Legislative Assembly on the 20th September, 1924, on the subject of the separation of Railway Finance."

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR ROADS.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce (Member for Industries and Labour): Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to the election, in such method as may be approved by the Chairman, of six Members to serve on the Standing Committee for Roads which will be constituted to advise the Governor General in Council in the administration of the Road Account during the remaining months of the financial year, 1934-35."

Mr. Chairman (Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney): The question is:

"That this Assembly do proceed to the election, in such method as may be approved by the Chairman, of six Members to serve on the Standing Committee for Roads which will be constituted to advise the Governor General in Council in the administration of the Road Account during the remaining months of the financial year, 1934-35."

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION OF TWO MEMBERS TO SERVE ON THE RESERVE BANK OF INDIA (ISSUE AND ALLOTMENT OF SHARES) COMMITTEE.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg (Finance Member): Sir, I move:

"That the non-official Members of this Assembly do proceed to the election, in such method as may be approved by the Chairman, of two elected Members of the Assembly to serve on a Committee to be constituted under section 4 (5) of the Reserve Bank of India Act (II of 1934), to be associated with the Central Board of the Reserve Bank for the purpose of making public issue of shares and looking after the first allotment of shares."

Perhaps I might say two words in amplification of this motion. The Central Board of the Reserve Bank have decided to hold their second meeting in Delhi and that will enable a procedure to be followed which, it is hoped, will be for the convenience of the elected Members who are to serve on this Committee. It will enable a full memorandum to be prepared by the Bank, for that memorandum to be communicated to the two Members from this House and one from the other who are to serve on this Committee, it will give them an opportunity to discuss the procedure contemplated in the memorandum with Mr. Taylor, one of the Deputy Governors-designate of the Reserve Bank, and it will enable the Committee to discuss and settle the procedure with the Board of the Reserve Bank itself when they meet in Delhi.

Sir, I move.

Mr. Chairman (Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney): The question is:

"That the non-official Members of this Assembly do proceed to the election, in such method as may be approved by the Chairman, of two elected Members of the Assembly to serve on a Committee to be constituted under section 4 (5) of the Reserve Bank of India Act (II of 1934), to be associated with the Central Board of the Reserve Bank for the purpose of making public issue of shares and looking after the first allotment of shares."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman (Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney): I have to inform Honourable Members that for the purpose of election of Members to the Standing Finance Committee, 1934-35, the Standing Finance Committee for Railways, the Standing Committee for Roads, 1934-35 and the Reserve Bank of India (issue and allotment of shares) Committee the following dates have been fixed for receiving nominations and holding elections, if necessary, namely:

	Nominations.	Election.
Standing Finance Committee	24-1-35	28-1-35
Standing Finance Committee for Railways	24-1-35	28-1-35
Standing Committee for Roads	25-1-35	30-1-35
Reserve Bank of India (issue and allotment of shares) Committee	28-1-35	4-2-35

The nominations for all the Committees will be received in the Notice Office up to 12 Noon on each day appointed for the purpose.

As regards the elections to the Committees, which will be conducted in accordance with the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, the following procedure will be observed. The elections will take place in the Secretary's Room where the Assistant Secretary on the day fixed for an election will remain from 10-30 A.M. to 1 P.M. Honourable Members desiring to take part in the elections may during these hours go to the Assistant Secretary, get the ballot paper from him after signing in a register in token of their having received the ballot paper, record their vote and deposit the paper in the ballot box kept for this purpose in that room. On the day of an election notices will be posted in prominent places in the lobby to remind Honourable Members that the election is proceeding for a particular Committee on that day.

The Assembly then adjourned till Four of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled at Four of the Clock, Mr. Chairman (Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney) in the Chair.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

CONFIDENTIAL CIRCULAR ISSUED BY THE HOME DEPARTMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ON THE DECISIONS OF THE BOMBAY CONGRESS.

Mr. Chairman (Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney): I desire at the outset to inform Honourable Members that I cannot allow one minute more than the time allotted to each Member for his speech. 15 minutes are allowed usually, but in exceptional cases I may extend the time for a

while. I would also ask the Mover of this adjournment motion kindly to confine his remarks, if he will, entirely to the circular relating to the Village Industries Association, and I shall not, under any circumstances, permit of anything else being introduced in that matter. I now call upon Mr. Satyamurti to move his motion.

Mr. S. Satyamurti (Madras City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I beg to move that the House do now adjourn to consider a definite matter of urgent public importance. I am very grateful to you, Sir, for allowing me to make this motion, and also to the Honourable the Home Member for the very ready manner in which he agreed to this adjournment motion being made, but this sudden acquisition of courage seems to be an act of after-thought. If the Government of India were so proud of their doings, I should have expected them to make this announcement in a public statement, either by the Governor General or by the Honourable the Home Member. They took the devious device of issuing a confidential circular, and when they were found out, they suddenly say, "Oh, yes, we will stand by this circular". And what is this circular, Mr. Chairman? They first express their profound sorrow,—my profound sympathies are with them,—that we in Bombay did not split over the four points of difference among Congressmen on which they expected us to split. This Government often pride themselves on being absolutely sympathetic towards the legitimate aspirations of the people, that they are anxious that we should work together; but what does this circular say?

"Before the opening of the Congress there was some justification for anticipating that it might result in accentuating rather than diminishing the internal disputes in the Congress ranks, to which all Local Governments have drawn attention in recent reports."

That, I take it, therefore, to mean that this Government are very anxious that the Congress should split and break. And what are the points on which they expected us to differ? First, the Council entry programme. Often I have heard,—and I have heard the Honourable the Home Member and His Excellency the Viceroy saying,—that "we welcome Congressmen into the Legislatures, we are anxious to co-operate with them", but they are sadly disappointed, because we did not break our heads

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik (Home Member): Excuse me, Sir, for interrupting the Honourable Member. Can he quote a single word in which we express disappointment or profound regret? We merely say that certain anticipations have not been realised. They are not our anticipations alone, but they are the general anticipations, to which frequent expression is given in the Press, both in the Congress Press as well in the non-Congress Press.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Mr. Chairman, I read English, I claim to understand something of this foreign language. I wish I had the time to read the whole circular, but I want the House to take it from me, that as I read those paragraphs, it looks as if the Government regret that the Congress did not split in Bombay. There was some justification for anticipating that that there would be a split on the Council entry programme, the Nationalist Party of Pandit Malaviya and Mr. Aney, the Congress Socialist Programme and Mahatma Gandhi's retirement from the Congress, but on none of these did we split, and the Government are very

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sorry that we did not split. But I want to tell the Government, Mr. Chairman, if I may, that they are very much mistaken in imagining that the Congress will split on these or on other differences.

Then they go on to discuss the changes in the Congress constitution, and they say:

"It appears to the Government that the true significance of these changes in organization is that they are intended to leave Congress far better equipped to carry on the political or parliamentary side of its work and in future the Congress will be in a position to claim that it represents rural interests as well as urban."

The Government of India are hard to please. In one breath they say that the Congress represents nobody but the infinitesimal minority of the political intelligentsia of the country. The moment the Congress takes further steps to identify itself with the masses of the people, the moment the Congress wants to claim the right of service to the people of this country and thereby establish its claim that it represents the masses, the Government say that it is a design which ought to be frustrated.

Then they further go on to say that the Congress as now re-constructed may represent Mahatma Gandhi's idea of a Constituent Assembly, and if the experiment succeeds, he will be able to point to Congress as a suitable machine capable of taking over the framing of the Constitution or even the future Government of the country. What is wrong in it, Mr. Chairman? We, speaking on behalf of the Congress here, undoubtedly claim to become the alternative Government of this country as early as possible. (Applause from the Congress Party Benches.) Undoubtedly we are here to take over the Government of this country, and we will carry on our non-violent and peaceful methods, in order that we may take the place which is now wrongly occupied by the present Treasury Benches. I do not see why the Government should grudge the Congress making good that claim by trying to identify itself with the masses of the people. And more than all this, Mr. Chairman, the Government Circular further says that "Mahatma Gandhi's attitude towards parliamentary activities also appears unchanged, and in a public statement he has said that though he is the author of the non-co-operation movement, he is convinced that in the present condition of the country and in the absence of any general scheme of civil resistance, a Parliamentary Party within the Congress is a necessary part of any programme which may be followed by the Congress". Why should the Government object to that?

Then, Sir, they go on to discuss the All-India Village Industries Association, and with characteristic, if I may say so respectfully, want of taste, show their capacity to attribute motives, although Mahatma Gandhi himself has stated that this is non-political, and the fact that the initiation of the movement synchronises with his resignation from the Congress bodies is regarded in certain quarters as a *bonâ fide* campaign of economic reconstruction, this view, overlooks certain important facts". I object strongly to this. Mahatma Gandhi is the soul of truth. He who knows him knows it, but yet the Government of India with great prejudice against that man simply say: "We cannot take his statements at their face value". Sir, I say it is wrong, it is unjust and unfair to a man of the position and the record of Mahatma Gandhi. Then they refer to the attitude of the associations which, though non-political and

non-Congress, may help the Congress. They regret that they were not able to proceed against the All-India Spinners' Association, and they therefore say, that this body, the Village Industries Association, should be watched very carefully. They say:

"Such being the main features of the Congress, it is clear that Mr. Gandai has once again shown himself to be a very astute political leader, his mental and physical vigour is reported to be unabated and the session has resulted in yet another personal triumph for he has succeeded in keeping the divergent elements, if not in one organisation, at least under one leadership, his own."

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Is that not true?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: It is true, but why should the Government mourn it? If you can follow one leadership, whether Europeans or Indians, if all of you join together and vote together and work together, why should we not obey one leader?

Mr. Chairman (Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney): Will the Honourable Member address the Chair please?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Don't you- (To Mr. Satyamurti).

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What is wrong in that?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Nothing is wrong. The point is that the circular is perfectly correct, and you admit it is correct.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Is it not only correct, but it is true. (Cheers from the Congress Party Benches.) Then they say:

"Though not taking a direct part in the parliamentary work, he will continue to give his advice to the Parliamentary Board and to the Congress bodies which will devote special attention to this political work."

All this precedes their great achievement in the central paragraph of this circular:

"But if as surmised, the intention underlying these schemes is political, then this new move, though ostensibly aimed at what may be called broadly rural reconstruction, is possibly a very astute and subtle attempt to pave the way for a further civil disobedience campaign on a much larger scale than before and supported to a greater extent by the rural population. It has, therefore, most dangerous potentialities; for if these surmises are correct, Mr. Gandhi contemplates a three-fold attack in future. Congress members of the legislature will do all they can to hamper 'repressive' action by Government; (*yes a thousand times yes*); the village organisations will be available for an intensive civil disobedience campaign, and the Socialist left-wing, which is gradually moving into closer touch with the communists will be allies of Congress in this campaign."

Why should we not? If we stand together, we will only be imitating the Government. This Government keep their army, navy and air forces to fight us, keep their communal policy to divide us and give titles and honours to tempt us, and we in the Congress are anxious to see to it that they do not repress the natural political activities of this country, and that we carry on our village work so that our villagers may look to the lead of the Congress in the peaceful fight for Swaraj. And, as for the Socialists, Mahatma Gandhi has made it perfectly clear that the Congress does not

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and cannot accept the extreme socialist programme. Then, I come, as my time is nearing its end, to the operative part of the resolution to which I referred in my remarks this morning. The Government say:

"The Government of India have no reason to believe that Local Governments or their officers will turn a blind eye to any such infringements of the law of the land or will refrain from instituting prosecutions or taking preventive action in all appropriate cases. If such action is necessary the Government of India will accord their full support."

It is unnecessary prompting. Their actions with regard to Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, with regard to Dr. Satyapal, with regard to the Bose brothers, amply demonstrate that the Local Governments have not changed their hearts. The repressive policy is on. Finally, they say:

"It appears to the Government of India to be desirable to amplify these orders and that the principle underlying them should be followed in other matters. District officers and other officers of Government should not refuse to see organisers of the Village Industries' Association should they apply for interviews; but they should not agree to the loan of Government buildings nor should they direct or permit their subordinate staff, to assist in any way."

To me, it is the gravamen of the charge. I put it to the Government that it will be impossible to carry on any work in this country if we on this side judge the Government not by what they do or what they say, but what we think are their motives and they ought not to judge our actions or our speeches by what we do or what we say, but not by what they think are our motives. The whole circular is an insidious attempt to poison the minds of Government officials against the new association by a series of assumptions which are either untrue or misleading or exaggerated. Mahatma Gandhi does not speak the truth when he says he has gone out of politics, out of the Congress, and out of the civil disobedience. And, therefore, the village organisations should be suppressed, and the Government ask the district officials not to co-operate with these people! If, after this, we say, all this talk about co-operation, about reconciliation, about peace and good-will is mere tall talk and is intended to deceive and not to convince, are we wrong? We hear a great deal about safeguards in the joint Parliamentary Committee Report and we are told by Governors and others that all these safeguards mean nothing, and that they mean the utmost good-will towards this country. Mahatma Gandhi says: "I go out of the Congress, out of politics. I will take no part except in constructive and useful work, to get a few more pies to the hungry millions of villagers in this country". And the Government come along and say: "No, you shall not be assisted in doing all that". I, therefore, believe that the sense of this House will be unanimous in saying that this action of the Government ought to be condemned. It comes to this. If the Congress says that 2 and 2 is four, the Government officer shall not say that 2 and 2 is four, but it is either 3 or 3. (Laughter.) I think it is very wrong, and if this Government mean that they want the co-operation of the people, they want the co-operation of the Congress, they ought to show some more imagination, some more sympathy, some more statesmanship. I do not know who the scribe of this circular is. I cannot congratulate him even on its good English; it is badly drafted.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: What? Badly drafted?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Yes, badly drafted, it is not even good English, much less does it contain good sense, and it betrays an amount of suspicion and distrust which is unworthy of any decent or dignified Government. It seems to me that the Government of India must take courage in both hands and say: "We are here by the force of our arms and will remain here until you can drive us out". I can understand that, but I object to this hypocritical way of saying in one breath, we want your co-operation, and in another breath, rejecting our co-operation, and when Mahatma Gandhi says: "I will go and do this constructive work", attributing motives to him, attributing motives to the Congress and saying: "We cannot co-operate with these people". That is why I venture to hope that all Honourable Members of this House, who are free to vote according to their conscience, will vote for this adjournment, and censure the Government at the very beginning of this Assembly. We are here to work in the Assembly to the best of our ability and we appeal to our colleagues here, on whatever Benches they may sit, not to turn down our offer of co-operation but to co-operate with us in fighting this Government when they make the scandalous mistake which they have made in this ill-fated circular. Sir, I move that the House do now adjourn. (Applause.)

Mr. Chairman (Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney): Motion moved:

"That the House do now adjourn."

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Sir, I might have taken the attitude on this motion that it discussed a document which was published in the Press owing to some illicit practice, a document that was either stolen or sold or anyhow obtained in some illicit way, and I might have taken the attitude which was taken by my predecessor in 1929 in similar circumstances, that I refuse on principle to make any statement about a document thus illicitly obtained. I did not take that line as I was anxious not to give the appearance of seeking to avoid a debate on this subject and because there is nothing in this circular, which was confidential but which has now come to see the light,—nothing in this circular of which we in the Government of India are ashamed or which we intend or propose to withdraw.

An Honourable Member: Are they so shameless?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Not, admittedly, this circular has been either stolen or sold by somebody into whose possession it has come. By whom that was done, I am not aware. I am making inquiries into that and I can only say this, that so far as I have obtained information the leakage did not occur in Delhi. If I can lay my hand on the person guilty, such retribution as the law allows will be taken in full.

An Honourable Member: On a point of order. How is all this relevant to this motion—the point as to how it leaked out.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The circular communicates the confidential and tentative views of the Government of India to the Local Governments. It was not, as I say, intended for the public eye. In fact, it reads, as one newspaper I saw described it, as if the Government

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was talking in private to itself. Nevertheless it was specifically stated that the views and the inferences stated in this circular were tentative and to some extent speculative, but I do not admit for one moment that these views on the material that was then available were wrong in any material respect. Indeed the Honourable the Mover has just made admissions which amount to saying that the circular was on every statement of fact absolutely correct.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: On a point of personal explanation. I said with regard to one statement as regards Mahatma Gandhi's absolute leadership it was not only correct but true. I do not admit and I did not admit that every statement is correct.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I have chapter and verse here as regards every statement of fact.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: That is a different matter.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The material is all here. If I had the time I would have dealt with all of it. The gravamen of the charge brought against us, I understand, is that we are not justified in treating with suspicion or distrust this particular new feature of the Congress organisation, namely, the All-India Village Industries Association. That, I understand, we are to take at its face value as a purely non-political and economic move. That, I understand, is the Honourable the Mover's position.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Yes.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Now we know where we are. I should like to say that our conclusions as stated tentatively in this circular were founded not only on the reports of persons who were present in Bombay at the Congress session, but and also to an even greater extent on the contemporary comments in various sections of the Press. Now, let me read the Honourable the Mover one comment, taken from a paper dated the 10th November. It is the *Indian Mirror* which represents the orthodox Sanatanist Hindus. (Laughter.) Honourable Members may laugh, but I will quote from their own papers presently. This paper says:

"When once his (Gandhiji's) power over the villages is well established, his fiat will have only to go forth to find ready obedience. Armed with this new power, Gandhiji can re-enter the field of politics, where he has miserably failed in the past, and begin the fight afresh. He can threaten the Sanatanists into giving up their principles. He can force the capitalists and landlords to come to terms with him and surrender to the Congress. He can do much more so long as the villagers are at his back."

That is a paper which I admit is not generally friendly to the Congress but it is a paper that represents many millions of orthodox Hindus. (Laughter.) Now, let me take a paper that is friendly to the Congress. Let me read what the Special Correspondent of the *Tribune*, the *Leader*

and the *Bombay Chronicle* wrote at the time the Congress session was being held:

"If I were asked to say what is the real interpretation of Gandhiji's new move, I would unhesitatingly say, after what I have seen and heard in Bombay, Gandhiji has planned a new offensive, whereby he wants to close in from all sides and leave no scope for escape for the Government in any future non-violent struggle he may initiate. Mahatmaji wants the Assembly to be run by Congressmen. He wants the economic fight to be waged by himself from outside the Congress. But there is no doubt that the Congress is to be broadened with a view to undertake another plan for making the authorities yield to pressure."

That was written by the Special Correspondent of a paper that has always supported the Congress. Identical articles appeared in the *Leader* and the *Bombay Chronicle*.

An Honourable Member: Does that also represent millions?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I have quoted these articles to show what the Press thought of this move at the time—two important sections of it. As regards the concluding paragraphs of the circular, I would only say this. The paragraphs to which the Honourable the Mover has particularly referred deal with the attitude to be taken by the district officers towards the new association. The directions described therein were contemplated but were not actually final orders. As a matter of fact they have not been issued pending the consideration of the replies we have received from Local Governments. The question of the attitude the district officers are to adopt towards the association is still a matter for consideration. The association is not actually, I understand, yet in practical working order and we must naturally wait on developments.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah (Bombay City: Muhammadan Urban): If the directions contained in that circular were not to be given effect to by the district officers, what was the object of the circular?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The object is to consult Local Governments, to ask them if they accept our summing up of the situation as correct and also if they thought that the orders which we contemplated would be suitable in the circumstances. The replies of the Local Governments are now under consideration. I hope I have made that clear to my Honourable friend.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: I am much obliged.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: So much for the comments in the Press at the time. I should like now to turn to later developments and to statements made by Congress leaders themselves within the last few weeks regarding the particular point under discussion, namely, whether this is a non-political and purely economic move. As regards that, I have here a copy of an article that was published in the *Tribune* of the 13th of this month, just 8 days ago.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: On a point of order. How is that statement, long after the date of the circular, relevant to explain the scope and the effect of the statements in the circular?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I will explain that. If the Honourable Member will wait, he will see the relevancy of this. This is an article written by Sardar Sardul Singh Cavasheer, who, I understand, is a member of the All-India Congress Working Committee. That article takes the line that Government is entirely right or mainly right in its summing up of the Village Industries Association. Let the Honourable Member hear what his political colleague had to say. The article was written in reply to an article by a certain Professor Brij Narayan—I do not quite know who he is but I believe he lives in Lahore. I have not seen his article, but it appears it was an article attacking Mr. Gandhi's new organization as politically a quite valueless organization. Sardar Sardul Singh wrote this article in reply to Professor Brij Narayan and he quoted a statement made by Sardar Patel to an audience at Ahmedabad. This is what Sardar Patel said:

"We have not given up the fight for freedom; we have merely changed the mode of the fight. It is no use now going to jail or conducting a no-tax campaign. We have to fight against our own weakness without coming in conflict with the Government so that we may acquire the strength for the fight when it is resumed. True socialism lies in the development of village industries."

Then the comment of Sardar Sardul Singh was this:

"The political importance of the new programme"

—that is, the Village Industries Association—

"may be little in the eyes of the Professor",

—that is, Professor Brij Narayan—the critic whom he was replying to,—

"but, as the above quotation shows, the Congressmen know what it would lead to and not only the Congressmen, the Government also know something about it,"

and then he goes on to refer to this circular and quotes what is supposed to be in this circular:

"If, after all this, the Professor (*that is, Professor Brij Narayan*) believes that the new programme has no political value, he is welcome to believe so, but those who have been in the fight for the last fifteen years and who have actual experience how the country's battle is fought would certainly refuse to follow the Professor in his prognostications."

In other words, the whole purport of Sardar Sardul Singh's article is that Government is right in its estimate of what the Village Industries Association amounts to, and that Professor Brij Narayan was wrong (Hear, hear)—and that, mark you, was from a member, a very important member, of the All-India Congress Working Committee.

I have got something even more strongly corroborative of our view. It is a long quotation, but I hope the House will bear with me as it really is extremely pertinent to the matter under discussion. Again I quote from the *Tribune*, this time of the 15th of January, a report of a statement made by Mr. Acharya Kripalani, the General Secretary of the Congress, at Patna. That, I take it, can be described as something straight from the horse's mouth; he is the General Secretary of the whole Congress. This is a Press statement issued by him launching a vigorous attack on the Congress Socialists because they had bitterly criticized this Village Industries Association. He says:

"Gandhiji and his associates do not shy at the revolution. They only do not know the scheduled time of its arrival, as some of the Socialist friends seem to know. Therefore they in their own humble way try to do the duty at hand, in the belief

that if and when the revolution comes, they may not be found wanting. They also feel that in India the revolution must come from the village. They know that the best way of approach to the villager is to help him to help himself in his daily task and to try to serve him. Let the Socialist be not unjust to the admittedly tiny efforts of the Village Industries Association. He may take it from me"—

--that is, from the General Secretary of the whole Congress—

"that even when these pioneer efforts fail or come to be scrapped in favour of larger and more ambitious schemes, the share of these seemingly ridiculous things in bringing the revolution nearer would not be negligible. Let him know that history will accord a place of honour to the efforts of Gandhiji and his gang in the resuscitation of the nation's life. Let him also know that in the hour of trial Gandhiji's crew would not be found in the rear."

Mr. Chairman (Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney): I should like to draw the Honourable Member's attention to the fact that his time is almost up.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I shall take only two minutes, Sir. I am sorry I had to waste so much of my time over quotations, but I do think the House will agree that these quotations are pertinent quotations: and in the face of them, it is idle to assert that we are wrong in pointing out to Local Governments the possibly dangerous potentialities of this organization. I would only say this that if future developments prove that we are wrong—and there is nothing in this circular that is dogmatic or positive; as I said, the whole thing is stated in language of great moderation and restraint as tentative and largely speculative conclusions—if time shows that we are wrong, that we have misjudged this organization, that it is a purely economic scheme intended for the welfare of the villager, then you may be certain that we shall welcome co-operation (Hear, hear), but, remember, we are dealing with a party, a political organization that has never dissociated itself from or abandoned civil disobedience as a political weapon. It has suspended it only for a time—and I have quoted today utterance after utterance of its own leaders showing that its intention is to resume the struggle, to renew the fight and to force the Government to its knees by bringing about a revolution in the villages. Can you be surprised, in those circumstances, if we have pointed out to our officers and agents all over the country the necessity for watching this movement carefully and estimating what it really means? Can you be surprised if we called their attention to its possible dangers? (Loud and Prolonged Cheers.)

Mr. A. K. Fuzlul Huq (Bakargunj *cum* Faridpur: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, it would have been in the fitness of things if the day which witnessed the opening ceremony of the first Session of this Assembly could have been allowed to pass off without this trial of strength between the Bureaucracy and the Opposition. This, however, was not to be; and having listened to the Honourable the Home Member in reply to the speech of the Mover of this motion, I have no hesitation in saying that in this case the fault lies entirely with the officials. (Loud Opposition Cheers.) Sir, the Honourable Member has made a somewhat long speech, in the course of which he has tried to explain to this House that the circular is not only innocuous but that it offers the hand of co-operation to the Congress, provided the Congress really means to work for the benefit of the people of India. Sir, the point is not whether the circular is well meant or innocent, or otherwise, but the point is whether

[Mr. A. K. Fuzlul Huq.]

the days of government by circulars, secret or open, should be allowed to continue. Officials have got very short memories and I am surprised that even at the present moment the officials seem to have forgotten that iniquitous methods of administration as reflected by the issue of circulars, secret or otherwise, have always led to the most disastrous consequences. However much the officials may affect to ignore the unmistakable forces which are slowly but surely moulding the nationhood of India, they have got to remember that India has passed that stage when it could tolerate methods of administration which are utterly unsuited to civilized canons of government in any part of the globe. Sir, I do not know what kind of students the members of the Bureaucracy were at school or college or even in the University (*A Voice*: "Very brilliant."), but when they come out to India I find that they are very bad students in assimilating the lessons of experience. Perhaps the fact that they are allowed to go on unhampered, in the course which they take, tends to lessen their powers of perception.

Mr. Chairman (Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney): Order, order: I must draw the Honourable Member's attention to the fact that there is a large list of speakers, and I would, therefore, ask him very kindly to stick to the point at issue and not to introduce irrelevant matters.

Mr. A. K. Fuzlul Huq: What I was just going to submit to this House is the obstinacy with which particular methods of administration are being pursued by officials and I submit respectfully for your consideration that I am quite in order in referring to that in the course of my speech. Sir, there is an Oriental proverb—I am told it is Chinese in origin—which says that the exercise of arbitrary and autocratic methods of administration sometimes tends to make people somewhat mule-headed. I am only asking the officials in India, however much they may seem to belittle the activities of the Congress, that there can be no doubt that the Congress has got a very strong hold on the affections of the people. ("Hear, hear" from the Congress Party Benches.) It is no use ignoring the Congress, however much you may differ from it and the point that we seek to bring out at the present moment is that if you are well meant in your efforts to co-operate with the Congress or any other organisation in benefiting the people of this country, circulars should be open, fair and straight and not conveyed confidentially for the guidance of a select coterie of officials. If it is good, it is good for all and it can bear the light of the day. If it is bad, and has got to be conveyed by circuitous and crooked methods, then it must not be allowed to go out at all. Sir, having taken everything into consideration, I feel disposed to give my whole-hearted support to the motion for the adjournment of the House.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, as an economist, I am greatly disappointed to find that the Government has taken up an attitude of suspicion, distrust and hostility towards the All-India Village Industries Association. India is a country mostly of villages and the welfare of the country depends on the welfare of the villages. It is, therefore, the duty of the Government as well as of the

representatives of the people to look to the economic welfare of the villages. Unfortunately, the Government has so far done nothing to improve the condition of the villages; and now that the people—and the Congress representing a very large section of the people—have come forward to take steps to revive the dying industries and to establish new industries, the Government ought not to take up an attitude of hostility towards the programme. It is not in the fitness of things that the Government should hamper the work of the Village Industries Association. I say the Government has been very ill-advised in taking up such an attitude. Let us hope and trust that better counsels will prevail with the Government. In the meantime, I feel it my duty to appeal to the elected Members of this House to condemn the present attitude of the Government.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands): Sir, I was hoping for a fairer appreciation of Government's share in economic activity from the learned professor who has just resumed his seat. When the discussion started, it looked as if my Honourable friends opposite and those who agree with them would concentrate argument upon the assumed distrust of Government of what the Congress is attempting to do and what Mr. Gandhi intends to do in order to revive the village industry. It appears, however, that that by itself is not going to be the field of discussion or debate, but that it is going to be contended that, inasmuch as Government have a completely blank record in the economic field or in what is comprehensively described as rural reconstruction, therefore it is hardly proper for Government to say anything at all in regard to this campaign of economic or rural reconstruction. I think that in fairness to Government one might be given a few minutes—one cannot really in the 15 minutes or so review the history of Government's rural policy since the Government of India passed to the Crown—one might be given a few minutes to state briefly what Government actually has done for the villagers and for villages. It is suggested that Government have done nothing. Why is it suggested that Government have done nothing?

An Honourable Member: Government have imposed additional taxes all right.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: My Honourable friend who is also an economist will appreciate the fact that there is no Government in the world which can carry on any programme of reconstruction without taxation because, after all, the resources of Government come from the pockets of the tax-payer. Sir, it would be best, and I think conducive to the smoothness as also the success of the debate, if we were to reserve interruptions for occasions when longer time is allotted to speakers and when one is given an opportunity of fully saying one's say.

I will now turn and explain as succinctly as I can what Government have done in the field of rural reconstruction. Let us take first village industries which occupy a very prominent place in the programme of the Congress. I shall not take my retrospect back further than 1916 and 1918 when the Industrial Commission reported. The Industrial Commission paid special attention to the provincial machinery required for the needs of village industries. As a result of the recommendations made by that Commission, we have in seven out of the ten major provinces, and that includes now the North-West Frontier Province, central institutes where artisans are trained in their handicrafts and, what is even more important:

[Mr. G. S. Bajpai.]

instructors are trained in order to accompany peripatetic parties which demonstrate improved processes and popularise improved machinery. I refer, Sir, in particular to the work which has been done in regard to the handloom weaving industry, an industry which, I understand, is very near to the heart of Mr. Gandhi about whom my Honourable friend opposite has spoken so feelingly. Now, Sir, let us take another aspect of cottage industries, that is, the improvement of designs and marketing. Institutes have been brought into existence in the major provinces, particularly in Bihar and Orissa, in Burma and elsewhere, which pay special attention to the improvement of designs. There is also now a movement on foot, which has been in existence for some time, to bring into existence depots which have the object of helping the producer of handloom work to get a better price for his commodities than he would get otherwise.

Pandit Nilakantha Das (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadan): Are all these descriptions in order on this motion?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I am very glad, Sir, that you hold that after the very definite charge made by the learned Professor from Calcutta, what I am saying in regard to economic work of Government is in order.

Mr. Chairman (Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney): You are quite in order.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I shall now pass on from village industries to agriculture. We are told over and over again and quite rightly that of the population of this country, roughly 80 per cent. is dependent either directly or indirectly upon agriculture and that Government must do a great deal for agriculture. I submit that consistently with their resources the Government have done as much as they could for agriculture. (*An Honourable Member*: "Question".) I again repeat what I said a little while ago that if interruptions are meant to subtract from one's small allotment of time, it really is impossible to do justice to any subject.

Mr. Chairman (Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney): I must call the attention of the House to the fact that the Honourable Members have a limited time at their disposal and they should not be interrupted unnecessarily.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I was on the point of stating briefly what Government has done in regard to agriculture. It might interest the House to know that actually the Central Government and the Provincial Governments taken together are spending something like two crores of rupees every year, partly on agricultural research and partly on such matters as demonstration.

An Honourable Member: Question.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I do not know how my Honourable friend is questioning facts which I can demonstrate whenever he has a moment to spare to look at blue-books. Two crores represent the expenditure incurred upon demonstrations and upon research. Take another aspect

of agriculture, the most important of all, irrigation. What is the position there? In the course of the last 12 years, there has been an increase in the canal irrigated area in this country of 20 million acres which taking also into account the 20 million in existence before represents 40 million acres of land protected hereafter for all time from the ravages of famine and the caprice of the monsoon. Those 40 million acres represents twice the area under irrigation in the United States, not only a country infinitely more prosperous than this but also agriculturally almost as important. Let us look at what Government is doing in the matter of distribution of seeds. The position as regards that today is that 15 million acres of land in this country are under better varieties of wheat, cotton and sugarcane. That, Sir, is all I can say at this stage about agriculture. Let us pass on to education.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: On a point of order, Sir. Education is not yet a village industry.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I am surprised that my Honourable friend should fight shy of the word education.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What is the occasion for discussing education now?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I was about to mention that my Honourable friend himself was a very distinguished member of a Conference which met in Delhi last year and recommended a re-orientation of our educational policy, primarily to afford more scope for vocational education in rural areas. The villager is the solicitude of Honourable Members opposite and inasmuch as education is at the root of any rural reconstruction that is vital, I should have thought that my Honourable friend would not take any objection.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Then give us birth control.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I hope my Honourable friend's Malthusian activities will not be confined to the precincts of this House, but that he will also preach this doctrine on the palm beach in Madras.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: There is no palm beach in Madras.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I was saying, Sir, that schemes of rural reconstruction in relation to education are now receiving attention from Local Governments. As a result of their activities in this field of primary education there has been an increase of three million pupils. Experience shows that there is a great deal of wastage and in order to remedy that wastage, you have to concentrate upon vernacular middle schools which have been such a success in the Punjab, Bombay and elsewhere. Is it, Sir, nothing that three Local Governments are paying attention to this? Is it nothing that the Government of India should be contemplating not in the very distant but in the very near future the creation of a machinery which would give a greater stimulus to the movement of educational reconstruction and educational reform.

Take public health. I have no doubt that my Honourable friend, Mr. Satyamurti, will say that we should scrap the Public Health Department of the Government of India, because obviously they will have the same effect as birth control of which he seems to be so much in favour.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: No, I am not in favour of birth control.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I am sorry that my Honourable friend.....

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra (Presidency Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Is the Honourable Member entitled to enter into all these matters on a question like the one contained in the motion before the House?

Mr. Chairman (Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney): Order, order.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: My Honourable friend has forgotten the striking feature of an increase of 33 millions in the population of this country. I think it does not need any strong effort of the imagination to lead one to the conclusion that this increase is to a very large extent the result of the effective action which the Public Health Departments of the various Governments are taking. I can mention other instances. Take for example, pilgrimages. At one time they used to be attended by very very dreadful outbreaks of epidemics. These epidemics were not limited to the centres of pilgrimage but they also followed in the trail of the devout to their places of abode. All this has been eliminated because of the success of the Public Health Department. This ultimately helps the villagers. It is possible for me to go on like this if you would give me time (*An Honourable Member*: "And talk it out".) But all these are relevant matters. There is no foundation for the suggestion that Government have been absolutely idle in regard to rural reconstruction. Now, Sir, I have covered a few subjects, but they by no means exhaust all what the Local Governments have done or are doing. Take the question of rural credit about which people are so much exercised. I have no doubt the socialist wing of the Congress particularly are exercised about it. What is happening there? The provinces of the Punjab, the Central Provinces and the United Provinces have undertaken far-reaching legislation on that subject. Is it suggested that that betrays a record either of indifference or of ephemeral activity of recent origin? I submit not. I see that I have only two or three minutes left and therefore it is not possible for me to say as much as I should have liked to say in regard to what the Governments, both at the centre and in the provinces, have done for rural reconstruction work. At any rate, what I have said should satisfy the House that the charge of the learned Professor from Calcutta is unmerited. It should also show the House that Government, so long as efforts at co-operation in the task of rural reconstruction are genuine, and not mixed with any political tinge, are only too ready and too willing to welcome that co-operation. What my Honourable friends opposite have to make up their minds about is that there shall be no blend of a little bit of rural economic reconstruction with a large pail of political propaganda.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Why not?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: Because I am not aware that even in Soviet Russia
5 P.M. one has gone and mixed up politics and economic reconstruction.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Of course.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: It seems to me that if my Honourable friends are really not interested in economic propaganda but are really aiming at political propaganda, then there is no justification, I submit, for a vote of censure at all.

Prof. N. G. Ranga ((Guntur cum Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): That is not a Congress organisation.

Mr. Chairman (Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney): Order, order.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I was submitting it for his information.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: My Honourable friends cannot have it both ways. They cannot say that Government stand condemned because they say their officers cannot help a movement which is primarily designed for economic objects and yet in the course of the discussion proceed to say, "Really economic objects are purely secondary and what we are after is a political revival of the country which, when the hour strikes, will be fully made use of by the Congress party for political purposes and not for an economic revival". Let me put it in a sentence. If economic reconstruction is what they are after, let them sit and consider what we have done, come frankly to Government and say, "We are here to co-operate with you in this programme". On the other hand, if this is merely a facade and a pretext and what they are really after is political propaganda, in that case they have no business to mix up the two. And I would further submit that there is no justification for censuring Government for telling their officers what is the plain and the real truth.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I listened to the speech of the Honourable the Home Member with undivided attention. This is the first meeting of the House and I was naturally anxious to understand the Government position and I am even now equally anxious to deal with it in a dispassionate manner. I wanted to see on what the Honourable the Home Member had exactly based his circular. I find that he had nothing more or better to rely upon than a few newspaper extracts distorted and disjointed.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I cannot accept the word "distorted", I distorted nothing: I read the exact words that appeared in the documents from which I was reading. The Honourable Member has no right to accuse me of distortion.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: The Honourable Member cited extracts from the papers without giving us the whole text thereof. If you read the entire article it leads to an inference dissimilar from the impression that the portion read out leaves in your mind.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Sir, on a point of order, I suggest that the Honourable Member should be made to withdraw the word "distortion". I object very strongly to being accused of distortion.

Mr. Chairman (Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney): Did the Honourable Member by using the word "distorted" mean intentional distortion by the Honourable the Home Member? If he did he must withdraw it.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: I did not say it was intentional. I said "distorted" and nothing more.

Mr. Chairman (Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney): The Honourable Member must realise that the word "distortion" can be interpreted to mean what is not true indeed, in most instances it implies an untruth.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: I submit, Sir, that the articles have not been read in full. Certain extracts only have been cited.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I am willing to lay them on the table.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: They may be laid on the table but my submission is that the impression which the extracts that have been read out give is not borne out when the whole of the article is read. I have read some of those articles and I formed an entirely different impression from the inference that one would draw from the short quotations that have been given. I may make it clear that I had no intention to indicate that the Honourable Member intentionally wanted to give us a deliberately wrong impression. But the fact remains that the impression that he has given is perverted. (Laughter.)

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: On a point of order, the Honourable Member accused me of distorting and he has withdrawn that. I submit that he is out of order in saying that I perverted the article. I read the exact words and I did not give the House any impression or intend to give any impression contrary to that which is borne by the whole of the articles which I read.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: As I proceed I think I will be able to make the position clearer. But the thing that struck me particularly was the great regard which the Government of India have displayed for the Indian Press. I would like to know when this process of conversion started and when exactly they began to follow the lead and to draw their inspiration from the Press and specially from the Indian branch of it. I congratulate them on this dawn of good sense. I wonder, however, whether it is only a passing phase or whether it betokens their submission to the world forces and to the force of public opinion in this country. I hope the Home Department will now withdraw the restrictions on the Indian Press, and repeal or radically alter the press law in this country. If it results in that consummation, the Village Industries Association will have reason to congratulate itself on this unexpected achievement and it will be found willing to congratulate Government on this dawn of wisdom in spite of their manifest anxiety to non-co-operate with it. But there is another point which struck me. The Honourable the Home Member referred to many stray things from the Press but he took pretty good care not to refer to what was the most important part of what has appeared in the Press so far. What has Mahatma Gandhi himself said and what do the rules of the organisation say?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I had not the time to mention all that.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: Then I will supplement the Honourable Member's remarks and this time may be added to the time taken by the Honourable Member. Sir, the Honourable Member did not tell us that Mahatma Gandhi himself had said soon after the issue of this circular that if the Government co-operated with him in this matter he would work miracles in the villages. What attitude of mind does that indicate? What after all is politics and what is economics? What does the Honourable the Home Member mean or Mr. Bajpai—a loyal Indian comrade of his in the Indian Civil Service—perfectly loyal to the Indian Civil Service which is as faithfully Indian as it is a service? He gave us a catalogue of the wonderful achievements of the Government in this country. Only I did not know what he meant by the government—whether he meant the pre-mutiny government of the East India Company, or whether he meant the government of the pre-Minto-Morley days or whether he meant the government as it has been under the Montford régime since 1920. I will ask Mr. Bajpai to begin with the list of achievements of the East India Company in this respect. I would ask Mr. Bajpai to give us a connected and complete narrative of all that the Government in this country have done or undone in the matter of cottage industries in the villages. Does he remember that thumbs were cut off, bodies were maimed and inhuman atrocities were committed? He knows all that. I do not want to refer to that tragic history today. Now, as to the difference between politics and economics, the world today does not recognise any difference between politics and economics: And what after all is politics?.....

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: On a point of order, Sir. I must say that the rather gruesome statement my Honourable friend made is entirely unjustified and incorrect.....

An Honourable Member: What is the point of order?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: The statement as regards the cutting off of hands as a measure of encouragement to non-Indian industry—I know that that statement has been made.....

Mr. S. Satyamurti: On a point of order, Sir.....

Mr. Chairman (Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney): Two points of order cannot be simultaneously raised. The chair is already considering a point of order and no further point can be raised till the Chair decides on the first.....

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I was just going to say that I was not unfamiliar with that statement.....

Mr. Chairman (Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney): Order, order: I am afraid the Honourable Member is out of order: he is not raising a point of order.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: Now, Sir, what is the distinction between politics and economics? I do not know: I do not quite understand. Is the earthquake work in Bihar an economic, a humanitarian or a political net-work for entangling people and entrapping them inside the Congress fold so that the Congress may have power in the land? If the service of the people by itself is considered an offence because it would tend to

[Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant.]

strengthen the position of Congressmen in this country, then pray, who is actually biassed and actuated by political motives? Is it we who want to serve the people, or is it they who want to stand in the way of service lest that growing influence should some day culminate in the extinction of the existing vicious system of Government in this country? It is just there that the rub comes in. It is but one more instance of the political obsession of this Government which has been responsible for many a disaster in this country, and it is this aspect to which I particularly beg to invite the attention of Honourable Members of this House.

There is another issue involved and it is again a vital issue. We have been told and told repeatedly that the services should be independent, that the executive should adopt always a detached attitude, that they may have political masters from among the Congressmen some time—I have several friends in the services and my relations with them have been cordial—they have always said that they would not mind if they had to serve under Congressmen. Now, I ask, is it in any way a salutary, a sound and a wholesome principle that the permanent executive of this country should be asked to take sides with the bureaucracy as against the representatives of the people who may themselves form the Government tomorrow? What is the official defence of so many preposterous provisions in the Joint Parliamentary Select Committee's report? Have they not said again and again that many safeguards have had to be devised so that the services might not be subjected to political influences, so that they may be able to adopt a detached and independent attitude towards public questions? Have we not been told again and again that Indians do not know the distinction between political things and service of the masses? I, therefore, want to put the question again to the Benches opposite, do they stand for the service of the people or are they as heretofore to continue to perpetuate foreign domination and exploitation of this country so much so that every course of service prescribed by public men in this country, howsoever wholesome and promising it be, should be opposed, and they should fight shy of it and they should obstruct its progress because it is likely to result in strengthening the position of those who will perform such service? In fact, as the old story goes, the bureaucracy want to confine their attention to the grooming of the horse and themselves eat up the fodder. We on our part want to provide the horse with fodder and to put an end to this vain grooming, but they will not let us have that opportunity. I ask them to consider the position and to see whether the attitude they have adopted can even be regarded as decent.

Then, there is another very serious objection to the circular which has been issued. Village industries form part of Industry, and Industry is a transferred subject under the Montford Scheme according to the Government of India Act as it is today. Have not the Government acted against the spirit of the Government of India Act in interfering with the discretion of the Ministers in issuing instructions to them not to co-operate and join hands with the Congress party in the matter of village reorganisation? If so, then let us beware of the J. P. C. constitution and the safeguards: let us clearly understand what they aim at and let us not forget that a foreign Government is always actuated only by one dominant motive and that motive is the perpetuation of foreign rule; may I ask

the two eminent Indians sitting on the first front bench as to what they think of this attitude of hostility towards the organisation which is to concentrate on working for the improvement of the lot of those who, according to everybody who has ever had anything to do with this country, are today submerged in inconceivably colossal poverty. Is there really any occasion for political rivalry where the lot of the skeleton in the villages is concerned? I will read out only two sentences—perhaps my time may be up—

Mr. Chairman (Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney): It is very nearly up.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: One defines the object of the Village Industries Association:

"The object of the Association shall be the village reorganisation and reconstruction including the revival encouragement and improvement of village industries and the moral and physical advancement of the villager of India."

I ask the Honourable the Home Member if he in any way disagrees with this object

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Not in the least.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: Very well then. I will give him another relevant extract from the printed note I have in my hand and ask him if he has anything to add or supplement or substract or modify in this pledge which runs thus:

The following is the pledge for the members of the Industries Association:

"Having read the constitution and rules of the All-India Village Industries Association, I offer to be a member thereof and I hereby promise to devote the best part of my energy and talents to the furtherance of this object which is the all round welfare of the villages of India. So long as I remain as a member of the Association I shall not take part in any campaign of civil disobedience; in the discharge of my duties I shall seek the assistance and co-operation of all those who may be willing to give them irrespective of differences in politics. To the best of my ability I shall strive to live up to the ideals of the association and prefer the use of village manufactures to any other. In the prosecution of my obligations to the villagers, I shall recognise no distinction between man and man."

What does the Honourable the Home Member or any of the other Honourable Members sitting on the opposite Benches object to?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Highly commendable sentiments.

Mr. Chairman (Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney): What date is that?

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: I could not give you the exact date, but as soon as the Village Industries Association was formed

Mr. Chairman (Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney): When was that?

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: I think it was after the Congress session in Bombay. Now, Sir, he admits he does not object to these matters which are obviously the fundamental and determining factors. I find the key to the Government's attitude in two black words in that circular, and that is where Mahatma Gandhi is described as an astute

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politician. Astute, Sir, has a meaning which the occupants of the Treasury Benches know and realise very well. Astute means crafty. The world may look up to Mahatmaji as a saint, but people who are adepts in that art of craft can see nothing but craftiness round them.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Mr. Chairman, I certainly congratulate the Honourable the Home Member on the assurance he was good enough to give at the close of his speech to the effect that the Government would extend their hand of fellowship and patronage to the All-India Village Industries Association when it once sets about on its legs and proves its sincerity. I certainly should thank him for that assurance, but I am afraid the assurance loses all its merit, all its usefulness, and all that is valuable in it, when a condition is put upon it that when it survives the opposition of the Government, when it survives all those implications that are contained in this circular to the officers, and when in the face of all this severe opposition, the Village Industries Association would make itself felt.—I do say, Sir, that the assurance of Government comes with ill grace when it says that they would patronise it. It would have to prove by that time its capacity to survive in the face of all Government opposition, it would have to prove its usefulness, and no amount of Government opposition then would be of any avail. But what is it that the Village Industries Association proposes to do? The Village Industries Association proposes to confine its activities to three things in the beginning. First of all, the hand pounding of rice which all the villagers will have to consume instead of the milled rice. As a medical man I can tell the House, and it has been proved beyond doubt by various Commissions that have been appointed to inquire into the subject, that hand pounded rice is any day superior to milled rice. The vitamin contents in hand pounded rice is very much more than in milled rice and the disease called Beri-beri has always been thought to be, and even today it is thought to be, due largely to the consumption of polished milled rice. Hand pounded rice has several advantages in addition to improving the general health of the people. It gives an occupation to the villager, it gives food to the villager and keeps him free from disease. These are things, Sir, against which the Government circular has been sent. Again, the Village Industries Association proposes to revive the village industries. My friend opposite said something about handlooms, but are there not other industries which today for want of support in the villages are languishing? What about the mat-making industry? There are scores of such industries to which the villagers are not paying any attention and which the Village Industries Association proposes to revive. I am really surprised that such a well-informed Government as we have today should take it into their heads to send out a circular of this kind to all its officers and ask them to beware of the activities of the Village Industries Association, ask its members to see as to who subscribe to its funds, who are the people that take an active part in the development and promotion of the programme. I say the village munsiffs, the village officials will be set on the heels of all those people who are doing the Village Industries Association's work, the police will be informed and the villages will be set on fire, simply because of the fact that a man who speaks on behalf of the poor, who wants to revive the village industries, has been in the village to re-organize some

of the dying industries. I can also refer to another parallel instance. They say, what about the All-India Spinners' Association and its political significance? It shows how the Government has been hankering to get at the All-India Spinners' Association in their campaign of repression. In spite of all the laws that you have today, in spite of all the Ordinances that have been put in motion, in spite of all the powers that have been entrusted to the executive, the All-India Spinners' Association has escaped your laws. Government regret that it has not been possible for them to lay their hands on the All-India Spinners' Association. And after all, what is it that the Spinners' Association has done except to provide food for three lakhs of villagers, who are very poor, who would not have been able to exist otherwise, who would have died of famine,—poor people whose character and morality have been protected and whose virtues have been shielded by this programme, and it is of this Association that the circular says that it has a subtle and mischievous object, but the law could not lay its hands upon the All-India Spinners' Association. Now, what does the circular say about the Harijan movement and the funds collected by Mahatma Gandhi? Here, Sir, is a printed Report that has been published over and over again in this country, and it is really very surprising that this Government which is so powerful, so clever and which has its arms in every nook and corner of this country, has not heard anything about the Harijan movement and the way in which the funds collected by Mahatma Gandhi are spent. This Report clearly says that during the two years of the existence of this movement when the money was collected it has been spent for the benefit of the Harijans themselves, and there is an annual audited account presented to the country. It is about this the Government say that they do not know how the funds are collected and spent in this circular. And I am now asked to believe that this circular is only an instruction to its officers. Indeed it is an instruction with vengeance, it is an instruction to kill every movement started either by Mahatma Gandhi or even by the Congress for the welfare of the poor. Everybody knows how much this circular has frightened the poor villagers. Sir, we are there to do what we can to serve them, and as my friend has said, if our service brings its own reward, the Government cannot grudge us the result.

Mr. Suryya Kumar Som (Dacca Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Mr. Chairman, I move a closure.

Mr. F. E. James (Madras: European): Mr. Chairman, I should like, in the first place, if I may be allowed to do so, to welcome to this House Mr. Satyamurti and his friends, and to express the hope that our association together in this House will, if not leading to agreement altogether between us, at least lead to a better appreciation of one another's point of view. Now, Sir, I have known my friend, Mr. Satyamurti, for some years. I have had the great privilege of crossing swords with him and co-operating with him in the Madras Legislature, in the Corporation of Madras and in the Senate of the Madras University, and there has always been one characteristic for which Mr. Satyamurti is very famous, and that is his power of advocacy. Even though his case may be bad, his powers of advocacy are used to the fullest extent, and his party in the Madras Legislative Council in the old days would always put Mr. Satyamurti up when they had a somewhat feeble case. (Laughter.) Now, Sir, I want to suggest to him that on this particular occasion he has not

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got a very good case. However good his English may be, his arguments were bad. I want to try and concentrate upon the issue which is involved. Many extraneous matters have been introduced into the course of discussion including that long exploded myth about the cutting off of the weavers' hands which had never any historic justification. I want to deal with the particular issue which is before the House and to confine myself to that issue and not to deal with some of these somewhat extraneous matters which have been introduced.

Now, as far as I have understood Mr. Satyamurti's remarks, he and the Government seem to be, as far as this particular circular is concerned, in entire agreement as to some points of the objective appreciation which is contained in that circular. As I read the circular, it apparently concluded that the Congress is still united; and I gather that Mr. Satyamurti agrees with that. The circular also has concluded that Mahatma Gandhi has his powers intact, that he is now hale and hearty; I gather Mr. Satyamurti also agrees with that. The circular goes on to state that the Congress has decided to attack the problem of national freedom not only in the city but in the village, not only in the country but on the floor of this House. I understand that Mr. Satyamurti also agrees with that,—certainly he agrees with it in so far as attacking the problem on the floor of this House is concerned. The only place where the author of this particular document and Mr. Satyamurti himself part company is where the document deals with the Village Industries Association and suggests to Local Governments that they should look upon this new movement, which has grown out of the Congress deliberations in Bombay, with a certain amount of caution,—you may call suspicion, you may call it caution, but there it is. I understand that Mr. Satyamurti's real charge against Government is that they should not have taken this somewhat suspicious and cautious attitude in regard to the Village Industries Association. Therefore the question before the House really is this. First of all, are Government justified in looking upon this new movement with a certain amount of caution and suspicion, and, secondly, even if they are justified in such an attitude, is it a matter upon which they ought to be censured by this House? That is the real point.

Now, let us take the first point, and in taking this first point, I would observe in passing that it is refreshing to find my friend, Mr. Satyamurti, representing the Congress in this matter, being so sensitive about the matter of Government co-operation. I have always understood that the Congress has been very independent in this matter in the past, has pursued its own course whether the Government has co-operated or has not. But now I find Mr. Satyamurti being peculiarly sensitive on this question of co-operation and even complaining, not of non-co-operation, because Government have never said that they will non-co-operate but of a certain amount of caution in the attitude of the Government on this point. Perhaps he wants to eat the cake and have it too under the direct application and control of this Government. That is a noticeable feature of this debate to which I would draw attention in passing.

Now, are there any justifiable grounds for this attitude which is revealed in this circular, an attitude of caution or suspicion in regard to the future of this particular organisation? It is an organisation which grew out of the deliberations of the Congress in Bombay. It is sponsored by the great national leader, Mahatma Gandhi, and its workers will be

largely drawn from the ranks of the Congress workers themselves. The Honourable the Home Member has read to the House a considerable number of quotations from authoritative documents which purport to give authoritative views of Congress leaders in regard to the necessity for a reorientation of policy and a reaching down on the part of the Congress into the villages in order to prepare the masses for what is called in somewhat vague language "mass action" if and when that should be required. I have here another quotation which I take from the *Bombay Chronicle*, dated the 21st November, which puts in a nutshell this very attitude that I believe leads to the suspicion on the part of the Government in regard to this movement. It says:

"The Congress influence will have to be increased in the neglected rural areas."

I think every one will agree with that:

"Such influence is a necessary preliminary to the reorganisation of villages for political action. Moreover a widely spread Congress organisation is also a necessary preliminary for the convening of the Constituent Assembly when the time comes. Let the Congress workers therefore spread themselves out into the villages, infuse the villages with Congress ideals and prepare the ground for such mass action as may be necessary in the near future."

One can quote many other statements of a similar nature which give even an outsider the impression that there is a danger that an organisation of this description may be the training ground for mass action in the political field in the future. We have, of course, the statement of the leader of this organisation himself, one who is at heart a civil resister and has never hesitated to say so, who has never given up himself the gospel of civil disobedience in which he believes most earnestly and who has frankly reserved his judgment in the future as to the necessity of such action again on a larger scale. Mr. Chairman, I ask the House, those who are prepared to give this matter their quiet and dispassionate consideration, as to whether, whether you agree with it or not, there is any ground for Government caution in this particular matter. I submit that there is definite ground for caution; there is certainly definite ground for some suspicion; and in-so-much as the Government are ultimately responsible for the fundamental function of governing the country, there is every reason why they should pause before taking any definite action. Now, there is one other feature of this circular to which I should like to draw attention. So far as I understood it when I read the extract from the paper, the circular itself is somewhat speculative in its appreciation of the facts and it is certainly tentative in its proposals for action to be taken. As I understood it, it did not say that any particular action should be taken. It merely sketched the appreciation of the position and it said: 'If this is correct, then we suggest that certain action ought to be taken, but on these two points we wish to consult Local Governments and we wish to hear Local Governments' views on these matters'. That is the meaning, Sir, as I read it and if it is not so, I should like to be contradicted. It is true that in the matter of industries the ministerial sphere is most directly concerned, and therefore, it is obvious that the Government of India would wish to consult the Ministers fully before venturing to take any definite action on their own part. If action had been taken already the matter would have been entirely different. But here is a new organisation which is being started, sponsored by the leader of the civil disobedience movement, supported by an organisation which

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still is primarily political and must be primarily political in its objective. Can you blame, therefore, the Government for some suspicion on the matter and for some caution. If their suspicions are unfounded, time will prove it. If their suspicions are not unfounded, then Government is right in issuing these directions of caution. In any case, there appears to me at the present time to be no justification whatsoever for a censure motion.

Mr. A. H. Ghuznavi (Dacca cum Mymensingh: Muhammadan Rural):

Sir, I have listened to the speech of the Honourable the Mover with very great attention. I have also listened to the speech of the Honourable the Home Member. I think there was nothing objectionable in that circular. After all what did it contain? The Government of India were conveying their own ideas about this particular movement. It was not a sort of order or direction. They were only intimating Provincial Governments that they have this apprehension in their mind. It may be wrong but from what we have heard today I think there is every justification in sending out that circular. It has been said by my Honourable friend, Mr. Fuzlul Huq, that he is opposed to having these private circulars and governing India by the method of circulars. He was a Minister in Bengal, and I should like to ask him how many confidential circulars he had issued during his time.

Mr. A. K. Fuzlul Huq: None whatsoever.

Mr. A. H. Ghuznavi: Then, how are the Government of India to convey their ideas and views to the Provincial Governments? Does he mean to say that they should convey their ideas not by circulars, but by making a statement to the Press?

Mr. A. K. Fuzlul Huq: Not secret circulars.

Mr. A. H. Ghuznavi: Do you mean to say that they should immediately give out to the public matters on which they want to consult Local Governments?

Mr. A. K. Fuzlul Huq: Of course.

Mr. A. H. Ghuznavi: That is not the way in which Government act in any country. My Honourable friend, the Mover, had read out to us certain of the paragraphs of that circular letter. I wish he had read out the other paragraphs too. I welcome that circular letter, for one of the paragraphs says:

"But apart from such preventive action there are in the view of the Government of India other methods by which this movement may be prevented from developing on dangerous lines."

It is in their view most desirable that Government should anticipate this new movement by pushing on vigorously all practical schemes for the improvement of the economic condition of the masses.

That is exactly what we want. Government is taking action now. They felt that the time had now come when they should take action. By this circular they are asking the Local Governments to take this action. Then further on it says.....

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena (Lucknow Division: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Was the Honourable Member supplied a copy of the circular?

Mr. A. H. Ghuznavi: I got it from the same source as the newspaper.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: Will the Honourable Member say where he has got it from?

Mr. Chairman (Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney): Order, order.

Mr. A. H. Ghuznavi: I am not bound to answer that question.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: I want to bring it to the notice of the House that here is an Honourable Member. . . .

Mr. Chairman (Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney): The Honourable Member has already been called to order.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: On a point of order. No Honourable Member can read from a paper which was not placed on the table of the House. I should like to know what is the paper to which the Honourable Member is referring.

Mr. Chairman (Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney): I would ask the Honourable Member whether he placed his own papers, from which he read, on the table.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I read from the *Indian Express*. I am asking the Chair to rule that the Honourable Member cannot read from a paper which has not been placed on the table of the House.

Mr. A. H. Ghuznavi: I am sorry why all this fuss is made about this particular paper. Government say further in this connection that the Local Governments may also consider it desirable to give full publicity to the measures which they are undertaking and have undertaken for the uplift of the depressed classes. So, we will also know further what Government are doing for the uplift of the depressed classes. Then, they further say that the propaganda on these lines should not be limited to the steps taken for the development of village industries but should include all measures for the improvement of the peasants, that is provision of hospitals, schools, roads, canals, markets, etc. I consider this is a very useful circular they have issued. (Laughter.) After all, Government have realized that they must also do their part of the duty and they said they had taken up the interests of the masses. Not only do they say, "Do not limit your propaganda to developing village industries" but look to "the provision for schools, hospitals, etc., for the masses". Sir, after our experience of the last five years' disaster that the civil disobedience movement has brought about in India and of the serious consequences that have befallen those people in the various Provinces, is it not right for the Government to be alert, to see that no movement under any new name sprang up which might hereafter develop into something like the civil disobedience movement in the past? They have merely stated that in their opinion, they are apprehending something of that sort, but that they might be wrong and they were asking for the opinion of

[Mr. A. H. Ghuznavi:] the various Provinces. It is not as if they have sent out an order. (An Honourable Member: "They have.") It is an instrument giving their views in writing and inviting the opinion of the Provincial Governments. That is all that they said in the circular and the Honourable the Home Member made it clear in answer to the Honourable the Leader of the Independent Party that it was not to be put into action. Sir, what do we see further? The other day the Associated Press informed us that the Congress Working Committee passed this Resolution:

"The Congress has and can have nothing but good wishes for the personal well-being of His Majesty . . ."

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot: Non-Muhammadian Rural): What is the relevancy of this Resolution to this discussion?

Mr. Chairman (Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney): What objection does the Honourable Member take?

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: That is not relevant.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh (Chota Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadian): I also want a copy of the circular.

Mr. A. H. Ghuznavi: It is very relevant in this sense. It is a copy of a circular which says:

"The Congress has and can have nothing but good wishes for the personal well-being of His Majesty, but Congress cannot ignore the fact that British rule in India, wherewith His Majesty is naturally identified stands as a positive hindrance to the political, moral and material growth of the nation . . ."

An Honourable Member: You deny that?

Mr. A. H. Ghuznavi: It is not a question of our denying it or not; the question is that you are bringing His Majesty into this Resolution. Now, was it proper to pass this Resolution at this juncture when we are going to have the Silver Jubilee in a short time?

Some Honourable Members: I move that the question be now put.

An Honourable Member: The question may now be put. The time is up.

Mr. Chairman (Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney): Order, order. It is not the duty of any Member of the House to indicate to the Chair that time of a Member, who is speaking, is up. I have got a careful calculation of the time. I do not think it is right to constantly and unnecessarily interrupt a Member when he is talking especially when there is yet time left for him to speak. The Honourable Member Mr. Ghuznavi's time is almost up.

Mr. A. H. Ghuznavi: Thank you; I wish to speak only for a minute or so . . .

Mr. Chairman (Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney): The Honourable Member's time is up.

Several Honourable Members: The question may now be put.

Mr. Chairman (Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney): Sir N. N. Sircar.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar (Leader of the House): Mr. Chairman, my Honourable friend, Mr. Satyamurti, has brought forward this discussion on the ground that it is a definite matter of urgent importance. The Government have not objected to any free and frank discussion, but after hearing my Honourable friend, Mr. Satyamurti, and some of the other speakers, I believe, the House will agree with me that we have been discussing in a most indefinite manner a matter of no urgency whatsoever.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: On a point of order, Sir. You have ruled that it is a definite matter of urgent public importance, and is it open to any Honourable Member to suggest that it is not so?

Mr. Chairman (Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney): The Honourable Member Mr. Satyamurti is quite right in his point of order. (Applause.)

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Sir, I can assure the Chair that I was not questioning its ruling at all. On the other hand, accepting the ruling, I was only saying that you were led to believe and we were led to believe that a definite matter would be discussed. I am only pointing out that the matters which have been discussed are extremely indefinite, it does not mean, nor was it my suggestion, that anybody should dispute the ruling which came from the Chair. Now, Sir, the gravamen of the charge, as I understand it, to put it very shortly, I am quoting again the words of my Honourable friend, Mr. Satyamurti, that Mahatma Gandhi is the soul of truth, Mahatma Gandhi has said that this movement is not political, and, therefore, it is very mean and disgraceful on the part of anybody to suggest that he has spoken an untruth. But that is babbling the whole question; I am not now here disputing the proposition that he is the soul of truth, but where does untruth come in? The charge is this, or rather the surmise which the Government has made is this, that although he may have stated it as an economic movement, the idea at the back of the mind of the Mover is that when the masses are thoroughly drilled and disciplined, it will later on be used for a political purpose.

An Honourable Member: Why not?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: The moment the question "why not?" is put, it is an admission that the circular is true. (Loud Official Applause.)

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: May I ask the Honourable the Leader of the House, does he suggest that the masses of this country should not be trained up and used for any political purpose? (Hear, hear.)

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I can assure my Honourable friend that he has misunderstood me.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: You said "a political purpose"—you mean "unlawful activities"?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: What I mean is this. It is quite open, it may even be laudable, that depends on the point of view of a particular man, to mix up politics with economics but that is a point which you are not discussing today. We are not suggesting that nobody should mix up politics with economics. That might be to the best interest of a country,—to mix up politics with economics. The circular is directed against one point and one point only, namely, that this is a political movement mixed up with economics, that this is a political movement, and the particular politics with which this circular is concerned is the politics which leads to civil disobedience. The sole question is that the circular surmises politics—and that is now admitted.

An Honourable Member: How do you know?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I know because the author of this movement has reserved to himself the right of starting a civil disobedience movement at any time he pleases.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: May I interrupt my Honourable friend? May I ask the Leader of the House what would be sufficient or what would satisfy the Government, over and above the statement by Mahatma Gandhi—who is "the soul of truth" according to your own admission—who has said that he has no political purpose? What else do you want?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: If I have understood my friend aright, his question is: What would satisfy the Government? What does he mean by that?

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: Satisfy the Government that there is no justification for the suspicion that this movement is being carried on under cover of some ulterior motive leading to civil disobedience.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: That can be done by two sentences being uttered by Mr. Gandhi. That is to say, he has not merely suspended it and kept it in suspended animation, but he has advised once for all including himself that civil disobedience is going to be discarded.

(It being six of the Clock.)

Mr. Chairman (Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney): The House now stands adjourned till tomorrow at 11 o'clock.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 22nd January, 1935.