

25th March 1935

THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

(Official Report)

Volume III, 1935

(9th March to 28th March, 1935)

FIRST SESSION

OF THE

FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1935



NEW DELHI
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS
1935

Legislative Assembly.

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Deputy President :

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

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

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Monday, 25th March, 1936.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) in the Chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

GRATUITY RECEIVED BY EUROPEAN AND INDIAN OFFICERS IN THE INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE.

894. *Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: (a) What gratuity does an Indian Medical Service European officer receive after five years of service?

(b) What gratuity does a European officer receive after 12 years of service?

(c) What gratuity does a temporary Commissioned Indian receive after (i) five years of service and (ii) nine years of service?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: (a) and (b). Regular officers of the Indian Medical Services, both British and Indian, may retire with a gratuity of £1,000 after six years or £2,500 after twelve years.

(c) The conditions on which temporary commissions are given do not provide for the grant of any gratuity at the end of the period of engagement.

SELECTION OF CANDIDATES FOR TEMPORARY COMMISSIONS IN THE INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE.

895. *Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: (a) Who selects candidates for temporary commissions in the Indian Medical Service?

(b) Are these vacancies advertised in the papers?

(c) Why are candidates for these commissions not interviewed by the Indian Medical Service Selection Board? What factors are taken into consideration in selecting candidates for temporary commissions?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: (a) The Director General, Indian Medical Service, who is the head of the Indian Medical Service.

(b) Yes, in medical journals.

(c) Recruitment to temporary commissions is made at irregular intervals and often at short notice, and it would be inconvenient, if not impracticable, to summon the Selection Board on each occasion.

Age, physique, appearance, professional qualifications and experience, student career, athletic record as well as social, personal and general suitability are taken into consideration in the selection.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: Does the Director General select the temporary men also?

Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham: Permanent candidates are selected by the Selection Board and temporary candidates are selected personally by the Director General.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: There is no Board sitting to make the selection?

Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham: There is no Board.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: Is there any Committee for the selection?

Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham: There is no Committee.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: So it is all personally done by the Director General, Indian Medical Service?

Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham: Yes.

EMPLOYMENT OF TEMPORARY OFFICERS IN THE INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE.

896. ***Dr. T. S. S. Rajan:** (a) What justification is there for Government to employ temporary officers in the Indian Medical Service?

(b) Is there a shortage of officers on the military side, and if so, why are not Indian Medical Service officers in civil employ recalled to the military side?

Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham: (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to my replies to his question No. 871 and the connected supplementaries.

(b) There is no shortage on the military side.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: I wanted to know the reasons for the necessity of employing temporary officers. I do not think it was answered.

Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham: It was answered on a previous occasion.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: I know the previous question I asked, and because there was no explanation offered, I have put this question again.

Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham: I will read the answer to the previous question, if necessary.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: Will you please read it?

Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham: I said:

"As I tried to explain, there is room in the I. M. S. permanent cadre for a certain limited number at present of Indians. We cannot recruit beyond that proportion. Since the War, owing to the fact that British recruitment has been considerably below requirements, we have taken on a number of Indian temporary commissioned officers to take the place of British officers. That is the reason why we have had to go in for this method of temporary recruitment, and that is the reason why we have, during the last few years, been taking on more British officers to fill up the required percentage of two to one."

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: Is it in the temporary service?

Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham: I have just explained it.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the meaning of temporary service?

Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham: The opposite of permanent.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Does it mean that the service ends with the end of the year?

Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham: Temporary service is service under a contract which is renewed year by year and which can be extended for a period of five years.

Seth Govind Das: It cannot be extended beyond five years?

Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham: No, Sir.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: Are there not temporary men holding Commissions for more than five years?

Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham: There may be a few, because in the old days these temporary Commissions could be extended for nine years. As I explained on a previous occasion, in view of the objections to that rule, the period of nine years was reduced to five years. There may still be a few men who came in under the old conditions and who have had more than five years temporary service, but in future there will be no persons of that class.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: Are there not now persons who have put in more than five years service?

Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham: Yes, I have just said so.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: Are there not persons who have put in nine years service?

Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham: I have just said so.

SAVING BY THE EMPLOYMENT OF TEMPORARY OFFICERS IN THE INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE.

897. **Dr. T. S. S. Rajan:** What is the saving effected by Government by employing temporary officers in the Indian Medical Service during the last twenty years?

Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham: The collection of the information asked for would involve an expenditure of labour out of proportion to its value.

RATIO BETWEEN EUROPEANS AND INDIANS HOLDING PERMANENT COMMISSIONS IN THE INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE.

411. *Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: Will Government please state the calendar year in which the ratio between Europeans to Indians holding permanent commissions (excluding Indians holding temporary commissions) was two to one?

Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham: The ratio was first introduced in 1921 and was approximately maintained until 1933. Since that year the number of Indian officers has exceeded the correct proportion.

CONTRACT UNDER WHICH TEMPORARY COMMISSIONED OFFICERS OF THE INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE ARE EMPLOYED.

899. *Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: (a) What is the nature of the contract under which temporary Commissioned officers of the Indian Medical Service are employed?

(b) If they serve on a yearly contract and are not entitled to pay according to service, and not entitled to any gratuity, why are they given Commissioned rank at all?

(c) Have Government considered whether Sub-Assistant Surgeons of the Indian Medical Department cannot carry on the work of the Indian Medical Service officers?

Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham: (a) A copy of the form of contract has been placed in the Library of the House.

(b) Temporary officers are entitled to pay according to service. In fact they receive the same pay and allowances as permanent officers. The starting pay is Rs. 500 per mensem and, after three years, this is increased to Rs. 650. Commissioned rank is necessary for the efficient discharge of their military duties.

(c) Sub-assistant surgeons of the I. M. D. do not possess the professional qualifications and training required of officers of the Indian Medical Service.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: Do the temporary officers draw the same amount of allowance as the permanent men?

Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham: Yes, Sir; exactly the same.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: May I take it that there is no difference in the allowance between the temporary men and the permanent men?

Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham: That is what I said.

Munshi Iswar Saran: What are the military duties which these Doctors are called upon to do?

Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham: The same military duties as are done by those who are in permanent employ, that is to say, they are appointed to various military hospitals, etc.

LEAVE TO WHICH AN INDIAN HOLDING TEMPORARY COMMISSION IN THE INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE IS ENTITLED.

900. *Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: What is the maximum period of leave to which an Indian holding temporary Commission in the Indian Medical Service is entitled after (i) five years of service and (ii) nine years of service?

Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham: A temporary commissioned officer is entitled to two months' privilege leave, in any one calendar year, unless he is serving in certain concessional areas from which three months' leave is authorised. Privilege leave may, in the event of sickness, be combined with sick leave up to a maximum of six months.

STUDY LEAVE AND FURLOUGH FOR TEMPORARY COMMISSIONED OFFICERS IN THE INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE.

901. *Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: (a) Are temporary Commissioned officers in the Indian Medical Service entitled to any study leave?

(b) Are they entitled to any furlough?

Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham: (a) No.
(b) No.

TEMPORARY COMMISSIONED OFFICERS IN THE ARMY.

902. *Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: Are there temporary Commissioned officers in any other branch or department of the Army except the Indian Medical Service?

Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham: There is a system of short service commissions, both in the Royal Army Medical Corps and also in the Royal Air Force.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: Is there no such system in the I.M.S.?

Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham: There is this system of temporary Commissions in the I.M.S. There is a system of short service Commissions in the Royal Army Medical Corps, and there is also a system of short service Commissions in the Royal Air Force.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: May I take it that there is no such service for the I.M.S. apart from the temporary ones?

Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham: Apart from that, none.

INSTITUTION OF THE INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE SELECTION BOARD .

903. *Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: In what year was the Indian Medical Service Selection Board first instituted in India?

Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham: 1920.

SELECTION OF CANDIDATES FOR PERMANENT COMMISSIONS BY THE INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE SELECTION BOARD.

904. *Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: (a) Is it a fact that candidates for permanent commissions are finally selected by the Indian Medical Service Selection Board, and if so, why does not this Board interview candidates at the start for temporary commissions as well?

(b) Why is it that those candidates who have no chance of getting permanent commissions are taken, year after year, in large numbers on the temporary cadre and sent away after several years of temporary service?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: (a) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative, and the reply to the second is contained in the reply which I have just given to part (c) of question No. 895.

(b) Officers holding temporary commissions always have a chance of obtaining permanent commissions if they are suitable. I have already explained why they cannot all be given permanent commissions.

EMPLOYMENT OF INDIANS WITH TEMPORARY COMMISSIONS IN THE INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE.

905. *Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: (a) Has the efficiency of the Military Medical Services been affected, or the health of the Army in India suffered, in any way during the last twenty years by the employment of Indians with temporary commissions in the Indian Medical Service?

(b) Have these Indians with temporary commissions to render professional aid to British officers of the Indian Army and their families?

(c) Has any British officer or his family complained about any temporary Indian Medical Service Officer?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: (a) No.

(b) Yes. Sometimes.

(c) No.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government consider the possibility of employing more Indian officers and fewer British officers, in view of the answer "No" to part (c) and "Yes" to part (b)?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I explained the other day that the whole of this matter was under consideration, and that is one of the questions which we are considering.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I take it that these answers and the effect which they represent will be borne in mind prominently by the Government in deciding this matter?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I can assure the Honourable Member that these facts will always be borne prominently in mind.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: The Honourable Member said that this matter was being considered. Whom is it being considered by? By the Government of India or by the Secretary of State?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: By both.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: That is to say, by the Secretary of State?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: At present the ball is with us; it will be returned to the Secretary of State shortly I hope.

PROBATIONARY PERIOD IN THE INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE.

906. ***Dr. T. S. S. Rajan:** (a) Is it a fact that those who are given permanent commissions after nine years of temporary service in the Indian Medical Service are considered to be under probation for a further period of three years?

(b) Are they liable to be discharged during these three years?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: (a) and (b). All officers selected for permanent commissions in the Indian Medical Service are on probation for one year during which they are liable to be discharged if found unsuitable.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Why is there a period of probation, even for people who have served nine years?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I do not know why. But that is the ordinary rule of service. I do not think it has much effect in the case of temporary officers who have succeeded in getting permanent commissions after a number of years of temporary service, but they are formally on probation for the first year of their permanent service.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: But the rule is still there.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: Yes, Sir.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: Nothing can prevent the Government from asking them to undergo probation for three years more even after a service of nine years?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I must admit that it seems rather silly to make an officer who may have spent nine years in service undergo a further period of probation. I will look into the whole matter and see if it could not be altered.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: That was the purpose with which I put the question. I wanted to draw the attention of the Government.

OFFICERS IN THE INDIAN ARMY RESERVE MEDICAL CATEGORY.

907. ***Dr. T. S. S. Rajan:** (a) How many officers are there in the Indian Army Reserve Medical category?

(b) How many of these Indian Army Reserve Medical Officers were called to military service during 1933?

(c) Is it one of the conditions of the Reserve that these officers would be called for military service only during general mobilization?

(d) Was there general mobilization for war during 1933?

(e) Is it a fact that no permanent officers of the Indian Medical Service in civil employ were recalled to military service during this period? If so, why?

Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham: (a) 219.

(b) 15.

(c) Yes.

(d) No.

(e) No.

TRANSFER OF INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE EUROPEAN OFFICERS TO CIVIL EMPLOY.

908. ***Dr. T. S. S. Rajan:** (a) How many Indian Medical Service European officers were transferred to civil employ during 1933?

(b) Was there already a shortage of officers on the military side, and if so, why was it that several European officers were transferred to the civil side and private practitioners holding Indian Army Reserve Commissions were called in to take their places?

(c) Was there a partial mobilization during 1933 and how many private practitioners holding commissions in the Indian Army Reserve were recalled to military service to take the places of European officers who were transferred to the civil side?

Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham: (a) 16.

(b) and (c). There was no shortage in the military peace establishment in 1933. During that year, however, a partial mobilisation did take place which called for special measures, and 21 volunteers from the Army in India Reserve of Officers were called for not to take the place of British officers transferred to civil but to replace officers required for field medical units, the peace establishments of which had been reduced owing to retrenchment in 1931.

NOMINATIONS OF MEMBERS OF THE DELHI TEXT BOOK COMMITTEE.

964. ***Bhai Parma Nand:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the total number of school-going children of Hindus and Muslims, separately, in the Delhi Province?

(b) Will Government please state the number of Hindu and Muslim members of Delhi Text Book Committee?

(c) Will Government please state whether nominations of Text Book Committee members are not done keeping in view the number of school-going children of each community? If not, why not?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai:

(a) Hindus	26,671
Muslims	12,387
(b) Hindus	10
Muslims	6

(c) In view of the answer to parts (a) and (b) just read, how would the Honourable Member divide 16 in proportion of 1 to 2? As a matter of fact out of 21 members, only 5 are nominated. While the Local Administration recognise, that the power to nominate may have to be exercised sometimes to ensure that a community is satisfactorily represented, the main condition of nomination is fitness to assist in the advisory functions with which the Committee is entrusted.

CENSORING OF LETTERS ADDRESSED TO MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

935. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti** (on behalf of Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant): (a) Is the correspondence of any Honourable Member or Members of the Legislative Assembly censored at the Post Office? If so, why, and under whose orders?

(b) Is the delivery of letters addressed to the Honourable Members concerned often delayed on this account?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) and (b). The Government of India do not consider it in the public interest to give any information regarding the working of the postal censorship.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know whether any Members of this Assembly have their correspondence censored?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I am not aware of that.

KHANDSARI SUGAR WORKS IN THE ROHILKUND DIVISION SUBJECTED TO EXCISE DUTY.

936. ***Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant:** (a) How many *khandsari* sugar works in Rohilkhand Division of the United Provinces were subjected to excise duty till 31st January, 1935?

(b) Will Government please lay on the table a list of sugar works, showing also full particulars as to name and place, number of workers, and nature of power used in the process of manufacture of sugar in each case?

(c) Who inspected the factories before the imposition of the duty?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: The information has been called for and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

INDO-TURKISH TRADE CONVENTION.

967. *Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: (a) Has the Turkish Government denounced the Indo-Turkish Trade Convention 1930?

(b) Will Government please lay on the table the correspondence between the Governments of India and Turkey on the subject?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Shore: (a) Yes.

(b) There was no direct correspondence between the Governments of India and Turkey but I lay on the table copies of communications received on the subject from the Secretary of State.

Telegram from His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, London, to His Excellency the Viceroy (Commerce Department), No. 2808, dated the 27th November, 1934.

Commercial relations with Turkey. Turkish Government have denounced Indo-Turkish *modus vivendi* as from 22nd November.

Copy of letter No. E. & O.-8035/34, dated the 18th December, 1934, from the Secretary, Economic and Overseas Department, India Office, Whitehall, London, S. W. 1, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Commerce.

TRADE RELATIONS WITH TURKEY.

With reference to the telegram from this Office dated 27th November, 1934, I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to forward, for information, copy of the papers noted below on the above subject.

From Foreign Office dated 15th December, 1934, with enclosures.

Memorandum from the Foreign Office No. E. 7182/117/44, dated the 15th December, 1934.

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the undermentioned paper.

Similar letter sent to Dominions Office, Department of Overseas Trade, Board of Trade, Colonial Office and Treasury.

Description of Enclosure.

<i>Name and Date.</i>	<i>Subject.</i>
H. M. Representative Angora No. 560 of 24th November.	Commercial relations.
(E. 7182/117/44).	
No. 560-E.	E. & O.-8035
(524/6/34).	1934.
	British Embassy, Angora. November 24, 1934.

Sir,

I have the honour, with reference to my telegram No. 60 of today's date, to transmit to you the accompanying copy of the note, dated the 22nd November, in which the Turkish Government announce their decision to denounce the Indo-Turkish commercial

modus-vivendi of the 3rd September, 1930, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 4 of the exchange of notes constituting that instrument. The present agreement will therefore expire three months after the 22nd November, i.e., on the 22nd February, 1935.

2. I will for the present merely acknowledge the receipt of the Turkish note, and await your instructions regarding the reply to be returned to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs concerning the suggested negotiation of a new agreement.

3. I am sending a copy of this despatch to the Department of Overseas Trade.

I have, etc.,

(Signed.) PERCY LORAINÉ.

The Right Honourable

Sir John Simon, G.C.S.I., K.C.V.O.,
etc., etc., etc.

Turkiye Cumhuriyeti

Hariciye Vekalati,
74139-108.

Le 29-XI-34.

Monsieur l'Ambassadeur,

J'ai l'honneur d'informer Votre Excellence que le Gouvernement de la République ayant constaté que l'arrangement Commercial conclu en date du 3 Septembre 1930, entre lui et le Gouvernement des Indes Britanniques ne répond plus aux exigences de la situation économique actuelle, se voit dans l'obligation de prendre la décision de procéder à sa dénonciation en conformité de l'article 4 du dit arrangement et celui à partir de la date de cette note.

Il va sans dire que le Gouvernement de la République est tout disposé pour entrer en pourparler en vue de conclure une Convention Commerciale qui remplacera le *modus vivendi* en cours.

Veuillez agréer, Monsieur l'Ambassadeur, les assurances de ma très haute considération.

(Signé) M. NAUMAN.

Son Excellence

Le Très Honorable Sir Percy Lorainé,
Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté Britannique,
Ankara.

DEBT POSITION OF INDIA.

968. *Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: Will Government please lay a detailed statement on the table, showing the debt position on January 1, 1935, including particulars regarding:

- (a) permanent debt in India and England;
- (b) floating and short term debt, such as Rupee Treasury Bills, rupee loans and sterling loans;
- (c) accounts in Post Office Cash Certificates, Saving Banks Accounts, Provident Fund and Insurance balances, and balances held for provinces;
- (d) Depreciation and Reserve Funds of Commercial Departments; and
- (e) the total Note issue and Paper Currency and Gold Standard Reserves?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: (a) to (d). Complete information regarding the position on the 1st of January, 1935, is not immediately available, but I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to Appendix II of the Financial Secretary's Explanatory Memorandum on the Budget for 1935-36, which gives the actual figures for the 31st of March, 1934, and the estimated figures for the 31st of March, 1935.

(e) This information will be found in the Controller of the Currency's memorandum regarding the Gold Standard Reserve and the abstract of the accounts of the Currency Department which were published in Part II of the Gazette of India, dated the 12th of January, 1935.

TOTAL YIELD FROM CERTAIN TAXATION MEASURES.

969. *Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: What was the total yield up to January 31, 1935, from:

- (a) sugar excise,
- (b) sugar customs duty,
- (c) textiles imported from United Kingdom, and
- (d) textiles imported from Japan?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: (a) Rs. 55,04,000.

(b) Rs. 3,37,71,000.

(c) and (d). Information is not available in the form asked for by the Honourable Member, but the customs revenue collected on cotton fabrics of British manufacture was Rs. 2,83,27,000 and on those of non-British manufacture Rs. 2,11,40,000.

FIDELITY SECURITIES OF INSURANCE COMPANIES.

970. *Mr. A. K. Fuzul Haq: (a) Will Government please state the particulars of the Insurance Companies approved and recognised by the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department for the purposes of executing fidelity bonds in respect of:

- (i) Security Bond for service in the department,
- (ii) Treasury contracts,
- (iii) Stamp Vendor's Contracts;
- (iv) Mail Conveyance Contracts;
- (v) Building Contracts, and
- (vi) supply of furniture and other articles?

(b) Will Government please state whether the candidates for postal employment and contractors have availed of the Fidelity Securities of the Insurance Companies?

(c) Will Government please state whether they experienced any difficulty in recovering the Fidelity Securities from any Insurance Company during the last three years, and if so, will Government please state the particulars of such Insurance Companies?

(d) Will Government please state the names of the Postal Circles and particulars of the works for which Insurance Company Fidelity Security facilities have not yet been provided, and if not, why not?

(e) Are Government aware that the acceptance of Fidelity Securities by the Insurance Companies transacting business in India is a real encouragement to the development of the insurance system in the country?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: Information has been called for and a reply will be placed on the table of the House in due course.

TENDERS FOR CONVEYANCE OF MAILS FROM RAILWAY STATIONS IN CALCUTTA TO POST OFFICES.

971. ***Mr. A. K. Fuzal Haq:** (a) Are Government aware that tenders have been invited by the Post Master General, Bengal and Assam Circle, for the conveyance of mails by motor lorries from Railway stations in Calcutta to the Calcutta General Post Office and its sub-town and branch offices?

(b) Are Government aware that in the tender forms as issued by the Post Master General, Bengal, it has been stated that cash securities only would be accepted?

(c) Will Government please state why the Post Master General has done away with fidelity bonds of recognised and approved Insurance Companies?

(d) Are Government aware that this action of the Post Master General, Bengal, will deprive the Insurance Companies of the benefits accruable to them in the event of execution of Fidelity Bonds and that the intending contractors are likely to experience inconvenience and trouble in furnishing cash securities?

(e) If the answers to the above be in the negative, are Government prepared to issue instructions to the Post Master General, Bengal and Assam, to modify the tender forms by removing the restriction imposed?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) Tenders have been called for by the Postmaster-General for the conveyance of mails by motor vehicles in the city of Calcutta and not merely from the railway stations in Calcutta to the Calcutta General Post Office and its town, sub and branch offices.

(b) The fact is not as stated by the Honourable Member. Besides cash securities, securities in the form of Government promissory notes, cash certificates and deposits in the savings bank are also accepted and this has been specifically mentioned in the tender form issued by the Postmaster-General.

(c) The provision for accepting as security fidelity bonds of insurance companies was deleted in this case as it was considered advisable to do so in the particular circumstances of the case.

(d) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, I have already explained that the cash security is not the only form of security which will be accepted and for this reason Government do not share the Honourable Member's apprehensions.

(e) Does not arise.

Mr. A. K. Fuzlul Huq: In selecting these companies, are reports called for from the Provincial Governments before approving them?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: No, Sir, we make our own enquiries in the matter.

Mr. A. K. Fuzlul Huq: Through whom?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: Through the Postmaster General.

TRAFFIC QUALIFICATION FOR BAUDOT SUPERVISORS.

972. ***Mr. A. K. Fuzlul Huq:** (a) Is it a fact that traffic qualification is quite outside the ordinary performance of Baudot supervisory duties?

(b) Is it a fact that the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs, memorandum No. E.S.B.-842-1/82, dated 4th September, 1933, caused displacements of certain baudot supervisors at a time when—

(i) no examinations were taking place, and

(ii) no special examination for traffic was offered before the said memorandum was brought into force?

(c) Is it a fact that at the time of selection, there was no stipulation to the effect that, to consolidate their position as Baudot supervisors, they should qualify in traffic subjects later on?

(d) Is it a fact that "The Baudot Printing Telegraph" is purely a technical work and under engineering branch?

(e) Is it a fact that "Higher Baudot technique" is the only Departmental standard of efficiency which regulates the drawal of enhanced duty allowance for Baudot supervisory appointments?

(f) Will Government please state the names and particulars of Baudot supervisors qualified under part (e) above, who were displaced after holding appointments for a number of years on the plea of qualification in traffic, *vide* part (a) above?

(g) If the answers to the above be in the affirmative, are Government prepared to review the cases to redress the substantial grievance of affected supervisors?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) No.

(b) Government have no information but they understand that practically all the telegraphists qualified to act as Baudot Supervisors are at present holding such posts.

(c) No.

(d) The Baudot printing telegraph requires both traffic and technical supervision. The apparatus is maintained by the engineering branch.

(e) Yes.

(f) Government have no information.

(g) Does not arise in view of the reply given to parts (b) and (f) above.

TIME SCALE CLERKS PROMOTED TO THE SELECTION GRADE SUBJECT TO PASSING THE LOWEST SELECTION GRADE EXAMINATION IN THE UNITED PROVINCES POSTAL CIRCLE.

973. *Mr. A. K. Fazlul Haq: (a) Will Government please state the number of time-scale clerks in the Postal Department in the United Provinces Circle, who were promoted to the selection grade subject to passing the lowest selection grade examination, before the abolition of the said examination? Were they given two chances to appear at the said examination?

(b) Will Government please state the names and particulars of the officials in the Postal Department in the United Provinces Circle, under the following categories, after the abolition of the lowest selection grade examination:

(i) those who were exempted from the lowest selection grade examination or the Inspector's examination; and

(ii) those who were reverted to their original posts without being given any chance to appear at the lowest selection grade examination or the Inspector's examination?

(c) Will Government please state the justification for the differential treatment to categories mentioned in sub-parts (i) and (ii) of part (b) above?

(d) Are Government prepared to review the cases of those reverted and restore them to their posts in the selection grade, giving them two chances to pass the examination, *vide* part (a) above?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) to (d). Government regret that the information asked for by the Honourable Member is not available and do not propose to call for it. If any official considers that he has been unjustly reverted, it is open to him to represent his case to the proper authority through the usual official channel.

STRENGTH OF MUSLIMS AND NON-MUSLIMS IN THE OFFICES UNDER THE ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL.

974. *Mr. A. K. Fazlul Haq: (a) Is it a fact that under the Administrative control of the Auditor General the following is the strength of the Muslim and Non-Muslim officials of the cadres and ranks noted against them, and if not, will Government please state the correct figures:

	Muslim.	Non-Muslim.
(i) Gazetted officers (All-India Audit and Accounts Service)	16	123
(ii) Audit and Accounts Officers	3	69
(iii) Subordinate Accounts Service	23	550

(b) Will Government please state, by communities, the clerical strength under the administrative control of the Auditor General?

(c) Is it a fact that the percentage of Muslims in the clerical cadre under the control of the Auditor General is hardly eight per cent., and if not, what is the correct percentage?

(d) Will Government please state, by communities, the strength of the different cadres, separately, for each Accountant General's Office under the administrative control of the Auditor General?

(e) Will Government please state the ratios fixed for the various communities for recruitment, under the terms of the Home Department Resolution No. F-14/17-B-33, dated the 4th July, 1934, under the following controls and offices:

- (i) (1) under the control of Auditor General as a whole;
- (2) for the office of the Auditor General;
- (ii) (1) under the control of each Accountant General; to be separately stated for each;
- (2) for the office of every Accountant General to be separately stated for each office; and
- (iii) for the office of every Deputy Accountant General to be separately stated for each office?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: (a) The latest available figures are:

	Muslims.	Non-Muslims.
(i) Indian Audit and Accounts Service	17	149
(ii) Assistant Audit Officers	2	75
(iii) Subordinate Accounts Service	32	624

(b) and (d). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the statements showing the communal strength of the staff employed under the Government of India in 1933. A copy of these statements will be found in the Library of the House. Detailed figures for 1934 are not yet available.

(c) The percentage is approximately 11 per cent.

(e) The question is still under consideration.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: How many of these Muslims are from Madras?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: The Honourable Member had better put down a question on that subject.

COMMUNAL RATIOS FIXED FOR VARIOUS GOVERNMENT OF INDIA OFFICES.

975. ***Mr. A. K. Fazlul Haq:** (a) Will Government please state the particulars of the Government Departments to which the orders contained in Home Department Resolution No. F-14/17-B-33, dated the 4th July, 1934, will apply?

(b) Will Government please state the communal ratios fixed for various departments and state the dates from which the ratios shall operate in each department?

(c) Will Government please state the communal ratios fixed for the offices located in Delhi and Simla, such as Secretariat and Attached Offices, etc.?

(d) Is it a fact that a special officer has been appointed by Government to watch the observance of Government orders relating to the revised ratios?

(e) Will Government please state the communal composition of the staff employed in the office of the special officer referred to in part (d) above?

(f) Will Government please place on the table a statement showing the communal composition of the staff of all Government departments as on the 31st December, 1934 and on the 31st March, 1934?

(g) Will Government please state the figures of fresh recruitments for the half year from July 1934 to December 1934, separately for each department?

(h) Will Government please place on the table copies of the instructions issued by them, if any, to the Heads of departments on the steps to be taken to ensure observance of the orders contained in Home Department Resolution referred to in part (a) above?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to paragraph 6 of the Resolution. The question of excluding from the scope of the orders services and posts for which high technical or special qualifications are required is under consideration.

(b) and (c). As regards services recruited on an All-India basis (including the staff employed in the Government of India Secretariat and Attached Offices), the percentages laid down in paragraph 7 of the Resolution apply with effect from the date of the Resolution. As to locally recruited services, I would refer the Honourable Member to the replies given on the 23rd February, 1935, to parts (a) to (c) of starred question No. 498.

(d) A temporary Additional Deputy Secretary has been appointed in the Home Department, one of whose main duties is to frame detailed instructions designed to see that the new orders are effectively implemented.

(e) As already stated in reply to starred question No. 917, a new temporary section has been created in the Home Department. The communal composition of the staff employed in it is as follows:

European	1 (Superintendent)
Hindus	3 (1 Assistant and 2 Clerks)
Muslims	2 (1 Assistant and 1 Clerk)

(f) and (g). I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given on the 31st July, 1934, to unstarred question No. 27. Since then statements relating to the year 1933 have been placed in the Library of the House. Government are considering what statements will be required for the year 1934.

(h) The Supplementary Instructions which will be issued are still under consideration.

Mr. A. K. Fazal Husq: Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state if appointments to the staff of the Special Officer were made direct or by promotion?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I think most of them were made by promotion from other branches of the Home Department.

Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq: Is the Special Officer required to submit any report annually, and, if so, to whom, about the working of the circular?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The report will be made to me and the results shown in the statements which are placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq: Is it done at the end of each year?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: This statement will be placed in the Library of the House every year.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is the proportion fixed with regard to provinces also?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The circular of July, 1934, relates only to the Central services and to the establishment of the Government of India Secretariat and Attached Offices.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: In recruiting to the Central Service, will the Honourable Member fix a proportion for the Muslims according to the provinces?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The Resolution does not relate to provinces at all. The recruitment to the provincial services is entirely a matter for the provinces.

ABOLITION OF THE GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH OFFICE, DELHI.

976. ***Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq:** (a) Will Government please state the saving caused by the abolition of Delhi Government Telegraph Office and conversion of Delhi General Post Office into a combined Posts and Telegraphs Office?

(b) Will Government please state the number and cost of motor cycles purchased for use by the telegraph peons for transmission of messages between New Delhi Government Telegraph Office and Delhi General Post Office, and *vice versa*?

(c) Will Government please state the number of the motor cycles (i) damaged and (ii) rendered unserviceable, out of those referred to in part (a) above and the net amount of the loss sustained by Government on (i) repairs and (ii) replacement, etc.?

(d) Will Government please state the total number of public complaints received against (i) delays in delivery of telegrams, (ii) delays in transmission of telegrams, (iii) treatment of public by the staff, (iv) losses of messages and (v) other miscellaneous complaints, against Delhi General Post Office, since the abolition of the Old Delhi Government Telegraph Office?

(e) Will Government please state how many of the complaints referred to in part (d) above were found (i) well grounded and (ii) groundless?

(f) Is it a fact that every telegraph delivery peon of the Delhi Posts and Telegraphs combined office, is supposed to come back to the office within 20 minutes after delivery of all the telegrams given him, to enable the fresh telegrams, received during his absence, being made over to him for delivery?

(g) Will Government please state the number of telegraph delivery peons employed in the Old Delhi Posts and Telegraphs combined office?

(h) Is it a fact that the telegraph delivery peons have generally failed to deliver all the telegrams within 20 minutes and have been bringing back a number of them as undelivered, causing serious delays in their subsequent deliveries and resulting in numerous public complaints?

(i) Will Government please state the hours during which the Old Delhi Posts and Telegraphs Office is kept open for public business and the number (with particulars of designation) of supervisors employed during those hours, to supervise the Telegraph Branch of the office and to attend to public enquiries relating to that Branch?

(j) Will Government please state the business hours of the Telegraph Branch of the Old Delhi Combined Posts and Telegraphs Office on Sundays and holidays and particulars of arrangements of supervision on those days?

(k) Are Government aware that the abolition of the Old Delhi Posts and Telegraphs Office has not been appreciated by the general public and the Press, and if so, will Government please state the action they propose to take to remove the grievances of the public?

Mr. G. V. Bhowar: Information has been called for and a reply will be placed on the table of the House in due course.

PUBLIC COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE OLD AND NEW DELHI POST OFFICES.

977. ***Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq:** (a) Is it a fact that the number of public complaints, in matters (i) purely postal and (ii) relating to telegrams, abnormally increased during the year 1984 against the Old and New Delhi Post Offices?

(b) Will Government please give a comparative statement, showing the public complaints against the Old and New Delhi Post Offices during the years 1982, 1983 and 1984?

(c) Will Government please state the number of complaints relating to the following items in the Delhi Post Offices during 1984:

- (i) losses of postal articles;
- (ii) abstractions;
- (iii) frauds;
- (iv) acceptance of illegal gratifications; and
- (v) mis-payment of money orders?

(d) What action do Government propose to take to improve the administrative efficiency of the Old and New Delhi Post Offices and remove the genuine causes of public complaints?

Mr. G. V. Bhowar: (a) to (d). Government have no information and do not propose to collect it as the matter is one within the competence of the Head of the Circle to whom a copy of the question and this reply will be sent.

APPROVED LIST OF CONTRACTORS IN THE CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS
DEPARTMENT.

978. *Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq: (a) Is it a fact that enlistment in the approved list of contractors was previously done by the Divisional Officers in the Central Public Works Department? If so, are Government aware that that arrangement was suitable and convenient both to the Department and to the contractors?

(b) If so, will Government please give reasons for transferring this work, to the Establishment Section of the Central Public Works Department, New Delhi?

(c) Is it not a fact that this work is now entrusted to non-technical officers, and decisions are delayed?

(d) Do Government propose to revert to the old practice? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative, and to the second part in the negative.

(b) The work was transferred to the Central Office because it was considered that it could more suitably be done there than in the Divisions.

(c) No.

(d) No. It was decided when the question was reviewed some time ago that the present system is more efficient and convenient to all concerned, than the previous system of Divisional registration, which did not secure uniformity of treatment.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF TECHNICAL AND NON-TECHNICAL MEN EMPLOYED
IN THE CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

979. *Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq: (a) Is it a fact that a number of technical and non-technical retrenched employees of the Central Public Works Department, are still without employment?

(b) Will Government please place on the table a statement, community-wise, of all technical and non-technical men employed in the Central Public Works Department, Delhi, since the last retrenchment? How many retrenched hands were re-employed? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: The information is being collected and will be placed on the table of this House in due course.

MUSLIMS IN THE ESTABLISHMENT SECTION OF THE CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS
DEPARTMENT.

980. *Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq: (a) Will Government please state the strength of the Establishment Section of the Central Public Works Department?

(b) How many of them are Muslims, and what duties are entrusted to them?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) The strength of the Establishment Section of the Central Public Works Department is one Superintendent, three Assistants, and four clerks.

(b) One of the clerks is a Muslim who is employed on recording work.

STOPPAGE OF ANNUAL INCREMENTS IN THE CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

981. ***Mr. A. K. Fuzlul Huq:** Is it a fact, that since the introduction of the permanent cadre in the Central Public Works Department, Delhi, in October 1933, no annual increments have been given to the staff? If so, why?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Yes. On the creation of the permanent cadre orders were issued to the effect that men already in service should retain their old rates of pay. Owing to changes in the names of certain appointments and to the diversity of scales of pay in existence objections were raised in audit to the immediate application of the orders. These objections have now been dealt with and increments are being granted with retrospective effect.

THEFT OF A CARPET FROM THE IMPERIAL SECRETARIAT, NEW DELHI.

982. ***Mr. A. K. Fuzlul Huq:** (a) Is it a fact, that a carpet was stolen from the Imperial Secretariat, New Delhi? If so, was the matter investigated into by the police, and if so, with what result?

(b) Was any departmental enquiry held, and if so, with what findings?

(c) If a departmental enquiry was held, will Government please lay the papers on the table? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) Yes. The case was investigated by the police and was finally sent up as untraced.

(b) The Chief Engineer made further enquiries and found that the caretaking establishment were mainly to blame for the loss of the carpet. Suitable action was taken against those concerned.

(c) I am not prepared to lay on the table the record of the Chief Engineer's proceedings. That record is confidential.

Mr. A. K. Fuzlul Huq: What was the value of the carpet?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I have no information. I venture to submit, Sir, with very great respect that the loss of a carpet is hardly a matter which need engage the attention of this House.

PUBLICITY OFFICERS WORKING ON STATE RAILWAYS.

983. ***Mr. G. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the various Publicity Officers working on the State Railways, and the monthly salary of each and the work they were doing before being appointed as such; and

(b) when the various Publicity Offices were started and how many Indians have held the posts till now and for what periods?

Mr. P. B. Rao: (a) and (b). I have called for information and will lay a reply on the table of the House in due course.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Do these Publicity Officers review the railway guides issued by the various railways?

Mr. P. B. Rao: No, Sir.

CENTRAL PUBLICITY OFFICE, RAILWAYS.

984. **Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar:** (a) Is it a fact that the Central Publicity Office, Railways, is situated in Old Delhi?

(b) What effective supervision does the Railway Board exercise over the Central Publicity Office in Old Delhi?

(c) What was the work turned out by the Central Publicity Office in 1934?

Mr. P. B. Rao: (a) Yes.

(b) The supervision exercised is quite adequate. The Board's decisions on policy are carried out by the Central Publicity Officer who is responsible to the Board for the efficient working of the office.

(c) The activities of the Central Publicity Office are described in an Annual Report issued by the Central Publicity Officer each year. A copy of the Annual Report for the year 1933-34 is in the Library of the House.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have the Central Publicity Office published any A.B.C. Railway Guide for Indian Railways?

Mr. P. B. Rao: No, Sir.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Do they propose to publish it?

Mr. P. B. Rao: No, Sir.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government consider the advisability of undertaking the publication of such a guide?

Mr. P. B. Rao: Government did publish such a guide some time ago, but it was found that it was too expensive and not sufficiently patronised.

RAILWAY PUBLICITY OFFICE, LONDON AND NEW YORK.

985. **Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar:** (a) Will Government state what was the expenditure incurred on the Railway Publicity Office, London, and New York in 1934 (January to December)? How long have these offices been in existence?

(b) Have any Indians been appointed on the staff in London or New York till now? If not, why not?

Mr. P. E. Rau: (a) The expenditure incurred on the London Publicity Bureau in 1933-34 was Rs. 91,000. The revised estimate for 1934-35 is Rs. 1,00,000.

For the New York Publicity Bureau the expenditure in 1933-34 was Rs. 1,84,000. The revised estimate for 1934-35 is Rs. 1,63,000.

The London Publicity Bureau started functioning from July, 1927, and the New York Bureau from March, 1929.

(b) Since July, 1927, there have been four Managers of the London Bureau of whom the first two were Europeans and the second two Indians. Since February, 1932, the Bureau has been in charge of Indian Officers.

The Manager of the New York Bureau has been a European since March, 1929, but Government hope to be able to appoint an Indian Officer to succeed the present incumbent whose term expires in October next.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What was the additional income derived last year by the work of these officers in New York and London?

Mr. P. E. Rau: I am afraid it is very difficult to estimate.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it half or is it equal to the amount spent over it?

Mr. P. E. Rau: I would advise my Honourable friend to read the report of the Bureau, a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is the High Commissioner for India in London expected to supervise and control the work of this Publicity Officer in London?

Mr. P. E. Rau: I believe the staff is, for administrative purposes, under the High Commissioner.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Under whose supervision is the New York office placed?

Mr. P. E. Rau: Under the Railway Board.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How do they supervise the working of the New York office when the Railway Board office is here and the Railway Board Members are here?

Mr. P. E. Rau: By means of reports.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Do I understand that the London Office is now entirely manned by Indians?

Mr. P. E. Rau: The Manager is an Indian; I am not sure about the subordinate staff.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Why are Europeans appointed in a bureau which is meant for Indian publicity?

Mr. P. R. Rau: If my Honourable friend refers to messengers and people of that sort, the answer is obvious.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I am talking of the four officers mentioned.

Mr. P. R. Rau: The four officers were not simultaneous; they were successive.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: How many Indian officers, and how many European officers are there in the London Office?

Mr. P. R. Rau: There is only one officer, and he is an Indian.

RAILWAY RATES ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

986. **Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar:** (a) What are the functions of the Railway Rates Advisory Committee?

(b) How many cases have been investigated by the committee ever since its inception, and in how many cases were their decisions accepted by the Railway Board?

(c) Is it a fact that the Acworth committee recommended the creation of a Railway Rates Tribunal and not a mere Advisory Committee?

(d) Do Government propose to create such a tribunal in place of the present Advisory Committee? If not, why not?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to the Railway Department Resolution No. 606-T., dated 25th September, 1930; published in the Gazette of India, dated 27th September, 1930.

(b) 44 cases have been referred to the Committee for investigation up to date. Of these, ten were either compromised or withdrawn during the course of investigation, and 29 were reported on by the Committee. The Committee's recommendations were accepted by Government in 26 cases, in two of them with some modification, and in only one case Government were unable to agree with the views of the Committee. Five cases are now under investigation.

(c) Yes.

(d) My Honourable friend has no doubt observed that clause 185 of the Government of India Bill, now before Parliament, provides for the appointment, from time to time, of a Railway Rates Committee to advise in connection with any dispute as to rates or traffic facilities between persons using, or desiring to use, a railway and the Federal Railway Authority. I might add that this is in accordance with the Sketch Proposals for the Future Administration of Indian Railways.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that the Railway Rates Advisory Committee is at present a permanent one?

Mr. P. R. Rau: It is not permanent; it is temporary, and is extended from time to time.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the tenure of office of a member of the Railway Rates Advisory Committee?

Mr. P. B. Rau: There is no term of office fixed.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Can the Railway Rates Advisory Committee take up grievances as regards passenger fares?

Mr. P. B. Rau: I think, -not, Sir.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Do Government propose to provide in the constitution of the Statutory Railway Board that complaints as regards fares should also be taken up by the Rates Advisory Committee?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré: I do not know how far the Indian Legislature can deal with a matter of that description, but I shall certainly have that point considered.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the reason for not entrusting inquiries into passenger rates to the Railway Rates Advisory Committee?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré: I do not think that that was the original intention with which the Committee was appointed.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What is the harm in enlarging its functions?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré: I do not see any reason for enhancing its functions.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government consider the advisability of enlarging its functions?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré: I have just now said that we shall consider the question raised by Mr. Joshi.

HEALTH OF MR. RASIKLAL, A STATE PRISONER, AND THE MAINTENANCE OF HIS MOTHER.

967. ***Pandit Nilakantha Das:** (a) With reference to the Honourable the Home Member's reply to question No. 896 of the 21st February, 1935, regarding the health of Mr. Rasiklal Das, a State Prisoner and the maintenance of his mother, will Government please state whether they have taken into consideration the following provisions in the Regulation III of 1818:

In clause 1 (Preamble):

"Whereas the ends of justice also require that due attention be paid to the health of every State Prisoner confined under this regulation and that suitable provision be made for his support according to his rank in life and to his own wants and those of his families";

and the provision to the same effect in clause 3?

(b) Have these provisions been complied with in case of Mr. Rasiklal Das, and are they complied with in all cases of confinement under Regulation III of 1818?

(c) Is the spirit of these provisions respected and carried out in cases of all detentions without trial? If not, why not?

(d) With reference to the reply to question No. 525 of the 21st September, 1932, and supplementary questions thereon regarding the maintenance of Mr. Rasiklal Das's mother, etc., are Government aware that income from land, where it was even sufficient, cannot maintain the family according to its rank without substantial additional income?

(e) Are Government prepared to make sufficient provision for the old mother to enable her to live according to her rank during the absence of the son, in pursuance of the provision in the Regulation, without suggesting that the old lady should "adjust her mode of life to her reduced condition", as they have done in their reply to the supplementary questions, on the 21st September, 1932?

The Honourable Sir Henry Crank: (a) to (c). The answer is in the affirmative.

(d) and (e). I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given by me on the 21st February, 1935, to Mr. Basanta Kumar Das's starred question No. 886, and to the several supplementary questions on this matter. The State Prisoner was a betel-leaf-seller and a bachelor before his detention, and contributed nothing to the support of his mother or other relations.

SUPPLY OF OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS TO THE *NAVAKAL*, A MARATHI DAILY

988. *Mr. K. M. Jedhe: (a) Are Government aware that *Navakal*, (Bombay), a Marathi daily, published from Bombay,—is of long standing and with wide circulation?

(b) Is it a fact that the proprietors of *Navakal* have written several times to the Government of Bombay that the Government of India publications should be supplied to them free?

(c) Will Government state the reasons why the said newspaper is not yet on the free list?

(d) What is the policy of Government in supplying, free these publications to newspapers?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) Yes.

(b) One application has been passed to the Government of India by the Local Government. The Government of India have no information regarding other applications.

(c) and (d). As a measure of economy, the various Departments of the Government of India have had to cut down their free distribution lists and additions to such lists are rarely made.

RETRENCHMENT IN THE MADRAS DEAD LETTER OFFICE.

989. *Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Muttiah: (a) With reference to the proposed retrenchment in the Madras Dead Letter Office (Posts and Telegraphs Department), will Government be pleased to state whether it is not a fact that according to the concluding portion of para. 2, section II, Appendix F. I., page 109, of Bewoor Time Test, the maximum out-turn of a disposing clerk in a Dead Letter Office, dealing with unregistered articles, has been fixed at 144 articles of all kinds? If not, what is the maximum out-turn, and when was it given effect to?

(b) What are the figures of unregistered articles (excluding all unpaid post-cards of private manufacture and all open and insecurely closed unpaid letters) received in the Madras Dead Letter Office during the enumeration weeks of:

- (i) August, 1933,
- (ii) February, 1934, and
- (iii) the special enumeration taken in July 1934 under the orders of the Deputy Post Master General, Madras?

(c) Will Government be pleased to furnish the particulars under the following sub-heads of each of the three figures referred to in part (b):

- (i) number of paid unregistered articles received,
- (ii) number of unpaid articles received,
- (iii) number of paid unregistered articles despatched, and
- (iv) number of unpaid articles despatched (as required in the statement of work time test for Dead Letter Office operative staff in Appendix E.-1 of Bewoor Time Test)?

(d) How many registered articles and parcels were received in the Madras Dead Letter Office during the half years ending with:

- (i) 30th September, 1933,
- (ii) 31st March, 1934, and
- (iii) 30th September, 1934?

(e) Is it not a fact that the Madras circle office has divided each of the three figures referred to in part (b) by the total number of days in a week (including holidays), instead of by the actual number of working days, with the result that the daily average of the receipt of unregistered articles has been shown considerably low, on the basis of which the present retrenchment has been recommended to the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs?

(f) If the particulars called for in part (c) be not available (which form a basis to assess the strength of the Dead Letter Office according to Appendix E.-1 of Bewoor Time Test), what was the other method or basis on which it was decided that the strength of the Dead Letter Office, Madras, is in excess of the requirements and consequently the present retrenchment has been recommended?

(g) Are Government prepared to request the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs to examine the question of determining the strength of the Madras Dead Letter Office, on the basis of the enumeration figures in detail before giving effect to the proposed retrenchment?

(h) Are Government prepared to urge the postponement of the proposed retrenchment in the Madras Dead Letter Office?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: The information has been called for and a reply will be placed on the table of the House in due course.

PERIODICAL TESTS FOR STATION AND ASSISTANT STATION MASTERS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

990. **Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) With reference to the answer laid on the table in reply to my starred question No. 680 asked on the 15th

August, 1934, will Government be pleased to state, whether it is a fact that on the day of my interpellation No. 630, i.e., the 15th August, 1934, or on the 20th September, 1934, the Station Masters or Assistant Station Masters on the North Western Railway were not required either to go to Walton Training School for a refresher course or pass a local test in the rules?

(b) Is it not a fact that it was only in December 1934, that the North Western Railway Agency issued a circular, fixing in the rules a periodical test for Station and Assistant Station Masters? Why was this done?

(c) What other classes of staff besides the guards, Assistant Station Masters and Station Masters on the North Western Railway are required to pay such periodical tests? If none, why is invidious treatment accorded to guards, Assistant Station Masters and Station Masters only?

(d) Do other departments of the Government of India, enforce any periodical test upon their employees? If not, what are the special reasons to warrant such tests being prescribed for the guards, Assistant Station Masters and Station Masters on the North Western Railway?

(e) Are Government aware that this periodical test imposes hardship upon the railway staff, and further reduces leave reserve?

(f) Do Government propose to ask the North Western Railway Agency to stop such periodical tests, as examinations once passed must hold good? If not, why not?

Mr. P. B. Rau: I have called for certain information and will lay a reply on the table of the House in due course.

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: May I know when? Notice was given a long time ago. When was the information called for?

Mr. P. B. Rau: I think it must have been called for soon after the notice was received.

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: Will the Honourable Member expedite the matter as there has been so much delay already, and will he inform me at least of it, as perhaps the House may not be sitting then?

Mr. P. B. Rau: I hope to place the reply on the table before the Session is over.

SURPLUS OFFICE SUPERINTENDENTS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

991. **Mr. Lalchand Navarai:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that some Office Superintendents have become surplus on the North Western Railway, consequent upon the abolition of the Office of the Chief Engineer, construction and re-organization, of the Medical Department?

(b) Is it a fact that Mr. Bennet, the present incumbent of the post of the Office Superintendent, in the Divisional Superintendent's Office, North Western Railway, Karachi, is temporary, and is it proposed to revert him to make room for surplus hands according to the Railway Board's orders? If so, when?

(c) What is the policy of Government, or the Administration, as to the duration of stay of the Office Superintendents continuously in one Division?

Mr. P. B. Rau: (a) and (b). Government have no information. These matters are within the competence of the Agent, North Western Railway, to decide and Government are not prepared to interfere. A copy of the question has been sent to the Agent, North Western Railway, for consideration.

(c) No time limit has been laid down.

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: May I know if there are surplus superintendents? That is a fact which the Railway Board must be knowing without getting information from the Agent.

Mr. P. B. Rau: No; the Railway Board have no information on that point.

VACANCIES IN THE COMMERCIAL GROUP ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

992. ***Mr. Lalchand Navarai:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in December 1934, applications were invited for 50 vacancies in the Commercial group on the North Western Railway?

(b) Is it a fact that out of 50 posts so advertised, eight posts were allotted to Karachi Division of the North Western Railway?

(c) Is it a fact that the Agent, North Western Railway, Lahore, subsequently, vide his telegram to all Divisional Superintendents asked them to select 75 candidates, and allotted the increased number to each division, excepting Karachi Division? If so, why was Karachi Division differently treated?

(d) Is it a fact that the Divisional Superintendent, North Western Railway, Karachi, had notified to the Agent the existence of 17 vacancies in the Commercial line of his division? If so, why was Karachi Division not allotted a proper share of appointments?

(e) Is it a fact that the North Western Railway Agency have been recruiting employees in other divisions and then transferring them to Karachi Division, even for the posts which are controlled by the Divisional Superintendents? If so, why?

(f) If the reply to part (e) be in the negative, will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement for the last five years, showing the number of employees in the subordinate services recruited on other than Karachi Division, and subsequently transferred to Karachi Division, in vacancies existing there, and *vice versa*?

(g) Are Government aware of the orders contained in the Agent, North Western Railway, Lahore, letter No. 844-E./3, dated the 18th February, 1929, to all Divisional Superintendents laying down that each division represented a recruiting centre for:

- (i) its employees' relations,
- (ii) the general public of the area, and
- (iii) the inhabitants of that province,

and state how they reconcile the policy of the North Western Railway referred to in parts (d) and (e) with these orders?

(h) Do Government propose to ask the North Western Railway Administration to rectify the treatment being accorded to Karachi Division? If not, why not?

Mr. P. B. Rao: I have called for information and will lay a reply on the table of the House in due course.

RELEASE OF MR. SARAT CHANDRA BOSE.

993. ***Dr. P. N. Banerjee:** (a) Are Government aware that a public meeting was held in Calcutta on the 31st January last, at which a demand was made for the release of Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose?

(b) In view of this reiterated public demand are Government prepared to consider the question of releasing Mr. Bose at an early date?

The Honourable Sir Henry Crank: (a) I have seen a Press report of the meeting.

(b) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given by me on the 18th February, 1935, to Mr. S. Satyamurti's starred question No. 291, to which I have nothing to add.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Are Government considering the question of releasing him?

The Honourable Sir Henry Crank: That has already been dealt with in my reply to Mr. Satyamurti's question No. 291.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are they considering today, now, the question of releasing Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose, some time or other?

The Honourable Sir Henry Crank: I said the question of his continued detention is periodically examined; the Government of India very recently examined the case and do not consider that he should be released at present: that was on the 18th February.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: And the same position still continues?

The Honourable Sir Henry Crank: Yes.

COMPOSITION OF THE CALCUTTA UNIVERSITY CONSTITUENCY.

994. ***Dr. P. N. Banerjee:** (a) Is it a fact that a letter has recently been addressed to the authorities of the Calcutta University to the effect that the composition of the Calcutta University constituency will under the new constitution be different from what it is under the present constitution?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state (i) what the exact composition and size of the said constituency will be; and (ii) whether the graduates will be required to pay any fees for having their names entered in the electoral roll of the constituency?

The Honourable Sir Wipendra Sircar: (a) The Government of India are not aware of any such communication.

(b) Does not arise.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are the Government of India considering any question concerning any constituency?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I submit the question does not arise: the question was about a certain letter addressed to the Calcutta University.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are the Government of India considering any question about the Calcutta University constituency at all?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: If my friend will put down a question, I will look into the matter.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Ten days later!

Dr. P. M. Banerjee: Are not the Government of India considering the position of the constituency at the present moment?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: So far as I know, they are not considering it; but if the Honourable Member wants more information, I would like to look into the matter.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE DACCA-ARICHA RAILWAY.

995. ***Dr. P. M. Banerjee:** Will Government be pleased to state whether the project relating to the construction of the Dacca-Aricha Railway has been abandoned? If so, why? If not, when is the actual construction of the Railway likely to be taken up?

Mr. P. E. Rau: The Government of Bengal informed the Government of India in September, 1938, that after most careful consideration they had come to the conclusion that the construction of the railway was altogether undesirable and should not be proceeded with, because the construction of an embankment across the spill of the Dhaliswari River would be a serious menace to the public health and agricultural prosperity of a large area, and that the danger to public health and agriculture far outweighed the benefit to communications which would accrue from the construction of the railway. The Government of India have consequently abandoned the project.

Mr. B. Das: May I inquire how it is that the railway construction is against the public health and agriculture?

Mr. P. E. Rau: The construction of the embankment will, it is feared, interfere with the natural drainage of the country.

Mr. B. Das: That means that the Railway Board do now recognise what I enunciated in 1934 that railway embankments cause deterioration of public health?

Mr. P. E. Rau: In this particular case, the opinion of the Government of Bengal has been accepted by the Railway Board.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Could not the difficulty be got over by constructing a large number of culverts?

Mr. P. R. Ray: The Government of Bengal must have considered that point.

FINANCIAL BURDEN IN CONNECTION WITH THE NEW CONSTITUTION

996 **Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the new financial burden which will be imposed upon the tax-payers of India as a result, direct and indirect, of the constitutional changes proposed in the White Paper and the Joint Parliamentary Committee Report?

(b) Has any estimate of the additional expenditure been made by the Provincial Governments and the Government of India? If so, will Government be pleased to lay the same on the table?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state how it is proposed to meet the additional expenditure? Has any scheme been drawn up in this behalf? If so, will Government be pleased to lay the same on the table?

(d) What will be the total loss of revenue to India due to the proposed separation of Burma? How it is proposed to meet the loss?

(e) Have Government considered the advisability of reducing the scale of pay, pensions and other emoluments of officials in Imperial and Provincial Services before inaugurating the proposed new constitution?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: (a) and (b). I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply which I gave to Mr. Fushul Huq's starred question No. 242 on the 20th of February, 1935.

(c) No definite scheme has hitherto been drawn up.

(d) I would refer the Honourable Member to the concluding portion of paragraph 267 of the Report of the Joint Committee on Indian Constitutional Reforms. The question will be considered when the report of the Tribunal which has been convened in London is received.

(e) Reductions have already been effected about a year and a half ago in the scales of pay of future entrants to the services under the control of the Governor General in Council, and, so far as I am aware, all Provincial Governments have also taken similar action in regard to the services under them. As regards the All-India Services I would refer the Honourable Member to the answer given by my colleague, the Honourable the Home Member, to question No. 516 on 25th February, 1935. There is no proposal to undertake further revisions of pay and there is no question of reducing the pay of existing members of the Services.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: With reference to part (c), apart from any definite scheme which the Honourable Member said does not exist, are there any indefinite proposals or amorphous ideas which are being examined by the Government of India, as regards the financing of the new scheme of Government in this country?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: No. The financing of the new scheme is not a very vital factor in the future budgets of this country.

Mr. B. Das: With reference to part (d) of the question about Burma, what steps are Government taking to represent the view point of India as apart from Burma profiting by the separation? Are Government considering how India is not made to pay more to Burma than is required? What steps are being taken to safeguard India's rights in this matter? In other words, how is the Finance Member of India now going to separate himself into the Finance Member of Burma and of India? How is he going to put the case of India apart from Burma? How is he going to safeguard the interests of India if the British Cabinet asks him to give some concessions to Burma?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: That is a hypothetical question. I think that amounts to asking how can I divide myself into two bodies and safeguard at the same time the interests of India and Burma. I think the answer to that is, wait and see.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What are the steps that the Government of India are taking to represent the interests of India before that tribunal?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I have already said that the Government of India are being represented by Mr. Nixon, and the views of the Standing Finance Committee on the Howard-Nixon Report are among the matters which have been laid before the tribunal. An officer of the Government of India has been there on full time duty doing nothing else but to represent the views of the Government of India.

Mr. B. Das: There was a debate on the floor of the House, and are the proceedings of that debate also one of the materials to be placed before that tribunal?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: That is also part of the material.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Is the officer on special duty there receiving instructions from the Government of India from time to time?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: He is in constant touch with the Government of India.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Have Government taken any steps to ensure that public opinion in India can still be represented before that tribunal?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I have already answered that in reply to a supplementary question. The Secretary of State decided that it was impracticable to carry out the original proposal which was that the members of the Standing Finance Committee, both of this Legislature and of the Burma Legislature, should actually appear before that tribunal.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Then what steps are taken to ensure that the views of public bodies in India are represented before this tribunal?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I think I have already answered that question. The debate on the Howard-Nixon Report in the previous Assembly and the report on it by the Standing Finance Committee of the previous Assembly, are among the materials which have been brought to the notice of the tribunal.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Will the Honourable Member be prepared to place any other representations that may be made hereafter before that tribunal?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I think it is extremely likely that the tribunal will have finished its sittings, and unless it is done by telegram in the next two or three days, it will not be possible to do anything.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Then what steps can be taken to ensure that public opinion in India is properly represented before this tribunal?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: We have already taken the necessary steps long time ago.

Mr. F. E. James: Is it not a fact, Sir, that various representations have been made to the Government of India on the subject by both Indian and European Chambers of Commerce, and is it not a fact that such representations will be among the material placed before the tribunal?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Of course, all the relevant representations which have been made are among the materials which are at the disposal of Mr. Nixon. The question which the Honourable Baronet was raising was whether actually representatives of Indian opinion should be associated with the tribunal or they should have the right to appear before that tribunal. The Secretary of State has rejected that proposal.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: What I was trying to suggest was this, that if any public body desired to place any further information before this tribunal, would the Government of India see that it reaches the tribunal?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Subject to what I said just now, certainly, but it is, as I said, extremely likely that the tribunal will have finished its work in the next two or three days.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: Is any claim being made for the recovery of the cost of the Burmese war during the course of this inquiry, and, if so, against whom?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: The Honourable Member had better refer to the terms of reference.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: Is Great Britain prepared to bear the cost?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: The Honourable Member had better put that question on paper.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What are the terms of reference to this tribunal?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I answered that in reply to a previous question.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Do they include Indian interests being sufficiently protected?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I never heard of an arbitral tribunal being directed to protect exclusively the interests of one of the parties as against the interests of the other.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I don't say exclusively, but is the tribunal directed to give due weight to the interests of India?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Not specifically. It would be in my opinion absolutely ludicrous to direct a tribunal, which is intended to arbitrate between the claims of two different bodies, to see that the interests of one of them should be specially borne in mind.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: In view of the fact that the British Government are committed to separate Burma at any cost, even at the cost of sacrificing the interests of India, I want to know if any attempt is being made by this Government to see that Indian interests are not sacrificed.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: That is an entirely different question. I have answered that to the best of my ability about six times already.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: If Mr. Nixon is representing the Government of India, who is representing the Government of Burma?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Sir Henry Howard.

MILITARY ROUTE MARCHES IN THE CONTAI SUB-DIVISION OF THE MIDNAPORE DISTRICT.

997. ***Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta:** (a) Is the Honourable the Home Member aware of the fact that military route marches are now going on in the Contai Sub-Division?

(b) Is it a fact that soldiers with police surround the houses of Congress workers and harass them by searching their houses?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) Military route marches have recently been completed in the Contai Sub-Division.

(b) Troops have sometimes been employed to surround houses while police searches were in progress. Such searches are made when justified by information available and are not directed against Congress workers as such.

COLOURED BENGAL LIGHTS.

998. ***Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state how many factories are there in India, province by province, who manufacture coloured Bengal lights?

(b) What has been the total amount of duty realised from such factories since the operation of the Matches Act?

(c) What is the market rate in Bengal of these Bengal lights per sine case of one and a quarter gross?

(d) What is the cost of production and the excise duty thereupon?

(e) What is the amount of license fee the manufacturers of Bengal lights have to pay for their seasonal produce?

(f) Are Government aware that these matches are used only on two ceremonial occasions, namely, the Pujas and Dewali, in the course of a year?

(g) Is it a fact that Government are contemplating compulsory use of banderols by these manufacturers?

(h) Have Government in this connection considered the fact that these matches are prepared with highly hygroscopic chemicals and the climate especially of Bengal, remains very moist, humid and damp at the time when these matches are manufactured, necessitating the drying of these highly hygroscopic matches in the sun by opening up the inner box, both by the manufacturers and the retailers before sale?

(i) Are Government prepared to exempt these Bengal lights from being banderoled especially in Bengal?

(j) Are Government prepared to exercise their power of exemption conferred on them by section 14 of Matches (Excise Duty) Order in the case of the manufacturers of Bengal lights?

(k) If the answer to part (j) be in the negative, are Government prepared to consider the desirability of amending section 4, sub-section (a) (1), so as to give the benefit of section 24 of the Matches (Excise Duty) Order 1934, to matches in boxes containing not more than twelve?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: (a), (b), (c) and (d). Except as regards the excise duty, the information is not available and cannot be compiled without a degree of labour and expense which is not considered to be justified.

The excise duty on Bengal lights is one rupee per gross of boxes but a rebate of ten pice per gross of boxes is admissible if they are manufactured in cottage factories.

(e) Rupees one hundred.

(f) I am not aware that the use of these matches is confined solely to the two ceremonial occasions referred to.

(g), (h) and (i). Government have considered the representations received on this subject and have now decided to exempt Bengal Lights from the banderol regulations.

(j) and (k). Government see no sufficient reason for totally exempting Bengal lights from the excise duty but a proposal for fixing the duty leviable on the basis of 12 sticks is now under consideration.

MUSLIMS IN THE INDIAN TEA CESS COMMITTEE AND THE INDIAN SOFT COKE CESS COMMITTEE.

999. *Maulvi Badi-uz-Zaman: (a) Is it a fact that there are very few Muslims on the ministerial and executive staff of the Indian Tea Cess Committee and Indian Soft Coke Cess Committee?

(b) What is the total strength of the ministerial and executive staff of each of the committees referred to in part (a) above? How many Muslims are in each category?

(c) How many men have been recruited on the ministerial as well as on the executive staff of each of the Committees referred to, since 1st January, 1934? What is the composition of this recruitment as regards different communities?

(d) Is it a fact that the non-Muslims are in an over-whelming majority in the staff of the above, and have an entire monopoly of the organisation of these committees?

(e) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of issuing instructions at an early date to the proper authorities to the effect that communal inequalities existing in the staff of these committees should be readjusted by stopping recruitment of the community or communities already preponderant?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré: The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given in the Council of State to question No. 180 by the Honourable Mr. Jagadish Chandra Banerjee regarding the staff of the Indian Tea Cess Committee. The position of the Soft Coke Cess Committee in regard to the recruitment of staff is analogous to that of the other Committee. I will, however, forward a copy of the Honourable Member's question to these two Committee.

MUSLIMS IN THE INDIAN COTTON CESS COMMITTEE AND THE INDIAN LAC CESS COMMITTEE.

1000. *Maulvi Badi-uz-Zaman: (a) Is it a fact that the Indian Cotton Cess Committee and the Indian Lac Cess Committee are administered by Government?

(b) What is the strength of the staff engaged on research work under each of the Committees mentioned above? How many are Muslims?

(c) Is it a fact that Muslims are not in proper proportion on the staff of either of the two committees referred to above?

(d) Is it a fact that suitable Muslim graduates in science of Indian and foreign universities are available for employment? If so, why are they not considered for research appointments under the Indian Cotton Cess Committee and Indian Lac Cess Committee?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) A certain measure of control is vested in the Governor General in Council in virtue of the provisions of the Indian Cotton Cess Act, 1923, and the Indian Lac Cess Act, 1930.

(b) 161 under the Indian Central Cotton Committee of whom 20 are Muslims and 15 under the Indian Lac Cess Committee, of whom one is a Muslim.

(c) and (d). The Honourable Member presumably has in mind the proportion fixed for the representation of minorities in Government services. The matter will be brought to the notice of the committees.

RECRUITMENT OF MUSLIMS ON THE STAFF OF THE INDIAN TEA CESS COMMITTEE.

1001. *Maulvi Badi-uz-Zaman: (a) Is it a fact that several posts of Sub-Inspectors of Indian Tea Cess Committee have recently been filled as a result of an interview held in Lucknow?

(b) How many posts have been so filled?

(c) How many Muslims have been taken in these posts?

(d) Is it a fact that no Muslim has been taken against the posts referred to in part (a) above?

(e) Is it a fact that among the candidates who applied for the above posts there were many Muslims with experience in market work, etc.? Why were these candidates overlooked?

(f) Are Government aware that the staff of the Indian Tea Cess Committee is completely monopolised by non-Muslims?

(g) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of removing the preponderance of one community, and of recruiting Muslims in due proportion on the staff of the Committee?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Shore: (a) to (g). The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given in the Council of State to the Honourable Mr. Jagadish Chandra Banerjee's question No. 180 on the 3rd September, 1934.

Munshi Iswar Saran: On a point of order, Sir. In answer to a question put in this House, is it enough to refer us to an answer given in the other place?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The proceedings of the Council of State, it is understood, are supplied to every Honourable Member of this House; so there can be no difficulty in finding out the answer.

Munshi Iswar Saran: May I submit for your consideration, Sir, that in that case the Members of this House are deprived of their right of putting supplementary questions?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair does not see how Members of this House are deprived of their right of putting supplementary questions.

Munshi Iswar Saran: Sir, the answer is not given here, it is not before us, it is in the record of the other House, and so we can't put any supplementary questions.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The proceedings of the other House are supplied to every Honourable Member.

Munshi Iswar Saran: I know that, but what I submit is this. I put a question here, and for the answer I am referred to an answer given in the other House to question No. 28 and so, put by Mr. 28 and so. That answer is not before us, and, therefore, I submit for your consideration that the Members of this House are deprived of their right of putting supplementary questions.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member appears to be under a misapprehension. Members are not deprived of their right of putting supplementary questions. If any Honourable Member wants to get information from the Government Member by means of a supplementary question, he is at liberty to do so, and the Chair has no doubt that the Government Member will read out that answer.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will the Honourable Member kindly read out that answer?

Mr. B. Das: Sir, in the other House, there was a ruling given to the effect that no Member of that House could quote a speech delivered on the floor of this Houses, and so why should the Government refer us to statements or replies made in the other place? I hope you have seen that ruling, Sir?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That has nothing to do with this. That is a different thing.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will the Honourable Member please read out the answer given in the other place?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Shore: Certainly, Sir. Since you, Mr. President, request me to do so, I shall read it out. The answer given was—that appointments on the staff of the Committee are made by the Committee itself, and the Government have no hand in the matter.

FACILITIES FOR INDIANS FOR AIRCRAFT, WIRELESS AND BROADCASTING TRAINING AND SERVICE.

1002. ***Pandit Nilakantha Das**: (a) What facilities are provided for Indians and in India for air craft, wireless, and broadcasting training and service?

(b) What is the provision for that in Indian Budgets?

(a) Are Government prepared to elicit the information regarding Budget provisions in the provinces, if any, for training in aircraft, wireless, and broadcasting of Indians and give the same information to this House?

The Honourable Sir Frank Joyce: As regards Aircraft: (a) Government administer a Fund, called the Petrol Tax Fund, derived from the proceeds of the additional tax on petrol consumed for aviation purposes, which is utilised *inter alia* for the grant of scholarships and financial assistance to Indians for advanced training in aviation. Facilities for training are also provided by the flying clubs in India, which are subsidised by Government. In addition, Indian National Airways, Limited, have established a flying school in Rangoon. As regards facilities for service, I would refer the Honourable Member to my answer to his next question.

(b) The estimated expenditure out of the Petrol Tax Fund during the current year on scholarships and financial assistance for training in England of Indians in aviation is Rs. 16,000.

As regards Wireless: (a) The Department of Posts and Telegraphs maintains training facilities in the Telegraph Storeyard at Calcutta for the training of its own employees in wireless. For some years all appointments

have been made in India and a large majority of these appointments have been filled by Indians in the normal course. It does not appear necessary, therefore, to provide special facilities.

(b) There is no special provision.

As regards Broadcasting: (a) No special facilities are provided for training and employment of Indians. With the exception of the new post of Controller of Broadcasting for which it was necessary to obtain a trained expert from abroad, all appointments are made in India and hitherto sufficient candidates have presented themselves who can be employed without training. The large majority of the appointments have been filled by Indians in the normal course and it does not appear necessary to provide special facilities.

(b) There is no special provision.

(c) *Generally*, aviation and wireless are purely central subjects and Local Governments make no such provision in their budgets. Some provinces are carrying out small experiments in village broadcasting, but it is so unlikely that they will have made any provision for training Indians that I do not propose to call for the information

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is the Honourable Member aware that the Madras Flying Club is charging Rs. 50 a month for each of its apprentices?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I am sorry I could not hear the Honourable Member's question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is he aware of the fact that the Madras Flying Club charges Rs. 50 per month per apprentice?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: No, I am not aware of the terms on which the Madras Flying Club entertains apprentices. It seems to me not unreasonable that the Club should charge a fee for such training.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that that particular Club and other similar Clubs receive subsidies from the Government of India, will the Honourable Member be prepared to consider the advisability of suggesting to them that they should not charge such prohibitive fees for their apprentices?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I am not prepared to admit that the fee is prohibitive.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the considerable amount of unemployment prevailing in the country, does he not consider it rather an absurd thing that as much as Rs. 50 a month should be collected by the Flying Club from its apprentices when it receives bonuses from the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: My Honourable friend has asked me to express an opinion.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Am I to understand from the Honourable Member that there is no training being given in broadcasting in India, and, if so, may I know, why?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I have already said that so far we have not found it necessary to provide such facilities. If we do find it necessary, we shall undoubtedly make suitable arrangements.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Why does the Honourable Member not find it necessary? Is it that at present there are no people to take a training, or is it because broadcasting has not extended much, and, therefore, no training need be given now?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I have done my best to answer my Honourable friend's question. I said that hitherto sufficient candidates presented themselves who could be employed without training, but as broadcasting develops, I imagine it will probably be necessary to give suitable training. That is a matter on which we would wish to have the advice of the Controller as soon as possible.

Prof. N. G. Banga: Is it a fact that in the training institutes that the railways maintain in this country for training railway engineers and others, no monthly fee is collected from their apprentices?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I deeply regret that my Honourable friend, the Leader of the Opposition, has not accepted my suggestion. I cannot hear the Honourable Member.

Mr. H. P. Mody: Why not provide him with broadcasting?

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Will Government be prepared to assist financially an academy for training Indians in flying?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I think that Government would give sympathetic consideration to a sound scheme if it were put forward.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Will Government be prepared to assist financially?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I said that they would be prepared to give sympathetic consideration in regard to such a scheme if it were put forward, and that implies sympathetic financial consideration also.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Would Government be prepared to initiate a scheme for an academy for flying?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I think the answer to that is "No." I believe that a scheme is at present under consideration which will doubtless be placed before the Government in due course.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: To which Government will give sympathetic consideration.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: That I have said.

Mr. B. Das: If the Aero Club of India and Burma should submit such a scheme, will it receive. . . .

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I cannot hear the Honourable Member.

Mr. B. Das: I will repeat my question. Will the Honourable Member consider such a scheme if it is submitted by the Aero Club of India and Burma, and help it financially, just as they have financed in the past the maintenance of that Aero Club?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: That is a hypothetical question. I have no information that the Aero Club of India has any intention of submitting such a scheme. From what I know of it, I think it is extremely doubtful whether it is in a position to do so.

Pandit Nilakantha Das: Is there any plan of the Government for manning these services by Indians entirely, and, if so, what is the plan, and also, in how many years do they contemplate that these services should be manned by Indians?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: The Honourable Member has raised a very wide question of policy with which it is impossible for me to deal in a supplementary question. It is impossible to say when these services will be manned entirely by Indians, as it is not possible for us to forecast how soon Indians will be qualified in sufficient numbers for the purpose.

Pandit Nilakantha Das: Is there any plan?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: No. There is only a plan for extending facilities to train Indians in aviation. It is impossible to say to what extent they will avail themselves of those facilities.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: How many Indians are now actually employed in the aircraft and wireless departments of the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I should like to have notice of that question.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: The Honourable Member referred more than once in his replies to the phrase "in the normal course". He said, "In the normal course we shall have more Indians". May I know what is the probable period of time, which will be covered by this "normal course"?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I referred to the "normal course" in my reply with regard to wireless and broadcasting. As I have explained, appointments in those two departments are made in India in accordance with the usual rules on the subject.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know how many Indians are being now trained for aircraft and wireless?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I must ask for notice of that question.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order order. The Chair may mention with reference to the point of order raised **12 Noon.** about referring an Honourable Member putting a question to the proceedings of the Council of State, the Chair's attention has been drawn to a ruling on the subject that Honourable Members representing Government might as well bear in mind the fact that references to the proceedings in another place should, as far as possible, be avoided. What the Chair would like to add at present is this. The Chair does not think that reference to the published proceedings in the Council of State as containing the answer of Government to a similar question is improper, but the Chair thinks, for the convenience of this House, the Honourable Member who replies to the question should be prepared to read out the answers, if required.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

EVIDENCE TAKEN BY THE RAILWAY COURT OF INQUIRY.

219. Sardar Mangal Singh: Will Government be pleased to lay on the table of the House a copy of the evidence taken by the Railway Court of Inquiry presided over by Mr. Justice Murphy?

The Honourable Sir Frank Boyce: The evidence tendered before the Railway Court of Inquiry was not printed, and I regret that I am unable to lay it on the table of the House.

ASSOCIATIONS DECLARED UNLAWFUL IN BURMA DURING THE REBELLION.

220. U Thein Maung: With reference to the answer to starred question No. 272, dated the 14th February, 1935, will Government please state:

- (a) what was the number of associations declared to be unlawful in each district in Burma during the rebellion;
- (b) how many associations in the respective districts have had the ban removed since then; and
- (c) whether Government have considered or are prepared to consider sympathetically the question of removing the ban from all the remaining associations as a sort of amnesty to create the proper atmosphere for the working of the constitutional reforms?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a), (b) and (c). I lay on the table a statement giving the required information.

(d) The matter is one for the consideration of the Local Government. The associations in respect of which the ban imposed in 1931 is still in force are only those in the rebel districts of Insein, Tharrawaddy and Henzada. I may add for the Honourable Member's information that the Local Government are at present considering the question of the removal of the ban from unlawful associations where this action is possible.

Statement.

District.	Number of associations.	
	(1) Notified in 1931 in connection with the rebellion.	(2) Denotified since 1931.
Tharrawaddy	13	..
Insein	39	..
Rangoon Town	1	1
Henzada	26	..
Pyapon	1	1
Yamethin	15	15
Myingyan	14	14
Mandalay	4	4
Upper Chindwin	98	98
Sagaing	1	1
Shwebo	6	6
Katha	9	9
Total	227	149

RELEASE OF PERSONS CONVICTED IN CONNECTION WITH THE REBELLION IN BURMA.

221. U Thain Maung: Will Government please state:

- (a) how many persons were convicted in connection with the rebellion in Burma;
- (b) how many of them have been released by Government before the expiry of their sentences;
- (c) how many of them are still undergoing their sentences;
- (d) how often the question of releasing them is considered by Government; and
- (e) whether Government have considered or are prepared to consider sympathetically the question of releasing such of them as are still in jail as a sort of amnesty to create the proper atmosphere for the working of the reforms?

The Honourable Sir Henry Crank: The approximate figures are:

- (a) 1,514, including 128 executed.
- (b) 800.
- (c) 676.

(d) and (e). These are matters for the Government of Burma. I understand that every case is reviewed carefully twice a year by the

Local Government and it would be seen from my reply to part (b) of the question that a great deal of clemency has already been shown. The Local Government are unable, in the best interests of the province, to regard the initiation of reforms as a suitable occasion for the grant of amnesty to all rebels. With this view the Government of India agree.

CONTROL OVER THE PIECE OF LAND WITHIN THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY BOUNDARY PASSING THROUGH DONGARGARH AND RAJ NANDGAON STATE.

222. **Mr. Ghanabham Singh Gupta:** (a) Is it a fact that the piece of land, within the Bengal Nagpur Railway boundary, passing through Dongargarh and Raj Nandgaon State, is British India?

(b) Is it British India for all purposes, or is there any limitation to it?

(c) To whom are the residents living therein liable to pay income-tax, *i.e.*, to the Government of India or to Rajnandgaon and Dongargarh States, respectively?

(d) Is that tract within the jurisdiction of the civil and criminal courts of British India?

(e) Is that also within the jurisdiction and authority of the District Councils for the purposes connected with their functions?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe: (a) No. The railway passes through Khairagarh and Nandgaon States.

(b) No. For jurisdictional and railway purposes only.

(c) The residents will only pay income-tax to the Government of India if they are liable under the provisions of the Indian Income-tax Act, 1922.

(d) Yes.

(e) No.

ACTION TAKEN ON NON-OFFICIAL RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

223. **Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a list of all the non-official resolutions passed by the Legislative Assembly during the years 1923 to 1934, briefly showing what action, if any, Government have taken in pursuance of each of them?

The Honourable Sir Kripendra Sircar: The Honourable Member is referred to the replies given to Mr. K. V. Reddy's starred question No. 994 asked on the 24th March, 1924, to Mr. C. Duraswamy Ayyangar's starred question No. 68 asked on the 8rd February, 1927, to Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin's unstarred question No. 179, asked on the 11th February, 1931, to the statement laid on the table on the 10th February, 1932, by the Honourable Sir George Rainy, containing the information promised in reply to starred question No. 105 asked by Mr. Bahimtools M. Chinoy on the 8rd February, 1932, and to the statement laid on the table on the 8th February, 1933, by the Honourable Sir Brojendra Mitter, containing the information promised in reply to starred question No. 1174 asked by Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad on the 14th November, 1932, which give the information for the period upto 1932. The information in respect of the non-official Resolution adopted by the Legislative Assembly, and the action taken on each of them during the years 1933-34, is given in the following statement:

Statements showing the Non-Official Resolutions adopted by the Legislative Assembly during 1933 and 1934 and Action taken by Government thereon.

Serial No.	Date on which moved.	By whom.	Subject of Resolution.	Department concerned.	Action taken by Government.
1	7th September, 1933	Raj Bahadur Lal Brij Kishore.	Proprietary rights of citizens in the land under the new constitution.	Education, Health and Lands.	A copy of the report of the debate on the resolution was forwarded to the Secretary of State for India for his information with the request that copies might be transmitted to the Joint Committee on Indian Constitutional Reform for its consideration.
2	7th September, 1933 and 30th January, 1934.	Kumar Gopika Romon Roy.	Grievances of the travelling public on the Assam Bengal Railway.	Railway.	No action was taken as the more important of the grievances discussed had already been examined by the Assam Bengal Railway Administration in 1931.
3	30th January, 1934 and 6th February, 1934.	Mr. N. M. Joshi	Protection against unemployment and reduction of wages.	Industries and Labour.	No additional measures were required on the resolution as it embodied the policy that the Government had adopted and would continue to adopt.
4	14th February, 1934	Kumar Guppteelwar Feroz Singh.	Loan for the reconstruction of Bihar after the earthquake.	Finance.	Necessary action has already been taken as explained in paragraphs 40 to 43 of Sir George Schuster's speech introducing the budget for 1934-35.
5	26th July, 1934 and 9th August, 1934.	Dr. F. X. DeSouza	Representation of Indian Christians in the services and committees.	Home	As regards the first part of the resolution Government are watching the position of Indian Christians in the services through annual returns and from time to time will take such steps as may be found necessary to secure their adequate representation. The recommendation contained in the second part of the resolution is also being borne in mind.

ECONOMIES EFFECTED DURING THE LAST THREE YEARS.

224. **Mr. Mohan Lal Saxena:** Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement giving, department-wise, economies effected during the last three years?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Information subsequent to that contained in the Summary of the results of retrenchment operations in (Civil expenditure (including Posts and Telegraphs but excluding Railways) and in Military estimates is not available and could not be collected without an expenditure of labour which the reduced staffs of the Departments could not give without detriment to their other duties. Some information about total expenditure was given in the Budget speech.

CONTRACT WITH INDIAN FIRMS FOR SUPPLYING MATERIALS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

225. **Pandit Nihakantha Das:** Will Government be pleased to state whether there is any contract with any Indian firms for supplying materials to the Government of India? If so, will Government lay on the table all such contracts?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: The Honourable Member has not made it clear as to which Department of the Central Government this question relates. The Indian Stores Department places numerous contracts for the supply of Indian materials with Indian firms. The labour and cost involved in collecting details of such contracts, which number many thousands, and in preparing copies thereof, will be very great and not commensurate with the expense involved. Details of all contracts above Rs. 100 in value, placed by the Indian Stores Department, are published week by week in the *Indian Trade Journal* to which I would refer the Honourable Member and which he will find in the Library of the House.

TARIFF RATES FOR FOOD ON THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY.

226. **Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Do Government propose to prepare and place on the table of this House a comparative statement showing the tariff rates charged for different types of food on the Bengal Nagpur Railway from 1930 onwards?

Mr. P. B. Ran: I am placing in the Library of the House a copy of the current tariffs of charge. The Agent, Bengal Nagpur Railway, states that the tariffs prior to the one now in force are not available.

RETRENCHMENT OF POSTAL STAFF IN CERTAIN POSTAL CIRCLES.

227. **Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Matra:** Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of:

- (a) officers in the administrative and controlling staff in the Posts and Telegraphs Department;
- (b) employees in the Audit staff:

- (c) employees in the subordinate staff in the Post Office and Railway Mail Service, including inferior staff; and
- (d) personnel retrenched under each of the above categories, showing separately the figures for Bengal and Assam, Bombay, Madras, the United Provinces and the Central Circles?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a), (b) and (c). The Honourable Member's attention is invited to Appendix XVIII of the last Annual Report of the Posts and Telegraphs Department, a copy of which is in the Library of the House, which contains the information he requires.

(d) Government regret that they are unable to furnish the information as its collection would involve an undue expenditure of time and labour.

POSTAL LIFE INSURANCE AND SAVINGS BANK WORKS.

228. Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Will Government be pleased to lay on the table the figures for the last three years shewing:

- (a) the income and the expenditure for the Postal Life Insurance and Savings Bank works;
- (b) the cost borne by the Post Office for Postal Life Insurance and Savings Bank business in the shape of clerical, audit and supervision work; and
- (c) the amount of credit in the Post Office account for the Postal Life Insurance and Savings Bank business?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: (a) The receipts and outgoings are given in Account No. 86 of the Finance and Revenue Account of the Government of India.

(b) and (c). The Postal Department is reimbursed the entire amount of expenditure incurred by them on account of the postal life insurance and savings bank business. A statement giving the figure for the last three years is laid on the table.

Amounts paid to the Postal Department for Postal Life Insurance and Savings Bank Business.

(In lakhs of rupees).

	<i>Postal Life Insurance.</i>	<i>Savings Bank.</i>
1931-32	3	44
1932-33	3	47
1933-34	3	54

INCOME DERIVED FROM THE ENHANCEMENT OF THE RATES OF POSTAGE, REGISTRATION FEES AND MONEY ORDER COMMISSION.

229. Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Will Government be pleased to state the income derived from the enhancement of the rates of postage, registration fees and money order commission?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: Separate accounts are not maintained of the revenue realised from various descriptions of postal traffic, except that from commission on money orders and British Postal Orders. The rates of commission on money orders were last changed in 1921. The other portions of the postal tariff, except the rate for book packets, were enhanced from various dates during the year 1931-32. The initial book packet rate was enhanced with effect from 1st April, 1934.

The increased revenue obtained from the enhancement of the money order commission in April, 1921, amounted to Rs. 6 lakhs in the first year, the revenue in 1921-22 being larger by that amount than the revenue in the preceding year. The enhancement of the rates of postage on various articles was effected from various dates about the middle of the financial year and the figures for 1931-32 are, therefore, useless for purposes of comparison. If the revenue during 1930-31, the last complete financial year before the enhancements were effected, is compared with that in 1932-33, the revenue in the latter year was practically equal to the revenue in the former so that the enhancement served to arrest the progressive decrease in revenue that was occurring due to the economic depression. Due to the same reason the revenue decreased by another five lakhs in 1933-34. As for the increased revenue obtained from the enhancement of the book packet traffic, a reference is invited to the reply given by the Honourable Sir Frank Noyce to starred question No. 89 by Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena.

POST OFFICES CONVERTED AND ABOLISHED AND POSTS REDUCED IN THE POST OFFICES.

230. Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement shewing Circle by Circle:

- (a) the total number of departmental branch offices converted into extra-departmental ones;
- (b) the total number of Head Post Offices reduced to the status of time-scale sub-offices;
- (c) the total number of gazetted Post Offices reduced to the status of selection grade offices;
- (d) the total number of higher selection grade Post Offices reduced to the status of lower selection grade Post Offices;
- (e) the total number of departmental sub-offices converted into extra-departmental sub or branch offices;
- (f) the total number of unremunerative Post Offices abolished;
- (g) the total number of departmental postmen's appointments converted into those of extra-departmental delivery agents; and
- (h) the total number of unremunerative Post Offices at military stations and strategic centres?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) to (h). The Honourable Member has not stated the period for which the information is required but, even if he had, I should be unable to reply to his question, as the collection of the information would involve an expenditure of time and labour incommensurate with its value.

INCREMENTS OF EMPLOYEES IN THE POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT.

231. Mr. N. M. Joshi: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether under the ordinary rules, service in an officiating capacity counts for increments in the time-scale;
- (b) whether the increments of all the employees in the Posts and Telegraphs Department are governed by that rule;
- (c) whether the officials who are officiating as Lower Division clerks are not allowed to count their officiating service for increments unless they are officiating in clear permanent vacancies; and
- (d) if so, what is the reason for the differential treatment meted out to the officiating Lower Division clerks, and whether they are prepared to revise the orders, giving those officials the benefit of drawing increments for their entire officiating service, whether in clear permanent vacancies or otherwise?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) Not necessarily. Under Fundamental Rule 26 all duty in a post to which a time scale applies counts for increment in that time scale. But this rule is subject to the general provisions of Fundamental Rule 21 under which the Governor General in Council is competent to issue orders over-riding the provisions of Fundamental Rule 26 in respect of a particular time scale sanctioned by him.

(b) On the assumption that by employees the Honourable Member refers to officiating employees, the reply is in the negative. Fundamental Rule 26 is not applicable to officiating employees in time scales for which the Governor General in Council has issued special orders over-riding the provisions of Fundamental Rule 26.

(c) The position is substantially as stated by the Honourable Member.

(d) As regards the first part of the question, the restriction regarding grant of increments for officiating services applies uniformly to all officiating clerks in the Department, whether in the lower division or in the upper division, and, therefore, no differential treatment has been meted out to those in the lower division. The reply to the second part is in the negative.

PLYING OF THE BOMBAY-VIJAYDURG MAIL STEAMER THROUGH DABHOL PORT.

232. Mr. N. M. Joshi: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Bombay-Vijaydurg mail steamer does touch Dabhol port and connects Dabhol creek launch in its outward journey except in case of stormy weather;
- (b) whether there is no other steamer except the Bombay-Vijaydurg mail steamer to touch Jaygad port in both directions and to connect the Jaygad creek launch; and
- (c) if the replies to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, whether it is a fact that the Bombay Steam Navigation Company considers these ports as optional?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) to (c). The facts are as stated by the Honourable Member.

CONVEYANCE OF MAIL BAGS FOR PLACES ON THE KONKAN LINE.

233. Mr. N. M. Joshi: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the mail bags for places on the Konkan line are conveyed by a steamer of the Bombay Steam Navigation Company;
- (b) whether the steamer conveying such mails touches at the Dabhol port daily;
- (c) whether the mail bags for Guhagar and Dabhol are conveyed by this mail steamer and delivered at Dabhol; and if not, how they are conveyed to the respective places;
- (d) whether they are aware that in the present arrangement for the conveyance of mails to Guhagar and Dabhol, there is an inordinate, unnecessary avoidable delay;
- (e) whether objection, if any, was raised by the Bombay Steam Navigation Company to the postal peons visiting the Mail Guards even by issuing a deck pass daily and making their own arrangements to take Dabhol, Guhagar and Jaygad mails from the Mail Guard without reference to the Steamer Company;
- (f) whether Government are prepared to undertake that even if the steamer does not touch the Dabhol port on account of stormy weather and the mails for Dabhol and Guhagar are overcarried to Ratnagiri, the mails will not be delayed beyond the maximum of three hours only;
- (g) whether Government have considered that such a measure would improve delivery facilities and throw open better communication with Bombay for an area over 80 miles and in addition give a saving to the Department; and
- (h) if so, whether Government are prepared to ask the Postmaster General, Bombay, to make arrangements to get down the Dabhol and Guhagar mails from Vijaydurg Mail Steamer at Dabhol port through a gratuity agent, without reference to the Bombay Steam Navigation Company to which no responsibility would ordinarily attach?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) to (h). Government have no information, but the matter referred to is one with which the Postmaster-General, Bombay, is competent to deal and a copy of the question is being sent to that officer.

NON-ISSUE OF REVENUE STAMPS IN BURMA.

234. U Thein Maung: Will Government please state:

- (a) why "revenue" stamps separate from postage stamps have been issued in all provinces except Burma, as stated at page 9 of the Indian Post and Telegraph Department Annual Report for 1933-34;
- (b) why such stamps have not been issued in Burma; and
- (c) when they will be issued there, if at all?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: (a) As it was not possible to calculate exactly the shares of revenue from "unified" stamps distributable between the Posts and Telegraphs Department and the Provincial Governments, it was decided to introduce separate revenue and postage stamps throughout British India excluding Burma.

(b) and (c). The question of introducing separate revenue stamps in Burma has been postponed pending a decision on the question of separation of Burma from India because the Government of Burma desire to retain "unified" stamps for postal and revenue purposes if that Province is separated.

SHOWING OF BURMANS OR BUDDHISTS IN A SEPARATE COLUMN IN THE POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT.

235. U Thein Maung: With reference to Appendix XVII to the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department Annual Report, are Government prepared to consider the question of showing Burmans or Buddhists in a separate column?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: The reply is in the negative.

POSTAL AND TELEGRAPHIC FACILITIES IN BURMA AND RECRUITMENT OF BURMANS.

236. U Thein Maung: Will Government please state what steps have been taken (a) to increase the postal and telegraphic facilities in Burma since 1933-34, and (b) to increase the number and percentage of Burmans employed there in the Post and Telegraph Departments, and especially in the superior services since 1933-34?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) Owing to the financial stringency prevailing in the Department due to the general unfavourable economic conditions and the fall in postal and telegraph traffic it has not been possible to increase postal or telegraph facilities during 1933-34 either in Burma or in India.

(b) Direct recruitment to the subordinate services of the Posts and Telegraphs Department in the Burma Circle is generally confined to candidates domiciled in the revenue division in which the vacancies occur. Necessary orders in this respect were issued in 1926 so far as the clerical cadre of the subordinate postal service is concerned. In 1933 these orders were made applicable to all subordinate services in the Department. The result of these orders is an appreciable improvement in the number of Burmans recruited during 1934, the increase being about 7½ per cent.

There are only two superior services in the Posts and Telegraphs Department to which direct recruitment is made namely.

- (i) Superior Telegraph Engineering and Wireless Branches, Class I.
- (ii) Postal Superintendents' Service, Class II.

In the rules published in 1933-34 for recruitment to the service mentioned at (i) above by competitive examination held by the Public Service Commission one vacancy was reserved to a member of a minority community preference being given to a person domiciled in Burma. The result of the examination held in November 1933 showed that there was no candidate who had qualified for selection to fill the reserved vacancy.

No direct recruitment has been made since 1933-34 to the Postal Superintendents' Service, Class II.

CERTAIN INFORMATION IN CONNECTION WITH THE LAST GENERAL ELECTIONS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

237. Sir Muhammad Yakub: Will Government please lay on the table the following information in connection with the last general elections of the Legislative Assembly:

- (a) names of the constituencies;
- (b) names of the candidates;
- (c) total number of votes and the actual number which each candidate secured; and
- (d) the amount of the election expenses which each candidate lodged before the returning officer?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I am placing in the Library of the House a statement giving the information asked for in parts (a), (b) and (c) of the question. The information asked for in part (d) is being collected and will be placed in the Library in due course.

CANDIDATES FOR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTION WHO LOST THEIR SECURITIES.

238. Sir Muhammad Yakub: Will Government be pleased to state the names of the Legislative Assembly candidates of the last general elections who lost their securities and could not secure the required number of votes?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

MURAL DECORATIONS OF THE VICEROY'S HOUSE.

239. Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha: (a) Are Government aware that four Indian artists were sent to England to decorate the India House with mural paintings?

(b) Is it a fact that they did the work well and won universal approbation?

(c) Is it a fact that they came back to India?

(d) Is it a fact that the mural decorations of the Viceroy's house is going on?

(e) Has the work been given to an Italian artist?

(f) Were the Indian artists given a choice for the said work? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a)—(e). Yes.

(f) No. The work is not being done from public funds, and no question of control by the Government of India, therefore, arises. It is, however, observed:

- (i) that negotiations with the Italian artist had been commenced before the Indian artists returned from London, and
- (ii) that the Italian artist employs 15 Indian artists who work under his supervision.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPLIED TO DETENUS AND OTHER POLITICAL PRISONERS.

240. **Mr. Akhli Chandra Datta:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that no English newspaper other than the *Statesman* is allowed to the detenus and other political prisoners?

(b) Is it a fact that no other vernacular newspaper than the *Sanjibani* is allowed to them?

(c) If the answers to parts (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the reasons:

- (i) why of all English papers, the *Statesman* only is allowed;
- (ii) why other English papers are not allowed; and
- (iii) why no vernacular daily is allowed?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) and (b). I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the list of newspapers, magazines and periodicals placed on the table of the House in reply to question No. 768 on the 9th March, 1935, from which he will see that several English and Vernacular Newspapers are allowed to State Prisoners.

(a). Does not arise.

GRIEVANCES OF THE STAFF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, NEW DELHI.

241. **Sir Muhammad Yakub:** (a) Are Government aware that keen disappointment prevails among the staff of the Government of India Press, New Delhi, on account of the rejection by Government of all the memorials and petitions submitted by the clerks during the period from January, 1933 to December, 1934, for redressing various grievances, without assigning any reason?

(b) Are Government prepared to reconsider favourably the legitimate grievances of the clerks and, in case of rejection, state the reasons for not acceding to their requests?

The Honourable Sir Frank Moyce: (a) and (b). The reply is in the negative. Only two memorials appear to have been received during the period in question. One was for an improvement in the scale of pay, and the other for a working day of five hours, with permission to arrive ten minutes late and other relaxations of penalties for late attendance. Reasons are not ordinarily assigned for the rejection of memorials.

HOLIDAYS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, NEW DELHI.

242. **Sir Muhammad Yakub:** Is it a fact that like all the offices under the Government of India and under the Central Government permanently located in Delhi all gazetted holidays notified by the Chief Commissioner,

Delhi Province, are not observed by the staff of the Government of India Press, New Delhi? If so, what is the cause of such a differential treatment?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: The position as stated by the Honourable Member is not quite accurate. The staff of the Government of India Press, New Delhi, are allowed the gazetted holidays notified by the Chief Commissioner, Delhi, during April to October; but from November to March the men in that Press are allowed the closed holidays observed by the Government of India Secretariat offices and any two of the communal holidays falling within that period. It is obviously inconvenient, especially during the Session of the Legislature, to close the Press when the Secretariat offices are working in Delhi.

SCALES OF PAY AND WORKING HOURS OF THE CLERKS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, NEW DELHI.

243. **Sir Muhammad Yakub:** Is it a fact that the clerks of the Government of India Press, New Delhi, are governed by the Rules enforced in the Government of India offices only in respect of casual leave and holidays while their scales of pay and working hours are not regulated in accordance with those of the Government of India offices nor of the offices under the Central Government? If so, will Government please state reasons for adopting such a procedure?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: The clerks are allowed casual leave for ten days in the year as is admissible to the establishment in the Government of India Secretariat offices. As regards holidays, I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to my reply to the previous question. The scales of pay and the working hours of the clerks are regulated by the interests of the public service, and with regard to the character of the work and the needs of the Press. They, therefore, differ from those prevailing in the Secretariat and attached offices.

APPLICATION OF THE PROVIDENT FUND RULES IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PASSES.

244. **Sir Muhammad Yakub:** (a) Is it a fact that there is no uniformity in the application of certain rules in the Government of India Presses?

(b) Is it also a fact that the Contributory Provident Fund Rules have been applied in the Government of India Press, Calcutta, to the employees recruited on a certain date in the year 1929, while in case of Delhi Press, the Contributory Provident Fund Rules have been applied to all the employees recruited on or after the 15th July, 1920? If so, will Government be pleased to state why the same Contributory Provident Fund Rules have not been applied to the employees of the Government of India Press, Delhi from the date on which they have been introduced for the employees of the Government of India Press, Calcutta and what do Government propose to do to make the rules uniform?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) I am not clear which rules the Honourable Member has in mind. The rules applicable to the different presses are not identical but, where one rule covers all the presses, it is applied in the same manner in each Press.

(b) The answer to the first part is in the negative. The rules are applied to all industrial employees recruited on or after 15th July, 1920, either in Calcutta or Delhi, to the clerks so recruited in Delhi and to most, if not all, of the clerks so recruited in Calcutta. Owing to the fact that the Calcutta Press clerks were borne up to 26th March, 1929, on a combined cadre with certain other offices in Calcutta, special provisions had to be made to cover the case of the clerks employed there. But it was not intended, that these provisions should operate, to exclude any clerks recruited in that Press between 1920 and 1929. I am having an inquiry made to ascertain whether any clerks in Calcutta have been unintentionally excluded from the benefit of the Provident Fund and shall be prepared to give special consideration to such cases.

APPLICATION OF THE PROVIDENT FUND RULES IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESSES.

245. **Sir Muhammad Yakub:** (a) Will Government be pleased to put on the table of the House a copy of the Finance Department orders relating to the application of the Contributory Provident Fund Rules and state what classes of employees they cover?

(b) Is it a fact that the rules regarding the Contributory Provident Fund, applied to the clerks of the Government of India Presses, are contrary to the Finance Department orders?

(c) Are Government aware that the Finance Department orders relating to the Contributory Provident Fund prohibit the admission of clerks (non-technical employees) to the Contributory Provident Fund?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) The Contributory Provident Fund is intended mainly for certain technical specialists, but exceptions are sometimes made on grounds of administrative convenience. Government do not propose to lay a copy of the orders on the table.

(b) and (c). No.

REVISION OF SCALES OF PAY OF SECTION-HOLDERS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, NEW DELHI.

246. **Bhai Parma Wand:** (a) Is it a fact that the scales of pay of readers, clerks, copy-holders, and piece-workers of the Government of India Press, New Delhi, were revised after 1920?

(b) Is it a fact that the section-holders and the assistant section-holders of the Government of India Press, New Delhi, were left out and consequently they submitted their memorials to the Government of India in 1934?

(c) Is it a fact that the said memorials were withheld by the Controller of Printing and Stationery?

(d) If the reply to parts (a), (b) and (c) be in the affirmative, are Government and the Controller of Printing and Stationery prepared to take into consideration the revision of the scales of pay of the section-holders as well?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) On the reorganization of the Press in 1927 the scales of pay for clerks and copyholders were revised. The scales of pay of all the classes mentioned were revised in 1934.

(b) The scales for section-holders and assistant section-holders were left unaffected by the revision in 1927, but were reduced in 1934. Memorials have been submitted by section-holders and assistant section-holders, but these are not consequent on the 1934 revision, as that did not affect the memorialists, who remained on the higher scales formerly in force.

(c) The memorials submitted by the section-holders were withheld by the Controller under instruction No. 7 (3) of the instructions for the submission of petitions to the Governor General in Council.

(d) No.

EMPLOYMENT OF HINDUS AND MUSLIMS IN THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, DELHI.

247. Bhal Parma Nand: (a) With reference to my question No. 1803, dated the 7th December, 1932, will Government please state the communal proportion of the gazetted officers in the Education Department of Ajmer Merwara?

(b) Is it a fact that the Superintendent and the Female Superintendent of Female Education, Delhi, have been Christians since the creation of the Delhi Province?

(c) If the answer to part (b) be in the affirmative, will Government please state why the Hindus and the Muhammadans, the two major communities of the Delhi Province, have been entirely deprived of their provincial rights?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) The communal proportion of the gazetted officers in the Education Department of Ajmer-Merwara is:

Hindus	69 per cent.
Muslims	25 "
Christians	6 "

(b) Yes.

(c) Mr. L. T. Watkins, I.E.S., was appointed Superintendent of Education for Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara on the creation of the post. He held it from 20th September, 1920 to 9th December, 1925. The post was held in abeyance for some time on account of financial stringency, the Educational Commissioner with the Government of India holding collateral charge of the duties of the Superintendent of Education. It was revived in April, 1931, and the present incumbent was appointed on the recommendation of the Public Service Commission. The selection of the Assistant Superintendent for Female Education was made at a time when Hindu and Muslim candidates possessing the requisite qualifications and experience were not forthcoming. The Honourable Member will appreciate that officers once appointed to Government service cannot be removed from service merely because they do not belong to a particular community.

EMPLOYMENT OF HINDUS IN THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, DELHI.

248. **Bhai Parma Nand:** (a) Is it a fact that the gazetted inspecting staff of the Education Department, Delhi, consists of Muhammadans and Christians only?

(b) Is it a fact that the District Inspector of Schools, Delhi and the Senior Assistant District Inspectors of Schools, Delhi, have been Muhammadans for the last eight years?

(c) Is it a fact that the heads of the Training School, Najafgarh and the Girls Training School, Delhi, have been only Muhammadans and Christians since their foundation?

(d) Is it a fact that the Head Master, D. B. High School, Mehrauli, has always been a Muhammadan?

(e) If the answers to the preceding parts be in the affirmative, will Government please state why Hindus have been totally deprived of their rights?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) to (d). Yes.

(e) There is no question of depriving Hindus of their rights. Appointments and postings of educational officers are not made exclusively with regard to communal considerations.

SELECTION OF THE PRESENT DISTRICT INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS, DELHI.

249. **Bhai Parma Nand:** (a) Will Government please lay on the table a statement showing the names, particulars, and the period of services of those candidates who were recommended by the Punjab Government for the post of District Inspector of Schools, Delhi, at the time of transfer of Sheikh Ghulam Mohiuddin?

(b) Will Government please state the period of service as District Inspector of Schools of the present District Inspector of Schools, Delhi, in the Punjab?

(c) Will Government please state why the present District Inspector of Schools, Delhi, was selected in preference to the Hindu candidates in spite of the facts that the Muhammadans have been holding this post for the last eight years?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) I regret I am unable to comply with the Honourable Member's request as recommendations relating to personnel are confidential.

(b) About two years.

(c) He was considered to be the most suitable candidate for the post.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF THE INFERIOR SERVANTS IN THE OFFICE OF THE PRIVATE SECRETARY TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE VICEROY.

250. **Sardar Sant Singh:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) what is the communal proportion of the inferior servants in the Office of the Private Secretary to His Excellency the Viceroy and how many of them are Sikhs:

- (b) whether it is a fact that four new peons were employed in that office in January last, and all of them are Hindus;
- (a) whether one of the Assistant Private Secretaries passed orders to the effect that every community should be represented among the inferior staff of that office, and whether this order was brought to the notice of the present Assistant Private Secretary; if so, with what result and, if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) The communal proportion of the inferior servants in the Office of the Private Secretary to His Excellency the Viceroy is 24.2 per cent. Muslim and 75.8 per cent. Hindus. There are no Sikhs.

I may add that a year ago a Sikh was offered a peon's appointment which had fallen vacant but the offer was refused.

(b) No. The facts are that the services of two Hindu peons of the Earthquake Relief Fund Office have been retained owing to the abnormal rush of work.

(c) As regards the first part of the question, the order of the Assistant Private Secretary referred to was in connection with the superior and not the inferior establishment. The second part does not, therefore, arise.

INTRODUCTION OF THE REVISED RENT RULES ON STATE RAILWAYS.

251. Mawlā Syed Murtaza Sahib Bahadur: Will Government please state the date of introduction of the revised rent rules as referred to in correction slip No. 8 to note 2 under Rule 2 of section 1 of chapter II, Residential Buildings of State Railway Code (Revised)?

Mr. P. B. Rau: The note referred to applies to non-gazetted staff and the following are the dates of introduction of the revised rent rules for such staff on the various State-managed Railways:

Eastern Bengal Railway	30th June, 1928.
North Western Railway	1st August, 1928.
East Indian Railway	1st October, 1922.
Great Indian Peninsula Railway	1st April, 1932, in the case of new entrants. As regards existing staff the intention is to apply the new rent rules from 1st April 1935.
Burma Railways	The revised rent rules for subordinate sta' have not yet been introduced. But in the case of a sta' in service on 15-7-31 who were enjoying the privilege of rent free quarters or an allowance in lieu thereof in a substantive capacity the concession was continued. The concession has been withdrawn from the sta' appointed on or after 15-7-31.

INTRODUCTION OF THE REVISED RENT RULES ON STATE RAILWAYS.

252. Manvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur: Will Government please place on the table of this House a copy of the revised rent Rules on State-managed Railways?

Mr. P. B. Rau: The revised rent rules will be found in Chapter II (Residential Buildings) of the State Railway Code (Revised), a copy of which is in the Library.

RESTRICTIONS ON THE MOVEMENT OF MR. SUBASH CHANDRA BOSE.

253. Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any restrictions are placed on the movements of Subash Chandra Bose by the Government of India or the Secretary of State now;
- (b) if the answer to part (a) be in the negative, whether Mr. Subash Bose is free to go either to England or any other foreign country in Europe and America;
- (c) whether it is a fact that Subash Bose applied for a passport to go to England and the same was refused;
- (d) whether it is a fact that he was asked to preside over a political conference in London and whether he was prevented from going to London; and
- (e) whether Government have removed these restrictions on him now?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a), (b) and (e). Mr. Bose is in possession of a passport valid for France, Switzerland, Germany, Austria and Italy. The passport is not valid for entry into the United Kingdom, and he would, therefore, require the permission of the India Office to visit England.

(c) and (d). I have no information as to whether Mr. Bose himself applied for facilities to visit England on the occasion in question.

WEEKLY WORKING HOURS OF A NIGHT SECTION IN THE RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE.

254. Mr. N. M. Joshi: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the standard of weekly working hours for a Night Section, in the Railway Mail Service is fixed at 80 hours per week and sets are sanctioned on that basis;
- (b) whether the authorities have applied this standard only in the case of those Sections that work between 21 and five hours and have refused to apply it to a Section which works between 17.30 hours and six hours and have applied to Sections of this type the standard of 88 hours per week, treating them as Sections working partly by day and partly by night;

- (c) whether by application of 80 hours standard to a Section mentioned in part (b), a set of a Section in the Bombay Circle was reduced; and
- (d) whether this anomaly was brought to the notice of the authorities by the Union; if so, whether it was rectified; if not, why not?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) The standard for 'night' sections, according to which the number of sets is fixed, is a minimum of 24 hours, and a maximum of 80 hours of weekly duty.

(b) The facts are as stated by the Honourable Member. I may add that, as regards the particular case to which the Honourable Member refers, the circumstances were very carefully examined by the Head of the Circle and, as a large proportion of both the outward and inward trips were found to be done between the hours of 5 A.M. and 9 P.M., it was decided that the working hours of the section should properly be regulated by the standard applicable for sections working partly by night and partly by day.

(c) One set of a section in the Bombay Circle was reduced by the application of the 88 hours standard, which was applicable for the reasons explained in my reply to part (b) above and not by the application of the 80 hours standard.

(d) As already explained there was no anomaly. The case was represented by the Union and the actual position was intimated to them.

DEFINITIONS OF "RUNNING TIME" AND "NIGHT" IN A RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE SECTION.

255. Mr. N. M. Joshi: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) the circumstances that led to the (i) change in the definition of the "Running Time" of a Railway Mail Service Section as laid down in Mr. Bewoor's Time-Test Report, and (ii) to the revised interpretation of "Night" as meaning the period between 21 and 5 hours instead of between 20 and 6 hours, which was the principle laid down in the said Report; and
- (b) the principles underlying the classification of the Railway Mail Service Sections, into "Night" and "Semi-night" ones?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) (i). In accordance with orders issued in 1906 the time occupied by a Railway Mail Service section to complete its journey from one end of its beat to the other was accepted by the Department as the "Run" or the "Running Time", of the section. In his report Mr. Bewoor recommended that the running time should be reckoned from the time of the arrival of the train at the starting station to the time of its arrival at the end of the beat of the section for the purpose of preparing the staff-hours statement for sections of the Railway Mail Service. This standard, however, was not adopted by the Department, as, on close examination, it was found that it would involve practical administrative difficulties particularly in the case of sections commencing their beat in trains made up at terminal stations considerably before the actual time of departure.

(ii) The interpretation of "night" as the period between 20 hours and 6 hours as given in the report applies only to Mail Offices and this has not been altered.

(b) Sections whose period of duty falls entirely between 21 hours and 5 hours are classified as "Night" sections; sections whose period of duty falls entirely between 5 hours and 21 hours are classified as "Day" sections; the rest are classified as sections working partly by day and partly by night. The question of modifying these definitions is, however, under examination.

BAD CONDITION OF THE ROAD BETWEEN TURKMAN GATE AND CIRCULAR ROAD IN NEW DELHI.

256. **Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer:** Is it a fact that the road between Turkman Gate and Circular Road in New Delhi is in a very bad state of repairs? If so, will Government please state when they propose to repair it?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: The road is new and settlement always takes place in a newly constructed road.

It is proposed to resurface it during the coming year.

FENCE WIRES IN THE UNORTHODOX QUARTERS IN MINTO ROAD AREA, NEW DELHI.

257. **Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer:** Is it a fact that quite a number of concrete posts set up to hold the fence wires in the unorthodox quarters in Minto Road area have already broken down, though they were erected less than a year ago?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: A few of the concrete posts have been damaged by children and cattle. The fence is temporary and will ultimately be replaced by hedges.

TARRING OF ROADS IN THE MINTO ROAD AREA, NEW DELHI.

258. **Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer:** Do Government propose to tar the roads in the Minto Road area? If so, when?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Yes. During the coming year.

CHANGE IN SYSTEM OF ELECTRIC CURRENTS IN NEW DELHI.

259. **Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer:** Do Government propose to change the D. C. current at present supplied to Government quarters in New Delhi to A. C. or A. C. current in Minto Road area to D. C.? If so, when?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: The matter concerns the Municipal Committee of New Delhi who are in charge of the electrical supply of the city.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER.

PRESERVATION OF THE HIGHLANDS IN KENYA FOR EUROPEANS.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether their attention has been drawn to the questions and answers in the House of Commons on the 14th February last for preserving the Highlands in Kenya for Europeans;
- (b) whether His Majesty's Government are intending to pass an Order in Council in the matter.
- (c) whether the Indian Government made any representation in the matter;
- (d) whether His Majesty's Government will be requested to stay their hands pending request by the Government of India;
- (e) whether it is a fact that within the extended area no person other than a European shall be entitled to acquire by grant or transfer agricultural land or to occupy land therein;
- (f) whether Government propose to take any steps to see that the position of Indians in Kenya is not adversely affected?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) Yes.

(b) His Majesty's Government propose that the boundaries of the Highlands should be declared by Order in Council.

(c), (d) and (f). The Government of India approached His Majesty's Government with a request that an opportunity be afforded to them to make representations before an Order in Council was made. This request has been acceded to and representations to safeguard Indian interests will shortly be made.

(e) If the condition that no person other than a European shall be entitled to acquire by grant or transfer agricultural land in such area or to occupy land there be prescribed by Order in Council, this would probably be so.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know if the Government are aware that the Kenya Land Commission have included in their report areas as highlands where no restriction was ever imposed previously even on the plea of administrative convenience prohibiting Indians from acquiring either free grants of land or transfer thereof and where in fact transfers of land had taken place from Europeans to Indians and *vice versa*?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: The report referred to by the Honourable Member has already been noticed by Government, and their representations relate not merely to the racial character of the restrictions but also to the territorial extent of the area in which restrictions should apply.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: When did this Government make this representation to His Majesty's Government about staying their hands before they passed the Order in Council? On what date did they make this representation?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: The representation was made on the 12th February, 1935.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Did that representation include *inter-alia* a representation from this Government that this recommendation of the Kenya Land Commission, that is to extend the area and to prohibit transfers, was really *ultra vires*, because it went beyond the terms of reference of this Commission?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: Well, Sir, as a matter of fact, we did not enter into any very elaborate argument as to whether a particular thing was *ultra vires* or not. We said that we had examined the recommendations of the Commission and we found that in two respects they went beyond the existing position, namely, first, the conversion of the restriction into a statutory restriction, and, secondly, the extension of the area, and that we wanted to submit detailed representations in regard to both.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Have the Government of India sent those detailed representations, Sir?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: The representations are in the course of preparation now, and I hope they will go by the next air mail.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will an opportunity be given to public opinion, either on the floor of this House or outside to strengthen the hands of the Government in preventing this injustice to Indians in Kenya?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I think if my Honourable friend will refer to the earlier proceedings of this House which date back to 1923, he will find that there has been ample demonstration of the strength of Indian opinion on the question of the reservation of land in the Highlands. I do not think that any fresh opportunity is necessary for putting the Government of India in possession of Indian opinion in this matter.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are Government aware that the Land Commission has defined the Highlands in Kenya as being merely the land where any European holds land irrespective of the geographical or climatic considerations and have also recommended that where Indians hold land at present in the neighbourhood of any land owned by Europeans, that such land held by Indians should also be considered as Highlands if and when such land held by Indians passes into the hands of Europeans, and that any transfers thereafter to Indians of the land previously held by them should become illegal?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I can assure my Honourable friend that this voluminous document which has been in our possession since last May has been most carefully examined, and that every recommendation which, in our opinion, adversely affects Indian interests, has passed through our scrutiny.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government give an opportunity to this House to express its opinion, so that they might forward it to His Majesty's Government, in order to show His Majesty's Government the resentment felt in this country over this attempted act of injustice in Kenya?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I have already answered that question. I have informed my Honourable friend that really there is no aspect of this question which has not already been sufficiently examined and canvassed and discussed both by this House and by representative Indians outside.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government write to His Majesty's Government that public opinion in this country feels very strongly on this matter and considers it a great insult to it, that this injustice should be perpetrated?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I submit to my Honourable friend that in the representations we have made, we have referred to the strength of Indian feeling on this subject.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether the reservation of the Highlands is an act of, what is called in the Government of India Bill, discrimination against the British subjects?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: That is asking for an expression of opinion.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether it is not a question of interpretation, instead of opinion?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It is purely a matter of opinion.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether the British Government and the British people are responsible for this discrimination?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: My Honourable friend is sufficiently familiar with the history of the case to be able to answer that question for himself.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether the Government of India Bill provides reciprocity, or power to discriminate against those people who are responsible for this discrimination?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: So far as the holding of property in this country is concerned, I speak from memory, but I think I am right in saying that there is no restriction to be placed on the Legislature of the future in regard to this matter.

Mr. B. Das: May I ask the Honourable Member how he expects to receive better treatment on his representation to His Majesty's Government, on the Kenya Highland question when he has got a kick over the representation on the Zanzibar issue?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: My Honourable friend's metaphor in regard to Zanzibar is neither accurate nor happy.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Then, what is the reply that he has received, if it is not a kick?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I submit that that does not arise out of this question.

STATEMENT OF BUSINESS.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar (Leader of the House): With your permission, I desire to make a statement of the course of business in this House. Owing to the discussions having taken longer than we expected, and owing to the fact that it is not possible to form any accurate idea as to how long the supplementary demands will take, we propose, after the present discussion on the motion for consideration of the Finance Bill is finished, to take up the supplementary grants, and, after that is disposed of, to go on with the Finance Bill until its final disposal.

Mr. B. Das (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadan): Are there going to be any night sittings?

Sir Cowasji Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): May I draw the attention of the Leader of the House to the fact that he has placed as the last item in the list of business the Bill which I have the honour of moving. It was placed immediately after the supplementary demands in the previous list. It won't take three or four minutes, and I suggest to him most respectfully that that item of the agenda be placed in its original position, namely, immediately after the supplementary demands. It is a reference made by the Council of State to this House. It will not take more than three minutes. I shall merely read it out straightaway, and I would suggest that it be placed immediately after the supplementary demands and before the consideration of the Finance Bill in detail. I hope, Sir, I have the support of all Parties in my request.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Well, Sir, I am not prepared to accept the optimistic statement that the thing will be finished in three or four minutes. We have no hold over that. Anybody can get up and speak. I am afraid we are now driven to the position that the business must be taken up on the lines I have suggested.

Rao Bahadur M. C. Rajah (Nominated Non-Official): May I know what is the position about the Bill regarding the duty on rice and wheat?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: The position is this, that that Bill will be taken up after the Finance Bill; and there is the possibility, or rather I should say a fair probability, that there will be no duty on wheat and rice on the 1st April unless the Bill is passed by that date.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Sir, the Honourable the Leader of the House objects to a change on the ground that there may be a discussion. I can assure my Honourable friend that there will be no discussion this time. It will take not more than the reading of it and no further. If he does not desire to accept my suggestion, of course we have no control, but I think it is only fair that a reference from the Council of State should be disposed of as early as possible and that the appointment of a Select Committee for this Bill should be allowed with this assurance from all sides of the House that I will merely read out the Resolution passed by the Council of State and mention the names of the Members of the Select Committee.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Is it a very urgent matter?

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: It is an urgent matter, Sir. It is a pity that I am not allowed to use three minutes of the time of the House on a matter connected with a community that never comes up before this House with any legislation or any question of their own or for their own interests. This is the first time this is done, and I regret to find that the Government should now object. (Loud Applause.)

I understand, Sir, the Government still objects?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Well, Sir, I still object, because, although I know my Honourable friend honestly believes that the thing will be over in three or four minutes, we have some experience of how such assurances are kept, because my Honourable friend has no control over other people.

Mr. S. Satyamurti (Madras City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): May I ask the Leader of the House whether Sir Joseph Bhore's Bill is proposed to be taken up, after the Supplementary Demands? (Voices: "No, no.") What is the position?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: The present discussion will continue, then there will be the Supplementary Grants, then the Finance Bill.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair finds in the List of Business two motions in the names of Mr. Tottenham and Sir Joseph Bhore. Then comes the Supplementary Demands?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: That is the agenda. If No 2 is called today—there is no possibility—if No. 2 or No. 3 are called today, we do not propose to move them. I only wanted to give notice to the House as to what would happen.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair thinks, the Honourable Mr. Satyamurti wanted to know—whether these two items will come after the Supplementary Demands.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Sir, let me once more explain that we are going on with the discussion on the motion for consideration of the Finance Bill. That is No 1. No. 2 will be the Supplementary Grants. No. 3 will be the Finance Bill. No. 3 will be the detailed consideration of the Finance Bill.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Nos. 2 and 3 come after the Supplementary Demands and the amendments to the Finance Bill?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Nos. 2, 3 and 4 are transposed.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): They will not come on after this consideration?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: That is so.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: On a point of order, Mr. President. No doubt it is open to the Governor General in Council to intimate to the Secretary of the Assembly the order of business. Now, once he has done it, and the Secretary has arranged that business and the agenda has been circulated, I submit it is not in the power of anybody to change the order of business, except by a vote of this House; and I submit also that it is a question of convenience. Government have no right to give notice to us that they will take up business on certain dates and then change it. I invite your attention to the rule on this matter—the arrangement of the business so far as the Government business is concerned.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): What is the rule?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Rule 22, Standing Order 8:

"On days allotted for the transaction of Government business, the Secretary shall arrange that business in such order as the Governor General in Council may direct."

That has been done. Your Secretary has arranged the business and he has circulated the agenda to us. Once that arrangement has been done, the Governor General is *functus officio* so far as this matter is concerned. He cannot come in and say, "I will now again change that order of business" without the leave of the House. But it is open to my Honourable friend to move here that that order of business be as follows: "that items so and so shall be taken up after items so and so."

Sir Lancelot Graham (Secretary, Legislative Department): No, no.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: My friend, Sir Lancelot Graham, says: "no, no". He is not yet the President of the House, and I suggest that it is the inherent right of this House to arrange its own business, which is placed before it. Once the Government have placed that business, they have no further right of interfering with that business, and I ask you, Sir, as the custodian of the privileges of this House to uphold our rights and see that this is not allowed to be done by the Government.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Sir, nobody is disputing the effect of Standing Order, No. 7. But there is no provision under which we can be compelled to move No. 2. Just as, on a non-official day, if several of the different motions are not moved and a particular motion was allowed to be taken,—that is what will happen. If No. 2 is called on now, for instance, well, somebody gets up and says he does not move,—so I made the statement in order to give the House an idea of what will happen, so that there may not be any question of surprise. There is no power, I submit, to compel us to move, if we do not want to move.

Sir Oowaji Jehangir: You cannot compel me also not to move. I may point out to the Honourable Member that he cannot compel me not to move. (Loud Applause and Laughter.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable the Leader of the House has stated a general proposition that Government cannot be compelled to move any particular motion on the agenda. That is perfectly correct. But if the Government Member does not choose to move any particular motion, would not the effect be that he cannot move it again?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Sir, I should say he can, but when that situation arises, I shall ask for your ruling.

Mr. H. P. Mody (Bombay Millowners' Association: Indian Commerce): Sir, can you not give us three minutes today at the end of the proceedings?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair shall consider the point of order raised. The Chair does not think the situation will arise, because the further consideration may take the rest of the time; if it does not, then the Chair will give its ruling today. The Assembly will now resume further consideration of the Finance Bill. Before that, the Chair has to make an announcement regarding the election of Members to the Committee on Public Accounts.

ELECTION OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have to inform the House that the following Members have been elected to the Committee on Public Accounts, namely:

- (1) Mr. B. Das,
- (2) Mr. S. Satyamurti,
- (3) Prof. N. G. Ranga,
- (4) Dr. Thein, Maung,
- (5) Sir Muhammad Yakub,
- (6) Mr. J. Ramsay Scott,
- (7) Captain Sardar Sher Muhammad Khan, and
- (8) Bhai Parma Nand.

STATEMENT LAID ON THE TABLE.

NET EARNINGS OF CERTAIN NEWLY CONSTRUCTED RAILWAY LINES.

Mr. P. B. Rau (Financial Commissioner, Railways): Sir, I lay on the table a statement, giving the information at present available as to the net earnings of certain newly constructed railway lines, during the financial year 1933-34, and a comparison of the return given by these earnings on the capital outlay with the return anticipated in the original estimates.

Statement showing net earnings during the Financial year 1933-34 of new lines opened after 1st October 1927 throughout for traffic for a full year.

Serial No.	Name of Project.	Working railway.	Gauge.	Mileage.	Date of opening.	Net income creditable to the project for 1933-34.	Percentage return of income (Column 7 on capital outlay after opening as estimated originally.	Estimated percentage return of income on capital outlay after opening as estimated originally.	Remarks.	
6										
1933-34. 1933-34.										
1	B	3	6	5	6	7	8	9	10	
1	Chittagong—Nandiod	A. B.	3'	34"	23.97	17-3-30	13,639	0.14	0.60	8.50
2	Chittagong—Dobamari	A. B.	3'	31"	25.06	10-6-31	-55,761	-0.24*	-1.06	8.50
3	Feni—Bafanda	A. B.	3'	34"	16.26	1-12-29	-27,361	-2.05*	-1.91	5.80
4	Ferking—Bodubpara—Jorhat	A. B.	3'	34"	43.28	1-8-28	1,61,615	5.78*	4.70	7.00
5	Karimganj—Langal Valley	A. B.	3'	34"	29.45	1-1-29	20,174	0.19*	-0.56	5.90
6	Hetrakong—Mohanagar Extension	A. B.	3'	31"	17.55	1-4-30	29,724	0.95*	1.43	9.60
7	Shahalganj—Habiganj—Bala.	A. B.	3'	28"	25.29	1-12-29	61,948	3.12*	2.98	6.47
8	Soncher—Mirabari	A. B.	3'	31"	29.26	30-4-30	68,593	1.90*	3.06	18.0
9	Sibsaganj—Khorang	A. B.	3'	31"	29.79	10-11-27	72,466	2.85*	2.08	7.00
10	Madrak—Thore Extension	B. & N. W.	3'	31"	29.32	12-1-31	78,399†	2.84†	3.34†	6.00

† Excludes net earnings of existing lines from new traffic interchanged with new railway.

* Revised figures.

11	Rajpur—Farvillapuram Um.	B. E.	5° 6'	242.14	31-3-22	14,46,496	5.6	2.96	5.40
12	Borhvi—Vadial	B. E. & C. I.	5° 6'	2.71	18-4-20	53,819	17.42	23.77	5.00
13	Jambhar—Kavi	B. E. & C. I.	5° 6'	17.87	1-9-20	27,653	5.08	3.47	8.00
14	Bamal—Dabhi	B. E. & C. I.	5° 6'	24.72	1-9-20	20,246	-0.76	2.02	8.90
15	Vand—Kstana	B. E. & C. I.	5° 6'	28.61	1-9-20	2,86,087	11.15	13.11	9.00
16	Helo—Ravayang	Burma.	5° 34'	11.25	2-5-22	-12,626	-0.61	-0.46	6.00
17	Kayau—Thogva	Burma.	5° 34'	10.80	5-12-22	-16,548	0.73	-1.08	10.75
18	Myingyan—Pabik	Burma.	5° 34'	68.66	12-1-20	-21,945	-0.11	-0.21	5.50
19	Kyungshin—Mendak	Burma.	5° 34'	11.08	15-4-20	80,264	4.18	6.00	3.27
20	Tungshingyi—Kyoung- dang.	Burma.	5° 34'	71.62	17-7-20	41,796	0.6012	0.28	6.00
21	Abuljua—Nawalgaon	B. E.	5° 6'	57.02	10-2-20	-1,20,000	-1.07	-1.08	6.20
22	Barduar—Lakshimbakapur	B. E.	5° 6'	22.26	15-12-22	-37,000	-0.24	-0.28	7.00
23	Dimaljua—Baboo	B. E.	5° 34'	57.20	5-2-22	3,20,000	4.20	9.69	6.50
24	Kabulshah—Bhatrapan	B. E.	5° 6'	53.06	1-2-22	-2,70,000	-3.24	-4.58	6.00
25	Purao—Sirtimal (with branch from Bismanki to Poharigan).	B. E.	5° 34'	51.98	1-10-20	2,29,000	2.91	7.10	6.50
26	Tangh Bhatrapan	B. E.	5° 34'	22.50	6-2-22	1,20,000	:	3.16	0.66†
27	Chandigar—Bijjar Muzam- pur Murah.	B. I.	5° 6'	37.90	5-1-20	84,776	5.47	2.61	6.10
28	Lachar—Bhatrapan—Zahar- had.	B. I.	5° 6'	126.00	25-4-23	-0,05,864	:	-6.24	5.20
29	Umao—Madhogal	B. I.	5° 6'	48.60	21-12-20	24.7	1.26	0.61	6.20

† Not available.

‡ The Government of Assam have agreed to pay the actual loss incurred working the railway for an indefinite period subject to a maximum of Rs. 1,75,000 each year, provided that, if and when the Government find it necessary to cover the deficit in the capital account, the balance will be utilized in repaying any loans that may have been paid under guarantee.

Serial No.	Name of Project.	Working railway.	Gauge.	Mileage.	Date of opening.	Net income creditable to the project for 1933-34.	Percentage return of income (Column 7 on capital outlay).	Estimated percentage return of income on income on capital outlay some years after opening as estimated originally.	Remarks.
							1932-33.	1933-34.	
20	Agri Bab.	G. I. P.	5' 6"	48.20	19-4-39	-87,882	-1.23	-0.99	6.20
21	Bhorat-Pand.	G. I. P.	5' 6"	49.95	15-12-31	32,923	1.03	1.13	6.81
22	Chandni-Kotpathi	M. & S. M.	5' 6"	37.08	1-11-39	-1,50,264	-3.04*	-4.26*	9.00
23	Chandni-Mathera	M. & S. M.	5' 3 1/2"	79.05	15-1-30	1,26,205	4.40**	3.09*	5.25
24	Godwadi-Bhimavaram	M. & S. M.	5' 3 1/2"	40.60	17-2-28	1,24,023	3.32**	3.09*	6.61
25	Khadavaly-Konapur	M. & S. M.	5' 6"	47.19	2-8-39	2,37,054	3.46**	3.49*	6.61
26	Kandhali-Sambhalli Ex. London	M. & S. M.	5' 3 1/2"	11.74	15-3-24	1,45,122	58.30**	43.53*	6.00
27	Northan-Mareel	M. W.	5' 6"	99.14	6-4-39	6,92,024	6.94	10.00(c)	6.50
28	Chak Jhams-Kuhab	M. W.	5' 6"	70.47	13-2-23	11,17,493	2.59	6.48(c)	6.00
29	Jams-Sambhalli	Chak M. W.	5' 6"	89.27	21-12-22	1,00,649	2.72	5.51(c)	6.00

* Calculated on capital expenditure only excluding interest during construction.

† Revised figures.

‡ This line was sanctioned for construction on the assurance that a minimum output of 35,000 tons of manganese ore annually by the Sandur Mining Company would be enough to guarantee the railway against loss.

40	Lyalpur—Jaranwala . . . N. W. . .	5' 6"	20-75	2-12-27	-14,466	-4-72	-0-91(c)	5-4F
41	Rohat—Graham—Patial . . . N. W. . .	5' 6"	44-01	15-5-25	1,58,829	-7-87†	6-00(c)	6-33
42	Shahdara Nurawal . . . N. W. . .	5' 6"	69-28	21-25-28	98,575	6-50†	3-33(c)	4-84§
43	Siad Left Bank Feeder Rail—N. W. . .	5' 6"	104-49	10-12-31	1,81,874§	1-25§	2-02§	
44	Kangra Valley . . . B. W. . .	3' 6"	108-08	1-4-29	16,561**	0-58**	0-18** (c)	5-50**
45	Cuddalore Vidhanachalam . . . S. I. . .	3' 3½"	35-59	21-6-28	1,09,560††	3-04**	3-77‡‡	††
46	Dindigul Pollocki . . . S. I. . .	3' 3½"	75-10	16-11-29	4,64,583‡‡	0-26‡‡	5-44‡‡	§-64
47	Madura Bodhanayakkanar . . . S. I. . .	5' 3½"	55-94	20-11-28	1,04,440‡‡	3-97‡‡	1-98‡‡	§-78
48	Pollocki Palghat . . . S. I. . .	5' 3½"	28-45	1-4-23	1,67,074‡‡	1-54‡‡	3-12‡‡	§-29

§ Loss to the extent of Rs. 20,000 guaranteed by local Government so as to obtain a return of 5-5 per cent. on capital outlay.

|| The annual loss in working the Siad Left Bank Feeder Railways was estimated at Rs. 4-90 lakhs during the first 5 years after opening and Rs. 3-03 lakhs after the first 5 years of opening for traffic. To recoup the loss the Government of Bombay will pay a fixed Rs. 4 lakhs annually for each of the first 5 years and thereafter the actual loss is working subject to a maximum of Rs. 2 lakhs per annum.

** Includes a guarantee of Rs. 4,00,000 payable by the Bombay Government.

†† The line was considered unremunerative but the District Board of South Arcot, who were interested in it, have expressed their willingness to guarantee the Government of India against loss, if any, arising out of the construction and working of the line.

‡‡ Excludes net earnings of the existing lines from new traffic interchanged with new railway.

Serial No.	Name of Project.	Working railway	Gauge.	Mileage.	Date of opening.	Net income creditable to the project for 1933-34.	Percentage return of income (Column 7 on capital outlay) after opening as estimated originally.		Remarks.
							1932-33.	1933-34.	
							6	9	10
						7			
49	Salem Mother Dam	S. I.	5' 6"	23.20	15-4-33	Rs. -12,330::	8.90::	11.0.12::	4.75::
									Excludes net earnings of the existing line from new traffic interchanged with new railway.
									The estimated percentage return took into account a maximum payment of Rs. 41,000 to be made good by the Madras Government against loss.
50	Salem Alwar Vridhachalam	S. I.	3' 3 1/2"	22.58	17-8-31	20,250	0.29	0.34	5.90
51	Salem Kallar	S. I.	3' 6"	41.25	26-10-27	(a) 23,682::(b) 0.23::	(a) 0.45::		4.00(a)
									The estimated percentage return took into account a maximum payment of Rs. 1,39,000 guaranteed by the Madras Government against loss.
52	Vilupuram Trichopoly	S. I.	3' 3 1/2"	109.00	1-2-29	8,57,684::	5.45::	4.20::	6.50
53	Trichopoly Masamandura Chord.	S. I.	3' 3 1/2"	94.22	1-7-30	3,73,377::	5.05::	3.20::	5.37
									(b) Includes maximum guarantee of Rs. 1,50,000 given the Government of Madras.
									(c) Decrease in working expenses due to write back in account of certain de-estimated charges.
									(d) The fall in earnings is due to the completion of the Mettur Dam, resulting in considerable drop in traffic.

Dr. Khan Sahib (North-West Frontier Province: General): Sir, I thought that my golden opportunity was slipping away, but I am glad that it has come again, and I shall be able to lay before this House the case of the Frontier which has been either neglected or misrepresented in this House. Sir, the Frontier Government, whether wisely or unwisely, has always sent a nominee to represent their point of view and cloud the real issue, and now the people of the Frontier have been given a chance to send me to this House, so that you may know the other side of the picture. Sir, as long as I retain my seat in this House, I shall never shrink from the duty of making my protest—no matter how powerless it may be—against the wicked crime of official terrorism perpetrated on the people of the Frontier. But before I proceed, I should like to draw the attention of the House to my speech on the last occasion which, fortunately or unfortunately, created such a flutter among the opposite Benches. I was surprised that the Honourable Members, who are the holders of the power, were extremely un-nerved, and the Leader of the House, in the intoxication of his battle against the Congress barbarity, called my language vile and violent.

Now, Sir, I am sure, there has been no cause to justify the extraordinary behaviour of the Honourable Member with the exception that he might have been dosing, which privilege he often enjoys in this House, and must have been dreaming of the Kabuli moneylender with a big stick demanding his pound of flesh. I mean that nightmare of the Calcutta Anglo-Indians which the Honourable Sir Henry Gidney so graphically described the other day in this House, and when, suddenly roused from his slumber, he saw me speaking, and, without any thought, imposed upon the House the mysterious confusion between appearances and realities which bewildered him at the time. There is no doubt that my criticism is a strict investigation of what the work is good for and the exposition of all evils existing in the present administration. This may appear a strange novelty to Honourable Members who occupy the Treasury Benches, because they are not accustomed to be told what their duty is. But, Sir, if we go on drumming into them the necessity of a healthy criticism, I am sure, they will get accustomed by habit to the new life. I shall always consider it my special duty to place before the House a true and honest picture of the situation and will request the Honourable Members to judge the case on its merits and never to be led away by the exploiter's slogan, that though true, it is not done. That is the mentality which can only be forced on the faint hearts and cannot fit into the present-day scheme of our life. Sir, it is a unique argument of the Honourable the Leader of the House to justify the misdeeds of his Government by citing the sins of the Congress organisation, and he is always prompt to mention the name of Mahatma Gandhi in connection with Congress condemnation, but he restrains himself to follow his example and own up to the infamies and absurdities of this misguided Government. Whatever Congress may do, this Government is responsible for the administration of this country, and if the Honourable Members of the Government cannot stand the strain of criticism, they should make some other arrangement for their livelihood instead of draining the taxpayer's pocket.

Now, Sir, the Honourable the Finance Member, whom I do not see in his seat, said that I was inconsistent. I accused the Government of

[Dr. Khan Sahib.]

sluggishness on the one hand, and, on the other hand, I prevented them from going on with their forward policy. Well, Sir, what is their forward policy? Is it for the good of the people or for the destruction of the people? Sir, the forward policy they have been carrying on for the last 80 years, and what is the outcome of it? The outcome of it is the drain on the treasury of this country? Millions of rupees have been spent and we still have to go on spending. Now, if the Honourable Member means by forward policy to create a split between the two sections of the Afridis and make them fight amongst themselves, that will never bring peace to the Frontier. Moreover, all the money which the Government have earmarked to be spent in that place will go into the pockets of fortune hunters and to those who attach themselves to the Political Officer on the Frontier, and whatever portion is left will go to one section of the community in order to create hatred among the Afridis and then to make them fight against one another. Well, Sir, they have tried this policy for the past eighty years, and we all know the vast sums of money spent by the Government under this head. If the Government really want friendship and reconciliation, I say they must appoint some straightforward officers of their own. I myself offer my service without pay and without remuneration, and I will carry on the work on the Frontier in such a way that only one-thousandth part of the money spent now will be required for me to carry on my work there. This money is quite enough to bring about reconciliation and friendship among the Frontier tribes. I am also sure that the House will never grudge to vote one thousandth part of the money now allotted for that purpose and this would also enable the Government to save vast sums of money which are now spent by them on fortune-hunters and other interested people.

Now, I come to the question of the raids on the Frontier. I submit that these raids are never committed by the tribal people. The raids are committed by outlaws who run away from this country into the independent territory, and I think, in many cases, I cannot say this for certain, there are rumours that the police are shareholders in their loot.

Beth Haji Abdoola Haroon (Sind: Muhammudan Rural): What about the watch and ward?

Dr. Khan Sahib: I have dismissed all of them. I have left all of them to you. There is no watch and ward.

Now, Sir, I come to the Army Secretary. I wonder what he will think of me when I say that I am not standing for Indianisation. I am standing here for the absolute removal of all army from India. In my opinion, an army is an instrument of violence, and that is the instrument which oppresses the people for the sake of the exploiters. Therefore, we do not want engines of oppression like the army. We want to create peace, and as long as you have in this country that instrument of violence, namely, the army, you can never have peace. However, for the sake of argument, I will say something about Indianisation. Now, the Army Secretary says that Indians have never had enough experience to be able to command. The other day, the name of a Pathan in this House was mentioned, and that man, it was said, led his regiment and regained the ground which was lost during the Great War in France, and, for this deed of bravery, that

Pathan was awarded the V. C., the first of its kind ever awarded to an Indian. Well, Sir, those who know something about the army know full well that if a V. C. is given to an Indian and that for the first time, then surely he must have done something meritorious to deserve it. During the War, this fact was recognised, namely, that all the young officers who were put in command did their work far better than the old people who really want rest and who cannot, on account of their age, move about quickly to do their duty. The example of that Pathan is before us. I will give another example. I am sure, the Army Secretary knows that when the Russians came to power, who were their officers? All young people. Who were the men who organised all those military trains and defensive trains? It was Trotakey who has never done any field work as an army officer. The Russian army was officered by young people. Who were their opponents? The famous Russian General Kolchak, Denikin and Kharkove, and the English army, the French army, the American army and the Japanese army. Who won in the end? The young people of Russia won notwithstanding all the gigantic forces arrayed against them.

I will now come to the Foreign Secretary. I should never have been surprised if the Finance Member, the Law Member or the Commerce Member or the Home Member had mentioned the expression "distinguished civil servant" in connection with the man whom I referred to in my speech the other day. I was not only surprised, but I was grieved because the Foreign Secretary, notwithstanding the fact that he knew everything about this civil servant, he should challenge my statement and characterise my statements as wrong. Why should he not call me a liar? Even if he had called me a liar I would not have sought the protection of the House.

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe (Foreign Secretary): On a point of personal explanation. I never said that any Member of the House was a liar. I merely asked for your protection for a distinguished public servant who was then being attacked in this House.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair does not recollect if any Honourable Member of the House used that word. If he had used that word, the Chair would have at once pulled him up.

Dr. Khan Sahib: I say he must call me a liar if I am making any statements in this House which are not true. The Foreign Secretary knows that all that I was saying in this House was correct and yet he asked for protection from attack for that "distinguished civil servant". What we want in this House is a true statement of facts, we do not want false answers. If we want to have peace and friendship in this House, if we want to have good feeling among all the Members, it must be based on truth and honesty. (Hear, hear.) I want to refer in this connection to one point which would go to show the real mind of the Political Department. At the time of the Disarmament Conference in London, Sir Henry Wilson, the famous Field Marshal, said:

"It is amazing to see the frock mind. In St. James palace is sitting the League of Nations, their principal business being the limitation of armaments. In Downing Street is sitting the allied Conference of Lloyd George, Millar and Nitte and a Japanese who are feverishly arming Finland, the Baltic States, Poland, Roumania, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Persia."

[Dr. Khan Sahib.]

How can you possibly expect that disarmament will take place, because, on the one side, there is a disarmament meeting and just a few yards from it is another meeting to arm people. That kind of duplicity, we want to remove. Let us remove all falsehood, let us have correct answers in this House, and, in that case, we will have real understanding and we will be true friends, otherwise it is an impossibility.

I am sorry that my Honourable friend, Colonei Gidney, is not here. I must thank him for reminding me about the Pathan moneylenders. We are all against all moneylenders whoever they may be, whether they are Pathan moneylenders, or English moneylenders or Hindu moneylenders. Whoever they are, we are against them. They are the people who draw the life blood of the poor people. We are against them, and we request the Government to remove all the Pathan moneylenders from this country and send them to their own country. They cannot run that profession in their own country. They have run away from their Frontier homes, they are more or less outlaws. They come here, and when they go back to their homes, they never even tell their kinsfolk that they were doing moneylending business while they were out here in these parts. If they say like that, they could not even live there. I say, why not remove these Pathan moneylenders who are always terrorising the people? We do not want anybody who is a terror to society.

An Honourable Member: What about other moneylenders?

Dr. Khan Sahib: Yes, my remarks apply to all the moneylenders. At that rate you too will have to go away if you are carrying on moneylending business.

Now, I come to another point which was referred to by an Honourable Member, I think he was from the Punjab. There is a great misunderstanding about this subject. He referred to the attempt on the life of the Governor of the Punjab by Hari Kishen, a man belonging to the Frontier. He was a Frontier man, and we, on this side, are against terrorism, and the man did something against the law and he was hanged for it. There the matter should have ended; but do my Honourable friends know what happened to his family? What was the fault of his poor old father who was arrested and put in chains,—not only in iron fetters, but handcuffed too,—and died? I do not see why the father should be punished for the sins of his son. Then, his brother, Jamnadas, who was in Government service, was dismissed. Bhagat Ram and Iswar Das are his two other brothers. One of them was sentenced to eight years and what was his fault? A letter was written by a society, which was called the Shamsher Society, and they caught hold of him and said that although he did not write the letter, he had induced somebody else to do it. And no proof was brought before the Court. You can imagine the justice that is done on the Frontier when I say that the man was sentenced to eight years imprisonment, though he was released afterwards on appeal. Bhagat Ram and Iswar Das are still confined to their village. They are not allowed to go out of the village, and, apart from that, every week they have to go to the Mardan police station, under police guard, seven miles away to report themselves. Now, if you are keeping two C.I.D. people and one policeman to guard them,—the policeman is a free boarder and lodger;

he gets free food and lodging there,—what is the necessity of reporting to the thana every week? That is the sort of thing we protest against and not against the hanging of Hari Kishen, because, if I do anything against the law, I must be prepared to abide by the judgment, but my children and relations should not be punished for it.

Now, Sir, one word to the District Magistrate from Bengal. He gave me an idea that there must be something in the transmigration of souls, because he is still living in the glory of the good old Mughal Emperors or all the Emperors. I suppose he is all the time sitting in his bungalow and thinking that he is one of them. Instead of wasting his time on those ideas, it would be far better for him to go out and mix with the people who are his own people, because he is a Bengali himself, and thus learn the true state of affairs.

Now, I come to the Peshawar firing, and let me tell you at the very outset that that was done by the military people and four military columns were organised. Now, Sir, you all know about the Peshawar firing, and I am not going to take your time by telling you about that. I will only mention one thing. When the Peshawar firing was going on, I did not have any help to look after the wounded, could not cope with the situation and I thought, it would be far better to co-operate with the civil hospital people. The doors of the city were closed, and the first time I took one or two patients there, the police were kind enough to let me out,—but they said that, the next time I brought any patients, they must have an order from the District Magistrate. I went to the place where firing was going on, and when I approached the District Magistrate, he was frightened and said that he could not give me the permit so long as the riots went on. I told him there were no riots, but only useless firing on account of which the people were dying, and, as I could not cope with the work, I wanted permission to take them to the civil hospital. He said he could not do anything until the riots were over. And, then, I lost my temper and told him that he was not going to do anything until everybody was dead. I left the place, and while going through a side street, I found that although there was no procession, a young boy was shot. They were shooting in the streets, and I was not alone when this boy was shot, there was another doctor with me. I took him along with me, they shot at anything they saw.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member must remember that the House cannot discuss any particular incident in detail.

Dr. Khan Sahib: This is done by the army and it is a Central subject.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot discuss the details.

Dr. Khan Sahib: I am telling you what they have done.

This was on the 28th April, 1930. Then, unfortunately, a child was accidentally shot by a soldier. It was a pure accident. A procession over the funeral of that child was allowed, and that child was the son of a Government servant. But while the procession was going on with that little child in the arms of a man, they fired on that procession. And why

[Dr. Khan Sahib.]
 this firing took place? Not because anybody threw a stone, because they cannot show me a single person who did it, but simply because the man who was in charge of the shooting party had one eye and he did not care whom he killed. There was no District Magistrate in charge. They never do their duty, and that is why these things take place.

Now, Sir, at present there are no political activities on the Frontier, because you all know that civil disobedience has been withdrawn, but many of the Khudai Khidmatgars are arrested under the manufactured plea of helping the absconders. As I cannot discuss it in detail, I cannot tell you all about this. Then, in the Frontier, there are several young men who are still under those Ordinances which are only fit for terrorists. They are confined to their houses and mohallas. There is a lady, named Shrimati Niki Devi, who has been all along under restraint orders; and when she was ill she wanted to come to Delhi for treatment. They refused, and now also she cannot go anywhere although they cannot prove anything against her. Then, there is the case of Maulana Abdur Rahim: he was released when he had finished his sentence, or because his father died; but that gentleman is still under a restraint order and he is not allowed to go outside the city for treatment, because the Lady Reading Hospital is outside the city: apart from that, he asked for a passport to go to the Haj as he is a very learned man and a very religious man, but they refused him a passport. 500 young people were arrested under section 100 in 1932 and 1933, simply because they went from one place to another to visit their relations. All the arms have been collected from the people—not the Khudai Khidmatgars' because they keep no arms—I am the representative of everybody here—all the arms have been collected and no money has been paid or at least only a very small sum has been paid, and not the proper price.

There is another matter to which I should like every one to listen very carefully. When they started this terrorism in 1932, red dolls were dropped from aeroplanes, and with every doll they had a little pamphlet attached, stating "Where are your Khudai Khidmatgars? Where are your red shirts? What can they do now?" Can you possibly expect from any civilised Government that they would spend money on spiteful things like that?

In the village of Sukar, people were beaten with thorny-bushes: this is very difficult for some to understand: they did cut out a stout branch from trees covered with thorns—they cleared one end of the stick to be used as a handle and then they beat the people with it. In the village of Tehkal, Arhab Jumma Khan who was a Government servant was arrested on the 25th December, just because he was the father of a Khudai Khidmatgar. His son was in jail and they dismissed the father from Government service and kept him two months in jail for nothing, and then they released him. Two other pleaders from Peshawar were also arrested who had nothing to do with this movement, simply because they were our friends: they were asked to give a guarantee which they refused, and for seven months they were kept in jail without anything being supplied to their suffering families and children and then they were released. In the villages of Thur Dhir, Murghus, and Bhrachkale, they tore off the clothes of the people and made the Khudai Khidmatgars naked before the women in order to provoke them to commit violence. In the village of Amatu Ganni there is a Bukhu Mohalla where they looted the houses and beat the

children, and tortured the president of the village Congress to give the names of the Khudai Khidmatgars, and he told them there is no need to ask, that for the mere asking all the Khudai Khidmatgars will come out; and 300 Khudai Khidmatgars came out and were treated very badly . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair has already reminded the Honourable Member that he cannot discuss details of these incidents, for the simple reason that there is nobody here to answer the Honourable Member: these are local incidents and cannot be answered here.

Dr. Khan Sahib: This was all done by the army. The other day, in the other House, His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief was very proud of his army for perpetrating all these acts of terrorism on the Frontier: he mentioned it with pride. . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): So long as the Honourable Member confines himself to observations on general features of the Frontier Administration, there may be no objection.

Dr. Khan Sahib: Then, in the village of Manarai, they maltreated the people. I am not mentioning cases of people who have gone against section 144: all that I have never mentioned. These are people who were either in their houses or offices of the Khudai Khidmatgars. In Akhura, four teeth of a man were broken and a little boy was taken to the *thana* and kept there for eight days and beaten to say that he would not become a Khudai Khidmatgar, but he would not say it and ultimately he was let off. In Bannu, village Kakai, after arresting the leaders, they looted the houses, brought out their tea sets and utensils and broke them and threw them into the *nullahs* and took away the *ghae* for their own use. The same thing happened in Barath and Kujri. In Tehsil Tonk, in the village of Pai, they arrested the leaders and then imposed a fine of Rs. 500 on the people and they wanted the money on the spot: they collected all the cattle and were taking them away, when Khan Bahadur Abdur Rahim Khan, who is the Deputy President of the Frontier Council, came and paid the Rs. 500 and the cattle were returned. In another village Gul Imam, they did exactly the same thing. Then, in Bannu, they brought in military carts one thousand Khudai Khidmatgars and put them in an electrically wired camp, and it was the month of January, and very cold on the Frontier—those who have seen the Frontier only can know what the cold is like there—and they were given only one blanket and half a pound of gram a day for their rations: they kept them in these camps for three days, and one poor old man—Haq Nawaz Khan—contracted pneumonia and died. . . .

Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham (Army Secretary): On a point of order, Sir: the Honourable Member is continuing to give instances of what happened several years ago, to which he must know that no Honourable Member in this House can give a proper reply without referring to the local officers.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair would ask the Honourable Member not to recite these details of incidents which occurred some time ago.

Dr. Khan Sahib: It is their duty, Sir, to find out these things and answer them.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has already given a number of instances: the Chair thinks they will be quite enough for his purpose. This is a general discussion on the consideration motion of the Finance Bill.

Dr. Khan Sahib: All right, Sir. I will now come to the jails. About the Peshawar jail, in 1931, there were some complaints in the papers, and the Inspector General took me there. I do not suppose I need describe what I saw there, but I can tell you this, that he was convinced that what the jailor was doing there was wrong: he told me that the jailor was a bad fellow: afterwards he wrote to me a letter that I should not make any statement about what I saw in the jail; but, as soon as I was arrested, he issued a statement and attached my name to it. I do not know whether the letter is there, because the police came and took away everything from the house and that jailor has been promoted.

Then, Sir, there is one point to which I should like to draw the special attention of Honourable Members of this House. In the course of conversation, the Inspector General told me that my brother was an enemy of the Government. I asked him, why? He answered, that he lectures and tells the people that the Inspector General made a major into minor for tuppence. Well, Sir, I do not think that my brother is the enemy of the Government. All my brother wants is to help the Government to remove corruption.

Now, Sir, I shall take the case of the Haripur jail. There, for four or five months about four or five thousand Khudai Khidmatgars were given only one blanket each in the months of January and February to cover their bodies with, and in the month of Ramzan, they had to keep their fast by taking one *chapati* every other day. (Cries of "Shame, shame" from the Congress Party Benches.) There is another thing which I should like to mention. In the Haripur jail, a prisoner who was convicted and who had iron fetters and handcuffs was shot at inside the cell, and that action was taken for a disciplinary purpose. I ask this House, is it human to shoot a man with his arms tied down, and locked inside a cell? (Cries of "Shame, shame" from the Congress Party Benches.) He was then taken in a blanket and shown to the people, and then the District Magistrate wrote a report about it and justified that action. Sir, these District Magistrates think that they are the only people on the face of this God's earth. They cannot tolerate truth, and I will repeat here the saying of a great philosopher, which applies to these District Magistrates:

"Whoever is wise is apt to suspect, and be diffident of himself and upon that account is willing to 'harken unto counsel', whereas the foolish man being in proportion to his folly full of himself, and swallowed up in conceit, will seldom take any counsel but his own, and for that very reason because it is his own."

Sir, some Honourable Members suggested that we should co-operate with the police, I am afraid they have not had much experience in such matters. I may tell them a small instance. The District Magistrate in the North-West Frontier Province wrote to a friend of mine, who was Assistant Inspector General of Police and an Englishman too, as follows— I shall quote his own words:

"Your going about with Dr. Khan Sahib is not doing any good to our cause."

This man was declared as a Red Shirt and was removed from the Frontier and is getting his pension. So the dream of co-operation is useless.

Again, in the Naini jail, one thing really surprised me, and it will surprise everybody. There they have got a system of convict prisoners guarding the brother prisoners, and these convict prisoners have got big sticks. One afternoon, I saw in the circle in which my cell was, a convict prisoner beaten in a manner which I am really unable to describe. One cannot certainly beat a human being like that, it was like the Pathans beating Indian corn on the ground, and that poor man was put in a blanket and thrown aside, but he did not die. Ultimately, they wanted to sentence him to death, because he did not die. Sir, this is how justice is being administered in this country, and when we say all these things, the Honourable Members sitting on the Opposite Benches tell us that they have got no power, it is imposed on them by the Secretary of State.

Then, again, in the Hazaribagh jail. I will tell you what happened. Sir, here I may tell the House that it is a great mistake to have a medical man as Superintendent of the jail. You should never put a medical man in charge of a jail as its Superintendent, because you give him a double weapon, his executive power, then his professional privileges to certify anything. I will just tell the House how follies are committed by these Superintendents. In one jail, the Superintendent wanted to carry on a search which the jailor did not approve of. Some of the prisoners had razor blades, but the Superintendent had to go away without finding anything with them, because the jailor, in the course of search, put the blades in his pocket. Therefore, I say, remove the medical men who are working as Jail Superintendents, keep proper people in their places. Those were jobs created in the days when there was not a sufficient number of suitable persons to fill those posts. These Medical Superintendents of Jails must be removed and proper persons should be appointed.

Again, Sir, another thing I should like to mention. In the Haripur jail in the Frontier, Abdul Ghafur Khan, the grandson of a Nawab and an undergraduate of the Islamia College, Mr. Ghulam Muhammad Khan, Taj Muhammad Khan and several others were flogged. They brought out my son by force to watch his best friends, the floggers were dressed in red shirts uniform and had masks on them. Why do you mask everything? Why don't you do everything openly? Remove your masks and do everything in the open.

Lastly, Sir, I shall conclude with one sentence. The starving millions of India are the creation of God, and we consider it our sacred duty to emancipate them. We have realised this and have decided to enter fearlessly into the field of the Battle of Freedom, and those who are hesitant and reluctant today will join us soon, for to bequeath slavery to our children is the unpardonable sin to commit. With these words, I resume my seat.

Mr. A. K. Fazal Haq (Bakarganj cum Faridpur: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, so much has been said about the Finance Bill that I don't wish to prolong the torture of the officials on the Benches opposite by going over the ground which has been covered already by so many speakers. I wish, however, to emphasise one point, and if possible to

[Mr. A. K. Fuzlul Huq.]

bring forward one or two new points for the consideration of the Honourable the Finance Member. The Finance Member is not for the moment in his seat.

Some Honourable Members: Yes, he is in his seat.

Mr. A. K. Fuzlul Huq: He may be somewhere in the House, but I don't see him in his seat.

Several Honourable Members: He is in the House.

Mr. A. K. Fuzlul Huq: At any rate, he has not been in his seat for some time.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg (Finance Member): He is in his seat.

Mr. A. K. Fuzlul Huq: However, I think, the Finance Member must have been convinced by this time that official roses are not without their thorns (Laughter), and that once at least, in the course of the year, officials have got to subdue their autocratic instincts and submit themselves to the torture of listening to speeches and criticisms, which, in their heart of hearts, they very much condemn. Now, I wonder if Honourable Members have ever tried to find out why this is so. There can be no doubt that many of the speeches delivered during the last few days on this side of the House might as well not have been delivered, but they were delivered, if I may make a frank confession, merely to drive the officials to despair. Now, Sir, if the officials will for a moment forgive me, I wish to point out to them that, so far as non-official Members are concerned, at least in the present Assembly, they are not satisfied with the state of things that is going on outside the House or in this House. So far as things outside are concerned, the situation is fairly serious. The officials by their unsympathetic administration have alienated the sympathies of almost every community in India. They have alienated the sympathies of almost all sections of the Indian population by the pursuit of an imperialistic policy, which is resented by the growing political consciousness of the Indian masses and which is distinctly hostile to those irresistible forces which are inevitably forging the future nationhood of India. Within this House I must say that their conduct has at times been most provoking. Whenever Members on this side rise to speak, these autocrats generally leave their seats, and not one or two, but almost all of them go out. I do not know where, but I am certainly convinced that they have got no reasonable explanation to offer. It cannot be any emergent call, because all of them cannot be seized with emergent calls at the same moment. They want to show by their absence from the House, by their indifference to what we say, that they do not care two brass farthings for our speeches and for our criticisms. If that is their attitude, I wish to tell them that we on our part, either, do not care two brass farthings whether they listen or not. We are going to do our duty and place before the House, not merely for the consideration of Members of Government, but for the wider world outside, that whatever may happen, whether they listen to us or not, we will go on and place before the House whatever we consider to be in the best interests of India and in the best interests of all the communities which go to make up the population of India.

Sir, I must say a word or two about the arrangement of business in this House. There are certain ways in which we can bring up for the consideration of the House questions of public interest. One is by means of questions, another, by means of moving Resolutions, a third, by moving token cuts during the budget and occasionally by moving motions for adjournment of the House. So far as questions are concerned, the answers that are generally given are so evasive and they are so much beside the point

An Honourable Member: And inaudible.

Mr. A. K. Fuzul Huq: and also inaudible, that it is difficult even by the most searching supplementary questions to get the informations which we want. Then, as regards Resolutions, I know that notices were given of no less than about 200 Resolutions, and what the Government did was to set apart only three days for the discussion of non-official Resolutions. Is there any meaning in saying that we have got the privilege of discussing public questions by moving Resolutions, and, at the same time, setting apart only three days for the discussion of 200 Resolutions? Do the Honourable Members on the other side of the House take us to be little children, or are they going to give us concessions like baby soothers, that we may be soothed and may be tempted to say that we have got all that we wanted and that we want nothing more? Let me tell them that we resent their action of this character most strongly, and I say that it is nothing short of absolute hypocrisy to give us the right to move Resolutions and then give us no opportunity of discussing them or moving them in this House. As regards the discussion of the budget, two days are given for the general discussion. Even at the rate of four Members to an hour, we cannot have more than 15 or 16 Members to speak. So far as the Finance Bill is concerned, this is the only occasion on which there is no limit, theoretically, to the number of speakers or to the time which may be taken up by a speaker.

An Honourable Member: Or the subject of discussion.

Mr. A. K. Fuzul Huq: I do not know so much about the subject of discussion, because we have got to be somehow relevant to finance, but, whenever this opportunity comes, more as a matter of revenge than anything else, most of the non-official Members get up and talk on all sorts of subjects in a manner which perhaps the official Members do not very much like.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar (Leader of the House): We like them very much.

Mr. A. K. Fuzul Huq: I do not want any appreciation from the Honourable the Leader of the House, because he himself can well understand that what I am saying represents the exact truth and it is only for the purpose of emphasising the thing that I am referring to it.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadian Urban): Did you remedy all these things in Bengal when you were a Minister? I hope you did.

Mr. A. K. Fuzlul Huq: In Bengal these things can never happen. (Laughter.) Coming to the Finance Bill itself. . . .

An Honourable Member: Why so soon?

Mr. A. K. Fuzlul Huq: . . . I want to bring to the notice of the Honourable the Finance Member that one prominent feature of this Bill is that he has kept up the high standard of taxation of previous years. I do not blame him very much for that. The general extravagance of the Government, during the last few years, has been such that it is impossible to cope with the expenditure without maintaining the high level of taxation that has prevailed. Now, this extravagance of the Government of India began really with, what are known as, the Durbar announcements leading to the transfer of the Capital to Delhi, and the expensive outlay on building up a Capital here in the midst of graveyards. The original estimate was about Rs. 6 crores and we are told that it has exceeded 15 crores, it is very nearly 16 crores at the present moment, and, as regards the future expenditure, one does not know when it will end. Even if it was necessary to transfer the Capital from Calcutta, I do not see what was the necessity for embarking on such large expenditure in building up structures. Possibly, being in the City of the old Mughals, the British rulers thought that they might imitate them in something. But instead of imitating the Emperor Shah Jehan in all his architectural glories, they would have done better if they had followed and imitated the tolerance of the Mughal Emperors, especially of the great Emperor, Akbar. Instead of that, they tried to imitate. . . .

[At this stage, Mr. Fuzlul Huq resumed his seat as the Honourable the Finance Member was seen conversing with the President.]

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Has the Honourable Member finished his speech?

Mr. A. K. Fuzlul Huq: No, Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member can go on with his speech.

[At this stage, the Honourable the Finance Member was again seen conversing with the President, at which Mr. Fuzlul Huq resumed his seat.]

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The House stands adjourned till Half Past Two.

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. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) in the Chair.

[Mr. Fuzlul-Huq stood up to speak.]

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair thought the Honourable Member had finished.

Mr. A. K. Fuzlul Huq: No, Sir. I have not.

Mr. President: (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rabim): Honourable Members are reminded that this discussion has been going on for five days and so the House would perhaps like the debate to be closed today. The Chair would remind the Honourable Member, Mr. Fuzlul Huq, that it expects that he would soon finish his speech.

Mr. A. K. Fuzlul Huq: I shall not be very long. I shall make one or two remarks about certain points to which reference has been made by one or two speakers, and I shall make my remarks as brief as I can.

When we rose for the interval, I was referring to the extravagance in the building up of this Capital at Delhi. Now, according to the census and other Government reports, there are roughly about 220 millions of people in British India. Assuming that there are about 20 persons in each household, there are about 11 million homes in British India. Of these 11 millions, roughly about 10 millions are no better than mud hovels which have not even got a regular roof on their top. Is it in the fitness of things, that in a country like India, at the present moment, where the homes of 90 per cent. of the inhabitants are no better than wretched mud hovels, that we should have a magnificent building like the one in which we are now sitting, for the purpose of carrying on nothing better than academic discussions which have no real meaning either for the officials or the non-officials? This is not all. When the Durbar announcements were made, the Government very hurriedly built up a temporary Capital to the north of the Metcalfe House in continuation of the place called Alipore Road, costing the general revenues, a few crores of rupees. What was the necessity of abandoning it and building up a new Capital in Raisina? They might have built up a temporary Capital here and might have added one or two structures, but the construction of these buildings have cost no less than 15 or 16 crores according to the Government estimates, and it may be some few crores more before these works come to an end. I am told, to take a single instance, that the structure called the "India Gate" cost the public revenues no less than three or four lakhs of rupees. What purpose is intended to be served by it is a thing which is for the officials to say. I find, somewhere in the sector which is outside this House, small caves painted blue and these luxuries must have cost some thousands of rupees for no other purpose than mere show. Can India afford all this? (*A Voice:* "They do not care".) If they do not care, it is our duty to place these grievances before the House, so that they may be publicly known.

Then, as regards the high level of taxation, to which I have referred, I will not say anything further than this, that the Government of India are not only extravagant, but they are setting a very bad example to the Provincial Governments in the matter of extravagant expenditure of public money. Take the case of Bengal. I am glad that the Finance Member has been able to allocate a portion of the jute export duty to Bengal, but he has done so with a condition which, I submit, was utterly uncalled for. The Honourable the Finance Member has reminded this House that when a promise was made by his predecessor to allocate a portion of the jute export duty to Bengal, it was expected that the Bengal Government should do all that lies in their power to balance their budget. One can understand what that means. It is never expected that the officials of the

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Bengal Government would balance their budget by cutting down their own salaries. The only other way in which the budget could be balanced would be by the imposition of fresh taxes, and, as a matter of fact, to tell the Bengal Government to balance its budget is a very broad hint to embark on new items of taxation. Now, I submit that the money should have been handed over to Bengal without any condition whatsoever, at least by the present Finance Member. He is well aware that in the report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee, paragraph 260, on page 167, the following remarks occur:

"The particular instance of export duties requires special mention, since it is proposed in the case of the jute export duty that it should be obligatory to assign at least one half of the proceeds to the producing units. We understand that this proposal is made largely in the interests of Bengal, which has undoubtedly suffered severely under the existing plan of allocation and the circumstances are so special as in our opinion, to justify special treatment."

The White Paper also endorsed this view, and, as a matter of fact, the Government of India Bill recognises this principle in clause 137 which deals with the allocation of the export duty. It is there laid down that one-half, or such greater proportion, as His Majesty in Council may determine, of the net proceeds in each year of any export duty on jute shall not form part of the revenues of the Federation, but shall be assigned to the provinces or Federated States in which jute is grown. If that is the position, one fails to understand why the Finance Member should require any schemes of fresh taxation to be taken up by the Provincial Government before they can claim to have a portion at least of the jute export duty. I submit that this was utterly uncalled for, and I charge the Government of India with having forced the hands of the Bengal Government to undertake taxation at a time when the people of Bengal have been taxed to the utmost limit.

I shall refer very briefly to another tax, namely, the salt tax. Some of my friends have suggested that the tax should be abolished altogether. I am not going so far as that, but I would certainly make the suggestion to the Honourable the Finance Member that he should try to earmark the proceeds from the salt tax and the additional import duty on salt for the purpose of incurring expenditure for the direct benefit of the masses of the people and for the development of the salt industry in the country.

Now, there is one word which I wish to say regarding the expenditure on military and the police. A good deal has been said in the course of the general debate on the budget as regards the almost extravagant expenditure in maintaining a military force which is not only unnecessary, but absolutely uncalled for. I wish to draw the attention of the Honourable Members of the Government of India to the opinion of no less a person than Lord Roberts, one of the greatest military authorities England has produced in recent times. Speaking at a meeting in the United Kingdom immediately after his retirement, he said as follows—I am quoting from that speech quoted by Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji in his book on "Poverty and Un-British Rule in India", page (vii).

"And with still more emphasis he pointed out upon what essential condition such retention of the Indian Empire depended—not upon brute force; but 'however' he said, 'efficient and well-equipped the army of India may be, were it indeed absolute perfection, and were its numbers considerably more than they are at present, our greatest strength must ever rest on the firm base of a united and contented India'."

That is what is wanted—not a huge military army, unsuited to the requirements of the time, and entailing a degree of expenditure which the people cannot bear.

Sir, I wish to say a word now regarding the restoration of the salary cuts. Some of my Honourable friends have already pointed out, and I wish also to say that we have got a right of protest against the manner in which, without consulting the opinion of this House, the salary cuts were restored. We do not mind the restoration of the salary cuts in the case of small salaries, say, up to Rs. 200 a month, but such restoration in the case of salaries above Rs. 200 a month was absolutely unjustified. If there was money enough to justify such restoration, that money should have been utilised, not for the purpose of restoring such cut, but, for taking up those schemes for the betterment of the people for which we have been often told that there is no money in the coffers of Government. Instead of doing all that, they restored the salary cuts, thereby making it necessary for the Government to embark upon fresh taxation.

As regards the income-tax, Sir, I do not wish to repeat what has already been said that the taxable minimum should be at once raised to Rs. 2,000 a year and the rates should be lowered.

I do not think I can usefully take up more time, but, before I sit down, I wish to draw the attention of the Honourable the Finance Member to the almost unanimity of opinion amongst the non-official Members, and, perhaps the whole Indian public, that it is high time that the postal rates should be reduced, and that we should go back to the one pice post-card of our childhood and the half-anna envelope. There is that story of the Nawab of Bengal, Shaista Khan, who closed the doors of the Dacca City when rice was selling at eight maunds per rupee, and he said that this door should not be re-opened until rice sold again at that rate; and, it was at the time of Murshed Kuli Khan, when rice was selling at eight maunds to the rupee, that he was entitled to open that door. Sir, fourteen years ago or thereabouts, we had the privilege of using postcards which cost a quarter of an anna. (*A Voice*: "Not fourteen—it is earlier than that.") Be it four years ago, it does not matter, but let it be to the credit of the present Finance Member to restore those happy days, and I can assure him that, if he apprehends a loss of money, that apprehension is absolutely unfounded. The volume of correspondence that will increase will certainly make up for the apparent loss that may ensue by lowering the rates.

There is one last appeal which I would make to the Honourable the Finance Member. He may have heard a number of different opinions in the course of the discussion of this Finance Bill, but I would appeal to him to pay particular regard to the remarks that have been made by the Members of the Congress Group. Whatever may be said against the Congress, Sir, there can be no denying the fact that either from choice or from necessity, they really reflect the view of the nationhood of India. (*Loud and prolonged cheers.*) They really are the one organised party in the country and they represent really the national voice. (*Applause.*) It is no use ignoring the views of the Congress; and the Members of the Government would be well-advised not to treat the opinions of the Congress with contempt, but to harness in their own service the opinion of persons who have been earnest and zealous and sincere in their labours, for the good of the country, and who have given sufficient proof, by their

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trials and the sufferings which they have undergone, that they are always willing to stand up, not for race or creed or party, but for the whole of the entire population of India. (Loud and Prolonged Applause.)

Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer (Bombay Central Division: Muhamadan Rural): Sir, I should like to first draw the attention of the Honourable the Finance Member to a Resolution moved by my father in the Council of State in 1928. He moved that the interest accrued on Savings Banks and Government securities which is not claimed by the Mussalmans on account of religious susceptibilities should not be confiscated by the Government, but should be handed over to charitable institutions. The Government of India accepted the proposal and invited the opinions of Muslim bodies. No action was, however, taken on the proposal. The Government did not deposit the money in a separate account. Even the amount under this head has not been calculated year after year. I have reasons to believe, Sir, that the amount of unclaimed interest on the deposits of a Mosque fund in Bombay amounts to several lakhs of rupees. A large number of persons invested the money in Government securities, not so much for the purposes of income, but to assist the Government during the Great War and they did not take any interest and this interest is now absorbed in the general funds of this country. I take this opportunity to impress that all unclaimed interests on Savings Banks, Government securities and also the Imperial Bank, which is a semi-Government Bank, may be deposited in a separate Fund whose administration may be left to a small committee of the Legislature. I object that the expenditure of this amount should not be made by demanding public opinion about the choice of the institution to which this amount may be paid. Every institution would like to have a share in this amount. It is evident that every institution cannot get it. But the Committee of the Legislature will be in a position to advise the Government as to the best use of this amount. The Muslim Members of the Assembly and the Council of State are quite competent to lay before the Government the manner in which this amount may be spent. I take this opportunity to emphasise the fact and I will continue to take the opportunities on other occasions to emphasise that the amount which is left unclaimed on account of the religious susceptibilities of the Mussalmans should be calculated and deposited in a special account, and the Finance Member may make a reference to it in his annual report.

If I remember right, the amount was calculated about the time the Resolution was moved by my father. The amount must have been accumulated during the last nine years, and the Mussalmans feel very strongly that the Government should not levy this tax on the Mussalmans on account of their religious susceptibilities. A large number of Muslim Waqfs deposited the amount in the Imperial Bank, but they have not taken any interest on it. Such interest should also be calculated and credited under this account. I hope my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, will find out the exact amount under this head and they should not have a difficulty in paying this usurped loan to the proper creditors. Their financial position has now very much improved. The Muslim Members of the Central Legislature are the proper and natural trustees of this amount, and we do hope that Government would agree to the reasonable demands of the trustees of this unclaimed Fund.

The second thing I should like to press is that all the unclaimed money belonging to the Mussalmans who die in foreign countries or in India and which is confiscated now by the Government should also be credited in the Funds which I am discussing now. A number of Mussalmans die in foreign countries and their property is confiscated by the Government. I suggest that it should not be confiscated by the Government, but should be handed over to the trustees of this Fund. A number of Mussalmans purchase return tickets while going to pilgrimage. They do not use the return half on account of death or some other reasons. The passage money for the return journey should be collected from the Government and should be handed over to the Haj Committee to meet the expenditure. This fact has repeatedly been pressed on the floor of this House, but no action has so far been taken on it.

The budgetary position of Government has improved. The Finance Member has shown a balance of Rs. 3,89 lakhs on the 31st March and a surplus of one crore and a half in the estimates of 1935-36, thus making a total of about 5½ crores. In this improved position an allowance has already been made for the restoration of five per cent. cut on salaries. We expected, the Finance Member will remove the surcharge levied in the year 1931 on account of the financial stringency. In view of the improved financial position of the Government, the surcharge on the income-tax should have been easily removed, and especially the income-tax on an income between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 2,000. The Government will get only about a quarter crore under this head, but it is realised after giving enormous troubles to a large number of shopkeepers, *ekka* drivers and *panwallas*. Those people are very hard pressed. They in many places have thought that the new tax was a municipal tax and there was a great fight in some places between the municipal councillors and their voters. The poor people thought that it was an income-tax levied by the municipality and it took them more than a year to realise that it was an income-tax levied by this Honourable House and collected forcibly from the people by the *tahsildars* just like the arrears of land revenue. I take the opportunity to press that on account of the budgetary position: we should remove this tax altogether.

The enhanced rate in postage is another source of trouble to poor people, and I would very much like to emphasize the fact that the price of the postcard should again be reduced to half-anna and the weight of one anna letter should be increased from half tola to one tola. This is a just and reasonable demand, and we hope Government would agree to it.

The excise duty on sugar which was levied as a temporary measure on the ground of emergency has become permanent and has almost killed the infant sugar industry, but the Finance Member has deplorably ignored it in the budget.

With regard to the fall in the rate of the int rest and the fact that Government are able to borrow at a lower rate, I must point out that it is not due so much to the credit of Government having improved, but for the reasons of the general economic depression and the shyness of the capital to seek new avenues of investment. It is the accumulation of large balances in the hands of banks and investors that explains the cheapness of money. India is today 850 crores more in debt than in 1922-23, and this is the first occasion in history where the deeper a Government or a person goes into debt, the greater are the claims of its solvency and its credit.

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I now refer to a crore of rupees proposed to be given to provinces for rural development which is haphazard and ill-considered. It is merely a counter-blast to Mahatma Gandhi's village industrial movement and merely an item of propaganda to show that Government have a great deal of sympathy to rural interests. Where was this sympathy all these years? India can ill-afford a crore of rupees to be squandered on a scheme without plans and without any details. In the absence of a reduction in the income-tax and super-tax and in the absence of some implicit particulars from Government as to how they propose to spend the crore of rupees and an assurance that it will not be squandered in setting up big secretariats, creating armies of officials and be wasted on useless inquiries and reports which often leave things worse than they were before, the House should oppose the proposal in regard to the so-called rural and economic development and save the crore of rupees to be applied to more satisfactory productive purposes. With these words, Sir, I conclude my remarks.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai (Bombay Northern Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Mr. President, I confess that having regard to the long drawn out debate on the Finance Bill, I am afraid I am addressing a somewhat stale and tired House and I will confess even to a feeling of a staleness in myself. At the same time I think I owe it to myself and to the Party I represent and if I am not attracting too much credit to myself, I owe it even to the Honourable the Finance Member to state some broad principles of national financial policy by which and for which we stand in order that the observations may not be drawn from stray speakers on stray issues in order to represent these disjointed passages to be the lines of national policy as represented by us. For it is not unlikely, that, during the course of a debate of this kind, from a division of offices from the smallest to the highest, between communities, provinces and every other kind of division which can be imagined, claims have been and will be pressed, observations have been and will be made from which it would be entirely wrong on the part of the Treasury Benches to draw any generalisation for the purpose of representing a policy. So long as the position of India remains what it is, this kind of remarks and claims are inevitable, and in what proportion and how they can be met with justice to all is another proposition. Sir, in making remarks on the Finance Bill, though I may be fully at large according to Convention, it is not my desire to be more at large than I can help, in order only that our points of view may be clearly understood and met. I will claim for myself the same liberty from certain amount of doctrinaire economics which my Honourable friend, if he will allow me to call him so, the Honourable the Finance Member claimed for himself. I will also remember, during the course of the observations, the limitation imposed upon us and on other Members of this House that we are within the limits of the Government of India Act, a reminder indeed which is too frequently emphasised. But I will give that reminder according to my estimate, for a better reason than the one for which it was used. The occasion on which I was reminded of the limitations of the Government of India Act was when we were talking of the futility of the majority votes of the House being still disregarded if the Government and their representatives so thought. I am now referring to that in an entirely different context, and I hope for a better purpose. I have read and re-read the Government of India Act,

professionally and otherwise, but I do not find anything in it which imposes an obligation upon the Government of India to do what they do, i.e., to invariably and constantly and for all time disregard all that we say and all that we vote for. That certainly is not to be found in the Government of India Act. It would be an abuse of the Act, it would be a perversion of the Act. (Hear, hear.) In fact, all that the Act says is, should they differ from us, they have the power, but the Act does not say and I hope the Act will not be used for the purpose of saying that because they have the power, they will use it and abuse it. I shall, therefore, remind both those on this side of the House as well as those who remind me now and who reminded me before of the limitations of the Government of India Act that those limitations do not include the power which is said to be exercised and which is not by any implication to be found in the Act at all. If the Act is designed to any purpose (apart from other purposes which are alien for the purpose of the present discussion), it certainly enables a wise, and a prudent Government who have still some respect left for their own opponents who claim to represent the people that their vote shall not be disregarded, because, it has not been made obligatory so to do. But if they maintain the attitude which they do and if the Government say, because we have the power, we shall use it, then they cannot blame those of us who sit on this side of the House to continue our efforts, not for the purpose of obtaining justice of which we shall then despair, if that view of the Government of India Act is to prevail, but to prevent such injustice as it is possible by a vote of this House. At least those are the limitations which I shall bear in mind during the course of the discussion and during the course of the few observations that I propose to make.

That brings me to the description that the Honourable the Finance Member gave as to how I described his object. There are two parts of it which certainly call for a somewhat detailed reply. I did not take part in the budget debate at all, but it was only as introductory to one of the cuts on the Demands for Grants that I gave a short resume of what I conceived to be the true aspect of the budget. But I think the Prophet of Christianity has said, truth very often comes out from the mouths of babes and much more so from the mouth of one of the responsible advisers of the Government of India. I have read his speech over and over again, he does not deny the correctness of the description, but all that he says is that the description is only half correct, because I have not looked elsewhere than his own budget. But to the extent to which he admits the correctness, he must also admit the condemnation, and I will read out to the House in no better language than he himself used for the purpose of the budget. This is how it is described.

Omitting the reference to myself, he says, there is a somewhat malicious analysis of the Central budget in terms which may be freely paraphrased as follows: 45 crores of rupees for an alien army of occupation. Here I must say, I think, that I am spared any further description of that subject, because it is not denied, it is not merely that it is attributed to me as a description, because, at the end of it all, when I read it, there is neither a repudiation nor even an attempt at correction. The next description he gives is, "X" crores for police and watch and ward and other

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agents of repression. That, I take it, is his description, and I have no quarrel with that either. Next he says, we had so many crores for the bloated agents salaries, of parasites and civil servants. "Z" crores for pensions of retired parasites of the above class and one crore for the welfare of the country. I do not think I could have found a better master for the purpose of giving a more apt description of the budget as it was presented to this House, and I am indeed indebted to the Honourable the Finance Member for the description that he has provided without the correction which he did not dare give us. What he did say was this: that it is a malicious analysis. I have asked myself often the question, as a lawyer, I have been called upon to define what "malice" means. If malice means illwill for a designed evil purpose, then I am quite certain that I should ask to be acquitted of it, but if malice merely represents a reaction on his mind of the bitter truth that his description represents, then I wish to plead guilty to the charge. (Hear, hear.) It is undoubtedly a malicious description in the eyes of those who use the revenues of this country for the purposes for which they are described to have been used. He says that I have done him an injustice in not looking at the budgets of the Provincial Governments in order to see if there was any money found for the purpose of the very large poor man who represents for all practical purposes the great Indian people.

I am happy to have noticed in the newspapers and also overheard a conversation that when Sir James Grigg paid a visit to two villages, it was rather a pity, if my report is correct, that during the course of that visit he also visited a monastery which is somewhat largely, endowed and which might, therefore, give him a false picture of how sometimes the highest class of priesthood manage to live also as parasites upon the poor men whose souls they offer to save no less and no more than those other parasites who are trustees of ours. (Applause.) But when he did visit those two villages, I am quite certain that he saw what a village truly represents and what India, therefore, represents in its seven lakhs of villages. He saw indeed in the felicitous language of my Honourable friend, Mr. Fuzlul Huq, he saw indeed I hope huts with mud walls, just able to stand with either perhaps a thatched roof or perhaps a few straggling tiles if at all—may be neat by reason of their industry and by their habits, but beyond that nothing more. It is quite necessary now to remind him of that, in order only that he might understand that the crore of rupees that he says with which he wishes to begin the reconstruction of India from below instead of the super-construction of India from above which has been the policy of the Government for the past 150 years, he has not only all my sympathy, but all my support. Only if he will apply himself to that task not in the half hearted manner, the word "half" is not appropriate, probably in a millionth-hearted manner in which he has begun during the course of the budget, he will have my full support. He then says: "Oh! there is division in the taxation policy and the expenditure policy of the Government of India". He says if you want to look for self-preservation, look to us, we, who sit here, the Government of India. And if you wish to look at self-development, please go down to the provinces and their provincial budgets. I again ask him and the House a question, what does he mean by self-preservation? If he means self-preservation referring to himself, I think he is again correct,

and I offer him my congratulations upon it. Indeed the best part, if not the whole of the income of the Central Government, is spent for the purpose of the preservation of self that sits on the other side of the House, and it is certainly undoubtedly self-preservation and nothing else, not in order that we only are to be preserved, but in order that they may be preserved, in order that we might just enough be working skeleton and that we may have at least one meal a day in order to be able to pay the taxes. That is the division that he has offered us, and I am glad that he is right in his description. He says indeed rightly that the Government of India's revenues are only intended for self-preservation, whereas they look to the Provincial Governments for self-development. Going to the Provincial Governments for what? In order only to understand whether there was anything, any value in the statements that are usually made in the soothing comforting written statements that are made, in order to see whether there was anything, any reasonable proportion, in fact, any mentionable proportion at all of what are to go towards what are normally described in every civilised country as nation-building purposes. In fact, in every country, they do those things for the purpose of preserving the people and for the purpose of giving them at all events sufficient food, sufficient shelter, sufficient clothing, perhaps just a little education, perhaps just a little leisure in order to make their life worth living. That is the minimum for which my friend would have stood in England. He must have his bread and his butter, his beer and his tobacco and nothing less than that the poorest man's minimum living can ever admit of. Whereas, here, in a country where the poorest man's minimum living does fall short by 50 times of what would be the actual minimum standard of living in his own land, undoubtedly it is comfortable sitting in this House to say that the Central Government preserves itself, the Local Governments give some assistance to the people to crawl on their feet. And, looking to the budget of the Bombay Presidency for the year 1933-34, these are the figures which I found out of a budget of 18 crores and 73 lakhs. The only items that I can find were. Education,—1 crore and 80 lakhs; Medical—48 lakhs; Public Health,—25 lakhs; Agriculture,—25 lakhs. That is the grand total of what the Provincial Governments give and devote for the purpose of the development of the people; in other words, out of the moneys that were raised all that the Government of India have done hitherto is, preserved itself, preserved the country for themselves, and, in so far as the people are concerned, at the end of 150 years of rule, there is eight per cent. barely literate populace in this country. If this is all that they can claim as having devoted their great arts of government for the purpose of the government of this country indeed not even he can congratulate himself that they have done a modicum of the duty by way of the professed trusteeship that they claim for the purpose of the masses of the people of this country. That, Sir, is the first part of his speech in so far as his criticism of my criticism of the budget was concerned. On the first, I submit with respect that he stands self-condemned. On the second, there is little that he has offered. Only he has asked me to look where I did look; and the only result of looking at it was that there is little or nothing in the matter of the advancement of education. And, in so far as actual village life is concerned, I hope the Honourable Member was able to see with his eyes that once you get within the precincts, within the limits of the village itself, there is neither a road nor a street, nor any means of public health

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nor drinkable water on which money is spent by Government. And if that is what they have been doing for the villages, the seven lakhs of villages of which India consists, all I can say is that the description is not inapt that we live for them, and probably during the course of that process of living for them their parasitical instinct will some day kill this country. And perhaps, if it is to survive this dragging, unendurable existence, I am one of those who are prepared to face a quicker death than the slow bleeding process that is going on. That is the account which they present, sitting here in their offices, of the money which they raise and the expenditure to which they apply it.

I next wish to apply myself to the other problems in their due order. I daresay and I hope it will be admitted that the function of a State, whether it is the Indian State who are the agents of the British Government on their confession, even their function I hope does not begin and end at the administration and the policing of this country. I hope their conception has within it a little larger ideal, a little larger practical realisation of their interest and their duty to the people whom they govern and from whom they draw their resources. If that is so, what is it that they have prepared to do by way of expenditure of the revenues raised from them. The Army Secretary or His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief will say, nothing short of 45 or 48 or 50 crores will do for the matter of an efficient army. And it would have been very much better for the Honourable the Finance Member to say, "I dare not justify what I do, but that is what I am obliged to do". If he came to us in that spirit, we could better understand him; for what do we see? From 29 crores we went up to 55 crores. From 55 crores we have now come to 45 crores; and the comfortable or rather the uncomfortable assurance is given that we must not take it that the military expenditure is stabilised at 45 crores. That is the situation now. With us it is a moral question, a moral question in the sense that the manhood of this country cannot adequately raise itself to its proper height. It is not a question of the personnel, of the mere ordinary soldier; it is a question equally of the personnel of those who command. It is no use indeed asking, as I have constantly heard it asked during the last two months, when will this class or this group be Indianised,—a thing against which I have protested and which ought never to be asked. The answer is as soon as they are qualified. As if the question has ever been approached! And I submit that in the Indian State, whether autonomous, despotic or otherwise, if it were only the interest or exclusively the interest of India, the question is not how soon they will be qualified, but the question is how soon you will make them or allow them to be qualified. That is the only issue. It is not impossible. How could it be impossible? Has any question of the Government of India and the application of its money been considered from this point of view? Here is a country where the honest expert adviser would merely say, "I wish to make the best for it". From the very necessity of the situation, has it ever been asked? Supposing, for instance, the great Englishmen had not arrived here a hundred years ago, does it mean that except where the Englishman resides, the rest of the world is without arms, either in the personnel of the natives of the land or in the personnel of those who govern, command and lead them to success, as if this country had not Sikh officers and generals, Rajput officers

and generals, Jat officers and generals, Mahratta officers and generals, Gurkha officers and generals, Mussalman officers and generals, and as if today the Nepal army has not its own officers generals saluted by the British themselves. It, therefore, really means this that the question has never been approached from the true point of view from which it ought to be approached by those who, if they regard their offices as of trustees, would approach it. Here is a country with resources of every kind, mines, minerals, natural products, agricultural or otherwise. Can we and how soon can we make as much of it as would make this country self-sufficient? It is a test which they refuse to apply. They wish to drive us, in boxing language, merely towards the ropes, it being taken for granted that we must submit to the period which they have laid down, perhaps a period of eternity. That is not the way in which we are prepared to face the situation. Those of us who stand on this side of the House have this view that it cannot be impossible and shall not be impossible if their vote counts for anything. It is the duty of the Englishman, if he does not regard this as a different country, if he eats the salt from taxing my own people, to regard this question from no other point of view than this. Here are the men, here are the materials,—how soon can we raise and make an army of their own. I may have to submit to the inevitable, I may have to submit to their power and to their dictation, but I certainly shall not admit either the principle or the propriety or the decency or the justice of contrary argument or process. The argument in this House has been, "Oh, there are two per cent. and five per cent. and in some cases it is three per cent.". Only this morning, in answering a question which I believe referred to the Air Force or other allied departments, it was said: "Oh, the numbers are not available". and there the matter ended. The truth of the matter is this: that the question has never been regarded properly: here is India's money: here are India's men: here are Indian resources; and here are we as honest servants of India: let us apply ourselves properly to the work: supposing you are asked to equip the army for the purpose of fighting, would you simply lay down your hands and say "Nothing doing"? Would you say "No, we are not in a position to do it"? When you found it necessary, you raised the standing army from 170,000 to 14,00,000 and equipped it properly for the purpose of defence of the empire: if it was possible then, it should have been possible in a lesser period of time if only you had an honest intention, a genuine desire to make of India what it could become. That is the real truth and that is really the criticism.

Coming to the way in which the matter of the raising of the monies is concerned passing from taxation and expenditure to borrowing, on that question the policy for which we stand is this: all books on economics, indeed, testify to one great fact, that if a country must borrow at all, it must, as far as possible, never borrow at all events, in those foreign countries who will make the borrowing an excuse to make that a ground of political domination. You will find that from the time of Adamson, where he has given instance after instance in which, under the excuse of lending money, the time arrives when the preservation of the credit, because money is lent, becomes the next easy excuse for a permanent domination and political and military occupation of that country which is illustrated by the history of this country. Our external debt is in sterling, and here I wish to point out how our finances have been dealt with by our trustees. A time arrived—I am sure, the Honourable the Finance Member can easily

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ascertain it if he looks into his archives—during the period of the War when the rupee was not tied to the juggernaut's car, but was free and the sterling stood at Rs. 8; and the time arrived, when the amount honestly to the credit of India by reason of the services and equipment and money which we had spent on their account on their own estimates, when the 200 crores which sterling debt represented could have been paid off and cancelled by credit and debit entries. But the time also arrived, unknown to the people how the accounts stood, when one day the Finance Member got up in this House and said "Yes; you have assisted the British Empire more than any other part, more than any of the colonies who had freedom conferred on them, although India has provided 14 lakhs of men and every other form of assistance during the War: you must now make an additional gift of £100 millions out of the generosity and out of the bounty of poverty-stricken India". This was followed by another grant of some £46 millions out of which 20 millions were actually drawn; and, computing sterling at the then rate, it was perfectly easy for them to have paid off and be now without any sterling debt at all; but for the fact that £129 millions were made a gift of: but for that gift our credit and our debit on sterling account stood cancelled against each other. But, at the moment when this generosity was drawn upon, nobody knew what was behind this great act of generosity. Of course it was a forced act of generosity which was made in our name: we had no power against it, except on the second occasion when I believe it was voted to the extent of £46 millions: but in so far as the £100 millions was concerned, no vote of this House was taken, not even a formal vote of this House. That is the position at which we stand so far as the finances of the country are concerned; and today I am one of those who believe that it is best as time advances not to incur any debt whatever in any foreign country. Indeed, the complaint has been made that India is a hoarding country; the complaint has been made that every Government loan is over-subscribed: facts are trotted out that the rate of interest in India is going down: this is, then, the Finance Member's opportunity to call out all the resources—what he would call the stale unproductive hoarded resources of the country—in order that we may be free at all events of that claim which will always be made so long as some portion of the sterling debt remains for them to say "We have vested interests in this land, and it is for that purpose that we must keep hold on you". It is couched in different language from time to time, but its ultimate and actual objective and significance is always the same. I, therefore, submit that, in so far as we are concerned we stand for a policy that if and when borrowing is necessary at all, the borrowing should be internal altogether; and the speediest measures should be taken in the speediest period of time to make arrangements at all events to pay off the sterling debt: I do not wish to intervene the issue here or question as to its propriety or its legitimacy or our genuine liability for the same. That is an issue which does not arise in this House.

The next point to which I wish to refer is the manner in which the monetary system of this country is being used. I am one of those who believe that, in the matter of currency and exchange, while to the extent to which it is necessary and always necessary, the stability of credit must always be aimed at, I am not one of those persons who is going to make of that an excuse all the time to manipulate it with a somewhat difficult

and somewhat different and an ulterior motive. Why should we be tied up to a certain definite ratio with sterling? All that we heard from the Finance Minister was an emphatic assertion, without any justification—almost an instinctive assertion when he got up and said "That will never be done". But has he ever attempted to justify it? because he knows in his heart of hearts that such a policy of linking the rupee to the pound cannot, as a matter of economic measure, be justified, cannot, supposing India were to consult her own interests, be justified: let alone the claim of Britain that she is the moral guardian of India: I say it cannot be done if it were the interests of India alone that were to be consulted. But they know that it has one obvious result, and that result has been emphasised on the floor of this House, and that is that it confers some considerable percentage of advantage which may be easily calculated for trading between certain countries: that is the position in which we stand so far as that is concerned.

I shall now come to the question of the export of gold. A good deal has been said on the floor of this House in general terms: the question was discussed by the Honourable the Finance Member in the address he gave to this House in that opening speech: he says, that is the natural flow of this as of any other commodity from one country to another as a matter of voluntary selling. Therefore, he thought it was unnecessary, considering the matter from that point of view, for the Government of India to interfere in this natural flow at all. Taking the issues one by one: what did the other countries in the world do, whatever may be the opinion, the almost unfettered opinion of the Honourable the Finance Member of India? I would prefer to take the actual conduct of principal countries of the world in order to understand its economic consequences rather than merely rely on emphasis. If England feels that it is worth while taking gold, if France feels that it is worth while taking and keeping gold, how can it be that a contrary policy is good for this land? And he asks the question—how is to be done? He said—if an embargo was placed on the export of gold, he would have to buy the gold which people, who are in distress, are obliged to sell, and he has carried out the thesis in this way; then we shall have to issue paper money equivalent to the price of the gold at which the Government would have to buy it, and he stopped at that, because, forsooth, he dared not carry that process of analysis any further, and it is my duty to carry that process of analysis to the next three steps. If ever the State of India was forced to that condition, what is the harm that is going to happen, and what is the gain to be made out of it. If the Government of India had to buy the gold and for that purpose to issue money, the first and foremost thing is that, in so far as that money was issued against gold, it cannot affect the stability either of the monetary or any other credit of this country, because, for the test of this stability of currency, what is it that you have to back it with when you have to exchange it for any kind of metals which you have set up as a standard for the purpose of exchange, so that issuing paper money against an actual accumulation of gold in the hands of the country cannot be an evil at all. In the second place, it will have this great advantage which somehow or other is an anathema to the Honourable the Finance Member,—it will have a tendency to give a certain relief in the depreciated prices of the natural products of this country. He said the other day, and it has been suggested so often, and, therefore, I have taken the trouble of examining this question,—he said that by calling a penny a tuppence, you don't produce wealth. I agree with him in that verbal proposition, but where I disagree with him, I shall

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presently show. Where the prices of commodities fall, what do you do by calling your penny a half penny? You recover the same sum of money on taxes from the people who have no other sources of paying them except by selling their agricultural and other products. They have, therefore, to pay twice or one and half times the quantity of their produce to pay the same sum of money, in other words, under cover of the same denomination, you recover $1\frac{1}{2}$ times of the taxes, and the bloated salaries become 150 per cent. that is to say, 50 per cent. more than that they really ought to be. In other words, when it suits you, you call a penny a half penny. That is so. He says, it does not matter. I am merely asking what are you taking from the people of India in the shape of taxation that you take? If you take your 86 crores of rupees, you are very glibly comparing that 86 crores with the earlier taxes of previous years. It is an entirely unfair, uneconomic, unjust and a veiled form of imposing 50 per cent. additional taxation. But that can be endured, but a little rise in the internal prices of the commodities cannot be endured. He says that is inflation. It is a dangerous experiment. That is his economics; at all events, so far as we are concerned, though perhaps we may not have the right and the authority so to do, we are speaking with a considerable amount of knowledge, with a considerable amount of restraint, and we dare put to test, if we had the right and the authority and the power to do so. President Roosevelt can be laughed at in the comfortable and irresponsible atmosphere of this House, but his results cannot be wiped out from the United States. He is a responsible man,—I hope he is certainly much more responsible than the Honourable Sir James Grigg. ("Hear, hear" from the Congress Party Benches.) He represents an infinitely wealthier, infinitely stronger, infinitely more educated class in his country compared with ourselves and yet he has dared to try that experiment, and he thinks he has given relief to his people. His people think they have got relief, and yet we are to be governed and tutored by a doctrinaire economist who comes and says: "You will not try that experiment, I will not let you try that experiment so long as I stand here professedly in your interests". Sir, I have never heard such a grotesque statement. A man, may be my adviser in my pay for the purpose of looking after my economic situation, says: "I will not try an experiment, I will not let you try that experiment"—because I know he is in that strong position, and because he knows I cannot displace him. But that position cannot last long, that sort of arrogance cannot last long. They may call us futile. Indeed, we are futile,—I agree with what my friend, Mr. Fuzul Huq, said—we are futile in the votes that we are giving. You may be quite certain, whether you accept them or not, every single refusal that you make means you are digging a grave for yourself. (Cheers.) I know that no amount of ridicule, no amount of contempt, no amount of facile easiness will ever quench the sincerity and earnestness of our people to take charge of these new affairs. We are those who dare put to test the theories for which we stand if only we had the right and the power to do so, and all that we call upon you to do is this.—if you must serve us, at all events, serve us, but do not serve another country from which you come. At all events, that is the honesty, that is the standard, that is the economics, that is the application which we always demand from you, and those of us and those of my other friends who belong to this land need make no other appeal to them at all. Therefore, I say that checking the flow of gold from this country is not going to do the least harm to India; but it will have the result, in a small measure, to relieve the fall in the

commodity prices today, and, remember, if you are honest in framing your budgets, you must attune them to the conditions of this country in which the people are very poor, in which the people can only pay taxes from what they grow on their land in so far as land revenue is concerned. In so far as all indirect taxes are concerned, you are really by maintaining the same nominal amount of taxation increasing the taxation by 50 per cent. and yet the military Moloch is not satisfied even by that. We are told: "Don't think that we are going to spend over the bloated services, no, no, but we must have our cut restored". But may I ask the question—if the prices of commodities have gone down 40 per cent. could you not bear even a five per cent. cut in your salaries? (Shame, shame.) Suppose you were true to your salt would you say this, "Let us take from the country its real equivalent of taxation and at all events release the rest for the benefit of the people"; at all events every man, who serves this country on salaries above Rs. 200, ought not to find himself in any difficulty whatever if he surrendered back to the country what belongs to the country and what the country cannot pay.

That brings me next to the question which my friend, Mr. James, often asked—what about the exports and imports? Sir, I am one of those who believe,—and I am also in a position to put it to the test had we the power and the opportunity to do so,—I am one of those who believe that India is a country which can be thoroughly happy. It need not be wealthy, but it can be thoroughly happy being entirely self-sufficient to the extent to which you will allow it to be self-sufficient. I am one of those who do not believe that the inflation or increase of exports and imports,—that is the usual phraseology employed in the Annual Reports,—is a necessary indication of the prosperity of a country at all except perhaps a highly industrial country. I daresay, and I admit as an ordinary proposition of economics that we cannot always pay those in gold by importing more than what we export, in other words, in the normal course of trade, the two must balance as reasonably as possible. That proposition is not denied, but what is denied is that the increase of exports and the increase, therefore, of imports do either or both of them taken together necessarily indicate the prosperity of a country. For it is easy if you look at the exports,—and I will give you the figures which I have got here and show you what it is possible to do.

An Honourable Member: What is this Book?

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: This is the Indian Year Book, and I am using the figures which are authenticated. But it is not so much the figures which I am concerned with, but to test the issue whether it is necessary at all to test the prosperity of a country by what is called the increase of imports and the increase of exports. In a country like India, which can have enough internal trade, it is not at all events necessary, except, as I have said, for the purpose of paying an obligation that I cannot avoid in any foreign country, to export anything at all. And I will deal in a moment with what happens to cotton.

I know I have got here a gentleman who has stated two propositions with a confidence which I think he ought not to have applied to this matter. He said two things, the first thing he always thought of was about the purchase of cotton by two foreign countries, in particular, Japan and England, and he also stated glibly that there was room in this country for

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textiles from foreign land. I am presently going to deal with his observations, but let me continue the point on which I am now. The point on which I am now is this. Let me first read to you the first six items of imports of this country. Cotton and cotton goods, 1932-33, 34 crores of rupees; machinery and millware, Rs. 4 crores; metals and ores, Rs. 9 crores; oils, Rs. 8 crores; alk, Rs. 4 crores; sugar, Rs. 4 crores; instruments and apparatus, Rs. 3 crores; vehicles, Rs. 3 crores; the rest I do not wish to read, because they are in small dimensions. Which of these cannot be manufactured here? As I have said, it ought to be possible and must be made the policy of this country. Why is it impossible, when, a hundred years ago, we were able to clothe our country, when we were able to export our textiles to other countries—by the mere fact that you have the spinning jenny and the power loom does it mean that we should for all time depend upon you that we should export Rs. 34 crores worth of produce of this country in order to balance our import of Rs. 34 crores worth of textiles? It is perfectly competent to this country to make itself entirely self-sufficient and I do not know where my Honourable friend, Mr. Mody, gets it from—that there is some kind of cloth, for health or for comfort or for what I do not know, which this country cannot produce for its own clothing, that it must go to a foreign land? I leave him to his absurd dreams and still more to his absurd policy? Because what is there in the cloth produced in this country—what quality is it, has it poison in it? What is it that is impossible to do in this country? If we have displaced two-thirds of the cloth already, why should not we be able to displace the rest of the one-third? And here my answer is that it is possible to balance my foreign trade without an export of 34 crores worth of actual raw produce. But I shall be asked the question, and that question also I propose to answer. I ask the question next, but what will you do with your raw products? My answer is twofold. In so far as the raw produce is concerned, I will call your attention again, if you will allow me,—I will read also the heads of principal exports. Jute raw, Rs. 9 crores; jute manufactured, Rs. 21 crores; and it is admitted that so far as 30 crores worth of jute produce is concerned, it is a monopoly of this country and you need not fear that you will not be able to export it. Then, I come to cotton raw, 20 crores worth,—in other words, if what I have learnt—and I have investigated the matter in great detail—about six to seven annas worth of cotton requires nine to ten annas worth of cost in order to make it into a cloth of an ordinary kind. That is the estimate that we get when we ventured to form the Swadeshi Sabha, a little larger institution than the Bombay Mill-owners' Association, of which Mr. Mody was the President, and from which he has now withdrawn his great protection and he now serves himself in serving in another industry. That is the economics he wishes to teach me

Mr. H. P. Mody (Bombay Millowners' Association: Indian Commerce): I will tell you all about it later, if not today, on some other day.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: At all events, there is no reason which Mr. Mody can give which any sane man can be convinced of, that cloth cannot be produced in this country—which may be poison enough for him, and I have no quarrel with him, but a good enough cloth which can be produced in this country and avoid this import of 34 crores worth of textiles. If we could do it before, why should we not be able to do it now and why should

I go and enter into a pact, in order that my name may be mortalised or immortalised, in order that

Mr. H. P. Mody: If the Honourable Member can come to my place, I will teach him economics.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: That is the last thing I want to learn from my friend; he cannot teach me. . . .

Mr. H. P. Mody: I shall deal with that at the proper time. Does my Honourable friend think that he has the monopoly of wisdom?

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: I am not going to give way to my Honourable friend. The point I am making before the House is not personal at all. I regret very much that my Honourable friend, Mr. Mody, should have taken it so much to heart.

The whole point is this. Can we or can we not displace the import of 34 crores here? That is the issue, and if we can, here we have the avenue of being able to keep the raw produce of the country within itself, and I next proceed to answer the question, what will happen to your cotton. I will not now refer to any gentleman by name, so that he may not feel offended. It is quite clear that Japan is buying cotton, and I was told the other day, and that is the kind of threat to which I was accustomed, "Oh, yes. Japan was on the eve of changing its machinery in order to consume American cotton. But, forsooth, in order to oblige India, she purchases a million or a million and a half bales of Indian cotton". I am not one of those who believe that a Japanese or an Englishman for that matter is so charitable as to buy your cotton if he does not want to, it is a theory which I cannot accept, it is so contrary to human nature. I am one of those who believe that out of the 20 crores that we export, it is perfectly easy to so adjust, and that is what brings me to my next point, a planned economy of this country, not the kind of economy to which my Honourable friend, Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant referred, but a planned economy of this country. There is no reason why this country should not plan its agricultural operations in the same way as is done in other country. There is no reason why, if we were able to change to cotton from foodstuffs in the hope of getting higher prices in those times, we should not restrict our produce of cotton and use the land for the purposes of produce of food, for, so far as the total produce of food in the world is concerned, the average is not of much use to us. If the food in the world is more than sufficient for the purpose of individuals, so far as India is concerned, the outstanding fact remains that there is not food enough except for one meal for a large part of the population of the country. Therefore, there is room enough for expansion in this country, of the produce of more food to be redistributed within the country itself, and I am not at all terrified by the fact that we shall not be able to export that food to foreign countries. In fact, I do not wish to do so. I am one of those who believe that our foreign trade should be so balanced that we shall be able to produce as much of manufactured goods in this country as we can so as to enable us to prevent our raw produce being exported outside. Therefore, I am not at all frightened by the idea as to what will happen to our imports and what will happen to our exports. It will be the

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business of those who are in charge of the State to see to it, if cotton is produced in quantities which cannot sell. In fact, even the State would not be required. Natural economics would adjust themselves. If cotton cannot be sold at a remunerative price, people naturally would not be so foolish as to leave their land fallow, but they will certainly cultivate in the same land food which at least they could eat. In fact, I will go further and say that I am one of those who believe in the answer that the Honourable Mr. Gokhale gave to the Welby Commission:

"I would rather have my land fallow than cultivate it for my neighbour's benefit."

I have not the time to analyse projects like the Sukkur Project and other projects which are intended to increase the production of the country, but the question is how much of it remains here for the person who grows it, for you have got to provide for the 30 crores which have been spent, the machinery that has been bought and the skilled labour that has been applied to it. You have, therefore, to provide out of what grows, in addition to the land revenue, for the purpose of the annual interest and the ultimate sinking charges. Take it from me that so far as we are concerned, we stand here for a policy of self sufficiency. We are not of those who believe that it is not at all necessary for the purpose of the true advancement of the country that its exports and imports should necessarily swell, but they should be so adjusted as to make India thoroughly self-sufficient which it has the capacity of doing by reason of the manifold products of every type that this country can produce. We stand for the nationalisation of all the key industries and of the utility services of this country. We maintain that position and we are proud to maintain that position. If private industry tries to squeeze the consumer, it will be the duty of the State, if the State is right, to protect him and to provide the service at the minimum reasonable cost and without any profit. If the State acknowledges that it is incapable or inefficient in its management, it is the State's acknowledgment of its own inefficiency with which I am not concerned. I am thinking of a State which believes in itself, and that brings me last within the few minutes that are left to this discussion to this question of planning.

I congratulate my friend, Mr. Milligan, and entirely agree with him in the observations that he made during the course of the cut motion which my friend, Mr. James, moved before this House. I may not agree with him in all the details and in the reasons that he gave, the only reply that he got from the Finance Member was that he was a Socialist. I would rather be a Socialist with Mr. Milligan than a free trader with the Honourable Sir James Grigg. That is the position that I take up and we say all the time that it is the business of the State to so reconcile the interest of the consumer with other interests as to bring about an all round development of the country. We have often heard a specious argument, sometimes in this side of the House, but largely on the other side. When it suits them, the consumer's head is brought out, when it suits them, the industry is brought out, and it is difficult to understand which one they are going to bring out at the next opportunity. In our opinion, and in our judgment, there is no real antagonism between the two. It is the duty of the State to co-ordinate the two—a kind of duty which on a larger canvas might well be found written into the beautiful

speech of my friend, Mr. Milligan. We stand here for a policy of discriminating protection, but there is one more amendment to that policy which ought to be added. That policy does not include any new industry at all. So far as I read it, I am content with that policy if my reading is not incorrect. In the larger interests of the State as a whole, it is essentially necessary that the consumer should tax himself and that is what happens in many countries, and now I shall turn to a few remarks of the Honourable Sir James Grigg.

Turning to the subject of industries, he said that the world's desire was for national self-sufficiency and if my friend is right, then I hope that everything that I have said ought to be right. If we stand for national self-sufficiency, do not other countries also stand for national self-sufficiency from the point of view of the consumer? If by reason of a conflagration a country should find itself in the miserable condition of being cut off from its food supplies, would it not be justified in taking every possible step to be self-sufficient within her own borders? That must be the aim of every country, much more so in India. Here is the money that we raise from the country and it should be possible to say how it should be spent so as to make for real development of the country and not simply preserve the country for other lands. The latter cannot be the object; that ought not to be the object, but if that is the object, we are quite right in saying that such a policy is unsound and such a budget cannot stand the test of any popular vote in any Assembly whatever. (Applause.)

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I move that the question be now put.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair does not think there is any other speaker. The Honourable Member can begin his speech.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Before I begin my speech, perhaps I might lay on the table a declaration by the Governor General in Council, under Section 67-A (7) of the Government of India Act, regarding certain demands refused by the Assembly:

"In pursuance of Section 67-A (7) of the Government of India Act, the Governor General in Council is pleased to declare that the following demands which have been refused by the Legislative Assembly are essential to the discharge of his responsibilities:

<i>Demand</i>	<i>Amount. Rs.</i>
1—Railway Board	8.26.999
39—Army Department	4.30.999

(Cries of "Oh" and "Shame" from the Opposition Benches.)

Perhaps I might start by expressing my agreement with the Leader of the Opposition on perhaps the only point on which I shall agree with him, and that is the natural tendency to staleness at the end of a debate which has lasted for nearly a fortnight. Though it may be presumption on my part, I should like to say that he showed very little evidence of staleness—in his manner at any rate. I might now go on to his remarks

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on my analysis or my account of his analysis of the budget. It certainly showed an entirely new method of controversy. I described in certain terms his analysis of the budget and he then attributes them to me and says I have admitted his argument. I never heard of such a method of controversy. As he challenges me to deny the accuracy of his argument, in order to make quite certain that there shall be no misunderstanding at all, I repeat that his analysis was malicious and I say if, for the first time, nevertheless, quite definitely, that not only was it malicious, but it was misleading and unfair, and I certainly do not wish to have attributed to me the remarks which I was attributing to him and his friends. For the rest, the Leader of the Opposition gave us one of his political propaganda speeches in which he is such an adept and which we have by now learnt to expect on each and every occasion, however appropriate or inappropriate it may be. But, as a great part of it had nothing whatever to do with the Finance Bill, I must excuse myself from following him into the purely political sphere, but perhaps I might say that during the course of his speech I saw very little trace of that spirit of co-operation which, when it suits the Opposition, they offer, but which, when it does not suit them, they entirely ignore.

Before coming to the speeches which are by now somewhat hoary and aged, I might take up some of his points of detail. First of 4 P.M. all, he said, let us make quite certain that we pay off our sterling debt as soon as possible. That is a very praiseworthy sentiment, and up to that point I can agree with him within the bounds of the possible, but the cloven hoof appears later on. He expressly put aside the question of repudiating the whole debt until a more suitable occasion. But the cloven hoof was there, and the issue of repudiation was there quite definitely. Then, he expressed another grievance that the rupee has been linked to sterling, and here I am bound to say that he seemed to me to have one of those agile changes of direction for which he and his Party and his friends inside and outside this House are so skilful. He made a complete *volte face* . He complained bitterly that, owing to the fact that the rupee had depreciated forty per cent with sterling, the United Kingdom had got entirely fictitious against, say, Germany, which had adhered to the gold standard. Well, if that argument means anything at all, it means that his complaint is that the rupee is under-valued. But so far as everything else I have read about this controversy goes, the complaint of the Congress Party particularly and their commercial friends—and they have been complaining for years—is that the rupee is over-valued and they have not got a free hand to let the rupee sink as far as it is necessary, until they have made their fortunes.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): We still want it to be left free.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: But the only kind of freedom that is any good to you is that it should go in both directions at once. (Laughter.) Then, of course, we had the usual inflation argument and the usual comments on the obscurantism of one who dares to think that inflation will do people more harm than good and will do the cultivator especially more harm than anybody else. And he said: "Who are you to dare to set up your opinion against the President of the United States? The

results are there for everybody to see! Who are you?" Well, I shall come later on in my remarks upon this subject to the matter of the New Deal.

Sir, perhaps I might now come to the Pandit's speech, and, in the course of that, I shall deal with the Roosevelt plan. I might, by way of a preliminary remark, say that in the course of that not inconsiderable part of the Pandit's speech, which was devoted to mildly offensive personal remarks, he complained about my temerity in daring to be cheerful in a country like India and he attributed my cheerfulness to the fact that I had a profound contempt for "the dismal science". Perhaps I might be allowed here to give the House a story about Dr. Johnson who met an old college friend of his youth and was talking to him about their fates and careers since they had finished living together at Oxford. His college friend said: "You are a philosopher, Dr. Johnson. I have tried, too, in my time to be a philosopher, but, I do not know how, cheerfulness was always breaking in". (Laughter.) So if you substitute economics for philosophy, I can say that too. Well, if this cheerfulness is the result of not being over-impressed by the bewildering nostrums of modern economics, I for one should regard that as an additional inducement not to pay too much attention to these bewildering nostrums, and those who voice them until they sing much more in unison than they are doing at present; and, in spite of what the Pandit says, there are not amongst them such signs and measure of unanimity as would justify us in taking them as infallible guides in this pass of our affairs. Sir, the Pandit challenged me to produce the names of economists to set against those of the exponents of economic planning and he mentioned the following names. I am not going to give them in any order of merit of course. (Laughter.) The Pandit mentioned the following names:

Mr. Keynes,
 Sir George Schuster,
 Mr. Lloyd George,
 Sir Arthur Salter,
 Sir M. Visweswaraiya,
 Mr. Darling,
 Mr. Harold Laski,
 Lord Allen,
 Lord Passfield.

Apart from the fact that only one, or at most two, of these are economists in any strict sense of the term, I accept his challenge, and I produce Prof. Lionel Robbins (who the Pandit appeared not to have read of, but if he has not read his book called "The Great Depression", I will lend it to him.)

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: I have no intention of reading books of men below thirty-two.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: He is older than that.

Then, I will produce Dr. Benjamin M. Anderson, of the Chase National Bank of New York. I have got some of his remarks here, if the House cares to hear them.

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Then,—I shall produce Monsieur Charles Rist of the Banque de France, and the whole French School of Economists. They are all against this "planning" business. Further, I read in the *Sunday Statesman* of two weeks ago a review of two new books. The first was "Collectivist Economic Planning", by Professor Hayek, who, I believe, is the great luminary in the modern economic firmament, and the second is "Economic Planning in Soviet Russia" by Professor Brutzkus, and, if I understand the review aright,—I have not read the books—the attitude of these two authorities towards economic planning, even in its special sanctuary of Soviet Russia, is of the most critical character. Perhaps I might be allowed to read a passage. According to Brutzkus:

"The success of the Five Years Plan has been of a very meagre and doubtful character. Even in evaluating the considerable expansion of heavy industry it has to be remembered that Russia is still a young country industrially, and that progress under such conditions is easy. In a great many industries, on the other hand, no progress has been made."

While the authors of the Five Years Plan expected to increase the productivity of labour by no less than 110 per cent., actually, however, hardly any improvement took place. The result of the Plan on the agricultural side is to be judged from the fact that "Russia is now no longer in possession of grain surpluses for shipment abroad", while, before the war, the grain exported amounted in value to nearly half her exports. The crops harvested per unit of land have fallen off considerably and the decline of livestock-breeding threatens Russian agriculture from another direction.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: What did Bernard Shaw or Aldous Huxley say of Russia after their visit?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Then, the Pandit went on to point to the example of all the other nations of the world who have gone in for economic planning. Is he quite certain that things are as prosperous as he appears to think? Let me read a passage about the New Deal in America. This is from the *Statesman* of March the 15th:

"The Washington correspondent of *The Times* says that Congress has been in session since January 3 and so far has not passed a single 'New Deal' measure—(There has been one since then.)

This would mean little if it meant only delay. It meant danger, however, if it showed that, in American football parlance, the President had lost the ball. It would take more than courage if he were to touch currency in order to stabilize it, yet the present state of the money exchanges and the possibility of serious oscillations are one of many sources of anxiety which now overshadow Washington.

The fate of the National Recovery Administration hangs in the balance and nobody would be surprised if it disappeared as an entity; some of its functions being scattered over other agencies of the Government.

Mr. Wallace, the Secretary for Agriculture, has become gloomier in his public pronouncements.

The Public Works Administration is under attack and the Federal Relief Administration is forced to borrow all the money which it can secure. With the passage of the 4,800 million dollars Works Relief Bill the chickens of the 'New Deal', said one critic today, are coming home to roost."

I will give another quotation from the *Statesman* of the 18th March . . .

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: Which *Statesman* is this?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: It is the *Statesman* of Calcutta, but it is quoting from the *London Times*:

"The last two years have seen the passage of many profoundly important laws which have spawned (*I do not think there is much planning about spawning*) thousands of pages of codes, administrative orders, rulings and regulations—so many of these last that the Supreme Court was once moved to request that some guide to their infinite variety be provided. They leave two questions still lacking answer—first, will the New Deal bring recovery and, second, will the huge costs of the New Deal be paid out of the abundance of that recovery or by resort to inflation?"

The fact that these questions still abide, that after two years of amazing activity 20,000,000 people are still on the relief rolls, that the expenditure of billions of dollars has not primed the pump of business is a source of legitimate anxiety, but not the only source. Laws may be admirable codes of conduct, may be fair regulations, may be wise, but it is in the field of administration that their effectiveness is tested. There the New Deal is weak, not so much in individual efficiency and the devotion of its servants, as in the jealousies which divide them one from each other."

I can produce another quotation about the present state of the "New Deal" in the United States. This is a quotation from the *Christian Science Monitor* of February the 4th and is much shorter than the others.

"The desire is still to sell without buying. Until that attitude is changed there is little hope for permanent improvement of American trade."

I gather, and, in fact, I have seen quotations from Mr. Cordell Hull, the Secretary of State, and from Mr. Wallace, the Secretary of Agriculture, who have said very much the same thing in different words. So much for the results of the "New Deal" which are there, as the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition says, for everybody to see. Let us next take Japan which is always held up as one of the prime examples of successful economic planning. If I do not weary the House, I might be allowed to read a few extracts from an article which appeared in the *London Economist* of February the 16th:

".....In spite of exchange depreciation, cheap money, Government spending on 'Public Works' and—until recently—a promise that taxation would not be increased, Japanese prosperity is confined to a few large industries, and the main obstacle to more widespread prosperity is the poverty of farmers and the coincidence of low wages with industrial unemployment. (*Here I miss out a sentence or two.*) Thus the prosperity of which Japan boasts is seen to be only skin deep. The depreciation of the yen increased the Japanese manufacturers' costs for all imported raw materials, and it seems fairly clear that in order to offset this increased cost of working capital the manufacturers have improved the 'efficiency' of production. It is, of course, certain, that in many cases there have been genuine improvements in technical and commercial methods, but labour has made a substantial contribution to 'technical efficiency' by working longer hours for less real wages. (*I again miss out a sentence.*) It seems fairly clear that Japan's economic structure has been subject to increasing strains. So far she has suffered all the burdens of imperialist expansion, in the form of increasing public debt, booming armament industries and incipient depression, without as yet reaping any of the economic gains for which she hoped from wider markets and an enlarged area under one economic control. Japan lives today in an atmosphere of crisis, and while this is maintained she will continue to enjoy the paradox of 'prosperity' with a falling standard of living."

The Pandit also referred to the United Kingdom. Perhaps it would be a little invidious on the part of one who was after all until recently an English Civil Servant, and who is continually accused by the Honourable Members opposite of still being an emissary of the British Government to discuss the policy of those who have been his masters. Certainly there have been, as the Pandit pointed out, a considerable number of subsidies

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in shipping, beef, wheat, sugar beet, milk, bacon, and so on. Perhaps I can escape from my own dilemma in the best way possible by making a quotation from one of the books of the late Antony Hope where he says: "The oysters are eaten and are put down in the bill." Italy and Germany are other examples of planning but they do not appear to be very happy about it. But, after all, the main example of economic planning is found in Soviet Russia. Russia is clearly the kind of political and economic system that the Pandit hopes to see introduced into India. I am not so sure about his Leader, but, in so far as I could gather on the spur of the moment, his economic structure was not essentially different. As far as the Pandit was concerned, he would allow a little more latitude in the matter of belief in God, but a little less latitude in the matter of stealing another man's wife. But, apart from these two minor exceptions, he finds the Russian system wholly admirable.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: It is much better than your system at present.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Now, we know where we are. The Pandit and his friends want to introduce the Communistic system into India. Here, let me say that I found the speech of Mr. Gupta particularly illuminating in this respect. Although it is probably so long ago that it has passed from the memory of the House, it will be remembered that Mr. Asaf Ali hastened to him and tried to induce him to curtail his remarks. Nor am I surprised that the Leader of the Opposition should find it necessary to give me to understand that he alone was the true exponent of the Congress Party and that anybody else is unauthorised. However, let me give some of Mr. Gupta's remarks:

"Now, Sir, many objections have been raised that the army is costing much. I say that probably if it were my army, it might even cost more, and I would not grudge that. Even a small country like Japan or Germany is probably spending more than what we were spending."

Further on, he said:

"If it were my Government, if he were my Viceroy, I would say 'You have autocratic power, you may hang a man without trial, you may send him to jail'; but India has to be built. Did not Hitler send out one of the biggest men in the world, Einstein? He was turned out bag and baggage within 24 hours. I want my Viceroy to have that power."

Mr. Ghansham Singh Gupta (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan): I stick to it.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: So, now, we know where we are. For the mild and benevolent regime that now exists, we are to substitute the autocratic sway of a party caucus. Pandit Pant made great play of the agony he suffers now at the thought of the slavery of his people. What his agony will be when a real tyranny is instituted I shudder to imagine. But perhaps he will, under the new regime become a Commissar, he and his friends who are leaders of the Congress Party. They will be completely free while the rest of the 350 millions of India will be under complete subjection. So, now, we know what this battle for freedom means. Freedom for the Pandit and a small number of his friends and complete slavery for everybody else. (Hear, hear.) When Charles II was being exhorted by his very unpopular brother, who afterwards became James II, to take great precaution against the risk of assassination, he said: "They will

never kill me to make you King". Nor do I believe that India will ever forgo the chances which are now open to it gradually to realise self-government within the British Empire for the prospect of the autocracy of a Communist Congress regime.

Another part of the Pandit's speech was an eloquent plea for large capital expenditure upon the development of India. I wonder whether he or any other of the Members of the Party opposite have any idea of what has been spent by Government upon economic development in the last 15 years. It is customary to belabour the Government for being blind on this side of the needs of India, but how unjustifiable this is can be seen when I say that from capital sources and by Government agency alone 377 crores have been spent in that time. Three hundred and seventy-seven crores in 15 years, five of which at least have been years of crisis when money was almost impossible to come by. Three hundred and seventy-seven crores, apart from all the expenditure from ordinary revenue on agriculture, road and other forms of development. Of course, I know that during the crisis programmes had to be cut down drastically, but we hope that we are moving out of that atmosphere of crisis and that we can resume on an adequate scale the process of development in those spheres in which it is legitimate for the State to intervene. Now, let us look at the figures for the coming year 1935-36. The borrowing programme for ordinary capital works amounts to eleven crores nearly. In addition, there is well over one crore on road development to be paid out of the provincial share of petrol duty, between one and two crores on special programme of road development as a result of the Economic Conference that was held at the end of my predecessor's regime, I think, last April. There is about 8½ crores on civil works including roads and bridges, half a crore on works on the various Frontiers. Then, there is about 2½ crores on agricultural development. In addition to all these, there are the special grants provided for in this year's budget of 1,00 lakhs for economic development in the villages, 40 lakhs for special road schemes, 25 lakhs for roads on the Frontier, 20 lakhs for broadcasting, 93 lakhs for civil aviation, 36 lakhs for the removal of Puss Institute to a more salubrious spot; in all, thirty crores of developmental expenditure undertaken in a single year. Surely, Sir, this does not betoken indifference to India's economic development. But the Pandit may say to me, if you are prepared to spend thirty crores a year on development, what is your objection to accepting my plan? The difference between the two plans as I see it is this. First, the Government confine its development to schemes which can either be paid for out of revenue without increasing the existing burden of taxation, or, so far as borrowing is concerned, to schemes which show a good prospect of being remunerative in the near future. This means that we scrupulously eschew any programme which requires for its financing any inflationary process which will shatter credit at home and abroad. It also avoids intrusion into the sphere which should properly be left to private enterprise and it rejects any idea of accompanying its capital expenditure by the introduction of any communitistic system of control. In other words, it recognises, as all sane people will, that you cannot turn a poor country into a rich one in a night or even in a year or so. The process must be a gradual one in which the Government does whatever it can to stimulate the efficiency of Indian producers on which after all the whole process of enrichment depends and, for the rest, it tries to avoid taking short cuts which can only end in greater disaster and impoverishment.

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Perhaps, Sir, this would be a suitable point for me to turn aside and with a view to removing certain misconceptions which have arisen, or rather, have been created, to explain in what sense I am a disciple of *laissez-faire*. I certainly do not believe in *laissez-faire* of the old school (Hear, hear) in the sense which allowed employers of labour to exploit women and children and even men by working them for very long hours in unhealthy surroundings. The later exponents of *laissez-faire* were convinced believers later in factory and welfare legislation. They were also believers in the necessity of relieving distress and in education, health services and so on. And so am I. Again, I do not believe in *laissez-faire* to the extent that I deny all necessity of protecting infant industries in a country like India. But I do not believe in burying my head in the sand and of failing to recognise that the protection of infant or any other industries involves, for the time being, a net loss to the country, or that, generally speaking, that loss falls upon the poor, and here, if you think I have got a bee in my bonnet, let me quote a passage from the speech of my Honourable and learned friend opposite:

".....By itself the policy of protection is vicious."

—I think the Leader of the Opposition agreed with that in almost so many words—

"It is what may be called a tax of a regressive type that is, it enables money to flow from the poorer to the richer classes upwards, which is unnatural. The second thing which it does is, it places a premium on inefficiency. The third thing that it does is it enables the State to waste away the funds of the nation by giving them the opium of protection; it tells the people that it is protecting their industry and it has enough money to waste and it creates extravagance. The fourth thing that comes out of protection is the growing inefficiency inside the country, prevents it from facing as man to man other industries and other people in other countries, and whenever those artificial props are removed, the whole order crumbles down again. Therefore the policy of protection has its disadvantages. At the same time this policy leads to a certain amount of corruption inside the State."

Well, Sir, if I may say so, without any risk of being accused, as I was accused by the Leader of the Opposition of attempting to patronize the Opposition, that is an extremely illuminating and cogent analysis. To resume the thread of my own arguments after this adventitious aid, the lesson that I would draw is, that in embarking upon any policy of promoting new industries, we should recognise that the policy is only worthwhile if we are sure that the future generations will derive the full benefit, at least of the sacrifices of this generation, if we are sure that the sacrifices of this generation are well within their capacity to bear and if we are sure that the future benefits are not too incredibly remote in time.

Again, I admit it is quite legitimate to undergo a certain amount of economic loss in order to establish an industry the absence of which in time of War would threaten the very existence of the country. That is not in the least contrary to the principles of *laissez-faire*. And, more over, neither do I say that a general belief in that doctrine which is compendiously if rather inaccurately called *laissez-faire* excludes the public ownership and conduct of public utilities such as railways, electric supply, and so on. My view would certainly not rule out public ownership and conduct of public utilities, but I am disposed to think that the State ownership of the crude form is not the form which will ultimately be found best. I think it probable that the ultimate development

in this sphere should be some form of public utility corporation like the Central Electricity Board to which the Pandit referred with such evident and whole-hearted approval

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: With that *laissez-faire*, few can have much to quarrel. You have to define what is not *laissez-faire*.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I will do that presently.

None of these generally admitted exceptions affects my main point which is that over the greater portion of the economic sphere the free play of private enterprise is certain to produce greater wealth than any system of Government regulation or interference, however disinterested and however intelligent that interference may be. Certainly that particular form of *laissez-faire* in which I believe amounts to a profound disbelief in any system under which the Government,—which of course in the last analysis means the tax-payer—if that remark also is not of a patronising order—bears all the losses while private enterprise gets all the profits. It also amounts to a profound disbelief in any system under which Government keeps the ring closed for private enterprise, by which I mean, that it concerns itself to give private enterprise a free hand to exploit the poor, for, after all, in any country, the bulk of the consumers are the poor. In short, I believe that in general the producer should be capable, without any adventitious aid, of providing what the consumer wants at a price which he can afford to pay; and that if he is not, he had better make room for somebody else who is. Sir, I must apologise for having taken up a certain amount of time in explaining what particular form of *laissez-faire* it is in which I believe, and incidentally of having exposed myself to a retort from my Honourable friend opposite that it is not *laissez-faire* at all. But I maintain that this belief of mine is consistent with the Pandit's doctrine that the supreme object of a State is to secure and promote the economic well-being of the people. I do not think his Leader would accept that dictum. I think, in so far as I could understand it, his theory is that the supreme business of a State is to ensure that its members live without having any intercourse whatever with anybody outside its borders, commercial or otherwise. Anyhow I agree with the Pandit in this matter and I unreservedly accept that doctrine that the object of a State is to secure and promote the economic well-being of the people. But at the risk of being accused of vain repetition I say that I do not believe that this object can be secured either by the enslavement of any communistic plan at one end of the scale or, at the other, by giving industrialists a free hand to exploit both the consumers and their own workmen.

Now, Sir, I hope my Honourable friend will not think that I have devoted an undue portion of my speech to him.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: I am thankful for it; only I do not admit that the criticism is fair.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: It is now time for me to reply briefly to some of the other speeches which have been made during the course of this debate. Mr. Mathuradas Vissanji took up,—so I was informed by one of our more pontifical newspapers,—my challenge to make constructive suggestions which would have the effect of improving the lot

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of the poor. Let us see what his suggestions were. First, to allow the carry-forward of losses for income-tax purposes. This is in principle a perfectly reasonable request but it would cost a crore of rupees a year and its primary effect would be to help the urban industrialist or trader and not the rural producer or consumer in the slightest degree. I, therefore, having regard to existing needs and past pledges, should put this in a comparatively low order of priority. His next constructive suggestion was that the additional import duty on salt should be perpetuated and, I think, increased. Whatever the course of salt prices during recent years, nobody can deny that the price is now higher than it would be if there were no salt import duty. So this suggestion amounts to helping the poor by taxing him. The third and last suggestion was to retain the export duty on skins in order to ensure to the industrialist a cheap supply of his raw material at the expense of the much poorer agriculturist. So much for his constructive suggestions to help the poor.

I then come to two Honourable Members. Mr. Hockenull and Mr. Bardaloi, who raised the question of Assam and its finances. Here, of course, I have a great deal of sympathy with the case made by these two Honourable Members. There is no doubt that the financial position of Assam is deplorable. That is universally recognised, and the Joint Parliamentary Committee made it clear that Assam would have to have a subvention from the Central revenues if it was to start its autonomous way with any chance of success. So that there is a term to Assam's financial difficulties and that a comparatively short one. But, say the two Honourable Members, Assam cannot wait even for a short time. Well, I quite understand that point of view and sympathise very deeply with it, and I have, as a matter of fact, considered very carefully whether it would be possible to deal with Assam specially in advance of the general settlement. Unfortunately, however, I have come to the conclusion that it is not. Assam is not the only deficit province; her case differs only in degree from that of some others. And, on the whole, I think it is undesirable that she should arouse any inter-provincial controversies for the sake of being put straight one year, or at most two years, earlier. In the meantime, whenever there are Central funds available, as has happened particularly in the case of roads and the Central Road Reserve as fortified by the 40 lakhs grant this year, we are doing our best and, I think in that particular case of roads, succeeding in seeing that Assam secures a generous share of whatever benefits there are going.

I come now to another point of Mr. Bardaloi's. He raised an interesting point in connection with the sales of silver, and I think his remarks had reference to the *pronunciamento* or *ukase* of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce. The Honourable Member disagreed with the Federation in so far as they deplored the sales of silver, and I agree with him and not with them. The Reserve Bank will have 50 crores of silver; Government will have another 40 crores or so; and the idea that sales of silver, on the scale now in vogue, will so deplete the reserves available in India that there is certain to be a shortage of silver available for coinage, seems to me to be fantastic, unless the Federation envisages such a rise in prices as can only be produced by a violent wave of inflation plus a devaluation of the rupee. Incidentally I might, to illustrate my point, tell the House that the absorption of silver rupees in the five years from 1914-15 to 1919-20, which cover the gigantic inflation of the

war period, the absorption of silver rupees for the whole of that period was only 42 crores and that 36 of those 42 crores came back in the two following years. I said that the idea that there would be a shortage of silver for coinage purposes was fantastic unless the Federation envisages such a rise in prices as only can be produced by a violent inflationary wave. I suspect that this is what the Federation is really after.

Mr. B. Das (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadan): No.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I said I suspect that that is what they are really after; and as I have repeatedly said, in spite of the alarm, dependency or indignation which it generates in the breast of the Leader of the Opposition, Government are going to have none of that.

There was another point in which, however, Mr. Bardoloi agreed with the Federation, and that was in deploring the deflationary effect of the sales of silver which have already taken place, and, I think, Mr. Ghuznavi supported this view. Here, Sir, I am afraid—apologising for my presumption—I disagree with both the Honourable Members and with the Federation as well. The fact is that they are all wrong in imagining that there has been any deflationary effect at all. And, here, if the House will excuse the "address"—I think that was Mr. Desai's word—I might explain exactly what happens.

When silver coinage is melted down and shipped to London we place in the paper currency reserve *ad hoc* treasury bills to the nominal amount of the silver coinage. When the silver is sold in London we purchase with the proceeds sterling securities to the amount of the bullion value of the silver and cancel *ad hoc* treasury bills in the paper currency reserve to precisely similar amounts. There are still left in the paper currency reserve *ad hoc* treasury bills to the value of the difference: so there cannot be possibly any deflationary effect. I hope that with that explanation I have reassured the two Honourable Members from Assam and Calcutta.

I will next take up some of the points raised by Seth Abdoola Haroon. First of all he repeated his criticisms on the budget estimates and set himself up as a better prophet than me; he may be right; time will show: there are far too many uncertain factors in the world at present to justify dogmatism one way or the other, and, therefore, I can only suggest to the Honourable Member that we should both console ourselves by reflecting on Mr. Bonar Law's dictum that it is no good arguing with a prophet—you can only disbelieve him. That certainly is the fate of both of us. As regards the Sukkur Barrage loans, I think, here too, the Honourable Member from Karachi is labouring under a misapprehension: I will try and make the position clear to him. The original advances to the Bombay Government for the Sukkur Barrage loan were, and are regarded as having been made, out of the proceeds of certain specific Government of India loans which were raised in the market at the time that the advances were being made. When any particular one of those loans is converted, the interest on the appropriate portion of the advance is adjusted accordingly but, until conversion takes place, the original rate of interest must continue to run, for obviously the Government of India cannot lend at less than it costs them. That is why, because there are still unconverted large portions of the loans, which were raised in the years in which advances are made which are still outstanding, some part of the advances still carry high rates of interest. These rates will, of course, come down when further conversions are made. But

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in any case I am not sure that the Honourable Member is not being unduly alarmed so far as the new province of Sind is concerned. The alarm, if any, should be on the part of the Government of India, because, it is admitted on all hands that Sind will have to have a subvention for a good many years after it is separated from Bombay.

The only other point in the Honourable Member's speech I wish to mention is in relation to the Kathiawar ports. This is a very difficult and complicated question; and, as I have said several times in the House, negotiations are proceeding upon it. Naturally, it is impossible to give the House very much information while those negotiations are going on; but I may perhaps say, if it is not begging pardon in advance for using a vulgarism—if it is not teaching your grandmother to suck eggs—that there are two aspects of the problem, the first being the inroad upon the revenues of British India, and the second the conditions of competition between the ports in Kathiawar and in British India. Naturally we are doing our best to bear both standpoints before our eyes but I should like to assure Honourable Members from Bombay that the second is in our eyes not one whit less important than the first.

I will now come back to those parts of the Pandit's speech which contained his specific suggestions in connection with the Finance Bill, as opposed to his general political and economic theories. He wants the salt duty reduced, or abolished, the income-tax swept away up to Rs. 2,000, and the postage rates on letters and postcards reduced. Of course we shall debate the merits of these proposals during the actual consideration of the clauses of the Bill: so, for the present, I shall confine myself to his suggestions for financing these changes. First of all we assume that the railways are making a contribution of Rs. 6 crores a year to general revenues. We know that they are not, but that does not matter. We then raise the rates of interest on cash certificates and post office savings bank deposits, so that we can borrow more under those heads; and, thirdly, we increase rates of income-tax in the higher reaches, particularly on unearned income and companies. In other words, money is to be raised, partly by an effort of pure imagination, partly by borrowing money at rates of interest which are uneconomic, and partly by increasing taxation. One thing is clear about the new economic planning at any rate, and that is that all old principles of budgeting have been discarded:—No silly nonsense about balancing your budget: no silly nonsense about even thinking in terms of real money. The European Group have been exhorting me in the House and in the press to write up my revenue estimates because they think there is more money there than I do. The Pandit says what does it matter whether the money is there or not. If it is not, it ought to be and there is an end to it. As regards his one comparatively orthodox proposal, that of increasing the rates of income-tax, is he quite sure that his Party consists so exclusively of the poor and hungry that his proposal will receive the unanimous support of the Party caucus? I very much doubt it.

Next, I would like to spend a few minutes examining Mr. Satyamurti's speech. The Honourable Member from Madras's form of economic planning is having it both ways. Nawab Sir Mehr Shah, if I understood his speech correctly (Laughter), called the Honourable Member from Madras an acrobat; and, if one of the characteristics of an acrobat is standing on his head and feet at the same time, the word seems to me to be more than apt. Let me give a few examples of his having it both ways. But before I do

so, I had better analyse briefly his conception of the budget of the future. All revenue from liquor, tobacco and other forms of vice will be suppressed: excise duties on salt, kerosene and sugar and matches will be abolished: all import duties to be raised to a level when there are no imports and, consequently, no revenue: income-tax to be swept away in the lower ranges. At a guess I should say that we have now reduced our Central revenue to something like 20 crores. Now, we come to the expenditure side: first of all, we increase expenditure heavily on all the nation-building services, one of which appears to be to send all the urban unemployed into the villages to teach the cultivators agriculture—there was a certain vagueness about the figure here, but I think it was estimated that this would cost 250 crores. Taking these two together, we have probably made a difference of something like 100 crores to our budget. How are we going to get it back? Let me tell you. We knock 20 or 25 crores off the Army, we abandon the provision for reduction

An Honourable Member: Reduce your salaries.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: of debt, and we make certain increases in the upper ranges of the income-tax, the only point in which the two Leaders of the Congress Party are agreed is the one where they approached most nearly to orthodoxy. By these means we gather together some 30 crores and we are left with a deficit of only 70 crores. This we deal with in the manner of the Ostrich by burying our heads in the sand and saying that it does not exist. Truly, in the sphere of finance, Mr. Satyamurti is even more imaginative than Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant. Now, after that analysis, let us see what Mr. Satyamurti claims to do by his imaginative finance. He says that he will reduce the burdens on the poor. But how? First by sweeping away the excise duties on salt, kerosene and sugar. But he carefully leaves out of account the effect of his other proposals to increase the import duties on salt, sugar and everything else that the poor consume which are bound to cause an intolerable increase of their burdens and at the same time reduce the exchequer to bankruptcy. Then in order to make the assurance doubly sure we will, by currency manipulation, raise internal prices and so increase still further the cost of living of the poor. I know that he will say, and indeed his Leader has anticipated my argument and said it for him,—that it will at the same time increase their income but, as I have said over and over again, I have never known an inflationary movement that did not on balance leave the poor much worse off than before.

Sir, Mr. Satyamurti's method is typical of the early stages of all Extremist Left-Wing Parties. Knowing that they will never have to undertake the responsibility of carrying out their promises or putting their wild cat schemes into effect, they, with bacchanalian abandon, promise everything to everybody. They go on repeating chimerical and gargantuan suggestions in spite of the fact that it has been demonstrated over and over again that they would bring untold misery to the people, the people whom they claim to represent. They go on deceiving the people by telling them that they can all be made rich by a stroke of the pen and they jeer when more sober minded and responsible people ("Hear, hear" from the Congress Party Benches.)

Some Honourable Members: Like the Finance Member.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: . . . point out (*Voices:* "Responsible to the British Government") that making a poor country rich is a long and toilsome job. They go on expounding a programme which promises something to everybody irrespective of the fact that many of their promises are mutually destructive. In short, they go on promising, they go on and on, promising what they know to be impossible, secure in the knowledge that they will never have to attempt to implement their promises.

Mr. S. Satyamurti (Madras City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Wait and see—We will displace you soon.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: But let them reflect on, I think it was Abraham Lincoln's words—though it is a little risky to quote Abraham Lincoln in this House (Laughter)—"You can fool all of the people some of the time—" ("Hear, hear" from the Congress Party Benches); you can fool some of the people all of the time, but you cannot fool all the people all the time". ("Hear, hear" from the Congress Party Benches.) And this remark I commend to Mr. Desai especially, in spite of his evident dislike of anybody daring ever to question any of his opinions and in spite of his easy assumption that he alone is entitled to speak for India. (Cheers.)

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: Just one word of personal explanation, Sir. I owe it to my friend, Mr. Mody, that I spoke vehemently, and strongly objected to his views, but I never meant to be in the least personally offensive to him. I want him to accept it from me.

Mr. H. P. Mody: I accept this assurance of my Honourable friend, and, so far as he is concerned, the incident is at an end.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That the BCI to fix the duty on salt manufactured in, or imported by land into, certain parts of British India, to vary certain duties leviable under the Indian Tariff Act, 1934, to fix maximum rates of postage under the Indian Post Office Act, 1933, to fix rates of income-tax and super-tax, and to vary the excise duty on silver leviable under the Silver (Excise Duty) Act, 1930, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 26th March, 1935.