

Wednesday, 4th June, 1924

THE  
**COUNCIL OF STATE DEBATES**  
**(Official Report)**

**Volume IV, Parts II & III.**

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**( 27th May 1924 to 9th June 1924 )**

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**FOURTH SESSION**  
**OF THE**  
**COUNCIL OF STATE, 1924.**



CALCUTTA : GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
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1925

# **Council of State.**

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## ***The President :***

THE HONOURABLE SIR MONTAGU BUTLER, KT., C.B., C.I.E., C.V.O., C.B.E.

## ***Panel of Chairmen :***

THE HONOURABLE SIR MANECKJI DADABHOY, KT., C.I.E.

THE HONOURABLE SIR ZULFIQUAR ALI KHAN, KT., C.S.I.

THE HONOURABLE SIR ARTHUR FROOM, KT.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE V. S. SRINIVASA SASTRI, P.C.

## ***Secretary :***

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

## ***Assistants of the Secretary :***

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

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

## ***Committee on Petitions :***

THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIBOZE C. SETHNA, *Chairman.*

THE HONOURABLE MAHARAJA BAHADUR KESHAVA PRASAD SINGH,  
C.B.E., OF DUMRAON.

THE HONOURABLE COLONEL NAWAB SIR UMAR HAYAT KHAN, K.C.I.E.,  
C.B.E., M.V.O.

THE HONOURABLE SIR ANNAMALAI CHETTIYAR, KT.

THE HONOURABLE LALA SUKHBIR SINHA.

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# COUNCIL OF STATE.

*\*Wednesday, 4th June, 1924.*

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

## MEMBER SWORN.

THE HONOURABLE MR. KHAGENDRA NATH MITRA (Bengal : Nominated Official).

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

### THE COLONIES COMMITTEE.

238. THE HONOURABLE MR. R. P. KARANDIKAR : (a) How far has the work of the said Committee progressed ?

(b) Has the Secretary of State for the Colonies power to negotiate with or correspond with the Committee ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table the instructions of the Central Government to the Committee ?

(d) Is there any objection to allow the Right Honourable Srinivasa Sastri to be on the Committee ?

(e) What are the powers of the Committee ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR NARASIMHA SARMA : (a) The Committee have so far devoted themselves to a preliminary investigation of the question of restrictions on immigration into Kenya and will shortly make representations on the subject to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

(b) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the statement made by Mr. Baldwin at the last Imperial Conference on the subject. A copy of the statement will be found at page 55 of the pamphlet entitled " India and the Imperial Conference of 1923 ", of which a copy is placed on the table.

(c) The Government of India regret that they are unable to accede to the request of the Honourable Member for the reasons given by me in the statement which I made before this House on the 10th March last on the Right Honourable Srinivasa Sastri's Resolution to the same effect.

(d) The Government of India do not consider it necessary to add to the personnel of the Committee.

(e) The Honourable Member is referred to the Press Communiqué published on the 12th March 1924.

\* The previous meeting had originally been adjourned till Friday, the 30th May, 1924, but by subsequent order was fixed for this day.

**EQUALITY OF STATUS FOR INDIANS IN THE COLONIES AND IN  
FOREIGN COUNTRIES.**

239. **THE HONOURABLE MR. R. P. KARANDIKAR :** Will Government say how far have the endeavours of the Government of India gone towards achieving the establishment of the status of Indians as citizens of the British Empire on the footing of equality in the Colonies and foreign countries ?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR NARASIMHA SARMA :** In 1922 the Government of India deputed the Right Honourable Srinivasa Sastri to visit the Dominions of Australia, New Zealand and Canada, and at the Imperial Conference held in London in the autumn of 1923 the question of equality of status was again raised by Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru. A copy of the Right Honourable Srinivasa Sastri's report and of the discussion at the Imperial Conference, showing the progress so far made, is laid on the table. So far as foreign countries are concerned the matter is still the subject of diplomatic representations.

**THE REFORMS INQUIRY COMMITTEE.**

240. **THE HONOURABLE MR. R. P. KARANDIKAR :** (a) Did any correspondence pass between the Government of India and the Secretary of State on the point of ascertaining India's public opinion in respect of how to make it available to the Cabinet ?

(b) Had the Government been desired by the Home Government to see if Indian representatives could go to London to confer with the Government there on the subject of Reforms ?

(c) Are the Government willing to lay on the table their instructions to the Inquiry Committee ?

(d) In consulting the Central Legislative Members, is that to be restricted to Members of the Assembly, or does it apply also to the Members of the Council of State, in the matter of giving them an opportunity to express their views before the matter is forwarded to the Secretary of State ?

**THE HONOURABLE MR. J. CRERAR :** (a) and (b). The reply is in the negative.

(c) and (d) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the Communiqués issued on the 16th and 23rd instant—copies of which have already been placed on the table.

**THE TARIFF BOARD'S REPORT.**

241. **THE HONOURABLE MR. R. P. KARANDIKAR :** (a) When was a copy despatched from India to the Secretary of State for India ?

(b) Was any despatch sent to or received from the Secretary of State ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table the correspondence with the Secretary of State both before the Tariff Board drew up their report and since ?

(d) What is the total expense incurred in connection with the Tariff Board ?

• THE HONOURABLE MR. D. T. CHADWICK : (a) 15th March 1924.

(b) and (c) There has been some telegraphic correspondence between the Government of India and the Secretary of State. The Government do not propose to lay it on the table.

(d) The cost incurred in connection with the Tariff Board's inquiry regarding steel and sulphur is about 1·70 lakhs.

THE BOMBAY EXCISE COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

242. THE HONOURABLE MR. R. P. KARANDIKAR : (a) Have Government received a copy of the Report ?

(b) Have Government reviewed it and has there been any correspondence between the Local Government and the Central Government ?

(c) Have Government formed any views about the main recommendation of the declaration that the Excise policy of Government should be total extinction of the traffic as the goal ?

(d) Do Government wish to withhold their goal and leave the Local Government full liberty ?

(e) Do not Government contemplate laying down their progressive procedure how to meet the deficit due to the fruition of the goal of total extinction ?

(f) Were the official members of the Committee placed in possession of the views of the Government before they recorded their differing minutes ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. C. McWATTERS : (a) to (f) The report has just been received but there has been no time to review it. The other questions do not, therefore, arise at present.

THE HONOURABLE LALA SUKHBIR SINHA : Is the Honourable Member aware that in 1893-94 an all-India Drugs Commission submitted a report to Government and my father, the Honourable Rai Nihal Chand Bahadur, was a member of that Commission. He made a note of dissent on that report and recommended the abolition of excise duty altogether. Is the Honourable Member aware of that report and of that note of dissent ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. C. McWATTERS : I think I have seen it.

THE HONOURABLE LALA SUKHBIR SINHA : In that case I will request the Honourable Member kindly to look into the report before he decides the matter.

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. C. McWATTERS : Certainly.

ATTENDANTS OF POONA STUDENTS AT CAMPS.

243. THE HONOURABLE MR. R. P. KARANDIKAR : (a) Are Government aware that in 1922 owing to outbreak of plague in Poona, students in colleges there were allowed by the college authorities to leave the place about a fortnight before the date fixed for Camp ?

(b) Have Government modified the view that the students disobeyed orders by going to their homes instead of to Camp ?

(c) Are Government aware that for the Camp of 1922, no student was individually called up, but that the individual call refers to the year 1923, and that after the break up of Camp which was held at a suburb (Pashan) of Poona, the students were taken to the colleges in Poona itself? Are Government aware that the closing of the Camp is so timed as to synchronise with the vacation period of the colleges concerned, though the Camp commences when the colleges are in sessions?

(d) Are Government aware that the railway and such other concessions available to students leaving colleges for vacations in convenient groups and on convenient days are not always and necessarily available to students so returned to colleges from Camp?

(e) Did not the same case occur in 1923 in connection with the Agricultural College students?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: (a)—(e) The Government of India are inquiring into the matter, and I will inform the Honourable Member of the result of the inquiry.

#### ROAD ALLOWANCES OF INDIAN AND EUROPEAN OFFICERS OF THE UNIVERSITY TRAINING CORPS, BOMBAY.

244. THE HONOURABLE MR. R. P. KARANDIKAR: What has been the result of the consideration given to the road allowance question as between Indian officers and European officers of the University Training Corps, Bombay?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: This question will be referred to the Auxiliary and Territorial Force Committee, which is to assemble very shortly, and the Government of India do not, therefore, propose to take any action in the matter at present.

#### ATTACHMENT OF OFFICERS OF THE BOMBAY UNIVERSITY TRAINING CORPS TO REGULAR UNITS FOR PURPOSES OF INSTRUCTION.

245. THE HONOURABLE MR. R. P. KARANDIKAR: (a) Will Government be pleased to say if the two officers of the Bombay University Training Corps, who had applied to the Southern Command Headquarters to be attached to regular units for instruction, were given the option of specifying the units to which they wished to be attached, and were subsequently informed that their wishes could not be complied with for want of instructors, or were called upon to join the units where the instructors were available?

(b) Have any arrangements been made this year at least to attach the officers of the Corps to regular units for the purpose of instruction?

(c) Will it or will it not be also possible for Government to attach some of these officers to musketry schools, as at Satara, for undergoing a course of instruction in musketry?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: (a) The Government of India have no information on the point but are inquiring. I will let the Honourable Member know the result.

(b) No special arrangements have been made by Army Headquarters to attach officers of the University Training Corps to regular units for purposes of instruction. The matter is one for the local military authorities to deal with.

(c) No. It has not so far been possible to allot the funds that would be required for the purpose.

**SALUTING OF INDIAN OFFICERS BY BRITISH SOLDIERS.**

246. THE HONOURABLE MR. R. P. KARANDIKAR: Will Government be pleased to say whether it is not obligatory on the part of the members of the British units to pay the usual compliments to Indian officers with honorary King's Commission?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: This matter is governed by paragraph 903, King's Regulations, the precise interpretation of which is open to some doubt. The question is under examination.

**ACTION TAKEN ON RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE CENTRAL LEGISLATURE DURING THE DELHI SESSION OF 1924.**

247. THE HONOURABLE MR. R. P. KARANDIKAR: What action has been taken by the Government in respect of the several Resolutions moved and passed, either as moved or as modified, by this House, as well as by the Assembly, in the Delhi session of 1924?

THE HONOURABLE DR. MIAN SIR MUHAMMAD SHAFI: I lay on the table statements giving the information asked for by the Honourable Member.

*Statement showing the Resolutions adopted by the Council of State during the Delhi session 1924, and action taken by Government thereon.*

| Serial No. | Date on which moved. | By whom.                                | Subject of Resolution.  | Department concerned.        | Action taken by Government.  |
|------------|----------------------|---|---|------------------------------|--|
| 1          | 4th Feb. 1924.       | The Honourable Mr. Phiroze C. Sethna.   | Inquiry into the economic conditions of the people of India.                      | Education, Health and Lands. | The Local Governments have been consulted as to the desirability of undertaking the inquiry and asked whether they would be prepared to support the proposal for the appointment of a Committee and to co-operate in its labour, if appointed. |
| 2          | 5th Feb. 1924.       | The Honourable Sir Manekji B. Dadabhoj. | Award of the Nobel prize for peace to His Highness the Aga Khan.                  | Foreign and Political.       | A certified copy of the Resolution, together with a copy of the debate on the subject, was forwarded on the 11th April 1924 to the Secretary of the Nobel Committee of the Norwegian Parliament, for the information of that Committee.        |
| 3          | 11th Feb. 1924.      | The Honourable Mr. Phiroze C. Sethna.   | Mural paintings in Government buildings at Raisina.                               | Industries and Labour.       | No action has yet been taken as the work of mural paintings in the buildings in Raisina cannot yet be taken in hand.   |
| 4          | 12th Feb. 1924.      | The Honourable Mr. S. Veda-murti.       | Reconstitution of the New Capital Committee, Delhi, with a non-official majority. | Industries and Labour.       | The Resolution, as adopted, has been given effect to.  |



*Statement showing the Resolutions adopted by the Council of State during the Delhi session 1924, and action taken by Government thereon—contd.*

| Serial No. | Date on which moved.      | By whom.                              | Subject of Resolution.  | Department concerned.        | Action taken by Government.   |
|------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|------------------------------|---|
| 5          | 18th Feb. 1924.           | The Honourable Mr. S. Veda-murti.     | Substitution of a provident fund for the existing pension system.   | Finance ..                   | The matter will be considered after the Report of the Public Services Commission has been published.  |
| 6          | 5th March 1924.           | The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh. | Survey of irrigation possibilities and the organisation of power lift irrigation from wells.                                  | Industries and Labour.       | Copies of the Debates in the Council of State and of the Resolution have been forwarded to major Local Governments for their views before deciding what action, if any, is desirable.   |
| 7          | 10th & 12th March 1924.   | De. ..                                | Development of the sugar industry.  | Education, Health and Lands. | A copy of the Resolution, as adopted, was forwarded to all Local Governments and the Administration of the N.-W. F. P. for information and such action as might be considered necessary with the remark that the Government of India, who are interested in the question, would be glad to be kept informed of developments.                                      |
| 8          | 11th March 1924. ■        | The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar.         | Ratification of the International Convention for the suppression of the circulation of, and traffic in, obscene publications. | Home ..                      | Secretary of State has been informed that the Government of India agree that the Convention should be ratified on behalf of India, and Local Governments have been consulted on the amendments which will be necessary in the Indian Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code. It is proposed to undertake the necessary legislation in the September session.] |
| 9          | 18th March 1924.          | The Honourable Mr. A. H. Ley.         | Draft Convention of the International Labour Conference concerning the use of white lead in painting.                         | Industries and Labour.       | The Resolution adopted was forwarded on 22nd April 1924 to His Majesty's Under Secretary of State for India for communication to the Secretary General of the League of Nations.]   |
| 10         | 19th and 20th March 1924. | The Honourable Mr. G. A. Natesan.     | Restrictions and disabilities imposed on Indians in South Africa.   | Education, Health and Lands. | The gist of the Resolution was communicated in a cable to the Secretary of State for India on the 28th March 1924. The Class Areas Bill, which was the subject of discussion, has since lapsed owing to the dissolution of the Union Parliament.  |

*Statement showing Resolutions adopted by the Legislative Assembly during the Delhi session 1924, and action taken by Government thereon.*

| Serial No. | Date on which moved. | By whom.                | Subject of Resolution.   | Department concerned. | Action taken by Government.                                   |
|------------|----------------------|-------------------------|--|-----------------------|---|
| 1          | 5th Feb. 1924.       | Mr. B. Venkateswaraiah. | Amalgamation of the Indian Territorial Force with the Auxiliary Force. | Army ..               | A committee has been appointed and will assemble shortly.     |
| 2          | 7th Feb. 1924.       | Mr. K. C. Neogy         | Countervailing duty on South African coal.                             | Commerce              | The Government has as yet taken no action on this Resolution. |

*Statement showing Resolutions adopted by the Legislative Assembly during the Delhi session 1924, and action taken by Government thereon—contd.*

| Serial No. | Date on which moved.               | By whom.                           | Subject of Resolution.  | Department concerned.  | Action taken by Government.  |
|------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|------------------------|--|
| 3          | 5th, 8th, 13th and 18th Feb. 1924. | Diwan Bahadur T. Ranga-chariar.    | Full Self-Governing Dominion status for India.  | Home ..                | A copy of the Resolution adopted by the Assembly, together with the debates thereon, was communicated to the Secretary of State on the 6th March 1924. The subsequent action taken in conformity with the undertaking of the Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey given in the discussion of the Resolution has been announced in Communiqués which have been issued. |
| 4          | 12th Feb. 1924.                    | Mr. K. Ahmed                       | Answering of all questions in the Assembly regarding subjects over which Government of India have power of superintendence and control. | Home ..                | The question is under consideration.   |
| 5          | 12th Feb. 1924.                    | Haji Wajuddin                      | Measures for the convenience of Indian passengers.  | Railway ..             | A copy of the discussion on the subject in the Assembly was forwarded to all Railway Administrations for consideration.  |
| 6          | 14th Feb. 1924.                    | Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao.  | Assembly's approval in regard to certain contracts.   | Industries and Labour. | The Government of India have decided that they cannot be bound by the Resolution, but that should they consider it in the public interest to do so, they may at their discretion consult an appropriate committee of the Legislature before entering into a contract of the nature contemplated.   |
| 7          | 14th Feb. 1924.                    | Mr. M. A. Jinnah.                  | Purchase of stores  | Industries and Labour. | The matter is under consideration.   |
| 8          | 14th Feb. 1924.                    | Maulvi Mohammad Yakub.             | Greetings to the Labour Party.  | Home ..                | A copy of the Resolution adopted by the Assembly, together with the debates thereon, was duly communicated to the Secretary of State.  |
| 9          | 19th Feb. 1924.                    | Mr. V. J. Patel                    | Removal of restrictions in the way of Mr. B. G. Horniman to return to India.  | Home ..                | The Government of India have not been able to accept the recommendations contained in the Resolution. No action has accordingly been taken other than to report the result of the debate to the Secretary of State.  |
| 10         | 20th Feb. 1924.                    | Sardar Gulab Singh.                | Appointment of a Committee to inquire into the grievances of the Sikh community.  | Home ..                | Ditto.   |
| 11         | 26th Feb. 1924.                    | Sardar Kartar Singh.               | Release of Sardar Kharak Singh.   | Home ..                | In accordance with the undertaking given by the Honourable the Home Member during the debate, the Punjab Government were consulted and it has been decided that there are no grounds for interference at present.  |
| 12         | 26th Feb. 1924.                    | Mr. S. Sadiq Hasan.                | Release of Maulana Hasrat Mohani.   | Home ..                | The Governor General in Council has not accepted the recommendations made in the Resolution and no action has accordingly been taken thereon.  |
| 13         | 8th March 1924.                    | The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey. | Ratification of International Convention for suppression of obscene publications.   | Home ..                | Secretary of State has been informed that the Government of India agree that the Convention should be ratified on behalf of India, and Local Governments   |

*Statement showing Resolutions adopted by the Legislative Assembly during the Delhi session, 1924, and action taken by Government thereon—concluded.*

| Serial No.     | Date on which moved. | By whom.                           | Subject of Resolution.  | Department concerned. | Action taken by Government.  |
|----------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|---|-----------------------|--|
| 13 —<br>contd. | 8th March 1924.      | The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey. | Ratification of International Convention for suppression of obscene publications. | Home ..               | have been consulted on the amendment which will be necessary in the Indian Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code. It is proposed to undertake the necessary legislation in the September session.                         |
| 14             | 20th March 1924.     | Mr. Amar Nath Dutt.                | Repeal of Bengal Regulation III of 1918.  | Home ..               | For the reasons stated in the course of the debate, the Government of India have been unable to accept the Resolution and no action has been taken other than to communicate a report on the debate to the Secretary of State. |

#### OPIMUM AND LIQUOR TRAFFIC.

248. THE HONOURABLE MR. R. P. KARANDIKAR: Is it a fact that Lord Hardinge stated (on 21st September) in the Committee No. 5 on Opium (League of Nations) that the power to deal with the action of opium rested with bodies containing an effective majority of members elected by the people? If so,—

- (a) Can the Government of India say if His Lordship was referring to Advisory Committees in the several Provinces (except Assam) or the Legislative Councils in Provinces?
- (b) Is this control regarding opium extended to alcoholic drinks?
- (c) What steps are taken by the Government of India in laying down policy available in transferred and provincial subjects, to impress upon Local Governments the need for progressive restrictions on alcoholic drinks as well as opium?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. C. McWATTERS: (a) Yes. Lord Hardinge evidently referred to the Legislative Councils in the Provinces.

(b) It will be seen from item 16 in part 2 of Schedule I of the Devolution Rules that Excise, which includes the controlling of alcoholic liquor and other intoxicating drugs, is a provincial subject under the Minister, and the Provincial Legislature has the same control over other excise matters as over the internal consumption of opium.

(c) Under Rule 49 of the Devolution Rules it is not open to the Central Government to interfere in the administration of transferred subjects except to the extent indicated in that rule.

THE HONOURABLE DR. SIR DEVA PRASAD SARVADHIKARY: What is the residuum of powers and obligations left in the Central Government with regard to Excise which is a transferred provincial subject?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. C. McWATTERS: As I have just stated it is defined in rule 49 of the Devolution Rules. The power is limited, as the Honourable Member no doubt knows, "to safeguard the administration of

Central subjects, to decide questions arising between two provinces in cases where the provinces concerned fail to arrive at an agreement, and to safeguard the due exercise and performance" of certain defined powers which are imposed on the Governor General in Council under certain specified sections of the Government of India Act.

**THE HONOURABLE DR. SIR DEVA PRASAD SARVADHIKARY :** My question is directed to this. What is the net result of the interpretation of that rule made by the Governor General in Council ?

**THE HONOURABLE MR. A. C. McWATTERS :** The net result, I think, is that it leaves the Provinces a fairly free hand.

#### **THE BRITISH GUIANA COLONISATION SCHEME.**

**249. THE HONOURABLE MR. R. P. KARANDIKAR :** (a) Is the colonisation scheme for British Guiana to take place on labour or service scheme for the benefit of the colony concerned ?

(b) Is it under contemplation to consider the whole emigration question and recast the Indian law on the point ?

(c) What are the powers of the Immigration Committee and what is the work expected of it ?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR NARASIMHA SARMA :** (a) The Honourable Member is in possession of the scheme put forward by Sir J. Nunan and his colleagues and can form his own conclusions. As he is aware, the matter is still under consideration by the Standing Committee on Emigration of the two Houses of the Legislature.

(b) The reply is in the negative.

(c) The Honourable Member is referred to the rules issued with the Government of India, Education, Health and Lands Department Notification No. 114 (Overseas), dated the 7th February, 1924.

#### **ACCOMMODATION FOR HAJ PILGRIMS IN BOMBAY.**

**250. THE HONOURABLE DR. SIR DEVA PRASAD SARVADHIKARY :** (a) Has the attention of the Government been called to the report of the Protector of Emigrants at Bombay about the inadequacy of accommodation for Haj pilgrims there and consequent hardship and disease ?

(b) Would the Government please state what steps they propose to take and when for removing the state of affairs ?

(c) Would the Government please state if any assistance has been received from the public for dealing with the situation ?

(d) Would the Government please state what funds are available for relieving the distress of the emigrants and how such funds can be supplemented ?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR NARASIMHA SARMA :** (a) Yes. The Honourable Member is presumably referring to the report of the Protector of Pilgrims.

(b) The pilgrim traffic in 1923 was abnormally high and the question of relieving the congestion at Bombay by opening other ports to pilgrim traffic is receiving the consideration of Government.

(c) Yes. During the last pilgrim season certain gentlemen in Bombay placed houses at the disposal of the Protector of Pilgrims for the accommodation of pilgrims and provided tarpaulin shelters outside the Carnac Road *Musafirkhana*.

(d) The Government of India have no information.

#### PRICE OF SACCHARINE.

251. THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: Is it a fact that the customs duty on Saccharine is Rs. 20 per lb., and that Saccharine is sold in Bombay and at other places in India at as low a rate as Rs. 9 to Rs. 12 per lb.?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. C. McWATTERS: Yes, reports have reached Government to a similar effect.

#### SMUGGLING OF SACCHARINE INTO INDIA.

252. THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that—

- (a) Saccharine is smuggled into India without payment of any duty at all, or
- (b) smuggled into India from places like Pondicherry and Singapore where the duty is at a much lower rate and on the invoice value; and
- (c) what steps they have taken or propose to take to ensure the correct amount of customs duty being paid?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. C. McWATTERS: (a) and (b). Both the possibilities referred to by the Honourable Member are fair inferences from the fact that saccharine is reported to be sold at a price lower than the duty.

(c) All possible steps within the capacity of the existing preventive staff are being taken, but it would not be in the public interest to divulge the details of the arrangements.

#### RECENT RIOTS IN BRITISH GUINANA.

253. THE HONOURABLE MR. G. A. NATESAN: (a) Have the Government received any official information regarding the recent riots in British Guiana in which a number of Indians were fired at, wounded and killed?

(b) Are the Government aware that the British Guiana Government have not yet given to Indian emigrants reduced return passages, and that insistence on the full rate prevents many Indians from returning and is alleged to be one of the reasons for the riot?

THE HONOURABLE SIR NARASIMHA SARMA: An inquiry into the circumstances of the riot has been ordered by the British Guiana Government and began on the 7th April. The results of this inquiry have not yet been communicated to the Government of India, and it is not possible, therefore, to give an authoritative version of the causes of the riot and all the incidents

connected with it. From information which has so far been received it would appear that there was a strike of wharf labourers in George Town on the 31st March and that on the following day there was disorder in the city. The authorities restored order, but to prevent recurrence of trouble issued a proclamation prohibiting assemblies and crowds. The events of the 1st April produced excitement among Indian labourers on the plantations across the river among whom there was evidently dissatisfaction with regard to the wages they were receiving. There was some trouble on the 2nd April but the situation was well in hand. On the 3rd a large crowd composed mainly of Indians and some negroes and including men, women and children marched in procession towards George Town. They were stopped at Penitence Bridge and asked to disperse. The authorities, however, offered to let a deputation of five Indians and five negroes enter the town. The crowd, it is understood, would not disperse. The Riot Act was read but evidently without effect, and the police were attacked with stones and sticks. It would appear that a crowd had also collected at the rear of the police in the town, and finding themselves menaced both in front and behind the police opened fire. 11 Indians and 1 negro were killed and 16 Indians and five negroes were wounded. Among the killed were 2 women and a boy of 15.

A Commission to inquire into and report on the conditions of employment and rates of wages paid to stevedores, wharfmen and other labourers engaged in the loading and unloading of vessels has also been appointed.

THE HONOURABLE MR. G. A. NATESAN: Is the Honourable Member aware that it is distinctly alleged that one of the causes of the riots referred to recently is due to the very low wages that Indians are getting there?

THE HONOURABLE SIR NARASIMHA SARMA: It would seem that some time ago, somewhere about December 1923, it was represented to the Government that there was a fair margin of 25 per cent. above the cost of living. The British Guiana Government have had no definite representations made to them before the riots with regard to the inadequacy of the wages, but from the information that the Government of India have it would appear that there was dissatisfaction, as I have already stated, as to the adequacy of the wages and that seems to have been one of the causes of the arrangement of this procession which led to these unfortunate results.

THE HONOURABLE MR. G. A. NATESAN: Is the Honourable Member aware, apart from the question of very low wages, that people are finding it exceedingly difficult to return to India as the cost of passages has risen considerably and according to the agreement arrived at the authorities will not give the people the lower rate of passage which they are entitled to?

THE HONOURABLE SIR NARASIMHA SARMA: It is true that the cost of passages had risen recently, but the Government of India cannot agree with the statement that the British Guiana Government are not doing their duty in providing facilities for repatriation in the manner suggested.

THE HONOURABLE MR. G. A. NATESAN: Is the Honourable Member aware that there have been complaints by the Indians that the British Guiana authorities are putting a strange interpretation on the clause regarding their

duty to help to repatriate at the rate at which they were originally taken there.

THE HONOURABLE SIR NARASIMHA SARMA : There is evidently a difference of opinion as to the construction that ought to be placed upon the original rules and some dissatisfaction has been expressed. The Government of India will try to ascertain what the exact position is at present.

THE HONOURABLE MR. G. A. NATESAN : One more supplementary question, Sir. Are the Government of India aware that very recently one of the leading English newspapers in British Guiana named the "Chronicle" has published a report that the Indian Association at a public meeting held under the presidency of the Deputy Mayor have declared that they are strongly opposed to emigration in view of the recent riots and fall in wages and the difficulty of finding steamers to get back to India.

THE HONOURABLE SIR NARASIMHA SARMA : The Government of India's attention has not been drawn to that report and they would be obliged if the Honourable Member will furnish them with a copy.

THE HONOURABLE MR. G. A. NATESAN : I have got a telegram on the subject.

THE HONOURABLE SIR DR. DEVA PRASAD SARVADHIKARY : Has not the whole subject of wages and allied matters which is raised in these questions been considered recently by the departmental committee, the duty of which is to consider these matters? If so, what has been the result? How does that reflect on the question of further facilities for emigration that the British Guiana deputation sought for recently?

THE HONOURABLE SIR NARASIMHA SARMA : The question was investigated by the Standing Emigration Committee, and a recommendation has been made to the Government of India that an officer should be deputed to British Guiana to ascertain the exact position with regard to wages, with regard to sanitary conditions and the improvements that are being effected in the Colony by the Government. The Government of India have reached no conclusion on the subject and would not and cannot proceed in the matter further unless they know the result of the inquiry into the causes of riots which is being instituted at the instance of the British Guiana Government.

THE HONOURABLE SAIYID RAZA ALI : As regards the reply of the Honourable Member to part (a) of Mr. Natesan's question No. 253, namely, that a Commission had been appointed (but its report has not been received) to inquire into the causes of the riot, will the Honourable Member be pleased to state as to wherefrom he has got the information on the basis of which he gave some of the facts to this Council relating to the said riot?

THE HONOURABLE SIR NARASIMHA SARMA : A preliminary report has been furnished to the Colonial Office by the Government of British Guiana. It was communicated to the India Office who communicated it to the Government of India and I have based my statements on the strength of that communication. The Government have stated that an inquiry is being instituted

and certainly therefore we shall have to await the results of the inquiry in order to ascertain really what the facts were.

**THE HONOURABLE DR. SIR DEVA PRASAD SARVADHIKARY :** Is the House to understand that no earlier and more direct news about this riot was available except through the Colonial Office and the India Office.

**THE HONOURABLE SIR NARASIMHA SARMA :** The Government of India have no other means of ascertaining as to what took place in that Colony except through the India Office and the Colonial Office.

#### TANGANYIKA ORDINANCES

**254. THE HONOURABLE MR. G. A. NATESAN :** (a) Have Government received any representations from the Indian Association, Dar-es-Salaam, regarding the hardships caused by three trade Ordinances recently enacted ?

(b) Have the Government made any representations to the authorities concerned regarding the grievances mentioned by the Indian Association ?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR NARASIMHA SARMA :** (a) The reply is in the affirmative. (b) The Government of India made representations last year and the Traders Licensing Ordinance has been amended to the extent that Traders whose profits do not exceed 3000\$ a year have been exempted from the obligation to maintain accounts in English or Swahili, while as regards other traders the obligation will not be enforced before three years from the commencement of the Ordinance. The question of making further representations is under consideration.

#### THE TANGANYIKA TRADERS LICENSING ORDINANCE.

**255. THE HONOURABLE MR. G. A. NATESAN :** Are the Government aware that Indian merchants in Tanganyika are compelled to keep their accounts in French or English or Swahili and not in Gujarati as hitherto, and that this Ordinance inflicts serious hardship on them ?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR NARASIMHA SARMA :** The Honourable Member is referred to the answer to his previous question.

#### GRIEVANCES OF INDIANS IN TANGANYIKA.

**256. THE HONOURABLE MR. G. A. NATESAN :** Have Government been requested by the Indian Association, Tanganyika, to send the Indian Colonies Committee to that territory for studying the grievances of the Indian community on the spot ? Will Government kindly state what action they propose to take in the matter ?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR NARASIMHA SARMA :** The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. Government do not intend to take any action on the request at present.

#### GRIEVANCES OF INDIANS IN NATAL.

**257. THE HONOURABLE MR. G. A. NATESAN :** Are Government aware that very recently attempts have been made in the Natal Provincial Council



to refuse to Indians any further licenses or purchases of land? Will the Government take early steps to ascertain the exact nature of the proposals and make efforts to see that the interests of the Indians there and their vested rights are carefully safeguarded?

THE HONOURABLE SIR NARASIMHA SARMA: The Government have no information on the subject but will make inquiries.

THE HONOURABLE MR. G. A. NATESAN: Will the Honourable Member kindly state what action has been taken by the Government of India in regard to the Resolution on the Class Areas Bill which was unanimously passed at the last session of the Council of State?

THE HONOURABLE SIR NARASIMHA SARMA: The only action could be for the Government of India to bring it to the notice of the proper authorities for the purpose of securing the redress which India wants.

THE HONOURABLE MR. G. A. NATESAN: May I ask whether the Government of India have received any reply in reply to the representation to the authorities concerned.

THE HONOURABLE SIR NARASIMHA SARMA: So far there is nothing useful that I can communicate to the Council.

#### SIR H. LUGARD'S SCHEME *re* THE KENYA HIGHLANDS.

258. THE HONOURABLE MR. G. A. NATESAN: Are the Government of India aware of the correspondence that has passed between the India Office and the Colonial Office concerning Sir H. Lugard's scheme about the Kenya Highlands?

THE HONOURABLE SIR NARASIMHA SARMA: The reply is in the negative.

#### POLL-TAX IN FIJI.

259. THE HONOURABLE MR. G. A. NATESAN: (a) Are the Government of India aware that the poll-tax in Fiji falls most heavily on the poorer classes of Indians?

(b) Have the Government any news as to whether Indians in Fiji are refusing to pay the poll-tax?

THE HONOURABLE SIR NARASIMHA SARMA: The reply to (a) is in the affirmative and to (b) is in the negative.

#### ABOLITION OF THE SUGAR-TAX IN FIJI.

260. THE HONOURABLE MR. G. A. NATESAN: Are the Government of India aware that the sugar-tax of five shillings per ton has been abolished, by which act the sugar companies have been relieved of £58,000 a year taxation?

THE HONOURABLE SIR NARASIMHA SARMA: The Government of India have received no official information on the subject.

THE HONOURABLE SAIYID RAZA ALI: Will the Government of India be pleased to acquaint themselves with the subject-matter of this question? Will they make inquiries?

THE HONOURABLE SIR NARASIMHA SARMA: They had sufficient information at their disposal to make the necessary representations to the authorities concerned, and I do not see that the Government of India can do anything further at present to effect the object the Honourable Member has in view.

THE HONOURABLE SAIYID RAZA ALI: Did they make any representations in this connection on a former occasion?

THE HONOURABLE SIR NARASIMHA SARMA: Numerous representations on the question of the poll-tax which is the subject-matter of this question.

PROPOSED RESTRICTION OF INDIAN IMMIGRATION INTO SOUTH RHODESIA.

261. THE HONOURABLE MR. G. A. NATESAN: Have the Government of India any information as to the proposed restriction of Indian immigration into South Rhodesia as outlined in a recent speech of the Governor, Sir Charles Coghland? If so, what action do the Government of India propose to take in the matter?

THE HONOURABLE SIR NARASIMHA SARMA: The Government of India have no information apart from what has appeared in the Press. They intend to await developments.

EMIGRATION TO EAST AFRICA.

262. THE HONOURABLE MR. G. A. NATESAN: Will the Government of India give figures of Indians going out as deck passengers by the B. I. S. N. steamers from Bombay and Porbunder during each year from 1919 to 1924 to Mombasa and returning each year from Mombasa?

THE HONOURABLE SIR NARASIMHA SARMA: A statement is laid on the table.

*Statement showing the number of deck passengers who travelled from Bombay or Porbunder to Mombassa and back during the years 1919 to 1924.*

| Year.                 |    |    |    |    | No. of passengers from Bombay or Porbunder to Mombassa. | No. of passengers from Mombassa to Bombay or Porbunder. |
|-----------------------|----|----|----|----|---|---|
| 1919                  | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4049  | 2844  |
| 1920                  | .. | .. | .. | .. | 5758  | 3887  |
| 1921                  | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1925  | 5618  |
| 1922                  | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3116  | 3999  |
| 1923                  | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4140  | 3753  |
| 1924                  | .. | .. | .. | .. | 575   | 658   |
| (January to February) |    |    |    |    |   |   |
| Total                 |    |    |    |    | 19,563  | 20,759  |

THE HONOURABLE DR. SIR DEVA PRASAD SARVADHIKARY: Sir, as regards question No. 263, in view of the answer to my supplementary question on the last occasion I do not think any useful purpose will be served by asking this question at this stage.

Question No. 264 has also been partly answered on a previous occasion. But if the Honourable Member has any statement to make as to when this House is likely to have an opportunity of discussing the question I shall be glad of it.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: The Honourable Member must decide whether to put the question or not.

THE HONOURABLE DR. SIR DEVA PRASAD SARVADHIKARY: That is my question. Question 264 (a) has I believe already been answered by the Honourable Mr. Crerar and I would ask question 264 (b).

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. CRERAR: I think, Sir, it would be more convenient to the House if I answered the question in its original form, if the Honourable Member will be good enough to ask it in that form.

THE HONOURABLE DR. SIR DEVA PRASAD SARVADHIKARY: Very well, Sir, then I will ask question No. 264.

#### THE SLEEPER CONTRACT COMMITTEE.

263.\*                   \*                   \*                   \*                   \*                   \*                   \*

#### DISCUSSION OF THE LEE COMMISSION'S REPORT IN THE COUNCIL OF STATE.

264. THE HONOURABLE DR. SIR DEVA PRASAD SARVADHIKARY: (a) Has the attention of the Government been called to the statement of Mr. Richards in the House of Commons that no orders would be passed on the Lee Commission's Report without the Report being discussed in the Legislative Assembly?

(b) Would the Government be pleased to state if and when the Council of State would have an opportunity of discussing the Report before orders are passed?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. CRERAR: Government have seen the statement referred to, the precise terms of which are as follows:—

(a) To ask the Under Secretary of State for India whether it is intended to comply with the wish expressed in the Indian Legislative Assembly that the report of the Lee Commission should be published simultaneously in India and England and that no orders thereon should be passed without the report being discussed in the Assembly. The answer to both parts of the question is in the affirmative.

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\*THE HONOURABLE DR. SIR DEVA PRASAD SARVADHIKARY: (a) Would the Government please lay on the table the terms of reference to the Committee?

(b) Would the Government please state what evidence the Committee is authorised and allowed to take?

(c) Will non-official evidence be taken and allowed? If the answer be in the negative, would Government please state why non-official evidence will not be allowed to be taken?

(b) As already announced Government are anxious to obtain the views of the Legislature at the earliest possible date, and if any Honourable Member desires to move a Resolution, they will be glad to give an opportunity for discussion.

### STATEMENT LAID ON THE TABLE.

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. P. THOMPSON: (POLITICAL SECRETARY): Sir, I lay on the table the information promised in reply to question No. 54(b) asked by the Honourable Mr. Phiroze C. Sethna on the 11th February 1924 regarding contributions, if any, made by the Government of India to the Consular Service maintained by England in various countries.

*Statement to be laid on the table during the ensuing session of the Council of State.*

The following contributions are made by the Government of India towards the Consular Service maintained by England in various countries:—

- (a) *In Persia*.—A moiety of the total annual cost.
- (b) *In China*.—A lump sum of £12,500 annually which covers a contribution to diplomatic expenditure, a contribution of £475 annually towards the cost of the Tenguyeh establishment and the whole cost of the establishment at Kashgar.
- (c) *In Afghanistan*.—The whole cost.
- (d) *In Siam*.—A lump sum of £1,320 annually, plus a moiety of the charges in connection with buildings and works, for Chiengmai, and a moiety of the total annual cost in the case of Nakawn Lampang (Lakhon).
- (e) *In Arabia*.—The whole cost of the Consulate and Political Agency at Muskat, with the exception of a small expenditure in connection with the slave trade which is divisible with His Majesty's Government, and the whole cost of the Indian Vice-Consul at Jeddah. The pay of the Consul and his establishment at Jeddah is met by His Majesty's Government.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT AND THE HONOURABLE THE REVEREND DR. E. M. MACPHAIL ON BIRTHDAY HONOURS CONFERRED ON THEM.

THE HONOURABLE DR. MIAN SIR MUHAMMAD SHAFI (Law Member): Sir, in past years it has been customary for the President, twice every year to offer the congratulations of this House to those of its Members who were recipients of honours in the New Year and King's Birthday Honours List. On this occasion, for obvious reasons, your natural modesty, Sir, makes it impossible for you to perform that pleasant duty. In these circumstances, with your permission, as Leader of the House I will for once perform that pleasant task.

Sir, we all, officials as well as non-officials, in this House received with the utmost pleasure the announcement that His Majesty the King-Emperor had been pleased to confer the honour of Knighthood on you. It is in the fitness of things that a public servant of your long and distinguished career should, on his appointment as President of the Council of State, have received that honour. Indeed in honouring you His Majesty has honoured the House.

[Dr. Mian Sir Muhammad Shafi.]

To the Reverend Mr. Macphail I desire to offer the congratulations of this House on the well-merited Companionship of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire which has been conferred upon him. His services to the cause of Indian education in general and as Vice Chancellor of the Madras University are well known to all Honourable Members, and it has given us all very great pleasure indeed that they have been appreciated in this signal manner. (Applause).

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Sir Muhammad Shafi, I thank you once more for your kind remarks about myself, and the House too for the kind way in which they have received those remarks. I have also to thank you all for the consideration you have shown me in curtailing these proceedings, and thus sparing my blushes. As a matter of fact, I do not see why in this particular case we need have departed from precedent, because I know very well that the honour which has been conferred on me is not due to any personal merit of my own, but is a recognition of the position which the Council of State holds, and is therefore an honour paid to the Council rather than to myself. Had it been left to me to speak I should have said things about the Council which would have called forth its blushes (Laughter).

Before I sit down I should like to associate myself with what Sir Muhammad Shafi has said about the Honourable Dr. Macphail. I think we have all felt that this Council has received additional weight by having amongst its Members one so well known for his learning and his real goodness of heart. (Applause).

THE HONOURABLE THE REVEREND DR. E. M. MACPHAIL (Madras : Nominated Non-official). Mr. President, I wish to thank the Leader of the House and yourself and all the Members very heartily indeed for the extremely kind things they have said about me and for the extremely pleasant way in which they have been received. I do not feel that I need say anything more, but simply thank you very heartily indeed.

## RESOLUTION *RE* REMOVAL OF THE IMPORT DUTY ON SULPHUR.

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. T. CHADWICK (Secretary, Commerce): Sir, I beg to move the following Resolution:—

“ This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council to accept the recommendation of the Tariff Board that the import duty on sulphur be removed ”.

Sir, in effect I am now inviting the House to endorse one of the findings of the Tariff Board. I think the existence of a Tariff Board is within the cognizance of everybody here. But this is the first time on which any one of its activities is being brought definitely before this Council for their consideration. This House will remember that a little over a year ago the Legislative Assembly passed a Resolution which was accepted by the Governor General in Council that the fiscal policy of India should be adapted in principle to the fostering of industries under certain safeguards and provided it was done with discrimination. Amongst those safeguards which are important for our purpose to-day were two: one, that in making any recommendation

due regard should be had to the dependence of the Government of India revenues on customs excise, export and import duties, and the other, due regard to the well-being of the community. The first industry which was referred to the Tariff Board, a body organized to make inquiries to give effect to such policy, was steel; and obviously one of the very first things that came up was the question of the cost of manufacture of steel. Many of my friends know that little coal is suitable for direct use in blast furnaces, and much of it has first to be turned into coke. In the course of making coke, a considerable amount of waste material of much potential industrial value is obtained, e.g., tar, waste gases. Due and proper economy in manufacture entails that as much use of these by-products should be made as possible, and one of the cheapest and one of the easiest to utilize the waste gas is to manufacture ammonia sulphate by means of treating it with sulphuric acid. It is in that way that this question of sulphur became germane to the inquiry that the Tariff Board was conducting into the steel industry. This Resolution, however, is not put before the House merely as a request from the steel industry. Later in this week we shall probably have to consider other requests from the steel industry and much more definitely connected with steel. This has a wider support. Many applications have been received by Government from several firms, from some coal raising firms who were manufacturing coke and from others asking that this import duty on sulphur, which the House knows is 15 per cent. *ad valorem*, should be removed. Therefore, Government thought that it was advisable to refer this subsidiary question of sulphur to the Tariff Board at once. The Tariff Board unhesitatingly recommend that sulphur should be transferred to the free list. In such cases the mere fact that all the witnesses who gave evidence before the Tariff Board were in favour of the removal of the duty should carry very little weight with this House. Everybody is interested to get his own burden of taxes to which he is liable reduced. I would gladly see the taxes which I now pay removed; but the point the House has to consider, is, did these applicants for remission make a good case? The Government consider that the case for removal of this sulphur duty is a good one on its merits. In the first place, while all the sulphur used in India is imported into this country chiefly from Japan, Italy, and the United States, it all, except for a small portion which is used for medicinal purposes, goes directly into industry. I claim that tea cultivation is an industry. It goes into chemical manufactures, it is utilized in coke making, in making sulphur ammonia, while flowers of sulphur are also used on tea gardens as an insecticide to keep down insect pests. In most other countries, practically all, even including those which have high protective tariffs, sulphur is admitted free. There is one country which has an import duty at all comparable to our level, and that is Japan which levies an import duty of 20 per cent. *ad valorem* as compared with 15 per cent. *ad valorem* in India, but Japan has its own local resources of sulphur. It is usually said—I do not say with what truth or correctness—that the degree of industrial development in a country can be judged by the amount of sulphuric acid which is consumed in its industries, so largely does sulphuric acid enter into different industrial processes. The imports of sulphur into India have been slowly increasing. Before the war we were importing about 6,000 tons, now we are importing about 12,000, and this import duty of 15 per cent. makes a difference of about 7 per cent. in the cost of sulphuric acid,

[Mr. D. T. Chadwick.]

I do not for a minute suggest that if this duty of 15 per cent. were removed there is going to be a boom in industries in India. But with an article such as this which goes into wide use, it is advisable to do everything I think we can to encourage its importation. All the industrial arguments are in favour of the free import of sulphur. At the same time we must remember that in accepting any recommendation to place sulphur on the free list, we have due regard to the fact that the revenues of the Government of India are so dependent on import and export duties and excise duties. The revenue obtained from the import of sulphur is about 2 lakhs a year, and it is one that has only increased slowly. I am glad to say my friends in the Finance Department, who have rightly and naturally to be careful and look very closely at any plausible arguments for getting away from taxation, have, after weighing fully the merits of this case, decided that they could well forego that small amount in order to allow the freer import of a commodity which is so widely used and goes into so many different industrial purposes. I therefore recommend to the House that in this case we accept the recommendation of the Tariff Board, and that all sulphur be transferred to the free list ; that is, it be excused from the present duty of 15 per cent. *ad valorem*.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HAROON JAFFER (Bombay Presidency : Muhummadan) : Sir, it gives me great pleasure to support the Resolution moved by my Honourable friend, Mr. Chadwick. The fact that the Government of India have accepted the recommendations of the Tariff Board and come before the Legislature for its sanction is, to my mind, very encouraging. It is significant of the important change that has taken place in the attitude and the policy of Government.

It is no doubt true that the loss of revenue to the Government treasury owing to the removal of the import duty on sulphur is negligible, but it is the principle underlying the step Government are taking that is of the utmost importance. Government are giving practical proof, however belated, of their desire to encourage the indigenous industries of India by removing obstacles from their path, and are prepared even to sacrifice revenue for the attainment of the object. It is a universally accepted principle that the raw materials of industry should not be burdened with the weight of duties that will increase the cost of production of manufactured goods. Sulphur is admitted to be an important raw material of many valuable industries, and it is in the fitness of things that the duty on its imports, against which our manufacturers have long complained and protested, should be taken off.

I therefore heartily congratulate Government on the welcome step they are taking and strongly support the Resolution moved by the Honourable Mr. Chadwick.

THE HONOURABLE MR. LALUBHAI SAMALDAS (Bombay : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, I also rise to support the motion made by my Honourable friend, Mr. Chadwick. This is the first time that this House has had the opportunity of discussing a recommendation of the Tariff Board. If I remember aright, the recommendation made by the Fiscal Commission comes before us for the first time. We ought to be thankful to Government

for bringing this matter up before this House first, instead of taking it to the other place. Sir, as my Honourable friend, Mr. Haroon Jaffer said, this Resolution shows that the Government of India have now given up the *laissez faire* attitude of the past as regards their fiscal policy, and are now in right earnest to help industries, and in industries I include the largest industry in India, I mean the agricultural industry.

As regards the use of sulphate of ammonia, my Honourable friend, Mr. Chadwick, referred to the industrial side of it. If the House will permit me, I would like to refer to the advantages that would accrue to agriculture by the use of sulphate of ammonia as an artificial manure. The Tariff Board's Report says that as a rule very little sulphate of ammonia or super-phosphates are used as fertilizers for agricultural purposes. I am happy to say that in my province and in the Deccan a large amount of sulphate of ammonia is being used, and not only is the sulphate of ammonia produced in India sold there, but sometime back the World Federation of Sulphate of Ammonia sent their agents to the Deccan to push on the sales there. What is necessary, Sir, is that my friends from the Punjab, for instance, or the United Provinces, who are keenly interested in agriculture, should carry on real propagandist work for the use of sulphate of ammonia and super-phosphates as fertilizers for agriculture. Not only as an industrialist but as one keenly interested in agriculture, I support this Resolution moved by my Honourable friend, Mr. Chadwick.

THE HONOURABLE COLONEL NAWAB SIR UMAR HAYAT KHAN (West Punjab: Muhammadan): On behalf of the zamindars, I rise to support the Resolution, especially when the outturn of our lands is decreasing and the Government dues are increasing. In our present condition we have to think of such things as manures, and perhaps this Resolution may save the zamindars. So I support it.

THE HONOURABLE DR. SIR DEVA PRASAD SARVADHIKARY (West Bengal: Non-Muhammadan): From the point of view put forward by the last two speakers particularly, I desire to associate myself with the smooth carriage of this Resolution in the House. Sir, when the question of discriminating protection came up in another House, I took upon myself to say that if protection was really bad for agriculture I should not have it at any price. That is a position to which I still adhere, and from that point of view and considering how beneficial this first act of the Government of India under the advice of the Tariff Board is to be, I wholeheartedly support this Resolution. The Tariff Board has brought out the fact, which is very much felt in Bengal of all the provinces on account of its poverty, that it is unfortunate that only a small portion of India's production of valuable chemical manures is consumed in the country, and that is because we cannot pay the present prices. The prices will or ought to come down by the removal of the duty on sulphur. There is something more that has not been brought out in the report of the Committee, namely, bone dust which is used as manure under advice of the Agricultural Department without due admixture of sulphur not only does not help agriculture but really hurts it. From all these points of view and from the point of view of facilities for the manufacture of heavy chemicals for which India is well fitted, the Government have done well to take the first step in



[Dr. Sir D. P. Sarvadhikary.]

this matter promptly and this House may congratulate itself that, while elsewhere large discussions are going on about more definite pronouncements of the Tariff Board, this Resolution, if adopted, will be the first feather in the cap of this House in the matter of proclaiming and fixing down really discriminating protection without which no industry under present conditions can succeed in India. It is supposed to be the first axiom of constitutional principles in some countries that the King can do no wrong. It has unfortunately become the constitutional principle with certain sections of our friends here that the Government of India can do no right. Let us give the Government of India all credit when they take their courage in both hands in spite of the Honourable Mr. Chadwick's neighbourhood of the Honourable Mr. McWatters and are prepared to make sacrifices without looking for *quid pro quo* and see that needful protection is given so that the industry and agriculture of the country may thrive.

THE HONOURABLE SIRDAR CHARANJIT SINGH (Punjab: Nominated Non-official): Sir, I strongly support the Resolution which has been so ably moved by my Honourable friend, Mr. Chadwick. It is quite clear from the Report of the Tariff Board that the removal of duty on sulphur will be beneficial, not only to a large number of industries, but also to agriculture. The loss to revenue will be only about Rs. 2 lakhs, whilst the advantages which will be derived by the removal of this duty on sulphur will considerably outweigh this small loss. I therefore support the Resolution.

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. T. CHADWICK: I am very glad to find that the House is so unanimous on this Resolution and I do not think that it requires any more words from me to recommend its acceptance to this Council.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: The question is:

"That this Council recommends to the Governor General in Council to accept the recommendation of the Tariff Board that the import duty on Sulphur be removed".

The motion was adopted.

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## STATEMENT OF BUSINESS FOR THURSDAY, THE 5TH JUNE, 1924.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Has the Honourable the Leader of the House any statement to make about the course of public business?

THE HONOURABLE DR. MIAN SIR MUHAMMAD SHAFI: Sir, the only item of official business which remains to be brought before the Council of State is the Steel Industry (Protection) Bill, which is now pending before the Legislative Assembly. It is hoped that the Bill will be passed by that Chamber to-day, and it is suggested that you may be pleased to direct that a further meeting of this Council may be held to-morrow for the purpose of laying the Bill on the table. I may mention that on the Bill being laid, the Honourable Mr. Chadwick will, under Rule 26, give notice of his intention to move that the Bill be taken into consideration, and in doing so, will intimate that, while

Government will be prepared to proceed with the Bill forthwith, they have no desire whatever to deprive Honourable Members of an opportunity of considering the Bill at leisure and will leave it entirely to you, Sir, to decide, after taking the sense of Honourable Members, whether the three days' interval prescribed by Rule 27 should or should not be waived.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : Rule 27 runs as follows :

“ On the day on which the motion is set down in the list of business which shall, unless the President otherwise directs, be not less than three days from the receipt of the notice, the Member giving notice may move that the Bill be taken into consideration ”.

When the matter comes up to-morrow for consideration, it should be understood that, unless I am moved to direct that the Bill be taken into consideration earlier, it will be taken into consideration after three days. Therefore, if it is the desire of the House that we should take the Bill into consideration earlier, I should be moved accordingly. I will then consider the matter. The Council will now stand adjourned till 11 A.M. to-morrow.

The Council then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 5th June, 1924.