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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

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OF THE

THIRD LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,

1927



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, 25th August, 1927.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President in the Chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

APPOINTMENT OF AGENTS IN COLONIES OTHER THAN SOUTH AFRICA.

313. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh** : Will Government kindly state if there is any proposal to appoint Agents in other Colonies, besides South Africa ?

If so, in which Colonies, and is it contemplated to appoint Indians ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpal : The answer to the first part of the Honourable Member's question is that the question of appointing Agents in other Colonies will be taken into consideration when sufficient experience has been gained as a result of the appointment recently made in South Africa. The second part of the question does not consequently arise.

PAYMENT BY THE INDIAN EXCHEQUER OF THE SALARIES OF BRITISH OFFICERS FORMERLY EMPLOYED ON STAFF DUTIES IN INDIA ON THEIR RETURN TO ENGLAND

314. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh** : Is it a fact that British officers formerly employed on staff duties in India continue to draw their salaries from the Indian Exchequer even when they return to England and are attached to British units ? If so, why ? And what is the amount which is annually paid on this account out of Indian revenues, during the last three years ?

Mr. G. M. Young : A regimental officer of the British Service, who has held a staff appointment in India, and whose regiment has returned to the United Kingdom during his tenure, normally reverts to his regiment ; and if there is no vacancy in which he can be absorbed, Indian revenues bear the cost of his salary until he is so absorbed. Cases of this kind do not appear to have occurred in the past and there has therefore been no expenditure hitherto : but two or three have occurred recently, all of them being cases of Adjutants of Territorial or Auxiliary Force battalions. It is only staff officers of the British Service below the rank of Colonel who are affected. They are affected only if their regiment has gone to England while they are employed on staff duties in India, and if there is an interval before they can be absorbed in their regiments, and if no temporary employment can be found for them in India to bridge the interval. My Honourable friend will therefore realize that the expenditure involved by this rule will be negligible.

Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar : May I inquire if the question as to why Indian revenues should bear this charge was raised with the Home Government ?

Mr. G. M. Young : Yes, Sir, the question was raised whether Imperial revenues should bear it or not.

Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar : And did the Government of India state that the Home Government should bear it and not this Government ? Did the Government of India object to paying this charge ?

Mr. G. M. Young : No, Sir, the Government of India did not object. The question was discussed and this was the conclusion reached.

Mr. K. Ahmed : In view of the fact that the expense incurred is charged to India, do Government propose to take sufficient steps not to allow these officers to go to England and enjoy their salary sitting at home or otherwise ?

Mr. President : The question does not arise.

ALLEGED MISCONDUCT OF A "CREWMAN" OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

315. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh :** (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the incident, reported in the *Weekly Mazdoor* of Dinapur, dated the 6th July, 1927, regarding the conduct of a "crewman" of the East Indian Railway in the throwing out of a third class compartment the luggage of a passenger ?

(b) Are Government aware that the General Secretary of the East Indian Railway Union was also travelling in the same compartment, and was an eye-witness to this incident ?

(c) What action has been taken against the offending "crewman", who threw down the luggage of the passenger ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : I have been unable to obtain a copy of the periodical mentioned by the Honourable Member.

THE INDIAN NAVY BILL.

316. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh :** Will Government kindly state why the Indian Navy Bill was introduced in Parliament, and not in the Legislative Assembly ? Is it intended to bring it up before this House ? If so, when ?

Mr. G. M. Young : The Bill was introduced in Parliament because it was a Bill to amend the Government of India Act, which, as my Honourable friend is aware, is an Act of Parliament.

The answer to the second part of the question is in the negative. The third does not arise.

OPINION OF DR. JAMES H. COUSINS REGARDING NEW DELHI AND ITS BUILDINGS, ETC.

317. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh :** (a) Are Government aware that Dr. James H. Cousins describes New Delhi and its buildings as "ugly, commonplace, unoriginal, slovenly", of "unimaginative pomposity", of "monotonous mediocrity", "more in the nature of prisons than habitations"; and the whole thing as "a nightmare on the chest of India" ?

(b) Will Government kindly state how much they had to pay on account of the design and plan of (i) the Council building, (ii) the Secretariat, and (iii) the new Viceregal residence ; and whether all the money on this account has been paid up, or anything is still due ?

(c) Has Lord Reading or H. E. Lord Irwin approved of the design and get up of the new Viceregal residence, which is in course of construction ? How much money has already been spent on it, and how much more is it estimated to cost ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : (a) Government understand that what purported to be an interview with the gentleman referred to has appeared in the Press.

(b) The total sum payable to the Architects for their work in New Delhi is £195,000. This is in accordance with the supplementary agreement made between the Architects and the Secretary of State for India in November 1921. The agreement covers not only the buildings in question but all buildings designed by the Architects and also advice on the layout of buildings not actually designed by them.

A sum of about £2,750 is still due on this agreement.

(c) The original designs for Government House were approved by Lord Hardinge. The detail designs for furnishing, etc., are submitted to His Excellency Lord Irwin for approval as they are received.

Government House is estimated to cost Rs. 1,94,87,300 (*Cries of "Shame, Shame"*) of which sum Rs. 97,13,500 has already been spent.

Mr. C. Duraiswamy Aiyangar : With reference to part (a), will Government cause the appropriate facts and evidence to be supplied in answer to Dr. Cousins ?

SEPARATION OF BURMA FROM INDIA.

318. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh :** (a) Will Government kindly state if there has been any correspondence between them, and the Government of Burma, or the Secretary of State for India, regarding any proposal to separate Burma from India ? If so, are Government prepared to lay a copy on the table ?

(b) Is it a fact that the people of Burma generally, their national leaders like Rev. N. Ottama, and the Sanghe Council (Council of the Buddhist monks) are opposed to separation ?

(c) Is there any truth in the report that on the separation of Burma from India it is intended to establish a European colony in Burma, in view of its comparative proximity to the Singapore Naval Base ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Creer : (a) There has been no such correspondence of late.

(b) Government are aware that such views have found expression in the Press but they are not prepared to infer that they represent the views of the people of Burma in general.

(c) Government are not aware of the report to which the Honourable Member refers.

U. Tok Kyi : May I ask if it is not the intention of Government to turn Burma into a Crown Colony after separation ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : I am aware of no such project.

U. Tok Kyi : May I further ask if it is not a fact that the European community in Burma has been urging the Government of India to separate Burma from India ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : I am not aware, Sir, that any very strong representations of that character have been received specifically from the European community of Burma.

U. Tok Kyi : Is the Honourable Member aware that the European community there has been asking for separation for the last 40 years or so ?

Mr. M. S. Aney : May I ask whether the Honourable Member is not to have the privilege of getting any answer to the question at all ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : No, Sir. I had no wish to be discourteous to the Honourable Member, but I thought my previous reply did as a matter of fact substantially meet his subsequent question.

EXAMINATION OF THE LUGGAGE OF LADY PASSENGERS BY THE CUSTOMS OFFICIALS AT VIRAMGAM.

319. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh :** (a) Is it a fact that on the 9th July, the trunks of two lady passengers, who were travelling from Sihore in the Bhavnagar State, to Bombay, were opened and searched at Viramgam, by the Customs peons and the search was discontinued only when the Inspector of Customs came up, and remonstrated with the peons ?

(b) Is it a fact that the trunks of another lady passenger, belonging to the family of one Mulji Meghaji, who were returning from Jamnagar, after taking part in a marriage, were also opened and searched by the Customs Inspector, Mr. Cooper ?

(c) What steps do Government propose to take to save the passengers from such annoying and vexatious proceedings ?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : (a) and (b). The Government have no information.

(c) Instructions have already been issued to the effect that there should be no avoidable inconvenience to passengers and that the examination of luggage should be conducted by or under the immediate personal supervision of responsible officers.

RECRUITMENT TO THE PROPOSED INDIAN NAVY.

320. ***Mr. M. S. Aney :** (a) Is it a fact that H. E. the Commander-in-Chief visited the Muhammadans of the Ratnagiri District in the Jayagad Creek in or about April 1926, in connection with the recruitment to the proposed Indian Navy ?

(b) Is it a fact that in the water sports held in honour of the visit which H. E. the Governor of Bombay paid to Ratnagiri in October 1926, only the Muhammadans obtained the chance of competing ?

Mr. G. M. Young : (a) The Honourable Member is probably referring to His Excellency the Naval Commander-in-Chief, who, at the request of the Director, Royal Indian Marine, very kindly anchored his flag-ship off Jaigarh in April 1926 so as to give Royal Navy and Royal Indian Marine pensioners an opportunity of seeing the ship, which is one of the latest men-of-war. His visit was not made to the Muhammadans of the Ratnagiri District, nor in order to recruit for the Indian Navy.

(b) The Government of India have no information.

RECRUITMENT OF MUHAMMADANS TO THE PROPOSED INDIAN NAVY.

321. ***Mr. M. S. Aney :** 1. Is it a fact that a R. I. M. steamer visited some ports of the Ratnagiri District (Bombay Presidency) at the end of 1926 and recruited only Muhammadan lads for training for the proposed Indian Navy ?

2. Will Government kindly state :

- (a) the number of Muhammadan lads recruited,
- (b) the nature and duration of training which these recruits are to undergo,
- (c) the posts—together with pay and prospects—which these recruits are to fill ?

Mr. G. M. Young : *Paragraph 1.*—Yes, as has been customary for years.

Paragraph 2.—(a) Fifty-seven, of whom ten have since been discharged as unsuitable.

(b) The boys will receive naval education and training for two years, at the end of which, if they can pass the qualifying examination and are otherwise suitable, they will be admitted into the service.

(c) They will be employed first of all as seamen and stokers. They may eventually rise to the rank of petty officer or warrant officer, as vacancies occur, but will have to pass examinations before attaining these ranks. The pay of a boy when enlisted is Rs. 15 per mensem, and the pay of a senior warrant officer may be taken as Rs. 180 per mensem with free rations and certain allowances.

RECRUITMENT OF MUHAMMADANS TO THE PROPOSED INDIAN NAVY.

322. ***Mr. M. S. Aney :** (a) Is it the intention of Government to confine recruitment to the proposed Indian Navy solely to the Muhammadans ? If the answer be in the negative, why were Hindus not similarly recruited for training ?

(b) Will Government kindly state the qualifications required for being recruited ?

(c) Did H. E. the Commander-in-Chief give any interviews to any Muhammadan leader or leaders in connection with this recruitment ?

(d) If the answer be in the affirmative, what are the names of the persons to whom the interviews were given ?

Mr. G. M. Young : (a) Recruitment to commissioned rank in the Royal Indian Navy will be open to all Indians. Recruitment to the lower ranks will for the present be confined to the class of Muhammadans who have hitherto filled these ranks in the Royal Indian Marine.

(b) The essential qualification is a healthy constitution. Preference is, however, given to boys who possess, in addition, a certain amount of education.

(c) No, Sir, His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, East Indies Station, has no concern with recruitment for the Indian Navy.

(d) Does not arise.

Mr. K. C. Roy : May I ask whether recruitment is possible unless legislation implementing the British Act is undertaken by this House ?

Mr. G. M. Young : Yes, Sir, it is quite possible.

Mr. K. C. Roy : May I ask if it is the intention of Government to bring in legislation this Session ?

Mr. G. M. Young : No, Sir. It cannot be brought in this Session, but we hope to bring it in next Session.

RECRUITMENT OF MUHAMMADANS TO THE PROPOSED INDIAN NAVY.

323. ***Mr. M. S. Aney :** (a) Have any representations been made to Government in respect of recruitment of Muhammadans to the proposed Indian Navy on behalf of the said community ? If so, will Government be pleased to place copies of such representations on the table ?

(b) Is it the intention of Government to recruit Hindus for training for the proposed Indian Navy ?

(c) If the answer to the preceding question be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state when such recruitment will be made ?

Mr. G. M. Young : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir : the intention is to draw upon other seafaring communities of India, whatever their caste or creed, as soon as the Indian Navy can be enlarged.

RECRUITMENT OF BHANDARIS TO THE PROPOSED INDIAN NAVY.

324. ***Mr. M. S. Aney :** (a) Has H. E. the Commander-in-Chief received any resolutions passed by the Bhandari Shikshan Parishad in its XIIIth sessions held during 1926 at Ratnagiri and Nova Goa, respectively, in connection with recruitment of Bhandaris to the proposed Indian Navy ? If so, what action—if any—has been taken in reference to these resolutions ?

(b) Will Government kindly place on the table copies of the resolutions passed by the Bhandari Shikshan Parishad on this subject, together with replies—if any—sent to the Parishad ?

(c) Will Government state if they have received any communication on the subject from the Government of Bombay, and if they have, will they kindly place its copy on the table ?

(d) Will Government place a statement containing the names of Hindu castes belonging to the Bombay Presidency whom they consider fit for admission into the proposed Indian Navy by reason of their connection with the Navies in the past ?

Mr. G. M. Young : (a) The Government of India cannot of course take cognisance of the resolution passed at Nova Goa, which is in foreign territory. They received a copy of the resolution passed in Ratnagiri, which ask Government, (I here quote the resolution), "to take precautions at the time of formation of the Indian Navy to perpetuate and to allow scope for the growth of the qualities of clever navigation, able seamanship and bravery in naval warfare of the Bhandaris for which they are famous for centuries". This request has been acknowledged and noted.

(b) The answer is in the negative.

(c) The Government of Bombay forwarded the resolution under a covering letter without comment.

(d) The answer is in the negative, as Government do not propose to recruit Hindu castes into the lower ranks of the Indian Navy at present.

Mr. M. S. Aney : Will the Government give the reasons for not proposing to recruit Hindu castes into the lower ranks of the Indian Navy ?

Mr. G. M. Young : I have already given the reasons in my answer to the previous question. The Royal Indian Marine has recruited Muhammadans of the Ratnagiri district—for the last, I do not know how many years—ever since its formation, and they are the only community who have come forward for the service. Until the Indian Navy is enlarged, it is not proposed to go outside that field of recruitment. As soon as it can be enlarged, it is proposed to go outside that field for recruitment.

KANARESE INSCRIPTIONS.

325. ***Mr. D. V. Belvi :** Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) How many inscriptions in Kanarese have been collected and deciphered hitherto in the Kanarese speaking Districts of British India after the publication of a number of Kanarese inscriptions by the late Mr. Fleet ?
- (b) The total number of Kanarese inscriptions that are yet awaiting publication by the Government of India Epigraphy Department ?
- (c) What arrangements have been made to publish the said Kannada inscriptions that are already collected ?
- (d) Do Government intend to publish all these collected Kanarese inscriptions ?
- (e) The approximate number of Kannada inscriptions that are still to be collected in the Kanarese-speaking Districts in British India ?
- (f) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the statement that 60 years would be required only to collect all the Kanarese inscriptions if the work goes on on the present scale as put forward in a series of articles published in the

Kannadiga of Bagalkot, in the Bijapur Collectorate of the Bombay Presidency, in its issues, dated 19th November, 1926, 26th November, 1926, 18th February, 1927 and 25th February, 1927 ?

- (g) If so, what action has been taken or contemplated by the Government ?
- (h) What steps are contemplated by Government to hasten the work of collecting all the inscriptions in each District of the British Karnatak ?
- (i) Have any memorials been received by the Government from the President of the Karnatak Historical Society of Dharwar on this subject ?

Mr. A. R. Dalal : (a) 1,842 inscriptions have been collected, approximately three-fourths of which have been tentatively transcribed.

(b) 1,775.

(c) They are being published in the South Indian Inscriptions, Text Series, or in the Epigraphia Indica.

(d) Yes, provided they are of sufficient importance.

(e) 5,000.

(f) No.

(g) Does not arise.

(h) An attached office is maintained in Madras under a gazetted officer with three assistants for the specific purpose of collecting and publishing inscriptions in the Madras Presidency including Karnatak. The attention of the Honourable Member is also invited to the reply given to part (c) of Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan's question No. 245 on the 26th January, 1926.

(i) Yes.

QUALIFICATIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT EPIGRAPHIST, ETC.

326. ***Mr. D. V. Belvi :** Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) the qualifications usually required for appointment as a Government Epigraphist for India ;
- (b) the name, qualifications and the salary of the Government Epigraphist at present ;
- (c) the nature of the work which is carried on in the office of the Government Epigraphist for India ?

Mr. A. R. Dalal : (a) University graduate with special knowledge of Indian epigraphy, philology and history, and of the Sanskrit, Prakrit and Pali languages.

(b) Mr. Hirananda Shastri, M.A., M.O.L. Present pay Rs. 800 and special pay Rs. 100 a month.

(c) General superintendence, including editing, co-ordination, deciphering, etc., of the epigraphic work of India and Burma except that relating to Muslim inscriptions.

EDITING OF THE EPIGRAPHIA INDICA BY THE GOVERNMENT EPIGRAPHIST.

327. *Mr. D. V. Belvi : (a) Does the present Government Epigraphist for India edit the Epigraphia Indica ?

(b) In which languages are the ancient inscriptions most numerous in India ?

(c) Are not Tamil, Telugu and Kannada inscriptions more numerous than in any other Indian language ?

(d) Has the Editor of the Epigraphia Indica to deal with inscriptions in Tamil, Telugu and Kannada ?

(e) If so, what arrangements are made and what staff is maintained to edit inscriptions in these three languages ?

(f) How long has the present Government Epigraphist for India been in the Department ?

(g) Has he been an Epigraphist all along ?

(h) What post did he hold before the year 1922 ?

(i) Is he well-versed in Sanskrit and in languages of the Dravidian stock ?

Mr. A. B. Dalal : (a) Yes.

(b) In the Dravidian languages.

(c) Yes.

(d) Yes.

(e) The Government Epigraphist has in his own office a special staff of experts in Dravidian languages consisting of two gazetted and two non-gazetted officers ; besides which an attached office is maintained in Madras under a gazetted officer with three Assistants for the specific purpose of collecting and publishing inscriptions in the Madras Presidency.

(f) For 23 years.

(g) Yes.

(h) Superintendent for Epigraphy in the Government Epigraphist's office.

(i) He is well versed in Sanskrit and allied languages but not in the Dravidian languages.

Mr. President : The Honourable Member (Mr. D. V. Belvi) must make at least the pretence of rising from his seat.

ESTABLISHMENT OF AN EPIGRAPHIC OFFICE IN A CENTRAL PLACE IN THE BRITISH KARNATAK.

328. *Mr. D. V. Belvi : (a) Is it a fact that the Karnatak Historical Association, Dharwar, has petitioned Government for a separate Epigraphical Centre ?

(b) If so, do Government intend to establish an Epigraphic Office in a central place in the British Karnatak ?

Mr. A. B. Dalal : (a) Yes.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

REPRESENTATION OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ON THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

329. **Mr. Mukhtar Singh** : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the constitution of the Board of Agriculture ?

(b) Is there any representation of the Assembly on the Board of Agriculture ?

(c) What is the function of the Board ?

Mr. A. R. Dalal : (a) A statement showing the constitution of the Board is laid upon the table.

(b) No.

(c) The functions of the Board, which is designed to facilitate the exchange of ideas and information between agricultural experts from all over India, are advisory. Its proceedings are submitted to the Government of India for any orders which may be required.

Statement showing the constitution of the Board of Agriculture in India (referred to in reply to Question No. 829).

The Board of Agriculture in India consists of the following members :

1. Agricultural Adviser to the Government of India (President)	..	1
2. Assistant to Agricultural Adviser (Secretary)	.. ..	1
3. Imperial Agricultural Chemist	.. ..	1
4. Imperial Mycologist	.. ..	1
5. Imperial Entomologist	.. ..	1
6. Imperial Economic Botanist	.. ..	1
7. Imperial Agriculturist	.. ..	1
8. Imperial Agricultural Bacteriologist	.. ..	1
9. Imperial Dairy Expert	.. ..	1
10. Secretary, Indian Central Cotton Committee	.. ..	1
11. Director, Imperial Institute of Veterinary Research, Muktesar	..	1
12. Director General, Commercial Intelligence and Statistics	..	1
13. Directors of Provincial Agricultural Departments	.. ..	9
14. One member of expert staff of each Provincial Agricultural Department.	..	9
15. Agricultural Officer, North-West Frontier Province	.. ..	1
16. One Civil Veterinary Department Officer of each Province (including 11 North-West Frontier Province and Baluchistan).	..	11
17. Members nominated each year by President	.. ..	7
18. Members of Agricultural Departments of Hyderabad, Mysore, Baroda, Kashmir, Travancore, Gwalior and Patiala.	..	7
19. Scientific Officer, Indian Tea Association	.. ..	1
20. Representative of the United Planters Association of Southern India.	..	1

TOTAL .. 58

CULTIVATION OF MEDICINAL HERBS AND DRUGS IN INDIA.

330. ***Mr. Mukhtar Singh** : (a) Is it a fact that sometime in 1914-1918 a Committee was formed to investigate into the possibilities of cultivating medicinal herbs and drugs in this country ?

(b) If the answer be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state whether any report of that Committee has been published ? Will the Government be further pleased to state the main recommendations of that Committee ?

(c) Has any attempt been made to cultivate medicinal herbs and drugs in India ? If so, where and with what results ?

(d) Is the attempt of cultivating medicinal herbs and drugs still being continued ? If so, at what places and with what drugs ? If not, why has the attempt been discontinued ?

Mr. A. R. Dalal : (a) In 1919, a Drugs Manufacture Committee was established by the Government of India. One of the objects for which this Committee was appointed was investigation of the possibilities of the cultivation of medicinal plants in India.

(b) The Committee issued four reports which were printed and distributed to the Local Governments, Departments of the Government of India and certain heads of Departments. Copies of these reports has been placed in the Members' Library. These reports state the recommendations of the Committee and the action taken on them.

(c) A botanical survey of the drug resources of India is necessary before any attempt is made to cultivate medicinal herbs and plants. The question is engaging the attention of Government.

(d) Does not arise.

MORPHIA CONTENTS OF THE POPPY PLANT.

331. ***Mr. Mukhtar Singh** : (a) Is it a fact that some investigation was taken up in connection with the poppy plant in India as regards its morphia contents ? Was some officer appointed on special duty to investigate into this matter ?

(b) If so, has any report been published containing the results of his investigations ?

(c) Is it not a fact that the officer-in-charge succeeded in isolating a poppy plant which contains the largest percentage of morphia ? If so, was there any attempt made to cultivate and multiply this variety and to prepare morphia on commercial lines from this plant ?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : (a) Yes ; several years ago.

(c) No ; it was a departmental investigation.

(c) Yes, the officer on special duty isolated a single capsule characteristic of a pure race of poppy which proved its capacity for high morphine content. The seed of this capsule was multiplied and sown in a large area for several years. It was however discovered that it did not suit all soils and climates. As a result of further research, a special seed agency was established in 1924 with the object of introducing improved

varieties of poppy. In view however of the uncertainty of the general outlook, the operations of this agency have been restricted since 1925.

No attempt has so far been made to manufacture morphia on commercial lines from specially selected opium, nor do the Government of India propose to do so at present. Morphia and other alkaloids of opium are at present manufactured at the Ghazipur Factory as a means of utilizing waste material, which would otherwise have to be thrown away.

DEVELOPMENT OF VARIETIES OF THICK SUGAR CANE AT THE COIMBATORE SUGAR STATION.

332. *Mr. Mukhtar Singh : Has the Coimbatore Sugar Station been able to develop some varieties of thick canes for the purpose of sugar manufacture ? If the answer be in the affirmative, have these varieties been tried in the country and with what results ?

Mr. A. E. Dalal : Many medium thick canes have been bred at this Station and sent to the provinces for further trial. The best of these, known as Co. 213, yields fully twice as much as the local canes commonly grown in the North of India. The breeding of thick canes proper has only just been started at the Station and no such canes have yet been sent out to the provinces ; but promising sets of thick canes imported from Java and elsewhere have, after trial at the Station, been sent out to different provinces for further testing and some of them are doing well.

NOMINATION OF INDIANS TO THE AGRICULTURAL BOARD.

333. *Mr. Mukhtar Singh : Since when has the Agricultural Board been in existence ? Has there been any Indian nominated to this Board ? If so, will the Government be pleased to state the name of the gentlemen and the year in which he was nominated ?

Mr. A. E. Dalal : The Board has been in existence since 1904. Membership of it is not based on racial considerations, but, as the list laid upon the table in reply to question No. 329 shows, is almost entirely *ex-officio*. A number of Indians have in the past been members of the Board in virtue of their holding one or other of the posts mentioned in that list, and some have also been nominated. If the Honourable Member wishes to know the names of all Indians who have been members of the Board, and the years in which they attended he will find information in the printed proceedings of the Board.

PUBLICATION OF THE REPORT OF THE CINCHONA COMMITTEE.

334. *Mr. Mukhtar Singh : Has the Cinchona Committee submitted their report ? Has the report been published and is it available for the public ?

Mr. A. E. Dalal : No Cinchona Committee was appointed by the Government of India. The question of the publication of its report therefore does not arise.

CONSTITUTION OF THE RATES ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

335. *Mr. Mukhtar Singh: (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the constitution of the Rates Advisory Committee ?

(b) Is there any representation on it of the agricultural interests ?

(c) Is there one such committee for the whole of the country or are they constituted for different centres or for different railways ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given in this Assembly to question No. 235 on the 27th August, 1926, on the same subject.

(b) No.

(c) There is one Committee for the whole of India.

LOW RAILWAY RATES FOR TRAFFIC TO AND FROM PORTS.

336. *Mr. Mukhtar Singh: (a) Are there low, exceptional railway rates for traffic to and from ports, especially the great ports of Calcutta and Bombay ?

(b) Have the Government ever investigated the question as to how this affects the industries of this country and if so, with what results ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) Rates lower than the ordinary schedule rates, or the ordinary classified rates where they apply, are charged for the carriage of certain commodities to and from various Indian ports. Grain is an example of an export commodity carried at such rates ; machinery, agricultural implements and manures are examples of import commodities. I should explain that these special rates are generally quoted for one or more of the following reasons ; the fact that the volume of traffic is large and the traffic is therefore cheap to handle ; the probability that the volume of traffic will be increased by a low quotation ; and the encouragement which a low quotation gives to long distance traffic. I should add also that special rates lower than the schedule or classified rates are also quoted for exactly the same reasons for the products of certain Indian industries, for example, iron and steel, cement, paper and matches.

(b) The Acworth Committee investigated the question and I would invite the Honourable Member's reference to paragraphs 149 to 152 of their Report.

NUMBER OF OFFICERS EMPLOYED IN THE MILITARY GRASS FARMS.

337. *Mr. Mukhtar Singh : Will the Government be pleased to state the number of officers employed in the military grass farms ? Will the Government be further pleased to state how many of them are Indians ?

Mr. G. M. Young : There are nineteen King's commissioned officers employed in the grass farms branch of the Military Farms Department. None of them is an Indian. No Indian King's commissioned officer has yet applied for appointment to this Department.

DAIRY PRODUCTS OF THE MILITARY DAIRIES.

338. *Mr. Mukhtar Singh : Will the Government be pleased to state the total amount of milk, butter and cheese produced in the dairies run by the Military Department ? What quantity of these articles was supplied to the Indian soldiers during the last year ?

Mr. G. M. Young : 3,630 tons of milk and 358 tons of butter were produced and sold during the year 1925-26. Cheese is not made in military dairies. There is hardly any demand for dairy produce from Indian troops and practically nothing was supplied to them.

REARING OF COWS AND BULLS IN MILITARY DAIRY FARMS.

339. *Mr. Mukhtar Singh : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the fresh born calves in the military dairies are reared at the military farm ? If not, are they destroyed or sold ? If they are sold, for how long are they allowed to be with their mothers ?

(b) Have the Government made any arrangement for rearing cows and bulls in the military dairy farms and for selling them to the public in order to improve the cattle breeding problem of the country ?

Mr. G. M. Young : (a) Only cow calves of selected dams are reared. The remainder and all bull calves, except the few required for stud or draught purposes, are either sold or given away. They are kept with their dams for about a month after birth.

(b) No such arrangements exist at present.

FREIGHT CHARGES PER TON OF SUGAR FROM BOMBAY TO CAWNPORE AND
vice versa.

340. *Mr. Mukhtar Singh : What are the freight charges per ton of sugar from Bombay to Cawnpore and from Cawnpore to Bombay ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : The rates for sugar per ton from Bombay to Cawnpore (Generalganj) and from Cawnpore (Generalganj) to Bombay are Rs. 38-4-5 at owner's risk and Rs. 41-13-2 at railway risk.

STATISTICS OF AGRICULTURAL LAND HELD BY AGRICULTURISTS AND NON-AGRICULTURISTS IN EACH PROVINCE IN INDIA.

341. *Mr. Harchandrai Vishindas : Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) the percentage of the total occupied area of agricultural land held by agriculturists and by non-agriculturists (separately) in each province in India in the year 1915 and in the year 1925 ?
- (b) the area of agricultural land transferred by agriculturists to non-agriculturists and by non-agriculturists to agriculturists in each province in India from 1905-06 to 1924-25 ?
- (c) the percentage of non-agriculturists holding agricultural land to the total number of holders of agricultural land in the year 1915 and in the year 1925 in each province in India ?

Mr. A. B. Dalal : (a), (b) and (c). The Government of India have no information on the subject. They doubt whether Local Governments could furnish the required statistics, and do not propose to call for them in view of the amount of trouble which their compilation, even if feasible, would involve.

NEW PENSION RULES.

342. ***Mr. Harchandrai Vishindas :** Will Government be pleased to state when the new pension rules will be published in the Government Gazette, notification regarding which has already appeared in the newspapers ?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : The reports which appeared in the papers were unfounded. No new pension rules have been sanctioned by the Government of India.

PROVISION OF A NEW LEVEL CROSSING AT OKARA ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

343. ***Mr. Harchandrai Vishindas :** 1. Is it a fact that the railway station of Okara on the North-Western Railway, district Montgomery, has recently been removed to the other side of the track ?

2. Is it a fact that by doing so the track now intervenes between the new station and the town, and that for this reason all pedestrian and vehicular traffic from the town to the station has to follow the Dipalpur Road level crossing which is the only level crossing in the neighbourhood ?

3. Is it a fact that the above route involves a long detour causing considerable inconvenience and loss of time to the residents of the town desiring to approach the station ?

4. Is it a fact that the necessity for a new level crossing nearer the station has been admitted by the railway authorities ?

5. Is it a fact that in response to representations from certain factory owners and other members of the public, the new level crossing was sanctioned and the work was ordered to be put in hand as far back as October last ?

6. Is it a fact that the railway authorities have since changed their mind and now refuse to provide a new level crossing ? If so, why ?

7. Did the railway authorities consult the factory owners and the public who were closely concerned with the project, before reversing their former decision ?

8. What action do Government propose to take in the matter ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (1) Yes.

(2) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative and to the latter part in the negative so far as pedestrian traffic is concerned. A foot overbridge has been provided across the tracks from the town side to the station building.

(3) The provision of the overbridge has minimised any inconvenience that would otherwise have been felt.

(4) to (8). I understand the position to be as follows: The new passenger station was built on the far side of the line to the town in order that the goods station might be placed on the town side with direct access to the Mandi; and the local authorities have not yet constructed a road to the passenger station. The Notified Area Committee asked the railway authorities to hand over a 50 ft. strip of land for the purpose of constructing an approach road, and to provide a level crossing nearer the station than the present level crossing. The particular strip of land required could not be spared by the railway administration and the proposal for a new level crossing consequently fell through. In any case it would not have been advisable to provide a level crossing within station limits since it would have to be interlocked with signals which would lead to heavy delays to road traffic. I should add that when the present Okara station was being laid out, objections were raised by the public that its site was not opposite the centre of the Mandi and was on the wrong side of the line from it, and the Agent, North Western Railway, went into this matter very carefully with the Financial Commissioner, Punjab, who considered that the utmost the merchants could reasonably ask for was a foot overbridge across the railway lines opposite the main entrance of the new town and the location of the station building close to the overbridge. Both these matters have been carried out though they meant the movement of the station site about 500 feet and the abandonment of certain works which had already been started.

PRIMARY DELAYS TO TRAINS CONSEQUENT ON THE INTRODUCTION OF THE DIVISIONAL SCHEME ON STATE RAILWAYS.

344. *Mr. Harchandrai Vishindas : 1. Will Government be pleased to state the object of introducing the Divisional Scheme on the State Railways ?

2. (a) Is it a fact that trains have become subject to what is called primary delays as a consequence of the working of the said scheme ?

(b) What was the number and duration of such delays in the twelve months preceding the introduction of the said scheme and what has been the number and duration thereof during each of the similar periods since the introduction of the scheme ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : 1. The object was to obtain more efficient administration.

2. (a) and (b). If the Honourable Member will give me a clear definition of the words "primary delays", which are not used in railway terminology and are not understood, I will see if I can send him an answer.

PROMOTION OF INDIANS IN THE TRAFFIC BRANCH OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY TO THE POST OF DISTRICT TRAFFIC SUPERINTENDENT.

345. *Mr. Harchandrai Vishindas : Will Government be pleased to state :

(a) The number of Indians in the Traffic Branch of the North Western Railway in October 1924 who were entitled in the normal course of time to rise to the post of District Traffic Superintendent ?

- (b) What provision, if any, has been made in the present scheme to ensure the due promotion of such Indian officers to similar or equivalent higher posts ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) The number of Indian officers in the Traffic Department of the North-Western Railway in October 1924 who might expect in the normal course, and provided, of course, they showed their fitness for promotion, to attain the rank of District Traffic Superintendent was 13.

- (b) There is nothing in the present scheme which prevents the due promotion of these Indian officers.

APPOINTMENT OF A COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE RESULTS OF THE "TRANSPORTATION" WORKING OF THE DIVISIONAL SCHEME ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

346. ***Mr. Harchandrai Vishindas :** (a) Is it a fact that the Agent, North-Western Railway, has appointed a Committee to study the results of the "Transportation" working of the Divisional Scheme and to recommend changes, if deemed fit ? What is the personnel of the Committee ?

- (b) Is it a fact that the Committee has, almost exclusively, been composed of men who have no knowledge or experience of "Transportation" ?

(c) Is it a fact that the Committee consists of men who were avowedly in favour of recruiting men of engineering qualifications only for the posts filled by men with special practical training in such posts ?

(d) Are Government aware that the proposed Committee is considered by the public and the Traffic Officers as designed to counteract the declared policy of Government to Indianize the Railway Services ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) The Agent, North-Western Railway, has appointed a Committee to review the Divisional organisation and to make recommendations concerning possible changes in the organisation within Divisions. The Committee consists of :

The Deputy Agent.

The Deputy Chief Operating Superintendent.

The Deputy Chief Commercial Manager.

The Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer.

The Statistical Officer.

(b) No.

(c) Certainly not.

(d) No. The Committee has nothing to do with the policy of indianizing the Railway Services.

EMPLOYMENT OF ENGINEERS TO FILL POSTS HELD BY TRAFFIC OFFICERS CONSEQUENT ON THE INTRODUCTION OF THE DIVISIONAL SCHEME ON STATE RAILWAYS.

347. ***Mr. Harchandrai Vishindas :** Are Government aware :

- (a) that since the Divisional Scheme was introduced Engineers are being posted to fill posts previously held by Traffic Officers ; and

(b) that at the same time, the Railway is engaging extra Engineers for Engineering work which could be performed by Engineers already available in the service ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) No. If the Honourable Member is referring to the posts of Divisional Superintendents, these only came into existence with the introduction of the Divisional Scheme, and it has been the declared intention since the Divisional Scheme was introduced that they would not be allotted to any particular branch of the service but filled by selection from all branches.

(b) Owing to the large programme of works on Railways, for which the existing staff is insufficient a number of temporary engineers has been, and is being engaged.

Maulvi Abdul Matin Chaudhury : May I ask, Sir, question No. 348 ?

Mr. President : Question No. 348 and subsequent questions stand in the name of Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan. I should like to be satisfied why I should allow these questions to be put in view of the fact that the Honourable Member has given notice of a large number of questions and is absent from the beginning of this Session.

Mr. K. Ahmed : Sir, Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan is not the only Member of this Assembly who has absented himself while his questions are being answered ; besides there are some important questions standing in his name to-day.

Mr. President : Order, order : I am asking the Honourable Member (Maulvi Abdul Matin Chaudhury) who is putting the questions.

Maulvi Abdul Matin Chaudhury : I have been asked to put these questions, Sir, and, as some of them are important, I hope the Chair will allow me to put them. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan is ill.

Mr. President : Has the Honourable Member been asked by the Khan Bahadur to put these questions ?

Maulvi Abdul Matin Chaudhury : Yes, Sir.

Mr. President : But I have received a letter from Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan in which he says he has authorised Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh to put his questions. I am afraid I can not allow these questions to be put.

† 348—362.

Mr. M. S. Sesha Ayyangar : May I have your permission, Sir, to put questions on behalf of Mr. K. V. Rangaswami Ayyangar ?

Mr. President : Mr. Rangaswami Ayyangar was just here. What has happened to the Honourable Member ?

Several Honourable Members : These questions stand in the name of Mr. K. V. Rangaswami Ayyangar.

(Mr. Sesha Ayyangar was allowed to put the questions standing in the name of Mr. K. V. Rangaswami Ayyangar.)

† Not put at the meeting, but the questions and answers to them will be found at pages 3418—3421 of these proceedings.

OVERSEAS ALLOWANCE OF OFFICERS OF INDIAN DOMICILE ON THE SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY, ETC.

363. *Mr. M. S. Sesha Ayyangar (on behalf of Mr. K. V. Rangaswami Ayyangar): With reference to Mr. Parsons' reply to Mr. Sesha Ayyangar's interpellation (a) in January 1927, will the Government be pleased to state :

- (a) Whether Indian officers on State Railways who were in the junior of the dual scales referred to, at the time of the introduction of the overseas allowance, continue to draw that allowance when promoted to the senior scale ;
- (b) How the retention of grades on the South Indian Railway specially affected Indian officers promoted to the District grade in respect of overseas allowance ;
- (c) Whether Mr. Parsons' reply to question (c) is to be taken to mean that Government have ascertained and verified the facts of the case from the South Indian Railway and have satisfied themselves that the action of the South Indian Railway is fair and justified ;
- (d) Whether if the reply to the previous question is in the affirmative, Government will explain their position by comparing the relative status and emoluments of an Indian and a European officer of Assistant's rank getting the same pay on the South Indian Railway just before the introduction of the overseas allowance with those of an Indian and a European officer in corresponding positions on State Railways up to the time the top of the District grade is reached ;
- (e) Whether the Government are aware that the acting allowance rules on the South Indian Railway for graded services are less favourable than the rules notified by the Railway Board for such services, and whether the Government can explain how the acting allowance rules on the South Indian Railway can be compared with and said to be more favourable than those on other Company-worked Railways which, as stated by Mr. Parsons, have adopted dual time scales as in Government and follow presumably Government acting allowance rules for such scales ;
- (f) How any set of acting allowance rules, favourable or otherwise, can affect or compensate for reduction of emoluments on substantive promotion to higher grades as stated by Mr. Parsons in reply to question (c) ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : The Honourable Member presumably refers to the reply given to Mr. Sesha Ayyangar's question No. 254 answered on the 2nd February, 1927.

(a) The reply is in the affirmative.

(b) Indian officers on promotion to District grades were restricted to the rates of pay applicable to officers of non-Asiatic domicile.

(c) The facts were verified by reference to the South Indian Railway. As already stated in connection with Mr. Sesha Ayyangar's question, it is not a matter in which it is possible for Government to interfere with the discretion of the Board of Directors.

(d) I place on the table a statement comparing the various rates. For the sake of simplicity the Traffic Department has been taken. If the Honourable Member wants similar information for other departments it will be supplied to him.

(e) On the State-worked Railways under the dual scale of pay, an officer on the junior scale, if appointed to officiate in the senior grade, gets an increase of Rs. 100 in his emoluments, while on the South Indian Railway on appointment to officiate in the District grade an officer, whatever be his substantive rate of pay, gets the minimum pay of the District grade, which is higher than the maximum pay of the Assistants grade, by Rs. 100. Under the operation of this rule the acting allowances on the South Indian Railway may be higher than those on State-worked Railways.

(f) The Board of Directors decided that in view of the more liberal acting allowance rules it was not necessary to continue the additional pay on promotion to a higher class; and as already explained it is not possible for Government to interfere with their discretion.

DISTRICT TRAFFIC SUPERINTENDENT.

Statement showing scales of pay in the various grades of the Traffic Department, on the South Indian Railway and State-worked Railways prior to the introduction of overseas pay.

<i>South Indian Railway.</i>	<i>State-worked Railways.</i>
700—50—1,000	Grade 1. 1,100
	Grade 2. 1,000.
	Grade 3. 900
	Grade 4. 800
	Grade 5. 700.

ASSISTANT TRAFFIC SUPERINTENDENT.

<i>South Indian Railway.</i>	<i>State-worked Railways.</i>
400—25—600	Grade 1. 550
	Grade 2. 450
	Grade 3. 400
	Grade 4. 300.

On the South Indian Railway an Assistant Traffic Superintendent, whether Indian or European, could rise to the maximum pay of Rs. 1,000, and to Rs. 1,100 on the State-worked Railways.

OVERSEAS ALLOWANCE OF OFFICERS OF INDIAN DOMICILE ON THE SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY.

364. *Mr. M. S. Sesha Ayyangar (on behalf of Mr. K. V. Rangaswami Ayyangar) : With reference to Mr. Parsons' reply to Mr. Sesha Ayyangar's question in January 1927, will the Government be pleased to state :

- (a) Whether in the Superior Civil Service Rules (Revision of Pay and Pension Rules) which contain the Lee concessions, the Secretary of State did not confirm the existing orders relating to overseas allowances—i.e., whether under these rules officers of Indian domicile who were in service at the time of the introduction of overseas allowances were not declared eligible for rupee overseas allowances ;

- (b) Whether it is not a fact that the Railway Board in notifying the Lee concessions to the South Indian Railway have stated in paragraph 3 of their letter No. 341/23 of 14th February 1926 that the "existing incumbents of Asiatic domicile will be allowed to continue to draw present scales of pay etc., but future entrants of Asiatic domicile will be restricted to basic pay only and will not be eligible for any overseas pay";
- (c) Whether the South Indian Railway have stated that they accepted the Lee concessions in their entirety;
- (d) If the reply to the previous question be in the affirmative, why have the South Indian Railway in view of the Railway Board's orders quoted in question (b), discontinued to pay overseas allowance to Indian Officers on promotion to the District grades;
- (e) Whether it is not correct to assume that the Railway Board's orders quoted in question (b) cannot be affected by any special orders issued by the Home Board of the South Indian Railway in contravention of the general principle under which on State Railways Indian officers were given additional pay in lieu of overseas allowance?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : The Honourable Member presumably refers to the reply given to Mr. Sessa Ayyangar's question No. 254 answered on the 2nd February, 1927:

(a) The Superior Civil Service (Revision of Pay and Pension) Rules confirmed the orders then in existence and did not introduce anything new in regard to officers of Indian domicile. Officers of Indian domicile, who were in receipt of overseas pay or its equivalent at the time these Rules came into force, were allowed to retain such overseas pay or its equivalent, but the Rules did not authorise the grant of overseas pay to Indian officers in service, who were not in receipt of such pay at the time.

(b) Yes, the intention was that the existing rules would continue to apply to the Indian officers then in service.

(c) Yes.

(d) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given to part (b) of the question. The South Indian Railway continued to apply to the Indian officers the former rules, and this was not in contravention of the terms of the Railway Board's letter.

(e) Government are not aware that the Board of Directors of the South Indian Railway have in any way contravened the orders of the Railway Board.

DENIAL TO INDIAN OFFICERS OF COMPANY-MANAGED RAILWAYS OF PRIVILEGES AND CONCESSIONS ENJOYED BY INDIAN OFFICERS ON STATE RAILWAYS.

365. ***Mr. M. S. Sessa Ayyangar** (on behalf of Mr. K. V. Rangaswami Ayyangar) : With reference to the concluding reply of Mr. Parsons to Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar's supplementary question in January 1927,

will the Government be pleased to state whether that reply is to be taken to mean that if under the powers delegated and general sanctions accorded by the Government of India, a Company-worked Railway extended to its European officers all the privileges and concessions enjoyed by similar officers on State Railways and denied to its officers any of the privileges and concessions enjoyed by the Indian officers on State Railways, the Government of India in virtue of the contractual relations between them and the Company cannot interfere ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : I am unable to reply to a hypothetical question of this kind. The facts of each individual case would have to be considered in the light of the terms of the contracts.

DISCONTINUANCE OF THE SPECIAL PAY IN LIEU OF OVERSEAS ALLOWANCE TO OFFICERS OF INDIAN DOMICILE ON THE SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY.

366. ***Mr. M. S. Sessa Ayyangar** (on behalf of Mr. K. V. Rangaswami Ayyangar) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

- (a) Whether the Deputy Accountant General of Railways, who recently inspected the South Indian Railway Accounts Office has reported that in view of the sanction accorded by the Home Board and the rules on State Railways, special pay in lieu of overseas allowance is admissible to Indian officers on the South Indian Railway at the time of the introduction of the overseas allowance not only while they were in the Assistant's grade but also after promotion to the District grade, and that the South Indian Railway were wrong in discontinuing the allowance to these officers on promotion to the District grade ;
- (b) Whether it is a fact that under their present instructions, Government Examiners of Railway Accounts do not feel bound to take up with the Companies' officers cases in which Companies have withheld what in the Examiner's opinion is correctly payable to their establishment under existing orders of the Government, if so long as the Company's action is not exceeded by competent sanction and results in reduced expenditure ;
- (c) Whether the Government have instructed or whether they propose now to instruct Government Examiners of Railway Accounts that in important cases—as for instance when Railway Companies modify general sanctions accorded by Government to the disadvantage of particular classes of officers resulting in racial discrimination—they should insist that principles enunciated by the Government of India should be given effect to ;
- (d) Whether the Deputy Accountant General has also reported that the reply given by the South Indian Railway to Railway Board's letter No. 3675-E. of 6th July 1926 (asking for remarks on Mr. Shanmukham Chetty's letter) “ is directly conflicting with the actual facts ” ;
- (e) Whether the Government have considered or are prepared to consider the desirability of taking deterrent disciplinary action against the officer or officers concerned in thus misrepresenting facts to the Government of India ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) There are no definite instructions to the Government Examiners of Railway Accounts on the subject.

(c) Government do not propose to issue any such instructions.

(d) The answer is in the affirmative. But the Government of India do not agree with the Deputy Accountant General.

(e) No. There has been no misrepresentation of facts by the South Indian Railway.

APPLICATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LEE COMMISSION TO BRANCHES
OF THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE NOT DIRECTLY DEALT WITH
BY THE COMMISSION.

367. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy :** Will Government be pleased to enumerate the branches of Government service, as also offices in Government-aided institutions, not directly dealt with by the Lee Commission, but to which any concession analogous to those granted under the Lee Commission recommendations has been extended or is proposed to be extended ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : I would refer the Honourable Member to the Superior Civil Services (Revision of Pay, Passage and Pension) Rules, 1924, a copy of which has been placed in the Library. It would not be correct to say that concessions analogous to those granted in pursuance of the Commission's report have been granted to any other branches of Government service as such, but concessions have been granted to a number of officers whose status has been recognised as superior in various branches of Government service. I shall be glad to give the Honourable Member a list of the posts held by such officers if he wishes.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru : Have any of the provincial service officers who have been held to have a non-Indian domicile been granted the advantages of the Lee Commission's recommendations ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : There are so many miscellaneous and special posts which might come under that category that I should hesitate to give an immediate reply to this question. If the Honourable Member will give me notice, I shall be glad to enquire.

GRANT OF FREE MEDICAL ATTENDANCE TO EUROPEAN JUDGES OF THE INDIAN
HIGH COURTS.

368. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy :** (a) Is there any truth in the statement published in the Press that there is a proposal to grant the privilege of free medical attendance to European Judges of the Indian High Courts ?

(b) Has such special privilege been extended to European members of any other branch of the public service in India, or is any such proposal under consideration ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to publish complete papers on the subject ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : (a), (b) and (c). Free medical attendance is a privilege which all officers have for long enjoyed. There

is therefore no question of extending it to European Judges of the Indian High Courts or to other European officers.

I add however for the Honourable Member's information that the Lee Commission in paragraph 93 of their report made certain recommendations regarding certain incidents of free medical attendance. These recommendations are concerned mainly with arrangements whereby European officers will obtain the free medical attendance, to which all are entitled, from European medical officers, with recourse to specialists and with treatment in hospital. Local Governments are competent to give effect to these recommendations. So far as officers under the administrative control of the Government of India are concerned, the question of extending the second and third of these recommendations to officers irrespective of domicile is under consideration. The particular case of Judges of the High Courts has not separately arisen.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LEE COMMISSION ABOUT THE INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE.

369. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy** : What is the present position with regard to the consideration of the recommendations of the Lee Commission about the Indian Medical Service ?

Mr. G. M. Young : I would refer the Honourable Member to part (a) of the reply I gave on 21st March, 1927, to Mr. Fazal Ibrahim Rahimtulla's unstarred question No. 191. The Government of India are still in communication with the Secretary of State, but hope to make an announcement shortly.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : When do the Government hope to come to a final decision in the matter ?

Mr. G. M. Young : I am afraid I cannot tell.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : Is it a fact that in the meanwhile special recruitment on special terms is going on in England ?

Mr. G. M. Young : Temporary recruitment is at present going on.

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney : Is it a fact that special recruitment is going on in England for temporary officers in the I. M. S. at Rs. 1,000 a month, whereas, in India recruits are offered only Rs. 500 a month less ?

Mr. G. M. Young : I am afraid I must ask for notice of that question.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : Is it a fact that these temporary officers have been promised a gratuity of Rs. 15,000 if they retired at the end of the sixth year of their service and a gratuity of Rs. 37,500 if they retired at the end of the twelfth year of their service ?

Mr. G. M. Young : The terms do include gratuities after the sixth and twelfth years of service.

Mr. T. C. Goswami : Can the Honourable Member give the figures ?

Mr. G. M. Young : I am afraid I have not got the figures here : they are sterling figures.

Mr. M. R. Jayakar : What is the consideration for such a gratuity ?

Mr. G. M. Young : There is no pension, and that is why the officers are offered gratuities, instead of pensions.

Mr. T. C. Goswami : Are they not recruited *ex-hypothesi* on a temporary basis ?

Mr. G. M. Young : Yes, Sir.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Are similar gratuities payable to Indian officers ?

Mr. K. Ahmed : Will the Government, for the sake of benefiting this country, be pleased to minimise the amount of gratuity that is given to these temporary recruits ?

Mr. G. M. Young : The amount of gratuity was fixed by the Secretary of State for the purposes of recruitment. As regards Indian officers, there are no such temporary officers being recruited. They are recruited on a permanent basis and so they do not get a gratuity. They get a pension.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I ask the Honourable Member whether it is not a fact that Indian officers recruited on a temporary basis are not paid any gratuities whereas European officers recruited on a temporary basis are paid gratuities ?

Mr. G. M. Young : No more Indian officers are now recruited on a temporary basis.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Is it not a fact that the terms of those Indian officers who have already been recruited do not include gratuities, whereas the terms of recruitment of European officers do include the payment of gratuities ?

Mr. T. C. Goswami : Are these specially favourable terms based on the law of supply and demand ?

Mr. K. Ahmed : In view of the fact that the Indians and their representatives in this Assembly do not like that such a big sum as Rs. 37,500 should be paid as gratuities to the officers of the Medical Service, will the Government be pleased to represent to the Secretary of State to curtail this sum ? I demand an answer to this question, Sir. (Laughter.)

Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty : Were the Government of India consulted by the Secretary of State before he actually fixed the terms of the temporary recruitment ?

Mr. G. M. Young : Yes, Sir.

Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty : Is it the opinion of the Government of India, Sir, that the terms under which these temporary recruits are brought into India are fair and reasonable terms ?

Mr. G. M. Young : They are economical terms as compared with the permanent service terms.

Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty : Was that opinion given by the Government of India to the Secretary of State ?

Mr. G. M. Young : The Government of India agreed. Presumably they thought they were fair terms.

† This reply was subsequently corrected—*vide* Mr. Young's statement made after the questions and answers on the 29th August, 1927.

Mr. M. S. Aney : May I know, Sir, what is the period of this temporary appointment ?

Mr. G. M. Young : I have already explained, it is six and twelve years. It is really short term service.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : Is it a fact that the age of retirement for the officers of the Indian Medical Service has recently been raised from 57 to 60 ?

Mr. G. M. Young : I do not think that question arises.

Kumar Ganganand Sinha : Will the Government be pleased to place the correspondence on the table of the House ?

Mr. G. M. Young : What correspondence ?

Kumar Ganganand Sinha : The correspondence that passed between the Secretary of State for India and the Government of India ?

Mr. G. M. Young : The correspondence is still going on.

Kumar Ganganand Sinha : Will the Government place the correspondence referred to in the answer given to Mr. Shanmukham Chetty, just now, namely, about the terms under which the temporary recruits were brought to India ?

Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar : That is about gratuities.

Mr. G. M. Young : That correspondence, as a matter of fact, forms part of the general correspondence on this question with the Secretary of State.

Diwan Chaman Lall : What is the exact necessity for recruitment of temporary European officers for the Medical Service when we can easily get permanent men ?

Mr. G. M. Young : It is easier to get officers on short term service than on permanent service.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Is it a fact that capable officers can be had for this service in India itself ?

GRANT OF HIGHER SCALES OF PENSIONS TO GOVERNMENT SERVANTS.

370. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy :** (a) Is it a fact that higher scales of pensions for Government servants have been recently sanctioned ; or are any proposals in that behalf under consideration ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to publish complete papers on the subject ?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : (a) So far as the Government of India is concerned, the answer to both parts is in the negative. Provincial Governments have full powers to make rules regulating the pensions of provincial and subordinate services under them, and the Government of India have no information whether those Governments have sanctioned increased scales of pensions, or have any such proposal under their consideration.

(b) This question does not arise.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION ON THE LINES OF THE RECENT MERCHANDISE MARKS LEGISLATION IN ENGLAND.

371. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy** : Have Government any intention to undertake legislation on the lines of the recent Merchandise Marks legislation in England ? If so, what action has so far been taken in the matter ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : The question is under the consideration of the Government.

DELAYS TO TRAINS CONSEQUENT ON THE INTRODUCTION OF THE DIVISIONAL SCHEME IN STATE RAILWAYS.

372. ***Haji Abdoola Haroon** : 1. What was the object of introducing the Divisional Scheme on the State Railways ?

2. (a) Is it a fact that trains have become subject to what is called 'primary delays' as a consequence of the working of the said scheme ?

(b) What was the number and duration of such delays in the twelve months preceding the introduction of the said scheme and what has been the number and duration thereof during each of the similar periods since the introduction of the scheme ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : I would refer the Honourable Member to the answer given to question No. 344 asked by Mr. Harchandrai Vishindas.

PROMOTION OF INDIANS IN THE TRAFFIC BRANCH OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY TO THE POST OF DISTRICT TRAFFIC SUPERINTENDENT.

373. ***Haji Abdoola Haroon** : (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of Indians in the Traffic Branch of the North-Western Railway in October 1924 who were entitled in the normal course of time to rise to the post of District Traffic Superintendent ?

(b) What provision, if any, has been made in the present scheme to insure the due promotion of such Indian officers to a similar or equivalent higher post ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : I would draw the attention of the Honourable Member to the reply given to a similar question No. 345 asked by Mr. Harchandrai Vishindas.

APPOINTMENT OF A COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE RESULTS OF THE TRANSPORTATION WORKING OF THE DIVISIONAL SCHEME ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

374. ***Haji Abdoola Haroon** : (a) Is it a fact that the Agent, North-Western Railway, has appointed a Committee to study the results of the "Transportation" working of the Divisional Scheme and to recommend changes, if deemed fit ? What is the personnel of the Committee ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Committee has almost exclusively been composed of men who have no knowledge or experience of "Transportation" ?

(c) Is it a fact that the Committee consists of men who are avowedly in favour of recruiting men of Engineering qualifications only for the posts filled by men with special practical training in such posts ?

(d) Are Government aware that the proposed Committee is considered by the public and the Traffic Officers as a blow designed against the declared policy of Government to Indianise the Railway Services ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given to question No. 346 put by Mr. Harchandrai Vishindas.

**APPOINTMENT OF ENGINEERS TO FILL POSTS HELD BY TRAFFIC OFFICERS
CONSEQUENT ON THE INTRODUCTION OF THE DIVISIONAL SCHEME
ON STATE RAILWAYS.**

375. ***Haji Abdoola Haroon :** (a) Are Government aware that since the Divisional Scheme was introduced Engineers are being posted to fill posts previously held by Traffic Officers ?

(b) Are Government also aware that the Railway is engaging extra Engineers for Engineering work which could be performed by Engineers already available in the service ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : I would refer the Honourable Member to the answer given to question No. 347 asked by Mr. Harchandrai Vishindas.

**PROVISION OF A NEW LEVEL CROSSING AT OKARA ON THE NORTH WESTERN
RAILWAY.**

376. ***Haji Abdoola Haroon :** (a) Is it a fact that the railway station at Okara on the North-Western Railway, District Montgomery, has recently been removed to the other side of the track ?

(b) Is it a fact that by doing so the track now intervenes between the new station and the town, and that for this reason all pedestrian and vehicular traffic from the town to the station has to follow the Dipalpur Road level crossing which is the only level crossing in the neighbourhood ?

(c) Is it a fact that the above route involves a long detour causing considerable inconvenience and loss of time to the residents of the town desiring to approach the station ?

(d) Is it a fact that the necessity for a new level crossing nearer the station has been admitted by the railway authorities ?

(e) Is it a fact that in response to representations from certain factory owners and other members of the public, the new level crossing was sanctioned and the work was ordered to be put in hand as far back as October last ?

(f) Is it a fact that the railway authorities have since changed their mind and now refuse to provide a new level crossing ? If so, why ?

(g) Did the railway authorities consult the factory owners and the public who were closely concerned with the project, before reversing their former decision ?

(h) What action do the Government propose to take in the matter ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to question No. 343.

MEMORIAL REGARDING THE CLAIMS OF THE POSTAL RECRUITED TELEGRAPHISTS.

377. *Mr. M. K. Acharya : 1. Will the Government be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the General Secretary of the All-India Telegraph Union submitted a memorial to the Secretary of State for India in the month of May 1927 regarding the claims of the postal recruited telegraphists ; and
- (b) when the memorial was received by the Government of India and whether it has been forwarded to the Secretary of State with any recommendations ?

2. If the answer to question 1 (b) be in the affirmative, what were the recommendations of the Government of India on the said memorial ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : 1. (a) Yes.

(b) The memorial was received by Government in June 1927 and has been withheld under the powers vested in them.

2. Does not arise.

GRANT OF RELIEF TO POSTAL RECRUITED TELEGRAPHISTS.

378. *Mr. M. K. Acharya : With reference to the suggestion made by me on the floor of the Assembly on the 11th March 1927 regarding the postal recruited men, do the Government propose to take any action on the suggestion ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : The Government of India have carefully considered the grievances set forth and they see no justification for modifying their previous orders.

POSTAL RECRUITED TELEGRAPHISTS

379. *Mr. M. K. Acharya : (a) With reference to the reply of the Honourable Member in charge of Industries and Labour to the question No. 30 (a) answered in the Assembly on 31st January 1927, regarding postal recruited telegraphists, will the Government be pleased to state why the same rule should not be applied to these men when transferred to the Telegraph Department, namely of counting the total length of postal service as was done in the Post Office when granting increments for telegraph services ?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Mr. Barton of the Indian Telegraph Association is against granting increments for the past services of the postal recruited telegraphists and whether he has addressed any communication to Government on the subject ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : (a) I am not sure that I understand the Honourable Member's question, as his question No. 30 (a) to which I gave a reply in this House on the 31st January last did not refer to postal-recruited telegraphists ; I should, however, again invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply given by me in this House

on the 28th February, 1925, to part (d) of his unstarred question No. 207.

(b) *Part first*—No.

Part second—Yes.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY THE RECENT CONFERENCE OF THE ALL-INDIA TELEGRAPH UNION.

380. ***Mr. M. K. Acharya** : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Government of India have received a copy of the resolutions passed in the recent Conference held at Calcutta in the first week of May 1927 under the auspices of the All-India Telegraph Union ?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to place on the table a copy of the resolutions ?

(c) What action do Government propose to take on them ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : (a) Yes.

(b) A copy of the resolutions will be found in the Library.

(c) The resolutions are being considered by the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs. But some of the resolutions deal with matters in regard to which final conclusions have already been arrived at by Government after careful consideration and no further action will be taken on them.

INSANITARY CONDITION OF THE MADRAS CENTRAL TELEGRAPH OFFICE.

381. ***Mr. M. K. Acharya** : Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the General Secretary of the All-India Telegraph Union submitted a representation to the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs on the 18th June 1927 regarding the insanitary condition of the Madras Central Telegraph Office building, and if so, what steps do the Government propose to take on it ?

Mr. H. A. Sams : Yes. A provision of Rs. 61,600 has been made in the current year's budget for improvements to the Instrument room of the Madras Central Telegraph Office. The work will be commenced shortly.

PAY OF MISTRIES EMPLOYED IN THE TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.

382. ***Mr. M. K. Acharya** : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the exact number of mistries now employed in the Telegraph Department all over India and Burma and their rates of pay including allowance if any ?

(b) Why have their services not been treated as pensionable when they have been allowed to enjoy the other privileges of permanent subordinates ?

Mr. H. A. Sams : (a) The total number of mistries in the Telegraph Branch is 208 and these are on 13 different scales or rates of pay ranging from Rs. 20—1—30 to Rs. 110—5—140. The men employed at certain stations are in receipt of compensatory allowances at different rates.

(b) The reasons for treating these mistries as non-pensionable are being enquired into and the question of giving them pensionable status will be considered.

TIME SCALES OF PAY OF CLERKS IN DEPARTMENTAL TELEGRAPH OFFICES.

383. ***Mr. M. K. Acharya** : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state why they have introduced the different classes and time scales of pay of the clerks in departmental telegraph offices ?

(b) Are there any similar classes and time scales in the Postal Department, and if not what is the reason for the classification in the Telegraph Department ?

Mr. H. A. Sams : (a) Different classes and time scales of pay of the clerks in the departmental telegraph offices were introduced in consideration of the different classes of duties to be performed in those offices.

(b) Yes, but the classes in the Postal Department have not been given the same designations as on the telegraph side.

REVISION OF THE PAY OF THE LOWER SUBORDINATE STAFF ON THE SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY.

384. ***Mr. M. K. Acharya** : (a) With reference to my question No. 206 answered on 2nd February 1927, will the Government be pleased to say whether any revision of the pay of the lower subordinate staff on the South Indian Railway has taken place since the answer given by the Commerce Member to the question under reference ?

(b) If the answer be in the negative do Government propose to take any steps to raise the salaries in question to the level of similar staff in Government offices ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : The revision of the rate is still under the consideration of the South Indian Railway Company.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Sir, may I ask these questions standing in the name of Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan ?

Mr. President : Unless I am satisfied that the Honourable Member is really unable to come, I am not going to allow questions to be asked by another Honourable Member. I must lay it down once for all that Honourable Members should not give notice of a large number of questions unless they intend to be present. At any rate they should have the courtesy of informing the Chair in time of their inability to attend and whom they have authorised to put the questions on their behalf. It is very inconvenient that a large number of questions should appear on the paper and that the Honourable Members should not be present here to ask them ; and with a view to discourage that practice I have disallowed Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan's questions to-day.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : He has written to me.....

Mr. President : Order, order.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : On a point order, Sir. The only provision which the Standing Orders have with regard to questions that may stand

in the name of Members who are absent is Standing Order No. 19 and it runs as follows :

“ If on a question being called it is not put or the Member in whose name it stands is absent, the President, at the request of any Member, may direct that the answer to it be given.”

I do not know whether there is any other Standing Order relating to this subject and whether it is necessary for an Honourable Member to have a written authority from another Member in whose name the question may stand in order to enable him to put it.

Mr. President : The logical result of that would be that a number of Members who have no intention of attending the Session at all may give notice of a large number of questions which might appear on the paper and they will not be present at all to put those questions. That is a practice which must needs be discouraged. The discretion to direct that questions standing in the name of an absentee Member shall be answered vests in the President.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : May I draw your attention, Sir, to Rule 39 :

“ Questions shall be put and answers given in such manner as the President may, in his discretion, determine.”

Mr. K. C. Neogy : *In such manner as :* that has nothing to do with the point.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan wrote to me saying that he has been advised by his doctors not to come to Simla before the end of this month and so he authorised me to put his questions.

Mr. President : This is news to the Chair. Some questions were on the paper yesterday and the Honourable Member did not intimate this to the Chair then.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : In view of your remarks.....

Mr. President : Order, order. The Honourable Member was present here when Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan's questions were called yesterday. He did not bring this to the notice of the Chair then. Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh did not rise in his seat yesterday when those questions were called, and to-day also it was not he but Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury who got up to put the questions.

†385.—398

DELAY IN THE COMPLETION OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE SHORANUR-NILAMBUR RAILWAY.

399. ***Khan Bahadur Haji Abdullah Haji Kasim :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the contractors of the Shoranur-Nilambur Railway line were to complete their work within two years according to their agreement ?

(b) If so, has the work been completed, and if not, why ?

(c) Is it a fact the delay in completing the work is attributed to irregular payment of bills of the contractors by the South Indian Railway authorities ?

† Not put at the meeting, but the questions and answers to them will be found at pages 3422—3427 of these proceedings.

(d) If so, what action have the Government taken or propose to take in the matter in order to get the work expedited ?

(e) Is it a fact that the said Railway authorities have not even paid the bills in respect of the work already completed ?

(f) If so, what are the reasons for such delay ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a)—(f). The information is being collected and will be furnished to the Honourable Member when ready.
†400.—412.

RULES AND REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE RECRUITMENT OF P. W. I. PROBATIONERS ON THE ASSAM BENGAL RAILWAY.

413. ***Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim :** (a) Will the Government in the Department of Railways be pleased to lay on the table rules and regulations relating to the recruitment of P. W. I. probationers of the Assam Bengal Railway ?

(b) Is it a fact that no other outsider is recruited except the relations of old employees already serving in the Department ? If so, why ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) The Agent, Assam Bengal Railway, is being requested to forward a copy of the rules and regulations, if there are any, and the Honourable Member will be communicated with in due course.

(b) Government have no information and do not propose to call for any.

MUSSALMANS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA STATIONERY AND PRINTING DEPARTMENT.

414. ***Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state what is the total number of clerks in all grades in the Government of India Printing, Stationery and Stamps Office at Calcutta, and what is the percentage of the Mussalmans therein ?

(b) Is it a fact that in the office of the Deputy Controller, Central Stationery and Stamps, out of a total cadre of 100, there are only five Moslems and that these are only in the lowest grade ?

(c) Is it a fact that in the office of the Manager, Central Publication Branch, Calcutta, there are only 6 Moslems out of a total and 71 Hindus ? Will the Government state the reason why ?

(d) Is it a fact that in the office of the Deputy Controller of Forms, Calcutta, there are only 8 Moslems out of a total and 74 Hindus ?

(e) Is it a fact that in the Printing Press, Calcutta, there is only one Moslem and 77 Hindus ?

(f) Will the Government be pleased to state how many vacancies have been filled up since the assurance given by Government to the interpellations of the Honourable Maulvi Abdul Karim from 1921 to 1924 in the Council of State ? Did Mr. Ley, the Secretary in the Department of Industries, give any assurance in the matter of Moslem appointments in the said Departments ?

† Not put at the meeting, but the questions and answers to them will be found at pages 3428—3433 of these proceedings.

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : (a) to (d). The clerical staff in the Calcutta offices of the Government of India Stationery and Printing Department comprising the Central Stationery and Stamp Office, the Central Publication Branch, the Central Forms Store, and the Government of India Press, Calcutta, constitutes a single cadre and recruitment is consequently made irrespective of branches. The total number of clerks at present employed in these offices is 310 of whom 7 per cent. are Moslems.

(e) No. There are about 1,000 persons employed in the Government of India Press at Calcutta and although I have not any recent figures showing the actual number of Moslems in this Press I can assure the Honourable Member that the proportion of Moslems is substantial. It is probably well over 30 per cent. of the total.

(f) 113 vacancies have occurred since 1924. The appointments to 27 of these were offered to Moslems but 6 did not accept and 2 resigned subsequently. I have been unable to trace any assurance given by Mr. Ley in the matter of Moslem appointments in the Stationery and Printing Department, but the practice in this Department does not now differ from the general policy of Government in this matter.

EMPLOYMENT OF STATE VETERINARY SCHOLARS IN THE VETERINARY SERVICE.

415. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state how much was spent on the State Veterinary Scholars who were sent out to the United Kingdom for acquiring Veterinary Diplomas? What were the objects of the scholarships and how far have those objects been achieved?

(b) Have the Central Government adjusted the expenditure with the Provincial Governments concerned in view of the 'provincialisation' of the Indian Veterinary Service?

(c) Were these scholars sent out under promise of employment? If so, was their case brought before the Lee Commission in connexion with the question of provincialisation of the Veterinary Service?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state if they have done anything to rectify the anomalous position of these scholars subsequent to the Lee recommendations?

(e) Have Government stated in any case that they have no power to make appointments to that service, and that they have addressed the Local Governments some of whom are prepared to consider the claims of these scholars?

(f) If so, is it not a fact that the posts of Veterinary Research Officer and the Professor of Pathology were advertised by the High Commissioner for India in the London Veterinary Record of November 1926, and in such a way that the last date for receiving the applications would elapse before the Indian scholars trained at Government expense could even know it?

(g) Is it not a fact that the three year contracts in the provinces have been renewed notwithstanding Government trained scholars waiting for employment?

(h) Is it not a fact that the said post of Professor of Pathology has been given to one M. R. C. V. S. from Edinburgh, when a Government trained scholar with an additional qualification of the London University was available?

(i) Will Government be pleased to state whether this step is in agreement with the procedure laid down by the Lee Commission for recruitment to the service with a view to its Indianisation ?

Mr. A. R. Dalal : (a) Precise information as to the amount spent upon the State Veterinary Scholars is not available. The amount can, however, be roughly judged from the fact that each Scholar, besides being eligible for a free second class return passage, was awarded a scholarship of £250 per annum, tenable for four years, in addition to the cost of tuition fees at the rate of about £27 a year. The object of the scholarships was to enable the students to obtain Veterinary Diploma and thereby render themselves eligible for appointment in the Indian Veterinary Service. That object has been achieved to the extent that four out of the five scholars sent secured the Diploma of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, England, though it was not found possible to appoint any of them to the Indian Veterinary Service in view of the cessation of recruitment for that Service.

(b) No. It was decided to waive reciprocal recoveries between the Government of India and Provincial Governments in respect of scholars sent abroad for training.

(c) No.

(d) and (e). As stated in the reply given by Mr. Bhole to Mr. Harchandrai Vishindas on the 18th August, 1926, the Government of India requested certain Local Governments to consider these scholars for appointment on the occurrence of vacancies ; the Government of India have also noted the scholars' names for vacancies at the Muktesar Institute as they arise, and have appointed one of them to a temporary post at this Institute. It is understood that two other scholars have obtained employment under a Local Government.

(f), (g), (h) and (i). It is not understood to what posts the Honourable Member is referring and Government regret therefore that they are unable to answer these questions.

APPOINTMENT OF STATE VETERINARY SCHOLARS AS STOCK BREEDING EXPERTS IN THE PROVINCES.

416. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that the post of Stock breeding expert has been created in most provinces ?

(b) Are Government aware that in Bengal the State Veterinary Scholars were not even summoned by the Selection Committee, while people of the lower grade were called for and one of them appointed to such post ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state what policy they intend adopting towards these State Scholars in the face of this attitude on the part of the Local Governments.

Mr. A. R. Dalal : (a) Such posts have been created in most of the major provinces.

(b) The Government of India have no information.

(c) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to (d) and (e) of the preceding question.

APPOINTMENT OF STATE VETERINARY SCHOLARS TO VACANCIES IN THE IMPERIAL VETERINARY SERVICE AT MUKTESAR.

417. ***Mr. K. O. Neogy** : (a) Will Government be pleased to state if there are any vacancies for the Imperial Veterinary Service at Muktesar ?

(b) If so, how and when will they be filled ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state what difficulty there was in appointing the scholars to the permanent vacancies of Veterinary Research Officers ?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state what surplus there was in the last year's revenue of the Muktesar Research Institute ? Do Government propose to utilise the surplus in effecting any expansion of this Institute ?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state what they are prepared to do in the case of such scholars, becoming over age for Veterinary Service before they succeed in securing any appointment ?

Mr. A. B. Dalal : (a), (b) and (c). Two posts borne on the cadre of the Indian Veterinary Service are at present vacant at the Muktesar Institute. They have not been filled up permanently partly because it has not yet been decided on what lines to constitute the new Central Veterinary Service which will replace the Indian Veterinary Service, and partly because it is desired to await the Report of the Royal Commission on Indian Agriculture. In place of one of these posts, however, a temporary three years post has been created, to which one of the scholars referred to by the Honourable Member has been appointed.

(d) The revenue for the year 1925-26, the last year for which figures are available, exceeded the expenditure on the Institute by Rs. 4,53,682. The question of expanding the Institute cannot, however, be considered until the Report of the Royal Commission has been received.

(e) Government are under no obligation to provide these scholars with employment. The fact of his being over the age of 25 will not however be an absolute bar to future employment in the case of any scholar who may still be unemployed.

GRANT OF KING'S COMMISSIONS FOR THE INDIAN ARMY VETERINARY SERVICE TO QUALIFIED INDIAN M. R. C. V. S. MEN.

418. ***Mr. K. O. Neogy** : (a) Have the Government of India any objection to granting King's Commissions for the Indian Army Veterinary Corps to qualified Indian M. R. C. V. S. men ?

(b) If not, have Government done anything for the above mentioned scholars in this direction ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state if they have considered the advisability of giving these scholars opportunities of further specialised work in Animal Nutrition and Breeding at the Institute of Animal Husbandry during their period of waiting ?

Mr. G. M. Young : (a) and (b). Indians holding the M. R. C. V. S. diploma are eligible for the grant of King's Commissions in the Indian Army Veterinary Corps provided that the general education that they

have received is suitable. At present the only general education which the Government of India consider suitable is that provided by the Dehra Dun College or by an English public school.

(c) No, Sir.

REPRESENTATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AT THE IMPERIAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE.

419. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy** : Will the Government of India be pleased to state if they are sending any representatives to the Imperial Conference to be held shortly in London for the co-ordination of Agricultural Research ? If so, who are the officers selected ?

Mr. A. B. Dalal : The Government of India have asked Mr. F. J. F. Shaw, Imperial Economic Botanist, now on leave in England to represent them at the Imperial Agricultural Research Conference.

† 420.—425.

GRANT OF COMPENSATION TO THE HEIRS OF BABU NAWAL KISHORE, ASSISTANT STATION MASTER, GENERALGUNJ CABIN, CAWNPORE, WHO WAS MURDERED BY A GANG OF ROBBERS.

426. ***Mr. Mukhtar Singh** : (a) Is it a fact that Babu Nawal Kishore, assistant station master, Generalgunj Cabin, Cawnpore, was shot dead by a gang of robbers ?

(b) Is it a fact that Babu Nawal Kishore along with two other assistant station masters tried to drive away the robbers and in that attempt was shot dead by the robbers ?

(c) Is it a fact that Babu Nawal Kishore has left behind him two widows, one child about two years old and his widowed mother ?

(d) Is it a fact that the Government has granted only Rs. 1,000 as compensation to the heirs of the said Nawal Kishore ?

(e) Have Government made any provision for his son and are Government prepared to increase the amount of compensation granted ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : Government have called for information from the Agent, East Indian Railway, and will send a reply to the Honourable Member's questions as soon as it is received.

GRANT OF THE MONOPOLY OF SELLING NEWSPAPERS, BOOKS, ETC., AT RAILWAY STATIONS TO MESSRS. WHEELER AND CO.

427. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub** : (a) Is it a fact that the monopoly of selling newspapers, both English and vernacular, books and certain other articles on the railway stations on the East Indian Railway has been given to Messrs. Wheeler & Co. ?

(b) What are the terms and conditions on which the monopoly has been given ?

(c) Was the monopoly given by public advertisement and were any Indian firms given an opportunity to apply for the same ?

† Not put at the meeting, but the questions and answers to them will be found at pages 3434—3438 of these proceedings.

(d) Have any conditions been laid down for facilitating the sale of vernacular papers ?

(e) Are Government aware that the monopoly to Messrs. Wheeler & Co. is hampering the sale of vernacular newspapers and causing inconvenience to the Hindustani knowing public ?

(f) Do Government propose to exclude the vernacular newspapers from the articles contained in the monopoly of Messrs. Wheeler & Co. ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) to (f). The information is being obtained and will be furnished to the Honourable Member.

WITHDRAWAL OF THE PERMISSION TO SELL THE MUKHBIR-E-ALAM, A VERNACULAR WEEKLY, AT MORADABAD STATION.

428. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub :** Is it a fact that the *Mukhbir-e-Alam*, a vernacular weekly of Moradabad was permitted to be sold on the railway station at Moradabad ? Why was the permission withdrawn ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : I am enquiring and will let the Honourable Member know.

†429.—435.

CONTRIBUTIONS BY GOVERNMENT SERVANTS TO THE KHADI FUND.

436. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh :** (a) Will Government kindly state if under Rule 23 (1) of the Government Servants' Conduct Rules, or any other Rule, Government servants are prohibited from subscribing to the *Khadi* Fund, which is in aid of the All-India Spinners' Association—an Association established with the consent of the All-India Congress Committee, as an integral part of the Congress organisation ?

(b) Are Government aware of the following Resolution which is part of the constitution of the All-India Spinners' Association :

"Whereas the time has arrived for the establishment of an expert organisation for the development of hand-spinning and Khaddar, and whereas experience has shown that such development is not possible without a permanent organisation, unaffected and uncontrolled by politics, by political changes, or political bodies, an organisation called the All-India Spinners' Association is hereby established with the consent of the All-India Congress Committee as an integral part of the Congress organisation, but with independent existence and powers " ?

(c) Has there been any correspondence with the Madras Government on this subject ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar : (a) The Government of Madras have prohibited subscription under rule 23 (1) of the Government Servants' Conduct Rules.

(b) Yes.

(c) The Government of Madras have reported the facts.

Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar : May I know whether this Government will consider the necessity of instructing the Government of Madras to recall the order issued ?

† Not put at the meeting, but the questions and answers to them will be found at pages 3439—3441 of these proceedings.

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : The application of section 23 (1) of the Government Servants' Conduct Rules is a matter for the discretion of the Local Governments in respect of their own officers.

Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar : Is it not a matter of sufficient importance because it is one which affects not merely the Government Servants' Conduct Rules in Madras but in other provinces also and it is a general question in which the Government of India might well consider the desirability of issuing instructions ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : It is because the question is of some general interest that I undertook to answer it at all. Otherwise I think I might have said that the matter was primarily one for the Local Government.

APPOINTMENT OF INDIANS TO THE SPECIAL COMMISSION TO INQUIRE INTO THE QUESTION OF THE FEDERATION OF EAST AND CENTRAL AFRICA.

437. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh :** (a) Will Government kindly state when the Special Commission of Inquiry is likely to go out to enquire into the question of a federation of East and Central Africa, and whether it is intended to appoint any Indian on this Commission to represent and safeguard the interests of the Indians in Kenya, Tanganyika, Uganda and other territories concerned ?

(b) Have Government taken any steps, or do they propose to take any steps in this matter ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : Government have no information as to when the Commission is likely to go out to Africa for the enquiry. As regards the rest of the question, the Honourable Member's attention is invited to the statement made by Mr. Dalal in this House and by the Honourable Sir Muhammad Habibullah on the motion of Mr. K. C. Roy last Thursday.

RECOVERY OF PENALTIES FROM RAILWAY COMPANIES FOR OVERCROWDING OF CARRIAGES.

438. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh :** (a) Will Government kindly state if under section 97 of the Indian Railways Act (Act IX of 1890) any suit has ever been brought by the Secretary of State for India in Council, against any Railway Company or administration to recover the penalty prescribed in section 93 of the said Act, for contravening the provisions of section 63, which fixes the maximum number of passengers to be carried in each compartment of a railway train ?

(b) If so, will Government kindly give the names of such Railway Companies or administrations, and the amount of penalty recovered from them separately ?

(c) If no such suit has ever been brought, will Government kindly explain the reasons why action has not been taken against those Railway Companies or administrations, which carry more passengers in the trains than the maximum number prescribed under section 63 of the Railways Act ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) Not so far as Government are aware.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Such action would not have been in the interest of the travelling public. The alternative to overcrowding was the stoppage of booking and such stoppages would, Government understand, have caused greater inconvenience to intending passengers.

ALLEGED INSOLENCES OF A "CREWMAN" OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

439. *Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Has the attention of the Government been drawn to a signed letter, which appeared in the *Forward*, dated the 20th July 1927 (page 3), giving the details of the alleged insolence of a "crewman" of the East Indian Railway? What are the facts of this case, and what steps have been taken, or are proposed to be taken to protect *bona fide* passengers from the harassment and insolence of railway "crewmen"?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : Government have seen the letter referred to. The proper course in a case of this nature is for the person aggrieved to bring the matter to the notice of the Railway Administration concerned who can be relied on to deal with it on its merits.

ALLEGED SHORTAGE OF STORES ON THE SONE BRIDGE AT KOILWAR ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

440. *Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : (a) Is it a fact that when the last inspection of the stores of the Sone Bridge *Regirding* at Koilwar (East Indian Railway) in Bihar, was made, a considerable amount of stores was found short in the stock? If so, when was the last inspection made, and what is the approximate value of the stores found short? Has any inquiry been made, and if so, with what result?

(b) Have Government any objection in placing a copy of the last inspection note on the table?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : Neither the Railway Board nor the East Indian Railway Administration have any knowledge of any shortage of stores on the Sone Bridge at Koilwar.

CONVEYANCE OF THE ENGLISH MAIL FROM BOMBAY TO CALCUTTA BY THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY.

441. *Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : (a) Is there any proposal to convey the English Mail from Bombay to Calcutta by the Bengal Nagpur Railway for early delivery? If so, is it a fact that this proposal, if carried out, will involve an expenditure of about Rs. 60,000 per year out of the funds of the Government of India?

(b) Is it a fact that this proposal, if carried out, will result in English Mails being delivered somewhat later than at present over considerable portions of territories, such as Behar, Nepal and the United Provinces?

(c) Is it not a fact that if the English Mails are carried to Calcutta by the Bengal Nagpur Railway, it will only result in Calcutta getting its Mails a few hours earlier on Sundays, which is not a business day?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : (a) No. The second part of the question does not arise.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

**ENHANCEMENT OF THE LICENCE-FEES PAYABLE BY THE NONIAS (LUNIYAS)
FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF CRUDE SALTPETRE, ETC.**

442. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh** : (a) Is it a fact that formerly licences for the manufacture of crude saltpetre, rassi and saggi, were issued to the Nonias (Luniyas) through the Post Offices at the nominal fee of two annas only, but since 1924 the licences are issued by District Headquarter Treasuries at Rs. 2 ?

(b) Are Government aware that the Nonias (Luniyas) are a desperately poor class of persons, and this enhancement of the licence fee, together with the trouble and additional expense of obtaining it, and the system of issuing licences from District Headquarter Treasuries instead of through the Post Offices, have resulted in the practical ruin of the saltpetre industry in Bihar and elsewhere ?

(c) Do Government propose to decrease the licence fee, and revive the system of issuing licences through the Post Offices, or any other cheap and readily available agency ?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : (a) Yes, except that under the old system the fee was 4 annas and not 2 annas as stated by the Honourable Member, and the Luniya was *not* allowed to educe salt without paying duty, whereas he may do so now.

(b) and (c). The changes introduced in 1924 were made partly in order to help the Luniyas. In view, however, of the present condition of the saltpetre industry, Government are at present re-examining the whole position, including the possibility of reducing license fees charged to refiners.

ENQUIRY INTO THE WORKING OF THE MUSLIM UNIVERSITY AT ALIGARH.

443. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan** : 1. In what year was the Aligarh Muslim University Act passed ?

2. How long after the passing of the Act was the Visiting Board of the University constituted and its members appointed ?

3. Has the Visiting Board made any inspection since its constitution ?

4. Do Government propose to make an inquiry into the working of the University ?

Mr. A. R. Dalal : (1) 1920.

(2) April 1921.

(3) The Visiting Board has not exercised its right to inspect the University through any of its members.

(4) The question of enquiry is under the consideration of H. H. the Chancellor of the University.

†444.

**APPOINTMENT OF A COMMISSION TO ENQUIRE INTO THE WORKING OF THE MUSLIM
UNIVERSITY AT ALIGARH.**

445. ***Mr. Ismail Khan** : (a) Is it a fact that the Chancellor of the Muslim University, Aligarh, has appointed a Commission for the examination of the constitution of the University, and for making an inquiry into the working of the University ?

† Not put at the meeting, but the question and answer to it will be found at page 3442 of these proceedings.

(b) Has this Commission been appointed with the concurrence of the Government of India ?

(c) If so, will the Government please give the names of the persons who have been appointed Commissioners ?

Mr. A. R. Dalal : (a) The Government of India understand that H. H. the Chancellor of the Aligarh Muslim University proposes to appoint a committee to enquire into the affairs of that University.

(b) The concurrence of the Government of India is not necessary.

(c) Does not arise.

RUNNING OF FIRST AND SECOND CLASS CARRIAGES WITH LAVATORIES ON TRAINS BETWEEN MEERUT CITY AND KHURJA JUNCTION.

446. ***Mr. Ismail Khan :** Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the inconvenience experienced by passengers on the East Indian Railway trains, which run between Meerut City and Khurja Junction due to the fact that the first and second class carriages have no lavatories attached to them ? If so, are Government prepared to order that carriages with lavatories be attached to these trains in future ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : The answer to the first portion of the question is in the negative. A copy of the question has been forwarded to the Agent, East Indian Railway, for such action as may be necessary.

THE MADRAS FOREIGN MAIL SPECIAL.

447. ***Mr. D. V. Belvi :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of occasions on which the Madras Foreign Mail Special was run during the last 18 months ?

(b) On how many occasions during the same period was the mail van carrying the inward English Mail between Bombay and Madras marked sick between Bombay and Raichur and Raichur and Madras, and on how many occasions had the mails to be unloaded and reloaded in ordinary passenger vans ?

(c) What were the causes of the mail vans getting sick between Raichur and Madras and the arrangements made for a more reliable supply of mail vans ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : The information is being obtained and will be furnished to the Honourable Member.

OFFICIATING OR TEMPORARY SERVICE RENDERED BY POSTAL CLERKS AND SORTERS IN THE RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE.

448. ***Mr. D. V. Belvi :** Will Government be pleased to state :

(a) If it is a fact that the Government of India have decided to lay down a time-limit for the submission of claims in respect of the benefit of an aggregate period of actual (paid) officiating or temporary service rendered by postal clerks and sorters in the Railway Mail Service ?

- (b) If it is a fact that a similar time-limit prescribed for the submission of representations in respect of fixation of pay was the 31st July, 1926 ?
- (c) If it is a fact that two cases of the officials of the Bombay General Post Office for fixation of pay submitted in time, remain undisposed of for the last two years ?
- (d) If the reply to the above be in the affirmative, do Government propose to consider the advisability of fixing some time-limit for the disposal of such cases by the Directorate ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TREASURY CENTRAL SYSTEM IN THE GENERAL POST OFFICE, BOMBAY.

449. *Mr. D. V. Belvi : Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) When was the Treasury Contract System introduced in the Bombay General Post Office ?
- (b) Is it a fact that claims for duty allowance or compensation for payment of premia for higher security of three of the officials of the Old Treasury Department of the Bombay General Post Office, namely, Messrs. Savdavar, Jadhav and Murudkar, have been under the consideration of the Director-General since the introduction of the Treasury Contract System ?
- (c) Is it a fact that the question of escort of cash bags by the Town Inspector is likewise under examination for a long period of time ?
- (d) What is the approximate date on which the decision of the Director General may reasonably be expected ?

Mr. H. A. Sams : (a) The 1st April, 1926.

(b) The original petitions were rejected. Fresh petitions have been received and are being considered.

(c) No.

(d) No approximate date can be given.

• 450.—469.

INCLUSION OF PORTIONS OF NON-BRITISH TERRITORY IN THE SHILLONG GENERAL URBAN CONSTITUENCY OF THE ASSAM LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

470. *Mr. K. C. Neogy : (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to unstarred questions Nos. 79 to 82 in the Assam Legislative Council on the 20th July, 1927, and the answers thereto ?

† Not put at the meeting, but the questions and answers to them will be found at pages 3442—3454 of these proceedings.

(b) Have Government announced any decision as to including portions of non-British territory in the Urban constituency of Shillong for the purpose of representation in the local Council? If so, to what effect?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the total number of electors, as in 1926, in the Shillong General Urban constituency of the Assam Legislative Council, who are also voters in the Surma Valley-cum-Shillong constituency of the Legislative Assembly, and how many of the said number are residents in the British and non-British portions, respectively, of the said constituency?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) 503 and 171, respectively.

ELIGIBILITY OF THE HONOURABLE MR. NICHOLS-ROY FOR ELECTION TO THE ASSAM LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

471. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy :** (a) Is it a fact that the Honourable Mr. Nichols-Roy, one of the Ministers of the Government of Assam, is neither a British subject nor a resident in British territory?

(b) Was the question of his eligibility for election to the Assam Legislative Council ever referred to the Government of India in any connection? If so, with what result?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : (a) Mr. Roy is a subject of one of the Khasi states. By a notification of the Government of Assam issued under the Assam Electoral Rules such subjects have been declared not to be ineligible for election and not to be disqualified for registration on the electoral roll by reason only of not being British subjects. Mr. Roy resides in the non-British area of the Shillong Municipality.

(b) No.

SEVERE PENALTIES INFLICTED ON THE MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION STAFF, IGATPURI, BY MR. BRUCE JOY, DIVISIONAL SUPERINTENDENT, KALYAN SECTION.

472. ***Mr. N. M. Joshi :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether their attention has been drawn to an editorial in the "Railway Times" of the 23rd July 1927 under the caption of "S. O. S." from Igatpuri on the subject of severe penalties inflicted on the members of the Transportation Staff, Igatpuri, by Mr. Bruce Joy, the Divisional Superintendent, Kalyan section?

(b) Has the attention of the Government also been drawn to the letter addressed to the Agent, Great Indian Peninsula Railway, by the General Secretary of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants of India and Burma, Limited, appearing at pages 4 and 5 of the same issue?

(c) If so, will Government be pleased to state what steps have been taken by the Agent to enquire into the allegations and to institute an enquiry into the circumstances in which the severe penalties complained of were instituted?

(d) Do Government propose to take steps to prevent the repetition of such "severe penalties" on the subordinate employees of all Railways by the Divisional Superintendents ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) and (b). The General Secretary of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants of India and Burma Limited has forwarded to Government a copy of the *Railway Times* of 23rd July 1927, which is edited and published by him and has drawn attention to the editorial and letter referred to.

(c) and (d). Government have no information regarding the action which the Agent, Great Indian Peninsula Railway, has taken or may propose to take in the matter. I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the fact that the letter was addressed to the Agent, Great Indian Peninsula Railway, and so far the Agent has not found it necessary to seek the assistance of Government in its disposal, nor do Government anticipate that the Agent will find it necessary to do so. A copy of this question and reply will however be forwarded to the Agent, Great Indian Peninsula Railway.

REMOVAL OF DELIVERY POST OFFICES IN BOMBAY TO DISTANT CORNERS OF THEIR DELIVERY AREAS.

473. ***Mr. N. M. Joshi :** (a) Is it a fact that V. P. articles, the value of which is over Rs. 25, and insured articles, the insured value of which is over Rs. 200, have to be taken delivery of at the Post Office ?

(b) Is it a fact that the new Government Post Office building at Kalbadevi under construction is at one end of the present delivery area of that office ?

(c) Is it a fact that the present positions of the Mandvi and Girgaon Post Offices are also at one end of their respective delivery areas ?

(d) Is it intended to remove any more Delivery Post Offices in Bombay from their present central position to distant corners of their delivery areas ?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state whether in view of the inconvenience to the public as also in the interests of the delivery staff, instructions will be issued to stay such proposals in Bombay, if there be any ?

Mr. H. A. Sams : (a) V. P. articles more than Rs. 25 in value and insured articles of more than Rs. 250 insured value must ordinarily be taken delivery of at the post office. Such articles can be taken delivery of from "No delivery" Post Offices also: In offices specially authorised by the Postmaster General, selected postmen can take out insured articles valued at more than Rs. 250.

(b) Yes, but only five minutes' walk from the present building.

(c) The Girgaon post office is at one end of its delivery area, but the Mandvi office is central for delivery purposes.

(d) I do not admit that all the offices referred to in (b) and (c) are in distant corners of their delivery areas. As far as possible delivery offices

are located near the centre of the delivery area, but when an office has to be moved to a new building, this is not always possible.

(e) No.

QUESTIONS, NOT PUT AT THE MEETING OWING TO THE ABSENCE OF THE QUESTIONERS, WITH ANSWERS TO THE SAME.

EXPENDITURE ON THE COLONISATION OF THE ANDAMANS BY MOPLAHS.

348. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : Will Government please state the total expense incurred in connexion with the matter of the Andamans Settlement and the colonisation of the Moplahs from the time of the appointment of the Cardew Committee in 1920 to examine and report on the suitability of the Andamans to be continued as a penal settlement up to March 1927 ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar : The total expenditure incurred on the Andamans Settlement, including the Moplah Colonisation Scheme, since the appointment of the Indian Jails Committee is given in the budget estimates and demands for the Andaman and Nicobar Islands which are available to the Honourable Member in the Library.

The Moplah Colonisation Scheme accounts for about Rs. 2,20,000 of this expenditure, besides Rs. 63,000 given out as recoverable *taqavi* loans.

OFFICIAL RECOGNITION OF RAILWAY UNIONS.

349. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : (a) Will Government state if the Trade Union Act passed in March 1926 has been brought into force ?

(b) If so, have the different Railway Administrations given official recognition to all the Railway Unions ?

(c) If not, do Government propose to direct them to do so ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) Yes.

(b) Government have not got definite information whether all Railway Unions have been accepted by the respective Railway Administrations as suitable bodies for the Agent to confer within the interests of the staff. This is a matter which has hitherto been left in the hands of Agents.

(c) The matter is under consideration.

RESOLUTION re GRIEVANCES OF THE SUBORDINATE EMPLOYEES ON THE INDIAN RAILWAYS.

350. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : (a) Will Government please state if the Resolution of the Assembly passed in February 1926, recommending an inquiry into the grievances of the subordinate employees on the Indian Railways, has been accepted by the Government ?

(b) If so, what action has been taken ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to question No. 336 asked by Mr. M. K. Acharya on the 1st September, 1925.

APPOINTMENTS OF TEMPORARY JUDGES IN HIGH COURTS.

351. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : Will Government please state in whom the power of making temporary appointments of the Judges of the High Courts in India is vested and what criterion the Government impose in the selection ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : Appointments of acting and additional Judges of the High Courts, to which the Honourable Member is presumably referring, are made by the Governor General in Council or the Local Government as the case may be under the provisions of section 101 (2) (i) and 105 of the Government of India Act. Subject to the provisions of sub-sections (3) and (4) of section 101, efficiency is the main consideration in making selections for these appointments.

AWARD OF THE ROYAL HUMANE SOCIETY'S MEDAL TO TINDAL IBRAHIM.

352. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : (a) Will Government please state if they have arrived at a decision with regard to the question of recommending Tindal Ibrahim for an award of the Royal Humane Society [vide Government reply to unstarred question No. 60 (a) on the 31st January 1927] ?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the decision to the House ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : (a) and (b). Government has decided not to recommend the Tindal for the award referred to by the Honourable Member.

REVISION OF THE INDIAN RAILWAYS ACT.

353. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : (a) Is it a fact that the revision of the Railways Act is under the consideration of Government ?

(b) If so, have they arrived at a decision ?

(c) If they have, will they please communicate their decision to the House ?

(d) If not, will they please state the reasons of the delay ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) It is a matter requiring full consideration and cannot be dealt with hurriedly.

TAKING OF THE OATH OF OFFICE BY BABU SATYENDRA CHANDRA MITRA, M.L.A.

354. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : (a) With reference to Government reply to starred question No. 280 on the 7th February 1927, regarding the taking of the oath of office by Babu Satyendra Chandra Mitra, M.L.A., will Government please state if they are aware of the action taken by the Government of Bengal in the matter ?

(b) If they are aware, will they please communicate the decision of the Bengal Government to the House ?

(c) If not, are they prepared to obtain the information from the Bengal Government and place it before the House ?

Mr. W. T. M. Wright : The Government of Bengal decided that Mr. S. C. Mitra could not be permitted to attend the meetings of the

Legislative Assembly so long as he was under restraint under the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1925.

STOPPAGE OF THE 1-UP PUNJAB MAIL AT PATNA CITY.

355. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : (a) Are Government aware that of late the 1 Up Punjab Mail has not been stopping at the Patna City railway station ?

(b) Why has the 1 Up Punjab Mail not been stopping of late at the Patna City railway station ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) Yes.

(b) It is quite impossible for the Government to take any part in the arrangement of time tables. Copies of the question and the answer will be sent to the Agent.

CONSTRUCTION OF A RAILWAY BETWEEN MUZAFFARPUR AND SITAMARHI.

356. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : (a) Is it a fact that the construction of a line between Muzaffarpur and Sitamarhi is under the contemplation of Government ?

(b) If so, will Government please state if any action has been taken in the matter ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) and (b). A re-examination of the alternative projects for a railway between Muzaffarpur and either Darbhanga or Sitamarhi is being made by the Bengal and North-Western Railway Administration.

AMENDMENT OF THE INDIAN WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT.

357. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : (a) Will Government please state if the amendment of the Indian Workmen's Compensation Act is under the consideration of Government ?

(b) If so, by what time are they likely to introduce an amending Bill ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : (a) Yes.

(b) The present intention of Government is to introduce an amending Bill in the next Delhi Session.

FENCING OF THE RAILWAY LINES ON THE ARRAH-SASSARAM LIGHT RAILWAY AND THE BIHAR-BUKHTIARPUR LIGHT RAILWAY.

358. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : (a) Are Government aware that there is no fencing along the railway lines at places where the trains pass through densely populated villages on the Arrah-Sassaram Light Railway and the Bihar-Bukhtiarapur Light Railway ?

(b) If they are, are Government prepared to issue necessary instructions to the railway authority concerned to do the needful with a view to prevent accidents ?

(c) If they are not aware, do they propose to make an inquiry in the matter and communicate the result to the House ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) Yes.

(b) No. These railways were constructed as tramways in 1909 and 1901, respectively, and are administered by the Local Government, with whom any necessary action rests.

(c) Does not arise.

DEPUTY POSTMASTERS GENERAL IN THE PROVINCE OF BIHAR AND ORISSA.

359. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : (a) Is it a fact that there are no Deputy Postmasters General, Post Office, in the Province of Bihar and Orissa ?

(b) If so, will Government please give reasons ?

Mr. H. A. Sams : (a) Yes.

(b) The work of the Circle is not at present sufficient to justify the appointment of a Deputy Postmaster General.

DUTY ALLOWANCES OF PERSONAL ASSISTANTS TO POSTMASTERS GENERAL.

360. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : (a) Is it a fact that the number of Personal Assistants to Postmasters General in the different Postal Circles in India is 25 (twenty-five) ?

(b) Are these Personal Assistants granted duty allowance in addition to their salaries ?

(c) Is each Personal Assistant to the Postmaster General granted a fixed amount of duty allowance or do their duty allowances vary according to their salaries ?

Mr. H. A. Sams : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) The amount of duty allowance (special pay) is the same in all cases.

ELECTED EUROPEAN MAJORITY IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF KENYA.

361. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : With reference to Government reply on the 9th February 1927, " The matter is receiving the attention of the Government of India, who are fully alive to the issues involved " to starred question No. 322 (c), regarding the elected European majority in the Legislative Council of Kenya, will Government please state :

(1) If they have arrived at any decision on the subject ?

(2) If not, what progress has been made in the situation since then ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : (1) and (2). No official proposal to this effect having been made, the occasion for the Government of India to take any decision in the matter has not arisen.

PUBLICATION OF THE REPORT OF THE FIJI DEPUTATION.

362. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : Will Government please state :

(1) If the report of the deputation sent by them to Fiji in 1921 has been published ?

(2) Whether the Fiji Government has opposed the publication of the report ?

(3) Whether the Honourable Sir Narasimha Sarma ever gave the Assembly an undertaking that he would soon publish the report ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : (1) and (2). The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the answers given by Mr. Bhore to Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh's question No. 245 and the connected supplementaries on the 1st February 1927. Government have nothing to add to the replies then given.

(3) The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given by Sir Narasimha Sarma in the Council of State to question No. 26 by the late Sir Ahmedthamby Maricair on the 16th July 1923.

(1) NUMBER OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY THE LAST TWO ASSEMBLIES. (2) NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ASKED IN THE LAST TWO ASSEMBLIES.

385. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : Will Government please state :

- (a) the number of Bills passed by the last two Assemblies and the number certified by the Governor General ;
- (b) the number of non-official Resolutions adopted by the last two Assemblies and the number not accepted ; and
- (c) the number of starred questions asked in the last two Assemblies year by year ?

Mr. W. T. M. Wright : (a) The number of Bills passed by the last two Assemblies is 190 and the number of Bills certified by the Governor General is 4.

(b) The number of non-official Resolutions adopted by the last two Assemblies is 97. As to the acceptance of these Resolutions the Honourable Member is referred to the various statements showing the action taken by Government thereon which have been laid on the table of the House from time to time.

(c) A statement giving the information desired is placed on the table.

Statement showing the number of Starred Questions asked in the first two Assemblies.

Sessions.	Number of questions.	Remarks.
<i>First Legislative Assembly.</i>		
First Session	696*	* These questions were answered orally. This was before the introduction of the Starred and Unstarred system.
Second Session	1002	
Third Session	1434	
<i>Second Legislative Assembly.</i>		
First Session	2365	
Second Session	1279	
Third Session	999	
Fourth Session	1417	
Fifth Session	321	
Total	9513	

CONSTRUCTION OF AN OVERBRIDGE AT GULZARBAGH ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

386. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : (a) Are Government aware that there is no overbridge at the Gulzarbagh station, East Indian Railway, in the Province of Bihar and Orissa ?

(b) Are Government aware that the passengers, chiefly ladies, and children, are put to great hardships and are liable to meet with accidents in the night and rainy season for want of an overbridge at this station ?

(c) If so, are they prepared to consider the necessity of constructing an overbridge at the station ?

(d) If not, will they please give reasons ?

(e) Will Government please state the length of the two platforms at this station and the height of the platforms from the railway lines ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) to (d). Government are aware that there is no overbridge at Gulzarbagh station and that a certain amount of inconvenience is thereby caused to passengers, but steps are being taken to provide one after the needs of more important stations have been met. The construction of the overbridge at Gulzarbagh is programmed for the year 1929-30.

(e) The length of the platforms at this station is 1,000 feet each, and they are of the standard raised type which is 2 feet 9 inches above rail level.

EXPENDITURE ON NEW DELHI.

387. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : With reference to starred question No. 400 and supplementary questions and Government replies on 15th February 1927, regarding the total expenditure on Government buildings in New Delhi, will Government please state :

(a) How much more money is required to complete the programme for the construction of the Imperial Capital in New Delhi ?

(b) How many Indians and how many Europeans were employed on the works ?

(c) What amounts have been paid to the architects and advisers in respect of construction ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : (a) The amount required to complete the expenditure on the New Capital (inclusive of all works as well as buildings) over and above the sum of Rs. 12,55,00,000 mentioned in reply to question No. 400 of the 15th February 1927 is Rs. 1,72,50,000 of which Rs. 1,63,70,000 remain to be spent.

(b) The average number of employees of all classes on the regular staff throughout the project has been

Europeans	..	..	52
Indians	..	..	381

Besides these the contractors, their agents and work people who numbered many thousands were almost exclusively Indian.

(c) Rs. 32,95,000 have been paid to the Architects of the Central Buildings.

NUMBER OF WORKSHOPS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY AND THE BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

388. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : (a) Will Government please state the number of workshops and the names of the stations at which workshops exist on the East Indian Railway and the Bengal and North-Western Railway ?

(b) Is the construction of new workshops on the East Indian Railway and Bengal and North-Western Railway under the contemplation of Government, and if so, at which station ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : I presume the Honourable Member refers to mechanical workshops for the construction or repair of locomotives, carriages and wagons.

On the East Indian Railway there are 4 workshops at Jamalpur, Lilloah, Ondal and Lucknow.

On the Bengal and North-Western Railway there are two workshops at Gorakhpur and Samastipur.

(b) On the East Indian Railway extensions are being made to the shops at Lucknow and it is proposed to extend those at Jamalpur.

On the Bengal and North-Western Railway no construction of new workshops is at present contemplated.

(1) INTRODUCTION OF THE SHIFT SYSTEM OF WORK IN MINES.

(2) PROHIBITION OF THE EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN UNDERGROUND IN MINES.

389. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : Will Government please state :

(a) by what time they propose to introduce the shift system of work in Indian mines ; and

(b) if they have framed regulations prohibiting the employment of women underground in Indian mines ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : (a) The Bill which I introduced last Session, if passed in its present form, will come into effect on 1st April, 1930.

(b) No. Draft regulations have been drawn up and have been referred to Mining Boards for opinion as required by section 31 (3) of the Indian Mines Act. Thereafter the draft will have to be published for criticism as required by section 31 (2) of the Act.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION FOR THE PROMPT PAYMENT OF WAGES.

390. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : With reference to Government reply to starred question No. 339 on the 14th February 1927, regarding the introduction of legislation for the prompt payment of wages, will Government please state :

(a) if the replies from all Local Governments have been received : and

(b) if so, whether the subject has been discussed by the Standing Advisory Committee attached to the Department of Industries

and Labour and whether they propose to introduce the Bill in the current Session ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : (a) Yes.

(b) The subject was discussed with the Standing Advisory Committee in September 1926. I would remind the Honourable Member that the discussion of my motion for the election of a Standing Advisory Committee for my Department was twice adjourned during last Session and that, in consequence, my Department has been without a Committee since the second Assembly was dissolved. I hope, when the Committee is elected, to discuss the question again with them. No Bill will be introduced in this Session.

LOCATION OF THE PRIVATE QUARTERS OF SUPERINTENDENTS OF POST OFFICES IN THEIR OFFICE BUILDINGS.

391. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** (a) With reference to starred question No. 357, and its replies by Government on the 14th February, regarding the use of portions of Post Office buildings as their private quarters by Superintendents of Post Offices, will Government please state any special reason why in Barisal, Bogra, Dibrugarh, Dinajpur, Mymensingh, Faridpur, Jalpaiguri, Khulna, Krishnagar, Midnapur, and Narayangunj, the quarters of the Superintendents of Post Offices are located in their office buildings ?

(b) Have Government completed their inquiry ?

(c) If they have, will they please communicate the result to the House ?

Mr. H. A. Sams : (a) An enquiry is being made and the result will be communicated to the Honourable Member.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

ESTABLISHMENT OF HEAD, SUB OR BRANCH POST OFFICES IN BIHAR AND ORISSA.

392. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** (a) Have any Head, Sub, or Branch Post Offices been established in the Province of Bihar and Orissa during the years 1925-26 and 1926-27 ?

(b) If so, will Government please state the number and places where they have been established ?

Mr. H. A. Sams : (a) 1925-26—Head Offices and

Sub-offices	<i>Nil.</i>
Branch offices	39
1926-27—Head Offices	<i>Nil.</i>
Sub-offices	3
Branch offices	101

(b) The details are being supplied to the Honourable Member.

DECREASE IN THE IMPORT OF PRIVATE MERCHANDISE AND EXPORT OF INDIAN PRODUCE AND MANUFACTURES.

393. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan** : 1. Regarding India's Sea-Borne Trade, will Government please state :

(a) If the import of private merchandise totalled Rs. 21,73,00,000 in April 1927, and showed a decrease of 49 lakhs, as compared with the preceding month ?

(b) If the value of the export of Indian produce and manufactures decreased by Rs. 8,56,00,000 from Rs. 33,83,00,000 in March 1927 to Rs. 25,27,00,000 in April 1927 ?

2. If the facts and figures shown in (a) and (b) are correct, will Government please state reason for the large decrease ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : 1. (a) and (b). Yes.

2. The decrease was mainly due to smaller imports of sugar and Australian wheat, and reduced shipments of rice, tea, raw cotton and oilseeds from India in April 1927. Imports and exports fluctuate from month to month, and it is difficult to assign reasons for these fluctuations. In the month of March last, the figures for both imports and exports were exceptionally high as compared with the months immediately preceding, and the figures for April were about normal.

COLLECTION OF COMPULSORY SUBSCRIPTIONS FROM THE SUBORDINATE STAFF FOR A FAREWELL PARTY TO MR. H. B. RAU, DIRECTOR OF AUDIT, UNITED PROVINCES.

394. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan** : (a) With reference to Government reply to starred question No. 301 on the 14th February, regarding the collection of compulsory subscriptions from the subordinate staff to meet the cost of a farewell party to Mr. H. B. Rau, Director of Audit, United Provinces, will Government please state if the inquiry has been completed ?

(b) If so, will Government please communicate the result of the inquiry to the House in view of the public nature of the subject ?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : A copy of the final reply, which contains the result of the enquiry, is in the Library of the House.

VISITS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF POST OFFICES, PATNA DIVISION, TO HEAD, SUB OR BRANCH POST OFFICES.

395. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan** : Will Government please state :

(a) The names of the Head, Sub or Branch Post Offices visited by the Superintendent of Post Offices, Patna Division, in the Bihar and Orissa Circle in the months of October, November, December, January and March ?

(b) The amount of travelling allowance month by month drawn by him for his visits during the said months ?

Mr. H. A. Sams : (a) The Honourable Member presumably refers to October, November and December 1926 and to January and March 1927.

A statement embodying the information asked for has been furnished to the Honourable Member.

(b) The amounts of travelling allowance drawn by the Superintendent during these months are Rs. 173, 145-5-0, 92-3-0, 144-8-0, and 202-13-0, respectively.

RECONSTITUTION OF THE ROYAL INDIAN MARINE AS A COMBATANT FORCE.

396. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : (a) What progress has been made and constructive work done in the reconstitution of the Royal Indian Marine as a combatant force since the address of His Excellency the Viceroy to the Members of the Assembly on the 24th January 1927 ?

(b) By what time will Government be in a position to introduce legislation to provide for the Royal Indian Navy ?

Mr. G. M. Young : (a) I will supply the Honourable Member with a supplementary statement in continuation of the statement forwarded to him in reply to his starred question No. 922, dated 14th March 1927.

(b) A Bill has been drafted and it is hoped to introduce it in the Indian Legislature during the Delhi Session.

CIVIL AVIATION.

397. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : Will Government please state what progress has been made in the preliminary work connected with Civil Aviation, since the adoption of the motion on the subject in the Assembly on the 1st March 1927 ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : The Director of Civil Aviation in India has been appointed and assumed charge of his duties on the 5th April 1927. Since then he has been actively engaged in the consideration of a number of questions such as the establishment of internal air routes, the formation of light aeroplane clubs, the training of Indians in Civil Aviation, etc. There is a good deal of preliminary work to be done in most of these matters before we shall be in a position to formulate definite schemes.

SLAVERY IN BURMA.

398. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : (a) Referring to the telegram sent by His Excellency the Governor of Burma to His Excellency the Viceroy regarding slavery in Burma, published in the issue of the *Statesman* of the 8th June 1927, page 6, will Government be pleased to state if they have received any further communication from the Government of Burma on the subject ?

(b) If so, will they please lay a copy of it on the table for the information of the House ?

Sir Denys Bray : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The question of publishing the Burma Government's reports is under consideration. If published, a copy will be placed in the Library.

GRANT OF KING'S COMMISSIONS TO INDIANS IN THE INDIAN ARMY VETERINARY CORPS.

400. ***Mr. Srish Chandra Dutta** : (a) Is it a fact that the Secretary of State for India has approved of King's Commissions in the Indian Army Veterinary Corps being opened to Indians ?

(b) Will the Government of India be pleased to state if any Indian has yet been granted the King's Commission in the Indian Army Veterinary Corps ? If not, why not ?

Mr. G. M. Young : (a) Yes.

(b) No, because no vacancy has occurred since the decision was made.

GRANT OF KING'S COMMISSIONS TO INDIANS IN THE INDIAN ARMY VETERINARY CORPS.

401. ***Mr. Srish Chandra Dutta** : (a) Is it a fact that Earl Winterton stated in the House of Commons about the middle of June 1926, that the Government of India were willing to consider candidates, who did not pass through the Prince of Wales Royal Indian Military College, Dehra Dun, provided they were members of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, and were otherwise fully qualified ?

(b) Is it a fact that Earl Winterton also added that it was within the capacity of Dehra Dun to produce Commissions in the Indian Army Veterinary appointments which it is desired to fill from this source ?

(c) Is it a fact that a number of fully qualified Indian members of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons have applied to the Army Department for such appointments ? If so, what reply have the Government given them ?

(d) How many vacancies are there in the Indian Army Veterinary Corps at present ? When do the Government contemplate to fill them ?

Mr. G. M. Young : (a) Lord Winterton said that he had no doubt that the Government of India would be willing to consider candidates who had not passed through Dehra Dun.

(b) Yes.

(c) Five applications have been received. Four of them were previous to Lord Winterton's statement. The applicants were informed that only qualified students from Dehra Dun were eligible for King's Commissions in the Indian Army Veterinary Corps. The fifth application was subsequent to Lord Winterton's statement. The applicant was informed that only candidates who have been educated at the Dehra Dun College or at an English public school and have subsequently obtained the M. R. C. V. S. will be considered for King's Commissions.

(d) There are none at present, Sir ; and normally there will be none for some years.

TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE OF LIEUTENANT-COLONEL W. A. SMITH, SUPERINTENDENT OF POST OFFICES, NILGIRI DIVISION.

402. ***Mr. Abdul Latif Saheb Farookhi** : (a) With reference to the reply to starred question No. 364, dated the 14th February 1927, of

Mr. Amar Nath Dutt, will the Government be pleased to state if the travelling allowance bills of Lieutenant-Colonel W. A. Smith, Superintendent of Post Offices, Nilgiri Division, were examined ; and if so, with what result ?

(b) Was the Superintendent of Post Offices in his headquarters from the 18th to 22nd July 1926 both days inclusive ; and if not, what were the offices visited by him on those dates and for what purpose ?

Mr. H. A. Sams : (a) The examination is still in progress.

(b) Not throughout the period.

The places visited and the purposes of the visits during this period are as follows :

18th—Wellington—halt.

19th—Springfield, and
Yedapalli—inspection.

Return to headquarters (Ootacamund).

20th—At headquarters.

21st—Coonoor and Katary—

Enquiry into complaint and inspection of site of new post office building.

Return to headquarters.

22nd—At headquarters.

POSTAL ADMINISTRATION IN THE NILGIRI DIVISION.

403. ***Mr. Abdul Latif Saheb Farookhi** : (a) With reference to the reply to starred question No. 370, dated the 14th February 1927, of **Mr. Amar Nath Dutt**, will the Government be pleased to state whether the report of the Postmaster-General, Madras, has been received ; and if so, will they please furnish a copy of the report to the House ?

(b) What orders were passed by the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs on the report ?

(c) Was any officer of the Department deputed to enquire into the allegations contained in the editorial referred to in the General Letter of the Madras Provincial Postal and R. M. S. Union ?

(d) If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, who was the officer deputed, when and how many days did he take to complete the enquiry ?

Mr. H. A. Sams : (a) and (b). The report has been received and is still under the consideration of the Director General. It is not proposed to lay the report on the table of the House.

(c) Yes.

(d) The Postmaster General, Madras. Government have no information as to the number of days that officer took to complete the enquiry nor do they propose to call for it.

INSPECTION OF BRANCH POST OFFICES BY LIEUTENANT-COLONEL W. A. SMITH, SUPERINTENDENT OF POST OFFICES, NILGIRI DIVISION.

404. ***Mr. Abdul Latif Saheb Farookhi** : Will the Government be pleased to state if the information called for by **Mr. Amar Nath Dutt** in his

starred question No. 372, dated the 14th February 1927, regarding the inspection of Branch Post Offices, etc., by Lieutenant-Colonel W. A. Smith, Superintendent of Post Offices, Nilgiri Division, has been collected; and if so, will they please furnish the same to the House?

Mr. H. A. Sams: Yes. The information asked for was furnished to Mr. Amar Nath Dutt on the 12th March last. A copy of the reply is laid on the table.

Reply to Question No. 372, dated the 14th February 1927.

(a) Hulical, Nemmara, Gomangalam, Negamum, Palayakottai and Nagamanyakanpatti.

(b) The records of the above branch offices were taken to headquarters for security.

(c) No.

PUNISHMENTS INFLICTED ON HIS SUBORDINATES BY LIEUTENANT-COLONEL W. A. SMITH, SUPERINTENDENT OF POST OFFICES, NILGIRI DIVISION.

405. ***Mr. Abdul Latif Saheb Farookhi:** With reference to the reply to the starred question No. 374, dated the 14th February 1927, of Mr. Amar Nath Dutt, regarding the punishments inflicted by Lieutenant-Colonel W. A. Smith, Superintendent of Post Offices, Nilgiri Division, will the Government be pleased to state if the information has been collected; and if so, will they please lay a copy of the same on the table?

Mr. H. A. Sams: Yes. The information was furnished to Mr. Amar Nath Dutt on the 12th March last. A copy of the reply is laid on the table.

Reply to Question No. 374, dated the 14th February 1927.

(a) A statement is attached.

(b) Replies to both parts are in the affirmative.

(c) In two cases, one for alleged impertinence to the public and the other for insubordination and disregard of rules.

	Amount realised in fines.	Other punishments.
	Rs. A. P.	
June 1926	1 0 0	One village postman dismissed.
July 1926	20 4 0	Services of one leave reserve clerk were dispensed with.
August 1926	12 0 0	Services of one clerk were dispensed with and increment of another clerk was stopped for one year.
September 1926	12 1 0	Nil.
October 1926	7 8 0	Increment of one clerk was stopped for three months.
November 1926	7 0 0	Nil.
December 1926	Nil ..	Nil.
January 1927	Nil ..	Increments of two clerks were stopped for three months and of another clerk for four months.

**DISMISSAL BY TELEGRAPH OF A CLERK ABOVE THE FIRST EFFICIENCY BAR
BY LIEUTENANT-COLONEL W. A. SMITH, SUPERINTENDENT OF
POST OFFICES, NILGIRI DIVISION.**

406. ***Mr. Abdul Latif Saheb Farookhi** : (a) With reference to the reply to starred question No. 375, dated the 14th February of Mr. Amar Nath Dutt, regarding the dismissal by telegraph of a clerk above the first efficiency bar by Lieutenant-Colonel W. A. Smith, Superintendent of Post Offices, Nilgiri Division, will the Government be pleased to state if the explanation of the Superintendent has been received ; and if so, what disciplinary action was taken against the Superintendent for his action ?

(b) If the answer to the first part of the above is in the negative, what is the reason for the delay in obtaining the explanation of the Superintendent ?

Mr. H. A. Sams : (a) Yes. Owing to a clerical error the gradation list did not show that the clerk in question was above the first efficiency bar and the Superintendent dismissed him through misapprehension. No disciplinary action against the Superintendent is, therefore, called for.

(b) Does not arise.

**LEAVE RESERVE CLERKS IN THE OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF POST
OFFICES, NILGIRI DIVISION.**

407. ***Mr. Abdul Latif Saheb Farookhi** : (a) With reference to the reply to part (b) of starred question No. 376, dated the 14th February 1927, of Mr. Amar Nath Dutt, regarding the establishment of the office of the Superintendent of Post Offices, Nilgiri Division, will the Government be pleased to state if they have now collected the information ; and if so, will they please furnish the same to the House ?

(b) If the answer to the first part of the above is in the negative, when do they expect to collect the information ?

(c) With reference to the reply to part (c) of starred question No. 376, dated the 14th February, of Mr. Amar Nath Dutt, in which it was stated that action would be taken to see that leave reserve clerks are not retained in the offices of the Superintendents of Post Offices even as acting clerks, will the Government be pleased to state if necessary action was taken ; and if so, will a copy of the directions issued be laid on the table ?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of leave reserve clerks who were working in the office of the Superintendent of Post Offices, Nilgiri Division, from March 1927 to July 1927 ?

Mr. H. A. Sams : (a) The information has been furnished. A copy will be given to the Honourable Member if applied for.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A copy of the orders issued by the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs has been placed in the Library.

(d) Three reserve clerks from March to June and one reserve clerk in July 1927. They were acting for permanent clerks.

TRANSFER OF MR. N. RAMACHANDRAN, HONORARY SECRETARY OF THE COIMBATORE BRANCH OF THE ALL-INDIA POSTAL AND R. M. S. UNION FROM COIMBATORE WEST TO GUDALUR.

408. ***Mr. Abdul Latif Sahab Farookhi** : With reference to the reply to starred question No. 378, dated the 14th February 1927, of Mr. Amar Nath Dutt, regarding the transfer of Mr. N. Ramachandran, Honorary Secretary of the Coimbatore Branch of the All-India Postal and R. M. S. Union, from Coimbatore West to Gudalur, will the Government be pleased to state if the information called for has been collected ; and if so, will they please lay a copy of the reply to that question on the table ?

Mr. H. A. Sams : Yes. The information asked for was furnished to Mr. Amar Nath Dutt on the 12th March last. A copy of the reply is laid on the table.

Reply to Question No. 378, dated the 14th February 1927.

(a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) No. In accordance with a Resolution of the Coimbatore Branch Union itself, Mr. Ramachandran's turn for work in unhealthy tracts had come and he was transferred accordingly.

TRANSFER OF MR. N. VENKATARAMAN, ACTING CLERK OF THE COIMBATORE HEAD POST OFFICE, TO POLLACHI.

409. ***Mr. Abdul Latif Sahab Farookhi** : (a) Are Government aware that Mr. N. Venkataraman, acting clerk of the Coimbatore Head Post Office, who was elected Joint Secretary of the Coimbatore Branch of the All-India Postal and R. M. S. Union for 1927-28, was transferred to Pollachi by the Superintendent of Post Offices, Nilgiri Division, in June 1927 ; if not, will they please call for the information ?

(b) Is it a fact that on the representation of the Provincial Union, Madras, the Postmaster General, Madras, stated that Mr. N. Venkataraman being only an acting clerk at Coimbatore was reverted to his permanent appointment at Pollachi in the usual course ?

(c) Is it not a fact that about 8 officials who held substantive appointments elsewhere in the division were working in the Coimbatore Head Office at the time of Mr. N. Venkataraman's " reversion " to Pollachi ?

(d) Did not Mr. N. Venkataraman relieve a leave reserve clerk at Pollachi and was not the latter directed to join the Coimbatore H. O. ?

(e) What is the reason for reverting the official from Coimbatore to Pollachi and bringing to Coimbatore a leave reserve clerk relieved by the former at Pollachi ?

(f) Has not the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs, issued orders to the recognised Unions that only leave reserve clerks should not be appointed as office-bearers of a Postal and R. M. S. Union ?

(g) Has the Director General prohibited the appointment of clerks working in the post offices in the headquarters of a Branch Union with their substantive appointments elsewhere as office-bearers ?

Mr. H. A. Sams : The information is being collected and will be furnished to the Honourable Member in due course.

CASE OF MR. A. KRISHNIER, POSTAL CLERK, KOTAGIRI.

410. *Mr. Abdul Latif Saheb Farookhi : (a) With reference to the reply to starred question No. 733, dated the 7th March 1927, of Mr. M. K. Acharya, will the Government be pleased to state if the appeal of Mr. A. Krishnier has since been received by the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs ?

(b) Was any enquiry made into the various allegations therein contained against the acting Head Clerk, Mr. M. Govindan Nair ? If so, with what result ?

Mr. H. A. Sams : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes. There is nothing to show ulterior motive on the part of the Head Clerk (Mr. M. Govindan Nair).

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST MR. M. GOVINDAN NAIR, OFFICIATING HEAD CLERK OF THE NILGIRI DIVISION.

411. *Mr. Abdul Latif Saheb Farookhi : (a) With reference to the reply to starred question No. 734, dated the 7th March 1927, of Mr. M. K. Acharya, will the Government be pleased to state if it is not a fact that the Superintendent of Post Offices, Nilgiri Division, reported in his letter, dated the 18th January 1924, to the Postmaster General, Madras, that Mr. M. Govindan Nair, the acting Head Clerk of the Division had (i) abused his official position to obtain loans from some of the officials in the division, (ii) lost important records in investigation cases, (iii) manipulated the divisional gradation list to his own advantage, and (iv) submitted a false diary while acting as Inspector, Coimbatore ?

(b) Is it not a fact that the Postmaster General, Madras, under orders conveyed in his letter No. A.P.-354, dated the 19th March 1925, on the appeal of Mr. M. Govindan Nair, dated the 21st December 1924, removed Mr. M. Govindan Nair's name from the list of passed candidates for the amalgamated cadre of Inspectors and Superintendents' Head Clerks on the ground that he considered the official not fit for promotion above the time-scale of pay ?

Mr. H. A. Sams : (a) Yes, in February 1925.

(b) Yes.

REVISION OF THE PAY OF THE SUPERINTENDENTS' HEAD CLERKS AND INSPECTORS OF POST OFFICES.

412. *Mr. Abdul Latif Saheb Farookhi : (a) With reference to the revision of pay of the Superintendents' Head Clerks and Inspectors agreed to by the Standing Finance Committee at its meeting of the 28th January 1927, will the Government be pleased to state :

(i) what examination has been prescribed by the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs for the promotion of officials to such appointments ; and

(ii) whether the examination will be thrown open to all officials of the clerical cadre ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Postmaster General, Madras, has called for nominations from the divisional Superintendents, of candidates for the Inspectors and Head Clerks' examination to be held in Madras this year ?

(c) If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, will the Government please state if the examination to be held by the Postmaster General is the one contemplated by the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs, or that usually held by him for selection of candidates ?

(d) Are Government aware that only those officials who are in the favour of Superintendents get nominated to sit for the examination and competent men are left in the lurch ? Will Government take steps to remove the system of nominations ?

Mr. H. A. Sams : (a) A copy of the Director General's G.O. No. 5, dated the 19th July 1927 on the subject has been placed in the Library.

(b) Yes, for the examination in November 1927. This has been postponed in consequence of the Director General's G.O. referred to in part (a).

(c) It was in connection with the examination usually held by the Postmaster General.

(d) The reply to the first part is in the negative. Under the recently published rules for the new examination which applies also to Superintendents, Head Clerks and Inspectors, the Postmaster General and not the Superintendent nominates.

PLYING OF THE BENGAL AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY STEAMER BETWEEN MAHABIRGHAT AND PAHLEZAGHAT.

420. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** (a) Are Government aware that the Bengal and North-Western Railway steamer plies only once during 24 hours between Pahlezaghat and Mahabirghat at Patna in the Province of Bihar and Orissa ?

(b) Are Government aware that the same steamer plies 4 times during 24 hours between Pahlezaghat and Mahendrughat ?

(c) If so, will they state what objection they have to increase the number of steamer trips from Mahabirghat to Pahlezaghat and back ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) and (b). The reply is in the negative.

(c) Government cannot be expected to intervene with regard to local transport arrangements which is a matter for local authorities and Local Advisory Committees.

ABOLITION OF THE POLL-TAX IN FIJI.

421. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan .** (a) With reference to Government reply to starred question No. 461 on the 18th February 1927, regarding the abolition of the poll-tax in Fiji, will Government please state if they have got the information now ?

(b) If not, do they propose to obtain it ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : (a) No. The Honourable Member's attention is invited to sub-paragraph (3) of paragraph 3 of the Colonial Office letter No. 9167/25, dated the 20th March 1925, which was published with the

Government of India Resolution No. 24-Overseas, dated the 12th January 1927.

(b) Does not arise.

STATUS OF INDIANS IN FIJI.

422. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : (a) With reference to Government reply to starred question No. 462, on the 16th February, 1927 regarding the status of Indians in Fiji, will Government please state if the question of the expansion of the municipal franchise so as to secure an adequate representation for Indians on Municipal Councils, has been examined as pointed out in the Government reply ? If so, with what result ?

(b) Have the negotiations been completed regarding the right of Indians to demand a jury of their own countrymen in criminal trials or any jury at all and the removal of restrictions imposed on Indians by the Emigration Ordinance, the Education Ordinance, the Flogging Ordinance, the Master and Servant Ordinance, the Prison Ordinance enforcing street and menial labour on Indian prisoners, etc. ; and, if so, will Government please communicate the result to the House ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : (a) Government have no information at present, but have made enquiries.

(b) No ; correspondence regarding these matters is still proceeding.

LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES FOR RAILWAYS.

423. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : 1. (a) Will Government please state the number and names of Indian Railways on which Local Advisory Committees have been formed and the number and names of Indian Railways on which they have not been formed ?

(b) If Local Advisory Committees have not been formed on all Indian Railways, will Government please state the reasons ?

2. In whom is the power of appointing and removing members of Local Railway Advisory Committees and of fixing the number of members of such Committees vested ; and who has got the power of deciding whether a Local Railway Advisory Committee on a certain Indian Railway is to be formed ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) A list giving the required information is laid on the table.

(b) Local Advisory Committees have been constituted for all State Railways. All Company Railways have been requested to initiate similar action and all important railways have done so. As regards the remaining Railways the matter rests with the Companies.

2. The rules governing the appointment of members of Advisory Committees vary to some extent on different Railways. On State-managed Railways provision is made for the appointment of members as follows :

Two Local Government members nominated by the Local Government in whose jurisdiction the headquarters of the railway in question is situated ;

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three representatives of the Legislative Council of the Government in whose jurisdiction the headquarters of the railway in question is situated. These members should be selected to represent rural interests and the travelling public ;

one member from the local municipality or corporation at the railway headquarters ;

five members representing industries, commerce and trade.

This provision has also been adopted by the majority of the Company-managed Railways. The power of removing members who are nominated by Legislative and local bodies lies with the Local Government. The powers of deciding whether a Local Advisory Committee shall be formed and the number of members of the Committee rests with—

- (a) the Railway Board in the case of State Railways,
- (b) the Local Government with the approval of the Railway Board in the case of Railways under the control of Local Governments,
- (c) Agents of Company Railways with the approval of their Boards in the case of Company Railways.

List of Railways on which Local Advisory Committees have been formed.

1. Assam Bengal Railway.
2. Bengal and North-Western Railway.
3. Bengal Nagpur Railway.
4. Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway.
5. Burma Railways.
6. Eastern Bengal Railway.
7. East Indian Railway.
8. Great Indian Peninsula Railway.
9. Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway.
10. North Western Railway.
11. Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway.
12. South Indian Railway.
13. H. E. H. the Nizam's Guaranteed State Railways.
14. Jorhat Provincial Railway.

List of Railways on which Local Advisory Committees have not been formed.

1. Ahmadpur-Katwa Railway.
2. Arakan Light Railway.
3. Arrah-Sasaram Light Railway.
4. Bangalore-Chikballapur Light Railway.
5. Bankura-Damoodar River Railway.

6. Baraset-Bashirhat Light Railway.
7. Barsi Light Railway.
8. Bengal Dooars Railway.
9. Bengal Provincial Railway.
10. Bhavnagar State Railway.
11. Bikaner Railway.
12. Bukhtiarpur-Bihar Light Railway.
13. Burdwan-Katwa Railway.
14. Cutch State Railway.
15. Darjeeling Himalayan Railway.
16. Dehri Rohtas Light Railway.
17. Dholpur Bari Railway.
18. Dibru-Sadiya Railway.
19. Futwah Islampur Railway.
20. Gaekwar's Baroda State Railway.
21. Gondal Railway.
22. Gwalior Light Railway.
23. Howrah-Amta Light Railway.
24. Howrah-Sheakhula Light Railway.
25. Jagadhri Light Railway.
26. Jamnagar-Dwarka Railway.
27. Jessore-Jhenidah Railway.
28. Jodhpur Railway.
29. Junagad State Railway.
30. Kalighat-Falta Railway.
31. Kolar District Railway.
32. Kulasekarapattam Light Railway.
33. Morvi Railway.
34. Mysore Railways.
35. Porbandar State Railway.
36. Shahdara (Delhi)-Shaharanpur Light Railway.
37. Tarikere-Naramsinharaja Light Railway.
38. Tezpur-Balipara Light Railway.
39. Trivellore Light Railway.
40. Udaipur-Chittorgarh Railway.

EXEMPTION FROM INDIAN INCOME-TAX OF PAY, ALLOWANCES, PENSIONS AND GRATUITIES PAYABLE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

424. *Lala Rang Behari Lal : 1. Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that all payments made in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland on account of the following items are exempt from the payment of the Indian Income-tax ?—

(a) Pay and allowances of officers and others (including leave and furlough pay) ; and

(b) Pensions and gratuities.

2. If the answer to the above is in the affirmative will Government kindly state the total loss of revenue every year to the Indian Government on this score ?

3. Are Government prepared to consider the advisability of so amending the Indian Income-tax Act that all payments made from the Indian revenues at any place outside India are liable to the Indian Income-tax ?

4. Will the Government kindly place on the table a list of payments to civil and military officers, including payments in kind, which are exempt from the payment of Indian Income-tax ?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : The answer to part one of the question is in the affirmative. In regard to part two, the calculations that would be involved in framing a close estimate of the tax that would be payable were these items taxable would be elaborate and the results even so would be very conjectural. I would point out to the Honourable Member that, since the officers in question now receive these payments free of Indian income-tax, it is not strictly accurate to describe the non-received tax as a loss. It is necessarily questionable whether a decision to make them taxable would not have to be accompanied by some increase in the amounts payable to the officers concerned. In these circumstances the Government do not at present propose to consider the question raised in part three of the question. In regard to part four the Honourable Member will find the desired information in paragraphs 16 and 20 of the Income-tax Manual.

GRIEVANCES OF THE INCOME-TAX ASSESSEES IN THE DELHI PROVINCE.

425. *Lala Rang Behari Lal : (a) Are Government aware of the fact that copies of assessment orders are not supplied free of cost in the Delhi Province ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the amounts realised yearly from 1922 up to date by the Income-tax Department, Delhi, for supplying copies of assessment orders ?

(c) Are Government aware of the fact that assessee are required to produce books of accounts of their branches at the principal place of business thereby causing great inconvenience and expense ?

(d) Are Government prepared to consider the advisability of issuing orders to the effect that branch books may be inspected by the Income-tax Officer of the place where the branch is situate and a report sent to the Income-tax Officer of the principal place of business ?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : (a) Till recently, the position was as stated by the Honourable Member, but instructions have since been issued that copies of assessment orders should be supplied free of charge.

(b) The Government understand that the average amount realised in a year is about Rs. 200; they do not propose to obtain the figures for each year.

(c) and (d). It will be seen from paragraph 22 (4) of the Income-tax Manual that the intention is that, as far as possible, the accounts of branches should be inspected by the Income-tax Officers of the places where the branches are situated; but it is undoubtedly legal and may sometimes be necessary for the Income-tax Officer of the principal place of business to call for the branch books. It is not therefore desirable, nor would it be legal, to issue orders as suggested by the Honourable Member. If any Income-tax Officer abuses his powers in this or other respects the persons aggrieved should bring the matter to the notice of the Commissioner of Income-tax.

PREVENTION OF OPIUM SMOKING IN BALUCHISTAN, BIHAR AND ORISSA AND BENGAL.

429. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : (a) With reference to Government reply :

“ It is proposed to prohibit it in Baluchistan and in Bihar and Orissa and Bengal. In the two provinces last mentioned the introduction of registration and rationing is also under contemplation. The Government of Assam now propose to introduce a Bill prohibiting opium smoking altogether. The Government of Madras also propose to undertake legislation prohibiting opium smoking altogether and the Government of Bombay propose to prohibit absolutely the possession of Chauda ”

to starred question No. 469 (f) on 18th February, 1927, regarding the abuse of opium, will Government please state if the Local Governments referred to in Government reply, have taken any further action in the matter of opium smoking ?

(b) How do matters stand with regard to opium smoking in Burma ?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : (a) Smoking in company has been prohibited in Baluchistan since 1st April 1927. Proposals to prohibit such smoking and to introduce a system of registration and rationing are still under consideration by the Government of Bihar and Orissa. A Bill to penalise opium smoking by other than registered smokers is being drafted by the Government of Bengal. A Bill introduced by the Government of Assam prohibiting opium smoking altogether has recently been passed by the Assam Legislative Council. The Government of India have not heard further from the Governments of Madras and Bombay in regard to their proposals.

(b) A system of registration and rationing is in force in Burma. On the 31st December 1926, the number of Burmans and non-Burmans registered as smokers was 761 and 15,118, respectively. No new names can be added to the register and with the gradual disappearance of the persons now on the register, opium smoking will cease to exist in Burma.

NAMES OF THE NATIONS REPRESENTED IN THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS AND THEIR RESPECTIVE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE LEAGUE.

430. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan** : (a) Will Government please make a statement showing the names of the nations represented in the League of Nations and their respective contributions to the League for the year 1927 ?

(b) Will Government please state if the representation of Indians on the League Secretariat is in proportion to the contribution of India to the League of Nations ?

Mr. W. T. M. Wright : (a) The desired information will be found on pages 73—75 of the League of Nations' Official Journal, January, 1927, 8th Year, No. 1, a copy of which is in the Library.

(b) The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to the last part of question No. 24 put by Kumar Ganganand Sinha, on the 18th August, 1927.

REVISION OF THE SCALES OF PENSION OF THE MENIAL STAFF IN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

431. ***Mr. Fazal Ibrahim Rahimtulla** : (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether the scales of pension of the menial staff in some Departments have been recently revised ? If so, in what Departments ?

(b) Are the new pension rules applicable to the Record Suppliers and Jamsdars in the Currency Department ? If not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : (a) No, the question is under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

PENSIONS OF MENIALS.

432. ***Mr. Fazal Ibrahim Rahimtulla** : (a) Are Government aware that menials who have completed more than thirty years' active service are given only Rs. 4 as pension ?

(b) In view of these amounts being fixed many years back are Government prepared to revise them ? If so, when ?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : Local Governments and Governors' Provinces have now full powers to make rules regulating the pension of this class of Government servants under their control. Those under the control of the Central Government are entitled to a temporary increase of pension up to Rs. 2 per mensem in addition to their ordinary pension of Rs. 4 per mensem.

PROVIDENT FUND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVANTS.

433. ***Mr. Fazal Ibrahim Rahimtulla** : (a) Will Government be pleased to state when the Provident Fund system as passed in the Council of State in 1924 is likely to be introduced in Government offices ?

(b) Are Government prepared at the same time to consider the grant of bonus to all the Government servants or their heirs in case of death before retirement ?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : (a) The matter is still under consideration and it is not possible to say when a final decision will be reached.

(b) If a Provident Fund is introduced in lieu of pension, the Government will make some contribution, but cannot yet say what form that contribution will take.

GRANT OF INCREMENTS TO THE EMPLOYEES OF CURRENCY OFFICES WITH MORE THAN TEN YEARS' SERVICE.

434. *Mr. Fasal Ibrahim Rahimtulla : (a) Are Government aware that there is great discontent amongst the staff in all Currency Offices in India for not applying retrospectively the revision of June 1924 ? If so, do they intend to alleviate the feeling by granting some increments to those who have put in more than ten years' service ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Deputy Controller of the Currency, Madras, and the Currency Officer Mr. Murphy had recommended some such relief ? If so, why was it not granted ?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given to the second part of question No. 471 asked by Mr. M. K. Acharya on the 2nd September 1926. Government do not propose to grant additional increments to those who have put in more than 10 years' service.

(b) Government are not prepared to publish the opinion of their officers in such cases.

PROVIDENT FUND FOR THE STAFF OF THE CURRENCY OFFICE.

435. *Mr. Fasal Ibrahim Rahimtulla : (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have reconsidered the question of a Provident Fund for the Currency Office Staff ?

(b) If so, has it been considered in the light of the present legislation as stated in the answer to the Questions Nos. 731—737 on the 3rd February 1925 ?

(c) If the answer to part (b) be in the affirmative have Government introduced the practice of adding their share to the Provident Fund of the employee every year ? If not, why not ?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is not also a fact that by the addition of the Government's share at the end of the employee's service he loses the interest on that share ? If so, are they prepared to take steps to abolish this practice and introduce the one prevailing in other services ? If not, why not ?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state whether they are aware that, on Railways, Port Trusts, etc., the employee gets under certain conditions some gratuity over and above the benefit that he is entitled to get under Rule 26 of the Provident Fund Rules ? Are Government prepared to consider the desirability of introducing the same practice in the Currency Offices ? If not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : In view of probable changes in the control of the Currency Department, the Government do not propose

to consider any modifications in the existing Provident Fund arrangements for the staff employed in the Treasurer's Department in the Currency Offices. I may add that the rest of the staff is on a pensionable basis.

EXTRA CHARGES FOR THE DELIVERY OF TELEGRAMS BEYOND A FIVE-MILE RADIUS FROM THE TELEGRAPH STATION.

444. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : 1. Is it not a fact that telegraphic messages are not delivered by telegraph peons beyond a five-mile radius from the telegraph station ?

2. Are extra charges made in cases of delivery of telegraph messages beyond a radius of five miles from the telegraph station and, if so, at what rate ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : (1) and (2). The Honourable Member is referred to clause 401 of the Indian Post and Telegraph Guide.

NUMBER OF DEATHS OF POSTAL EMPLOYEES FOR THE LAST TEN YEARS IN THE SPECIALLY UNHEALTHY LOCALITIES IN THE VARIOUS POSTAL CIRCLES AND IN THE CITIES OF BOMBAY, CALCUTTA AND MADRAS.

450. *Mr. Abdul Latif Saheb Farookhi : (a) Will the Government be pleased to furnish a statement showing the number of deaths of postal employees for the last 10 years in (i) the specially unhealthy localities in the various postal circles in India and Burma, and (ii) the cities of Bombay, Calcutta and Madras ?

(b) Do Government propose to safeguard the health and lives of postal employees and their dependents in the specially unhealthy localities ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : (a) The information is being collected and will be furnished to the Honourable Member in due course.

(b) Yes. The Director General has already issued orders and will, if necessary, issue further orders to this effect.

INCREASE OF THE POSTAL STAFF IN HOWRAH.

451. *Mr. Abdul Latif Saheb Farookhi : (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to an article under the caption "Premature Decease" appearing at page 429 in the November 1926 issue of "Labour", the organ of the Bengal Provincial Postal and R. M. S. Union, Calcutta ?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state as regards the Jalpaiguri Division :

(i) The number of post offices located in notoriously unhealthy localities ;

(ii) The total number of postal clerks, postmen, and lower grade staff employed in those offices ; and

(iii) The number of postal employees and their dependents who died in those localities on account of fever during the past 10 years ?

(c) Is it a fact that 11 postal clerks out of a sanctioned strength of 59 in Howrah died of consumption during the last 7 years as stated in that article ?

(d) Is it a fact that the clerks attending the office there at 10 A.M. cannot leave it till 8-30 P.M. or even later ?

(e) Was any representation received by the Postmaster-General, Bengal and Assam Circle for an increase of the staff of the office by 16 clerks and 3 sorting postmen ?

(f) Were only three sorting postmen sanctioned by the Postmaster-General ? If so, what is the reason for not increasing the clerical staff ?

(g) Are Government prepared to direct the augmentation of the clerical staff of the office on account of its special conditions ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : (a) Yes.

Information relating to parts (b) to (g) is being collected and will be furnished to the Honourable Member in due course.

DEATH OF BABU DINESH CHANDRA BANNERJEE, SUB-POSTMASTER, BORJULI, IN THE LOWER ASSAM DIVISION.

452. ***Mr. Abdul Latif Sahab Ferookhi :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that Babu Dinesh Chandra Bannerjee, sub-postmaster, Borjuli, in the Lower Assam Division, died on the 9th January, 1925, for want of prompt relief while he was sick ?

(b) Is it a fact that Babu Dinesh Chandra Bannerjee was pressing the Superintendent, Lower Assam Division, for relief from the 6th December, 1924, on the ground of illness ?

(c) Did he submit on the 10th December, 1924, a medical certificate of illness recommending three months' rest, treatment and change of air, granted by the officer in charge of the Borjuli hospital and countersigned by Dr. Ernest T. Jameson, Medical Officer, Empire of India and Ceylon Tea Company, Limited, to the Superintendent, Lower Assam Division ?

(d) Was it not stated in the medical certificate that the sub-postmaster was suffering from low fever with constipation and loss of appetite, had become thin and emaciated, often forgot things and was unfit for work ?

(e) Is it a fact that no action was taken by the Superintendent on the medical certificate for nearly a fortnight ?

(f) Did not the sub-postmaster remind the Superintendent in his letter No. 147, dated the 25th December, 1924, of the medical certificate and ask for immediate relief stating that he was still suffering from low fever ?

(g) Is it a fact that the Superintendent wrote to the sub-postmaster in a letter No. B-244, dated the 27th December, 1924, that owing to want of hands it was quite impossible to relieve him just then ?

(h) Did not the low fever which the sub-postmaster was suffering from develop into black-water fever in the meanwhile ?

(i) Did the sub-postmaster send a telegram on the 6th January, 1925, to the Superintendent as follows :

"Bedridden. Impossible manage work. Solicit help."

(j) Did the postman of that office also send the following telegrams to the Superintendent on the 7th and 8th January, 1925, respectively ?

“ Postmaster Borjuli attacked with black-water fever. Send reliever immediately.”

“ The reliever has not yet arrived. Since 17 hours 30 minutes patient gradually weakening.”

(k) Is it a fact that the Superintendent wrote to the sub-postmaster in his letter No. B.-2-44, dated the 6th January, 1925, as under :

“ Your telegram coded of date 5th January, 1925. You must carry on till I can arrange for your relief. No relieving hand is available just now and there is no great urgency in your case. Take medicine in the meanwhile. Please send the cost of the service message issued by you, see rule 295, Volume IV, T. Manual.”

(l) Is it a fact that no relief was sent till Dr. Jameson himself sent a telegram to the Superintendent from the Rangapara station on the T. B. Railway regarding the serious illness of the sub-postmaster ?

(m) What disciplinary action was taken against the conduct of the Superintendent of Post Offices, Lower Assam Division ? If no action taken, why ?

(n) Was any pension granted to the widow and children of the deceased sub-postmaster, Babu Dinesh Chandra Bannerjee ? If so, how much, and if not, why ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : (a) to (k). Yes.

(i) Yes. On the 5th January 1925.

(j) Yes, on the 7th, but not on 8th.

(k) Yes.

(l) Yes.

(m) The Superintendent was reprimanded.

(n) No pension has been sanctioned, but a gratuity of Rs. 500 has been granted. The question of a pension is under consideration in connection with the general question of pensions in such cases.

DEATH OF BABU UPENDRA NATH BOSE, SUB-POSTMASTER, BARDUAR, ASSAM.

453. *Mr. Abdul Latif Saheb Farookhi : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the date on which Babu Upendra Nath Bose, sub-postmaster, Barduar, died ?

(b) Is it a fact that he was on leave on medical certificate before he was posted to Barduar and he assumed charge of it on the 21st August, 1924 ?

(c) If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, for how many months was he on leave and what was the medical history recorded by the doctor who recommended the leave ?

(d) Did he work at Barduar till the 13th September, 1924 ?

(e) Is it a fact that at Barduar his fever developed into black-water fever and he applied to the Superintendent for leave ?

(f) Is it a fact that no relief was sent to him by the Superintendent till the 18th September, 1924 ?

(g) Did the sub-postmaster lock up the office, make over his cash, stamps and seals to the Head Clerk, Barduar Tea Estate, and admit himself in the Gauhati hospital where he died ?

(h) Was not the then Superintendent of Post Offices the same Mr. A. Vernieux, who did not arrange prompt relief to the sub-postmaster, Borjuli, as a result of which he died ?

(i) Was any pension or gratuity sanctioned for the support of the widow and dependents of the deceased Babu Upendranath Bose ? If so, how much, and if not, why ?

Mr. H. A. Sams : (a) 18th September, 1924.

(b) Yes.

(c) Three months and 18 days on account of fever. The medical history of the case has been sent for.

(d) Till the 14th September, 1924.

(e), (f) and (g). There is no information that at Barduar his fever developed into black-water fever. On the morning of the 15th September, two telegrams were received in the office of the Superintendent of Post Offices, Lower Assam Division, simultaneously. In the second telegram, Babu Upendra Nath Bose intimated that he was making over charge to the Manager, Barduar Tea Estate, and was leaving for Gauhati Hospital. He was not prohibited from doing so and no question of his relief, therefore, arose.

(h) Mr. Vernieux was Superintendent of Post Offices. During the time Babu Upendra Nath Bose was in the Gauhati Hospital, Mr. Vernieux himself saw the Civil Surgeon and arranged for the regular treatment of the patient there and took special care to secure his comfort.

(i) The general question of granting family pensions in such cases is under consideration.

DEATH OF TWO SUB-POSTMASTERS OWING TO NOT BEING RELIEVED WHEN ILL.

454. ***Mr. Abdul Latif Saheb Farookhi :** (a) Is it a fact that during the regime of Mr. A. Vernieux, Superintendent of Post Offices, a sub-postmaster of Sukna (Terai) died at night in the office room due to being compelled to work during illness ?

(b) Is it a fact that the next morning the postman of the office found the sub-postmaster dead and communicated the information to the Superintendent by telegraph ?

(c) Is it a fact that when Mr. A. Vernieux was in charge of the Jalpaiguri Division some years ago, a sub-postmaster of the Mal Post Office fell ill, but was not relieved although he applied for leave ?

(d) Is it a fact that about a week after the submission of the leave application, finding that his death was imminent, the sub-postmaster called the clerk, postmen and runners of the office, handed over the keys and requested them to remove him to Dacca so that he might die in his home and amidst wife and children ?

(e) Is it a fact that the sub-postmaster was removed as desired but died on the way at Lalmonirhat where his funeral rites were performed by the sorters ?

(f) If the Government have no information regarding the death of above two sub-postmasters, are they prepared to institute inquiries ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : I understand that the cases occurred in 1915. It is not possible for Government at this distant date to collect the information asked for by the Honourable Member in regard to them.

PROMOTION OF MR. A. VERNIEUX, AS OFFICIATING DEPUTY POSTMASTER GENERAL, NORTH WEST FRONTIER CIRCLE.

455. ***Mr. Abdul Latif Saheb Farookhi :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that Mr. A. Vernieux, Superintendent of Post Offices, has been promoted as Officiating Deputy Postmaster-General, North-West Frontier Circle ?

(b) If the answer to above is in the affirmative, what is the date from which he holds that position ?

Mr. H. A. Sams : (a) Yes.

(b) 6th April, 1925.

GRANT OF COMPENSATORY ALLOWANCES TO POSTAL EMPLOYEES OF THE CLERICAL CADRE STATIONED IN UNHEALTHY LOCALITIES IN THE NILGIRI DIVISION.

456. ***Mr. Abdul Latif Saheb Farookhi :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that the minimum rate of allowance or special pay sanctioned for the postal employees of the clerical cadre stationed in the specially unhealthy localities in the Wynaads and the Anaimalais in the Nilgiri Division is the same as that sanctioned for such officials working in the healthy localities on the Nilgiris excepting Ootacamund Head Post Office ?

(b) Are Government aware that the Madras Government have sanctioned as far back as the year 1923 higher rates of allowances for their subordinates of the clerical cadre in the specially unhealthy localities than the Post Office ?

(c) Is it a fact that the Postmaster-General, Madras, intimated to the General Secretary of the All-India Postal and R. M. S. Union, Madras, in reply to the Resolution No. 13, passed at the Seventh Session of the Provincial Postal and R. M. S. Conference held at Coimbatore in June 1926 that a proposal to enhance the rate of compensatory allowance was under consideration ?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to state how long the matter of revising the allowances for the specially unhealthy localities has been under their consideration ? What is the reason for the delay in coming to a decision ?

(e) Do Government propose to pay the postal officials of the clerical cadre allowances or special pay on a par with Local Government rates in the Madras Circle ? If not, why ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

(d) The question has been under consideration since 1923, but owing to the heavy demands upon the finances of the Department in connection with allied schemes for revising the scales of pay of various classes of employees, it has not so far been found possible to remove the existing anomalies in the matter of these allowances. A general review of compensatory allowances and special pay is now in progress and proposals for the revision of these allowances, etc., will shortly be submitted to Government by the Director General.

(e) The question is under consideration.

GRANT OF COMPENSATORY ALLOWANCES TO POSTMEN AND THE LOWER GRADE STAFF STATIONED IN UNHEALTHY LOCALITIES IN THE MADRAS CIRCLE.

457. ***Mr. Abdul Latif Saheb Farookhi :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that the postmen and the lower grade staff stationed in the unhealthy localities in the Madras Circle are not granted allowance or special pay sanctioned for the clerical cadre ?

(b) If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, what is the reason for such discrimination ?

(c) Are Government aware that the Madras Government have sanctioned compensatory allowance to all classes of their subordinates stationed in such localities ?

(d) Do Government propose to pay compensatory allowance to the postmen and lower grade staff in those localities ? If not, why ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : (a) Yes.

(b) The scales of pay sanctioned for postmen and lower grade staff in these localities are those accepted by Government on the recommendation of the Postal Committee of 1920.

(c) Yes.

(d) The question is being taken up as part of the general question of the revision of the pay and allowances of these subordinates.

LOCAL ALLOWANCE OF THE CLERKS OF THE HEAD POST OFFICES IN OOTACAMUND, ETC.

458. ***Mr. Abdul Latif Saheb Farookhi :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that the minimum rate of local allowance sanctioned for the clerks of the Head Post Office at Ootacamund is Rs. 12 and that that for the staff of the Willowbund and Kandul Bazaar Post Offices and the office of the Superintendent of Post Offices, Nilgiri Division, is Rs. 10 ?

(b) Are Government prepared to remove the anomaly, or if not assign reasons for maintaining disparity in the rate of allowance to officials stationed in one and the same town and within the same municipal limits ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : (a) Yes.

(b) With the object of removing such anomalies, the existing rates of compensatory allowance and special pay are under review.

CHANGES IN THE PERSONNEL OF THE SUB-POSTMASTERS AND CLERKS IN EACH OF THE POST OFFICES LOCATED AT VALPARAI, ATTAKATTI AND CHERAMBADI IN THE NILGIRI DIVISION.

459. ***Mr. Abdul Latif Saheb Farookhi :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing for the last 5 years :

(i) the number of changes in the personnel of (a) the sub-postmasters, and (b) clerks if any,

(ii) the number of (a) sub-postmasters, and (b) clerks if any, who worked continuously for one year and more,

in each of the post offices located at Valparai, Attakatti and Cherambadi in the Nilgiri Division ?

(d) What is the amount of expenditure incurred by the Department for the last three years as travelling allowances for the officials deputed to each of the above offices ?

Mr. H. A. Sams : (a) (i). The number of changes in personnel in all three post offices for the last five years :

(a) Sub-Postmasters 54

(b) Clerks 22

(a) (ii) (a) 2 Sub-Postmasters at Cherambadi.

(b) Nil.

				Rs.	A.	P.
(b) Attakatti	..	..	..	487	14	0
Cherambadi	..	..	..	348	4	0
Valparai	..	..	..	323	14	0

Total .. 1,160 0 0

EXPANSION OF THE POST OFFICE BUILDING AT VALPARAI IN THE MADRAS CIRCLE, AND CONSTRUCTION OF QUARTERS FOR THE CLERKS.

460. ***Mr. Abdul Latif Saheb Farookhi :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the dimensions of (i) the office room, and (ii) the residential quarters of the sub-postmaster at Valparai ? Is that a notorious-ly unhealthy locality in the Madras Circle ?

(b) When was the office building constructed and what was the strength of the clerical establishment at that time ?

(c) Was the clerical establishment strengthened in subsequent years ? If so, in what years and by how many men in each of those years ?

(d) What is the area of space occupied by the furniture in the office room ?

(e) Is it a fact that some of the furniture and records are kept in the residential quarters of the sub-postmaster for want of space in the office ?

(f) Is it a fact that quarters have been built only for one clerk there ?

(g) Are Government aware that residential quarters are not available at Valparai even for exorbitant rent ?

(h) When were the annual repairs for the clerk's quarters and the office building last made ?

(i) Is it a fact that in spite of the remarks in the order book of the office made by the Postmaster-General and the Superintendents for the last many years regarding the inadequacy of accommodation in the office and for the Sub-Postmaster and clerks, no steps have been yet taken for the expansion of the post office building and construction of quarters for the clerks ?

(j) Are Government aware that the rest of the clerical staff is experiencing very great difficulty in finding accommodation for cooking, bathing, sleeping, etc., when the senior clerk occupies the quarters ?

(k) Are Government prepared to take up immediately the question of providing quarters for all the clerks and adequate accommodation for the office and the sub-postmaster ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : Government do not think it necessary to obtain all the details asked for in the Honourable Member's question in view of the fact that steps have already been taken for the expansion of the office and quarters and for the construction of additional quarters.

PROVISION OF FREE QUARTERS FOR CLERKS OF THE GUDALUR POST OFFICE IN THE NILGIRI DIVISION.

461. ***Mr. Abdul Latif Saheb Farookhi :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the date on which the residential quarters for the clerks of the Gudalur Post Office in the Nilgiri Division built by the Department were made available for occupation ?

(b) Did not the then Superintendent of Post Offices recommend to the Postmaster-General, Madras, that the clerks of that office should be given the quarters rent free owing to the notoriously unhealthy and other special conditions of the locality ?

(c) Is it a fact that for a period of two years from the date of occupation of the quarters, no recovery of rent was made from the clerks ?

(d) Is it a fact that orders were issued by the Superintendent in January this year directing the recovery of rent at 10 per cent. of pay of each clerk who occupied the quarters from the date they were taken over by the Department for use.

(e) Is it not a fact that the postal clerks of Valparai another notoriously unhealthy locality in the same division were exempted two or three years ago from paying rent for the residential quarters constructed there by the Department until such time as the scales of compensatory allowances were increased ?

(f) Were not also the amounts of house rent recovered from the clerks of Valparai refunded to them ?

(g) Do Government propose to provide free quarters for the clerks of the Gudalur Post Office as for those of Valparai and direct the refund of amounts recovered from them ? If not, why ?

Mr. H. A. Sams : (a) 1st August 1925.

(b) Yes, but the Superintendent did not base his recommendation on the unhealthiness of the locality, but on the scarcity of accommodation.

(c) No. The period was about 1 year and 3 months.

(d) Yes.

(e) Yes, not however for the reasons stated, but because the quarters were inadequate.

(f) No, as no recovery had been made.

(g) The matter is under consideration.

REFUND TO BABU RATIRANJAN SEN GUPTA, A SIGNALLER OF THE KHARAGPUR COMBINED OFFICE, OF RENT CHARGED FOR QUARTERS NOT OCCUPIED BY HIM.

462. ***Mr. Abdul Latif Saheb Farookhi :** (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to an article headed "House Accommodation—Kharagpur", appearing at page 493 in the January 1927 issue of "Labour", the organ of the Bengal Provincial Postal and R. M. S. Union, Calcutta ?

(b) Is it a fact that the two signallers of the Kharagpur combined office were compelled to occupy the quarters in the upper flat of the old telegraph office building ?

(c) Is it a fact that the quarters in the said upper flat were considered unsuitable for the telegraphists when there was a departmental telegraph office there and were not therefore occupied by the telegraphists who were paid house rent allowance in lieu ?

(d) Is it a fact that Babu Ratiranjana Sen Gupta, one of the signallers of the Kharagpur office, did not occupy the said quarters finding them unsuitable ?

(e) Is it also a fact that even when the quarters were not occupied Babu Ratiranjana Sen Gupta was made to pay 10 per cent. of his pay towards house rent ? If so, why was the recovery made from him ?

(f) Is it compulsory on the part of the officials to occupy Government quarters even if they are unsuitable and inconvenient for themselves and their dependents ?

(g) Are Government prepared to consider the question of refunding to Babu Ratiranjana Sen Gupta the sum recovered from him towards house rent for the period he did not occupy the quarters ?

Mr. H. A. Sams : (a) Yes.

(b) There was no compulsion. On account of scarcity of residential accommodation in Kharagpur the quarters were allotted to two signallers for occupation on payment of rent.

- (a) No.
- (d) and (e). Information is not yet available. It will be communicated to the Honourable Member on receipt.
- (f) No, not if the quarters are really unsuitable.
- (g) The question will be considered when the facts are known.

GRANTS TO RECREATION CLUBS FOR POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH EMPLOYEES.

463. *Mr. Abdul Latif Sahab Farookhi : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of recreation clubs in existence on the 31st March 1927 for officials in the (i) Postal, (ii) R. M. S., and (iii) Telegraph Departments in India and Burma to which departmental grants are made ; and the amount of grants made to each class of recreation clubs during the last 5 years ?

(b) Are the grants made from any special fund or from the revenues of the Postal and Telegraph Department ?

Mr. H. A. Sams : (a) (i) Nil.

(ii) Nil.

(iii) 47.

The grants made to the Telegraph Recreation Clubs during the last five years were :

Year.	Rs.
1922-23	1,875
1923-24	1,430
1924-25	2,170
1925-26	6,445
1926-27	2,755
Total	11,605

(b) From the revenues of the Posts and Telegraphs Department.

AMOUNT OF FINES RECOVERED FROM POSTAL, R. M. S. AND TELEGRAPH EMPLOYEES.

464. *Mr. Abdul Latif Sahab Farookhi : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the total amount of fines inflicted and recovered from the Postal, R. M. S. and Telegraph employees for the years 1922-23, 1923-24, 1924-25, 1925-26 and 1926-27 ?

(b) Is there any " Fines Fund " in the Postal and Telegraph Department ? If not, under what head in the accounts are the amounts credited ?

(c) Are Government prepared to consider the question of instituting a Fines Fund as in some of the Railway companies ?

Mr. H. A. Sams : (a) The collection of the information asked for would involve a detailed examination of the establishment pay bills of all offices for the past five years. From statistics collected, however, in another connection, it has been ascertained that during the three years ending February 1927, the average annual amount of fines recovered from the Postal, R. M. S., and Telegraph employees was Rs. 15,882.

(b) There is only one such fund maintained, namely, that in respect of the workmen employed in the Telegraph Workshops at Alipur. In all other cases the amounts recovered on account of fines are credited to Government.

(c) The matter is under consideration.

APPOINTMENT IN THE SELECTION GRADE OF THE BOMBAY GENERAL POST OFFICE OF TWO INSPECTORS OF THE FOREIGN MAIL DIVISION.

465. ***Mr. N. C. Kelkar :** Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Inspectors of Post Offices or the Railway Mail Service were eligible to be graded with the selection grade officials or transferred to the selection grade before they reached the minimum pay of the selection grade ;
- (b) whether the first selection grade of the Bombay General Post Office is a self-contained cadre ;
- (c) whether two qualified Inspectors of the Foreign Mail Division are provided for in the selection grade of the Bombay General Post Office, overriding the claims of hundreds of senior men in that office ;
- (d) whether the Bombay Presidency Postal and R. M. S. Association protested against the importation of these officials in the Bombay General Post Office, and requested their provision to be made only as Inspectors of Post Offices or R. M. S. and not in the selection grade ;
- (e) whether both the Inspectors of Foreign Mails Division were confirmed in the selection grade of the Bombay General Post Office, as Accountant, Foreign Parcel and Joint-Head-Clerk, Foreign Post ;
- (f) whether the request made by the Association was refused on the ground that the duties of the Inspectors of Post Offices and Foreign Mails Division were " Quite different " ; and if so, whether the duties of Inspectors of Foreign Mails Division and the Accountant, Foreign Parcel and Joint Head Clerk, are not still more different ;
- (g) what were the grounds of their appointment in the selection grade of the Bombay General Post Office ;

- (h) whether it is a fact that at the time of their transfer to Bombay General Post Office one unpassed official was working as Inspector in the Foreign Mails Division and whether this official was examined after the protest and was "adjudged" as passed; and
- (i) whether any selection grade appointments in the Foreign Mail Division were transferred to the Bombay General Post Office and, if not, whether it is proposed to retransfer these Inspectors to the Foreign Mails Division or Railway Mail Service with a view to remove discontent amongst the officials of the Bombay General Post Office?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : The information is being collected and will be supplied to the Honourable Member in due course.

APPLICABILITY OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE INDIAN EMIGRATION ACT, VII OF 1922, TO MEN RECRUITED FOR SERVICE IN THE PORT OF ADEN.

466. ***Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that they are considering the question of the applicability of the provisions of the Indian Emigration Act, VII of 1922, to men recruited for service in the Port of Aden?

(b) If the reply to the above be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state why they consider this to be necessary, and whether they are doing this on their own initiative or under instructions from His Majesty's Government?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

SAFEGUARDING OF THE INTERESTS OF INDIANS IN PANAMA.

467. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** (a) What is the total number of Indians in Panama?

(b) In view of the passing of the Panama Immigration Law by the Panama Republic, will Government please state what steps they propose to take with a view to safeguard the interests of the Indians residing in the Republic (*vide* starred question No. 525 on the 21st February 1927)?

Sir Denys Bray : (a) About 300.

(b) As the result of representations by His Majesty's representative the Panama authorities have promised to amend the immigration law so as to enable Indian residents, who may temporarily leave the country, to return. In the meantime they have stated their intention to administer the law with "benevolent leniency".

EXCLUSION OF INDIAN SEAMEN FROM THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA UNDER THE NEW AMERICAN IMMIGRATION BILL.

468. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** (a) In view of the Government reply "Inquiries have been made but no official confirmation

has yet been received" in reply to starred question No. 542 on 21st February 1927, regarding the exclusion of Indian seamen from the United States of America under the new American Immigration Bill, will Government please state if they have received the official confirmation?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the result of inquiries to the House?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : The Bill was not passed during the last Session of the Congress, and it is understood that it has now lapsed.

RECRUITMENT FOR THE INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE FROM 1922 TO 1927. :

469. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** 1. (a) With reference to Government reply "The recruitment for the year 1926-27 is not yet complete" to starred question No. 587 on the 25th February, 1927, regarding nominations to the Indian Civil Service, will Government please state if the recruitment for the year is complete now?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the result to the House?

2. Will Government please state the total number of candidates recruited for the Indian Civil Service province by province, both by competition and nomination since the present system came into force?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar : In the year 1926-27, 29 Europeans and 20 Indians have been recruited for the Indian Civil Service by competition, and 7 Indians (including 4 Burmans) by nomination. One Mussalman was recruited by competition and two by nomination.

2. I assume that the Honourable Member refers to the province of origin, and place a statement on the table prepared on this basis. The Honourable Member is doubtless aware that candidates are not in all cases posted to their province of origin.

The total number of candidates recruited for the Indian Civil Service since 1922 is 188.

The total number of Indians recruited since 1922 and their provinces of origin, so far as can be ascertained, are as follows :

Province.	By competition.	By Nomination.	Total.
Madras	24	..	24
Bombay	18	1	19
Bengal	17	1	18
U. P.	11	3	14
Punjab	10	4	14
Burma	1	8	9
B. & O.	3	2	5
C. P.	3	1	4
Assam . . . . .	..	1	1
Total	87	21	108

STATEMENT OF BUSINESS.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett (Leader of the House) : Sir, with your permission I desire to make a statement regarding Government business for next week. On

12 noon.

Monday, the 29th August, a motion will be made to take into consideration the Gold Standard and Reserve Bank of India Bill as reported by the Joint Committee and the remaining days of the week, namely, the 30th and 31st August and the 1st and 2nd September have been allotted for its discussion. If the discussion on that Bill is concluded earlier, a motion will be made to take into consideration, and if that motion is carried, to pass the Imperial Bank of India (Amendment) Bill, as reported by the Joint Committee. If time should permit, thereafter, a motion will be made to take into consideration, and if that motion is carried, to pass the Criminal Law Amendment Bill which was introduced yesterday.

RESOLUTION *RE* IMPROVEMENT AND EXPANSION OF BANKING FACILITIES.

Mr. President : The House will now resume the further discussion of the following Resolution moved by Mr. Sarabhai Nemchand Haji on the 10th February, 1927 :

“ This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that a Commission consisting of a majority of Indian members with an Indian Chairman be appointed to investigate the present position of the banking institutions, facilities and conditions in India and to make recommendations for their improvement and expansion, with particular reference to the provision in adequate quantity and appropriate form of the capital or finance necessary for the development of the industries and agriculture of India.”

Mr. M. S. Sessa Ayyangar (Madura and Ramnad *cum* Tinnevely ; Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, it may be in the recollection of this House that when the Honourable Mr. Haji moved this Resolution in last Delhi Session, he made out a clear and convincing case showing why his Resolution ought to be accepted by this House. He also charged the Government with indifference and inaction in this matter, and the Honourable the Finance Member repudiated that charge by suggesting that since the inauguration seven years ago of the Imperial Bank of India and the establishment of over 100 branches of this Bank the Government had done its duty in the matter. It was further said that the war loans granted during the war and the raising of the Government loans since 1922 had also facilitated the development of banking institutions in this country. It was further urged that the Post Office Savings Bank Account and the Postal Cash Certificates had also helped the country in promoting banking facilities in this country. I am afraid, Sir, that none of these things really touches the fringe of what is involved in my friend Mr. Haji's Resolution. What he wants, as I see from his Resolution, is the grant of an inquiry “ to investigate further the present position of the banking institutions, facilities and conditions in India and to make recommendations for their improvement and expansion with particular reference to the provision in adequate quantity and appropriate form of the capital necessary for the development of the industries and agriculture of India.” Now, Sir, I do not know what section of the population really is served by the Imperial Bank of India and its several branches. I really do not understand to what

[Mr. M. S. Sesha Ayyangar.]

extent the Imperial Bank and its several branches are able to meet the needs and requirements of 7 lakhs of villages and over 2,000 towns in this country which are bankless, and how far this institution is able to help the joint stock and other concerns in this country. What is really involved in the Resolution is that something must be done by Government by starting an inquiry, if need be, and then determining the measure that might be considered necessary for the expansion of banking facilities and for promoting agriculture and other industries in this country. I submit, therefore, Sir, that none of the measures suggested by the Honourable the Finance Member really touches the fringe of this question.

No doubt, the Honourable the Finance Member expressed his sympathy for the Resolution, and he said that he also felt the imperative need for an inquiry of this kind, but he added that the time was not yet ripe ; in fact, he said, it was too early to think of the nature of an inquiry of this character or even the personnel of the inquiry. In furtherance of that argument, he said that we have the Reserve Bank Bill on the anvil of the Legislature and that there is also the Agricultural Commission sitting now, and therefore we might await the result of these two and then think of the necessity of starting this inquiry. Now, Sir, so far as the Reserve Bank Bill is concerned, no doubt it was just now announced that it might come up next week or the week after. I also feel that the Honourable the Finance Member is very sincere in his belief that this Bill of his is really a panacea for all the Indian ills, either economic, financial banking or currency. I wish I shared in that belief ; but unfortunately I differ from him *in toto*. Even assuming for argument's sake that all the amendments of which he has given notice about the Reserve Bank Bill are carried, so long as the facilities sought to be given to the Imperial Bank of India under the separate amendments regarding the Imperial Bank of India are there, I rather feel strongly that all these things would really stifle or retard the growth of banking institutions rather than develop indigenous banking in this country. So that, there is absolutely no use, I submit to the House, in waiting to see what becomes of this Bill ; and further I am not sure as to the fate of this Bill or even as to the form in which it might ultimately emerge from this House. I therefore do not think that there is any good ground at all why this enquiry should be deferred on account of the consideration of the Reserve Bank Bill which is impending.

Next it was submitted to the House that we might as well wait till the Report of the Agricultural Commission was published. Now, I want to put to the Honourable the Finance Member whether the terms of that Commission do really cover the ground that is sought to be involved in this Resolution. If that were so, if only a frank statement had been made to that effect, it would have set matters right, but inasmuch as the terms of reference to the Royal Agricultural Commission do not include what is sought to be covered by this Resolution, I do not see again any reason why we should wait till the Report of the Royal Agricultural Commission is out.

Lastly, urging these grounds, the Honourable the Finance Member gently persuaded the Honourable Mover not to press this Resolution. I do not know if the Honourable Mover is going to be successfully seduced to that position—I do not think he is. I submit, therefore, that I have very good reasons to support this motion, and I would request the House to carry it.

Lala Lajpat Rai (Jullundur Division : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, I want to support this motion on the basis of some personal knowledge and experience of the working of one of the biggest joint stock Indian banks and of the difficulties under which Indian banking in general suffers at the present day. I do not want to prolong the debate as I find that the Honourable the Finance Member has in a way given promise of an early inquiry in the matter. Speaking on the 10th February, he said :

“ Speaking for Government, I am prepared to say that the Government are most desirous that immediate steps should then be taken by some means or other to start a searching inquiry into banking facilities in India and the best means for improving them.”

That statement would have been satisfactory if he had not laid down certain other conditions, and made certain other observations which raise a fear that the inquiry contemplated by this Resolution might be postponed indefinitely. First of all, I think he labours under a misapprehension about the intentions of the Mover when he in the last sentence said :

“ I rather doubt if the House would care to commit itself to that Resolution as it actually stands with the demand for a Royal Commission at this particular moment.”

That is not the demand of the Mover as far as I have been able to ascertain from him. No doubt, he has used the word “ Commission ” in the Resolution, but that does not mean a Royal Commission. It may be any Committee or Commission which the Honourable the Finance Member may think fit to institute for the purpose of making the inquiry which the Honourable Mover asks for. Therefore, the fear that this House will commit itself to the appointment of a Royal Commission should not deter Members from voting for the motion as it stands now.

I want to emphasise, Sir, the necessity of such an inquiry at an early date, because it is held even by the Honourable the Finance Member that the economic progress of the country depends upon providing adequate banking facilities. In the opening part of his speech on the 10th February he said “ Idle money means idle manhood ”. Then further on he said :

“ If the Government of this country, or any Member of this House knew means by which we could induce the people of this country to make their savings available for the development of their country, we should be contributing to the future of this country a boon far exceeding any that any existing or previous Government has given or that even a Swaraj Government will be able to bring.

Well, Sir, this is a Resolution which has the same object as the Honourable the Finance Member has at heart. But if the Government continues to postpone this inquiry from day to day under one pretence or other, then that day will never come nearer, because I know from personal experience that, unless a sifting inquiry is made into the existing conditions of Indian banking, no such improvement as is desired both by the Government as well as by the people for the development of Indian banking is possible.

I know, Sir, the difficulties under which Indian banking has suffered throughout, and for these difficulties the Government is also partly responsible—I do not say wholly responsible but partly responsible. I know from personal experience that during the Indian banks failures in 1913, several banks failed for want of sympathy and help on the part of the Government. I was at that time concerned with the management of the Punjab National Bank, one of the biggest banks in the Country, which has as many as 34 branches scattered all over the country. It was with great difficulty

[Lala Lajpat Rai.]

and in the absence of any sympathetic help from the Government and the Government Bank at the time—I considered the then Bengal Bank the Government Bank—that we tided over a crisis at that time. It is that knowledge which deters many investors, particularly small investors, from giving their money over to the Indian Banks. No amount of branches opened by the Imperial Bank will solve that problem for them. The small Indian investor is not likely to go and invest his money in the Imperial Bank or in any of these European managed banks. I know that the European managed banks have not been looking at the Indian banks, even the joint stock banks, with a favourable eye. They have been trying to discredit them and to say to people that they should not trust these Indian banks. An inquiry of this kind will help the small investor as well as the big investor to know how the Indian banks stand. If they could be assured, under reasonable conditions and on reasonable terms, of the sympathetic attitude of the Government towards Indian banks in times of crises, the small investor will be encouraged to put his money in the Indian banks, and it is these Indian banks alone that can properly take the money of these small investors. The Imperial Bank with its highly paid machinery will be unable to solve that problem at all. Therefore, in the interests of the Indian banking industry, it is necessary that such an inquiry should be hastened, should be proceeded with at an early date though I am quite in agreement with him as to the undesirability of having the matter sifted by a Royal Commission. I agree with him that these Commissions are not very cheap things ; on the contrary they are very expensive things and the cost incurred on them is entirely disproportionate to the benefit they bring to the tax-payer by their conclusions. In fact in most cases the tax-payer has to pay very heavily for that inquiry and also for the carrying out of the conclusions which these Royal Commissions arrive at. Therefore, that is not what the Honourable Mover wants or what this House wants to commit itself to. What we want is a committee of experts and non-experts to inquire into the conditions at present existing in Indian banking and to provide such facilities and checks as will encourage small investors and those people who have money to invest, to go and invest their money in these banks under certain guarantees. I think the Government will be well advised to provide after such an inquiry certain checks upon the auditing of these banks and also upon their investments, such as will assure the small investors about their safety. At present, while the European managed banks do not attract the Indian investor, they are rather afraid of entrusting their savings to Indian banks as well because of so many failures in the past, and because they know that at present legislative provisions do not exist that provide such a necessary check or restrictions on their investments as will put heart into the small investor to go and put his money into these banks. We know the Government is anxious to make this enquiry, but mere statements of anxiety and mere good wishes will not help us. We want a speedy inquiry into this matter, as soon as possible. It should not be postponed from time to time under one pretence or another, either one referring to the Agricultural Commission or the Reserve Bank Bill. As my friend Mr. Sessa Ayyangar said, these questions even if solved properly are not going to solve all the problems. The problem is an extensive one and it will take time to go into it. I therefore desire that the Government should give us a more definite assurance about the time when they are going to institute that inquiry, and to appoint a committee for the purposes of the inquiry contemplated by the

Resolution moved by my friend. I have every sympathy with the Resolution and I hope the House will accept it.

Mr. R. K. Shanmukhan Chetty (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, my Honourable friend, Mr. Haji, had done a distinct service in calling the attention of the House to the need for a comprehensive inquiry into the banking facilities that exist in India at present. Honourable Members will recollect that this is not the first occasion when this question of the need for such an inquiry has been brought to the notice of the Government of India and the Indian public. As far back as 1914, the Chamberlain Commission drew the attention of the Government to this aspect of the question of monetary reform in India. Again, the Indian Industrial Commission in 1918, drew the attention of the Government and the public to the necessity for increasing banking facilities in India if Indian industries were to develop at all in this country. Again, in 1919, the attention of the then Imperial Legislative Council was drawn to this question by a Resolution moved by a non-official Member ; and at that time the spokesman of Government accepted the Resolution and gave an undertaking that the inquiry would be started in the very near future. Again, in 1923, the matter was brought up for discussion in another place, and there again, the Resolution was unanimously adopted by that body. And, lastly, in 1925, the External Capital Committee again drew attention to the necessity for such an inquiry. My Honourable friend, Mr. Haji, rightly complained that the Government of India, though they on these different occasions expressed their sympathy with the object underlying the Resolution and gave an undertaking that the inquiry would be started, have practically done nothing. And my Honourable friend, Sir Basil Blackett, in the speech which he delivered on the last occasion, observed that my Honourable friend Mr. Haji was not justified in levelling this charge against the Government of India. I am afraid, Sir, the Honourable the Finance Member has not convinced this House that the Government of India have yet taken any very definite steps towards the starting of such a comprehensive inquiry.

The latest pronouncement on the subject, as I said, is the recommendation of the External Capital Committee and that recommendation runs as follows :

“ India possesses a vast store of dormant capital awaiting development and in order to make this available for investment banking facilities ought to be increased and extended. The examination of various technical measures suggested in the replies with this object is outside the scope of the Committee, but we would emphasise the importance of a co-ordinated survey being undertaken at the earliest opportunity of the whole field of banking in India. This could be followed by a detailed examination by an expert committee or committees on the lines along which progress should be effected.”

It was in 1925 that this recommendation was made by the External Capital Committee. They suggested that a co-ordinated survey must be undertaken at the earliest opportunity of the whole field of banking in India, and they said that this survey must be followed by a detailed examination on the lines along which progress should be effected. My Honourable friend, Sir Basil Blackett, the other day gave an account to this House of the action that he took as a result of this recommendation of the External Capital Committee. What was it that the Honourable the Finance Member did ? As a result of this recommendation the Honourable the Finance Member delivered a very interesting lecture on banking to the Delhi

[Mr. R. K. Shanmukhan Chetty.]

University and in that lecture he gave a very lucid exposition, as he always does, of the needs of banking in India and the lines along which reform must be undertaken. Beyond this, I submit, he has not devoted as much attention to the question as the importance of the subject deserves. Sir, in dealing with the question of increasing banking facilities, the Honourable the Finance Member dealt with various aspects of the question. He pointed out that with a view to increase the investing habit of the Indian people he had taken great pains to popularise the Post Office Cash Certificates. I recognise that by the introduction of this system of Post Office Cash Certificates and by the steps that have been taken to popularise them a great advance has certainly been made in encouraging the investment habit of the Indian people. But in this connection I should like to point out to him whether, after all, he has done wisely in reducing the interest rate on the Post Office Cash Certificates. No doubt, when the interest rate stood higher, somewhere in the neighbourhood of 6 per cent., probably the Post Office Cash Certificates system was availed of by the larger investors rather than by the smaller investors. But I have a suspicion that, as a result of the drastic cut in the interest rate, the popularity of the Cash Certificate has been jeopardised. I would, therefore, ask the Honourable the Finance Member to consider, in the light of the experience gained after the reduction of the interest rate, whether it would not be worth while to increase it slightly.

The Honourable the Finance Member then dealt in his lecture with the need for banking education and I must congratulate him on having succeeded in bringing into existence the Indian Institute of Bankers, and I hope that this new institution that has come into existence will be of great help in promoting banking education in this country. He has also taken the right step in removing the stamp duty on cheques and also in introducing the Negotiable Instruments Bill which is now before a Select Committee. In this connection I would like to draw his attention to the need for early action in abolishing the stamp duty upon *hundis* also. I know that the Honourable the Finance Member feels the necessity for bringing about this reform and I hope that he will take steps to bring about this reform at an early date.

There is another aspect of this question of banking in India which has not yet been discussed and gone into, and that is the question of providing long-term credits for industrial and agricultural purposes. So far as the question of providing long-term credits for agricultural purposes by the creation of land mortgage banks and such other institutions is concerned, the Honourable the Finance Member is evidently of opinion that the result of the enquiry of the Royal Commission on Indian Agriculture must be awaited. I am prepared to concede that what the Royal Commission on Agriculture will have to say on this subject would be very useful in determining the ways by which we may give facilities for long-term credits. There is also another aspect of the question which to my mind has not yet been dealt with at all, and that is the co-ordination of indigenous banking and banking methods with the more advanced western system of banking. In the evidence that Governor Strong gave before the Royal Commission on Indian Currency and Finance, he said about the indigenous system of banking in India :

“ I would liken it, if you please, first to the construction of a foundation for a superstructure, and the foundation for a central banking system in India to my mind must be carefully introduced among, and interwoven with the existing

banking practices, the existing customs of business, the existing methods of Government in managing its fiscal affairs and the existing business that India conducts, but that it should not be applied, as was done to a considerable extent in America, as a sort of forced readjustment of methods."

This question of studying the relation of indigenous banking and banking methods to the more advanced western methods of banking, to my mind, seems to be the most important that this Committee, if, and when, it is appointed, must undertake. I do not see why the appointment of this Committee which is asked for in this Resolution should be postponed till the Reserve Bank Bill is passed. I do not know whether it was the intention of my Honourable friend, Mr. Ayyangar, that this question should be postponed till the Reserve Bank Bill is passed by this House, or till the Reserve Bank actually comes into existence. If the Reserve Bank Bill passes this House in this Session, the Reserve Bank itself will probably be established on the 1st July 1928, and I do not see how, even if this Committee is appointed immediately after the 1st July 1928, the new Reserve Bank, which would just have been started, would be in a position to give any material assistance to this Committee. I hope Government will realise that this question of an enquiry into banking facilities in India has been postponed for a very long time, that Government have been, in fact, shirking such an enquiry, and I do hope that the Honourable the Finance Member will realise the urgent necessity of appointing a Committee at as early a date as possible to undertake this much needed survey of banking in India.

Mr. K. C. Roy : (Bengal Nominated Non-Official) : With your permission, Sir, I will first move the amendment that stands against my name :

" That at the end of the Resolution the following be added :—

' and also to report what, if any, measures are desirable to regulate and control banks and banking business in this country ' ' ' .

Sir, the subject which my amendment initiates is by no means a new issue. It was discussed in the old Imperial Legislative Council in the year 1914, and among the old Members present to-day I notice my Honourable friend, Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, who, I am sure, will recall the debate. The debate arose out of a series of bank failures to which my Honourable friend, Lala Lajpat Rai, has briefly referred. My Honourable friend, Mr. Sesha Ayyangar, has reminded the House that it was on the 10th February of this year that my Honourable friend, Mr. Haji's Resolution was partially discussed and the last speaker was the Honourable Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas. In concluding his speech, Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas said :

" The Indian investor, Sir, in banking institutions has proved to be childlike, over-suspicious, easily misled, and not treating these banking institutions with that seriousness and confidence which alone can give India successful banking institutions."

I am only sorry that my Honourable friend had no time to develop this theme. What is the cause of this shyness ? If we look back to the history of India since 1913, what do we find ?

There has been a series of banking failures causing immense financial crisis and distress to many humble investors. My amendment only aims at protecting those investors. Against fraudulent Bank Managers and bad creditors. There is not a single Province or Presidency which was not affected. In the province in which the House is sitting there

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have been not less than 12 bank failures. I shall only name 4—two banking institutions which were controlled by Mr. Harkishen Lal, and the Alliance Bank of Simla, and the Punjab Banking Corporation. I shall go to the neighbouring province of the United Provinces. There was the failure of the Bank of Upper India. Going to Burma, there was the failure of the Bank of Burma. I will go to my own province, Bengal. There is the regrettable failure of the National Bank which only took place the other day. What have the Government done since to restore public confidence? We were told in 1914 by Sir William Clark that they were waiting for the termination of the liquidation proceedings. The liquidation proceedings are unhappily continuing even to-day. These bank failures have given a new harvest to liquidators. We were promised that the Local Governments would be consulted, and as soon as the consultations were over, they would consider the necessity of a special inquiry or any other Government action which might be deemed to be in the interests of investors. But nothing has been so far done. I feel that my friend Mr. Haji's Resolution has given an excellent opportunity to the Finance Minister to redeem the promise which was held out in 1914. I am quite sure that Sir Basil Blackett will not lose this opportunity. Much has been said against the attitude of Sir Basil Blackett in regard to the institution of the inquiry which has been suggested by my friend Mr. Haji. The House will forgive me if I put in a word on behalf of Sir Basil Blackett, although he is quite able to take care of himself. I have known him for four years. He is ever industrious, ever busy and no Finance Minister has had a more strenuous time than he has. If he had delayed the solution of the question, it is not because he does not like it but it was inevitable. Sir, I move my amendment.

Mr. N. C. Kelkar : (Bombay Central Division : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : I rise to support the Resolution of my friend Mr. Haji. In doing so I wish first of all to say this. I am quite aware that the attention of Government has been already directed to the importance of this question, and the recommendations of the Currency Commission also may be taken to be an indication in the same direction. The Commission said :

“ We should welcome any steps which can be taken in the direction of making an extensive and scientific survey of banking conditions in India. In any scheme of banking reform that may be planned, we trust that due emphasis will be laid on the provision and extension of cheap facilities to the public, including banks and bankers, for internal remittance.”

Since this Report steps have been taken to bring a Reserve Bank into being. This is not the place for saying anything about the Reserve Bank. I can say this, at any rate, that by bringing that bank into being the question of banking facilities for the up-country and the mofussil and the small investor is not going to be tackled. Then again, it is said that something is expected in this direction from the Report of the Agricultural Commission. Personally I do not expect that the Agricultural Commission will help us by its recommendation to a large extent in the particular direction to which this Resolution is directed. I am conscious that the Agricultural Commission is bound to make certain recommendations which will go to a certain extent to help the agriculturist. But the agriculturist is not the only person who is covered by the Resolution. There are other people who have to be thought of and

the question will not be solved in my opinion by the recommendations of the Agricultural Commission. Then, there is the question of facilities to be given to the co-operative banks ; because those are also banks to be considered along with other banks. If I may anticipate a certain matter for a limited purpose I may say this that the majority report on the Reserve Bank Bill does provide for one director to represent provincial co-operative banks. Since then I have seen an amendment put in which, in my opinion, restricts the scope of that amendment and makes it applicable only to the protection of agricultural interests. But I think urban depositors, urban unions and urban co-operative societies have also got to be thought of in this connection. In this Bill again it will be found that the indigenous and joint stock banks go without any representation on the Reserve Bank and, therefore, you cannot say that the Reserve Bank will take adequate care and give adequate protection to the interests of the joint stock banks and indigenous banks. Then it is said that the Imperial Bank has extended its branches on a wide scale. In spite of that, I do not think that it has successfully established a point of contact with the small investors and the small savings man in the mufassil and up-country. If Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas were here he might perhaps have corrected me if I made any misstatement ; but judging from my little experience I can say this that the Imperial Bank is not a popular institution up-country and in the mufassil. I am quite aware that the Imperial Bank does minister to the wants of a certain class of people, namely, those people who want loans ; and I am conscious again that the Imperial Bank does accommodate these needy people at a rate of interest which is lower than what they may get anywhere else. But there is something also to be said to the contrary. Even taking into account, that the Imperial Bank accommodates those who want loans at a smaller rate of interest, my point in this connection is that if you really want to advance banking facilities and banking habits in the up-country you should take care of only those people who want loans. I cannot make a calculation, but I may say off hand that perhaps only 5 per cent. of those who have got dealings with the Imperial Bank may require loans ; and they again will be people who have got securities or gold or such other things and can offer that security and get loans. But what about the 95 cent. who cannot have adequate banking facilities in the up-country ? It is a matter of common knowledge that the Imperial Bank does not maintain a good point of contact with the small depositor in this that it refuses to give interests on current and small deposits. This is exactly the thing I should say that the Imperial Bank should do if it wants to attract small depositor and the small savings man. It should offer adequate and proper interest on the deposits, and this it should be able to do in view of the fact that the bank gets a very large amount of assistance from Government balances. With regard to the branches established by the Imperial Bank it is my opinion that the working of these branches is not successful and it has been stated that these branches are not being run at a profit but at a loss. The reason in my opinion is that there is extravagance and a highly paid supervising staff with regard to the management of these banks.

Other banks I suppose would do the same business with a little less cost. Therefore, Government must see to it that the Imperial Bank should not only extend its business in the mufassil but the bank should be

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advised to economise its expenditure so that the extension may go on with greater rapidity. Government have already taken one important step in this matter, namely, the removal of the stamp duty on cheques. I quite recognize that, but that is not enough for the purpose which is at the bottom of the Resolution brought by my friend Mr. Haji. In this connection I would quote Sir Phiroze Sethna, who is the Chairman of the Central Bank in Bombay, one of the largest banks in India. Speaking of the Bankers Institute he says :

“ Our Indian youths aspiring to high offices in the banking line also read for the qualifying examinations of the Institute. They are, however, at a great disadvantage in this respect, inasmuch as while the curriculum of studies includes such subjects as English Banking, Law and Practice, and the Bill of Exchange Act, for their daily duties they are required to know the Indian Law and Practice of Banking and the Law and Custom regarding Local Bills and Hundies which subjects naturally do not form part of the curriculum of studies for the examinations of the English Institute. An Indian Institute of Bankers will do away with this anomaly. But we shall look forward to the Institute, if established, not only for educational facilities for students but for a general diffusion of the knowledge of the theory and practice of Banking among the people and for measures for the adoption of common banking practice and procedure.”

I would advise the Government in this connection to imitate what is being done by the Provincial Governments as a parallel in respect of giving aid on a substantial scale to co-operative institutions whose main functions and purpose is not to do any co-operative business as such but to diffuse a knowledge of the co-operative movement in the country. I call upon the Government of India therefore to do something like this and to come forward with a generous offer of assistance to any central banking institute which is prepared to serve this purpose. Now, I do not wish to say much with regard to the Reserve Bank Bill. It is well known that we are in a state of transition and we also know that the transition stage is a period of crisis for some people. In this respect I may say this, that while we have before us a Reserve Bank at the top what we find at the bottom is that the private banker is fast losing ground and corporate indigenous banks are not taking his place. I had a specific complaint the other day from a private banker who has been doing all his life business as a *hundi wallah*. His complaint was that owing to the facilities given by Government of adjustments and transfers of money on their treasuries the *hundi wallah* is fast losing his business. I should like to state clearly that I do not stand here, and I do not plead here, the cause of the private *hundi wallah*. In course of time he is bound to go, and I should like to see him go, because I am anxious that corporate bodies of banking should take the place of private *hundi wallahs* who can charge rates without any limit. But my present point is that the Imperial Bank which gets the benefit of large Government balances at very low rates is actually competing even with the private *hundi wallah*, and, of course, also with other indigenous banks. I therefore bring this point to the notice of the Finance Member and request him to suggest a remedy if he can think of one.

Now the Resolution is important in this respect that India is far more backward than other countries in the matter of banking facilities. Government must of course be aware of this, but I will just give a few figures in this connection. I will quote the case of America because that country has been taken as a model for our Reserve Bank, but on the other hand you will see the great difference in banking facilities which

the two countries enjoy. There is one bank in India for about 7,000 villages. There are 670 banking offices in 267 towns out of 2,300 towns. Of these 670 offices 177 are in about 11 towns, 96 are in small towns and the rest are in towns with one office each. On the other hand America has got 35,000 banking offices for a population of 11 crores. Now with regard to England, owing to the recent fashion of amalgamation of small banks, the actual number of banking offices in England has of course decreased, and the figures I am quoting are for 1911 from Sykes on Banking. In that year there were 6,413 banking offices in England, or one to every 5,630 of the population. Just compare that with India where I think there is one banking office for about 5 lakhs of people. That at once gives an idea of the great difference which exists with regard to banking facilities between America and England and India. And if you take America as a model for India in connection with the Reserve Bank, you ought certainly to do much more in the way of establishing banking facilities in India.

With regard to the Imperial Bank, of course, I have already expressed my opinion. In the joint memorandum presented by the Central Bank, the Allahabad Bank, the Bank of India and other banks the same thing has been clearly pointed out. I know that that is also opinion of the Chairmen of several indigenous banks, namely, that the Imperial Bank is unnecessarily competing with them. I think even the Exchange Banks also have a grievance in this respect. I have of course stated the Indian view, but if the Finance Member would like to hear the non-Indian view I can refer him to *Times of India* of a recent date, the 29th September, 1926, in which the editor says this :

“ Sir Basil has been a keen advocate of the extension of banking facilities and the banking habit in India. Does he appreciate the point that the present proposals to allow the Imperial Bank to operate as an ordinary commercial bound, absolutely unfettered in all its activities, will tend to stifle further banking development in this country and will force out of existence such local banks as now exist.”

And with regard to the unfair competition carried on by the Imperial Bank the same writer observes :

“ What we have to bear in mind is that this is a country the bulk of whose population is illiterate. If banking ideas and banking habits are to filter through to this huge population it must be through institutions that are by and of, the people. We put it to Sir Basil Blaekett that his present proposals to make the Imperial Bank with its huge resources go out as a free lance into the banking field would prevent the growth of small peoples' banks all over the country, and drive the existing ones sooner or later to the verge of extinction. Does Sir Basil consider this desirable ? ”

Mr. President : Order, order. The Honourable Member has exceeded his time.

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

Sir Victor Sassoon : (Bombay Millowners' Association Indian Commerce) : Sir, we are all agreed, as I take it, that indigenous banking in this country should be developed, and therefore, on the face of it, one might wonder why this present motion cannot be accepted by the Government, and a committee of inquiry, which I understand is what is wanted, appointed. The reason given, if I have understood the Government point of view rightly, is that the ground to be covered is so large, the information required so great, the information existing so little and what does exist probably not available, that the time taken would be too long, so it would not be practicable to appoint a committee.

[Sir Victor Sassoon.]

because their labours would have to be so extended that they could not send a report in in a reasonable period of time, and consequently the expense would be very large. But if that is, as I understand, the difficulty of the Government, I am going to suggest that something might be done to advance the subject by Government seeing its way to institute a committee of inquiry; they should at any rate appoint an expert or a Government official to co-ordinate the information that is existing, to collect the facts that they may consider necessary, or if they think fit, they may appoint two or three independent experts to collect facts in different spheres so as to hasten the time when it will be practical politics for them to appoint a committee which can consider these facts and make recommendations. That is the only point I want to put forward before this House and the Government, that something should be done and, if it is not considered advisable to appoint a committee of inquiry to-day, that at any rate something be done to advance the position to the point where it will be useful to appoint a committee.

Mr. J. T. Donovan (Bengal : Nominated Official) : Sir, I think there can be no two opinions about the necessity of the inquiry which is suggested in the Resolution moved by my Honourable friend, Mr. Haji. Everybody whom I have consulted on this, all the papers which I have read, all have one point in common : they agree about the necessity of such an inquiry ; and the Honourable Finance Member has not concealed his agreement about the necessity of such an inquiry, nor have his admissions been half-hearted admissions. He is equally desirous with the Mover to get the information and to put the information into use for the good of India. Now, Sir, if I intervene in this debate, it is not with any other purpose except to show that the present moment is not a suitable moment to set up this committee ; that it is in the interests of India that we should accept the suggestions of the Honourable the Finance Member and wait until the Reserve Bank has been established, or till the question of a Reserve Bank has been dealt with and the Report of the Agricultural Commission has been received. In order to do this, Sir, I propose to consider two important phases of banking activity in this country.

This country is a country of mysteries. When we first came to the East we were struck by the mango trick and we heard of the rope trick, and of course, even excluding politics, there are many other classical contributions to the magic art. But, Sir, to the serious student of Indian economy, one of the greatest mysteries that meets him at the gate of his investigation is the mystery of the internal trade and traffic in this country and the manner in which it is financed. The volume of that trade has not been ascertained. If it had been ascertained, very probably a great deal of the heat which distinguished the debates of the Delhi Session might have been avoided and the brick which so rudely disturbed the gravity of the Assembly might still be in its place. But an expert like Mr. Madan, has been able to say that the volume of that trade is 5 to 10 times the volume of the external trade in this country, and the volume of the external trade in this country is able to produce 354 crores of bills on foreign destinations. I have met nobody who is willing to venture a closer approximation than Mr. Madan, but in any case, taking his lowest estimate, the volume of the

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internal trade and traffic in this country is 5 times the external trade which produces 354 crores of bills. Now, all that is financed and the mystery of that finance is one of the greatest mysteries of India. One of the duties of this committee will be to inquire into that mystery and find out all the facts about it. These facts are very, very numerous; there are 100 phases of that finance, from Karachi to Mandalay, from Tuticorin to the Terai. A committee must inquire into all these phases.

Sir, you have reminded Mr. Kelkar that there is a limit to the time for which one may speak.

Mr. President : The Honourable Member has 10 minutes more.

Mr. J. T. Donovan : I wish to be as brief as possible. I have therefore no intention of going into details or attempting to discuss the enormous number of details about the inland trade and traffic in this country. I pass on, Sir, to another main branch to which I wish to invite the attention of the Assembly, something which has been touched upon, but which certainly has not received the attention which it deserves. I mean the financing of the agriculture of this country. Sir Basil Blackett in his speech on this Resolution in February last referred to the co-operative movement and he paid a compliment to it. He described it as a most important growth of banking in the last 20 years in this country and a most hopeful one. Mr. Kelkar, Mr. Joshi and myself are amongst the few pioneers of that movement in this Assembly and we can remember 15 or 20 years ago, long before Sir Basil Blackett came here, that there was scarcely anybody who valued his name as a business man or his connection with banking who did not pooh-pooch the idea; and when Mr. Joshi and Mr. Kelkar and I were rejoicing over Rs. 50 or Rs. 1,000 or Rs. 10,000 that we got for that movement, we met with nothing but sneers or contempt from many sources. Now, Sir, the co-operative movement has dug out from the mine—in the absence of accurate statistics which the Retrenchment Committee has unfortunately rendered unavailable to us—I would say something between Rs. 25 and Rs. 50 crores in 20 years. In my province alone the amount is about five crores of rupees. This, Sir, is the result of the labours of 20 years. If we go on for another 20 years at the same rate of progress, the co-operative banking and the co-operative financing of this country's agriculture will certainly be among the most important features of the financial life of this country.

Now, Sir, here are two important features, namely, the financing of the internal trade and traffic of this country and the financing of the Agriculture of this country. One must be done by some banking system; it is done by some indigenous system. The other must be done by co-operative banking. We have now two events impending. One is the decision of this Assembly upon the fate of the Reserve Bank Bill and the other is the Report of the Agricultural Commission. Whether this Assembly thinks fit to pass the Reserve Bank Bill or not, the existence or non-existence of that Bill is bound to have a considerable influence on the banking policy of this country and any attempt to evolve a system from the information which this Committee will collect, into which the indigenous banking system of this country will be fitted, must be affected by the decision to have a Reserve Bank or not. Similarly, Sir, it is only natural to expect that the agricultural policy of this country in the immediate future must be affected by the decisions of the Agricultural

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Commission. And, now, Sir, are we going to start off immediately on an inquiry? Perhaps in the course of a year we shall find two policies being laid down which will seriously affect the course of the inquiry and which may perhaps compel us to scrap a good deal of work that has been done.

The form which the committee should take will undoubtedly be influenced by these two impending events. It may be necessary to have separate committees, it may be necessary to have experts and it may be necessary to have a superior committee extracting from the findings of the others the substance which is valuable to the country. These things, Sir, to my mind make it most desirable that we should wait until the two events I have referred to are realised. There can be no danger by adopting this course, there is no intention of indefinite procrastination. As Mr. Roy has magnanimously said about the Finance Member, he is a hard worker and I am sure it is not his intention to postpone this merely to waste time. It is only common sense to await the decision of these two events and then to appoint a committee.

Mr. President : I may inform the Honourable Member that he is not bound to speak for 15 minutes.

Mr. J. T. Donovan : I accept your suggestion, Sir. I have nothing more to say except to reiterate the wisdom of awaiting the decision of these two events.

Mr. Amar Nath Dutt (Burdwan Division : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : I Move, Sir, that the question be now put.

Mr. Sarabhai Nemchand Haji (Bombay Central Division : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, it is now over six months that I had the honour of moving this Resolution in the Delhi Session of this Honourable House on the 10th February, and I hope the period of time that has elapsed since will enable the Government to regard this motion in a more favourable light than they agreed to regard it at that time.

Particularly, Sir, this point is of special importance because, as we have heard just now the Honourable gentleman who has just finished his speech, has suggested that there was no harm in waiting for a further period in order that we might have the benefit of the recommendations of the Agricultural Commission and the establishment of the Reserve Bank. Now, Sir, I am in the fortunate position of being able to quote in this connection the Honourable Sir Basil Blackett himself against his own argument last time and against the arguments of some of the gentlemen at the present moment who have suggested that we should postpone this enquiry until these two matters have been disposed of. With regard to the Agricultural Commission, the Honourable Sir Basil Blackett speaking last time on this Resolution stated that the Agricultural Commission was covering ground from the point of view of the interests of agriculture and not from the point of the development of banking, and this sentence lends immense weight, to my mind, to the contention that it is not necessary to await the findings of the Agricultural Commission in order that we may make progress with the present enquiry as recommended by the Resolution. Of course those who want to find argument

for delaying this matter for ever, will say, even after the recommendations of the Agricultural Commission have been made, that the recommendations of the Commission have been made only just now and that we should wait for a few years until the recommendations have been in action. Then the enquiry will begin. Sir, I hope, therefore, that the House will pay no attention whatsoever to the delaying tactics underlying this kind of argument. As regards the Reserve Bank Bill and the relation of that Bank to the Banking Commission, here is the opinion of the Honourable the Finance Member as given at page 696 of Legislative Assembly Debates, Volume IX (10th February 1927) :

“ After discussions have taken place in this House and in the country in connection with the creation of the Reserve Bank, when that Bank has been brought into existence or is about to be brought into existence ”

—let us hope next week—

“ and when the Agricultural Commission's Report has been received, that will be the time for further action.”

Now, Sir, it follows from this sentence of the Honourable the Finance Member and from what my Honourable friend Mr. Donovan said a little while ago that we could have a Banking Commission immediately after the Reserve Bank. In that case, Sir, I beg to suggest that we shall all be pleased to support an amendment, if one is brought by the Government to the effect that a Banking Commission be appointed immediately after the Reserve Bank Bill is passed. Here, however, I must add an “ if ” because it is quite possible that if the wishes of this House are not met in the matter of the details of the Reserve Bank, that Reserve Bank may never be put up at all ; so that with the proviso that we shall have an enquiry in any case, I am prepared to await until the Reserve Bank Bill is through. But it is not necessary to bind ourselves down to not having a Banking Commission, if we do not have a Reserve Bank. As a matter of fact, in that case, the necessity for having this Banking Commission would be all the greater. Now that I mention the word “ commission ”, I should like to make it clear that I really do not understand why Honourable gentlemen in this House seem to imagine that the word “ commission ” could be used only for a Royal Commission. Have we not had the Fiscal Commission ? Why should it be necessary to call by a diminutive word like “ committee ” the bodies that are appointed by the Government of India ? I hope, Sir, that by my not wanting the Commission being a Royal Commission—as I never intended that it should be—it will be easier for the Honourable the Finance Member to accept the Resolution and to proceed with the necessary spade-work.

With regard to the question of spade-work, Sir Victor Sassoon suggested that the Government of India should go ahead with the spade-work in order that in the near future the Banking Commission may be appointed. I do hope, Sir, that in view of the fact that this Resolution was moved six months ago the Government have been doing all that they can—at least I hope they have—in order to get as much material as possible on which this Commission may work. But as a matter of fact my case is that one of the soundest reasons why we should have this Commission is that the Government of India until now have been indifferent to their duty in this matter. The Honourable the Finance Member himself admitted that he had no statistics with regard to indigenous

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banking institutions. Mr. Donovan stated this morning that this is a land of mysteries and the greatest mystery is the internal trade of this country and its financing. Sir, is it a compliment to this Government that in spite of the insistent recommendations of their own Commissions and of non-official organisations—Indian organisations I mean—in this country for so many years past nothing has been done? The Indian Industrial Conference passed a Resolution to develop Indian banking as early as 1890. Other Commissions appointed by the Government since, like the Industrial Commission, the Chamberlain Commission, the External Capital Committee, etc., have all recommended an enquiry, and I think they must have been greatly impressed by the fact that there is no information available upon a subject which touches us in a very important manner. It is, as Honourable Members are well aware, very easy to get at the figures of joint stock companies, organisations that are working on Western models; but when you come to indigenous banking—that banking which finances a volume of trade which is, to take the lower figure, at least five times the value of the foreign trade of this country, nobody knows exactly what the figures are. And yet we are told banking enquiry can await this and await that. That is my case with regard to this enquiry being taken up immediately, because so far as these two subjects are concerned, the two subjects of the Agricultural Commission and the Reserve Bank, as I have pointed out, there is no particular reason why we should wait. If we do not want to do anything in this matter it will further be very easy to say that the subject is so vast that it is very difficult to find out how to prepare the terms of reference for the Commission in order that the Commission might finish its labours in a reasonable time at a reasonable cost. Now this is an argument, Sir, which if admitted will prevent progress for ever. Therefore, I suggest that whatever the cost and however wide the issues—as a matter of fact the wider the issues the greater the need for their immediate examination—an enquiry should be taken up by the Government. As regards the cost, Sir, we have to remember that in the past the Government of India have spent lakhs of rupees on Commissions, the result of the findings of which has been the further saddling of this country.....

Mr. President : Order, order. I do not know why the Honourable Member imagines difficulties and proceeds to answer them.

Mr. Sarabhai Nemchand Haji : I was not imagining any difficulties; I was merely referring to one of the arguments of the Honourable the Finance Member last time. His very words are :

“Royal Commissions and Committees are not very cheap things. They are apt to be rather costly, and before you appoint one you want to be quite sure that you are giving it a subject matter which it can reasonably cover in a reasonable time and in respect of which it can make concrete suggestions.”.....

Mr. President : That applies to Royal Commissions.

Mr. Sarabhai Nemchand Haji : May I suggest, Sir, that the phrase “Royal Commission” used by the Finance Member is possibly due to the fact that he misunderstood me to say that a commission always meant a Royal Commission. Anyway, Sir, my point was that if the Government in the past had been very willing to appoint Commissions whose recom-

mendations they knew would be costly, why not appoint immediately a commission, whatever its cost, whose recommendations are bound to lead to the scientific growth of banking in the country ? In order, therefore, that we might fully realise the situation with which we are faced to-day, it is necessary to observe that most of the arguments that have been brought in so far refer to what you, Sir, described as imaginary difficulties ; and I do feel myself that if the Government were willing, the way is quite clear. It has been said that the terms of the Resolution, as I have moved it, are very wide and that they are also very vague. I am quite prepared, Sir, to accept any definite suggestions the Honourable Finance Member may have to make in this connection and I am sure we shall all be very pleased if he is good enough to let us know the terms of reference of the Banking Commission which we propose he should appoint. The Honourable Member who spoke on the subject the last time on this side of the House made reference to the Imperial Bank and the many sins of omission and commission that that body had committed. I do not therefore propose to tackle that subject this morning. But before I sit down I should like to draw the attention of this House to one point made by the Honourable the Finance Member to the effect that I had accused the Government of being indifferent and inactive in this matter, that is to say, in connection with the growth of banking in this country. Now, Sir, I should like to make it quite clear that our charges of indifference and inactivity referred not merely to his administration but to the many administrations that have gone on before he came—administrations which did not care how the internal trade of the country was financed, which did not know the number of the indigenous bankers in this country. So far as that is concerned, we very much appreciate the fact that ever since he came he has been trying his best to provide India with means of better banking education ; and as we are well aware recently his efforts have been crowned with success so far as the Indian Institute of Bankers is concerned. But even that is not enough. Mere instruction in banking, though very desirable, is not sufficient to meet the requirements of the growth of banking in this country. I should like to admit also that the Honourable the Finance Member has done a lot by way of providing facilities for better investment by various classes of people. That too is a matter which though important and useful as providing additional investing facilities, is not one that meets directly the requirements of the Resolution. As a matter of fact, it is my opinion that the present Finance Member is one of a type quite different from the Finance Members we have had before. He has an interest in banking which other Members have not had. They were quite content with the figures of Budgets, and they never looked outside their office rooms. But in the present Finance Member we have a gentleman who is very keen on banking matters, and it is therefore all the more necessary and desirable that before he vacates his office we should have an inquiry into the whole problem started in order that all the various different items which he has been trying to put together may find a coping stone in the recommendations of the Banking Commission I suggest. Sir, I beg to move the Resolution that stands in my name.

But before I sit down, I should like to mention that I have great pleasure in accepting the amendment of my friend Mr. K. C. Roy.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett (Finance Member) : Sir, I thank the Honourable Member who has last spoken for the kindly words with which he tried to soften the hard things which he really meant about my relation with banking. It has been said that this is a land of mysteries, and it has been repeated by the last speaker. I think one of the great mysteries is that this House has such an affection for the appointment of Committees and Commissions. But why do they love them so much. They always fail to accept the majority reports. When the Government of India tries to produce a Bill or a measure or to take some steps in accordance with the recommendations of a Committee or Commission, where action is proposed to be taken, it is extraordinarily difficult to get this House to acquiesce....

Mr. B. K. Shanmukham Chetty : Even Government do not accept the unanimous recommendations of those Committees.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : It is extraordinarily difficult to get this House to acquiesce in the recommendations when it happens that the Government and the majority of the Commission are in agreement. It has been suggested for example that it will be a very good thing to have a Banking Commission but that it is very doubtful whether we ought to have a Reserve Bank. The Honourable Member who last spoke hoped that now that six months have elapsed since he introduced this subject, the Government of India and he were nearer the solution. Well, Sir, the Honourable Member flatters himself. The Government of India began the spade-work long before his Resolution was moved, and I think that his Resolution was rather the result of our spade-work, and not the spade-work the result of his Resolution. Six months have certainly elapsed since that date, and I may perhaps let the House into a secret that in consequence we are six months nearer the appointment of the Committee.

I explained at full length on the last occasion the attitude of Government towards this recommendation. We do not think that the present is a suitable moment ; we do not think that it necessarily should be in the form of a big Committee that the inquiry should be made. Nor do we think that the time is really ripe for deciding either the scope or the exact nature or form of the inquiry to be made. But with reference to what the Honourable Baronet who represents the mill-owners said, I would like to inform him that all this time the spade-work is going on. We have not got an officer on special duty for this purpose, but we are endeavouring to complete the survey of existing conditions relative to banking which is spoken of by the External Capital Committee, a rough outline of whose task I gave in a speech that I made before the Delhi University in November 1925. All this time the spade-work is going on, and some of its fruits are visible such as the creation of the Indian Institute of Bankers, which, I am very glad to say, has finally been brought to a successful issue.

I should like to take this opportunity, in case another does not arise, to say a word in connection with the establishment of this institution about the debt which India owes to a very great banker and a great friend of India, I mean Sir Norcott Warren. Sir Norcott Warren is about to retire from India, for the last time. He did it before, but on a pressing invitation, which was fully concurred in by the Government of India, he came back again. And it is now I believe 42 years since he first came

to India and he has been in India almost the whole of those 42 years and he has identified himself with Indian banking and in particular with the renewed Imperial Bank which grew out of the previous Presidency Banks, so much so that it is hard for anybody, I think, who thinks of the Imperial Bank, to think of its existing without Sir Norcott Warren. I am sure that all who hear me will join with me in wishing him, when he retires from these shores a long and happy life in which to enjoy the rest which he has so thoroughly earned by his services to India.

But, Sir, I return to the less pleasant subject of this Resolution. I have urged the Honourable Member who moved it to accept the assurance of the Government of India that they are at least as keen as he is that the right steps should be taken to improve banking conditions in India and that at the right moment an inquiry should be made. I would suggest to him and to a certain number of other speakers to-day and on the previous occasion, to whose speeches all the same I should like to pay a tribute of admiration for what they contain, I should like to suggest to them and to the House generally that the thing that is going to make banking grow in India is the desire of the Indian people for banking facilities and the Government of India is not going to create banking by building banks in every village in India. It really is a thing in which Government can do something but the essential and driving powers must be the demand of the Indian people for banking in India, and no Commission, no Reserve Bank and nothing else except the desire of the Indian people to have facilities for banking will create facilities for banking in India.

Sir, the Government regret that they are unable to accept this Resolution. They do not disagree with the main principle that it is desirable that there should be an examination into banking in India at an early date. But beyond that, they are not able to go and they are unable to accept the Resolution as it stands. I hope still at the last moment that the Honourable Member will be satisfied with that promise and will recognise that it is all that he can usefully get and that even if it is my successor and not I myself who has the pleasure of being in at the birth of this Banking Committee, he will not get it a day earlier by pressing for a promise from the Government for more than I have been able to give. I would urge him, therefore, to withdraw the motion.

Mr. President : The original Resolution was :

“ That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that a Commission consisting of a majority of Indian members with an Indian Chairman be appointed to investigate the present position of the banking institutions, facilities and conditions in India and make recommendations for their improvement and expansion, with particular reference to the provision in adequate quantity and appropriate form of the capital or finance necessary for the development of the industries and agriculture of India.”

Since which the following amendment has been moved :

“ That at the end of the Resolution the following be added :—

‘ and also to report what, if any, measures are desirable to regulate and control banks and banking business in this country ’.”

The question I have to put is that that amendment be made.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President : The question then is that the following Resolution, as amended, be adopted, namely :

“ This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that a Commission consisting of a majority of Indian members with an Indian Chairman be appointed to investigate the present position of the banking institutions, facilities and conditions in India and make recommendations for their improvement and expansion, with particular reference to the provision in adequate quantity and appropriate form of the capital or finance necessary for the development of the industries and agriculture of India and also to report what, if any, measures are desirable to regulate and control banks and banking business in this country.”

The motion was adopted.

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 in the Chair.

RESOLUTION *RE* INDIANISATION OF HALF THE CADRE OF OFFICERS IN THE INDIAN ARMY.

Dr. B. S. Moonje (Nagpur Division : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, I beg to move the Resolution that stands in my name :

“ This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that as a beginning in the direction of preparing India for self-defence immediate steps be taken to bring about the Indianisation of half the cadre of officers in the Indian Army, unanimously recommended by the Sken Committee, within a period of fifteen years, and to carry out the unanimous recommendations of the Committee with regard to the establishment of an Indian Sandhurst and the recruitment of Indian officers in those arms of the defensive forces, paid for out of Indian revenues, from which they are at present excluded.”

The subject-matter of the Resolution is such as affects us Indians vitally, and if we take a historical review of the situation we find that from the time when the Hindu Empire in India of Maharrattas as well as that of the Sikhs was subverted up to the present time, the whole of India has been disarmed and the intelligentsia of India has been ruthlessly dissociated from the defence of their country. This has created a situation which even from the Government's point of view to-day is most anxious—of course, from the peoples' point of view it is very very anxious. It may be asked why we submitted so meekly and so submissively to the disarmament of the country, why we submitted so meekly and so submissively to the policy of not being allowed to take our part, our due share, in the defence of our country ? That is a question which has to be answered. I would like to answer it in a way which might perhaps lead one to think that we were not capable at the time of resisting the vigorous subtleties of those days. When the British came over here, they established novel methods of warfare. They established completely a new system of military organisation in the country, and their administration was so characterised by a sense of discipline and punctuality that we felt completely dumb-founded for the time being and were dazzled. We continued in that state of mind for some time, but soon the national self asserted itself and we started what is called the Indian National Congress. From the very beginning of the Congress we realised the difficulties of the situation. We found out the mistake that we had made and we wanted to correct

it, and therefore we started an agitation from the very beginning for the repeal of the Arms Act. It may be remembered that the agitation of the Congress was understood and appreciated and the Commander-in-Chief of those days, His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, about 40 years ago, thought that our agitation had a lot of point in it and he said that he would do his utmost to see that a military college was established in India or that military education was given to Indians. But nothing has been done so far. Our grievance from that time up to the moment the Anglo-German War was declared could have been said to be sentimental, to be merely academic, because the British Government thought that the Indian people had no right to ask for a share in the military administration of the country as they had guaranteed the defence of their hearths and homes. From their point of view there could have been some meaning in that, but even that is now lost. We do not get even that protection at the present moment. The Anglo-German War for the first time revealed both to them as well as to us that in an Empire like the British, over which the sun never sets, it is very risky for a country of the vastness of India to agree to be entrusted to the care of one people alone. They found that they could not protect the shores of India even at a time when they thought they had the command of the seas. The *Emden* raids were enough to teach them a lesson and a very much greater lesson to us. Of late the methods of warfare have been so developed and science has so progressed that it is feared that perhaps the next war—God forbid another war—that might come may find England not capable of maintaining its communications with India. What then would be the position at that time? What would be the situation? Military science has so progressed, and military appliances are so mechanised that a vast country like India cannot be expected to be prepared in a single day to take its place in a battle-field to defend its home. It is from that point of view that I urge that the Resolution which I move should be accepted.

The situation thus has so changed that our grievance has assumed an aspect which is most material and mundane. From the Indian point of view we find the situation very grave. The gravity of the situation is also appreciated by the Government, though they have not expressed it in so many words. I may here quote what no less a person than His Excellency Sir Malcolm Hailey, the Governor of the Punjab, has said in his evidence before the Sken Committee on this point. He said :

“ The matter is in my opinion one of supreme importance. India is gradually losing the somewhat isolated position it has occupied for the last two generations in the politics of Asia and we have to meet obligations of a different character than the purely frontier disturbances with which it has been familiar of late years. It is a point on which I need not enlarge. The facts are too well known but it appears to me of supreme importance to secure the best possible material for Indian officers of the army.”

If the Government have so changed its view, what would be the aspect of the situation, if seen from the Indian point of view? India has realised for the first time that there is a possibility that Britain's communication with India may be broken or suspended. What would happen if such a contingency happened? Look at the physical situation of India. It has a coastline of nearly 6,000 miles. To defend such a length is a difficult task. The coastline traffic in commercial business is in itself sufficiently tempting for a foreign invasion. Now developments in China and Japan are taking place, and there is no knowing what the situation

[Dr. B. S. Moonje.]

will be five years hence or ten years hence. Looking to the land frontier India may be divided into two parts—the North-East Frontier and the North-West Frontier. In the North-East Frontier there is a line of a thousand miles which borders on China and Tibet. There are turbulent tribes on this Frontier who are still amenable to influences from China. China at the present time is in a state of turmoil. This turmoil may prove to be the throes of a new birth for nationhood and if it happens to be that, we shall have another great nation, militarily consolidated as our next-door neighbour. Suppose she fails—God forbid—and she falls into the clutches of a European nation like Russia. What will be the result? Can we conceive with equanimity of the constant troubles and the constant anxiety that would be caused by this line of a thousand miles which is amenable to the Chinese and Russian influences. We can imagine that, Government can imagine that. It has been expressed by Sir Malcolm Hailey in such guarded words. Now looking to the North-West Frontier we find that from time immemorial the key to the defence of India lies in what are known as the passes, and these passes run through territory which has long mountain ranges on its sides and are inhabited by people who could be said to be in the words of a historian “ferocious, martial and uncivilised”. Such are the people inhabiting the passes which are the key to the defence of India. Beyond the passes there is a country known as Afghanistan. That country, whether for good or ill, was up to 1919 a kind of vassal of the English Government in India. The English Government in India could control her foreign policy, could control her military progress. But that situation has gone. Afghanistan, the vassal of the British Government, was very wise in taking her opportunity in selecting the time for attack upon the British Government in India. The British Government had come out exhausted from the world struggle and Afghanistan thought it a good time for making its pressure felt. And that pressure was felt so heavily that the British Government had to yield, and Afghanistan made itself independent of the overlordship of Britain. The situation to-day has thus changed tremendously since 1919 from our point of view. The Amir of Afghanistan is to-day an absolutely independent monarch of his country. He can import all the implements of warfare. He can send his students by hundreds to European countries to learn the science and art of modern war. If everything goes on smoothly as it is now going, it is not impossible to suppose that in 10 or 15 years’ time Afghanistan will be another nation, militarily developed, militarily consolidated, with a reformed and improved administration, and in every sense like a modern European nation just next door to India. Then we shall have two great nations, one a great land power, *i.e.*, Afghanistan, and one equally strong on land and sea, *i.e.*, China. We shall have these two nations militarily organized as next-door neighbours to India. Now, having seen what the possibilities are in the near future with regard to Afghanistan, having seen the characteristics of the tribes that live round about our passes, we can understand the anxiety of Indians as regards the defence of India. I could very well quote from a book to give you an idea of the situation that is now before us from this point of view. Here is a book which has been written by Arthur Vincent, called the “Defence of India”. It is a book which deserves very careful and very earnest study by all Indians who can conceive the prospect of a self-governing India prepared for defence against all foreign aggression. From the

naval point of view this author has said, and everybody will appreciate that, that now that Germany has disappeared as a naval power the centre of gravity of all possible naval activity is no longer now in the European seas but in the East and in the Pacific. From the defence point of view, therefore :

“ Times are no longer when the naval defence of all the Dominions either may or can be left to Great Britain alone. Nevertheless the plans for Imperial naval security entail a good deal of contribution from each of the component parts of the Empire and as the individual independence of each component increases, more responsibility must automatically be shouldered by them in State matters of which defence is the most vital of all.”

So much from the naval point of view. From the land frontiers point of view, he says :

“ Generally speaking, the tribes on the Burmese side are comparatively quiescent, while those on the Chinese side are equally hostile both to ourselves and to their nominal rulers. Many of the latter have blood and marriage relations with their tribes, a fact which complicates political relations to no small extent. The present lack of authority on the Chinese border makes the States that side a happy hunting ground and refuge for dacoits and criminals, forming also natural ‘ jumping off ’ places for raids and encroachments on our frontier.”

China being so weak as at present it is, this frontier gives us so much anxiety, as criminals, dacoits and freebooters find it so very easy to raid our country and go back at once for safety beyond our Frontier.

Sir Denys Bray (Foreign Secretary) : I rise to a point of order, Sir. Is not the Honourable gentleman trespassing very near the Government's relations with foreign powers ?

Mr. President : The Honourable Member knows that the very question at issue is whether India should be prepared for self-defence or not, and the Honourable Member is giving his reasons why India should be prepared for self-defence. I do not think these technical objections will weigh with the Chair in such a case.

Dr. B. S. Moonje : I do not want to interfere with the Government's relations with their foreign neighbours, but I have every right to bring forward what the responsibilities of the Government are, and what the situation in India will be from the military point of view. It is a task of Himalayan magnitude, and we all must have a good idea of the colossal magnitude of the situation that is going to face India in the near future. Now as for the North-West Frontier. The key to the defence of India from aggression from beyond the frontier lies in what are called passes. These passes run through highly inaccessible mountain ranges which are inhabited by fierce warlike and uncivilized tribes. By temperament these tribes are “ raiders bent at every opportunity upon raiding the plains for loot and rapine, reckoning themselves, not without reason, secure from any effective retribution once they had returned to their mountain fastnesses ”.

Such are the people we have to deal with in the passes which are connected with the defence of India : We can have a good idea of their capacity to give us trouble. This is what Mr. Vincent writes in his “ Defence of India ”, page 27 :

“ In all, the fifties witnessed a total of seventeen expeditions of appreciable size ; and in the 72 years during which we defended the frontier in India's behalf there have never been as many as seven consecutive years of freedom from major operations, without count of a host of minor ones.”

[Dr. B. S. Moonje.]

We can thus certainly have an idea as to where we would be if the time should come, which God forbid, when the connection between England and India in the time of a great war ceased for the time being. It was in connection with this very fact that our noble Lord, the Secretary of State, Lord Birkenhead, wanted to frighten us out of our wits and also to frighten us out of our demand for full responsible government. He said :

“ I put on one side for the purposes of this anticipation, the perils obviously afforded by the existence of two or three million turbulent and martial tribesmen, living precariously between the frontiers of India and the borders of Afghanistan.”

Now, speaking from our Indian point of view, there is no Arms Act in that territory which is inhabited by two or three millions of people. Almost every adult person—there is no medical examination too on that side—almost every adult person, whether medically fit or unfit, has got the power, has got the right, to wield a rifle. He knows shooting ; and 3 million people reside there. Out of the 3 million people you may take away half, womenfolk and 1½ millions remain, and if you divide it by three, we have an army of 5 lakhs of men, young sturdy sharp shooters, to give us trouble at a time when we shall have been cut off from all communications at a time of war from England. That will give you some idea of the period we have to face. As regards Afghanistan, this author says :

“ As regards Afghanistan, it is most strongly to be hoped that future years may develop the present treaty into one of such an alliance as will remove any ordinary possibilities of war from India's contingencies. At the same time the fact must not be lost sight of that the freedom to import arms and ammunition restored under the treaty allows Afghanistan to build up a strength and reserve of warlike equipment such as she has never possessed before. The attitude of His Majesty the Amir is now that of a friend determined upon sincerity, but Afghanistan ”

he gives here a warning—

“ Afghanistan is an unstable nation and in the vicissitudes of her future history it is by no means impossible that a less friendly successor should turn the strength of preparedness to the test of war. Upon purely military grounds, the treaty gives India no better position than before in regard to Afghanistan. The Afghan army is moreover reaching a pitch of efficiency which it never knew in the old days, as are the communications and the development of the country.”

Therefore this state of things causes an amount of anxiety to us, people of India, and also must cause, we hope, anxiety to the British Government if they want to maintain their position of redeeming their promise of becoming the safe trustee of India. Now, such being the situation, how can the defence of India be organised is a question which has to be answered. By the Britishers alone as heretofore ? Or by the Indians alone as we aspire for ? Or by the unstinted and willing co-operation between the Britishers and Indians on terms of perfect equality ? We have to choose either of these three. Speaking for myself, taking into consideration the fullest possibilities of the present situation, I do not think anybody will doubt the idea that the most practical proposition for the defence of India at present is complete co-operation, unstinted co-operation on perfectly equal terms between Indians and the Britishers. I have already proved and I shall prove again that Britain alone is not capable now of guaranteeing the defence of India. Of course as for us Indians, as we are at present,—you know it is a fact, it does not require to be mentioned—we are absolutely incapable of defending India to-day,

not because the desire, the capacity, the capability, to defend one's country—the blood which inspires—is not in us. We are descendants of those races in India who had established their empires, defended their empires in India. To establish empires and to lose empires can be done by people who are great inherently and who can defend themselves. The Hindus and Muhammadans of this country are inheriting that blood which in India itself hardly a hundred years ago was conducting an empire. There are representatives of a race in this House called the Sikhs who hardly 75 years ago were masters and rulers in their country of the Punjab, and it is said of them that they were capable and had already wielded a strong hold and control over these martial tribes of the passes in respect of which our noble Lord, the Secretary of State, has been frightening us. Therefore, looking at it from this point of view, if it could be contended that England alone ought to be able to defend India, at least here is an author who says that the situation as it is developing will not allow England to maintain her hold upon the defence of India as she has been able to do in the past :

“ Upon all sides, therefore, it is clear that India has a greater task to be prepared for in the future than she has had in the past.... Yet she must perform worthily her own share in that protection (which she is receiving as a member of the Empire). None but herself can defend herself against the first aggression by land save where the war might be so great as to be a battle of the Empire fought on Indian soil. It is for her and her alone to rule with a firm hand the frontier tribes, to stave off the invasion that may yet come from Russia.”

And also from Afghanistan, as it did come in the year 1914.

“ Should the task of her defence become too great she will receive help from Imperial resources, but only as soon and for as long as they can be spared from other theatres. Should she ever perform her own task less than adequately or even go so far as to adjure it, although that be a most likely contingency, she can count on none but herself to make good the deficiency. Her immediate responsibility is one to herself, to defend herself within the Empire. Self-defence is a first principle of national existence. In India without it there can be neither consolidation nor development within her frontiers.”

So far I have tried to prove that the primary responsibility for the defence of India under the changed situation falls upon India, but if there be an idea that England might perpetuate her policy of being alone responsible entirely for the defence of India and of keeping the Indian intelligentsia quite dissociated from her military organisation, she is ultimately bound to find the task even beyond her, great and powerful though she is. I will here quote another passage from the same book :

“ India's ultimate task may thus be a great one. In the future, in such wars as that of 1914-1918, the absolute continuity of British protection can never be guaranteed. In that war Britain's naval supremacy was such as to render India immune from any invasion by sea, and the great issues both by sea and land were fought out many thousand miles away. Also the continued British command of the sea afforded her the certainty of swift reinforcement should her tasks upon land have ever grown greater than she could cope with. It can never be safely prophesied that in future wars of magnitude the conditions will be the same. They might be greatly different. May be Britain will have to contend with Powers possessing Navies far superior to those of the late Central Powers, may be British command of the sea will be temporarily insufficient to protect Indian waters, may be wars will be fought out with weapons as yet undiscovered which greatly depreciate the value of the sea command and which, we are told, Germany is trying to do.”

Sir Hari Singh Gour (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions : Non-Muhammadan) : What about the air craft ?

Dr. B. S. Moonje : Now, my friend has reminded me of the air craft. I have said that the position has been rightly appreciated by no less a person than the Governor of the Punjab. He has said that as far as the position of India is concerned now, it is a factor which has to be taken into account. India is not now a land which can be considered to be beyond the grabbing reach of her rival marine powers of the world. Air craft have still further enhanced the seriousness of the situation, by having annihilated distances. India is therefore now a country which is not far off from England or from America or from Afghanistan. About 150 years ago, it took six months for people to come to India from England, about a year and a half for people from America to come here. Now-a-days they take only about 15 days or 12 days. Now times are changing rapidly and it may not be long when people from England would be coming to India in two or three days' time and from Afghanistan in two or three hours.

Mr. President.—The Honourable Member must bring his observations to a close now.
3 P.M.

Dr. B. S. Moonje : In short the advent of aeroplanes has complicated the situation and it has become worse, so much worse that we can never trust our national defence to England alone, and we can never remain satisfied with the situation as it stands. In view of the fact that these recommendations of the Committee are unanimous, I trust the Government will show the grace of accepting them but if, as so very often happens, the Government may not be inclined to accept them now, I feel the circumstances are so moulding themselves that soon, in the near future, the Government may feel compelled to accept them but then all grace shall have been gone. With these words, I commend my Resolution for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. S. Srinivasa Iyengar (Madras City : Non-Muhammadan Urban) : Mr. President, I would request you to grant me permission to move the substituted amendment of which I gave notice yesterday. The other amendment which stands in my name on the printed paper was given notice of two or three days ago to the office. But this amendment which I am just moving is a revised amendment and is an agreed amendment, and I think the Honourable Mover of the Resolution will accept it and it will find support on this side of the House. I would therefore request you, Sir, to give me leave to move this amendment without formal notice. The amendment that I have got to move runs as follows :

“ That for the original Resolution the following be substituted :

‘ Subject to the revision of the whole scheme of the defence of the country in any future constitution for India acceptable to the people of India, and while feeling that the recommendations of the Indian Sandhurst committee, specially relating to the continuance of British recruitment, do not satisfy Indian public opinion, this Assembly is of opinion that the acceptance of the unanimous recommendations of that Committee will mark a definite beginning in the Indianisation of the Army in India, and it therefore recommends to the Governor General in Council that he may be pleased to accept those recommendations and give immediate effect to them.’

Sir, the reasons for this amendment are shortly stated. We want at the outset to make it quite clear that India has claimed and claims to-day her right to defend herself and has never refused to discharge her duty or the burden of defending herself. But no chance has ever been given to India and therefore we want to make it plain that if this House is to accept these recommendations, it is subject to this clear safeguard that we want the entire military defence, including organisation and control and legislation, and in fact everything connected with that, to be in Indian hands, to be with us Indians under a scheme of full responsible government for India such as self-governing Dominions enjoy within the British Empire.

If I move this amendment and if this House accepts it, it is therefore without any prejudice whatever to the fullest claim for full Dominion status and the completest control of military and naval defences in connection therewith which every self-governing Dominion now enjoys.

Secondly, we want also to make it clear that the unanimous recommendations of the Committee, though they are such as to mark a definite beginning in Indianisation and may therefore be accepted for the present by the House, are still inadequate and unsatisfactory and do not represent all that we are entitled to to-day or all that we claim to be entitled to to-day, nor do they represent real Indian opinion throughout the length and breadth of this country.

I must however congratulate the Committee on its admirable labours, and I must say that in the history of Committees of this description in India, it is for the first time that we have got a unanimous report of this far-reaching importance arrived at after a most unbiassed examination of the whole question. Speaking for myself and everyone on this side of the House, though I do not agree that the actual specific recommendations are at all satisfactory, the analysis of the position, the elucidation of the causes, which has been made in this Report, and the way in which the question has been approached, deserve all the praise that Members of this Assembly can give to the disinterested labours of those who have worked so hard to bring the matter to a successful conclusion. I make no distinction between European and Indian, between Lieutenant-General Skeen and Mr. Burdon on the one side, and the Indian members on the other; nor do I make any differentiation whatever between the military officers and the non-official members of the Committee. Our gratitude is particularly due to my friend Mr. Jinnah who has identified himself so thoroughly with the work of the Committee. I must mark my personal appreciation that the Report is a document which self-respecting Indians can read with whole-hearted praise and without any "inferiority complex". It has been written in a spirit which is free from racial bias, and I congratulate the European members of the Committee on the collaboration which they have given the Indian members and on the way in which they have arrived at this Report.

But having said so much, I must add that the recommendations are certainly not satisfactory. There is no definite goal which has been stated; and the time-limit which is imposed by these recommendations is certainly not a time-limit with which we can agree though the exigencies of the moment may be responsible for the amendment. It is obvious however that this time-limit, which has been generally stated to be 25 years, is

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very materially qualified by the unanimous agreement of the Committee stated at page 24 of the Report which runs as follows :

“ It is however unanimously agreed that whether a slower or more rapid rate of progress is ultimately adopted the scheme actually in operation should be reviewed in 1938, that is, five years after the inauguration of the Indian Sandhurst, with a view to considering whether the success achieved is not sufficiently solid to warrant a further acceleration of the rate of progress.”

I regret that in the formal summary of recommendations this recommendation has not been put in with a letter against it. We have no definite recommendation as to the stoppage of British recruitment that is necessary; nor is the college recommended in this Report provided with a sufficient strength. I do not consider, speaking for myself, that 100 is a sufficient number. There are also other important features of this Report upon which one must express dissatisfaction; there is no recommendation for the establishment of an Indian Cranwell or an Indian Woolwich—arms which are no less important than the infantry or the cavalry arms of the services. It is quite clear that they should have been started at about the same time as the Indian Sandhurst was intended to be started. But anyhow the recommendations are there. And I am perfectly certain that where historical or statistical material is required to be supplied to the Members of the Assembly abler and more competent hands will deal with it. I am content to place my amendment upon the short ground that it is the only amendment which India at the present day—self-respecting, demanding full Dominion status and asserting her right to defend herself and not refusing an iota of the burden which that right involves—can at all agree to for this moment. Therefore it is that as a compromise this agreed amendment is moved with a view to show that the foreword to this Report should not be regarded as of any value at all. We have got a most characteristic foreword, from which I gather that the terms of reference which were originally framed and which are given in the first page of the Report are not wide and that the Committee somehow was not competent to survey parts of the subject. I have read those terms as given in the Report and I think they are wide enough, and I do not understand how this skilful use of language is justified in this foreword. I also disagree with the suggestion made that the Government, when called upon to deal with any scheme of increasing Indianisation extending over a number of years, must leave themselves free to consider whether the basis of that scheme offers a sure and stable line of advance towards the creation of a Dominion army or whether alternative methods which do not fall within the Committee's terms of reference might not be more profitably explored. Of course we all know how, instead of creating disappointment, the psychology is sought to be created that you will not get all that the Committee is recommending, but that you will get some parts of it, while other parts will not be given effect to. You are told that there are alternative methods by which your demands might be satisfied—phrases like Dominion army and things like that are stated in the foreword: but I have not the slightest doubt whatever that nobody is going to be taken in by this *Tartuffian* language.

I consider, Sir, that the time has come for us to make it perfectly plain that no pretext whatever can be availed of by the Government here or in England for delay in connection with this matter; and that is the only reason why men like me and my friends on this side of the House have

agreed to the amendment which I am moving to-day. It is not to be said that this Indianisation in the Army should be shelved till the constitution for India is settled. It is not to be stated : " Oh, we are exploring ways and perfect ways of creating a Dominion army. Why should you not wait till then ? " The Leader of the House said—and I thank him for the present which he made to us a few minutes ago—the Leader of the House said that he was not particularly enamoured of Committees because the non-official members on this side of the House generally rejected the majority recommendations of their Committees, and there was no use in the Government embarking upon the appointment of Committees. But this is a Committee which the Government appointed themselves ; the terms of reference were made by the Government, and I suppose the Government knew that the training of King's commissioned officers for whatever service was essentially an Imperial concern ; and I presume that the appointment of this Committee and the terms of reference were settled in consultation with the Government at home ; and if they were not so consulted, they should have been consulted. Therefore I presume all these things have been done in the way in which these things are done. We are not to be put off by the distribution of responsibility and the divisions of jurisdiction, and the whole apparatus of dilatory procedure to which we have been accustomed is sought to be employed even in this case where the unanimous recommendations of their own Committee, which was presided over by their most responsible officer, the Chief of the General Staff, are involved. When those recommendations are made, they are sought to be diluted and put a side, and all the arts of trained and evasive diplomacy are directed against us. I say that every Member of this House who realises his responsibility must set his face sternly against such an attempt on the part of Government to let down their own Committee. Here is an instance, Sir, in which at least the Leader of the House will be pleasantly disappointed, because we are willing to give effect to the unanimous recommendations of the Committee, and as he was anxious that this side of the House should agree with him in that respect, I would ask him to accept these recommendations and to see that the Governments here and in England accept those recommendations without any difficulty or without any delay and give immediate effect to them.

Sir, Indianisation of officers of the Indian Army and the connected demands have been long overdue. There is not the slightest doubt whatever that, as the Members of the Committee say,

" for more than forty years the exponents of political and national aspirations of the Indian people had demanded insistently on the platform of the Indian National Congress and elsewhere that Indians should be given opportunities of service in the Indian Army equal to those enjoyed by their British fellow-subjects, but this demand has so far met with no substantial response from the Government ".

Now, Sir, Government's own responsible Committee has recommended that Indians should be given greater opportunities in the Indian army, and not anybody else desiring to cause trouble to this very very easy-going Government.

I would also very briefly run over the causes which have been stated in the Report as demanding that no further delay should take place in the Indianisation of the Indian army, and also in adopting the various recommendations, particularly the recommendation for the establishment of an Indian Sandhurst of the same standard of efficiency as the one existing in England. I am glad to notice that in no page of this Report is to

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be found any plea that Indians are or want to be in any way less efficient than the standard of efficiency claimed by the British people. That is really the one great thing which has prompted me to move this amendment. We do claim that we are as efficient as any other race on the face of the earth. Clive and Duplex demonstrated that Indians, according to the history of English writers which I have read—if the history is false let the other side contradict it—Clive and Duplex had demonstrated for the first time that if Indians are trained and organized by European officials they will be quite as efficient and equal to any other race on the face of the earth. We have also known on the civil side of the administration that Indians are equal to Europeans in all departments, as heads of Government, as Members of the Executive Council, as Judges and as Secretaries to important Departments,—in fact in all departments they have proved that they are in no way inferior to the English or any other European race, either in moral courage, or in efficiency, any other quality which is necessary for leadership of men. If therefore adequate opportunities have not been given to Indians, it is the Government only that is to blame, but if the chance is given, undoubtedly Indian Captains, Indian Majors, Indian Colonels and Indian Generals will be found in quite large numbers and will be found to be quite as efficient as their European compeers. I have not the slightest doubt about it.

There is however another question which has been very ably dealt with in the Report, and that is, the question whether there is sufficient material in India. I would only refer to that part of the Report which deals with this aspect of the question :

“ We have already said that we believe good potential material to exist which the efforts of Government have not yet succeeded in reaching. This belief is based upon evidence of a substantial and credible character. There are a number of young King's commissioned officers already in the Indian Army who are pronounced by their Commanding Officers to be efficient, according to the single standard of efficiency which the army recognises, and many of these have reached their present position in the face of far greater disadvantages and difficulties which a British boy has to overcome. The Royal Military College at Dehra Dun which has been in existence for nearly 4½ years has shown that even average Indian boys, given proper facilities, can pass with credit not only into Sandhurst but out of it. So far no Dehra Dun boy has failed at Sandhurst, and the Dehra Dun boys, as a class, have earned the good opinion of the present Commandant of Sandhurst, Sir John Maynard, formerly Member of the Executive Council of the Punjab, who served for forty years in India, has assured us that in the Punjab alone there are many boys who do not appear for the Sandhurst examination but are of better quality than accepted standard candidates whom he himself had seen. We have similar testimony from other witnesses and also from those of our colleagues who are well acquainted with the standard and type of qualifications required in a King's commissioned officer ”.

The difficulties that have so far existed have been very clearly analysed by the members of the Committee. They have shown that the method of selection of candidates has been rigidly official and antiquated, and requires them to pass through a hierarchy of officials, so as to eliminate every possible efficient person and to let in practically nobody at all. The meshes are so very fine that nobody is able to come into the Military Department. That is the way in which the method of selection has been till now pursued, and that method of selection has been very severely condemned by the Committee and they have suggested a new method of selection which is certainly better than the existing method of selection. They also pointed out that if till now advantage has not been taken it is because

the cost of military training and of the preliminary education and other things has been so prohibitive to the middle classes in India that facilities which exist in Canada and the United States or even in England and France are not given to Indian candidates here ; and that of course is half the trouble. The State ought certainly to bear a much larger proportion of the cost than it does. And again it has been pointed out that having a Sandhurst in England will not be a sufficient attraction. There is the difficulty of people going from here, and there is the difficulty of guardianship and various other difficulties can be imagined. The need therefore for the establishment of military colleges in India of the type of Sandhurst, Woolwich and Cranwell is obvious on the face of it. And it is a wonder that all this has not been till now done. Therefore, Sir, I submit that, while I agree with the case that has been stated and also with the general explanation which has been given of the entire military position, we differ from the members of the Committee in the recommendations themselves, which are unsatisfactory in scope and extent and as to which, I am sure, many of them will certainly agree with us on further reflection. Whether they arrived at it by way of a compromise or whether they arrived at it merely because they thought that was a beginning which ought to be attempted at present, is a different matter. But anyhow we on this side of the House must express our emphatic opinion that it does not at all represent all that we are entitled to. We are not satisfied with them, but at the same time we are not going to make the Government a present of the excuse, that one side of the House is against this recommendation, another side of the House is for that recommendation, therefore we will hang up this matter and we will not start these reforms. That sort of thing should not be allowed. It is that reason and that reason alone which has made many who are for full Dominion status, and who are for the fullest expression of the right of defence, and who are very much dissatisfied with these recommendations, to agree to this amendment. I hope, Sir, that the opinion which will be expressed by most of the Members of the Assembly, if as I hope this motion is carried by all the Members of this House or at any rate without any contradiction on the part of the Members on the Government Benches, if it is carried, I hope that will be sufficient evidence of the desire and capacity of India to defend herself. Let it not be said again and again, as it has been said, that India is not fit for Swaraj because she is not fit to defend herself. Give us a chance to defend ourselves. Give us the right to defend ourselves and you will find whether we are able to defend ourselves or not. I am not going to deal with the cheap gibes against the virility of the Indian people and the malicious propaganda that is recently in evidence about our incapacities. I am now dealing with the more general aspects of the question, and I may say that the history of India shows, the history of the military races in India shows, the history of all the peoples and provinces in India shows in an abundant measure that in no part of India can it be said that there is not manhood enough to man the Indian Army, or for the matter of that, the Navy, or that we cannot have Captains and Generals and leaders of men for all purpose. Is it to be assumed for a moment that the English people when they came to India found the Muhammadan people, the Mahratta people, or the other peoples easy foes to conquer ? If they were alive to-day, if their ghosts could revisit the scenes of their former wrestlings, they would praise in enthusiastic terms the valour and gallantry of the Mahratta, the Muslim, the Sikh, the Punjabi, the Rajput

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and Jat and all the other races in India, and that is the only testimony to which I would appeal. Therefore, I say that this cannot be delayed a moment longer. Whether the Statutory Commission comes or not ; whether a Swaraj constitution is framed or not, this Indianisation of the officers in the Army should forthwith proceed, and this establishment of colleges for the training of Indian youths in sufficient numbers and with sufficient equipment, supported by sufficient expenditure on the part of the State should be undertaken without a moment's delay without prejudice to our claim for Swaraj, civil and military. I trust that His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief and the Leader of the House and other responsible Members of the Government will look at this question just as the members of the Committee have done without any difference of race, without any difference of Government and governed, and without any difference of officials and non-officials. I would like that they should see that this is a matter on which they ought to support the non-official Indian opinion. This will be a critical matter, a test of good faith on the part of Government before the bar of Indian public opinion. I have not the slightest doubt as to the result of the division. But if perchance this is opposed and lost, why, then, that will be all to the good, and will be a great advantage to men like me. With these words I would cordially request Honourable Members of this House to vote for the amendment.

Colonel J. D. Crawford (Bengal : European) : I rise thus early in the debate after the Movers of the original Resolution and the amendment, because I cannot find myself so enthusiastically in favour of the recommendations of the Skeen Committee as they do, if we are to solve the problem with which this House is faced. What is the problem that we are really discussing to-day ? It is the problem of building up an Indian army of all arms,—by that I mean infantry, cavalry, air force, artillery,—so that it shall be capable under Indian officers of undertaking the defence of the country. Now, those were not the terms of reference to the Skeen Committee, but it is practically the problem with which they tried to deal. There is one factor of special consideration in that problem which we must think of, and that, Dr. Moonje, has already, I am glad to say, elaborated for me. In fact both the speeches of Dr. Moonje and Mr. Srinivasa Iyengar support largely the point of view that I am going to take at a later stage in this debate. I must congratulate Dr. Moonje on at last having got a very clear appreciation of the military problem in India, although he put it in much stronger terms than I would. If those words had come from my lips there would have been howls of derision from the benches opposite and cries of "bogey, bogey". I trust he will stand up when the time comes for the discussion of the Military Budget and say, "What we want is not 50 crores but 100 crores". That is one factor in the problem. The facts are that we in India are placed in a geographical position which necessitates the maintenance of an army of the highest efficiency, and on that point I am glad to say the Skeen Committee are thoroughly in agreement and I take it that the House is thoroughly in agreement with me on that point. Efficiency must be our watchword. Why do I say that I find myself not in favour with the recommendations of the Skeen Committee when I come down to find a solution of this problem ? To my mind there is only one word written across the Committee's Report and that is failure, failure to solve the problem with which we are faced. Why do I say

failure ? Because they have laid down that for the success of their scheme certain factors are absolutely essential. The first of these factors is efficiency and with that the House agrees. Now what is our experience when we lay down for ourselves a scheme of Indianisation ? What will be our experience ? We will concentrate, not upon the question of efficiency but upon the question of how many men are we going to take in. That is really what the Report does. I am convinced that that is what will happen if we are going to accept this method of solving the problem. In the summary of recommendations they say :

“ A substantial and progressive scheme of Indianisation should be adopted and subject to the present standard of efficiency being maintained, should be faithfully carried out.”

The House and the Benches opposite know well that when the time comes they will insist not upon the question of efficiency, but that the proposals be faithfully carried out.

The second point is that the Committee insist that steps should be taken to maintain the proportion of British recruitment required. I believe that this is essential to any scheme of building up the Indian Army. I brought out certain facts in this connection last Session in a series of questions. Are we able to-day to get the number of British officers which we require ? No. We are faced with the fact that we are 50 per cent. short. We are faced with the fact that to-day under existing conditions we cannot get the British officers we require and faced with difficult military situation along our frontiers ; we are already short of the very men on whom we must rely. Now we must face the facts. It is no good blinking at the facts. The success of our scheme is dependent upon the fact that we maintain a sufficiency of the British element until we have got our own Indians trained. I say that neither under the conditions existing to-day nor under the conditions existing under the recommendations of the Skeen Committee can we hope to get the British element that we require.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah (Bombay City : Muhammadan Urban) : Why ?

Colonel J. D. Crawford : My friend Mr. Jinnah has asked “ why ”. The reason in my opinion is that to-day service in India is not popular in England. The strongest point of all is that the men of one country, be it France or Spain or England, prefer to work in their own surroundings and among men of their own race. That is a perfectly recognised fact. “ Birds of a feather flock together ”. They naturally go where their interests are common. That is the point. Indians have no desire that the social systems of England should be imposed upon them when they come to the question of their social life in the army. Similarly, Englishmen will not freely and willingly serve under social conditions in the army with which they are not content. That is the position. There is no question of inferiority. That is really the reason why you will find that you will not get your British element.

There is a third point upon which the Committee insisted as an essential, and that is the reform of the educational system in India. With that recommendation I entirely agree, but what, Sir, in the immediate future is the hope that we shall carry out any reform of our educational system ? I am reminded that we have already had the Sadler Commission recommending reforms in our educational system. But to what extent have those suggestions been carried out ? Those are the three points which

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the Committee say are essential to the success of their scheme, and if they cannot make good on those three points then the scheme falls to the ground. I can tell them now that they cannot make good on those points and the scheme has already fallen to the ground.

Now, Sir, I have given my mature consideration to the recommendations of the Skeen Committee. There is one other point to which I may refer. The material which we require for the stamp of officers that shall be of the requisite standard of efficiency, that is, the standard of efficiency of our present British officers, is not available. It is due, as the Committee have rightly said, to the failure of our educational system. It is due to another thing as well, and that is the failure of the education in the home. If you are going to recruit men with the requisite qualities of leadership, not only have you got to give them that education of character in your preparatory schools and in your public schools, but you have also to give it to them in your homes. Now that is a question which only Members on the opposite side can touch upon, which they probably realize much better than we do. But I had hopes that out of this Committee would have come something worth while when I heard one of the Members say : " I believe the crux of this question lies in the education of our women ".

Now, Sir, I have criticised the Skeen Committee's Report and I do not want to be entirely destructive in my criticism. I believe entirely that we must concentrate all our energies on the building up of an Indian Army of all arms officered entirely by Indians if we are ever to make this country capable of Dominion self-government. That army has got to be capable of undertaking a large proportion of the defence of India ; I will not say the whole, because I think a portion of the defence of this country will surely be an Imperial responsibility. How are we going to set about it ? It seems to me that your best method of setting about it is the one which the Skeen Committee actually rejected, and that is to keep your present army to meet the dangers you have to-day. Keep up their standard of efficiency. The dangers are real. Keep your present army and start to build up your own Indian Army alongside. That is the major portion of the scheme. (*An Honourable Member* :—" That is, double the army ".) That is the method by which the problem should be tackled. And as your Indian Dominion army is ready to take over then reduce the redundant units in the existing army. That is the main basis of my proposal. Now, Sir, to-day we keep on talking only about Indianizing the higher ranks. But the officer establishment of an Indian battalion does not consist only of British officers. In Indian as in British battalions it consists of 30 officers. To-day we have 19 Indian officers already in our Indian Army regiments. But for various reasons, they are not up to the standard that we require of our officers, and my first proposition to you therefore is, " Let us raise and improve the standard of our Indian officers " ; and for that, I would recommend that we should start at once in India a military college to which we should send from the ranks of our Indian Army men selected and thought suitable to eventually become officers. Also we would have recruited for this College from the various civil walks of life. After three years' training I would have drafted them to the Indian army as platoon commanders, that is into the position which the Indian officer holds to-day. They would be men with a higher training, better education and more capable of carrying out their responsibilities. That is one of the

steps which I would have recommended ; and instead of taking the men from the ranks at a very late age in life after 15, 16 or 17 years' service, I think I would have taken them after about 4 years' service when I had some chance of judging as to their character and educational qualifications, and as to whether they were likely in due course to be fit persons to become officers ; and I would have given all those Indian officers a better status than they have got to-day. I would have done away with the Viceroy's Commissioned officers. I would not have worried about the King's Commissions. I would have had our own King's Dominion Commissions similar to those in other Dominions. In addition to that, I would have got my trained candidates through Sandhurst and the military colleges at home, and I would have drafted them in also as platoon commanders. I would have, as they rose in rank, given them the opportunity to pass to the higher commands, company commands, and I would have drafted them gradually, in order to retain my British element, into my Indian Dominion Army. Now that is the type of scheme which I believe might have been adopted. I am not concerned with the time-limit ; we are not concerned to-day with the question of time-limit, because we have got a military problem to face. We have now got a very efficient army, and we cannot risk allowing that efficiency to drop in any way. On that I am absolutely at one with my friends, and as I say, I would have gone on building up and increasing the position of our present Indian officers of the Indian Army, and alongside that, I would have started my full-fledged Dominion Army, of which I should have had every reason to be proud. I cannot understand, I fail to understand, why Indians should consider the eight-unit scheme a scheme of segregation. Now to my mind, if that is really your opinion, it shows that you think your men have got an inferiority complex : and if your men have got this inferiority complex, if they have got no confidence in themselves, how will they lead their own men or inspire confidence in others ? I ask that. It seems to me that those men who had the honour of being in the first regiments which were to be Indianised should have felt proud that they had the opportunity to show that they were as good and could turn out as good regiments as their British comrades on the other side. That would have been true patriotism if they had the grit to do it and we would have had greater chances of building an Indian Army. I am afraid, Sir, I cannot find myself in the least bit in sympathy with the recommendations of the Skeen Committee's Report. I believe that that Report will fail entirely to solve the problem which we are all anxious to solve, and therefore, I find myself in opposition to the Resolution of my friend, Dr. Moonje and the amendment of my friend, Mr. Srinivasa Iyengar—not in opposition to the problem ; the problem has got to be solved, but it will not be solved by the Report of the Skeen Committee.

Mr. K. C. Roy (Bengal : Nominated Non-official) : Sir, there are at the present moment two propositions before the House, the substantive motion of my Honourable friend Dr. Moonje and the amendment moved by my friend Mr. Srinivasa Iyengar. I have an amendment also standing in my name ; I have no wish to move it, because I know that it will not meet with support either from the non-official or official benches. I therefore support the amendment of my friend Mr. Srinivasa Iyengar. (Hear, hear). His amendment may be divided into two parts. The first is the preamble. I sympathise with the preamble. He has laid it down that it will be the duty of the forthcoming Statutory Commission to

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examine the question of Indian defence, not Indian defence alone, but Indian defence in its relation to Imperial defence. This was not considered by Mr. Montagu and Lord Chelmsford. We are therefore facing considerable difficulties. The Statutory Commission will undoubtedly have to consider the interdependence of civil and military administrations in India. In the domain of civil administration we have advanced very greatly in recent years ; but in the domain of military affairs, we are where we were ; and for the backwardness the responsibility does not belong to us ; it belongs to the Government of India and to His Majesty's Government. Shortly after the introduction of Reforms the question was taken up by a Committee over which my esteemed friend General Sir John Shea presided, and we have not seen any results so far from the recommendations of that Committee.

Then, Sir, the second part of the Resolution is the operative part. The operative part represents the amendment of which I have given notice. The operative part of the Resolution recommends to the Governor General in Council to accept the recommendations of the Skeen Committee. I think, Sir, it is their clear duty to do so. It is the Government of India which appointed this Skeen Committee. It is the Government of India which determined its terms of reference. It is the Government of India and Army Headquarters which were in constant touch during the progress of the Committee in India. I consider that it will be a clear deviation from the normal conduct of Government if they raise serious objections to the acceptance of the unanimous recommendations made by the Skeen Committee.

Maulvi Muhammad Yakub (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions : Muhammadan Rural) : Who appointed the Frontier Enquiry Committee ?

Mr. K. C. Roy : Sir Denys Bray will give you the reply.

Before I come to the Skeen Committee's Report, I have a word to say about the preface. When I saw the famous " foreword ", about which I asked a few questions the other day, for the first time, it came upon me as a surprise. I have been a keen student of the Government of India for nearly 25 years. I have seen many Commissions and Committees come and go, but I have never seen a " foreword " before. I therefore thought it my duty to table a few questions which I did, but the masterly way in which my Honourable friend Mr. Mackworth Young replied to my questions left me speechless. I left it to my friend Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru to put supplementary questions, and so he did and I hope that when the discussion proceeds further, my friend Mr. Jinnah will be able to elucidate the points further. But there is one point to which reference has been made both by my friend Mr. Srinivasa Iyengar and my gallant friend Colonel Crawford, and that is about the possibility of developing a Dominion army. But what is the genesis of a Dominion army ? A Dominion army implies immediate autonomy of this Legislature to legislate for the defence of India and also a Dominion Civil Service. Is Colonel Crawford prepared to give it ? A Dominion army also postulates the withdrawal of the King's Army from India. Is Colonel Crawford prepared for this ? A Dominion army further implies citizenship rights to a Dominion citizen. A Dominion citizen can enter the King's army

in any branch he likes ; but to-day Indians are ineligible for admission to the various arms. Is he prepared to wipe that away ? I will leave Government to answer these questions.

Now, Sir, let us take the composition of the Skeen Committee. Who presided over it ? The next man to the Commander-in-Chief, a man well-known and respected throughout the whole of India and among the Indian army, (Applause)—a man with whom it was my privilege to work during the Great War, a man of unimpeachable character and integrity and a man who would only do the right thing. And who were the members ? My Honourable friend Sardar Jogendra Singh and Mr. Jinnah, men who could speak on India's behalf with unimpeachable authority. And who were the representatives of the Indian Army ? Two distinguished officers whose loyalty cannot be questioned, whose sincerity for the good government for India is beyond a shadow of doubt. Now, we are asked by our friend, Colonel Crawford to dismiss the Skeen Committee's Report as a failure and to accept his wholesome advice. (Laughter.) If the House were to accept Colonel Crawford's advice to-day, it will take another thousand years for the Indianisation of the Indian Army. (Hear, hear). And, then, Sir, we are asked to reject the Skeen Committee's Report ; and on what grounds ? The grounds suggested are precisely the same on which we shall urge the acceptance of that Report. My friend Colonel Moonje (Laughter)—I am sorry to have suddenly promoted my friend to that rank—has given a very graphic description of the external conditions of India. I accept his description and I can assure my friend Colonel Crawford that these considerations were ever present in the mind of General Skeen who, as the Chief of the Indian General Staff, knew the external conditions of India much better than an intelligence officer who retired from the Army Headquarters about ten years ago. (Hear, hear.)

Then, Sir, I come to the four points which Colonel Crawford has urged. I accept his criticism of the test of efficiency. In my boyhood I was connected with educational institutions. I can assure His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief that India could produce 100 to 200 men for the Indian Army every year. Indeed if they do not satisfy the test of efficiency do not have them. I say that efficiency shall be the sole test and that we have not so far failed to produce this in any walks of life.

Then, Sir, I come to his next point. He says that there is the lack of British recruits and that they are not coming in sufficient numbers. I accept that position. But, Sir, I look upon it as a temporary phase. The British youth knows his responsibility and his obligations ; the British youth knows the value of India ; the British youth knows the important place that India occupies in the chain of Imperial defence. It is his duty to come. But I would ask my gallant friend to look at the other side of the picture. What about the Indian youths and what about the Indian population ? Suppose you have a war in the North-West Frontier to-morrow. Colonel Crawford was associated with me during the publicity work and I know the value he attached to Indian public opinion in those days. I want him to consider, if there is a war in which His Majesty's Government is engaged and in which you do not get the co-operation of the Indian people, what will happen ? In fact, by making a speech like the one which Colonel Crawford has made to-day, I can assure the House that you are straining the loyalty of the Indian sepoys and the Indian people. (Hear, hear.) I want you again to consider the other side of the shield. You cannot fight another

[Mr. K. C. Roy.]

European war without the fullest co-operation in money, in munitions and in men from India. When my gallant friend was associated with me during the publicity campaign in the days of the Great War, he did not find a single Indian who was not willing to assist us. Is that the reward he is proposing now ?

And, Sir, what is his next point that he talked about ? He talks against the abandonment of the 8-unit scheme. I remember, Sir, the day when the announcement was made. I was sitting in the Press Gallery and my friend Mr. Burdon came up to me with a bundle of papers in his hand and said : " Here is the 8-unit scheme " and asked me what I thought of it. I told Mr. Burdon : " Take it from me, it is foredoomed to failure." I am sorry he is not here to bear his personal testimony to that effect, but that is what I told him.

Now this is the finding of the Skeen Committee and not the finding of the Indian people. We are not afraid of taking risks and of showing our own merit if we are given opportunities. But what we very strongly object to is the racial discrimination involved in the scheme. In the civil government of India, in our private, social and political life, racial discrimination is practically gone. (*Honourable Members* " No, no.") Well, I have been in Simla for over 25 years and I know what the position was 25 years ago and I know what it is to-day. In the civil government of India racial discrimination is well-nigh gone. Please do not substitute it in the Army. (*An Honourable Member* " Communal appointments !") Well, these communal appointments are all your contribution. Please do not introduce racial discrimination in the Army.

Lastly, Sir, before I sit down, I wish to acknowledge the deep debt we all owe to the Commander-in-Chief for the early orders that he has obtained on the Shea Committee's Report (Laughter) I deprecate laughter. You are not conversant with the methods of the British Government. I know His Excellency is straining every nerve to secure an early decision on the Skeen Committee's Report, but I may tell him that if that decision be not the acceptance of the entire recommendations of the Skeen Committee, then it will create widespread dissatisfaction all over the country, and it will really mar the political, economic and social progress which this House has so much at heart. I support the amendment.

Maulvi Abdul Matin Chaudhury : (Assam : Muhammadan) : Sir, I rise to offer a few brief observations on the Resolution that is before us to-day. I confess I am not one of those who went exactly into raptures or ecstasies over this Report of the Skeen Committee. Though I do not withhold my tribute of admiration from the members of the committee, both European and Indian, for the courageous and the conscientious way in which they tried to discharge their duties, I must say, Sir, at the same time, that it falls far short of Indian expectations (Hear, hear.) The Report, Sir, was evidently in the nature of a compromise. But whatever enthusiasm I might have felt for the recommendations of the Committee, my enthusiasm reached its freezing point as I went through the ingenious " foreword " with which the Government of India has taken care to fringe the Report. There is a saying, Sir, that the sting of the scorpion

lies in its tail ; we find that the sting of the Government of India lies in the small slips of paper which they always attach to the otherwise admirable reports. Such was the case with the Resolution on the Textile Enquiry Committee's Report, and such is the case with this " foreword " also.

Since the introduction of the reforms, no Committee or Commission had aroused such a high expectation in the minds of the Indians as this Skeen Committee. The terms of reference were so explicit and definite that we were hypnotised into the belief that probably the Government of India were really earnest and sincere in the matter. With the appointment of this Committee, we began, Sir, in our credulity to see visions of swarms of Indian Captains strutting along the Mall in spick and span uniforms, of Indian Majors swaggering on railway platforms ; we dreamt, Sir, of Indian Colonels in command at Jutogh or of Indian Generals installed at Razmak. The prospects seemed so rosy, that it induced even Pandit Motilal Nehru, the Leader of the Swaraj Party in the Assembly, to give up the position of a dignified dissociation from the Government and walk quietly into the spider's parlour. (Laughter.)

4 P.M.
But, Sir, with one stroke of the pen the Government of India have dashed all our hopes to the ground. The Government now tell us that the recommendations of the Skeen Committee possess no more than a mere academic value as a basis of discussion. The Government unblushingly tell us that they have more cards up their sleeve than they produced before the Skeen Committee. They tell us that we have been living in a fool's paradise if we believed that anything substantial would come out of the Committee's recommendations.

Now I am very much struck by the difference of treatment that is accorded by the Government to the recommendations of Commissions, which concern Indian interests and those which concern the European. When a Commission recommends an extra allowance for officials of non-Asiatic domicile, we are asked to bow unquestioningly to the superior wisdom and expert knowledge of the Commissioners ; we are asked to take it as a gospel. When, again, a Committee recommends some preferential treatment for an article of British manufacture, we are reminded that this House can hardly be expected to improve within two hours upon the recommendations of a Committee which it has taken the experts eight months to produce. But, Sir, when a Committee, one of the ablest and the most representative that can be found in this country, after two years of hard labour and searching investigation, takes the unusual course of recommending a general advance for Indians in a particular direction, the Government of India at once become very uneasy ; like an old garrulous woman, they begin to fumble and flutter and set about inventing excuses to shelve the whole matter.

The position, Sir, is this. When we ask for Swaraj or Dominion status or Home Rule or anything of that sort, the retort is hurled at us : " It is absurd for people to talk of Swaraj who cannot defend their own country ". When, Sir, we ask for opportunities, we are told : " That is no concern of yours ; these are Imperial questions to be decided by the Imperial statesmen at Downing Street or Whitehall ". Sir, in the spacious days of post-war promises we were encouraged to toy with the idea of self-determination ; we were deluded with the prospect of being equal

[Maulvi Abdul Matin Chaudhury.]

partners in what is euphemistically called the British Commonwealth of Nations. The attitude of the Government towards this Resolution, Sir, will be the test (*Lala Lajpat Bai* : " Acid test "), an acid test of the sincerity or otherwise of Government professions. From it, Sir, the Indian public will judge whether the Government are really desirous of leading us to a progressive realisation of responsible government in India or whether they want to keep us down by the " sharp edge of the sword ", as our brilliant Secretary of State has so beautifully put it. We shall, Sir, wait and see.

His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief : Sir, I think I need hardly assure the House that I have listened to the speeches which have been made with the very greatest interest, and before I go any further I would crave the indulgence of the House in the difficulty I feel in making anything like an adequate reply to the speeches and for reasons which will very shortly appear. I was not quite certain when my Honourable friend the Mover of this amendment, Mr. Srinivasa Iyengar, was speaking whether he was speaking on the majority or the minority report of his party. I understood that he was advocating the report of either the majority or the minority, and that he hoped later on to be able to move on behalf of that section which he, at present, is not representing. I did gather from his speech, however, that he was under the impression that Government were inclined to burke or to shelve the issues raised by the Skeen Committee's Report. When Government formed that Committee they naturally realised that the issues roughly would be to some extent what they have been. They are prepared to face those issues and they are prepared to give information regarding their policy after having due time for consideration. Mr. Srinivasa Iyengar talked about the possibility of our deferring consideration on this Report until the arrival of the Statutory Commission in India. Well, as a matter of fact, had Government decided on such action, I think it might not have been very difficult to justify it, because I know that there are a good many people, and certainly some Members of this House, who have felt that Indianisation of the Indian Army is a matter which might so vitally affect the constitution and administration of India that it would have been suitable to refer a big question like this to that Commission when it comes out here. I may say that Government have not taken that attitude. As soon as Government received the Committee's Report, they at once set to work upon it, to examine it as quickly as they possibly could, considering the very great importance of the Report concerned. Indeed, I had hoped that to-day I might have been able to give this House some information as regards the policy of Government in this matter. It is to me a matter of great regret that I am unable to do so. Government, however, were only able to arrive at their own provisional conclusions shortly before Parliament at Home rose, and there was therefore no time for the Home Government to form a considered judgment on the matter. Government, however, have submitted their provisional views by telegram to the Secretary of State, and later on we hope that as a result of this debate to-day, when we are more in a position to know what the wishes of the House are, we shall be able to send a full despatch on the subject to the Secretary of State. I gather that from what Mr. Srinivasa Iyengar said, he and other Members of the House are of the opinion that Government might have been quicker in this matter. I would ask

them to remember the great magnitude of the question and what very far-reaching and indeed irrevocable results might come from a faulty or over-hasty decision in this matter. I think I am right in saying that from the time the Committee first sat to the time they were able to issue this Report, a period of sixteen months elapsed, while probably that time would have been longer had not Government been able to place unreservedly at the disposal of the Committee the services of Mr. Burdon, who, I understand, was of the greatest assistance to them in writing their Report. I need hardly say that I make no complaint whatever about the time taken. I think it is absolutely right that the Committee should have gone as deeply as they did into the whole matter, but I think we must realise this, that no Government could possibly delegate its own responsibility to any Committee, however influential, and when we realise the time the Committee had to take in formulating its Report, I trust there will not be any general feeling that Government have been dilatory in dealing with it.

I would now, Sir, turn to the Report itself, and with your permission I will read the first term of reference which was this :

“ By what means it might be possible to improve upon the present supply of Indian candidates for the King's Commission, both in regard to number and quality.”

Well, Sir, the Committee having gone very deeply into that question came to the conclusion that it was not possible to improve upon the present supply of Indian candidates, unless there was a definite increase made in the number of vacancies available for Indians at Sandhurst. After coming to this conclusion the Committee drew up a programme of progressive increase of Indianisation among the commissioned ranks of the Indian Army up to the year 1952, by which time, according to the calculation of the Committee, one-half of the officers of the Indian Army holding King's Commissions would be Indians. Beyond that the Committee made no recommendations.

Now, Sir, I feel that the Committee were perfectly right in taking up that point, and in doing so they stressed very distinctly two other aspects of the case which are of the greatest importance and which were just referred to by Colonel Crawford. More than once in that Report the Committee mention the fact that the whole of their recommendations are dependent upon the maintenance of efficiency and also upon the importance of retaining the requisite proportion of British officers in the Indian Army. Just as they were right in emphasising these two points, they were also, I think, equally right in not proceeding to deal with them, because they were to some extent beyond their purview. The Government of India, however, naturally must take up these two points, as the Committee will, I am sure, be the first to recognise.

The problem strikes me as two-sided. On the one hand, you have the question of Indianisation ; that is, the finding of adequate opportunity for Indians to serve as combatant officers in the Army of India and of training them in the qualities of leadership and command. Closely allied to that, is the question of efficiency which again is bound up with the maintenance of British recruitment. I am sure, Sir, it must be clear from the utterances made by Government during the last five or six years that Government are in sympathy with Indian aspirations regarding this, and if there were any doubt on that score, it must surely have been dispelled by

[H. E. the Commander-in-Chief.]

the very fact of the appointment and the composition of the Indian Sandhurst Committee.

I will now read, Sir, to the House what the Committee state as regards the standard of efficiency. They state as follows :

“ It is not our purpose or desire that the number of Indian King's commissioned officers in the Army should be increased without reference to considerations of efficiency. We recognise that in the Army there can only be one standard of efficiency, namely, the highest. We hold strongly, therefore, that the severity of the existing tests should not be relaxed in any way, and, if Indians capable of satisfying these tests are not forthcoming, then the pace of Indianisation must for the time lag behind the number of vacancies offered. We are fully alive to the fact that the progress of our scheme, as of any scheme, must be contingent upon success being secured at each stage and upon military efficiency being maintained throughout ”.

I am sure, Sir, the House will agree with that, as they also will with the further point brought out by the Committee as to how essential it is that the educational authorities in this country must undertake the onus of educating boys in the initial stage, so that they may eventually be fit to take their place in the Army. That, Sir, I believe, is the starting point of the whole question. That, I believe, is really an important question, and the Committee have laid stress upon it by stating, that the development of the educational system in India on the lines indicated is a vital element in the scheme which they recommend. Let us remember also that this must not be merely a question of Government effort. It is not only Government effort which is necessary, but public opinion and private enterprise have got to take their due share. There must be no misapprehension about it at all ; it is absolutely essential, because I feel confident that no one will be able to deny the advance of Indianisation if we make sure that the initial stage has been properly and thoroughly laid. Equally, no one must be allowed to think that those initial stages can be avoided or “ jumped ”.

In this connection I would like to refer to the efforts being made by one of my colleagues, the Honourable Mr. Das. Mr. Das, as I think the House probably knows, is making the greatest effort to establish in India a really fine public school. I sincerely trust that his efforts will meet with the success they deserve. He is working wholeheartedly in the matter, and, should he succeed in his efforts, I honestly believe we should have overcome the first of the many very great difficulties in the problem.

In connection with Sandhurst, I have heard occasionally Members of this House and certainly many parents of “ umedwars ” for Sandhurst say and being under the impression, that once a boy has got into Sandhurst, even though he has only scraped through that once there all difficulties have disappeared. I need hardly point out how that cannot be the case. The actual passing into Sandhurst is only the first of the many qualifications which a cadet and, later on, an officer must have in his career, and I cannot think it is a kindness to send any boy to Sandhurst with lower qualifications than his brother British cadets and later his brother British commissioned officer. I am sorry to say that at present the standard of the examination for boys going up for examination in India is undoubtedly lower than that passed by their British brothers in England, and, as a result, we know, to our regret, the percentage of failures among Indian boys at Sandhurst is greater than that among English boys.

I trust, Sir, that I have not unduly stressed this question of want of education and the necessity of putting it right. I have done so because the

Committee themselves stress it and I think it only right to emphasise the fact that the whole of their recommendations are dependent upon efficiency being maintained at every stage at the high standard on which the Committee have rightly insisted.

I would turn now, Sir, to the matter of British recruitment, and with your permission I would read out what the Committee say about that :

“ On the civil side of the administration the fear has often been expressed, and has to some extent been realised, that Indianisation will cause a falling off in the recruitment of British candidates for the services. The same phenomenon is liable to occur in connexion with the Indianisation of the Army. As we have indicated in our observations regarding the ‘ eight units scheme ’, a continued supply of British officers, of the same high quality as those who have served India in the past, will, apart from everything else, be a great and valuable aid for the present and for some time to come to successful Indianisation. We should, therefore, regard it as specially important to maintain the proportion of British recruitment required.”

That, Sir, was the view of the Committee. But naturally no Committee in this country could be in a position to keep its finger on the pulse of what I might call the home recruiting market, or to be able to gauge with any accuracy what the exact result of their recommendations would be on the boys that we get out from Sandhurst. The authorities in England can alone be in a good position to judge regarding this and when the Committee lay stress on the necessity for maintaining the proper proportion of British recruitment, it is only right that the Government of India and His Majesty's Government must regard the matter from the very widest point of view. Let us remember that the Government of India is responsible for the defence of India and that responsibility lies entirely upon the efficiency of her fighting forces, and, as my friend Dr. Moonje has pointed out, we know that we have no margin to spare as far as our Army in India is concerned. The Army in India is one link in the Imperial chain of the defence of the Empire and naturally therefore no alterations in its organisation, which might in any way affect its efficiency can be taken without the fullest consideration of His Majesty's Government, which is ultimately responsible for Imperial security. We know that in the last war, the Indian army took its part in upholding the integrity of the British Empire. That integrity was only maintained by fighting in practically all parts of the world. Let us never forget how fortunate India was that such fighting did not take place in her own territory. I certainly trust that it may be many years before another great war comes to scourge this world, but should such a war come, we have to remember that he would be a very rash man who would dare to prophesy in what arena fighting would or would not take place, and should the actual defence of India then be forced upon us, it is certain that not only would any failure here mean disaster to India but it would react upon the British Empire as a whole and consequently His Majesty's Government would be failing in their duty if they did not fully satisfy themselves that any reorganisation of the army did not in any way cause inefficiency—when we realize the great responsibilities inherent in His Majesty's Government for matters which may vitally affect the security and defence of the whole Empire, I feel confident that Honourable Members will not wish to hurry His Majesty's Government unduly in such a matter as this. As I have said, the Government of India have already transmitted to His Majesty's Government their provisional proposals and for the reasons I have stated it has not yet been possible for His Majesty's Government to arrive at any decision.

[H. E. the Commander-in-Chief.]

Before I sit down, I wish to say one word more and that is this. I believe, we, all of us here in this Assembly to-day, are at one in the dual purpose of doing all that is possible to assist Indians in increasing numbers in taking part in the defence of their country, while at the same time we are also determined that the measures chosen to do this shall not in any way, directly or indirectly, weaken the instrument of self-defence upon which the security of India depends. I trust that this Resolution may not be pressed. If pressed, the Government of India will have no other recourse than that of opposing it for the reasons I have given, but I am rather hoping that the present event may be regarded more as an opportunity for Members to state their opinions than as an attack upon Government. The Home Government, as I have already said, have not yet had time to formulate their opinions and surely it will be best if they are not asked to do so in a hostile atmosphere. I trust that the Mover thereof may withdraw it. (Applause.)

Mr. President : As Honourable Members are aware, His Excellency the Governor General will address the Members of both Houses in this Chamber on Monday next at 11 o'clock. The House now stands adjourned till 12 Noon on Monday next.

The Assembly then adjourned till Twelve of the Clock on Monday, the 29th August 1927.