

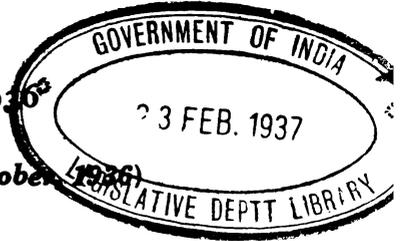
15th October 1936

THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

(Official Report)

Volume IX, 1936

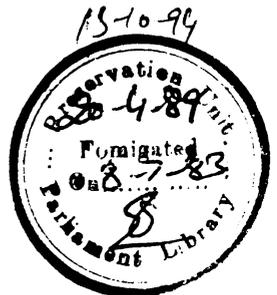
(9th October to 16th October 1936)



FOURTH SESSION

OF THE

**FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
1936**



NEW DELHI
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS
1937

Legislative Assembly.

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

Deputy President :

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

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SIR LESLIE HUDSON, KT., M.L.A.

MR. ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY, M.L.A.

MR. M. S. ANEY, M.L.A.

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MIAN MUHAMMAD RAFI, BAR.-AT-LAW.

Assistant of the Secretary :

RAI BAHADUR D. DUTT.

Marshal :

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

Committee on Petitions :

MR. AKHIL CHANDRA DUTTA, M.L.A., *Chairman.*

SIR LESLIE HUDSON, KT., M.L.A.

PANDIT NILAKANTHA DAS, M.L.A.

MAULVI SYED MURTUZA SAHIB BAHADUR, M.L.A.

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

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, 15th October, 1936.

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

MEMBERS SWORN.

Mr. Maurice William Walter Murray Yeatts, M.L.A. (Government of India : Nominated Official) ; and

Mr. Susil Chandra Sen, M.L.A. (Government of India : Nominated Official).

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

FACILITIES FOR THE TRAVELLING PUBLIC ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1224. ***Dr. N. B. Khare** : Will Government please place on the table the statement showing facilities sanctioned and provided for the travelling public on the East Indian Railway submitted to the Local Advisory Committee at its meeting held at Calcutta on the 27th March, 1936, *vide* item 11 of the list of subjects in the statement relating to the quarter ending the 31st March, 1936 ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : I am placing on the table the two statements asked for.

Facilities for the travelling public.

"A."—Statement showing facilities sanctioned for the travelling public during the quarter ending 30th September 1935.

Name of station.	Particulars of works.
Singur ..	Provision of Foot Overbridge.
Ahmadpur ..	Do.
Bansabati ..	Provision of Down raised Platform.
Chandanpur ..	Provision of Foot Overbridge.
Howrah..	Provision of Steel Shelving for bedding sets to Upper class passengers.

Name of Station.	Particulars of works.
<i>Halting places on Howrah-Burdwan Chord.</i>	
Akdanga ..	} Provision of Weighing Machines.
Bara-Tajpur ..	
Mahmudpur ..	
Balarembati ..	
Madhusudanpur ..	
Howrah ..	Telephone Call Box.
Giridih ..	Provision of two Ghurrah Stands.
Sarak ..	Provision of third class Waiting Shed, Vendor's Stall, Latrines and Well.
Asansol ..	Provision of Kiosks on the Up and Down Platforms.
Sitarampur ..	Dismantling third class Waiting Hall at Sarmatand and re-erecting the same at Sitarampur.
Kiul ..	Extension of Down platform shed for moveable wooden stall.
Between Palmerganj and Sone East.. Bank at mile 335/16.	Temporary Shed, Booking Office, palisade fencing with gates and rail carriers.

" B. "—Statement showing facilities provided for the travelling public during the quarter ending 30th September 1935.

Name of station.	Particulars of works.
Rajbandh ..	Provision of pucca floor in Waiting Shed.
Kotalpukur ..	Provision of bath room.
Dubrajpur ..	Provision of Zenana enclosure.
Giridih ..	Provision of two Ghurrah Stands.
Gujhandi ..	Provision of tea stall.

XIII.—FACILITIES FOR THE TRAVELLING PUBLIC.

For the information of members, statement showing (A) facilities sanctioned and (B) facilities actually provided for the travelling public during the quarter ended 31st December 1935 are given below :—

'A'.—Statement showing facilities sanctioned for the travelling public during the quarter ending 31st December 1935.

Name of station.	Particulars of works.	Remarks.
Tinpahar	Extension of up and down platform.	
Dhatrigram	Provision of a Tube well.	
Bhagalpore	Provision of Inter class Ladies' waiting room.	
Mankar	Provision of a Tube well.	
Bandel Jn.	Improvements to Lavatories in First and second class Waiting Rooms.	
Haripal	Provision of a pathway to Up platform with a lamp post.	
Burdwan	Improvements to the Lavatories attached to first and second class waiting rooms.	
Bolpur	Alterations to entrance and exit of Foot over-bridge.	
Rampore Haut	Improvements to the bath rooms attached to first and second class waiting rooms.	
Barkakana Loop	Provision of a halt platform at mile 283/10.	
Madhupur	(1) Separate Inter class waiting room for gentlemen and ladies with bathrooms. (2) Improvement to Tea Stalls.	
Dhanbad	Inter class waiting room.	
Sone-East-Bank	Provision of covering C. I. tank to serve for drinking water for passengers.	

'B'.—Statement showing facilities provided for the travelling public during the quarter ending 31st December 1935.

Name of station.	Particulars of works.	Remarks.
Doarah	Provision of approach road.	
Howrah	Additions and alterations to Hindu and Mahomedan Refreshment Rooms.	
Sainthia	Zenana Enclosure and Urinal.	
Howrah	Steel shelving for bedding sets to Upper class passengers.	
Howrah	Telephone call Box.	
Bansabati	Raising of Down Platform.	
Kastagram	Provision of Passenger shed.	
Gomoh	Provision of shed over Up platform.	

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SUPPLY OF DRINKING WATER TO PASSENGERS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1225. *Dr. N. B. Khare : Will Government please place on the table the note showing the arrangements made for the supply of drinking water to passengers on the East Indian Railway submitted to the Local Advisory Committee at its meeting held at Calcutta on the 27th March, 1936, *vide* item 12 of the subjects in the statement relating to the quarter ending the 31st March, 1936 ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : I am placing on the table the note referred to.

XV. Supply of drinking water to passengers.

The following arrangements have been made for the supply of drinking water to passengers :—

(1) Additional watermen and Bhisties.—The number is variable and in accordance with the necessities.

On one upcountry division the increase is 170 men.

(2) Kiosks with ghurrahs are placed in wet sand at practically all stations. Water from these ghurrahs is poured into buckets and supplied to passengers in trains or they can help themselves.

On certain sections of the line there is difficulty in finding suitable water. Where this is the case arrangements are being made to supply water so that no one will be very long without it being possible to get a drink. The longest time is about 1½ hours on a short section of the C. I. C. line.

(3) Water trollies with large ghurrahs on them are in use at a great many large stations. This enables a large amount of water to be carried about and to be kept cool.

These ghurrahs are replaced at regular intervals.

(4) At certain selected stations concrete tanks fitted with taps are being provided. These also keep the water cool and fresh.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THE MEMBERS OF THE PORT HAJ COMMITTEE.

1226. *Sardar Sant Singh : (a) Have Government received certain complaints from the captains of the ships plying for Haj pilgrims, on the ground of undue interference in the safety of the passengers and of the ships by the Port Haj Committees ? If so, what action do Government propose to take in the matter ?

(b) Are Government aware that some members of the Bombay Port Haj Committee have obtained and are trying to obtain personal advantages for themselves, their relations and dependents and friends, from such navigation companies, such as, free passages, concession passage rates, securing contracts, service in the company's offices and ships, etc. ? If so, are Government aware that such concessions and advantage affect the interests of *Hajis* ? If so, are Government prepared to publish the names of such members and take suitable and proper action against such members ?

(c) If the reply to the above be in the negative, do Government propose to set up a committee of enquiry to go into these allegations ?

Mr. M. W. Yeatts : (a) Presumably the Honourable Member has in mind the Committees of Pilgrims appointed on ships. It is one of the duties of a Port Haj Committee to appoint wherever practicable such a Committee or an individual pilgrim (Amir-ul-Haj) on a pilgrim ship. The Shipping Company has on occasions brought to the notice of Government complaints made by certain captains of the activities of these Committees. The practice of appointing Ship Committees has since been discontinued and specific instructions have been issued for the guidance of Amirs-ul-Haj to define the limits of their functions.

(b) and (c). One of the duties of a Port Haj Committee is to find suitable Muslims for employment on pilgrim ships. It may be that members of the Bombay Committee in connection with this duty have recommended particular applicants, but no definite information is available. So far as Government are aware, the interests of Hajis have not been affected.

RAILWAY BOARD'S LETTER REGARDING REVISED SCALES OF PAY.

1227. ***Pandit Krishna Kant Malaviya :** Has the attention of the Governor General of India in Council been invited to the Deputy Director, Railway Board, letter No. E-35|P.A.|112D., dated the 24th July, 1935 ? If so, will the Honourable Member for Commerce and Railways, please state :

- (a) whether the said letter overrules the previous executive orders of the Governor General in Council ;
- (b) whether the said letter states " If any of them are not willing to accept the revised scales of pay, their services may be terminated in the usual manner " ; if so, why ; and what is the *usual manner* ;
- (c) whether the advertisement inviting applications for those posts referred to in the said letter *inter alia* contained :
 - (i) Pay : Rs. 200 per mensem in the grade of Rs. 200—15—425—450 per mensem, and
 - (ii) Leave : New State Railway Leave Rule ; and
- (d) whether the advertisement or letter of appointment contained any reference to the revised scales of pay ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : I am collecting information and will lay a reply on the table of the House in due course.

DESIGNATION OF TICKET CHECKERS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1228. ***Pandit Krishna Kant Malaviya :** With reference to the reply given to a supplementary question to starred question No. 230, asked in this House on the 12th February, 1932, regarding the designation of ticket checkers on the East Indian Railway, will Government please state the authority who decided that the T. T. I. system was really inferior to the Moody-Ward System ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : I am collecting information and will lay a reply on the table of the House in due course.

IMPERIAL INSTITUTE OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING AT BANGALORE.

1229. ***Mr. Basanta Kumar Das** : Will Government be pleased to state the expenditure incurred in the years 1933-34, 1934-35 and 1935-36 for running the Imperial Institute of Animal Husbandry and Dairying at Bangalore, and also the number of students that received training in those years in Indian Dairy Diploma Course ?

Mr. M. W. Yeatts : Two statements are laid on the table.

STATEMENT I.

Statement showing the expenditure incurred on the Imperial Dairy Institute, Bangalore, in 1933-34 to 1935-36.

Year.	Expenditure.	Receipts.	Net Expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1933-34 ..	1,77,462	92,426	85,036
1934-35 ..	1,87,421	76,082	1,11,339
1935-36 ..	1,93,400	74,737	1,18,663

STATEMENT II.

Statement showing the number of students who received training in the Indian Dairy Diploma Course, Imperial Dairy Institute, Bangalore, from October, 1931.

(N.B.—Admission to this course is made every two years.)

Period of Course.	Number of students.
October, 1931 to November, 1933	19
October, 1933 to November, 1935	21
November, 1935 to October, 1937	24

TEACHING STAFF OF THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING AT BANGALORE.

1230. ***Mr. Basanta Kumar Das** : (a) Will Government be pleased to state the personnel and the qualifications of the teaching staff of the Imperial Institute of Animal Husbandry and Dairying at Bangalore ?

(b) Is it a fact that clerks of Superintendent's office, draftsman of the Imperial Dairy Experts' Office and Supervisors of the Bangalore Farm, are entrusted with the work of teaching the students for Indian Dairy Diploma Course ?

(c) What were and are the qualifications, general and technical, of such teachers during the years 1931 to 1936 ?

Mr. M. W. Yeatts : (a) and (c). A statement is laid on the table.

(b) Except for the accountant, no clerks are employed for any teaching work in connection with the Indian Dairy Diploma Course. The draftsman of the Imperial Dairy Expert's office is, however, called upon to give a few lectures on designing of farm buildings, etc. The Supervisors of the Bangalore farm give assistance in teaching.

Statement showing the personnel and qualifications of the teaching staff of the Indian Dairy Diploma Course at the Imperial Dairy Institute, Bangalore, during the years 1931-36.

Name.	Designation.	Qualifications (technical and general).	Remarks.
1. Mr. Zal R. Kothavalla	Imperial Dairy Expert	B. Ag. (Bom.), B.Sc., Agri. (Edin.), N. D. D. (Scot.).	
2. Mr. S. Cox ..	*Farm Superintendent	Passed the Military Dairy Farm's examination as a manager. Has practical experience of over 18 years in the management of an up-to-date Dairy farm and Creamery and a Cattle Breeding farm.	*Transferred from the Military Dairy Farms Department.
3 Mr. F. J. Warth (till November, 1935, when he retired).	Physiological Chemist.	B.Sc. (Lond.). M.Sc. (Birmingham).	
4. Messrs. N. Krishna Ayyar, N.C. Das Gupta, T. S. Krishnan and A. Seshan.	Assistants to Physiological Chemist.	B.Sc.	
5. Mr. J. H. Walton (till 1st April, 1932, when he retired).	Imperial Agricultural Bacteriologist, Imperial Agricultural Research Institute.	M.A. (Cantab.), M.Sc. (Dur.), Diploma in Agriculture (Cantab.).	1932.
5. Mr. C. S. Rama Ayyar from 1st April, 1932.	Third Assistant Bacteriologist, Imperial Agricultural Research Institute.	B.A.	
6. Mr. H. C. Verma ..	Supervisor ..	I.D.D., N.D.D. (Scot.). Over ten years' experience in the management of an up-to-date Dairy and Cattle Breeding farm and teaching of students. At present on deputation to Europe for advanced Dairy training.	
7. Mr. K. K. Desai ..	Do. ..	I.D.D.—Ten years' experience of the work on dairy and Cattle Breeding farm.	
8. Mr. A. J. Lazarus ..	Supervisor ..	I.D.D.—8½ years' experience of the work on dairy and Cattle Breeding Farm.	
9. Mr. Kothandapani ..	Dairy Engineer ..	L.M.E.—Special practical experience in Dairy Engineering.	1933
10. Mr. Sankaranarayan	Veterinary Officer—Physiological Chemist's Section.	Veterinary graduate.	
11. Mr. Manickvelu ..	Accountant ..	20 years' experience of Dairy system of accounts.	

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena : May I know what are the qualifications of the accountant who was appointed as a teacher in this school ?

Mr. M. W. Yeatts : I think the Honourable Member will find that in the statement.

TRANSFER OF THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING FROM BANGALORE TO DELHI.

1231. ***Mr. Basanta Kumar Das :** Do Government propose to consider the desirability of transferring the Imperial Institute of Animal Husbandry and Dairying from Bangalore to Delhi in accordance with the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Agriculture, as contained in paragraph 211 of their Report ? If not, will Government be pleased to state the reasons for not shifting the Institute from Bangalore to Delhi along with the transfer of the Imperial Institute of Agricultural Research from Pusa to Delhi ?

Mr. M. W. Yeatts : The Royal Commission on Agriculture did not recommend the transfer of the Dairy Institute from Bangalore to Delhi. The question of transfer does not, therefore, arise.

CATTLE DAIRY SECTIONS.

1232. ***Mr. Basanta Kumar Das :** (a) Is it a fact that the cattle and dairy sections are partly under the Imperial Agriculturist and partly under the Imperial Dairy Experts ? If so, what are the reasons therefor ?

(b) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of placing the whole section under one head at Delhi, namely, the Imperial Dairy Expert ?

Mr. M. W. Yeatts : (a) There is no section known as the 'Cattle Section'. The Dairy Institute is entirely under the Imperial Dairy Expert.

(b) Does not arise.

FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES OF THE IMPERIAL DAIRY EXPERTS.

1233. ***Mr. Basanta Kumar Das :** (a) What are the functions and duties of the Imperial Dairy Expert ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Cattle Breeding Farm at Karnal was under the control of the Imperial Dairy Expert and that recently that farm has been taken away from his control and placed under the control of the Imperial Agriculturists ? If so, will Government be pleased to explain the reason for this action ?

Mr. M. W. Yeatts : (a) Broadly speaking (i) to advise industry on practical problems of dairying, (ii) to supervise the educational activities of the Bangalore Institute, and (iii) to direct research and experiment relating to the dairy industry.

(b) The arrangement referred to in the first part of the question prevailed when the Imperial Dairy Expert was himself under the control of the Director of the Imperial Agricultural Research Institute. Now that the Dairy Expert has been made the head of his own organ-

isation the earlier arrangement is neither practicable nor necessary. The Farm at Karnal is under the control of the Director, Imperial Agricultural Research Institute, because the work done there falls in the sphere of the Imperial Agriculturist, an officer of the Imperial Agricultural Research Institute.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Will the advice of this expert be available to those who wish to open dairy and animal husbandry ?

Mr. M. W. Yeatts : His advice, I think, would be available to all who care to consult him.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : What are his responsibilities towards the Dairy Sub-Committee of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research ?

Mr. M. W. Yeatts : I must ask for notice of that question.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : If we invite this dairy expert to give advice will the Government be pleased to send him, if time is available, to give practical advice ?

Mr. M. W. Yeatts : I think that would depend on the actual circumstances of the case.

TRANSFER OF THE CONTROL OF THE ANIMAL NUTRITION SECTION AT BANGALORE.

1234. ***Mr. Basanta Kumar Das :** (a) Is it a fact that the Animal Nutrition section at Bangalore has been transferred from the control of the Director of Imperial Institute of Agriculture to Izatnagar under the control of the Director of the Imperial Institute of Veterinary Research, Muktesar ? If so, why ?

(b) What are the reasons for not transferring the Nutrition section to Delhi ?

Mr. M. W. Yeatts : (a) Yes.

(b) The Animal Nutrition Section was transferred to Izatnagar, which is a Branch of the Imperial Veterinary Research Institute, Muktesar, because it was felt that problems of animal nutrition and animal disease were closely related and should be under one direction, namely, that of the Director of the Imperial Veterinary Research Institute.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Is it not more economical to concentrate all these things in one place instead of having something in Muktesar, something in Izatnagar, something in Bangalore and so on ?

Mr. M. W. Yeatts : That, I think, is a matter of opinion.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : I ask whether the Government have considered from an economic point the desirability of concentrating all these institutes in one place ?

Mr. M. W. Yeatts : Government have considered that as well as other things in making such changes as are necessary.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Have they considered it from the point of view of economy ?

Mr. M. W. Yeatts : Economy is always in the consideration of Government.

Mr. Basanta Kumar Das : What are the special advantages of locating these institutes in different places—one at Izatnagar, one at Bangalore, one at Muktesar and one at Delhi ?

Mr. M. W. Yeatts : Each must be considered on its own merits. I cannot see that the general question arises really out of this particular question.

PURCHASE OF SINDHI CATTLE FOR BANGALORE FARM AND ISSUE OF BREEDING BULLS.

1235. ***Mr. Basanta Kumar Das :** Will Government be pleased to state when the first lot of Sindhi cattle were purchased for Bangalore Farm and how many breeding bulls of the same breed have been issued for breeding to various institutions and the public in general ?

Mr. M. W. Yeatts : Prior to its transfer to the Civil Agricultural Department in 1923, the Bangalore Farm was under the control of the Military Dairy Farms Department and information as to when Sindhi cattle were first purchased for the farm is not readily available. The supply of breeding bulls is the function of the Local Governments and not of the Bangalore Farm, where the small Sindhi herd now maintained is primarily intended for developing high yielding dairy strains. The number of farm bred male stock sold to the general public and to institutions during the period 1923 to 1936 is 177.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Is this Bangalore Dairying Farm under the military or under the civil ?

Mr. M. W. Yeatts : Civil.

RESEARCH WORKS CARRIED OUT BY THE IMPERIAL DAIRY EXPERT.

1236. ***Mr. Basanta Kumar Das :** Will Government be pleased to state the nature and extent of the research works carried out by the Imperial Dairy Expert during the last five years with regard to the improvement of various breeds of Indian cattle and in the matter of milk and its products ?

Mr. M. W. Yeatts : A statement showing the research work carried out under the direction of the Imperial Dairy Expert during the years 1931-32 to 1935-36 has been placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. Ghanshiam Singh Gupta : Will the Honourable Member kindly let us know about the work done in the C. P. ?

An Honourable Member : That does not arise out of this question.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : May I know if Government published any report of this Dairying Expert about the quality of the different kinds of cattle ?

Mr. M. W. Yeatts : I will look into that. I cannot answer that offhand.

(The next question, No. 1237, was called, but, Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar was not in his seat.)

(Questions Nos. 1238 to 1252, standing in the name of Dr. N. B. Khare, were also called, but Dr. Khare was not in his seat.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Honourable Members give notice of a number of questions, and when the questions are called, they are not in their places with the result that there is a breakdown.

Next Question.

DEPUTATION TO MALAYA TO EXAMINE THE QUESTION OF INDIANS.

1237. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar** : Will Government state :

- (a) whether they are contemplating to send a deputation to Malaya to examine the question of Indians there ;
- (b) whether the personnel of the deputation has been settled ; and
- (c) whether any of the members of the Standing Committee on Immigration of this House will be associated with the deputation ?

Mr. M. W. Yeatts : (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). Attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given to Mr. Satyamurti's question No. 1174 on the 12th October, 1936.

COMPETENT AUTHORITY EMPOWERED TO INFLICT PENALTIES ON STAFF ON STATE RAILWAYS.

1238. ***Dr. N. B. Khare** : With reference to the Government of India, Railway Department, letter No. E.-34-R. G.-6, dated the 22nd June, 1935, will the Honourable Member for Commerce and Railways please state :

- (a) the ranks of the competent authority, administrationwise, who is empowered to inflict penalties, prescribed in Rule 2, on staff under the control delegated to Agents ;
- (b) the offences for which penalties in Rule 2 are prescribed ;
- (c) the authority, administrationwise, competent to present a charge sheet, referred to in Rule 7 and applied in Rule 9 ;
- (d) whether suspension or ' put off duty ' should be preceded by a charge sheet or followed by a charge sheet and who is the authority, administrationwise, competent to pass an order of suspension under Rule 11 ; and
- (e) whether suspension or ' put off duty ' is essential in each and every case where charge sheet is presented or explanation is called for ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : (a) As regards discharge and dismissal of staff I would refer the Honourable Member to the information laid on the table of the House on the 31st August, 1936, in reply to unstarred question No. 561, asked by the Honourable Member on the 7th August, 1936.

So far as other penalties are concerned, information available with Government is being placed in the Library of the House.

(b) No offences have been specifically laid down except those referred to in the rules regulating discipline and rights of appeal of non-gazetted railway servants. The penalties under Rule 2 can be imposed for good and sufficient reasons. Government do not consider it necessary to prepare a detailed list of offences for which penalties under Rule 2 may be imposed.

(c) No authorities have been prescribed by Government. In practice, however, charge-sheets are generally issued by gazetted officers and supervising subordinates.

(d) As regards the first part of the question "suspension" or "put off duty" may be preceded or followed by a charge-sheet according to the circumstances of each case. As regards the latter part, I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given to part (a) of this question.

(e) No.

ELECTRIFICATION OF QUARTERS FOR RAILWAY SUBORDINATES.

1239. *Dr. N. B. Khare : With reference to the statement laid on the table on the 27th February, 1936, in reply to starred question No. 46c, asked in this House on the 14th February, 1936, will Government please state :

(a) the number of quarters electrified every year which are usually occupied by Indian subordinates in grades the maximum of which exceeds Rs. 125 ; and

(b) the number of employees in grades the maximum of which exceeds Rs. 125 ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : (a) and (b). Government have no information and its collection will involve an amount of labour and expense not likely to be justified by results.

PENALTIES FOR IRREGULAR USE, ETC., OF PRIVILEGE TICKET ORDERS AND PASSES ON RAILWAYS.

1240. *Dr. N. B. Khare : With reference to the reply given to unstarred question No. 297, asked in this House on the 9th March, 1936, will Government please state whether the penalties for irregular use or misuse and loss of foreign and local privilege ticket orders and passes are uniform on each Railway, or are they different ? If the latter, what are the differences ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : Each Railway Administration frames its own rules in regard to the penalties for irregular use and loss of passes, etc. I am asking the Agents of other State-managed lines for a copy of their rules and will place them in the Library of the House when these have been received.

ELECTRIC SUPPLY IN SHAHDARA, DELHI.

1241. *Dr. N. B. Khare : With reference to the reply given to part (d) of starred question No. 1383, asked in this House on the 23rd March, 1936, will Government please state :

- (a) the extreme length of the supply from the generating plant in the areas of Shahdara, Delhi City, New Delhi, Civil Lines and Fort ;
- (b) whether the distance from Power House to the extreme end of each area is equal to the distance from Delhi City to Shahdara ; and
- (c) whether they propose to include Shahdara also in the enquiry to be made into the matter of electric supply in Delhi Province ; if not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) and (b). Information has been called for and a reply will be placed on the table of the House in due course.

(c) The terms of reference do not exclude any part of the Delhi Province.

TREATMENT OF ADOPTIVE PARENTS AS NATURAL PARENTS ON RAILWAYS.

1242. *Dr. N. B. Khare : With reference to the reply given to starred question No. 1443, asked in this House on the 7th April, 1936, will Government please state the date and notification in the Gazette of India on which the provisions of Hindu Law were made applicable to Muslims, Christians and European *cum* Anglo-Indian subjects, serving under State Railways, so that their adoptive parents, if dependent, be treated as natural parents ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : There is no such notification.

CHECK OVER THE WORK OF TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

1243. *Dr. N. B. Khare : With reference to the reply given to starred question No. 1444 asked in this House on the 7th April, 1936, regarding check over the work of Travelling Ticket Examiners on the North Western Railway, will Government please state the period required by the Agents to carry out the orders of the Railway Board ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : The period will vary according to the nature of such preliminary action as may be required to be taken to give effect to the orders.

COUNTING OF PERIOD SPENT IN CERTAIN CAPACITIES TOWARDS SENIORITY BY
THE CHIEF ACCOUNTS OFFICER, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1244. *Dr. N. R. Khare : Will Government please state the rule under which period spent in temporary, probationary or candidacy capacity is counted towards seniority by the Chief Accounts Officer, East Indian Railway and not by the Agent ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : Temporary and probationary service is counted in calculating continuous service in a grade under rule 3 of the " Rules for determining the relative seniority of the non-gazetted staff (other than inferior servants) in State Railway Accounts Offices ", a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

GRANT OF FREE QUARTERS OR RENT IN LIEU TO THE TICKET COLLECTORS ON
THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1245. *Dr. N. B. Khare : With reference to the reply given to unstarred question No. 504 asked in this House on the 7th April, 1936 regarding grant of free quarters or rent in lieu to the Ticket Collectors on the East Indian Railway, will Government please state the action taken by the Agent and to supply the information sought in the question ? If none, why not ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : Government have no information, and do not consider that the expense and labour involved in collecting the information required will be commensurate with the result likely to be obtained.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW PASS RULES ON STATE RAILWAYS.

1246. *Dr. N. B. Khare : With reference to the reply given to starred question No. 1702, asked in this House on the 17th April, 1936 regarding introduction of new pass rules on State Railways, will Government please state the reasons for allowing option to gazetted staff and not bringing them into uniformity with others ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : I am unable to understand the Honourable Member's question. Gazetted officers have not been allowed any option in the pass rules applicable to them.

ALTERATION IN THE AGE OF RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.

1247. *Dr. N. B. Khare : With reference to the reply given to starred question No. 1780, asked in this House on the 20th April, 1936, regarding alteration in the age of railway employees, will Government please state the circumstances under which the policy adopted by the Government of India is not to be observed by the Agents of State-managed Railways and whether such policies are only meant for the Departments at Headquarters or for the Subordinate Offices too ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : Government are not aware of any circumstances under which the policy adopted by Government is not to be observed by the Agents of State-managed Railways and officers subordinate to them.

TENURE OF THE POSTS OF DIRECTORATE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE RAILWAY DEPARTMENT.

1248. ***Dr. N. B. Khare :** With reference to the reply given to starred question No. 1803 asked in this House on the 20th April, 1936 regarding the tenure of the posts of Directorate Establishment of the Railway Department, will Government please state the principle upon which tenure of a post is extended ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to his question No. 1803 on the 20th April, 1936, in which I explained that extension of tenures depended on the exigencies of the service.

TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

1249. ***Dr. N. B. Khare :** With reference to the reply given on the 24th February, 1936 to unstarred question No. 75 asked in this House on the 4th February, 1936, regarding Travelling Ticket Examiners on the North Western Railway, will Government please state the date of the transfer of the staff from Audit to the Operating Department in 1928 and the pay and allowances drawn by them under the Audit Department in 1928 ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : I am collecting information and will lay a reply on the table of the House in due course.

ADVERSE REMARKS RECORDED IN CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS OF NON-GAZETTED STAFF ON RAILWAYS.

1250. ***Dr. N. B. Khare :** Will the Honourable Member for Commerce and Railways please state the procedure in respect of adverse remarks recorded in Confidential Reports of non-gazetted staff and whether any appeal against those remarks lies, and if so, within what period ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : Adverse remarks in the character rolls of the non-gazetted staff are shown to the persons concerned. No appeal ordinarily lies against such remarks.

PERMISSION FOR DOGS AND DOMESTIC ANIMALS TO TRAVEL ON METAL PASSES ISSUED TO RAILWAY GAZETTED STAFF.

1251. ***Dr. N. B. Khare :** Will Government please state whether dogs and domestic animals are permitted to travel on metal passes issued to Railway Gazetted Staff for travelling on duty ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : The rules on the Burma and North Western Railways permit an officer travelling on a

metal pass in a reserved carriage or compartment, but not in a public compartment, to take not more than two dogs with him on his metal pass. This is the practice also on the East Indian and Great Indian Peninsula Railways, but not on the Eastern Bengal Railway where metal passes do not cover the carriage of dogs.

POST OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR, ESTABLISHMENT II, RAILWAY BOARD.

1252. *Dr. N. B. Khare : With reference to the reply given to part (c) of starred question No. 1808 asked in this House on the 20th April, 1936 regarding the post of the Deputy Director, Establishment II, Railway Board, will Government please state the result of the decision, if arrived at by this time ; if not, when they are likely to arrive at a decision ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : The sanction is being extended for a further six months.

GAZETTES PUBLISHED BY RAILWAY ADMINISTRATIONS.

1253. *Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali : Will the Honourable Member of the Government for Commerce and Railways please state the significance of the Gazettes published by Railway Administrations and whether they are the property of the public in the same way and manner as the Gazette of India or the Gazettes published by the local Administrations of the provinces and are open for inspection and purchase by the people of India and of the world ? If not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : The gazettes issued by State-managed Railways contain instructions and information for the benefit and guidance of the Railway employees. They are departmental publications for official use only.

PASSENGERS DETECTED TRAVELLING WITHOUT TICKETS.

1254. *Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali : Will the Honourable Member of the Government for Commerce and Railways please state, administrationwise, the number of passengers classwise detected travelling without ticket or authority and the total number of passengers classwise travelled during the preceding five years and the percentage thereof ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : Statistics are not recorded showing the number of passengers detected travelling without proper tickets for each class separately. Statements showing the total number found travelling without proper tickets on the principal Railways for the years 1928 to 1934 were placed on the table of the House in reply to Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi's question No. 79 on the 15th September, 1936. I am placing a similar statement on the table for the year 1935. Figures regarding the number of passengers travelling in the various classes are given in Vol. II of the Railway Board's Report on Indian Railways for each of the years referred to.

Statement relating to passengers found travelling without proper tickets on State Railways.

1935.

Railways.	Total number of passengers found travelling without tickets.	Number of passengers who paid excess fares and penalty on detection.	Details of action taken under Indian Railways Act.								
			Under Section 112.			Under Section 113.					
			Lot off.	Fare and penalty recovered.	Punishment inflicted.	Pending in Courts.	Total.	Lot off.	Fare and penalty recovered.	Punishment inflicted.	Pending in Court.	Total.
A. E.	52,176	38,761	22	14	161	383	1,939	1,545	9	8,039	11,532
B. N.	80,345	20,594	154	1,852	235	1,795	1,662	3,283	12	4,838	9,795
B. & N. W.	3,02,549	2,80,033	441	29	8,828	18,792	1,918	321	4	6,806	9,049
B. E. & C. I.	7,56,872	2,42,316	1	210	..	344	2	117	..	..	119
Burma	1,99,767	1,95,514	296	524	418	1,753	586	1,044	285	496	2,421
E. E.	1,76,993	99,831	447	390	8,291	5,381	2,883	2,273	513	22,013	27,682
E. I.	2,31,268	1,87,064	1,072	2,154	5,867	10,662	4,695	7,223	847	20,251	33,016
G. I. P.	2,74,220	1,98,201	205	326	1,921	2,516	96	667	53	118	954
M. & S. M.	1,50,175	1,48,185	328	524	166	1,355	684	750	41	426	1,901
N. W.	3,42,860	3,16,751	522	1,453	1,408	7,720	2,362	1,230	2,765	1,467	7,844
R. & K.	37,220	35,429	..	..	..	..	341	383	..	306	1,080
S. I.	1,46,107	98,012	11	178	52	641	1,512	1,212	..	854	3,548

AMOUNT FORFEITED UNDER SECTIONS 93 AND 102 OF THE INDIAN RAILWAYS ACT.

1255. ***Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali** : Will the Honourable Member of the Government for Commerce and Railways please state the amount forfeited to the Government during the preceding two years (yearly and administrationwise) under sections 93 and 102 of the Indian Railways Act, respectively ? If none, why not ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : Government are not aware of any case in which it has been necessary to take action under either of the two sections referred to.

OFFICER NEXT IN AUTHORITY TO A DIVISIONAL SUPERINTENDENT ON STATE RAILWAYS.

1256. ***Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali** : With reference to the reply given on the 31st August, 1936, to starred question No. 1709, asked in this House on the 17th April, 1936, will the Honourable Member of the Government please state :

- (a) whether the Divisional Superintendent is a Head of the Department ;
- (b) whether the Heads of Departments were abolished on introduction of the Divisional System ;
- (c) why the practice on the North Western system is not followed by other State Railways ; and
- (d) why a uniform system is not adopted on all State Railways ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : (a) and (b). No. (c) and (d). Because it is not considered necessary.

SENIORITY OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMERCIAL STAFF ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1257. ***Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali** : Will Government please state what is meant by " Grade " or " Class " as used in the reply given on the 31st August, 1936 to starred question No. 1802. asked in this House on the 20th April, 1936, and whether " Grade or Class " is one or distinct from each and other, if so, how ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : I would refer the Honourable Member to Rule 2 (ii) and (iii) of the Rules for the recruitment and training of subordinate staff on State-managed Railways, a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

VIEWS ON THE COVENANT OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

1258. ***Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar** : (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to a message in the *Hindustan Times* of the 13th September, 1936, on page 3, entitled " Future of League Covenant " ?

(b) Are Government aware that the British Foreign Secretary, Mr. Eden, informed the Secretary General of the League that he would

make a statement to the Assembly regarding the views of the British Government on League Covenant ?

(c) Have Government informed the British Government of their views on the League Covenant ? If not, why not ?

(d) What, if any, are the views of Government on the League Covenant, and what arrangements have they made to place those views before the League Assembly ?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : (a) I have seen the message.

(b) Yes.

(c) and (d). Government feel that this is a matter on which they cannot usefully attempt to make constructive suggestions. An intimation to this effect has been conveyed to His Majesty's Government.

INSTALLATION OF A TIME PUNCHING MACHINE IN THE RAILWAY BOARD OFFICE.

1259. ***Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya** (on behalf of Sardar Sant Singh) : (a) Are Government aware of the fact that a time punching machine has been installed in the Railway Board Office ?

(b) Do Government propose to instal similar machines for other Secretariat offices ?

(c) Are the other railway offices provided with similar machines ?

(d) If the reply to part (c) be in the negative, will Government please state the reasons which led to the installation of the machine referred to ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). Government have no information on these points.

(d) Does not arise.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Is this punching machine different from the Hayman Mahindra punch ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : It has nothing to do with that.

RATES OF COMMISSION CHARGED BY THE IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA AND ADVANCES MADE BY IT.

1260. ***Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena :** (a) Is it a fact that the following rates of commission are generally charged by the Imperial Bank of India from favoured constituents :

(i) Discounting or collection of Bills—Two annas per cent. minimum four annas ;

(ii) Selling of Drafts on branches—for sums of Rs. 5,000 or over -|1|6 per cent. or even -|1|- per cent. ?

(b) Is it a fact that the following rates of commission are generally charged by the Imperial Bank of India from Indian joint stock banks on similar business :

(i) Discounting or collection of Bills—|3|- per cent. minimum -|4|- ;

(ii) Selling of drafts on Branches.—for sums of Rs. 5,000 or over -2½- per cent. ?

(c) Is it a fact that Imperial Bank of India advances money against sugar and grain stocks to *Arhatias* and *Bazar* parties ?

(d) Is it a fact that Imperial Bank of India refuses to advance money against security of gold, sugar or grain stocks to smaller joint stock banks ?

(e) Are Government aware that Imperial Bank of India competes with Indian joint stock banks by offering advances at low rates of interest against sugar and commodity stocks at five per cent. on sums of Rs. 10,000 or less ?

(f) Are Government aware that the policy adopted by the Imperial Bank of India is not calculated to foster Indian joint stock banking, but is on the other hand unsympathetic and competitive ? If so, do Government approve of it ?

(g) Is it a fact that Imperial Bank of India would not allow an Indian joint stock bank to use its own draft forms when making drawings on the former bank, while some of the exchange banks are allowed this facility ?

(h) If not, which purely Indian joint stock bank is allowed to use its own draft forms when making drawings on a branch of the Imperial Bank of India ?

(i) Is it a fact that discounting of *hundies* to ordinary bazar parties is allowed by Imperial Bank of India ?

(j) Is it a fact that re-discounting of *hundies* to smaller joint stock banks is refused, notwithstanding their large assets ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : (a) to (j). Government have no information. The matters referred to in the question are within the discretion of the Imperial Bank and Government have no power to interfere unless there is reason to believe that the provisions of the Imperial Bank of India Act are being contravened.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : In view of the fact that the Imperial Bank of India is established by an Act of this Legislature, is it not the duty of the Government to look into the matter ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I do not think the Honourable Member could have listened to what I have said. I said, "The matters referred to in the question are within the discretion of the Imperial Bank and Government have no power to interfere unless there is reason to believe that the provisions of the Imperial Bank of India Act are being contravened".

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena : Do the Government see to it that the provisions of the Imperial Bank Act are not contravened ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : The question is, on whose initiative. Obviously enough the Government do not go about touting around, looking for complaints. Complaints will come quickly enough if the provisions are being contravened.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena : One method was adopted by me of supplying information which came to my knowledge. There the Imperial Bank of India was observing this differential treatment.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I said that those were not matters in respect of which Government were entitled to intervene and therefore I have not made any enquiry to find out whether the facts are as stated or not.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Are the Government aware that the rates of discounting are different in different places ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I have not the slightest doubt that the rates of discount vary with the credit of the borrower and with the quality of the paper which they are called upon to discount, and that seems to me to be ordinary banking prudence.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : How do the Government satisfy themselves that the Imperial Bank of India does not contravene the Government of India Act in regard to that ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : That is a question which I have answered just now.

RE-EMPLOYMENT OF THE TEMPORARY RETRENCHED CLERKS OF THE
INCOME-TAX DEPARTMENT.

1261. ***Mr Mohan Lal Saksena :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state what action, if any, has been taken by the Income-tax Department to provide the temporary clerks who have been retrenched after four or five years' service ?

(b) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the letters published in the *Leader* of the 5th and 17th June, respectively ? If so, will Government state what action, if any, has been taken on the lines suggested therein to help the retrenched hands ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : (a) Commissioners of Income-tax were directed to re-employ in future vacancies in the Income-tax Department the retrenched men as far as possible looking to their qualifications and work done while serving temporarily. They were also ordered to help them in obtaining employment in other Government Departments. The ordinary age limit of twenty-five years for admission to Government service was also ordered to be relaxed in favour of these men to the extent of the temporary service rendered in the Department and the Commissioners were also asked to make a similar request for relaxation to Heads of other Departments in which the retrenched men might try to obtain employment.

(b) Yes. The action taken is as stated in reply to part (a).

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena : May I know how many of these retrenched men have been provided ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : The Honourable Member had better put that down.

RE-EMPLOYMENT OF THE TEMPORARY RETRENCHED CLERKS OF THE
INCOME-TAX DEPARTMENT.

1262. ***Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena :** (a) Are Government aware that the United Provinces Government had circularised the Commissioners, the District Magistrates and other subordinate officials that, while filling

the vacancies occurring under them, preference should be given to the reduced hands of the Settlement Department ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to take similar action in case of the retrenched hands of the Income-tax Department ?

(c) Will Government state the procedure, if any, prescribed by the Income-tax Department for appointing and approving the so-called retrenched outsiders ?

(d) Have those candidates who had put in a total service of three years in the Income-tax Department been exempted from the age limit for Government service ? If not, do Government propose to consider the advisability of allowing the same concession as was allowed by the United Provinces Government in case of *ex*-Settlement employees ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : (a) The Government have no information.

(b) to (d). I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply to part (a) of his starred question No. 1261. The Government do not consider that any further action on their part is called for.

PENSION OF TELEGRAPH DELIVERY PEONS.

1263. ***Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena :** (a) Is it a fact that telegraph delivery peons were under the old rules entitled to a flat rate of compensation or invalid pension amounting to Rs. 6 a month after a service of 30 years ?

(b) Is it also a fact that under the new rules issued by the Government of India, Finance Department, No. F. 6 (48) R. 11/35, dated the 19th March, 1936, they will be allowed a maximum of Rs. 8 per mensem as pension after not less than 40 years' service ?

(c) If so, will Government be pleased to state what is the maximum length of service prescribed for qualifying for pension in other Departments of the Government ?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state the reasons for which 30 years' service has not been fixed for purposes of pension as has been done in the case of postmen ?

(e) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of reducing the period of qualified service from 40 years to 30 years in the case of telegraph peons and other inferior servants as well ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) No ; under the rules inferior servants to which class telegraph delivery peons belong were entitled to a pension equivalent to half pay subject to a maximum of Rs. 4 per month to which in recent years a temporary addition of Rs. 2 per month was made.

(b) The fact is not as stated by the Honourable Member as he will find by referring to rule 6 (1) (a) of the rules which he has mentioned and which will indicate the classes and amounts of pensions that may be earned for service not less than 25 years.

(c) The rules referred to by the Honourable Member apply equally to all members of the subordinate (inferior) services in all Departments under the Government of India.

(d) The reason for distinction is that postmen belong to the subordinate (superior) service while telegraph delivery peons belong to the subordinate (inferior) service.

(e) No.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena : Is it not a fact that the age limit has been fixed for these men at 60 years, whereas there was no age limit prescribed for them till now ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : I understand that the age limit has now been fixed at 60 years whereas there was formerly no limit.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena : May I know what is the reason for prescribing the age limit of 60 years whereas there was no age limit prescribed till now and also why the period of service that will entitle them to pension is fixed at 40 years ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : The period of service has always been 40 years. In any case these orders apply generally to all subordinate services under the Government of India and they have naturally been applied to my department. If the Honourable Member wants any further information as to why these particular rules to which he refers have been formulated I would suggest that he might put down a question on the subject.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena : Is it not a fact that under these new rules even subordinate employees drawing pay from Rs. 30 to 40 a month will get pension only at Rs. 8 a month after 40 years' service ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : I must ask for notice of that question. I have had no occasion to study the rules in detail in reply to this question.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena : Has the Honourable Member received any representation from the Association of the Subordinate Employees, Bombay ?

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

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Why is it that these lowest paid employees are made to work for 40 years before they are entitled to get their pension, whereas the higher paid employees have to work for only 30 years.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : This is not the time for argument ; this is the time for obtaining information.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : There must be some consideration in the mind of the Government.....

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Order, order. Next question.

TANNING INDUSTRY IN INDIA AND DUTY FREE IMPORT OF WATTLE BARK EXTRACT.

1264. ***Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar :** (a) Are Government aware that the tanning industry in India has suffered from the consequences of the abolition of export duty on raw hides and skins ?

(b) Is it a fact that the use of wattle extract in tanning has become more and more popular in the process of tanning in India and that it lowers the cost of production ?

(c) Have Government received a communication from the South Indian Chamber of Commerce requesting them to extend the advantage of duty free import to wattle bark extract, as is allowed in the case of wattle bark ?

(d) What steps do Government propose to take to give effect to the request contained in the representation referred to in part (c) above ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : (a) No, since there have been steady increases year by year in the exports of tanned hides and skins subsequent to the abolition of the export duties on raw hides and skins.

(b) and (d). I would refer the Honourable Member to the answer given by me on the 3rd September, 1936, to parts (b) to (d) of Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar's question No. 108.

(c) Yes.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Is it not a fact that part (b) practically contradicts (a) and (c). What has the diminution of the cost of production to do with the raw material ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : That is a question to be put to the questioner.

GRIEVANCES OF INDIANS IN KENYA.

1265.***Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar :** (a) Is it a fact that the Marketing Bill, which has become the law of the land in Kenya Colony, excludes Indians from acquiring agricultural land in the Highlands in Kenya, while even Nazi Germans and Fascist Italians can own such lands in the Colony ?

(b) Is it a fact that it is open to Indians in Kenya to follow commercial, industrial and all lawful pursuits other than agriculture in any part of the Colony, including the Highlands ?

(c) Is it a fact that attempts are however being made to create all sorts of difficulties in the way of British Indians in acquiring land for industrial purposes in places like Rongai, Limuru and Koru ?

(d) Is it a fact that exclusive markets are being opened to Native Reserves from which Indians, as non-natives would be excluded ?

(e) Are Government aware that various measures in the name of nationalisation of industries are being introduced, which would lead to the transfer of all trading activities into the hands of a few companies to the exclusion of the Indian trading community ?

(f) Are Government aware that various 'pools', such as the wheat pool, maize pool and butter pool, are being created which are mere ramifications of the same scheme ?

(g) Is it a fact that Indians are particularly excluded from trading in coffee, sisal, wheat, which are exclusively grown by Europeans ?

(h) Do Government propose to take steps to redress all the above grievances of the Indians in the Colony ?

Mr. M. W. Yeatts : (a) No.

(b) Yes.

(c) and (d). No instances have been brought to the notice of Government.

(e) Certain measures recently adopted or proposed by the Government of Kenya have been objected to by the local Indian community as being detrimental to their interests.

(f) Under the Sale of Wheat Ordinance, 1930, wheat produced in the Colony can only be sold to agencies appointed by the Government of Kenya. Proposals for the control of the sale of maize and dairy products have been recently under consideration, but no action has so far been taken.

(g) No.

(h) Government have been making, and will continue to make, necessary representations to safeguard the legitimate interests of the Indian community in Kenya.

INSTALLATION OF TIME PUNCHING MACHINES IN THE RAILWAY BOARD OFFICE.

1266. *Pandit Nilakantha Das : (a) Is it a fact that in the Railway Department of the Government of India, two machines have been imported by the Railway Department for the noting of the time of arrival and of departure of each of the Secretariat staff, including Superintendents, Assistant Superintendents, and clerks, working in the Railway Department ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether such machines are only used in the workshops and printing presses for noting down the time of arrival and departure of wage earners and day labourers, who have got to be paid over time allowance ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state whether these machines are even used for officers working in railway workshops and Government printing presses ?

(d) Will Government please state whether the Railway Department Secretariat staff are recruited like other Secretariat staff from the educated class of people of India, and are given more or less the same scales of pay as are paid to the staff in other Secretariat offices ?

(e) If so, will Government please state the reasons why the Railway Department staff is being treated like workshop labourers ?

(f) Will Government please state whether such machines are used in Secretariats, either in India or in England ? If not, what is the reason for this innovation in the Railway Department alone ?

(g) Will Government be pleased to state whether the Railway Department Secretariat staff will be paid any over-time allowance if they put in more hours of work than their usual hours of office from 10-30 A.M. to 4-30 P.M. ?

(h) Will Government please state from which country are these machines imported and by which firm are they manufactured ?

(i) Is it a fact that these machines are from a British factory ?

(j) Are these machines being imported and tried in the Railway Department as an experimental measure so that more machines might be purchased and used in other Secretariats as well to give the British company a good market in India ?

(k) Is it also a fact that a high official of the Railway Board is interested in the sale of these machines ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : (a) Two Blick Stafsine machines have been installed in the office of the Railway Board for the purpose of checking the times of arrival and departure of the staff. The officers of the Railway Board record on the machines the times of their arrival and departure.

(b) and (c). Government have no information on these points.

(d) The Railway Board recruits its staff from two sources, viz., from railways and through the Home Department. Both sources draw the recruits from the educated classes of India. Since 1924 all staff recruited for the office of the Railway Board have been given pay on scales which are lower than those given in most Secretariats of the Government of India.

(e) The staff of the Railway Board's office are not treated like workshop labourers.

(f) Government do not know what Secretariats in England and India use the machines. I have already explained the purpose of these machines in my reply to part (a) of this question.

(g) Allowances for overtime are inadmissible.

(h) and (i). The machines were purchased through the Indian Stores Department. They are manufactured in England.

(j) and (k). No.

RECRUITMENT OF A SIKH IN THE OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF VICEREGAL ESTATE.

1267. ***Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya** (on behalf of Sardar Sant Singh) : (a) Will Government please state the number of temporary and permanent appointments that fell vacant in the office of the Superintendent of Viceregal Estate in the clerical grades during 1934, 1935, and the current year, and the community by which they were filled up ?

(b) Are Government aware of the total absence of Sikh clerks in the office ?

(c) Are Government prepared to order the recruitment of a Sikh in any future vacancy in order to give this community its due share on the staff of this office also ? If not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) A statement giving the information is laid on the table. It will be seen that a Sikh was appointed in the current year.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement showing the number of permanent and temporary appointments that fell vacant in the office of the Superintendent, Viceregal Estates, in the clerical grades, during 1934, 1935 and 1936.

Year.	No. of vacancies.	How filled in.
PERMANENT.		
1934 ..	.. One	.. By promoting a senior member of the office. The resultant vacancy was not filled up till 1936.
1935 ..	.. Nil	.....
1936 ..	.. Five	.. As follows including the post lying vacant since 1934 :—
		Hindus Four.
		Muslim One.
		Sikh One.
TEMPORARY.		
1934 ..	.. Nil	.....
1935 ..	.. One	By a Hindu.
1936 ..	.. Nil	.....

REPLACEMENT OF UNQUALIFIED CLERKS BY QUALIFIED ONES IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA OFFICES.

1268. *Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya (on behalf of Sardar Sant Singh) : (a) With reference to my starred question No. 35, dated the 5th February, 1935, will Government please state their final decision in regard to replacement of unqualified clerks by qualified ones in the Government of India offices and its attached offices, and how far they have replaced the men in each Department ?

(b) Will Government please also state the reasons for which certain offices have not so far replaced those men who put in more than three months' service in each office ?

(c) Is it a fact that the Staff Selection Board and the Public Service Commission were constituted to select best available hands for employment in the Government of India Secretariat ?

(d) If the replies to the preceding parts be in the affirmative, are Government aware that in spite of the rules laid down by the Government of India in the Home Department, the Foreign and Political Department have got many men continuing in their service for years together, or more than three months ?

(e) Are Government aware that this Department is shortly to be divided into two separate Departments ?

(f) Are Government further aware that as a result of this separation, there have been many new appointments in each of the grades in both the Departments ?

(g) What are their views in respect of allowing such appointments of unqualified men ?

(h) Will Government please state the control and check that the Home Department or the Public Service Commission is having to see that their orders are followed strictly by all the Departments and no

unqualified man is allowed to continue in a temporary job for years together ? If none, why not ?

(i) Are Government prepared to put a stop to this practice ? If not, why not ?

(j) Are Government prepared not to exempt and allow any of the newly constituted office or old ones to recruit unqualified men in preference to those who secure high position in competitive examinations held by the Public Service Commission for such appointments ? If not, what are the justification and reason for allowing any exemption and also to hold examinations ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : Sir, with your permission, I propose to reply to questions Nos. 1268 and 1269 together. Such information as is available is being collected, and will be laid on the table in due course.

MEN QUALIFIED FOR FIRST AND SECOND DIVISIONS AWAITING APPOINTMENT IN GOVERNMENT OF INDIA OFFICES AND RECRUITMENTS MADE IN THE FOREIGN AND POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

†1269. ***Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya** (on behalf of Sardar Sant Singh) : (a) What is the total number of first and second division clerks employed in the Government of India Secretariat and its attached offices who have not yet got any substantive appointment ?

(b) What is the number of men qualified for these divisions who are still awaiting their appointment ?

(c) How many vacancies of the first and second division were filled up in the Foreign and Political Department since 2nd January last, and by whom, and to which province each one belongs ?

(d) Will Government also please place a similar kind of statement in respect of men recruited for the third division ?

(e) How many of all the newly appointed men are Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs in each division ?

(f) How many of such recruited persons are from the Military Accountant General or such similar offices which do not recruit their first and second division men through the Public Service Commission ?

(g) Are the Government of India offices authorised to recruit men from such subordinate or head offices which do not recruit their men through the agency of the Public Service Commission ? If not, did the Foreign and Political Department take special sanction of the Home Department for making such appointments ? If not, why not ?

(h) In which division was each of such appointed men working in his previous offices ?

(i) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state whether all the rules and conditions laid down by the Home Department for recruitment of new staff were strictly observed by the Foreign and Political Department ? If not, why not ? If all the rules were observed, will Government please state whether the required number of appointments in each division was reserved for both external and internal candidates and whether qualified men only were recruited ?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 1268.

DETERMINATION OF METHODS OF VOTING IN THE PROVINCES.

1270. *Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : (a) Is there any likelihood of the Provincial Legislative Assemblies that will come into existence next year being asked to elect members for the Federal Legislative Assembly ?

(b) Have Government taken necessary steps to ensure the secrecy and freedom of vote at the forthcoming elections to the Provincial Legislatures ?

(c) Have any rules been framed on this subject, or have any instructions been issued to the Provincial Governments ? Will Government be pleased to lay a copy thereof on the table ?

(d) Has the method of voting been finally determined for every province ? If so, will it be uniform throughout ? If not, what will be the method in the case of each province, and what are the reasons for such difference ?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : (a) Government are not in a position at this stage to make any statement.

(b) The matter is primarily the concern of the Provincial Governments and I have no doubt that they will take all necessary steps to ensure the secrecy and freedom of the vote.

(c) and (d). The method of voting is to be regulated by Governor's Rules. Such rules have hitherto been published by seven Local Governments and are expected to be issued by the remaining Provincial Governments in the near future. Since conditions vary from province to province it is not likely that the method of voting will be uniform throughout.

INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING POLLING STATIONS.

1271. *Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : Have Government issued any instructions to the Local Governments as regards the polling stations ? If so, will they place a copy thereof on the table ?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : The reply is in the negative.

ACQUISITION OF THE ROHILKUND AND KUMAON RAILWAY BY THE STATE.

1272. *Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : (a) Have Government arrived at any decision as regards the acquisition of the Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway by the State ? If not, when do they intend to give notice to the Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway ?

(b) What is the approximate amount payable to the company for such acquisition ?

(c) Has the Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway been paying dividends to the shareholders ? If so, at what rate ?

(d) Was such payment made during the last five years ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : (a) The question is still under consideration.

(b) Rs. 21½ crores approximately.

(c) and (d). The dividends (including bonus) declared by the Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway Company, during the last five years were as follows :

Year.				Dividend. Per cent.
1931	..	..		.. 15
1932	..	..		.. 15
1933		..		.. 15
1934	..	..	..	.. 16
1935	..	..	..	.. 16

I would point out, however, that the ordinary (profit sharing) capital of the Company is only £400,000, whereas the total capital outlay is about £1½ million, the balance being preference capital, debentures, etc.

RAISING OF RUPEE OR STERLING LOANS.

1273. *Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : What is the rate at which the Government of India have raised rupee or sterling loans recently ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : During the current year the Government of India only issued at 2½ per cent. 1948—52 Rupee loan at par. The details of the loans raised last year are given in the Financial Secretary's Memorandum circulated to the Honourable Members with the budget papers.

APPOINTMENTS MADE TO THE INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE.

1274. *Sardar Sant Singh : (a) Is it a fact that there were 203 Indian applicants for permanent commission in the Indian Medical Service and only seven were appointed out of the above number ?

(b) Is it a fact that of the rejected Indian candidates there were at least 15 who held very high British qualifications, such as F. R. C. S., and M. R. C. P. and M. D. (London), etc. ?

(c) Is it a fact that 13 European officers who have been recruited to the Indian Medical Service since 22nd October, 1934, hold inferior qualifications compared to the rejected Indian candidates referred to in part (b) above ?

(d) Is any importance attached by Government to superior professional qualifications in recruiting officers to the Indian Medical Service ? If not, why not ?

(e) If the answer to part (d) be in the affirmative, are Government prepared to consider the desirability of increasing the percentage of Indians in the Indian Medical Service, at least temporarily, till such time as Europeans with more suitable qualifications are available ?

(f) With reference to the Government communiqué of the 20th August, 1936, regarding the proportion of Indians and Europeans in the

Indian Medical Service, will Government please state the number of officers falling under the following classes :

- (i) Europeans,
- (ii) Anglo-Indians, and
- (iii) Indians ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : (a) Yes ; seven candidates have been recommended to the Secretary of State for appointment.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes, if by qualifications is meant only academic degrees and diplomas.

(d) Government do attach importance to academic qualifications but they are only one of the many factors that determine selection.

(e) The number of Indians in the Indian Medical Service is considerably in excess of the prescribed proportion, and Government are therefore unable to agree to the Honourable Member's suggestion ; nor are they prepared to accept the implication that the Europeans recruited at present are in any way less suitable than they ought to be.

(f) Government did not issue any Communiqué on the subject on the 20th August, 1936. The rest of the question therefore does not arise.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : May I know why when there were 203 Indians for permanent commission in the Indian Military Service only seven were provided for ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : Because there were only seven vacancies.

ALLEGED THROWING OUT FROM A MOVING TRAIN OF AN ORIYA BOY BY A TRAVELLING TICKET COLLECTOR OF THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY.

1275. ***Mr. B. Das :** (a) Is it a fact that one Muhammad Hassan, Travelling Ticket Collector, Bengal Nagpur Railway, threw out from the moving train an Oriya boy travelling without ticket on that Railway, as a result of which the boy succumbed ?

(b) Has the Agent, Bengal Nagpur Railway, brought to the notice of the Railway Board this incident, where a life was lost through the high-handedness of a railway official ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state what action the authorities of the Bengal Nagpur Railway have taken :

(i) to compensate the family of the dead lad ; and

(ii) to prevent similar rudeness from Ticket Collectors to the travelling public in future ?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state what departmental action was taken against this Travelling Ticket Collector by the Bengal Nagpur Railway, (i) just after the mishap took place, and (ii) after the judgment was delivered ?

(e) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table the report of the Bengal Nagpur Railway, and the findings of the Agent after he had information of the tragic death of this Oriya lad ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : With your permission, Sir, I propose to reply to question Nos. 1275 and 1276 together.

I am collecting information and will lay a reply on the table of the House in due course.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST CERTAIN EMPLOYEES OF THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY.

†1276. ***Mr. B. Das :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if the Bengal Nagpur Railway drew their attention to the rape committed by certain Bengal Nagpur Railway employees on a lady intending to travel from Madras southwards ?

(b) What departmental action was taken against these employees by the Bengal Nagpur Railway (i) after the incident occurred, and (ii) after the judgment of the Court was delivered against the culprits ?

(c) What departmental circular has the Bengal Nagpur Railway, issued to its railway employees after perusal of this judgment ?

(d) Will Government be pleased to place on the table the instruction letter of the Bengal Nagpur Railway ?

(e) Do Government agree with the action taken by the Bengal Nagpur Railway so far ?

FLOODS IN BIHAR.

1277. ***Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha :** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the statement issued by Babu Rajendra Prasad, which has appeared in the *Hindustan Times*, dated the 18th September, 1936, regarding Bihar floods, in which he has suggested that the Government of India should secure the services of the best engineering experts available to study the situation of the terrible recurring floods in the said province every year since it was visited by the earthquake in the year 1934 ?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, do Government propose to take any action ?

(c) Are Government aware that thousands of houses have collapsed in the District of Patna, Chapra and Gaya as a result of the incessant rains and consequent floods ? Do Government propose to place a decent amount at the disposal of the Provincial Government to give relief to the sufferers ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) 6,000 houses were destroyed in the Chapra District, but the Government of India have received no report from the Local Government about the destruction of houses in other districts. The Local Government have taken adequate steps to meet the situation and have not asked the Government of India for any financial assistance.

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 1275.

REPORT ON THE HEALTH OF MR. SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE.

1278 ***Pandit Nilakantha Das** : (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the news published in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of the 17th September, 1936 (page 7) on the medical examination of Mr. Subhash Chandra Bose by Dr. Nilratan Sarkar and Dr. Drummond of Darjeeling ?

(b) Are Government prepared to lay on the table the report submitted by the aforesaid doctors on Mr. Bose's health, as they had found on the examination ?

(c) Is it a fact that the doctors who examined Mr. Subhash Chandra Bose reported that he should be taken down to Calcutta for proper diagnosis ? If so, are Government going to take Mr. Bose down to Calcutta for examination ? If so, when ?

(d) Is it not a fact that Mr. Subhash Chandra Bose suffered from continued illness during the period of his compulsory confinement and that his diseases grow serious ?

(e) Is it not also a fact that Mr. Bose has been suffering from serious complaints during his present detention as State Prisoner for which he had to be sent to Europe ?

(f) Will Government be pleased to state if they are prepared to consider the advisability of setting Mr. Bose at liberty soon on the ground of health ? If not, will Government state what other steps they propose to take to cure him ?

(g) If cure of his illness is not possible under detention, do Government propose to release him unconditionally ? If not, do Government propose to give him the chance of standing open trial ?

(h) If not, do Government propose to give him freedom to choose his method of treatment and physicians to treat him ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : With your permission, Sir, I propose to answer questions Nos. 1278 and 1279 together.

I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the replies given by me to question No. 783 and to the supplementary questions thereon and to my answer to question No. 1173.

REPORT ON THE HEALTH OF MR. SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE.

†1279. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti** : Will Government be pleased to state :

(a) whether the doctors who recently examined Mr. Subhash Chandra Bose have submitted their report to the Government of India ;

(b) whether in the course of that report they have expressed their inability to arrive at any definite diagnosis about Mr. Subhash Chandra Bose's ailments in the absence of facilities for X-Ray examination and bacteriological tests, etc. ;

(c) whether both these physicians have suggested that Mr. Bose should be transferred to Calcutta, if a thorough examination is considered necessary ;

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 1278.

- (d) whether Mr. Bose has lost seven pounds in weight since his transfer to Kurseong, and whether he is running low temperature ; and
- (e) whether they propose to arrange for his transfer to Calcutta for a proper and thorough examination by those doctors, and if not, why not ?

REMOVAL OF BAN ON CERTAIN ASHRAMS IN BARDOLI AND SURAT.

1280. *Mr. S. Satyamurti : Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the following Ashrams in Bardoli and Surat in the Bombay Presidency have not yet been returned by Government to the owners thereof, and whether the ban on them still continues :
- (i) the Bardoli Swaraj Ashram, including Sardar Vallabhai Patel's residential quarters ;
 - (ii) the Sarbhon Ashram ;
 - (iii) the Madhi Ashram ; and
 - (iv) the Vedchhi Ashram, which was purely a Technical Institute in which a large number of boys and girls belonging to the forest tribes of the surrounding area were being trained for spinning, carding and weaving ;
- (b) whether these Ashrams were carrying on purely constructive activities of the Congress ;
- (c) whether there is any litigation about them pending, or whether there is any insinuation of anything for violence of any kind made by anybody against any of these Ashrams ;
- (d) whether the Swaraj Ashram in the City of Surat is still under Government ban ;
- (e) whether all these buildings are still in possession of Government ; and
- (f) whether they propose to take any action to remove the ban and to return these buildings to the owners thereof ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I would refer the Honourable Member to the answers given by me in the course of my replies to supplementary questions asked in connection with question No. 1520 on the 5th April, 1935, when I explained the position in regard to the question of releasing buildings, belonging to associations which have been declared unlawful. The matter is one which concerns the Local Government and I would suggest therefore that the Honourable Member should obtain the information he requires from the Government of Bombay.

**NON-OBSERVANCE OF RULES AND TERMS REGARDING SALE OF IRON SCRAP
AT MOGHALPURA ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.**

1281. *Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : (a) Is it a fact that the departmental rules and the terms specified in the auction notice were not observed as regards the sale of about 10,000 tons of iron scrap at Moghalpura on the North Western Railway on 9th August, 1935 ?

(b) Is it a fact that a substantial loss amounting to about Rs. 40,000 was consequently caused to the railway ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : I am collecting information and will lay a reply on the table of the House in due course.

**INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANISATIONS BANNED DURING THE CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE
MOVEMENT.**

1282. *Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : (a) Has the ban been withdrawn from all institutions and organisations to which it was applied in the course of the Civil Disobedience Movement ? If not, which of these are still subject to it ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a list of such institutions and organisations and to state why it is considered necessary to continue the ban in these cases ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (a) and (b). I would refer the Honourable Member to the statement laid by me on the table on the 23rd April, 1936, in reply to Mr. Satyamurti's question No. 1474. I have no later information.

PERSONS PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING BRITISH INDIA.

1283. *Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : (a) Will Government state if any persons are still prohibited from entering British India ? Will Government lay on the table a list of such persons ?

(b) Are there any subjects of Indian States who are debarred from entering British India ?

(c) Will Government lay on the table a list of such persons ?

(d) Was Srijut Manilal Kothari subject to such orders ? Is it a fact that he has now become insane ?

(e) Is it a fact that the externment orders have not been completely cancelled even in his case ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (a) to (e). I presume the Honourable Member is referring to persons externed from British India by the Bombay Government in connection with the Civil Disobedience Movement. I am obtaining the information and will lay a statement on the table in due course.

IMPROVEMENT IN THE BREEDING OF CATTLE AND MAINTENANCE OF PEDIGREE BULLS.

1284. *Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : (a) Do Government maintain any cattle breeding farm ? If so, since when ?

(b) How many pedigree bulls have been brought up in the Government Farms ? How far does their pedigree extend ?

(c) How many pedigree bulls have been issued from the Government Farms ? To whom have these bulls been issued and on what terms ?

(d) Are any records of pedigree bulls maintained in any Government Farm ? If so, where and since when ?

(e) Have any practical steps been taken by Government to improve the breeding of cattle ? If so, will Government be pleased to state them ?

Mr. M. W. Yeatts : (a) So far as the Government of India are concerned, work on cattle breeding was carried on until recently at the Imperial Cattle Breeding Farm, Karnal, and also to a small extent at the Imperial Dairy Institute, Bangalore, and the Imperial Agricultural Research Institute while at Pusa. Cattle breeding farms are maintained by the Local Governments.

(b), (c), (d) and (e). Two statements are laid on the table.

*Statement showing the steps taken by Government to improve the breeding of cattle,
Central Government.*

(i) His Excellency the Viceroy has addressed the Governors of all provinces offering any assistance which lies in his power to the development of Cattle breeding in India and inviting suggestions on a plan outlined by him to attract un-official support and interest in live-stock improvement.

(ii) It has been decided to establish all-India herd books for recognised dairy strains and arrangements are nearly complete for convening meetings of prominent breeders of each breed to draw up a schedule of breed points.

(iii) The Government of India are addressing Local Governments on the question of the possible organisation of animal husbandry work in India on more efficient and better co-ordinated lines.

Local Governments.

(i) Improvement of local breeds by selective breeding of local milk strains or by grading up with recognised milk breeds.

(ii) Issue of stud bulls from Government Farms.

(iii) Certain Provincial Governments have also given grants to breeders or others who maintain approved stud bulls for the improvement of cattle.

(iv) Provincial Veterinary Departments have given a great deal of special attention to the diseases of Dairy cattle and in addition assist in the improvement of cattle by systematic castration, preventive inoculations, etc.

(v) Registration of pedigrees, systematic encouragement of farmers to breed pedigree dairy type cattle, etc., are also done in certain parts of the Bombay Presidency and the Punjab.

Statement showing the number, etc. of pedigres bulls brought up and issued from the Imperial Cattle Breeding Farm, Karnal, Imperial Agricultural Research Institute and Imperial Dairy Institute, Bangalore.

Name of Institute.	No. of Pedigree Bulls brought up.	How far does the pedigree extend.	No. of Pedigree Bulls issued.	To whom issued and on what terms.	Whether records of pedigree bulls are maintained.	If so, since when.
1. Imperial Agricultural Research Institute (while at Pusa).	280	6th generation	251	Sold to Provinces, States of India, Burma, Ceylon, Andamans, Jamaica, and Malay States.	Yes	1904.
2. Imperial Cattle Breeding Farm, Karnal (now designated Agriculture Sub-Station to the Imperial Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi).	133	2nd generation	106	Sold to Provinces and private individuals.	Yes	1923. (when the Farm was taken over by Imperial Agricultural Research Institute, from the Military Department.
3. Imperial Dairy Institute, Bangalore.	177 (From 1933 to 1935).	Scindi breed 2nd generation and Gir breed is newly founded.	177 (From 1933 to 1935).	Sold to general public local Governments, private institutions, Pinjrapoles and Cattle-breeding Associations.	Yes	Do.

ADULTERATION IN MILK AND GHEE.

1285. ***Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant** : (a) Is it a fact that there is a general complaint about adulteration in the matter of milk and ghee ?

(b) Did the Agricultural Commission draw the attention of Government to this abuse ?

(c) What steps have Government taken to put an end to it ?

(d) Is there any All-India Act directed against such practices ?

Mr. M. W. Yeatts : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) The prevention of the adulteration of milk and ghee and other articles of food is primarily a matter for Local Governments. Government understand that Local Governments are taking action to prevent such adulteration.

(d) No.

DISPOSAL OF CAST IRON SCRAP ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

1286. ***Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena** : (a) Is it a fact that, in respect of cast iron scrap disposal on the North Western Railway, the auctioneers are required to advertise auction sales in leading newspapers and issue handbills, detailing conditions of sale, etc., at least four weeks and two weeks, respectively, before the date of an auction ?

(b) Is it true that a big auction for 10,000 tons of cast iron scrap was arranged by the Controller of Stores, North Western Railway on the 9th of August, 1935 ?

(c) Is it a fact that the auction notice with regard to the said sale was issued on the 4th or 5th of August, 1935, and that only four or five days were allowed between the date of issue of the auction notice and the actual sale ? If so, what is the reason for this divergence from the prescribed rules ?

(d) Are Government aware that the terms in the auction notice as to the discretion of the Controller of Stores selling quantities lying out at depots were misleading, *vide* clause (1) of the auction notice ?

(e) Is it a fact that purchasers in accordance with rules provided in the Stores Manual have to pay 0-10-0 per ton loading charges and that it was also provided in the auction notice (*vide* clause 11, auction notice) ?

(f) Is it a fact that according to the advertised conditions of such sale, the purchaser was entitled to get delivery either at places at which scrap was lying, *i.e.*, Sukarbasti, Raiwind, Sukhar and Karachi or at Mogulpura ?

(g) Is it a fact that the Controller of Stores after the auction drew up a private treaty with the purchaser and, contrary to all practice and rules, exempted the 0-10-0 per ton loading charges and facilitated delivery *en route* thereby occasioning a loss of about Rs. 4 per ton amounting to about Rs. 40,000 to the railway on the contract ?

(h) Is it a fact that according to Store Rules and also as provided in the auction notice (*vide* clause 7) the purchaser was to pay ground rent

if he did not remove the material before the expiry of the contract and further that the Controller had the option of cancelling the sale and forfeiting security ?

(i) Is it true that the contract regarding this sale was to expire on 31st August, 1936, and the purchaser has still to remove a large quantity of material and no ground rent was levied from him, or any other action taken ?

(j) Is it a fact that the North Western Railway sold by private treaty in early 1934 a lot of 2,000 tons of cast iron scrap as a compensation to a certain firm and that other firms had offered to buy at a much higher rate with nearly a difference of Rs. 12 to Rs. 13 per ton ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : I am collecting information and will lay a reply on the table of the House in due course.

DISPOSAL OF EXPORT SCRAP ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

1287. ***Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena :** (a) Is it a fact that the export scrap was disposed of at the North Western Railway Stores Depot by calling tenders in 1934 and the successful tenderer's contract was subsequently cancelled ? If so, why ? Was his rate Rs. 20 plus 0-10-0 loading charges ?

(b) Is it true that contrary to the previous practice and general rule, no fresh tenders were called and, out of the old tenderers, one was selected ?

(c) Is it a fact that according to the Store Rules and conditions of tender (*vide* clause 13) 0-10-0 per ton was to be charged as loading charges ?

(d) Is it true that in spite of the existence of this tender, a private treaty was drawn up exempting the purchaser from paying 0-10-0 per ton loading charges ?

(e) Is it a fact that the class of material—the subject of sale—was specifically mentioned in a schedule entered in the tender and despite this the Controller of Stores included and supplied additional items of considerably higher value for several of which the railway had obtained in the public auction Rs. 50, Rs. 60, Rs. 70 per ton ?

(f) Is it a fact that the purchaser has already removed about 15,000 tons ?

(g) Is it a fact that the North Western Railway has been already put to substantial loss amounting to nearly Rs. 85,000 besides the loss incurred owing to the purchaser having been given items of considerably higher value ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : I am collecting information and will lay a reply on the table of the House in due course.

ACTING ARRANGEMENT AS POSTMASTER GENERAL, PATNA.

1288. ***Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Aziz :** (a) Is it a fact that in the Posts and Telegraphs Department during short leave vacancies upto four months acting arrangements are made locally ?

(b) Is it a fact that in the acting arrangements as Postmaster General, Patna, for a period of four months, an officer was imported there

from the Punjab Postal Circle on the plea of seniority depriving the Muslim official in that Circle ?

(c) If the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, why were not the acting arrangements in the Punjab Postal Circle as of Postmaster General, Patna, filled by a senior Superintendent on the same principle as allowed in part (b) above ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) As a general rule, yes.

(b) Yes, a senior officer from another Circle was appointed.

(c) Does not arise.

RECRUITMENT OF MUSLIMS AS ENGINEERING SUPERVISOR, TELEGRAPHS.

1289. ***Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim :** (a) Will Government please state the number of outside candidates, declared successful in the last examination held for the direct recruitment of Engineering Supervisor, Telegraphs, after the issue of the Government of India Home Department Resolution of 4th July, 1934 providing communal representation in services ?

(b) How many Muslims were appointed on merit and how many by reservation as Engineering Supervisor, Telegraphs, after this examination ?

(c) Is it a fact that Muslims were given no reservation and, if so, why were Government orders disregarded ?

(d) What action have Government taken, or propose to take, in order to remedy the loss done to the Muslim community and for the disregard of clear instructions regarding the reservation of Muslim representation ?

(e) Do Government propose to have this examination which is an All India Service, conducted by the Public Service Commission henceforward ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) Twenty two.

(b) None on merit, one by reservation.

(c) The answer to part (b) establishes that the fact is not as stated; Government's orders were not disregarded.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No. The Engineering Supervisor's service is not an All-India Service under the Public Service Commission (Functions) Rules, 1926.

MUSLIMS RECRUITED AS TELEPHONE OPERATORS IN THE LAHORE ENGINEERING DIVISION.

1290. ***Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim :** (a) Will Government please state the number of telephone operators recruited in the Lahore Engineering Division on and after the 13th June, 1935 ?

(b) How many of these vacancies were given to Muslims by reservation ?

(c) If Government orders regarding reservation were not observed, what action do Government propose to take against the recruiting officer concerned, and how do they propose to recoup the loss sustained by the Muslim community at the hands of this recruiting officer ? If not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) 45 in permanent, 12 in temporary and four in officiating vacancies.

(b) 21 in permanent posts, six in temporary and two in officiating vacancies.

(c) The Muslim community have received nearly the full percentage fixed for them in the Punjab in permanent vacancies and the full percentage in temporary and officiating vacancies. The deficiency in the permanent posts will be made up by future recruitment.

NON-OBSERVANCE OF ORDERS REGARDING MODEL ROTATION BY THE SUPERINTENDENT OF POST OFFICES, ROHTAK.

1291. ***Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim :** (a) Is it a fact that orders of the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs, regarding model rotation have not been complied with by the Superintendent, Rohtak Postal Division, while making appointments in the clerical line ?

(b) If the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what action do Government propose to take against this officer for non-observance of orders ? If none, why not ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : With your permission, Sir, I will reply to questions Nos. 1291 and 1292 together.

Government have no information. The matter is within the competence of the Postmaster-General, Punjab and North-West Frontier Circle, to whom a copy of these questions and this answer is being sent for such action as he may consider suitable.

NON-OBSERVANCE OF ORDERS REGARDING RESERVATION IN THE DELHI ENGINEERING DIVISION FOR THE CADRE OF TELEPHONE OPERATORS AND MISTRIES.

†1292. ***Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim :** (a) Is it a fact that Government orders regarding reservation have not been carried out in the Delhi Engineering Division for the cadre of telephone operators and telephone mistry in connection with the appointments made after 13th June, 1935 ?

(b) If the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, do Government propose to investigate the matter and take action against the recruiting officer concerned ? If not, why not ?

POSTAL CLERKS IN THE PUNJAB AND NORTH-WEST FRONTIER POSTAL CIRCLE REQUIRED TO PASS A TEST IN GURMUKHI.

1293. ***Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim :** (a) Is it a fact that in the Punjab and North-West Frontier Postal Circle, postal clerks, including Muslims, are required to pass a test in Gurmukhi, which is not the court language in the Punjab and North-West Frontier Circle ?

(b) Is it a fact that Urdu is the Court language in the said Provinces, but non-Muslim officials are not required to pass a test in Urdu ?

(c) If the reply to part (b) above be in the affirmative, will Government please state the reasons for a disparity in the procedure, and what action do Government propose to take in the matter to set matters right ?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 1291.

(d) Is it a fact that examination in Gurmukhi is conducted by officers who themselves are not supposed to be conversant with Gurmukhi ?

(e) Is it a fact that officials below the rank of Divisional Superintendents and gazetted Postmasters (including Europeans) prepare papers and conduct examination in Gurmukhi ?

(f) Is it a fact that examination in Gurmukhi is not conducted by a Board of gazetted officers ?

(g) Is it a fact that papers are examined by Sikh officers and Muslims who failed were turned out of the department ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) As regards the first part of the question, a test in Urdu was not considered necessary as hitherto most of the candidates have possessed a knowledge of it, but as this was not so in the case of Gurmukhi, a test in the latter language only was held. The syllabus has however been revised to provide the transliteration of Gurmukhi into Urdu, thereby to test a candidate's knowledge of Urdu also.

(d) No, unless by ' officers who conduct the examination ' the Honourable Member means invigilators and not examiners.

(e) and (f). Yes.

(g) As regards the first part of the question, the papers are examined generally by Sikh officers. As regards the last part, Government have no information.

RESERVATION OF A PERCENTAGE FOR THE MUSLIMS AND OTHER MINORITIES IN THE PUNJAB POSTAL CIRCLE.

1294. ***Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim :** (a) Is it a fact that Government with a view to adjust the communal inequalities in the various branches of the service have issued instructions reserving 50 and 12½ per cent. for the Muslim and other minorities in the Punjab Postal Circle, leaving 37½ per cent. to be filled by competitive examinations open to all the communities ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs, during his recent visit to Sringar (Kashmir) put a different interpretation on the said Resolution and ordered that 37½ per cent. of the unreserved posts should go exclusively to the Hindus and non-Hindus were not eligible to compete ?

(c) If the reply to part (b) above be in the affirmative, will Government please state what action they propose to take to ensure faithful compliance with their instructions on the recruitment question and against the interpretation of the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) The fact is not exactly as stated by the Honourable Member. All vacancies open to direct recruitment are to be filled in order of merit ascertained by competitive examinations open to all communities, subject to the reservation of 50 per cent. of the vacancies for Muslims and 12½ per cent. of the vacancies for other minorities in the Punjab and North-West Frontier Circle. When a member of a minority community obtains an unreserved vacancy, a corresponding reduction is made in the number of vacancies reserved for that

community. It is, however, open to minority communities to obtain on their merits more than their reserved quota.

(b) The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, official orders giving a correct interpretation were issued by the Director-General soon after reaching his headquarters.

(c) Does not arise.

PREPONDERANCE OF HINDUS IN POSTAL CIRCLES AND THE POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DIRECTORATE.

1295. *Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim : Is it a fact that Hindus far out-number the members of all other communities taken together in all postal circles and the directorate in all administrative branches ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : The Honourable Member is referred to Appendix XVII to the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department Annual Report for the year 1934-35 which gives the number of employees in the administrative branches by communities.

EMBEZZLEMENT CASES IN THE LAHORE ENGINEERING DIVISION AND THE AMRITSAR TELEGRAPH EXCHANGE OFFICE.

1296. *Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim (a) With reference to starred question No. 1295, asked on the 17th March, 1936, is it a fact that there have been several embezzlement cases in the Lahore Engineering Division under the present Divisional Engineer, Telegraphs, and that the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs, had warned that officer for slack supervision ?

(b) If the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, is it a fact that more embezzlement cases have been detected in the Amritsar Telephone Exchange Office after a warning was administered to the Divisional Engineer, Telegraph ?

(c) If the reply to the preceding parts be in the affirmative, what action have Government taken or propose to take in these cases ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. With regard to the second part, the officer was warned by Government and not by the Director-General.

(b) Yes.

(c) The matter is under inquiry and suitable action will be taken in due course by the Head of the Circle who is fully competent to deal with it.

SAFEGUARDING OF THE INTERESTS OF MUSLIMS IN THE POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT IN OBSERVANCE OF NEW RULES FOR RECRUITMENT.

1297. *Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim : (a) Is it a fact that in the Posts and Telegraphs Department Fundamental Rule 56 (b) is being rigidly followed by the present Director General, Posts and Telegraphs ?

(b) If the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, is it a fact that in the Punjab Postal Circle this rule has benefited the non-Muslim staff who are the oldest on the list and proved most detrimental to Muslim interest for promotions and recruitments ?

(c) If the reply to part (b) above be in the affirmative, do Government propose to safeguard the interests of the Muslims in the Posts and Telegraphs Department for the observance of their new rules for recruitment ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) Yes.

(b) Government have no information, but I may explain that under the rule referred to by the Honourable Member it is permissible to retain in service non-ministerial servants who continue efficient after attaining the age of 55 years, without regard to communal considerations or considerations of promotion and recruitment.

(c) Government consider that the legitimate interests of the Muslim community are adequately safeguarded by the new rules applicable to direct recruitment.

REPORT ON THE HEALTH OF MR. SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE.

1298. ***Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya :** (a) Is it a fact that Mr. Subhash Chandra Bose had been examined recently by Dr. Nilratan Sarkar and Dr. Drummond at Gidda Pahar in Kurseong ?

(b) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the news published in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of the 17th September, 1936 (page 7) regarding the condition of health of Mr. Bose, as examined by the aforesaid doctors ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to lay the report submitted by the aforesaid doctors on the table, or make a statement on the report on the floor of the House ?

(d) Have Government accepted the reports of the two doctors and if so, do Government propose to send Mr. Subhash Chandra Bose to Calcutta for diagnosis of his disease ? If so, when ?

(e) Do Government propose to take into consideration the fact that Mr. Subhash Chandra Bose has been keeping bad health during the whole period of his detention and, in spite of his treatment by eminent doctors in Europe, he is still suffering ?

(f) Do Government propose to take into consideration the fact that on the previous occasion Mr. Subhash Chandra Bose had to be released on the grounds of his serious illness and that he has been showing symptoms of illness at the present time again, which two eminent doctors could not diagnose ?

(g) Do Government propose to allow Mr. Subhash Chandra Bose to get treatment according to his choice and by physicians of his own choice and in a place where such treatment would be easily available ?

(h) Do Government propose to consider, if they think it desirable, the question of setting Mr. Bose at liberty on the grounds of ill-health, as he was set free on a previous occasion ?

(i) If not, will Government be pleased to state on what grounds he is compelled to suffer from serious illness without proper treatment ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I would refer the Honourable Member to the replies given to question No. 783 and the supplementary questions thereon and to my reply to question No. 1173.

PROVISION OF REST ROOMS FOR INDIAN GUARDS AT CERTAIN RAILWAY STATIONS.

1299. ***Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena** : (a) Is it a fact that, notwithstanding repeated representations, rest rooms have not been provided for Indian guards at Lucknow Junction, Mailani, Bareilly City, Kasganj Junction and Moradabad stations ?

(b) Is it also a fact that rest rooms are not provided at any station for the relieving staff ?

(c) If the answer to parts (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, do Government propose to take necessary steps to see that they are provided at an early date ?

Mr. P. E. Rau : Information is being collected and the reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

DIVIDEND DECLARED BY THE ROHILKUND AND KUMAON RAILWAY AND STOPPAGE OF PROMOTIONS IN THE TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT.

1300. ***Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena** : Is it a fact that the Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway has declared 16 per cent. dividend for the last year, and that all promotions have been stopped in the Traffic Department ?

Mr. P. E. Rau : The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the last part, Government have no information. The staff of the Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway are not Government servants and the matter is one which is within the competence of the Agent.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena : Did Government make any inquiries to find out whether the facts are as given in this question ?

Mr. P. E. Rau : As regards the staff, No.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena : Why not ?

Mr. P. E. Rau : It is not any concern of theirs.

SUPPLY OF SUITS TO THE GUARDS ON THE ROHILKUND AND KUMAON RAILWAY.

1301. ***Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena** : Is it a fact that guards on the Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway get only two suits per year, while guards on other railways get about six suits ? If so, are Government prepared to draw the attention of the Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway authorities to this ?

Mr. P. E. Rau : Government have no information.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Will Government call for information ?

Mr. P. E. Rau : No, Sir. Government have got nothing to do with it.

ABSENCE OF AN EMPLOYEES' WELFARE COMMITTEE ON THE ROHILKUND AND KUMAON RAILWAY.

1302. ***Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena** : Is it a fact that there is no employees' Welfare Committee on the Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway ? If so, why ?

Mr. P. B. Rau : Government have no information.

EMPLOYEES IN THE TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT OF THE ROHILKUND AND KUMAON RAILWAY DISCHARGED ON GROUNDS OF PROTRACTED ILLNESS.

1303. ***Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena** : Will Government be pleased to state the number of employees in the Traffic Department (Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway), discharged on grounds of protracted illness during the last two years, and how many of them were granted compensation, if any ?

Mr. P. B. Rau : Government have no information.

CIRCULAR NO. 11 OF 1932 OF THE AGENT, ROHILKUND AND KUMAON RAILWAY.

1304. ***Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena** : (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of Agent, Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway's Circular No. 11 of 1932 ?

(b) Will Government satisfy themselves and state whether the provisions of the circular are strictly complied with ?

Mr. P. B. Rau : Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THE STAFF OF THE ROHILKUND AND KUMAON RAILWAY.

1305. ***Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena** : (a) Is it a fact that the staff on the Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway is comparatively lower paid than that of other railways ?

(b) Is it a fact that illegal practices are comparatively more prevalent on this railway ?

(c) Is it a fact that a large number of complaints have been made by merchants regarding illegal gratification demanded by Station Masters and Goods Clerks for the supply of empty wagons ?

Mr. P. B. Rau : With your permission, Sir, I propose to reply to question Nos. 1305, 1306 and 1307 together. Government have no information.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena : Does not the Geneva Convention apply to this Railway ?

Mr. P. B. Rau : It does not apply.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena : Do not the Government consider it inconsistent with the safety of passengers that guards should be asked to work 24 hours at a stretch ?

Mr. P. B. Rau : Government have made no inquiries but they have no reason to believe that the facts are as stated in the question. It is impossible for anybody to work for 24 hours at a stretch.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena : Will the Government make inquiries ?

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Are the Government certain ?

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : May I know why the Geneva Convention was not extended to this Railway ?

Mr. P. B. Rau : The Geneva Convention has been extended only to certain railways in India, not to all. The financial condition of Indian Railways would make it impossible to extend it to all.

Mr. V. V. Giri : Have not Government ratified the Geneva Convention ? Then why don't they extend it to all railways.

Mr. P. B. Rau : As my Honourable friend is aware, the amendment of the Indian Railways Act that was passed by this House left it to Government to decide the time and the railways to which it should be applied.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Do Government review the position and try to extend it to other railways ?

Mr. P. B. Rau : Government are reviewing the position every year.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra : Can the Honourable Member assure us that the guards are not made to work for 24 hours ?

Mr. P. B. Rau : Government have made no inquiries but it seems quite impossible for anybody to work for 24 hours at a stretch....

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra : Is it the Honourable Member's *a priori* conclusion or is it based on facts ?

Mr. P. B. Rau : It seems quite impossible. I am quite prepared to send this question to the Agent of the R. and K. Railway.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : Have Government informed the International Labour Office that the Geneva Convention has not been extended to some of the railways in this country ?

Mr. P. B. Rau : Yes, Sir.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : What were the reasons for exempting these railways from that Convention ?

Mr. P. B. Rau : I have just answered that question. The reason was that the depression and the consequent effects on the earnings of Indian Railways made it impossible for Government to contemplate the increase of expenditure which would be the result of applying this Convention to all railways.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : Is it not a fact that the R. and K. Railway is deriving the highest amount of profits of all railways in this country ?

Mr. P. B. Rau : Not the highest, but it derives a certain amount of profit. Government have, however, to consider the financial position of all the railways as a whole.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : How does the financial position of all the railways affect the application of the Geneva Convention to the R. and K. Railway ?

Mr. P. B. Rau : The application of the Geneva Convention to all the railways must involve a certain increase of expenditure.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : Is it not a fact that while the State Railways are working at a loss, the R. and K. Railway has been paying a dividend of not less than 12½ per cent. per annum to its shareholders and stock-holders ?

Mr. P. E. Rau : I must submit that that does not arise out of this question but the question of applying this Convention to the R. and K. and other Railways is under the consideration of the Government.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : When will Government be able to arrive at a decision ?

Mr. P. E. Rau : After the stage of consideration has been passed.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : When will the stage of consideration be finished ?

Mr. P. E. Rau : When a decision has been reached. (Laughter.)

NIGHT DUTY OF ASSISTANT STATION MASTERS ON THE ROHILKUND AND KUMAON RAILWAY.

†1306. ***Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena** : Is it a fact that there are a number of Assistant Station Masters on this railway who have been on night duty for 15 and 20 years ?

DUTY HOURS OF GUARDS ON THE ROHILKUND AND KUMAON RAILWAY.

†1307. ***Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena** : Is it a fact that from October to May guards are often required to work at a stretch for 24 hours ? If so, do Government propose to see that this is discontinued in the interests of public safety ?

INSPECTION OF THE ROHILKUND AND KUMAON RAILWAY BY THE RAILWAY MEMBER.

1308. ***Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena** : Has the Honourable Member in charge Railways, inspected the Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway ? If so, when ? If not, when was it last inspected by his predecessor ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : It is not part of the duties of the Member in charge of Railways to inspect individual Railways.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : Has not the Honourable Member in charge voluntarily undertaken to inspect the railways, in the course of one of his speeches in this House ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : Not to inspect the railways.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : But he did say that whenever he would have occasion, he would look into the conditions affecting passengers travelling on these railways ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : That does not mean inspections of railways.

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 1305.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : Did the Honourable Member look into the condition of passengers on the R. and K. Railway at any time ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : If the question is whether I have travelled over the R. and K. Railway, I have had no occasion to do so.

NON-PROVISION OF QUARTERS AT AISHBAGH JUNCTION, BAREILLY AND MAILANI FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE TRAFFIC AND LOCO. DEPARTMENT.

1309. ***Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena :** (a) Is it a fact that there are no quarters provided at Aishbagh Junction, Bareilly and Mailani for the members of the Traffic and Loco. Departments ? If so, where are they expected to reside ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Traffic Superintendent recently in reply to the memorial by Traffic staff at Mailani said that they were very fortunate in what they had as there were thousands of unemployed who did not have even that ?

(c) Are Government aware that even where the quarters are provided, the accommodation is wholly inadequate ?

Mr. P. E. Rau : (a) to (c). I am making enquiries from the Railway Administration and will place a reply on the table in due course.

OVERTIME WORKED BY THE DRIVERS ON THE ROHILKUND AND KUMAON RAILWAY.

1310. ***Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena :** Is it a fact that the drivers on the Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway are made to work overtime and are not paid any overtime allowance ?

Mr. P. E. Rau : No.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : What does "no" mean ?

Mr. P. E. Rau : The information is that the allegation in the question is not correct.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : "That they do not work over-time, or that they work over-time but do not get over-time allowance" ?

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra : To which part the negative relates ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : The question is put in one part and that is the reply received from that Railway.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : I was only seeking the elucidation of that answer,—as to what it really means ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : I suppose it means either that they do not work overtime, or if they do they are paid for it. (Laughter.)

ABSENCE OF AN OVERBRIDGE AT THE BHOJEEPURA RAILWAY STATION.

1311. ***Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena :** Is it a fact that at Bhojeepera Station there is no over-bridge and the passengers have to cross the line ?

Mr. P. E. Rau : The information is being obtained from the Railway Administration and will be laid on the table in due course.

ABSENCE OF INTER-LOCKING SYSTEM ON THE ROHILKUND AND KUMAON RAILWAY.

1312. ***Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena** : Is it a fact that there is no system of inter-locking over the Rohilkund and Kumaon Railways? If so, do Government propose to see that at least important stations like Aishbagh, Mailani, Bareilly city and Bhojepura are inter-locked?

Mr. P. R. Rau : Enquiries are being made from the Railway Administration and a reply will be laid on the table in due course.

INTRODUCTION OF MAIL AND EXPRESS TRAINS ON THE ROHILKUND AND KUMAON RAILWAY.

1313. ***Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena** : (a) Is it a fact that on the Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway, no mail or express trains are run? If so, why?

(b) Do Government propose to see that fast trains are introduced on this Railway?

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a) and (b). There are both express and mail trains on the Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway on sections where these are necessary and can be justified.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : Where have they got these mail trains—in which part of their system?

Mr. P. R. Rau : I am afraid I do not know, I cannot answer without notice.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena : Did the Honourable Member consult the time table and find out whether this answer is correct?

Mr. P. R. Rau : No, Sir; the Honourable Member could, if he chose, have done it.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena : Will the Honourable Member take it from me that there are no such mail trains, and that it is a false reply that has been sent up (*Cries of "Order, order"*.)

Mr. P. R. Rau : I told the House that this was the information supplied to us by the Railway Administration.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena : Will the Honourable Member take it from me that I have consulted the time-table, and there are no mail or express trains?

Mr. P. R. Rau : I am sure there must be some trains carrying mails on the system.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : Do mail or express trains take the same length of time in covering the same distance as passenger trains?

Mr. P. R. Rau : I must have notice of that.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Is it not a fact that a mail train means a train which carries the mails, and is it not a fact that mails are carried by the Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway to Naini Tal?

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena : Is it not a fact that mails are also carried by passenger trains?

(No reply.)

FRAUDS IN THE SUPPLY OF COAL TO THE LOCO. DEPARTMENT IN BAREILLY CITY.

1314. ***Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena** : Is it a fact that frauds in the supply of coal to the Loco. Department in Bareilly city were detected ? If so, what was the total sum of money involved and what action was taken against the persons implicated ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : Information has been called for and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES ON THE ROHILKUND AND KUMAON RAILWAY.

1315 ***Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena** : (a) Are Government aware that there is only one well equipped hospital all over the Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway line and the so-called dispensaries at Aishbagh, Mailani, Kasganj, Kashipur and Haldwani are lodged in single small rooms ten feet by six feet ?

(b) Are Government aware that all of them are ill-equipped and there is not sufficient accommodation ?

(c) Is it a fact that certain medicines are classified ' Medicines for Indians ' and others as ' Medicines for Europeans ' ? If so, how and why is this classification made ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : Information has been called for and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

ABSENCE OF INTERMEDIATE CLASS WAITING ROOMS ON THE ROHILKUND AND KUMAON RAILWAY.

1316. ***Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena** : (a) Is it a fact that intermediate class waiting rooms are not provided at all on Rohilkund and Kumaon Railways ? If so, why ?

(b) Are the intermediate class passengers allowed to use the waiting rooms provided for higher classes ? If not, why not ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a) and (b). Government have no information on the points raised. It is their policy to leave questions of provision and use of waiting rooms to the Railway Administrations. I may add that this appears to be a question which the Local Advisory Committee might bring to the notice of the Agent.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena : Is it not a fact that the Local Railway Advisory Committee made recommendations regarding making waiting room arrangements for intermediate class passengers ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : Local Advisory Committees are concerned with bringing to the notice of the Agent of the Railway the inconveniences that passengers might suffer on the railway.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena : Is it not a fact that some Local Advisory Committees have already recommended making suitable provision for waiting rooms for intermediate class passengers ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : I am not aware of any recommendations made by the Local Advisory Committees but my Honourable friend probably knows all about it ?

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : Is the Honourable Member aware if this question was ever considered by any Local Advisory Committee ?

Mr. P. E. Rau : If it was not, it is for such a Committee to raise this question.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : If Government are informed that the Local Advisory Committee did consider it and did make such recommendations, will Government ask the Railway to take notice of that ?

Mr. P. E. Rau : That is a hypothetical question.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : Are Government prepared to deny that the Local Advisory Committee did recommend that such retiring rooms should be provided for intermediate class passengers ?

Mr. P. E. Rau : If my friend knows it, I am quite prepared to accept it.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : Is the Honourable Member aware of railways having made such provision so far ?

Mr. P. E. Rau : Sir, I shall be quite prepared if the House desires to forward a copy of these questions and answers to the Agent of the Railway.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : With your recommendation that intermediate class passengers should have retiring rooms provided for them ?

Mr. P. E. Rau : That depends on local circumstances. I do not think Government can make any recommendation without knowing all the facts of the case.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : Are not Government acquainted with the local circumstances ?

Mr. P. E. Rau : No.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : Then what are you acquainted with ? (Laughter.)

ABSENCE OF HINDU AND MUSLIM REFRESHMENT ROOMS ON THE ROHILKUND AND KUMAON RAILWAY.

1317. ***Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena :** Is it a fact that from Lucknow to Kasganj on the Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway there is not a single station where Hindu or Muhammadan refreshment rooms are provided ?

Mr. P. E. Rau : There are refreshment rooms for Hindus and Muhammadans at Bareilly. The Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway notify in their time table that vendors have for sale at most stations a good selection of food.

FEES CHARGED BY THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION FOR COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS.

1318. ***Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena :** (a) Is it a fact that the Public Service Commission have been charging certain fees from the applicants for competitive examination ? If so, how are these fees fixed ?

(b) What has been the total income from these fees to the Government during the last two years ?

(c) Is it a fact that only a limited number of candidates are allowed to sit for a particular examination ? If so, how are they selected ?

(d) Is the fee charged only from those who are allowed to sit for the examination, or from all the applicants ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (a) Yes. Except in the case of Ministerial Service Examinations and the special Examination for the "Dufferin" in regard to which no separate application fee is charged, the application fee is usually Rs. 7-8-0 and the examination fee varies from Rs. 15 to Rs. 100.

(b) The total income from these fees during the last two years (1934-35 and 1935-36) has been as under :

	Rs.
Application fees	35,665
Examination fees	1,62,093

(c) When the number of candidates is excessive, there is a provision in the rules for most examinations for a reduction to a manageable figure. The selection is made by the Public Service Commission in accordance with the rules.

(d) All applicants pay the application fee ; only those who are admitted to the examination pay the examination fee.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : May I know if after all the expenses are incurred for the examination, there is any surplus ? If so, where does that surplus of money go ? And why should Government have it ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I have no reason to think that there is any surplus ; on the other hand, I should think there is a distinct deficiency.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra : What are the examinations for which the fee of Rs. 100 is charged from candidates ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I must have notice.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena : May I know how the selection is made ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : It is made by the Public Service Commission in accordance with rules on the subject.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra : May I know whether, in case candidates cannot sit for the examinations, their fees are refunded to them ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I have said that they do not pay the examination fees until they actually sit for the examination.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : As regards part (c) of the question, the Honourable Member said that the selections are made according to the rules. I would like to know whether these rules are communicated to the candidates so that those who do not come within those rules may not apply ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : Yes, I think so.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Will you please state what those rules are ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : They are in the Library of the House.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : The rules are not in the Library of the House, I am sure of that.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I say they are in the Library of the House.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : Does the Government notify that in case the number of candidates exceed a certain maximum, then all of them would not be allowed to sit for the examination ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : Yes, that is notified.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : What is the total expenditure incurred over these examinations ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I cannot say that without notice.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena : Is it not a fact that many candidates who have been applying are first class M.A.'s and B.A.'s and they have not been selected, while third class B.A.'s have been selected ?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : That does not arise out of this.

ALLOWANCES FIXED FOR WIVES OF INDIAN OFFICERS IN THE INDIAN ARMY VETERINARY CORPS.

1319. ***Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya** (on behalf of Sardar Sant Singh) : (a) What allowances have Government fixed for the wives of Indian Officers in the Indian Army Veterinary Corps ?

(b) If the matter is under consideration, when is it likely to be decided ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : I presume by "Indian Officers" the Honourable Member means "Indian Commissioned Officers". On this assumption the replies are as follows :

(a) No allowances are admissible to wives of Indian Commissioned Officers of the Indian Army Veterinary Corps. All Indian Commissioned Officers receive consolidated rates of pay on the assumption that they are married.

(b) No such question is at present under consideration.

INDIANISATION OF GROUND ENGINEERS EMPLOYED BY THE INDIAN NATIONAL AIRWAYS, LIMITED.

1320. ***Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya** (on behalf of Sardar Sant Singh) : Will Government please state what further steps the Indian National Airways, Limited, has taken since last year to Indianise the staff of Ground Engineers, or to better their prospects ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : As I explained in replying to Mr. Asaf Ali's question No. 618 earlier in this Session, the Company have effected economies by cutting down activities which were not commercially successful. The result is that, whereas last year they employed eight Ground Engineers of whom five were Indians, this year

they have only three Ground Engineers in employment on the Karachi-Lahore service of whom two are Indians, as against one last year. The only other activity of Indian National Airways which requires the services of Ground Engineers is the maintenance of Government aeroplanes and on this work five engineers are employed of whom two are Indians.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : Has this Indian National Airways Co., Ltd., reduced the emoluments of their Ground Engineers ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : I should require notice of that question.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : Is it a fact that in spite of the financial difficulties of this company, they are still paying extravagant rates of salaries to its engineers as well as pilots ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : I have no reason to believe that the salaries paid are extravagant.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : Have the Government ever compared the rates paid by the Indian Airways Ltd., with those paid by the Himalayan Airways Co., Ltd. ?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : That does not arise out of this question.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : May I know if the Indian Ground Engineers and the European Ground Engineers employed by them get the same pay ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : I should require notice of that question.

MISAPPROPRIATION IN THE OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT, VICEREGAL ESTATE.

1321. ***Mr. Sham Lal :** (a) With reference to the reply to part (e) of starred question No. 1251, dated the 30th March, 1935, regarding misappropriation in the office of the Superintendent, Viceregal Estate, will Government please state :

- (i) whether the case, resulting in dismissal, etc., of an Indian employee, was handed over to the police ; if not, in what manner the enquiry was conducted in all its stages ;
- (ii) why the case was not handed over to the police and proceeded with in the court of law ;
- (iii) what were the definite charges ;
- (iv) whether the question of the responsibility of the Superintendent in this particular case was examined, and what action was taken against him ; and
- (v) whether they are satisfied that besides this there have been no other irregularities and embezzlements during the regime of the present Superintendent ?

(b) Are Government prepared to hand over the old papers relating to this case to the special C. I. D. for further enquiries to find out how far the Superintendent himself was a party in the case and place the facts before the House ? If not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) (i) and (ii). The enquiry was conducted departmentally. The man admitted his guilt, and he was dismissed after obtaining the advice of the Public Service Commission under rule 10 (ii) of the Public Service Commission (Functions) Rules. The Government of India did not consider it necessary in the circumstances to hand over the matter to the police for enquiry.

(iii) The charge against the man was that he rendered false certificates in respect of the pay bills of an employee in the work-charged establishment.

(iv) There was no reason to believe that the Superintendent was in any way concerned in this case.

(v) This question does not arise.

(b) No. Government do not consider that there is any material to justify further enquiry into this case.

EXAMINATIONS FOR RECRUITMENT OF CLERKS IN THE DELHI GENERAL POST OFFICE.

1322. *Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon : (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of examinations for clerical recruitment held at Delhi General Post Office during the last two years which were ordered to be cancelled by the Postmaster General, Punjab and North-West Frontier Circle, on account of non-observance of the rules for examination by the Postmaster, Delhi ?

(b) Is it a fact that in the said examination candidates with larger number of mistakes were found by the Postmaster General, Punjab to have been declared passed, whereas with less number declared failed ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the action taken against the Postmaster, Delhi for the irregularities in the examination noticed by the Postmaster General, Punjab ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : With your permission, Sir, I propose to reply questions Nos. 1322 and 1323 together. Information has been called for and a reply will be placed on the table of the House in due course.

EXAMINATIONS FOR RECRUITMENT OF CLERKS IN THE DELHI GENERAL POST OFFICE.

†1323. *Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon : (a) Is it a fact that in connection with the examination of candidates for clerical recruitment held on the 30th August, 1936, the Postmaster, Delhi, reported to the Postmaster General, Punjab that the paper for dictation was divulged same day before the examination and that it was copied out by some candidates from the book marked for the purpose by the Postmaster, Delhi ?

(b) Is it a fact that at the time when examination was in progress, an employee of the Railway Mail Service, Delhi brought from outside the Post Office a paper of dictation copied by a candidate and told the examiners that the paper was already out ?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 1322.

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the names of (i) the R. M. S. sorter who brought the copied paper, (ii) the candidate who copied it and (iii) the candidate who was not admitted by the Superintendent, Railway Mail Service, being over-age and who had been admitted by the Postmaster, Delhi and who threw away the copied paper, being disgusted ?

(d) Is it a fact that the candidate who was turned out, *vide* (c) above is a relative of a clerk working in the Delhi General Post Office ?

(e) Is it a fact that the Sub-Postmaster, Morigate, Delhi, is alleged to have had already arranged with the Postmaster, Delhi for acquainting some candidates with the dictation paper on payment to him of some money ?

(f) Is it a fact that an inferior servant, orderly peon of the Postmaster, Delhi, was made the scapegoat and, on promise of pardon through two senior officials of the Delhi General Post Office, was directed to make a statement about the divulgence of paper by him by taking out the book from the drawers of the Postmaster's table in order to conceal the real facts ?

(g) Are Government prepared to order an independent investigation into this serious matter, being made personally by the Postmaster General, Punjab, in order to find out the real offenders and take suitable action against them and the Postmaster, Delhi, responsible for all this ? If not, why not ?

REMOVAL AND TRANSFER OF ORDERLY PEONS BY THE POSTMASTER, DELHI.

1324. *Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon : (a) Will Government be pleased to state the total number and names of the orderly peons removed by the Postmaster, Delhi from that appointment and transferred to other posts during his stay at Delhi ? If so, why ?

(b) Is it a fact that on their transfer, the orderly peons brought certain charges against the Postmaster, Delhi and, if so, what were those charges and what actions on them have been taken by Government ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) and (b). Government have no information. If the officials referred to by the Honourable Member consider that they have a grievance it is open to them to represent their case to the proper authority through the usual official channel.

FILLING UP OF THE VACANCY OF THE DIRECTOR OF TRAFFIC, RAILWAY BOARD.

1325. *Prof. N. G. Ranga (on behalf of Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar) : Will Government be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Mr. Mathura Das, the Director of Traffic for Railways is to go on leave shortly ;

(b) whether it is a fact that this vacancy is to be filled up by a European, who now occupies the position of Supervisor of Railway Labour ;

(c) whether this vacancy is a temporary one or a permanent one ;

(d) whether they have tried to find a suitable Indian to be appointed to that vacancy ; and

- (e) whether it is their object or policy to Europeanise the departments as and when occasion arises ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). No decision has been reached.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE THAT VISITED A CERTAIN SCHOOL ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1326. ***Dr. N. B. Khare :** With reference to item 7 of paragraph 30 of East Indian Railway Gazette No. 2 of 24th January, 1934, will the Honourable Member for Commerce and Railways please state the personnel of the Committee who visited the school since and to place the report of their visit on the table of the House ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : I am collecting information and will lay a reply on the table of the House in due course.

DELEGATION OF POWERS IN THE POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT.

1327. ***Dr. N. B. Khare :** With reference to the reply given on the 31st August, 1936, to unstarred question No. 519 asked in this House on the 7th April, 1936, will Government please state :

- (a) whether the Posts and Telegraphs Department and the Railway Department are the Commercial Departments of the Government of India ;
- (b) whether the Heads of Department under Posts and Telegraphs Department are delegated the powers of a Local Government and if so, who are they ;
- (c) whether the Postmaster General of a Circle is delegated the powers of a Local Government under Home Department notification No. F. 6/7/33-II, dated the 19th June, 1933 ; and if not, under what notification ;
- (d) whether the Heads of Department under Postmaster General of a Circle are delegated the powers of a Local Government ; if so, under what notification ;
- (e) whether Superintendents or Divisional Engineers under Postmaster General of a Circle are delegated the powers of a Local Government ; if so, under what notification ;
- (f) whether Postmasters or Engineers under Postmaster General of a Circle are delegated the powers of a Local Government ; if so, under what notification ;
- (g) whether Home Department notification No. F. 6/7/33-II, dated 19th June, 1933, provides re-delegation of powers of a Local Government, if so, under what instruction number of the notification or otherwise ;
- (h) the corresponding order of Warrant of Precedence of Railway officers and officers under the Posts and Telegraphs Department ; and

- (i) the number of non-Gazetted staff on Railways and Posts and Telegraphs Departments separately ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) The Posts and Telegraphs Department is a public utility department which, in accordance with the general accepted policy of Government, is run on commercial lines. As regards the Railway Department, the reply is in the affirmative.

(b) Presumably, by the term " Heads of Departments under Posts and Telegraphs Department " the Honourable Member refers to certain officers under the Director-General who are in charge of postal circles and of certain other offices. If so, the reply is in the negative.

(c) to (g). No.

(h) The Honourable Member is referred to the Warrant of Precedence, a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

(i) As regards the number of non-gazetted staff in the Posts and Telegraphs Department, the total number of such staff on the 31st March, 1936, was 119,386. This figure includes 21,532 extra departmental employees who are not whole-time Government servants and 2,665 members of the audit and accounts staff.

As regards the Railway Department, I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to page 57 of Volume I of the report by the Railway Board for 1934-35, a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL IN COUNCIL FOR THE ACTIONS OF THE AGENTS OF STATE RAILWAYS.

1328. ***Dr. N. B. Khare :** Will Government please state whether the Governor General of India in Council is responsible for the actions, deeds, and orders of the Agents in administering the State-managed Railways in details ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : With your permission, Sir, I propose to reply questions Nos. 1328 and 1329 together.

I am collecting information and will lay a reply on the table of the House in due course.

RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA IN COUNCIL FOR THE ACTIONS OF THE AGENTS OF STATE RAILWAYS.

†1329. ***Dr. N. B. Khare :** Will Government please state whether the Secretary of State for India in Council is responsible for the actions, deeds and orders of the Agents in administering the State-managed Railways in details ?

POLICY OF ABOLITION OF POSTS IN THE HIGHEST GRADES ON STATE RAILWAYS.

1330. ***Dr. N. B. Khare :** Will Government please state whether the Railway Board or the Administrations on State-managed Railways have adopted the policy since 1925 to abolish the posts in highest grade of a class of railway servants from the date an individual holding such grade

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 1328.

in the class vacates it? If so, did it affect the accruing rights of the staff in service on that date in the next lower grade? If not, what further advancement had they?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I am collecting information and will lay a reply on the table of the House in due course.

INDIANISATION OF POSTS IN THE HIGHEST GRADES ON STATE RAILWAYS.

1331. ***Dr. N. B. Khare:** Will Government please state whether the holders of highest grade of a class on State-managed Railways are chiefly Europeans and Anglo-Indians and their abolition affects adversely the Indians? If so, is it not against the policy of Indianisation in highest grades?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: As regards the first part of the question, the information readily available will be found in the Classified Lists of Subordinate Staff of State-managed Railways on pay of Rs. 250 and above or on scales of pay rising to Rs. 250 and above, copies of which are in the Library of the House. I may, however, add that the creation or abolition of a post depends on the exigencies of service and not in the interests of any individual or community.

HILL ALLOWANCE PAID TO RAILWAY STAFF AT SIMLA.

1332. ***Dr. N. B. Khare:** Will Government please state whether the staff at Simla on the North Western Railway are not paid hill allowances throughout the year? If so, why?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: The North Western Railway staff stationed at Simla are not given a Hill allowance. They are allowed a 'Cold Weather' allowance during the winter from the 1st November to the 31st March to meet extra expenditure on fuel and clothing during these months.

RETURN TICKETS FOR INTERMEDIATE AND THIRD CLASS PASSENGERS ON CERTAIN RAILWAYS FROM SIMLA.

1333 ***Dr. N. B. Khare:** Will Government please state whether return tickets for intermediate and third class passengers on North Western, East Indian, Bombay, Baroda and Central India (including Rajputana-Malwa Section), and Great Indian Peninsula Railways are permissible from Simla? If so, on what conditions and under what rule?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I would refer the Honourable Member to rule 59-A. II on page 19 of the North Western Railway's Coaching Tariff, Part I, in force from the 1st July, 1936.

Intermediate class return tickets can be obtained only for stations on the East Indian Railway, on payment of two single fares over the North Western Railway and the Hardwar-Dehra Dun section of the East Indian Railway and one and a half fares over the rest of the East Indian Railway system.

Third class return tickets for servants of 1st and 2nd class passengers can be obtained for stations on the North Western, East Indian and Great Indian Peninsula Railways, on payment of two single fares.

PERMISSION TO STATION MASTERS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY TO ISSUE CHARGE SHEETS.

1334. *Dr. N. B. Khare : Will Government please state whether Station Masters on the North Western Railway are permitted to issue charge sheets under their signatures and on their initiation to railway servants of their stations ? If so, under what rule ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : Government are informed that no specific restriction has been laid down by the North Western Railway with regard to the authorities competent to issue a charge sheet.

TRANSFER OF STAFF FROM ONE DIVISION TO ANOTHER DIVISION ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

1335. *Dr. N. B. Khare : With reference to the Agent, North Western Railway, Circular No. I of 1927, will Government please state whether it is the policy of the Administration to transfer the staff below Rs. 190 from one Division to another Division ? If so, under what rule and on what conditions ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : Government have no information.

PROMOTION OF GUARDS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

1336. *Dr. N. B. Khare : With reference to the Agent, North Western Railway, Circular No. I of 1927, will Government please state whether it is the policy of the Administration not to promote any guard to Rs. 68, Rs. 115, and Rs. 200, who has not rendered three years satisfactory service on Rs. 60, Rs. 105 and Rs. 185, respectively ? If so, how many guards recruited in 1931 on Rs. 60 were within two years promoted to Rs. 68 against this policy and why ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the latter part, Government have no information. This is a matter of detailed administration within the competence of the Agent, North Western Railway, to decide.

PROPOSAL TO APPOINT MR. K. M. HASSAN AS SUPERVISOR OF RAILWAY LABOUR.

1337. *Dr. N. B. Khare : Will the Honourable Member for Commerce and Railways please state :

- (a) whether there is a proposal to appoint Mr. K. M. Hassan, Deputy Director, Establishment, Railway Board, as Supervisor of Railway Labour in the near future ; and
- (b) who are the gazetted officers eligible for the appointment to Supervisor of Railway Labour ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : (a) No.

(b) The appointment in question is administrative and is filed by the selection of the most suitable officer.

JOINING OF RAILWAY UNIONS AND FEDERATIONS BY RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.

1338. *Dr. N. B. Khare : With reference to the reply given by the Honourable Sir Joseph Bore to a supplementary question to starred question No. 724 asked in this House on 7th March, 1935, viz. : " I am not aware of any such thing (that Railway Agents prohibit or discourage their servants from joining trade unions, and, if they are members of trade unions, they are made to feel that they are doing something wrong and are treated with disfavour)", will Government state :

- (a) whether the Deputy Director, Establishment II, Railway Board has on or about 19th September, 1936, informed the Assistant Operating Officer, North Western Railway, Simla, as well as the Station Master, Simla, on telephone that they should warn the railway servants at Simla not to join the National Federation of Railwaymen ;
- (b) whether the said Deputy Director further informed them that he has seen railway servants in company with the officers of the said Federation ;
- (c) whether the said Deputy Director pressed the discharge of the railway servants whom he saw in company with the officers of the said Federation ; and
- (d) whether it is contemplated to remove the said railway servants from service by the Divisional Superintendent, North Western Railway, Delhi Division ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : (a), (b) and (c).
No.

(d) Does not arise.

GUARDS RETRENCHED IN THE DELHI DIVISION OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

1339. *Dr. N. B. Khare : Will Government please state :

- (a) the number of guards retrenched in Delhi Division on the North Western Railway in 1931 in each grade, gradewise ;
- (b) the number of retrenched guards provided in posts other than guards ;
- (c) the posts and their scales of pay in which the retrenched guards were absorbed, gradewise ;
- (d) the date on which and the number of those retrenched guards who were subsequently transferred to guards, gradewise ;

(e) the respective pay and the scales of pay drawn before and on transfer from posts where they were absorbed to posts as guards ; and

(f) the reason for reduction in pay, if any, on transfer to guards ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : Government have no information and its collection will involve an amount of labour and expense not likely to be justified by results.

REDUCTION OF PAY OF RETRENCHED STAFF IN THE DELHI DIVISION OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY ON THEIR ABSORPTION IN OTHER POSTS.

1340. ***Dr. N. B. Khare :** Will Government please state :

(a) whether the staff in Delhi Division on the North Western Railway were in 1931 absorbed in posts on equal pay on being retrenched from posts which were brought under reduction ;

(b) whether the staff in absorbed posts have drawn increments in the time-scales of pay ;

(c) whether on transfer to the cadre, they belonged before being retrenched, their pay, which they are drawing in the cadre after being retrenched, was reduced ;

(d) whether the action of reduction of pay is justified by Fundamental Rule 15 ; and

(e) what action has been taken to set right the breach of Fundamental Rule 15, if any ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : Government have no information. These are matters of detailed administration within the competence of the Agent to decide, to whom a copy of the question has been sent for information and such action as he may consider necessary.

INADEQUATE DRAINAGE AT LARKANA STATION ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

1341. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state what arrangements are there to drain off the sullage and dirty water from the premises of Larkana, North Western Railway station of the Sind section ?

(b) Is it a fact that a drain has been constructed to terminate and discharge the water at the town railway crossing by the side of the public roads, into a pit within the railway limits without any outlet at all having been provided for it ?

(c) When was this drain constructed, and since then has the accumulated dirty water been taken out at any time by the Railway ? If not, why not ?

(d) Are Government aware that complaints by public, the municipality and the local officers made to the Railway authorities have been

unheeded and the water has been allowed to be stagnant, which emits bad smell and is highly injurious to health? If so, who is responsible for doing so?

(e) Do Government propose to take immediate steps to remove this nuisance and make permanent arrangement for draining of or pumping out the water from the pit?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) In the absence of any Municipal Drainage System in or around the Railway Colony at Larkana, the sullage water from the station buildings and staff quarters is collected and discharged into soakage pits and borrow pits within the Railway limits.

(b) Yes.

(c) In October-November, 1935. The accumulated sullage water, which is absolutely free from night soil, drains into the borrow pit and is gradually absorbed. The borrow pit is well defined and deep and of ample capacity and the necessity for removal of water has not arisen.

(d) There have been three complaints, one from Mr. Lalchand Navalrai and two from the Municipality. The North Western Railway is taking every precaution to prevent any nuisance occurring. This matter is given special attention by the medical staff of the North Western Railway who have instructions to keep the place under observation.

(e) The North Western Railway Administration do not admit the nuisance. The scheme was prepared and carried out to replace conditions which were considered by the Railway Administration as objectionable from the point of view of the railway staff, passengers, civil authorities and the general public. The scheme has resulted in the replacement of offensive marshes scattered in several places on the North side of the railway, and nearer the main public road, by a single deep rectangular pit further removed from the centre of the populated area.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if the Honourable Member has got information that there is no outlet to that ditch, and that the water is not being taken out by the sullage guards? Do Government propose to adopt some such means or they want to allow the water to remain as it is?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I have given all the information that I have been able to collect, and I am unable to argue the matter further.

INDIANISATION OF HIGHER SERVICES IN THE KARACHI PORT TRUST.

1342. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if they have received a communication from the Buyers and Shippers' Chamber, Karachi, addressed to the Secretary to the Government of India, Commerce Department, on the subject of Indianisation of higher services in the Karachi Port Trust?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the number of higher posts in the Port Trust, Karachi, with the starting grade of Rs. 500 and above, and how many of such posts are held by Europeans and how many by Indians ?

(c) Are the figures mentioned by the aforesaid chamber in their letter, viz., 19 Europeans and five Indians out of 24 officers, correct ?

(d) What steps do Government propose to take to substantially increase the Indian element in this service ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The number of higher posts under the Karachi Port Trust with a starting grade of Rs. 500 and above is 23, of which 19 are held by Europeans and four by Indians.

(d) Government have taken special steps to keep themselves fully and constantly informed in this matter and they have no reason to believe that their policy of progressive Indianisation is being lost sight of by the Karachi Port Trust.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : Has the number of officers getting more than Rs. 500 recently been reduced from 24 to 23 ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : It was put down in the question as 24, but my information is that it is only 23.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : For how long have there been four Indians in the Superior Service ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : I am afraid I would require notice of that question.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : Is it not a fact that new candidates have been recruited from Europeans and the number of Indians has gone down ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : For that also I would require notice.

ALLEGED MISMANAGEMENT ON THE SHAHDARA-SAHARANPUR RAILWAY.

1343. ***Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya** (on behalf of Sardar Sant Singh) : (a) Are Government aware of the mismanagement on the Shahdara-Saharanpur Railway ?

(b) Are Government aware that the Shahdara-Saharanpur Railway has no sufficient rolling stock to cope with the requirements of the goods traffic, particularly sugarcane trucks required for the carriage of sugarcane for the satisfactory working of the mills in that area ?

(c) For how long have the authorities of Shahdara-Saharanpur Railway given any express or implied assurance to Rai Bahadur Narain Singh and Sons, that their mill will receive facilities of carriage of sugarcane

and that the freight charged would be less than the rates prevailing over Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway and are the Railway authorities keeping their promise ? If not, why not ?

(d) Is it within the discretion of the Manager, Shahdara-Saharanpur Railway, to give undue preference to one sugar mill over the other in the matter of rates or supply of wagons ?

(e) Are Government aware that Rai Bahadur Narain Singh Sugar Mills, Ltd., stopped its working earlier for want of supply of wagons by the Railway authorities ?

(f) Do Government propose to direct the Railway authorities to have sufficient rolling stock, particularly the sugarcane wagons, to meet the requirements of the Sugar Mills in that area ?

(g) Are Government aware that there is no road service in that locality and no goods can be carried by road ?

(h) Are Government aware of the loss suffered by them in the form of excise duty for want of supply of wagons to Rai Bahadur Narain Singh Sugar Mills, Ltd., on account of the mill closing earlier ?

(i) What steps are Government prepared to take in this direction ?

(j) What steps do Government propose to take to prevent such loss in the next year by the non-supply of sugarcane wagons to the mills ?

(k) Are Government prepared to afford facilities to the sugar mills to enable them to get sugarcane in sufficient quantities for the profitable working of those mills ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : (a), (b), (d), (e), (g) and (h). No.

(c) Government have no information.

(f), (i), (j) and (k). I am bringing the Honourable Member's question to the notice of the Managing Agents of the Shahdara-Saharanpur Railway for such action as they may consider necessary.

ORDERS PROHIBITING THE SALE OF *Jhatka* MEAT ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY STATIONS.

1344. ***Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya** (on behalf of Sardar Sant Singh) : (a) Are Government aware that on the North Western Railway orders have been issued that the Hindu meat vendors on platforms are not allowed to sell *jhatka*, while the Muhammadan meat vendors can sell *halal* ? If so, what is the reason for this distinction ?

(b) When were such orders issued and what were the circumstances which led to the issue of such orders ?

(c) Will Government please state how the non-*halal* eating section of public is being served by the North Western Railway on platforms and how such men are expected to obtain their meat diet from platform

vendors, particularly at stations where there are no Hindu refreshment rooms ?

(d) Are Government aware that one of the arguments put forward by certain officers and others against the sale of *jhatka* meat is that the Muhammadans would demand permission for the sale of beef on the platforms ?

(e) Does the Railway Board propose to intervene and have the orders cancelled immediately and not to give differential treatment ? If not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : (a) Out of deference to Muhammadan sentiment, the sale of *Jhatka* meat has been restricted to Hindu refreshment rooms and dining cars. The sentiments of both communities appear to be equally respected, as no facilities are provided on public platforms for Muslims who eat beef or for such Hindus and Sikhs who eat only *jhatka* meat. A substitute acceptable to each community is, however, provided.

(b) On the 28th July, 1933, on information being received that *jhatka* meat sold on platforms was likely to arouse communal feeling.

(c) Non-*halal* eating passengers are not served with meat by platform vendors. Vegetarian food is provided for them.

(d) I am prepared to accept this from the Honourable Member.

(e) Government do not consider their intervention is called for.

Mr. Sri Prakasa : Is it possible to find out from the mere look of the meat whether it is *jhatka* or *halal* ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : I am afraid I have no experience in the matter. Perhaps the Honourable Member has.

Mr. Sri Prakasa : What sort of meat is permitted to be sold in the refreshment cars that run with the trains ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : That does not arise out of this question.

MEMORANDUM ISSUED EVERY MONTH BY THE EDUCATIONAL PRINTING WORKS,
LAHORE.

1345. ***Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya** (on behalf of Sardar Sant Singh) : (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the Memorandum issued every month by the " Educational Printing Works ", Lahore ?

(b) Under whose authority are such memoranda being issued and also tolerated by Government ?

(c) Do Government propose to find out the source of information from which such papers are published ?

(d) Are Government prepared to find out the responsible persons connected with giving out all secrets of offices on the North Western Railway to this or other printing works and place all the facts on the table of the House ?

(e) What is the policy of the Government in regard to these memoranda ?

(f) What steps have Government taken to see that their officers of the Railways, Posts and Telegraphs and other Departments, are not unnecessarily criticised, defamed, abused and attacked on false pretext, as is evident from such memoranda ? If none, why not ?

(g) Are Government aware that such kind of remarks against certain of their officers are bound to cause great worry and ultimately mental effect ?

(h) Will Government please state what steps they propose to safeguard the interest of their officers, and what action they propose to take in this particular case ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : (a) Government have seen copies of the memorandum referred to in the question.

(b) Government have no information.

(c) and (d). Government do not consider any useful purpose will be served by holding an enquiry into the matter.

(e) No action is taken on anonymous communications.

(f) , (g) and (h). In view of my reply to part (e), no action is considered necessary.

APPOINTMENT OF A SIKH OFFICER IN THE RAILWAY BOARD.

1346. ***Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya** (on behalf of Sardar Sant Singh) : (a) Will Government please state the number of officers, above the rank of Chief Superintendent or Assistant Secretary in the Railway Board, employed on 1st April, 1926, 1930, 1934, 1935 and at present and how many of them were Indians and Europeans, including Anglo-Indians ?

(b) How many of the Indians were Hindus, Muhammadans and Sikhs on the dates mentioned above ?

(c) What are the special reasons for the increase of Muhammadan officers every year in the Railway Board, and what proportion do they form to the total appointments held by Indians on the Railway Board ?

(d) What are the special reasons for calling for Muhammadan officers of the Punjab and North Western Railway only on the Railway Board ?

(e) Is there no capable Muhammadan officer of the Bengal or Madras on their railways who could occupy such appointments efficiently ?

(f) Have Government appointed a Sikh officer permanently on the Railway Board since its creation ? If not, what are the reasons ?

(g) Is it the policy of the Railway Board to ignore the claims of this important community altogether like this on their staff ?

(h) Are Government prepared to see their way to appoint a Sikh officer also on the Railway Board ? If not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the table.

(c) to (e). There was no special reason. The officers considered most suitable were selected.

(f) to (h). I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given by Sir A. Parsons on the 9th March, 1931, to question No. 275 put by Sirdar Harbans Singh Brar.

D. D. S.	Mr. H. Jackson.	Mr. Creighton	Mr. Creighton	Mr. Paranjod (I. C.)	Mr. Paranjod (I. C.)
D. D. M.	Mr. B. Moody	Mr. D'Souza	Mr. D'Souza	Mr. Jagtiani	Mr. Jagtiani
D. D. St.	Mr. H. L. Glass.	Mr. Laughton	Mr. Laughton	K. B. Barkat Ali.	K. B. Barkat Ali.
D. D. T. (O.)		Mr. deLange	Mr. deLange	K. S. Z. H. Khan.	K. S. Z. H. Khan.
D. D. F.				Mr. F. M. Khan.	Mr. F. M. Khan.
D. D. C.	Mr. P. R. Ran.		Mr. Hassan	Mr. K. M. Hassan.	Mr. K. M. Hassan.
D. D. F. ..				Mr. Yakub Shah.	Mr. Yakub Shah.
D. D. E. (I)					
D. D. T. (T.)					
D. D. E. (II)					
A. D. D. F.					
O. S. D. ..					
No. of officers	11	13	7	6	8
	4(a)	4(a)	6(a)	7(a)	10(a)
Hindus	15	17	13	13	18
Mohammedans	(a) H-3	(e) H-1	(e) H-3	(a) H-4	(a) H-4
Sikhs	M-1	M-2	M-3	M-2	M-6
	S-	S-	S-	S-	S-

TENURE OF AN OFFICER OF THE RAILWAY BOARD.

1347. *Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya (on behalf of Sardar Sant Singh) : (a) What is the ordinary and special period, respectively, of the tenure of an officer on the Railway Board ?

(b) Who are the officers who have been with the Railway Board continuously for more than three years and what are the reasons thereof ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : (a) This depends on the exigencies of the service.

(b) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement showing the names of Officers in the Railway Board who have been serving for more than three years.

Serial No.	Names.	Designation.	Corresponding rank in the Government of India.	Remarks.
1	The Hon'ble Sir Guthrie Russell, Kt.	Chief Commissioner of Railways.	Secretary.	
2	Mr. P. R. Rau ..	Financial Commissioner of Railways.	Secretary.	
3	Mr. T. S. Sankara Aiyar.	Director ..	Deputy Secretary.	
4	Diwan Bahadur Mathra Das.	Director ..	Deputy Secretary.	
5	Mr. F. D'Souza ..	Director	Deputy Secretary.	
6	Mr. L. H. Kirkness, C.I.E.	Secretary Railway Board.	Deputy Secretary.	
7	K. B. Barkat Ali ..	Deputy Director ..	Under Secretary.	
8	Mr. K. M. Hassan ..	Deputy Director ..	Under Secretary.	
9	K. S. Z. H. Khan ..	Deputy Director ..	Under Secretary.	

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra : Is there no fixed tenure ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : In reply to another question, I believe, it has been stated that the usual tenure is four years subject to any extension that might be given.

APPOINTMENT OF A SIKH OFFICER IN THE APPOINTMENTS UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE HOME DEPARTMENT.

1348. *Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya (on behalf of Sardar Sant Singh) : (a) How many new appointments of gazetted rank were created under the Home Department, including its attached offices, since 1st March last ?

(b) What procedure was adopted in selecting the incumbents ?

(c) Will Government please state whether, in making these appointments they took into consideration this fact that by offering the appoint-

ments to members of a community of which there was already an officer on their staff and with the allotment of this additional appointment to a member of the same minority community, they would thereby be giving much more than due share on the establishment of that office? If so, how and if not, why they themselves did not observe the orders issued on the subject of minorities representation by them?

(d) What proportion does each community now form on the establishment of these offices (officers grade only)?

(e) Were there any Sikh candidates for each of the appointments, and in what way were they inferior to the selected candidates?

(f) Why are the claims of Sikhs being overlooked for higher appointments which are created under the Home Department's control, and are Government prepared to see their way to give this community also its due share? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I lay a statement on the table.

Statement showing the gazetted appointments (excluding temporary posts) created in the Home Department and its attached offices since 1st March, 1936.

Part of question.	Home Department.	D. I. B.	D. P. I.	Public Service Commission.
(a)	Nil	Nil	* 2	I.
(b) and (c) ..	Does not arise.	Does not arise.	In one case certain Local Governments were asked to suggest names and in the other a letter was issued to all Departments of the Government of India inviting applications from members of their staff. Selection was based on merits.	Local Governments and E., H. and L. Department were asked to submit recommendations and the most suitable candidate was selected. Communal considerations were not taken into account in making the selection.
(d) Europeans 40%		62.1%	40%	.. .. .
Hindus .. 20%		20.7%	20%	.. 50%
Muslims .. 10%		17.2%	40%	.. 50%
Anglo-Indians 30%	..	..		.. .. .
(e)	Does not arise.	Does not arise.	No	.. No Sikh candidate was recommended by any local Government. One such candidate, however, applied through his local Government.
(f)	Does not arise.	Does not arise.		.. .. .

* Including one post which was not a gazetted appointment when the selection was made.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : Does that statement cover all the other parts of the question, *e.g.*, (b) What procedure was adopted in selecting the incumbents ? Is it included in the statement ?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The Honourable Member had better look at it.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : I am asking the Honourable Member who has handed in a statement a question and it is his duty to answer my question.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I have given my answer.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The Honourable Member might read that statement.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : May I know what procedure was adopted in selecting the incumbents ? It cannot possibly form part of the statement in normal course.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I have given the statement.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Is it not the duty of an Honourable Member....

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Order, Order. The Honourable the Home Member is looking into the statement.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : May I know what is the answer to part (b) of the question, namely, what procedure was adopted in selecting the incumbents ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : It is stated in the statement.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : Should such an answer form part of the statement ? I want your ruling, Sir, on this point.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The Honourable the Home Member could read out that portion which refers to part (b) of the question.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : It is a long statement and it is somewhat difficult to read it all out. In the case of the Home Department Secretariat, this question does not arise, because no appointments have been made. That also applies to the Central Intelligence Bureau. In the case of the Public Information Bureau, in one case the procedure was that certain Local Governments were asked to suggest names and in the other case a letter was issued to all Departments of the Government of India inviting applications from members of their staff. Selection was based on merits. In the case of the Public Service Commission, the Local Governments and the Department of Education, Health and Lands were asked to submit recommendations.....

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : All this is shown in the statement ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : Yes, Sir.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : I would ask for a ruling from the Chair as to whether it is open to a Member to include an answer to a question like this—what procedure was adopted in selecting the incumbents—in a statement ? If this procedure is allowed, we will never get any answer to any question. It does not involve any figures.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : There are apparently many sub-departments under the Home Department, and, from what the Honourable Member read out just now, it seems different procedure is adopted in different Departments.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : I may submit that when such questions are put down, it is with a view to enable the Members to obtain further elucidation of the answer. Statements are only laid on the table.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The Honourable Member had better look at the statement, and I think he will be satisfied.

(The statement was shown to Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant.)

PROGRAMMES ISSUED BY THE DELHI BROADCASTING STATION AND SECURING OF THE SERVICES OF SIKHS.

1349. ***Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya** (on behalf of Sardar Sant Singh) : (a) Will Government please state on what dates the programme issued by the Delhi Broadcasting Station for Indian section had been entirely allotted to Muhammadans only and similarly to Hindus only since 1st May last ?

(b) What are the areas specially served by this station and what proportion the Muhammadans form in such areas ?

(c) Are Government aware that there is not a single date on which the whole of day's programme of this station has ever been allotted to Hindus, just as has been given to Muhammadans only ? If so, what are the reasons ?

(d) Do Government propose to issue instructions that, following the policy laid down by the Government in respect of communal representation in every sphere of life, in allotting the programme of a day, the administration of Delhi Station should see that not more than 25 per cent. or 33 per cent. the maximum is not allotted to the Muhammadans ? If not, why not ?

(e) Have they attempted to secure the services of Sikhs for the purpose, also ? If so, how, or in what way ? If not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) and (c). The programmes broadcast from the Delhi Broadcasting Station are not, and have not been, allotted to any particular community on any day. The latter part of part (c) of the question does not, therefore, arise.

(b) The Delhi station gives a ground ray service of about 100 miles radius, and an indirect ray service which may extend under favourable atmospheric conditions over the whole of India. I regret I cannot undertake to work out the figures, for which the Honourable Member asks.

(d) No. Entertainment programmes cannot be and, even if they could, would not be arranged on communal principles.

(e) Every effort is made to secure the services of suitable persons for broadcasting to whatever community they belong.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : May I ask what is the difference between the Hindu programme and the Muhammadan programme in broadcasting ? Has it anything to do with the religious side ?

(No answer.)

BRAKESMAN ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1350. ***Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali :** With reference to the reply given on the 31st August, 1936 to part (a) of unstarred question No. 510 asked in this House on the 7th April, 1936, will Government please state the date from which Brakesmen on the East Indian Railway ceased to have been employed as such ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : Government are informed that on the old East Indian Railway area brakesmen were removed about the year 1923. About the year 1925 after the amalgamation of the old Oudh and Rohilkund Railway with the East Indian Railway a certain number of brakesmen were removed from the Oudh and Rohilkund Railway area and the remainder were retained to perform the duties of letter delivery clerks until this category was converted into that of sorters in 1935.

FIXATION OF DATES FOR POLLING IN THE PROVINCES FOR THE COMING ELECTIONS.

1351. ***Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant :** (a) Have the dates for polling been fixed for the different Provinces ? If so, will Government be pleased to state what they are ?

(b) Will the elections for general constituencies be held in every province on one and the same day ? If not, how long will it take to complete the elections and how will the different constituencies in a province be arranged for this purpose ?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : (a) The dates for polling in a province are to be fixed by the Local Governments and will be published by them in due course.

(b) Government have no information.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : Is the Government of India not consulted about these dates ?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : I believe, before they are finally fixed, they will be submitted to the Government of India for their information, but that stage is not reached yet.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : May I inform the Honourable the Law Member that in fact, in some provinces the dates have already been fixed and notified ?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : I stand corrected.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : May I know if the next Session of the Assembly will start after the elections are over ? In my province the notification published day before yesterday gave the 8th and 9th of February as the dates for polling.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : The date of the next Session has not yet been decided but the probability is that the Assembly will sit before the 8th or the 9th of February.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : Are the Government aware of the fact that the elections are likely to take place in the first half of February in most of the provinces ?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : I accept that.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : Will the Government kindly bear it in mind that, as most of the Members of the Assembly will be interested in these elections, it is desirable to hold the next Session after the elections ?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : Government are not convinced that their interests will draw them near polling stations and we expect most of the Members will be here.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : The next elections are likely to absorb the time of a large number of Members of this House. In fact, general elections are intended to evoke general interest.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : What is the question that the Honourable Member is asking me ?

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : My question is that the Government may, in view of the fact that many of the Members of the Assembly will be interested in the elections, try to fix the next Session of the Assembly after polling has been finished in the provinces ?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : I can give no hopes that that will be done.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : When is the next Session likely to begin ?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : I cannot make any definite pronouncement about it, but surely it will begin before the 8th or 9th of February.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : Will it begin in January ?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : The utmost that I can say now is that it might begin about the 25th or 26th of January. That is a tentative proposal, and I cannot make a definite statement.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : Is it a fact that this year the Assembly started only on the 2nd of February ? Is it also a fact that this time the Simla Session has been much longer than in any other year ?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : Those are facts which are known to everybody.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : In view of these facts, will Government consider the advisability of starting the next Session as late in February as possible and not in January at all ?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : There is nothing to prevent the Government from considering it, but I do not want to conceal from the House that it is not likely to happen.

Sir Muhammad Yakub : Are Government aware that during the last Delhi Session, the Assembly was sitting till the 23rd April when it was very hot and then some items on the agenda could not be finished and it was then said by certain Honourable Members that at the fag-end of the Session no important work should be brought forward for discussion in the Assembly.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : Delhi is very cold in January and very hot in April.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : Do Government share the desire of Sir Muhammad Yakub that Members of the Assembly should, as far as possible, be kept away from the scenes of these provincial elections where their presence will be useful to the candidates ?

(No answer.)

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena (Lucknow Division : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, before we proceed to the business on the agenda, I should like to raise a point of order. I gave notice of certain questions, and although ten days have passed, they have not been brought on the list of questions issued by the Assembly Department. Standing Order 17 says :

“ Questions, which have not been disallowed, shall be entered in the list of questions for the day and shall be called if the time available for questions permits in the order in which they stand in the list.....”

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : What is the point of order ?

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena : In the list of questions issued for today I do not find my questions. The questions have not been brought on the list as required by the Standing Order which I have just read out.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : All the questions of which notice has been given have been disposed of by me, and I take it, it may be that in case of some particular questions, there may be some delay owing to the fact that Government perhaps are not in a position to collect the information or something like that. But all the questions, of which notice has been given, have been disposed of.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena : I may inform you, Sir, that I gave notice of a number of questions which have not been disallowed.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : I cannot allow the time of the House to be wasted in discussing this subject. The Honourable Member can write to the Assembly Office giving particulars of the questions which he has given notice of and ascertain the facts.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena : Under Standing Order No. 7, a question should be disallowed within ten days, and, so far as my questions are concerned, more than ten days have elapsed, and I have not received any communication intimating that my questions have been disallowed, nor do I find them in the list of questions for today. Therefore, these questions must have been admitted by you, Sir, and they must have been put on the list of questions which has not been done.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The Honourable Member should make a representation to the office, and he will get an answer.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT.

SUSPENSION OF SOME PATWARIS OF THE ALIGARH DISTRICT FOR ALLEGED ATTENDING AN ELECTION MEETING.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : I have received notices of three motions for adjournment of the House relating apparently to the same subject.

The first one is by Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena. He wants :

“ To move the adjournment of the business of the Assembly to consider a definite matter of urgent public importance, that is, the failure of the Government of India in stopping interference by the Government of the United Provinces and its officials in the forthcoming elections to the Provincial Legislature, as evidenced by the latest action of the Government in suspending 11 patwaris and two court peons in Khair, District Aligarh, for attending an election meeting addressed by Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru and thus depriving them of their right and freedom of exercising choice between the candidates of the various contending parties in the forthcoming elections. This news was published in the *Hindustan Times* of the 13th October.”

As the Honourable Member knows, I cannot accept a motion for adjournment merely on the report published in the newspaper. I want to know what specific information or authentic information the Honourable Member has in his possession about this subject.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : The statement is correct. I wired to the Secretary of the Aligarh Congress Committee to let me know the names of these Patwaris and peons who have been suspended, and he has sent me the following names :

1. Radhe Sham.
2. Piarey Lal.
3. Chandan Lal.
4. Ram Swarup.
5. Jwala Pershad.
6. Har Narayan.
7. Hira Lal.
8. Ramsaran.
9. Ramsaran.
10. Cheda Lal.
11. Bhoora Singh.
12. Shyam Behari.

These are Patwaris. The two peons were Chida Lal and Zahir Ahmad.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : I want to know the specific information. That does not take the matter beyond what is mentioned in the newspaper. What I want to know is whether the Honourable Member has got any copy of the order or anything like that suspending these persons.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena (Lucknow Division : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Up till now the practice has been that if you are satisfied that a certain report in the newspaper is correct, you have been pleased to rule the motion in order.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : I do not know whether the Government admit the facts.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik (Home Member) : Not as alleged in the adjournment motion.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : What are the facts ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : The facts are that there was no order by the Local Government at all ; there was no order by the

4. [Sir Henry Craik.]

Collector even, but there was an order by the sub-divisional officer suspending these subordinate officials primarily for absence without leave from their duty. The reason why they were absent without leave is suspected to have been that they attended a meeting called by Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru. That question is under investigation at the present moment, but the primary cause of their suspension was that they were absent without leave from their duty. The matter is under enquiry and I submit we cannot by any stretch of imagination call the matter to be one of urgent public importance.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : As to the matter being of urgent public importance, there can be no doubt. They were dealt with in this manner because they attended a particular meeting and that is a matter of urgent public importance. As to the fact that if it is said that these people were suspended not because of their attending this particular meeting but on some other ground, then it may be a consideration which will weigh with the Chair. But the facts are admitted I submit.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : If you produce some communication or communiqué from the Government or some order showing that they were suspended on that ground, i.e., for attending a particular meeting, of course I can accept that as evidence. In Volume III, Part VII, Legislative Assembly Debates, page 4680, it has been ruled :

“ The Associated Press is a private organization as far as we are concerned, and unless it is made the channel of communication for some official statement which has been made either here or in England, I do not think I can regard that as authentic. I am afraid that whatever the Honourable Member propose, to do, I cannot rely on the newspapers for a purpose of this kind.”

Then, the President goes on :

“ The Honourable Member does not appear to have supplied me with any new information. The point at issue is this. We have already discussed fully the position of Indians in Kenya. The message which the Government of India transmitted to the Home Government conveyed the considered opinion of this Assembly on that subject, and the only means by which a motion for adjournment could be taken this afternoon would be some authentic official information regarding a new development of grave significance which had not been discussed before. Now, I am afraid I cannot accept two private telegrams as a proof of that grave development.”

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : Now, Sir, we are on the horns of a dilemma. If we do not put in an adjournment motion the day it appears in the Press, it would be ruled out as not being of urgent importance because of our failure to notify it on the day it appears in the Press. Of course nobody can get any first-hand information. We have to rely on the Press report. Therefore, we can give notice of the motion only on the very day we see it in the newspapers.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : I do not think it has ever been ruled out, because notice was not given on the very day it appeared in the Press.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : If I may respectfully submit, even the Chair here has ruled out such motions because the news appeared in the Press the day before.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : You mean when notice was given some days after the occurrence.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : In this case the matter is of urgent public importance. I know it for a fact that the Patwaris and other Government servants have been used for convening meetings on behalf of the National Agriculturist Party.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I deny that.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : The Patwaris are engaged for taking the villagers to these meetings addressed by the leaders of the National Agriculturist Party. I would submit that the allegation which we, on this side, make is more authentic than the one proceeding from the other side.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : They have been suspended for attending election meetings ?

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : I frankly confess that we have not seen the original order. Our information is derived from what has appeared in the papers. After that we wired to the local people in order to ascertain whether it is true and they have informed us that it is true. We wanted full details from them and they have sent this to us. You can see that we the non-officials cannot possibly get hold of the orders of the officials and if these unfortunate Patwaris were themselves to hand over copies of the order to us they would perhaps be landing themselves in much greater difficulties than they are involved in at present.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : If the facts were admitted there would be no difficulty but I have to accept the Honourable the Home Member's statement that these men were suspended, or at any rate some of them were suspended, for absentsing themselves from duty.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : Sir, may I respectfully submit that the Honourable the Home Member may be asked to produce the order that has been issued by Government or by their subordinate officer ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I said there was no order by Government.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : Sir, these are the facts admitted ; one, that 11 Patwaris and two peons have been suspended. Secondly, that they were suspended after Pandit Jawaharlal's meeting. Thirdly, they were suspended because of the suspicion that they had probably attended such a meeting. (*Cries of "No, not at all" from Government Benches.*) What the Home Member said was that their suspension was not primarily due to their taking part in this meeting but.....

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar (Leader of the House) : He did not say that.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : I would request the Honourable the Law Member to trust his colleague's intelligence to that extent that he cannot forget what he stated just a minute before. I remember him saying that it was not primarily due to this. If he says he did not, I will stand corrected.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I said that the cause of their suspension was primarily absence from duty without leave.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : Primarily it was absence from duty but there was something else besides that which also had a bearing. I want Government⁹⁴ to accept one of two positions, and if they do that we will not press the motion. Either they say that Government servants should be free to attend all meetings addressed by all parties.....

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : Sir, on a point of order, I submit that the Honourable Member is arguing on the merits of the question which has not yet been admitted.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : I am not arguing on the merits ; I am trying to curtail discussion.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : As a matter of fact, discussion on the subject of Government servants interfering in elections has gone on for three days. All that I have got to see is this. Is there authentic information before me that they have been suspended for attending an election meeting ? All that is admitted by Government is,—they have official information, I take it,—that they have been suspended because they were absent from duty. That is primarily, I understand, to be the ground on which they were suspended. If the Honourable Member can adduce some authentic official information tomorrow that they have been suspended for attending an election meeting, I will accept that as good evidence. But I do not say I will admit the motion if it is inadmissible on other grounds.

Pandit Krishna Kant Malaviya (Benares and Gorakhpur Division : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, may I respectfully submit that absence from duty in the case of Patwaris has no meaning, because.....

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : I cannot allow a matter like that to be argued.

STATEMENT RE PROGRESS OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg (Finance Member) : Sir, I lay on the table a statement showing the progress of the schemes financed from the Government of India grant for rural development in 1935-36.

REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF THE SCHEMES FINANCED FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA GRANT FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN 1935-36.

In the Statement regarding the Government of India grant for rural development in 1935-36 laid before the Legislative Assembly on the 6th September 1935 it was stated that a further report as to the actual progress of the schemes would be laid before the House in due course. The Statement below shows the progress reported by the Provinces up to the end of June 1936 generally but in some cases up to slightly different dates.

MADRAS.

	Allotments from the Government of India grant.	Expenditure up to 30th June 1936.
	Rs.	Rs.
1. Village communications	4,47,540	2,27,000
2. Rural water supply	5,26,810	50,000
3. Rural sanitation including a Health Unit scheme ..	3,00,000	74,000
4. Anti-malarial operations	50,000	31,000
5. Discretionary grants by Collectors	48,650	38,000
	13,73,000	4,20,000
Allotments transferred to Orissa—		
1. Village communications	2,460	
2. Rural water supply	23,190	
3. Discretionary grants by Collectors	1,350	
	27,000	
Total	14,00,000	

2. The amounts actually distributed under the various heads and the details of expenditure met out of them are as follows :—

Village communications :—

The distribution of the allotment is as follows :—

	Rs.
District boards for expenditure in areas other than those within the jurisdiction of non-union Panchayat Boards	2,95,520
Amount placed at the disposal of the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards for expenditure in non-union Panchayat areas	1,50,000
Valparai Panchayat Board	1,000
Amount undistributed	1,020
	4,47,540

The District Boards have spent up to 30th June 1936 a sum of Rs. 1,44,000 and the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards Rs. 83,000.

Full grants have been made in areas other than Panchayat (non-union) areas for 182 road works besides numerous bridges and culverts over irrigation and drainage channels, and in Panchayat (non-union) areas for 133 works of which 107 relate to road works and the remainder to the construction of culverts and bridges.

Reports from district officers show that new roads have been made to connect important villages with each other and with railway stations and-trunk roads. In several districts these roads have opened up the interior where difficulties have hitherto been felt by agriculturists for want of proper roads especially in the rainy season. The construction of culverts over irrigation and drainage channels has greatly facilitated the transport of agricultural produce from the fields to the villages and from the villages to the trading centres. The value of these roads and bridges is so much appreciated by the public that in some cases they have volunteered labour and free gifts of land.

3. Rural water supply.—

The allotments are as follows :—

	Rs.
253A (1) For protected water supply schemes in the Nilgiris, Coimbatore, Madura and Kurnool Districts	63,205
(2) For rural water supply works. (Through the Presidents of District Boards for expenditure in areas other than those within the jurisdiction of non-union Panchayat Boards)	4,10,771
(3) Through the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards for expenditure in non-union Panchayat areas	40,415
(4) Amount sanctioned for expenditure in Agency areas	10,992
(5) Amount kept in reserve to meet unforeseen expenditure	2,027
	5,26,810

Presidents of District Boards have spent up to 30th June 1936 a sum of about Rs. 50,000. The Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards had not actually spent any of the money placed at his disposal up to 30th June 1936. He has however stated that many of the works are under execution. The delay is due to the fact that the funds were placed at his disposal late in last year and the preliminaries to the actual execution of the works could not be completed in time to enable any grants to be drawn before 30th June 1936.

The progress in the execution of the rural water supply works has been slow. This is largely accounted for by heavy rains in some of the districts and the consequent rise in sub-soil water and the difficulties in obtaining a certificate from the District Board Engineer before execution as to the availability of water at the site selected. (This has been imposed as a condition to guard against unprofitable outlay.)

4. Full grants have been made for the construction of about 650 drinking water wells in areas other than Panchayat (non-union) areas

and for about 75 wells in Panchayat (non-union) areas. About 100 wells have so far been completed or are nearing completion. These wells have been sunk in places where the need for good drinking water has been keenly felt and the wells are open to all classes of people. Parapet and side wells, platforms, etc., and baling arrangements, wherever necessary, are being put up. These works supply a real need in villages and afford great relief to the rural population.

Protected Water Supply Schemes.—

The grant was allotted for expenditure on the following schemes :—

1. *Nilgiris District :*

				Rs.
Kadanadu water supply scheme	..	..	..	1,400
Thuneri water supply scheme	..	..	..	4,980
Kodamalai water supply scheme	..	..	..	3,750
Porthi water supply scheme	..	..	..	1,900
Devarshola Bazar water supply scheme	..	..	..	1,800
Davani water supply scheme	..	..	..	2,460
Gudalur water supply scheme	..	..	..	4,625
Kotagiri water supply scheme	4,960

2. *Coimbatore District :*

Dhaliyur water supply scheme	4,930
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3. *Madura District :*

Avanipuram water supply scheme	28,000
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4. *Kurnool District :*

Hosur water supply scheme				4,400
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63,205

Of these 11 schemes, six schemes are under execution and three have been dropped as not suitable for execution. Two schemes have not yet been taken up.

Rural Sanitation.—

The amount allotted has been distributed as follows :—

				Rs.
Provision of bore-hole latrines in rural areas	..	..	..	2,75,000
Poonamallee Health Unit Scheme	..	..	..	25,000

3,00,000

Scheme for the provision of bore-hole latrines in rural areas.

This scheme provides for—

- (1) The construction of two public latrines in each village.
- (2) For the supply of concrete slabs at half cost and the free supply of borers necessary for installing private latrines in a few houses in each village, subject to the condition that the house-owner finds funds for the enclosure, labour for boring and construction and the other half of the cost of the slabs.

The scheme has been put in operation in a selected taluk in each District Board area and is under the control of the Director of Public Health.

A sum of Rs. 58,800 has been spent on the scheme up to 30th June 1936 and 1,073 public and 2,184 private latrines have been constructed so far. The latrines constructed after 1st April 1936 are being provided with zinc sheet enclosures. In many of the districts the scheme is expected to be completed before 31st December 1936.

In places where these latrines have been put up the people have been instructed by means of ordinary and magic lantern lectures as to the dangers of soil pollution and consequent hookworm infection. These latrines are now being more widely used by the rural population, especially by women and are becoming more popular. Some local bodies are already following the example set by Government. They have begun to construct borehole latrines in their areas at their own cost and to employ the scavengers necessary for keeping them clean. A few District Boards are themselves meeting half the cost of the slabs supplied by Government to private houseowners. In the Nilgiris District some of the estates are manufacturing their own slabs and constructing bore hole latrines in their estates for the use of their labourers.

Poonamallee Health Unit Scheme.—

This is an experimental scheme of intensive health work, carried out in a selected area of 25 square miles in Sreeperumbudur Taluk in the Chingleput District, with Poonamallee as the headquarters, with a view to demonstrating what can be done for the health and welfare of the rural population by a well organised public health effort and thus stimulate the health consciousness of the masses. This scheme is also intended to afford facilities for training workers in all aspects of public health. The estimated cost of the scheme for a period of 18 months is Rs. 41,700 and the sum allotted for expenditure on it from the Government of India grant is Rs. 25,000, the balance being met from a contribution by the Rockefeller Foundation.

The Health Unit is under the charge of a First Class Health Officer. The whole of the Health Unit area has been divided into four ranges, each with a staff of one health inspector, one health visitor, two midwives and two female attendants. Besides the above staff, a clerk, an attender and ten peons are employed in the Health Unit as a whole.

The Public Health staff of the Health Unit attend to the following matters :—

(a) *Administration.*—

- (1) Vital Statistics.
- (2) Health Education.
- (3) Supervision.

(b) *Hygiene.*—

- (1) Ante-natal.
- (2) Natal and post-natal.
- (3) Infant and child of pre-school age.
- (4) Child of school age.
- (5) Adult.
- (6) Industrial, domestic and social hygiene.

(c) *Sanitation.*—

- (1) Water supply.
- (2) Drainage.
- (3) Conservancy.
 - (i) Rubbish and manure.
 - (ii) Nightsoil.
 - (iii) Provision of latrines.
- (4) Nutrition and food supply.
- (5) Housing.
- (6) Dangerous and offensive trades.
- (7) Control of animals and their sheds.
- (8) Disposal of dead.

(d) *Control of communicable diseases.*—

- (1) Notification.
- (2) Epidemiological investigations.
- (3) Vaccination and preventive inoculation.
- (4) Malaria control.
- (5) Special campaigns, such as hookworm, filariasis, leprosy, tuberculosis and venereal diseases.

(e) *Laboratory work.*—An advisory committee consisting of the Revenue Divisional Officer, a representative of the Rockefeller Foundation, a representative of the District Board, the Presidents of the Panchayats in the Health Unit area and a representative from each of the non-panchayat villages has been constituted. The Revenue Divisional Officer is the President of the Committee and the Health Officer, the Secretary. The work of the committee is of an advisory nature. It meets once every quarter.

The actual work of the Health Unit was started on 4th October 1935. The activities of the Health Unit for the first nine months are summarised below.

Vital Statistics.—

During the nine months of the working of the scheme 1,338 births and 920 deaths have been registered as against 1,044 births and 758 deaths for the corresponding period during the previous year.

House Survey.—

House surveys are being carried out with the object of getting as much information as possible about the houses and their occupants. The health inspectors have surveyed all the 8,017 houses in the Health Unit area. They are now going over the same houses advising the people to carry out improvements, especially in the matter of removal of rubbish accumulated in the backyards.

Health Education.—

Health inspectors have been giving magic lantern and Cinema lectures in different parts of the Health Unit on the various subjects with the object of educating the public. The Health staff has also been holding personal talks with the public whenever possible. In all they have delivered 148 magic lantern lectures, 6 cinema lectures and 55 lectures without magic lanterns. They have also conducted 63 school talks, 705 village talks and 31 radio performances.

Vaccination and anti-cholera inoculation.—

In all 911 primary vaccinations and 2,852 re-vaccinations have been conducted by the public health staff of the Health Unit. 5,361 anti-cholera inoculations have also been conducted in the Health Unit.

Maternity and Childwelfare.—

Health visitors and midwives attend to home visits and conduct labour cases. So far they have conducted 614 labour cases, assisted 96 delivery cases, and have made 4,658 ante-natal and 4,303 post-natal visits and have visited 90 expectant mothers, 1,969 infants, and 1,059 children of pre-school age. They have delivered 6 lectures and have conducted 40 ante-natal and infant clinics, besides 15,014 home visits to advise women in their houses. The clinics were mostly attended to by the Assistant Directress of Public Health (Maternity and Childwelfare). The people have begun to appreciate the work of these health visitors and midwives.

School Hygiene.—

In all 1,603 school children have been examined.

Water supply.—

With a view to improving the water supply of the Health Unit, 14 samples of water taken from different sources in the Health Unit were sent to the King Institute, Guindy, for chemical and bacteriological examination. As all the samples were found unsatisfactory, the question of improving the water supply in the Health Unit by means of sinking bore wells is under consideration. The Chingleput District Board and a Panchayat have made a contribution of Rs. 5,250 for the purpose.

Hookworm.—

The investigation regarding hookworm was started during the second quarter, with a view to suggesting mass hookworm treatment. In all, 545 samples of motions have been examined so far, with positive results in about 78 per cent. This examination is not yet complete.

Epidemic Diseases.—

There were occasional outbreaks of small-pox and cholera. In all, there were 77 attacks and 20 deaths from small-pox and 154 attacks and 60 deaths from cholera. The existence of the public health staff of the Health Unit was useful in detecting the cases early and attending to them daily—a task which is not possible for the ordinary district health staff.

General Sanitation.—

The public health staff of the Health Unit has taken over the supervision of the conservancy section of the Panchayat areas in the Health Unit.

A sum of Rs. 1,500 has been allotted for expenditure on the construction of private and public borehole latrines in the Health Unit from the allotment for the construction of borehole latrines.

The public health staff of the Health Unit also act as advisers in the matter of licensable trades.

There were some minor festivals in the villages of the Health Unit. The necessary sanitary arrangements for these festivals were looked after by the Public Health staff of the Health Unit.

General.—

Except for a few cases of cholera and small-pox, the public health of the Health Unit was quite satisfactory.

A batch of five students of the B. S. Sc. and Health Officers classes were deputed by the Professor of Hygiene, Medical College, Madras, to undergo a course of demonstration in the Health Unit. This method of training is likely to be useful when all the activities of the Health Unit are in full swing. The question of appointing a woman medical officer for the Health Unit is under the consideration of the Madras Government.

Expenditure.—

A sum of about Rs. 15,000 has been spent on the scheme from the Government of India grant during the first nine months of the working of the scheme.

The Government of India have agreed to the continuance of the Health Unit for a further period of 4 years from 31st March 1937 on a contributory basis.

Discretionary grants by Collectors.—

The sum of Rs. 48,650 allotted for expenditure under this head has been distributed to the Collectors of districts at the rate of Rs. 2,000 each. They have spent Rs. 38,000 up to 30th June 1936.

The Collectors have spent the grants mostly on sinking wells for drinking water in places where they are badly needed, improving and deepening tanks, improving cattle ponds, constructing culverts and foot bridges, providing playgrounds and burial grounds and in providing relief for persons who have lost their possessions from fire accidents.

Anti-malarial Operations.—

The sum of Rs. 50,000 allotted for the above purpose has been distributed for expenditure on the various schemes as detailed below :—

1. Construction of sub-soil and open drainage at Chintapalli, Gudem Taluk and Vizagapatam Agency	13,000
2. Construction of sub-soil drainage at Gudalur in the Nilgiris District	13,000
3. Anti-malarial operations in the Rameswaram Island in the Ramnad District	6,000
4. Anti-malarial operations in the coastal area from Ennore to Madras, Sriharikota Island and Gudur Taluk, Nellore District	18,000
Total	50,000

A sum of Rs. 31,000 has been spent on the schemes up to 30th June 1936 and the Director of Public Health who is controlling the schemes has reported that all of them will be completed by August 1936.

BOMBAY.

	Allotments from the Government of India grant.	Expenditure up to 30th June 1936.
(1) Agricultural schemes including Animal Husbandry ..	1,27,024	51,240
(2) Industrial schemes	19,636	6,757
(3) Public Health and Sanitation	37,065	17,155
(4) Rural water supply	26,701	13,515
(5) Village communications	20,989	12,125
(6) Education	29,618	14,299
(7) Propaganda in the districts	42,646	16,264
(8) Special agricultural and industrial schemes	94,900	9,615
(9) Miscellaneous	32,029	13,234
Unallotted reserve	1,31,392	..
	5,62,000	1,54,204
Allotment for Sind	1,38,000	..
	7,00,000	1,54,204

(1) *Agricultural schemes including Animal Husbandry.*—These schemes were formulated by the district authorities to suit local conditions. They cover a large number of useful objects, such as improvement of the quality of cotton, paddy and bajri seeds, improvement of sugarcane, introduction of up-to-date agricultural implements and construction of manure pits. In certain centres attention has been concentrated on cattle breeding and improvement in the breed of goats. Among the many

miscellaneous objects on which the grant is expended may be mentioned bunding, pig-killing and egg sale societies. Kamgars have been appointed for the collection and distribution of improved varieties of rice strains. A large quantity of Java sugarcane has been distributed in the central and western parts of the Dharwar District with a condition in certain cases that the recipients should return an equal number of sets of the cane supplied to them with an additional 25 per cent. at the harvest—this arrangement being devised for the more rapid spread of cultivation of the improved variety all over the tract. A beginning has been made with the Belgaum District by deputing a trained mason employed by the Agricultural Department to popularise the Poona furnace for *gur* boiling in the western part of the district, where sugarcane is grown on an extensive scale and applications from cultivators for the construction of such furnaces have begun to be received. Leghorn and Rhode Island fowls and eggs have been distributed to some villagers and a beginning has been made in the Kolaba District by opening poultry farms. A central poultry farm has been opened under the supervision of the Wilson Anti-Famine Institute in Bijaour.

(2) *Industrial Schemes.*—Advances to weavers and the purchase of sewing machines, etc., to start sewing and knitting classes represent the bulk of the expenditure. A school for the introduction of improved methods of wool-carding and weaving has been opened at Darga in Bijapur under the supervision of the Department of Industries and boys of the shepherd class, which forms about one-eighth of the total population of the district, are admitted to the school. Deserving students are each given a monthly stipend of Rs. 6 for the whole course of six months and a loan of Rs. 64 for the purchase of appliances. A handloom weaving school has been opened at Dandur in the Dharwar District.

(3) *Public Health and Sanitation.*—The schemes under this head comprise purchase of medicine chests, campaign against guinea worm, baby shows, nurseries, improvement of the conditions of midwifery and propaganda of knowledge of first aid. So far 50 medicine boxes have been purchased. Rs. 4,000 has been spent on the campaign against guinea worm. Eighteen earth augers have been purchased for boring latrine holes. 250 booklets on first aid were purchased for distribution. 24 baby shows were held and 11 dais were trained. Four village dispensaries have been opened and grants given in deserving cases towards the pay and travelling allowances of doctors and lady visitors.

(4) *Rural water supply.*—The expenditure on rural water supply was mainly concentrated on the construction and deepening of wells. Step wells wherever possible have been converted into draw wells, mainly with a view to combat guinea worm which prevails in certain parts of the Presidency. About 30 step wells have so far been converted into draw wells, four were repaired and 15 new ones constructed. Water supply has been improved in three villages at a cost of about Rs. 2,000, while in certain other places water troughs and "Ovara" have been built.

(5) *Village communications.*—Construction and repairing of roads and gutters in addition to bridges over nallas and stone pavements, where road conditions were miserably bad, account for the expenditure so far. It is noteworthy that in Kolaba where interior communications are not satisfactory villagers are being encouraged to construct approach roads by voluntary labour and this measure has met with considerable success.

(6) *Education*.—The Government of India's grant has been mainly utilised for opening 195 night schools and constructing school buildings in 9 cases. Touring libraries have been started and grants have been given to 45 of them. Books were also purchased and distributed for village libraries and grants made in deserving cases for literacy schemes, boy scouts, girl guides and training colleges.

(7) *Propaganda in the Districts*.—Propaganda work has been mainly concentrated on training classes for rural workers, magic lanterns and slides, gramophones and leaflets and posters on various subjects such as tree and mango planting, trench latrines, and cattle diseases. In certain cases village improvement photographs have been taken and published in local papers. A few publicity vans have been purchased to facilitate the dissemination of instructive matter pertaining to rural hygiene.

(8) *Special Agricultural and Industrial Schemes*.—These include village tanning industry, inland fisheries, improvement of buffalo and its milk supply, poultry in villages (with special stress on the encouragement of pedigree poultry keeping) and co-operative egg collecting, grading and marketing. The idea of the latter scheme is to show cultivators how by co-operation and early marketing of eggs they can be considerably benefited. One kamgar trained at the Government Central Poultry Farm has been deputed to assist villagers in this direction. It may be added that the custom of the Royal Bombay Yacht Club has been secured for the purchase of eggs.

BENGAL.

	Allotments from the Government of India grant. Rs.	Expenditure up to May 1936. Rs.
(1) Establishment of seed, paddy and crop demonstration centres, etc.	1,09,000	3,400
(2) Improvement of cattle, etc.	1,75,000	17,000
(3) Improvement of poultry	500	..
(4) Propaganda in the districts	20,000	..
(5) Wireless transmission in Midnapore District	17,000	..
(6) Improved marketing of Jute and Paddy	50,000	..
(7) Coir spinning and weaving	40,700	9,000
(8) Union Board dispensaries and improvement of water supply	3,84,000	1,45,000
(9) Agricultural farms attached to secondary schools, etc.	1,80,000	1,75,000
(10) Boy Scouts, Girl Guides and Bratachari	20,000	20,000
(11) Minor drainage and flushing schemes	3,03,000	2,000
(12) Chittagong Hill Tracts	30,000	19,000
(13) Discretionary grants	2,05,800	89,000
(14) Grant to Sriniketan	11,000	11,000
(15) Grant for school play-grounds	49,000	49,000
Unallotted	5,000	..
	16,00,000	5,69,400

(9) *Attachment of Agricultural farms, etc., to secondary schools and provision of play grounds and village halls.*—The total expenditure up to the end of May, 1936, is Rs. 1,75,000. The scheme has been almost completed.

(10) *Boy Scouts, Girl Guides and Bratachari.*—The whole of the sanctioned allotment of Rs. 20,000 was spent by the end of the year 1935-36.

(11) *Minor Drainage and flushing schemes.*—The actual expenditure up to the end of May, 1936 was Rs. 22,000.

Progress of expenditure during the current year is likely to be more rapid now as the work of the special Engineer Officer entrusted with the preparation of the details of the several small schemes is nearing completion.

(12) *Chittagong Hill Tracts.*—The actual expenditure up to the end of June, 1936 amounted to Rs. 18,804 as detailed below :—

Schemes.	Sanctioned allotment.	Expenditure
		up to 30th June 1936.
	Rs.	Rs.
(1) Rural water supply	12,500	10,567
(2) Rangamati Water Supply Scheme	5,000	5,000
(3) Clearing rivers of snags	5,000	..
(4) Bridges and Communications	3,500	1,080
(5) Draining of dhebas	3,000	1,576
(6) Agricultural and Industrial Development	1,000	581
Total	30,000	18,804

The works which could not be taken up owing to the early monsoon are expected to be completed during the next cold weather.

(13) *Discretionary grants to Commissioners and District Officers.*—The expenditure up to the end of June 1936 amounted to Rs. 89,270 as detailed below :—

	Expenditure
	up to 30th June 1936.
	Rs.
1. Grants for water supply	18,587
2. Grants to dispensaries for medical appliances, repairs to dispensary buildings, etc.	17,685
3. Grants for the construction of roads, bridges and improvement of communications	3,345
4. Grants to weaving and industrial institutes, exhibition committees, etc.	4,566
5. Grants to schools for purchase of books and furniture and repairs to school buildings and for play-grounds	9,728
6. Grants to clubs and associations for bookssports equipment, etc.	1,498

	Expenditure up to 30th June 1936.
	Rs.
7. Grants to Boy Scouts and Girl Guides Organizations and Bratachari Societies	4,068
8. Grants for improvement of village sanitation	6,192
9. Grants to public libraries	1,380
10. Grants to Drainage and Irrigation schemes	9,825
11. Grants for radio sets	5,774
12. Grants for breeding bulls, improvement of agriculture, etc. ..	5,944
13. Grants to leprosy clinics	460
14. Grants to Veterinary hospitals, cremation ground, St. John Ambulance and Presidents of Union Boards for helping Village reconstruction, etc.	220
Total ..	89,270

(14) *Grant to Sriniketan.*—A grant of Rs. 11,000 out of the unspent balance of the original allotment of Rs. 82,000 for rural broadcasting in Midnapore has been made to the Sriniketan Society for the establishment of five village health societies.

(15) *Grant for school play grounds.*—An allotment of Rs. 49,000 has been made (with the approval of the Government of India) out of the unspent balance of the original allotment of Rs. 82,000 for rural broadcasting in Midnapore for play grounds for secondary schools spread over all the districts. Actual expenditure has not yet been incurred as details are now under consideration.

UNITED PROVINCES.

	Allotments from the Government of India grant.	Expenditure up to 31st March 1936.
	Rs.	Rs.
1. Main scheme	7,00,000	59,500
2. Agricultural schemes	3,28,000	28,000
3. Public Health schemes	3,16,000	54,500
4. Industrial schemes	70,000	3,000
5. Publicity schemes	36,000	..
6. Kumaun schemes	50,000	5,000
	15,00,000	1,50,000

The rural development schemes of the United Provinces Government are in three parts: the main scheme, departmental schemes and the Kumaun Scheme. They have been in force since October 1935. These three schemes are parts of a unitary and comprehensive scheme of rural development which is in operation in the 48 districts of these

provinces. The departmental schemes are certain special schemes which are worked in close association with the main scheme. They supplement the local efforts and resources under the main scheme and primarily benefit the areas selected for development. The Kumaun scheme meets the special needs of the three hill districts.

Main Scheme.

2. Under the main scheme 270 rural development circles have been established in the province. Each circle comprises a group of twelve villages. A resident organizer is stationed in the central village of a circle. A village organization has been set up in each village and there is in each district a rural development association. This consists partly of zamindars and other non-official gentlemen interested in rural welfare and partly of the local officers of the different departments of Government so as to co-ordinate the various activities for effecting improvements in the rural areas. A discretionary grant of Rs. 5,000 a year has been allotted to each district officer. This grant is to be expended by him on objects of public utility in the rural development circles of his district and is to be given on a contributory basis in accordance with local needs and requirements. An officer has been placed on special duty to supervise the working of the whole scheme. Educative propaganda is being carried on by holding fairs and exhibitions for farmers. A feature of these exhibitions is that all the departments co-operate in running it and they are thoroughly practical in nature. During the comparatively short period of the operation of this scheme encouraging and satisfactory progress has been made. It has to a large extent succeeded in securing concentration of work, co-ordination of different activities, and a balanced all-round development of village life ; the sanitary, the cultural and the economic aspects have all been taken up together and tackled fairly effectively.

3. As a result, local apathy and fatalistic resignation have given place in many areas to active interest and there is a stir and a new note of hope. Agricultural improvements have received fresh impetus, demand for improved seeds is growing, demonstration plots are being opened in the village centres, seed unions are being formed, better agricultural methods and practices are being adopted and cattle breeding is being taken up with earnestness. A concentrated drive is being made for improving rural sanitation and hygiene. Without forcing anything from above, villagers are taking up such items of work as pitting the manure outside the village, constructing soakage pits, improving village water supply, general sanitation and clean houses. Cultural improvements have received equal attention. Considerable zeal has been displayed everywhere in the development of village games and sports, opening of night schools and village libraries and training of adult scouts for social service. This has the effect of making village life more interesting and this in turn stimulates a desire for improvement in other directions. More encouraging are the signs of a corporate spirit of self-help and the particular instances in which the villagers have been able to carry out improvements for the benefit of the village. Such instances are the improvement of communications, eradication of pests, settlement of disputes, co-operative distribution of water for irrigation purposes and opening of educational classes.

Agricultural Schemes.

4. *Well-boring*.—In areas which still remain unserved by canals and tube-wells, irrigation facilities have been provided by undertaking boring operations within existing wells of the ordinary type. Under this scheme 2,250 wells will be sunk and nearly one-third of this number have been repaired so far. In each case two-thirds of the cost of boring has been met by the owner of the well.

5. *Embankments and Reservoirs*.—Another source of increasing the water-supply for irrigation purposes is by the construction of small village reservoirs or embankments. This work is concentrated in the eastern districts of the province and in Bundelkhand. Survey work in this connexion has been completed and several embankments are under construction. A 50 H. P. tractor and the necessary ploughs have been purchased for construction work. In this scheme also the villagers meet a part of the cost, mostly in labour.

6. *Fruit culture*.—In twelve selected districts of the province fruit culture has been organized on an extensive scale in the rural development circles. Fruit plants and seeds have been supplied to 720 villages; the work of planting is nearing completion.

7. *Goat and poultry breeding*.—A special scheme for the improvement of goats and poultry is in force. Fifteen stud bucks for breeding village goats, in addition to two Jamunapari and one Bar-Bari buck, have been placed at five different centres. Several successful goat shows have been held, at which 214 goats were exhibited; there were 189 exhibitors from 36 villages. Two poultry farms have been opened. 20 pure bred utility White Leghorns have been placed at one farm, 20 pure bred utility Rhode Island Reds at the other. An all-metal poultry house has been erected at each of these centres.

Public Health Schemes.

8. *Village medicine chests*.—Nearly 3,000 villages have been supplied with village medicine chests. These chests have proved extremely popular and have had to be replenished several times in many places. The supply of medicine chests has made both the workers and the scheme popular with the villagers.

9. *Health Units*.—Nine "Health Units" have been established; each comprising a compact area of about 50 villages. Besides carrying on the general items of health work which include soakage pits, manure pits, ventilators, improvement of water supply, the special features of the health units are the provision of medical relief by means of mobile dispensaries under the charge of medical officers, maternity and child welfare work under the care of health visitors assisted by trained midwives, the training of indigenous *dais* and general anti-epidemic work such as inoculation and vaccination. Intensive health propoganda has been carried out by lectures, homely talks, magic lanterns and cinema shows and special attention has been paid to the promotion of Junior Red Cross activities in the schools in the Health Unit areas. A number of sanitary schools has been formed in villages for maintaining these activities on a permanent footing.

Industrial Schemes.

10. *Industrial schemes.*—To provide facilities for marketing the products of village cottage industries, 27 subsidised shops have been opened. A new section for the marketing of village products has been opened at the Arts and Crafts Emporium at Lucknow. Besides maintaining a show-room containing a selection of the important products of rural industries, the Emporium does business by buying products from rural areas and supplying them to subsidised shops at wholesale rates.

11. *Co-operative Societies of ghee producers.*—Five supervisors have been appointed to organize co-operative societies of ghee producers and they are doing useful work.

12. *Co-operative Stores.*—Five Co-operative stores have been opened in order to help in the marketing of the products of selected industries. One deals with basket and needle work, another with blanket weaving, a third with mat wicker chairs, durries, etc., a fourth with leather goods and the fifth with durries and brass utensils.

Publicity and Propaganda Schemes.

13. Suitably selected papers and periodicals as well as departmental journals and pamphlets have been broadcast in the 3,000 odd villages included in the rural development scheme as also in other villages. A few posters are being printed. Useful agricultural information dealing with the practical fruits of research is being translated into the vernacular and communicated in simple and homely language to the people in rural areas.

The Kumaun Scheme.

14. Special schemes are in force in the hill districts of Naini Tal, Almora and Garhwal. A lump provision of Rs. 25,000 has been made to Naini Tal and Rs. 12,500 each to Almora and Garhwal to finance certain approved schemes. In the Naini Tal District a scheme costing Rs. 6,500 for pipe water supply for Haldwani has been taken in hand. Twenty-five *diggis* (water tanks) have been constructed at a total cost of Rs. 10,000. The construction of anti-malaria drains is in progress. In Almora the water supply of ten villages has been improved, an important road has been repaired, a nursery for the supply of seedlings to panchayati forests has been opened and barbed wire has been distributed where necessary. In Garhwal eight bulls have been purchased and are used for the improvement of cattle, a model village has been established and improved seeds have been distributed.

PUNJAB.

	Allotments from the Government of India grant. Rs.	Expenditure up to the end of July 1936. Rs.
1. Consolidation of Holdings	2,01,766	50,000
2. Sanitary improvements in Gujrat District ..	8,829	6,000
3. Bore-hole latrines in Gurdaspur District ..	10,000	2,000

	Allotments from the Government of India grant.	Expenditure up to end of July 1936.
	Rs.	Rs.
4. Water-supply schemes	2,25,322	..
5. Serum Cellars	20,225	..
6. Reconstruction of the Veterinary Hospitals in Rohtak District	12,000	6,000
7. Construction of Veterinary Hospitals	60,000	..
8. Broadcasting Scheme	48,040	20,000
9. Tanning Scheme	75,920	18,000
10. Fruit growing	62,000	10,500
11. Well boring	25,898	9,500
12. District Officers' discretionary grants	1,00,000	92,000
Total	8,50,000	2,14,000

Consolidation of holdings.—This work was started by the Co-operative Department in 1921, since when over 600,000 acres have been consolidated with the unanimous consent of all concerned. Last year it was decided to attempt it through the agency of the Revenue Department as well and allotments from the Government of India grant were made to both as follows :—

	Rs.
(a) Co-operative Department	1,51,766
(b) Revenue Department	50,000

A.—Co-operative Department.

The staff sanctioned for the purpose is :—

Inspectors	7
Sub-Inspectors	83

7 Inspectors and 78 Sub-Inspectors have so far been appointed. The full staff will be employed as soon as suitable men can be found and trained.

The total area consolidated so far by this special staff is 25,487 acres and the total expenditure Rs. 36,768, which is less than Rs. 1|8|- per acre as against Rs. 1|11|- for the province as a whole.

A great advance has been made during the last two years in the method of consolidation. Originally consolidation was arranged by exchange of fields. Then came a stage in which all the landowners in a *patti* or sub-division of a village agreed to consolidate their holdings by reallocation. Now in the Ambala, Jullundur and Hoshiarpur circles consolidation will not be started unless whole villages agree to pool and re-allot the land.

So successful was consolidation that in 1934-35 1,00,000 fields were reduced to less than 17,000. But the process goes further than mere consolidation of fields. Village roads are straightened and new connecting roads are made, which sometimes include a circular road round the village, on the outside of which each landowner is given a small plot for keeping his manure. If possible, too, spaces are left for a school playground and for a tree nursery. Thus the entire village area may be laid out afresh with the happiest results. New wells are sunk, waste lands are brought under cultivation, litigation about boundaries virtually ceases, production increases, and the benefits are so marked that the villagers are much more ready than they were before to take up other practical forms of rural reconstruction. In fact, where fragmentation is acute, as it is in a large part of the Punjab, it is not too much to say that consolidation of holdings is the starting point of all real rural reconstruction.

B.—Revenue Department.

Work is being undertaken in the Rohtak, Gujrat and Sialkot Districts. Each district has been given a Tahsildar as consolidation officer and two Kanungos and five Patwaris. In Rohtak and Gujrat the work is still in the initial stage of propaganda, but in Sialkot five villages have been consolidated and four more are under consolidation. The work is likely to proceed more rapidly when the Consolidation of Holdings Bill now under consideration is passed. This will make it possible to consolidate holdings when a sufficient majority is in favour of this. At present consent has to be unanimous.

The expenditure incurred so far under this head is Rs. 13,177.

Sanitary improvements in 31 villages in the Gujrat District.—The amount is to be spent on improvements, such as sullage drains, pavements of dry brick on edge, provision of tube-wells for drinking purposes, repairs and roofing of percolation wells in 31 villages in the Gujrat District. The Gujrat District was selected because there are Rural Reconstruction (Dehat Sudhar) Committees in a number of villages there. In 31 villages the committees have agreed to contribute one-third of the cost by way of cash, labour or material. The District Board will also contribute one-third and the balance will be met from the grant of Rs. 8,829.

Work has been completed in seven villages at a cost of Rs. 6,085 and is in progress in seven others.

Bore-hole latrines in the Shakargark Tahsil of the Gurdaspur District.—Several measures are being carried out in the Gurdaspur District for combating hookworm, a disease which is very prevalent there. One of these is the provision of bore-hole latrines to prevent reinfection from the soil. The latrines are constructed in the courtyards of those who ask for them and for those who have no courtyards community latrines are built (for men and women separately) outside the village. Experience shows that the former are better looked after than the latter. All are periodically inspected by the Epidemiologist to Government, the District Medical Officer of Health and the Officer in charge of the Anti-hookworm Survey, and so far they have led to no nuisance in the shape of flies or

smell. This is because they are bored down to sub-soil water level. They are also kept at least 70 feet from the nearest well or pump to prevent any possible contamination of the drinking water supply.

So far about 1,500 latrines have been made in the district. The work is being done through the District Board, partly with its own funds and partly with the help of the Government of India grant, of which Rs. 2,106 was spent by the end of March.

Water-supply schemes.—The following eight drinking water supply schemes are to be financed from this grant :—

District.	Village.	Estimated cost.
		Rs.
Kangra	Palampur	21,841
Dera Ghazi Khan	Vehoa	22,000
Shahpur	Jabbi	27,343
Shahpur	Choha	30,666
Mianwali	Burekhel	22,523
Mianwali	Sanwans	8,401
Dera Ghazi Khan	Sakhi Sarwar	36,008
Jhelum	Toba Saroya and Athar	48,076
	Reserve	8,404
	Total	2,25,322

So far only a few hundred rupees have been spent on survey work. This is because the schemes are to be executed through the Public Works Department and unexpected difficulties arose over their departmental charges. It has now been finally decided that no charge shall be made.

Serum Cellars.—The object is to improve the distribution of sera and vaccines required for dealing with an out-break of contagious diseases. This will be done by increasing the number of serum cellars or storage depots, which at present is very limited.

No expenditure has been incurred so far, but the places where serum cellars are to be constructed have been selected and a suitable plan has been approved for general adoption throughout the province.

Reconstruction of the Veterinary Hospital at Rohtak.—The hospital was destroyed during the floods of September 1933.

The work is in hand and Rs. 5,938 have been spent.

Construction of 10 Veterinary Hospitals.—It has been decided to construct veterinary hospitals at the following places :—

Place.	District.
Ratia	Hissar.
Farrukhnagar	Gurgaon.
Puna Hana	Gurgaon.
Ganaur	Rohtak.

Place.	District.
Dina	Jhelum.
Karor	Muzaffargarh.
Kotmomin	Shahpur.
Dajal	D. G. Khan.
Chakrala	Mianwali.

Sanction to the construction of buildings at Ratia, Ganaur, Dina, Karor, Kotmomin and Chakrala has been accorded. Steps are being taken to expedite the submission of the plans and estimates of the remaining projects.

Broadcasting Scheme.—The amount is to be spent mainly on buying and servicing receivers to be used in villages in the Ambala Division, within 80 miles of Delhi. A small amount has been reserved for improving the rural side of the Delhi programme.

Rs. 19,881 has been spent and 14 receiving sets have been installed in villages in the following districts :—

Gurgaon	4
Karnal	4
Rohtak	6

As a result a co-operative Better Living Society has been started in each of the four Gurgaon villages. The rural programme lasts an hour every evening and consists of music interspersed with educative ' talks '. From April 1 to July 25, 99 talks were given as follows :—

Health	39
Agriculture	12
Veterinary	8
Co-operation	7
Social Reform	18
Education	15

99

The music was at first of too urban a character for village taste. This is being rectified.

Tanning Scheme.—The scheme consists of two parts :—

- (a) The establishment of a central tanning institute for imparting training in improved methods of tanning to *chamars* drawn from all over the province and to a certain number of educated persons.
- (b) Two travelling demonstration parties in order to give demonstrations and training in improved methods of tanning to *chamars* and tanners.

With regard to (a) it has been decided to locate the central tanning Institute at Jullundur. Land has been acquired for Rs. 5,366 and Rs. 23,000

has been allotted for buildings and machinery worth Rs. 12,000 has been ordered, of which Rs. 2,080 has been paid on account. A Research Assistant has been appointed to investigate the improvement of the existing tanning materials as they are not giving satisfactory results.

With regard to (b) Rs. 10,761 has so far been spent on two travelling demonstration parties—one in the western Punjab at Multan and the second in the eastern Punjab at Rampura in the Gurgaon District. A large number of tanners and *chamars* and a few educated persons have been trained in improved methods of tanning. The object is to stop the wasteful methods of tanning commonly employed. The persons trained are producing a definitely improved quality of leather.

Fruit growing.—(a) *Provision of nursery fruit plants for sale at cheap rates. Rs. 47,000.*

Rs. 3,753 has been spent and work has been undertaken in the following directions :—

- (i) Extension of work in the existing fruit nurseries at the departmental farms at Lyallpur, Montgomery, Jullundur, Gurdaspur, Gujranwala and Sargodha.
- (ii) Nurseries have been started at the Agricultural Farm at Karnal, the Date Farm at Muzaffargarh and at Samli near Murree.
- (iii) Nursery tools and materials have been purchased and the necessary staff has been appointed.
- (iv) In March 1936, 38,000 *khatti* plants were planted and *khatti* seed sufficient to produce about 50,000 seedlings was sown at various centres. 45,000 cuttings and 18,000 mango seedlings were also planted. 12,000 plants of various kinds of fruit were budded and 6,000 plants were sold to the public.
- (v) Efforts are being made to produce stocks of as large a variety of fruit trees as possible and it is estimated that about 100,000 plants will be budded or grafted by the spring of 1937. The plants will be supplied to the public from next spring at about half the present prices.
- (vi) 4,600 *ber* trees were topworked at different places in the province during the spring 1936 and about the same number is expected to be handled in August 1936. Topworking of apples and pears is also being successfully carried out in the Simla Hills and topworking of olives is being tried in the Murree Hills.
- (vii) Owing to the difficulty of securing budwood of good varieties, it is proposed to establish progeny gardens at two or three centres.

(b) *Providing a fruit preservation plant on a semi-commercial scale for experimental purposes. Rs. 15,000.*

A canning hall has been constructed and machinery worth Rs. 5,000 for the canning of fruits and vegetables has been purchased and is expected shortly. Experiments have already been made with the manufacture of lemon squash, lime juice cordial and tomato ketchup with very promising

results in regard to both taste and cost. Excluding overhead charges the cost is as follows :—

Lemon squash -|6|9 per 24 oz. bottle.

Lime juice cordial -|7|9 per 24 oz. bottle.

Tomato ketchup -|10|- per 12 oz. bottle.

The expenditure up to June 30, excluding cost of machinery, amounted to Rs. 6,612.

Well boring.—The object of the scheme is to encourage well boring. Under the rules anyone desiring to have boring done departmentally had to pay overhead charges at the rate of 12 annas per foot bored, subject to a maximum of Rs. 100 in each case. Since 1st November 1935 no charge has been made on this account, the costs being debited to this grant of Rs. 25,898.

Up to the 30th June, 182 wells for agricultural purposes were bored and Rs. 9,588 was debited to this grant.

Discretionary grants.—Rs. 3,500 were allotted to each district except Simla, which was given Rs. 2,000. The amount was to be spent as the Deputy Commissioners thought best and all but about Rs. 8,000 has been spent, mainly on the following objects :—

- (1) Starting a Model Gaushala at Dera Ghazi Khan with 20 good Dajal cows and a selected Dajal bull.
- (2) Improvement of cattle breeding.
- (3) Encouragement of the use of improved seed and agricultural implements.
- (4) Purchase of radio sets.
- (5) Improvement of water supply in villages.
- (6) Establishment of spinning centres.
- (7) Prizes for works of public utility.
- (8) Starting research laboratories on cattle diseases.
- (9) Street pavements, making drains and pits for manure.
- (10) Opening a health centre and Dais' training class.
- (11) Improvement of village roads.
- (12) Purchase of loud speakers.
- (13) Purchase of an electric press for the printing of a paper on rural reconstruction.

BURMA.

	Allotments from the Government of India grant.	Expenditure up to end of July 1936.
	Rs.	Rs.
(1) Anti-malarial measures	1,15,000	..
(2) Discretionary grants	50,000	46,000
(3) Rural Reconstruction Centres	3,35,000	..
	<hr/> 5,00,000	<hr/> 46,000

Anti-malarial measures.—The anti-malarial measures comprise the free distribution of quinine and the breeding of larvivorous fish. Rs. 90,000 is to be devoted to quinine and Rs. 25,000 is being expended on the establishment of fish breeding centres.

The scheme for the free distribution of quinine required a considerable amount of preparation and was launched finally on the 29th of June last. The Director of Public Health simultaneously arranged with the different departments of Government for the co-operation of all touring officers and in consequence it is hoped to make a widespread distribution of free quinine which should have a very beneficial effect on the incidence of malaria.

A scheme for breeding larvivorous fish has also been initiated. In the first instance tanks are being constructed in the Harcourt Butler Institute of Public Health in Rangoon and fish will be supplied from these to the different centres as required.

2. *Discretionary grants.*—Of the Rs. 50,000 allotted for discretionary grants, Rs. 33,448 was expended in 1935-36 on objects of purely local importance. Rs. 12,000 has been allotted for expenditure during the current year. By small allotments from these grants Deputy Commissioners are enabled to supplement the limited resources of poor villages faced with the necessity of repairing tanks, bridges, roads, wells, etc.

3. *Rural reconstruction.*—As regards the Rural Reconstruction Centres it was not at first realised how much preparation would be necessary before a start could be made with reasonable hope of success. Four centres were originally contemplated, but at the suggestion of the Government of India the number was reduced to three on financial grounds. One centre has now been inaugurated at Tatkon in the Yamethin District. Some preliminary work, however, still remains to be done. Staff has been sanctioned for the Medical, Agricultural and Public Health Departments; plans and estimates have been drawn up for building a health centre, a dispensary and a farm school; arrangements have been made for the co-operation of the District Council and the District School Board and in the Education Department plans are being prepared for the improvement of school buildings in the villages within an area of 40 square miles round the centre and for their equipment as model village schools. A staff for them is being selected by the Department and the schools will be brought under the direct control of the Education Department. Acquisition proceedings for the necessary land have been initiated and the project is regarded locally with much interest.

Heads of Departments are now examining the requirements for the second centre at Mudon in the Amherst District and, as soon as that at Tatkon is equipped and staffed, will make a beginning there. The third will then be planned and opened in the same way, in the light of the experience gained at Tatkon and Mudon.

It is the intention of Government that the officers of each of the departments concerned should constitute a management committee and that when the scheme has sufficiently developed, a special officer will be appointed as its chairman. The essentially rural character of the centre will be kept in the forefront and the officers of each department will enter

as much as possible into village life with the object of creating in the centre a model village community with a relatively high standard of agricultural efficiency, public health and general civic spirit, with, also, some intellectual life centring round the educated men who form the staff of the unit.

The expenditure incurred up to the 31st July 1936 covered only the discretionary grants amounting so far as can be ascertained to Rs. 46,298. Substantial expenditure will be incurred on land acquisition and buildings in the immediate future and recurring expenditure on staff began from the 1st August. 1936.

BIHAR.

	Allotments from the Government of India grant.	Expenditure up to 30th June 1936.
	Rs.	Rs.
Village Communications	2,93,000	1,08,800
Rural water-supply	4,07,000	1,32,100
Miscellaneous projects including drainage and desilting	1,10,000	38,600
Village Welfare	40,000	500
Unallotted Reserve	1,17,500	..
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	9,67,500	2,80,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>

A brief description of the expenditure distributed over the several divisions of the Province is given below :—

Chota Nagpur Division.—All District Officers have found villagers ready to co-operate in the schemes, though in Hazaribagh it was found that wells were chiefly appreciated and that in Ranchi co-operation was greatest in schemes for small embankments for the control of hill streams for the irrigation of paddy. Expenditure on roads throughout the division has also been well appreciated.

The District Officer of Singhbhum has particularly remarked how forcibly the development of schemes has demonstrated the great necessity for the improvement of both water supply and village communications, and the great interest which such schemes have aroused.

The District Officer of Manbhum refers to the manner in which these schemes have enabled the officers to come into personal touch with the villagers.

2. Bhagalpur Division.—In the Bhagalpur District wells were more popular than roads, but even in the case of wells it was found difficult to obtain assistance in the shape of free labour and it was only with difficulty

that workers were persuaded to accept reduced wages. There was an undoubted impression that, when it was Government that was spending money, all the expenditure must be borne by Government. In the case of roads, no difficulty was experienced in getting land free and roads have been built which will enable the villagers to carry their goods to trading centres more cheaply.

In Purnea the people, perhaps owing to the nature of the climate, were in the beginning apathetic, but after a time, except in Forbesganj sub-division, they came forward with the necessary manual labour as they realised the importance and the value of the schemes which were being undertaken.

3. *Tirhut Division.*—In Muzaffarpur, the whole allotment will be spent on the drainage of a chaur that has been perpetually water-logged ; this will result in a considerable increase in the prosperity of the residents of the area. The free gift of the land which was required has now been obtained and the work will be taken up after the rains.

In Saran the villagers were keener on wells than on village communications, and proposals are being put forward for wells for irrigation purposes.

In Champaran also wells were more popular. Labour and land were given free and wells were sunk at a cost of Rs. 120, instead of the normal cost of more than Rs. 200.

In Darbhanga the desilting of tanks has been carried out to the great benefit of the villagers both for irrigation and domestic purposes.

4. *Patna Division.*—The response of zamindars in granting land both for construction of wells as well as roads has been encouraging, but in Dinapore the enthusiasm of the villagers cooled to some extent when it was found that the whole cost would not be met by Government. Some of the roads constructed are reported to be better than the local board kutcha roads. Here also it was easier to obtain land and labour for wells rather than for roads.

In one of the sub-divisions of Gaya, each project was entrusted to a selected person of the locality and, though some opposition was offered by absentee landlords, several valuable roads were constructed. In some cases well projects had to be given up as land and labour were not forthcoming.

In Shahabad many of the old village roads connecting villages in the interior with their markets have been repaired. Wells are being constructed at the tolas of depressed classes and many old wells which had been neglected have been repaired. Here again the villagers are more ready to give land for the construction of wells than for roads and in some cases road projects had to be abandoned owing to the villagers withdrawing their offers of land. In some sub-divisions it was found that villagers were more ready to co-operate than landlords.

CENTRAL PROVINCES.

	Allotments from the Government of India grant.	Expenditure up to 30th June 1936.
	Rs.	Rs.
(1) Rural water supply	1,20,000	16,700
(2) District Officers' discretionary grants	1,00,000	24,000
(3) Welfare of aboriginal tribes in scheduled districts	40,000	31,000
(4) Dispensary buildings in villages	15,000	2,000
(5) Experiments in poultry farming	10,000	3,000
(6) Improved bulls for District Councils	30,000	3,000
(7) Farm in Mandla District	30,000	10,000
(8) Additional debt conciliation boards	1,00,000	26,000
(9) Cinemas on lorries for demonstration work	20,000	3,000
(10) Purchase of boring plants	15,000	..
(11) Storage accommodation for cultivators' produce	20,000	..
	5,00,000	1,18,700

2. *Rural water supply.*—The scheme contemplates the construction of 211 wells in 20 districts in the province and also the improvement of water supply in raiyatwari areas by the construction of 31 new wells and one tank and repairs to 32 wells and 11 tanks. It is hoped that the entire grant will be utilised by the close of the current financial year.

3. *Discretionary grants.*—The whole of the expenditure under this head will be devoted to the construction of new wells and tanks, repair of existing sources of water supply, repair of roads and construction of causeways and culverts on village roads. A notable feature is that in certain districts the villagers are prepared to contribute in the shape of cash or labour. In the Akola District, a part of the expenditure on the schemes will be provided by the District Council.

4. *Grant for the welfare of aboriginal tribes.*—The schemes sanctioned by the Local Government include travelling dispensaries, new roads and wells or repairs thereto and a small contribution to four dispensaries for the treatment of aboriginals suffering from "yaws". Of the roads proposed to be constructed, one is a link road from Khapa to Lutia in the Chhindwara District, which will provide a most valuable means of access to Batka Khapa Jagir, one of the wildest and most inaccessible regions in the Chhindwara District inhabited by aboriginal tribes. It will provide an outlet for forest produce and react favourably upon the conditions and prosperity of the aboriginal inhabitants. All the other schemes undertaken are similarly calculated to alleviate the conditions of the aboriginals. It is hoped that the bulk of the grant will be spent by the end of March 1937.

5. *Cheap plan dispensaries.*—The schemes so far sanctioned amount to Rs. 11,750 and they include cheap plan dispensaries at Atnair in Betul

District, at Kurkhera and Bhamragarh in Chanda District and at Mouda in Nagpur District. The expenditure will represent non-recurring grants to the District Councils to meet half of the cost of the construction of these cheap plan dispensary buildings.

6. *Debt conciliation boards.*—Although the expenditure up to the end of June was only Rs. 26,000, it is expected that by December 1937 the entire grant will have been spent on the establishment of 5 debt conciliation boards. The centres at which these boards are proposed to be set up are Chhindwara, Damoh-Hatta, Amraoti, Khandwa, and Ramtek-Umrer.

7. *Experiments in poultry breeding.*—The object of the scheme is to establish the industry on more scientific lines. It aims at the gradual upgrading of country fowl by pure bred cockerels of high laying breeds. Two foundation farms will be maintained, one at Borgaon and the other at Telinkheri, with a view to determine which breed is the best for the improvement of the country stock. The former will consist entirely of White Leghorns, while the latter will include other breeds. Owners of fowls in villages will be supplied, free of cost, with cockerels on condition that they agree to sell or otherwise dispose of all country cocks in their possession and properly maintain the pedigree bird given to them. Two Agricultural Assistants were sent for training to Poona and Lucknow and they have, on completion of their course, rejoined their duties at Borgaon and Telinkheri. Four poultry houses and four trap nests have been constructed on the Telinkheri Farm, where 300 feet runs with stays and two brooders with one coup for chickens have also been completed. A start has been made at the Telinkheri Farm by obtaining 175 pure White Leghorn eggs.

8. *Provision of improved bulls for District Councils.*—27 bulls have already been supplied to District Councils and other institutions and arrangements are in train for obtaining 38 more bulls for supply to similar institutions.

9. *Opening of a farm in the Mandla District.*—This farm is intended to supply a long felt want. Large quantities of seed are at present imported from outside the district and such supplies cannot be withdrawn every year without detriment to the interest of the agriculturists of other districts. The land required for the farm has already been acquired and bullocks, implements and other material have also been purchased. The staff required in the year 1936-37 has been engaged, while plans and estimates for the buildings proposed to be constructed on the farm are under preparation. Although the present scheme provides for an expenditure of only Rs. 11,000, it is hoped that the balance of Rs. 19,000 will also be spent by the end of the financial year 1936-37.

10. *Cinema outfit for demonstration work.*—Two Commer Type Chassis fitted with Perking "Wolf" Diesel Type engine and Bosch electric starter have been ordered from the Indian Stores Department and are expected to be delivered shortly. Films for the above outfit have already been ordered. The scheme sanctioned so far involves an expenditure of about Rs. 14,000, but it is expected that the balance of Rs. 6,000 will also be spent in the current financial year.

11. *Purchase of boring plants.*—The original scheme was to purchase two tractors for the Saugor District. This had to be abandoned as it was found that a more powerful and expensive type of tractor was required for

the work. The original scheme has been replaced by one for the purchase of boring plants. The Local Government has sanctioned the purchase of two well-boring plants at a total cost of Rs. 13,000. It is proposed to obtain shortly from the Indian Stores Department two oil engines of the required type for working these units. The whole of the allotment will be spent by the end of the current year.

12. *Storage accommodation for cultivators' produce.*—The object of providing godowns is to put the agriculturists in a position to hold over their produce when prices are unfavourable. The original idea was to allot grants to certain market committees in different circles. Opinions elicited from the market committees induced Government to work the scheme through the co-operative movement. Detailed proposals in connection with the working of this scheme through the medium of Co-operative Banks and Societies have been submitted for the approval of Government. Sites have been provisionally selected for 5 godowns, one in Raipur, another at Bilaspur and a third at Drug for storing grain and two others in the Nagpur District for the disposal of the produce of the Nagpur District Orange Growers' Association. It is hoped that by the end of the financial year 1936-37 the entire grant will have been spent.

ASSAM.

	Allotments from the Government of India grant. Rs.	Expenditure up to 30th June 1936. Rs.
(1) Rural water-supply ..	3,00,000	17,000
(2) Village roads	1,00,000	13,000
(3) Discretionary grants	40,000	15,000
(4) Village sanitation	40,000	11,000
(5) Boro Irrigation	20,000	20,000
	<hr/> 5,00,000	<hr/> 76,000

Rural water supply.—Ninety-one wells and five iron storage tanks have been completed, while fifty-eight wells and one iron storage tank are under construction. In many areas progress has not gone beyond the selection of sites and preparation of plans. Actual work could not begin until the type plans approved by Government had been distributed and contractors for test-boring selected and was necessarily held up by the onset of the rains. Two *bunds* for water storage were also constructed in a hill area.

Village roads.—Fifty-one miles of road have been completed and 30 miles are under construction. Four bridges have been completed and seven are under construction in hill districts.

Discretionary grants.—These have been largely used to supplement the allotments for water supply and village roads. Other selected activities were—

	Rs.	
Grant to an Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition ..	150	
Establishment of schools in grazing areas ..	98	
Grant towards the building of a new rural dispensary	250	
Grant to a Health, Maternity and Child Welfare Exhibition ..	100	
Embankments ..	650	
Health propaganda of Ram Krishna Mission ..	100	
Excavation of water ways ..	200	
Supply of looms and Jacquards		}
Supply of Hospital equipment, bedding and medicine		
Construction of a "Serai" (travellers' rest)		
Educational Exhibition		
Supply of green manure, seed and haypress		
Anti-malarial work		
Storage pounds for water hyacinth. (Most of the work done on this campaign in Sylhet District has been voluntary and free).		
	Amount unspecified.	

These amounts have not all yet been expended.

Village sanitation.—The bulk of the schemes assisted have been works for rural water supply and village roads under the charge of village authorities, including the renovation of old tanks, roads and embankments. A certain amount of drainage work was also done.

Euro irrigation pumps.—

These, with one set owned by the Local Government, were worked in various parts of the Habiganj, South Sylhet, Sunamganj, and North Sylhet sub-divisions of the Sylhet District, and in Nowgong District. Though ordered in September, the pumps were only received at various dates between 1st December and late January.

The expenditure incurred against the grant was :—

	Rs.
Purchase of pumps (10)	19,434
Pay of clerk	140
Survey of suitable areas	809
Total ..	20,383
Balance payable by Provincial Government ..	383

The expenditure on working, which was recoverable from the cultivators benefited, was :—

	Rs.
Running staff	3,634
Diesel oil and Mobiloil	1,968
Incidentals	2,055
Total	7,657

The pumps were used to some extent for irrigating standing *boro* and early *aus* paddy. The total area irrigated was 5,565 bighas (1,855 acres). The area actually transplanted or sown broadcast was only 3,349 bighas. The people were at first sceptical, but they are now thoroughly awake to the possibilities of the scheme and the opposition which was at first encountered will gradually disappear. Three further pumps have been bought through Government on the hire-purchase system.

The Director of Agriculture is satisfied, on the basis of the experiment, that the pumps can be worked economically and that work could be found for over sixty in Assam.

NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE.

	Allotments from the Government of India grant.	Expenditure up to the end of July 1936.
	Rs.	Rs.
Drinking Water Supply Schemes	1,20,000	11,500
Discretionary grant including grant for control of hill torrents in Dera Ismail Khan	1,10,000	48,000
Improvements of village roads	10,000	4,400
Anti-malarial measures	15,000	15,000
Opening of school farms	10,000	..
Marketing facilities for local industries	3,000	1,600
Bara Irrigation	5,000	..
Industrial shops	7,000	7,000
Manufacture of Shora Bone Meal	20,000	15,000
	3,00,000	1,02,500

2. *Drinking water supply schemes.*—Four schemes were approved. One is for Mansehra, which is an important country town, shortly to be raised to the status of a notified area. The second scheme is to sink wells in Thal area in the Kohat District where the lack of drinking water in some tracts is an almost unbelievable hardship. Men and women have to fetch drinking water at times from a distance of 12 miles. A similar scheme has been devised for the dry areas in Bannu and Dera Ismail Khan.

3. *Discretionary grant.*—About Rs. 7,000 has already been spent in Hazara District, chiefly on the improvement of springs and the construction of embankments or aqueducts to protect the existing sources of water supply. In the Peshawar District about Rs. 800 has been spent on the

purchase of a hand pump for draining stagnant water in Swabi and the construction of a protective bund to save village Mullah Khel from the destructive action of the Swat river. Of the Rs. 6,000 spent in Kohat District, the bulk of the expenditure was on earth works designed to save valuable lands from floods. Rs. 1,000 has also been spent on prizes to schools. In the Bannu District the expenditure was about Rs. 5,000, mainly on the construction of embankments to protect the available sources of drinking water supply and to improve the means of irrigation. Of the total allotment of Rs. 35,000 for Dera Ismail Khan, Rs. 7,000 has already been expended on the improvement of irrigation. A large number of schemes are ready and it is hoped to spend the bulk of the allotment in the near future.

4. *Village roads.*—Considerable progress has been made in all the districts in opening new village roads. A notable feature is that in the Peshawar District the villages will contribute labour at a nominal cost. Some of the schemes afoot provide for roads suitable for wheeled traffic.

5. *Anti-malarial measures.*—The entire allotment of Rs. 15,000 for anti-malarial measures was expended on the purchase of quinine and cinchona febrifuge which was distributed among villages where malaria was most prevalent.

6. *Marketing facilities.*—As regards marketing facilities for local industries, Sheikh Mohamadi village in the Peshawar District, which is an important grape growing centre, has been taught the principles and financial advantages of joint marketing on a co-operative basis.

7. *Shora Bone meal.*—Shora Bone meal is a new discovery, and tests have proved that it is an excellent manure, the manufacture of which places within the reach of the agriculturist of the province a supply of good manure at a reasonable price. Out of the Rs. 20,000 allotted for the purpose, Rs. 5,000 was spent on the installation of a plant and Rs. 10,000 on the manufacture of 8,000 maunds of manure.

ORISSA.

	Allotments from the Government of India grant. Rs.	Expenditure up to 30th June 1936. Rs.
(1) Village communications	1,53,000	59,000
(2) Rural water supply	1,23,000	51,000
(3) Village welfare scheme and reserve	34,000	..
	3,10,000*	1,10,000

* The total allotment to Orissa is made up of amounts transferred from the old Bihar and Orissa Province and from Madras (rounded to the nearest thousand).

The greater part of the provincial allotment was devoted to the improvement of rural water supply and village communications. The Commissioner of the Orissa Division received Rs. 2,50,000 of which Rs. 1½ lakhs was ordered to be spent on communications and one lakh on water supply. This was distributed to District Officers, the allotment for each district being half a lakh.

2. The outstanding feature of the work in North Orissa was the insistence on the villagers themselves contributing substantially to the schemes by supplying labour free and arranging themselves to take work on contract at low rates. The co-operation of the villagers was secured by forming sub-divisional and thana committees and, below them again, committees in villages and groups of villages. Villagers were asked to state their most pressing needs in respect of communications and water supply, and they were informed that a grant would be made from the fund for such of these schemes as were approved, provided the villagers contributed themselves in the manner stated above.

3. Considering the novelty of the proposal the response was gratifying. The progress would have been considerably greater but for the fact that the monsoon broke a month earlier than usual. The value of the work done is more than three times as great as the Government grant, which is satisfactory evidence of the extent to which villagers in North Orissa have learnt to help themselves. The fact that as many as 1,734 separate schemes have been sanctioned since work began indicates that the benefits of the grant have been widely distributed. In Cuttack District progress has been particularly rapid for a variety of reasons. The district has a much larger population than any other and has received the special attention of the Divisional Commissioner whose headquarters are in that district and who was able to explain the scheme at the outset to the various sub-divisional officers on their monthly visits to Cuttack. Yet another reason is that it was in Cuttack District that the campaign started in 1929 against water hyacinth and was pressed first to a successful conclusion. The people have not forgotten the advantages of corporate action.

4. Out of the 2½ lakhs actually allotted to the old Orissa Division Rs. 1,87,000 has already been assigned to sanctioned schemes and when the schemes have been completed they will represent work valued at Rs. 5,39,000. On schemes actually completed half a lakh has already been paid out and this has sufficed to add 1-2/3rds lakhs to the capital assets of the rural areas of North Orissa. A further amount of half a lakh has already been paid out for schemes in progress. The form which the village welfare scheme, for which Rs. 10,000 has been allotted, should take, is still under consideration.

5. An attempt has been made to estimate the number of persons affected by the schemes. The Government of Orissa are not fully satisfied with the figures reported at present, since it appears that in some of the districts the phrase has been interpreted as meaning the number of labourers employed rather than the number of persons who will benefit by the completed work. The latter is obviously the proper criterion. Still, taking these figures as a first approximation, it appears that 14 per cent. of the total population has already been benefited by the scheme. It is not too much to hope that with the help of the further grant now promised the proportion of the population to be affected may rise to 30 per cent.

6. Certain difficulties have been experienced in connection with rural water supply schemes. In villages near the coast there is a general complaint that the water in the wells is brackish and it has been necessary to concentrate mainly on improving drinking water tanks, though they are admittedly unsatisfactory, as it is difficult to keep the water free from contamination. In the uplands the cost of digging wells is considerable.

as the soil is hard and rocky, necessitating blasting in some cases and water is generally found only at a considerable depth.

7. Another very pleasing feature of the work in North Orissa has been that it has stimulated some of the wealthier landlords to improve village communications on the same lines, *viz.*, by providing a portion of the cost on condition that the villagers helped with labour or money contribution. The schemes that have been sanctioned are for the most part quite small ones, valued on the average at about Rs. 300 each and involving a charge on the grant of about Rs. 100 each. The only really large scheme was the bridging of the Salkhi river in the Khondmals. The work which was estimated to cost half a lakh was carried through with the help of the Khond population which will benefit from it, at a cost of Rs. 20,000 in the course of the last dry season and the bridge was opened last May by the Collector of Ganjam (to which district the sub-division is now attached).

8. As regards the position in the *Ex-Madras* area, the allotment made by the Madras Government to each district was based on the land revenue demand, though a small additional grant was made to the agency tracts, where the land revenue demand is insignificant and to Collectors to augment their discretionary grants. In consequence, Ganjam and Vizagapatam Districts which consist mainly of permanently settled estates received a small allotment. In Ganjam a large portion of the small amount available for improving rural water supply had to be spent in the portion of the district remaining in Madras, where a serious water scarcity threatened last dry season. Except in the Ganjam agency where there are no local bodies, the allotment was distributed to District Boards and the money was spent on expanding the regular District Board programme for the provision of rural water supply and village communications. Progress which was generally poor was retarded by the threat of a famine in the portion of Ganjam District remaining in Madras, resulting in the District Board Engineering staff being concentrated in that area, by the large amount of additional work thrown on Government and local Board officers owing to the bifurcation of the Ganjam and Vizagapatam Districts on the formation of the new province and by the premature arrival of the monsoon.

9. It is proposed during the next working season to adopt throughout the province the system which has worked so well in North Orissa with such modifications as may prove necessary in the light of the experience gained and of the instructions issued by the Government of India.

SIND.

	Allotments from the Government of India grant.	Expenditure up to 30th June 1936.
	Rs.	Rs.
Establishment of seed and implement depots	35,000	75,000
Improvement of cottage industries, including sasp making, rope and twine making from local fibre called "Vahn" and tanning and flaying	21,000	
Discretionary grants	21,400	
	1,28,000	75,000

DELHI.

	Allotments from the Government of India grant. Rs.	Expenditure up to 30th June 1936. Rs.
(1) Wells—		
(a) repairs	24,000	3,000
(b) new	8,000	..
(2) Remodelling villages	3,000	..
(3) Roads and communications	10,000	6,500
(4) Reserve	5,000	3,000
	50,000	12,500

1. *Improvement of water supply.*—Wells :—

(a) *Repairs.*—In three zails repairs to 49 wells have been carried out at an estimated cost of Rs. 8,815. Running payments amounting to Rs. 2,930 have been made and final bills, which have been prepared, are under scrutiny and the balance will be paid at an early date. In six other zails the work of repairs to another 100 wells at an estimated cost of Rs. 17,545 is in hand. This work should be completed in the very near future. Great care had to be exercised in drawing up the programme of repairs, which was only done after a careful survey had been made by the health authorities and samples of water from the wells concerned had been tested.

(b) *New wells.*—After a full survey, villages were selected in which new wells could usefully be constructed. As soon as the repair work is completed, the matter of the construction of new wells will be taken in hand.

2. *Village remodelling.*—Originally the village of Tatarpur was selected for this purpose and an estimate for Rs. 6,000 was prepared. As this sum exceeded the amount of Rs. 3,000 which was sanctioned for the purpose by the Government of India, efforts were made to cut down the estimate by adopting a less elaborate scheme than that which was originally proposed. A new site for another village has been selected and the case is receiving full consideration.

3. *Roads and communications.*—A sum of Rs. 10,000 for earth work on the Makbara Paik-Ochandi Road was sanctioned. The road is about 13½ miles in length. About three-fourths of the road has now been completed and two culverts have been constructed to drain off water. Running payments amounting to Rs. 6,520 have since been made after careful scrutiny and it is hoped that the work will be finished by September next.

4. *Deputy Commissioner's reserve.*—Out of this allotment petty works costing Rs. 3,090 and mostly relating to improvement of road communications have been carried out. The rest of the allotment amounting to Rs. 1,910 still remains to be spent usefully in carrying out such

other petty works as are found to be badly needed. Such are in the nature of construction of small bridges over storm water nalas, repair to kacha roads and construction of culverts.

AJMER-MERWARA.

			Allotments	Expenditure
			from the Government of India grant.	up to 30th June 1936.
			Rs.	Rs.
(1) Improvement of village roads, etc.	..	..	23,000	12,500
(2) Propaganda for improvement of agriculture	..	..	23,000	1,700
(3) Improvement of livestock	..	..	1,000	700
(4) Discretionary grants	..	..	3,000	..
			50,000	14,900

(1) *Improvement to village roads and construction of small bridges and culverts.*—Important village roads of the total length of 101 miles were selected in all parts of the district for improvement. Of these about 75 miles have been repaired generally and made into fair weather roads. 21 culverts or road dams have been newly constructed and others repaired.

(2) *Improvement of agricultural and sanitary conditions.*—Three agricultural assistants (one for each sub-division) are touring the villages and doing propaganda and demonstration work for improvement of agriculture. New varieties of crops have been introduced and improved seed supplied. Other experiments are being carried out under the directions of the Director of the Institute of Plant Industry, Indore. These assistants will shortly be provided with demonstrators to assist them.

(3) *Improvement of live stock.*—Four young bulls have been purchased from the Imperial Cattle Breeding Farm at Karnal, but owing to their immaturity have not yet been brought into use. They will be made available for specially selected areas in the beginning of the cold weather of 1936-37.

COORG.

				Allotments	Expenditure
				from the Government of India grant.	up to 30th June 1936.
				Rs.	Rs.
Discretionary grant	..	..	..	15,000	6,900
Water supply schemes	..	..	..	32,500	19,900
Cattle breeding schemes	..	..	..	2,500	..
				50,000	26,800

Discretionary grant.—The Commissioner's discretionary grant was spent on improvements to village communications, anti-malarial work and

other improvements in village sanitation, ruralising the courses of instruction in certain Higher Elementary Schools and assistance to subsidiary pursuits which are considered to be of value in raising the agriculturists from their present depressed state.

2. *Water supply schemes.*—Out of a total of 40 wells, 110 tanks, 16 irrigation-channels and 5 miscellaneous works included in the sanctioned programme for reconstruction, 27 wells have been sunk, 75 tanks have been restored and 9 channels have been repaired. The principle that the villagers should themselves contribute to the improvements, either in cash or in kind (by labour or the like), has been followed as far as possible. The works so far completed have been accomplished to the best advantage of the rural population and the results achieved are regarded as satisfactory. Further operations have now been postponed on account of monsoon conditions but the programme will be resumed as soon as fair weather sets in again.

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL OF STATE.

Secretary of the Assembly : Sir, the following Message has been received from the Council of State.

“ I am directed to inform you that the Bill further to amend the Indian Companies Act, for certain purposes, which was passed by the Legislative Assembly at its meeting held on Wednesday, the 7th October, 1936, was passed by the Council of State at its meeting held on Tuesday, the 13th October, 1936, with the amendments shown in the enclosed statement.

The Council of State requests the concurrence of the Legislative Assembly in the amendments.”

Sir, I lay on the table the Bill as amended by the Council of State.

“ *Statement showing the amendments made in the Bill further to amend the Indian Companies Act, for certain purposes, by the Council of State, at its meeting held on the 15th October, 1936.*

1. In sub-clause (b) of clause 17 for the words ‘ ten days ’ the following words were substituted, namely :

‘ ten days exclusive of non-working days and days on which the transfer books of the company are closed.’

2. In clause 42, to the proposed section 86B, the following Explanation was added, namely :

‘ *Explanation.*—For the purposes of the provisions to this section, the Presidency towns of Calcutta and Madras shall be deemed to be part of the 24-Parganas and Chingleput Districts respectively, and the Presidency town of Bombay shall be deemed to be part of the Bombay Suburban and the Thana Districts.’

3. In clause 42, to the proposed section 86F (1) the following words were added, namely :

‘ A director so removed shall not be re-appointed a director by the Board of Directors.’

4. In clause 46 in the proposed sub-section (4) of section 91A, after the words ‘ every officer of the Company who ’, the words ‘ knowingly and wilfully ’ were inserted.

5. For clause 55, the following was substituted, namely :

' 55. In section 101 of the said Act—

(a) for sub-sections (1) and (2) the following sub-sections shall be substituted, namely :

(1) No allotment shall be made of any share capital of a company offered to the public for subscription unless the amount stated in the prospectus as the minimum amount which in the opinion of the directors must be raised by the issue of share capital in order to provide the sums or, if any part thereof is to be defrayed in any other manner, the balance of the sum required to be provided in respect of the matters specified in sub-section (2) has been subscribed, and the sum of at least five per cent. thereof has been paid to or received in cash by the company.

(2) The matters for which provision for the raising of a minimum amount of share capital must be made by the directors are the following, namely :

(a) the purchase price of any property purchased or to be purchased which is to be defrayed in whole or in part out of the proceeds of the issue,

(b) any preliminary expenses payable by the company and any commission so payable to any person in consideration of his agreeing to subscribe for or of his procuring or agreeing to procure subscriptions for any shares in the company,

(c) the repayment of any moneys borrowed by the company in respect of any of the foregoing matters, and

(d) working capital.

(2A) The amount referred to in sub-section (1) as the amount stated in the prospectus shall be reckoned exclusively of any amount payable otherwise than in cash and is in this Act referred to as 'the minimum subscription'.

(2B) All moneys received from applicants for shares shall be deposited and kept in a scheduled Bank as defined in the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, until returned in accordance with the provisions of sub-section (4) or until the certificate to commence business is obtained under section 103.

(2C) In the event of any contravention of the provisions of sub-section (2B) every promotor, director or other person knowingly responsible for such contravention shall be liable to a fine not exceeding five hundred rupees; and

(b) in sub-section (4) for the word 'twenty' the word 'eighty' for the word 'thirty' the word 'ninety' and for the word 'thirtieth' the word 'ninetieth' respectively shall be substituted.'

6. In clause 59 for the proposed section 105C, the following was substituted, namely :

' 105C. Where the directors decide to increase the capital of the company by the issue of further shares such shares shall be offered to the members in

proportion to the existing shares held by each member (irrespective of class) and such offer shall be made by notice specifying the number of shares to which the member is entitled, and limiting a time within which the offer if not accepted, will be deemed to be declined; and after the expiration of such time, or on receipt of an intimation from the member to whom such notice is given, that he declines to accept the shares offered, the directors may dispose of the same in such manner as they think most beneficial to the Company.'

7. In sub-clause (b) of clause 106 for the proposed new clause (d) of section 230, the following was substituted, namely :

' (d) compensation payable under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, in respect of the death or disablement of any officer or employee of the company.'

8. In clause 118 after sub-section (2) of the proposed new section 277BB the following was inserted as sub-section (3) and the subsequent sub-sections were re-numbered accordingly :

' (3) Any person acting in contravention of this section shall be liable to a fine not exceeding rupees one hundred.'

9. In clause 121 for sub-section (2) of the proposed section 282B the following was substituted, namely :

' (2) Where a Provident Fund has been constituted by a company for its employees or any class of its employees, all moneys contributed to such Fund (whether by the company or by the employees) or accruing by way of interest or otherwise to such Fund after the commencement of the Indian Companies (Amendment) Act, 1936, shall be invested and shall be invested only in securities mentioned or referred to in clauses (a) to (e) of section 20 of the Indian Trusts Act, 1882, and all moneys belonging to such Fund at the commencement of the said Act which are not so invested shall be invested in such securities by annual instalments not exceeding ten in number and not less in amount in any year than one-tenth of the whole amount of such moneys.'

10. In clause 121 in the proposed section 282B, sub-sections (3) and (4) were re-numbered as sub-sections (4) and (5) and the following was inserted as sub-section (3) :

' (3) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the rules of any fund to which sub-section (2) applies or in any contract between a company and its employees, no employee shall be entitled to receive in respect of such portion of the amount to his credit in such fund as is invested in accordance with the provisions of sub-section (2) interest at a rate exceeding the rate of interest yielded by such investment.'

11. In clause 124 in the proposed form ' F ' in the sub-heading ' Investments ' under the heading of ' Property and Assets ' before the word ' Distinguishing ' the following words were inserted, namely :

' Showing nature of investments and mode of valuation, e.g., Cost or Market value and '.

12. Necessary corrections of the numbering and lettering of the sections inserted by the Bill were carried out together with consequential corrections of cross references.

THE CHILD MARRIAGE RESTRAINT (AMENDMENT) BILL.

PETITIONS LAID ON THE TABLE.

Secretary of the Assembly : Sir, under Standing Order 78, I have to report that four petitions as per statement laid on the table have been received relating to the Bill to amend the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929, which was introduced in the Legislative Assembly on the 26th September, 1935, by Mr. B. Das.

Petitions relating to the Bill to amend the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929, which was introduced in the Legislative Assembly on the 26th September 1935.

Number of signatories.	District or Town.	Province.
162	Serampur, Hoogly, Calcutta, etc.	Bengal.
136	Burdwan, Hoogly, etc.	Bengal.
96	Calcutta, Hoogly, Burdwan, etc.	Bengal.
132	Midnapur	Bengal.
526		

THE INDIAN COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar (Law Member) : Sir, I ask for your permission under rule 34, at page 91 of the Manual, that the amendments in the Companies Bill made in the Council of State may be taken up, and I may now be allowed to move the motion for their consideration. Rule 34 runs thus :

“ After an amended Bill has been laid on the table, any Member acting on behalf of Government in the case of a Government Bill, or, in any other case, any Member after giving three days’ notice, or with the consent of the President without notice, may move that the amendments be taken into consideration.”

I am asking for your consent that I may be allowed to move this without notice and I can assure the Chair and the House that the amendments are of such a nature that possibly they will not last more than a few minutes, as there is nothing controversial in them. They have all been printed and circulated.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The Honourable Member can move them.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : Sir, I move :

“ That the amendments made in the Council of State in the Bill further to amend the Indian Companies Act, 1913, for certain purposes, be taken into consideration.”

I will draw the attention of Honourable Members to the amendments which have been made, from which it will appear that really there is nothing controversial.

The first amendment is that we provided here that ten days should be allowed for supplying a copy of the shareholders’ list. Honourable Members will remember that the Select Committee had recommended 30 days. That was not accepted by this House, and a similar attempt made in the other House also failed. The only change made is this, and we have agreed to it, that the ten days should be exclusive of the non-working days and the days on which the book is kept closed. It was brought to our notice,—and I think it is reasonable,—that the House really wants to give them ten days and to exclude non-working days like Sunday and Puja day, etc.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, may I know what is meant by the expression, “ days on which the transfer books of the company are closed ”? Under the Bill, if I am not mistaken, they can be kept closed for 45 days.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : Yes, but not necessarily at one stretch.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : In two instalments, and for 30 days at a stretch.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : I believe throughout the whole year they can be kept closed for 45 days. That is true, but that does not create any difficulty, because if as a matter of fact the books are closed (let us say) for 15 days at one time and the 15 days are excluded, surely they are not going to have a meeting at that time when the books are closed.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : The books may be closed just before the meeting. There might be difficulty and the purpose of the amendment that we made here may be defeated.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : That remains to be seen.

Then, Sir, with regard to the next amendment, the position is this. After a rather long discussion we came to the conclusion that an alternate director can be appointed only if the permanent director was absent from the district. It was pointed out that there will be some difficulty in the case of Presidency towns of Calcutta, Bombay and Madras, as they are not really districts. To avoid that difficulty an explanation has been added as follows :

“ For the purposes of the provisoes to this section, the Presidency towns of Calcutta and Madras shall be deemed to be part of the 24-Parganas and Chingleput Districts respectively, and the Presidency town of Bombay shall be deemed to be part of the Bombay Suburban and the Thana Districts.”

Then, amendment No. 3 provides that a removed director shall not be reappointed a director.

Amendment No. 4 is a drafting addition by adding the words “ knowingly and wilfully ”. It is a case of penalty.

Amendment No. 5 is purely a drafting amendment. This House will remember that it accepted an amendment moved, I think, by my Honourable friend, Pandit Pant. What happened was that this paragraph was grammatically a misfit having regard to the paragraph which had gone before. We have taken care to see that it exactly carries out the intention of Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant's amendments : he will also remember that 120 was changed to 180 and so on. It is a purely drafting amendment and there is no point of substance in it.

No. 6. There is a point of substance to which I should draw the attention of this House. The House may remember that Mr. Bajoria moved that if a further issue of capital should be issued, the existing shareholders should have preference, that is to say, they must first of all have the option of taking it. But what Mr. Bajoria did was to limit it to the offer of those shares in the same class, that is to say, if they are preference shares, then they must be offered to preference shareholders. After that was passed, the point which struck us was this : there was a good deal of complaint in this House—and on very legitimate grounds—that very often deferred shares are given to managing agents which carry higher rates and so on ; if Mr. Bajoria's amendment stands, the result will be that the managing agents or other people will be able to issue deferred shares and those will be offered only to the holders of deferred shares, that is, possibly to themselves only ; so that, to prevent that abuse what has now happened is this : if I may read it out to Honourable Members, that is the only change .

“ Where the directors decide to increase the capital of the company by the issue of further shares such shares shall be offered to the members in proportion to the existing shares held by each member (irrespective of class).....”

That is the addition made, because, we do think that it will enable deferred shares to be issued and offered only to holders of those deferred shares or shares with special rights : to avoid that we have accepted an

amendment which was moved in the Council of State that these shares must be offered to shareholders but irrespective of their class. That is the only change.

Paragraph 7 is purely a drafting amendment—in respect of the death or disablement of any officer or employee of the company. There is no point of substance there.

No. 8 provides a penalty for contravention, as we omitted to put in any penalty at all.

As regards No. 9 and No. 10. I would remind the House that I gave an undertaking to have an amendment moved. The only change from the undertaking which I gave and the form in which it has been passed by the Council of State—in fact it was our own amendment—is this : as we are compelling the employers to put their money in trust funds, we are providing for the employers not being liable for a larger rate of interest than what they actually get from the trust securities. In some cases, for instance in Tatas, there is an arrangement for paying, let us say, 5 per cent. ; but now by force of this statute, they will be compelled to put that amount, at least one-tenth in each year in trust securities. It is possible that from these trust securities they will get only 3 per cent. or $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. ; and it is not the desire of anybody that they should be receiving only $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. and giving 5 per cent. ; that is the only correction which has been made. If they are not paying a higher rate than they are getting from the trust securities and there is no such agreement, then there is no hardship ; but I was told that there might be some cases where the employers have agreed to give 5 or 6 per cent. and they will get only 3 or $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. That is the object with which this slight change has been made : otherwise it is exactly on the lines of the undertaking which I gave to this House.

Paragraph 11. What happened was that this was an amendment on which both the Congress Group and the Government shouted " Aye " ; but unfortunately Sir Homi Mody shouted " No " louder, and the result was that Government said " No " and at that time we were in such a condition that nobody paid much attention. That is what has been put right here.

That is all that has been done by the amendments and I may tell the House that generally the amendments in the way of relaxing or making more stringent so far as the main provisions were concerned, were all opposed and they were not carried. Sir, I move.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Motion moved :

" That the amendments made in the Bill further to amend the Indian Companies Act, 1913, for certain purposes, by the Council of State, at its meeting held on the 13th October, 1936, be taken into consideration."

Mr. Suryya Kumar Som (Dacca Division : Non-Muhmmadan Rural) : Sir, may I ask, on a point of information, from the Honourable the Leader of the House, whether when, under 105-C, the Directors decide to increase the capital and issue further shares, does it include unissued shares (though they were included in the company's share capital), offered subsequently for subscription ?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : Yes. I may point out that whatever that is, that was what was decided by this House—that portion has not been changed at all. All that has been changed is that whereas

[Sir Nripendra Sircar.]

under Mr. Bajoria's amendment we had to offer it only to the particular class, we say now that it should be offered to all classes of shareholders and not restricted to that particular class : but the answer to my Honourable friend, Mr. Som's question is in the affirmative.

Sir Leslie Hudson (Bombay : European) : Sir, is it open to Members of the House to speak on any of these paragraphs ?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Yes, certainly.

Sir Leslie Hudson : I would just like to refer very briefly to amendments Nos. 9 and 10—particularly No. 9—in regard to provident funds.....

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : I am coming to them separately. But if the Honourable Member wishes to speak at this stage, he can do so.

The question is :

“ That the amendments made in the Bill further to amend the Indian Companies Act, 1913, for certain purposes, by the Council of State, at its meeting held on the 13th October, 1936, be taken into consideration.”

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The question is :

“ That in sub-clause (b) of clause 17, for the words ‘ ten days ’ the following words be substituted, namely :

‘ ten days exclusive of non-working days and days on which the transfer books of the company are closed ’.”

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : I am glad that the Bill got through the Council of State so expeditiously and so speedily. As to these amendments, they are either of a formal character or they give effect to the matters of substance already agreed to in this House. I regret, however, the small change that has been made in sub-clause (b) of clause 17. So far as the first part of it, excluding non-working days, goes, I think it is but reasonable, but the other part of it which also exempts from the operation of this clause the period during which the transfer books of the company are closed, will, I think, work to the disadvantage of the shareholders to some extent.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : May I make a statement which may shorten matters ? I realise the force of that argument, but I would suggest that instead of having any controversy now, if it appears that there has been any abuse by reason of our having put in the words, “ days on which the transfer books of the company are closed ”—then I undertake to put that right as soon as possible if I find that cases have happened where taking advantage of this clause the shareholders' lists have not been supplied. But at the moment I would request my Honourable friend not to move any amendment or to oppose it.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : I do not press the matter further.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The question is :

“ That in sub-clause (b) of clause 17, for the words ‘ ten days ’ the following words be substituted, namely :

‘ ten days exclusive of non-working days and days on which the transfer books of the company are closed ’.”

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Kahim) : The question is :

“ That in clause 42, to the proposed section 86B, the following *Explanation* be added, namely :

‘ *Explanation.*—For the purposes of the provisoes to this section, the Presidency towns of Calcutta and Madras shall be deemed to be part of the 24 Parganas and Chingleput Districts respectively, and the Presidency town of Bombay shall be deemed to be part of the Bombay Suburban and the Thana Districts.’ ”

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Kahim) : The question is :

“ That in clause 42, to the proposed section 86F (1), the following words be added, namely :

‘ A director so removed shall not be re-appointed a director by the Board of Directors.’ ”

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Kahim) : The question is :

“ That in clause 46, in the proposed sub-section (4) of section 91A, after the words ‘ every officer of the Company who ’, the words ‘ knowingly and wilfully ’ be inserted.’ ”

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Kahim) : The question is :

“ That for clause 55, the following be substituted, namely :

‘ 55. In section 101 of the said Act—

(a) for sub-sections (1) and (2) the following sub-sections shall be substituted, namely :

‘ (1) No allotment shall be made of any share capital of a company offered to the public for subscription unless the amount stated in the prospectus as the minimum amount which in the opinion of the directors must be raised by the issue of share capital in order to provide the sums or, if any part thereof is to be defrayed in any other manner, the balance of the sum required to be provided in respect of the matters specified in sub-section (2) has been subscribed, and the sum of at least five per cent. thereof has been paid to or received in cash by the company.

(2) The matters for which provision for the raising of a minimum amount of share capital must be made by the directors are the following, namely :

(a) the purchase price of any property purchased or to be purchased which is to be defrayed in whole or in part out of the proceeds of the issue,

(b) any preliminary expenses payable by the company and any commission so payable to any person in consideration of his agreeing to subscribe for or of his procuring or agreeing to procure subscriptions for any shares in the company,

(c) the repayment of any moneys borrowed by the company in respect of any of the foregoing matters, and

(d) working capital.

(2A) The amount referred to in sub-section (1) as the amount stated in the prospectus shall be reckoned exclusively of any amount payable otherwise than in cash and is in this Act referred to as ‘ the minimum subscription ’.

[Mr. President.]

(2B) All moneys received from applicants for shares shall be deposited and kept in a scheduled Bank as defined in the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, until returned in accordance with the provisions of sub-section (4) or until the certificate to commence business is obtained under section 103.

(2C) In the event of any contravention of the provisions of sub-section (2B) every promotor, director or other person knowingly responsible for such contravention shall be liable to a fine not exceeding five hundred rupees; and

(b) in sub-section (4) for the word 'twenty' the word 'eighty' for the word 'thirty' the word 'ninety' and for the word 'thirtieth' the word 'ninetieth' respectively shall be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Kahim): The question is :

"That in clause 59, for the proposed section 105C, the following be substituted, namely :

"105C. Where the directors decide to increase the capital of the company by further issue of capital, the issue of further shares such shares shall be offered to the members in proportion to the existing shares held by each member (irrespective of class) and such offer shall be made by notice specifying the number of shares to which the member is entitled, and limiting a time within which the offer if not accepted, will be deemed to be declined; and after the expiration of such time, or on receipt of an intimation from the member to whom such notice is given, that he declines to accept the shares offered, the directors may dispose of the same in such manner as they think most beneficial to the Company."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is :

"That in sub-clause (b) of clause 106, for the proposed new clause (d) of section 230, the following be substituted, namely :

'(d) compensation payable under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, in respect of the death or, disablement of any officer or employee of the company'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Kahim): The question is :

"That in clause 118, after sub-section (2) of the proposed new section 277BB the following be inserted as sub-section (3) and the subsequent sub-sections be re-numbered accordingly :

'(3) Any person acting in contravention of this section shall be liable to a fine not exceeding rupees one hundred'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is :

"That in clause 121, for sub-section (2) of the proposed section 282B, the following be substituted, namely :

'(2) Where a Provident Fund has been constituted by a company for its employees or any class of its employees, all moneys contributed to such Fund (whether by the company or by the employees) or accruing by way of interest or otherwise to such Fund after the commencement of the Indian Companies (Amendment) Act, 1936, shall be invested and

shall be invested only in securities mentioned or referred to in clauses (a) to (e) of section 20 of the Indian Trusts Act, 1882, and all moneys belonging to such Fund at the commencement of the said Act which are not so invested shall be invested in such securities by annual instalments not exceeding ten in number and not less in amount in any year than one-tenth of the whole amount of such moneys '."

Sir Leslie Hudson : While I admit that the proper course for companies who have instituted provident funds for the benefit of their employees is to invest the contributions of those employees in trustee securities, I do not agree that it is reasonable that you should force employers by statute to so invest the company's contribution. The law may tell me what I should do with other people's moneys which may be entrusted to my care, but I do not think it is reasonable that the law should prevent me from dealing with my own money as I please. I know that the argument of those champions of labour who sit in this House is that provident funds should be considered as deferred pay, but there are arguments on the other side, especially where the fund is entirely voluntary on both sides. I consider that the clause of the Bill, as it emerged from the Select Committee, was a reasonable one which did justice to both parties concerned. I am afraid that the result of the Bill as now amended may be to discourage companies in future from instituting these provident funds and it may have the effect of causing who already have these funds in existence to close them down. I hope for the sake of the employees this will not be so, but I do see the risk. The clause will, to a certain extent, inconvenience employers, but that is a matter of not very great importance perhaps. But the hardship will be on the employees who will find the interest on their deposits cut down by 40 or 50 per cent. I just wish to say these few words on this particular clause.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The question is :

"That in clause 121, for sub-section (2) of the proposed section 282B, the following be substituted, namely :

'(2) Where a Provident Fund has been constituted by a company for its employees or any class of its employees, all moneys contributed to such Fund (whether by the company or by the employees) or accruing by way of interest or otherwise to such Fund after the commencement of the Indian Companies (Amendment) Act, 1936, shall be invested and shall be invested only in securities mentioned or referred to in clauses (a) to (e) of section 20 of the Indian Trusts Act, 1882, and all moneys belonging to such Fund at the commencement of the said Act which are not so invested shall be invested in such securities by annual instalments not exceeding ten in number and not less in amount in any year than one-tenth of the whole amount of such moneys '."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The question is :

"That in clause 121, in the proposed section 282B, sub-sections (3) and (4) be re-numbered as sub-sections (4) and (5), and the following be inserted as sub-section (3):

'(3) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the rules of any fund to which sub-section (2) applies or in any contract between a company and its employees, no employee shall be entitled to receive in respect of such portion of the amount to his credit in such fund as is invested in accordance with the provisions of sub-section (2) interest at a rate exceeding the rate of interest yielded by such investment '."

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : I want to have some information. This amended clause runs like this :

“ no employee shall be entitled to receive in respect of such portion of the amount to his credit in such fund as is invested,” and so on.

Does this mean that on that portion of the provident fund which is contributed by the employer, the provident fund will not get the interest accruing on it, and secondly if on that portion of it interest is to accrue for the benefit of the workers, is that interest to accrue at the rate at which interest is permissible or the interest that has accrued till now according to the provisions on which the employers have agreed to grant interest on it.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : The position is this.

Under this Bill, if it is passed, the employer is not bound to put in the whole amount in trustee securities in the first year. Supposing that the provident fund is 10 lakhs of rupees, he puts in one lakh in the first year in trustee securities and further suppose that he is under agreement with the employees that he will pay them 5 per cent. and the result will be that as regards this lakh he is not bound to pay more than 3 per cent. or 3½ per cent.—whatever he is getting from the trustee securities but as regards nine lakhs which is not covered by the operation of the compulsory portion of the statute he will still be bound to pay him 5 per cent. That is the position.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : In respect of such portion to his credit ?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : Such portion as is invested.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The question is :

“ That in clause 121, in the proposed section 282B, sub-sections (3) and (4) be re-numbered as sub-sections (4) and (5), and the following be inserted as sub-section (3) :

- (3) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the rules of any fund to which sub-section (2) applies or in any contract between a company and its employees, no employee shall be entitled to receive in respect of such portion of the amount to his credit in such fund as is invested in accordance with the provisions of sub-section (2) interest at a rate exceeding the rate of interest yielded by such investment ’.”

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The question is :

“ That in clause 124, in the proposed form ‘ F ’, in the sub-heading ‘ Investments ’ under the heading of ‘ Property and Assets ’, before the word ‘ Distinguishing ’, the following words be inserted, namely :

- ‘ Showing nature of investments and mode of valuation, e.g., Cost or Market value and ’.”

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras ceded Districts and Chittoor : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : I want to know one thing from the Honourable the Law Member. The amendment that was tabled here before it went to the Council of State was that the words, “ e.g.,” should be omitted for this reason that the valuation must be either according to the cost or the market value. But this amendment restores the provision in the old act.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : That was opposed by Government. We did not accept it, but the direction in paragraph 11 is one which your side wanted and we accepted it, but by mistake it was recorded as not having been accepted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The question is :

“ That in clause 124, in the proposed form ‘ F ’, in the sub-heading ‘ Investments ’ under the heading of ‘ Property and Assets ’, before the word ‘ Distinguishing ’, the following words be inserted, namely :

‘ Showing nature of investments and mode of valuation, e.g., Cost or Market value and ’.”

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The question is :

“ That necessary corrections of the numbering and lettering of the sections inserted by the Bill be carried out together with consequential corrections of cross references.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS FOR 1934-35.

Civil.

DEMAND No. 19-A.—EXCISE.

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

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 2,350 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1934-35, in respect of ‘ Excise ’.”

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Motion moved :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 2,350 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1934-35, in respect of ‘ Excise ’.”

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Gun^{tur} cum Nellore : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : This arises out of the recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee. I find, Sir, that till now, no opportunity has been given to this House to discuss the report of the Public Accounts Committee for the last two years and it is rather an unfortunate thing that Government should have found.....

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : To the best of my recollection, Government have continually offered opportunities but it has been the wish of the Honourable Member's own leaders that the discussion be postponed.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : I am not aware of that sort of undertaking or wish. Even if there were any such undertaking or wish, it must have related to the first report.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : As the Honourable Member has raised this point, perhaps I may give the House an account of certain private conversations with his leaders on this point. I think it is now more than a year ago when the first of these motions relating to the Public Accounts Committee was put down, and I hope the Honourable Member

[Sir James Grigg.]

will take it from me that the fact that the opportunity was not taken advantage of was no fault of the Government. Certainly the Honourable Member's leaders wished not to have this discussion during the present Session. As far as the two reports of the Public Accounts Committee are concerned, I have definitely committed myself to those leaders not to move the motion standing in my name and to ask you not to renew the discussion on the first of them if Members opposite do not want to do so. The same is true of the ordinary civil supplementary grants. I have put them down of course but the Congress Party asked that they should not be taken this Session, and I am agreeable. So I am under a pledge not to move them this Session unless there is a desire expressed by the Congress Party for them to be discussed. But these excess grants which arise out of the Public Accounts Committee's Report are pure matters of routine. They have been recommended by the Public Accounts Committee but they are not integral parts of the Public Accounts Committee's Report, and they prejudice nobody if they are passed now. That is all I have got to say and I hope the Honourable Member is not going to make the moving of purely routine matters on my part a grievance.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : I am thankful for the explanation given by the Honourable the Finance Member in regard to this, but at the same time I am entitled to submit that the members of the Public Accounts Committee had a right to be consulted if the Honourable the Finance Member or the Government were to come to the decision or before they came to the decision that the Public Accounts Committee's Report was not to be discussed in the Session, as would follow soon after the report had been made to Government. In fact they have not been given any such opportunity, and when the Honourable the Finance Member was discussing this point with one of my leaders in an informal fashion, I suggested to him that these excess grants need not now be placed before the House,—and I also suggested, Sir, whether these things could not be postponed along with the Public Accounts Committee's Report so that the House would really have a proper idea of these excess grants as well as of the recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee's Report.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : When was the report presented to the House ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : The report, Sir, has been before the House for a fortnight or so. As regards the Honourable Member's suggestion that I should postpone it, I was quite prepared to postpone the discussion of the Public Accounts Committee's Report and the supplementary grants in accordance with the informal conversations I have had with my Honourable friend's leaders but I see no point in postponing these excess grants, which are matters of routine, recommended by the Public Accounts Committee and the full knowledge of which has been possessed by Honourable Members for at least a fortnight.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : My other point has not yet been answered

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Was the Honourable Member a member of the Public Accounts Committee ?

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Yes, Sir. If it is to be postponed like this in an indefinite manner, I would like to suggest to the Honourable Member that in addition to consulting the Leaders of the different parties in the

House it is but fair that the members of the Public Accounts Committee should also be taken into his confidence so that he might ascertain their views as a body.....

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Surely if the Leader of the Congress Party who is the Leader of the Opposition requested a postponement of the discussion, then the Finance Member was justified in agreeing to that.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I have no desire to postpone discussion now. If the acting Leader of the Congress Party expresses a desire to have a discussion now, I am quite agreeable. I have no views in the matter. I have only tried to meet the expressed request of the Congress Party that this discussion should be postponed and I really think it is a bit hard that I should be blamed, because the Honourable Member does not see eye to eye with his own leaders.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions : Non-Muhammadian Rural) : Sir, a word of explanation has become necessary at this stage. I understand that it was the desire of some of the leading Members of my Party that the discussion of the Public Accounts Committee should not be taken up in their absence and the Honourable the Finance Member agreed to accommodate them, and I have no reason to complain against the Honourable the Finance Member for having acceded to that suggestion. As to his proposal that the report might be taken up today, I am not in a position either to press him not to do so or to do so although I do not want him to resile from any arrangements that may have been come to with him and to which I, too, have personally agreed ; if the Honourable the Finance Member thinks that the exigencies of public business demand that the Public Accounts Committee's Report should be discussed, I think I am not in a position to stand in his way ; indeed I have no strength here to resist him nor the desire to do so ; but the motion has to be made by him. In so far as he has acceded to the suggestion emanating from any of my colleagues, I am thankful to him. In so far as he wants to press for it if he chooses, I am not in a position either to resist his wish or to support it.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, the only point that remains to be disposed of is what I understand to be the request of my Honourable friend, Professor Ranga, that these purely routine motions for excess grants which have been recommended by the Public Accounts Committee should be postponed until the Assembly has considered the motions standing in my name about the Public Accounts Committee's report. I see no rhyme or reason in that and I very strongly deprecate the postponement of these purely routine motions.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Sir, I should be quite prepared to accept the argument of the Honourable the Finance Member and also the reasons why he has been obliged to postpone his decision ; I only wished to draw attention of the House to this fact that during the last Simla Session I think my Honourable friend, Mr. Satyamurti, made a very insistent request to the Honourable the Finance Member that he should take the earliest opportunity.....

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Does the Honourable Member wish to discuss these excess grants, or not ? So

[Mr. President.]

much time of the House has already been taken up in discussing this point and does the Honourable Member wish me to proceed with the agenda before the House, or not ?

Prof. N. G. Ranga : I want to know whether the Honourable Member will be good enough to take the earliest possible opportunity in the winter Session to bring these two reports before the House for discussion ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : It all depends what the Honourable Member means by "the earliest possible opportunity". In this matter of the Report of the Public Accounts Committee I am very largely in the hands of the House itself. Indeed the steps that Government have taken have all been at the wish or specific request of Members of the Honourable Member's own party. I am sorry that he is a dissenting tail of his own party in this matter, but I cannot help it. In the matter of the discussion of the Public Accounts Committee's Report I am quite prepared to do my best to meet the wish of Honourable Members of the House as to the time it should be discussed.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The question is :

"That an excess grant of Rs. 2,350 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1934-35, in respect of 'Excise'."

1 P.M.

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 20.—STAMPS.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I move :

"That an excess grant of Rs. 6,987 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1934-35, in respect of 'Stamps'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The question is :

"That an excess grant of Rs. 6,987 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1934-35, in respect of 'Stamps'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 25.—INTEREST ON ORDINARY DEBT, AND REDUCTION OR AVOIDANCE OF DEBT.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I move :

"That an excess grant of Rs. 70,542 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1934-35, in respect of 'Interest on Ordinary Debt, and Reduction or Avoidance of Debt'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The question is :

"That an excess grant of Rs. 70,542 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1934-35, in respect of 'Interest on Ordinary Debt, and Reduction or Avoidance of Debt'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 26.—INTEREST ON MISCELLANEOUS OBLIGATIONS.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 1,37,097 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1934-35, in respect of ‘ Interest on Miscellaneous Obligations ’.”

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh (Chota Nagpur Division: Non-Muhamadan) : Sir, the Honourable the Finance Member made the motion, and before you put the question as carried, are we not entitled to know why this excess grant has been incurred ? Is there to be no explanation ?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : I always wait after I put the motion to the House. If the Honourable Member wanted to ask any questions from the Honourable the Finance Member, he could always do so.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh : I am not making any complaint against you, Sir. I want to know why this excess grant has been asked for. I want an explanation.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Does the Honourable Member mean that the Honourable the Finance Member should explain every item ?

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh : I think so.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : The explanation of each item appears in the Report of the Public Accounts Committee.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The question is :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 1,37,097 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1934-35, in respect of ‘ Interest on Miscellaneous Obligations ’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 28.—EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 9,955 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1934-35, in respect of the ‘ Executive Council ’.”

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The question is :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 9,955 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1934-35, in respect of the ‘ Executive Council ’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 29.—COUNCIL OF STATE.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 3,790 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1934-35, in respect of ‘ Council of State ’.”

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The question is :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 3,790 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1934-35, in respect of ‘ Council of State ’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 30.—LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEPARTMENT.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 1,114 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1934-35, in respect of ‘ Legislative Assembly and Legislative Assembly Department ’.”

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The question is :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 1,114 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1934-35, in respect of ‘ Legislative Assembly and Legislative Assembly Department ’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 32.—HOME DEPARTMENT.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 4,798 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1934-35, in respect of ‘ Home Department ’.”

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The question is :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 4,798 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1934-35, in respect of ‘ Home Department ’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 42.—PAYMENTS TO PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS ON ACCOUNT OF ADMINISTRATION OF AGENCY SUBJECTS.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 1,583 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1934-35, in respect of ‘ Payments to Provincial Governments on account of Administration of Agency Subjects ’.”

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The question is :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 1,583 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1934-35, in respect of ‘ Payments to Provincial Governments on account of Administration of Agency Subjects ’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 44.—ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 250 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1934-35, in respect of ‘ Administration of Justice ’.”

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The question is :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 250 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1934-35, in respect of ‘ Administration of Justice ’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 47.—LIGHTHOUSES AND LIGHTSHIPS.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 43,460 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1934-35, in respect of ‘ Lighthouses and Lightships ’.”

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The question is :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 43,460 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1934-35, in respect of ‘ Lighthouses and Lightships ’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 50.—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 247 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1934-35, in respect of ‘ Geological Survey ’.”

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The question is :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 247 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1934-35, in respect of ‘ Geological Survey ’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 53.—ARCHAEOLOGY.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 10,837 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1934-35, in respect of ‘ Archæology ’.”

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The question is :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 10,837 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1934-35, in respect of ‘ Archæology ’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 58.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 25,329 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1934-35, in respect of ‘ Public Health ’.”

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The question is :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 25,329 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1934-35, in respect of ‘ Public Health ’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 63.—AVIATION.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 561 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1934-35, in respect of ‘ Aviation ’.”

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The question is :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 561 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1934-35, in respect of ‘ Aviation ’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 65.—CENSUS.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 130 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1934-35, in respect of ‘ Census ’.”

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The question is :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 130 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1934-35, in respect of ‘ Census ’.”

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. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) in the Chair.

DEMAND No. 67.—EMIGRATION.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 7,390 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1934-35, in respect of ‘ Emigration ’.”

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) : The question is :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 7,390 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1934-35, in respect of ‘ Emigration ’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 72.—MINT.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 20,408 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1934-35, in respect of ‘ Mint ’.”

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) : The question is :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 20,408 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1934-35, in respect of ‘ Mint ’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 75.—STATIONERY AND PRINTING.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 77,074 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1934-35, in respect of ‘ Stationery and Printing ’.”

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) : The question is :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 77,074 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1934-35, in respect of ‘ Stationery and Printing ’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 76-A.—EXPENDITURE ON RETRENCHED PERSONNEL CHARGED TO REVENUE.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 632 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1934-35, in respect of ‘ Expenditure on Retrenched Personnel charged to Revenue ’.”

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) : The question is :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 632 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1934-35, in respect of ‘ Expenditure on Retrenched Personnel charged to Revenue ’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 76D.—TRANSFER TO THE FUND FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF RURAL AREAS.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 1,68,60,409 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1934-35, in respect of ‘ Transfer to the Fund for the Economic Development and Improvement of Rural Areas ’.”

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) : The question is :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 1,68,60,409 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1934-35, in respect of ‘ Transfer to the Fund for the Economic Development and Improvement of Rural Areas ’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 77.—REFUNDS.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 2,31,836 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1934-35, in respect of ‘ Refunds ’.”

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) : The question is :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 2,31,836 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1934-35, in respect of ‘ Refunds ’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 88.—HYDERABAD.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 614 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1934-35, in respect of ‘ Hyderabad ’.”

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) : The question is :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 614 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1934-35, in respect of ‘ Hyderabad ’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 96.—COMMUTED VALUE OF PENSIONS.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 2,62,724 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1934-35, in respect of ‘ Commuted Value of Pensions ’.”

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) : The question is :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 2,62,724 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1934-35, in respect of ‘ Commuted Value of Pensions ’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 98.—INTEREST-FREE ADVANCES.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 7,632 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1934-35, in respect of ‘ Interest-free Advances ’.”

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) : The question is :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 7,632 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1934-35, in respect of ‘ Interest-free Advances ’.”

The motion was adopted.

Railways.

DEMAND No. 2.—AUDIT.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 1,113 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the railway expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1934-35, in respect of ‘ Audit ’.”

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) : The question is :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 1,113 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the railway expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1934-35, in respect of ‘ Audit ’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 4.—REFUNDS.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 38,914 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the railway expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1934-35, in respect of ‘ Refunds ’.”

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) : The question is :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 38,914 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the railway expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1934-35, in respect of ‘ Refunds ’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 5.—PAYMENTS TO INDIAN STATES AND COMPANIES.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 6,54,609 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the railway expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1934-35, in respect of ‘ Payments to Indian States and Companies ’.”

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) : The question is :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 6,54,609 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the railway expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1934-35, in respect of ‘ Payments to Indian States and Companies ’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 6B.—WORKING EXPENSES—MAINTENANCE AND SUPPLY OF
LOCOMOTIVE POWER.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 11,24,912 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the railway expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1934-35, in respect of ‘ Working Expenses—Maintenance and supply of Locomotive power ’.”

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) : The question is :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 11,24,912 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the railway expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1934-35, in respect of ‘ Working Expenses—Maintenance and supply of Locomotive power ’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 6C.—WORKING EXPENSES—MAINTENANCE OF CARRIAGE AND
WAGON STOCK.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 8,17,265 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the railway expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1934-35, in respect of ‘ Working Expenses—Maintenance of carriage and wagon stock ’.”

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) : The question is :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 8,17,265 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the railway expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1934-35, in respect of ‘ Working Expenses—Maintenance of carriage and wagon stock ’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 6E.—WORKING EXPENSES—EXPENSES OF TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 2,85,458 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the railway expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1934-35, in respect of ‘ Working Expenses—Expenses of Traffic Department ’.”

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) : The question is :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 2,85,458 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the railway expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1934-35, in respect of ‘ Working Expenses—Expenses of Traffic Department ’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANT IN RESPECT OF
RAILWAYS.

PAYMENTS TO INDIAN STATES AND COMPANIES.

Mr. P. E. Rau (Financial Commissioner, Railways) : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 11,45,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1937, in respect of ‘ Payments to Indian States and Companies ’.”

I trust that no speech is necessary in respect of this motion. These are contractual payments and they depend on the actual net earnings of certain railways during the year 1935-36. The necessity for this extra sum follows automatically from the welcome fact that the net earnings of two railways during 1935-36 were much higher than anticipated.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) : The question is :

“ That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 11,45,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1937, in respect of ‘ Payments to Indian States and Companies ’.”

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, the next three items are items which, at the request of the Party opposite, I do not propose to move at this stage.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) : This disposes of Items 1, 2 and 3 under the head “ Demands for Supplementary Grants for 1936-37 ”.

REPORTS OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) : The House will now proceed with the consideration of the reports of the Public Accounts Committee.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg (Finance Member) : May I explain the position about this ? Though the first motion has been moved and the debate has been begun, the wish was expressed to me by leaders of the Party opposite that it should be postponed and taken together with the second motion at a more convenient time. Of course, in this matter, I am in the hands of the House because the motion has already been moved.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) : May I have the opinion of the House on this matter ?

Several Honourable Members : Let the debate on these two motions be postponed.

[Further consideration of the two motions was, by leave of the Assembly, postponed.]

THE MANŒUVRES FIELD FIRING AND ARTILLERY PRACTICE BILL.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham (Defence Secretary) : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That the Bill to provide facilities for military manœuvres and for field and artillery practice be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon.”

Sir, I wish to make it quite clear at the outset that we have no desire whatever to rush this Bill through the House. We realise that it contains certain provisions which may prove contentious and which will require discussion in the light of public opinion. We do not at this stage

[Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham.]

even ask the House to accept the principle of the Bill. All that we are asking the House to do today is to agree that it should be circulated for the purpose of obtaining advice, and criticism and opinions thereon. I can assure the House that, if that course is adopted, the next step will be to refer the Bill to a Select Committee, in which its clauses can be considered in detail in the light of the opinions that we receive as a result of circulation. The only reason why I am making this motion at this stage of the present Session is to avoid ultimate delay. If I had only been able to make this motion at the beginning of the next Session in Delhi, the Bill would not have returned from circulation until after that Session and we should not have been able to set up the Select Committee until the Simla Session next year and it might have been the Delhi Session 1938 before the Bill could be taken into consideration. That, Sir, is the only reason why I am putting this motion before the House today.

I should now like to say just one or two words about the principles and the purposes of the Bill. I have attempted to explain them as clearly as possible in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, but I hope the House will accept this Bill for what it really is, and that is a genuine gesture of responsiveness on our part. We came in for a certain amount of criticism last year in connection with certain artillery practices that took place, and I was asked questions on the subject in this House. Subsequently Government looked into the matter more closely and they were satisfied that the position was by no means satisfactory from the point of view of the public. Incidentally I may also add that the position is not altogether satisfactory from the point of view of the military authorities also. It will, I hope be agreed by the House that if we are to have an army at all, these operations, manoeuvres and field firing and artillery practices and so on, must continue to take place. And, if they are to continue to take place, the conditions in which they do should be regularised and put on a proper legal footing. That, Sir, is the principle of the Bill. As I said before, as regards details we shall be quite prepared to go into consultation when opinions have been received as a result of circulation. I can assure the House that everything that we have put in this Bill at the present moment does not represent the fixed and unalterable decision of Government. We shall be quite prepared to negotiate on details when the time comes and we shall endeavour to be as accommodating as possible. On that understanding, I do hope that the House will agree to my motion for circulation and that we shall be able to pass on very shortly to the next item on the agenda. Sir, I move.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) : Motion moved :

“ That the Bill to provide facilities for military manoeuvres and for field and artillery practice be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon.”

Mr. B. Das (Orissa Division : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, I rise to oppose the motion for circulation of this Bill. I concede a certain amount of fairness to my Honourable friend, Mr. Tottenham, in stating that he does not want the House to accept the principles enunciated in the Bill. So far as that goes, it is all right, but why should this House agree to circulate this Bill which is drafted on the principle of encroachment on the liberties of the people and on the duties of the civil administration of the country.

I do often criticise the civil administration of the Government of India and the Provincial Governments, yet I must say that at times the civil administration tries to interpret the law in the best sense that it can do. But here if I read aright the Statement of Objects and Reasons and the clauses of the Bill which are sought to be incorporated, the principle which the Defence Secretary has enunciated will place the Officers Commanding the Army above the civil officers of the district and the civil officers will not have any say in the matter until compensation is awarded. Paragraph 3 of the Statement of Objects and Reasons says :

“ The Indian practice is not altogether satisfactory from the point of view either of the public or of the Army and it is felt that the time has come to regularise it by putting it on a legal basis.”

But the draft Bill only confers special privileges to the Army. When an army wants to practise manœuvres in any locality, an officer is deputed by the District Magistrate of the district to accompany the army to settle the terms of compensation, but if this Bill is enacted into law in the form as it is drafted or in any modified form incorporating the principle that has been defined by the Army Secretary, it will take away that power of the civil administration.

Sir, my greatest objection to the Bill is that under the new Government of India Act defence will be a reserved subject and it will be the special responsibility of the Governor General and no concern of the Governor General in Council. I cannot understand why the present Governor General in Council should be so much concerned as to curtail their own liberty and to curtail the liberty of the district administrators of the provincial Governments. Sir, provincial autonomy is supposed to come in April 1937. We have often declared that it is not autonomy in the real sense, but from the other side on the Treasury Benches it has been urged that the autonomy would be a real one. Why it is on the eve of the functioning of provincial autonomy in the provinces Government think of legislating so that the military authorities should have martial zones in every province and the provincial Governments, the Ministry or the district officers will have no say in the matter. Why should information be at all collected, if Government want to collect information, let these autonomous provinces function first and let the Ministers come into being and then let them interpret the Government of India Act as it has been drafted. (Interruption from Mr. K. Ahmed). I hope my Honourable friend will take some pains to study the Government of India Act and its implications. There will be no Army Secretary in the new Federal Legislature, there will be an Army Councillor who will not be subject to the vote of the Federal Legislature. Sir, it is most surprising that Government should think of coming by the backdoor and to legislate this measure before provincial autonomy comes into being to exercise control not only over the provincial Governments, but over the district officers. As far as I understand the present practice is that when army manœuvres take place in any area for temporary occupation or for temporary evacuation of houses, compensation shall be paid. But the draft clause 9 of chapter II includes a proviso :

“ Provided that no compensation shall be payable for the temporary evacuation of buildings on land over which a right of user for the purpose of field firing or artillery practice has been acquired under the provisions of section 8.”

[Mr. B. Das.]

The most surprising thing is that any civilised Government can introduce such a provision in any legislation.

3 P.M.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : Has the Honourable Member read section 8?

Mr. B. Das : Yes, I have read it.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : Compensation is provided for in section 8?

Mr. B. Das : I have read section 8 ; then why this proviso that for temporary evacuation no compensation will be provided ? Up till now a civilian officer, either one belonging to the provincial civil service or the Indian Civil Service used to settle these things before army manœuvre takes place, but sections 5 and 6 take away that power. Section 6 provides that the Officer Commanding the forces will first settle what compensation should be paid to the villagers. Then if there is a difference the District Magistrate and the Officer Commanding will appoint an equal number of officers to settle the dispute. Thereafter if there is disagreement the District Magistrate will function. That means that the District Magistrate, whatever his lapses may be and how often I might have criticised his action, abdicates his right of looking after the welfare of his villagers after such an Act comes into operation in this country. Sir, the Military Manœuvres Act and the Military Lands Act in England are mentioned here. We know what England is and what the British army in England is. It is a national army ; the people there have a deep and abiding interest in their welfare as the army takes interest in the welfare of the people. But I think the Defence Secretary will agree with me that in India the army does not enjoy the same reputation or the same confidence as it does in England. Whenever the British army or the Indian army, mercenary as it is, marches through the districts the people are awe-struck. They do not come with flowers and chocolates to welcome these soldiers. The children do not stride in martial steps alongside these regiments when they march through our towns and through our villages. Our people get frightened and conceal themselves in their homes lest there should be rudeness shown to them by the soldiers. And the provision is that any time the Commanding Officer may ask the villages to be evacuated so that the army may have a large area for manœuvre purposes—Sir, the Defence Secretary is a well-known and able officer of the province of Madras where he enjoyed a very high reputation as a district administrator. Does he realise what hardship it would cause to the villagers who are living from hand to mouth, if they are suddenly asked to evacuate and live somewhere else ? I do not know where the villagers will go. Sir, my fear is that if this House and the country support the idea included in this draft Bill, after the Federation there will be manœuvres all over India in every province. The Defence Secretary shakes his head. I wish he will be here then to justify his position. We know what was attempted in London when the Joint Parliamentary Committee was sitting. We know how through the Joint Parliamentary Committee report attempts were made by certain sections of the civil service and by my friends of the European group to make excluded areas and partially excluded areas

as centrally administered areas so that they will be completely under the Governor General and not under the Governor General in Council or under popular Ministers. The army would be stationed there, and if in any neighbouring provinces any desire is shown for larger freedom or any sign is shown for greater democracy, the army from these excluded areas can be sent straight to the British provinces to quell the "seditious" agitation, as it is interpreted in Government circles, of the people for their legitimate aspiration for Swaraj. We on this side do not admit that the new Government of India Act brings any dose of liberty to the people of India. On the top of that, that Government of India Act has completely taken away the army from the control of the Governor General in Council and from the control of the Indian Ministers, although at one time the Government of India were even willing to give a certain amount of control to the Ministers over the army. And when the Governor General alone is responsible for the proper behaviour of the army, the country will not be foolish enough to enlarge the power of the Governor General, so that the army can go to any place it likes and can order innocent people living happily in their surroundings to evacuate their homes. Sir, these are my grounds for opposing this Bill and I do hope everyone on this side of the House will oppose it.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena (Lucknow Division : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, I am not unaware of the fact that the House is in no mood to hear any more speeches, and particularly from the back benches. But still the Bill before us is one the provisions of which affect a very large number of our countrymen, particularly those residing in rural areas, their peace and property, and in certain eventualities even their limb and life. And as such I feel it would have been much better if the Bill had not been introduced at this fag-end of the Session. But now that my Honourable friend, Mr. Tottenham, has thought fit not only to introduce the Bill but also to move for its circulation to elicit public opinion, I think it will not be proper for this House to pass that motion without expressing its own views on this particular measure. Sir, I am one of those who believe that in our own country our countrymen should have the same measure of freedom and security as Englishmen have got in England, and to that end we on this side have been striving both here and outside. It is therefore by this standard that I propose to examine the provisions of the Bill. I agree with Mr. Tottenham that the present practice of manoeuvres causes a great deal of hardship and inconvenience to people, as was brought out by the Babina incidents, but it does not follow that I agree with him that the present practice should be incorporated in an Act and should be legalised. I know that in the Statement of Objects and Reasons it has been stated that a similar law exists in England. I have studied that law. It was passed in 1897 : but what did I find ? The first thing that struck me was that while in England any place could be specified for manoeuvres only once in five years, this Bill makes a provision by which any place may be declared or authorised to be used for military manoeuvres once in two years. May I know the reason for this provision ? Is it not a fact that India is at least sixteen times as big as England ? Again, is it not a fact that the army in England—I have not got the exact figures—is much bigger than the Army in India ? Therefore if in a small country like England, the Military Manoeuvres Act provides that no place shall be specified more than once in five years, on the same ratio in India no place should be specified more than once in eighty years. Why should

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the interval be so small in India? I hope my Honourable friend will take this fact into consideration.

Another thing which struck me was the manner of notification. This Bill provides that before any place is specified for military manoeuvring a notification shall be published in the local gazette by the Local Government at least one month before the actual time of the manoeuvres and later on it says that within one month the District Magistrate shall take steps to notify the order to the people of the locality by such means or in such manner as he may consider necessary. But in the English Act we find that that Act provides for at least six months' notice to be given to the people before any place is declared for purposes of manoeuvring; and not only that: it does not merely say that it should be published in the Gazette, but it says that a draft of the order should be sent to all the county councils and to all the borough councils and, if it is a forest area, to the court of verdures, and that should be done at least six months before the actual promulgation of the order. We know that in England the adults are practically all literate, while in India it is not so; our gazettes are published in English: how many people of villages, where these manoeuvres will take place, know English I need not say. The English Act further provides that at least three months before the actual date, this draft order shall be published in the papers that are circulated in the locality. Here we find that there is no such provision as to how the District Magistrates will notify. How they have been notifying we know very well from the Babina incident. The Honourable Mr. Tottenham in reply to questions by my Honourable friend, Mr. Paliwal, in regard to Babina manoeuvres said that one week before they took place, the District Magistrate was informed: and how were the people notified? Through chowkidars and patwaris. In an area which covered as many as twenty villages and which affected as many as six thousand people, he says at least four days before actual evacuation the District Magistrate had sent information through patwaris and chowkidars; and we know how this information must have been carried and the result was that it has been admitted that one man died and one woman was forcibly taken out of her house a few hours before she was delivered of a child....

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: We want to improve matters.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: I agree with you and I support the Bill—and I say we must have a Bill: but I do not agree that your present practice must be legalised. I say we must have a Bill which must be on all fours with the English Act. As I said, we want the same measure of freedom and security for our countrymen as you have in England. That is my contention. I am not opposed to the circulation of the Bill.

There is another point. We find that in the English Act there is a provision for the appointment of a Manoeuvres Commission. It is not left to the officer in command or any military officer to control the situation. There is a Manoeuvres Commission: and how is it appointed? Two representatives each from every county council in the area and one representative each from every council of county borough and if there is any forest there, two representatives from that court of verdures. A number of persons are also nominated by the Secretary to the Government: but it is provided that in no case the number of persons so nominated will

exceed the numbers of the representatives of the county councils and boroughs. The Manoeuvres Commission controls the whole situation. There is not only a non-official elected majority the representatives of the people, but they also decide as to which of the roads, which of the sources of water supply and which land are to be used for the purposes of the manoeuvres : and before they decide themselves, they have to publish their own proposals for objections : There is also provision that before the manoeuvres are held there must be a public meeting where these objections should be heard and disposed of. These are the provisions, and statutory restrictions before the civil liberties of the people are allowed to be curtailed or invaded, as this Bill proposes to do....

Mr. K. Ahmed (Rajshahi Division : Muhammadan Rural) : That stage will come when you get dominion status.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena : I do not care for dominion status. I want nothing but independence and I will fight for it to my last breath. You may content yourself with dominion status or any other status, but I will have no status except that which any other free nation in this world enjoys.

The Manoeuvres Commission has got another power. It is the power of appointing the compensation officer. It is not the Government which appoints the compensation officer : it is the commission which does so and then it is said that if a claimant makes a claim for damages or for compensation and if the compensation officer does not agree with the claimant, automatically the claim will be treated as an application to refer the matter under the Arbitration Act, and then it is decided what amount of compensation and damages the particular person is entitled to get. I want that we must have some such provision, and some such committee. We must have a provision and we must have a committee which should have elected non-official representatives in a majority on it, which should decide as to who shall be the compensation officer, which lands, roads and water supply sources will be allowed to be used by the troops for purposes of manoeuvres and what other conditions are to be observed.

Again, it is provided in this Bill by sub-clause (2) of clause 3 :

“ The provisions of sub-section (1) shall not authorise entry on or interference with any place of worship or ground attached thereto or any burial ground or any dwelling house or premises attached thereto or any school, factory, workshop or store or any premises used for the carrying on of any trade, business or manufacture or any garden or pleasure ground.”

There is a very similar provision in the English law, but in the English law we have another provision that no place of historic or antiquarian interest shall be interfered with or trespassed. Why this omission in this Bill ? Is it not a fact that in India we have a larger number of places which are of greater historical interest, which are of greater antiquity, than those in England ? Then, why is no provision made like the one in the English Act, in this Bill ?

Mr. K. Ahmed : You will do that when you get Federation.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena : Damn your Federation. I will not have it. I will not let it come, if I can help it. (Laughter.) There is one other point. In the English Act provision is made that it will be this

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Commission which will determine, after taking into account the necessities and requirements of the people, how much water can be taken by the troops, but here we find :

“ Nothing herein contained shall authorise the taking of water from any source of supply, whether belonging to a private owner or a public authority, of such amount as to curtail the supply reasonably required.”

Reasonably ! Who is going to determine this “ reasonably ” ? Who is going to interpret this word ? It will be, again, the army officials. They will interpret as it would suit their needs. While in England although there is the Manoeuvres Commission, a non-official authority to interpret, still we do not find the word “ reasonably ” in the English Act. There, we find the words, after taking into account the requirements of the people concerned, it shall be determined as to how much water supply will be allowed to the troops.

These are some of the points which occurred to me while cursorily going through the provisions of both this Bill and the English Act. I want to inform my Honourable friend, Mr. Tottenham, at what rate compensation is being paid today. Does he know that in the Babina incident, while 6,500 people were affected.....

Mr. K. Ahmed : It will be your own Government, why do you ask for compensation ?

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena : It shall not be my Government again, you may take it from me.

About 6,800 persons were affected. One person died and the amount of compensation allowed was Rs. 5,815. The total is 6,667, and then we are told that they were paid according to the United Provinces Revenue Manual. What does it provide ? It provides that every man shall be paid at the rate of Re. 0-2-6 and every woman and child above 15 shall be paid at the rate of Re. 0-1-6. It is not for every day. In every month it shall be after the first day that he or she will be paid, in every season it shall be after the fourth day that he or she will be paid. If in a season the manoeuvres are only held for four days, he or she will be paid anything. It may be said that this is quite ample. In the reply Mr. Tottenham was made to say,—I do not know whether he subscribed to it,—that this was more than enough.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : Did I say so ?

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena : Yes. You did say, Government thinks it is enough :

“ The rates at which this is paid are those laid down in paragraph 1601 of the United Provinces Revenue Manual.... These rates are, it is understood, determined for the whole of British India.”

Then, the reply says later on, I need not read it, that they are considered to be ample. May I know how many Members here would like to be turned out of their houses if they are paid even at the rate of one rupee per day ? May I know how many of them are prepared to be turned out of their houses even if they are paid even more ? I think the House will agree the existing practice is not satisfactory. We must take into account not the rate at which labourers are employed, but you have to take into account not only their loss of labour but also that they have

to go out of their houses, leave their houses, take their children and women to some other place ; that necessarily involves so much hardship and inconvenience, and also necessitates so much extra expenditure as in many cases these places are very distant from the place where the manoeuvres are held. If the Honourable Member wants that because of this Babina incident we must pass this Bill and legalise the present practice he must not expect any support from us. But if he really desires that in this country we must have a similar Act as in England, I may tell him that in view of the great hardship and inconvenience, notwithstanding the fact that this army is an army of occupation, is an army for which we have no love, and no regard, still to save our people from inconvenience, hardship and arbitrary orders, we would not mind being a party even to this Bill if the provisions I have suggested are incorporated.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions : Muhammadan Rural) : I would like to draw attention to a few points in connection with this Bill. My first point is that the method proposed about the payment of compensation in this particular Bill is not very desirable. I think we should adopt the same practice as is now being adopted in the case of land acquisitions. If payment is not made by mutual consent, the District Magistrate first fixes the amount, but the person aggrieved has got the right of appeal to the Judge and also to the High Court. So, if a person to whom the compensation is given is not satisfied with the amount of compensation proposed either by the military authorities or by the District Magistrate as provided in this clause, he should have a right of appeal to the High Court in the same manner as a person whose land is compulsorily acquired.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : This is compensation for damage.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : My point is that compensation for damage should be put on the same footing as compensation for compulsory acquisition of land.

The next point which I want to urge is that I hate in any Bill the rule making powers, because you take away the right of the Legislature. I do not mind if the rule making power is restricted to the routine business of convening meetings, issuing notices, etc., but if it goes to any larger extent, then I think the rules ought to be printed as a schedule to the Bill so that we may visualise what they would be. In this particular case the power which is demanded in the case of the rules goes much higher. Sub-clause (3) of clause 10 of the Bill says :

“ Any rule made under this section may provide that a breach of the rule shall be punishable with fine which may extend to fifty rupees.”

This power of fine may be provided in the Act and it should be passed by the Legislature. but I think it is wrong to demand this power under the rules. I think this power which is demanded under sub-clause (3) of clause 10 of this Bill goes really far beyond the scope of the rules. I think this particular provision should never be there and if the mover of the Bill is very anxious to have this thing, let it be openly debated on the floor of the House and decided by the vote of the House. I think it is not correct to take this power for the Governor General in Council.

The next thing I want to refer to is clause 2 (1). We know what the Local Government today is, and we are in the dark as to what the Local Governments will be like after 1st April next year and I welcome the

[Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad.]

suggestion that we ought to wait till provincial autonomy has come into existence. We should see what the new Local Governments would be and then we should legislate. We do not know now whether the Local Government will mean Governor in Council acting with his Ministers or the Governor himself. The meaning will be quite clear when this Bill is legislated after provincial autonomy has come into existence.

The next point to which I would like to draw attention is the enormous land which the military authorities now occupy for no definite purpose. We are suffering on account of there being not enough land for agriculture. At every twelve miles the military have got enormous lands reserved for camping. These lands were necessary in the days of slow marches on foot or by ponies but in these days when the army moves by motor lorries or trains, these lands should be given up and used for agricultural purposes. The possession of these lands by the military is unjustified and I hope that the Army Secretary will note this and give up the lands which they are now occupying only by way of tradition. They should be given back to the local zamindars at the prices at which they were purchased and not at exorbitant prices, so that land under agriculture may be increased. In every province we are making efforts to utilise every bit of uncultivated land and it is not justified to keep these large plots of land which they are never going to use. As military science advances, the necessity of these lands will diminish. These lands are absolutely unnecessary for the military and they should be given up immediately.

The next point to which I draw attention is that the notice given in this Bill is short. If you want to take the land of the agriculturists you give them at least six months notice. One month is not sufficient.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : There is no question of taking up land for manoeuvres. We are only making provision for the army to pass over the land. They may or may not pass over particular areas of land.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : If the land is under cultivation and there is a crop growing and you take the land for marching purposes, then the crops will all be damaged. The cultivator will really be wasting his money in sowing that crop. If the cultivator has six months notice, he will not spend his money in watering the fields and sowing and will keep it free. In that way it will be a saving for the Army Department also because they will not have to pay much compensation. So, it is really to the advantage of the Army Department to give six months notice.

The next thing to which I would draw attention is that whenever you take away the land and the crops, you must not only give them money for their means of subsistence but also provide dwelling houses, fodder, grain.

Whenever you take the land for this purpose there is bound to be shortage of food and fodder. So when Government wants these places to be vacated, they should also provide fodder to the villagers. These are the really important points in this Bill. I hope that when the Bill is circulated the points that I have mentioned will be considered and in the new Bill which the Army Secretary may bring up all these points will be provided for. I will come forward with a definite proposition that all the land which is now in the possession of the Military authorities and which is no longer required for military purposes will be handed over to the local zamindars at the prices at which they were purchased.

Mr. Ghansham Singh Gupta (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, my friend, the Honourable the Defence Secretary, has earned the reputation of fairness. I hope he would exercise that fairness in this Bill also. In this proposal for circulation I want to bring certain facts to his notice so that all those facts may be considered by him and the general public whose opinion is invited. Now, there is one thing that should not be forgotten, and especially an Honourable Member who brings a Bill of this sort must not forget, namely, the feelings of an average English soldier towards an average Indian. There is no doubt of this that the average English soldier has no good feelings for an average Indian. I need not cite instances. There are many. Especially in my own Province the instance of Benda is quite fresh. Therefore, in framing a Bill of this sort it would not do merely to copy the English Act. As my Honourable friend, Mr. Saksena, has said, and I shall refer to it later on, even with regard to copying the English Act, it does not provide all those protections, it is even much less than that. I would wish that this Bill which will come before us afterwards should be so framed as to give greater protection to Indians than those given to the average Englishman in England. My friend, Mr. Saksena, referred to many points of difference between the English Act and this Bill. I may tell you that on all major points this Bill wholly fails even to go near the English Act. Now five important matters are dealt with in this Bill. The first is with regard to the issue of a notification, the second is with regard to exemption from entry on or interference with any place of worship, etc., during manoeuvres; the third is with regard to the question of compensation, the fourth is with regard to the compulsory acquisition and its mode, and the fifth concerns the rule-making powers of the Governor General. In respect of all these points, the present Bill falls very far short of the English Act which it professes to copy. Most of the points have already been dealt with by my Honourable friend, Mr. Saksena. For instance, no notification can be issued under the English Act unless the draft order remains in both Houses of Parliament for thirty days. Now there is no such provision in this Bill. For not a single day this draft order may remain with the local Legislative Council or in the Assembly. We would like that if it professes to copy the English Act, it should remain before the Provincial Assembly for at least thirty days. Now, Sir, the next question concerns exemption from entry on or interference with any place of worship, etc., during manoeuvres. In respect of this also the present Bill hopelessly fails to approach the English Act. In the English Act, apart from the many things mentioned in this Bill, there are certain other places that are exempted from interference during manoeuvres. There are the farm yards, gardens, pleasure grounds, nurseries and places of antiquarian and historical interest. This Bill wholly fails to give any protection to any of these. Therefore, the claim that it purports to copy the English Act does not hold good. Then, another very bad feature is about the compensation. Here, Sir, who is to judge of the compensation? The compensation is to be decided, if no amicable settlement is arrived at, by a commission composed of the nominees of the Officer Commanding the forces and the nominees of the District Magistrate, and if they cannot come to an agreement, then the District Magistrate will decide the compensation. I say this is most inadequate. What do we find in the English Act? In that Act there are persons who are appointed by the County Councils. Not only that, but the Secretary of State nominates persons who own or who occupy land in the area where the manoeuvre is to go on.

[Mr. Ghansham Singh Gupta.]

Now we have no such safeguard here. When you have got on the Committee such persons who either own or occupy land in that area, have local knowledge, and have things at stake; then they can really judge things better, that is of course satisfactory. Now on the occasions of these military manoeuvres, the military authorities would control practically everything so far as their relations with the public are concerned.

Mr. K. Ahmed : Magistrates will be appointed in future by the Ministers.

Mr. Ghansham Singh Gupta : By you, I think !

Mr. K. Ahmed : No, by the Ministers of your Province.

Mr. Ghansham Singh Gupta : Then as regards the powers of the commission under the English Act, they are very wide. They protect the public in every way. They control the mode and the method of use of those areas. They also determine what areas should be left out or included. They revise their draft in the light of the objections that the local people submit before them. As regards the manner of giving compensation also, they appoint a compensation officer, who fixes the compensation by agreement between himself and the claimants. Now there is no such provision here in this Bill. If there is a difference between the two, the case goes to arbitration and the provision of the Arbitration Act of 1889 applies. The Arbitration Act of England is much better in this respect. Now, when we come to the question of punishment, the maximum punishment in the English Act is only £5. Here the Bill says, "Rupees fifty". Now there is one more important point and that is about the compulsory acquisition of land. Here under clause 8 there is the compulsory acquisition of land by the Local Government and the Land Acquisition Act will apply. There, Sir, in England, under the Military Lands Act of 1892 no compulsory acquisition is allowed without the sanction of Parliament. There is no safeguard here. As soon as the Local Government thinks that a particular land must be acquired, it has to be acquired. Under the English Act—not the English Manoeuvres Act—this is the Military Lands Act of 1892,—under that Act, no acquisition is permissible unless it has the sanction of Parliament. Now we should have some such provision here. No land for this purpose must be acquired unless either the Provincial Legislative Assembly agrees to it or this Assembly agrees to it. In the English Act, there is one more important thing, if any perpetual lease or if any lease for a long period has been taken by the military authorities and if this leased land is not used for one year, then the lease ceases and the land reverts to the original owner. Here, clause 8 of the Bill makes no such provision. But the most objectionable part of this Bill is the rule-making power of the Governor General in Council. Sir, we know how the Governor General in Council uses such powers when we equip him with them. If you read clause 10 of this Bill you will come to understand that the whole Act can be made nugatory by the rule-making power of the Governor General in Council. Sub-clause (1) of clause 10 says :

"The Governor General in Council may, by notification in the Gazette of India, make such rules as he considers necessary for carrying out the purposes of this Act."

Now, the purposes of this Act may be anything.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Manoeuvres.

Mr. Ghanshiam Singh Gupta : If, for the purpose of manoeuvring, the Governor General in Council thinks any set of rules to be necessary, then the Governor General in Council will make those rules. What a wide power you want to give to the Governor General in Council ! He can make anything or unmake anything. If it is necessary for the purpose of manoeuvring to demolish certain building, he can do it. Of course, whatever he can do in spite of us and in which we have no hand, let him do it. But when the Army Secretary wants us to agree to a certain Bill, then we must see that it is reasonable and that we get reasonable protection from it. Sub-clause (2) of clause 10 gives certain details which, to my mind, mean nothing. It merely gives illustrations. It says :

“ In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, the Governor General in Council may make rules.”

This is the most objectionable part in the whole Bill. (Interruptions by Mr. K. Ahmed and *Voices of* “ Do not take any notice of him.”) I am advised not to mind you : you have created such a feeling against you in this House.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) : May I say for the benefit of one or two Honourable Members that sometimes silence is golden and speech is silver.

Mr. Ghanshiam Singh Gupta : I was saying, Sir, that there is no corresponding clause in the English Act which corresponds to this rule-making power. What I want to say is this that we want a Bill which should go far ahead of the English Act, the reason being that the English soldiers in England have got good feelings for the English people. Here the army being the army of occupation, as my Honourable friend rightly remarked, there is no such feeling. If an Act is to be framed with our consent, then it must be so framed as to give greater protection to us than the average Englishman gets under the English Act. But this Bill, far from doing that, does not even go up to the English Act. Sir, I have no objection to the motion that the Bill be circulated.

Mr. M. S. Aney (Berar Representative) : Sir, I only want to make one or two observations in supporting the motion before the House. I do not think that, notwithstanding the criticisms offered on the provisions of this Bill, Members are opposed to the idea of the circulation. In fact, these criticisms are made with a view to inform the public outside of the points of view from which they should examine the provisions of this Bill and offer their opinions thereon. One important point in connection with this Bill is that it does away with the existing practice and tries to give a legal basis to the powers of the military authorities in getting certain advantages or facilities for the purpose of carrying on their military manoeuvres. The existing practice has been referred to in the Statement of Objects and Reasons. It says :

“ At present with the co-operation of the civil authorities, the local military authorities come to an agreement with the owners of the land, and pay them compensation for any damage or inconvenience caused.”

So, the existing practice is one of getting the co-operation of the owners on a voluntary basis. It is a matter of agreement. Now, that agreement is to be done away with by investing the military authorities with certain statutory powers. Up to this time the civil authorities have to approach the owners of the land and persuade them to come to some understanding with the military authorities in order that they should be

[Mr. M. S. Aney.]

able to make use of their land for the purpose of the military manœuvres. This voluntary basis which was in existence up to this time is being done away with. It has been stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons that there is a precedent for claiming such powers in the practice that prevails in England and in other countries. I do not, therefore, want to dispute that. It may be necessary from the military point of view. But we should remember that we are destroying one existing practice in which the military authorities had to come to some agreement with the owners of the land and that agreement is now going to be replaced by certain arbitrary powers which the statute gives to the military authorities. My point is that when we are taking away the arrangement of agreement with the owners of land that existed up to this time and replacing it by an arrangement in which there is an automatic authority obtained by the military authorities, we must see that the owners of land are not placed at a disadvantage. That is the main principle which should guide us in considering the provisions of this Bill. From this point of view we must also see that sufficient safeguards are introduced in this Bill to protect the rights of the owners of the land and they should get sufficient compensation for any damage that may be caused to their property.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

In examining that point, I find that even there no such machinery has been set up which, to my mind, will inspire confidence and command the respect of all and satisfy any impartial man as regards the justice that we expect in matters of this kind from the Government. In this connection I will refer the House to the provisions of sub-clause (d) of clause 10. It says :

“ In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, the Governor General in Council may make rules. . . .

(d) to regulate the procedure of and define the principles to be followed by commissions appointed under this Act in assessing compensation.”

I wish to make it perfectly clear that principles of compensation are matters which are capable of being ascertained in the form of certain definite propositions and capable of being embodied in the statute itself. It is not safe, without meaning any disrespect to anybody, to leave it to the Governor General in Council to evolve those principles and promulgate them in the form of rules and regulations. This Act is clothing the military authorities with extraordinary powers for the purpose of carrying on military manœuvres and we as legislators must take care that proper and equitable principles for assessing compensation for damages must also be properly laid down and embodied in the statute itself. We should not leave it to the discretion of the Governor General in Council to evolve these principles and promulgate them in the form of rules. That is not a matter which should be left to the rule making power of the Governor General in Council. The Legislature itself must exercise this discretion and deliberate over the question and formulate those principles in the Bill. There is one more point. Even as regards the notice to be given to the people concerned about the particular land or particular tract being used by the military

4 P.M.

authorities for the purpose of carrying on manœuvres, the provisions are in my opinion innocuous and unsatisfactory. No specific method is prescribed here which the District Magistrate or the local authorities are called upon to follow in order to give particular notice to those people. It has been left to the District Magistrate to find out his own way of giving notice to the people. No definite method is laid down there. I really do not see what difficulty the framers of the Bill had in defining the particular method by which the people ought to be informed that at such and such a time such and such a land will be taken possession of or that certain lands will be utilised by the military authorities for the purpose of carrying on manœuvres. In every Act, we find that whenever notice is to be given certain detailed rules are framed, certain procedure is laid down as to how and in what form it should be given and as to what authority should give that notice, etc. Some such detailed conditions with regard to giving notice should also be embodied so that the people should not be taken unawares or the laches or the neglect on the part of the magistrate should not be a source of trouble or harassment to the people in the interest of carrying on certain military manœuvres. We should save the people from the possible effect of negligence of District Magistrates; and some of them are negligent when popular interests are concerned. It is therefore necessary that the statute itself must prescribe the particular form in which notice is to be given. These are a few of the suggestions which I wanted to make in addition to those made by my other Honourable friends. My object is that people should consider this Bill as an important measure and although such powers will have to be conferred, they should also devote their attention to what they consider to be matters in which the Bill ought to be improved. With the few suggestions I have made, I have no difficulty in supporting the motion for circulation and I think the House also will accept the motion.

Dr. Khan Sahib (North-West Frontier Province : General) : Sir, I just wish to make a few observations for the consideration of the House and I should warn the House as to giving any power to the army which as you are well aware, Sir, is a reserved subject under the new Constitution. Moreover this instrument of oppression and suppression is always used by the exploiters to protect themselves from the poor people who are the real producers of every country. So their sole interest lies in the oppression of those who are really concerned in the development of the country for the benefit of those who are simply exploiters and moneylenders. I will just point out to the House that as far as the army is concerned in this country whatever power is given to them, they use it unconditionally and abuse it without asking anybody and the civil authorities knowing that their whole power is dependent upon the mercenary army never say anything where the army is concerned. I will tell you that in Peshawar the army has taken the land between Tehkal Bala and Tehkal Pagen for rifle practice and as far as compensation was concerned, the people were never consulted. They have got a wonderful way of doing things there. They have got honorary magistrates in certain places, who are used especially to suppress the people. No real remuneration is given to these people for their lands. The land of these people for cultivation is beyond the rifle range and the way to their fields passes through the range, which is often blocked and the peasants are prevented from getting to their

[Dr. Khan Sahib.]

fields in time. Every day rifle practice is going on and especially in summer the peasants have to get up early and go to their fields before the heat comes on, this under the circumstances is impossible for them to do. Apart from that, the irrigation water of Khalil and Mohmand is taken for the purpose of watering the gardens in the military officers' bungalows in the Peshawar cantonment.

Mr. K. Ahmed : Frontier Province is Frontier Province, Sir ?

Dr. Khan Sahib : My Honourable friend is a tower of ignorance. Though he has been a very old Member of this House, his mind is so polished with tar that not a single ray of light has penetrated through it during all these years he has spent in the Assembly.

It is a well known fact, Sir, that the people of Khalil and Mohmand brought up their case before the Government and even some of the civil officers have reported that land revenue should be reduced because the land could not produce the same harvest as it did when irrigation was allowed. Now, no notice is taken of that. You may go along any road on the Frontier, there will be huge areas marked out for aerodromes, for camping grounds and so on and yet no compensation has been paid to the people and if any has been paid, it is the middlemen who have profited by it. My point is this. If any power is given to these instruments of oppression, it ought to be limited and I say no military officers should sit on the committee which assesses compensation, nor any civil officer should be a member of that committee. It should consist entirely of peasants and the people to whom the land belongs. They must be on the committee and they must decide what the real price of the land would be. These are the suggestions I wish to make on the Bill.

Several Honourable Members : The question may now be put.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The question is that the question be now put.

The motion was adopted.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, before my Honourable friend speaks on this motion, I may just mention one thing. I understand that my Honourable friend, Mr. Tottenham, when he moved his motion for circulation of the Bill for eliciting public opinion, he did not specify the date by which the opinions should come in. I think under the rules this should be done and I suggest 30th April, 1937.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : This is an original motion, and for this no date is necessary to be fixed. It is only in the case of an amendment that date should be mentioned.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : The point is this. Rule 76 says that one of the motions that can be made may be in the form that it be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : If you look at standing order 38 you will find that no date is mentioned there.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : It is not given there but my submission is that it was not given there because it was considered redundant.

But in every case when a motion is made for circulation, a date should be given by which such opinion should be elicited, otherwise how is public opinion to be ascertained? The public has no idea of the time by which the opinions must be given. Standing order 39 puts it down that the date should be specified.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : That is only as regards amendments.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : As regards amendments it is compulsory and there should be a date specified in the motion itself.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : I understand the practice is that no date is mentioned in the case of original motions for circulation.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : All the same I think it would be helpful to have some date so that people may know when to send their opinions.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : That may be, but I cannot compel the Honourable Member to put down a date.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : Sir, I did not quite catch the date the Honourable Member suggested. If it was after the next Session, so that no Select Committee can sit until this time next year, I am afraid I could not agree to that.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : It was suggested by a number of speakers that this matter should be taken up after the new legislatures had been formed in the provinces. So I suggested the 30th April.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : Sir, may I now reply to the debate?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Yes.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : In the course of what I have to say I will refer to the point which the Honourable Member raised just now.

It appears to me, after listening to the speeches made this afternoon, that there is no great opposition to this Bill going in circulation for the purpose of obtaining public opinion. A number of detailed suggestions have been made comparing the provisions of our Bill with the provisions of the English Act and making certain other suggestions on points of detail. I cannot possibly go into or answer all those matters of detail at this stage, but the speeches that Honourable Members made on those points will of course be circulated when the Bill itself is circulated, and they will be known to the public. There are, however, just two or three points of wider principle that I should like to make myself quite clear about. In the first place I should like to make it perfectly clear that we have no intention of regularising the *existing* practice. We acknowledge that the existing practice is faulty in many ways, and it is largely because we acknowledge that that we are bringing forward this Bill. As my Honourable friend, Mr. Aney, said, the present practice is based on agreement, and I think there is a sort of feeling or suspicion that that agreement is very often in the nature of a sort of compulsory agreement, that certain powers are exercised by the district officers or by the military authorities to compel agreements which the people themselves do not give willingly. That may or may not be so, but what we are aiming at now is to put the whole thing on a

[Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham.]

legal basis and to give the public and the owners of the land which we make use of for certain purposes a claim to put forward their case and to have it heard and examined and to receive compensation on a just and equitable basis.

Then, Sir, the other point that I want to make clear is this. A certain number of Honourable Members drew attention to the difference between the provisions of the English Act and the provisions of our Bill. I think it is necessary to point out that the conditions in India are of course very different from those in England. England is a very thickly populated country where there are not large open spaces available for manœuvres, and practically any area that is used for military manœuvres in England must contain a very large number of people and houses and private property, and therefore a very elaborate system is no doubt required in a country of that kind. In India we can generally find fairly sparsely inhabited areas over which to carry out our manœuvres, our field firing and artillery practice. And therefore possibly it is not necessary in India to go into quite the same detail as it is in England. Also it may be possible, if we select (say) a suitable area for manœuvres in India which does not contain a large number of inhabitants or villages, it may be positively desirable to use that area fairly frequently instead of using it once in every five years. That would be probably preferable, from the point of view of the public, to continually changing the area of our manœuvres and carrying them out over thickly populated areas. I am merely pointing that out as one of the reasons which lie behind the fact that our Bill is not actually word for word the same as the English Manœuvres Act. On the other hand, I quite agree that the points that Honourable Members have made in that and other connections will have to be taken into consideration and certainly will be taken into consideration. One thing I can say, and I can say it on the highest authority, and that is that if these manœuvres and even artillery practices and field firing were stopped altogether, I am pretty sure there would be a very considerable amount of opposition from many of the villagers themselves. In certain cases, I know, the villagers have to evacuate their dwellings and there is a certain amount of hardship in that; but in a great many cases the villagers get nothing but profit out of these military manœuvres. The soldiers go into these areas over a certain number of weeks and they spend a large amount of money in the villages. And I am quite sure that, if there were any question of putting an end to manœuvres altogether, there would be a distinct outcry from the people. However, that is by the way.

Then, Sir, I should like just to say a few words about a third point, which is a general point raised by several Honourable Members, and that is the question whether we are doing the right thing or the wrong thing by bringing this Bill forward on the eve of provincial autonomy. Well, Sir, personally I do not see that the changes in the constitutional position really have very much to do with it. After all, even when the new Constitution is in full force, when the full Federal Constitution is in force, it will always be possible for this Legislature to pass laws imposing functions and duties upon provincial Governments and their officers. Meanwhile, what we want to do by circulating this Bill is not so much to obtain the views of the present Local Governments, although of course these will be necessary and useful, but our main object is to obtain the

views of the general public about this Bill. And I may say that I shall welcome any representations that may be made through non-official sources regarding the provisions of this Bill, and will undertake to give them the most careful consideration and see how far we can possibly go to meet any reasonable suggestions that may be put forward.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Will it be circulated among peasants' associations ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : It will be fully circulated ; I do not know exactly how it will be circulated.

Sir, your Deputy just now made a reference to speech being silver and silence being golden. I think, Sir, in this House we have rather gone off the gold standard, and I do not wish to speak any more. I hope that the House will agree to accept this motion.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The question is :

“ That the Bill to provide facilities for military manoeuvres and for field firing and artillery practice be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon.”

The motion was adopted.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, before you move on to the next item, I wish to make a request. I have to thank the Honourable the Leader of the House and other parties in the House for their allowing Dr. Deshmukh to have his motion on the agenda paper today for the reference of his Bill to the Select Committee. I understand that owing to the importance of the Dargah Bill, it is likely to occupy the House for some time, as probably it deserves to. But so far as Dr. Deshmukh's Bill is concerned, I am sure that it will not take more than 10 to 15 minutes to refer the Bill to Select Committee : so far as we on this side are concerned, Dr. Deshmukh will move for reference to Select Committee and will not take more than five or six minutes—perhaps not more than two....

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh (Bombay City : Non-Muhammadan Urban) : Not even one minute : the gold standard, Sir.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : And none else from this side will speak. I request, therefore, that you will be pleased to allow Dr. Deshmukh to move for reference of his Bill to Select Committee.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Can I upset the order ?

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : Yes : under para. 23 at page 10 of the Manual of Procedure, as we are having non-official business now. It says :

“ Provided that the President may, from time to time, make such variations in the said procedure as he may consider necessary or convenient.”

I may as well state here that the various parties in the House are agreeable to this procedure.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Are all agreed ?

Honourable Members : All agreed.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Very well. Dr. Deshmukh.

THE HINDU WOMEN'S RIGHTS TO PROPERTY BILL.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh (Bombay City : Non-Muhammadan Urban) :
Sir, I beg to move :

" That the Bill to amend the Hindu Law governing Hindu Women's Right to Property be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Honourable the Law Member, the Honourable the Home Member, the Honourable the Industries and Labour Member, Sir Muhammad Yakub, Mr. Sri Prakasa, Mr. F. E. James, Sardar Sant Singh, Sir H. P. Mody, Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta, Mr. N. C. Chunder, Dr. Khan Sahib, Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang, Mr. V. V. Giri, Dr. N. B. Khare, Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Pandit Nilakantha Das and the Mover, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Sir, I move.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Motion moved :

" That the Bill to amend the Hindu Law governing Hindu Women's Right to Property be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Honourable the Law Member, the Honourable the Home Member, the Honourable the Industries and Labour Member, Sir Muhammad Yakub, Mr. Sri Prakasa, Mr. F. E. James, Sardar Sant Singh, Sir H. P. Mody, Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta, Mr. N. C. Chunder, Dr. Khan Sahib, Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang, Mr. V. V. Giri, Dr. N. B. Khare, Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Pandit Nilakantha Das and the Mover, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Mr. M. S. Aney (Berar Representative) : Sir, I would like to move that the name of Mr. Lalchand Navalrai be added to the Select Committee.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh : I accept it, Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Very well.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa : Muhammadan) : I suggest that the name of Mr. Bajoria be also added.

Honourable Members : He is not here.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman : He has given his consent to me.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : I think the list is long enough already.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar (Law Member) : Sir, may I say just a few words ? I would not have spoken at all, but I would like to make the position of Government clear in this matter. I think I made it perfectly clear to my Honourable friend, Dr. Deshmukh, that the Government will not oppose the motion for Select Committee because they are quite prepared to support the Bill in so far as rights are intended to be given to the widow. For reasons with which I will not detain the House now, we are not agreeable to those rights being extended to daughters ; but I do not like the matter to be discussed now. All that I say is this : I make it perfectly clear that by agreeing to Select Committee we are not accepting the principle of the whole Bill : the Bill is for giving rights to women, but to what women rights will be given and to what extent, that is all open to be discussed in Select Committee and as a matter of fact I agreed to this matter being taken out of its turn and put on the list today because my Honourable friend, Dr. Deshmukh, issued a statement in the press on which I have relied for saying that he will be quite satisfied if the Bill is limited to the rights of widows. In these circumstances I do not oppose the motion for Select Committee and I agree to it.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh : I give a promise on the floor of this House that I shall stand by the published statement that I have issued.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The question is :

“ That the Bill to amend the Hindu Law governing Hindu Women's Right to Property be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Honourable the Law Member, the Honourable the Home Member, the Honourable the Industries and Labour Member, Sir Muhammad Yakub, Mr. Sri Prakasa, Mr. F. E. James, Sardar Sant Singh, Sir H. P. Mody, Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta, Mr. N. C. Chunder, Dr. Khan Sahib, Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang, Mr. V. V. Giri, Dr. N. B. Khare, Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Pandit Nilakantha Das, Mr. Lalchand Navalrai and the Mover, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five.”

The motion was adopted.

THE DURGAH KHAWAJA SAHEB BILL.

Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang (East Punjab : Muhammadan) : Mr. President, I beg to move :

“ That the Bill to make better provision for the administration of the Durgah and the Endowment of the Durgah of Khawaja Moin-ud-din Chisti, generally known as the Durgah Khawaja Saheb, Ajmer, as passed by the Council of State, be taken into consideration.”

In moving this motion, I do not propose to detain the House for long ; but I wish just to make a few observations which may introduce the subject and facilitate the consideration of the motion. It is a well-known fact that Hazrat Khawaja Moin-ud-din Chisti *Rahmatullahi alaih* was the greatest Muslim saint who ever flourished in India and his shrine situated at Ajmer Sharif is the centre of attraction not only to all Muslims living in India but to Muslims living as far as Afghanistan and Turkestan and other parts of Asia. Not only do the Muslims of India entertain the highest veneration for his blessed memory, but even the Hindus all over India have the highest respect for that saint and many of them, large numbers of them, visit the shrine at Ajmer Sharif in a spirit of real devotion. Now, that shrine has very large endowments connected with it for its upkeep and for the disbursement of the very large expenses which are incidental to the many functions and religious ceremonies held in connection with the shrine, and the management of these endowments has during the long course of history, since the original foundation of the endowment, varied from time to time...

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra (Presidency Division : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : What is the approximate value of the endowment ?

Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang : It is estimated to be about Rs. 50,000 a year. But, at the same time, it is expected that under proper management the income could be at least doubled.

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Does the amount include the annual offerings ? I had been to the place myself, and I know there are offerings of money made at the Durgah.

Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang : Not offerings alone, but the endowment, mostly endowment. As I submitted, the management of this shrine has

[Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang.]

taken different forms in different periods of history, but the form of management which is now in existence and with which we are immediately concerned is this. There is a Sajjada Nasheen who is the supreme religious or spiritual head of the institution and whose functions are mainly, in fact, I would say, almost exclusively, spiritual. There is a Mutawalli who in conjunction with a Durgah Committee manages the endowment estate, and this Committee and the Mutawalli have been working together after 1863 when the Religious Endowments Act was passed. The constitution of the Committee which has been appointed under the Religious Endowments Act of 1863 is such that we have as members of the Committee one representative of the Sajjada Nasheen, one representative of the Mutawalli, two representatives of the Khuddam community, the hereditary attendants of the shrine, and we have one representative of the public who is elected by means of a very curious form of election. It appears on the face of it, when we consider the constitution of the Committee, that the Muslim public or, I would say, the public generally, which is interested in the good management of the shrine, is most poorly represented, as things stand at present, because the Khuddam community, the hereditary attendants of the shrine, are, after all, a class of beneficiaries who are interested in being maintained out of the income of the shrine. The Mutawalli has also got his own family claims and is an interested party : so, one may say, is the Sajjada Nasheen. In spite of the veneration for the Sajjada Nasheen and the Mutawalli and the respect in which the Khuddam are also held, it cannot be denied that, from the business point of view, they are after all interested parties, and, consequently, there have been for a very long time various complaints about the mismanagement of the Durgah income, and although one may not say misadministration, but anyhow about the unsatisfactory administration of the Durgah affairs. In order to bring about reform in this state of things, this measure which is now before you in the shape of a Bill passed by the Council of State was introduced in the Council of State in June last year by the Honourable Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan. Unfortunately, certain vicissitudes delayed the matter. Originally when he gave notice of the introduction of the Bill, he applied for permission of the Governor General for the introduction of the measure. He was told by the Law Department of the Government of India that permission was not necessary. Thereupon, he introduced it in the Council of State without such permission, but objection was taken by one of the Honourable Members of the Council of State that permission of the Governor General was necessary. Thereupon, on a further reference to the Law Department of the Government of India, it was found that a wrong view had been taken, and the Honourable the President of the Council of State advised Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan to withdraw the Bill, secure proper sanction of the Governor General and re-introduce it, if he was so advised. This was done, but the result of all this was that a good deal of valuable time was wasted. However, later on, Government was kind enough to circulate the Bill for eliciting public opinion without any regular motion in the Council of State for this purpose. After that circulation the opinions which were collected were printed and circulated at a stage when there was very little time left for consideration and passage of the Bill in the Council of State in good time for the Assembly also to consider it. This is the history of the measure in the

past, but we are now in the position of having the Bill before us in the form in which the Council of State has passed it, and I beg to move that the House may consider it.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Motion moved :

“ That the Bill to make better provision for the administration of the Durgah and the Endowment of the Durgah of Khawaja Moin-ud-din Chisti, generally known as the Durgah Khawaja Saheb, Ajmer, as passed by the Council of State, be taken into consideration.”

I may mention to the House that there are no less than 74 amendments of which notice has already been given.

Sir Muhammad Yakub (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions : Muhammadan Rural) : **Mr. President**, it is a matter of great satisfaction that time has been allowed to get this Bill passed in this Session. We were all afraid that as the Council of State was going to be dissolved soon, if this Bill was not passed during this Session it might lapse and that would have created a great disappointment among the Mussalmans of India. As my Honourable friend, Syed Ghulam Buik Nairang, has said, the Durgah of Hazrat Khawaja Moin-ud-din Chisti is considered a place of great veneration and attracts people from different parts of the country, not only Mussalmans, but as the Syed Sahib has said, people of different religions also flock to the Durgah. It is for this reason that the Bill has created a great interest amongst the Mussalmans throughout the whole country and they look forward, with great anxiety, to the passing of this Bill in this House. Sir, although the Bill, in the form in which it was passed by the Council of State, is not framed in an ideal form, and it cannot be expected that a non-official Bill could be framed in a perfect style, and I should say ideal form—in fact, we find nowadays even Government Bills cannot be said a model or specimen of ideal draftsmanship. However, there are certain defects, and certain lacunae in the Bill, and the language of certain of the clauses is not quite good. But I hope that, in consultation amongst themselves, the Mussalman Members of the Legislative Assembly will table concrete amendments in a form that may be acceptable to all, and that this Bill will get through this House without any dissentient voice or without any very long discussion. Before I touch on the main points of the Bill, I would take this opportunity to congratulate a very public spirited Mussalman of Ajmer, namely, Mirza Abdul Kader Beg, B.A., LL.B., an old student of the M. A. O. College of Aligarh, who has devoted many years of his life in preparing material for this Bill, he framed the Bill and placed it in the hands of Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan for its being piloted in the Council of State. The Mussalmans of India ought to be very thankful to him for all that he has done.

Now, Sir, coming to the provisions of the Bill, I find that clause 5 of the Bill, in which the committee of management has been proposed, has been drafted in such a way that the whole spiritual side of the Durgah has been ignored and the constitution of the committee has been drawn in such a way as reminds me of an old proverb in Urdu :

Andhá bante reori, Phir phir apne hi ko de,

which means a blind man when he distributes sweets always puts the hand in his own pocket. In the same way we find that the right of election to the Durgah Committee has, almost, been given completely to all the Legis-

[Sir Muhammad Yakub.]

latures, central and provincial, because this Bill was before a Legislative body. The management of the property of a shrine, I admit, is not the spiritual side of the shrine, but still it is necessary that we should maintain the spiritual aspect of the management and there must be some spiritual leaders, particularly those who belong to the order of Hazrat Khawaja Moin-ud-din Chisti, amongst the members of the committee. Certain amendments have been tabled to this effect and I hope that this defect will be removed. I really do not like that legislation which is passed by the Legislative Assembly or the Council of State should appropriate all the rights and prerogatives for the Members, of the Legislatures, Central and Provincial ; and therefore care has been taken now that although the power of election has been given to the Legislative Assemblies and Councils, the provision is framed in such a way that they can also elect outsiders. This is a great improvement in the Bill and a great defect will have been removed.

Now, Sir, the other point of importance contained in the Bill is in clause 12. Clause 12, as it has been framed, does not define clearly the powers of the committee, the powers of the manager and others and therefore it was open to great objections, and probably advantage would have been taken of the loose language of this clause. Certain amendments have now been prepared to improve the language of this clause and I hope that when those amendments are accepted by the House those objections will be removed. Then about the definitions of the various things in the Bill, certain amendments have been made and I hope that they will be accepted by the House. Clause 17 is another clause, the language of which is very defective and I think that it will be amended in such a way as to remove all misunderstandings. As I have submitted, although the Bill, as it has come out from the Council of State, is not an ideal Bill, there can be no doubt that it has secured great unanimity of Muslim public opinion about it. I have received several telegrams and letters from Muslim friends who are anxious that the Bill should be passed. I do not want to take up more of the time of the House because really we are anxious that there should be less speeches and more work and I am anxious that this Bill may be finished in time. I hope when amendments are moved very short speeches will be made and they will be in an agreed form. We should take care that the Bill is passed in this House if not this evening at least before lunch tomorrow morning. With these words, I support the motion.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions : Muhammadan Rural) : May I move my amendment now ?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : I understand the Honourable Member gave notice of it only this morning.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : No. It is No. 1 on the printed list ; notice was given sometime ago.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Have you obtained the permission of the persons who will serve on the Select Committee ? I don't see their names.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : I have given notice of this amendment with the remark that the names will be mentioned at the time of making the motion. It is the usual practice. I have got the names

here. I would like to speak on the general motion of consideration. Although I have given notice of an amendment to refer the Bill to a committee, but as there exists every chance of our coming to some agreement, I pass on all the amendments to the Bill of which notice has been given....

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Including the reference to the Select Committee ? (Laughter.)

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Yes. I hope we may be able to pass this within an hour tomorrow but in case the unanimous agreement is not obtained, then of course I will move all the amendments that stand in my name in the list.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The Honourable Member gave notice of this amendment some time ago. Then, why didn't he give the names ? Has he obtained the consent of all of them—all those gentlemen whom he wants to serve on the Committee ?

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : No.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Then, I cannot allow it. The Honourable Member knows the rules. He ought to have obtained the consent of the gentlemen whom he proposed for this Committee. Then I take it that that amendment is not moved. This amendment ought to have been moved before ; and there is another amendment like that in the name of the Honourable Member, Mr. Nauman, who also has a motion for reference to a Select Committee. Does he want to move it ?

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa : Muhammadan) : Yes, Sir, I want to move it.

(*Voices* : " But the Honourable Member has not given the names.")

Yes, I have given the names.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Has the Honourable Member got the consent of all these gentlemen ?

Sir Muhammad Yakub : But nobody agrees to serve on the Committee.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Sir, I wish now to talk on the motion for consideration. I am not keen on Select Committee on account of bright prospects of general agreement. Sir, we all agree that there ought to be a better administration of the Durgah : But what is the meaning of " better administration " ? It really means, firstly, that all the buildings should be well-kept, should be clean, and should be put in proper repair. Secondly, that all the persons and visitors should be accommodated with comforts ; thirdly, that the visitors should be relieved from the worries of a large number of attendants, and fourthly, that the income, after paying all the legitimate expenses, should be utilised for the betterment of Islam. These I consider to be improvements in the administration of the Durgah, and if these things could be achieved, then I say that we have done some very good work. We would like very much to have a Bill similar to the Gurdwara Bill of the Sikhs, but this Bill which is before us does not go far enough and it does not satisfy the requirements of the public. Sir, there is only one point, at which this Bill, as originally drafted, attempted to achieve,

[Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad.]

viz., the administration by Mutawalli. It was implied that if you remove that one individual, then the whole administration will automatically improve. I have seen such propaganda elsewhere.

Now, this is a view which I do not share and I take up an entirely different view. The Bill has been before the Council of State for some time and it was discussed there under unhealthy conditions. I say "unhealthy" also for the reason that about this time every second man had been suffering from influenza, and a person suffering from influenza cannot express his opinions really in the manner in which a healthy man would do. But throughout the discussions they have kept the Members of the Assembly absolutely in the dark, and they resented their intrusion in their discussions, which they considered to be their own. Sir, this method which was adopted in passing this Bill is a very peculiar one. It was never referred to a Select Committee by the Council of State, and now it comes to us, with the pistol of propaganda pointed at us, and they say that "you must pass this particular Bill today, otherwise Bill will be killed". So, really speaking, neither we are at liberty to refer the Bill to a Select Committee nor did the Council of State refer it to a Select Committee and the whole thing was done in a manner which is not very satisfactory. Sir, we have a very great respect for our elders.....

Sir Muhammad Yakub : They are not elders ?

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad :who have expedited the passing of this Bill without reference to a Select Committee and are now forcing upon us. Now that procedure is very peculiar and I object to this in principle. Today it is the Durgah Bill, but tomorrow the same procedure may be adopted about other Bills. Sir, had the Bill been referred to the Select Committee of the two Houses together, we would have produced a much better Bill. Now a sort of propaganda is going on on this point, that if we do not pass this Bill today, it is going to lapse for ever. No doubt it will lapse now but that does not mean that it is killed for ever ; it would be postponed in that case only for about a year. Perhaps the Government might be willing to give us a half day from official programme so that the Bill might be laid simultaneously before the two Houses and referred to a Joint Committee and that Joint Committee would have made local inquiries and then they would have produced a much better Bill. In this case we are acting entirely in the dark. We do not know the conditions. The Bill is sent to us by the Council of State without making any local inquiries, but only on the basis of hear-say evidence and after reading certain documents, and the pistol is pointed at us and we are told, "pass this Bill, otherwise there is public opinion against you which will say that you are killing this Bill". Sir, if it is referred to a Select Committee and passed in the Session, the Bill is not killed, but it really means postponement for a year. Sir, if this committee has been in existence for 72 years, there is no reason why it may not exist for another year ; instead of 72 years, it may then have been 73 years and I do not think any definite harm would be done till we could produce a better Bill. Sir, we have two alternatives now before us. Either we pass the Bill as it is before us in a hurried manner,—and I call it a bad Bill— or we should wait for a year and pass a better Bill, after local inquiries by

a Joint Select Committee of the two Houses. I would very much prefer to wait for a year. The Joint Committee of the two Houses would make local enquiries in the summer of the next year, and then they might produce a Bill about this time at Simla and then pass it in the year 1937. That means no doubt waiting for a year but at the same time with the certain result that the Bill that would be produced after the local inquiries by a Joint Committee of the two Houses of Legislature would certainly have been much better than it is at present,—because we are at present in a very unfortunate position in not having detailed knowledge of the circumstances at Ajmer, we find that almost in every case there have been civil suits which have gone on for about half a century ; we find that each point has been decided so many times by Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners and High Courts and even by the Privy Council but we have got no reports about all these points and, considering the circumstances in which we are placed, considering the facts that no local inquiries have been made either by the Council of State or by the Legislative Assembly or by the two Houses together, the only thing that we can possibly do is that we should sit down together and pass only such measures as are not of a controversial nature, that is, we cannot possibly touch the privileges of any interested party. Sir, we know that there are three interested parties in the administration (1) the Mutawalli, (2) Sajjada Nasheen and (3) Khuddam. Their powers and privileges are very disputed points and we cannot settle them in one day. We cannot suitably enter into these points now.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The Honourable Member can resume his speech tomorrow.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : Will you, Sir, allow me to mention the matter about questions being dispensed with tomorrow ? The position is this. I am told that there is every chance of some kind of agreement being arrived at between the different people concerned. (*Voices* : " We are almost agreed ".)

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai (Sind : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : May I know what the position is with regard to the amendment that I have put in ?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : Sir, I was going to tell you
 5 P.M. that if there is an agreement, then there is not the slightest doubt that we will finish the Bill before the midday adjournment. But, if there is no agreement, then, as we know, the Bill will lapse unless it is finished by 5 p.m. If my friends have any doubt about the agreement and are anxious to get this Bill through, then I would suggest that questions may not be taken tomorrow. From the Government point of view, some of my colleagues have been in some difficulty because during the last two days questions have been answered at the rate of 135 per day. Today we were able to finish all the questions mainly because many Honourable Members are absent. On these two grounds I would ask you that no questions be taken up tomorrow.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : In that case we can finish the Bill by 12 o'clock.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : From the remarks that were made here, it appears that there is every chance of the differences being composed. In that case, the Bill will be finished in no time. So, the occasion for dropping questions would not arise.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : But supposing there is no agreement, what will happen ? That is the point.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : Even if there is no agreement it is not going to make much difference to this Bill if we start at 12 instead of 11. The Bill will not be affected thereby.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali (Lucknow and Fyzabad Divisions : Muhammadan Rural) : It should also be remembered that tomorrow is Friday.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : I think they are determined to come to an agreement, and so the questions may be taken up tomorrow.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, the 16th October, 1936.