

9th March 1936

THE

# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

(Official Report)

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Volume III, 1936

(28th February to 17th March, 1936)

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THIRD SESSION

OF THE

FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,  
1936



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1936

# Legislative Assembly.

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

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

*Monday, 9th March, 1936.*

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

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

### HEALTH OF MR. RAM KISHAN DETAINED UNDER REGULATION III OF 1818.

1002. **\*Mr. Sham Lal:** (a) Is it a fact that Mrs. Ram Kishan, wife of Mr. Ram Kishan, B.A. (National), detained by the Punjab Government under Regulation III of 1818, has telegraphically applied to the Punjab Government for permission for examination of her husband by a board of doctors of her choice?

(b) Is it a fact that this request has been turned down by the Punjab Government?

(c) Will Government state the reasons for the same?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) Government are satisfied that adequate arrangements have been made for the medical examination and treatment of the State Prisoner and do not consider it necessary to supplement these arrangements by seeking outside medical advice.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** What is the health of this prisoner now, according to the latest information available to Government?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** I answered that question on the last day when the Assembly was sitting. As far as I remember, it is fair. He is in hospital now.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Has he improved in health?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** I cannot say.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government make enquiries, and find out whether his treatment in the hospital is resulting in improvement, and, if not, will Government allow the request to get outside medical help?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** If the Honourable Member will look up the report I gave last day when the Assembly was sitting, he will find out what I said. I cannot now remember exactly what reply I gave on that occasion.

## COUNTRIES BANNING OR RESTRICTING IMPORTS OF INDIAN GOODS.

1003. \***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will Government state :

- (a) what were the countries that had banned or restricted imports of Indian goods before the Ottawa Pact;
- (b) what are the countries that have completely banned imports of Indian goods after the Ottawa Pact;
- (c) what are the countries that have restricted the import of Indian goods after the Ottawa Pact; and
- (d) whether any attempts have been made since the Ottawa Pact to make trade agreements between India and other countries; if so, with whom and with what results?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** (a), (b) and (c). The Honourable Member is referred to the list of restrictive measures applied by various Governments against imports since 1927, a copy of which is in the Library of the Legislature. I may, however, repeat, what I have stated previously in the House, that these restrictive measures are not applicable only to goods coming from India.

(d) The Honourable Member is referred to the 'Convention and Protocol regarding the Commercial Relations between India and Japan'—copies of which are also available in the Library.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Is that the only agreement, referred to in part (d)?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** Yes, Sir.

## PROTECTION TO THE COCOANUT INDUSTRY.

1004. \***Dr. T. S. S. Rajan:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the action they have taken, or propose to take, with regard to the dumping of cocoanut, and copra and cocoanut oil, the facts regarding which have been placed before the Government of India and His Excellency the Viceroy by the deputation of some Members of this House along with the President of the Cocoanut Growers' Association of Travancore?

(b) Are Government contemplating the imposition of an import duty on cocoanuts and cocoanut products against importation into India, particularly from Ceylon?

(c) If an import duty is considered impractical, what other effective measures of protection do they intend promulgating to relieve the acute distress prevailing in the cocoanut industry in this country, particularly in South India and the States of Travancore and Cochin?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state what action they propose to take with regard to the recommendations of the Sub-Committee of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research with regard to the question of protection of the cocoanut industry?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** (a), (b) and (d). I would refer the Honourable Member to the answer given by me on the 6th February to Mr. Muthuranga Mudaliar's question No. 130.

(c) The Imperial Council of Agricultural Research will shortly undertake a marketing survey in the interests of the cocoanut growing industry. Other measures of assistance such as revision of rent and debt reduction are primarily the concern of the local administrations.

**Dr. T. S. S. Rajan:** May I know the present market price of cocoanut?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** I would require notice of that question.

**Dr. T. S. S. Rajan:** Since the last tariff value was raised, are Government aware of the price of cocoanut and cocoanut products?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** If the Honourable Member's question is whether variations in price come to the notice of the Government, the answer is yes; if the Honourable Member's question is whether at this moment I am aware of what the price of cocoanuts and cocoanut products is, the answer is no.

**Dr. T. S. S. Rajan:** What is the variation?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** As I have said, I would require notice.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Since Government have turned down the proposal to have an import duty for the present at least, may I know if Government have examined the possible effects of the other steps which the Honourable Member mentioned? Have they come to any conclusion to what extent, if any, such steps will relieve the distress prevailing among cocoanut growers?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** On the last occasion I replied that the present rate of tariff values was such that the Government imagined that a considerable amount of relief would result from it to the cocoanut growers in the Kerala country.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will the Honourable Member obtain information as to the exact relief obtained by the growers of cocoanut, and place that information on the table of the House?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** The information will continue to come to the Government and the Government will continue to form their own opinion from time to time.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will they place the information on the table of the House?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** After sufficient time has elapsed to enable Government to collect all the information, and if a question is put, I will be very glad to furnish the information.

#### CONTRACT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE HOWRAH BRIDGE.

1005. **\*Mr. T. S. Avinashlingam Chettiar:** Will Government state:

- (a) whether they are aware of the report regarding the new Howrah Bridge contract, published on page 1 of the *National Call* of the 6th February, 1936;

- (b) whether the Chairman of the Bridge Contracts proposes to give the contract to a British firm;
- (c) whether the report is true; and
- (d) whether they are prepared to use their influence to get the contract for an Indian firm?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** (a), (b) and (c). The Government of India have seen the report but are unable to say whether it is true.

(d) As I have explained previously, the Howrah Bridge Commissioners are, subject to the approval of the local Government, competent to accept tenders for the construction of the new Howrah Bridge. The Government of India have no statutory powers in the matter.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Othettiar:** What is the reply to part (d)?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** I have already replied to that on several occasions.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** What is the actual position with regard to this at the present moment?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** I do not know what the actual position is at the present moment.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** Has the Honourable Member passed on to the Port authorities, the substance of the representation made to him by Honourable Members from Bengal?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** I am sure the Local Government are fully aware of the feelings of this House with regard to this question?

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** Am I to understand that the Government have not passed on the substance of the representation made by Honourable Members from Bengal to the Bengal Government?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** The Honourable Member may not understand anything further from what I have said. I can assure the House that the Government of Bengal are in full possession of the sentiments of Honourable Members.

#### CULTIVATION OF TEA IN THE NILGIRIS.

1006. **\*Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Othettiar:** Will Government state:

- (a) whether it is true that they have allowed about four thousand acres of new cultivation of tea in the Nilgiris;
- (b) whether the permission for this fresh cultivation was given wholly to European planters;
- (c) whether small Indian estate holders have not been properly treated in this matter;
- (d) whether they have resolutions on this subject passed at public meetings of the small growers of tea in the Nilgiris; and
- (e) if so, what action they have taken in the matter?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** (a) and (b). No, Sir. New cultivation which has been permitted in the whole of South India is as follows:

Indian-owned Estates	...	...	283.60 acres.
European-owned Estates	...	...	346.36 acres.

(c) Government have no reason to believe that small Indian estate holders have not been properly treated.

(d) and (e). Government have received from two gentlemen. Messrs. M. K. Bellie Gowder and H. B. Ari Gowder, copies of certain resolutions said to have been passed at meetings of small growers of tea on the Nilgiris and these resolutions are at present under consideration.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Are Government in a position to state how much of this fresh cultivation is by the small growers and how much by the large growers?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** I would require notice of that question.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Then, from what material did the Honourable Member say that the small growers have been allotted their proper share?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** There is nothing to show that there was unfairness in the allotment. There is no specific allegation, nor any facts put forward from which an inference of unfairness can be drawn. No materials have been put forward to support such an allegation.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** May I take it that this answer which the Honourable Member gave was given without the matter being investigated and without making any reference to the local authorities in Madras?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** What local investigation does the Honourable Member mean?

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** To enquire in Madras whether the small growers have been allotted their proper share?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** Government have no reason to believe that small growers have not been properly treated.

#### MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL COMMITTEE OF THE NILGIRIS UNDER THE TEA CONTROL ACT.

1007. **\*Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will Government state:

- the number of members of the Local Committee of the Nilgiris under the Tea Control Act of 1933;
- whether there is only one Indian on it;
- whether there is no one to represent the small growers;



- (d) whether the small growers represent nearly one-fourth of the total tea growing area; and
- (e) if so, whether they are prepared to consider the advisability of giving representation to the small growers on the committee?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** (a), (b), (c) and (e). There is no local Committee of the Nilgiris under the Indian Tea Control Act, 1933. The South India Standing Sub-Committee of the Indian Tea Licensing Committee represents the whole of the South Indian tea interests and consists of four European and three Indian members. One Indian member specially represents the Nilgiri small growers being the head of the Badaga community.

(d) The small growers in South India represent only three per cent. of the total area under tea in South India.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** In view of the fact that the small growers are not really vocal, will Government consider the advisability of making a machinery by which their views can be ascertained?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** I have already submitted that one Indian member specially represents the Nilgiri small growers.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Is he elected by the small growers?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** That I could not say; but he must be a small grower himself as he represents the interests of small growers.

#### MUSLIMS IN THE COMPANY-MANAGED RAILWAYS AND IN THE AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS SERVICE OF THE ASSAM BENGAL RAILWAY.

1008. **\*Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim** (on behalf of Mr. M. Ghias-uddin). Will Government please state:

- (a) the number of Muslims in the superior and subordinate grades of the Company-managed Railways and the Muslim proportion with regard to other communities;
- (b) the number of Muslims in the Audit and Accounts Service of the Assam Bengal Railway;
- (c) if the number of Muslims is below the proportion fixed by them, what immediate steps they propose to take to redress communal inequalities?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** (a) and (b). The information in the possession of Government, with regard to the actual composition of staff on the Company-managed Railways, including the Assam Bengal Railway, is contained in Appendix 'F' to the report by the Railway Board on Indian Railways, Volume I, for 1934-35.

(c) Government, as Honourable Members are aware, have fixed percentages for Muslims on class I Railways (excluding the Nizam's and Jodhpur Railways), so as to secure for them 25 per cent. in future direct recruitment on all these railways taken together, provided candidates possessing the necessary qualifications are available. It is not the intention of Government to make good the deficiencies existing prior to July, 1934, in the recruitment of any community.

**CONTRACTS FOR ICE AND AERATED WATER ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.**

1009. \***Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim** (on behalf of Mr. M. Ghias-uddin): (a) Is it a fact that ice and aerated water contracts on the North Western Railway have again been given to those who held them during the last seasons?

(b) Is it a fact that applications were always invited for these contracts annually?

(c) Is it a fact that such applications were not invited this year?

(d) Is it a fact that since the introduction of the system of giving out these contracts, they have always been granted to approved contractors for one season only at a time?

(e) Is it a fact that, contrary to all precedents, these contracts have been granted this time for three years and that also without inviting applications?

(f) Is it a fact that there is no Muslim ice and aerated water contractor on the whole of the North Western Railway?

(g) Is it a fact that representations have from time to time been made by responsible Muslim Associations for the appointment of at least one Muslim ice and aerated water contractor on the North Western Railway?

(h) Is it a fact that such a representation was recently made to the Agent, North Western Railway, by the Muslim representatives of the North-West Frontier Province, through the Local Government? If so, what action was taken thereon?

(i) If the answer to parts (a), (b), (c), (d), and (e) be in the affirmative, will Government please state the reasons for their departure from the established practice?

(j) If the answer to parts (f), (g) and (h) be in the affirmative, will Government please state if there are any reasons for debarring the Muslims from the grant of such a contract and ignoring the representation of the Muslim community?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** (a), (c) and (f). Yes.

(b) No. Applications are invited only when it is considered necessary to make a change.

(d) The Agent states that the records available indicate that licenses were granted in 1918 for a period of two years, but usually the licenses have been for one year only.

(e) It was proposed this year to make the licenses cover a period of three years, but terminable by either party on three months' notice at any time, and by the Administration without notice if there was any failure on the part of the licensees to carry out the provisions of their licenses.

(g) As far as can be ascertained, only one representation from a Muslim Association was received, and that in December, 1935, from the President, Muslim Association, Peshawar.

(h) No, but the local Government asked the Agent to send them a copy of the reply that was sent to the President, Muslim Association, Peshawar. This was done; the reply reads as follows:

"That this Administration after due consideration has decided to renew the license of the present ice and aerated water contracts for a period of three years."

(i) It was represented to the Administration that licensees would be reluctant to invest the necessary capital for improving their services if their licenses were for a year only. It was, subsequently, decided, however, that the licenses should continue as heretofore to be for each season only.

(j) Licenses are given to those who, in the view of the Administration, are able to give the best service to the travelling public. No particular community is barred from getting any contract.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** The Honourable Member said that licenses have been for one year only. Is it a fact that on the North Western Railway from Karachi to Lahore Mr. Bliss is getting a contract for this aerated water and ice for more than one year?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** Yes, he has had this contract for more than a year.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** Is it a fact that these contracts are being given only to those men who possess aerated water factories and can carry on the show?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** I presume they are being given to people who can render the necessary service, but I do not know whether it is a condition that they must be owners of aerated water factories.

#### GRANT OF LICENCES FOR THE SALE OF CIGARETTES, PANS, ETC., TO MUSLIM VENDORS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

1010. **\*Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim** (on behalf of Mr. M. Ghias-uddin): (a) Is it a fact that orders were issued by the Agent, North Western Railway for the grant of licences for the sale of cigarettes, pans, etc., to Muslim vendors at all important stations?

(b) Is it a fact that these orders have not been carried out by some of the divisions?

(c) If the reply to parts (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, are Government prepared to consider the advisability of enforcing these orders without delay and remove the grievances of the Muslim public?

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

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

#### PAMPHLETS REGARDING THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY ADMINISTRATION.

1011. **\*Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim** (on behalf of Mr. M. Ghias-uddin): (a) Is it a fact that two pamphlets, stating certain facts regarding the North Western Railway Administration were brought to the notice of the Railway Board during the last year?

(b) If so, will Government please state if the facts stated therein are correct?

(c) If no enquiry has so far been made, are Government now prepared to enquire into the matter to see if these facts are correct?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** (a) Government are unable to trace the receipt of the two pamphlets referred to in the question.

(b) Government have no information.

(c) Government are not prepared to make any enquiry. The matters referred to in the pamphlets concern the detailed administration of the North Western Railway, entirely within the competence of the Agent to whom a copy of the question has been sent for information and such action as he may consider necessary.

**ALLEGED CORRUPTION AND BRIBERY PREVAILING IN CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY HEADQUARTERS OFFICE.**

1012. **\*Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim** (on behalf of Mr. M. Ghiasuddin): (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the articles published in the *Weekly Union*, Lahore, dated 8th August, 1935, 22nd August, 1935 and 1st January, 1936, relating to corruption and bribery prevailing in the Acme Confidential and Personnel Sections of the Headquarters Office, North Western Railway, Lahore?

(b) Are Government prepared to consider the advisability of enquiring into the state of affairs alleged to be prevailing in the said office?

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

(b) The Agent, North Western Railway, considered the allegations and came to the conclusion that no action was called for.

**POST OF THE SUPERINTENDENT ON SPECIAL DUTY IN THE PERSONNEL BRANCH OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY HEADQUARTERS OFFICE.**

1013. **\*Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim** (on behalf of Mr. M. Ghiasuddin): (a) Will Government please state how long the post of an additional Superintendent on special duty in the Personnel Branch of the Headquarters Office, North Western Railway, has been in existence?

(b) Will Government please state the duties which have from time to time been entrusted to the Superintendent on special duty and the work so far accomplished by the incumbents of the post?

(c) Will Government please state how long the post of the Superintendent on special duty is likely to continue?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** (a) Since the 6th October, 1933.

(b) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the information laid on the table of this House on the 18th July, 1934, in reply to parts (e) and (f) of Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad's unstarred question No. 272 asked on the 3rd April, 1934. Government understand that since that reply was given the same procedure has been applied to the remaining Divisional Superintendents' Offices, the Superintendent, Mechanical Workshop Office and to Sub-Divisional Offices on the Rawalpindi, Multan and

Karachi Divisions and the Superintendent is now employed on an examination of the procedure in Sub-Divisional Offices with a view to securing uniformity in these offices and although a considerable amount of information has been collected, much still remains to be done.

He has also been detailed to examine existing routine establishment procedure in the larger subordinate offices with the same object and is at present working on the offices of the Station Superintendent and Locomotive Foreman, Lahore, and after these will take the Train Examiner's office.

There are still a large number of extra Divisional Offices to be done and when all this examination work has been completed, it is anticipated that it will be possible to secure a much larger measure of uniformity than exists at present and obviate those cases of differential treatment which are now coming to light from time to time.

(c) No estimate can at present be made of how long the post is likely to be continued.

#### DISABILITY PENSION TO MILITARY EMPLOYEES INVALIDED DURING THE GREAT WAR.

1014. **\*Bhai Parma Nand:** (a) Is it a fact that a civil subordinate who contracted disease on Field Service during the Great War of 1914—18 and eventually retired from Government service on a pay of Rs. 200 per mensem or more on account of the same disease is eligible to disability pension under chapter 38, Civil Service Regulations, in accordance with Government reply to question No. 592, dated 4th September, 1933?

(b) Is it a fact that the above question was raised again and again in the Assembly, as per questions noted below, and Government every time either confirmed their reply of 4th September, 1933 or called for particulars of the cases in order that action may be taken on the lines of their reply to question No. 592 of the 4th September, 1933:

- (i) question No. 1182-A, dated the 27th November, 1933;
- (ii) question No. 1268, dated the 1st December, 1933;
- (iii) question No. 31, dated the 6th February, 1934;
- (iv) question No. 32, dated the 6th February, 1934; and
- (v) question No. 33, dated the 6th February, 1934?

(c) Is it a fact that on account of continued refusal and non-compliance with the Government views and admissions in the Assembly by the Controller of Military Pensions, Lahore, the matter was again pointedly put in the Assembly, as per question No. 331 of the 2nd March, 1934, with a view to a clear, concise and final decision being reached by the Government as to whether the viewpoint of the Controller, Military Pensions or that of the Government was correct?

(d) Is it a fact that Government promised to go again very carefully and thoroughly into the points raised in question No. 331 of the 2nd March, 1934?

(e) Is it a fact that in the consideration of question No. 331 of 2nd March, 1934, Government felt that an anomaly had arisen in the application of the rules and wrote to that effect to some Members of the House?

(f) Is it a fact that to clear up the anomaly, Government referred the whole question to the Finance Department, Government of India, for a very clear, definite and final decision being reached on the subject?

(g) Is it correct that the point at issue was under consideration and continued discussion for over fourteen months, *vis.*, from 4th September, 1933, the date of question No. 592, to 18th November, 1934, when Government arrived at a final decision in respect of question No. 331 of 2nd March, 1934?

(h) Is it correct that in the final reply to question No. 331 of 2nd March, 1934, Government admitted wrong assessment of disability cases for diseases and ordered the reassessment and readjustment of such cases?

(i) Will Government be pleased to state:

- (i) the number of cases affected by the final reply to question No. 331 of 2nd March, 1934;
- (ii) the number ordered for reassessment and readjustment;
- (iii) the number reassessed and readjusted up to date; and
- (iv) the number still remaining for reassessment and readjustment, and when this is likely to be completed?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham:** With your permission, Sir, I propose to answer questions Nos. 1014 and 1015 together.

The questions are being examined and a reply will be laid on the table in due course.

#### DISABILITY PENSION TO MILITARY EMPLOYEES INVALIDED DURING THE GREAT WAR.

†1015. **\*Bhai Parma Nand:** (a) Will Government please state whether their replies to the following questions in the Assembly still stand as regards civil officers and subordinates who contracted diseases on Field Service in 1914—18 and eventually retired on a pay of Rs. 200 per mensem and over in 1928—30 on account of the same diseases:

- (i) question No. 592-A, dated the 4th September, 1933;
- (ii) question No. 592-B, dated the 4th September, 1933;
- (iii) question No. 1182-A, dated the 27th November, 1933; and
- (iv) question No. 331 of the 2nd March, 1934?

(b) If Government are not now prepared to act on their replies to the four questions referred to above in part (a) will they be pleased to give a fresh and complete reply to each of the questions referred to?

(c) In case of any alterations being made in the previous replies, will Government be pleased to specify the alterations made and the date of such alterations?

(d) Is it a fact that paragraph 741-A, Civil Service Regulations, stands as it was on 18th November, 1934, the date of final reply to question No. 331 of 2nd March, 1934? If not, will Government be pleased to state when the said paragraph was modified and what is its present modified and correct wording?

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†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 1014.

(e) Is it a fact that according to paragraph 738, Civil Service Regulations, an officer or subordinate is eligible to disability pension in addition to such ordinary civil pension as he may be eligible to under the Civil Service Regulations?

(f) Is it a fact that an officer or subordinate getting only the ordinary civil pension under the Civil Service Regulations is also eligible for the disability pension, if disabled on account of diseases contracted during the Great War 1914—1918 on Field Service?

(g) Is it a fact that in the case of those retiring on a pay of Rs. 200 per mensem and over, on account of the diseases contracted on Field Service, relative ranks are to be determined on the basis of permanent pay, drawn on the date of final retirement from the service, in accordance with the Government's final reply to question No. 331 of 2nd March, 1934?

(h) Are Government now prepared to act according to their replies now given to the above questions?

#### CONTRACT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE HOWRAH BRIDGE.

1016. **\*Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the news appearing in the *National Call*, dated Thursday, February 6, 1936, from its Calcutta correspondent on page 1 under the heading "Howrah Bridge Contract for British Firm"?

(b) Is it a fact that the Chairman of the Bridge Commissioners communicated to the members that the contract should be offered to a British firm in preference to the "Indian Combine"?

(c) Will Government please state whether the Chairman of the Bridge Commissioners consulted the Government of India, or the Government of Bengal, before communicating his suggestion in this matter?

(d) If the Government of India were not consulted, do they propose to take steps to offer appropriate advice to the authorities concerned before any final decision is reached, in order to safeguard the interests of India?

(e) Are Government aware that there is a strong feeling in India against the contract being offered to a non-Indian firm?

(f) Will Government be pleased to state what steps they propose to take to insure that Indian interests are adequately safeguarded in the matter?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** Attention is invited to the reply just given to the question asked by the Honourable Mr. Chettiar.

#### EXPORTS AND IMPORTS OF INDIAN GOODS AND GOLD EXPORTED FROM INDIA.

1017. **\*Mr. S. Satyamurti** (on behalf of Seth Govind Das): Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total export of gold from India till today, or as late as possible, since England abandoned the gold standard:

- (b) what is the total quantity of gold exported out of India during the previous seven years;
- (c) what is the present gold reserve in this country;
- (d) what is the average amount of India's foreign obligations;
- (e) what is the total import of Empire goods into India as apart from the United Kingdom, during 1933-34 and 1934-35. (value in crores of rupees);
- (f) what are the total imports from non-Empire countries into India during these two years (value in crores of rupees);
- (g) what are the total exports from India to non-Empire countries during the two years, 1933-34 and 1934-35 (value in crores of rupees);
- (h) what is the value in crores of rupees of the total export of India's goods during the years 1933-34 and 1934-35 to the United Kingdom and the British Empire; and
- (i) whether the exports of the United Kingdom to the Empire countries have increased by about £20 millions per annum in the two years following the Ottawa agreement?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** (a) About Rs. 271 crores up to 1st February, 1936.

(b) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the Annual Statements of the Sea-borne Trade of British India, for 1932-33 and 1933-34, Volume I, and the monthly Sea-borne Trade Accounts for March 1935, copies of which are in the Library of the Legislature.

(c) No information is available.

(d) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given by the Honourable the Finance Member on the 2nd September, 1935, to Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar's starred question No. 8.

(e) to (h). The Honourable Member is referred to Table A in Chapter IV of the Review of the Trade of India in 1934-35, a copy of which is also in the Library.

(i) I would refer the Honourable Member to the Annual Statements of the Trade of the United Kingdom with foreign countries and British countries, and the Monthly Accounts relating to the Trade and Navigation of the United Kingdom for December, 1934, and 1935, copies of which are available in the Library.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Have Government considered the question that today the balance of trade, favourable to India, is largely, if not wholly, being kept up by the export of gold, and have they considered any suggestions or methods by which the balance of trade may be kept up, independent of the export of gold?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** The answer to the first part of the question is, yes. With regard to the second part, Government are continuously watching the situation and doing what they can to encourage a favourable balance of trade in commodities.



**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** May I know if the Honourable Member will be good enough to mention the main categories of the steps which Government have taken in the last six months, in order to encourage the export of commodities other than gold, to keep up the balance of trade?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** That would require a very detailed statement to be compiled and read out. If the Honourable Member desires a statement of that kind and puts down a question, I shall endeavour to compile one.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Are Government aware that various countries have imposed restrictions on the free export of gold as a commodity?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** Yes, some have.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** If so, why do the Government of India allow further export of gold? Do they propose to impose any restrictions?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** The Government of India do not contemplate placing any restrictions.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Why do not they think of imposing restrictions on the export of gold as other countries are trying to do?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** It is not always feasible to do what other countries are doing.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Is it in the interests of India to send out all this gold?

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.

#### MOHANJO-DARO ANTIQUITIES.

1018. **\*Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) With reference to a contribution from a special correspondent of the *Daily Gazette*, Sind, dated 31st January, 1936, regarding 'Mohanjo-Daro' antiquities, will Government be pleased to state if they have any intention to give any antiquities to the Bombay Government on the separation of Sind? If so, why?

(b) Is it a fact that the Bombay Government have made a claim for them? If so, for what reasons, and what reply have Government given to them?

(c) Are Government aware that the people of Sind are entirely against parting with any of the antiquities and desire the Museum at Mohanjo-Daro, which is being visited by persons from India and abroad, to contain all the finds?

(d) Are Government aware that on previous occasions when the question of either the removal or distribution of the finds has arisen in this House, Government's view has been reassuring and against the removal of the finds?

(e) Do Government continue to hold that opinion? If not, why not?

**Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai:** (a) Yes, a selection from such of the duplicate antiquities as are surplus to the requirements of the local museum at Mohenjo-Daro. Government are of the opinion that the exhibition of such duplicate antiquities in the museum at Bombay will stimulate the interest of persons from abroad or from other parts of India, who have no time or opportunity to visit Mohenjo-Daro.

(b) No. The dependent parts do not arise.

(c) The Museum at Mohenjo-Daro will continue to house a complete and fully representative collection of all classes of antiquities found at Mohenjo-Daro.

(d) and (e). Government have in no way altered their previous attitude.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** May I know from the Honourable Member if it is a fact that armaments which are not duplicates or triplicates will not be removed?

**Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai:** Whatever is not in existence in duplicates or triplicates will not be removed from Mohenjo-Daro.

**CONTRACT FOR INSIDE BODY VARNISH BY THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.**

**1019. \*Pandit Nilakantha Das:** (a) Is it a fact that the East Indian Railway authorities placed the requisition No. I. S. D.-22425/G. 165-est-53, dated 7th November, 1930, for varnish hard drying inside against Indian Stores Department Contract No. H.-6040/10, dated 5th March, 1930, with Messrs. Jenson and Nicholson?

(b) Is it a fact that the actual supply was found unsatisfactory and unsuitable for use as an inside body varnish and was rejected being a rosin varnish whose appearance was turbid and gave brittle film, *vide* Government Test House Test Result No. 2629-0 of 19th December, 1930?

(c) Will Government be pleased to lay a copy of Messrs. Jenson and Nicholson's reply, dated 8th January, 1931, to the Calcutta Controller of Inspection's letter No. HH.-45/24, dated 5th January, 1931, together with a copy of East Indian Railway Controller of Stores' letter of 20th November, 1930, to Messrs. Jenson and Nicholson?

(d) Is it a fact that the East Indian Railway authorities on the 20th November, 1930 made Messrs. Jenson and Nicholson to return the original requisition or stores order for correction and change the store order from the quality supplied by Messrs. Jenson and Nicholson in accordance with the Indian Stores Department Rate Contract No. H.-6040/10, dated 5th March, 1930, to a special hard drying varnish for inside use?

(e) Is it a fact that on the request of Messrs. Jenson and Nicholson the certificate No. 2629-0 of 19th December 1930, was rescinded? If so, why?

(f) If the answer to the first portion of part (e) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state whether the action was *ultra vires*? If so, who was responsible for this action?

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

(b) The varnish ordered was required to conform to a special sample approved by the East Indian Railway. Through a misunderstanding the Indian Stores Department Inspectorate tested this varnish against an

Indian Stores Department standard sample and as the varnish offered for supply did not conform to this Indian Stores Department standard sample, it was rejected. When the East Indian Railway pointed out that the varnish ordered was required to comply with an East Indian Railway sample which had been found satisfactory, it was re-tested by the Indian Stores Department and found to conform to this East Indian Railway sample, and was, therefore, accepted.

(c) Government are not prepared to lay the correspondence on the table.

(d) The original store order was corrected only in respect to rate per gallon and unit of supply.

(e) No.

(f) Does not arise.

#### RATES FOR THE CARRIAGE OF AIR MAILS FROM KARACHI TO LAHORE.

1020. \***Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** (a) Is it a fact that the Indian National Airways Co. has asked for a subsidy of a lakh and twenty thousand rupees in addition to the rate agreed upon at the beginning of the contract for carrying air mails from Karachi to Lahore?

(b) Is it not a fact that at the time of the original contract with the Indian National Airways, no tenders were invited and the rates demanded by the Company were accepted?

(c) Are Government aware that the Himalayan Airways Co. of Delhi is offering to carry mails for only Rs. 60,000 in addition to the rates fixed at so much per pound?

(d) What do Government propose to do in the matter?

(e) Are Government prepared to call for tenders and accept the lowest tender?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** (a) Indian National Airways, Limited, have asked for financial assistance, and it is proposed to grant them Rs. 1,12,000 for one year to enable them to maintain certain services required by Government. I place on the table a copy of the Memorandum submitted to the Standing Finance Committee fully explaining the proposal.

(b) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative, and to the second part in the negative.

(c) and (d). The Himalayan Airways Company has submitted several proposals which Government have not found themselves in a position to accept.

(e) As regards the first part, no occasion has arisen to call for tenders for the Karachi-Lahore service as the existing contract with Indian National Airways is still current. Government will consider the desirability or otherwise of calling for tenders should the occasion arise. As regards the second part, Government could not in any case give an undertaking to accept the lowest tender irrespective of other considerations.

CIVIL AVIATION.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES AND LABOUR.

(CIVIL AVIATION).

No. T-120.

*Dated New Delhi, the 30th January, 1936.*

MEMORANDUM TO THE STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE.

SUBJECT:—*Financial Assistance to Indian National Airways.*

Demands No. 23.—Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department and No. 63—Aviation.

1. *Concise statement of the proposal and reasons therefor.*

(1) *Formation and composition of the Company.*—Indian National Airways, Limited, was incorporated in May 1933 with the main object of operating internal air services in India. Of the authorised capital of Rs. 30 lakhs, Rs. 11·6 lakhs have been subscribed by 970 shareholders. Of these shareholders 885 (or 91 per cent.) are Indians whose holdings amount to Rs. 10·10 lakhs or 87 per cent. of the capital subscribed. Of the nine Directors of the Company five are Indians. The Company employ a staff of 91 persons of whom 71 are Indians. They provide facilities for the training of Indians both as commercial pilots and as ground engineers.

(2) *Activities of the Company.*—In December, 1933, the Company established a daily air service between Calcutta and Dacca and a weekly air service between Calcutta and Rangoon. Early in 1934 they opened a Flying School at Rangoon, and in December, 1934, began a weekly service between Karachi and Lahore to connect with the Croydon-Karachi Service. They hold a ten year contract from Government for the carriage of mail on the Karachi-Lahore route.

In addition to the operation of regular services, the Company maintain centres for charter work at Delhi, Calcutta, and Rangoon, and hold a contract from Government for the maintenance and operation of His Excellency the Viceroy's aeroplane and the Government of India Avro X.

(3) *Explanation of the Company's difficulties.*—The Calcutta-Dacca service received inadequate support from the public and was discontinued from the 15th June, 1935. The Calcutta-Rangoon Service showed some promise of success and was duplicated early in 1935. But the Company found it impossible to face the heavy recurrent losses required to establish the service on a paying basis, and discontinued it from the 9th August, 1935. The Karachi-Lahore Service must, under the mail contract, be operated with the same frequency as the Croydon-Karachi Service, and the Company were obliged to duplicate it exactly one month after its inauguration. The average load carried on each service was considerably reduced, and the revenue derived from the carriage of mails was insufficient to cover the increased operating costs. Charter operations have not proved remunerative, and the Company have represented that they are unable to maintain their organisation without Government assistance.

(4) *Reasons for grant of assistance.*—The Government of India have examined the Company's representation, and are satisfied that it is substantially correct. They are not prepared specially to subsidise the Rangoon Flying School or general charter operations, but they consider that the immediate failure of the Company might affect very seriously the future development of air transport in India. In particular, now that greatly increased frequencies both on the Trans-India route and on the two feeder routes are being discussed the closure of one of these routes and the discharge of a highly qualified and efficient staff before these questions are finally settled would be most embarrassing. An organisation such as that maintained by the Company cannot be built up at short notice, and emergency arrangements with a new concern might prove both unsatisfactory and expensive.

(5) *Measure of assistance to be granted.*—The Government of India consider that it will be sufficient to grant the Company during 1936-37 such assistance as is necessary to enable them to operate the Karachi-Lahore Service, and to maintain the

supervisory organization required for future development. The cost of the organization will be Rs. 2.14 lakhs as shown in the three statements appended. Against this the Company will receive approximately Rs. 70,000 under their mail contract, and Rs. 31,800 under their contract for the maintenance and operation of the two Government machines, leaving an uncovered balance of Rs. 1,12,000 roundly. It is proposed that the Company should undertake to maintain the organization up to the standard indicated in the statements and to fulfil their obligations under the two contracts, and that in return Government should pay them a grant not exceeding Rs. 1,12,000. This grant will be paid quarterly in arrears, by instalments of Rs. 28,000 each, and if the mail payments for 1936-37 exceed Rs. 70,000 the amount of the last quarterly instalment will be reduced accordingly. The arrangement will remain in force for 1936-37 only; at the end of that year the position will be reconsidered.

2. Is the proposal in respect of a new service? Yes.

3. Has the proposal or any part of it been considered already by the Standing Finance Committee? If so, with what result? No.

4. Financial effect of the proposal—

(a) Total actual expenditure involved—

	Rs.
(i) Non-recurrent—1936-37 . . . . .	1,12,000
(ii) Recurrent . . . . .	Nil
(b) Receipts and recoveries anticipated in respect of the proposal . . . . .	Nil
	But the total may be slightly reduced by a growth in the volume of mails.

5. Is the proposal final and complete in itself or will it involve further expenditure in subsequent years? If so, what is the extent and nature of subsequent commitments? The proposal is final and complete in itself.

6. Has any expenditure already been incurred in respect of the proposal in anticipation of the approval of the Standing Finance Committee? If so, how much and for what reasons? No.

7. In what manner is it proposed to meet the expenditure? By the provision of Rs. 12,000 under Demand No. 23 Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department and of Rs. 1,00,000 under Demand No. 63, Aviation, for the year 1936-37.

8. Supplementary information, if any, required to elucidate the proposal further? Nil.

E. M. JENKINS.

Offg. Joint Secretary to the Govt. of India.

#### Statement I.

##### Administrative Expenses.

Salaries, Wages and Office Expenditure.	Per mensem. Per annum.	
	Rs.	Rs.
1. Statistics . . . . .	295	
2. Accounts . . . . .	360	
3. Typists . . . . .	200	
4. G. M. Department . . . . .	1,480	
5. Managing Agents Fees (Charges waived as a special concession) . . . . .	Nil	
	<b>Total</b>	
	2,335	28,020
6. Directors Fees and Expenses . . . . .		2,600
7. Audit Fee . . . . .		750
8. Technical Advice . . . . .		7,920
9. Postage and Telegrams . . . . .		2,000
10. Telephones . . . . .		2,000
11. Printing and Stationery . . . . .		1,000
12. General Charges . . . . .		1,000
13. Inspection and Travelling . . . . .		4,000
14. Furniture Wear and Tear . . . . .		400
		<b>49,590</b>

*Statement II.*

*Delhi Base.*

Salaries, Wages and Allowances.	Per mensem. Per annum.	
	Rs.	Rs.
1. First Pilot . . . . .	850	
2. Second Pilot . . . . .	650	
3. First Ground/Flight Engineer . . . . .	750	
4. Second Ground/Flight Engineer . . . . .	550	
5. Third Ground/Flight Engineer . . . . .	400	
6. Fourth Ground/Flight Engineer . . . . .	Two 480	
7. Wireless Operator . . . . .	480	
8. Trainee Ground Engineers . . . . .	Three 100	
9. Workshop Hands . . . . .	Four 80	
10. Store Keeper . . . . .	100	
11. 1 Stores Clerk . . . . .	85	
12. Record Clerk . . . . .	75	
13. Insurance—Pilots . . . . .	180	
14. Home leave—Pilots . . . . .	120	
15. Insurance Ground Engineers . . . . .	130	
16. Home leave Ground Engineers . . . . .	70	
17. Overseas Allowance—Pilots . . . . .	600	
18. Overseas Allowance—Ground Engineers . . . . .	650	
Total	6,300	75,000

*Statement III.*

*Lahore Base.*

SECTION I.

Salaries, Wages and Allowances.	Per mensem. Per annum.	
	Rs.	Rs.
1. First Pilot . . . . .	650	
2. Second Pilot . . . . .	650	
3. 1st Ground Engineer . . . . .	450	
4. 2nd Ground Engineer . . . . .	300	
5. Trainee Ground Engineer . . . . .	25	
6. Workshop Hands—Three . . . . .	80	
7. Store Keeper . . . . .	60	
8. Stores Clerk . . . . .	50	
9. Insurance Pilots . . . . .	120	
10. Insurance Ground Engineers . . . . .	25	
11. Home Leave Pilots and Engineers . . . . .	90	
12. Relief Pilot for Local leave . . . . .	300	
13. O. S. Pay Pilots . . . . .	300	
14. O. S. Pay Ground Engineers . . . . .	200	
15. Office Staff . . . . .	50	
Total	3,280	38,760

## SECTION II.

*Direct Operational Costs and Traffic Running.*

	Per annum. Rs.
1. Crews Expenses away from Base .	4,800
2. Landing Charges . . . . .	450
3. Hangarage . . . . .	N4
4. Publicity . . . . .	1,500
5. Uniforms . . . . .	200
6. Rents, Rates and Taxes . . . . .	2,000
7. Accident excess . . . . .	2,400
8. Carriage of Stores . . . . .	1,200
9. Annual Certificate of Airworthiness . . . . .	1,800
10. Insurance Fleet and property . . . . .	2,800
11. Obsolescence engines and airframes . . . . .	8,390
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>25,540</b>

## SECTION III.

*Engineering Running Costs.*

	1,500 Hours Flying.		
	Per Hour. Rs.	Total Cost. Rs.	Per annum. Rs.
Petrol and Oil . . . . .	11.00	..	
Maintenance . . . . .	5.25	..	
	16.25	24,400	24,400
<b>GRAND TOTAL . . . . .</b>			<b>88,700</b>

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Now that an application has been made by Indian National Airways for a subsidy of Rs. 1,12,000 in addition to the amount fixed under the terms of the original contract, will Government consider the question of terminating the contract and calling for tenders for a fresh contract?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** No, Sir.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Why not?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** The reasons have already been fully explained in this House.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Is it because Britishers are interested in this firm, and Government want to encourage them?

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

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Was not a grant of Rs. 2 lakhs made to the Trans-Continental Airways, Limited, for carrying mails across India? -

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** I have already explained, in reply to previous questions in this House, the exact position in regard to Trans-Continental Airways, Limited.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question

**HIMALAYAN AIRWAYS COMPANY AND THE INDIAN NATIONAL AIRWAYS.**

1021. \***Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar**: (a) Are Government aware that the Himalayan Airways Company is a purely Indian Company with Indian capital and Indian management, and that the Indian National Airways is manned mostly by Europeans?

(b) Are Government prepared to encourage the purely Indian Company?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce**: (a) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative. The answer to the second part is in the negative; Government are informed that of a staff of 91 persons employed by Indian National Airways, 71 are Indians.

(b) If the Honourable Member is referring to financial assistance to the Himalayan Airways, the answer is in the negative. Technical advice and assistance will always be available to them.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar**: Are not all the 71 Indians employed as *chaprasis*, *mochis*, coolies and others of inferior rank?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce**: No, Sir.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar**: Is there a single Indian Officer of any rank employed?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce**: I should require notice of that question. I am prepared to obtain information as to the exact position which these 71 Indians occupy.

(Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar stood up to ask another supplementary question.)

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member can wait till further information is available.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti**: What is the total salary of these 71 Indians, and what is the total salary of the non-Indian employees of the Company?

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

**Mr. S. Satyamurti**: Do or do not these 71 include what are called menials; if they do, how many are menials?

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

**RATES OFFERED BY THE HIMALAYAN AIRWAYS COMPANY FOR THE CARRIAGE OF AIR MAILS.**

1022. \***Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar**: (a) Are Government aware that the Himalayan Airways Co. offers to carry mails to Lahore from Delhi at very cheap rates, so as to make the conveyance charges of mail from Karachi to Lahore *via* Delhi cheaper than the charges for direct conveyance from Karachi to Lahore?



(b) Are Government aware that the Himalayan Airways Co. undertakes to carry mails to Lahore and deliver there only a couple of hours later than the present time by the direct route?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** (a) No. The Company offered to carry mail from Delhi to Lahore at Rs. 3 per lb.—the rate paid to Indian National Airways Limited for carriage from Karachi to Lahore. Their offer does not cover carriage from Karachi to Delhi for which roughly another Rs. 3 per lb. must be allowed.

(b) No. The Company suggested that they could deliver mail *via* Delhi about three hours later than the present time of delivery.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Is the total amount of the further grant at the rate of Rs. 3 per pound from Delhi to Lahore less than the proposed subsidy of Rs. 1,12,000?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** Yes, but it would not include payment for other services which Indian National Airways are now rendering.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** What are the other services which Indian National Airways are rendering for which payment is made?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** The maintenance of two Government aeroplanes.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** What is the amount spent on the Government aeroplanes?

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

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** What is the value of these other services?

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

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** No, Sir. I am asking for the value of the services rendered in rupees, annas, and pies.

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** I have already replied that I should require notice of that question.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** When was this subsidy of Rs. 1,12,000 given?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** It has not yet been given.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Do Government propose to give it?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** I would refer my Honourable friend to a number of supplementary questions which were answered in this House on the 24th February, 1936, on that very point.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.

**PROPOSAL TO SUBSIDISE THE INDIAN NATIONAL AIRWAYS.**

**1023. \*Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will Government state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to give a subsidy of eleven lakhs to the Indian National Airways to fulfil their Karachi-Lahore air mail contracts;
- (b) whether it is true that the Company was unable to fulfil the Calcutta-Dacca and Calcutta-Rangoon air mail services, previously given to them;
- (c) the object of giving subsidies now; and
- (d) whether any tenders have been called for; if not, why not?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** (a) and (c). The Honourable Member is referred to the reply just given by me to question No. 1020 by Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar.

(b) No contract was entered into with Indian National Airways, Limited, for the carriage of mails on the Calcutta-Dacca and the Calcutta-Rangoon services. These services were established for passenger and freight traffic and were utilised for the despatch of mails so long as they continued to operate.

(d) The reply to the first part is in the negative. No tenders have been called for as the contract for the conveyance of mails between Karachi and Lahore by Indian National Airways is still current.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Are Government aware that Indian National Airways suffered a loss in the first year and have declared a loss of nearly Rs. 8 lakhs in the second year? If so, they may not be able to render these services.

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** Government have satisfied themselves that if the financial assistance, which is proposed to give to Indian National Airways, is given, they will be able to render these services competently and efficiently.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Why did the two other services, the Calcutta-Dacca and the Calcutta-Rangoon services, break down?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** I am sorry, Sir, that a reply to supplementary questions does not give me an opportunity of enlarging on the question of the reasons why the Calcutta-Dacca service was terminated. That service was started with every hope that it would be very largely used, but it was not very largely used. Very few passengers and a very small quantity of mails were transported between the two most important cities of Bengal. For that reason, the service had to be closed down.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Are Government aware that almost the whole of the capital of this Company has been spent away?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** No, Sir. I do not think that is quite correct.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Are Government aware that Rs. 6 lakhs out of the Rs. 11 lakhs capital of this Company have already been spent out?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** Apparently, even if my Honourable friend has not made a closer study of the balance sheet of Indian National Airways than I have, he evidently remembers more than I do.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** In what respect is the Company national and in what respect Indian?

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order; next question.

#### AIR MAIL SERVICE BETWEEN LAHORE AND KARACHI.

1024. \***Mr. T. S. Avinashlingam Chettiar:** Will Government state:

- (a) whether the Quetta Head Offices have now been shifted to Karachi;
- (b) if so, whether there is any necessity for air mails to touch Quetta now;
- (c) if so, whether it is true that if the air mail between Karachi and Lahore goes through Delhi, there will be no loss of time; and
- (d) if so, whether they are prepared to consider the advisability of abandoning the service between Lahore and Karachi?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** (a) The headquarters offices of certain departments of Government have been shifted from Quetta, a few permanently but the greater number temporarily. Three such offices have been moved to Karachi, two temporarily and one permanently and the rest have been moved to places in the Punjab, Baluchistan or Sind

(b) The air mail service between Karachi and Lahore never touched Quetta. The mails for Baluchistan are landed at and collected from the aerodrome at Jacobabad, the conveyance beyond Jacobabad being done by train. The removal of certain headquarters offices from Quetta has not affected the volume of air mails for and from Baluchistan which have shown an increase since the earthquake. Government consider, therefore, that there is every necessity for continuing the service.

(c) The reply is in the negative.

(d) Does not arise.

#### APPLICABILITY OF THE PUNJAB EXCISE ACT AND EXCISE RULES TO THE DELHI PROVINCE.

1025. \***Pandit Krishna Kant Malaviya:** (a) Is it a fact that the Punjab Excise Act, 1914, is applicable to the Delhi Province?

(b) Is it a fact that Punjab Excise Rules are not applicable to the Delhi Province?

(c) Is it a fact that Delhi Excise Rules are identical to Punjab Excise Rules?

(d) Is it a fact that the Financial Commissioner, Punjab through No. 1919-E. & S., dated the 29th March, 1930, realized the hardship on licensees holding licences in the form L-10 and said :

"During the last few years imports of cheap foreign spirit have been on a considerable scale, this spirit competes with Indian made foreign spirit and, to a lesser extent, also with country liquor, the result of this competition was that in certain cases licensees holding licences in the Form L-2 and selling cheap imported foreign spirit, were able to undersell licensees holding bazar licences in the Form L-10 for the vend of inferior foreign spirit, this inferior foreign spirit has previously been manufactured almost entirely in the Province, but, when cheap foreign spirit began to be imported, licensees holding licences in the Form L-2 with fixed fees were able to undersell licensees holding licences in the Form L-10, who had had to bid for these licences at the excise auctions and to pay vend fees with a fairly high rate of incidence, the severity of this competition was increased by the fact that the fees for licences in the Form L-2 were very leniently assessed, and, although according to the regulations laid down in Section 337 of the Punjab Excise Manual, Volume 1, the licence fee was to be calculated roughly on recorded sale figures, certain large consignments of imported foreign liquor were never entered in the registers of some licensees, and thus the licence fee were very much underassessed"?

(e) Is it a fact that licences in Form L-2 and Form L-10 are granted in the Delhi Province?

(f) Is it a fact that Indian manufactured foreign spirits are sold by licensees holding licence L-2?

**Mr. A. H. Lloyd:** With your permission, Sir, I propose to answer questions Nos. 1025, 1026 and 1027 together.

The information is being obtained and will be laid on the table in due course.

#### GRANT OF LICENCES FOR VENDING FOREIGN LIQUOR IN DELHI.

†1026. **\*Pandit Krishna Kant Malaviya:** (a) Is it a fact that the Chief Commissioner, Delhi, has granted licences for the manufacture, supply, storage and sale of liquor in Delhi to the following firms and persons in Forms stated against each :

- (1) Messrs. Phipson & Co., Ltd., in Form L-1, L-2, & L-11;
- (2) Messrs. Spencer & Co., Ltd., in Form L-1 & L-2.
- (3) Messrs. R. S. Bhola Ram & Sons, in Form L-1, L-2, L-4 & L-11;
- (4) Mr. Italia Ram Kapoor, in Form L-10;
- (5) Mr. Ramji Das, in Form L-10;
- (6) Messrs. J. Morton & Co., in Form L-1 & L-2; and
- (7) Messrs. Desh & Co., in Form L-1 and L-2?

(b) Is it a fact that the shops or offices of the said firms (1) to (5) are within the Municipal boundary of Delhi?

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†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 1025.

(c) Is it a fact that shops of the said firms and persons are located in Bazaars called (i) Kashmiri Gate Bazaar, (ii) Mori Gate Bazaar, (iii) Church Road Bazaar, (iv) Chowri Bazaar, (v) Connaught Place Bazaar, and (vi) Gol Market Bazaar?

(d) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of granting licences on a uniform basis to all and each for the vend. of foreign liquor? If not, why not?

#### GRANT OF LICENCES FOR VENDING FOREIGN LIQUOR IN DELHI.

†1027. **\*Pandit Krishna Kant Malaviya:** (a) Is it a fact that the Chief Commissioner, Delhi, has promulgated rules for the grant of licences for the manufacture, supply, storage and sale of liquor in the Delhi Province?

(b) Is it a fact that the said rules provide grant and renewal of the said licences in forms L-1 to L-22-A?

(c) Is it a fact that a licence in Form L-2 does not authorize consumption on the premises?

(d) Is it a fact that a licence in form L-10 will ordinarily be for "off" consumption?

(e) If the replies to parts (a) to (d) be in the affirmative, will Government please state:

- (i) the material difference between a licence in Form L-2 (wholesale and retail vendor of foreign liquor to the public only) and a licence in Form L-10 (retail Bazaar vendor of foreign liquor);
- (ii) the substantial difference between a Civil Station or Cantonment or any other place and a Bazaar;
- (iii) whether in a Civil Station or Cantonment or any other place a Bazaar is provided or no Bazaar is situated within the said boundary;
- (iv) whether a Bazaar is ordinarily situated within population boundary or otherwise;
- (v) whether the shops in a Civil Station or Cantonment or any other place or Bazaar are governed or controlled by rules uniform in each individual respects or otherwise;
- (vi) whether a licensee is permitted to sell both imported foreign liquor and Indian foreign liquor on one licence in Form L-2; if so, under what rule; and
- (vii) the reasons for the differential treatment, if any, to shops within a Municipal boundary or Bazaar?

(f) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the Financial Commissioner, Punjab's No. 5923-S.R., dated the 22nd December, 1928 containing the decision that no licences will be issued for the sale of foreign liquor in Form L-10? If so:

- (i) why has the Delhi Province a Form of Licence—L-10;
- (ii) what are the reasons for not adopting the said fundamental principle by the Delhi Province Administration; and

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†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 1025.

- (iii) are Government prepared to remove the anomaly created by the grant of licences in Forms L-2 and L-10 for the vendor of foreign liquor under two different styles and terms, when under licence Form L-2 the licensee is permitted to sell foreign liquor either imported or manufactured in India? If not, why not?

**HINDUS AND MUSLIMS DISMISSED AND APPOINTED BY THE SENIOR SUPERINTENDENT, WAYS AND WORKS, MORADABAD DIVISION, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.**

1028. \***Pandit Krishna Kant Malaviya:** (a) Will Government please state the number of Hindus and Muslims, both non-gazetted and work charged, removed, discharged or dismissed from the service, by the Senior Superintendent, Ways and Works, Moradabad Division, on the East Indian Railway?

(b) Will Government please state:

- (i) the number of Hindus and Muslims appointed;
- (ii) the number of Hindus replaced by Muslims;
- (iii) the policy of Government in this respect; and
- (iv) whether they are aware of the impression that there is too much of communal prejudice in the management of this Department?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** (a) Only one Muhammadan head trolleyman was removed from service.

(b) (i) Three Muslims were appointed as tracers as substitutes in leave vacancies and one was appointed as *mistri* permanently.

(ii) No Hindu was either dismissed or discharged in order to make room for a Muslim.

(iii) It is not clear in what respect the Honourable Member wants to know the policy of Government. If he wants to know whether it is the policy of Government to replace Hindus by Muslims the reply is in the negative. The orders fixing certain percentages for Muslims and other minority communities relate only to direct recruitment.

(iv) Government do not think that there is any valid ground for the alleged impression.

**FEE FOR THE SUPPLY OF TENDER SPECIFICATIONS.**

1029. \***Pandit Nilakantha Das:** (a) Do the purchasing departments of Government including Railways, both State and Company-managed, charge a fee for the supply of tender specifications?

- (b) If so, what is the charge in amount and how is it calculated?
- (c) Is this charge for tender forms returnable?
- (d) If not, what is the principle underlying this charge?

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

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE OF CANTONMENT BOARDS.

1030. **\*Mr. Sham Lal:** (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing for each Cantonment separately the latest figures, of total income, total expenditure, the income from local taxes, the rates of local taxes (except the schedules of octroi and terminal and professional taxes), and the incidence of local taxation per head?

(b) What system is employed in the calculation of the incidence for civil and military population?

(c) Do Government make any contribution by way of grants-in-aid, subventions, allotment of Government land income, or otherwise, to these local bodies, where military interests are said to predominate? If so, what is the amount and the nature of contribution in each case?

**Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham:** (a) The collection of the information asked for by the Honourable Member would entail an expenditure of time and labour which would be incommensurate with the result.

(b) The incidence of taxation is not calculated for the civil and military population separately.

The incidence is calculated as follows:

- (i) Receipts from 'direct' taxes, such as house tax, are divided by the population excluding troops and authorised followers.
- (ii) Receipts from 'indirect' taxes, such as octroi, are divided by the local population including troops and authorised followers.

The sum of (i) and (ii) represents the incidence.

(c) Yes, Sir. In 1935-36, Government provided for Rs. 68,000 and Rs. 75,000 as ordinary and special grants-in-aid, respectively, for distribution during the year to those Cantonment Authorities who required financial assistance. The Cantonment Authorities also derive an income of about Rs. 4 lakhs as their share of receipts from Government lands managed by them. In addition, all proceeds from licences granted by Cantonment Authorities for the temporary occupation of Government land entrusted to their management are credited to cantonment funds. The Government of India are in fact responsible for maintaining the financial equilibrium of cantonment funds.

## INCOME FROM AGRICULTURAL LANDS IN CANTONMENTS.

1031. **\*Mr. Sham Lal:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that up to 1925, the entire income from agricultural lands in Cantonments, was allowed to the Cantonment local funds?

(b) Is it a fact that from the year 1925-26 up to 1934-35, one-fourth share of the agricultural land income in Cantonments was credited to the Central revenues?

(c) If the answer to part (b) be in the affirmative, what was the total amount so credited?

(d) Is it a fact that since 1934-35, the remaining three-fourths share of the agricultural land incomes has also been taken away from the local Cantonment Fund?

(e) If the answer to part (d) be in the affirmative, what is the amount that each Cantonment has lost thereby, and how do Government propose to reimburse the local funds on account of this loss?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham:** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. This procedure is still being followed.

(c) The collection of the information required would entail an expenditure of time and labour which would be incommensurate with the result.

(d) No. The position is, that under the rules framed under the Cantonments Act of 1924, Cantonment Authorities are the agents of Government for the management of certain lands, including agricultural lands. As payment for the trouble, expense and responsibility of management Government allot a share of the proceeds from the lease of such lands to the Cantonment Authority. The allotment ordinarily made gives the Cantonment Authority the generous share of three quarters of the proceeds, but the Government reserve the right to vary that share, according to the real needs of the cantonment.

(e) This part of the question does not strictly arise but if the existing rules are changed, steps will certainly be taken to ensure that Cantonment Authorities are provided with sufficient funds to discharge their duties adequately.

#### GRANTS-IN-AID TO CANTONMENT FUNDS.

1032. **\*Mr. Sham Lal:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the amount of grants-in-aid, recurring and non-recurring, and the purpose or purposes for which they were paid to each Cantonment Fund in the year for which latest figures are available?

(b) What amount out of the total grant-in-aid fund, represents the transfer back to Military Engineering Services for water supply in Cantonments?

(c) Is any amount of the grant earmarked for extending educational activities, among the civilian residents of Cantonments? If so, what is the total amount of money spent during the last year? If not, why not?

(d) Are there any rules regarding the distribution of grants-in-aid to Cantonment Funds?

(e) If the answer to part (d) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to lay a copy of the same on the table of the House?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham:** (a) I lay on the table a statement showing the amount of grants-in-aid so far sanctioned to Cantonment Authorities during the year 1935-36. Grants-in-aid are of two classes, namely, ordinary and special. Ordinary grants-in-aid are those which are required to make up a more or less permanent deficiency of revenue as compared with expenditure on normal cantonment administration. Special grants-in-aid are those which are required for the financing of some desirable scheme of public utility which it is the legitimate function of a Cantonment Authority to undertake, but which cannot be financed in its entirety from the existing resources of the Cantonment Fund.



(b) I am afraid my Honourable friend is under some misapprehension. In cantonments where water is supplied by the Military Engineer Services, debits are raised against one head of the Defence Services Estimates for the total quantity of water supplied to paying consumers and the recoveries made by Cantonment Authorities from these consumers are credited to another head of the same estimates. The difference between the cost of water supplied and the recoveries made is at present about 5 lakhs per annum.

(c) No amount is so earmarked, but grants-in-aid can be given for educational purposes.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

*Special grants-in-aid so far sanctioned to Cantonment Authorities during the year 1935-36.*

Rs. 2,822 to Cantonment Authority, Muttra	For construction of certain pucca drains.
Rs. 8,937 to Cantonment Authority, Benares	For resurfacing and asphaltting certain Cantonment fund roads.
Rs. 16,510 to Cantonment Authority, Kirkee	For payment of arrears of contribution due from the Cantonment Authority, Kirkee, to the Infectious Diseases Hospital, Poona.
Rs. 5,150 to Cantonment Authority, Campbellpore	For drainage scheme for the village situated in the cantonment and for the construction of group latrines for that village and for the Sadar Bazar.
Rs. 6,500 to Cantonment Authority, Dharamsala	For the construction of a bungalow for the Executive Officer.
Rs. 1,350 to Cantonment Authority, Subathu	For paving of some bazar roads and construction of drains.
Rs. 3,180 to Cantonment Authority, Almora	For repairing the cantonment fund bungalow.
Rs. 1,800 to Cantonment Authority, Drigh Road	For provision of a level crossing.
Rs. 5,000 to Cantonment Authority, Mingaladon	For the maintenance of roads and for covering the deficit in revenue caused by the reduction in the annual rental value of officers' bungalows.
Rs. 10,000 to Cantonment Authority, Poona	For sanitary measures in Ghorpuri and Wanowrie villages.

*Ordinary grants-in-aid so far sanctioned to Cantonment Authorities during the year 1935-36.*

	Rs.
Campbellpore	4,213
Amritsar	4,685
Baroda	400
Jalapaahar	6,447
Lebong	4,570
Almora	2,182
Mingaladon	22,693

**FACILITIES TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA STAFF TO APPEAR IN THE EXAMINATION FOR CLERKS AND ASSISTANTS.**

**1033. \*Sardar Sant Singh:** (a) Was a representation made by the Imperial Secretariat Association that Government employees be given some concessions for appearing in the examination for Second Division clerks and Assistants, i.e., the age limit should be raised in their favour?

(b) Are Government prepared to accede to their request in connection with the examination to be held in 1937, if no notice has been taken of it for the present? If not, why not?

(c) Are Government aware that there is a large number of brilliant graduates who joined Government service as routine division clerks?

(d) If the answer to parts (b) and (c) be in the negative, are Government prepared to institute a departmental examination, as used to exist previously, so that the qualified candidates may have better chances of promotion?

(e) If the answer to parts (b) and (c) be in the affirmative, are Government prepared to consider the desirability of giving three chances to the Government servants instead of two?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Orsk:** (a) Yes. In 1933 the Imperial Secretariat Association submitted such a representation which was rejected.

(b) to (d). To improve the system of recruitment in the Government of India Secretariat and its attached offices, orders were issued in 1928 laying down conditions for admission to the examinations held by the Public Service Commission and fixing percentages of vacancies to be filled by external recruitment and departmental promotion. The scheme was brought into operation from the 1st April, 1930, and persons in Government service, both permanent and temporary, prior to that date, were given a final opportunity of qualifying for promotion at special qualifying examinations held in 1929 and 1931. The age-limits and educational qualifications prescribed in the orders of 1928 were relaxed for these persons on the broad consideration that those who had been recruited before the new system came into force and had not, therefore, had an opportunity of qualifying for promotion should not be denied such an opportunity. Vested interests having thus been met, Government do not consider that there is any further necessity for relaxing the age-limit or for holding special qualifying examinations, especially as the age-limits are such as to permit candidates to sit either for the combined examination for the First and the Second Divisions or the separate examination for the Third Division or both. Those who take the latter examination only do so of their own choice and are not entitled to any special consideration.

(e) Does not arise.

**EXEMPTION OF A CERTAIN CLASS OF GOVERNMENT SERVANTS FROM THE OPERATION OF THE REVISED RATES OF PAY RULES.**

**1034. \*Pandit Nilakantha Das:** (a) Will Government please state the reason for exempting, in clause 8 (iv) of the Home Department Notification No. F.-386/33 (Establishments), dated the 22nd September, 1933, from the operation of the Revised Rates of Pay Rules those Government servants who appeared in an examination held by the Public Service Commission before 16th July, 1931, but who entered Government service after the 15th July, 1931?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state why no provision for such exemption was made in the above notification for those Government servants whose appointments were not subject to Public Service Commission examination, but who likewise joined service after the 15th July, 1931?

(c) Are Government now prepared to amend these rules so as to provide for the exemption of the class of Government servants mentioned in part (b) above from the operation of the Revised Rates of Pay Rules? If not, why not?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** (a) It was considered only reasonable that those who had studied for and passed an examination—not only an examination held by the Public Service Commission—before any warning was issued that the rates of pay would be reduced and who had, therefore, done so on the assumption that they would get the then existing rates of pay, should not be subjected to the revised scales of pay. That was regarded as a sufficient reason to make an exception in their case.

(b) As has already been stated the exemption is not limited to examinations held by the Public Service Commission. The orders in Finance Department Resolution No. D-4523-Ex. I./31, dated the 9th July, 1931, by providing for appointments to be made on a provisional footing pending completion of the review of expenditure of the Government of India then proceeding, were specifically intended to prevent the accrual of vested rights and these orders definitely implied that persons appointed on or after the 16th July, 1931, would be subject to the new conditions of service which might be imposed as a result of that review.

(c) No. The publication of the Finance Department Resolution of the 9th July, 1931, is regarded as having been sufficient warning.

#### EMPLOYMENT OF “DUFFERIN” CADETS.

1035. \***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of “Dufferin” cadets so far turned out after training;
- (b) the number of them employed; and
- (c) whether Government have taken steps to procure suitable employments for them?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given by me on the 20th February, 1936, to parts (a) and (c) of Professor N. G. Ranga's starred question No. 700.

(b) So far as Government are aware, of the 49 cadets who have taken their Certificates of Competency up to the end of January, 1936, 42 have found employment.

(c) Attention is invited to the reply given by me on the 24th February, 1936, to part (a) of Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant's starred question No. 744.

**INDIAN SHIPS IN THE OCEAN-GOING TRAFFIC AND CIRCULAR RE SUPPORT TO EMPIRE SHIPPING.**

1036. **\*Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state:

- (a) the number and tonnage of Indian ships in the ocean-going traffic;
- (b) whether the Government of India are prepared to take steps to see that much benefit accrues to the Indian ships as a result of the circular referred to in my starred question No. 24 which was answered on the 4th February, 1936; and
- (c) if not, whether they propose to withdraw their circular?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(b) In the circular letter referred to, Government have suggested the desirability of the greater utilization of Empire shipping and, as I stated in reply to the supplementary questions, arising from the question referred to by the Honourable Member, the term "Empire shipping" includes Indian shipping. In the circumstances, Government do not consider that any further steps are called for.

(c) No.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government, as soon as they get the information, which they have promised to collect, inquire further, to what extent the benefit accruing from the acceptance of this circular by the Local Governments and local bodies will go to Indian shipping, and, then, on the basis of the results of that inquiry, reconsider the whole matter?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** I do not think it will be possible in the first place to ascertain whether and to what extent the issue of this circular has benefited Empire shipping: if it were possible to ascertain that, it may be possible to ascertain to what extent it might benefit purely Indian shipping; but Government have no means of ascertaining the extent of benefit to Empire shipping.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government consider the issue of a circular to Local Governments and local bodies specifically to encourage Indian shipping, by importing their requirements through Indian ships?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** As Empire shipping includes Indian shipping, I have no reason to imagine that Local Governments and municipal bodies would not encourage Indian shipping as well as other Empire shipping.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government press upon them to give preference to Indian shipping, as opposed to non-Indian shipping, though it may be Empire shipping?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** Would that not, to a very large extent, depend on the information which I have promised to collect?

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government then consider it, after receiving the results of the inquiry?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** That is a hypothetical question: let us first get the information under (a) and then see what is possible.

#### REPLACEMENT OF INDIANS IN THE PORT DIRECTORATE SERVICE IN IRAQ.

**1037. \*Pandit Nilakantha Das:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the communication from an influential Indian settler in Iraq to Dr. Rabindranath Tagore, published in the *Hindustan Times* of the 10th February, 1936 on page 3, column 1?

(b) Are Government aware that prompt measures are being taken by the Iraq Government to replace the few Indians in the service of the Port Directorate, though they are expert in their trade?

(c) Are Government aware, as is understood from the communication, that the next onslaught is going to be directed against Indians in commercial houses?

(d) As to the measures being directed against all foreigners alike, are Government aware that British residents are protected by treaties and that new treaty negotiations are proceeding with Arabs, Persians and other foreigners, as stated in the communication? If so, what are Government doing in this connection?

**Sir Aubrey Metcalfe:** (a) Yes.

(b) The Port authorities whose employees are Government officials are continuing the policy which they have followed for a number of years of gradually replacing Indians by Iraqi subjects as the latter become competent to hold such posts. But there has been no recent acceleration of the process nor any wholesale discharge of Indians still remaining in such posts, nor does it appear that any such steps are contemplated. It will no doubt be realised that the gradual replacement of British subjects and British Indian subjects in Iraqi Government service is a natural corollary of the termination of Great Britain's mandate over Iraq.

(c) Nothing is known of any action which could be held to be directed against Indians in commercial houses except the law restricting trades to Iraqis, which has not yet received the Royal Assent. This is still in the form of an incomplete law and the extent to which it may affect Indians cannot be calculated until regulations which are required to give effect to the law are issued.

(d) So far as the Government of India are aware British subjects enjoy no Treaty protection in this matter which is not also available to Indians. As, however, I stated in reply to part (h) of question No. 240 asked by Seth Haji Abdoolah Haroon on the 11th February, 1936, further enquiries are being made on this point and the result will be communicated to the House in due course. So far as the Government of India are aware no Treaty is at present under negotiation between Iraq and any other State which secures any special rights in the matter of residence and trading facilities for nationals of other countries. The last part of the question does not, therefore, arise.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Have Government now at least tried to ascertain what the amendments are that have been moved to the original Bill?

**Sir Aubrey Metcalfe:** Certainly, we are taking steps to ascertain exactly how the law will stand when it has received the Royal assent which is not yet done.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Do Government propose to intercede before it receives the Royal assent, so that suitable modifications may be made if they are prejudicial to the interests of Indians?

**Sir Aubrey Metcalfe:** Do Government propose to do what? I could not catch the Honourable Member's question.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Do Government propose to intercede before the Royal assent is received and is fixed upon the Statute-book so that suitable amendments may be made so as not to affect the Indians in Iraq?

**Sir Aubrey Metcalfe:** Government cannot take any action which they have not already taken. That action was, as I have explained to the House, to keep themselves thoroughly informed of the position and to ask His Majesty's Ambassador in Iraq to take every possible step to ensure that Indian rights are properly safeguarded.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** How do the amendments affect the Indian rights?

**Sir Aubrey Metcalfe:** As I have said, the law is not yet finally passed. I hope to be able to lay a copy of the law as finally passed on the table of the House in the near future. It only now awaits the Royal assent, and, as soon as that has been received, I will lay a copy on the table of the House, and Honourable Members can then satisfy themselves exactly as to the terms of the law.

**Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon:** Is it a fact, Sir, that about two to three thousand Indians are trading in Iraq now, and recently the Iraq Government have introduced a rule not to issue new passports to new-comers? Every year, those Indians, who wish to trade in Iraq, have to appear before some officer and get their passports, but is it a fact that last year some small traders and artisans were refused passports and they were asked to return to India?

**Sir Aubrey Metcalfe:** That, Sir, is not my information, but if the Honourable Member will bring to my notice any specific case in which an Indian trader has been unfairly treated, I should be very glad to make representations on the subject.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** As regards the termination of the services of Indians, are their services terminated before their term is over?

**Sir Aubrey Metcalfe:** I have given all the information that I could give in the main reply to the question. There is nothing more that I can add to what I have already said.

## TRANSMISSION OF GOLD BULLION BY POST.

1038. \***Mr. Mathuradas Vissanji:** (a) Have Government received any complaints that the present limit of Rs. 700 in value for transmission of gold bullion by post is inadequate?

(b) Will Government please state when this limit was fixed and what the price of gold per tola in those days was?

(c) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, are Government prepared to consider the question of increasing the limit?

(d) Are Government aware that, as a result of the appreciation in the price of gold, the quantity of gold that may be transmitted under the existing value limit is substantially reduced?

(e) Are Government prepared to consider the advisability of refixing the limit in terms of tolas of gold, so that the quantity allowed to be transmitted may be the same as before 1931 and may not be affected by fluctuations in gold prices?

(f) Is it a fact that gold or silver ornaments can still be transmitted by post up to a maximum value of Rs. 3,000?

(g) If so, are there any special reasons for fixing a differential limit for gold bullion from that for jewellery?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** The answer to parts (a), (d) and (f) is in the affirmative and to parts (c) and (e) in the negative. The answers to the other parts are as follows:

(b) 1st September, 1925. The price of gold per tola was about Rs. 21-7-0 in September, 1925.

(g) Yes. Gold coin and bullion ordinarily cannot be identified and their transmission therefore involves greater risk to the department and greater danger to the safety of mails than is involved in the transmission of ornaments.

RECRUITMENT FOR JUDGESHIP OF THE CIVIL AND MILITARY STATION,  
BANGALORE.

1039. \***Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** (a) Is it a fact that the recruitment for judgeship of the civil and military station, Bangalore, used to be made from among the members of the Madras Judicial Service until recently?

(b) Is it a fact that the Munsif Magistrate of the said station used to be selected from the District Munsifs of the Madras Presidency and was included in the cadre of the Madras Judicial Service?

(c) Are Government aware that in view of the above fact, several graduates in law entered the clerical service in the courts of the said Munsif and Judge at Bangalore, in the hope of selection to the Madras Judicial Service?

(d) Are Government aware that recently the practice of selecting Judges and Magistrates for the station from the Madras Judicial Service has been given up?

**Sir Aubrey Metcalfe:** (a) The post of District and Sessions Judge, Civil and Military Station, Bangalore, was included in the Madras Provincial Civil Service from 1921 to 1926, since the latter year it has become a localised post, although it continued to be filled from the Madras Provincial Civil Service till 1933.

(b) The post of Munsiff-Magistrate, Civil and Military Station, Bangalore, remained on the cadre of District Munsiffs in Madras from 1923 till the beginning of 1933, since when it has been decided to fill it by Deputy Collectors of the Madras Presidency.

(c) Two law graduates entered the clerical service of the District Court at Bangalore—one in 1919 and the other in 1923. When the first candidate entered service, the post of Munsiff-Magistrate did not exist and that of the District Judge was not borne on the Madras cadre. As regards the second candidate, Government are not aware whether he joined service in the hope of selection to the Madras Judicial Service.

(d) The position has been explained in (a) and (b) above.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** What are the rules now governing the selection of Judges?

**Sir Aubrey Metcalfe:** I must have notice of that question.

#### ABSORPTION OF PERSONS SERVING IN THE CIVIL AND MILITARY STATION, BANGALORE, INTO OTHER GOVERNMENT SERVICES.

1040. **\*Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Is there any proposal for absorbing persons serving in the civil and military station of Bangalore into other Government services?

**Sir Aubrey Metcalfe:** The reply is in the negative.

#### DESPATCH RE FORMATION OF AN EMPIRE MARITIME POLICY.

1041. **\*Mr. S. Satyamurti** (on behalf of Seth Govind Das): (a) Will Government be pleased to state if their attention has been drawn to the following observations in regard to the formation of an Empire Maritime Policy, made by Mr. Runciman as President of the Board of Trade in the House of Commons on the 3rd July, 1934?

"I need not add that in considering these problems it is essential to have the co-operation of the Dominions and India. We must bear in mind not only the position of tramp shipping, but the position in some of the great liner trades especially those between different parts of the Empire which are menaced by subsidised foreign competition. We are therefore informing the Dominions and India of the position as we see it and seeking their views as to the possible lines of action."

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state if it is not a fact that they received a Despatch on the subject of the Empire Maritime Policy from the Right Honourable Sir John Simon, then His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, in the last quarter of the year 1934?

(c) If the answer to part (b) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the Despatch referred to above?

(d) If the answer to part (b) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to lay on the table the reply that they may have sent to the above Despatch?



(e) Will Government be pleased to state if they consulted the commercial and particularly the shipping interests in regard to the subject matter of the Despatch mentioned above?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** (a) Government are aware of the statement made by the President of the Board of Trade in the House of Commons on the 3rd July, 1934.

(b) In pursuance of that statement a communication was addressed to the Government of India by the Secretary of State for India.

(c) and (d). I regret I am not in a position to do so, as the communications are confidential.

(e) No.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Was any communication addressed to the Government of India?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** I said a communication was addressed to the Government of India by the Secretary of State for India.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government place a copy of the despatch on the table of the House?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** The question relates to the despatch sent by the Foreign Secretary. I have said there was only a communication from the Secretary of State.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** May I know, Sir, if the Government of India addressed the Government of Great Britain on this matter at all?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** Does the Honourable Member mean in reply to the communication by the Secretary of State?

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Or in connection with this matter, as a result of the communication from the Secretary of State or from any other source on this matter?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** I believe, Sir, this is the same matter to which I have given replies previously regarding the circular letter.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Is that all?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** Yes.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** May I know if the Government of India are aware that recently Indian lascars, employed on British ships, have been substituted by British seamen on British ships?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** That does not arise out of this question

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Are the Government of India aware that recently the British Government have given a subsidy to tramp shipping, as it is called, and whether Government have considered taking similar action with regard to Indian shipping of different classes?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** That does not arise out of this question.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** May I know, Sir, whether Indian lascars, as members of the British Empire and subjects of the British Crown, have got no rights as regards employment on British ships when the British ships claim concessions in Indian waters?

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It has nothing to do with the present question.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** It has something to do with this, Sir. In this way, that, as a result of the discussion in the House of Commons on the subsidy to tramp shipping, the British seamen's representative insisted upon British seamen being substituted for Indian lascars . . . .

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair does not think that arises out of this question.

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** So far as India is concerned, it was only the circular that I mentioned in my answer that was referred to.

#### PROPOSAL FOR STARTING OF AN INDIAN PASSENGER SERVICE BETWEEN BOMBAY AND EUROPE.

1042. **\*Mr. S. Satyamurti** (on behalf of Seth Govind Das): (a) Will Government be pleased to state if they received any proposal on behalf of certain financiers in India for some help for the starting of an Indian passenger service between Bombay and Europe?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government turned down such a proposal?

(c) If the answer to part (b) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the reasons therefor?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** (a) to (c). I received unofficially a communication from an Indian businessman, containing certain proposals which were subsequently the subject of conversations between us. These conversations were of a confidential character, and I regret I am not in a position to disclose their purport or their final outcome.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** May I know at what stage the matter stands? I do not want the nature of the conversations, but is there any proposal now pending before the Government for starting an Indian Passenger Service between Bombay and Europe, in a formal or an informal manner?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** No.

**RESERVATION OF THE INTER-IMPERIAL TRADE TO THE BRITISH FLAG.**

1043. \***Mr. S. Satyamurti** (on behalf of Seth Govind Das): (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have received any Despatch from the Board of Trade in England in connection with the reservation of the Inter-Imperial Trade to the British Flag?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the said Despatch?

(c) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the communication that they may have sent in reply to the said Despatch?

(d) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state whether the commercial and the shipping interests were consulted by them before forwarding their reply to the Board of Trade?

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

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

**STEAMER SERVICES ENGAGED IN PASSENGER TRAFFIC BETWEEN BOMBAY AND EUROPE.**

1044. \***Mr. S. Satyamurti** (on behalf of Seth Govind Das): (a) Will Government be pleased to state if their attention has been drawn to the following remarks made by Sir William Currie, Deputy Chairman of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company at the annual meeting of the Company held on the 5th December, 1934?—

"British shipping serving India is grateful for the circular issued by the Government of India expressing the hope that the services of British ships should be sought by those travelling to and from India under the Lee Commission scheme. It was suggested to us the other day that the issue of this circular was a species of flag discrimination. But I do not agree that it comes within this category. On the contrary it is, I think, only an example of the old adage that 'he who pays the piper calls the tune'."

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state whether it is British shipping that pays for the passages under the Lee Commission scheme or whether it is the Indian taxpayers who pay for these passages?

(c) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state if it is not a fact that the largest number of passengers travelling to and from India and from and to Europe arrive at or depart from Bombay?

(d) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state if it is not a fact that the Lloyd Triestino is the only regular passenger service other than the Peninsular and Oriental Line engaged in the passenger traffic from Bombay to Europe and *vice versa*?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** (a) Government have seen the statement referred to.

(b) The passages in question are paid for from Government revenues.

(c) Yes.

(d) No. So far as Government are aware, the City and Hall Lines, the Anchor Line and the Dollar Steamship Lines also maintain a regular passenger service between Bombay and Europe.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** May I know the reason why Government have insisted that British ships should be encouraged by servants who are getting the Lee Commission benefits?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** I do not think they have insisted that British ships alone should be utilised for the purpose. I think they have suggested that that might be done.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Why have they done that?

**Mr. F. E. James:** Why not?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** In order to encourage Empire shipping.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** May I know whether the Government of India would suggest to the British Government that they would not allow the replacement of Indian lascars on British ships by British seamen?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** Well, it would be an embarrassing suggestion to have to make. I am almost certain that the reply would be that the British Government cannot control their shipping with regard to the employment of anybody whose employment is permissible.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** What is the benefit to the Government of India by encouraging British shipping in this direction? May I know whether the Government of India get any benefit at all?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** That question has been put by the Honourable Member on a previous occasion and answered.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** What is the answer?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** The answer was given on that occasion.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** What is the answer now?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** In common with the rest of the Empire, India benefits.

**Mr. F. E. James:** The British Navy.

**Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad:** May I know whether the Lloyd Triestino and other companies take Indian cadets in their service?

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Do the British ships take Indian cadets?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** Some of them, yes.

**Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Can the Honourable Member mention any case of service to India by this?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** I am afraid I am unable to follow the question. Does the Honourable Member mean whether any cadets have been taken by any of the British ships?

**Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** May I know whether India has been benefited by any of these things, subsidies and so forth?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** The Government of India are not giving any subsidies to these ships.

**DECLARATIONS TAKEN FROM THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY STAFF TO  
ACCEPT THE REVISED LEAVE RULES.**

1045. **\*Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) With reference to Government's reply to parts (b) and (c) of Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney's unstarred question No. 205, asked on the 9th March, 1935, will Government be pleased to state why the North Western Railway Administration started taking declarations from the employees recruited on or after 22nd August 1927, though the Railway Board issued instructions on 1st April, 1928, directing the Agents of the State-managed Railways to get a declaration signed by the employees recruited on or after 1st September, 1928, to the effect that when the Revised State Railway Leave Rules were promulgated they would be liable to be brought under their operation?

(b) In view of the definite orders of the Railway Board issued on 1st April, 1928, referred to in part (a) above, do Government propose to give the employees of the North Western Railway, recruited after 22nd August, 1927, but before 1st September, 1928, the date fixed by the Railway Board, an option of electing the old or the revised leave rules? If not, why not?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state if the North Western Railway Administration was competent to ask for a declaration from the employees to the effect that they agree to come under the revised leave rules, without receiving orders from the Railway Board? If so, will Government be pleased to quote the specific rule under which this power is vested in the North Western Railway Agency?

(d) If the reply to the first portion of part (c) above be in the negative, and if the power of the North Western Railway Administration for obtaining declarations from the employees was derived from the Railway Board's letter referred to in reply to Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney's question, do Government propose to rectify the mistake of obtaining declarations on the North Western Railway earlier than desired by the Railway Board? If not, why not?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state the dates on and after which, the employees recruited on the various State Railways were called upon to sign a declaration to the effect that on promulgation of the revised leave rules, they agree to be governed by them?

(f) Is it not a fact that the policy of the Railway Board has been to frame a set of rules for application to all State-managed Railways, and to bring them into force from the same date? If so, why were the revised leave rules not brought into force on the various State Railways from the one and the same date?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** (a) The North Western Railway started taking declarations from the employees appointed on and after the 22nd August, 1927, because they were aware that the introduction of the new leave rules was under contemplation, and it was intended that the newly appointed staff should be governed by them.

(b) No. In this connection I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the information laid on the table of the House on the 2nd September, 1935, in connection with parts (b) and (f) of Sir Henry Gidney's unstarred question No. 205, asked by him on the 9th March, 1935.

(c) The North Western Railway took action with the knowledge of the Board. The latter part of the question does not arise.

(d) In view of my reply to part (c) this does not arise.

(e) East Indian and Eastern Bengal Railways, 1st September, 1928.

Great Indian Peninsula Railway, 1st April, 1929.

North Western Railway, 1927.

(f) The New State Railway Leave Rules apply to all the State-managed Railways but for the reason given in Mr. P. R. Rau's reply to part (e) of Sir Henry Gidney's question No. 205, asked in this House on the 9th March, 1935, it was not possible to introduce these on the same date on the four State-managed Railways.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** May I know from the Honourable Member why the orders that were first issued as shown in part (a) of the question were changed? What was the reason?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** I am not able to follow the question. Will the Honourable Member explain it a little more?

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** From part (a) of the question, the Honourable Member will see that the Railway Board issued instructions on the 1st April, 1928, directing the Agents of the State-managed Railways to get a declaration signed by the employees recruited on or after the 1st September, 1928. If so, may I know why the declaration was being asked from men who were appointed before 1927?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** The declaration has been asked for only from people who were appointed on or after the 22nd August, 1927.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** But, according to the orders, as stated in part (a) of this question, the declaration had to be taken from those who were appointed after the 1st April, 1928.

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** No. The declaration was taken from those who were appointed on or after the 22nd August, 1927, inasmuch as new leave rules were in contemplation then, and it was considered as a precaution that such a declaration should be obtained, so that, when the new leave rules were applied, nobody should have a grievance that they had no warning that it was going to be applied to them.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** May I know whether those orders were or were not in effect?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** They were enforced against all those categories of staff from whom this declaration was taken.

**Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney:** Will the Honourable Member inform the House whether or not, when these new rules were started, they referred to all those employees who were engaged after 1928 and not those who were engaged after 1927? In other words, did they or did they not have retrospective effect for one year?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** Although they were enforced on certain dates, they were made applicable to certain categories of staff from whom a declaration had been taken from a certain date in 1927.

**Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney:** In view of the fact that it is the practice of the Government of India, in recent years, not to give retrospective effect to advantages such as increased pay, etc., why is it that the Government of India make an exception and have retrospective effect in regard to disadvantages?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** For the simple reason that when a change is contemplated,—and of recent years several changes have been introduced which may be more restrictive of the privileges previously enjoyed,—it is a precaution and a necessary precaution that the staff who are being employed then should be warned that when the new rules come into force they would be subjected to those rules.

**Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney:** One more question, Sir. Is it or is it not a fact that those employees who were recruited in 1927 were never informed that in 1928, they would suffer all these disadvantages? If the answer is in the affirmative, I ask the Government of India, is it fair that they should do so?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** Part (a) of the question says that declarations were taken from people who were employed from the 22nd August, 1927. One part of the grievance is, why did you start taking declarations from them, and the other is, why did you not warn them? I think the criticism is contradictory.

#### REVISION OF THE PAY OF CLERKS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

1046. **\*Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) Is it a fact that the maximum salary of grade I for clerical staff, either at stations or in offices on the North Western Railway is Rs. 60?

(b) Is it a fact that the Railway Board gave the All-India Railwaymen's Federation to understand in 1930, that the Railway Administrations had been asked to investigate into the scales of pay of subordinate staff on the Railways, who usually rose to Rs. 100 per mensem, with a view to improve them? If so, what was the result of the said investigations?

(c) Is it a fact that the Agent, North-Western Railway, *vide* his letter No. 501-E./89, dated the 22nd February, 1930, to the address of the Secretary, Railway Board, said that the maxima of the scales of grade I in offices and stations, etc., on the North Western Railway, ceased at a rate of pay that was unduly poor remuneration for services rendered?

(d) Is it a fact that the North Western Railway administration suggested in that letter that grades I and II be amalgamated without any delay? If so, what action did the Railway Board take or propose to take in the matter? If none, why not?

(e) Is it a fact that the maxima in the sister departments for lower class of clerks is above Rs. 60, for instance in the Postal Department it is Rs. 140 and for the Branch Postmasters who are recruited from amongst the inferior staff, the maximum of the lower grade is Rs. 90? If so, do Government propose to amalgamate grades I and II, for clerical staff on the North Western Railway to allow a clerk in offices and stations to rise at least to Rs. 90? If not, why not?

(f) Is it a fact that the Chief Accounts Officer, North Western Railway, Lahore, *vide* his Staff Order No. 6, dated the 4th January, 1935, has amalgamated grades II and III for the clerical staff under his control, thus introducing a combined scale of pay for the lower grade clerks, *vis.*, Rs. 40—4—80—5—90? If so, why are the employees of the same Railway under the control of the North Western Railway Agency treated differently from Accounts clerks?

(g) Is it a fact that a large number of employees in the North Western Railway subordinate clerical service retire on Rs. 60 for want of vacancies in the higher grades? If not, will Government please state the figures of the clerical staff who retired during the last five years, and the class in which they happened to be prior to their retirement?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** (a) Yes, except in the Accounts Department.

(b) Presumably the Honourable Member is referring to the statement made by Mr. Hayman appearing on page 76 of the proceedings of the first half-yearly meeting between the Railway Board and the All-India Railwaymen's Federation in June, 1930, a copy of which is in the Library of the House. If so, I would refer him to the opening sentence of his remarks which reads as follows:

"I wish that in any reply I give you you won't try to bind me down because difficulties arise sometimes which we cannot foresee."

Subsequent to this discussion, as a result of the fall in earnings and the necessity for curtailment of expenses, the general question of the wage standards was examined as a whole, with the result that the revised scales of pay were introduced.

(c) and (d). Government are not prepared to disclose the contents of the documents referred to which are intended purely for departmental use.

(e) As regards the first part, the duties performed by staff in the Postal Department are entirely different from those performed by railway staff and Government are not prepared to adopt the scales of pay of the Postal Department for railway employees.



As regards the rest the reply is in the negative. Government do not consider that the amalgamation of the two grades referred to is justified. The number of posts in the higher of the two grades is sufficient for normal grade to grade promotion on the occurrence of vacancies.

(f) Reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the latter part the scales for the subordinate clerical staff in the Accounts Offices have always differed from those of the other departments on the North Western Railway because the duties are entirely different.

(g) Government have no information and do not propose to collect it.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** May I know from the Honourable Member, whether these lower subordinates, whose maximum pay is only Rs. 60 a month, start on Rs. 20 or 25 a month and retire after thirty years on Rs. 60 only?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** If the maximum is Rs. 60 and they are not appointed to anything else with a better pay, the inference follows.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** May I know from the Honourable Member whether it is fair or not to amalgamate at least grades 1 and 2 to give them a little lift?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** That is a question of supply and demand.

**Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney:** Will the Honourable Member inform this House whether there is any other Government of India Department which gives this meagre, miserly, starvation wage of Rs. 60 as retiring pay?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** I have no detailed knowledge with regard to other departments.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** If it is a question of supply and demand, may I know if it is applied to higher grades also where the officers get thousands of rupees a month?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** Yes, Sir.

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#### UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

#### LEAVE WITH PAY FOR INFERIOR EMPLOYEES IN THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ON THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

243. **Mr. N. M. Joshi:** (a) Is it a fact that no inferior employee in the Transport Department on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway was granted leave with pay after the retrenchment of 1930?

(b) Is it a fact that many of these employees were getting leave with pay before the retrenchment of 1930?

(c) Is it a fact that under the Fundamental Leave Rules, no inferior employee on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway can be granted leave with pay and that this is due to the inadequacy of leave reserves?

(d) If the reply to part (c) be in the affirmative, are Government prepared to arrange for a sufficient number of inferior employees as a leave reserve on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway so as to facilitate the obtaining of leave with pay by such employees? If not, why not?

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

(b) Yes.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

**COMPOSITION OF THE PERSONNEL OF THE INDIAN CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT AT THE VARIOUS PORTS.**

244. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Will Government lay on the table a statement showing information regarding the composition of the personnel of the Indian Customs Department at the various ports in a tabular form as below?

	Bombay.		Karachi.		Calcutta.		Madras.		Rangoon.	
	No.	Provinces to which they belong.	No.	Provinces to which they belong.	No.	Provinces to which they belong.	No.	Provinces to which they belong.	No.	Provinces to which they belong.
1. Superior Service.										
2. Appraisers										
3. Examining Officers.										
4. Preventive Officers.										
5. Apprentice Appraisers.										
6. Apprentice Examining Officers.										
7. Other Appointments.										

**Mr. A. H. Lloyd:** The information is not available and cannot be compiled without a degree of labour and expense which is not considered to be justified.

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW RULES REGARDING MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF RAILWAY STAFF WHO WERE NOT EXAMINED IN NIGHT VISION TEST PRIOR TO 1930.**

**245. Mr. K. L. Gauba:** (a) Is it a fact that new rules, regarding medical examination of Railway staff who were not examined in night vision test prior to 1930, were introduced in that year?

(b) Is it a fact that after a strenuous agitation by the Carriage and Wagon staff, Fitters staff and the Engineering gang staff, the applicability of these rules was withheld in their case?

(c) Is it a fact that a good number of staff, in whose case these rules have been applied, have been discharged and demoted due to the night vision test, which was not the case before 1930?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** (a) New regulations for the medical examination of candidates and employees, etc., were introduced by the Railway Board in June, 1930. I presume the Honourable Member is referring to the North Western Railway. If so, Government are informed that on the North Western Railway the revised rules were introduced from the 2nd February, 1931. Prior to the introduction of these rules the staff were, under the rules then in force, required to be medically examined but Government understand that due to an oversight certain Railway employees were not sent for medical examination.

(b) As a result of representations, the classification of certain Carriage and Wagon staff and Locomotive staff, including fitters, was modified.

(c) Government have no information and its collection will involve an amount of labour and expense not commensurate with the results likely to be achieved.

**LIQUOR LICENCES IN DELHI AND OLD DELHI.**

**246. Sardar Sant Singh:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of liquor licences in (1) Delhi, and (2) Old Delhi in the years 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934 and 1935?

(b) How many of them were licences for the sale of foreign liquor and how many for the country liquor?

(c) What is the increase in population of Delhi and New Delhi in the years 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934 and 1935?

(d) What are the grounds which justify the increase in such licences?

(e) Do Government propose to increase these licences in the year 1936? If so, how many and on what grounds?

(f) Are Government aware that the increase of licences for liquor shops has raised great apprehension amongst temperance workers?

(g) Did Government consult any public body, such as local bodies and temperance societies, before increasing this number? If not do Government now propose to consult them?

**Mr. A. H. Lloyd:** (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the table.

(c) Statistics are not available except in years when a census is taken.

(d) The growth of population, especially in New Delhi, where a large proportion of the inhabitants are accustomed to consume foreign liquor.

(e) The number of licenses is not fixed and fresh applications are considered on their merits.

(f) No complaints in regard to the increase in the number of foreign liquor licenses have been received from temperance workers.

(g) Local bodies are consulted before fresh licenses are granted except in the case of licenses for canteens which are granted on the recommendation of the Military authorities concerned.

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*Statement showing the number of Liquor Licences granted in Delhi and New Delhi during the years 1931 to 1935.*

		1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.
Delhi	{ Foreign Liquor . .	38	35	34	32	33
	{ Country Liquor . .	10	10	10	10	10
	Total . .	48	45	44	42	43
New Delhi	{ Foreign Liquor . .	18	18	18	18	25
	{ Country Liquor . .	1	1	1	1	1
	Total . .	19	19	19	19	26

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#### FRAUD CASE DETECTED IN THE PREPARATION AND CHARGING OF GOODS HANDLING BILLS AT LAHORE GOODS OFFICE.

247. **Raisada Hans Raj:** (a) Is it a fact that a serious fraud case was detected in the preparation and charging of goods' handling bills at Lahore Goods office against Goods Supervisor in December 1934?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state what action has so far been taken against the Goods Supervisor?

(c) If the reply to part (b) be in the negative, what is the reason?

(d) Is it a fact that the said Goods Supervisor has been transferred to Karachi?

(e) Is it a fact that the transfer orders were issued in October 1935?

(f) Is it a fact that the orders were not complied with up to January, 1936?

(g) Is it a fact that some of the Railway officers are putting unnecessary hinderance in the execution of his transfer?

(h) If the replies to parts (f) and (g) be in the affirmative, what action do Government propose to take against the above Goods Supervisor and the officers concerned?

(i) Are Government aware that his presence at Lahore Goods office is detrimental to the public, as well as to the interests of the Railway Department?

(j) Is it a fact that another case has been detected at the Lahore Goods office in connection with some 25 men amongst a list of van porters employed under this Goods Supervisor who were never used as van porters and never worked with any van train, but were employed as personal servants of the Goods Supervisor and some other Railway officers?

(k) If the reply to part (j) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state if they are prepared to proceed criminally against these officials?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** Government are informed as follows:

- (a), (g) and (i). No.
- (b), (c), (h) and (k). Do not arise.
- (d) and (e). Yes.
- (f) The transfer ordered in October was postponed.

(j) It was found on enquiry that some van porters were being used as peons—the necessity for which was subsequently established. It was not proved that any of them were used as personal servants.

#### LEAVE AND PENSION OF MILITARY EMPLOYEES INVALIDED DURING THE GREAT WAR.

**248. Haji Ochaudhury Muhammad Ismail Khan:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether their replies to the following questions in the Assembly still stand as regards civil officers and subordinates who contracted diseases during 1914—18 on Field Service and retired on a pay of Rs. 200 per mensem and over in 1928—30 on account of those diseases?

(b) If Government are not now prepared to act on their replies to the questions referred to, will Government be pleased to give a fresh and complete reply to each of the questions referred to below:

- (i) question No. 592-A, dated the 4th September, 1933;
- (ii) question No. 592-B, dated the 4th September, 1933;
- (iii) question No. 1182-A, dated the 27th November, 1933;
- (iv) question No. 329, dated the 2nd March, 1934; and
- (v) question No. 331, dated the 2nd March, 1934?

**Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham:** (a) Yes.

(b) Does not arise.

#### FACILITIES GIVEN TO INDIAN SCHOLARS IN THE ARCHÆOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT FOR TRAINING IN EXCAVATION AND EXPLORATION OF ANCIENT INDIAN SITES.

**249. Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar:** (a) Are adequate facilities given to Indian scholars in the Archæological Department to get themselves trained in excavation and exploration of ancient Indian sites?

(b) Will Government place on the table a list of the scholars so far trained?

(c) Is the practice of giving such training to Indian scholars continued at present? If not, when was it stopped? What are the reasons for the discontinuance of such a practice?

(d) Are Government prepared to consider the advisability of reviving such a scheme?

**Sir Girda Shankar Baisai:** (a) and (c). Adequate facilities were provided for training suitable Indian scholars in the Archæological Department in excavation work until 1931, when such training was stopped as a measure of retrenchment.

(b) A statement is laid on the table.

(d) Yes, when the funds permit.

*Statement showing Indian Scholars trained in excavation work by the Archaeological Department.*

	1. Rai Bahadur Daya Ram Sahni	(late Director General of Archaeology).
	2. Late Mr. V. Natesa Aiyar	(late Superintendent).
	3. Mr. K. N. Dikshit	(Deputy Director General of Archaeology).
	4. Late Mr. H. Panday	(late Assistant Superintendent).
	5. Mr. M. B. Garde	(Superintendent of Archaeology, Gwalior).
	6. Mr. Mohd. Hamid Kuraishi	(Superintendent, Frontier Circle).
	7. Rai Sahib M. Ghosh	(Curator, Patna Museum).
	8. Mr. M. S. Vats	(Superintendent, Western Circle).
	9. Mr. H. L. Srivastava	(Assistant Superintendent, Central India and Rajputana).
Deputed by the Varanasi Research Society for training.	10. Mr. N. G. Majumdar	(Superintendent, Indian Museum).
Do. by Kashmir State.	11. Mr. R. C. Kak.	
Do. Hyderabad State.	12. Mr. Syed Yusuf.	
Do. Ceylon Government.	13. S. Pranavithani.	
Apprentices retrenched before the completion of their terms.	14. J. C. R. Jayasuriya.	
	15. Mr. K. G. Goswami.	
	16. Mr. L. Narasimhaiah.	
	17. Mr. M. A. Rahim.	
	18. Mr. S. S. Sarkar.	

#### PROVISION OF SAFEGUARDS IN GRANTING LICENCES TO PRIVATE ASSOCIATIONS OR BODIES TO CARRY ON EXCAVATION AT SPECIFIC SITES.

250. **Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar:** Will Government state whether in granting licences to private associations or bodies to carry on excavation at specific sites, adequate safeguards are provided, insisting on such associations or bodies maintaining a daily field record of the excavations, and noting the circumstances of each discovery? If not, do Government propose to insist on this as a condition precedent to granting the required licence?

**Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai:** Under the conditions for the grant of licences for archaeological excavation, private individuals and bodies are required to make such photographs and other records and architectural plans of the area in respect of which the licence is held and of any antiquities found therein as may be specified by the Director General of Archaeology.

#### PERMISSION SOUGHT BY THE CAMBRIDGE-YALE EXPEDITION TO VISIT PLACES OF ARCHÆOLOGICAL OR PRE-HISTORIC IMPORTANCE.

251. **Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar:** (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a list of places of archaeological or of prehistoric importance to visit, and to examine which permission was sought for by the Cambridge-Yale expedition or any member or members thereof?

(b) Was the permission asked for granted?

(c) What is the kind of work that this expedition or any member, or members thereof, are doing in these places?

(d) Have they discovered anything of importance in these places? If so, where are those antiquities? Have they been removed out of India or are they still here?

(e) Do Government propose to see to it that they are allowed to take, if they want, only such finds as are in duplicate?

(f) Did the officers of the Archæological Survey visit the places which the members of the above expedition are visiting? Did they make an exhaustive survey of those sites? If not, why not?

(g) Is it a fact that some of the members visited Madras recently for collecting prehistoric implements? Were they able to discover any? If so, do Government propose to make sure that these finds are retained in India?

(h) Did the Superintendent, Archæological Survey, visit the places where the members of the expedition had gone, and report to the Director General, Archæological Survey, as to the antiquities and the need for their acquisition?

**Sir Girda Shankar Bajpai:** (a) and (b). The Expedition conducted a reconnaissance survey in the Punjab, the North-West Frontier Province, the Madras Presidency and Kashmir with the permission of the Government of India and the Kashmir Durbar.

(c) A search for fossil remains of early man and the primates and the determination of the geological epochs of North-West India.

(d) They collected a number of stone artifacts besides fossils, bones, etc., and fragments of pottery. The stone implements have been taken to Cambridge where they have been studied by experts and the results will be worked out by comparison with other specimens from all over the world. The pottery fragments have been retained in India.

(e) Government have taken steps to secure for India a full share of the articles collected by the Expedition.

(f) and (h). As the object of the Expedition was more akin to the work of the geological rather than the archæological survey, a representative of the Geological Survey accompanied it. For this reason the Superintendent, Archæological Survey, did not visit the places in question or make a report to the Director General of Archeology in India.

(g) Yes. During their tour in the Madras Presidency, the members of the Expedition collected a large number of prehistoric implements and steps have been taken to secure sufficient numbers of each variety of these implements for India.

#### APPOINTMENT OF A CIVILIAN CONSULTING ARCHITECT AT QUETTA.

**252. Mr. O. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Secretary of State in Council invited by advertisement applications for the appointment of a civilian consulting architect;

- (b) whether the proposed appointment was in connection with the military engineering services in India in connection with the reconstruction of Quetta;
- (c) whether the advertisement stipulated that the candidate must be British and a member of the Royal Institute of British Architects;
- (d) whether this stipulation has led to protests from the Incorporated Association of Architects and Surveyors and the Institute of Registered Architects;
- (e) whether the protest was made on the ground that selection from one body would be most invidious;
- (f) whether qualified candidates in India are not available;
- (g) what they have done, or propose to do, in the matter; and
- (h) whether they are prepared to reconsider their attitude in the matter?

**Sir Aubrey Metcalfe:** (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c), (d) and (e). The Government of India have no information.

(f) Enquiries showed that it was likely to be considerably more economical to recruit a man from England on a regular monthly salary, than to pay the fees of any of the architects in this country who possess the requisite qualifications.

(g) Government propose to take no action.

(h) No.

#### PROCEEDS FROM AUCTION OF STRUCTURAL MATERIAL IN QUETTA.

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

- (a) whether they have agreed to repay to land-lords, by way of relief from the Fund, the proceeds from auction of structural material in Quetta; and
- (b) why they have come to this decision?

**Sir Aubrey Metcalfe:** The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the remarks on the subject contained in the Government of India's press communiqué, dated the 23rd January, 1936 (Copy attached).

*Copy of Press Communiqué dated 23rd January, 1936.*

It will be remembered that in the recent announcement published by the Government of India with regard to their policy at Quetta, it was stated that a Senior Officer of the Political Department had been posted to Quetta with instructions to organize the operations of Salvage and Clearance in such a manner as he might consider necessary for more rapid and efficient progress. That Officer has now been in charge at Quetta for several weeks and as the result of his investigations on the spot has put forward certain proposals for the consideration of the Government of India. After personal discussion with him various decisions have been taken which are now published for general information.



In the first place it has been decided that Wards Nos. 10, 11, 18 and 19 of which the salvage has already been completed should be cleared immediately and opened for temporary residence by former inhabitants of Quetta who desire again to take up their residence in Quetta and to re-start their businesses. Such persons will be permitted to build temporary huts, so far as possible, on their own sites and also lease out sites for residence by other persons whose land has not yet been cleared. No actual residence in these Wards will be permitted until the remaining and adjoining Wards have been completely salvaged and all corpses removed; but it is confidently expected that this operation will be completed at least by the end of March, 1936. In other Wards immediately after salvage and clearance has taken place sites will be allotted to the original owners in so far as that may be possible having regard to the necessity for widening certain streets and lanes to provide as far as possible against similar loss of life in case of another earthquake. For the present only buildings of a temporary character will be permitted, but owners will be allowed to erect permanent buildings on their original sites as soon as a Building Code has been prepared and plans of buildings considered technically proof against earthquake shocks have been devised and approved. The Government of India have also reconsidered the decision previously announced that all structural material of collapsed buildings would be taken into the custody of Government and disposed of at their discretion. In view of representations now put forward, it appears that it is practicable to permit the greater part of this structural material to be removed by the owners themselves in the course of salvage and clearance and to be used in the construction of temporary buildings for immediate occupation. The Officer in Charge has therefore been given discretion to make arrangements on those lines, which it is hoped will not only give considerable relief to those who have lost their houses by reason of the earthquake, but will also facilitate and expedite the work of clearance. Arrangements are also being made to establish special Courts of Justice to deal with cases arising out of the earthquake. These Courts will work under the provisions of the British Baluchistan Civil Justice Regulation and in order to minimize the expense caused to the parties by such litigation, orders will be passed by the Local Administration providing for a reduced scale of Court Fees in all such cases.

#### CHARGE OF PERJURY AGAINST THE SUB-REGISTRAR OF DELHI.

**254. Mr. Ghansham Singh Gupta:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to a report published in the *Daily Tei*, on page two of its issue dated the 14th December, 1935, containing extracts from the judgment of Mr. David Fazuldin, a Delhi Sub-judge, making serious charge of perjury against the Sub-Registrar of Delhi?

(b) Are Government aware that the findings of the said court have excited much local comment?

(c) Will Government state what steps, if any, have been taken by them against the Sub-Registrar concerned?

(d) If nothing has been done so far, are Government prepared to order an early inquiry and to suspend the Sub-Registrar concerned till the investigation is complete?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** (a) Yes.

(b) Government have no information and have seen no comment except that referred to in part (a) of the question.

(c) and (d). I am unable to say anything as I understand that the case is still *sub judice*, an appeal from the Sub-Judge's order having been filed before the District and Sessions Judge.

**RELATIVE MERITS OF MURAKA SPECIAL BLACK PAINT AND JENSON AND NICHOLSON'S BLACK ENAMEL PAINT.**

255. **Mr. B. B. Varma:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that some time in the latter part of 1934, or in the beginning of 1935, a Committee consisting of Railway Officers and a representative of the Indian Stores Department, with Diwan Bahadur B. R. Singh, late Agent of the Eastern Bengal Railway as President, was formed in order to examine the relative merits of Muraka Special Black Paint, a cheaper indigenous product, and Jenson and Nicholson's Black Enamel Paint, a foreign product, for painting Railway wagons?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state if the Committee had submitted any report, recommending the use of one or the other paint, for consideration by Government?

(c) If the reply to part (b) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the nature of the recommendation made by the Committee, and whether the same conforms with the principle laid down by Government to the effect that in the matter of purchase of stores for public services, preference should be given to indigenous articles, if they are found sufficiently good for the purpose? If not, why not?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** (a) Yes, except in so much that the Jenson and Nicholson black paint considered by the Committee was, as far as Government is aware, also an indigenous product and lower in price per gallon.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

**RECRUITMENT OF ONE PARTICULAR COMMUNITY ON THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.**

256. **Mr. B. B. Varma:** (a) Is it a fact that the Railway Board has issued to the Agent, Eastern Bengal Railway, orders to the effect that no appointment must be made from any community except one particular community, until the 45 per cent. quota fixed for that community, so far as the Eastern Bengal Railway is concerned, is reached?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state if such orders have been issued to other Local Governments? If so, are Government prepared to consider the desirability of revising their orders in special and exceptional cases?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** (a) The reply is in the negative.

(b) The Railway Board have not issued any orders to the Eastern Bengal Railway or any other Railway that members of any one particular community should only be appointed. The latter part of the question does not arise.

# RECRUITMENT OF ONE PARTICULAR COMMUNITY ON THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

257. **Mr. B. B. Varma:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that on the Eastern Bengal Railway, sons of railway employees, having requisite qualifications for ministerial jobs and having been selected, as approved candidates by the Railway Staff Selection Committee for future appointments, are not given preference over outsiders, in the matter of filling up any vacancy, including temporary leave vacancies, on the ground that such vacancies have been kept a close preserve for members of a particular community under the orders of the Railway Board;
- (b) whether it is a fact that sons of railway employees, who are approved candidates and who were working against temporary leave vacancies, have been discharged to make room for members of a particular community; and
- (c) if the replies to parts (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, the reason which prompted the Railway Board to issue such orders to the Eastern Bengal Railway Administration?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** (a) The placing of a candidate's name on the list of approved candidates does not constitute a promise of employment. The Railway Board have not issued any orders that all vacancies should be reserved for members of any particular community.

(b) The reply is in the negative.

(c) In view of my reply to parts (a) and (b) this does not arise.

## ARTICLE IN THE RAILWAY LABOUR ENTITLED "RELIEVING ALLOWANCE TO TRAFFIC STAFF, UNIFORM PROBLEM AND DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT".

258. **Mr. B. B. Varma:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to an article appearing at pages 2, 3 and 4 of the *Railway Labour*, for October 1935, published from Calcutta, under the auspices of the Eastern Bengal Railway Indian Employees' Association, regarding Relieving Allowance to Traffic Staff, Uniform problem and differential treatment?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state if any action has been taken thereon by them? If not, why not?

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

(b) Government are informed that the matters referred to have been considered by the Administration and where action was necessary it has either been taken or will be taken in due course.

## ARTICLE IN THE RAILWAY LABOUR ENTITLED "A BIRD'S EYE VIEW".

259. **Mr. B. B. Varma:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether their attention has been drawn to an article entitled "A Bird's eye view", appearing in the *Railway Labour* for the month of November 1935, published from Calcutta under the auspices of the Eastern Bengal Railway Indian Employees' Association, in which certain comments have been made regarding medical aid, economy in the Electric Department, Water-Proof, Temporary Posting, Crew Staff?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state if any action has been taken thereon? If not, why not?

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

(b) The matters referred to are entirely within the competence of the Agent to whom a copy of the question has been sent for information and such action as he may consider necessary. Government do not consider their intervention is necessary.

#### RECRUITMENT TO STATE RAILWAY SERVICES.

**260. Mr. B. B. Varma:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether the Railway Board in the year 1932, accepted the recommendations made by the Royal Commission on Labour, *vide* item 118 of their report, to the effect that sons of Railway employees should have preference over outsiders in the matter of recruitment to railway services, and instructed the Agents of the State-managed Railways accordingly?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state whether the same policy is still followed by the Railway Board? If not, why not?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** (a) The orders issued by the Railway Board were to the effect that they were aware that arrangements in force on State-managed Railways provided for such preference as recommended by the Royal Commission on Labour to be given to the sons of Railway employees, but that they considered that the question of extending such preference to near relatives was a matter to be left to the discretion of individual Agents of Railways.

(b) The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative and the latter part does not arise.

#### TRANSFER OF PROPERTIES IN CANTONMENTS BY SALE, GIFT OR MORTGAGE BY CIVILIANS.

**261. Mr. Sham Lal:** (a) Is it a fact that under instructions from Headquarters, Northern Command, the Cantonment Boards have notified to the public that without first obtaining the permission of the Government of India, civilians cannot transfer their property by sale, gift, or mortgage?

(b) Is it a fact that in Rawalpindi Cantonment, the Cantonment Executive Officer has refused to register in his tax registers the transfer of properties, validly made under the provisions of the Transfer of Property Act?

(c) Is it a fact that he insists on realising cantonment taxes from the transferers, although the transferees are willing to pay the same?

(d) Is it a fact that he refuses to change the names of persons on whom property devolves by succession or inheritance?

(e) Is it a fact that in Amritsar the Cantonment Executive Officer has informed the Civil Registrar not to register transfer of properties without the sanction of Military Authorities?

(f) If the answer to the above be in the affirmative, what step, or steps, do Government propose to take to stop this practice?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham:** (a) The reply is in the affirmative, in so far as property valued at over Rs. 5,000 situated on sites held under the terms of the General Order by the Governor General in Council No. 179 of 1836 are concerned. One of the conditions of tenure under that Order is that transfers require sanction. The object of enforcing this condition is to preserve the title of Government in the land.

(b) No, Sir.

(c), (d) and (e). Government have no information.

(f) The matter is under consideration at present.

#### CONSTRUCTION OF QUARTERS FOR THE STAFF OF THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE, DELHI.

**262. Mr. N. M. Joshi:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have selected any suitable site for the construction of quarters for the staff of the Railway Clearing Accounts Office, Delhi, as promised in reply to starred question No. 680 of 1935?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state when the work of construction will begin?

(c) If the answer to part (a) be in the negative, what action is being taken to expedite acquisition of any such site?

(d) Are Government aware that it is not easy to obtain suitable cheap housing accommodation in Delhi, and if so, are Government prepared to consider the desirability of granting some house rent allowance to the staff of the Railway Clearing Accounts Office, until such time as the quarters are constructed?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** (a) A site which appears to be suitable has been found and is now under further examination.

(b) It is impossible to say when the work of construction will begin. The provision of funds has to be considered.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Government are aware that there is some difficulty in obtaining suitable, cheap housing accommodation in Delhi. Government are not prepared to consider the grant of house-rent allowance to staff of the Railway Clearing Accounts Office.

#### UNEMPLOYMENT AMONGST SEAMEN IN BOMBAY.

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

(a) whether they are aware of the wide-spread unemployment amongst seamen in Bombay;

(b) whether it has come to their knowledge that the Clan Line of Steamers, which used to employ Bombay crews for years, have been replacing them by Calcutta crews for some years past;

(c) whether they are aware that the Calcutta crews are brought down to Bombay at Company's expense and signed on in their ships in Bombay;

- (d) whether they are aware that it is a fact that though the rates of Calcutta crews' wages are slightly less than those of Bombay crews, the Company does not materially gain anything, because it bears the passage expenses of the Calcutta crews both ways;
- (e) whether it is true that the National Seamen's Union of Bombay has made representations to Government and their officers in Bombay to use their good offices to see that the Company signs Bombay crews on ships discharging crews in Bombay, and engages Calcutta crews on ships discharging crews in Calcutta; and
- (f) whether they are prepared to use their good offices with a view to getting Bombay crews their share of employment with the Clan Line?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** (a) Government understand that the position in regard to unemployment amongst seamen in Bombay has improved considerably in recent years.

(b) and (c). Yes.

(d) Government have no information. This is obviously a matter for the Company concerned.

(e) Yes.

(f) Government do not consider that it would be appropriate for them to use their influence to maintain or extend the opportunities of employment open to one section of Indian seamen at the expense of another.

#### UNEMPLOYMENT AMONGST SEAMEN IN BOMBAY.

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

- (a) whether it has come to their knowledge that about four to five thousand Bombay seamen of the saloon section have been thrown out of employment during the last two years;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the Bombay saloon crews have served City and Hall Lines passenger ships, as also Hired Transport ships of Government for several generations;
- (c) whether they are aware that these seamen are holding certificates of service issued by the Government Shipping Office at Bombay;
- (d) whether they are aware that during the last Great War, when seamen were reluctant to serve on merchant and Government chartered ships, they held out an assurance to Bombay saloon crews that in the matter of recruitment, war service rewards, etc. they would be treated on a footing of equality with British Indian Seamen;
- (e) whether it is a fact that the Bombay saloon crews have been displaced by the Calcutta crews;
- (f) whether they have considered the treatment meted out to Bombay saloon crews despite their long years of loyal service and in the face of the above assurance;

- (g) whether they are aware that a fairly big number of these saloon crews is either domiciled or naturalized in Bombay; and
- (h) if so, whether they propose to use their good offices to see that the Bombay saloon crews are not kept out any longer?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** (a) I assume that by "Bombay seamen of the saloon section" the Honourable Member means Goanese saloon crews. So far as Government are aware, the number of unemployed among these men does not exceed 1,000.

(b) No, not for "several generations".

(c) Yes.

(d) Government are not aware of any such assurance having been given. It is a fact, however, that, for the purposes of the grant of war risks compensation, Goanese seamen employed in British merchant vessels were treated in the same way as British Indian seamen.

(e) Yes.

(f) Government have considered representations in the matter.

(g) Yes.

(h) I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to part (f) of his previous question.

#### ABOLITION OF SHIPPING BROKERS IN BOMBAY.

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

- (a) whether they have considered the desirability of abolishing the shipping brokers in Bombay, as recommended by the Royal Commission on Labour in India;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the shipping brokers' licences in Calcutta terminated over a year ago as the result of the Whitley Commission recommendation;
- (c) whether they are aware that the shipping brokers in Bombay ceased to function as suppliers of seamen about two years ago;
- (d) whether they are aware that the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Co., British India Steam Navigation Co., and several other Companies, have made their own arrangements to advance first month's wages to their crews, independent of the shipping brokers in Bombay, and that the other Companies can also make similar arrangements and save five or seven per cent. commission on the advances, if the brokers are totally dispensed with;
- (e) whether it is a fact that for making advances to seamen, no licence is necessary, and that the brokers' licence under section 24 of the Indian Merchant Shipping Act is meant only for the supply of seamen;
- (f) whether they are aware that the Seamen's Recruitment Committee presided over by Mr. A. G. Clow, I.C.S., in 1922, made scathing comments on the system of shipping brokers as being the means of continuance of bribery and corruption through their ghat serangs; and

- (g) whether they propose not to renew the shipping brokers' licences in Bombay, as recommended by the Whitley Commission, for the purpose of eradicating the evils of bribery and corruption from the ranks of Indian seamen and ships' officers; if so, when?

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

(b) The licenses in question terminated in June, 1935.

(c) Government are informed that this statement is not quite correct.

(d) The Companies named have made their own arrangements to advance first month's wages to their crews; but Government have no information whether other Shipping Companies can make similar arrangements or not.

(e) Yes.

(f) Yes; but in regard to the shipping brokers at Bombay the Committee referred to by the Honourable Member did not find any genuine evidence to show that they were guilty of corrupt practices.

(g) No. Government do not propose to take any such step, because certain Shipping Companies still make use of the licensed brokers at Bombay for the recruitment of seamen and it is understood that the present licensees are working satisfactorily.

**CONSTRUCTION OF A BUILDING FOR THE OFFICES OF THE PRINCIPAL OFFICER, MERCANTILE MARINE DEPARTMENT, BOMBAY, AND OF THE SHIPPING MASTER AND NAUTICAL SURVEYOR.**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that they have taken a site from the Bombay Port Trust, near the Alexandra Dock Red Gate to construct a building of their own to accommodate the offices of the Principal Officer, Mercantile Marine Department, Bombay and of the Shipping Master and Nautical Surveyor;
- (b) whether it is a fact that over Rs. 2,000 a month are paid as rent for these offices;
- (c) whether the proposal to have a Government building has been pending for several years;
- (d) whether plans for the building are ready; and
- (e) when it is proposed to carry the proposal into execution?

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

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

(d) Certain provisional plans for the building were obtained in 1931, but these have not yet been finally approved by Government.

(e) The question is at present under consideration.



**267. Pandit Nilakantha Das:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether they are aware that the *kacha* road connecting the Circular Road with Turkman Gate is in a very bad condition;
- (b) who is responsible for the upkeep of that road, whether the New Delhi Municipality or the Old Delhi Municipality; and
- (c) whether they propose to instruct the authorities concerned to repair the road at an early date?

(b) and (c). The road is still in the jurisdiction of the Old Delhi Municipality who are, therefore, strictly speaking, responsible for repairing it. They have, however, not done so as the area through which the road passes is to be transferred to the New Delhi Municipality. There has been delay in effecting such a transfer owing to insistence by the New Delhi Municipal Committee on the removal of certain structures as a condition precedent. Measures are in train to expedite fulfilment of this condition and it is hoped that repairs to the road will be effected before long.

268. **Mr. Mathuradas Vissanji:** (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement giving:

- (i) particulars of the amounts refunded under section 49 of the Indian Income-tax Act, year by year, for the last five years; and
- (ii) particulars of the corresponding refunds made to Indian assesses under section 27 of the English Finance Act, 1920?

(b) If the latter information is not available in any of the published reports, are Government prepared to take steps to obtain the same from the British Income-tax authorities?

**Mr. A. H. Lloyd:** (a) (i) I lay a statement on the table giving the desired particulars.

- (ii) The information is not available.  
(b) No.

*Statement showing the amounts of refund granted under Section 49 of the Indian Income-tax Act, 1922, during the years 1930-31 to 1934-35.*

[illegible]

**PAY OF ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT PLUS AVERAGE MILEAGE FOR THE TRAVELLING TICKET INSPECTORS AND THEIR DIVISIONAL INSPECTORS ON TRANSFER TO OPERATING DEPARTMENT.**

**200. Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** (a) Is it a fact that a meeting was held at Calcutta on 3rd May, 1927, the minutes of which are reproduced on page 45 of the Report by the Chief Operating Superintendent, on the experimental working of the crew system, dated the 5th January, 1928?

(b) Is it a fact that Mr. G. J. Harris, Deputy Chief Operating Superintendent (Crews), was also present at the said meeting?

(c) Is it a fact that it was unanimously agreed at the said meeting that the Travelling Ticket Inspectors and their Divisional Inspectors on transfer to Operating Department will be paid the pay of Accounts Department plus average mileage?

(1) Is it a fact that the Deputy Chief Operating Superintendent (Crews) (Mr. G. J. Harris) subsequently recommended as under?

"It is therefore suggested that the Travelling Ticket Inspectors and their Divisional Inspectors whose appointments have been transferred to the Operating Departments should come on to the new scales of pay sanctioned recently by the Agent for the Crew system and to enable the administration to do so, the appointments of Travelling Ticket Inspectors and Divisional Inspectors transferred to Operating Department should be abolished. It would then be a case of abolition of appointments and offer of other suitable employment to the holders thereof."

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** With your permission, Sir, I propose to reply questions Nos. 260, 270 and 279 together.

I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to my reply to Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi's starred question No. 882 asked on the floor of this House on the 26th February, 1936.

**CONTROL OF THE TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS BY ACCOUNTS.**

**†270. Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** (a) Is it a fact that on the 13th and 14th November, 1930 a meeting was held at Calcutta to discuss the Moody-Ward Report and the Accounts Officers who attended the meeting were unanimous on the point of Accounts controlling the Travelling Ticket Examiners as a supplemental audit check?

(b) Is it a fact that this point was eliminated from the minutes of the said meeting and the Chief Accounts Officer drew the attention of the Deputy Chief Operating Superintendent, Crews, to this fact in the following terms?

"In acknowledging the receipt of the minutes of the meeting held on the 13th and 14th November I beg to point out that no mention has been made of the discussion that arose over the agency that was to control the Travelling Ticket Examiners. The representatives of the Accounts Department were definitely of opinion that the Travelling Ticket Examiners who will be doing the same duties as the Travelling Ticket Inspectors should be under Accounts Control and that the Operating Department should concentrate on the proper control, check and collections of tickets at stations."

"That before the abolition or disposal of the present staff of existing Travelling Ticket Inspectors are considered this matter be referred to the Railway Board. I shall be obliged if the minutes returned herewith are amended accordingly either at paragraph 2 or 7 to include this view."

(c) Is it a fact that these views of the Chief Accounts Officer were never conveyed to the Railway Board, nor were they embodied in the said minutes by the Operating authorities?

(d) Is it a fact that the Director of Finance, Railway Board, also desired to have the Travelling Ticket Examiners under Accounts control and this view was expressed by him in his remarks on the Moody-Ward Report?

(e) Is it a fact that a Member of the Railway Board (Mr. Hannay) also recommended that the Travelling Ticket Inspectors must remain under Accounts, as per his remarks on the Moody-Ward Report?

(f) Were these views of the Chief Accounts Officer, Director of Finance, Member, Railway Board, discussed at the meeting of the Railway Board? If so, on what date, and what was the result of discussion, and if not, why not?

(g) Under what letter and on what date did the Railway Board order the control of the Travelling Ticket Examiners to be transferred from Accounts to Operating?

(h) If orders were not issued by the Railway Board on the subject of Travelling Ticket Examiners control, who was the authority on whose initiative the Accounts control of the Travelling Ticket Inspectors was abolished?

(i) Are Government prepared to consider the desirability of appointing an Enquiry Committee, comprising of official and non-official members, to investigate the causes which have led to the abolition of Accounts control of Travelling Ticket Examiners and to consider how far check and counter-check are beneficial under one head, i.e., Operating, which have since times immemorial been separate, i.e., issue, check, and collection at stations by Operating and check in trains by Accounts? If not, why not?

#### CANCELLATION OF THE TEST OF THE TICKET CHECKING STAFF.

271. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** (a) Is it a fact that a printed appeal was submitted by over a thousand of the ticket checking staff to the Agent, East Indian Railway, on 24th May, 1935?

(b) Is it a fact that no reply has been received from the Agent?

(c) Are Government prepared to consider the points raised in the appeal and cancel the test of the ticket checking staff?

(d) Is it a fact that the object of this triennial test is to ensure that the workers possess the required knowledge of the rules concerning their duties?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** With your permission, Sir, I propose to reply to questions Nos. 271, 272, 273 and 274 together.

I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to my reply to Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi's starred question No. 832 asked on the floor of this House on the 26th February, 1936.

## TEST OF THE TICKET CHECKING STAFF.

†272. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** (a) How many Ticket Collectors and Travelling Ticket Examiners have been reduced in pay and transferred to other posts as a result of failure in the written examination and how many of them passed in oral test and what was their length of service in the ticket checking branch and in what Divisions such cases have occurred?

(b) Are such tests held on other State Railways in India?

## RESPONSIBILITY OF AN EMPLOYEE OF THE TICKET CHECKING BRANCH.

†273. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Will Government be pleased to state.

(a) whether an employee of the ticket checking branch is held responsible for the proper knowledge of the rules concerning his duties and in cases of failure he is punished; and

(b) whether the Railway concerned ever suffered a loss for the action of the individual ticket checker, or he himself is held responsible?

## TROUBLES OF THE TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS.

†274. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to an article under the caption of "T. T. Es. Troubles", as published in the *Mazdur*, the official organ of the East Indian Railway Union, dated the 31st December, 1935?

(b) Is it a fact that in other Divisions, too, similar pressure is being exercised on the Travelling Ticket Examiners to swell their earnings?

(c) Is it a fact that in some Divisions explanations are called for from the staff when their earnings drop and various kinds of punishments are awarded?

(d) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table the following information according to each Division of East Indian Railway:

- (1) Travelling Ticket Examiners reduced as Ticket Collectors;
- (2) warnings given;
- (3) fines imposed; and
- (4) explanations called;

for the period 1st January, 1935 to 31st December, 1935?

(e) Do Government desire that the earnings should increase proportionately to the Travelling Ticket Examiners employed on each train?

## TRAVELLING ALLOWANCES SUBJECT TO ASSESSMENT UNDER THE INCOME-TAX ACT.

275. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** (a) What are the various forms of travelling allowances which are subject to assessment under Income-tax Act?

(b) Will Government please state whether an allowance subjected to assessment and reckoned for leave salary, provident fund deductions and retiring gratuity comes within the definition of pay under Fundamental Rule 9 (21) (a) (iii)?

(c) If the reply to part (b) be in the negative, under what definition does it fall and under what authority is it assessed and considered as leave salary, etc.?

(d) Does the term "salary" include travelling allowance of any kind under the Income-tax Act?

(e) Can travelling allowance included in "salary" under the Income-tax Act be classed as pay under Fundamental Rule 9 (21) (a) (iii)?

(f) Can travelling allowance be assessed without being classed as pay under Fundamental Rule 9 (21) (a) (iii)?

**Mr. A. H. Lloyd:** (a) Liability to income-tax of any travelling allowance is a matter to be determined under the provisions of the Indian Income-tax Act, XI of 1922. Under section 4 (3) (vi) of the Act, any special allowance, benefit or perquisite specifically granted to meet expenses wholly and necessarily incurred in the performance of the duties of an office or employment of profit is exempt from the payment of income-tax.

(b), (d) and (e). The question whether such an allowance can be "classed as pay" within the meaning of the Fundamental Rules or salary has no bearing on the determination of liability to income-tax.

(c) Does not arise.

(f) Yes.

#### TRAVELLING ALLOWANCES TREATED LIKE PAY.

276. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** What are the definite considerations on which certain forms of travelling allowances are treated like pay for all practical purposes, and others are not so treated?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** No form of travelling allowance is treated as pay for all practical purposes.

#### TRAVELLING ALLOWANCES TREATED LIKE PAY.

277. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Can travelling allowance, treated as pay for the purpose of assessment, leave salary, provident fund and retiring gratuity be classed as pay under Fundamental Rule 9 (21) (a) (iii)? If not, why not?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** No. Because it is a type of compensatory allowance, *vide* Fundamental Rule 9 (5).

#### TRAVELLING ALLOWANCES UPON WHICH LEAVE SALARY IS ASSESSED.

278. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Will Government please state:

(a) the various forms of travelling allowances upon which the leave salary is assessed;

(b) the conditions for reckoning leave salary;

- (c) whether leave salary is pay proper;
- (d) whether leave salary is classed as pay; and
- (e) the rule made under section 96-B of Government of India Act, under which leave salary is permissible and classed as pay?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** (a) Leave salary is not assessed on any travelling allowance. Certain travelling allowances which are paid monthly are allowed to be drawn in addition to leave salary during leave subject to certain conditions which are briefly that the officer concerned continues to incur the expense to meet which the allowance is granted.

(b) and (c). The conditions for reckoning leave salary and the rules made under section 96-B of the Government of India Act will be found in Chapter X of the Fundamental Rules, and Part III of the Civil Service Regulations.

(c) and (d). No.

#### ABOLITION OF THE POSTS OF THE TRAVELLING TICKET INSPECTORS AND EXAMINERS ON THE EAST INDIAN AND THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAYS.

†279. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Is it a fact that more than one Government have stated before this House that the posts of the Travelling Ticket Examiners on the North Western Railway and Travelling Ticket Inspectors on the East Indian Railway were abolished from the 1st June, 1931? If so, will Government please place before this House the notification declaring the abolition of the posts of the Travelling Ticket Inspectors and Examiners on the East Indian and the North Western Railways, respectively?

#### REDUCTION IN PAY OF GOVERNMENT SERVANTS.

280. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** (a) Is it a fact that the pay of a Government servant is protected against reduction by Fundamental Rule 15 made by the Secretary of State for India?

(b) Is it a fact that pay can only be reduced in cases of inefficiency, misconduct and in anticipation of the abolition of a post?

(c) Is it a fact that abolition of post, within the meanings of Fundamental Rule 15, means that the post should cease to exist any longer and should be brought under reduction?

(d) Does a change in designation constitute abolition of post for the purpose of reduction in pay?

(e) What are the essentials of the abolition of a post for the purpose of reduction in pay?

(f) Can the post of an employee, whose designation is changed and who is made to perform the same duties and in addition other duties be said to have been abolished for the purpose of reduction in pay?

(g) Is there any statutory protection against abolition of a post, and on what grounds can it be abolished?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** (a) Yes, except on the conditions mentioned in Fundamental Rule 15.

(b) Under Fundamental Rule 15 a Government servant's substantive pay can only be reduced on account of inefficiency or misbehaviour or on his written request.

(c) Fundamental Rule 15 does not refer to the abolition of a post, so the question does not arise.

(d) and (f). A change in the designation of a post usually implies the abolition of that post and the creation of a new post which may be on a lower rate of pay.

(e) If a post is abolished it ceases to exist and, therefore, no question of reducing the pay of that post arises.

(g) A post can only be abolished by a competent authority. The latter can abolish it if it is found to be no longer required or if it is found to be administratively convenient owing to a change in circumstances or the re-organisation of work to abolish it and create a new one in its place.

#### INTRODUCTION OF NEW PASS RULES ON STATE RAILWAYS.

**281. Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** (a) Is it a fact that new pass rules have recently been introduced on State Railways in India?

(b) Is it a fact that certain employees governed by the old East Indian Railway pass rules were allowed a second class pass when drawing Rs. 116 as pay, and now the standard has been raised to Rs. 126 even for the home line?

(c) Is it a fact that in this respect and in many other respects the new rules have adversely affected the privileges of the old employees?

(d) Are Government prepared to consider the desirability of allowing the old employees to retain their old privileges?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** (a) A revised scale of privilege passes over State-managed Railways has recently been authorised.

(b) Yes.

(c) The revised scales curtail privileges in some cases and extend them in others. This was unavoidable if some degree of uniformity was to be obtained.

(d) This consideration has not been overlooked.

#### AGE-LIMIT FOR RECRUITMENT IN WALTON TRAINING SCHOOL, NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

**282. Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** (a) Is it a fact that the age for recruitment in Walton Training School, North Western Railway, is 21 years?

(b) Is it a fact that the age limit for recruitment in other services is usually 25 years?

(c) Is it a fact that, due to this restriction, most of the candidates are thrown out of consideration?

(d) Are Government prepared to relax the rules and extend the age to 25 years?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** (a) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the North Western Railway Walton Training School's Calendar for 1935-36, a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

(b) If the Honourable Member will specify the services I will endeavour to reply.

(c) Government have no information.

(d) The Agents of Railways are empowered to relax or modify the rules if special circumstances or local conditions render it desirable. Government do not consider any further action is necessary.

#### **TWENTY-ONE YEARS' AGE-LIMIT FOR CERTAIN POSTS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY AND THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.**

**283. Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Will Government be pleased to state what are the various posts on North Western Railway and East Indian Railway, the age-limit for which is 21 years only?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** I presume the Honourable Member is referring to the age-limit for recruitment. If so, I would invite his attention to 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.

#### **CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THE AMOUNT OF GRATUITY CAN BE REDUCED IN RESPECT OF STATE RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.**

**284. Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the circumstances under which the amount of gratuity can be reduced in respect of State Railway employees?

(b) Is it a fact that gratuity can only be claimed if the services rendered are efficient, faithful and continuous?

(c) Is there any other factor on which the admissibility of gratuity is based?

(d) On what definite records is the opinion based that the services rendered are efficient?

(e) Who is the competent authority who can reduce the amount of gratuity?

(f) Is the Chief Operating Superintendent, East Indian Railway, delegated with powers to reduce the amount of gratuity? If so, under what notification?

(g) In case the Chief Operating Superintendent reduces the amount of gratuity, what remedy is left for the employee to get full gratuity?

(h) Does an appeal against non-payment of full gratuity lie with the Railway Board?

(i) Can an employee declared inefficient get maximum gratuity?

(j) Can an employee, getting maximum gratuity, be held inefficient?

**Mr. P. R. Rau:** (a) When the employee's service as a whole is not considered 'good, efficient and faithful'.



(b) and (c). The conditions under which employees become eligible for the grant of gratuity are laid down in rules 1 and 3 of the State Railway Gratuity Rules, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

(d) On the record of service and the opinion of persons who had opportunity of seeing his work.

(e) The Agent of the Railway.

(f) No.

(g) Does not arise.

(h) Yes.

(i) and (j). I am unable to reply to these abstract questions. If the Honourable Member gives me concrete instances I shall endeavour to give him a reply.

#### RE-APPOINTMENT OF A RAILWAY EMPLOYEE DISCHARGED ON REDUCTION OF ESTABLISHMENT.

285. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if a Railway employee who is discharged on reduction of establishment has any claim for re-appointment?

(b) Is it a fact that his name is to be kept on the waiting list and that he is to be offered the first suitable vacancy?

(c) Is it a fact that a suitable vacancy under the rules means a vacancy carrying equivalent pay?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** (a) and (b). No. In connection with the retrenchments effected on Railways during 1931-32 Government, however, issued instructions that retrenched staff should be borne on a waiting list with a view to reappointment in suitable vacancies. In this connection I would refer the Honourable Member to the Railway Department (Railway Board) letter No. 1635-E.G., dated the 30th December, 1932, a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

(c) No.

#### CERTIFICATES GRANTED TO THE STATE RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.

286. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether the certificate granted to the State Railway employees (form G/99-Revised—E.I.R.) is an authentic document in respect of the entries made therein;

(b) whether any other reason can be assigned by the administration subsequently (other than the one mentioned in the certificate); and

(c) whether it is a fact that confidential reports are not entertained by Government against the State Railway employees?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** (a) Government are informed that when this certificate is executed and signed by an officer it is an authentic document.

(b) Yes.

(c) Confidential reports may be made about any railway servant when the necessity arises.

**CENTRALISATION OF ACCOUNTING WORK BY MERGING ACCOUNTS SECTION AND PAY BILL SECTIONS OF THE DIVISIONAL SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICES WITH DIVISIONAL ACCOUNTS OFFICES.**

**287. Mr. M. S. Aney:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if the scheme of centralizing accounting work by merging Accounts Section and Pay Bill Sections of the Divisional Superintendent's Offices with Divisional Accounts Offices, as embodied in the "Memorandum by the Financial Commissioner, Railways, on the proposal to adopt as a permanent measure the system of separation of Audit from Accounts on Indian Railways," has been given effect to on the North Western Railway? If so, when?

(b) Is it a fact that some staff belonging to the Divisional Superintendents' cadre was taken over by the Accounts Department in this connection?

(c) Is it a fact that this staff has been entirely merged into the Accounts Department in respect of work, and there is no distinction in the duties entrusted to them and those of the staff borne on the cadre of the Accounts Department?

(d) Is it a fact that there is a considerable difference in the rates of pay of the two sets of the staff?

(e) Is it a fact that this staff has not yet been fitted by the Accounts Department into their cadre? If so, why?

(f) Is it a fact that some of this staff have passed certain departmental examinations of the Accounts Department but are debarred from the benefits attached to the passing of such examinations? If so, why?

**Mr. P. R. Rau:** (a) Yes. The dates varied on different divisions and the transfer was effected between October, 1929 and June, 1931.

(b) Some of the staff of the Divisional Superintendent's offices were placed under the control of the Divisional Accounts Officers.

(c) The reply to the first part is in the negative. The clerks of the Divisional Superintendents' offices are doing the same duties as they were doing under the Divisional Superintendents.

(d) There is some difference in the scale of pay of the two sets of staff.

(e) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given on the 11th March, 1935, to part (iv) of starred question No. 817 by Mr. S. K. Hosmani.

(f) It is understood that a few of these men have passed the Appendix C Examination of the Accounts Department which merely makes a clerk eligible for promotion above Class II of the Accounts scale. No other special benefits are allowed to those who qualify in this examination. Moreover, as the clerks of the Divisional Superintendents' offices have to look for further promotion on the Divisional Superintendents' lists, the question of any benefit being given to them by the Accounts Department does not arise.

**INTRODUCTION OF A COMBINED SCALE OF PAY FOR CLERKS UNDER THE CHIEF ACCOUNTS OFFICER, NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.**

**288. Mr. M. S. Aney:** (a) Is it a fact that, by amalgamating two scales of pay, a combined scale, *vis.* Rs. 40—4—80—5—90, has been introduced for clerks under the Chief Accounts Officer, North Western Railway, with effect from the 1st January, 1935?

(b) Is it a fact that the existing corresponding scale of pay for clerks under the Agent, North Western Railway is Rs. 30—3—60?

(c) Is it a fact that after reaching the maximum of this scale these clerks have to wait for years, generally from five to ten, before they can step into the next?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state the reasons for the difference in the scales of pay prevailing in the two organizations of the same Railway?

(e) Is it a fact that the clerks under the Agent, North Western Railway, represented their case in the middle of 1935 for amalgamation of their two scales, *vis.*, Rs. 30—3—60 and Rs. 68—4—80—5—95, as done in the case of clerks under the Chief Accounts Officer, North Western Railway?

(f) Will Government be pleased to state whether any action has been taken on the same so far? If not, when and what action they propose to take on the same?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** (a) Yes, by amalgamation of grade III (Rs. 40—4—80) with grade II (Rs. 60—5—90) with an efficiency bar at Rs. 80. -

(b) The lowest scale of pay for office clerks, on the North Western Railway other than those employed under the Chief Accounts Officers, is Rs. 30—3—60 (old) and Rs. 30—5—50—5/2—60 (revised).

(c) The period of the waiting depends upon the occurrence of vacancies in the higher grade which in turn depends upon the age and retirement or of casualties amongst staff in the higher grade.

(d) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given to part (e) of unstarred question No. 64 asked by Bhai Parma Nand on the 22nd February, 1935.

(e) Yes.

(f) No. Government do not consider that the amalgamation of the two scales referred to is justified. The number of posts in the higher of the two grade is sufficient for normal grade to grade promotion on the occurrence of vacancies.

#### CONTRACTS FOR THE SALE OF ICE AND AERATED WATERS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

**239. Seth Sheodass Daga:** (a) Is it a fact that on all the State Railways except on the North Western Railway, there is only one contractor for the sale of ice and aerated waters on station platforms and in running trains during hot weather, and, that there are three such contractors on the North Western Railway?

(b) Is it a fact that ice and aerated water contracts on all State Railways, except on the North Western Railway, are given for more than five years at a time and on the North Western Railway they are given only for one year?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state if they are prepared to arrange for only one contractor on the North Western Railway for the sale of ice and aerated waters in running trains and on station platforms during hot weather, such contracts being given for periods of five years at a time or as on the other railways?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** (a) No: the practice varies. Generally, station vendors are licensed to sell ice and aerated water on station platforms. On running trains the Burma, East Indian and Great Indian Peninsula Railways have one contractor, the Eastern Bengal Railway two and the North Western Railway three.

(b) No. On the Burma and Eastern Bengal Railways no period is specified. On the East Indian, Great Indian Peninsula and North Western Railways the contracts are for one year.

**INDEMNITY BONDS DUE TO ABSENCE OF THE RAILWAY RECEIPTS TAKEN FROM PERSONS WHEN GOODS OR PARCELS ARE DELIVERED.**

**290. Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** (a) Is it a fact that the Traffic Manager, Eastern Bengal Railway, has published the following in his Railway's Gazette No. 23 of 1935, dated the 30th November, 1935?

"Staff concerned are informed that when goods or parcels are delivered on indemnity bonds due to absence of the railway receipts, they must take action subsequently to recover the missing railway receipt from the consignee. If such receipts are not to hand within three days of the delivery of the consignment on indemnity bond, a definite statement in writing, stating the reasons why he cannot produce the receipt must be obtained from the consignee and submitted to the Claims Section of the Traffic Manager's office."

(b) Will Government please state:

(i) whether the indemnity bond takes the place of the railway receipt;

(ii) whether such condition prevails on the State-managed Railways; and

(iii) whether this is in contravention of the Agent's instructions published in that Railway's Gazette No. 22 of 1935, dated the 28th October, 1935 that:

"we must all remember that passengers and merchants are our customers, on whom we rely for the earnings of the Railway, and, therefore, also for our livelihood. If we do not treat them well and drive them to patronising other modes of transport, we will be the sufferers in the long run, and will have to bear the resulting burden in the form of cuts in pay and other kinds of retrenchment, including the discharge of surplus staff"?

(c) Do Government propose to take action that will not cause this additional declaration from merchants? If not, why not?

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

(b), (i). An indemnity bond is taken only when a railway receipt has been lost, mislaid or is for any other reason not forthcoming. Railways, however, consider it desirable to endeavour to secure the railway receipts wherever this is possible.

(ii) The practice on the different railways varies, but, I believe, generally, the staff have instructions to arrange to obtain railway receipts when this is practicable.

(iii) No.

(c) Government do not consider that their interference is called for in this matter. The trade interests concerned can, through their organisations, arrange to discuss the matter with the Administration.

**PASSENGER EARNINGS FIXED AT CERTAIN SUMS FOR EACH RAILWAY STATION  
ON THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.**

291. **Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** (a) Is it a fact that the Traffic Manager, Eastern Bengal Railway, has issued a notice in his Railway's Gazette No. 22 of 1935, dated the 28th October, 1935, in which it is stated:

"As a result of special checks the minimum average daily earnings from passenger traffic have been fixed for the stations given below";

"Station Masters and Crew staff including Crew Inspectors and Traffic Inspectors will be held responsible for the fall of average earnings beyond the fixed minima";

"The action taken against the defaulting station where there is a fall"?

(b) Will Government please state whether the passenger earnings are fixed at certain sums for each station? If so, how?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** (a) I am placing on the table a copy of the notice. It does not contain the last of the three extracts.

(b) Yes. The "minimum daily earnings" figure is based on the average daily earnings for the station calculated on the total passenger earnings for one year and during the period of special checks at different times throughout the year.

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*Eastern Bengal Railway Gazette.*

No. 744.

Case No. 817 C/O-Check.

*Pegging of passenger earnings at stations.*—As a result of special checks the minimum average daily earnings from passenger traffic have been fixed for the stations given below. The average daily earnings from this source for other stations will be published in the Gazette from time to time.

2. Station Masters of the stations, as soon as the earnings have been pegged will prepare a statement in triplicate showing average daily earnings from the passenger traffic and fixed figure as shown hereunder, and give their explanation for any falling-off or exceptional increase in the remark column of the statement. The block foil is to be kept at the station for record and the duplicate and triplicate copies are to be sent to the District Traffic Superintendent concerned and DTS. Crews, respectively on the 2nd day of the following month.

3. The District officer will submit to the address of Dy. Traffic Manager (Commercial) by name a statement on the 10th of each month showing the names of the stations on his district where the comparative difference in earnings is either under or over 5 per cent. together with his remarks as to the reason for fall or increase and the action taken against the defaulting station where there is a fall.

4. Station Masters and Crew staff including Crew Inspectors and Traffic Inspectors will be held responsible for the fall of average earnings beyond the fixed minima.

5. Traffic Inspectors, Special Inspectors and Crew Inspectors will check the record foils of the statements submitted by the stations to see if there was any discrepancy in working out the average earnings from the Summary of Daily Trains Cash Books and report the result of their checks.

..(Here follows a list of stations—Not printed).

**PROVISION OF GARAGES FOR OFFICERS ON THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.**

**292. Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** (a) Will Government please state whether garages are provided at the head offices at Calcutta and in the districts of the Eastern Bengal Railway for the garaging of the motor cars of the gazetted officers?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government please state whether rent is charged for the use of the garages? If so, what are the rates?

(c) If the answer to part (b) be in the negative, do Government propose to consider exploring this avenue to increase the revenues? If not, why not?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** Government have no information. Enquiries are being made from the Agent, Eastern Bengal Railway.

**VICTIMISATION OF THE MENIAL STAFF ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY FOR DOING PRIVATE BUSINESS IN THEIR OFF DUTY HOURS.**

**293. Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** (a) Is it a fact that under the Government Servants' Conduct Rules the staff are not permitted to do any business in their off duty hours?

(b) Is it also a fact that this rule has been adopted by the East Indian Railway?

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

- (i) whether the menial staff come within the purview of this rule;
- (ii) whether the menial staff are supplied with copies of the Government Servants' Conduct Rules printed in the vernacular; and
- (iii) whether the rules are explained to the menial staff?

(d) Do Government propose to take any action to prevent the victimization of the menial staff who are not made aware of all the rules and conditions that govern their employment? If not, why not?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** (a) Yes, except with the previous sanction of the Administration.

(b) Yes.

(c). (i). Yes.

(ii) and (iii). No.

(d) There was no victimization in this case. It was obvious that the peon knew that he was doing wrong as he took care to hide from the authorities in the Central Forms Store that he was an employee of the East Indian Railway and also did not inform the officers of the East Indian Railway Administration that he was serving in the Central Forms Store. The peon obtained service in the Central Forms Store under false pretence as he would not have been engaged there had it been known there that he was the servant of the East Indian Railway.

### WELFARE COMMITTEES ESTABLISHED ON STATE-MANAGED RAILWAYS.

294. **Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** (a) Will Government please state whether the following come within the scope of Welfare Committees established on State-managed Railways?

- (i) supply of wicks to Chitpore guards;
- (ii) suggestion that priority of passing the guards' examination should govern promotion to guards' posts instead of seniority on pay;
- (iii) handing over tokens to drivers by guards;
- (iv) eligibility of Booking Clerks and Ticket Collectors for promotion to Crew-in-charge;
- (v) inauguration of a temporary selection grade for 'A' class guards;
- (vi) base coins; and
- (vii) sanction for platform A. S. Ms. at Ranaghat, etc., etc.?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the negative, are Government prepared to consider taking such action that will cause proper use being made of these committees? If not, why not?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** (a) and (b). Government have no information. These are matters of detailed administration and I am sending a copy of the question to the Agent, Eastern Bengal Railway, for such action as he may consider necessary.

### BOOKING OF SPECIALLY SELECTED GUARDS BY SPECIAL TRAINS.

295. **Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** (a) Is it a fact that the President, Calcutta District Welfare Committee of the Eastern Bengal Railway, has stated at the meeting held on the 29th November, 1935, that 'specially selected guards are booked by these specials' and has referred to the Traffic Manual, Part II, Chapter XVIII, page 279, in support of his decision?

(b) Is it further a fact that the special trains referred to are the Royal or Viceregal and Inspection trains?

(c) If the answers to parts (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, will Government please state what is meant by "specially selected"?

(d) Is it a fact that the rule referred to by the President of the Calcutta District Welfare Committee makes no mention of selected or specially selected guards to work these trains?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** Government have no information. These are matters of detailed administration which must be left to the local authorities to decide and Government are not prepared to issue any instructions.

### RULES RE THE APPOINTMENT AND PROMOTION OF GUARDS ON THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

296. **Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** (a) Is it a fact that in the Eastern Bengal Railway Traffic Manual, Part II, rules have been framed regarding the appointment and promotion of guards?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government please state:

- (i) whether guards are appointed direct to either class A or class B;
- (ii) whether class B is the senior post and is better paid; and
- (iii) whether promotions from class A to class B are only made by the Traffic Manager?

(c) Is it a fact that men who have been appointed as guards class A and who have reached the maximum pay of that class have not been promoted to class B, although there are numerous vacancies in that class? If so, why?

(d) Is it also a fact that men who have been appointed as guards class B have on confirmation been retained on the minimum pay of that class and have been deprived of their increments? If so, why?

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

(b), (i). Government are informed that under the rules referred to by the Honourable Member, direct recruitment was permissible both to class A and to class B but direct recruitment to the highest class is no longer permissible.

(ii) Yes.

(iii) Yes, on the recommendation of the District Officers concerned and with the assistance of a Selection Committee.

(c) There are no vacancies in class B.

(d) No.

**PROVISION OF QUARTERS OR GRANT OF ALLOWANCES FOR THE GAZETTED OFFICERS OF THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY EMPLOYED IN THE HEAD OFFICES AT CALCUTTA.**

297. **Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** (a) Will Government please state whether the gazetted officers of the Eastern Bengal Railway employed in the head offices at Calcutta are provided with quarters, or are granted allowances in lieu of quarters, or are required to make their own arrangements?

(b) What posts carry such allowances, and what are the scales?

(c) Are those gazetted officers who live out of town and who travel by that Railway's trains to attend office permitted to do so on their duty passes? If not, what check is exercised to see that there is no abuse of the duty passes granted to them?

(d) Have any cases recently occurred where gazetted officers were noticed to have misused their duty passes to travel to office? If so, what action has been taken against them?

(e) What are the penalties for non-gazetted staff when they misuse their duty or privilege passes?

(f) Are gazetted and non-gazetted staff of Government treated alike in the matter of punishments when they breach the rules? If not, what is the reason for this discriminatory treatment?

(g) Are non-gazetted staff working in offices but residing at out-stations granted concession tickets and not the use of duty passes? If so, what is the reason for this differential treatment to the lower paid servants of the Crown?



**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** Government are informed as follows:

- (a) Quarters are provided in Calcutta for 18 officers only; the rest make their own arrangements and are given the house allowance permissible under the rules.
- (b) The 18 officers' quarters in Calcutta are allotted to various posts from time to time as found convenient and, with the exception of the Agent's house, no specific posts are permanently entitled either to the Railway quarters or to house allowances. In the cases of officers who are not provided with Railway quarters, an officer has to make his own arrangements and if the rent of the accommodation taken by him exceeds ten per cent. of his pay, an allowance is granted by the Railway equivalent to the amount by which the rent actually paid exceeds ten per cent. This allowance is subject to a maximum limit of 12½ per cent. of the officer's pay. If the officer takes furnished accommodation, he is required to pay 12½ per cent. of his pay instead of ten per cent.
- (c) and (d). I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to my reply to Dr. N. B. Khare's unstarred question No. 61 asked in this House on the 4th February, 1936.
- (e) and (f). I lay a statement on the table giving the required information. The penalties apply to officers and subordinates alike.
- (g) The non-gazetted staff are granted concession tickets and not passes for daily travel to and from office. As regards the latter part of the question I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to my reply to Dr. N. B. Khare's unstarred question No. 61 asked in this House on the 4th February, 1936.

***Penalties for irregular use or misuse and Loss of Foreign and Local Privilege Ticket Orders and Passes.***

1. In future the penalties detailed below will be enforced in all cases where a Pass or Privilege Ticket Order is misused or irregularly used or lost either over the Home Line or over Foreign Railways.

2. Exceptions can only be granted in special cases under Agent's sanction. Where an exception is to be made (other than in the case of illiterate staff) the Head of the Department concerned will obtain the sanction of the Agent. In the case of illiterate staff, Heads of Departments are vested with discretionary power to inflict such punishment as may be thought fit. A monthly statement should however be submitted to the Agent of cases where the punishment awarded is more lenient than that provided for.

3. The staff should make themselves fully conversant with the rules concerning the use of Privilege Ticket Orders and Passes, as ignorance of the Rules cannot be accepted as an explanation when an irregularity is brought to notice. In the case of illiterate staff before Passes or Privilege Ticket Orders are handed over to them, they should be made aware of the limits of the concessions and what is generally required of them.

4.

**Irregularity.**

**Penalty.**

1. Obtaining a Privilege Ticket order or pass for any one who is not a regular member of the household and not actually wholly dependent on the employee.  
First offence—full fare and penalty to be recovered and Privilege Ticket Orders or Passes to be stopped for two years. Second offence—summary dismissal.

Irregularity.	Penalty.
2. Obtaining Privilege Ticket Orders or Passes under false pretences or selling Privilege Ticket Orders or Passes.	Summary dismissal and liable to criminal prosecution under Section 420, I. P. C.
3. Travelling without authority in a higher class with a lower class ticket obtained on a Privilege Ticket Order, or with a lower class Pass, or by mail or by a train on which travelling is restricted.	Full fare and penalty to be recovered and Privilege Ticket Orders or Passes to be stopped for one year.
4. For altering or erasing dates or other entries on Privilege Ticket Orders Passes.	Full fare and penalty to be realised, stoppage of Privilege Ticket Orders or passes for one year and liable to criminal prosecution under Section 465, I. P. C.
5. Travelling on Privilege Ticket Order unexchanged for a ticket or tickets.	Full fare to be charged and Privilege Ticket Orders stopped for one year. If the journey is performed over a Foreign Railway, the full penalty will be enforced (on the matter being reported) less any penalty already enforced for the irregularity over the Foreign Railway.
6. Travelling on an expired date pass or prior to the period for which it is valid.	Full fare and penalty to be recovered and such disciplinary action as may be considered necessary by the Head of the Department concerned.
7. Travelling on Pass or Privilege Ticket not issued to the employee concerned.	Such disciplinary action as may be considered necessary by the Head of the Department concerned and liable for prosecution but the employee in whose favour such Pass or Privilege Ticket has been issued will be permanently debarred from all Pass and Privilege Ticket privileges in addition to such penalty as excess fare, etc., as may be imposed.
8. Travelling without a ticket or pass.	Full fare and penalty to be recovered.
9. Unbooked luggage on Privilege Ticket or Pass.	If not within the free allowance, freight to be realised on the whole weight.
10. Unused Passes not returned until a call has been made for them or failing to return receipts for collected passes to issuing office (Pass-holders must not therefore fail to deliver Passes at destination).	Stoppage of Passes for a period of six months.
11. The following penalties will be imposed for loss of passes.	

Nature of Pass.	Penalty.		
	Rs.	A.	P.
I. Gold pass . . . . .	Cost of replacement.		
Silver pass . . . . .	7	8	0
Nickel pass . . . . .	5	0	0
Card (season) pass—			
First class . . . . .	4	0	0
Second class . . . . .	3	0	0
Inter. class . . . . .	2	0	0
Third class . . . . .	1	0	0
II. Duty and privilege cheque pass, privilege ticket order and concession—			
First class . . . . .	3	0	0
Second class . . . . .	2	0	0
Inter. class . . . . .	1	0	0
Third class . . . . .	0	8	0

Nature of Pass.	Penalty.
	Rs. A. P.
III.—Engine pass . . . . .	2 0 0
Trolley pass . . . . .	2 0 0
Luggage pass . . . . .	2 0 0
Authority Card of T. T. E's. . . . .	2 0 0

**NOTE.**—1. A lost pass, if subsequently found, should be promptly returned to the issuing officer for cancellation. Penalty must be waived very rarely even if the pass be recovered.

2. In case of loss of receipt foil of duty cheque passes, the penalty is rupee one for superior staff and annas eight for inferior staff.

3. In case of loss of receipt foil of privilege passes, the penalty is stoppage of privilege passes for a period of six months, but this does not preclude the employees from getting school passes for their children over home and foreign lines.

4. The penalty for loss of a home line double journey pass will be as for one pass even when it covers both outward and return journeys.

5. The penalty for loss of Ad-interim card passes is the same as for card (season) passes.

12. Non-insertion of date of commencement of journey on cheque passes of all classes over the home and foreign lines :

(i) Pass holders must endorse their passes either in ink or indelible pencil or coloured pencil, before commencement of their journey, otherwise the pass will be invalid and the holder will be required to pay full fare and penalty for the entire journey covered by the pass. Ticket collecting staff must enforce the penalty or report all cases of passes not so endorsed.

(ii) Passes for illiterate staff may be endorsed by Ticket Collectors or any other Railway servant, who should give their designation in full when endorsing passes.

Inter and third class pass-holders, whether illiterate or otherwise, should be specially advised of this new rule when making over the passes to them for use. The penalty prescribed in rule (1) thereof applies equally to the illiterate staff.

13. Collection of Passes at Destination :

(1) It is incumbent on the holder of pass to deliver it up at the destination station and to obtain the Ticket Collector's receipt on the receipt foil : any omission on the part of the Ticket Collector to ask for and collect the pass and sign the receipt will not be taken as exonerating the pass-holder, who, if necessary, should report the non-collection of his pass to the Station Master and make over this pass to him, obtaining his receipt. Failure to comply with these instructions will render the employee, in whose favour the pass was issued, liable to the forfeiture of one or more of the passes for which he is eligible.

(2) This rule shall apply equally to the illiterate staff, who should be warned of their responsibility when passes are made over to them.

(3) The Ticket Collector should collect, sign and fill in all the columns of the receipt foil of the passes legibly, so as to ensure correct verification by the Chief Accounts Officer. Failure to comply with the above instructions will render the Ticket Collectors concerned liable to disciplinary action.

5. The above penalties will be enforced where applicable in the case of misuse or irregular use of concession tickets.

#### ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THE REGISTRAR, JOINT STOCK COMPANIES, DELHI.

298. **Sardar Mangal Singh:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the longest time taken by the Registrar, Joint Stock Companies, Delhi, in registering joint stock companies?

(b) Are Government aware of the fact that Company promoters are harassed by the staff of the Registrar, Joint Stock Companies, while registering companies?

(c) If so, are Government prepared to take necessary steps to remove the grievances?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** (a) The time taken for registration is dependent on the production of all necessary documents in proper form. Provided all documents submitted for registration are in order, registration is usually effected within a week.

(b) No, Sir. Government understand that every facility is given to company promoters in filing documents.

(c) Does not arise.

#### INDOOR PATIENTS TREATED AT THE VICTORIA ZENANA HOSPITAL, DELHI.

**299. Sardar Mangal Singh:** Will Government be pleased to place on the table of this House a statement showing the following details:

(a) the total number of indoor patients treated at the Victoria Zenana Hospital, Delhi, as private and as public indoor patients; and

(b) the amount of fees taken from private patients by the house surgeon during the years 1934-35-36?

**Sir Gija Shankar Bajpai:** (a) The numbers of indoor patients treated at the hospital were as follows:

	In paying ward.	In general ward.	Total.
1934 . . . . .	502	2,207	2,709
1935 . . . . .	720	2,531	3,251
1936 up to 24th February . . .	86	389	475

No patients are treated at the hospital as private patients. Those patients who wish to have a private room or cottage ward have to pay for this special accommodation, and all payments received from these patients are credited in full to the hospital funds.

(b) Nil.

#### HARDER LABOUR GIVEN TO INDIAN PRISONERS THAN THE BRITISH PRISONERS.

**300. Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon:** Will Government be pleased to state whether Indian prisoners are given harder labour than the British prisoners? If so, are Government prepared to equalize the labour in the case of both? If not, why not?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** Tasks are allotted to prisoners after due consideration on medical grounds and with due regard to the capacity character, previous mode of life and antecedents of the prisoners. The rules made no racial distinctions between prisoners. The other parts of the question, therefore, do not arise.

#### DISABILITY PENSIONS TO INDIAN SOLDIERS.

**301. Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon:** (a) Is it a fact that pensions to Indian military soldiers who were disabled in the field, foreign or military service is admissible from the date of their discharge. *vide* paragraph 84 of the Financial Regulations for the Army in India, Part I?

(b) Will Government please state whether under the Regulations for the Army in India, responsibility of allowing pensions rests with Government, and, whether no pension has been allowed to the numerous soldiers, entitled to pensions, and relatives of those who were killed in action, and died on Field Service, and died of wounds received in action or are missing? If so, why?

(c) Did not Army Instructions (India) No. 271 of 1920 provide continuation of family allotments, or an advance of at least six months' pension to the relatives of dead or missing Indian soldiers, till the final settlement of their pension claims? If so, will Government be pleased to state in how many cases advantage of these orders has been given? If not, why not? Are Government now prepared to give the benefit of these orders to the persons entitled to it?

(d) Is it not a fact that at the time of Indian soldiers' retirement or invalidment, promises were made (in the light of paragraph 84 of the Financial Regulations for the Army in India, Part I) to send their pensions at their home addresses, when settled by the pension sanctioning authority?

(e) Is it a fact that when such promises were not honoured and the pensioners applied for the same, they were allowed pensions either from the date of their first application, or from the date of their fresh Medical Boards? If so, why?

(f) Why were the soldiers, who were disabled in the field during the Great War and Waziristan Operations, 1919-1924, not allowed their pensions at the time of their invalidment and why, on their now applying for the same (after patiently waiting for such a long period), are they put before a fresh Medical Board (after the expiry of about 20 years)? Is it a fact that their disabilities are now being declared due to "Old Age" by the fresh Medical Boards and thus they are being deprived of their pensions? If the reply is in the affirmative, are Government prepared to reconsider such cases in the light of Army Regulations in force at the time of their discharge, if they are more suitable to the pensioners, and if not, why not?

(g) Why are Medical Officers instructed under paragraph 4 of Circular No. Z 945-1 (D. M. S.), dated the 24th July, 1924, from the Director, Medical Services in India, reproduced as an Annexure to India Army Order No. 939 of 1924, as under?

"4. As questions whether disabilities are attributable to military service or not are to be decided solely by medical boards it is incumbent on presidents and members of such boards to exercise their powers in these matters with due regard to the interests of the State."

(h) Is the advantage of paragraph 1077, Army Regulations, India, Volume I (1915 edition) being given to the claimants of family pension claims? If not, why not?

**Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham:** (a) to (h). Pensions are admissible from the date following that of discharge, if such discharge is accepted as being directly attributable to field, foreign or military service. There are no grounds whatever for the Honourable Member's apprehension, on which most of his enquiries seem to be based, that there are numerous ex-soldiers who are entitled to pensions under the rules, but who have not received them. In the circumstances, I do not propose to deal in detail

with these enquiries. If, however, he knows of any individual cases in which the rules appear to have been misapplied, and if he will be so good as to send them to me personally, I shall be quite prepared, as I have already told the House on many occasions, to look into them.

**RECRUITMENT TO CLERICAL ESTABLISHMENT IN THE OFFICES IN BOMBAY UNDER THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT.**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that recruitment to clerical establishment in the offices in Bombay under the Central Government, such as the Posts and Telegraphs, Income-tax, Accountant General, etc., is made from amongst the candidates belonging to the Bombay Presidency;
- (b) whether it is a fact that in the case of recruitment to the clerical establishment of the Statutory Railway Audit Offices, attached to the respective State Railways, the Auditor General has ruled that it should be made from amongst the candidates belonging to the Presidency in which the office is situated and to the areas through which the Railway runs;
- (c) if the answers to parts (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, whether they are prepared to issue necessary instructions to the Agents and the Chief Accounts Officers of the State Railways to follow the practice indicated in part (b) above in the matter of recruitment to clerical and allied establishments under their control; and
- (d) if the reply to part (c) above be in the negative, the reasons therefor?

**Mr. P. R. Rau:** (a) I understand this policy is followed in the Posts and Telegraphs Department and the Office of the Accountant General, Bombay.

(b) Recruitment in the Statutory Railway Audit Offices is made in accordance with the instructions laid down in Article 43 D of the Audit Code, Volume I.

(c) and (d). I would refer my Honourable friend to the reply given to the starred question No. 311 asked by Sardar Sant Singh on the 22nd August, 1934.

**SANCTION OF AN ADDITIONAL POST OF ASSISTANT ACCOUNTS OFFICER IN THE CHIEF ACCOUNTS OFFICE, GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that an additional permanent post (gazetted) of an Assistant Accounts Officer has been sanctioned by them in the Office of the Chief Accounts Officer, Great Indian Peninsula Railway since about June, 1935; and
- (b) if the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, the circumstances in which and the reasons for which the said post has been added to the cadre?

**Mr. P. R. Rau:** (a) Permanent post of an Assistant Accounts Officer kept in abeyance during the economy campaign was revived in July, 1935.

(b) The post had to be revived as it was found that with the depleted strength it was impossible to carry out satisfactorily the work of the office and the inspections of administrative and executive offices of the Railway.

**OFFICERS OF THE INDIAN AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS SERVICE TRANSFERRED TO THE RAILWAY ACCOUNTS SERVICE SINCE THE SEPARATION OF AUDIT FROM ACCOUNTS.**

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

- (a) the total number of officers of the Indian Audit and Accounts Service transferred to the Railway Accounts Service since the separation of Audit from Accounts on the State Railways up to March 1935;
- (b) the total number of officers directly appointed to the Railway Accounts Service since the separation scheme;
- (c) the total number of subordinates promoted to the gazetted posts in the Railway Accounts Service since separation scheme;
- (d) the total number of officers of the Indian Audit and Accounts, taken in as attached officers for training, and subsequently posted as permanent officers in the Statutory Railway Audit Offices and the period of training of each officer;
- (e) whether these officers were trained at the expense of the Railways, and if so, the total expenditure charged to the Railways up to March, 1935; and
- (f) whether both in the memorandum of the Financial Commissioner of Railways and that of the Auditor General on the scheme of separation of Audit from Accounts presented to and approved by the Railway Standing Finance Committee prior to the introduction of the scheme on the State Railways, no provision for the training of such officers at the expense of the Railways was made, and if so, whether the Standing Finance Committee which approved of the scheme was informed of the matter; if not, why not?

**Mr. P. R. Rau:** (a) 16 posts in the Indian Railway Accounts Service are reserved for officers of the Indian Audit and Accounts Service who are treated as on deputation while employed in the Railway Accounts Department.

(b) Ten including three officers directly recruited by the Auditor General for the Railway Accounts Service through the 1928 competitive examination for Indian Audit and Accounts Service.

(c) Nine.

(d) The total number of officers of Indian Audit and Accounts posted to Railway Audit Offices for training since the separation of Railway Audit from Railway Accounts to 31st March, 1935, was nine. The period of training varied according to circumstances of each case from two months to nine months.

(e) The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. The information for the second part of the question is not readily available.

(f) The expenditure in connection with such training is inconsiderable. It was not important enough to have found place in the memoranda referred to, and for the same reason specific approval of the Standing Finance Committee for it was considered unnecessary.

**EXPENDITURE ON ACCOUNT OF THE VARIOUS ACCOUNTS MACHINES INSTALLED IN THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE, DELHI.**

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

- (a) the total costs paid on account of the various accounts machines installed in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office, Delhi;
- (b) on the basis of part (a) above, the average annual expenditure thereon;
- (c) the average annual expenditure on account of hand method if resorted to in place of machine method; and
- (d) whether they are prepared to consider the reversion to hand method in view of the impending expiry of the guarantee of the machine in the said office by the end of this year?

**Mr. P. R. Rau:**(a) From 1927-28 to end of March, 1936, the total cost in connection with machines installed in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office is Rs. 5,47,947.

(b) The average annual expenditure on the above basis works up to Rs. 60,883.

(c) The installation of machines was due to their being found cheaper than human agency but as the "Clearing House" and "other than Clearing House" traffic are dealt with on entirely different methods it is difficult to give definite estimates of the cost of dealing with the same amount of traffic by the two methods.

(d) In view of the recent reduction of scales of pay the possibility of reversion to the head and hand method of apportionment of foreign traffic earnings is being investigated.

**COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION FOR CLERICAL APPOINTMENTS IN THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE.**

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

- (a) how many men were admitted to the entrance competitive examination for clerical appointments in the office of the Chief Accounts Officer, Railway Clearing Accounts Office, held by him in his office in 1935;
- (b) whether it is a fact that a sum of Rs. 5 per candidate was collected as fee therefor;
- (c) the total amount collected on that account in 1935 and 1936;
- (d) the amount paid to the officers of the said office for work done in connection with the said examination in 1935 from out of the fees collected;



- (e) the balance left and how Government propose to utilise it;
- (f) whether it is a fact that the examinations were held on Saturday and Sunday;
- (g) whether it is a fact that on Saturday, the entire staff of the General Accounts Branch and that of the Statutory Audit office were given a full holiday;
- (h) the total wages of the staff, including officers, both of the Audit and Accounts offices, borne by the Railway for that day;
- (i) whether it is a fact that in other State Railways and Government Offices only a sum of Re. 1 or Rs. 2 is charged as fee for a candidate for such examinations; and
- (j) if the reply to part (i) above be in the affirmative, the reasons for charging a fee of Rs. 5 from candidates in the case of the Railway Accounts office?

**Mr. P. B. Rau:** (a) 636 candidates were admitted in the examination held in February, 1935, and 453 in the examination held in December, 1935.

(b) Yes.

(c) The total amounts collected in the two examinations were Rs. 3,050 and Rs. 2,265, respectively. No examination has so far been held in 1936.

(d) A sum of Rs. 740-10-0 was paid to the officers selected as examiners for the February examination. For the examination held in December Examiners were selected by the Delhi University and the payment made to them amounted to Rs. 539-6-0.

(e) The entire fees collected were credited to Government as 'miscellaneous receipts' and all expenditure in connection with the examinations debited to working expenses.

(f) The examinations were not held on a Sunday. One of the days on which the second examination was held was a Saturday.

(g) Yes.

(h) The question does not arise.

(i) In State Railway Account Offices the fee was Rs. 5 in all cases. In other Departments of State Railway and in other Government Departments fees charged for recruitment examinations vary widely.

(j) The fee was fixed at Rs. 5 to ensure that all expenditure in connection with the examinations, viz., fees to examiners, printing and stationery, invigilation and other incidental charges, should be fully covered by the amount realised. The question of reduction of the fee is under examination.

#### EXAMINATION FOR RECRUITMENT TO THE CLERICAL LINE HELD IN THE TELEPHONE REVENUE ACCOUNTING OFFICE, DELHI.

**307. Sardar Sant Singh:** (a) Is it a fact that:

- (i) an examination for recruitment to the clerical line was held in the Telephone Revenue Accounting Office, Delhi, in June, 1935, which was subsequently cancelled by the Postmaster General, Punjab, and a second examination was held on 10th September, 1935; and

- (ii) one Muslim candidate, aged 27 years, was allowed to sit at both the examinations referred to in part (i) above and a Hindu candidate who was below 24 years of age at the time of the first examination, was not allowed to sit at the second examination for reasons of age?

(b) If the facts are as stated in part (a) (i) and (ii) above, will Government please state the reason for the differential treatment in the two cases cited above?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** (a), (i) and (ii). Yes.

(b) The Muslim candidate, who was a graduate, had already worked in the Telephone Revenue Accounting Office, Delhi, as a temporary clerk for over two years from September, 1932 and his work during that period was highly satisfactory. He was, therefore, allowed to appear at the examination as a special case although he had exceeded the age limit. There were no similar special features in the case of the Hindu candidate and, as his age had already exceeded 24 years and there was no prospect of his securing an appointment before he had exceeded the age limit of 25 years, he was not allowed to appear at the second examination.

#### UNHEALTHY NON-FAMILY STATIONS IN THE DERAJAT POSTAL DIVISION.

**308. Sardar Sant Singh:** (a) Are Government aware that there are a large number of unhealthy non-family stations in the Derajat Postal Division, where staff of the Post Office are required to serve without their families for a term of two years?

(b) If the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, do Government realize the hardships experienced by the staff in serving in such unhealthy and dangerous localities and on account of prolonged separation from their family members?

(c) Do Government propose to redress the grievance of postal staff of the Derajat Division?

**Mr. G. V. Bewoor:** (a) Government are aware that there are a few notoriously unhealthy stations and a certain number of healthy and unhealthy non-family stations in the Derajat Postal Division. Staff are ordinarily required to perform a term of one year's duty in the notoriously unhealthy stations and of two years' duty in the non-family stations.

(b) Yes and I may add for the Honourable Member's information that Government have sanctioned compensatory allowances or special pay in order to compensate the staff for the hardships involved.

(c) The question of the possibility of modifying the existing orders in some respects is under examination in connection with a representation received from the All-India Postal and Railway Mail Service Union.

#### AGE-LIMIT FOR RECRUITMENT TO CLERICAL LINE IN THE POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT.

**309. Sardar Sant Singh:** (a) Is it a fact that for recruitment to clerical line in the Posts and Telegraphs Department, the age-limit has been prescribed as 25 years and that the heads of Postal Circles are empowered to employ persons in special cases even up to the age of 27 years?

(b) Are Government aware that the Postmaster General, Punjab and North-West Frontier Circle, has issued a general order that no candidate exceeding the age of 24 years be allowed to appear at examinations for clerical line, irrespective of his qualifications or family claims?

(c) If the reply to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, will Government please state why the general rule as given in part (a) above has been modified by the Postmaster General, Punjab and North-West Frontier Circle, Lahore?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** (a) The fact is not exactly as stated by the Honourable Member. 25 years is ordinarily the maximum age limit to be applied at the time of actual appointment and Heads of Circles have discretionary power to appoint, only in exceptional cases, persons whose age exceeds 25 years but does not exceed 28 years. The selection of suitable and qualified candidates is, however, usually made some time before vacancies actually occur.

(b) The orders of the Postmaster-General to which the Honourable Member refers are to the effect that candidates admitted to the examination for recruitment to clerical posts should ordinarily be between the ages of 18 and 24 but that if there are exceptional cases in which the relaxation of the upper age limit appears justified they should be submitted to him for orders.

(c) Does not arise.

#### REMOVAL OF APPROVED CANDIDATES FROM WAITING LISTS BY THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, PUNJAB AND NORTH-WEST FRONTIER CIRCLE.

**310. Sardar Sant Singh:** (a) Is it a fact that in the Punjab and North-West Frontier Circle, a large number of candidates for clerical line have been waiting for employment for the last five to six years and that very recently the Postmaster General, Punjab and North-West Frontier Circle, has issued orders that all the approved candidates who have attained the age of 24 years be removed from the waiting lists irrespective of their family claims and long duration of candidature?

(b) Is the Postmaster General empowered to employ persons in the clerical line up to the age of 27 years?

(c) If the reply to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, will Government please state how far the action of the Postmaster General, Punjab, is justified and whether they propose to take steps to do justice to the approved candidates who have been removed from the waiting lists?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** (a) The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative and to the second part in the negative.

(b) Yes, but only in exceptional cases.

(c) Does not arise.

#### TOWN INSPECTOR OF POST OFFICES AND CAMP CLERKS IN POSTMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICES.

**311. Sardar Sant Singh:** (a) Is it a fact that the appointments of Town Inspectors of Post Offices and Camp Clerks to officers attached to Post and Telegraph Circle Offices, though sanctioned in the ordinary clerical time-scales of pay, carry a special allowance with them?

(b) Is it a fact that tenure of charge in the case of Town Inspectors has been limited to three years in the case of any one official?

(c) If the answers to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, will Government please state why no such limit is prescribed in the case of Camp Clerks?

(d) Will Government please state if it is a fact that Muslims have alone been Camp Clerks in Postmaster General's Offices for the last four years? If so, why?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** (a) Appointments of Town Inspectors of Post Offices in the ordinary time-scales of pay carry special pay; but camp clerks to officers in the Posts and Telegraphs Circle offices get no special pay.

(b) Yes.

(c) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (a).

(d) No. The second part does not arise.

#### SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER.

##### SIGNATURES AND THUMB IMPRESSIONS OF VILLAGERS OF THE VILLAGES OF BARWADA TAKEN ON BLANK PAPERS.

**Mr. N. V. Gadgil:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is true that the authorities are obtaining signatures and thumb-impressions from villagers of the 24 villages of Barwada on blank papers, which (villages) the Chief of Limbdi is claiming back from the British Government?

(b) Will Government please state whether the assurance given by the Government of India, that these villages will not be transferred back to Limbdi Darbar without the consent of the people concerned, holds good?

(c) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the allegations made in the issue of the 24th February, 1936, of the Gujarati daily paper *Janmabhumi* of Bombay, in which it is stated that the authorities are obtaining thumb-impressions and signatures as stated above?

(d) Have Government received any communication from the Barwada Praja Mandal, protesting against the action of the authorities concerned? If so, are Government prepared to issue necessary orders to restore confidence?

(e) Are Government prepared to obtain the consent of the people concerned by a plebiscite, supervised over by an independent judicial authority from British India?

**Sir Aubrey Metcalfe:** (a) The Government of India have no authentic information on the point.

(b) The assurance given in this House on the 30th March, 1935, holds good.

(c) Yes.

(d) Yes, the communication is being passed on to the Government of Bombay who are the authority primarily concerned.

(e) Government cannot commit themselves to any particular method at this stage.

**Mr. N. V. Gadgil:** May I ask a supplementary question? I am not asking about the method. Whatever method be adopted, will Government appoint an independent judicial authority to supervise over it?

**Sir Aubrey Metcalfe:** That would be part of the method regarding which I cannot commit Government at present.

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#### MESSAGE FROM HIS MAJESTY THE KING EMPEROR.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have received the following Message from Buckingham Palace in connection with the Message of Condolence which the House adopted the other day on the occasion of the death of His late Majesty King George V. The Message is:

(The Message was received by the Assembly standing.)

"His Imperial Majesty, The King-Emperor, commands me to inform you that He and Queen Mary have received with great appreciation the motion adopted on the 3rd February by the Indian Legislative Assembly sitting under your Presidency and forwarded through His Excellency the Viceroy, together with a copy of the official report of the speeches that were then made. His Imperial Majesty has been deeply impressed by the sentiments of His Indian subjects on this sad occasion which were so admirably reflected in the speeches of the Leaders of the Assembly. The devotion, of which The King is assured, will encourage Him in discharging the great responsibilities to which He has now been called.

(Sd.) **WIGRAM."**

28th February, 1936.

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#### THE GENERAL BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS.

##### SECOND STAGE.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Before the House proceeds to deal with the Demands for Grants, the Chair might inform Honourable Members that it understands that an arrangement has been arrived at among the leaders of different sections of the House as regards the disposal of the cut motions relating to these demands. According to that arrangement, the Congress Party will have the whole of today and Tuesday till 4 P.M. to deal with their motions relating to these demands. On Tuesday, from 4 P.M. until Wednesday, 4 P.M., the Independent Party will move their motion. The Nationalist Party would move their motion from 4 P.M. on Wednesday to 3 P.M. on Thursday. The European Group will move their motion from 3 P.M. on Thursday till 12-45 P.M. on Friday, and the unattached Members from 2-15 P.M. to 5 P.M. on Friday.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi** (Nominated Non-Official): May I point out to you in connection with this arrangement that it is not quite fair to the unattached Members. The number of unattached Members is quite large, about 20 or more. A party consisting of ten Members has got nearly a day. I

feel that you, as the protector of the rights of minorities, would see that justice is done to the unattached Members. I think it will be doing only bare justice to the unattached Members, if they get a day.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member knows that the Chair has not made these arrangements, and it understands that the arrangement was arrived at after conversation among the different Partly Leaders.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** We were not consulted.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): As regards the unattached Members, the Chair knows there is always some difficulty or other. The position of those who belong to particular groups is quite evident. They have got Leaders who can speak for the Parties.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** They are misleaders.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The difficulty arises in this way that no one can speak for the others.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Let us have our time.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The time is not allotted according to the number of Members at all. There would not be sufficient time for distribution on that basis, and, of course, it is not for the Chair to enforce any particular arrangement. It is for the House. If they don't agree, then the Chair goes on with the amendments in the order in which they appear on the paper.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** You must protect the minorities.

**Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan** (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): It has always been the practice in this House that, whenever the Party Leaders want to come to any decision of this character, they invariably consult somebody among the unattached Members and get their views. This time they have ignored the unattached Members, and, in these circumstances, we do not agree to any arrangement that they have come to behind our back.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair does not know how the arrangement was arrived at. Will the Leader of the Opposition explain?

**Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai** (Bombay Northern Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): In so far as the arrangements are concerned, it is no doubt true that it was not possible to consult the several Members in the unattached group—which is, if it can be so described, a contradiction in terms, but none the less the fact remains that in so far as the European Group and the Nationalists are concerned, the time-table as we suggested it gives them about 2½ hours each and an equal amount of time is left for the unattached Members. (*An Honourable Member:* "No, no.") It is from quarter past two to five o'clock. It is a matter of pure arithmetic, and Mr. Joshi, who is always keen on having his pound of flesh for labour, may at least recognise this, that he has had numerous opportunities already

[Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai.]

in this House and will have many more when the Finance Bill comes on, to ventilate the same grievances all over again; but, without referring to individuals in this matter, I do respectfully submit that the House should recognise the justice of the proper distribution of time and suitable arrangements in order to make the discussions have a real value, as under the present arrangements.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair does hope the House will accept the arrangement that has been referred to, but the Chair would specially impress it upon Honourable Members, who do not belong to any particular party, that they will have an opportunity also of speaking on other motions. They are not shut out from speaking on the other motions. Otherwise, it will be very difficult for this debate to be carried on, with any result.

**Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan:** Sir, one would have expected that Party Leaders, when they were submitting cut motions, would submit only a few agreed cuts on behalf of the whole Party, but here we find the list contains numbers of cuts by different members of the various Parties?

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): They do not propose, the Chair understands, to move all those motions.

**Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan:** If they wanted to act as one Party, there should have been only one cut?

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If Honourable Members, who do not belong to any group, are in agreement so far in objecting to this arrangement, why could they not suggest, by agreement among themselves, some other arrangement? (Hear, hear.)

As regards the time-limit, it has always been the practice for the House to agree to a reasonable time-limit, and, in the past, the practice has been to limit the time for the Mover to twenty minutes, for other speakers to fifteen minutes, and for the Government Member replying to twenty minutes. If that arrangement, which has really worked so well in the past, is accepted, it will perhaps facilitate the discussions of these demands.

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik** (Home Member): I suggest, Sir, that the Government Member ought to be allowed half an hour.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If the Government Member feels that he really cannot reply fully to the debate within twenty minutes, the House will, the Chair is sure, agree to allow him more time.

**Sir Abdul Halim Ghurnavi** (Dacca *cum* Mymensingh: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, fifteen minutes is not sufficient, for the simple reason that this is a budget discussion, and. . . .

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order. The Honourable Member cannot argue the matter. The practice has been going on for such a long time that this is not a matter for arguing about.

## DEMAND NO. 32—HOME DEPARTMENT.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,72,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1937, in respect of the 'Home Department'."

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,72,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1937, in respect of the 'Home Department'."

*Bureau of Public Information—the Propagandist Activities of the Home Department through the Director of Public Information especially the Publication of "India in 1933-34".*

**Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai**: Mr. President (Loud Applause). I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Home Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Sir,

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair understands the Honourable Member gave notice of this only this morning.

**Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai**: Yes, Sir, and may I ask that you will be pleased to dispense with the rule.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Very well. A similar motion, word for word, was given in the name of the Honourable Member, Mr. Satyamurti.

**Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai**: Sir, the Publicity Department of the Government of India has somewhat of a chequered history, and, if you turn your attention to the Provincial Governments, Sir, you will find that they tried the experiment, but have now given it up in favour of a much better course to which I shall presently come. But the fact remains, that, so far as the Government of India are concerned, they, from the Publicity Department point of view, have, during the last three years, been engaged in activities to which it will now be my duty to call attention on this motion. Sir, they compile this information for the purpose of preparing what is described as the "moral and material progress of the people of India" for the particular year in question; and, in addition to that, they usually, in a belated and second-hand sort of way, issue certain communiqués for public information: and, at the end of that, there is nothing that one can see in the activities of that Department, whatever may be its internal combustion. (Laughter.) So far as any outside activities are concerned, they appear to be all which appeal to the public. So far as Provincial Governments are concerned, there was a time when Provincial Governments each had their publicity departments. Financial exigencies and other considerations have swept most of them away. The survival and the success of that department of the Bombay Government



[Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai.]

is to be attributed to the fact that it has been conducted throughout by a journalist of long experience who also happens to be a barrister and has, therefore, been able to combine with his publicity work the duties of Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation, and the result has been both efficiency and economy, and, at a time when one looks for every avenue for reduction of taxation, it is no exaggeration to say that, not only the maintenance of this Department, but its augmentation and the continuous recurring expenditure involved is all very wasteful. Not only that, but it is my duty to call attention to the fact that the Standing Finance Committee, which has conducted itself, in so far as recommendations which came before it were concerned, with considerable restraint, with a great deal of moderation, and a wisdom which is unsurpassed, they still found it necessary to check at least the rake's progress so far as extravagance in this particular Department is concerned, but, disregarding all that, all the items which have been rejected still, Sir, form part of the demand under this head of the Home Department. It is easy to so organise its activity unless its purpose is something quite different to what I respectfully submit is legitimate under the Government of India Act. Under section 26 (3) of the Government of India Act, this is what is required as an obligation:

"The account shall be accompanied by a statement, prepared from detailed reports from each Province, in such form as best exhibits the moral and material progress and condition of India."

You have there, Sir, laid down the sources of information—the detailed reports from each Province—and it is a compilation which is a statutory duty for the purpose of presenting the moral and material progress of the condition of India for that particular year. In years past this used to be compiled, if dull, but at all events, in a much more straightforward and honest way. It presented the actual events of the year, the facts concerning its trade and other activities. But during the last some three years, the activities have taken an entirely different turn. It is a matter for which some justification is said to exist, but which, I hope and trust for the reasons which I shall presently give to the House, it is not possible to justify. It is said that the Government of India require publicity for their own activities. There are two answers to that particular claim. First and foremost is that on their own confession, they do not rely upon public support for their continuance (Hear, hear) or for their justification. So far as any response to public opinion is concerned, again, on their own confession, they absolutely are deaf if not dead. That is the attitude. In addition to that, I think it was admitted last year and also admitted during question time on several occasions, that there is a group of friendly newspapers always at their disposal, favoured if not supported, who carry on their propaganda in a manner which perhaps cannot be exceeded by any Government Department having to incur all the expenses which are incurred under this head. I, therefore, respectfully submit to the House that in so far as and until the Government remain what they are on their own confession, irresponsible and irresponsible to public opinion, this head of expenditure is entirely unnecessary and should be spared so far as public revenues are concerned. But, if it were merely that, if it were merely a matter of luxury and extravagance, one might have tolerated it along with numerous other larger extravagances. But when you come to its actual work for the purpose of the obligation that is imposed upon them under

section 26 (3) of the Government of India Act, they have exceeded all bounds of propriety and decency and, if they had been private individuals, from the extracts which I propose to read and comment upon, the House will agree with me, that they had committed a really indictable offence and that they would be liable to action, so far as libel is concerned and in so far as their other activities are concerned, they tell their own tale, they do not see that they do not play even the game even of an irresponsible autocrat. It is that which is more important. It is for that purpose that in recent times the department has been strengthened. In particular, I instance the moral and material progress as it is called of India in 1933-34 which has been published by the Government of India. It is necessary to call attention, in view of the section that I have read, to the prefatory note which is somewhat important and valuable:

"This report which has been prepared for presentation to Parliament is issued by the Bureau of Public Information."

Then follows a somewhat amazing and astounding statement even by an irresponsible Government:

"This is compiled and published by the Government of India under the authority and with the general approval of the Secretary of State for India, but it must not be understood that the approval either of the Secretary of State or of the Government of India extends to every particular expression of opinion."

We have only to read the two parts together. They are performing a statutory duty to inform the Parliament correctly, accurately and honestly, what has been the moral and material progress of the country during the year in question and they alone can have the temerity to say that none-the-less it is not to be understood that the approval of either the Secretary of State or of the Government of India extends to every particular expression of opinion. If it is intended to guard against criticisms, if it is intended to protect themselves or hedge themselves against any liability, I can well appreciate what they would describe as the tactics of a rag newspaper, but for the Government of India to say that they are performing a statutory duty and lest it should appear that in the performance of that duty, they have committed any dereliction of duty, to attempt to hide themselves behind the statement that is made in the prefatory note is amazing. They further go and say:

"In so far as the first chapter on politics and administration is concerned, it refers to the calendar year 1934."

So much for the manner in which self-consciousness of guilt is written large on that prefatory note. However, if it were not so, there is not the smallest reason why they should not as straightforward men take the responsibility for their own compilation which they are called upon and required by the Act to do. But they are so conscious of having exceeded their rights, of having abused their privileges and having wasted public revenues that they themselves, from the start of the report, said, "but please take notice that we do not hold ourselves responsible at all", because the expression is such as to cover almost any attack that may be made on the opinions therein expressed. For indeed it says, that it must not be understood that either the approval of the Secretary of State or of the Government of India extends to every particular expression of opinion. That language

[Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai.]

is wide enough to cover every expression of opinion. They might as well have said, "we are placing this before Parliament under a duty imposed upon us, we have expressed many things, take them as true or false, we do not hold ourselves liable to you". In other words, to whom they owe allegiance and to those to whom they owe a duty, they do not perform that duty in good faith, because their sole and absolute purpose has been to depart from that duty for entirely different purposes.

There is one more observation which is necessary at the outset. If that book is carefully read, as it has been read by some of us, it appears that it is a hybrid product. There is internal evidence in that book of differences of opinion differently expressed in different language even on the same issue itself and the reason is not far to seek. It is almost common knowledge that while a regular report is compiled, so far as the materials are concerned with a view to general expression of opinion, there is added to it as a preface the first Chapter which is intended to do no more and no less than see wicked motives into every single movement which, during the year of report, has been conducive to the progress of India, the object being, it appears that they do not understand and they cannot conceive any goodness in others because looking into themselves they cannot find it in themselves. (Hear, hear.) Not only that, it is not merely a reflection of their own mind, but it is a feeling of apprehension that the good work done by those who serve the public should be a recurrent and daily commentary on the millions of this country wasted by them for purposes alone for which if they hold themselves to be trustees of taxes collected, they ought to be performing those tasks. It is for these two reasons that the first Chapter has been written with a venom, with a poison and with a directness which is yet to be beaten even by a party Press without attributing a single honourable motive in any single good thing that has been done throughout the year.

I will call attention during the short time at my disposal to only three or four of the outstanding features of the publication, leaving it at all events, to one more speaker belonging to this side who will be able to carry forward a few more further points which remain in the book. At the very outset of this book, it begins with 'Politics and Administration' and it warns the readers that political interest in 1934 centres once more largely in the Congress. That is on page 1. After trying to give the history of the Congress and its apparent solidarity, which they do not like, but which they wish to comment upon by saying that there are difficulties within it, and I make a present of that opinion of theirs to them.—they begin at page 4 by saying:

"It was at this stage that Mr. Gandhi undertook a tour intended to further the interests of the Depressed Classes. This he had set himself to achieve by appealing to Hindus to modify certain social practices, throw open temples to untouchables and contribute to a fund for the furtherance of his programme. His intention was to visit all parts of India . . . . As the tour progressed public interest in it, which at the outset had been considerable, appeared to wane; crowds still assembled at the places he visited", etc.

After saying all this, they say.

"Resentment over the constant calls for cash and misgivings as to the manner of its expenditure, did not seem likely to operate to the real advantage of the 'Harijans' but rather to pave the way for reaction."

And, at the end, they say:

"In the circumstances, it is natural that certain observers saw in the Harijan campaign motives other than a purely altruistic desire to remove social disabilities." (*Cries of "Shame, shame."*)

All that one can say is this that nobody ought to realise better than the Leader of the House that by saying that some observers saw in the Harijan campaign motives other than a purely altruistic desire to remove disabilities, in no Court of law and in no court of conscience can he be immune from the responsibility of that statement by merely attempting to say that some people observed it. For he knows as well as I do that whether he puts it in the mouth of some or few or none, the responsibility of the publication lies upon him, and, therefore, it is no use trying to take refuge behind vague expressions of that kind. Sir, in the name of the Party to which I belong, and not only that, but in the name of any honest work in this country, we wish to repel with indignation, resentment and scorn the method in which and the manner in which they read in the great work that is being done in this country for the reorganisation and solidarity of those who belong to the Hindu faith and for the good and higher purification of the public life in general, in the eyes of some coloured observers, they say that there was no altruistic high motive, which they knew was there, or at least ought to have known of its existence if their conscience had not already been hardened, besmeared, if not dead. They could have easily seen in it the germination of one of the greatest movements of which even they, if they had undertaken it, would have been proud. Sir, Mahatma Gandhi, so far as this particular work is concerned, in the book that he published, "My Soul's Agony", has stated in very few words, but words that cannot possibly be improved upon, the object that he had in view:

"I have addressed this appeal to you, which proceeds out of my soul's agony. I ask you to share that agony and shame with me and co-operate with me, for I have no other end to serve than to see *Sanatana Dharma* revived and lived in its reality in the lives of millions who at present seem to me to deny it."

Sir, I have also the figures supplied to me by the Secretary of the Central Harijan Committee saying that that is an entirely false statement, both as to the funds and the demands for cash and also as to the misgivings as regards its expenditure. The tour in fact was marked by greater and greater success. At the end of the period of the tour there was a contribution given by pies and pice totalling no less than two lakhs of rupees. The accounts are published and audited; and it requires indeed no legal mind to be able to perceive that your comment cannot be fair if your facts are not accurate, and your comments are less than fair when you see wicked motives into a pure movement. That, Sir, is the method in which this report is prepared for the purpose of its presentation, to Parliament if you please. Parliament which is going to legislate from time to time, which is said to have the entire central power and responsibility for the progress and growth of this land. If they are doing their duty, at least on the meanest platform, they ought to have had the honesty and candour to say that India is progressing, instead of trying to whittle down, trying to lower the movement the value of which, the purity of which, the greatness of which, they could not otherwise deny. I pass on, Sir, to the next passage in that book:

"At this stage we must turn aside from discussion of Congress affairs . . ."

[Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai.]

As a matter of fact, Sir, you will find that they have done nothing of the kind, in the next sentence that I read:

".....to describe briefly the outstanding event of the first quarter of 1934 and its political reactions. On the 15th January occurred the disastrous Bihar earthquake.....and local Congressmen generally co-operated with Government throughout the first stages of providing immediate relief.....Considered in retrospect, it is legitimate to say that Congress as a whole appreciated the opportunity provided by distress over so large an area to rehabilitate their prestige, not only by a vigorous show of interest locally in Bihar, but also by publishing reports tending to minimise the activities of Government." (*Cries of "Shame, shame."*)

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order. Honourable Members should not indulge in such exclamation.

**Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai:** The nature and character of the mind that, standing in the face of such a great calamity, can make and attribute a motive of this kind exceeds at all events my powers of description. We might as well say that Government found another calamity, sometime following that earthquake, in order to rehabilitate, if they ever can, their prestige by excluding Congressmen from participation in relief at Quetta. But we certainly are not so mean as to read motives of that type. We will accept at their face value the assurance that it was in the interest of the Quetta sufferers that Government took the attitude they did, though there is evidence enough which was laid before this House in the Simla Session, pointing to the contrary, particularly the callousness to human life which resulted from that particular exclusion. But the fact remains that the whole idea of this report and the object of Government behind it is to see that those whom you cannot fight, those whom you cannot destroy, you might at least slander, standing and protecting yourself behind the supposed performance of a duty. The greater details I have no time to read but they have been all exposed in the public press. They went to the length of saying that so far as the Bihar Government was concerned, they expended Rs. 3,000 odd on administration of earthquake relief as against what they falsely alleged as a lakh and 28 thousand by the Central Bihar Relief Committee. They had soon to correct it by saying that the lakh was a mistake and 28 thousand was the actual expenditure. But they did not say what they ought to have said that in addition to the Rs. 3,000, all the officers and the whole of the machinery under them that took part in Bihar relief was paid for, paid for from the public revenues; whereas, every single co-worker in the cause of relief, whose services they have acknowledged in a later chapter, was a man who was a pure volunteer. And I am happy to be able to state that the rigorous economy which was exercised was such that I pleaded in vain for a pice worth of addition per day in order that the worker might get a little milk once in the day. Mahatma Gandhi with his austerity said: "We are here in the face of those who have lost all, and, therefore, we ought to economise to the last pie in order that every rupee that the public has voluntarily contributed and of which we are the trustees we may be in a position to save". Even in organising such relief as we have with reference to Quetta relief, we did not make it a matter of superior charity; we made it a duty of man to man. And it is on that basis that as president of the committee that we organised in the city of Bombay within less than two weeks, we got assistance amounting to a lakh of rupees for suffering men, on nothing but pure grounds of humanity, not

merely from those who threw crumbs, because they had plenty, not by way of charity of a superior and supercilious power but the assistance of the friendly hand to alleviate the sufferings of his own brethren. That is the spirit in which that particular organization has been worked, and it is a matter of sincere regret that this should be the attitude of any Government presenting, if you please, all the time under the statutory obligation a true and accurate report of the moral and material progress, and the condition, of India to Parliament. I can understand Miss Mayo's publication, I can understand many things of that kind being organised, in order to prejudice this country in a foreign land and particularly those who have legislative authority above us. But when openly and avowedly the Government of India wish to stand before this House and wish to support this kind of propaganda, all I can say is that they must have come to a very low level indeed.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has only two minutes more.

**Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai:** There is only one more point I wish to say. There are two more charges which are actually contained in the book, and I shall only call attention to them. The next charge relates to the motive behind the organisation of the All-India Village Industries Association, and the last but not the least, the successful campaign which they cannot stand day after day—the sight of us who are here as the result of the last elections. All I can say is this: that this House will mark its disapprobation of methods of this type, abuse of power and waste of public money. Sir, I move. (Applause.)

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Home Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

**Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan:** Sir, I listened with interest to the speech of the Honourable the Mover of this cut, and I wanted to know on what point really he sought the vote of this House. (Interruptions.) The only points to which he referred, as I understood him, related to the two passages which he quoted from this book and to which he took objection. The first passage was about Mahatma Gandhi's Harijan campaign, and it reads:

"In the circumstances, it is natural that certain observers saw in the Harijan campaign motives other than a purely altruistic desire to remove social disabilities."

My friend has tried to make out that it was not the case. The only thing about which this House can judge is whether there were certain persons who really believed what is embodied in this passage or not and whether the description, as given in the passage, represented the true state of affairs in the country. Nobody can doubt Mahatma Gandhi's motives and the high ideals which he carries about with him in the country, and nobody can ignore or minimise the great services which he has rendered to this country, but the point is whether the book contains a true description of what was felt and what was believed by certain people in India or not. Is it or is it not a fact that a number of people in India felt that the true motives were not as had been made out by my Honourable friend, the Mover of this cut? If my friend goes through the press comments of the time, he will find that there were really many people who

[Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan.]

attributed these motives to Mahatma Gandhi in 1933. When he started the Harijan campaign, there were numerous people in the country who believed—and still there are people who believe even today—that his motives were not such as are made out by my Honourable and learned friend. People believe that Mahatma Gandhi's motives were not based on ideals and were not simply for the social uplift of the Harijans, but they were really a political move. Even leaders like Mr. Srinivasan who had been contributing articles after articles to various newspapers—and other Harijan leaders—questioned the true motives of Mahatma Gandhi. Their point was, why Mahatma Gandhi did not start this campaign until after the Communal Award was given after his visit to the Round Table Conference? If Mahatma Gandhi's motives were really the social uplift of the Harijans, he could have started the campaign long before the Communal Award was given in favour of the Harijans. This was what was felt by many people, that Mahatma Gandhi tried to kill himself by fasting just to do away with the little advantage that the Communal Award has given to the Harijans.

Some people in Bengal are not now satisfied with the Poona Pact. They say that the Poona Pact was entered into by Mahatma Gandhi, not purely in the social interest of the Harijans, but it was a political gesture to the Harijans. If my vote is to be obtained for this motion, I must be satisfied that the condemnation which the House wants to give to this book is really deserved. (Laughter.) It is also, may I be allowed to say, another propaganda for the Congress. You can have any views you like, and one may do a thing with whatever motive one likes, but he must have the boldness and courage to come forward and say "We did it, and we are doing it for this purpose". I do not mind if the movement for the uplift of the Harijans comes from any quarter, because I have been myself a worker for the uplift of the Harijans for a very long time. (*Cries of "Hear, hear."*) I have done some little work for the relief of the Harijans, and I would welcome such relief even if it comes from purely political motives. Everybody knows that the so-called Harijans are treated worse than an animal: there are some caste people who would touch any animal, but would not touch a man born in that caste. The fact remains that there are such people who have been treated in this manner for a long time, and if anybody comes forward, even from purely political motives, to help the Harijans, I would welcome him. As an Urdu poet says:

*"Ibn-e-mariam howa karay koi  
Dukh ki meray dawa karay koi."*

which means: "whoever he may be, the son of Miriam, that is Christ, if he comes to rescue me, I will welcome him".

But, I say, we must not feel shy of admitting that there are those who still believe that the motive behind the movement is not the motive which my friend tried to make out. Another point my Honourable friend referred was the Bihar earthquake business. May I ask him, if even today, he is prepared to show this House how this money that was collected was spent? Has he got a detailed account?

**Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai:** Absolutely: four detailed audited accounts: and I was present at the last meeting.

**Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan:** That does not mean that they were published for information of the public . . . .

**Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai:** They have been published for public information: it has been published by thousands of pamphlets, thousands.

**Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan:** Who were the auditors? Probably the papers, my friend referred to, published their names; but my Honourable friend failed in his speech to name them. Now, he comes and says "thousands". I am not going to waste my fifteen minutes . . . .

**Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai:** Please do not: but do not ask such questions.

**Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan:** I would have liked very much that you gave out the list of papers in which these audited accounts were published. But he will realise that, in 1933-34, there were objections taken by a lot of people that the accounts were not fully presented and that the money was not properly handled. I remembered having read that money was spent from the fund for the propaganda work of the Congress. Whether that is true or not, there were articles published at the time saying what is said now in this book; and it was not by Englishmen, but by Indians who wrote in the papers at that time. It was challenged at that time in 1933-34 that three lakhs of rupees were to be given for *charka* by Mahatma Gandhi, and they objected to this kind of expenditure from money which had been collected for a totally different purpose. Whether that is so or not, I say that India in any year must be described impartially and that means that both sides of the question must be shown: it is not as if it should serve the Government or the Congress or any other political party: but whatever every portion of the country feels must be embodied. Babu Rajendra Prasad and the Congress came to do the work with good motives, and nobody can minimise the fact that they were very energetic and have done a great deal of uplift work; but every member of the public, who subscribes even a pie, or even those who do not subscribe at all (Laughter) is entitled to know how the money is spent, because it becomes a public question. This kind of objection was taken even at that time, and any man, who has to describe India in a particular year, must show that certain classes of people are feeling one way and certain other classes are feeling the other way. If objection was taken in the press, why should my friend feel shy that it is now embodied in this book? It shows the work done by the Congress, it also shows the criticism levelled by certain members of the public against the way the money was spent. So I see nothing in this to justify the condemnation of my Honourable friend or to do away with the whole Department. If my friend wants my vote, he must justify his motion, not in the interests of his party or any other party, but in the interests of truth. If the remarks he complains of are not true, then he will have my support. If any official of the Government embarks on a programme of maligning a particular party without any truth, then he will have my vote, if nobody else's. Unless he does that, I cannot give him my vote . . . .

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member's time is up.

**Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan:** Therefore, there is nothing more to be said, and I conclude by saying that I am sorry I cannot support this motion.



**Mr. M. Asaf Ali** (Delhi: General): Sir, I move that the question be now put.

**Sir Muhammad Yakub** (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Only after one speaker has spoken from each side.

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali**: Never mind.

**Sir Muhammad Yakub**: The debate in the House cannot be regulated on the behest of the Congress.

**Captain Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand** (Nominated Non-Official):

1 P.M. Sir, I welcome this debate specially for two reasons: firstly, it gives an opportunity to this House to place its views on an important question, like the Harijan uplift movement on record; and, secondly, the debate will show how political parties in this country are divided, and how much backing a certain party has behind it. The Honourable the Leader of the Opposition, in his very able and learned speech, has drawn pointed attention to three items: firstly, the remarks contained on page 4 of the Report under discussion wherein the conclusion arrived at is:

"In the circumstances, it is natural that certain observers saw in the Harijan campaign motives other than a purely altruistic desire to remove social disabilities."

[At this stage, Mr. President (the Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Sir Cowasji Jehangir, one of the Panel of Chairmen.] (Cheers.)

**Mr. S. Satyamurti** (Madras City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Go on: it is not for you: it is for the Chair! (Laughter.)

**Captain Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand**: Secondly, that the Standing Finance Committee had rejected this particular demand; and, thirdly, the earthquake work done by the Congress leaders in Bihar. As regards the third, I have nothing to say. I have all praise for the social and relief work that was done in Bihar, both by the Congress as well as by other parties; but, as regards the Harijan movement, I have to say, a few words. I may point out at the outset that I am one of those who welcome this move. I myself was converted to this view in regard to Harijans or the removal of the ban of untouchability long long ago when I was a college boy.

**An Honourable Member**: You are still a boy.

**Captain Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand**: I was a student in Delhi, and I then saw the noble work done by the Christian missionaries here like the Rev. Mr. Allnutt and Mr. Wright who were seen going about in the poorest of *bustees* in Delhi and doing social work there; and it was then that I got convinced about the humane nature of this work. Then, again, from 1915, for about ten years, I was practically in charge of one of the most forward District Boards of my province. My friend, Mr. Sham Lal, on the other side, will bear me out what a noble attitude our District Boards took in regard to the uplift of Harijans in our district. We placed

it on record about 20 years ago that all District Board schools should be thrown open to Harijan boys; in fact, long before the idea of removal of untouchability dawned upon the minds of our political leaders, the District Boards in our province placed it on record that depressed class boys should sit on the same floor, should live in the same boarding houses as are used by boys of the upper classes. Therefore, since 1915, in my district, the Harijan boys have been admitted to Government schools and District Board schools without any discrimination or restrictions, and all classes of boys have been living like brothers, Harijan boys enjoying all facilities with the other boys including Brahmin boys.

Then, again, Sir, I was for about ten years in charge of one of the best schools in my province, and, as an Honorary Secretary, I was managing the whole show. My friend, Mr. Sham Lal, knows this, and in our school we gave special facilities to Harijan boys, and we started this kind of uplift movement long before anybody else turned his attention to this question. (Interruptions.) I will give the whole story if you will only have some little patience. In that school, we admitted to the boarding houses boys of untouchable classes, and these boys lived in the same rooms which were occupied by boys of the upper classes; they took the same food as was served to boys of higher classes, and there was practically no distinction of any kind between Harijan boys and Brahmin boys or upper class boys. This was the same case, not only in our school, but also in the schools belonging to the most orthodox communities like the Mahajans and Agarwals, of which my friend, Mr. Sham Lal is a representative here. My point is simply this, that it was so far back as the last 25 years during the last century, that this movement was brought into prominence in the Punjab by that great leader, the founder of the Arya Samaj, i.e., Swami Dayanand Saraswati. It was the Arya Samaj that started this movement in Northern India. It was the Arya Samaj that converted people to this view, and, on account of that healthy influence there has been no prejudice of any kind in Northern India, and as Delhi is part of Northern India and of the Punjab, the movement has gained strength to the same extent here as it has done in the Punjab. Besides that, the Sikh Gurus made it clear from the beginning that there should be no distinction between the upper classes and the so-called lower classes.

**An Honourable Member:** What has this got to do with the motion before the House?

**Captain Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand:** I am coming to that. The reason why exception is taken or motives attributed to this new move is this. Northern India already stands converted to this view. There was no necessity for preaching to the people of these parts the necessity of this uplift movement, but still some people from other provinces have made Delhi their headquarters and go to villages like Narela and Bijwasen where no untouchability question exists at all and profess to preach to the people the necessity of the uplift movement.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Are we not citizens of India?

**Captain Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand:** Yes, you are, but these people from Southern India go to villages like Narela and there preach to the Jats, who are admittedly a liberal community and who make no distinction of any kind between touchables and untouchables, the necessity

[Captain Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand.]

of the uplift movement, and, afterwards, in order to get support for the Congress, they tell them what Congress leaders were doing in this line. This year, Sir, I had occasion to make a tour of Southern India in another connection, and there I saw . . .

**Mr. B. Das** (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadan): Are these personal anecdotes relevant to the subject matter we are discussing?

**Mr. Chairman** (Sir Cowasji Jehangir): The Honourable Member may continue.

**Captain Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand:** This year, in another connection, I had to go to Southern India . . .

**Mr. B. Das:** Don't come to Orissa. (Laughter.)

**Captain Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand:** . . . and there I went to some backward villages and saw the condition of the peasants and Harijans. It was simply deplorable. And, yet, what do we find? Professor Ranga from Southern India, not caring for the peasants of Madras who are steeped in ignorance, goes to Lyallpur where every peasant is better off socially and educationally than even the big Landlords of Southern India (Laughter) and gives lessons to them on uplift movement. Their simple reply to him should be "Physician, heal thyself". ("Hear, hear" from Opposition Benches.)

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Go and heal thyself!

**Another Honourable Member:** Sardar Sant Singh comes from Lyallpur and he is doing nothing there for the Harijans.

**Captain Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand:** Sikhs are already ahead of others. Sir, analogies are sometimes helpful. Only quite lately, our political leaders have hit upon this programme of doing some uplift work among the untouchables. About 15 years ago, they took it into their heads to go to the peasants and to the farmers and professed to organise them. I remember very well, and I can quote the testimony of my friend, Mr. Sham Lal, that in 1919, we held a political conference . . .

**An Honourable Member:** What about the Chamars?

**Captain Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand:** I have been asked, what about the Chamars? I challenge anybody to come with me to any of the villages round about Delhi and to show if there is any distinction between Jats, who are proprietors, and Chamars so far as touchability is concerned. They will find in all District Board schools Jat and Chamar boys sitting side by side. There is no distinction of any kind in our schools in the Delhi Province. It is only in Bengal and in Southern India from where these political leaders come that this touchability question is very acute. Therefore, there being no justification for any preaching here, people are justified in attributing motives to the agitators who go about into these villages.

Sir, I was referring to the attention that was paid to the peasants 15 years ago. About the year 1919, there was a big political conference in my district. Mahatma Gandhi and Colonel Wedgwood were advertised to be coming there. They could not come for certain reasons but the late Lala Lajpat Rai came there to address a meeting of peasants. There were about 8,000 to 10,000 persons present, all drawn from rural areas, mostly cultivators. Honourable Members will remember that the prices were then very high, agriculturists were rolling in wealth. Their wheat and cotton were going out freely and there were many markets opened for Indian produce. Cattle were being exported in large numbers from those areas, and, over and above that, tons of money was coming from the military headquarters, because this was a military area where this political conference was held. So economically speaking, these people stood to gain by those high prices, but the late Lala Lajpat Rai while addressing them, said: "You, peasants, you are all deprived of your bread. What do you see? In this land of milk and honey, in this land where there was plenty of wheat, what do we see? All your wheat is being exported to foreign countries, and you are feeding the foreigners." In that strain, he appealed to them. He said: "These foreigners are taking away from you everything."

**An Honourable Member:** Is it not true?

**Captain Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand:** The poor people did not know much of logic; they did not know that there was no logic behind all that speech, and, yet, a political appeal was made to them and what was admittedly a blessing for them was described as being a curse to them. This is the sort of exploitation that has been going on. It is in that strain that appeals are being made to Harijans by workers while going to villages. They only set up one party against another.

**Mr. Chairman** (Sir Cowasji Jehangir): The Honourable Member's time is up. The Chair will give him two minutes more and then adjourn the House. He cannot continue when the House resumes after lunch.

**Captain Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand:** Sir, the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition referred to the refusal by the Standing Finance Committee. I was a member of the Standing Finance Committee when the Opposition Party first came to that Committee. It was on the 1st February, 1935, that the first meeting was held, and, with your permission I would read how they proceeded. The first note reads as follows:

"Certain members of the Committee wish to be recorded at the outset that, although in the course of the discussions they might accept some proposals as being justifiable on administrative grounds, this should not be regarded as debarring them from opposing grants relating to the same items on other grounds in the Legislative Assembly. They wish to reserve full liberty to deal with the proposals on the floor of the House."

What does this mean? It means that they were not open to conviction in the first instance; and even if some how convinced, they would oppose the grants agreed upon in the full House. If this is the sort of attitude they take in the Standing Finance Committee, to which my Honourable friend has referred with some pride, the value of their vote loses all weight.

**Mr. Chairman** (Sir Cowasji Jehangir): The Honourable Member must conclude his speech.

**Captain Rao Bahadur Ohaudhri Lal Chand**: So, I have submitted that there are two different opinions about this Harijan work. There is a very strong section even among the Harijans themselves, who hold that there is a motive behind this movement. The workers in the movement are drawn from the Congress, and, when they go out into villages, they do not keep themselves aloof from Congress activities. Therefore, those remarks in the book are not without justification.

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

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) in the Chair.

**Mr. M. S. Aney** (Berar Representative): I rise to support the motion which has been moved by the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition. I have heard with great attention the speeches delivered by my friends, Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan and Captain Lal Chand. With all my desire to understand precisely what they have to say, I confess I have not been able to understand the points which they pressed on the House for voting against the motion. The only thing that they said was that they were not convinced by the speech made by the Leader of the Opposition. I may tell them in return that it is the only reply they will receive from the other part of the House. There was something to be convinced in the speech of the Leader of the Opposition for any one who had an open mind, but there was absolutely nothing in the speech which they made to convince this side of the House. The question which is before the House is important for this reason. What is the exact duty of the Government in regard to the matter of publicity? It is a very important question. There is no doubt a Statutory obligation upon the Government of India to publish a report regarding the moral and material progress of this country for the information of Parliament. But what we have to consider is whether that Statutory responsibility also throws upon them any obligations of giving their own impressions along with the facts which they have to bring to the notice of the Parliament for their information.

In my opinion, the first blunder which the Government of India committed was to depart from the old policy which they pursued in this matter, of giving a faithful picture in the form of statistics for the information of Parliament of all the activities of the Government of India during the year. Till that time, that was a document which was considered as a very important one and a very valuable one, which was referred to for the sake of information by all those who were interested in the study of Indian problems. It was a document that was referred to by research scholars also but since they wanted to run away from pure facts into controversial regions and enter upon the game of propaganda the report had lost all its importance. It has become a document to which even the Government of India find it impossible to subscribe and, therefore, they write a little note in the report saying that everything contained in

this document need not be taken as the opinion of the Government of India. The members of Parliament, who have thrust this duty upon the Government of India, under certain provisions of the Government of India Act, do not want to know anything which is not the opinion of the Government of India. They want to know the facts about the activities of the Government of India in any particular year and it is with the opinions of the Government of India alone that the members of Parliament are really concerned. But we find that the Government of India is not prepared to formulate its own opinions. It permits, on the other hand, somebody, who is paid by them, to ventilate his own opinions and never takes the care of making a public denial before the document is published. It never says how many of those opinions are or are not subscribed to by them. They allow a good deal of wrong and mischief to be worked up in this country and then, if somebody raises a question, either on the floor of the House or in the press or on the platform, they come out with the stereotyped explanation 'we have already clearly said that what is written there is not necessarily our opinion'. A more timid, a more cowardly and a more senseless path could not have been pursued by any Government which calls itself a responsible Government. From the very beginning, somehow or other, I have had misgivings about this department. In 1924, when I came into this House for the first time and also in 1925, I put a few questions with regard to the working of this department and also had given a cut like the one which is now under consideration today. We could not then get an opportunity of moving that cut, but, Sir, you will find that times without number every year, immediately as this report is published, for some reason or other, there are a number of questions put on the floor of the House as regards the contents and the facts mentioned therein. Whenever Government enters upon propaganda, it means that it feels the keen necessity of counteracting some kind of criticism that is levelled against it. Then, the proper course for the Government is to come out with its own facts and issue a public statement and not to take shelter under certain writers who write under a pseudonym called the Director of Public Information or something else and not take the responsibility of the contents upon themselves.

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** I am not taking shelter under that.

**Mr. M. S. Aney:** Very well, we shall hear some defence today in that case. We know in what difficulties Government have found themselves this year. A similar report regarding Bengal had been published. Certain allegations were made and Government have found out ultimately that the officer in charge of the preparation of a document like that had made statements which were completely unjustifiable and even malicious and Government had to publicly withdraw the statements. Statements were made with regard to the activities of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru . . .

**An Honourable Member:** That was in an administration report.

**Mr. M. S. Aney:** It might be, but I am merely pointing out that Government allows its publicity department to work in such a way that it brings itself into trouble, lands itself in difficulties and forces itself to go down on its knees and apologize for certain statements made. This ought to put the Government on its guard in regard to this activity hereafter. I will try to show from this report that some ungenerous and misleading

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observations have been made in this report with regard to two activities, activities which I say, not merely ought to be above all cavil and suspicion, but for which those organisations which have carried them out undoubtedly deserve due recognition and credit at the hands of the Government, namely, the earthquake activities in Bihar and the Harijan activities.

Now, if there were any two questions about which there could be no difference of opinion whatsoever in the country, these are the two questions: and when these activities were conducted and led under the inspiration and leadership of a man of such unimpeachable character as Mahatma Gandhi himself, there could not possibly be the least doubt about the motive with which they could be conducted. (Hear, hear.) But here is a Government which is prepared to suspect everybody; and, in their usual attitude of distrust, they have made observations which clearly indicate that the Government suspect certain sinister motives in the minds of those who have taken upon themselves the responsibility of doing this humanitarian work. They are not prepared to make the admission, as they ought to, that, the Indian National Congress has stepped into doing a work, after all, which has remained utterly neglected for the whole of the last one hundred and fifty years that the British have been ruling over this country. The people are blaming them and rightly so for keeping certain classes behind. But the Government of India are blaming us for the people of India keeping certain classes ignorant and primitive, but may I ask a question? The Government of India have been ruling this country for one hundred and fifty years nearly, and still the Depressed Classes are there, with all the stark wretchedness, with all the misery, with all the ostracism and with all the odium that attaches to their position in life, but, alas, this Government have done nothing, nothing for them. Nay, when some organization, which for some reason or another is not liked by them, steps boldly into the field, then, in order to cover their own sins of the past, they, instead of giving their help in all these activities, try to find fault with those engaged in these activities! (Hear, hear.) Sir, is that the way to help the poor? And, consequently, may we not ask—is it possible that the personnel of a Government which has not the generosity to recognize the good motives of those who have taken upon themselves this humanitarian work are likely to do anything in a sincere way for the uplift of the poor and the backward and the depressed? Sir, the Government suspect political motives behind everything. It is true that the Indian National Congress has been their political opponent. That is the greatest institution, Sir, that opposes this Government at every step; and it shall oppose and oppose till this Government is replaced (Hear, hear): but when this Government wants the Congress to come and join hands with them and to work constitutionally, to carry on, in a spirit of co-operation, negotiations with them and conversations with them across the floor of this House, is it too much to expect that Government will try to observe parliamentary manners not only inside this House but also outside? Already, there is a great difficulty about that inside the House; we are preached sermons, and we are abused, and we have to tell them that this is not parliamentary, and there is not much improvement yet in that direction: how, then, Sir, can you expect us to believe any propaganda of the Government as genuine and sincere when the motives of men like Mahatma Gandhi even are openly questioned by them? I believe this is not the way to create that spirit in which a real spirit of co-operation

can come into existence. What pains me or rather confounds me, Sir, is the utter incompatibility of this attitude with the loud "profession" of the Government, the repeated calls made by them for the sake of securing our co-operation, and the frequent references in the speeches of responsible officers to invoke the assistance of the people. But all these look to me to be not at all actuated by any genuine spirit, when I find activities like the Harijan activities of the Indian National Congress and the "humanitarian" activities of the Congress for the relief of those who suffered in the two devastating earthquakes are openly questioned as being political rather than altruistic in documents which are published in the name of the Government of India. I only want to tell them, Sir, that there is a proverb in our vernacular which says that those who spit at the sun get their own faces ultimately besmeared. So they will see that men like Mahatma Gandhi cannot be ridiculed but those who ridicule him will themselves be ridiculed by the whole world (Hear, hear). Sir, Mahatma Gandhi is above all their mean and base criticism, because he has got nothing to gain, he has got no axe to grind, as they have. The Government of India certainly hope to gain something to save their reputation in the world by ridiculing those who oppose them. Sir, there is a Sanscrit proverb which I may quote in this connection. Somebody asked me why do you attach so much importance to this little and insignificant observations and I told him that my reason for supporting the motion is given in the famous couplet of poet Kilidas :

*"Na keralam yo mahatopabhaskate*

*Shrunoti tasmadapi yah sa papbhak."*

"He who reproaches a great man is not himself the only sinner in this world, but he who is compelled to hear him has also to share the sins with him." (Hear, hear.)

Sir, we do not want to share those sins, and that is the reason why we say that the sin must remain on their head, and their head alone, they alone must suffer, and, if necessary, must pay the penalty for it,—and not we. With these words, I support the motion. (Loud Applause.)

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** Sir, a good deal of indignation has been vented both by the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition and by my Honourable friend, who has just spoken, on the note that appears on the title-page of this book, to the effect that:

"It must not be understood that the approval either of the Secretary of State or of the Government of India extends to every particular expression of opinion."

Now, Sir, that is a purely conventional statement, and, to the best of my belief, it has appeared in every single edition of this work since it began to be issued. I venture to think that some such qualification is, from the necessities of the case, required in the case of any publication of this character which is written very shortly after the events which it recounts have taken place, which is necessarily based very largely on contemporary newspaper comments on those events, and which may have to be corrected later on, as all history written contemporaneously with the events has to be corrected, on a retrospect perhaps conducted a few years later. But I must say I was rather amused when my Honourable friend, the Leader of the Opposition, expressed his great



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indignation and his great contempt for anyone who could put such a note at the beginning of a publication—contempt as he put it for one who sheltered himself behind such a cowardly qualification—because, my Honourable friend may not be aware that an almost exactly similar note appeared, only the other day, in a Congress publication that has come to my notice. I have here a copy of the title-page of "Congress Golden Jubilee Brochure No. 5" on the Public Debt of India, by Mr. J. C. Kumarappa, published by the All-India Congress Committee, Swaraj Bhawan, Allahabad, and this note appears over the signature of the General Secretary of the Congress, Mr. Kirpalani:

"The Congress as an organization",

—it says—

"may be said to be in general agreement with the conclusions of the different authors of this brochure, although it may not be possible for it to subscribe to every detail that has been written." (Hear, hear.)

Now, does that differ very much from the note prefixed to "India in 1933-34"? (Laughter.) It does not seem to me to differ very materially. It goes on:

"There may be minor points of difference here and there for which the publishers or the Congress as an organization can take no responsibility."

Now, I ask, is that so very different, is the sense of that so very different, from the foreword behind which we are accused of sheltering ourselves? (Hear, hear.)

Now, Sir, in the first place, I want to make it quite clear that I do not intend to shelter myself under that at all. I stand here prepared to take full responsibility for what has been published. But I do want to make one point clear, and that is that though this motion has taken the form of a cut under the Department of Public Information—I am not complaining of that in the least, I know that it is the proper place,—but I want to make it quite clear that no one in the Department of Public Information, either the present Director or any of his assistants, had anything whatever to do with this report. The responsibility is mine, and it clearly is not theirs. I want all Honourable Members to realise that, and I want to make it perfectly clear that, if they consider that there is any personal bias or any unfairness in anything that has been said, the blame does not lie with the present Director or any of his staff. Their duties in connection with this work were purely mechanical.

Sir, my Honourable friend has raised a good many points, and he began, as he was entitled to do under the very wide wording of the cut motion, by criticising the work of the Department of Information Bureau as a whole. He spent only a few minutes on that topic and, if I am not mistaken he based most of his remarks on an article which appeared in a Calcutta Newspaper, *Capital*, the other day. In fact, if I am not mistaken, he quoted the actual words of that article which was reproduced in several of the Delhi newspapers. I saw the article at the time, and I must say it struck me as a particularly badly informed article. That is a newspaper which, however eminent in its own sphere, has no

correspondent at the headquarters of the Government of India and is not in close touch with the activities of the Government and, as a matter of fact, it was completely wrong on one or two points of fact. One of these mistakes my Honourable friend himself repeated, namely that Local Governments have now practically given up Publicity Departments under the strain of financial stress. That is not correct.

**An Honourable Member:** They ought to give up.

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** Perhaps they ought to, but as a matter of fact, I think I am right in saying, they have done the exact opposite; publicity organizations now exist in more Provinces than they ever did before.

That, however, is only by the way. The main point of the Honourable Member's attack was on certain remarks made in this book regarding, first, Mahatma Gandhi's Harijan campaign, and, secondly, the Bihar earthquake. I must necessarily confine myself to these two main points.

But, before I go into details of these two points, I should like to say that I find myself in entire agreement with Honourable Members opposite in their dislike of this report. No one dislikes the task of having to prepare this report more than the Government of India. It is, however, a statutory obligation which is forced on them by section 26(3) of the Government of India Act.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Only report on the moral and material progress; not this propaganda.

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** I am speaking of the entire report. I am very glad to say that that statutory obligation disappears under the new Act. So I hope this is the last report but one. No one, as I say, dislikes it more than the Government of India. It imposes a considerable amount of labour on all the Departments of the Government of India, as each has to furnish its special material and the result is a patch-work or a piece of work which must of necessity be rather ill-balanced and lacking in that unity which should underlie any book, even a Government publication. Now, I must say that I am rather surprised at the consternation and alarm which have been created by this particular report or rather by the first Chapter of it. I must say it does appear to me that we, like everyone else, have the natural right, how shall I put it, to say "boo to a goose", and I do not see why we should be deprived of that right. I am sometimes a little amazed at the indignation that is generated among the Congress Party, whenever anybody has the temerity to put forward the theory that there can be any other point of view than their own. Well, Sir, it seems to me that on every question of human interest in this world, there is more than one point of view. I have never known of a question on which everybody is agreed. But I would ask Honourable Members opposite to remember that we stand up here as the targets for a good deal of criticism, not always very good-natured criticism, and, on the whole, I think we submit to it with a fairly good grace. We do not squeal when we are hit, but as I say, we do claim our natural right to say "boo to a goose". I have read this report again since this motion was tabled, of course it was tabled a long time ago in the form of a motion for adjournment, but that was not

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moved. My own criticism of the report would be, that in his endeavour to retain a strictly impersonal character, the writer has produced a somewhat colourless, and, I may say, a dull account of what happened. There is really no expression, I do not think you can find a single expression of his personal views throughout the report if you read it attentively and impartially. It certainly gives a very great measure of prominence to the activities of the political party whose representatives sit opposite me. Indeed my own criticism of Chapter I would be that it is too much the history of Congress activities and not enough the history of India.

**Mr. F. E. James** (Madras: European): That ought to please them.

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** As my Honourable friend says, it ought to please them, and may I say that, when the report first appeared, it did please them. May I refer for a moment to a very appreciative review of this report which came out in a strong pro-Congress organ, the *Tribune* of Lahore, as long ago as the 24th January, 1936. Really I almost blushed when I read the encomium. It says:

"Indeed, making allowance for the inevitable fact that the point of view from which these activities are reviewed is that of antipathy and not sympathy, the fulness and vigour with which they are dealt with could not easily have been surpassed by any Congress chronicler."

That is a review from one of your own papers.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** It is not a Congress paper.

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** The article goes on:

"The writer does make an attempt to preserve a fair measure of impartiality."

The review then goes on to discuss the split in the ranks of the Congress party on the question of Communal Award, and it further says:

"But barring this one statement, the picture given in the report is substantially correct."

The review further goes on:

"One can see the same shrewd insight into Congress politics in the writer's statement of the reasons which led Mahatma Gandhi to issue his famous statement on September 17, 1934, in which, he indicated his intention to retire from the Congress after the plenary session at Bombay in October."

Then, finally, we get a pat on the back:

"On one thing, however, we can unreservedly congratulate the writer. We do not remember any previous occasion when the views of the Indian Press were quoted so largely in an official report as in the present case.....The present report undoubtedly marks a whole-some departure from this [i.e., the past] unhealthy practice and precedent."

Now, coming from a Congress paper, I think the House will admit that that is a fairly appreciative review, and it was not till  
 3 P.M. the Members of this Assembly rolled up in their scores at Delhi looking for subjects on which to castigate Government that it occurred to anyone to pick out this report as a subject for attack.

Before I come to the precise points on which complaint has been made, let me just say this, that it does seem to me a little unfair to pick out an isolated sentence here and there and to condemn on that a long book of 200 pages, and still more unfair that having picked out an isolated sentence of that sort you should misquote it. The indignation of the press was largely worked up by a very serious misquotation of the sentence dealing with the Harijan campaign. It left out the words, "In the circumstances, it is natural that certain observers saw in the campaign"; it simply said that "the harijan campaign was actuated by motives other than a purely altruistic desire to remove social disabilities". In three newspapers, which I saw, that was the way in which the sentence was quoted as if it had been a positive statement of Government. That, Sir, if I may respectfully submit, is not a fair method of controversy. Government made no positive statement at all. I want to be perfectly clear on this, that I myself, and I think I can speak for Government as a whole, have not the slightest desire to throw any doubt, whatever, on the purity and entirely altruistic character of Mahatma Gandhi's motives. No body who is familiar with the social and other disabilities under which these unfortunate people suffer can help sympathising with any effort for their uplift; and the greater the man who starts that effort, the stronger must be our admiration. I hope my attitude and the attitude of Government in relation to that is perfectly clear, that we have not the slightest intention of casting any reflection on those motives. And I submit, Sir, that no reader of this book can honestly assert that there is the slightest aspersion in anything which is said there. The book says, and I submit, that it is justified in saying it, that "certain observers saw that there were other than purely altruistic motives". I do not know if the House wants me to justify that statement: I have ample material here, I have a number of press cuttings in which that opinion was expressed. I have made it perfectly clear that I am not in sympathy with them,—I hope I have made that clear; but I have no desire to inflict on the House anything that might cause pain to admirers of Mahatma Gandhi. The House can take it from me,—and I can assure them that they ought to take it from me,—that there is ample material before me here,—10 or 12 press cuttings, letters, leading articles, and so on,—in which this view was expressed. And not from one type of paper alone but from several types of papers. I will not weary the House by reading these papers . . . .

**Pandit Krishna Kant Malaviya** (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Are they from the "friendly press"?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik**: No, from every type of press, from Congress papers, from Sanatanist papers and even from Muslim papers. But, I take it, the House is ready to accept my statement that we had justification for what we said; and let me repeat that we said nothing more than that this type of opinion did exist and that it expressed itself in public. That is all that we said, and if we are to be condemned on that, I say we are being condemned for something for which we had complete justification. That type of opinion did exist and we merely stated that it did exist.

Now, I pass from that, Sir, to the other main section of the speech of my Honourable friend, the Leader of the Opposition, which dealt with

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certain remarks on the Bihar earthquake. The particular passages to which he referred were two and they both occur at page 5 of the book. He took exception to the statement that:

"There were criticisms that Government proposals, particularly with regard to financial assistance, were callous; outside Bihar sections of the pro-Congress press and nationalist politicians, who soon began to arrive in the earthquake area, endeavoured to exploit the effects of the earthquake for political ends."

As regards that, here again I do not want to weary the House with long quotations or extracts from newspapers, but there is one point to which I must refer, and that is that a series of statements were issued by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who visited Bihar twice, once about a week after the earthquake, and the second time, a few days later. He issued certain statements which I have here and which I do not want to quote, reflecting on the conduct of the local officials and the Local Government, and implying that they were lethargic and slow in getting to work. Those statements of his were contradicted in a statement published by a large number of local leaders a few days after his visit. It was published in the newspapers of the 7th February, *i.e.*, about a month after the earthquake. It was to this effect:

"In view of the opinion expressed in certain quarters that the local authorities of North Bihar failed in their duty, in giving relief to the distressed and the afflicted and also in getting into immediate touch with the outside world, we consider it our duty to correct the error underlying that view. . . . Considering the difficulties with which they were confronted . . . it is remarkable that the local officers, from the Commissioner down to the ordinary constables, continued to perform their duties and discharge their responsibilities in a manner which ought to evoke the admiration and gratitude of all of us. The signatories of this statement have no hesitation in declaring that considering the suddenness and intensity of the disaster no undue delay was made by the authorities either in getting into immediate touch with the headquarters at Patna or in giving prompt relief to those who needed it. We regret, that at a time when the whole province was suffering from the disastrous effects of a colossal cataclysm, a view should have been expressed which is not warranted by the facts and which may possibly hamper the good work which is smoothly being carried on with the fullest co-operation of officials and non-officials."

That was signed by a number of prominent people in Bihar, including Sir Sultan Ahmed, Mr. Sachchidananda Sinha, and various others, and, I think, there is no doubt that that did reflect the genuine feeling of the province and the widespread regret that statements of this nature should have been made. So much for that point.

The second sentence to which the Honourable Member, the Leader of the Opposition, objected, was the one at the bottom of page 5, which says:

"But of the desire for effective co-operation with the Local Government in its task of organizing relief measures there were few signs, and information as to the disbursement of the Congress relief fund of Rs. 24 lakhs was difficult to obtain."

Now, I submit that this book makes it perfectly clear that at the outset, that is immediately after the earthquake took place, there was every sign of co-operation between the Congress relief workers and the Government. That is explicitly stated both in the first chapter and later on at pages 67-8, where a long extract is given from the report of Mr. Brett, the Relief Commissioner in Bihar, and it is perfectly clear to any careful reader that this sentence, of which complaint is made, did not relate to the first few weeks after the earthquake, when co-operation was complete and effective. But I am afraid that this attitude was not maintained

throughout the year with which the report deals, i.e., the year 1934. When the first necessities of the victims of the earthquake had been relieved, it was obviously necessary for those administering the Congress fund, which amounted to a very large sum of money, to draw up a concerted and well thought out programme of relief, and, I understand, that it was with that object that Mahatma Gandhi visited Bihar on the 11th of March. As the result of his visit, a large and influential Committee was appointed to administer the fund, and a resolution was passed advocating "respectful co-operation" with Government—that was carried, I believe, inspite of some opposition. Then Mr. Gandhi himself advised the Committee to adopt a certain programme which he put forward. The principal items in that programme were, first of all, advances for house building, either of a permanent or temporary character, and secondly, the clearance of sand. There were a number of others, but those were the leading two, and obviously the most important. Those were the ways in which relief was most urgently needed after the first necessities of the victims had been relieved, that is to say, by the distribution of blankets, food, shelter and so on. But shortly after that visit, the Committee themselves passed a resolution to the effect that the first two items, namely house-building and the clearance of sand, were beyond their capacity except by way of detailed investigation, that they were too big problems for them to undertake and that they had no agency to undertake them. I am not criticising that decision, but it had this unfortunate result, that for the next few months, i.e., after the first two months after the earthquake, from say March till pretty nearly the end of the year, the Congress organization was able to do very little in the way of practical relief. That is apparent from their own reports and from the comparatively small amount that was spent out of their funds. I am not saying that they did not in a great many ways do useful work.

**An Honourable Member:** The Honourable Member has already spoken for 30 minutes.

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** They did useful work during the floods, they did a good deal to improve water supplies that were damaged by the earthquake; but that was only sufficient to absorb a comparatively small amount of the very large funds collected. Indeed, by the end of the year, i.e., a year after the earthquake, more than half the fund was still unspent. I think it is apparent for anybody who had seen and studied the correspondence between the Local Government and the Congress Relief Committee that the President of that Committee—Babu Rajendra Prasad, the Congress President, was himself uneasy as to the situation . . . .

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has already spoken for 30 minutes.

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** I am very nearly at the end. Perhaps the House will bear with me for a few minutes. I think it is clear that he himself was uneasy about the working of the Congress organization, because he himself approached Government and made an offer to hand over Rs. 10 lakhs to Government to be used for house-building advances through Government agency. The exact plan he drew up was a little complicated and Government, though they welcomed this offer, wanted to make some modifications in the plan and suggested three

[Sir Henry Craik.]

alternative methods by which they could make use of this sum usefully. He acknowledged that offer, and I understand—though I have no inside-knowledge—that he put it before his Committee. He clearly was keen on it himself and thought it the best way in which the funds could be spent, but, unfortunately, his Committee turned it down. Thus, we did get the unfortunate result that there was in the main a lack of co-ordination between the Congress and Government, with this further unfortunate result that a year after the earthquake more than half the Congress fund was still unspent. Here again, the justification for what is said in the report must be admitted, and here again, I must ask the House to take it from me that I have here a large number of extracts from papers, mostly from Bihar papers in which the absence of information as to the way in which the Congress funds were spent formed the subject of some fairly caustic criticism. Here, again, I do not wish to weary the House with reading all these reports, but they must take it from me that it is a fact that these criticisms were made. And that justifies what is said in this report, namely, that the publication of information as to the spending of the Congress funds was seriously delayed. I would only mention one article that appeared in the *Madras Mail* at the beginning of 1935—that was just after the first statement of expenditure had been published, but, even then, it only related to the first three quarters of 1934. As the Leader of the Opposition has said, there has since been published a large number of pamphlets in which full details of the expenditure have been given. But all we commented on and all that is contained in the report is that there was considerable delay about the publication. I am not saying that the delay might not have been justified, and I have no doubt that the accounts were difficult and complicated, but it is true that there was delay and we have said nothing more.

I have no time in which to deal with the other points of criticism. There were many not made on the floor of this House, but which have been made in various newspapers. I think I have said enough to show that nothing in this report was prompted by malice, that there is no attempt at propaganda, that the writer formed his opinions on an appreciation—and, I submit, I have shown it was a correct appreciation—of contemporary comments of the events which he described. In those circumstances, I think that I have justified what was said, and I think I have said enough to show that this is no case in which a censure should be passed on the department.

(Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai rose to speak.)

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Does the Honourable Member want to reply?

**Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai:** I do not wish to reply, but I want to make a short statement in view of what I have heard, with your permission. I have here all the reports of the Bihar Central Relief Committee and the complete accounts: the first of them is for the period ending the 30th June, 1934, and published as early as it was possible to do having regard to the nature of the work on which they were engaged, and I ask leave that they should be placed on the table†. There is one remark more I wish to say . . . .

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†The copies of the reports were placed in the Library of the House.

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** I have seen them.

**Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai:** If you have seen them, I wish you had mentioned that. I wish to say this: that irrespective of any difference of opinion as to the inferences to be drawn, I notice in the language of my Honourable friend, Sir Henry Craik, a consciousness that there may be a considerable amount of unconscious injustice done in the use of some expression, whereas all that was intended was that there was some dissenting note. And having regard to the expressions that he has used with reference to those who led both these movements, I do not think it would be graceful on my part to press this motion to a division.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Does the Honourable Member want the leave of the Assembly to withdraw his motion?

**Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai:** I merely said, Sir, that I will not press it to a division. If you wish to put the motion, you may.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is "That the demand under the head 'Home Department' be reduced by Rs. 100." The motion was negatived.

#### DEMAND NO. 31—FOREIGN AND POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Sir James Grigg—Demand No. 31.

(The Honourable Sir James Grigg not being in his seat.)

**Mr. K. Sanjiva Row** (Government of India: Nominated Official): May I have your permission, Sir, to move the demand on behalf of the Honourable the Finance Member?

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable the Finance Member should move it himself.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** What are we doing now, Sir? We cannot wait for the Finance Member.

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** Sir, I must apologise for not being in my place, but I expected the crisis would take place at 4 o'clock and not at 3-30 . . .

**Mr. M. S. Aney:** Another case of under-estimation! (Laughter.)

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** Sir, I beg to move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,09,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1937, in respect of the 'Foreign and Political Department'."

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,09,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1937, in respect of the 'Foreign and Political Department'."



*Perilous Nature of the Forward Policy pursued by the Government of India.*

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** Sir, I move the following:

"That the demand under the head 'Foreign and Political Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The hesitation with which the Government has moved this demand indicates that they themselves feel that it is an unconscionable demand. It is a rather difficult subject which I have to tackle today in connection with my motion, for the simple reason that the Government in the plenitude of their exclusive wisdom generally draw a veil of secrecy across the frontier and seldom let us have a peep into affairs as they go on behind this curtain, and that puts us in a rather difficult position to have an accurate idea of things. But, at the same time, there are certain events which cannot escape notice. In so far as the foreign policy of the Government is concerned, one thing is beyond doubt, and it is that it is never dictated by India's interests. It is dictated by Imperial interests: in fact, it was admitted the other day by the Honourable the Foreign Secretary that he himself had scarcely any discretion in the matter of either formulating or guiding the foreign policy of our country. He had only to carry out the behests of the British Government. Now, it is rather unfortunate that the external affairs of India should not be the exclusive concern of our own country, that our external affairs should be the concern of another country, whose interests are in certain respects, in fact in many respects, so far from being identical with ours, are really in violent conflict with our interests. The Imperial interests of England have naturally committed England to very heavy responsibilities all over the world. There was a time when England's foreign policy with particular reference to India was influenced very largely by fear of Russia. At another time, it was influenced by England's view of German ambitions. There was another time, Sir, when French ambitions, in certain quarters, influenced England's foreign policy with respect to India, and today we find that all those old dangers have disappeared, but a new danger has appeared, namely, Japan's economic invasion of markets within British influence, particularly India. Now, that is a matter which can only be solved when India develops her own industries and when India can stem the tide of Japanese competition,—it may or may not be, a matter in which England may take interest later on, but India has got vital interests of her own. However, Sir, as I was trying to show, the foreign policy of India has been responsible lately for extending India's invisible frontiers to somewhere beyond India's natural frontiers. We find that India's invisible and political or rather foreign frontier, if I may put it that way, has now been extended almost to the other side of Suez. I should not be surprised, as it was pointed out by a friend among the European Group the other day, to me, if it was considered to be Massawa. For all we know this invisible frontier line passes through Aden, Muskat, Koweit, Bahrein and so on, it goes further and further up and then it comes down again in a curve and it encircles Baluchistan, and then we find it proceeding along the Durand line and between the Durand line and the natural frontier of India, we find the Independent territory. Then it goes upwards. And quite recently, Sir, we find that the Government have found it necessary,—I do not know whether it is the Indian Government or the British Government, but the Government have found it necessary to take over what was known as the Gilgit agency,

and by taking over this area, they have really brought the Russian frontier right down to our own frontier, or to put it the other way about, they have pushed the Indian frontier forward to the confines of the Russian frontier. Contact, Sir, as we know, really means war; because all self-conscious nations have drawn round themselves a ring of fire. If you do not wish to have a conflagration in your own country, then keep out of these contacts. Let others have the contact. Let friendly powers be between you and those who are your real rivals. However, that is the position as far as the Gilgit agency is concerned. By taking over the Gilgit agency, they have not merely made the Russian and Indian frontiers co-terminus, but they have also made the Chinese, the Russian and Indian frontiers co-terminus with the result that if there is a conflict tomorrow between Russia and China in Sinkiang, India will find herself drawn into the conflict quite unnecessarily. And it does not stop there. We find that the Indian frontier goes further north, and passing somewhere below Tibet, it goes on to what I may call the Chinese frontier in the East of Burma through the Shan States. It is like framing the picture of India with a huge big border which is full of explosive ingredients. This is what I call the forward policy . . . . .

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar** (Law Member): Sir, may I rise to a point of order. I got a notice from my friend, Mr. Satyamurti, in which he said that the motion to be moved was to reduce this grant to Rupee 1. I had no idea that the present motion was substituted.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair understood that the real intention was to discuss the policy of the Political Department and not to refuse supplies, which would mean expressing disapproval of the entire Department.

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar**: Then, the question will arise whether a cut motion is the proper thing to do.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It is a token motion:

"That the demand under the head 'Foreign and Political Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar**: I am only thinking of your ruling, Sir, or rather a previous ruling of the Chair. I did not consider this, because I was given notice at 11-25 A.M. today that something else would be moved.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member will find that has been the practice for a long time, and more than once it was pointed out that instead of giving all sorts of cuts in order to raise particular questions of policy, there ought to be one uniform convention by which the token cut will be a reduction by Rs. 100. That would indicate to the House and to the Chair as to what was intended was to discuss the question of policy of a particular Department.

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar**: I do not object to it, but I am drawing your attention to pages 83 and 84 of Part II of Decisions from the Chair.

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** If the Honourable the Leader of the House thinks that I should move for the refusal of supplies, I have not the least hesitation to do so, I see no difficulty. You have had ample notice of what I proposed to do, and if I confine myself to something smaller, I don't see why there should be a grouse . . . .

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** I am not talking of any grouse, but this notice was given to me at 11-25. And, what is more, I got an official letter from Mr. Satyamurti in which it was stated that something else was intended to be moved.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Sir, as my name has been mentioned, I should like to say this. At page 27 of the printed agenda, which contains the final list of cut motions, you will see the same point is mentioned, to discuss the exact perilous nature of the forward policy pursued by the Government of India. The only change has been, instead of giving them one rupee, we give them the whole grant *minus* Rs. 100, I think he should be thankful to us.

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** I am quite aware that the object of both the motions is the same. One relates to refusal of supplies which was intended to be moved, and now the Mover has moved a cut motion. I am labouring under no misapprehension. May I draw your attention to page 84, Sir? This is what is stated here:

"All motions for practical elimination of the whole Demand will be entertained only on the ground that the Honourable Member wishes to refuse supplies because he does not approve of the whole policy underlying that Demand."

Then, again, if you turn to the third paragraph, on the same page, you will see it is stated:

"The third form is to move a cut motion for a nominal figure in order to ventilate a specific grievance. Honourable Members are entitled to fix that nominal or token cut at such figure as they like, but having regard to the ruling which I have given today, and in order to facilitate the arrangement of priority for such motions it would be desirable if Honourable Members adopted a uniform figure of cut, say Rs. 100. In that case they would be able to ventilate a specific grievance."

Now, it is not a specific grievance that the Honourable Member is discussing. He is discussing the whole frontier policy. If I am not mistaken, when my friend, Mr. Desai, was speaking on his motion, the Standing Order was suspended, but I had no notice that the same thing was done in this case also, nor was anything said that the Standing Order was being suspended, but there is no point of substance unless there is a difference in the matter to be discussed under one motion or another. If that is not so, I make no point about my getting the notice at 11-25, and so on.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair does not think anything else was intended. The idea was to discuss the policy of a particular Department under a cut motion. The Honourable Member, Mr. Asaf Ali, can have five minutes more.

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** Mr. President, I am very sorry that the Leader of the House thought it necessary to raise this point of order rather late in the day and interrupted me while I was going on with my arguments. However,

I was just saying that the pursuit of this forward policy by the Government has created a perilous state of affairs, because of penetration into this no-man's land, as I may call it, which lies between the natural frontiers of India and the frontiers of other countries—the penetration into this no-man's land in various ways leads to conflicts of all kinds, leads to commitments of all kinds, and leaves behind it a legacy of bitterness in those areas which may at any given time flare up into a terrible conflagration, may be at a critical time. The effects of this policy, in so far as the actual demand is concerned, are reflected in the rise of expenditure, not merely incurred on the Foreign and Political Department, but on what I may call the connected services, namely, the Watch and Ward, and the Defence Services, and I shall just try to indicate the excess which has occurred in these departments. Take, for instance, the Watch and Ward Department. We find that the difference between the expenditure incurred in 1935-36 and that proposed to be spent in 1936-37, is something like Rs. 8,16,000. Government now propose to spend Rs. 8,16,000 more on the Watch and Ward than they were prepared to do in 1935-36. Again, on Defence Services, they are certainly going to spend a great deal more this time than they did, we shall say, in 1933-34. This time it is Rs. 45.45 crores, and we must add to that 2 crores lost on strategic railways. Take, for instance, the Foreign and Political Department itself. The excess over the expenditure of 1933-34 is something like Rs. 1,60,000. This indicates that the work of the Foreign and Political Department has increased since 1933-34. In what respects has that increased? It has increased simply because the Government are pursuing a policy of greater and greater commitments from day to day. As I have said before, for instance, taking this Gilgit Agency, they have entered into commitments of a very grave nature, and I should not be surprised if the Additional Secretary, the temporary Joint Secretary, and all the other paraphernalia that they have now added to the Department are due to that. It may not be due to that; my Honourable friend, Sir Aubrey Metcalfe, says it is not due to that. Well, probably, he will be able to explain how these appointments have come to be made in the Department.

Sir, it is really the foreign policy of a country which dictates the defence plans of the country. If you are on friendly terms with your neighbours, you do not pile up armaments, but if you happen to be in a state of precarious relationship with your neighbours, naturally you think of piling up armaments upon armaments, and that is what has been happening in India for years and years and years, resulting in draining away the treasures and blood of the country. In all other countries we find that in peace times the army is kept on a peace establishment basis, but what do we find in India? Has India ever had any peace establishment basis at all? In India the army has always been kept on a war establishment basis. And why is it so? Simply because the foreign policy pursued is ruinous to the country, because it is not conceived in the interests of the country; it is conceived in Imperial interests.

The originating centre of India's foreign policy is Great Britain. They talk very glibly of collective security there. There was a time when they believed in the balance of power, secret treaties and pacts. Today they are talking of collective security. I respectfully submit that there can be no collective security without collective sacrifice. If the nations of this earth, if the powers of this earth, are not prepared to make collective sacrifices, they ought not to look forward to any collective security, but even taking them at their word, what does that collective security mean? That means

[Mr. M. Asaf Ali.]

the collective security of the possessions of aggressive powers throughout the world. It really means the security of their possessions, the security of their colonies, the security of their dependencies. It means an easy method of obtaining markets and obtaining countries from where they can draw raw materials. This is what they really mean by collective security. They do not mean the collective security of humanity. This collective security to which they refer is the fool's paradise—behind which I find a hell of distractive elements, destructive factors, which may one day probably bring about the ruin of the whole civilised world itself. It is in that centre that the foreign policy of India is being conceived, in their own interests, and not in the interests of India.

It has been proved time and again that the policy which the Indian Government have pursued with regard to the North-West Frontier is an intolerable burden on the taxpayer. It has also proved irksome and irritating to those brave and hardy tribesmen whose courage and whose love of independence cannot be denied and who must always be respected and are really respected as first class fighting soldiers. They love their independence and they prize it more than their lives. If you drive wedges into their territory, it naturally irritates them and that brings you into conflict with them. Why do the Government pursue this policy? An uncharitable critic might be prepared to say, it is only just to keep the armies in fighting trim. But that is not all. It is possible for the armies to keep themselves in good trim also by seeking all sorts of pretexts to find occasions to come into conflict with these tribes. Let us now cast a glance at the history of the operations on these frontiers. I may here just say a word about the ebb and flow of various policies during the last fifty years. There was a time when there was the forward policy, then there was the half forward policy. Then there was the close border policy, then hit and retire policy, all these are various phases of the one activity which the Government of India have pursued in that place, namely, seeking some opportunity or another to extend the natural frontier of India into the nomad's land.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair has already allowed the Honourable Member five minutes more.

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** I am bringing my speech to a close. I was just saying that if we cast a glance at the operations of the Government on the North-West Frontier, we find that every time they have followed this forward policy it has meant ruination, it has meant destruction. Sir, I think it was on the 5th March, 1923, that Sir Denys Bray, the predecessor of Sir Aubrey Metcalfe made a statement of the Government's policy with regard to the Frontier. He definitely stated then that the Government were committed to a forward policy. Only he explained that the forward policy, to which the Government were committed, was one of civilising these uncivilised people. I leave it to the Honourable Member who represents the Frontier Province to justify the statement or contradict it, as the case may be but that is what Sir Denys Bray said at the time. That policy has not been varied since then. The first circular road meant the quartering of troops in Waziristan. The second attempt meant the quartering of troops in the Mohmand territory and the proposed road which they are thinking of now may mean perhaps the revival of the bombing, bribing and browbeating of

these poor people again. That is a ruinous policy and all we can do in this House, helpless as we are, is to enter an emphatic protest against this policy by accepting the motion which I have moved.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Foreign and Political Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

**Maulana Shaukat Ali** (Cities of the United Provinces: Muhamminadan Urban): Sir, I will not take very long in supporting this cut. I know nothing about other frontiers of India, but I know a little bit of the North-West Frontier, with which we are all familiar. I have been in touch with some of the brave tribes who live across the border, and I have been in touch with the present Government of Afghanistan, and I have come to this conclusion that, if Government insist on trying to civilise these people, browbeat these people and intimidate them and make them as weak as we are and emasculate them, then there is nothing else but a tremendous lot of trouble for which they alone will be responsible. And I wish to tell them this, that if they start to do what they did with Mohmands last year, when they forcibly built these roads, and if they want to deprive these brave people of their freedom and country, then the whole of the Frontier tribes, including Afghanistan, which is now strong and capable of taking care of its cousins, will be up for a tremendous fight. As a God-fearing Muslim, I will tell you that no God-fearing Muslim in India, soldier or civilian, who thinks of his eternal salvation, will be able to give any help to the British, if they keep up this policy. I want to tell them that, in all conscience, India is big enough and ought to be sufficient for them. Your natural frontier is the Indus. Stick to that. If the people of the five frontier districts—Peshawar, Abbottabad, and Dera Ismail Khan and other districts, want to be part of India, they are quite welcome, but I do know that no independent tribe likes to be under the British control. They like to have their money. Crores of Indian money have been given to them as bribes. The expenditure on this account has been enormous. I know the Khans have been paid to act as agents. There is no question or doubt about it. When I was last in the Frontier, I was in that Khajri plain and I saw the Afridis there, and the Afridi women in their winter quarters. When the Tirah, their country home, gets very cold and it is snowing there, they bring their families and their cattle to this huge plain which has been their winter quarters for centuries. I saw the Gurkha and British troops in camp there, and when the Afridi women were going about for grazing their cattle, 10 or 12 sturdy Afridis waited near by, looked after them and saw that they were not insulted by anybody. Those Afridis put their case before me and I could see clearly, that, when they saw an Army Camp on a football ground for the British and the Gurkhas, they flared up and they were very indignant. If you want to build up in that part a civilisation in future, then please go about it in the right way, and do not rub them up the wrong way. If England wants to spend English money there, she may do what she likes, but we Indians have no quarrel with them. We do not want one inch of their lands, that is not ours. If Afghanistan wants to attack our brethren in the Frontier province,—an idea which Afghanistan and its brave people resent and deny indignantly—and wants to attack India proper, it will be the duty of every Muslim, who calls India his home, to go and fight against his own Muslim brethren in defence of his country,—India, but it will be the greatest misfortune, if, in the name of India, these brave people are robbed

[Maulana Shaukat Ali.]

of their hearths and homes and, as far as I am concerned, I will declare that I will become an outlaw again and fight and die for my brethren there. I am a peace maker. People may laugh at it but I am. I must warn my English friends and my friend, the Foreign Secretary, for whom I have personal regard, that India is big enough and the British Empire is still bigger. You have got Canada, Australia and other places where millions of acres of land are lying fallow. Why do you go and trouble these people across the Frontier? In the last Great War, Arab lands and Turkish lands were involved. I do not want to bring in Palestine. I will have a talk privately with my friend, the Foreign Secretary, and tell him what Mussalmans feel about Palestine. I know there will be tremendous trouble one day on account of bringing in Jews from Russia and Eastern Europe . . .

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair would ask the Honourable Member to confine himself to the motion before the House.

**Maulana Shaukat Ali:** Very well, Sir, but I will say this. We will beg this Government on our knees and ask them not to hanker after a few thousand barren acres across the Indian Frontier. At one time, British people were casting eyes on Afghanistan. They failed miserably. Afghanistan has now a strong and powerful Government, thank God, and they can take care of themselves. If Russia wants to attack India, Afghanistan is strong enough to stop Russia and the 350 millions of people in India must be strong enough to defend their own country. If this Government does not listen to us, then, certainly, I shall censure them and do my best to see that they fail in this forward policy which will be very injurious to the country and also very bad for the British Empire.

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham** (Secretary, Defence Department): If I intervene in this debate for a few minutes, it is because the Army is <sup>4 P.M.</sup> directly interested in the Frontier, and also because the Honourable the Mover and the Honourable Member who followed him both referred to the doings of the army in that part of the world. It may also be of use to the House if I place before them certain facts and figures as a background for this debate to show the way in which we, in the Army, look at this particular problem. All these facts and figures are contained in a pamphlet that we issued a few years ago and which, I am afraid, has not been read nearly as much as it ought to be, but I will, if the House permits, quote a few extracts from that pamphlet. I do not think it is a question of any desire on our part to expand our territory, as the last Honourable Member seemed to think: it is a question of giving protection and security to the inhabitants of British India. Now, Sir, this is what the pamphlet says:

"Between what is known as the 'administrative' border and the true frontier of the North-west of India, that is the Durand line, there lies a belt of tribal territory roughly one thousand miles in length (*I think that is possibly an exaggeration*), and inhabited by a population who, from time immemorial, have pursued 'the good old rule, the simple plan, that those should take who have the power, and those should keep who can'."

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** That is the British rule, isn't it?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham:**

"Every grown man is a potential warrior: their combined fighting strength may be put at nearly half a million; and, they possess between them, at least 250,000 rifles, most of which are modern weapons of precision. The man behind the gun is probably as good a marksman as is to be found in any part of the world (*Hear, hear*); and the character of the country is such as to lend itself admirably to the guerilla warfare in which its inhabitants excel. The arid and rocky nature of the soil precludes the possibility of earning a livelihood from the pursuits of peace; and for centuries these men have looked upon their more wealthy, but less virile, neighbours in the plains of India as their legitimate prey."

That, Sir, is the main point. Then, so far as the army is concerned we are accused of spending enormous sums of money (unnecessarily no doubt), but the facts, so far as the North-West Frontier is concerned, are as follows, and this is again a quotation from the pamphlet:

"Against a menace of this character and extent is constantly opposed a force of about 42,000 regular troops. In addition there are the irregular formations—the various bodies of lightly-equipped and mobile Scouts and Levies—to whom a reference has already been made. The strength of these latter forces may be put at about 15,000 men; but, valuable as their work undoubtedly is, their training and organization impose obvious limitations on their utility; and it is on the regular armed forces that the ultimate responsibility for the peace of the Frontier must lie. That the menace is not an unreal one is proved by the fact that in the last 70 years there have been no less than 26 major campaigns on the Frontier, not to mention innumerable raids and small punitive expeditions."

And, now, this is the most important point of all:

"It is interesting to note in this context that the average cost of operations on the Frontier under the close-border policy from 1895 to 1919 was in the neighbourhood of Rs. 50 lakhs a year. The Third Afghan war and the occupation of Waziristan from 1919 to 1924 cost nearly Rs. 11 crores a year. Since 1924, under the present policy of civilization and the quartering of troops in tribal areas, combined with the existence of the air arm, the expenditure on operations up to April, 1934, had fallen to Rs. 12½ lakhs a year." (*Hear, hear.*)

**An Honourable Member:** What about the back to the Indus policy?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham:** Well, Sir, Honourable Members are continually complaining that the Defence Budget is too high, and that we ought to reduce it, but Honourable Members, I do suggest, sometimes forget, that, however much it may cost to maintain an army, it costs a great deal more to use it. Honourable Members seem to think that the only possible way of reducing your army expenditure is to reduce the numbers of the army; but I suggest to them that there is another and a better method of reducing defence expenditure and that is to try and create such conditions, especially on the frontier, as will make it less necessary to use the army than it has been in the past. Surely, Sir, it is better to spend lakhs, quite a large number of lakhs, on building roads for the purposes of peace and civilization than to spend crores, and quite a large number of crores, on fighting people and dealing out death and destruction. That, Sir, is all I have to say on this motion.

**Dr. Khan Sahib** (North-West Frontier Province: General): Sir, I rise to support this motion and to submit to the House certain points specifically economical,—because you will all agree with me that the representatives of the moneylenders from England never do anything unless they can get gold out of it; and anything they touch is for this purpose alone, namely, to have money out of it. Now, if you examine this forward



[Dr. Khan Sahib.]

policy outwardly, you will see that there is no money. The Shylock cannot scent gold in the rocky and arid mountains of the Afridis or Waziris. Then, what is it which induces them to carry on this forward policy? Sir, you will note that after establishing the Razmak cantonment, as you call it, or a big place on which they have spent crores and crores of rupees, have they decreased any of the other bodies which are the causes of this expense? I think my Honourable friend from Karachi calls it "Watch and Ward"? It is for these things that they want to carry on the forward policy: they want to go there, and then create bodies, from which to draw money for this purpose. Sir, I shall mention to you only a few of these bodies: the Kurram militia, the South Waziristan Scouts, the Zhob militia, the Chitral and Gilgit Scouts, and so on, and these bodies are officered only by Europeans. No Indian is yet fit to be an officer of such a body, and the pay of a Lieutenant, that is, the most junior officer, you will be surprised to know, is Rs. 1,200, *actual pay*, and, on the top of it, he receives from Rs. 300 to 400 as allowances. Now, these are the real reasons which force them to carry on this forward policy; otherwise they cannot create bodies like that. Now, we Pathans on our side call this expense, "the mountain's account", the account of the dark hills. Nobody can ask them for this account and they are responsible to none. We have, as the Honourable Members know, time after time asked this Government to show us how they spend the money, but still we hear nothing. They say they want to protect us. (Laughter.) The Honourable Member who represents the army read out something as regards the policy but he did not give us a single point showing when the Afridis ever came and attempted to take India. When, I ask, did they ever come down on us, without provocation? As regards these little raids on the frontier which he mentioned, these are committed by people who have run away into the tribal territory and are outlaws, and they come back with the consent of the police and loot the people. There is no raid by the Afridis into India. Otherwise, let them give me an instance.

**Sir Aubrey Metcalfe** (Foreign Secretary): What about 1930?

**Dr. Khan Sahib:** Because the Government were responsible for that. My Honourable friend has referred to the Peshawar firing, and I must clear that point. In the Peshawar firing, 250 innocent people were killed including some Afridis. That brought the Afridis down with a view to protecting the innocent. The Afridis are a very peaceful and honest people, and they only do certain things on provocation.

The other day, I mentioned about the Rs. 5 tax which the Government have imposed on those poor people. They put in three applications, one to the Deputy Commissioner, Kohat, who is the Political Officer, another to the Governor of the Frontier and one was sent to the Viceroy. Nobody takes any notice. The Government say they are living in those rugged mountains with nothing to feed upon. Yet, when these poor people cut a little firewood and bring it down, a tax is levied on them. Saying is one thing and doing is another with the Government. They have no sympathy. They have got only one purpose and that is, drinking other people's blood. The Government embarked upon the last Mohmand expedition with the intention of making a new road. They spent 12 lakhs over that. What is the advantage to India? We have lost 12 lakhs of money and many soldiers on our side lost their lives. On the other side

also we have killed our brethren. Everything must be judged by the result and the net profit gained. The net profit is that many innocent people lost their lives and a lot of money was wasted, and I do not know whether 50 per cent. of the money did not go into the pockets of these fortune hunters. They want to build another road from Landi Kotal to Lachi. I think there was a *jirga*, and I do not know whether this is going on even now. I think the Governor spoke to them and the Foreign Secretary also was there at the time. Then the Afridis, those section of them who are under the Government influence, have put in application which I will read out to the House:

"We, the Afridis, have listened to Your Excellency's speech very carefully: we have considered it and are very thankful to you for your keeping always in mind the improvement of our conditions. Your Excellency has further stated that on account of the last few incidents the British Government have no faith left in our goodwill and that is why the Afridis are expelled from the Army. Your Excellency says that if we regain your confidence and establish satisfactory relations with your Government, your Government will agree to enlist us again in the army. For establishing good relations you put forward a plan that a road should be constructed in Thera. To begin with, your Excellency proposes the following step, that in this winter a road should be constructed from Ali Masjid to Chura Khandawo; with the following conditions. We accept this:

(1) This will be our national road, no army or police will be allowed on the road without the consent of the Afridis. During war time the road will be free for the use of troops. This arrangement shall have no effect on our present allowance.

(2) No land revenue or water tax should be levied.

(3) On the construction of this road, the Government will have no right to interfere with the internal affairs of the Afridis. No road should be constructed beyond the Chura Khandawo without the consent of the tribe through whose territories the road passes.

(4) The contract for the construction should be given to the Afridis only and nobody else.

(5) On establishing good relations we hope the Government will consider and help in the improvement of our condition."

I am sure, Sir, you see the difficulties in this road. The people who have signed the application are not really the representatives of all the tribes of Thera, because some of the Afridi tribes do not come down at all. They have nothing to do with this Government, but they may be influenced by these tribes who are under the thumb of the Government. So, by making a road like that, I do not know how much it will cost. I assure the House that no Afridi will permit a road into Thera unless his life is taken first. As you know, last time, when I was speaking in this House I brought to your notice the application which they had sent to this House. I wonder why Government want to go to other people's country, and spend money on it. The Government are always alluding to the Russian bogey. Now, Sir, you know, as soon as the Bolsheviks came to power, the first letter which Lenin wrote to Amanullah Khan was that the Afghan territory in the hands of Russia will be returned and that the Russians would also financially help Afghanistan too.

**Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney** (Nominated Non-Official): Question.

**Dr. Khan Sahib:** I think my Honourable friend ought to read the manifesto of Lenin and Redek in which they described how the freedom of Persia was in jeopardy owing to the tyranny of the Czar on the one side and the tyranny of the British Government on the other, and how the two powers divided their spheres of influence in Persia between them.

[Dr. Khan Sahib.]

Practically, when the Bolsheviks came into power, they set free Persia. So you see who is guilty. The Bolsheviks have come to help the poor and to release people from their tyranny. On the frontier all these things are happening because of the Political Department. The Pathans are a humorous people. They understand the intrigues of the Political Department well. When they want to tell a man that he is not telling the truth they tell him, "Oh, you are a political man". The Pathans have got a very keen sense of understanding. I will read to you some opinions of a great Englishman which correspond with that of the Pathans. In his journal at page 158, General Gordon says:

"I must say I hate our diplomatists. I think with few exceptions they are arrant humbugs and I expect they know. I include the Colvin class."

In another place of the same journal, he writes:

"We are an honest nation,"

—and I agree with him,—

"but our diplomatists are Conies and not officially honest."

Again, I agree with him too.

**Captain Sardar Sher Muhammad Khan** (Nominated Non-Official): He was a soldier and not a politician.

**Dr. Khan Sahib:** I like soldiers, and not politicians. So, Sir, I think I have made it clear to the House that this forward policy has got something else in view. Even the aeroplanes which fly there or the motor cars,—all these are for economic purposes. India loses everything and it all goes to the foreign countries. So, in forward policy, there is no gain for us. Apart from this money, we are always losing and will lose, still further, more lives. Let us protect from this Government the lives of our young people, which at least we can to a certain extent do.

**Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur** (South Madras: Muhammadan): Sir, in supporting this motion, I have to invite the attention of Government to the saying of one Persian philosopher who says:

*"Kar-e khud kun kar-e baigana makun  
Har zameen-e digaran khana makun."*

"You had better mind your own business: do not make inroads into the dominions of others, literally means that don't you put up any buildings on other's land."

(Interruption from Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan.)

If my Honourable friend, Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan, thinks my translation is not correct, let him come forward and challenge me. What is the use of whispering?

Sir, let me now come to the point. Last year, when a sum of 25 lakhs of rupees was set apart for putting up roads into the tribal area, it was urged by the Finance Member that there was a request made by the tribes to the effect that roads should be constructed in their land. That statement was refuted by my Honourable friend, Dr. Khan Sahib, then and there. He showed letters to the contrary duly signed by the Afridis

and sent over here. But even then the road was put up, and what was the result? As has been pointed out to the House, so many lives were lost and so much money was spent for nothing. This policy, as was pointed out by my Honourable friend, the Army Secretary, is said to be a civilising policy. This kind of civilisation is not at all relished, nor do the Afridis want this civilisation for even a single moment. Why do you force this civilisation upon them when they do not want it? And if you are so keen on this kind of civilising influence being brought about there, why do you not tolerate the same thing in the case of Italy who wants to civilise Abyssinia and is tyrannising there? This very Government has been applying the sanctions; therefore, there is no meaning in saying in one breath that the forward policy is intended to protect them, and, in another breath, that this is with a view to civilising them. We know what kind of civilisation they mean. Sir, intoxicating drinks and other concomitants are not at all wanted in the tribal area; they hate all these things from the bottom of their heart. I have visited these borders; I have gone as far as the Durand line, Kohat, etc. I have also seen the roads constructed by the Britishers; they are of no use either to us or to the Afghans. This year, again, they propose to construct additional roads for nothing. Then, there are agents of the British Government, many of whom are Muslims, who come over here and do propaganda in favour of the construction of roads saying that thereby so many Afridis will become bread-winners. They would rather like to starve than have roads of this kind which are calculated to encroach upon their liberty. Again, our Honourable friend, the Defence Secretary, said that the tribal people have got a force of 2½ lakhs. Where have they got this huge force from, and how is it that he proposes to have only 42,000 men, i.e., one-sixth of that number, to protect 850 millions? Sir, we, on our part, cannot be a party to this thing. So far as we are concerned, we have lost our freedom and are living here the life of slaves; we do not want to see them also losing their freedom. This kind of inroad into tribal area is calculated to bring about disorder and create unnecessary wars, etc. Therefore, I heartily support the motion.

**Major Nawab Ahmad Nawas Khan** (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, nearly all the speakers on that side of the House have tried to prove that the so-called forward policy of the Government of India is neither in the interest of India nor of the Frontier tribes, and that it is very expensive and is simply a waste of Indian money.

**Several Honourable Members:** Also Indian lives.

**Major Nawab Ahmad Nawas Khan:** That criticism is not correct and true. So far as my own personal knowledge and experience of the Foreign Office in India as well as in England go, I think, whatever steps the Government of India take in connection with the frontiers, in each and every question the foremost consideration is the safety and safeguarding of the interests of the Indian Empire. It is well-known that India is the brightest jewel in the Crown of England (*Cries of "Oh" and Laughter*)...

**An Honourable Member:** You are the brightest jewel!

**Mr. Sri Prakasa** (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan-Rural): You are the Kohinoor!

**Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan:** . . . and that England, without India, cannot remain a first class power. (*Cries of "Hear, hear."*) Therefore, naturally and logically, it is impossible for England that in all imperial and other important questions, as Mr. Asaf Ali has said, the question of Indian interests should not arise. In each and every such question, the interest and safety of India is considered first.

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** . . . and particularly Tank.

**Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan:** It is a question of opinion. Some people have always a mentality of looking at the actions of Government with doubt and on one side. No reasons can convince them.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** But we have to pay for them.

**Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan:** Sir, it was at the request of the people of the Settled Districts that Government made Razmak a cantonment in order to save them from the raids of the tribal people. The Hindus, the Muhammadans and the Sikhs of the Settled Districts of the North-West Frontier Province and the Hindus of Bannu sent applications to the then Chief Commissioner, Sir John Maffey, praying for stopping the raids, dacoities and kidnapping and the rescue of those persons who were kidnapped. The Chief Commissioner pressed the matter, but the Political Department in the Agencies complained that the people of the Settled Districts encouraged kidnapping by paying large ransom. The authorities informed the people that they should not pay ransom and should have no connection with the tribes and that the authorities would bring back those kidnapped. Naturally, in those days, kidnapping was greater among the rich Hindus than among the poor Muslims. The people whose relatives were kidnapped waited patiently. In the meantime, the kidnappers killed one out of the several kidnapped persons and sent his head to the relatives with a message that, if such and such a sum as ransom was not paid, similar treatment would be meted out to the others. They then went to the Deputy Commissioner, showed the head of the murdered person and asked how long they were to wait for the orders of Government. They said that if Government could not save them, they could not wait till every man kidnapped had been beheaded. The Chief Commissioner then issued a very strong circular letter to all the Political Agents and the Deputy Commissioners. There is an official circular letter which I can show to Honourable Members, and they will be quite convinced that it was a very strong letter,—can I ask my friend, Dr. Khan Sahib, and every other supporter of the cut motion, if they can show a stronger letter than this from a Chief Commissioner to all European Political Agents and the Deputy Commissioners of the North-West Frontier Province? He enquired why the districts were being looted, why these raids were taking place, and why, when the districts were a part of British India, the people should be treated in such a brutal way, specially when there were military cantonments in each district of the province. What for is the King's army then, and, why, if people were kidnapped in this manner, the Government should exist? The result was that the raids were stopped and kidnapping ceased as a consequence of this new policy which the Honourable Members criticise. You need not take this as a gospel truth from me: but you can ask your own men, the Hindus, the Muhammadans and the Sikhs.

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** It is not a Mussalman question: it is an Indian question we are talking about.

**Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan:** On account of pressure from people who said that if Government could not stop these raids properly, then they should leave this country and give it to Afghanistan or any other king who could manage it properly, that this policy of making Razmak a big cantonment was started by the Government. The Honourable Sir Muhammad Shafi, who was a Member of the Executive Council of the Government of India then, and Sir William Vincent, had toured in the North-West Frontier Province and actually discussed this matter on the spot with the people of the locality, and then this policy was started. This forward policy was not, as some Honourable Members and people think, for the greed or aggrandisement of the country. It is a barren country it does not pay the Government, it is a burden to them, but it is only for the protection and safety of the people of Settled Districts that the Government went there in the tribal territory, opened the country and established a cantonment. Now, the tribal people are so much benefited by this policy that they will not allow the Government to leave the cantonment.

**Mr. M. A. Jinnah** (Bombay City: Muhammadan Urban): Would you allow me to ask a question? When was this policy started and when will it end?

**Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan:** It was started at our request when we were very much troubled . . . .

**Mr. M. A. Jinnah:** What year?

**Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan:** It was during the Great War: 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918.

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** It was started in 1895, and it has gone on since then.

**Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan:** What I was saying I meant that Razmak was started as a cantonment . . . .

**Mr. M. A. Jinnah:** When will it end?

**Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan:** It will be ended when there is no necessity for it. (Laughter.)

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta).]

The people of the Frontier, I mean the tribes, when asked as to why they commit these raids, dacoities and kidnapping, said that their country was too barren and that they had no means of living at all. Now, roads have been opened, and these people are allowed to bring whatever they produce into our markets. They are more rich and civilised, they are better off, and no raids and kidnapping take place. If Government were to tell them that they were leaving the country, they would say "For God's sake, do not do so, we will starve then or start the same old game". They

[Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan.]

have now various means of livelihood, as contracts, daily labour, trade, service, etc., and now they are good drivers of motor cars, and they are making their living. In addition to this, the Government, for providing some employment to the tribes, have started a sort of militia and frontier constabulary, and the tribal people do earn money there as *khassadars*. It is a very useful humane policy on the part of Government. If you remove all such sources of employment from the tribes, they will revolt and like to kill all the Members of the Legislature who oppose such a useful forward policy which saves them from hunger, starvation and death. I ask all the Muslim Members of this Legislature, is there any remedy, if the Government, to stop all these raids and activities on this side, build a wall on our side, and the Afghanistan Government, on the other side, build a wall on their side, and then, between these two walls, how the tribes are to live? Sir, as for the expense of such a forward policy, the Defence Secretary has told us what a large amount was spent when we had a close border policy and had not penetrated the tribal country and now what a small amount is spent since we become tyrannical and oppressive as is alleged . . . .

**Mr. Deputy President** (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The Honourable Member's time is up.

**Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan:** One or two minutes more, Sir. The other side of this House has not shown the real state of affairs. They have depicted the picture as if Government are tyrannical and greedy and have done everything against our rights: but it is not so. The Defence Secretary has shown that enormous money is saved by this policy. When we were fighting with the tribes, there was a great loss of life, loss of money and loss of everything. I cannot understand on what ground or arguments it is said that this is a forward policy of harmful penetration and what not. You know very well that the Government are not gaining even a penny and that it does not help the Englishmen or the English country in any way. With these few remarks, I oppose the motion.

**Some Honourable Members:** The question may now be put.

**Sir Aubrey Metcalfe:** Sir, the Mover of the motion took me slightly by surprise in extending the scope of his remarks so very widely. He suggested that India was extending her frontiers as far as the Suez Canal.....

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** I said invisible frontiers, not the frontiers.

**Sir Aubrey Metcalfe:** They are certainly invisible: so far as I know, they are non-existent. There are no less than three foreign countries which lie between India and the Suez Canal, all of which would intensely resent any suggestion that India extended any kind of frontier, visible, invisible or otherwise, which included their territories. There are one or two points, I admit, which require answer, and I will deal particularly with Gilgit later in my speech: but so far even as Aden is concerned, as the House is aware, Aden has been for a great many years part of British India, and I understood that the only thing to which the Indian public took exception was the possibility of Aden ceasing to be part

of British India. There has been no extension at any rate in that direction, or in any other so far as I know, of the visible or invisible frontiers of India. Gilgit, as I say, I shall deal with later.

I should now like to come to the North-West Frontier, and I am grateful to my Honourable friend for having given me this opportunity of stating briefly some of Government's views and policies with regard to that much-discussed area. The last debate which took place, so far as I am aware, was in 1923, when, as the Honourable Member pointed out, Sir Denys Bray made a speech on the subject, describing what was going to be the policy of the Government of India from that date forward. Now, may I say, first of all, that as Government view the question, there are three ingredients in the frontier question? I may possibly be here repeating what is already familiar to a number of Honourable Members, but my excuse must be that it is possible that some Members have not, like my Honourable friend, the Mover, read this last debate and may not be so well up in the facts, which I am going to explain, as my friend, Mr. Asaf Ali. If I do say things which are already known, I must apologise for them.

The three ingredients, as we see them, are, first of all, the settled districts which, as you know, are fully administered under the ordinary law. They march with what is known as tribal territory which is for the greater part unadministered, though there are certain portions which have a loose administration. Beyond that tribal territory lies the independent foreign State of Afghanistan with which we are in treaty relations of friendship and of neighbourliness. That being so, Government have certain duties; they have duties to the inhabitants of the settled districts which are to protect them, so far as may be, from incursions and raids from the tribal territory which lies immediately on their borders. My Honourable and gallant friend from Dera Ismail Khan has told you something about the difficulties which he and other inhabitants of the settled districts have suffered from, and I can tell you from my own experience, as Deputy Commissioner, of the many raids which used to take place under the old system: at any rate, I think it will be admitted freely that Government have a duty to try and preserve the inhabitants of their settled districts, who pay taxes, from the dangers of raids, kidnapping, and so forth. Secondly, we have a duty to the inhabitants of the tribal territory. The duty, as we see it, is to try and provide them with some means of earning a reasonable livelihood, without resorting to raids and incursions, which have for many years been one of their staple means of livelihood. We have been attempting to do this in a very generous measure, as I shall hope to show to the House in a few minutes. Our third duty is towards Afghanistan. We have, as I say, treaty relations with Afghanistan, and there is a mutual obligation, both on the Government of India and the Government of Afghanistan, to prevent their subjects from raiding across the Durand Line and also to prevent their subjects from interfering in the internal and domestic affairs of the other country. I hope it will not be thought that this is a duty which we merely invent in order to justify our actions, because I can assure the House that it is a duty which we have had on more than one occasion in recent years to undertake and to try to fulfil. It is impossible to fulfil that duty unless we have some measure of control over the inhabitants of the tribal area which extends up to the Durand Line and is beyond the administered districts. It was only in 1933 that a very large body of our tribesmen did interfere in a domestic affair: it was a revolution of sorts—a rebellion shall we call



[Sir Aubrey Metcalfe.]

it—against the Afghan Government, and some of our tribes did go across and join the rebels. We had to take action in order to ensure that they came back and did not cause trouble, embarrassment and danger to a friendly foreign Government. If we have no measure of control over the areas which extend between the Administered Districts and the Durand Line, I submit that it is not possible for us to fulfil the real duty which we owe to a neighbouring foreign Government.

I will now attempt briefly to describe how in past years Government have tried to fulfil these three duties. My friend, the Maulana, who seems to have left the House, appeared to suggest that we should go back to the Indus. Well, I do not know whether he makes the suggestion seriously, and I am not sure if I have the time to deal with it, but if he has made it seriously, I might venture to quote to the House a passage from Sir Denys Bray's speech which he made in 1923. It is not long. He says:

"I had thought that the old cry of 'Back to the Indus had long since been silenced for ever. I was wrong. It has been re-appearing of late in our press; it even found its way into the evidence adduced before us on the Military Requirements Committee. Back to the Indus? Shall we betray our fellow subjects on the frontier? Shall we hand them over to the tender mercies of the independent tribesmen in the first instance, and thereafter to—who shall say? Back to the Indus? If India ever went back to the Indus, not all the five rivers of the Punjab would set the mark to the erosion of India's soil that would then ensue. Back to the Indus? Let the House say here and now whether India is ever going back to the Indus. In the domain of India's foreign politics, I know of one fixed and immutable rule only. What India has, let India hold. India is large enough to cover not a single square mile of ground that is not already her own. But India is not large enough to allow any invader of India—be he independent tribesman or foreign power, from south or north or east or west,—more of her soil than a plot of ground 7 feet by 2½ and 4 feet deep."

Well, Sir, I hope that is sufficient to do away with any idea of "Back to the Indus". The other two theories which have held the field in past years are firstly the close border policy,—which was abandoned about 1921, and, secondly, the policy which Sir Denys Bray defended in 1923 known as the "forward policy",—not quite an accurate name, but the label has been given to it. The closed border policy, Sir, has a number of disadvantages, and the only advantage that can be claimed for it is that it does to some extent enable us to fulfil our duty No. I, that is towards our settled districts. Even that is a very inadequate way of fulfilling that duty, because it still leaves us entirely without remedy for the outlaw question which, as every Deputy Commissioner on the North-West Frontier knows, is one of the chief difficulties he has to contend with. It does nothing to help us to fulfil our second duty towards our tribesmen, or our third duty towards Afghanistan. I will not say more about that.

I will now very briefly state what has been done since 1923 in the way of pursuing the "forward" or peaceful penetration policy. Sir Denys Bray fully described exactly what it was, and I may merely say that it consists mainly in the establishment of roads, the employment of tribesmen from among themselves to guard these roads, and giving opportunities of improving their economic and social conditions. I claim, Sir, that great success has attended these efforts. I have received not very long ago Notes, a copy of which I should be very glad to place on the table of the House if anybody was interested, from a Political Agent in South Waziristan who is unequalled in his sympathy both with the Mahsuds

and the Waziris, showing what he has been able to do among the Mahsuds and Waziris with their full consent and approval. He has succeeded in getting them to give him a certain portion of their allowances in order that he may organize for them irrigation schemes, vocational training, the supply of seed grains, forest assistance, instruction in agricultural methods, technical training in motor driving. A large number of activities of that sort have been started among Mahsuds and Waziris during the last seven or eight years which have been of material assistance and benefit to them in earning an honest livelihood instead of having to raid.....

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** What about the Mohmands?

**Sir Aubrey Metcalfe:** As regards the Mohmands and Afridis, we have still, to all intents and purposes, preserved the "closed border policy". We have not been able to go among them, because they have not desired our assistance.

Now, we come to the latest developments which only date back from last year. It is only an extension of the policy which has been tried in Waziristan and which, we maintain, has been a successful experiment. The fact is that the Afridis, with all respect to my friends on the other side, have largely themselves to blame for the present position where they find themselves in an extremely bad economic situation. They have always been extremely well treated by Government in the matter of allowances and in other ways also, in the matter of recruitment, and so on, but as they have themselves admitted in that agreement or rather petition which my friend from the North-West Frontier was good enough to read,—I meant to read it myself to the House, but he has saved me the trouble,—in that petition they have admitted that there were occasions when they had forfeited their right to the full recruitment which they had had before the war owing to difficulties of desertion and so on. Government's idea was that although the Afridis had been considerably to blame and were in a bad way, Government were anxious to help them. Negotiations were therefore started with the Afridis very largely at their own instance to ascertain if they would consent to have a road built through their limits which would bring them more closely in touch with civilization and would enable them to trade more freely with Peshawar and generally to enjoy more economic benefits than they had before. With this were also to be given educational and medical facilities and a certain amount of money for the development of the natural resources of their country. Well, for anything that may be said by my friends on the other side, the fact was that the largest Jirga of Afridis that had ever been collected came down to Peshawar about a year ago. They were allowed ample time for consultation, they were interviewed on more than one occasion by His Excellency the Governor himself, and eventually they freely signed the petition which my friend, Dr. Khan Sahib, has read out to you. He suggested that the signatories were not representative of the Afridis. I should like just to tell you, Sir, that the signatories included 125 Udredunke Kuki Tirah Wal Kuki Khel, 30 Malikdin Khel, 84 Qamber Khel, 79 Aka Khel, 43 Sepah, 63 Kamarai and 146 Zakha Khel. Well, Sir, if that is not a representative Jirga, then I do not know what is. Having signed that petition, what happened? The road was started without any particular difficulty, and a few days after it was started there began to be trouble from certain elements in the tribe which presumably

[Sir Aubrey Metcalfe.]

did not think that they were going to get enough out of the arrangement. After the representatives of the tribe had given a definite petition to Government and everything was agreed, these hostile elements went back on their promise and proceeded, first of all, to burn a school which Government had built for their benefit. They proceeded then to build pickets in a place where they had no right to build them under their agreement and which prevented our *khassadars* from performing their duty of preventing smuggling and evasion of Khyber tolls. Several other offences have been committed since. One offence which is definitely traced to them took place in the Charsadda sub-division when they attacked a motor car occupied by a British lady and robbed her attendants of their revolvers. The revolvers have actually been recovered from an Afridi section. Another offence which was attributed to them is the attack which was made very recently upon our Honourable President.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** That is a fake!

**Sir Aubrey Metcalfe:** That, Sir, my Honourable friend may know; I do not know it.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Have you found out the culprits? Who are the culprits?

**Sir Aubrey Metcalfe:** I do not say that it has been absolutely proved, but it is thought, almost beyond doubt, that that particular  
5 P.M. offence, in which the President very narrowly escaped with his life in the Peshawar district, was arranged by certain people from amongst the Afridis. Their general behaviour has been very unsatisfactory, with the result that for a short time their allowances were withheld, not on account of the road, but on account of their general behaviour.

**Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta):** Will the Honourable Member take some more time? It is now five O'clock. Will he take long?

**Sir Aubrey Metcalfe:** Not long.

**Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta):** Will he be able to finish his speech in two minutes?

**Sir Aubrey Metcalfe:** I am afraid not.

**Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta):** Then the Chair will adjourn the House till tomorrow, and he can resume his speech then.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 10th March, 1936.