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THIRD SESSION

OF THE

FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
1936



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Legislative Assembly.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Friday, 13th 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.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INDIA.

1184. ***Dr. P. N. Banerjee:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the quarterly statistics collected by the International Labour Office at the end of December, 1935, which show that registered unemployment has declined in all European countries as compared with the corresponding figures for the previous year?

(b) Is it a fact that India is not mentioned in the list given in these statistics?

(c) Will Government be pleased to make a statement regarding unemployment in India during the year 1935?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) I have seen the figures in question. They show that unemployment has decreased in some European countries and increased in others.

(b) Yes.

(c) Unemployment statistics are not collected and figures of employment for 1935 are not available. But the total figures of employment in factories, mines and railways for 1934 showed an increase of about five per cent. above the figures for 1933 and I shall be disappointed if those for 1935 do not show a further increase.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Are any steps being taken to collect statistics of unemployment among the educated classes in this country?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Several questions on this subject have been answered in this House in the course of this Session and previous Sessions.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Has any beginning been made in that direction? No answer to such a question has yet been given.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Answers to similar questions have been given on several occasions. The difficulties in the way of collecting unemployment statistics have been pointed out, and it may also be repeated that attempts were made at the last census to collect them for middle-class unemployment, but unfortunately they proved fruitless.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Has unemployment, generally speaking, increased or decreased?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I am unable to answer that question except in regard to employment in factories, mines and railways. I have said that the figures showed an increase in 1934 over those of 1933, and that I have little doubt personally that the figures of 1935 will show a further increase.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In view of the gravity of the situation caused by unemployment, will Government seriously consider the question of creating a machinery to collect statistics on this point?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I have explained the difficulty, Sir. Government are unable to obtain figures except for employment in factories, mines and railways, that is to a limited extent in regard to industrial employment.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: But do not Government agree that these difficulties ought to be faced and solved and not shelved?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: My Honourable friend is, if I may say so, introducing an argument.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Has any attempt been made to ask the several universities which are turning out graduates and undergraduates, year after year, to collect these statistics?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: As far as I know, the Universities do not maintain any record of the employment of their graduates.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Will Government consider the desirability of taking steps to relieve unemployment?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: That, Sir, hardly arises out of the present question.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: At least to collect statistics?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: In view of my Honourable friend's derisive laughter, I may say that a very important report has recently been received, and that, although it is a report to a Local Government, the Government of India will also consider it.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will they place the result of their consideration of that report on the table of the House?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: It is quite impossible for me to give any undertaking of that character at this stage. If their consideration of the report yields any useful results, these results will, of course, obviously, in due course, be communicated to the House.

AMOUNTS RECEIVED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL FROM THE REVENUE COLLECTED ON ACCOUNT OF THE SALT (ADDITIONAL) DUTY ACT.

1185. *Dr. P. N. Banerjea: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) the total revenue collected on account of the Salt (Additional) Duty Act, since the imposition of the Duty;
- (b) the amounts collected year by year at the Bengal ports;
- (c) the amounts made over to the Government of Bengal; and
- (d) the manner in which the amounts received by the Government of Bengal have been spent by them?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: (a) The total amount collected up to the end of January, 1936, was Rs. 41,86,660.

(b) The collections at the Bengal ports in the same period were Rs. 28,79,674.

(c) A sum of Rs. 15,34,000 has been made over to the Government of Bengal up to the 30th of September, 1935.

(d) The amounts have been used to strengthen the general financial position of the Province.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: What was the special purpose for which this tax was levied?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: The tax was imposed in order to give assistance to the Indian salt industry.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: Has that been done in Bengal?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: The tax was not imposed in order to give assistance to the Indian salt industry in Bengal, but to the salt industry in India; and undoubtedly it has given very considerable assistance to the Indian salt industry in India.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: But will Government consider the desirability of requesting the Government of Bengal to lend some assistance to the salt industry in Bengal?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: That matter has been very fully debated in the House on repeated occasions.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What is the upshot?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: The Government of India are not prepared to make any such recommendation.

INCREASE IN THE IMPORT DUTY ON NON-EMPIRE LINSEED OIL.

1186. *Dr. P. N. Banerjea: (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the decision of the House of Commons in approving an increase in the import duty on non-Empire linseed oil from 70 shillings to 100 shillings per ton?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether any drawback is allowed if the linseed imported into the United Kingdom is crushed within the country?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state whether with the increase in the import duty from 70 shillings to 100 shillings per ton of linseed oil, the drawback will also be increased?

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

(c) Government have at present no information.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Are Government aware that this drawback system virtually cancels the preference given to Indian linseed?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: No, Sir. It operates to a very small extent with regard to that portion of linseed which is crushed into oil in the United Kingdom. But it is a very small proportion of the total imports of linseed into the United Kingdom.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: What is the effect of the system of drawbacks on the Ottawa Agreement?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Will the Honourable Member kindly explain his question a little further?

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: How has it affected, for better or for worse, so far as India is concerned—this system of drawbacks?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: As I have said in reply to the previous question, to the extent to which the drawback is given to that extent, the preference is affected. But, as I have said, it is a very small proportion of the total imports of linseed that are crushed into oil and exported from England. It is only upon that portion that drawback can be asked for.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the percentage of imports crushed into oil? *

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I cannot say exactly, but I think it could not be very much more than 10 per cent. My impression is that it is even less than that.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Is such drawback permissible under the Ottawa Agreement for articles other than wheat?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I answered that yesterday in reply to question No. 1178.

TRADE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM AND DENMARK.

1187. ***Dr. P. N. Banerjee:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the statement recently made by Mr. Malcolm Macdonald, Secretary of State for the Dominions, to the effect that the United Kingdom had informed the Dominion Governments of its intention to conduct trade

negotiations with Denmark so as to give these Governments an opportunity of expressing their views, if they thought that their interests were affected?

(b) Has a similar communication been sent to India? If so, will Government be pleased to place this communication before this House?

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

(b) The India Office were informed at the same time and in the same terms as the Dominions Office by the Board of Trade and the information was passed on to the Government of India by the India Office. Government do not consider that any useful purpose would be served by the publication of the letter. I would also invite the attention of the Honourable Member to my reply to parts (a) and (c) of Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar's question No. 1178 on the subject.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Have Government considered this communication, and come to the conclusion that their interests were not affected?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Yes, Sir.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Are they asked to give any preference to any goods from Denmark into India?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: No, Sir.

AMOUNT SPENT ON MAINTAINING THE OFFICES OF THE POSTMASTERS GENERAL IN DIFFERENT CIRCLES.

1188. ***Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state what amount they have to spend on maintaining the offices of the Postmasters General in different circles?

(b) Is it a fact that the amounts spent are charged in the postal side of the accounts? If so, why?

Mr. G. V. Bawoor: (a) A statement giving the required information is placed on the table.

(b) No. The expenditure being of a general nature is divided between the various branches of the Department concerned as explained in footnote (d) on page 6 of the Posts and Telegraphs Detailed Statements in support of Demands for Grants for 1936-37. The second part of the question does not arise.

Statement showing Expenditure incurred during 1934-35 for the Offices of the Postmasters General and the Director of Posts and Telegraphs, Sind and Baluchistan Circle.

Name of Circle.	Expenditure.	
		Rs.
Bengal and Assam	.	6,42,209
Bihar and Orissa	.	2,05,923
Punjab and N. W. F.	.	4,96,007
United Provinces	.	4,22,200
Burma	.	2,92,627
Madras	.	4,74,216
Sind	.	95,971
Bombay	.	5,85,381
Central	.	2,28,484
	Total	34,43,018*

* N. B.—This excludes a sum of Rs. 324, lying unallocated to a particular circle.

ERECTOR OF A BUILDING AT RAMNA (DACCA) FOR ACCOMMODATING THE RAMNA POST OFFICE, DACCA TELEGRAPH OFFICE AND THE DIVISIONAL TELEGRAPH ENGINEER'S OFFICE.

1189. ***Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** (a) Is it a fact that Government contemplate erecting a building at Ramna (Dacca) for accommodating Ramna Post Office, Dacca Telegraph Office and the Divisional Telegraph Engineer's Office?

(b) Is it a fact that the proposal is pending for the last 20 years?

(c) Is it a fact that during the last 20 years, some 20 schemes were prepared for the building?

(d) Is it a fact that in connection with the proposal during the last 20 years, all the Postmasters General and Deputy Postmasters General and the Director of Telegraph Engineering visited Dacca?

(e) Is it a fact that these officers spent Rs. 20,000 as their travelling allowance?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) The fact is, that a building to house the offices of the Divisional Engineer, and of the Sub-Divisional Officer, Telegraphs, is already under construction. Government propose to construct, during 1936-37, another building to accommodate the Dacca Telegraph Office and the Ramna Sub-Post Office.

(b) Yes.

(c) No. Three different schemes were proposed at different times, but these did not mature for various reasons.

(d) Dacca is an important centre and the officers mentioned would visit it in the normal course of their duties. Government have no information whether any of them did so specially in connection with the building proposals. I may add that Dacca was for many years the headquarters of a Deputy Postmaster-General.

(e) Government have no information nor would it be possible to collect it.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What is the amount or proportion likely to be obtained by letting out the building to others, compared to the amount to be invested in this building? I ask this, because it is again and again said that the Postal Department is a commercial concern.

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: The building is not intended for letting out; it is intended to accommodate a departmental office.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: With reference to part (e) of the question, is it a fact that Rs. 20,000 were actually spent as travelling allowance?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: I have already said that we have no information. We cannot collect this information for the last so many years; it is not possible to collect it; the documents are not available.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: I have got the information that Rs. 20,000 were spent as travelling allowance. When it was possible for an outsider like me to get the information, it should be possible for the Honourable Member to get the details. Will he kindly take the trouble to enquire into the matter?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: If the Honourable Member will supply me with the information which he has collected, I will have it checked to see if it is correct.

CONSTRUCTION OF QUARTERS FOR THE STAFF OF THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE.

1190. *Rai Bahadur Seth Bhagchand Soni: (a) With reference to the answer given to starred questions Nos. 622 and 630 on the 27th February, 1935, will Government please state if any site has been selected for the construction of quarters for the staff of Railway Clearing Accounts Office?

(b) Has the building of quarters been taken in hand? How long will it take to complete the buildings?

(c) Are Government aware that the staff is being put to a great hardship for want of quarters, and are they prepared to expedite completion of the quarters?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) and (b). No site has been definitely selected. In view of the present financial situation, I am unable to say when the building of quarters can be taken in hand.

(c) This consideration has been kept in view by Government.

EXEMPTION OF THE STAFF OF THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE, TAKEN FROM OTHER RAILWAYS, FROM EXAMINATION FOR PROMOTION TO HIGHER GRADES.

1191. *Rai Bahadur Seth Bhagchand Soni: (a) With reference to the reply to starred question No. 627, have Government considered the advisability of exempting the staff of the Railway Clearing Accounts Office, taken from other Railways, from examination for promotion to higher grades?

(b) Is it a fact that the staff taken from the Great Indian Peninsula and East Indian Railways has been exempted from such examinations whereas the staff taken from the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway has not yet been exempted?

(c) Are Government prepared to exempt this staff from examinations for promotion to higher grade and give promotions to such staff which has hitherto been withheld for want of examinations?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a), (b) and (c). Orders have been issued to the Director, Railway Clearing Accounts, that the ex-company staff of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway who held permanent posts substantively on that railway when they were transferred to the Railway Clearing Accounts Office along with the foreign traffic work may be exempted from examination restrictions for promotion to higher grades if such examinations are not in force on the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway.

RETENTION OF CERTAIN ARMY HEADQUARTERS OFFICES IN SIMLA DURING THE WINTER.

1192. *Mr. S. Satyamurti: (a) Is it a fact that on the grounds of Simla being the Headquarters of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief

(where the Commander-in-Chief does not however stay during winter), certain military offices are retained there during the winter? If so, is it a fact that the great bulk of the Indian clerks of Army Headquarters are kept to winter at Simla, while the Commander-in-Chief, his principal staff officers with the great bulk of British clerks, and the Defence Secretariat are in New Delhi? If so, what are the reasons underlying this?

(b) Will Government please state (1) the total clerical strength of Army Headquarters, (2) the number of British and Indian personnel making the total of (1) above, and (3) the respective strength of the two categories at (2) that are brought to Delhi and kept at Simla during the winter?

(c) Will Government please state the allowances that are given to Superintendents and Assistants of Army Headquarters during the winter at Delhi and Simla? Is it a fact that no allowances are given to Superintendents and Assistants remaining at Simla? Are Government aware that the latter is the costlier of the two stations named, and the men are put to extra expenditure incidental to keeping off the extreme winter of Simla? If so, why?

(d) Will Government please state the reasons for which the Delhi clerks of Army Headquarters are given large allowances in addition to the opportunity to escape the Simla winter?

(e) Are Government aware of the grave resentment felt by Simla clerks in consequence of their having to spend the Simla winter without any compensatory allowances which are given to the Delhi clerks? If so, what steps have they so far taken to remove their discontent?

(f) Will Government please state the amenities afforded to the Simla winter clerks in comparison to those provided for those brought to Delhi during the winter?

(g) Are Government aware of the absence of any educational facilities at Simla during the six winter months for the children of those Government servants who have to stay there? If so, what steps have they so far taken to remove this particular handicap from which the staff suffer?

(h) Will Government please lay on the table a statement showing the amount of travelling expenses incurred by each of the Simla winter clerks in connection with the removal of his family out of, and bringing it back to, Simla for the winter months, during the last five years?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: (a) to (f). Simla is the official headquarters of the Army, and, chiefly owing to lack of accommodation in Delhi, it is at present necessary, at the cost of considerable inconvenience, to retain a considerable proportion of the Army Headquarters staff there all the year round. This proportion includes at present 71 out of 175 British clerks and 479 out of 662 Indian clerks. The sections of Army Headquarters which move to Delhi are chosen according to the nature of their work and the importance attached by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief to having them with him in Delhi. In the case of sections not so selected all the personnel, whether British or Indian, remain in Simla for the winter. The Master General of the Ordnance Branch accounts for the largest number of those who stay there, and out of a strength of 314 only 24 move to Delhi. Of these nine out of 39 are British and 15 out of 275 are Indians. Those who move to Delhi receive allowances to compensate them for having to leave their headquarters for half the year,

while an allowance is also granted to the lower paid clerical establishment of those offices that remain in Simla as compensation for any additional expenditure that they may have to incur on fuel, etc. I think I have answered the Honourable Member's other enquiries sufficiently in the replies I gave on the 4th September, 1935, to Mr. Asaf Ali's question No. 87.

(g) No. I understand that, except during the usual vacation, several schools remain open in the winter months at Simla.

(h) No.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know what is meant by the phrase "lack of accommodation in New Delhi"?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: Lack of accommodation in New Delhi means that there is not sufficient accommodation in New Delhi to accommodate them.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know whether Government have considered, or are considering the question of providing increased accommodation for these people who are left behind in Simla, admittedly at great inconvenience to members and to the Department?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: The question is under consideration.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: How long has it been under consideration?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: For about seven or eight years, I think.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Has any estimate been formed of the cost required for providing additional accommodation for transferring all these people to Delhi?

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

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What is the estimate?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: About Rs. 40 lakhs.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: And have any attempts been made to find that money?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: Not yet.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Why not, Sir?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: Because there are other more important measures, I presume.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: With reference to the answer to part (d) of the question, may I know why the Delhi clerks are given large allowances, while they escape the rigours of the Simla winter?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I gave the answer to that in my reply. I said that those who move to Delhi receive allowances to compensate them for having to leave their headquarters for half the year.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What is the total amount of these allowances?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I could not give the figures. I have a list here of the rate at which allowances are given, but I do not know what the total amounts to.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: With reference to part (g) of the question, may I know if the Honourable the Army Secretary has satisfied himself after enquiry that there is adequate provision for the education of the children of all those left behind at Simla by this Department during the winter months?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I received a list of the schools that remain open in Simla during the cold weather, and there were four or five of them. I think that is sufficient.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: With reference to the answer to clause (h) of the question, has any statement been compiled?

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

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government be good enough to compile a statement?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I do not think we could afford the time or trouble involved in asking every clerk to send in a bill. It would take a great deal of time and trouble, and it is very doubtful whether the result would be of any value, as the clerks themselves would still have to send their families away and get them back.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: And, therefore, it is not worth their while to examine this question from that point of view!

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: We have examined it from that point of view.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: And are they satisfied that there is no inconvenience to them?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: We have to take a great many considerations into account in examining this question. There is the fact that the clerks who remain in Simla during the cold weather probably do not give us as much value for our money as if they were in Delhi, the additional expenditure that would be involved in taking them to Delhi, and so on. The most important is the fact that to bring them down would cost a very large sum of money.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are Government considering the question of permanently transferring the Army Headquarters to New Delhi?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: No, this question has not been definitely considered.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know, with reference to part (d) of the question, whether there is a large difference in allowances between those who remain in Delhi and those who remain in Simla?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I think the Delhi moving allowances are on the whole less than the Simla winter allowances. But the Simla allowances are only given to the more subordinate members of the office establishment. They are not given to the more highly paid members, such as Superintendents.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Is there any special point in keeping the Army Headquarters at Simla? Is it only to keep up the old tradition or is there any special convenience?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I do not think there is any special point. In the old days, the headquarters of the Army were fixed at Simla.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: When the staff of the Army remain for about six months in the plains and for about six months in Simla, is it not proper that both the places should be headquarters?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: This is a question of opinion.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Have Government calculated the extra cost involved in the present arrangement by the location of the Army Headquarters, part being in Simla, and part being in Delhi?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I do not quite understand what the Honourable Member means by the extra cost of the present arrangements. There is no extra cost.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I am asking whether the Army Headquarters, by keeping a portion in Simla all the year round and by bringing down to Delhi a portion for six months and taking them back, are not incurring extra expenditure, compared with other departments which move out to Simla once in six months and come back again. I am referring to the extra cost involved by these dual arrangements.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: In the actual moving?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: And keeping a portion there, and keeping a portion here.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I still do not quite understand what the Honourable Member means. It would cost probably something in the neighbourhood of between one or two lakhs a year to move them up and down; it would cost somewhere in the neighbourhood of about Rs. 40 lakhs to provide the full amount of accommodation in Delhi to receive all these people, if they did come down from Simla to Delhi.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Why are they not considering the question of permanently locating the Army Headquarters in New Delhi, all the year round?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: When the Civil Departments make up their mind, we shall follow suit.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: And they will wait till you make up your mind!

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: So far as the civil departments are concerned, is it not a fact that only a portion of them goes to Simla, the remaining part remaining on at Delhi?

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

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: In the case of the Army, the lower subordinate staff remains at Simla. If they are also kept at Delhi, instead of at Simla, and only a part of the staff goes to Simla, would it not be much cheaper and more convenient to the staff?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: Whether it will be more convenient to the staff is entirely a question of opinion.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: A question of expense and a question of convenience, not a question of opinion.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: It would cost the same amount of money to build new quarters in Delhi, whether the staff remained there the whole year round or not. The initial expenditure would be very great in either case.

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

MOVE OF CERTAIN OFFICES FROM AND TO SIMLA.

1193. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government please state why the offices enumerated at (A) below (whose headquarters is also Simla) must come down to Delhi during the winter, while offices at (B) below, must winter at Simla?

- | | |
|---|--|
| (A) Public Works Branch.
Solicitor, Government of India.
Indian Stores Department.
D. G., I. M. S.
Archæological Department.
Department of Commercial Statistics.
Intelligence Bureau.
Civil Aviation Branch.
Public Service Commission.
Director of Army Audit.
Military Accountant General. | (B) Military Works Branch.
Judge Advocate General.
Director of Contracts.
Director of Medical Services.
Director of Farms.
Director of Remounts.
Director of Veterinary Services.
Director of Ordnance Services.
Director of Ordnance Factories.
Director of Artillery. |
|---|--|

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The material necessary for an answer is being collected and will be laid on the table when ready.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Is there any method behind this madness, or is it merely decided from time to time, at the will and pleasure of those who are in charge of these Departments?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I have to ascertain the reasons from a large number of Departments: I have not yet had time to do it.

TURNING OUT OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS FROM HIRED PREMISES IN NEW DELHI BY THE CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

1194. ***Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Aziz:** (a) Are Government aware that certain recognised and aided schools have rented buildings in New Delhi, as they have no buildings of their own?

(b) Is it a fact that the landlords of such buildings have been called upon by the Central Public Works Department, Delhi, to get them vacated by the schools and utilise them for residential purposes only?

(c) Is it now the intention of Government that the schools affected by the notices issued by the Central Public Works Department, Delhi, should hold open air classes, or should be closed for want of their own buildings?

(d) If the answer to part (c) be in the negative, are Government prepared to cancel the notices issued by the Central Public Works Department, Delhi, until such time as private schools are able to find their own buildings in New Delhi?

(e) Are Government prepared to allot suitable sites to private schools?

(f) If not, are Government prepared to provide at their own expense the required number of schools to meet the growing needs of the residents of New Delhi before turning out private schools from hired premises?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) Yes.

(b) The Central Public Works Department is in no way concerned. The position is that sites in New Delhi have been leased out for specific purposes and if the terms of the lease are violated by the lessees, notices are issued to them by the Delhi Administration in order to secure conformity with the terms of the lease.

(c) Government desire the schools to be located in suitable areas.

(d) Government have already shown such leniency as was possible in the matter.

(e) The question of providing sites for school buildings, of privately managed schools, is at present under the consideration of the Delhi Administration.

(f) Does not arise.

INDIAN AFFAIRS IN FIJI.

1195. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** Has the attention of Government been drawn to the editorial article appearing in the *Hindustan Times* of the 23rd February, 1936, entitled "After Kenya, Fiji" in connection with Indian affairs in Fiji, and if so, will Government be pleased to make a full statement on all points raised in that article?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: With your permission, Sir, I shall reply to questions Nos. 1195 and 1196 together.

The attention of Government has been drawn to the article in the *Hindustan Times* referred to by the Honourable Members. They have also seen the report of the Tavua Development Committee which recommends that the establishment of a Government controlled township at Tavua is desirable in the interests of the community and of the public health and

that, as part of this township, a section of high ground, unsuitable for business purposes, should be reserved for European residential sites. Government have made suitable representations to His Majesty's Government.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Have Government till now taken any other steps than making suitable representations?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: The occasion has not arisen to do anything else.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In any matter concerning Indians overseas?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: That is a very large question.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: With reference to the answer to clause (c), may I know what is the latest information in the possession of the Government with regard to the matter actually?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: The report came to our notice on the 9th of February; we sent a telegram to His Majesty's Government on the 2nd of March; there has not been time enough to learn very much.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I take it, therefore, they have not heard anything in reply?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: No, we have not heard anything.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Do telegrams take ten days?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: No; telegrams do not take ten days; but it takes something over six weeks for a report of this kind to go from Fiji to His Majesty's Government. It is quite possible it has not even reached them.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Is Fiji outside telegraphic communication with the world?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: A recommendation has been made to the Fiji Government that there should be reservation for Europeans: the Government at Fiji will doubtless forward this recommendation to His Majesty's Government in England. My Honourable friend does not wish that we should ask the Fiji Government to take a decision in this matter very early: we are quite satisfied with things as they are.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I am simply asking whether Government are taking all necessary steps to prevent a final decision being taken by His Majesty's Government over their heads?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: I do not think that His Majesty's Government will take a decision in this matter over their head, because, when in Kenya, a similar question arose—I am not now talking of the reservation of the highlands, but the reservation of residential sites in townships—His

Majesty's Government gave the fullest opportunity to the Government of India to consider the matter, and, as a result of that consultation, they refused to let any segregation exist for residential purposes in Kenya.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Is it not a fact that racial discrimination is also the policy of the Fiji Government and that the British Government approve of it?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: I am really not aware of any racial discrimination in Fiji.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: How is it that on the Tavua Inquiry Committee no Indian was represented?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: That in itself is not a sign of racial discrimination, because the Tavua Committee was not primarily for the purpose of developing the township for residential purposes, but for the development of a wharf.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Is it not a fact that one Mr. Barton is an expert in the science of racial discrimination, and he was, therefore, brought from Kenya and appointed as Colonial Secretary of Fiji?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: I am not aware that Mr. Barton is an expert in racial segregation, nor am I aware that he was introduced into Fiji for the purpose of introducing racial segregation.

INDIAN AFFAIRS IN FIJI.

†1196. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashlingam Chettiar:** Will Government state:

- (a) whether they are aware of the sub-leader in the *Hindustan Times*, dated the 23rd February, 1936, entitled 'After Kenya Fiji';
- (b) whether the facts contained in it are true;
- (c) whether the Tavua Development Committee has recommended that a section of the highland unsuitable for business purposes should be reserved for European residential sites; and
- (d) if so, what action they have taken in the matter against this discrimination against Indians?

DISCRIMINATION BY COUNTRIES AGAINST INDIANS.

1197. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashlingam Chettiar:** Will Government state:

- (a) what countries have discriminated against Indians;
- (b) what steps they have taken against those countries which have discriminated against Indians;
- (c) whether similar restrictions are placed upon the nationals of those countries in India;
- (d) how many countries have prohibited employment of Indians in their services; and
- (e) how many men belonging to those countries are in Government service in this country?

†For answer to this question see answer to question No. 1195.

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) A statement showing the countries in which Indians are subject to certain disabilities is laid on the table.

(b) and (c). None, so far.

(d) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the replies given by the Honourable Sir Henry Craik to question No. 808 on the 11th March, 1935, and question No. 696 of this Session and the supplementaries thereto. As regards countries outside the Empire information is not available.

(e) The information is not readily available.

Statement showing the Countries in which Indians are subject to certain Disabilities.

1. South Africa.
 2. Canada.
 3. New Zealand.
 4. Australia.
 5. Southern Rhodesia.
 6. Kenya.
 7. Zanzibar.
 8. Ceylon.
 9. Malaya.
 10. Fiji.
 11. United States of America.
 12. Portuguese East Africa.
 13. Panama.
 14. French Indo-China.
-

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: With regard to the answers to clauses (b) and (c), may I know what action it is proposed to take?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: I have explained that no action has been taken so far.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Or whether they ever propose to take any action at all?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: I do not think so: not at present.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know what are the kinds of racial discrimination that are meted out to Indians in those countries of which my Honourable friend has placed a list on the table?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: If my Honourable friend will look at the list of countries here, he will find the number of such countries as 14: I cannot, in the course of a supplementary answer, give him information as to the nature of the discrimination to which Indians in all those countries are subjected; but I may inform him that a statement is being laid on the table of the House, if it has not been laid already, in reply to another question asked by Mr. Husenbhai Laljee, and there my Honourable friend will find such information as we have.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Will Government be prepared to take steps to prevent discrimination?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: That is a hypothetical question.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know if Government are considering any steps to prevent actual discrimination against Indians in these countries, fourteen in number, and if they are not considering any steps, why they are not considering any such steps?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: That, again, is rather a large question. Take, for example, South Africa. I have answered questions about that from time to time: that is the country where discrimination is most acute. In the other countries, it is not possible, in the first place, to say that discrimination is against Indians alone: it is discrimination against people who are not inhabitants of the country; and I may inform my Honourable friend that this question of retaliatory action against countries like South Africa has been considered by Government, and the position is that, as against more than 200,000 Indians in South Africa, there are even less than a 100 South Africans in this country; and it is not really that you can take retaliatory action with any effective results.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Is that the reason? Will Government examine the whole question as a self-respecting Government interested in the welfare and dignity of its nationals abroad, and lay a statement on the table as to the reasons why they feel that they can take no steps in this matter?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: I have broadly explained the reason now, namely, that the disparity in numbers between Indians in those countries and the nationals of those countries in India is such that retaliation instead of helping the Indians in these countries is likely to hurt their best interests: that is the main reason.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Does it apply to all the fourteen countries? Is this the considered opinion of the Government of India?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: I have answered in regard to countries within the British Empire with which I am primarily concerned. I think the Honourable the Foreign Secretary will be able to answer in regard to countries outside the British Empire.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know if Government will be good enough to collect information with regard to the countries outside the British Empire where discrimination is practised against Indians, of one kind or another?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: That information is already being collected in answer to another very voluminous question put down by another Honourable Member.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Are Government aware that there are other States against whose nationals we cannot take any action, but as against whom other action can be taken, for instance, the boycott of Zanzibar cloves?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: So far as the cloves question in Zanzibar is concerned, we discussed the matter fully in Simla, and I have answered a number of questions on that subject here. I am hoping that it will not be necessary to resort to retaliatory action, but that we shall have a settlement which is satisfactory and honourable to all the parties concerned.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: May I know whether the Government of India have considered that they have any sanction that they can apply?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: It depends: is my Honourable friend referring to Zanzibar or to other countries generally?

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: My question is this: I am using the word "sanctions" in the latest sense of its meaning; just as the sanctions are being applied against Italy as an aggressor, are the Government of India prepared to consider whether they can apply some sanctions to redress these grievances?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: Well, my Honourable friend will appreciate the fact that the question of sanctions will depend upon the magnitude of the interests involved, and I can give him this assurance that, if Government come to the conclusion that in certain circumstances sanctions can be effectively enforced and that there is no other way of achieving the object, the question will undoubtedly be considered.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: As regards the answer given by the Honourable the Foreign and Political Secretary, may I know, Sir, when he expects to be in a position to place the information on the table of the House?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: I cannot exactly say, Sir. I have forgotten when the question will come up, but it is a matter of the whole world, and it is natural that it will take some time to collect all the information. As I explained to the House, I think, the other day, in answer to another question, the immigration laws of America, which contain certain discriminations against what is known as the barred zone, not only in respect of India, but also in respect of a large number of other countries in Asia, these regulations alone fill two large volumes, and the American Government themselves express their inability to give us a memorandum which would explain exactly what are the disabilities applied to Indians. All they say they can do is to take each particular case of an individual and say whether or not that individual is permitted and on what conditions to enter and reside in the country. I merely quote this to show the complexity of the information asked for and that it will take a long time to ascertain exactly what are the various disabilities applied to Indians and to other foreigners in all the countries of the world.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government consider the question of placing before the House the information in parts as they receive it from the various countries, and not wait till the last of the countries sends information?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: Certainly, I am prepared always to give information about particular countries, but the Honourable Member, whom I am referring to, has placed a question on the Order Paper which concerns every country in the world.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government, therefore, consider that question in parts and place the information as they get it on the table of the House, and not wait till the last of the countries sends information?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: Sir, my Honourable friend's request is being complied with. We are placing on the table such information as is available.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Is there any country in the world which does not apply any kind of discrimination so far as Indians are concerned?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: I can mention several.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Outside the British Empire?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: Yes, I can read out the names of the countries. There is the United Kingdom; there is France.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know, Sir, if the United Kingdom does make discrimination in Cypher Bureau?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: Cypher Bureau is not a country.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Yes, they do make discrimination.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STRAIT SETTLEMENTS TRADE COMMISSION.

1198. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will Government state:

- (a) whether they are aware of the sub-leading article of the *Hindu*, dated the 20th February, 1936;
- (b) whether the facts stated in it are true, and what is the extent of the decline; and
- (c) what were the recommendations of the Straits Settlement Trade Commission?

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

(b) and (c). Government have no official information regarding the appointment of the Straits Settlement Trade Commission or the meeting of the Indian Chamber of Commerce at Singapore. As regards the trade between India and the Federated Malay States, the Honourable Member is referred to Volume II of the Annual Statement of the Sea-borne Trade of British India for the year ending 31st March, 1934, a copy of which is in the Library of the Legislature.

DELHI FORT GARDEN IN THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREA OF THE CITY.

1199. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) the average daily and annual income from visitors or otherwise of the Delhi Fort garden in the archaeological area of the city;
- (b) the total annual expenditure of the upkeep of the said garden; and
- (c) the surplus, if any, and ways of its expenditure?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) There is no income from visitors to the Delhi Fort Garden as such. The admission fee that is charged admits a visitor to all the monuments within the Fort area, and averages Rs. 49 daily and Rs. 18,000 yearly.

(b) The expenditure on the upkeep of the garden was Rs. 8,631 in 1934-35.

(c) There are no separate receipts for admission to the garden. The question of a surplus from garden fees does not, therefore, arise.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Is the Honourable Member aware that there is a system of taking *bakshish* there by the servants?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: No, Sir; I have never been asked for *bakshish* myself but if my Honourable friend will bring any specific instance of that kind to my notice, I shall look into the matter.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Is the Honourable Member aware that when big people visit the place, employees there come forward and show them things, and explain to them their historical importance, and, at the time of their departure these employees ask for *bakshish*, and it is given?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: There are guides in any case. My friend does not probably appreciate the fact that there are certain individuals whose appearance is so generous that it invites supplications for *bakshish*

1200. ***Mr. Sham Lal:** I am not putting this question, Sir.

RECONSTRUCTION OF QUETTA CANTONMENT.

1201. ***Mr. Sham Lal:** (a) Is it a fact that Government contemplate spending enormous amounts of money, ranging to crores, on the reconstruction of Quetta Cantonment?

(b) Is it a fact that Government propose to grant the reconstruction contracts to some British and foreign firms and ignore Indian interests?

(c) Is it a fact that some British firms have actually been approached by the officials concerned in the reconstruction to put in their tenders?

(d) Is it a fact that the official in charge of these contracts has decided to grant Quetta reconstruction contracts to British and foreign firms in preference to Indian contractors and firms?

(e) Will Government please state their policy on the basis of which these contracts are to be granted?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: (a) The information asked for was given by the Honourable the Finance Member in his budget speech, to which the Honourable Member is referred.

(b) No.

(c) All invitations to tender have been advertised through the public press.

(d) No.

(e) By selection of the lowest tender received that complies with the conditions laid down.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Sir, has Government's attention been drawn to a statement published in this morning's papers that a foreign expert has arrived in India, and is now on his way to Simla to direct the Quetta operations, and that they have decided to use materials which are likely to be foreign materials rather than Indian materials?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: No, Sir, I have not seen the statement referred to.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Have Government come to any conclusion with regard to the type of materials, which ought to be used in the reconstruction of Quetta?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: No, not so far as I am aware. I think the only conclusion they have come to is that in most cases it will be necessary to build what are known as earthquake-proof houses on earthquake-proof lines.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Have Government examined the question from the point of view whether that decision means the non-encouragement of Indian products, and the encouragement of non-Indian products?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: I hardly think that could be a point of view which would affect the matter.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government re-examine the matter, and decide it after taking into full account the imperious need for encouraging Indian industries, wherever possible?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: I think, Sir, the House may be quite sure that, if materials of the necessary kind are available or can be manufactured in India, they will certainly be used.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: In fixing those materials, will Government consider not only the question of earthquake-proof,—which is very important, I grant,—but also the question that, in place of foreign goods, equally good substitutes may be manufactured or found in India?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: I think that is a hypothetical question.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I am asking whether, in coming to their conclusion on this matter with regard to materials used for reconstructing Quetta, they have taken or will take into consideration the question whether the expenditure of money on such a large scale for rebuilding Quetta is not to be diverted to Indian pockets as much as possible, by considering whether Indian products may be used for the purpose of rebuilding Quetta against earthquake shocks?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: I have already said that I feel quite sure that, if materials of the required type can be found in India, they will certainly be used.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: How does the Honourable Member feel quite sure? Has he any information that this matter has been or will be considered?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: Is this a cross-examination, Sir? I have stated the position of Government, and I cannot say anything more about it.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government state whether they will pass on to the authorities who are in a position to decide this question, and impress upon them the imperious need for encouraging Indian industries in the rebuilding of Quetta?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: I feel quite sure that the authorities will consider the question fully.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government forward this information to that quarter?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: I am not sure what quarter the Honourable Member is referring to.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: That is to say, the authorities who decide this question, and impress on them the great need for encouraging Indian industries when spending Indian tax-payers' money?

(After a pause.)

May I know, Sir, what the reply to my question is.

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: What information does the Honourable Member require?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I want information on the action proposed by the Government of India in forwarding to the authorities who will decide the manner of spending these seven crores, and if they have impressed on those authorities the imperious need—I think I speak for a large section of this House—of spending the Indian tax-payers' money on Indian industries, wherever possible?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: The Government of India will themselves decide the matter. There is, therefore, no occasion for them to forward their views to any authority.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Have any plans and estimates for the purpose of reconstruction been already prepared?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: I understand that they are under preparation.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know when the work will begin?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: As soon as it has been given to contract which has not yet been done.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Are Government aware that, so recently as a week or so ago, there were earthquake shocks round about Quetta, and that it is useless to build there?

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

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: May I put a supplementary question? Have any Japanese experts been consulted as regards earthquake-proof houses, because, I understand, that they possess the best knowledge on the subject?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: I think they have, but if the Honourable Member wishes for actual information on that point, I shall have to ask for notice.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Is it a fact that plans are not to be prepared by Government, but the contractors have to do the same and submit them to Government?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: That, I believe, is incorrect, but I shall have to ask for notice if the Honourable Member wishes for accurate information on the point.

STOPPING OF CERTAIN FACILITIES BY THE STATION MASTER OF LAWRENCEPUR.

1202, *Bhai Parma Nand: (a) Is it a fact that the Station Master of Lawrencepur has suddenly stopped facilities in the matter of clearing and forwarding goods, which had been afforded for the last fifty years?

(b) Are Government aware that such a step involves great hardships to customers and is detrimental to the Railway?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) I understand that under instructions from the Divisional authorities, certain irregular practices have recently been stopped.

(b) No.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What were the irregular practices?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: The Station Master has been instructed that he must not accept endorsements on railway receipts purporting to have been made by consignees, whereas, in point of fact, they had been made by a forwarding agent. Secondly, he has been asked to stop pack animals coming on to the goods platform, on both sides of which there are railway lines on which shunting is frequently performed.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Was corruption one of the reasons why these were stopped?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: No.

Bhai Parma Nand: May I know whether these so-called irregularities have been in existence for the last fifty years or not?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I am not aware of that.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will some bridge be constructed in order to facilitate people going from one side of the platform to another, when, as the Honourable Member said, there is some danger in passing to the other side?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I have said nothing about passing from one side to the other. Has the Honourable Member been to Lawrencepur at all?

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: No. I need not go there. I understand from the Honourable Member's reply.

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I have said nothing with regard to passing from one side of the platform to another.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: What is that passage that has not been given?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I have read it out.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I would like to know that.

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: The Honourable Member should have listened to it when I was reading it.

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

HARDSHIPS OF GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY STAFF RE-APPOINTED AFTER THE STRIKE OF 1930.

1203. ***Bhai Parma Nand:** (a) Is it a fact that a number of employees took part in the strike of March, 1930 on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway?

(b) Is it a fact that they offered themselves for duty when the strike was called off and that as a punishment some of them were sent away far from their homes to work on the North Western Railway?

(c) Is it a fact that these people have been applying to the authorities of the North Western Railway for the transfer of their services back to their homes and that their petitions have been rejected?

(d) If the reply to part (c) be in the affirmative, are Government prepared to consider their case sympathetically?

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

(b) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, the Great Indian Peninsula Railway *ex-strikers* were not sent away to work on the North Western Railway as a punishment. In accordance with the terms of the Government of India communiqué, dated the 1st March, 1930, a copy of which is in the Library of the House, each of those *ex-strikers*, who offered to return to duty within the prescribed period and whose name was borne on the list maintained by the Agent, Great Indian Peninsula Railway, were, *inter alia*, to be offered the first

refusal of employment in the same or in a corresponding position to that which he held, when he proceeded on strike, against vacancies occurring on the Great Indian Peninsula, East Indian and North Western Railways. The Eastern Bengal Railway was subsequently added to these railways.

(c) and (d). The reply to the first part of (c) of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the latter part of part (c) and part (d) I would refer the Honourable Member to part (e) of the information laid on the table of the House, on the 3rd September, 1935, in reply to starred question No. 160, asked by Mr. V. V. Giri, on the floor of this House on the 12th February, 1935.

EXEMPTION FROM PAYMENT OF SUBSCRIPTION TOWARDS THE INDIAN INSTITUTE, DELHI, BY THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.

1204. *Bhai Parma Nand: (a) Is it a fact that a certain amount is deducted from the monthly pay of all the employees of the Divisional Superintendent's Office, North Western Railway, Delhi, as their monthly subscription towards the Indian Institute, Delhi?

(b) Is it a fact that this practice has been introduced without getting the consent of the employees themselves and are Government aware that on that account much discontent prevails among them?

(c) Is it a fact that quite a few hundred of them have applied to the Agent, North Western Railway, for exemption from the payment of this subscription? If so, are Government prepared to look into their case and stop this compulsory practice?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) and (b). I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply given to starred question No. 439 asked by Sardar Sant Singh on the floor of this House on the 17th September, 1935.

(c) As regards the first part Government have no information: As regards the latter part the matter is still under consideration.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I ask for some elucidation of answer to clause (c)? I take it that the answer to the first part is,—they have no information, but they are prepared to look into their cases.

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I have said with regard to the latter part that the matter is under consideration.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Which matter?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: As a matter of fact, the position is that the Payment of Wages Bill might render it altogether illegal to make any deductions, and, therefore, the matter is receiving consideration as to whether any general orders should be issued that, if any such practice does prevail anywhere, it should be stopped.

APPOINTMENT OF INDIANS INTO THE COMMISSIONED RANK OF VETERINARY CORPS.

1205. *Bhai Parma Nand: (a) Is it a fact that the Army Department have begun taking Indians into the Commissioned rank of Veterinary Corps?

(b) Is it a fact that a number of Indians, who passed the M.R.C.V.S. Examination in England, have been waiting for employment for some years?

(c) Is it a fact that the Army Department have now fixed twenty-eight as the age-limit, thus ignoring the claims of all those who qualified some years ago, and have passed that age-limit?

(d) Are Government prepared to raise the age-limit of the candidates at least for the appointments created for the first time?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: (a) Yes.

(b) to (d). If the Honourable Member is referring to employment in the Indian Army Veterinary Corps, there was only one case in which Government held out hopes of employment to an individual before he proceeded to England to study for the M. R. C. V. S. On his return to India this gentleman was employed by the military authorities in a civilian capacity until the scheme for the admission of Indians to the Commissioned ranks of the Corps was introduced.

The age limit for entrants has been fixed at 28, and it is not proposed to change this so long as enough suitable candidates can be obtained below that age.

Sardar Sant Singh: Is it a fact that the candidates employed in this Department have not been employed to the full strength which was required by the Government? There are certain vacancies yet?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I do not know how that arises out of this question.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: How many Indians have been taken so far?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I should require notice. I laid some information on that subject on the table, or I gave information in reply to a question some time ago. The total number of appointments available is fairly considerable considering the size of the Corps, but I think so far we have got about eight or ten.

TRANSFER OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES FROM QUETTA AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE.

1206. ***Bhai Parma Nand:** (a) Is it a fact that practical sympathy was shown by the Railway and other departments to their employees at Quetta by transferring them after the last earthquake from Quetta to their home-districts?

(b) Is it a fact that the Posts and Telegraphs Department have failed to do so and that the representations of the employees applying for a similar concession have been disregarded?

(c) If the reply to part (b) be in the affirmative, are Government prepared to consider their case?

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

(b) and (c). The Posts and Telegraphs Department has also shown practical sympathy in this matter and I lay on the table a copy of the orders issued on the subject. The cases of some employees who have applied for transfer to the Punjab and North-West Frontier Circle are under consideration.

INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

Memorandum No. Es. B. 72-15/35.

Simla, the 29th July, 1935.

SUBJECT:—*Transfer concessions to the staff in Quetta who served through the earthquake.*

The Director-General with the concurrence of the Financial Adviser, Posts and Telegraphs, is pleased to authorise you to permit the transfer of the staff of the Posts and Telegraphs Department who served in Quetta through the earthquake subject to the following conditions :

- (a) Members of the all-India transferable cadres, e.g., general service telegraphists and telegraph masters, engineering and wireless supervisors and wireless operators may be granted a transfer within or outside the Sind and Baluchistan Circle.
- (b) Members of the Postal and R. M. S. clerical cadres in the selection grade may be granted a transfer to some other stations within the Sind and Baluchistan Circle.
- (c) The clerical staff of the post office may be granted a transfer to some other stations in Baluchistan.
- (d) The clerical staff of the telegraph office may be granted a transfer to Karachi.
- (e) Telephone operators, postmen and other linestaff cannot be transferred; but they may be permitted to secure mutual exchange.

2. Replacement of the staff transferred from Quetta should ordinarily be made by drawing staff from the stations or Circles to which the transfers are made and as far as possible only bachelors should be sent to Quetta.

3. The transfers will be for administrative reasons and full travelling allowance will be given.

J. R. T. BOOTH,

Senior Deputy Director-General.

The Director of Posts and Telegraphs,
Sind and Baluchistan Circle.

WITHDRAWAL OF THE RECOGNITION OF THE VISHNU KARMA PATHSHALA.

1207. *Bhai Parma Nand: (a) Will Government please state the circumstances under which recognition of the Vishnu Karma Pathshala was withdrawn?

(b) Will Government please state if the facts on which the recognition of the said school has been withdrawn were such of which the punishment can only be withdrawal of recognition of a school established and recognised since 1928?

(c) Will Government please state if the procedure regarding withdrawal of recognition of a school, as laid down in the Punjab Education Code was followed? If so, are Government prepared to start an open enquiry relating to the validity of the charges framed by the District Inspector of Schools? If not, why was the rule ignored?

(d) Are Government aware of the fact that even the grant-in-aid for the last year has not been paid to the school? If so, why?

(e) Are Government prepared to start an enquiry into the allegations made against the District Inspector of Schools, by the said School?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) The recognition of Vishnu Karma Pathshala was withdrawn as the school authorities were not observing the regulations of the Education Department and the working of the school had been considered to be unsatisfactory for some time past. Serious irregularities, which were admitted by the Manager, had been committed.

(b) Yes.

(c) Reply to the first part of this question is in the affirmative. As for the subsequent parts Government does not consider it necessary to start an open enquiry as recognition was withdrawn under Code Rules for good reasons.

(d) Grant-in-aid for the year 1984-85 was paid to the school, but the grant for the current year (1985-86) has not been paid as recognition was withdrawn in June 1985. Grants-in-aid payable in a certain year are assessed on the figures of income and expenditure of the institution for the previous year. They are intended to supplement expenditure in the year in which they are actually paid.

(e) No.

Bhai Parma Nand: May I know how long this Pathshala has been in existence?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: That I could not say.

Bhai Parma Nand: Was it not working all these years that it was in existence?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: Even if it had worked satisfactorily for some time in the past, the appearance of defects, such as, maintenance of fictitious registers of attendance, would, in my opinion, justify the action that was taken.

Bhai Parma Nand: But was there any investigation made that they were fictitious?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: Yes, not one, but two investigations, first by the Secretary of the New Delhi Municipal Committee, and subsequently by the District Inspector of Schools.

**ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THE ASSISTANT PRESIDENCY POSTMASTER, CALCUTTA
GENERAL POST OFFICE, INCHARGE OF MONEY ORDER DEPARTMENT.**

1208. ***Khan Sahib Nawab Siddique Ali Khan:** (a) Is it a fact that the Assistant Presidency Postmaster, Calcutta General Post Office, in-charge of Money Order Department, ill-treats the subordinates under him?

(b) Is it a fact that he habitually uses abusive and highly objectionable language towards his subordinates?

(c) Is it a fact that the matter has been brought to the notice of the Presidency Postmaster? If so, what action do Government propose to take against the said Assistant Presidency Postmaster?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) to (c). Government have no information. The matter is within the competence of the Postmaster-General, Bengal and Assam Circle, to whom a copy of the question and of this reply is being sent for such action as he may consider necessary.

HEALTH OF STATE PRISONERS MESSRS. SATYA BHUSAN GUPTA AND ARUN CHANDRA GUHA.

1209. *Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: (a) Will Government please state the present condition of health of Mr. Satya Bhusan Gupta and Mr. Arun Chandra Guha?

(b) What was their respective weight when they were first weighed at Calcutta on their arrest and their present weight?

(c) Is it a fact that both of them are suffering from fever at intervals since their transfer to Poona and they are also suffering from constant headache?

(d) How long were they kept in the Bombay jail and when?

(e) Is it a fact that their persons and property used to be searched while at Bombay jail at about 4 A.M.?

(f) Will Government please state if it is a fact that when they protested against search at such unusual hour, they were severely assaulted every day for about 30 days while they were in the Bombay jail?

(g) Is it a fact that due to the severity of assault one day, they lost their senses for about a couple of hours?

(h) Is it a fact that they were put on bar-fetters for over a month for objecting to be searched at such unusual hours?

(i) Will Government please state what punishment was inflicted on these two State Prisoners while at Bombay jail?

(j) What was the date and duration of such punishment and the reason for it?

(k) Is it a fact that the doors of the prison cell at Poona are shut up at 6 P.M. and are not opened before 8 A.M. next morning for these State Prisoners?

(l) What are the measurements of the prison cells in which they are confined at a stretch for 14 hours?

The Honourable Sir Henry Crank: (a) The health of both prisoners is, according to the latest report received, good.

(b) Government have no information as to their weight on arrest in Calcutta. They were, however, weighed on 29th November, 1931, in the Mianwali District Jail on which date A. C. Guha was 115 lbs. and S. B. Gupta was 146 lbs. On 4th February, 1936, the former was 138 lbs. *i.e.*, 23 lbs. more and the latter 163 lbs. *i.e.*, 17 lbs. more.

(c) No. They have complained occasionally of headache and other minor complaints for which they have been treated satisfactorily.

(d) They were in the Arthur Road Prison, Bombay, from the 20th July, to the 19th December, 1934.

(e) No.

(f) No. The prisoners were searched periodically according to the rules. They repeatedly offered resistance and it was therefore necessary to employ force. Government are satisfied that undue force was not used.

(g) It is not a fact.

(h) They were put in fetters on one occasion but I am not aware for how long. The reason for this punishment was that the State Prisoners bit the jailer and spat in the faces of the Superintendent and the Jailer, and threw water on the Superintendent.

(i) Previous to the imposition of the punishment referred to in part (h) they were awarded 14 days separate confinement and forfeiture of all privileges, (e.g., reading books and writing letters) on five occasions. These punishments were awarded because the State Prisoners daily and persistently abused the Superintendent and his staff, shouted revolutionary slogans, and attempted to stir up a mutiny both amongst the other convicts and the warders.

(j) The Honourable Member is referred to my reply to parts (h) and (i) of the question.

(k) It is not a fact. The hours of lock up are from 8-0 or 8-30 P.M. till shortly after sunrise.

(l) Government have no exact information except that there is a row of cells 27 yards long by 9 yards wide.

WANT OF MEANS FOR RECREATION FOR STATE PRISONERS AT POONA.

1210. *Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: (a) Is it a fact that the State Prisoners at Poona have no means of recreation provided for them in the jail? If not, what are the sports or other recreation allowed to them?

(b) What is the measurement of the yard in which the State Prisoners are confined?

(c) Is it a fact that the yard is not spacious enough even for badminton play?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) to (c). It is a fact that the accommodation available in the Yeravda Prison does not admit of out-door games, such as tennis or badminton. But the prisoners have been provided with dumbbells, Indian clubs, skipping ropes, carrom set, dice and cards. The enclosure within which the prisoners are accommodated is 40 yards long by 17 yards wide, part of which is occupied by a row of cells 27 yards by 9 yards, and a latrine 6 yards by 3 yards.

SEGREGATION OF STATE PRISONERS MESSRS. SATYA BHUSAN GUPTA AND ARUN CHANDRA GUHA.

1211. *Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: (a) Will Government please state why Messrs. Satya Bhusan Gupta and Arun Chandra Guha, State Prisoners, have been segregated from other State Prisoners?

(b) Is it the policy of Government to keep only two State Prisoners at one place?

(c) What is the objection of Government to keeping most or at least four State Prisoners in one jail so that they may have some association?

(d) How long have these State Prisoners been in jail? How long have they been in this particular Jail (at Poona)?

(e) Are Government aware that this place is not suited to their health and are Government prepared to transfer them to another jail for a change?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) Because they repeatedly abused and finally assaulted the Superintendent and the Jailer and because they tried to encourage other convicts and warders to mutiny.

(b) There is no fixed rule, each case is considered on its merits.

(c) The objection is sometimes on the score of the refractory and mutinous behaviour of the State Prisoners, and sometimes on the score of their revolutionary associations and activities.

(d) A. C. Guha since 22nd October, 1930 and S. B. Gupta since 24th December, 1930. They have been in Jail in Poona since 19th December, 1934.

(e) The answer to both questions in this part is in the negative.

ARTICLE HEADED "RAILWAY STORES DEPARTMENT AND THE AXE OF RETRENCHMENT" PUBLISHED IN THE RAILWAYMAN, LUCKNOW.

1212. ***Mr Muhammad Nauman:** Has the attention of Government been drawn to an article "Railway Stores Department and the Axe of Retrenchment" published in *the Railwayman*, Lucknow, dated the 15th February 1936? If so, what action do Government propose to take in the matter?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the latter part, 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.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

RETRENCHED WORKSHOP MEN AWAITING RE-EMPLOYMENT ON THE MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA RAILWAY.

312. **Mr. V. V. Giri:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that nearly 240 retrenched workshop men are awaiting re-employment on the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the number of apprentices workmen in the Hubli shops and Arkonam Engineering workshops retrenched after the strike of 1932 on the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway and awaiting re-employment?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the number of outsiders recruited on the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway in the workshops after 1931-32 and still remaining in service?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) to (c). Government have no information. These are matters of detailed administration for the Agent, Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway, which is a Company-managed Railway and Government are unable to interfere. I am, however, sending a copy of the question to the Agent, Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway, for information.

MEMORANDUM REGARDING SUBVENTION TO THE NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE SUBMITTED TO SIR OTTO NIEMEYER.

313. **Pandit Krishna Kant Malaviya:** Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the memoranda submitted by the Honourable the Home Member of the Frontier Province, regarding the subvention, to Sir Otto Niemeyer?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Government are not aware of any such memorandum. If the official memorandum of the North-West Frontier Province Government is referred to the answer is in the negative.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE CHAKIA AND SIDHWALIA LINE OF THE BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

314. **Mr. B. B. Varma:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the loss in earnings due to the Bengal and North Western Railway line between Chapra and Sonapore being cut and breached (i) in 1923, and (ii) in 1934?

(b) If the Chakia and Sidhwalia connection was undertaken, will the expected return on the entire cost, including the bridge, amount to 3½ per cent. and without the bridge to seven per cent.?

(c) Are Government aware that by the construction of this above named bridge, apart from public convenience, there is going to be an advantage to trade and it is likely to assist and improve the flow of traffic?

(d) Is it a fact that Bihar Government have been asked to guarantee the interest return on capital expenditure on the Bengal and North Western Railway at any time?

(e) Is it not a fact that the lines built and administered by the Bengal and North Western Railway have always been paying satisfactorily?

(f) Are Government prepared to waive their demand of guarantee of interest from the Government of Bihar against any loss, and sanction the project for the construction of the bridge to be known as Chakia-Sidhwalia line?

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

(b) No.

(c) Possibly.

(d) The Bihar Government were recently asked if they would guarantee interest return on the capital expenditure on the Chakia-Sidhwalia line if constructed. This would form part of the Tirhut Railway which belongs to the Government though it is worked by the Bengal and North Western Railway.

(e) The Bengal and North Western Railway have always paid dividends.

(f) No.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE RAILWAY BOARD AND THE FINANCIAL COMMISSIONER, RAILWAYS.

315. **Dr. N. B. Khare:** (a) Will Government please state the extent of the administrative control of the Railway Board consisting of three members (Chief Commissioner, Financial Commissioner and one member) and of the Financial Commissioner, Railways over the railway servants as defined in the Indian Railways Act?

(b) Will Government please state the material difference between the Railway Board and the Financial Commissioner, Railways?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Subject to the provisions of the Railway Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules and the 'Direction' appended thereto full administrative control over railway staff on State-managed Railways is exercised by the Railway Board and in the case of Railway Accounts staff by the Financial Commissioner, Railways.

(b) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to question No. 214 asked by Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru in the Legislative Assembly on the 4th February, 1930.

EXPENDITURE ON RAILWAY BOARD, ETC.

316. **Dr. N. B. Khare:** Will Government please state the expenditure on officers of (1) the Government of India in the Railway Department; (2) the Railway Board, and (3) the Financial Commissioner, Railways during the preceding five years, and if it is not possible, then for the preceding year?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: There are not three sets of officers as the Honourable Member appears to think. The officers in the Railway Department of the Government of India are identical with those working under the Railway Board and taking orders from the Financial Commissioner in his capacity as a Member of the Railway Board. I place the statement asked for on the table of the House.

Statement showing the Expenditure on the Officers of the Railway Board during the last five years.

Total V and N. V. Figures in thousands of rupees.

1930-31	.	.	7,52
1931-32	.	.	6,99
1932-33	.	.	5,92
1933-34	.	.	5,79
1934-35	.	.	5,42

STAFF OF THE RAILWAY BOARD, ETC.

317. **Dr. N. B. Khare:** Will Government please lay on the table a statement showing the staff of the offices of (1) the Government of India in the Railway Department, (2) the Railway Board, and (3) the Financial Commissioner, Railways as borne on the 1st April, 1931, 1st April, 1935 and 1st March, 1936, and the concise reasons for any difference between any two dates?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: There are not three sets of staff as the Honourable Member appears to think. The staff of the Railway Department of the Government of India are identical with those employed by the Railway Board and by the Financial Commissioner in his capacity as a Member of that Board.

I place a statement on the table of the House.

A Statement showing the Staff in the Railway Board's Office on 1st April, 1931, 1st April, 1935, and 1st March, 1936, with concise reasons for the difference.

1st April, 1931	122	} A B
1st April, 1935	. . . . .	117
1st March, 1936	. . . . .	116

A. Due to certain posts retrenched during the economy campaign.

B. Due to the abolition of Leave Reserve among the Stenographers.

**APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN RULES OF THE RAILWAY SERVICES
(CLASSIFICATION, CONTROL AND APPEAL) RULES TO NON-GAZETTED STAFF.**

318. **Dr. N. B. Khare:** Will Government please state whether the principle underlying Rule 8 of the Railway Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules is applicable to non-gazetted staff? If not, what are the reasons for the differential treatment?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: With your permission, Sir, I propose to reply questions Nos. 318 and 319 together.

The non-gazetted staff are not governed by the Railway Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, under the "Direction" appended to these rules the Governor General in Council has been given full power of control, including power of delegating control to subordinate authorities, over the non-gazetted staff.

**APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN RULES OF THE RAILWAY SERVICES
(CLASSIFICATION, CONTROL AND APPEAL) RULES TO NON-GAZETTED STAFF.**

†319. **Dr. N. B. Khare:** Will Government please state whether Rules 1 to 10 under Part I—General of the Railway Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules are applicable to non-gazetted staff? If not, what are the reasons for the differential treatment?

NON-GAZETTED RAILWAY STAFF.

320. **Dr. N. B. Khare:** Will Government please state whether non-gazetted staff are members of the Railway Services? If not, to which service do they belong?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 318.

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: It by 'Railway Services' the Honourable Member means the Railway Services referred to in the Railway Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules the reply is in the negative. Non-gazetted staff are not members of those services but of subordinate or inferior services.

PROCEDURE FOR INQUIRY INTO THE CONDUCT OF NON-GAZETTED RAILWAY STAFF.

321. Dr. N. B. Khare: Will Government please state whether the provisions of the Public Servants Inquiries Act, 1850 are applicable to non-gazetted staff on State Railways? If not, under what Act is their conduct inquired into, or what is the procedure of inquiring into their conduct?

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

RULES FOR RECRUITMENT, PAY AND ALLOWANCES, ETC., OF NON-GAZETTED RAILWAY STAFF.

322. Dr. N. B. Khare: Will Government please state the Gazette Notification promulgating the rules framed by the Governor General in Council in respect of recruitment, pay and allowances and other conditions of service and discipline and conduct of railway servants other than those holding permanent gazetted posts? If not, are those rules confidential and not for general information and guidance of the staff?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: The rules referred to by the Honourable Member have not been published in the Gazette of India. These rules and other rules and orders governing pay, allowances and other conditions of service of the State Railway staff will be included in a single compilation, namely, the State Railway Establishment Manual, which will be available for sale when ready.

POWERS OF DIVISIONAL SUPERINTENDENTS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

323. Dr. N. B. Khare: Is it a fact that the Agent, East Indian Railway, defined the powers of Divisional Superintendents under Circular No. 462 of the 21st October, 1926? If so, will Government please state:

(a) the clause, or clauses, which authorizes the Divisional Superintendents to delegate the powers vested in them to their subordinate officers, *viz.* :

- (1) Superintendent, Transportation,
- (2) Assistant Superintendent, Transportation,
- (3) Superintendent, Commercial,
- (4) Assistant Superintendent, Commercial,
- (5) Superintendent, Power,

- (6) Assistant Superintendent, Power,
- (7) Superintendent, Rolling Stock,
- (8) Assistant Superintendent, Rolling Stock,
- (9) Senior Superintendent, Way and Works,
- (10) Superintendent, Way and Works,
- (11) Assistant Superintendent, Way and Works.
- (12) Superintendent, Staff,
- (13) Assistant Superintendent, Staff,
- (14) Superintendent, Office,
- (15) Inspectors,
- (16) Head Clerks; and
- (17) Clerks;

(b) the nature of full powers to deal with all matters within his Division, and

(c) the authority under which the Divisional Superintendents are Railway Administrations as defined in Indian Railways Act for purposes of service agreements?

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

STRENGTH OF STAFF ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

324. **Dr. N. B. Khare:** With reference to the reply to unstarred question No. 42, asked on the 4th February, 1936, regarding the strength of staff on the East Indian Railway, will Government please state the datum upon which they based their figures for the actuals and budgets for each year under heads Establishments?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The actual expenditure is found from the accounts, which do not, however, keep details of numbers.

The estimates are based on the expenditure in the past, together with consideration, so far as possible, of the circumstances of the year for which the estimate is framed, such as additional cost of increments, retrenchments of staff, if any, and so on.

RESERVATION OF NON-GAZETTED SUPERVISING POSTS FOR EUROPEANS AND ANGLO-INDIANS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

325. **Dr. N. B. Khare:** With reference to the reply to unstarred question No. 44, asked on the 4th February, 1936, will Government please state

- (a) whether any Selection Boards were held in any of the offices on the East Indian Railway between the 1st January, 1934 and the 1st January, 1936; if so, with what result, community-wise:

- (b) whether on the 31st March, 1931, the strength of the non-gazetted supervising staff in the scale of pay rising to Rs. 150 and over was as under:

(K. M. Hasan's report.)

Community.	Clerical.	Traffic.	Commercial.	Power.	Carriage.	Civil Electrical and Mechanical Engineering and Stores.	Watch and Ward.
Hindus	141	40	39	..	12	197	1
Muhammadans	6	7	14	..	7	26	4
European and Anglo-Indians.	2	298	60	452	35	657	11
Indian Christians	1	..	1	..	..	7	..
Others . . . . .	..	2	2	3	4	17	..

- (c) the increase and decrease, communitywise, since 1st April, 1931 to date, in the strength of the non-gazetted supervising staff on scale of pay rising to Rs. 150 and over;
- (d) whether they will now furnish the requisite information;
- (e) whether they are prepared now to reconcile their reply with the true facts; if not, why not;
- (f) the strength, communitywise of the Transportation Inspectors on 16th August, 1934, when the Selection Board consisting of Mr. W. H. Burnard, Chief Operating Superintendent and Mr. H. A. Collet, Superintendent Staff, selected seven Anglo-Indians in preference to other communities who were eligible for promotions;
- (g) the reason for such predomination over other communities by one community; and
- (h) what action has been taken now; if none, why not?

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

(b) The figures quoted by the Honourable Member are correct, but they refer to staff in posts the minimum pay of which is Rs. 150 per mensem or more.

(c) The information readily available will be found on page 63 of the report by the Railway Board, Volume I, for the year 1935-36.

(d) It is not understood what information the Honourable Member is referring to.

(e) The question is not understood.

(f) Government are informed that the permanent strength of the Transportation and Commercial Inspectors was as follows:

Europeans	...	...	...	...	11
Anglo-Indians	...	...	...	...	16
Indians	...	...	...	...	4

(g) As promotions are made mainly on merit equal distribution of the posts among different communities cannot be guaranteed.

(h) No action is called for.

POSTS OF TRANSPORTATION INSPECTORS SANCTIONED BY THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

326. **Dr. N. B. Khare:** With reference to the reply to unstarred question No. 5, asked on the 2nd September, 1935, regarding posts of Transportation Inspectors sanctioned by the East Indian Railway, will Government please state:

- (a) the purpose and intention for not retaining the list;
- (b) the source from which it can be ascertained that the persons selected were eligible for promotion and no other person was eligible;
- (c) the action taken against the official who failed to retain the list;
- (d) why a fresh Selection Board was not summoned; and
- (e) whether they now propose to take action and inquire into the mal-administration and conduct of the officials under the Public Servants Inquiries Act, 1850? If not, why not?

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

POSTS OF TRANSPORTATION INSPECTORS SANCTIONED BY THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

327. **Dr. N. B. Khare:** With reference to the answer to part (d) of unstarred question No. 5 asked on the 2nd September, 1935, will Government please state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Divisional Selection Boards were held prior to the Selection Board held on the 16th August, 1934;
- (b) if the reply to part (a) be in the negative whether they will place on the table the following correspondence:
 - (1) Divisional Superintendent, Howrah, No. E. H.-218 of 5th June, 1934;
 - (2) Divisional Superintendent, Asansol, No. E.S.T.-2/1/C.S.S. of 25th May, 1934;
 - (3) Divisional Superintendent, Dinapur, No. E.A.-14/26 of 25th May, 1934; and
 - (4) Divisional Superintendent, Moradabad, No. E.T.-4/82-R.A.S.M. of 1st June, 1934;

(c) if the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, whether they will place on the table a list of candidates selected by the Divisional Selection Boards?

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

(b) Government are not prepared to place the documents referred to on the table of the House as they are meant for departmental use only.

(c) Does not arise.

MODIFICATIONS AND EXTENSIONS IN THE RULES REGULATING THE DISCHARGE AND DISMISSAL OF NON-GAZETTED STAFF ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

328. Dr. N. B. Khare: With reference to unstarred question No. 2, asked on the 2nd September, 1935, will Government please lay on the table a copy of the modifications and extensions notified in connection with the rules regulating the discharge and dismissal of State Railways non-gazetted servants on the East Indian Railway, or to state the number and date of the notifications published in the Gazette?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I place on the table of the House a copy of the notifications issued by the Agent, East Indian Railway, in connection with the rules regulating the discharge and dismissal of non-gazetted servants on the East Indian Railway.

(1) Agent's circular No. 523/A. E.-1795, dated the 2nd December, 1930, and

(2) Agent's notification, dated the 8th February, 1934.

PUBLISHED IN THE RAILWAY'S GAZETTE, DATED 10TH DECEMBER 1930.

In supersession of Agent's Circular No. 508/A. E.-1795, dated 22nd January, 1930.

CIRCULAR No. 523/A. E.-1795.

EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

AGENT'S OFFICE.

Calcutta, 2nd December, 1930.

Rules regulatng the discharge and dismissal of State Railway Non-Gazetted Government Servants.

With reference to the revised rules issued in connection with the above with Agency Notification of 28th October 1930, Agent's Circular No. 508/A. E.-1795, dated 22nd January, 1930, is re-issued below with slight amendments. The rules contained herein hold good and will be applied in conjunction with those issued with the Notification of 28th October, 1930.

Appeals from Subordinate Staff.

In supersession of the Agent's Circular No. 508/A. E.-1795, dated 22nd January, 1930, published in the Weekly Gazette dated 29th January, 1930, the staff are hereby informed that appeals from subordinate railway employees will be entertained by the Agent when the appellant has been summarily dismissed and that an employee who is dismissed with forfeiture of Provident Fund Bonus shall have the right of appealing

to the Railway Board. Appeals against discharge will, however, be finally dealt with as follows :

- (i) By the Agent if the order of discharge was issued by a Principal Officer or by the Head of the appellant's Department.
- (ii) By the correctly related Principal Officer or Head of Department concerned if the order of discharge was issued by a Divisional Superintendent or by a Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer or by a District Officer or by Works Managers, Alambagh and Charbagh, working directly under a Principal Officer or Head of a Department.
- (iii) By a Divisional Superintendent or by a Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer if the order of discharge was issued by a Senior Scale Officer attached to his Division or Workshops as the case may be.

Orders of discharge will only vest in Officers of District Rank and above.

NOTE 1.—This applies to permanent staff.

NOTE 2.—The Agent delegates powers to the Deputy Superintendent, Watch and Ward Department to dismiss Head Watchmen and Watchmen and to the Assistant Superintendents, Watch and Ward Department, to discharge Watchmen.

NOTE 3.—The Agent delegates powers to the Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineers at Lillooah, Jamalpur and Tatanagar and to the Works Managers at Charbagh and Alambagh to dismiss labourers, i.e., workshop employees other than clerical and supervisory staff, (persons of and above the grade of a charginan being treated as Supervisory staff) whose service is under 10 years.

NOTE 4.—The Agent delegates powers to the Manager, Oil Factory, Manuari to discharge labourers whose service is less than 10 years.

2. The Agent will, as heretofore, receive appeals from *ex-employees* regarding non-payment of their Provident Fund bonus and gratuities which must be sent, however, through the proper channel; otherwise they will be returned to the appellant for submission through the proper channel, i.e., through the officer under whom he worked when his services with the railway terminated.

3. The staff are further informed that Divisional Superintendents, Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineers, Heads of Departments and Principal Officers are authorised to withhold petitions in the following cases :

- (i) When a petition is an appeal against the discharge of a person appointed in India on probation if his discharge was made before the period of the termination of the probation.
- (ii) When a petition is an appeal against an order passed by a Divisional Superintendent or Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer or Head of Department directing a transfer or refusing a transfer, appointing or promoting to a post which is ordinarily filled by selection, refusing to grant leave on account of the exigencies of the service, or refusing in a particular case to authorise the issue of a privilege pass or privilege ticket order.

4. Further, Officers dealing with appeals have been authorised to withhold them if they fall within any one of the following categories :

- (a) If the petition be frivolous, illegible or unintelligible or if couched in language which is disrespectful or improper.
- (b) When the petition is one already disposed of by competent authority and when the fresh petition advances no new facts in support of the appeal.

5. If a petition be withheld by an officer competent to do so, the appellant will be informed by that officer of the fact, and of the reasons for withholding it.

6. The staff are further advised that appeals must invariably be sent through the proper channel.

C. I. COLVIN,
Agent.

Gazette issued on 21st February, 1934.

97. EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

NOTIFICATION.

Rules regulating the discharge and dismissal of State Railway Non-Gazetted Government Servants.

In continuation of this office notification dated the 28th October, 1930, under which the above rules were published, the Railway Board's letter No. 1975-E. G., dated the 31st January, 1934, is also published for general information.

AGENT'S OFFICE;

Calcutta, 8th February 1934.

H. A. M. HANNAY,
Agent.

COPY OF RAILWAY BOARD'S LETTER No. 1975-E. G., DATED THE 31ST JANUARY, 1934, TO AGENT.

Right of appeal of labourers employed in a State Railway Workshop or any other Branch of State Railway Service and of Temporary Non-Gazetted employees borne on non-pensionable establishment.

I am directed to refer to this office letter No. 4680-E., dated the 10th October, 1930, forwarding a copy of the revised rules regulating the discharge and dismissal of State Railway non-gazetted Government servants, and to state that it has been decided to allow a right of appeal against discharge from service in respect of the following staff :

- (i) Labourers employed in a State Railway workshop or any other branch of State Railway service; with less than three years' continuous service; and
- (ii) temporary non-gazetted employees borne on a non-pensionable establishment of a State Railway or in other offices under the administrative control of the Railway Board or of the Financial Commissioner of Railways, with less than three years' continuous service.

2. I am accordingly to state that staff referred to in categories (i) and (ii) above may be allowed a right of appeal under rule 11 of the rules referred to above notwithstanding anything contained in the said rules precluding such staff from such right of appeal.

3. I am to request that necessary arrangements may be made early to give effect to these orders.

REPORT ON THE COMMERCIAL METHODS EMPLOYED ON THE LONDON, MIDLAND AND SCOTTISH RAILWAY BY MR. T. J. RYAN OF THE COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

329. Dr. N. B. Khare: Will Government please state:

- (a) whether in November, 1934, a report on enquiries permitted into the commercial methods employed on the London, Midland and Scottish Railway by Mr. T. J. Ryan, Commercial Department, East Indian Railway, Calcutta was printed at Calcutta, East Indian Railway Press; if so, whether they will place a copy of the said report on the table of this House; if not, why not;
- (b) who permitted the enquiry and asked for a report;
- (c) what was the cost of the enquiry;

- (d) what position Mr. T. J. Ryan occupies in the Commercial Department, East Indian Railway;
- (e) who assisted him in his enquiries;
- (f) what salary Mr. T. J. Ryan enjoyed in the services;
- (g) what is the total service of Mr. T. J. Ryan and what experience he had;
- (h) the number of copies printed;
- (i) who has borne the cost of printing the report; and
- (j) to whom the report is presented and what action has been taken thereon?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) I understand the report was printed in December, 1934. Government are unable to place a copy of the report on the table, as such of the information contained therein as was supplied by the London, Midland and Scottish Railway was given on the understanding that it would be treated as confidential and would not be published for general information.

(b) The enquiries were made by Mr. Ryan on his own initiative while he was on leave.

(c) The enquiry has not cost the Railway Administration anything.

(d) He is at present officiating as an Assistant Superintendent in the Lower Gazetted Service.

(e) No one.

(f) Rs. 500 at present.

(g) Twelve years. He has experience both indoor and out-door in the Commercial Department from a Weigh Clerk and through the intervening grades to his present position.

(h) 100.

(i) The East Indian Railway Administration.

(j) The report was submitted by Mr. Ryan to the Chief Commercial Manager who has circulated copies to his Divisional Officers. Government have no information as regards the action taken on the suggestions made in the report as this is entirely a matter for the Administration to deal with.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF COOLIES ON THE DELHI RAILWAY STATION.

330. **Dr. N. B. Khare:** Will Government please state the communal composition of the cooly establishment at Delhi junction station?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: One Muhammadan Jamadar, four Muhammadan Assistant Jamadars, two Hindu Assistant Jamadars, two Hindu Munshis, 195 Hindu coolies and 205 Muhammadan coolies.

ORGANISATION OF COOLY ESTABLISHMENTS ON STATE RAILWAYS.

331. **Dr. N. B. Khare:** (a) Will Government please state the relationship between the cooly establishment and the Railway Administration?

(b) Will Government please state the organization of cooly establishments on State-managed Railways?

(c) Will Government please state the rules for the recruitment of coolies on State-managed Railways?

(d) Will Government please state the terms of agreement, if any, executed by a cooly on State-managed Railways?

(e) Will Government please state the conditions of service of cooly establishment on State-managed Railways?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) to (e). The position as regards the appointment and control of coolies is not uniform on railways, but, in the majority of cases, they are engaged as unpaid workmen by the stationmaster. At some of the larger stations a jamadar is appointed to supervise and control the work. On a few railways, more particularly at certain large stations on the East Indian Railway, a contract is given to some persons for the supply of coolies. The Jamadars and coolies are not railway employees, and so far as Government are aware no agreement is executed by coolies. Normally they are permitted to continue working if their conduct is satisfactory. Their responsibility is to the person who allows them to work at the station, namely, the station master, a jamadar or a contractor.

RULES FOR RECRUITMENT, ETC., OF COOLY JAMADARS AND COOLIES ON THE DELHI RAILWAY STATION.

332. Dr. N. B. Khare: Will Government please state (a) the rules for recruitment; (b) terms of agreement; and (c) conditions of service of (i) cooly jamadars and (ii) coolies at the Delhi junction on the North Western Railway?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) The Railway appoints the jamadar and the latter appoints the assistant jamadar and recruits coolies.

(b) and (c). I am placing on the table a copy of the form of license issued by the Divisional Superintendent, which the jamadar appointed is required in sign in token of his agreeing to abide by the terms thereof.

LICENSE FOR THE SUPPLY OF COOLIES FOR THE PURPOSE OF CARRYING PASSENGERS' LUGGAGE TO AND FROM THE TRAINS.

Permission is hereby given, to _____ son
of _____ resident of _____ to supply and arrange
for the daily attendance of a minimum number of _____ able bodied
coolies at _____ Railway Station on the following terms:—

1. He shall arrange to have a sufficient number of coolies on the station platforms at the time of arrival and departure of every passenger train.
2. He shall not charge more than Rs. 2-0-0 per head per mensem from the coolies engaged by him.
3. The coolies shall always appear in clean uniform with proper badges as approved and supplied by the railway at their own cost.

4. He shall be responsible for the proper and orderly conduct of the coolies whilst performing their duties on the station platforms and premises and shall employ only such men whose character has been verified by the police.

5. The coolies must not interfere with passengers who employ their private servants to carry their luggage.

6. The coolies employed by the licensee shall on no account demand or accept more than the authorized charge per trip as laid down by the Railway Administration.

7. He shall be paid for all railway work performed by his coolies at a rate to be fixed by the Railway Administration.

8. He shall deposit Rs. _____ as security for the due and proper fulfilment of the terms and conditions of this license.

9. He shall indemnify the Railway Administration against any loss, destruction or damage to or pilferage from, any package, parcel or passengers' luggage caused by the carelessness, neglect or misconduct of the coolies in his employ and shall pay all claims met and litigation expenses, if any, incurred by the Railway Administration.

10. The licensee shall at all times indemnify the North Western Railway against all claims which may be made under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, or any statutory modifications thereof or otherwise for or in respect of any damages or compensation payable in consequence of any accident or injury sustained by any cooly servant or person in the employment of the licensee and engaged in the performance of this license and shall take all risk of accidents or damage which may cause a failure of the performance of the license arising out of such accident to such cooly or servant and shall be responsible for the sufficiency of all the means used by him for the fulfilment of the license.

11. The divisional superintendent, at his own discretion and without assigning any reason or paying compensation on any account whatsoever, reserves to himself the right of withdrawing this license at any time.

12. He shall not sub-let the whole or any part of this license.

13. The cost of stamp duty on this license shall be borne by the Railway Administration.

*Divisional Superintendent,
North Western Railway.*

Dated _____ 1936 .

I hereby agree to abide by the above terms.

Jamadar.

Dated _____ 1936 .

Witness

Address

Signed by the above-named _____

in my presence.

Station Master.

Dated _____ 1936 .

APPEALS AGAINST THE REMOVAL OF A COOLY JAMADAR OR A COOLY ON STATE RAILWAYS.

333. **Dr. N. B. Khare:** Will Government please state whether an appeal against the removal of a cooly jamadar or a cooly on State-managed Railways is admissible? If so, to whom, if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I have called for certain information and will lay a reply on the table when it is received.

APPEALS AGAINST THE REMOVAL OF COOLY JAMADARS OR COOLIES ON THE DELHI RAILWAY STATION.

334. Dr. N. B. Khare: Will Government please state whether an appeal against the removal of cooly jamadars or coolies at Delhi junction on the North Western Railway is admissible? If so, to whom, if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: The Agent, North-Western Railway, states, that an appeal would lie to the Divisional Superintendent, Delhi, if the removal was ordered by an officer subordinate to him.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST OFFICERS OF THE DELHI RAILWAY STATION.

335. Dr. N. B. Khare: Will Government please state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Divisional Superintendent, Delhi Division, North Western Railway, has never held any inquiry on the charges of corruption of his officials at Delhi junction, if and when, represented to him; and
- (b) whether beating by officers of subordinates is permissible on State-managed Railways; if so, whether they are prepared to place a copy of such authority on the table of this House?

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

(b) The reply to the first part is in the negative; the latter part does not arise.

IGNORING OF THE CLAIMS OF OLD TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

336. Dr. N. B. Khare: With reference to the reply given on 2nd September, 1935, to starred question No. 406, asked on the 21st February, 1935, will Government please state:

- (a) the reason for the differential treatment to the Travelling Ticket Examiners on the East Indian Railway, who have been given the option to retain the scales of pay formerly allowed to Travelling Ticket Inspectors as personal to them throughout, and why they are not borne on a *pro-forma* list for their promotions; and
- (b) the reasons for not regulating the promotions of the Travelling Ticket Examiners on the East Indian Railway who have been given the option to retain the scales of pay formerly allowed to Travelling Ticket Inspectors as personal to them throughout, in accordance with the vacancies occurring among the old Travelling Ticket Inspectors according to the number of posts which existed on 31st May, 1931?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: 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.

PROMOTION OF EMPLOYEES ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

337. Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal: Is it a fact that the Agent, East Indian Railway in No. O. P. E.-1308, dated 11th February, 1933, stated *inter alia* :

"With a view to reducing the extra expense arising out from the grant of this concession, the Board desire that such employees should be considered for promotion to higher posts for which they may be qualified as vacancies occur in such posts. *Note.*—As soon as any reduction occurs in the additional cost, full particulars of the reduction should be reported to this office"?

If so, will Government please state.

- (a) the names of posts for which such employees should be considered for promotion to higher posts;
- (b) the qualifications attached to such higher posts;
- (c) how many of the employees are qualified for such higher posts; and
- (d) the particulars of the reduction as reported to the Agent?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: With your permission, Sir, I propose to reply to questions Nos. 337 and 338 together.

Government have no information and its collection will involve an amount of labour and expense not commensurate with the results likely to be achieved. These are matters of detailed administration which must be left to the Agent to decide to whom a copy of the question has been sent for information.

BENEFITS ALLOWED TO TICKET COLLECTORS PERFORMING RUNNING DUTIES ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

†338. Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal: Is it a fact that the Agent, East Indian Railway in No. O. P. E.-1308, dated 27th February, 1933, stated *inter alia* :

"A man who under the conditions laid down in para. 1 (c) of my letter No. O. P. E.-1308 of 11th February, 1933, was previously a Ticket Collector, but who now performs running duties, should also be allowed the same benefits"?

If so, will Government please state :

- (a) whether benefits include grade or stage in time-scale promotion in the class or group or cadre;
- (b) whether the consolidated travelling allowance as sanctioned in para. 1 (b) of letter No. O. P. E.-1308, dated 11th February, 1933, is paid to a Ticket Collector now performing running duties; if not, why not; and
- (c) to lay the lists marked "A" and "B" in the letter dated 11th February, 1933 on the table of this House?

RESEARCH OFFICER OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

339. Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal: Will Government please state:

- (a) the date of appointment of the Research Officer on the East Indian Railway;

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 337.

- (b) the expenditure of the office of the Research Officer on the East Indian Railway;
- (c) the result of the endeavours to find new avenues for traffic development by the Research Officer on the East Indian Railway; and
- (d) the means adopted for handling traffic?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) 1st December, 1984.

(b) The average cost of the post of Research Officer is Rs. 1,045 per mensem *plus* overseas pay and Calcutta allowances if admissible under the rules. The monthly cost of the non-gazetted staff for the Research branch is about Rs. 384 per mensem.

(c) and (d). Government are informed that the research work carried out by the Research Officer has so far resulted in establishing the co-ordinated rail and road service between Dehra Dun and Mussoorie, Hazaribagh and Sarak on the Central India Coalfield Railway, extension of the Raiwala-Rikhikesh line into Rikhikesh town, placing the Railway Lorry Service on a commercial footing and introduction of new types of city Booking Offices for loading parcels traffic in containers.

In addition to this quite a number of schemes for co-ordinated road and rail services for passenger and goods traffic have been fully investigated and the Local Government concerned intimated, whose assent is awaited.

ALLOWANCES PAID TO STAFF OFFICIATING IN HIGHER GRADES ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

340. Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal: Is it a fact that on the North Western Railway staff in the grade Rs. 105—10—155 are ordered to officiate in grade Rs. 100—10—180 and paid Rs. 5 as officiating allowance? If so, under what rule?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: With your permission, Sir, I propose to reply questions Nos. 340 and 341 together.

Government are informed that there are no such grades at present in force on the North Western Railway as are referred to in these questions.

SENIORITY OF TICKET COLLECTORS IN CERTAIN GRADES ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

†341. Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal: Is it a fact that on the North Western Railway staff in the grade Rs. 55—5—105—10—155 in the class of Ticket Collectors (as grouped in the rules for recruitment and training of non-gazetted staff) is considered senior to staff in the grade Rs. 50—5—95—100—10—180 in the class of Ticket Collectors? If so, how and why?

SENIORITY AND PROMOTION OF TICKET COLLECTORS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

342. Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal: Will Government please state the policy and procedure in respect of seniority and promotion amongst the staff in the Commercial group of Ticket Collectors under the rules

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 340.

for recruitment and training of non-gazetted staff in the time-scales of pay viz., Rs. 55—5—105—10—155 and Rs. 50—5—95—100—10—180 on the North Western Railway and in the time-scales of pay, viz., Rs. 60—4—64—8—120—130—10—200—220—20—300 and Rs. 60—4—64—8—80—88—8—120—130—10—160—170—10—200—220—20—300, on the East Indian Railway?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the 'Rules for the recruitment and training of subordinate staff on State-managed Railways' which show the normal channel of promotion of the staff concerned. The determination of seniority of the staff concerned is a matter of detailed administration entirely within the competence of the Agents of Railways and Government have no information.

FOREMEN AND ASSISTANT FOREMEN IN THE CARRIAGE AND WAGON WORKSHOPS, AJMER.

343. Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal: Will Government please state the number of Indian (excluding Anglo-Indians) Foremen and Assistant Foremen in the Carriage and Wagon Workshops, Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, Ajmer, on the 31st December, 1925, and on the 31st December, 1935?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:

	31st December 1925.	31st December 1935.
Indian Foremen and Assistant Foremen	3

INDIANISATION OF HIGHER SERVICES IN THE CARRIAGE AND WAGON WORKSHOP, AJMER.

344. Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal: Will Government please state the steps taken so far by the Loco. and Carriage Superintendent (Carriage and Wagon Section), Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, Ajmer, for Indianisation of the higher services in that department?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I presume by 'Higher Services' the Honourable Member means posts in the upper subordinate grades. If so, recruitment to these posts is not generally made direct but by promotion in which communal considerations do not arise.

APPRENTICES TRAINED AND ABSORBED IN THE LOCO. DEPARTMENT AND THE CARRIAGE AND WAGON DEPARTMENT OF THE BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY, AJMER.

345. Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal: Will Government please lay on the table a statement showing separately the number of apprentices trained and absorbed in the higher services by (1) the Loco. Department, and (2) the Carriage and Wagon Department, of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway at Ajmer, during the last ten years, explaining the difference, if any, in the system obtaining in the two departments of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Government are informed that since 1931 the Locomotive and Carriage and Wagon Departments have been amalgamated but there has been no difference in the system of dealing with apprentices in these departments. I lay a statement on the table of the House showing the number of apprentices trained and absorbed as officers or subordinates in the two departments during the last ten years. Training as an apprentice does not imply any guarantee of employment.

Locomotive and Carriage Departments.

	Loco. Section.	Carriage and Wagon Section.
1. No. of apprentices trained	111	59
2. No. absorbed as Chargemen	36	8
3. No. absorbed as Foremen and Assistant Foremen	2	..
4. No. absorbed as Stores Wardkeepers . . . . .	..	2
5. No. absorbed as Train Examiners. . . . .	..	4
6. No. absorbed as Draughtsmen	3	2
7. No. absorbed in superior service as Assistant Locomotive and Carriage Superintendents	2	..

PERMISSION TO MR. SAILENDRA NATH GHOSH TO RETURN TO INDIA.

346. Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal: (a) Will Government please state if it is a fact that Mr. Sailendra Nath Ghosh who has been refused permission to return to India, is prepared to come to an honourable understanding with Government for his future conduct?

(b) If the answer of the above be in the affirmative, will Government state if they intend to grant him the necessary permit in that case?

(c) Will Government please state the understanding which they will like to have from him?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) Mr. Ghosh did offer to give an undertaking that he would not be associated with any kind of revolutionary or violent activities against the British Government of India.

(b) No. I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given by me on the 13th September last to his question No. 370. As stated on that occasion, I have already dealt very fully in this House with the case of Sailendra Nath Ghosh, and have nothing further to add to my replies to Messrs. Mitra's and Satyamurti's questions Nos. 622 and 1287, dated the 15th August, 1934, and 1st April last, respectively, and the supplementary questions thereon.

(c) In view of his record Government are not prepared to accept his undertaking.

SELECTION OF EMPLOYEES FOR POSTS IN THE SELECTION GRADE ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

347. Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: (a) Is it a fact:

- (i) that the Railway Board in their letter No. 1728-E. G., dated the 28th July, 1933, to the Agent, East Indian Railway, has stated:

“The Railway Board consider it generally desirable for Selection Boards to record in writing their reasons for selecting employees for posts in selection grades when such selection involves a departure from normal principles. Such records should only be for the use of the Committee itself in case of appeals and must be regarded as confidential”; and

- (ii) that the Agent, East Indian Railway, has circulated the said orders of the Railway Board in his No. A. E. 2750, dated the 14th August, 1933?

(b) If the answer to part (a), (i) and (ii) be in the affirmative, will Government please state:

- (i) the reasons why departures from normal principles by the Selection Committees should be regarded as confidential;
- (ii) whether such departures and such secrecy prevail in the cases of the gazetted staff of the East Indian Railway?

(e) Do Government propose to inform each candidate, who appears before the Selection Committees, of the decision that has been recorded against him? If not, why not?

(d) Do Government propose to issue instructions that there should be no departures from principles? If not, do Government propose to restrict this to the Agent personally without permission to delegate this power? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafullah Khan: (a) (i) and (ii). Yes.

(b), (c) and (d). Government consider it desirable, both in the interest of administration and the staff themselves, not to communicate reasons to the staff for their being not appointed to selection posts which are not necessarily filled by seniormost men but by those considered to be the most suitable for a particular post. The same procedure is observed for both officers and subordinates and Government do not consider it necessary to issue any further instructions. The suggestion that the Agent should exercise the power personally in each case is not practicable.

NON-GAZETTED STAFF ASPIRING FOR PROMOTION REQUIRED TO PASS THE GOODS ACCOUNTS EXAMINATIONS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

348. Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: Will Government please state:

- (i) whether the non-gazetted staff in the Commercial Branch of the East Indian Railway aspiring for advancement, are required to pass the Goods Accounts, Lower, and the Goods Accounts, Higher, Examinations;
- (ii) whether these examinations are held by the Chief Accounts Officer;

- (iii) whether the Chief Accounts Officer has delegated this duty to the Deputy, Traffic Accounts, who in turn has passed the holding of the same to the Assistant Accounts Officer;
- (iv) whether in actual practice the papers are set by the clerical staff; whether the candidates sit in front of the gazetted officers, and that the papers are corrected by the clerks;
- (v) whether the examination papers are destroyed immediately after the examination; and
- (vi) whether Government propose to take action so as to ensure that the examinations are properly held and that the papers are corrected by the gazetted officers only to whom a request for a revision should be made possible?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (i) Yes.

(ii) Yes.

(iii) No. The Examiner is appointed by the Chief Accounts Officer from amongst the gazetted officers of his department.

(iv) No. The examinations are supervised by a gazetted officer.

(v) The answer papers are destroyed three months after the examination is over.

(vi) Does not arise.

REQUEST FOR SANCTIONING TWO POSTS OF ASSISTANT COMMERCIAL MANAGERS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

349. Mr. Amarendra Nath Chatteropadhyaya: (a) Is it a fact that the Agent, East Indian Railway, on the recommendation of the Chief Commercial Manager, has requested the Railway Board to sanction two posts of Assistant Commercial Managers?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government please state:

- (i) whether this proposal has been examined by the Deputy Agent, Organisation; if so, with what results;
- (ii) whether there has been a considerable decrease in claims since the two posts were held in abeyance;
- (iii) whether two sections have been created under the Chief Commercial Manager, namely, the Research and Publicity;
- (iv) whether they have considered that the work of these two sections could be diffused among the two Deputies;
- (v) whether the gazetted officers have sufficient work for the seven hours they are on duty daily;
- (vi) whether their work has not been job analysed by the Deputy Agent, Organisation;
- (vii) whether non-gazetted staff are required to work in the places of these Assistant Commercial Managers when they are on leave;
- (viii) whether they have considered that the work of such gazetted officers could be amalgamated with those of the other officers; and

(ix) whether the present and the previous incumbent of the post of Chief Commercial Manager have no practical experience in the work of the Commercial Branch?

(c) Do Government propose to explore this avenue with a view to effecting economy and a decrease in the working expenses? If not, why not?

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

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

USE OF TOURIST CARS BY THE CHIEF OPERATING SUPERINTENDENT OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

350. Mr. Amarendra Nath Chatterpadhyaya: (a) Will Government please state whether the Heads of Departments on State-managed Railways are permitted to use tourist cars instead of the inspection carriages provided for them, and to take their motor cars by rail when they attend any conferences, committee meetings, etc., at out-stations?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the negative, will Government please state:

(i) whether the present Chief Operating Superintendent of the East Indian Railway only uses tourist cars when attending conferences, meetings, etc., and also when on leave;

(ii) whether he has done the same when working as Chief Commercial Manager;

(iii) whether he could have obtained the use of another bogie inspection carriage if his own one was undergoing repairs;

(iv) whether there are twenty-five bogie inspection carriages on the East Indian Railway;

(v) whether in 1936 the Chief Operating Superintendent had despatched his motor car, free of railway freight, to Agra; and

(vi) Whether he has used a tourist car for his journey to Agra to attend a conference or a committee meeting?

(c) Do Government propose to recover the cost of the freight on the motor car and the usual charges levied for the use of the tourist cars from the salary of this official? If not, will Government please state the reasons why?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) The occasional use of a tourist car by a railway officer can be authorised by the Agent who is also empowered to issue a pass for the carriage of a motor car whenever he is satisfied that there is justification for it.

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

SPECIAL PAY OF EMPLOYEES ON STATE RAILWAYS.

351. Mr. Amarendra Nath Chatterpadhyaya: (a) Is it a fact that under Fundamental Rule 9(21), (a), (ii), special pay is included in the definition of pay?

(b) Is it also a fact that under Fundamental Rule 9(25), special pay is granted in consideration of :

- (i) the specially arduous nature of the duties; or
- (ii) a specific addition to the work or responsibility; or
- (iii) the unhealthiness of the locality in which the work is performed?

(c) If the answers to parts (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, will Government please state whether special pay can be withdrawn when there is no reduction of the requirements mentioned in part (b) (i) and (ii) but on the plea of economy?

(d) Is special pay still subjected to the emergency cut in pay? If so, why?

(e) Are both the gazetted and non-gazetted staff on State-managed Railways treated alike in these matters?

(f) Do Government propose to communicate their decision to the Agents of State-managed Railways and direct them to refund any amounts wrongly deducted?

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

(c) Government have laid down the following principles to be followed in deciding upon reductions of special pay:

- (i) when the post to which a special pay is attached is borne on the cadre of an All-India or Central Service or is reserved for the members of such a Service, the special pay should not be reduced unless the conditions which originally led to the grant of the special pay have disappeared or changed;
- (ii) when the post is not borne on the cadre, or is not reserved for the members, of such a Service, the special pay may be reduced on any grounds which Government consider reasonable.

(d) No.

(e) Gazetted and non-gazetted staff on State-managed Railways are treated in accordance with the principles stated at (c) above.

(f) Government are not aware of any deductions having been made wrongly and, therefore, do not propose to issue any orders to the Agents.

APPOINTMENT OF COOLY CONTRACTOR ON THE HOWRAH RAILWAY STATION.

352. Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: (a) Is it a fact:

- (i) that, as a result of job analysis on the Howrah Division of the East Indian Railway, the posts of several tindals and about seventy porters at Howrah Station have been surrendered; and

(ii) that the work hitherto performed by these tindals and porters has been made over to the cooly contractor?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government please state:

- (i) whether the arrangement referred to in part (a) (ii) was tried before;

- (ii) whether the trial proved a failure;
- (iii) when job analysis first started on the Howrah Division;
- (iv) whether the suggestion referred to in part (a) was then made, if so, with what results; if not, why not;
- (v) whether the cooly contractor is paid a monthly subsidy; if so, what amount and since when it has been paid;
- (vi) whether the cooly contractor has appointed special or extra coolies to perform this work; and
- (vii) whether the work is being done by the coolies by what is known as *biggari* or forced unpaid labour?

(e) Do Government approve of this *biggari* system of having its daily routine work performed by its contractors? If not, are Government prepared to put a stop to this pernicious practice?

(d) Are Government assured that the work is now being efficiently performed and meets the demands of the public in regard to the receipt and despatch of luggage and parcels?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a), (i). As a result of job analysis the posts of four tindals and thirty-five porters have been retrenched.

(ii) No. The job analysis indicated that with a little re-organisation, the tindals and porters could be retrenched without throwing on the contractor any additional work which was not stipulated for in the terms of his contract.

(b), (i). Not so far as is known.

(ii) Does not arise.

(iii) About the middle of 1935.

(iv) The suggestions made were considered and action taken as indicated in the reply to part (a), (i).

(v) Yes, Rs. 700 since he entered into an agreement with the East Indian Railway.

(vi) The cooly contractor is required to keep coolies ready for the work. The arrangement he makes for this purpose is a matter between himself and the coolies.

(vii) No, this would not appear to be the case as the coolies would not then continue to work for the contractor.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes.

CONSUMPTION OF COAL BY DRIVERS ON THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

353. Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: (a) Is it a fact that the Locomotive Foreman, Calcutta Running Shed, of the Eastern Bengal Railway, has cyclostyled the following notice which is made over to the driver of every train for explanation:

"You worked . . . train on . . . with Engine No. . . . to . . . from . . . and back, and exceeded the coal ration by . . . and so burnt . . . lbs. per

engine mile, whereas the figure should be.....lb. per engine mile had you worked to the ration. Please explain within three days from receipt of this letter why you should not be made to pay for the extra coal you burnt, the cost of which would amount to Rs. ?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government please state:

- (i) whether the action of the Locomotive Foreman had the previous approval of the District Locomotive Superintendent;
- (ii) the authority who has fixed the actual coal consumption of each engine per trip;
- (iii) how the coal allowance has been arrived at;
- (iv) whether the District Locomotive Superintendent has personally worked trains with a view to ascertaining the quantity of coal to be burnt per engine mile and the fixation of the coal ration;
- (v) whether any allowances have been made for all conditions of train service, such as, weather conditions, leakage of steam joints, general bad maintenance of engines, vacuum leaks on trains, quality of coal supplied, bad boiler repairs, dirty boilers due to bad water on the road or overdue washouts, etc.;
- (vi) the number of tests that were made before the fixation of the coal ration; if so, by whom were they made;
- (vii) whether the coal at the time of loading the engine tender is weighed;
- (viii) whether the coal is weighed when the engine returns to the shed; if so, whether it is done in the presence of the driver; and
- (ix) whether these conditions prevail on the other State-managed Railways?

(c) Have any recoveries been made from the pay of the drivers for the alleged extra coal burnt?

(d) Do Government propose to have this matter investigated by the Government Inspector of Railways as the technical expert of Government? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Such a notice has been posted; but is not applicable to every train.

(b), (i). Yes.

(ii) The District Locomotive Superintendent in consultation with his Inspectors.

(iii) It is based on actual results obtained over an extended period.

(iv) No, the quantity is based on what a large number of drivers have themselves achieved.

(v) Yes.

(vi) See (iii) and (iv) above.

(vii) Every tender is calibrated and marked so that quantities can readily be noted by an inspection of the coal loaded on the tender, and the quantity loaded is determined by means of these calibration marks after the loading has been completed.

(viii) The quantity remaining is determined by the same method as the quantity loaded and in the presence of the driver.

(ix) These are matters dictated by local conditions and are therefore left to the discretion of individual Railway Administrations.

(c) No, as there has been no necessity to make any such recovery. If the driver's explanation is satisfactory, it is accepted.

(d) Government do not consider that any investigation by the Government Inspector of Railways is called for.

REST ALLOWED TO CONTINUOUS WORKERS ON STATE RAILWAYS.

354. Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: (a) Will Government please state whether under the hours of work rules, framed as a result of the Geneva Convention, continuous workers on State-managed Railways are rostered and get their rest every week?

(b) Is it a fact that the supervising staff are called upon to work long hours but are given no rest days?

(c) Do Government propose to treat the staff alike in the matter of rest? If so, will Government please convey their decision to the Agents of State-managed Railways? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Continuous workers to whom the Railway Servants Hours of Employment Rules, 1931, apply and who are employed on such of the Railways on which the Indian Railways (Amendment) Act, 1930, has been given statutory effect, are rostered and weekly rest under these rules.

(b) The Rules referred to in reply to part (a) do not apply to supervising staff.

(c) No, for the reasons given in reply to part (b) of the question.

RELIEVING DUTY PERIOD OF A STATION MASTER IN THE DELHI DIVISION OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

355. Mr. Muhammad Nauman: (a) What is the period of relieving duty for a Station Master on the North Western Railway, Delhi Division?

(b) Is it compulsory for every Station Master to work in relieving?

(c) Is there any age-limit for such relieving duty?

(d) What daily and weekly rests are allotted to the relieving staff in compliance with the Geneva Convention Regulation? If none, why not?

(e) Are they given any rest after undergoing long travelling in coming to or going from their headquarters while on duty? If not, why not?

(f) Are there spare quarters available for the occupation of the relieving staff at road-side stations, or do they take shelter in station buildings?

(g) What facilities are provided for the relieving staff to visit their families at headquarter stations while working out on the line?

(h) After what period are the relieving staff allowed to return to their headquarters for visiting their families and replenishment of their personal itinerary requirements?

(i) Are they booked out for duty according to first-in and first-out system? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a), (c), (g) and (h). I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to Mr. P. R. Rau's reply to Mr. Maswood Ahmad's question No. 84, asked in this House on the 20th August, 1934.

(b) Government are informed that it is the general policy of the North Western Railway administration to put Assistant Station Masters qualified in Station Master's duties on promotion to Station Master, to work on relieving duties before they are posted permanently.

(d) and (e). I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to Mr. P. R. Rau's reply to parts (c) and (d) of Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad's question No. 84 and would add that the necessity of undertaking long journeys by relieving staff has been minimised by the concentration of such staff at certain selected stations, thus reducing the distances to be travelled to the stations to which they are posted for relieving duty.

(f) Government understand that in cases of relieving arrangements for an initial period of over 30 days, the outgoing staff are required to make accommodation in their quarters available for their reliefs but for lesser periods, it is customary for the staff to make an arrangement among themselves, failing which arrangements are made in the station buildings.

(i) Yes.

STAFF KEPT IN RELIEVING DUTY IN THE DELHI DIVISION OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

356. Mr. Muhammad Nauman: (a) Is it a fact that only newly promoted staff or those shifted from their permanent stations on some irregularity or complaint are kept in relieving duty on the North Western Railway, Delhi Division?

(b) How does their posting take place, and after how long a time?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: With your permission, Sir, I propose to reply questions Nos. 356, 358 and 359 together.

Government have no information and its collection will involve an amount of labour and expense not likely to be justified by the results. These are matters of detailed administration entirely within the competence of the Agent and Government are not prepared to interfere. I have, however, sent a copy of these questions to the Agent for information and such action as he may consider necessary.

NON-PROVISION OF QUARTERS TO THE RELIEVING STAFF IN DELHI.

357. Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Is it a fact that relieving staff at Delhi, North Western Railway, are not provided with railway quarters, but are paid house allowance at ten per cent. of their salary?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Government are informed that none of the relieving staff headquartered at Delhi have been

provided with Railway quarters due to scarcity of quarters but such of them as are eligible for the concession of free quarters are granted house allowance at the rates shown below:

Pay per mensem.	House allowance per mensem.
	Rs.
Under Rs. 30	3
Rs. 30 to 49	5
Rs. 50 to 80	8
Rs. 81 to 95	10

None of the relieving staff at Delhi are in receipt of pay exceeding Rs. 95 per mensem.

GRANT OF TONGA HIRE TO THE RELIEVING STAFF RESIDING IN DELHI OR NEW DELHI.

†358. **Mr. Muhammad Nauman:** (a) Is it a fact that relieving staff of Delhi Division, North Western Railway, residing in the old and new cities, are ordered to attend the Divisional Office (situated in the Old Secretariat Buildings) daily, but they are given no tonga hire, although they cover distances over seven miles both ways?

(b) Is it a fact that the rules in force allow tonga hire beyond three miles? If so, what action do Government propose to take for the alleviation of the hardship of the relieving staff?

STRENGTH OF THE RELIEVING STAFF IN THE DELHI DIVISION OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

†359. **Mr. Muhammad Nauman:** Are Government aware that the existing strength of the relieving staff on the Delhi Division of the North Western Railway, is too short, in consequence of which the permanent staff on the line feel great difficulty in getting leave in time?

ADMINISTRATION OF THE TRANSFERRED SUBJECTS UNDER THE MINISTERS IN BIHAR AND ORISSA.

360. **Babu Kailash Behari Lal:** Are Government kept informed by the Local Government of Bihar and Orissa about the administration of the transferred subjects under the Ministers? If so, is there any report as to how the Ministers have administered the transferred subjects?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The General Administration Report of Bihar and Orissa which contains an account of the administration of the transferred subjects is received by the Government of India.

NEW BUILDING FOR PATNA JUNCTION RAILWAY STATION.

361. **Babu Kailash Behari Lal:** (a) Is it a fact that since a long time the authorities have been considering the question of replacing the present premises of the Patna junction railway station by an improved type of building compatible with its position of a Provincial capital?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 356.

(b) If the answer to the above be in the affirmative, how long more will it take to materialize the plan?

(c) At what cost is it proposed to have the new building?

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

(b) The work is expected to be finished during 1936-37.

(c) About Rs. 3 lakhs.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE.

Information promised in reply to parts (d) to (m) of starred question No. 684 asked by Seth Govind Das on the 25th September, 1935.

LICENSED COOLIES ON RAILWAY STATIONS.

(d) No license fee is paid to the Administration, but on the following railways, where cooly jemadars are employed at the larger stations or where there are cooly contractors at certain stations, the fees paid to the Jemadar or contractor are as follows :

Bengal Nagpur Railway.

Contractors.—On one District, one anna per day. On four Districts, amounts varying from half-an-anna to Rs. 2 (in one case Rs. 4) per month. At some stations, the coolies are paid by the contractors.

Note.—On two Districts where contractors are not employed, the Station Master is paid two annas a month by each coolie.

Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway.

Jemadars.....from four annas to eight annas per month.

East Indian Railway.

Contractors.....from six pies to 0-2-9 per day.

Great Indian Peninsula Railway.

Contractors at three stations only.....four annas per day.

North Western Railway.

JemadarsRs. 2 per month.

(e) Yes, on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway. Coolies are also occasionally utilised on the South Indian Railway to help station porters in loading and unloading parcels without detriment to their legitimate work.

(f) and (g). The Agent, Great Indian Peninsula Railway, states that no payment is made, the arrangement being one that is acceptable to the worker on being engaged and a condition of employment.

The Agent, South Indian Railway, states that coolies are not paid anything in such cases, as the service is not compulsory and there is no condition that they should render free service.

(h) No.

(i) and (j). Do not arise.

(k) and (m). Government see no reason for making any change in the existing arrangement. The license to work as a porter at a railway station is a valuable one.

(l) Yes.

Information promised in reply to unstarred questions Nos. 143 and 145 to 148 asked by Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal on the 18th February, 1936.

HARDSHIPS OF THE RE-EMPLOYED STAFF IN THE AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT.

143. (a) and (b). No statistics have been collected by Government on this subject. For the reasons explained in the reply to part (c) below Government considers that no useful purpose will be served by collecting the information and Government do not propose to do so.

(c) It must be remembered that the ministerial establishments to which the question refers were temporary and entitled to no concession on discharge. The proposal that they be allowed to refund gratuity and to count past service for pay was not accepted for the reason that the extra cost would be prohibitive. Advance increments have been granted to these retrenched clerks by exception to the general rule as a concession. Government do not propose to grant any further concessions to these clerks as these would lead to embarrassing repercussions in other departments.

HARDSHIPS OF THE RE-EMPLOYED STAFF OF THE AUDIT DEPARTMENT.

145. (a) Government are not in possession of full information as regards the orders of the Governments of Madras and the United Provinces. In the Railway Department, however, old rates of pay have been allowed on certain conditions only to those who are re-employed before the 1st April, 1936.

(b) and (c). Attention of the Honourable Member is invited to my reply to parts (b) and (c) of question No. 142. Old scales of pay are admissible only to those Government servants who have been in continuous service since before the 16th July, 1931; if there has been a break in service due to retrenchment, or any other cause, they are entitled to the revised scales of pay only.

(d) The scheme of separation of Audit and Accounts was abolished as a measure of economy, and economy is still necessary. Government are not prepared to make an exception to the general rule in favour of the re-employed staff of the Audit Department.

NON-GRANT OF OLD SCALES OF PAY TO THE STAFF OF THE RAILWAY ACCOUNTS UNDER THE AUDITOR GENERAL IN INDIA AND THE AUDIT DEPARTMENT.

146. Attention of the Honourable Member is invited to my reply to question No. 145.

NON-GRANT OF OLD SCALES OF PAY TO THE RAILWAY STAFF AND THE STAFF OF THE AUDIT DEPARTMENT.

147. The answer to the 1st part of the question is in the affirmative. Conditions under the Railway Department are different to those on the civil side, and consequently both the retrenchment concessions and the re-employment terms differed on the railway side as compared with the civil side. It was not considered feasible to have uniform terms for both. In some matters one set of terms was less liberal than the other and in others the reverse.

NON-GRANT OF OLD SCALES OF PAY TO RAILWAY STAFF, ETC.

148. I would refer the Honourable Member to my answer to the previous question. There has been no variation as between various departments on the civil side but only between the Railway Department on the one side and the other civil departments on the other, the reason for that I have already given. On the civil side the policy of Government is to treat all re-employed personnel as new entrants.

Information promised in reply to unstarred question No. 224, asked by Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya on the 26th February, 1936.

GARAGES PROVIDED TO CERTAIN OFFICERS OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

The Agent, East Indian Railway's reply, which has since been received, is as follows :

- (a) Yes.
- (b) No.
- (c) No. Garage accommodation is provided by Commercial firms in Calcutta for the use of their employees free of charge. Garage accommodation is also provided at Writers' Buildings and the Customs House, Calcutta, free of charge.

Information promised in reply to part (b) of starred question No. 884, asked by Mr. Sham Lal on the 27th February, 1936.

COST OF IMPORTED CLOTH PURCHASED FOR UNIFORMS BY THE DEFENCE DEPARTMENT.

(b) The cost of uniform clothing purchased by the Defence Department directly from abroad during 1934-35 was Rs 77,448.

THE GENERAL BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS—concl'd.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair understands that Sir Henry Gidney proposes to move the next motion* under Demand No. 32—Home Department.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik (Home Member): On a point of order. This is a cut on the Home Department grant and the subject proposed to be raised is, I understand, the new scales of pay for new entrants into the Government of India services from the Anglo-Indian and domiciled European community. I understand the Honourable Member wishes to raise the question of the rates of pay in the Postal and Telegraph and Railway Departments. The Home Department has nothing to do with these two Departments or with fixing the rates of pay. I do not want to stifle discussion on this question, but I really do not think this is a Home Department matter.

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan (Member for Commerce and Railways): Moreover, I would draw your attention to the fact that if the Honourable Member, who proposes to move this cut, wants to discuss the new scales of pay in the Railway Department, he should have done so while the Railway Department was under discussion and he really cannot raise the question on the discussion of the demands of the general budget.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney (Nominated Non-Official): With all respect to the Home Member, I think it was the Home Department that issued the Circular that came out from the Home Department in July, 1934. Moreover, my motion will include in my remarks certain reflections on the Government of India Act of 1935, which, I think, is intimately associated with the Home Department.

*"That the demand under the head 'Home Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The Circular of July, 1934, had nothing to do with rates of pay at all. It merely had reference to the percentages of communal recruitment. No question of pay was discussed in it. Moreover, the Home Department did not pass the Government of India Act of 1935.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: I submit that the Home Department is the medium of communication in all such matters relating to the Government of India Act and the minority communities.

Mr. F. E. James (Madras: European): May I make a submission to you with regard to this matter. The fundamental question, I understand, is the question of the recruitment of these classes to certain services in the Government of India Departments.

Some Honourable Members: The motion is about scales of pay.

Mr. F. E. James: Surely you cannot anticipate what I am going to say. It refers to the recruitment of these classes under a Circular recently issued by the Home Department and the extent to which that recruitment is affected by the new rates of pay. Therefore, I do claim that there is perfectly just ground for discussion of this matter under the vote of the Home Department.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): May I suggest that if my Honourable friend, Sir Henry Gidney, wants to discuss the rates of pay of the Anglo-Indians, he can do it under the Customs or the Post Office, and if Sir Henry Gidney and the European Group will give that time to the unattached Members, my motion comes first under Customs.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair is now dealing with the point of order. What the Honourable Member, Sir Henry Gidney, wishes to discuss is the effect of the new scales of pay for new entrants into the Government of India services of the Anglo-Indian and domiciled European community. The Chair understands that the communiqué of the Home Department to which the Honourable Member refers has nothing to do with the new scales of pay. It only deals with the recruitment of Anglo-Indians and domiciled Europeans. If that is so, then it is not understood as to how the Home Department can be made responsible in this matter at all. It is the Railway Department that must be responsible, and the Railway Department demands are not under consideration.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: I do not see how the Home Department can escape from responsibility for the general principles underlying the remuneration of the Government of India services. The Home Department is one of the Departments, and how does the Home Member know that I do not wish to include his Department in my cut.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: If the Honourable Member can convince me that his motion refers to any services under the control of the Home Department, then I am prepared to say he is right.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): When there is a demand by a particular Department and a motion is made to reduce that demand, in order to discuss any question of policy, it must be the policy of that Department, and, if, as a matter of fact, what the Honourable Member wishes to discuss is, not the policy of the Home Department, then the Chair will hold that the discussion of this matter will not be relevant under that head. If the European Group wishes to move any other motion, they are at liberty to do so.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: Sir, I would ask you then to allow
12 Noon. me to raise this point under some other head.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair takes it, the European Group does not wish to discuss it and that they have no other cut. The Chair comes now to the Honourable Members who do not belong to any group, and, in their case, the only thing the Chair can do is to take the motions in order.

Mr. Joshi. Mr. Joshi's motion No. 10 under demand No. 16 stands first.

DEMAND No. 16.—CUSTOMS.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg (Finance Member): Sir, I beg to move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 93,04,000 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 'Customs'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 93,04,000 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 'Customs'."

Grievances of the Employees of the Customs Department.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Customs' be reduced by Rs. 100."

My object in moving this motion, Mr. President, is to draw attention to certain grievances of the employees of the Customs Department. The first grievance, which I want to place before the House, is as regards the scales of pay in the city of Bombay for employees in the Customs Department.

Sir, there are several Departments working under the control of the Finance Department in the city of Bombay such as the Accountant General's office, the Deputy Controller of the Currency's office, the Mint, Salt and Income-tax and two of these are directly under the Central Board of Revenue. The scales of pay for the men who are under the old scales of pay differ in the various Departments which I have mentioned. For instance, in the Accountant General's office a man begins on Rs. 60 and he rises up to Rs. 230; that is the scale given to him. In the office of the Deputy Controller of the Currency a man begins on Rs. 60 and rises to Rs. 230. In the Customs, a man begins on Rs. 60, gets a promotion of Rs. 4 and rises up to Rs. 100 and he then gets a promotion of Rs. 3

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and rises up to Rs. 160. In the Salt and Income-tax Departments a man begins on Rs. 60, gets a promotion of Rs. 4, rises up to Rs. 100 and then gets a promotion of Rs. 3 and rises to Rs. 160. I want to suggest to the Government of India that when there are offices under their own control in the city of Bombay, the scales of pay for the clerks should be the same. If in the Accountant General's office a man is employed on a salary of Rs. 60 and goes up to Rs. 230, I do not know why in the Customs Department a man should not rise to Rs. 230. The nature of the work in all these offices is the same and, therefore, I do not know why there should be any difference between the scales of pay. Then, if the Government of India have to fix some standard, they should at least introduce for the Customs Department the standard of the Bombay Government in the city of Bombay. In the Secretariat of the Bombay Government, Sir, a clerk begins on Rs. 60 and goes up to Rs. 190. I, therefore, want the Finance Department to give their attention to the lower scales of pay given to the clerks in the Customs Department and I would like them to increase the scales to the level of the other Departments under the Government of India in Bombay, viz., the office of the Accountant General, the office of the Deputy Controller of the Currency and the Mint. Then, the Government of India have introduced new scales of pay for the new entrants and if you compare the new scales of pay with the old scales of pay, you will find, Sir, that those who are under the old scales of pay are supposed to be receiving better remuneration, they start on Rs. 60, and they take 31 years to reach their maximum, while the new entrants begin on Rs. 50 but they reach their maximum, which is the same viz., Rs. 160, in 28 years. I want the attention of the Government to be drawn to this fact and I appeal to them to do justice to the men who are under the old scales of pay. Then, there is another small point which I wish to mention as regards the Customs Department. In the Customs Department, the Government of India levy some kind of fee on ships which are loaded or unloaded on Sundays. These are called Sunday fees. The money collected by these Sunday fees is distributed, at least partly, to a number of institutions which are intended for the benefit and welfare of the employees of the Customs Department. Some of the institutions that receive benefits are the Preventive Service Club, the Wharfingers' Club, the Lascars' Club and the Bombay Education Society. The clerks in the Customs Department have got an Association and they had made an application to the Government of India asking for a contribution out of the Sunday fees for starting a recreation club, a library and such other welfare activities. The Government of India did not take their application into favourable consideration. I would like the Government to make a generous contribution out of the Sunday fees to the Clerks' Association. Clerks' work is as much necessary for the Customs Department as the work of the Preventive officers and some other officers for whose organisation the Government of India pay contributions from their Sunday fees.

Then, Sir, I have got one or two points to which I would like to draw the attention of the Government of India in the Finance Department. There are many employees of the Government of India who feel that there should be a proper provision for themselves and their families in their retirement or on their premature death.

Mr. A. H. Lloyd (Government of India: Nominated Official): I rise to a point of order, Sir. Is the Honourable Member in order in raising on a

cut motion under the head "Customs" a discussion of a subject which he himself admits is a matter for the Finance Department? The question of revision of pensions or institution of provident funds applies to all Government officers, not merely to officers in the Customs Department. The Customs Department cannot adopt a different set of rules from those which are applicable to the whole of the Government of India.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member should confine himself to the Customs Department.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: What applies to employees in the other Departments of the Government of India must apply also to the Customs Department. There are a large number of employees in the Customs Department who have got these grievances.

There is another point which I would like the Government of India to consider. The Government of India is one organisation. It is indivisible. When I, therefore, make an appeal to the Government of India, I make an appeal to the entire Government of India, not to one particular Department.

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: But under the right head.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Under the head under which the employees suffer a grievance. I do not know myself which is the right head. I do not know which Department of the Government of India considers the question of provision of provident fund or gratuity or pensions.

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: The Honourable Member must make sure of the appropriate Department before making an appeal.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I propose to place before the House the grievances of the employees of the Customs Department.

Now, Sir, the grievances of the employees of the Customs Department are, that they would like to have the choice for protection of themselves and their families in their retirement or on their premature death either by a pension fund or a provident fund or gratuity. If a man dies while in harness he would like his family to get some gratuity. The Government of India provide for the protection of a man after retirement which is denied to the man who dies in harness. It is not the fault of the man that he died in harness. His family must be protected. In some cases, the Government of India give gratuity. The employees in the Customs Department, along with the employees of other Departments, claim that, when a man dies in harness, his family should be given gratuity equal to one month's pay for each year of service. They also feel that they would prefer a scheme of provident fund for the protection of themselves and their families on their retirement instead of pension. A Resolution was passed in the Council of State in 1924 that a scheme for the institution of provident fund should be undertaken for the employees of the Customs Department as well as for other Departments. A scheme was formulated by the Government of India. Unfortunately, that scheme did not meet with the approval of the employees. The employees wanted a scheme of provident fund at least as good as the scheme of provident fund which exists on Indian railways. The Government of India at that time were not willing to make that scheme as good as the railway provident

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fund. I would like the Government of India to consider that question very seriously now. The financial position of the Government of India is not bad. They are showing a surplus. I would, therefore, like them to undertake a scheme for the establishment of provident fund for the benefit of the employees of the Customs Department along with the employees of other Departments.

I would also like the Government to inform me what they have done as regards increasing the rates of pension of inferior servants of the Customs Department and of other Departments under the Government of India. Last year, I moved a cut motion and drew the attention of the Honourable the Finance Member to this subject. The Honourable the Finance Member was very kind and generous to promise consideration of that subject. I should like to know how far the consideration of that subject has progressed and what are their proposals for increasing the rates of pay of inferior servants. The inferior servants of the Customs Department as well as of the other Departments have got a grievance about the grant of leave. The Government of India have made a rule that if a man belonging to the inferior service is to go on leave, he will be given leave only if it does not entail the incurring of additional expenditure. I feel that this is a wrong and very unfair rule. When other employees of the Government of India go on leave, it is not necessary that there should be no additional expenditure to the Government of India. I do not know why the Government of India should grudge to incur the small expenditure in order that proper leave might be given to their inferior servants. The general practice is that if a member of the inferior service is to go on leave, he has to give a substitute and the substitute is to be paid by the man who goes on leave. I am only giving the general rule. The present practice is that the Government of India do not have to incur anything more on account of leave given to the members of the inferior service. I feel, Sir, that the Members of the inferior service require leave, both casual and privilege, as much as the members of the other services, subordinate services and superior services. I would like the Government of India to do away with the difference which exists in the leave rules for members of the inferior service, of the subordinate service and of the superior services in this matter. Another point of grievance is that the amount of leave given to members of the inferior service is also much smaller in the case of inferior servants than in the case of members belonging to other services. I would like the Government of India to give serious consideration to the question of allowances given to members of the inferior service during their leave. I should like the Government of India to establish, in each Department including the Customs Department, a leave reserve in order that members of the inferior service should get casual leave and privilege leave with full pay as the members of other services get. There is also a difference made as regards travelling allowances paid to the members of the inferior services. The privileges of travelling allowance are also not the same. The Government of India make a difference in the scale. I would like them to revise the scales of travelling allowance paid to the members of the inferior service. In making this appeal, I should like the Government of India to consider this: that when members of the superior services have a grievance, there is the British Parliament to agitate on their behalf. There is the Secretary of State to do everything for them. Also, if the members of other subordinate services have any grievance there are a large number of members willing to ventilate their grievances. They have

got their own organisations, but the men who belong to the inferior services are not generally much educated; there are very few people to agitate on their behalf. The only people whom I should have expected to agitate on behalf of the inferior servants are the people who are sitting on my left. The members belonging to the inferior services generally serve the Members on the Government Benches and, if there are any people who should rightly agitate on behalf of the members of the inferior services, it is the Members who sit on the Government Benches. But, Sir, gratitude or appreciation of proper service is not a strong point with the Members who sit on the Government Benches. I should like at least one of them to rise in his seat and do justice to the men who serve under them. Sir, I do not wish to take the time of the House much longer but

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has only two minutes more.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I shall not speak any more, but I again appeal to the Government of India to do justice to the employees in the Customs Department and also to the members belonging to the inferior services in the matter of their leave and in the matter of their travelling allowance, and, as regards other matters mentioned by me, also announce what their plans are. I hope, Sir, my motion will be accepted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Cut motion moved:

“That the demand under the head ‘Customs’ be reduced by Rs. 100.”

Mr. V. V. Giri (Ganjam *cum* Vizagapatam: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I take this opportunity of ventilating certain grievances of the Assistant Preventive Officers in the Madras Customs Chief port. The present Customs service of the Madras Chief port consists of 13 Preventive Officers of whom I am told only five are educationally qualified; there are 19 Assistant Preventive Officers of whom 15 are qualified. They receive pay ranging from Rs. 60—3—135 in the case of the Assistant Preventive Officers and Rs. 120—7—295 in the case of the Preventive Officers. Prior to 1920 there was no distinction made between the Preventive and the Assistant Preventive Officers because, their duties were absolutely the same. But, in the year 1920, a revision was made and these officers were divided into the upper division and lower division. Page 1 of part I of the Preventive Manual clearly says:

“Generally speaking, no distinction is made in the nature of duties allotted to them.”

There was a discussion in the Assembly in 1934 when this question was raised and the grievances of the Assistant Preventive Officers were ventilated, and then they amended the Sea Customs Manual; and it was stated that certain duties were allotted to the Preventive Officers and certain other duties were allotted to the Assistant Preventive Officers, making a sort of artificial difference. That is to say, the Preventive Officers were asked to guard certain gates of the port and the Assistant Preventive Officers were asked to guard certain other gates. Before 1932, at any rate, the overtime allowances that were paid were practically the same for the work done regarding the Preventive Officers and the Assistant Preventive Officers, most probably on account of ventilating the

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grievances in the Assembly. Unfortunately even in the matter of overtime allowances there has been a distinction made; and, now, the Assistant Preventive Officers receive only half the overtime allowances that they were hitherto receiving. Therefore, the grievance of these Assistant Preventive Officers is that there should be equal pay for equal work, and also, their further grievance is that the overtime allowances should be equally distributed between the Preventive Officers and the Assistant Preventive Officers. I desire to ask Government to go into this matter, to make an enquiry, and do justice to the Assistant Preventive Officers.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon (Sind: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I beg to support this motion. I have also given notice of a motion like this which is No. 37 on the list. In the Karachi Customs Department, for many years, the peons are getting a very low scale of pay and they also do not get any house allowance. They are also getting very low pensions. They do not even get the pensions which peons in other departments in Karachi get under the provincial rules. Their pay is also low as compared to that of the Provincial Government's peons. They have sent several representations through the Collector of Customs, but up till now their grievances have not been redressed. I beg to submit on their behalf that they are very poor people who draw hardly Rs. 12 or Rs. 15 or Rs. 18 a month, and Government should consider their grievances and do justice to them. As the Customs Department is getting more income than any Provincial Government, I request Government to consider their case favourably.

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: Sir, the Honourable Member, who moved this motion began by discussing the scales of pay for clerks of the Customs Department in the City of Bombay. He read out certain figures with sufficient accuracy to make it unnecessary for me to give a statement of the actual scales of pay, old and new. The first point, and I think the most important point, in his mind was the argument that the clerks in the Customs Department, in the City of Bombay, should be paid on the same scale as the clerks in the Accounts Offices there. If I may say so, he begged the whole question by saying in five or six words that the nature of the work was the same in both cases. We have, of course, repeatedly had occasion to consider very carefully what should be the rates of pay for the clerks in the Customs Department in Bombay, and I can only assure the Honourable Member that we do not accept the view that there is such a close similarity between the nature of the work required of the clerks in the Customs Department and of those in Audit Offices there. The work of the former is not of such a nature as to justify the raising of their pay to the higher level. I think that he will himself readily recognise that he is on even weaker ground in suggesting that the duties of the clerks in the Customs Department are identical in quality with those of the clerks in the Bombay Secretariat. After all, I think I know of no place where clerks with higher qualifications are not regarded as necessary for the Secretariat than for other offices; and I notice that my Honourable friend did not make a comparison between the pay given to the clerks in the Customs Department and the pay given to the clerks in other Bombay Government offices, not being the Secretariat. The

suggestion that the Government of India ought to have uniform rates of pay for all offices under their control in a given centre was, I think, the main and certainly the most general point that was raised. I must repeat that that is a point which we had to consider carefully in connection not only with Bombay, but with other large centres, and we are not able to accept the argument underlying that case as valid.

Then, the Honourable Member went into more detail and referred to a grievance of clerks on the old scale, namely, that, in certain respects, their scale might be described as inferior to that which has been fixed for the new entrants. Again, if I might be permitted to say so, he begged the question by saying that the old scales were supposed to be better. That was not the theory: the theory of the revision of scales of pay was, in the new circumstances, to fix a scale of pay which was suitable. It was not necessary, although in almost all cases it was the case, that the new scale of pay should be inferior to the old one. Moreover, there are several important points to bear in mind. The new scale may have a shorter period for reaching the maximum, but it begins with a lower minimum; to that extent, it is inferior. Another important point is that the new scale is definitely divided into two sections, and the top section is limited to 40 per cent. of the total number of posts. In this way it is by no means certain that clerks will reach the maximum in the period of 28 years, whereas, under the old scale, a clerk was, barring the possibility of being stopped at an efficiency bar or subject to disciplinary action, certain to reach his maximum in 31 years. This is by no means the only case where the revised scale has appeared to be, or actually been, superior to the old scale, but it is the principle of the Government of India that when such a result does occur, the old entrants who knew what was the bargain they were undertaking when they entered the service, should not be given the benefit of the new scale.

So much for the pay of clerks. I am afraid, I cannot hold out any hope to the Honourable Member that the Government of India are likely to reconsider the decision which they have taken after a great deal of careful study of this subject.

The Honourable Member then referred to the refusal by the Central Board of Revenue Ministerial Officers' Union of a grant out of what is called the Sunday Fees Fund to help them to start a recreation club for clerks. Now, the first point, and a very important point to remember, is that the Central Board of Revenue Ministerial Officers' Union includes not only clerks in the Customs Department, but clerks of other departments, who can have no valid claim whatever to a share in the benefits of the Sunday Fees Fund, which has hitherto been utilized only for customs employees, and for the general public, particularly the sea-faring public, of the port in question.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I interrupt the Honourable Member for a minute and tell him that the Bombay Education Society which receives a grant from the Sunday Fees Fund is not confined to the Customs Department? They extend their benefits to all other classes of people.

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: This is rather a peculiar point. The grant to the Bombay Education Society which has been paid for some years was a very small one, and it was not given to that society for its general

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purposes, but it was specifically given for the education of certain children of a deceased employee of the Customs Department, and it will cease when the education of those particular children ceases. It is, therefore, entirely out of comparison with the case that I have mentioned, although I can understand the misunderstanding on the Honourable Member's part—a quite natural misunderstanding.

The position, then, is that the Union about which the Honourable Member spoke is not confined to clerks or other officers of the Customs Department. We, therefore, felt very clearly that such a union was not the best medium through which Government could render assistance to the Customs clerical establishment by way of a grant from the Sunday fees. Then, there was the ways and means problem. There are several Members in the House who have been on the Standing Finance Committee, from time to time, when this subject of the Sunday fees distribution has come up for discussion there, and I have had the privilege of being present at such discussions. They at least will remember that ever since the catastrophic slump of 1930-31, the situation as regards Sunday fees has completely changed. Before that period, we had an embarrassingly large amount of these fees which, I might explain to those Members who are not familiar with the subject, we decided as a matter of policy to distribute in the manner which I have described and not to credit to general revenues, because of the purpose for which these are imposed, namely, to discourage the working on ships on Sundays and thereby to discourage the employment of both customs officials and seafaring men on Sundays. It was, therefore, felt, many years ago, by the authorities that in these circumstances Government should not make, if I may use the expression, a profit out of these fees. That old decision of Government was some years ago considered again and approved by the Standing Finance Committee, and became the settled policy of Government. Up till the slump, we were, if anything, embarrassed by the amount of fees available for distribution. After the slump, the position completely changed, and there were not enough fees in any year to meet, even on a reduced basis, what I may describe as existing commitments, that is to say, the payment of subscriptions to those institutions which had in the past regularly benefited by these distributions. With the consent of the Standing Finance Committee, therefore, it was decided as a matter of general practice that there should be no addition at all to the list of beneficiaries until more funds were available. This decision was reinforced by the consideration that actually the funds fell short of what was required to keep those existing beneficiaries going, even on the reduced scale, in the way in which they had been assisted in the past; and the Standing Finance Committee once again agreed to our suggestion that to that extent the general revenues might make a contribution for keeping up the fund to the required level. In these circumstances, I think the House will generally agree that the introduction of new beneficiaries is undesirable and improper. The Central Board of Revenue Ministerial Officers' Union did, I understand, a year or two ago put in a representation on the matter on the ground that a grant had in fact been given to a new beneficiary, namely, the wharfingers' club. It is true that the grant was given that year to the wharfingers' club but that was not actually the introduction of a new beneficiary because it was the transfer to the club of part of the funds which had been allotted to

another institute of which the wharfingers themselves were the beneficiaries. I cannot, therefore, hold out any hope that, at any rate so long as the position of shipping and the consequent reduced yield of Sunday fees remains as at present, we are likely to be able to consider the addition of any new beneficiaries to the list; and, even then, we shall have again to face the difficulty, which I began by mentioning, that the union in question is not confined to customs officials.

The Honourable Member then raised certain grievances which, with your permission, I will describe as of general application to all Government servants, although they have incidental application to the Customs Department also. I think this places me in rather a difficulty, because I am sure that no Member of the House will suggest that matters like pension rules and leave rules should be dealt with separately for the Customs Department and for other departments of the Government of India. Therefore, I have in effect to answer for the whole of the Government of India

Mr. N. M. Joshi: A very honourable position.

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: and I must disclaim my fitness to hold it; however I will do my best in the circumstances. He referred in general terms to the idea of giving employees of the Customs Department—and I may add of other departments—a choice between pensions or a provident fund—I suppose he means contributory provident fund—or gratuities; and under the head of gratuity he mentioned a kind of gratuity which was somewhat unfamiliar to me, in Government service, that is to say, a gratuity of one month's pay per year payable to the heirs of a Government servant who dies while still employed. He referred again to a scheme of provident fund which was rejected apparently by certain services on the ground that it was not as good as the railway provident rules. On that matter I am afraid my information is not altogether complete, for the reason which I have given; but I would like to quote certain references. If the Honourable Member will refer to the Legislative Assembly Debates of the 25th February, 1933, he will find printed as a statement laid on the table, a resume of the discussions relating to the schemes for the substitution, partial or entire, of a provident fund or other corresponding benefits, for pensionary benefits. That resume in spite of its title is a very long document and I certainly do not propose to bother the House by reading it out. It went in detail into various schemes that had been considered and concluded as follows:

“The ultimate position is that, after a most careful investigation extending over a considerable period, it has been found to be quite impracticable to devise any scheme acceptable to the services which would not involve additional expenditure unjustifiable in the face of existing financial conditions; and the Government of India have been obliged to accept the conclusion that the existing pension system must remain in force.”

My Honourable friend may reply that the financial conditions in 1936 are not the same as conditions in 1933. I think, however, the House generally will agree, that they are sufficiently similar to make it desirable still for Government to hesitate before embarking on any scheme which would involve very considerable expenditure.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: The House will sanction the money, I am sure.

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: I do not think there is at present before the Government any proposal to revive such a general scheme, substituting provident funds for pensions. There is one subject

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Today being Friday, Honourable Members would like to adjourn earlier, as the House generally does. The Honourable Member can now stop and then resume his speech after lunch.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till a Quarter Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at a Quarter Past Two of the Clock, Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) in the Chair.

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: Sir, when we adjourned for lunch, I was making a few remarks about the suggestions generally for the substitution of a contributory provident fund for pensions or the payment of gratuities, and I alluded to a statement that was laid on the table of the House in 1933. In the same session the Honourable Sir George Schuster made a speech in which he explained and repeated the arguments contained in that resume and promised to consider one step towards ensuring that the families of Government servants are not left stranded on the death of the Government servants when in service, by making it compulsory for Government servants to make some provision for their families either in the shape of a contribution to the provident fund or some scheme of insurance. That, I think, is all that I am able to say to my friend on this subject.

My Honourable friend then proceeded to discuss the special case of inferior servants and put forward the view that their pensions, under the existing orders, are inadequate. He will remember that the Honourable the Finance Member last year said that this matter would be taken up. He admitted that in this matter there was an undoubted grievance, and that the time had come when something should be done to put this grievance right. I can assure the Honourable Member that this matter has not been allowed to slide. It has involved a great many discussions with the various departments concerned, and it has not escaped our notice. It was a subject of much discussion during the Simla season. There are difficulties which, I am afraid, have caused delay in the drafting of actual orders or rules, but I may tell my Honourable friend that the revised rules relating to inferior servants will be published very shortly, and I feel sure he will find, when they are published, that they constitute a step forward in the direction he desires.

My Honourable friend then referred to the conditions of leave and leave allowances to inferior servants. On this matter again, if I am to refer to a pronouncement made by a Finance Member (and I must be excused for looking for such authority, because the subject is brought under Customs, and I may be pardoned for saying that that is a legal fiction), I have to go back to Sir Basil Blckett to find a statement made

in this Assembly on the subject of leave conditions for inferior servants. In the year 1927, in answering a question in the Assembly, he said that the Government of India were not able to agree that the conditions of service of inferior services and superior services should be the same and the expression which he used was: "having regard to the nature of the duties performed by Government servants in the inferior grades as compared with those performed by the superior servants",—I understand that to mean, speaking generally, that the duties of the members of the inferior services are not calculated to bring about either mental fatigue to such an extent as is brought about in brain workers who are kept hard at the grindstone, or physical fatigue which is brought about in the case of industrial workers (with whom my friend, Mr. Joshi, is much more familiar, if I may say so, than with the case of inferior Government servants). I am afraid, Sir, that in this matter the Government of India do not contemplate any departure from the position which Sir Basil Blackett took in 1927. This really, I think, brings to an end what I have to say in reply to Mr. Joshi's remarks.

As regards the question raised by my friend from Madras, regarding the preventive service in Madras, I do not think it is unfair for me to remind him that the matter has already been the subject of a very full discussion in this House. It is perfectly true, as my friend observed, that in or about 1932 certain Standing Orders of the Madras Custom House were altered in order to bring the orders regarding the distribution of work, between the higher preventive service and the lower service of Assistant Preventive Officers, more in keeping with what, in the view of the Central Board of Revenue, should be the distribution between the higher paid staff and the lower paid staff—a distribution that, in fact, had up to a point been in existence before, in spite of the wording of those orders. For those revised orders the Central Board of Revenue must itself take responsibility, and it is not afraid of taking responsibility for having laid down that higher paid staff should have more responsible duties and the lower paid staff should have less responsible duties. That, I believe, is the only point which was brought forward by my Honourable friend, which has not been discussed already in this House, though not perhaps in the time of many of the present Members. I may, therefore, be excused if I point out that the arrangement under which work has been so distributed as to bring in more overtime fees to the higher paid staff than to the lower paid staff, is based upon the view which was held by the Board then, and which is still held by the Board, that it is unreasonable that an officer on, say, Rs. 200 a month, should be earning 15 or 20 per cent. of his monthly pay in overtime fees, while another officer on Rs. 70 a month is earning as much as 100 per cent. of his pay in overtime fees. If there is any justification, and I claim there is justification, for the distinction between the rates of pay of more responsible officers and less responsible officers, that justification is carried, we believe, into the field of the allowances which are earned by these officers in addition to their pay. It is, I admit, unfortunate that in the past the practice was different, and we cannot deny that the change of practice has created some sense of grievance in the minds of those who have suffered. But, as I have said, we have to set against that two considerations; firstly, we have removed a sense of grievance which the other officers felt and secondly, we have made arrangements to see that the allowances are more in keeping with the fitness of things.

[Mr. A. H. Lloyd.]

My Honourable friend from Karachi reinforced the plea of the Honourable the Mover of the motion in regard to pensions to inferior servants, and in addition to that, he drew some comparison unfavourable to the position of servants in the Central Board of Revenue, between the remuneration of inferior servants under this Board and of inferior servants at Karachi under the Local Government. This is the first time we have heard, so far as I know, of this particular grievance. It has not been represented to the Board through the ordinary channels, and if it comes to the Board in the ordinary way it will naturally receive the most careful consideration. But what the results of that consideration will be, I shall probably not be required to disclose, because I cannot foresee it.

Sir, that is all I think I have to say in reply to this motion. If my Honourable friend is dissatisfied with the lack of response to his wishes that I have given in various directions, it is perhaps not much use appealing to him to withdraw the motion. But I do assure him that every single point with which he has dealt, so far as it concerns the Central Board of Revenue, has been the subject of most careful consideration and that we have attempted to deal with them all in a spirit of equity; and so far as the matters concern the Government of India as a whole, I have been able to say something definite on the subject of pensions to inferior servants which shows that in the Government of India there is not such an entire lack of sympathy with the lot of inferior Government servants as to justify the passing of a vote of censure on the Government.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhij Chandra Datta): The question is:

"That the demand under the head 'Customs' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The motion was negatived.

Position of Bengal Muslims in the Customs Offices at Calcutta and Chittagong.

Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim (Chittagong Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Customs' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Deputy President, perhaps this is the last time that I shall have the privilege of addressing this House from my place here, during a Budget-Session, and, as such, it is the mandate of my constituency to bring for the last time to the notice of the Government of India their grievance, so far as this department is concerned, in my part of Bengal. When I came to this Assembly about September, 1926, it fell to my lot, for the first four or five years, to take part in debates on a matter of this kind, and later on, with the collaboration of friends on all sides of the House, not excluding the Government,—about a couple of years ago, the Government decided on doing some sort of a semblance of justice to the people on whose behalf I am talking here this afternoon. Although these two places, Chittagong and Calcutta, are not the flesh-pots of Bengal, still they are the two most important sea-ports in that part of the country, and from them the Government of India collect a very large amount of revenue centrally. These two places are governed from here, from a distance of nearly 2,000 miles at Delhi and Simla. And my impression is that in spite of the very best wishes for good, better or even best, we are not sufficiently able to make our friends on the spot realise that the Government mean what they say in their orders and circulars. The grouse

of my constituency, I mean of the people living in Chittagong, is that, though they are nearly 90 per cent of the whole population and though these offices have been in existence from the time the East India Company was pleased to take over that port and they have been growing, and growing steadily, still when there is a chance, even after a hundredth rotation for a Bengali Mussalman, that share goes either to Bombay or to a good cricket player coming from Peshawar and elsewhere. I have no grouse that in the name of Mussalmans people from all sides should get in, but the local feeling is that, when everything is equal, it ought to be the policy of the Government that they should take people on the spot and not see for recruits from Peshawar and Karachi. You, Mr. Deputy President, must have noticed yourself as you happen to be at Calcutta mostly, what is the condition of the offices in Calcutta as well. I have just been told by my Honourable friend from Barisal that this matter has been very well represented in a Calcutta daily newspaper; perhaps the sentiment is there also. If the Government of India feel that they are not sufficiently strong to make their local agents at Calcutta and Chittagong realise that they cannot go behind the circular orders, then I would counsel them to give it up to the local authorities in Bengal. The present holder of office of Assistant Collector at Chittagong is an amiable first class gentleman. My remarks are not personal, but it seems that, both at Calcutta and Chittagong, the administration is at great fault and they do not seem to take any serious notice of Government circulars in these matters. So my submission to Government is this. The customs is controlled by the Central Board of Revenue, which is a subordinate agency of the Finance Department, and I hope and trust that they, in their wisdom, may see that justice is done to Bengal Muslims in these matters. I do not like to rouse the ire of my friend, Bhai Parma Nand. I do not want anything more than what has already been decided to be given. I hope Government will see that justice is done to our people, so that there may not be cause for any more cut motions or debates in this House.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Customs' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: The Honourable Member has raised a point which, in relation to the Departments under the Government of India, was not covered by the general orders of 1934 regarding the reservation of certain proportions of vacancies for particular communities. We, in the Central Board of Revenue, at once recognised that, in the case of services such as those that are under us, that was a point upon which some direction should be given to our subordinate officers. On our own responsibility, therefore, we passed orders giving instructions that while it was not to be regarded as necessarily a part of the Government of India's policy that recruitment in any particular local area should be confined to persons domiciled within the related area, recruitment should be so regulated as far as possible, and, if an exception was to be made, it should only be done under the specific orders of the head of the Department. At the same time, I must make it clear, that we felt that it was only just to the inhabitants of a non-maritime province that they should not be wholly excluded from representation in a service like the Customs Department, which is in the nature of things solely confined to the maritime provinces. We, therefore, took the liberty of dividing India into portions, assigning one group to each of the major ports; and for this purpose we may say that Chittagong has

[Mr. A. H. Lloyd.]

gone with Calcutta. To Calcutta, as the normal field of recruitment, we assigned not merely Bengal, but also Assam, and Bihar and Orissa. If my Honourable friend objects to our Collector of Customs at Calcutta being at liberty to recruit from Assam and Bihar and Orissa as well as from Bengal, then I am afraid there is little chance of our being able to meet him; but I think that the majority of Members of this House would agree with the view of the Central Board of Revenue, that this particular field of employment should not necessarily be reserved solely for the maritime provinces. That principle might even exclude most of the inhabitants of Bengal itself, because if you followed it to its logical conclusion, you would have to confine recruitment to the 24 Parganas and the Chittagong district. If, however, he does not object to our including Assam and Bihar and Orissa with Bengal as the recruiting ground for the Customs Department in Bengal, then, I hope that he will be satisfied with the assurance that I have already given that the recruitment for these custom houses, from outside that field, is under the Board's instructions not to be undertaken except for special reasons to be approved specifically in each case by the head of the Department.

Mr. M. S. Aney (Berar Representative): Will the Honourable Member explain what is the recruiting field for the other customs offices?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: The allotment is as follows. I have given it for Bengal. To Bombay, we have assigned the Bombay Presidency, the Central Provinces and the United Provinces; to Madras, the Presidency of Madras; and to Karachi, we have assigned, Sind, Delhi, Punjab and the North-West Frontier Province. I may say that we worked these out very carefully after a consideration of the population of the areas of these various groups and getting as nearly as possible the same relative proportions as exist between the establishments of the customs houses concerned.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is:

"That the demand under the head 'Customs' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 93,04,000 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 'Customs'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 17—TAXES ON INCOME.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 82,72,000 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 'Taxes on Income'."

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 82,72,000 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 'Taxes on Income'."

Babu Baijnath Bajoria (Marwari Association: Indian Commerce):

Sir, I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Taxes on Income' be reduced by Rs. 100."

I wish to discuss, Sir, the method of assessment of the income-tax and the method of disposing of the appeals.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): I am afraid this is out of order.

Babu Baijnath Bajoria: Then, may I move No. 6, in order to discuss the revision of income-tax law?

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): That is clearly out of order. Does the Honourable Member want to move any other motion standing in his name?

Babu Baijnath Bajoria: No, Sir.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 82,72,000 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 'Taxes on Income'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 18—SALT.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 63,18,000 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 'Salt'."

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 63,18,000 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 'Salt'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 19—OPIUM.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 27,49,000 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 'Opium'."

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 27,49,000 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 'Opium'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 19A—EXCISE.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,78,000 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 'Excise'."

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,78,000 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 'Excise'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 20—STAMPS.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 17,39,000 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 'Stamps'."

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 17,39,000 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 'Stamps'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. M. S. Aney: Sir, this was the time fixed for the unattached Members to move any cuts they wanted to move. The point is this. Some portion of their time is now taken away on account of certain demands being moved now and put to the House for vote, and so on. They lose so much of their time. The better course will perhaps be to call upon the unattached Members to move their cuts, and the Honourable the Finance Member should be called upon only to move those demands under which cuts are to be moved by unattached Members. Otherwise, much time is lost, and they will not be able to do justice to their cut motions.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): It is not necessary for the Chair to call upon any particular Honourable Member to move his cut motion.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I will move my cut motions under Posts and Telegraphs. This is the time, as my Honourable friend, Mr. Aney, says, allotted to unattached Members.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): We are proceeding demand by demand, and, as each demand is taken up, any unattached Member, who may have a cut motion under that particular demand, may move his motion.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: This procedure was not followed in the case of the time allotted to Members of the organized Parties. I do not know why this procedure should be followed only in the case of unattached Members.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): There is a radical difference between defined Parties and Honourable Members belonging to no Party.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I submit, Sir, that the Chair is the guardian of the rights of minorities in this House, and the Chair should protect their rights.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Rightly or wrongly, the Chair has ruled that it will follow this procedure. The Chair does not think there will be any substantial loss of time to the unattached Members.

DEMAND No. 21—FOREST.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,33,000 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 'Forest'."

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,33,000 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 'Forest'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 22—IRRIGATION (INCLUDING WORKING EXPENSES), NAVIGATION, EMBANKMENT AND DRAINAGE WORKS.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,07,000 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 'Irrigation (including Working Expenses) Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works'."

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,07,000 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 'Irrigation (including Working Expenses) Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 23—INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT (INCLUDING WORKING EXPENSES.)

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 10,91,01,000 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 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including Working Expenses)'."

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 10,91,01,000 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 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including Working Expenses)'."

Certain Grievances of the Employees of the Postal Department, especially the Grievances of Postmen and the Inferior Servants of that Department.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including Working Expenses)' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Sir, my object in giving notice of this cut motion is to discuss certain grievances of the employees of the Postal Department, especially the grievances of postmen and the inferior servants of that Department. But, Sir, before I speak about the grievances of postmen, may I, with your indulgence, express my deep regret that the organised Parties in this House should not have, during the discussion of the general budget, allotted a definite time for the discussion of labour questions as they did during the discussion on the railway budget. I hope, Sir, next year the organised Parties will show a little more indulgence and a little more sympathy for the cuts on labour questions, in order that they should have time for a proper and detailed discussion of their grievances during the budget discussion.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

Mr. M. S. Aney: Now that a complaint has been made against the organised Parties, I wish to point out . . .

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Now, I do not propose to give way.

Mr. M. S. Aney: Because the Honourable Member attacked the organised Parties, I wish to explain the position.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I am not giving way to anybody. The organised Parties had more time.

Mr. S. Satyamurti (Madras City: Non-Muhammadian Urban): Because the Honourable Members belonging to unattached Parties collapsed. Your did not agree among yourselves.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I suggest to my Honourable friend, Mr. Satyamurti, that, after having made use of their time to the best advantage, it is not fair on their part to take away some more time when the grievances of inferior servants of the Postal Department are to be discussed. They have already done injustice to the cause of labour by not giving them a definite time.

Well, Sir, the main grievance which I want to lay before the House this afternoon is the grievance of the postmen. These postmen are ill-paid employees of the Postal Department, and they generally come from classes which are not much educated. They do not generally rise beyond their grade. Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra, when he was in charge of this Department, made some concession to them and allowed them to go to the rank of a clerk after passing certain departmental tests. Then, the Department made certain rules creating a cadre of lower division clerks in that Department. Recently, a Committee, called the Pasricha Committee, was appointed by the Government of India. That Committee has recommended that, before a postman is promoted to the clerk's grade, some conditions should be fulfilled. This Committee was not quite satisfied that postmen should rise to the rank of clerks, and they laid down the condition that the postmen must remain postmen for five years before they can hope to become clerks. They also recommended that no postman should be promoted to the grade of a clerk, if he is over 30 years of age. I consider that these conditions are unfair. In the first place, if a young boy passes the matriculation examination, he can become a clerk in the lower division, but, if a postman passes the matriculation examination, he cannot become a clerk, because he has committed the sin of entering the Department as a postman. I feel, Sir, that the Government of India should show a little more sympathy for these people, who, on account of their poverty, have to take up jobs at an early age. I feel that the condition that a postman, before he becomes a clerk, must serve for five years is an unfair one. That shows that the Government of India will prefer an outsider to a postman who is qualified to occupy the post of a clerk.

Then, Sir, the condition as regards age too is an unfair one. I hope the Government of India will treat this class of their employees with sympathy and fairness and remove this condition and enable postmen to rise to the grade of clerks, and, if I may express the hope, to rise to higher grades also.

Then, Sir, there is one point which I would like to place before the Government of India. There are large numbers of Indian postmen at present serving in Burma in the Postal Department. We all know that Burma is to be separated very soon. The postmen and other employees of the Postal Department have represented to the Government of India that, when Burma will be separated, those of them who want to remain in Burma should remain there, and those of them who would like to return to India should be given an opportunity of being brought to India in the Postal Department. Then, Sir, they also have represented to the Government of India that those of the postal employees who would like to retire should be allowed to retire with an adequate pension. Sir, the separation of Burma has created a new situation, and when such a new situation has been created, it is but fair that the employees of that Department should be given a chance of either coming to India and serving the Department in India, or, if they want to retire, to retire with

[Mr. N. M. Joshi.]

adequate pension, or if they want to remain in Burma, to remain there. Sir, you know that, when the Government of India Act was passed in 1919, men belonging to the superior services were given the option to retire on proportionate pension on the ground that large administrative changes had been made by the Act. If on political grounds, men belonging to the superior services were given the opportunity to retire on proportionate pension, I am quite sure, the House will agree with me that the separation of Burma is a very great change; and when such a change is made, those Indians who are working in Burma should be permitted to retire with adequate pension or brought to the postal department in India, or if they choose to remain in Burma, should be allowed to remain there. I hope, Sir, the Government of India will consider this question very sympathetically.

Then, Sir, I should like to say a word about the inferior servants in the Postal Department. I have already this morning placed before this House questions regarding the pension, leave and travelling allowance of the inferior servants of the Government of India. Unfortunately, Sir, excepting the question of pensions, the reply which the Honourable Member gave on behalf of the Government of India was a very unsatisfactory one and, if I may say so, it was a very unsympathetic one. Sir, I was somewhat pained to find that the Honourable Member who may be controlling a large number of men belonging to the inferior services should have said in this House that the work of these inferior servants does not require much brains or does not involve physical work too. Is there a class of Government servant who is not expected to do his work intelligently? And if you ask my views, the lowest servant of the Government of India has to use his intelligence as much as the highest. It is wrong to believe that a sense of responsibility and intelligence should be expected only in the higher classes of people and the lower classes do not have any sense of responsibility for the humble work which they do or they do not show much intelligence in the work which they do. That impression of the Government of India is wrong. If I had any power in my hands, I would pass some regulation preventing anybody being employed under this Government. I feel that if an employer is to be allowed to employ people, the employer must be sympathetic to all classes of his employees. The employer, who says that his lowest classes of people need not show intelligence in their work, does not deserve to be an employer. And when you find several people standing here from 11 to 5 o'clock, I am told and the House is told that the work does not involve much physical fatigue. What am I to think of those employers, those people who sit here comfortably stretching their legs and tell these people who stand behind them to support their dignity from 11 to 5 that their work is less responsible and not quite so fatiguing? I hope that the gentleman in charge of the Postal Department will not have those ideas of the gentleman who spoke for the Customs Department. I hope he will show a better sense of his duty as an employer and treat the inferior servants of his department more sympathetically. I want the Postal Department to revise their rules for the grant of leave, casual as well as privilege, for their inferior servants. People belonging to the inferior services do not get casual leave. Now, on what ground is casual leave not to be given to them unless they provide a substitute and pay that substitute? Are there no occasions on which a member of the inferior service must

take leave? There must be some funerals in his family which he may have to attend; there may be other occasions like marriages in his family which he may have to attend. And if men belonging to the superior services have occasions to ask for casual leave and are not expected to pay the man who does their work, why should a member of the inferior service be expected to pay the man who takes his place? Moreover, there is no leave reserve for the grant of privilege leave to the members of the inferior services. I want the postal department to create a leave reserve for the inferior services. Moreover, men belonging to the superior services and men belonging to the subordinate services get privilege leave on full pay, while men belonging to the inferior services have to be content with half pay. May I know why men belonging to the superior services should be given full pay when they go on privilege leave and why members belonging to the subordinate services should get full pay when they go on privilege leave, but it should be denied to men who belong to the inferior services? Men belonging to the superior services can save money out of their salary every month and they can afford to go on privilege leave even on half pay or without pay; but men who belong to the inferior services get very low salaries and cannot make any savings. And if there is any class of people who should get leave on full pay it is the inferior servants. I hope, therefore, that the Postal Department will take the grievances of the inferior servants into consideration and see that these grievances are removed without any delay. I hope the House will also support my motion.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including Working Expenses)' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury (Bengal: Landholders): Mr. President, I have great pleasure in supporting the motion moved by my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi. At the same time, I do not think that the Parties have done any injustice to him in regard to ventilating the grievances of labour. The Parties came to an agreement and they stuck to it. I do not think that a single elected Member of this House desired in any way to ignore the question of labour.

First of all, I want to ventilate the grievances of the Railway Mail Service staff, which are generally on the lines of those of the staff on the Postal side. I have got here certain facts which I hope will receive attention from the Honourable Member in charge of the Department. First of all, the orders regarding the calculation of sets for Railway Mail Service sections remain unclarified, and they are being interpreted according to the will, or, I may say whim, of the Heads of Circles. An instance will make my point clear. J-3 Section, which runs from Ajmer to Delhi, has a run in the out-direction from 21-46 to 8-55 hours, i.e., of 11-15 hours, and in the in-direction from 21-9 to 8-4 hours, i.e., of 10-55 hours. The weekly working hours of the section come to 155.10 hours, exclusive of what is called platform attendance. Then, the D-11 Section, which runs from Delhi to Lahore, has a run in the out-direction from 21-45 to 8-30 and in the in-direction from 21-5 to 8-00 hours. Its weekly working hours come to 151.40 hours. But J-3 Section works with six sets, whereas D-11 Section works with only five sets. Why is this difference? The difference of about 3½ hours in the weekly working hours cannot deprive the D-11 Section of the sixth set. I feel that six sets are clearly justified for the D-11 Section and should be immediately maintained.

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I now come to the question of mail van accommodation. So far as my recollection goes, I generally ventilated the grievances about this accommodation in the railway mail vans, and the late Sir Thomas Ryan, who was the then Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs, gave a very sympathetic reply and told us that he would try to do as far as practicable on his part. But up till now I find that no improvement appears to have been made. If you just go for an evening stroll to the Delhi Railway station, between 20-30 hours and 10-00 hours, you will find how the van is packed with articles and six or seven sorters are crammed together in a compartment, with not much space for them even to move about. These sorters, some times, have to work for twelve hours at a time, and how is it possible for them to work in such a congested van for such a long time? That is a matter which ought to receive the serious consideration of my Honourable friend in charge of the Department.

I then come to the sanction of van peons for the Railway Mail Service section. Here is a very peculiar thing I am going to state. My study of the Appendices to the list of Indian Post Offices shows that it is only in the Punjab Circle that van peons have not been sanctioned as a general rule for the R. M. S. sections. I am not aware of the reasons for this, but I do not see why, in the Punjab alone, van peons have not absolutely been given for the R. M. S. That, Sir, I think, is unjustified and unreasonable.

I come to the Railway Mail Service rest houses. You can well understand that after working for eight or nine hours, when these men stop at a particular place to take rest for only a few hours, how necessary rest houses are. I found, when I visited some of these rest houses, that not even a cot was available. Sufficient utensils are not being supplied for their personal use and comforts. The rest houses are in a hopeless condition; they look like *serais*, where men come for a temporary stay. But the rest houses are not meant for temporary stay, because the men go to these rest houses after working for 12 hours at a stretch, and these buildings should be made comfortable for the workers. I hope the Director-General will take up this matter earnestly and give some sort of comforts to these unfortunate R. M. S. people.

I turn now to out-station and extra duty allowances. Here is another grievance, which I hope will receive serious consideration. The out-station allowance paid to the R. M. S. operative staff is much less than what would be ordinarily admissible to them under the Travelling Allowance rules. Besides, a stay out of headquarters for 12 hours or less does not entitle them even to a farthing. On the other hand, Superintendents and Inspectors of the Railway Mail Service are paid *full diem* allowance for their absence from headquarters for six hours, whereas these R. M. S. men, working for more hours—perhaps for 12 hours in many cases—do not get anything. If the rates of out-station allowance cannot be improved for the present, at least this discrimination should be removed at once. The telegraphists are allowed over-time allowance for every extra hour of work they put in, whereas no allowance is paid to the R. M. S. for the first three hours of extra work.

Then, I want to take up the want of uniformity of procedure everywhere. In dealing with the grievances of the R. M. S. staff, I cannot help mentioning that there is no uniformity of procedure in regard to the following:

- (1) Sanction of Selection Grade appointments in the R. M. S.—A section by the name of D-7 section (Ambala-Lahore) is working

with seven sorters for well nigh over three years, but a selection grade head sorter for the same has been denied. Sections similarly situated elsewhere got generally a selection grade head sorter. Why this difference in this particular case?

- (2) **Supervisory posts in time scale carrying duty allowance.**—Only in the Bengal Circle, supervisory posts with duty allowance of Rs. 20 per month have been sanctioned and nowhere else. Mail openers of Sealdah R. M. S., under the Postmaster General, Bengal and Assam Circle, get duty allowance of Rs. 20 per month, whereas, the mail openers of Howrah R. M. S., under the Postmaster General, Bihar and Orissa Circle, do not get any such allowance. Why is this difference made?
- (8) **Inspectors of R. M. S. need carrying selection grade rate of pay.**—As I have already said, the selection grade gives impetus to these men to work; when they are qualified, they will be given at least the chance of getting selection grade posts. Selection grade posts are entirely impossible for them if they are reduced under retrenchment. At least they should not be so reduced as to absolutely take away the charm from the service.
- (4) **Relaxation of work on Sundays and other holidays.**—Mr. Joshi cited the case of these peons who stand here from eleven to five who do not get any benefit. What I want to point out is that R. M. S. people who serve for 365 days in the year do not get any relaxation. Some provision should be made by which at least they should enjoy some holidays. When superior servants get casual leave, certainly the inferior servants should get the same facilities. As has been very rightly pointed out by my friend, Mr. Joshi, they may have certain necessities for leave such as marriage, illness. Inferior servants must be given some sort of casual leave.

I come again to the Postal Department. As my time is limited, I shall be as brief as possible. First of all, may I draw the attention of my Honourable friend to the restoration of cuts? I would now like to draw the attention of my Honourable friend to the fact that though the cuts in pay were restored, their allowances have not been restored. That is really not justified: these allowances are generally given for certain definite purposes and for special requirements, and when the cuts were restored these allowances also ought to have been restored.

The next point is that the new scales of allowances in the district of Mymensingh have been fixed by comparison with those in Dacca. But I can say from my personal experience that the cost of living in Dacca and Vikrampur, in Eastern Bengal, is very cheap, while in Mymensingh it is far dearer. I hope he will look into this point. He will also find that in places like Darjeeling and the Dooars there is the same difficulty. These matters do not come to the ears of the Director-General as these are small—an allowance of Rs. 2 per month to these low paid men; but in those places which are at high altitudes, the temperature sometimes goes below freezing point and it is not possible for these poor people to work without fuel, and I am sure my Honourable friend will not grudge the sum of Rs. 2 which these poor people were getting for fuel. I hope the Director-General will seriously consider these points, and restore these allowances to them.

[Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury.]

I would also like to point out that the clerks working in the Post Offices of Shillong and also those working in the Telegraph Engineering Office have been drawing certain percentage of Hill Allowance, whereas the clerks working in the office of the Superintendent of Post Offices, Shillong, have not been given any allowance whatsoever. When they are working in the same department, when they are of the same cadre, I think the same treatment should be meted out to them. Why should there be this difference?

I have narrated a few grievances, but for want of time, I have not been able to give the full catalogue. My Honourable friend in charge of the department, at least when he was a student, would have realised the position of the poor people; and now that he is elevated to such a responsible position I hope he will not forget his old days and that he will cast a sympathetic glance towards his poor countrymen, these postmen and railway mail service men, and I hope, the grievances which I have just narrated will engage his sympathetic consideration. With these words, I wholeheartedly support the motion moved by my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I rise to say a few words in support of the amendment moved by my friend, Mr. Joshi. We all admire Mr. Joshi, not only for his earnest and persistent advocacy of the claims of labour, but also for his sturdy independence. Owing to the defective nature of the present Constitution of the country, Mr. Joshi sits here as a nominated Member; but what a contrast does he present to another nominated Member who yesterday questioned my representative character in this House?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair does not think the Honourable Member should indulge in such personal comparisons.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: May I clear one point, Sir? I shall take only half a minute.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): No; the Honourable Member ought not to make these personal comparisons.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: I will not make any comparisons. The Member said yesterday that I was sent to this House by the Returning Officer and that I had no representative character. That is not true. What happened was this. I was duly proposed and seconded by a good number of electors in my constituency; and when the papers were scrutinised by the Returning Officer, it was found that my rival's paper was invalid and it was rejected. But that was no fault of mine. Sir, that Member, and perhaps any other Honourable Members of this House, know that I fought four elections to the Bengal Legislative Council, and that on three of these occasions I was returned by large majorities, while, on the fourth occasion, I was returned unopposed. And yet this Member, a man who never sought any election and who thrives on the favours of Government, has the hardihood and the audacity to challenge my representative character in this House. I hope and trust that other nominated Members will emulate the noble example set by my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, and not the example set by the other Member.

Coming to the subject under discussion, I must say that my Honourable friend has dealt with the question so fully that he has left very little for me to say. But I will dwell on only one aspect of the question, namely, the rule which debar a postman from rising to the position of a clerk. From personal experience I know that there are some educated men who, sometimes through poverty, enlist themselves as postmen; and it is exceedingly wrong on the part of Government to prevent these young men from rising to higher positions. When I was head of the Department of Economics and Commerce in the Calcutta University, I came to know that several candidates for the Bachelor of Commerce Examination enlisted themselves as postmen. Now, it would be a cruel injustice to these men to prevent them from rising to the position of clerks and even to higher positions. I hope, therefore, that this matter will receive the sympathetic consideration of Government, and the rule will be abrogated.

As regards the other grievances, I am entirely in sympathy with all that has fallen from the lips of my Honourable friend and I whole-heartedly support this amendment.

Mr. V. V. Giri: Sir, I rise to support the motion moved by my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi; and, in this connection, I would like to put forward before this House the grievances and demands of the postal workers and their organizations. Last year, a committee known as the Postal Enquiry Committee, otherwise known as the Pasricha Committee, was appointed. That Committee was known by another name: it was called the Efficiency Finding Committee. I am, however, glad to state, that in spite of the fact that the Government have spent a lakh of rupees on that Efficiency Finding Committee, that committee ultimately was found to be inefficient to give efficient methods. Anyway, I am glad that the Honourable Member in charge of this department and the Honourable Mr. Bewoor, the Director General, have given every opportunity for the organised unions to put forward their constructive views and constructive criticism as regards the Pasricha Committee report, and, I am sure, it will be conceded by the Honourable Member in charge that these unions, especially the Postal and R. M. S. Union of which I am the President, have put forward not only constructive methods but they proved by their counter-report that the Pasricha Committee Report may be thrown into the scrap heap.

One point I would like to urge before this House,—I urged it last year, and this year also I urged the same on the Director General when leading a deputation of the employees' representatives a fortnight ago, and it is this. There should be half yearly meetings convened between the representatives of the Unions and the employer to discuss matters affecting the grievances of the staff. There was a misapprehension on the part of the Director General that because there are five or six or 13 Postal Unions in India there will have to be held at least 13 half yearly meetings, and he felt that the whole time of the department would be taken up by these half yearly meetings. That was not my object when I suggested the holding of half yearly meetings. In fact, I stated at the last meeting that there should be meetings every year, not between one Union and the Department, but with all the Unions representing the staff in this country and the Director General. After all, constant touch between the employer and the worker will ensure peace in industry, and I hope my suggestion in this matter will be accepted. I am bound to say, of course, that the

[Mr. V. V. Giri.]

Director General meets the General Secretaries of these Unions, but that will not have the same effect as when a formal meeting of all the Unions takes place for one or two days so that all the demands and grievances of the workers can be thrashed out at that meeting. I hope these suggestions of mine will be accepted by the Government.

Then, Sir, I should like to say a few words about the reduction of staff. On the plea of effecting economies, a lot of reduction of establishments has taken place, and I feel that this retrenchment has affected the efficiency of the department. There have been many complaints made by the workers through their organized Unions, and I am sure the Government of India would not like to have sweated labour in the Postal Department. Mr. Bewoor's time test was used more to reduce the staff but at the same time, the same time test was not applied to increase the staff. This is a matter which, I submit, deserves the attention of the Department concerned, and more labour should be employed where it is necessary.

I am informed, Sir, that many selection grade posts have been taken away. On the other hand, the contract system, the principle of which was opposed by the Royal Commission on Labour, is being encouraged, that is to say, extra-departmental post offices are being introduced everywhere. I am further informed that on account of the paucity of many supervisors numerous frauds are occurring in these extra-departmental post offices. If this is a fact, then the Department should look into this matter and see that there is careful supervision exercised over these extra departmental post offices so that such frauds may not occur.

I am again told, Sir, that compensatory allowances sanctioned to workers at costly and unhealthy places as in the Agencies have been taken away. For instance, in Wynad where the Government servants get a compensatory allowance, the postal workers are not granted that allowance.

Then, I am told that the lower paid clerks do not get any compensatory allowance in localities where ordinary time scale clerks enjoy such concessions. I do not see why these poor workers should be penalised for getting lower wages and such compensatory allowances should not be granted to these lower grade clerks.

Another point to which I should like to draw the attention of the Honourable Member in charge of the Department is, that the workers who come under the new scales of pay, that is to say, some of those who are appointed after July 31st, lose on the new scales to the extent of a fifth of what they are getting. That is my information, subject of course to correction, and if that is so, I suggest that the Government of India should adopt the method put forward by the Government of Bombay where they allow such workers who receive the new scales, whatever the difference between the old and the new scale of pay, to receive such difference as special pay. I suggest that method should be adopted and the grievance of the workers who come under the new scales of pay should be removed.

Sir, I do not wish to take more time of the House except to mention that, so far as postmen are concerned, I am informed that they are not supplied with enough clothing or umbrellas or rain coats. If that is so, then I feel it is a just grievance, and the Government must look into that matter also and concede their demands. With these words, I support the motion moved by my friend, Mr. Joshi.

Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim: Mr. President, I wish to intervene in this debate, because I want to say one or two words in connection with what has fallen from my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member must speak up.

Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim: I am sorry I cannot raise my voice, Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Then the Honourable Member must come nearer.

(The Honourable Member then came to one of the front benches.)

Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim: Sir, I have listened with very great amount of interest to what fell from my friend, Mr. Joshi, with regard to people who are serving in the Postal Department in the province of Burma. Sir, there are a large number of people who belong to my part of Bengal and who happen to serve in various branches of the Postal and Telegraph Department in Burma. Representations have been made to us from time to time, feeling perhaps that, after the separation of Burma, they may not find it very congenial to live in that wonderful land, asking whether it would be possible for the Government of India to do anything in the manner suggested by Mr. Joshi. I think, Sir, this is a very just grievance, and I think that the Government of India in the Postal Department ought to have some sympathy for these people, because, after all, it seems to me, knowing as I do that province well, except those who belong to the superior services or to the Imperial Service, the subordinate servants will not like to continue in Government service in places like Siam and China on the borders of Burma. So I think Government will be showing a great favour to these people who are serving in those distant lands by transferring them to India.

There is one other matter which should be considered by the Government. Sir, those who happen to go to small post offices in this huge metropolis of India and its nearest suburbs for the creation of which the Government have spent nearly twenty crores, are compelled to see the filthy and the somewhat unspeakable condition of some of the sub and branch post offices round about the old city of Delhi and its near suburbs. I think, this is a matter which ought to receive the attention of the authorities in this department. If anybody happens to go to the Paharganj sub-post office or to the Jumma Masjid post office or the Chandni Chowk post office, he will see the filthy dens within the city walls. I am sure, Government are making enormous profit through these sub-post offices, and I feel that Mr. Bewoor will be rendering a great service to the people who have to work in these sub-post offices by providing them with better accommodation, because they have to spend most of their time in unhealthy surroundings, and they also suffer both from rain and sun. So, this being a legitimate grievance of the employees in some of these sub-post offices,—I may say that some of them are members of the Union with which I am connected,—I hope the Department will be good enough to look into the matter and take steps to remove their grievance. I cannot visualise what is lurking in the mind of the Government of India in the Department of Industries and Labour, but somewhere I heard, it may be here in New

[Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim.]

Delhi, that in the Department of Industries and Labour they are thinking of new ventures. They are thinking that it is absolutely obligatory on them to give the fullest effect to the Pasricha and Verma Committees' reports. Though I am a layman, I am not innocent of the working of this Department, and I must tell the Government that they should not attach too much credence and premium to these so-called reports. If they did so, they would not be following a very straight and medium policy, because the gentlemen of the Pasricha Committee as well as those of the Verma Committee could not have a thorough insight into how a money order clerk handles the money order, how a registration clerk does his work, and how the other men work at the counter. On all these matters these gentlemen have ventured or speculated opinions which I hope the Government of India will not take too seriously.

There is one other matter to which the attention of the Government may be invited, and that is the condition of mail runners in the southern sub-division of my district. The dak to the southern part of Chittagong used to be carried by steamer companies, but I do not know why the Government have not been able to decide on a figure which would be acceptable to both parties. But I submit that it is the duty of the paternal body to look to the comforts of these mail runners who have to go through dangerous hill passes and have to cross rivers during monsoons. If that aspect of the matter were taken into consideration, perhaps there would not be a haggling over 300 or 500. Even if a bounty is required, by the Bengal, Burma Steam Navigation Company, it should be given because it will be doing a great service to their own men and the people at large in that sub-division.

I ask whether the Government have been following the right policy with regard to the recruitment of Inspectors. The present arrangement is that in each circle they receive applications and later on an examination is held. Without prejudice to anybody, a very efficient man may not be in the good books of the immediate superior though he might have a first claim, and, therefore, if Government can hit on some solution by which this difficulty may be obviated, they will be doing a very great service to that class of people who want to sit for the Inspectors' examination.

Lastly, I am told that some of these departmental unions which are recognised by the Government are not being treated to the fullest extent that they should be. This is not a complaint against the department, but what I say is this. No doubt for the last financial year they have done fairly well, and if they persevere, to quote an apt phrase, they will be doing better. And on the top of this, if they could have the fullest co-operation of these recognised unions, my feeling is that their administration will go very much higher and higher and there will not be any grievance. With these few words I commend the motion of my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, for the consideration of the House.

Mr. G. V. Bewoor (Director General, Posts and Telegraphs): My Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, has been very anxious that Demand No. 23 may be reached, so that he may have an opportunity of discussing the grievances of the postal employees. The cut is of a very omnibus character, and, under the term, grievances of postal employees, a very large number of subjects have been raised. In a department which employs over a 100,000 persons, scattered over every part of India and Burma, is it any wonder that there should be some grievances?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Are they necessary?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: It is unavoidable in the actual nature of things. But what I wanted to point out was that there are a very large number of grievances, and I shall have to take some time and my talk may appear somewhat discursive.

Before I deal with each of these grievances I would like to point out that there are 13 recognised unions of an all-India character. Almost all these have got provincial branches, divisional branches, district branches, and city branches. All of them have opportunities of access to the head of the office, or to the head of the division, or the head of the circle, or the head of the department, and all these questions are discussed freely and we never keep our reasons, for any action that we have taken, secret. I am sure it will be admitted by my Honourable friend, Mr. Giri, who is the present President of the All-India Union, that there has never been any reservation during our discussions of any of the alleged grievances of the employees. I very much regret that my Honourable friend, Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim, should appear to indicate that the department had been treating the unions not quite so fairly or sympathetically. All I can say is that all that I have heard is exactly to the contrary, and I trust that the excellent relations which have existed in this department between the unions and the Department will continue in the future.

First, I will take the grievances of the postmen. I am afraid that my Honourable friend, Dr. Banerjea, is under a misapprehension when he says that postmen are debarred from promotion to the clerical cadre. As a matter of fact, they are not. The usual procedure is that a man enters the postal department either as a clerk or as an inferior servant. The inferior servant does the work of letter-box clearing peon, or mail carrying peon, or a porter or a packer in an office. After certain years of service, when there is a vacancy, and if he is found to be fit, he becomes a postman. When he has been working as a postman satisfactorily, an opportunity is given to him to appear for a simple test, the test consisting of a piece of dictation in English and a few simple sums in arithmetic, addition, subtraction, and simple and compound interest. If he is found to have some amount of intelligence and some knowledge of English, he is taken on as a clerk. I do not see what grievance there can be. After all, the efficiency of the service must be the first consideration, and not the interests of particular classes of employees.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: There is disability.

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: There is no disability at all. If a man is educationally qualified and is prepared to wait for his turn, he should come in as a clerk. If he comes in as an inferior servant, he must show by his work that he is fit for promotion. The so-called five years of service is again misunderstood by my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi. The limit of five years is not a limit of five years' service as postman. It is merely a limit of five years' service in the department.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Why?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: It is essential. Otherwise all our clerical posts will be filled by men who enter as inferior servants.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Where is the harm?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: Because we want better men for the higher grades. We cannot have all our jobs filled by the lowest class of material. Further the Postal Inquiry Committee which consisted of six members, five of whom had long experience of the department, and who toured all over the country have recommended the continuance of the existing order. It is not a new order. As regards the age limit of 30 years, Mr. Joshi is under a misapprehension. There is no age limit. The Postal Inquiry Committee has recommended the fixation of an age limit of 30, that is to say, no postman who is above the age of 30 should be promoted as a clerk. The Unions have opposed this suggestion and I have promised them that I will consider their views before submitting my recommendations to Government. What Mr. Joshi said today will also be taken into consideration. I do not think that our postmen have any grouse or grievance. All we expect is that they should be educationally fit and intelligent, so that the work in the post offices may be done properly. Otherwise, we get frequent complaints that there is a stupid clerk behind the counter who is unable to understand the gentlemen who come and talk to him. It is essential that we should ensure efficiency behind the counter, and, therefore, in making promotions I must insist upon the question of efficiency being considered as more important than the question of the interests of any particular class of employees.

As regards the question of Burma, this has been referred to by Mr. Joshi and Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim, and it has been suggested that the men now employed in Burma, especially postmen, should be allowed to return to India and take up jobs in India, or, in the alternative, they should be given the facility to retire on proportionate pension. I may say that for the present this question is under the consideration of Government. The question is one which does not affect the Posts and Telegraphs alone. There are employed in Burma a very large number of employees in all Departments under the Central Government. Any decision that may be taken would apply equally to every one. One might point out that those Indians, who went to Burma as postmen and clerks, took employment under the clear understanding that they would have to serve in Burma throughout their service.

Mr. M. S. Aney: Even if separated, under the new Government?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Did not the I. C. S. men know that when they accepted service in India?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: If these postmen have to be brought to India, it means that, until the whole of them are found jobs in India, we will have to stop recruitment in the whole of India.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: No harm.

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: There are a very large number of these people, and at present there are no vacancies and according to the number of vacancies which occur, on the average, it would perhaps take ten years to absorb all the people now employed in Burma. I am stating for the present the difficulties. I will not say what the decision of the Government will be. That is not for me to say. I merely wish to point out the practical difficulties. It is our intention to ensure to our employees in Burma security of tenure and such other securities as may be required, and personally, I

do not see why they should be afraid of continuing to serve under the existing pay and prospects which they are enjoying. All I can say is that the debate today and the observations made by Honourable Members will be before Government, before they announce their decision on this question.

Mr. M. S. Aney: What is the approximate number of postal employees there and what is the annual recruitment in India?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: I am afraid I cannot straightaway say what is the annual number of recruitment in India but I can give a rough figure of the total number of postmen, mail guards and people of that sort recruited in 1934. It was 182. In the Burma Circle there are 1,128 men of the postmen, mail guards, etc., class. Assuming therefore, that the whole of the 182 posts are filled by the people from Burma, it would take about six to seven years to absorb them. I really do not think I can discuss this matter further. The matter is under consideration and Government will see that its employees' interests are protected.

As regards the question of pension for inferior servants, Mr. Joshi has already been informed that orders are expected to be passed fairly soon. As regards the question of travelling allowance, I am afraid that Mr. Joshi has expressed great indignation by misunderstanding what my friend, Mr. Lloyd, said. I do not, however, wish to add fuel to the fire of Mr. Joshi's indignation and I really do not think I need comment on this question further. The matter is one which applies to all inferior servants under the Central Government and could, more usefully, be raised by Mr. Joshi on another occasion when it will be dealt with by the proper department. In the matter of casual leave, complaint was made that the lower paid staff do not get casual leave. I do not know how far there is justification for this statement. Casual leave is not recognised leave and no employee of Government is entitled to claim it as a matter of right. Casual leave is to be given when the remaining staff in the office can manage the work of the absentee. In the case of the post office we have made special arrangements in the case of the smaller offices possessing small staff, where relief is not possible, by permitting the sending of an official from a neighbouring office at Government expense and we do try, so far as is possible, to give casual leave. As regards privilege leave, there is, I am afraid, a great deal of misunderstanding on the part of Mr. Joshi. The inferior servant who goes on leave is not required to pay the salary of the substitute employed during his absence.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: He gets only half his pay.

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: The inferior servant receives half his salary when a substitute is employed in his place but half his pay is not necessarily the pay of the substitute. In fact, in a large number of cases, it is far less than the pay of the substitute.

I will now turn to my friend, Mr. Lahiri Chaudhury, who had been threatening me all this last fortnight, that he was going to expose a large number of the grievances of the postal employees. I have taken down some of the grievances which he read out at a somewhat great speed from the brief that had been supplied to him, and I can promise him that, when the speech is printed and I get the proceedings, I will examine carefully the particular instances quoted. The first grievance which he mentioned

[Mr. G. V. Bewoor.]

about the hours of work in Railway Mail Service travelling sets has been put right by orders which were issued recently. There was a great deal of want of uniformity, as he called it, in the interpretation of the orders regarding day sections and night sections and sections which worked partly by day and partly by night. The trouble has been set right by prescribing a formula by which night hours of duty are converted into day hours of duty and one common standard is applied for all sets. In the particular case of J-3 and D-11 sections, I have of course got no facts before me but I promise him I will have the matter examined. In the matter of van accommodation, this matter is constantly under the examination of local authorities. My friend must not judge the question of van accommodation by what he sees either in Calcutta or in Delhi. These vans must necessarily be very full when they start but he must not forget that they go on becoming lighter as they leave the metropolis, and when returning they get fuller as they approach the big cities. We have to see that van accommodation is provided on an average so that throughout the run the staff has got reasonable accommodation in which to perform their work. I think people who only see these vans at big stations get an entirely wrong idea.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: I do not want to interrupt my Honourable friend, but I should just like to ask him—when there is so much congestion in the van, what arrangements do Government propose to make for that? It is quite proper to say that that is not so in the intermediate stations, but it is only at the stations where there is a congestion of traffic. I quite realise that, but, when there is a congestion of traffic, some provision must be made towards that. That is my point.

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: Provision already exists. Head sorters in charge of these sections have got authority to engage extra accommodation by giving an order to the guard of the train and in actual practice they actually engage a third class compartment next door to the van and they put in the extra bags in this van. In the matter of van peons, it is not correct to say that a particular circle has got more than what another circle has got and therefore there is injustice in one circle and fairness in another. The question of van peons again is decided on the general consideration as to whether the services of a peon are necessary in handling the bags. A van peon's services are utilised in closing and opening boxes and in stacking them or sorting them. There are many sections in which the volume of mails received is comparatively so little that the sorter is himself expected to do this work. If there are any particular sections in which the work justifies the employment of a van peon, it is open to the unions concerned to represent about it to the proper authority and the matter will be examined. In the matter of rest houses again, we do provide rest houses for the staff, which has to spend not merely a few hours but often twenty-four hours or longer. In these rest houses cots and cooking pots are supplied to a small extent, but, knowing the conditions of India, I am sure my Honourable friend will agree that the supply of cooking pots is not likely to be much utilised by the members of the staff as there are so many different communities and castes and cooking pots are not likely to be of much use. (Laughter.)

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: Here, again, I have visited some of the rest houses, and in many I found there were no cots there.

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: Well, all I can say is, if he will tell me the names of those rest houses, I will have the matter examined.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: Thank you.

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: Sir, we give in these rest houses an attendant, who looks after the buildings, keeps it clean and is there to render such services as the fetching of water or the lighting of lamps, as required. (Hear, hear.) In the matter of out-station allowances, again, the Honourable Member made comparisons between the travelling allowances of touring officers and the out-station allowances of R. M. S. officers. There is, Sir, no comparison between the two. The very nature of the duties of R. M. S. sorters involves their travelling away from their homes, and in the case of touring officers they are given definite allowances to cover the cost when they are away from their homes. Therefore, there cannot be any comparison between the two. The allowances are fixed on different considerations. In the case of the selection grade sorters and supervisors, the Department has laid down certain standards and I think I must emphasize again that the selection grade posts or the supervisors' posts are not provided for the purpose of giving to the employees an avenue of promotion. The staff is frequently inclined to argue that they have no prospects of promotion and therefore a certain percentage of posts should be put on a higher scale of pay. Government cannot admit that argument. Selection-grade posts or supervisors' posts are given for the performance of specific duties involving higher responsibilities, and Government have, therefore, laid down certain standards on which alone selection-grade posts can be sanctioned, and this matter is always being examined by the heads of circles, and, as the number of staff in any office goes up, more posts are sanctioned, and if the number of posts goes down, the existing posts are abolished. Therefore, unless the Honourable Member is prepared to give me actual examples, I really cannot say whether there is any justifiable grievance on the part of the staff or not. In the matter of relaxation on Sundays and holidays in the Post Office and in the Telegraphs, it is a recognised condition of service in the Posts and Telegraphs Department that a certain amount of work is expected on Sundays and holidays from the staff of the Department. It is on this ground that in fixing the scales of pay some small additional allowance is made. Further, the employees of the Department are given twenty days' casual leave as compared with the twelve days' casual leave which is the normal amount allowed in other Departments of Government. In the Railway Mail Service especially, we maintain a leave reserve of twenty per cent. as compared with seventeen per cent. in the Post Offices in order to enable the staff of the R. M. S. to get their leave whenever required. Further, in the case of the bigger offices we do manage to allow a certain portion of the staff to remain absent on Sundays and holidays on which days there is a natural reduction in the volume of mails that is to be sorted by the staff of the R. M. S. sorting office. This question, Sir, is a very old one and we have been trying to give such concessions to the staff as could be managed without involving an amount of expenditure which would be incommensurate with the advantage gained by the staff and by the Department. In the matter of pay and allowances, my Honourable friend, Mr. Lahiri Chaudhury, only referred to the allowances. He said that while the cut in pay was restored, the cut in allowances was not restored. The fact is this. The house rent and compensatory allowances were reduced by ten per cent. as a permanent measure in view of the fall in the cost of living and therefore have

[Mr. G. V. Bewoor.]

not been restored. But the cut in honoraria and overtime allowances and various other minor allowances have been restored and the staff is now obtaining the same allowances as they used to do before.

As regards the question of Mymensingh, from where my Honourable friend comes, obviously he knows more than I do about the place, and he has been pressing upon me that the scale of allowances given to Mymensingh is insufficient. I can only tell him that it is impossible to discuss this matter here as I have no report from my staff, and if he will send a representation from his staff, I will obtain a report from the Local Government and from my authorities and see what can be done.

In the matter of fuel allowances for Darjeeling, I must admit that I do not understand exactly what the position is. So far as I know, in all these cold places, the Department spend money in order to heat the offices so that when the staff is working in the office they do not suffer from cold. It may be that the Honourable Member wants me to pay fuel allowances for the staff so that they may heat their houses. If that is the case, all I can say is that if he will make a representation I will see whether any such allowances are given in other places which are equally cold.

I will now turn to my Honourable friend, Mr Giri, who spoke about the Postal Enquiry Committee report. He is aware that we discussed this matter with the Unions and the report was also recently placed before the Standing Advisory Committee for Posts and Telegraphs appointed by this House for their remarks. As regards six monthly meetings, personally I feel that in this department at least we meet our Unions so frequently that the fixation of a six monthly meeting might be considered by the Unions rather as a retrograde than a forward step. As regards the number of the staff employed at present Mr. Giri has undoubtedly some reason for the grievance which he put forward. The financial position of the Department has made it impossible to give the exact amount of staff justified by certain standards. But it must be remembered that the standard is not an exact mathematical standard and is to be considered along with various other factors. We do give the staff according to the standard whenever possible, and now that the financial position is easier, I do not think there is the same complaint as existed sometime ago.

As regards some of the other grievances, they are, as I have stated before, always under our consideration, and we shall continue to try and do the best we can. Before I conclude, there is one small matter which I must mention. My Honourable friend, Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim, referred to steamer services. Apparently he refers to some mail service between Cox's Bazaar and some other place, I forget which, where, he says, the poor mail runners have to work very hard carrying the heavy weights of mails and he suggests that we should give a little more money to the steamer service and let the runners have an easy time at home. I am sure if we ask the runners, they would rather earn some money and carry the bags than sit idle at home and not have the trouble of carrying these bags. Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim also referred to the state of certain post office buildings in Delhi as deplorable. I have obtained a report on this subject, and I understand that, with the exception of the Jumma Musjid post office, every other town post office in Delhi is situated on the first floor of a building. As regards sanitation, the sanitation of the post offices and their surroundings would be of the same standard as the general sanitation

maintained by the municipality. I cannot really ensure a sanitary position higher than what the local municipality maintains. For the convenience of the public, we have got to have our post offices in congested or in bazaar areas, and all we can hope is to have the same standard of sanitation as the general standard. If the sanitation improves generally, our employees will benefit along with all others.

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

“That the demand under the head ‘Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including Working Expenses)’ be reduced by Rs. 100.”

The motion was negatived.

Position of Minorities in Bengal and Assam Postal Circle.

Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim: All that I wish to say with regard to this motion is contained in the statement which I wish to place before the House.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member must move his out motion first.

Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim: Sir, I beg to move:

“That the demand under the head ‘Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including Working Expenses)’ be reduced by Rs. 100.”

The statement which I wish to lay on the table will be a sufficient reply to whatever the Director General has got to say as regards the position of minorities in Bengal and Assam Circle.

As I said at the beginning, I do not wish to fish in troubled waters. Practically the sun is going down, very much down, and I do not think I have got sufficient heat in me just to make the atmosphere warm. It seems to me really that the Government, in spite of their much vaunted professions with regard to their care of minorities, have turned a deaf ear to all the representations of the minorities, specially the Muslims. I challenge the Government to disprove the statement that I am laying on the table, and the figures contained in that statement are an eloquent testimony to the professions of the Government in regard to the protection of minorities.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Let the Honourable Member read out what is contained in that statement so that the House might know.

Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim: This is a statement showing the position of minorities in Bengal and Assam Circle. The House is not at all interested in this question. All these 12 years we have been crying in this House, but the House has not cared for the protection of the minorities.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar (Leader of the House): I rise to a point of order. The Honourable Member might have been howling in this House for the past 12 years. But what I am now concerned with is this paper. None of the Honourable Members know what is contained in this paper.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member must read out that paper, so that it may go on record.

Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim: All right, Sir. This is all due to red-tapism of the Department. The figures that I have here are in five columns and in about a dozen compartments. I have given the figures for 1934-35 from the compilation of the Directorate which sits in Delhi and Simla. My submission is that the figures were quoted by the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs last year with regard to this subject-matter which was agitated by me on behalf of my constituency; and they have not gone an iota above that; on the contrary, the tendency seems to me to be on the retrograde side. So my submission is that they ought to look round. It will not be fair for the Government of India to say: "We are doing all we can on paper, we are sending telephone messages to so and so and probably our wishes will be respected". But they are not respected in actual reality. This is the only chance that the representatives of the public get to have their say, but how long will this continue? And, year in and year out, every time they say: "I am having a talk with the head of the Circle". As a matter of fact, it does not touch the fringe of my coat. It is creating a very bad misunderstanding so far as the prestige of the Government of India is concerned. I can assure you that I represent nearly five million people in this House, and the Government's diplomatic way of answering these things is causing great discredit to their administration. The so-called steel frame will not be able to keep the administration intact, because, unless and until it is founded on justice, equity and fairplay, these evasive replies will not do. My submission is that they must try to improve the position; they must face facts. Up till now I must say that they have not worked up to their professions.

Sir, I move.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including Working Expenses)' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim: Sir, may I read this statement?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair gave the Honourable Member a chance; he did not take it.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce (Member for Industries and Labour): Sir, I must confess I have found considerable difficulty in following my Honourable friend. I understand that the object of this cut motion is to discuss the position of the minority communities in the Bengal and Assam Circle. He produced a statement which he wished apparently to lay on the table and about which I was left completely puzzled. The Honourable Member has, I think, been a Member of this House as long as I have, and I should have thought that he would have grasped by this time exactly what the position in this matter of recruitment is. I can only repeat on this occasion what has been said in this House times without number, and I hope my Honourable friend will at last grasp that the present position of his community in the Bengal and Assam Circle of the Post Office, in other circles of the Posts and Telegraphs Department, and in other branches of Government service, is a position which has arisen out of past

history going back over a large number of years. That position will be improved as time goes on, as a result of the recent orders of Government. Mr. Maswood Ahmad, who was then a Member of this House, and who was as great a champion of communal representation as my Honourable friend, raised much the same question on this demand two years ago. I then reminded him, as I would do my Honourable friend and other representatives of minority communities here, that the present figures are the result of past history. I went on to say that what we are concerned with today is the present; what I would ask the House to do today is to turn its attention to the figures of new recruitment during the last year. My Department is to be judged by those figures and if my Honourable friend will turn to the tables at the end of the Annual Report of the Posts and Telegraphs Department for 1934-35, I think he will see that Government are honestly and honourably fulfilling the obligations under which they are in this matter of recruitment of minority communities. I will not weary the House with reading these figures; I will ask Honourable Members to turn to page 92 of the Annual Report and they will find that what I have said is perfectly correct. I will merely give a summary of the figures. In 1934 we took 628 Muslims out of a total of 2,184 new recruits, which is well above the proportion of 25 per cent. That, I trust, is a convincing reply to my Honourable friend.

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

“That the demand under the head ‘Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including Working Expenses)’ be reduced by Rs. 100.”

The motion was negatived.

High Rates for Telephone Trunk Calls.

Rai Bahadur Seth Bhagchand Soni (Ajmer-Merwara: General): Sir, I beg to move:

“That the demand under the head ‘Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including Working Expenses)’ be reduced by Rs. 100.”

By this motion, I wish to protest against the high rates for telephone trunk calls. The mercantile community, Sir, are the biggest users of telephones and most of the revenue of this department comes from this class. For a call of three minutes from Ajmer to Calcutta we have to pay Rs. 9-8-0, from Delhi to Calcutta Rs. 8-8-0, from Delhi to Bombay Rs. 7-12-0, from Delhi to Madras Rs. 10 and from Bombay to Calcutta Rs. 10. These charges are undoubtedly very high. The Posts and Telegraphs Department are making large profits on telephones and so it is high time that the trunk call rates should be reduced now. If the rates are reduced and brought down to a reasonable level, and the telephone service made more efficient the revenue will greatly increase and the business community will also be greatly benefitted.

Sir, the department could well encourage trunk calls by allowing a discount on a graded scale on trunk call bills. For total bills amounting to Rs. 100 or more made from one number, a discount of ten per cent. and for total bills for calls amounting to more than Rs. 200 in a month a discount of 20 per cent. could be given, and this would mean more income

[Rai Bahadur Seth Bhagchand Soni.]

to the department and substantial concession for the permanent subscribers of trunk calls. According to the present rules, an extra 25 per cent. is charged for a particular person trunk call. This too is very excessive and this charge could also be reduced to 10 per cent. Particular calls do not involve any extra labour or difficulty to the Department, and it very often happens that the particular person is not available. In such a case, Sir, the amount that becomes payable is really a great burden on the subscribers. Moreover, when a trunk call is made within the half rate hours, the charge for particular person calls is made on the full rates. In such a case the charges for a particular person call should be 25 per cent. of the half-rate charge. In a case where a called subscriber refuses the trunk connection, the call should not be considered as effective and in such cases half charge should be made and not the full charge. It looks inequitable that the calling subscriber should be made to pay full charges when the called subscriber has refused to reply.

In view of these rules, the users of trunk calls are put to a great loss. I would, therefore, like that, in view of the above facts, the Honourable Member in charge would give his sympathetic consideration and see that the telephone trunk calls are thus made more popular, more efficient and more convenient for the subscribers in general.

With these words, Sir, I move.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including Working Expenses)' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Babu Baljnath Bajoria: Sir, I rise to support the motion. The telephone at the present moment is the most profitable branch of the Posts and Telegraphs Department. I will give you some figures. The net receipts from telephones in 1934-35 was about Rs. 79½ lakhs, and the expenditure, including interest on capital outlay, was Rs. 56 lakhs. So, there was a net profit of Rs. 23 lakhs, or about 30 per cent. In 1935-36 also, the net receipts are Rs. 83 lakhs, and the total expenditure Rs. 63 lakhs, including interest on capital outlay, or a profit of Rs. 20 lakhs, i.e. 25 per cent. These profits are much too high, and they show that there is ample room for a reduction in the rates. If the rates are reduced the telephones will be more popular than they are now. Telephones are, even now, very popular with the mercantile community, and if the rates are reduced, the traffic is sure to grow, and there will be increased revenues to the Department. Again, the telephone service facilities for trunk telephones in Bengal are very limited at the present moment. There are very few places in which trunk telephone services are available. In the United Provinces and in the Punjab, there are telephones at practically each city, but it is not so in Bengal. I would request my friend, Mr. Bewoor, to give this matter his consideration and to afford trunk telephone facilities in important centres in Bengal. The telephone has become a great necessity for the mercantile community, and they use it freely. I would also like to see the lines increased, especially between Calcutta and Bombay, as I find that the present lines are always very congested, and it is difficult to get calls for a considerable time. With these few words, I support the motion.

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: Sir, this eloquent appeal from two Members of this House, who can easily afford to pay higher charges, rather falls, I think, flat. The main argument on which the request for reduction is based is that the telephone branch is making a profit.

Babu Baijnath Bajoria: A big profit.

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: The first point is that posts, telegraphs and telephones have to be considered as a whole, and we cannot take each branch separately. The Department as a whole, it will be noticed, is just managing to meet its expenditure, and there is, therefore, at this juncture no justification for taking the risk of a big loss by a reduction of the rates. At the same time, I do wish to assure the Honourable Member that the question of reducing rates, whenever it is practicable and when such a reduction is likely to bring in a higher revenue on the whole, is always in the mind of the Department, because our aim is to earn more revenue. In pursuance of this policy, we did bring down the rates for telephone subscribers in September 1934 to a very appreciable extent. It is unfortunate that that reduction did not bring the increase in the number of subscribers which we were hoping it would. In the matter of trunk calls again, we gave the public the concession of a maximum charge of Rs. 10. Our critics, I am afraid, are often inclined to forget the size of India, and they make wrong comparisons with other countries. Actually, the rates charged in India for trunk calls challenge comparison with those levied elsewhere in the world. Incidentally, up to a distance of 150 miles the rates charged in India are actually cheaper than those charged in the United Kingdom, which is a highly developed country with a very large telephone trunk traffic and where costs are less owing to the extensive use of cable. Our critics forget that we are now giving a call from Peshawar to Trichinopoly or Madura for a maximum charge of Rs. 10, and, if, distance for distance, you compare the charges in Europe, you will find that our charges are low.

There is a further point to be considered. At the present moment, we have a certain number of circuits connecting the various important centres. With the present charges we are getting an amount of traffic which we find we are unable to handle effectively. If rates are reduced, and traffic increases, we shall only be inviting criticism against delays and making the services unpopular. The first step to take, therefore, is to provide more circuits between the important centres, and that is what we are doing at present. Those Members of the House who are on the Standing Finance Committee will remember that they approved a number of schemes for establishing carrier current apparatus between the important centres. When we have provided these circuits and when we find that the circuits have got spare capacity, the question of reducing the trunk rates with the object of earning, on the whole, a higher revenue will be carefully considered.

As regards the expansion of telephones in the province of Bengal, the Honourable the Mover probably knows that, in the last two years, we have expanded to a very large extent, and I trust he will act as an agent of this Department and secure for us more subscribers. If he does so, I can assure him that I am prepared to open a telephone at every district town in Bengal.

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

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including Working Expenses)' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The motion was negatived.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 10,91,01,000 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 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including Working Expenses)'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 25.—INTEREST ON DEBT AND REDUCTION OR AVOIDANCE OF DEBT.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 19,80,000 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 'Interest on Debt and Reduction or Avoidance of Debt'."

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 19,80,000 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 'Interest on Debt and Reduction or Avoidance of Debt'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 26.—INTEREST ON MISCELLANEOUS OBLIGATIONS.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 68,88,000 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 'Interest on Miscellaneous Obligations'."

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 68,88,000 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 'Interest on Miscellaneous Obligations'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 27.—STAFF, HOUSEHOLD AND ALLOWANCES OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,80,000 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 'Staff, Household and Allowances of the Governor General'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,80,000 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 'Staff, Household and Allowances of the Governor General'."

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Sir, I am glad that by a strange stroke of luck, this demand is open to discussion, at least for some minutes before the guillotine falls. It is one of those demands which rarely come within the scope of discussion in this House; and I want to raise a few points for consideration by those who are in a position to answer my questions. Of course the bulk of this demand, namely, Rs. 10,48,000 is non-votable: but, luckily for us, this sum of Rs. 4,80,000 is voted. Apart from the salary

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I rise to a point of order? The Parties had times fixed for their cuts

Mr. S. Satyamurti: That is not raising a point of order.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I am not suggesting that you have no legal right.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Then, there is no point of order . . .

Mr. N. M. Joshi: We have still some cut motions in our name: is it right for organised Parties to take up the time of the House whenever a motion is proposed by opposing or supporting the motion? This time is allotted to the unattached Members and I think the unattached Members should have an opportunity of moving their cut motions.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I think the boot is on the other leg: I am afraid we the organised Parties have been treated less than fairly

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair cannot allow that expression.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: By my friend, not by you, Sir. I am not talking about you, Sir. I am talking of my Honourable friend. It is no use, not having any cut motions, preventing us from speaking on the demands

Mr. N. M. Joshi: There are other cut motions. That was the understanding.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: There was no understanding that we should not speak on these demands, and that we should sit silent with folded hands, while the demands were being made. I am not moving any cut motion: I am simply speaking on the demand as it comes, and I think I am entitled to do so.

I want to know one thing: at page 145, there is the salary of the Governor General; we cannot touch it, then B, C and D—Sumptuary Allowance of the Governor General Rs. 40,000; Expenditure from Contract Allowance Rs. 1,41,840; State Conveyances and Motors Rs. 43,000.

[Mr. S. Satyamurti.]

The details are given at page 146, where we find merely these words repeated, I should like to know on what, these sums are being spent. Are all the people who go to the Viceroy's House fed, and their drinks paid out of this money? I want to know some of the details of this. We had some discussion in the Public Accounts Committee, as to the audit of these accounts: after much discussion, they ultimately agreed to give a certificate. I should like to know how these sums are being spent. Then, we find coming down to various other items of expenditure

Mr. M. S. Aney: Do you want to get a reply? If so, you must stop.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I will stop at five minutes to five. I find that, while the Viceroy gets Rs. 20,000 a month, the servants there get Rs. 14 a month

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: What demand are you discussing?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I am talking on Demand No. 27. Then turning to page 145, we find there Tour expenses, Special trains, etc., Rs. 3,25,900 and other charges Rs. 1,45,000 or a total for Tours of Rs. 4,70,900. Are these tours necessary and what purpose do they serve, I should like to know, from the tax payers' point of view? Then we have got the Viceroy's aeroplane, which costs for maintenance and upkeep Rs. 75,000 per annum. I should like to know why they want such a large sum. Then, we have got various other items, and I should like to have some explanation as to how this enormous sum of money is spent on the Viceroy's Staff and Household, and whether they will consider that India, where this Governor General is ruling, is the poorest country in the world, and whether they cannot cut down this expenditure.

Mr. M. S. Aney: And also what was the necessity of having a new Cabinet Secretary added on to this expenditure: I would like to have an explanation on that also.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Can I answer those questions, Sir?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member can give an answer if any question has been put to him, not otherwise.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Sir, I admit I am rather taken by surprise by this manceuvre or motion—it is not a cut motion—I understand

Mr. S. Satyamurti: No manceuvre motion, it is a straightforward speech.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: It is not a cut.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: It is a straightforward speech, Sir, against the motion.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member wants some explanation.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Never having been a Viceroy, never having been a member of a Viceroy's staff, I cannot claim any great familiarity with these items of expenditure

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Then, what is meant by sumptuary allowance?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: That is to meet the cost of entertainment.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Why should we pay for it?

Sir Cowasji Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammedan Urban): They never get any entertainment there.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Let Sir Cowasji Jehangir pay for it!

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: They don't take any lunch or dinner in Government House.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: That is their own fault.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Why should not the Viceroy pay for it? Why should we, the tax-payers, pay for it?

Sir H. P. Mody (Bombay Millowners' Association: Indian Commerce): You are attacking the rights of the minorities.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What is the contract allowance, Rs. 1,40,800?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: What page is that?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: That is at page 145. What are the items, nobody knows.

Mr. F. E. James: May I rise to a point of order, Sir. Is the Honourable Member entitled to make a second speech? He has made one standing up; he is making another speech sitting down. (Laughter.)

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Nobody else is speaking. What am I to do? I get no answers from Government.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I request you, Sir, to put the motion as there are no people to speak?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I was trying to make a speech when I was interrupted. (Laughter.) Well, Sir, I imagine this contract grant is to meet the miscellaneous expenses connected with the Viceroy's household which are not shown under any other item

Mr. S. Satyamurti: For example?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The Viceroy has a very large residence to keep up, in fact he has three residences, and all sorts of miscellaneous expenditure arises for which no special provision is made. I imagine those items come under this contract grant. There is a corresponding provision in the household expenditure of all Governors.

As regards the Viceroy's aeroplane, that, as a matter of fact, is a very economical thing, because it is very much cheaper for His Excellency to travel by air than by train. I know as a matter of fact that when His Excellency travels by train considerable expenditure is incurred, not so much by the Government of India as by Local Governments in making arrangements to patrol the line, and in making special police arrangements. All those things are avoided when His Excellency travels by air, and I can assure the Honourable Member and the House

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Only one minute more! (Laughter.)

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: . . . that a substantial saving is effected by travelling by air.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Delhi: General): How often has that aeroplane been used?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Frequently.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Hardly twice.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: No, no.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: Do the Members of the Executive Council use the aeroplane?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I did once go by the Viceroy's discarded aeroplane

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: Will you allow us to use the aeroplane?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Yes, if you pay.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Free ride!

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I was last week offered the use of the Viceroy's old aeroplane to go to Meerut at a cost of Rs. 200. I should have been delighted to have gone if five or six other Members of the Assembly had gone with me to share the expense

(It being Five of the Clock.)

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,80,000 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 'Staff, Household and Allowances of the Governor General'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 28.—EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

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

“That a reduced sum not exceeding Re. 1 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 ‘Executive Council’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 29.—COUNCIL OF STATE.

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,34,000 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 ‘Council of State’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 30.—LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEPARTMENT.

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,88,000 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 ‘Legislative Assembly and Legislative Assembly Department’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 31.—FOREIGN AND POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

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

“That a reduced sum not exceeding Rs. 9,08,900 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 ‘Foreign and Political Department’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 32.—HOME DEPARTMENT.

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

“That a reduced sum not exceeding Rs. 7,71,900 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 ‘Home Department’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 33.—PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,95,000 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 ‘Public Service Commission’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 34.—LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,20,000 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 ‘Legislative Department’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 35.—DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, HEALTH AND LANDS.

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,12,000 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 ‘Department of Education, Health and Lands’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 36.—FINANCE DEPARTMENT.

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 10,16,000 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 ‘Finance Department’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 38.—COMMERCE DEPARTMENT.

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,95,000 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 ‘Commerce Department’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 39.—DEFENCE DEPARTMENT.

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

“That a reduced sum not exceeding Re. 1 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 ‘Defence Department’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 40.—DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES AND LABOUR.

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,47,000 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 ‘Department of Industries and Labour’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 41—CENTRAL BOARD OF REVENUE.

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,08,000 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 ‘Central Board of Revenue’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 42—PAYMENTS TO PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS ON ACCOUNT OF ADMINISTRATION OF AGENCY SUBJECTS.

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,56,000 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 ‘Payments to Provincial Governments on account of administration of Agency subjects’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 43—AUDIT.

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,00,95,000 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 ‘Audit’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 44—ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 69,000 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 ‘Administration of Justice’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 45—POLICE.

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,81,000 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 ‘Police’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 46—PORTS AND PILOTAGE.

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 14,66,000 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 ‘Ports and Pilotage’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 47—LIGHTHOUSES AND LIGHTSHIPS.

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,75,000 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 ‘Lighthouses and Lightships.’”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 48—SURVEY OF INDIA.

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 21,24,000 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 ‘Survey of India.’”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 49—METEOROLOGY.

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 20,06,000 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 ‘Meteorology.’”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 50—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,10,000 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 ‘Geological Survey.’”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 51—BOTANICAL SURVEY.

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,29,000 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 ‘Botanical Survey.’”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 52—ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY.

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 95,000 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 ‘Zoological Survey.’”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 53—ARCHÆOLOGY.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 11,91,000 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 'Archæology'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 54—MINES.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,27,000 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 'Mines'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 55—OTHER SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENTS.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,56,000 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 'Other Scientific Departments'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 56—EDUCATION.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,38,000 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 'Education'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 57—MEDICAL SERVICES.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,97,000 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 'Medical Services'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 58—PUBLIC HEALTH.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,64,000 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 'Public Health'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 59—AGRICULTURE.

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 30,42,000 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 ‘Agriculture.’”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 60—IMPERIAL COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH DEPARTMENT.

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,75,000 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 ‘Imperial Council of Agricultural Research Department.’”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 60-A—SCHEME FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF AGRICULTURAL MARKETING IN INDIA.

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,60,000 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 ‘Scheme for the improvement of Agricultural Marketing in India.’”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 61—CIVIL VETERINARY SERVICES.

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,32,000 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 ‘Civil Veterinary Services.’”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 62—INDUSTRIES.

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,37,000 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 ‘Industries.’”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 68—AVIATION.

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 22,45,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1937, in respect of ‘Aviation’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 68-B—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON CIVIL AVIATION (CHARGED TO REVENUE.

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 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 ‘Capital Outlay on Civil Aviation charged to Revenue’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 64—COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE AND STATISTICS.

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,38,000 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 ‘Commercial Intelligence and Statistics’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 65—CENSUS.

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 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 ‘Census’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 66—EMIGRATION—INTERNAL.

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 15,000 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 ‘Emigration—Internal’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 67—EMIGRATION—EXTERNAL.

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,93,000 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 ‘Emigration—External’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 66—JOINT STOCK COMPANIES.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,29,000 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 'Joint Stock Companies'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 69—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 12,75,000 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 'Miscellaneous Departments'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 70—INDIAN STORES DEPARTMENT.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 20,55,000 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 'Indian Stores Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 71—CURRENCY.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 14,89,000 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 'Currency'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 72—MINT.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 17,10,000 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 'Mint'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 73—CIVIL WORKS.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,39,95,000 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 'Civil Works'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 74—SUPERANNUATION ALLOWANCES AND PENSIONS.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,04,84,000 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 'Superannuation Allowances and Pensions'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 75—STATIONERY AND PRINTING.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 35,25,000 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 'Stationery and Printing'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 76—MISCELLANEOUS.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,88,000 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 'Miscellaneous'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 76-A—EXPENDITURE ON RETRENCHED PERSONNEL CHARGED TO REVENUE.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 20,000 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 'Expenditure on Retrenched Personnel charged to Revenue'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 76-B—MISCELLANEOUS ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN THE CENTRAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,65,14,000 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 'Miscellaneous Adjustments between the Central and Provincial Governments'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 77—REFUNDS.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,47,82,000 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 'Refunds'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 79—BALUCHISTAN.

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

"That a reduced sum not exceeding Rs. 38,61,900 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 'Baluchistan'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 80—DELHI.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 65,89,000 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 'Delhi'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 81—AJMER-MERWARA.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 15,55,000 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 'Ajmer-Merwara'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 82—ANDAMANS AND NICOBAR ISLANDS.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 26,76,000 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 'Andamans and Nicobar Islands'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 83—RAJPUTANA.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,12,000 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 'Rajputana'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 84—CENTRAL INDIA.

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,29,000 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 ‘Central India’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 85—HYDERABAD.

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,45,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1937, in respect of ‘Hyderabad’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 85-A—ADEN.

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,75,000 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 ‘Aden’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 86—EXPENDITURE IN ENGLAND—SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 21,33,000 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 ‘Expenditure in England—Secretary of State for India’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 87—EXPENDITURE IN ENGLAND—HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA.

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 26,66,000 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 ‘Expenditure in England—High Commissioner for India’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 88—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON SECURITY PRINTING.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 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 'Capital Outlay on Security Printing'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 89—FOREST CAPITAL OUTLAY.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 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 'Forest Capital Outlay'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 90—IRRIGATION.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 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 'Irrigation'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 91—INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 41,99,000 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 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 92-A—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON SCHEMES OF AGRICULTURAL IMPROVEMENT AND RESEARCH.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,22,000 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 'Capital Outlay on Schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 93—CURRENCY CAPITAL OUTLAY.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 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 'Currency Capital Outlay'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 94—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON VIZAGAPATAM HARBOUR.

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,93,000 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 ‘Capital Outlay on Vizagapatam Harbour.’”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 95—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON LIGHTHOUSES AND LIGHTSHIPS.

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 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 ‘Capital Outlay on Lighthouses and Lightships.’”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 96—COMMUTED VALUE OF PENSIONS.

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 18,93,000 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 ‘Commuted Value of Pensions.’”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 96-A—EXPENDITURE ON RETRENCHED PERSONNEL CHARGED TO CAPITAL.

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 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 ‘Expenditure on Retrenched Personnel charged to Capital.’”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 97—DELHI CAPITAL OUTLAY.

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 23,66,000 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 ‘Delhi Capital Outlay.’”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 98—INTEREST-FREE ADVANCES.

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 73,15,000 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 ‘Interest-free advances.’”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 99—LOANS AND ADVANCES BEARING INTEREST.

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,26,45,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1937, in respect of ‘Loans and Advances bearing Interest.’”

The motion was adopted.

STATEMENT OF BUSINESS.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar (Leader of the House): I am informed, Sir, that an understanding has been reached that a motion for re-committal of the Cantonments Bill to Select Committee will be treated as uncontroversial and will be passed with the minimum of debate. On this understanding, that motion will be given priority in the list of business for Monday next. Thereafter, the Finance Bill will be taken up and will, I presume, occupy the House throughout the week.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 16th March, 1936.