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THE  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

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THIRD SESSION

OF THE

FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,  
1936



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# Legislative Assembly.

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**DR. ZIAUDDIN AHMAD, C.I.E. M.L.A**

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

# CONTENTS.

VOLUME IV.—18th March to 31st April, 1936.

	PAGE.		PAGE.
<b>WEDNESDAY, 18TH MARCH, 1936—</b>		<b>MONDAY, 23RD MARCH, 1936—</b>	
Report of the Indian Delimitation Committee—Presentation of the Report of the Select Committee	2751	Member Sworn	3007
The Indian Finance Bill—Discussion on the motion to consider not concluded	2752—2812	Questions and Answers	3007—44
Appendix	2813—34	Unstarred Questions and Answers	3044—55
		Short Notice Question and Answer	3055—57
		Motions for Adjournment	
<b>THURSDAY, 19TH MARCH, 1936—</b>		<i>re—</i>	
Motion for Adjournment <i>re</i> . Contract for the construction of the Howrah Bridge—Not moved	2835	Legislation for republication in the Press of speeches delivered in the Legislative Assembly—Disallowed by the President.	3057—59
The Indian Finance Bill—Motion to consider adopted	2835—79	Ban on Mr. Subhash Chandra Bose—Adopted.	3059—60, 3089—3114
Election of a Member to the Standing Committee on Pilgrimage to the Hedjaz	2879	The Indian Companies (Amendment) Bill—Introduced.	3060
		The Indian Tariff (Amendment) Bill—Introduced.	3060
<b>FRIDAY, 20TH MARCH, 1936—</b>		The Indian Railways (Amendment) Bill—Introduced.	3060—61
Questions and Answers	2881—2921	The Indian Finance Bill—Discussion on the consideration of clauses not concluded	3061—89
Unstarred Questions and Answers	2921—56		
Statements laid on the Table	2956—63	<b>TUESDAY, 24TH MARCH, 1936—</b>	
Election of Members to the Public Accounts Committee	2963	Member Sworn	3115
The Code of Civil Procedure (Second Amendment) Bill (Amendment of Section 60)—Presentation of the Report of the Select Committee	2964	Questions and Answers	3115—30
The Indian Finance Bill—Discussion on the consideration of clauses not concluded	2964—3003	Statement of Business	3130
Statement of Business	3003—05	Motion for Adjournment <i>re</i> Sir Otto Niemeyer's Report on Federal and Provincial Finance—Not moved	3130—35
		The Indian Finance Bill—Discussion on the consideration of clauses concluded	3135—55
		Demands for Supplementary Grants	3166—69

	PAGE.		PAGE.
<b>WEDNESDAY, 25TH MARCH, 1936—</b>		<b>MONDAY, 30TH MARCH, 1936</b> — <i>contd.</i>	
Statements laid on the Table . . . . .	01 3191—32	Motion <i>re</i> Appointment of a Committee to examine the working of the Ottawa Trade Agreement—Adopted as amended . . . . .	3438—3503
The Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill (Amendment of Section 51, etc.)—Presentation of the Report of Select Committee . . . . .	3201	Statement of Business . . . . .	2503—04
The Indian Finance Bill—Recommended amendment to clause 2—negatived . . . . .	3201—03, 3265—87	<b>MONDAY, 6TH APRIL, 1936—</b>	
Demands for Supplementary Grants— <i>contd.</i> . . . . .	3203—65	Members Sworn . . . . .	3505
<b>THURSDAY, 26TH MARCH, 1936—</b>		Death of Khan Bahadur Makhdum Syed Rajan Baksh Shah . . . . .	3505—08
Members Sworn . . . . .	3289	<b>TUESDAY, 7TH APRIL, 1936—</b>	
Short Notice Question and Answer . . . . .	3289—90	Questions and Answers . . . . .	3509—42
Motion <i>re</i> Appointment of a Committee to examine the working of the Ottawa Trade Agreement—Discussion not concluded . . . . .	3290—3347	Unstarred Questions and Answers . . . . .	3542—3617
Statement of Business . . . . .	3347	Statements laid on the Table . . . . .	3617—24
<b>FRIDAY, 27TH MARCH, 1936—</b>		The Cantonments (Amendment) Bill—Presentation of the Report of the Select Committee . . . . .	3625
Members Sworn . . . . .	3349	Resolution <i>re</i> Release of political prisoners detained without trial—Negatived . . . . .	3625—61
Short Notice Question and Answer . . . . .	3349	Resolution <i>re</i> Import duty on unbroken rice and paddy—Discussion not concluded . . . . .	3661—73
Motion <i>re</i> Appointment of a Committee to examine the working of the Ottawa Trade Agreement—Discussion not concluded . . . . .	3350—3406	<b>WEDNESDAY, 8TH APRIL, 1936—</b>	
<b>SATURDAY, 28TH MARCH, 1936—</b>		Speech delivered to the Council of State and the Legislative Assembly by His Excellency the Viceroy . . . . .	3675—83
Motion <i>re</i> Report of the Committee to consider the Indian Delimitation (Hammond) Committee's Report—Adopted . . . . .	3407—36	Questions and Answers . . . . .	3683—3714
<b>MONDAY, 30TH MARCH, 1936—</b>		Motion <i>re</i> Election of the Standing Finance Committee—Adopted . . . . .	3715
Members Sworn . . . . .	3437	Motion <i>re</i> Election of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways—Adopted . . . . .	3715
Statements laid on the Table . . . . .	3437—38	Motion <i>re</i> Election of the Standing Advisory Committee for the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department—Adopted . . . . .	3715

	PAGE.		PAGE.
WEDNESDAY, 8TH APRIL, 1936—concl'd.		WEDNESDAY, 8TH APRIL, 1936—concl'd.	
Motion re Election of the Standing Committee for the Department of Commerce—Negatived	3716—18	The Salt Additional Im- port Duty (Extending) Bill—Introduced . . .	3719—20
Motion re Election of the Central Advisory Coun- cil for Railways— Adopted . . .	3718—19	The Indian Tea Cess Amendment) Bill— Introduced . . .	3720
The Indian Tariff (Second (Amendment) Bill— Introduced. . . .	3719	The Indian Aircraft (Amendment) Bill— Introduced . . .	3720
		The Indian Mines (Amendment) Bill— Introduced and referred to Select Committee . .	3720—35

# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Friday, 20th 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.

### AMELIORATION OF THE CONDITIONS IN THE JHARIA COAL-FIELD.

1330. \***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether their attention has been drawn to a statement made by Mr. H. H. Worthington, published in the *Hindustan Times*, dated the 28th February, 1936;
- (b) whether Government had interested themselves in the amelioration of the conditions in the Jharia coal-field;
- (c) whether the Indian Mining Association has been approached by Government to get their assurance that they will co-operate with them on this matter of safeguarding lives of those who worked underground on their behalf; and
- (d) whether they will assure the House at the earliest opportunity that they will take steps to co-operate with the Association for this humane purpose?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** (a) Yes.

(b) The steps we are taking are designed to secure an improvement.

(c) and (d). A conference was held on the 19th and 20th February last with the representatives of the Indian Mining Association and other organisations of mine owners and others at which proposals for preventing danger from fires in the Jharia coal-field were discussed. As indicated in the reply I gave on the 17th March, 1936, it is proposed to place a Bill before the House during the current Session for securing the necessary powers.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Are there any fires still burning in these coal-fields?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** Yes; I am afraid there are, and that they are likely to go on burning for a long time.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** How many are burning?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** I think according to the figures I have already given to the House and which have, I think, appeared in the press, about 45.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** How much longer are they expected to burn?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** That I cannot say: the only answer I can give is until they burn themselves out. When the Bill I hope to introduce shortly comes before this House, I shall be in a better position to explain conditions in the coal-fields.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Have Government been assured of the co-operation of the Indian Mining Association in this matter?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** Yes. I have already informed my Honourable friend that we had a conference with the representatives of the Indian Mining Association, the Indian Mining Federation and the Colliery Owners Association, and that the results of that conference were very satisfactory; I think we can safely count on the co-operation of the interests concerned in the measures we are proposing in the Bill which will shortly come before the House.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** May I know if any further steps have been taken to prevent further loss of human life and property?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** That raises a very wide question which it is rather difficult to answer in reply to a supplementary question. I have no doubt whatever that every step, that is possible under the present Act and the rules and regulations thereunder, is being taken; and I have also no doubt that the mining interests are already getting on with the measures that we are proposing in the Bill; wherever they can do anything at the moment, they will do it.

#### CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS EXPENDITURE AT ADEN IN CONNECTION WITH THE ITALO-ETHIOPIAN DISPUTE.

1331. \***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether their attention has been drawn to the statement sent by *Reuter*, published in the *Hindu*, dated the 24th February, 1936, to the effect that the Government of India contributed £4,000 towards expenditure on special measures in connection with the Italo-Ethiopian dispute towards Aden; if so, what the purposes are; and
- (b) the reason why they agreed to make a contribution?

**Sir Aubrey Metcalfe:** (a) and (b). Yes. Until Aden is actually separated from India, the Government of India's responsibility for the welfare of the civil population of Aden Settlement must continue. They have, therefore, agreed to contribute half the cost of all measures which may have to be taken to protect that population in an emergency. It would not be in the public interest to publish the nature of those measures.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** How was this cost of £4,000 arrived at?

**Sir Aubrey Metcalfe:** It is a mere estimate which covers measures which may have to be taken in certain emergencies. It is not a firm figure of expenditure.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Has any expenditure been sanctioned, or incurred, and if so, what is the amount sanctioned or incurred?

**Sir Aubrey Metcalfe:** I have just stated that it would not be in the public interest to publish the nature of those measures or their cost. I cannot give the information which the Honourable Member asks for without explaining what the measures are, and that I am not prepared to do.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** I am not asking about the nature: I am simply asking about the cost, and how the figure was arrived at, whether the Government of India had any say in the matter and whether they have simply to foot the bill.

**Sir Aubrey Metcalfe:** There is at present no bill to foot. As I explained, it is a mere estimate, and I cannot say what the eventual expenditure will be, if there will be any expenditure.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** May I take it, therefore, that the Government of India have not incurred any expenditure under this head at all so far?

**Sir Aubrey Metcalfe:** So far as I am aware, no actual expenditure has yet been incurred.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Have they incurred any liability?

**Sir Aubrey Metcalfe:** I have already explained, as clearly as I can, that they have agreed to contribute half the cost of such measures as may be necessary. This is obviously a liability.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** At what stage does the Ethiopia-Italy dispute stand now so far as we are concerned?

**Sir Aubrey Metcalfe:** I submit that that does not arise out of this question.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Has this Bill been dropped, this Italian Loans and Credits Bill?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** No; it has not.

#### INDIANISATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA SECRETARIAT.

1332. \***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the majority of the Indian officers in the Secretariat of the Government of India, especially in the Finance Department, are Superintendents and others Assistant Secretaries;
- (b) whether Anglo-Indians are also counted as Indians for this purpose;
- (c) whether of the ten Indian officers, seven are Superintendents, two are Assistant Secretaries and one the Budget officer;
- (d) whether the Secretary, Joint Secretary and two Under Secretaries of the Finance Department are all Europeans, Indian Civil Service men; and
- (e) whether any attempt is proposed to be made to further Indianize the Secretariat of the Government of India?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Oralk:** (a) Yes. It is not usual, however, to class Superintendents along with Assistant Secretaries, Under Secretaries and Deputy Secretaries, as officers of the Secretariat.

(b) Yes.

(c) Including Superintendents as officers, there are 23 Indian officers in the Finance Department, *viz.*, 13 Superintendents, 7 Assistant Secretaries, 1 Deputy Financial Adviser, 1 Budget Officer and 1 Financial Adviser, Posts and Telegraphs.

(d) Yes, but there is a Deputy Secretary in the Finance Department (Ordinary Branch) and no Joint Secretary.

(e) I invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the reply given by me on the 10th March, 1936, to Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar's starred question No. 1068, especially parts (c) and (h) thereof.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Is there any proposal to fill all impending vacancies, wherever they arise in the Finance Department, with Indians if they are found to be qualified?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** Vacancies in the Finance Department are filled on merit and in no other way.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will one of the merits be that, after all they have got to administer Indian finances, and Indians have been found to be more competent than Englishmen in dealing with Indian finances?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** That is not necessarily true. In any case, merit in the broadest sense of the word, and not in any other special sense such as the Honourable Member connotes.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Is my Honourable friend aware of a statement of his predecessor that Scotchmen and Indians, particularly Madrasis, are very good in the Finance Department?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** Yes; but you cannot expect me to agree with that altogether, being an Englishman.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Merits being equal, will they prefer an Indian?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** I think that is very likely.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Why very likely? I want to have a definite answer.

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** I am not going to give a definite answer to a hypothetical question.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Has there not been a single Indian competent enough to fill this vacancy?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** The Honourable Member must draw his own conclusions and not ask me to agree with them.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Does the Honourable Member accept the policy of Indianisation in regard to his Department?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** I accept the policy of appointing the best men, whatever the race.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Is the Honourable the Finance Member the best man for that Department?

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member need not answer that question.

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** Modesty forbids me to answer that question.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Sir, I do not ask part (b) of this question, but only part (a).

#### REVISION OF ELECTORAL ROLLS FOR THE COUNCIL OF STATE.

1333. **\*Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government be pleased to state whether they are considering the revision of electoral rolls for the Council of State this year in every province including Madras?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** The Government of India understand that in pursuance of instructions issued by them last year fresh electoral rolls have recently been prepared or are now in course of preparation in all provinces. They do not propose to take any further action in the matter.

#### CARRIAGE OF UNREGISTERED MAILS BY THE TRIVANDRUM EXPRESS.

1334. **\*Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Trivandrum express, leaving Madras at 8 P.M. will hereafter carry unregistered mails;
- (b) whether the European Chamber of Commerce, Madras have requested the Postmaster General to extend the proposal to Virudhunagar also;
- (c) whether they propose to expedite these proposals?

**Mr. G. V. Bewoor:** (a) The Trivandrum Express is being utilised for the carriage of uninsured articles of the letter mail from Madras for delivery by Madura and Tallakulam post offices only. The question of utilising the train for the conveyance of all classes of mails for places south of Trichinopoly is under examination.

(b) No.

(c) A copy of the Honourable Member's question is being forwarded to the Postmaster-General, Madras, within whose competence the matter rests.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government make a recommendation in the matter?

**Mr. G. V. Bewoor:** I have stated that a copy of the Honourable Member's question is being sent to the Postmaster-General, Madras, and I have no doubt that he will consider it from all aspects.

## INCREASE IN THE IMPORTS FROM JAPAN AND THE UNITED KINGDOM.

1335. \***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether their attention has been drawn to the speech of Mr. D. P. Khaitan, vice-President of the Bengal Millowners' Association, published in the *Hindustan Times*, dated the 25th February, 1936;
- (b) whether they have examined or propose to examine Mody-Lees Pact from the point of view mentioned in the speech; and
- (c) whether it is a fact that imports from Japan and the United Kingdom have slightly increased in 1935?

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

(b) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the Resolution No. 341-T. (12)/35, dated the 10th September, 1935, issued by the Commerce Department. Government are awaiting the report of the Special Tariff Board.

(c) Yes. It is presumed that the reference is to cotton piece-goods. Imports from Japan have increased while imports from the United Kingdom have declined.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** When the Mody-Lees Pact comes up for re-examination, will Government consider the interests of handloom weavers also?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** Unless the Honourable Member puts the question more specifically, I am afraid I shall not be able to reply.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will Government consider the advisability of seeing when this question of Mody-Lees Pact comes up for re-examination that the interests of handloom weavers are not adversely affected?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** This question, as I have said, is being examined by the Special Tariff Board, and I do not see how the question of handloom weavers might arise as a result of the Tariff Board's Report?

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** In view of the fact that in answer to several previous questions put about the Tariff Board and the terms of reference to it, the Honourable Member said that handloom weavers' interests were not included in the terms of reference, will Government consider the advisability of paying special attention to the interests of handloom weavers when this Mody-Lees Pact comes up for re-examination?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** I do not understand what the Honourable Member means by saying "when the Mody-Lees Pact comes up for re-examination". There is no stage at which that pact comes up for reconsideration or re-examination. In pursuance of the undertaking given by the Government of India in the supplementary trade agreement, a special Tariff Board has been appointed and its report is being awaited, and, at present, without seeing the report, I do not know in what way the interests of the handloom weavers might be affected or if the question will at all arise. If it arises, Government will pay attention to it.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government consider, or have they considered the question of examining the whole question of cotton textiles, both manufactured in this country and imported, as well as handloom and *khaddar*, independent of specific facts like these, and settling their policy on a comprehensive scale in this matter, just now, or immediately after the report of the special Textile Tariff Board is received by the Government?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** What aspect of that policy has the Honourable Member in mind? So far as the question itself is concerned, that is being examined by the special Tariff Board.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** I am specifically asking about settling the conflict between the Japanese and British imports on the one hand, the production of indigenous mills on the other hand, and the production of handloom industry on the third hand, and finally the production of *khaddar*: whether Government have considered the desirability of examining the whole question, and laying down a policy which will promote the indigenous production of cloth by handloom as well as by mills and *khaddar*, and also such imports as may be found to be inevitable and desirable in the interests of this country.

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** The Honourable Member is aware that all these questions have to be adjusted particularly where other countries are concerned, and most of these questions are bound to come under review during the next few months.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** May I take it that the Government are going to take the whole question in hand, and not deal with it piecemeal as they have been doing so hitherto?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** In the very nature of things they have to be done by different stages. For instance take the protocol and agreement with Japan. So far as Japan is concerned, they are not concerned with the rest of the policy of the Government over it and they will say "well, we want to know where we stand, so far as this is concerned". That will be a specific question taken up with Japan. Similarly with the United Kingdom, the questions that can be taken up are the questions that might arise between the United Kingdom and India. The question of handloom industry and the mill industry is a separate question which will have to be looked into separately. No doubt each of these questions has some effect on others with regard to which a decision has to be arrived at. But you cannot say that Government should sit down at one time and make an announcement directing the United Kingdom, Japan and the millowners and the handloom weavers in India all to accept its pronouncement on the subject.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government consider the desirability of telling Japan and England to wait till the whole question is comprehensively settled?

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

**SPEECH OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF IN THE COUNCIL OF STATE.**

1336. \***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the speech of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in the Council of State on military expenditure represents the official opinion; and
- (b) whether there is a proposal to increase military expenditure in future?

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

(b) The position was fully explained by the Honourable the Finance Member in his budget speech this year, and I may add in my own speech on the army cut.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** May I know whether the Government as a whole have come to the conclusion that there should be increase in military expenditure?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham:** I have answered that question.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** May I know what is the extent of increase that is contemplated, and if so, when and in what stages?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham:** The increases that have been made this year will be found in the budget for 1936-37. We have not looked further ahead than that.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** In coming to that conclusion, have Government considered the fall in prices, the mechanization of the army and other possible lines of retrenchment in the army, apart from large questions of policy?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham:** Certainly.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** What is the financial result of such savings which Government hope to make under the three heads that I have mentioned, and in spite of that, do Government want further increase?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham:** It would take a long time to explain the exact effect of all these matters which the Honourable Member referred to. But they have all been taken into account. We take advantage of the fall in prices; the question whether mechanization is an economy or not is a very large question open to considerable doubt, but we do take all these factors into account.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief referred the other day in another place to the Honourable the Finance Member, and said that they had been told that there should be an increase of expenditure in the Defence Department and that the Finance Department have agreed to it. May I know if the Honourable the Finance Member has applied his mind to the points I have mentioned, and whether he has come to the conclusion, as the Finance Member, that there should be an increase in expenditure? If so, to what extent, and why?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** I have come to the conclusion as Finance Member that the trend of the Army expenditure will be slowly upwards in the next few years and that from a very natural reaction from the process of living on stores and of taking advantage of fall in prices and several other factors which make for economy: yes.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will the Honourable Member give some indication of the rate of increase of expenditure in the next few years?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** I cannot say, but, not very rapid.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Does that include special expenditure on re-building Quetta city?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** That is taken into account, certainly.

REPORT OF SIR OTTO NIEMEYER.

1337. **\*Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the report of Sir Otto Niemeyer is expected to be published at the end of April or early in May;
- (b) whether they are prepared to make any attempt to get the report published a little earlier so as to enable this House to express its opinion thereon; and
- (c) whether they propose to forward the same without reference to Legislatures at all; if so, why?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** (a), (b) and (c). The Report is to be submitted to His Majesty's Government and I have no information as to when it will be either submitted or published beyond that contained in the reports which appeared in the press this morning.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** May I take it that the Honourable Member's attention has been drawn to the statement in the press that Sir Otto Niemeyer's report will be published sometime about the end of April?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** I said:

"I have no information as to when it will be either submitted or published beyond that contained in the reports which appeared in the press this morning."

But my reading of the press report is that it will be submitted to the Secretary of State about the end of April.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** I accept the correction that it will be submitted to the Secretary of State about the end of April. I take it that final orders will be passed by Parliament on that report sometime before the end of July or early in August.

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** Yes, Sir.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** May I know if the Honourable Member's attention has been drawn to this, that this will happen between the end of this Session and the beginning of Simla Session of the Assembly? Will the Honourable Member be good enough to consider whether some opportunity may not be given to the House to pronounce its opinion on the recommendation of Sir Otto Niemeyer, before orders are passed thereon by Parliament?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** I do not know how it can be done. The report obviously is not going to be published during this Session of the Assembly and final orders have got to be passed by His Majesty's Government before the Assembly meets again in Simla. I do not see how it can be possible.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member represent to His Majesty's Government to postpone passing orders till the Assembly has considered this matter, or will the Honourable Member recommend to the Governor General in Council to summon a special Session of the Assembly to consider this very important matter, as it may involve increase of taxation, or distribution of resources which may leave the other provinces or the Federation crippled?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** I think my Honourable friend is making a fairly large assumption in the latter part of his question. I will certainly forward the representations to the Secretary of State, but I do not see what can be done about it. Final orders have got to be passed at a certain time so that provinces may know where they stand at the inception of provincial autonomy.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Does the Honourable Member realise that it is unfair to this House and to this country to pass orders on such fundamental and important financial matters without so much as even by leave of this House?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** I quite realise—I do not accept the full implication of what the Honourable Member says, but I quite realise that when you are bringing into force a whole new Constitution, certain clashes, if you like, or, certain treatment of the older part of the Constitution, must appear a little rough, but that is not intentional. It is inevitable in the scheme of things.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** We are accustomed to it!

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** Oh, well!

SUBMISSION OF THE INSTRUMENT OF INSTRUCTIONS TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE GOVERNOR GENERAL TO THE PARLIAMENT.

1338. **\*Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether they have any information that the Instrument of Instructions to the Governor and the Governor General under the Government of India Act, 1935, will be submitted to the Parliament before it rises for its summer recess;
- (b) whether they have been consulted at all; and
- (c) whether they gave their opinion on the matter; if so, what?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** (a), (b) and (c). The Government of India have not been consulted as to the date on which the Instrument of Instructions to the Governors should be submitted to Parliament for approval under section 53 of the Government of India Act, 1935. They understand that no decision as regards the date of such submission has yet been taken. The Instrument of Instructions to be given to the Governor General during the transitional period will not technically require the approval of Parliament, but may be submitted to Parliament for its information. The Instrument of Instructions to the Governor General for the period after the Federation is established will require the approval of Parliament under section 13 of the Act. It is not proposed to take action at this stage to obtain that approval.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** With regard to the Instrument of Instructions to Governors, may I know if the Government of India were consulted at any stage, before they were published, or do they expect to be consulted before they are placed before Parliament for approval, whatever the date may be?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** They expect to be consulted, and, as a matter of fact, they are waiting for the views of the Provincial Governments.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** May I take it that the Government of India have addressed the Local Governments with regard to their views on this Instrument of Instructions?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** Yes.

**TRANSFER OF OFFICERS TO ORISSA AGAINST THEIR WISHES.**

1339. **\*Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if some officers of the Imperial and Provincial Services have been recommended for transfer to Orissa against their wishes?

(b) On what principle have these officers been selected?

(c) Is it a fact that some officers who volunteered were not sent?

(d) Are Government aware that the prospects of such officers will be adversely affected by being compulsorily transferred from a major province to a minor province?

(e) Will Government please state whether they are prepared to restrict the period of their services in Orissa, and whether they will be replaced, when officers recruited by the Government of Orissa are available?

(f) Are Government prepared to give those officers, who are being sent to Orissa against their wishes, the option of reverting at least after a period of two years?

(g) Is it a fact that in some departments where Orissa officers are available, non-Orissan officers have been forced to go to Orissa against their will?

(h) Do Government propose to issue any set of rules in connection with such officers' service and their reversion after a specified period?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** (a) The question does not arise in the case of officers of the Imperial Services (by which term the Honourable Member presumably means the All-India Services) since those

officers accept service in any part of India as part of their conditions of service, and will continue to be borne on joint Bihar and Orissa cadres, although they may be posted to Orissa for specified periods of duty. So far as officers of the Provincial Services are concerned, power has been taken in the Government of India (Constitution of Orissa) Order to require such persons as may be determined by agreement between the Governments concerned, or in default of agreement by the Governor General in Council, to serve in Orissa. How far it will be necessary to require persons to serve in Orissa against their wishes cannot be stated until the selection of officers which is being made by consultation between the Local Governments concerned is complete.

(b) In staffing the new Province until such time as the Provincial Government can recruit sufficient staff of its own, preference will be given to those who express willingness to serve in Orissa and, so far as possible, to persons with experience of the areas comprising the new Province, particularly Oriyas.

(c) The Government of India have no information.

(d) It does not follow as a matter of course that prospects for individual officers will be less favourable in a small than in a large Province.

(e), (f) and (h). The Government of India (Constitution of Orissa) Order provides that conditions for the protection of persons required to serve in Orissa shall be prescribed by the Governor General in Council. So far as possible provision will be made in prescribing such conditions for the reversion to his own Province of an officer required to serve in Orissa against his will. The period within which he may be reverted will depend on the time required for the Local Government to organise its own Services.

(g) The Government of India have no information. But I would refer the Honourable Member to the circular issued on the 21st December, 1935, by the Publicity Officer to the Government of Bihar and Orissa from which he will observe that the Local Government intend as far as possible to transfer all Oriya officers to the new province provided that room can be found for them.

**Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait:** With regard to the answer to part (g) of the question, will the Government be pleased to say if any Oriyan officers are left in Madras and some Madras officers are sent to Orissa against their wishes, and, if so, will the Government see that Oriyan officers are sent to Orissa and Madras officers are left in Madras?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** I have already said in my answer, "How far it will be necessary to require persons to serve in Orissa against their wishes cannot be stated until the selection of officers which is being made by consultation between the Local Governments concerned is complete". So that we do not know yet if any one will be asked to go against his wishes to Orissa.

**Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait:** Has any selection so far been made?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** No, so far as I know.

**NUMBER OF CERTAIN APPOINTMENTS MADE IN THE MADRAS PRESIDENCY.**

1840. \***Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait:** Will Government be pleased to state the total number of appointments made in the Madras Presidency during the last three years for each of the following posts and the number of Muslims in it:

- (1) Income-tax Officers and Assistant Income-tax Officers;
- (2) Inspectors, Assistant Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors of Salt Revenue;
- (3) Inspectors, Assistant Inspectors, Sub-Inspectors and preventive officers of Customs; and
- (4) all ranks of Postal employees?

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

**SUPERIOR POSTS IN THE INDIAN POLICE LISTED FOR PROVINCIAL OFFICERS IN THE MADRAS PRESIDENCY.**

1841. \***Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of superior posts in the Indian Police listed for the Provincial officers in the Madras Presidency?

(b) what is the number of posts so far filled up?

(c) Is it a fact that the number of such posts in the other presidencies has been completely filled up?

(d) Is it a fact that in the Madras Presidency alone, difficulties have been raised and provincial officers who have been Ag. D. S., Ps. for a period of six and seven years have been reverted and Assistant Superintendents with a total service of five or six years have been appointed to act in superior posts?

(e) Do Government propose to examine this anomaly?

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

(b) Seven.

(c) The number of such posts has not yet been completely filled up in the other presidencies.

(d) The reversion of provincial officers, after having officiated for a period as Superintendents of Police, is not confined to the Madras Presidency. The position is that posts of District Superintendents of Police on the Indian Police cadre, other than those earmarked for provincial police service officers, are reserved for members of the Indian Police. A member of the Provincial Police Service may be appointed temporarily to such posts in the exigencies of the public service, for instance, if he is specially suited for a particular post or if there is no Assistant Superintendent of Police qualified to hold charge of a district. When such special circumstances cease to exist provincial police service officers have to revert.

(e) In view of what has been explained in part (d) above there is no question of any anomaly.

GIVING UP OF CANNANORE AS ONE OF THE MILITARY STATIONS.

1942. \***Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait:** Will Government be pleased to state if there is any proposal to give up Cannanore as one of the military stations and to station there only the Malabar Battalion?

**Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham:** There is at present no such proposal.

COMPULSORY INSURANCE AND COMPULSORY SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE PROVIDENT FUND OF GOVERNMENT SERVANTS.

1343. \***Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait:** Are Government prepared:

- (a) to favourably consider the system of compulsory insurance in the case of all Government servants;
- (b) to extend the rules regarding compulsory subscription to the Provident Fund; and
- (c) to increase the amount of commutation of pension from 50 per cent. to 75 per cent.?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** (a) and (b). Government are considering the suitability of making compulsory insurance and/or compulsory subscription to a provident fund a condition of service.

(c) No.

BOOKLET TITLED "A PEEP INTO RURAL AREA OF DELHI PROVINCE".

1344. \***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** Has the attention of Government been drawn to a booklet titled "*A peep into Rural Area of Delhi Province*" published by the local Delhi District Congress Committee and if so, will Government be pleased to state whether all or any of the grievances mentioned in the same booklet with special reference to the points given below are true, and if so, what are the steps which they propose to take in order to remove them:

- (a) want of food and fodder due to over assessment (page 4);
- (b) irrigation and failure of crops (page 6);
- (c) poverty of the people (page 7);
- (d) rural indebtedness (page 8);
- (e) taxation—taxes on wells for drinking purposes and professional taxes (page 10);
- (f) *begar* (pages 10-11);
- (g) medical aid and sanitation (pages 11-12); and
- (h) tyranny by the military authority (page 13)?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** I have seen the report referred to and lay on the table a statement explaining the facts on numerous points in regard to which the report gives an inaccurate or misleading account. Government are aware that there is much room for improvement in rural conditions in the Delhi Province, but steps have been or are being taken to ameliorate them as far as possible. I also lay on the table a further statement showing some of the schemes which have been undertaken with this object.

STATEMENT I.

*Statement regarding the Rural conditions obtaining in the Delhi Province with reference to allegations contained in the Report of the Congress Village Sub-Committee.*

*Revenue Policy and its effect.*

The current land revenue settlement of the Delhi Province was carried out as far back as 1908-09 when the Delhi Province was still part of the Punjab, and this settlement is current for a period of 30 years. The settlements of Delhi Province and the adjoining districts of Rohtak and Gurgaon were taken up and completed in turn, and the pitch of land revenue assessment in the case of the existing Delhi Province is roughly the same as that of the other two districts. The suggestion therefore that the Delhi Province is subject to specially high revenue assessment is erroneous.

The remarks made in paragraph 8 of the report in regard to the manner of determining assessment are also misleading and are founded upon some misapprehension. The *girdawri* of Revenue officials which is referred to is not for the purpose of assessment, but on the contrary for the purpose of ascertaining whether any grounds exist for recommending suspensions or remissions of land revenue.

In regard to the village of Masudpur Mehrauli Circle which is mentioned in paragraph 7 of the Report, it may be mentioned that the assessment was made in 1905-1908, i.e., 28 years ago. The annual land revenue of this village is Rs. 300; its cultivated area at the time of assessment was 446 acres, of which 70 acres were let out on an annual rent of Rs. 165; whereas now it is 456 acres of which 34 acres are let out on an annual cash rent of Rs. 83 giving an average of about Rs. 2-8-0 per acre. The rest of the area is cultivated by the owners themselves. The people of this village have generally on independent source of income from the export of "Kharia Mitti" (China Clay) which is available locally and can afford to pay their land revenue. A further fact which requires mention is that the number of owners and cattle in this village since the last settlement has increased by 50 per cent.

The statement made in the report that in no case is the land yield more than 14 seers a bigha is incorrect. The question of yield is the main factor which the Settlement officer takes into consideration in determining the land revenue and for this purpose, experiments of all major crops for each separate class of soil, irrigated and unirrigated, are made under close supervision of experienced revenue officers. Average class of fields in consultation with zamindars are selected for the purpose, and their crops cut and weighed, in the presence of the revenue officers, by the owners themselves. The results of these experiments are very minutely and carefully weighed and after due consideration an average yield of land in each assessment circle is determined. The yield of each crop in each assessment circle is different. The incorrectness of the assertion that the yield is in no case more than 14 seers a bigha is thus further apparent since the yield of all crops whether wheat, gram, cotton, maize, rapeseed, sugarcane, etc., irrigated or unirrigated, has been considered in the report to be the same.

In the next place the report makes a general statement that the conditions in almost all the villages are identical and the Sub-Committee state that for this reason they have refrained from repeating the facts; but the facts are that conditions in the different villages differ and the figures in regard to revenue, suspension, remission, loans, etc., vary greatly. The incidence of land revenue of the villages visited by the Congress Committee ranges from 0-10-4 to Rs. 4-1-7 per acre as the conditions of land and soil differ materially in each village.

The cultivated areas in almost all these villages has slightly increased since the last settlement. Wherever it has decreased it is due to acquisition or some other particular reason. Where conditions are bad Government have granted suspensions and remissions. Indeed there is not a single village which was visited by the Committee where suspensions and remissions have not been allowed on account of damage done to crops by hailstorms, epidemics, locusts, floods, lack of rains. It may be mentioned that in 1931 and 1933 special remissions amounting to Rs. 98,466 and Rs. 1,60,462 respectively, were sanctioned in the Delhi Province, and every year certain sums have been suspended and remitted where this is found necessary on account of economic

conditions. It may be mentioned here that no *abiana* is levied from the people in respect of newly constructed wells for 20 years, during which period the owners are allowed to enjoy the full profits of the improvements made by them. There are definite rules regulating remissions of *abiana* when wells fall out of use. In accordance with these rules the *abiana* of several wells has been remitted in the past.

#### *Irrigation and failure of crops.*

Delhi Province is irrigated by the Eastern and Western Jumna Canals and pays *abiana* at the same scale as the people of the Punjab or the United Provinces, remissions being calculated on the scale as fixed in the Punjab. The Delhi Province receives irrigation water in exactly the same way as does the land situated in the Punjab, and to state that because Delhi is not part of the Punjab it does not receive water in time is not correct. The Western Jumna Canal, which is the main source of irrigation for the Delhi Province is run by rotational turns, each of the main branches getting a ten-day full supply by turn each month. The Zamindar opens his outlet and takes his water, and if there is no demand for the water, the Government channel is closed. The statement that standing crops get rotten on account of unwelcome canal water is thus incorrect as the zamindar decides whether he will take water; if he does not grow crops on his land, he is not charged for canal water. As stated above, remissions in the *abiana* are allowed, whenever circumstances so require, on the same scale as in the Punjab.

#### *Poverty and Rural indebtedness.*

The arguments put forward in the report are of general application and have no special relevance to conditions obtaining in the Delhi Province. The statement that ~~taccavi is recovered by Revenue Officers~~ in the Delhi Province is untrue. In fact the position is that a sum of Rs. 72,400 has been remitted during the last few years, and there is a large balance amounting to Rs. 85,869 still uncollected.

As regards indebtedness the question as to whether the Agricultural Indebtedness Relief Act, which has only very recently been passed into law by the Punjab Legislative Council, should be applied to Delhi is at present under consideration.

#### *Taxation.*

Agricultural conditions in Gurgaon and Rohtak districts and in the Delhi Province are similar, but Delhi is the best off as it has better marketing facilities. The prices which the people of Delhi Province secure from the sale of green gram, barley, Jowar, and Jai are much higher in proportion to what the people in the two adjoining districts obtain as there is not much marked *scope* for these commodities there.

Chowkidars are village officials and their salaries are paid everywhere in the Punjab by the villagers. In the Punjab they are supplied with uniforms at intervals of three or four years, whereas in Delhi uniforms have been supplied after long periods.

The statement that births and deaths are not correctly recorded is not accurate. This work is done by the village chaukidars under the supervision of the Police and although mistakes are bound to occur, having regard to the nature of the agency employed, the system is probably as good as any that could be devised and no complaints have been received.

Wells for drinking purposes have not been taxed unless they are also used for purposes of irrigation. *Abiana* levied on wells is not a tax, but is the result of the apportionment (Bachh) of land revenue assessed by the Settlement Officer after taking into due consideration the soil and other sources of income of the village. This assessment is based on a recognized and established principle. The apportionment of assessment is left to the discretion of the owners of each village, hence the system of levying *abiana* on wells, which is generally in accordance with the will of the people themselves, cannot be considered to be objectionable and unjust. If no *abiana* were assessed on wells, and revenue charged at a flat rate, the result would be likely to cause heart burning and injustice. The villagers were wise enough to have a lump sum assessed on their wells instead of agreeing to pay at a higher rate for their Chahi lands; as in the latter case they would not have been able to obtain remissions during the pendency of the term of the present settlement, even if the wells had ceased to work.

Professional tax has only recently been levied by the District Board although it was imposed long before in the adjoining District of Rohtak. No protests in regard to the method in which this tax has been assessed have been received.

*Begar.*

Government have no reason to believe that *begar* continues to exist in the Delhi Province. The people have access to District Officers, they are closely in touch with the educated classes inhabiting rural areas, while many of the principal zamindars actually live in the city. Complaints in regard to the existence of *begar*, if real hardship was caused, would unfailingly have reached the District Officers.

*Medical Aid and Sanitation.*

Delhi Province is better served than other Provinces in regard to dispensaries, which are so located that they serve all villages within a radius of six miles. The villages mentioned in the report are all within three miles radius of a dispensary. The desirability of increasing the number of rural dispensaries is recognised by Government but it is obvious that every big village cannot possibly have its own dispensary.

A sum of Rs. 10,000 out of the grant of Rs. 50,000 made by the Government of India for rural reconstruction and improvement, has been allotted for the improvement of the Maqbara Paik Ochandi Road.

*Education.*

During the last five years 15 Primary, 25 Lower Middle, 3 Vernacular, 1 Anglo-Vernacular Middle, 4 Girls Schools, 15 High Schools and one Agricultural Farm at Palam have been opened. Sixty new school buildings have been constructed. Compulsory education has been introduced in 13 villages. There are 12 District Board Schools and 5 aided schools for girls in the rural area. These schools have accommodation for increased enrolment. Where possible private enterprise for Girls' education is being encouraged and co-ordination has also been introduced in the District Board Schools in order to give a further impetus to female education in places where schools for girls do not exist.

*Village industries.*

The 5 years programme for the development of technical and industrial education has apparently been confused with the plan for the development of village industries for which no 5 year programme has been formulated. The establishment of the Government Cottage Industries Institute last year has to some extent met the need for imparting training in cottage industries, and particular care is taken to admit sons of villagers into this Institute. Rural exhibitions are being organized annually with the object of fostering village industries and promoting knowledge in this regard.

*Miscellaneous.*

Great care has been exercised in ensuring that all compensation paid for damage done to crops, etc., by troops in connection with manoeuvres is adequate. Definite scales of compensation payable have been laid down and compensation is assessed jointly by Military and Civil Compensation Officers and no complaints have been received that the military authorities have in any case paid a lower rate than that recommended by civil officers.

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STATEMENT II.

*Statement showing some of the schemes undertaken with the object of improving rural conditions in Delhi Province.*

(a) The annual Government grant of Rs. 22,000 to the District Board, Delhi, has been restored for a period of three years from 1935-36 to enable the Board to carry on certain beneficent activities.

(b) The grant of Rs. 50,000 for rural reconstruction and improvement has been distributed by the local Administration as follows :

Rs. 32,000 for construction and repair of village wells.

Rs. 3,000 for remodelling of an existing village for demonstration purpose.

Rs. 10,000 for improvement of roads and communications.

Rs. 5,000 kept in reserve for urgent necessities coming to notice to District officers while on tour.

(c) A sum of Rs. 6,000 has been provided in the current year's budget for grant to the District Board to supplement its stock of bulls, rams and buck goats. This was at first subject to certain unfulfilled conditions, but has now been made unconditional.

(d) The provision of Rs. 2,000 in 1934-35 and of Rs. 5,000 for 1935-36 was made in the budget of the Delhi Administration for the development of handloom weaving industry in the Delhi Province and this has enabled the Delhi Administration to start a Cottage Industries Institute in which valuable instruction, notably to illagers, is being imparted.

(e) The Government of India have sanctioned the grant to the Association for the Development of Swadeshi Industries, Delhi, of Rs. 7,500 to meet expenditure on a scheme prepared by the Delhi Superintendent of Industries for the display of handloom products and improved handloom machinery and appliances at the All-India Exhibition to be held in February-March, 1936.

(f) The Government of India have approved the scheme of the local Government for the extension of co-operative training and education in Delhi, and have sanctioned an allotment to Delhi Province of Rs. 9,000 spread over five years.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Have Government conducted any enquiry into the economic conditions of the peasants and workers in the rural areas of Delhi?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** In consequence?

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Or independently of this.

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** Into the conditions of rural workers in Delhi?

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Yes.

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** Since this pamphlet was published?

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** No. At any time till now.

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** Constantly.

**Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** What is the basis on which the Honourable Member says that the report is a misleading one?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** The Honourable Member had better read the statement which I lay on the table.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** When was the last enquiry made, what was the report, and has that report been published?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** The officers of Government in a small province like Delhi are constantly in touch with rural workers.

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

**ABSENCE OF RAILWAY POLICE ON STATIONS OF THE SHAHADRA-SHAMLI RAILWAY.**

1345. **\*Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi:** (a) Are Government aware that there is no Railway Police on the Shahadra-Shamli Railway stations?

(b) Have Government considered the advisability of getting the said company to make provision for such police for keeping a watch at the Railway stations? If not, why not?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** The information has been called for from the Government of the United Provinces and will be laid on the table in due course.

**Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi:** When is the information likely to be expected?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** I should think very soon. It is a very simple question.

**APPOINTMENT OF SECOND GRADE CLERKS IN THE ROHTAK POSTAL DIVISION.**

1346. **\*Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim:** (a) Will Government please state whether appointments to second grade clerkship in the Posts and Telegraphs Department are made from among the approved candidates on the waiting lists of the Rohtak Postal Division?

(b) Will Government please state what action they propose to take in order to redress the grievances of the Muslim candidates?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** (a) The procedure described by the Honourable Member is that prescribed by the rules and, while Government have no information as to what is being done in the Rohtak Postal Division, they have no reason to suppose that the rules are not being observed in that division.

(b) Government are not aware of any grievances which Muslim candidates may have and do not propose to make any inquiry as it is open to any candidate who considers himself aggrieved to make a representation to the proper authority.

**CLERKS APPOINTED IN THE TELEPHONE REVENUE ACCOUNTING OFFICE WITHOUT PASSING THE PRESCRIBED TEST.**

1347. **\*Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim:** (a) Is it a fact that candidates for appointment of clerks in the Posts and Telegraphs Department have to pass a certain test and selection is made from among the successful candidates both according to merit and the reservation rules?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, is it a fact that certain candidates above the age limit prescribed by the Head of the Circle have been appointed in the Telephone Revenue Accounting Office temporarily without passing the prescribed test?

(c) If the reply to part (b) above be in the affirmative, will Government please state what action they propose to take in order to stop recurrences of this sort in future?

**Mr. G. V. Bewoor:** (a) Yes.

(b) A single candidate was temporarily appointed owing to the absence of any approved candidate on the waiting list, but he was within the age limit at the time and was, subsequently, discharged from service.

(c) The incident does not call for any action on the part of Government.

#### ENTERTAINMENT OF DIRECT APPEALS BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

1348. **\*Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim:** (a) Is it a fact that the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs had been entertaining appeals from the time scale postal clerks, over the head of the Postmasters General who are the final appellate authority in such cases?

(b) Is the procedure adopted in accepting direct appeals by the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs against the Departmental rules and if so, are Government prepared to review the appeal in question?

**Mr. G. V. Bewoor:** (a) No.

(b) The Honourable Member's assumption that direct appeals are accepted by the Director General is not correct. The question, therefore, does not arise.

#### APPOINTMENT OF MUSLIMS AS CAMP CLERKS IN THE POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT.

1349. **\*Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim:** (a) Will Government please place on the table of this House a statement showing the number of camp clerks in (i) Postal Circles in India, (ii) in the Directorate, (iii) in the Office of the Accountant General, Posts and Telegraphs, New Delhi, and (iv) in the Offices of the Deputy Accountants General, Madras, Bombay, Nagpur, Delhi and Calcutta?

(b) How many of those camp clerks are Muslims and how many belong to other communities?

(c) If the Muslims are inadequately represented in this line, are Government prepared to equalise the number?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the table of the House.

(c) Government do not consider it necessary to go further than to see that their orders regarding the adjustment of communal inequalities in the recruitment of staff, as in force from time to time, are carefully observed.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) and (b) of starred question No. 1349.

Offices.	Total No. of camp clerks.	Muslims.	Other communities.	Remarks.
Postmaster-General, United Provinces Circle . . . . .	4	Nil	4	
Postmaster-General, Bengal and Assam Circle . . . . .	4	Nil	4	
Postmaster-General, Bombay Circle . . . . .	4	Nil	4	
Postmaster-General, Madras Circle . . . . .	4	Nil	4	
Postmaster-General, Punjab and N. W. F.-Circle . . . . .	4	2	2	
Postmaster-General, Bihar and Orissa Circle . . . . .	2	Nil	2	
Postmaster-General, Central Circle . . . . .	2	1	1	
Postmaster-General, Burma Circle . . . . .	2	Nil	2	
Director of Posts and Telegraphs, Sind and Baluchistan Circle . . . . .	1	Nil	1	
Directorate . . . . .	9	1	8	
Accountant-General, Posts and Telegraphs, New Delhi . . . . .	Nil	*	*	*One stenographer accompanies the Accountant-General to his camp office.
Deputy Accountants-General, Posts and Telegraphs, Madras, Nagpur, Delhi and Calcutta . . . . .	Nil	*	*	*There is no Deputy Accountant-General, Posts and Telegraphs at Bombay.

**GAZETTED OFFICERS IN THE DELHI DIVISIONAL OFFICE OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.**

1350. \***Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt**: Will Government be pleased to state the number of gazetted officers in the Delhi Divisional Office of the North Western Railway and the number of Muslims among them?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan**: There are altogether 26 officers working at present in the office of Divisional Superintendent, Delhi, but none of them is a Muslim.

**APPOINTMENT OF A STENOGRAPHER IN THE INFORMATION BUREAU.**

1351. \***Bhai Parma Nand**: (a) Will Government please state who is the appointing authority and in charge of establishment in the Information Bureau?

(b) Will Government please state how many stenographers in the Information Bureau are Hindus?

(c) Has any additional post of stenographer been created in that office? If so, will Government please state the community to which the candidate appointed in that post belongs?

(d) How did Government make a selection for the filling up of that post? Did they hold any test?

(e) If the answer to the latter portion of part (d) above be in the affirmative, will Government please state how many candidates sat at the test and what position was secured by the candidate appointed in that post?

(f) What are the rules about recruitment of ministerial staff in this office? Is this office exempted from the operation of the Public Service Commission examination?

(g) Has the selected man passed any of the Public Service Commission examinations?

(h) If the answer to parts (f) and (g) above be in the negative, will Government please state the rule under which an unqualified man could be appointed?

(i) Will Government please state the nature of the vacancy in which the unqualified gentleman has been appointed, whether permanent, temporary, or likely to become permanent?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** (a) In respect of the clerical establishment including stenographers the Director is the appointing authority. The senior Deputy Director is the officer in charge of the office establishment.

(b) None.

(c), (d) and (e). A stenographer was sanctioned for the Additional Deputy Director and the post was filled by a Muslim who was selected as the best from among the candidates who applied for the post. A test was held at which 12 candidates were asked to appear, but seven actually sat, and the selected candidate stood first.

(f) and (h). The system of recruitment in this office is the same as in the Secretariat and other attached offices. Vacancies in posts of assistants and clerks, except temporary vacancies of less than three months' duration, are filled through the Home Department from the list of candidates who have appeared at the competitive examinations held by the Public Service Commission. Formerly stenographers were also recruited in this way, but a change in the method of recruiting stenographers is under consideration and pending a decision heads of offices have been allowed to make temporary appointments in vacant posts of stenographers.

(g) No. The Public Service Commission has ceased to hold examinations for stenographers.

(i) The appointment is temporary but is likely to become permanent. The present incumbent has been appointed to fill it on a temporary basis, as explained above.

#### APPOINTMENT OF STENOGRAPHERS IN THE INTELLIGENCE BUREAU.

1352. **\*Bhai Parma Nand:** (a) Is it a fact that six Central Intelligence Officers and their staff have been sanctioned on the staff of the Intelligence Bureau? If so, how many of them have so far been appointed and what are their duties?

(b) Is it a fact that each of these officers has been given a stenographer? If so, how has the selection of stenographers been made?

(c) Will Government please state how many stenographers to these officers have so far been appointed, and the community to which they belong?

(d) Is it a fact that these officers' headquarters will be in their respective provinces?

(e) If the answer to part (d) above be in the affirmative, will Government please state whether Provincial scales of pay have been sanctioned? If not, why not?

(f) Will Government please state the strength of stenographers of the Intelligence Bureau and their communal composition?

(g) Will Government please state whether the recent orders regarding recruitments issued by the Government of India, were complied with in making these appointments and due share of proportion has been given to each community?

(h) Is it a fact that the criterion of making appointments in the offices of the Public Information and the Intelligence Bureau differ from other departments of the Government of India and its attached offices and their scales of pay are also different?

(i) Will Government please state what other staff, in addition to the six Central Intelligence Officers and their stenographers, has been sanctioned in the Intelligence Bureau?

(j) Has the staff mentioned in part (i) above been appointed? If so, what are their designations and their communal composition?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** (a) Yes, all the six officers have been appointed. Their duties are to collect information on matters which concern more than one province and are of all-India importance and to act as liaison officers between Intelligence organisations.

(b) Yes, the appointments are made by selection from suitable applicants.

(c) Five so far, of whom three are Hindus and two are Muhammadans.

(d) Their headquarters are at provincial centres at present, but are liable to variation.

(e) The scale of pay sanctioned for the stenographers is the revised scale for stenographers at the headquarters of the Government of India. This was done with a view to make inter-transfers possible and because no other ministerial staff is sanctioned, so that stenographers will have also to do clerical and accounts work.

(f) Four, excluding the above, of whom two are Hindus, one is an Indian Christian and one an Anglo-Indian.

(g) Yes.

(h) The criterion of making appointments in the Bureau of Public Information does not differ from other departments of the Government of India and its attached offices, but recruitment to the ministerial posts in the Intelligence Bureau is not made through the Public Service Commission. The revised scales of pay of the posts of assistants, stenographers and clerks in these offices are the same as those in the Departments of the Government of India and in other attached offices.

(i) and (j). The following additional staff has been appointed for the six Central Intelligence Officers.

- (1) Six Deputy Central Intelligence Officers of whom two have been appointed so far; one is a Hindu and the other a Muhammadan.
- (2) Ten Assistant Central Intelligence Officers of whom four have been appointed so far—all of whom are Hindus.
- (3) Six Daffadars and 30 peons of whom 18 have been appointed so far—ten Hindus and eight Muhammadans.

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

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar**: Supplementary question, Sir . . .

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The next question has been called.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar**: It is a matter of importance.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It is not necessary that there must be supplementary questions to every question. The next question has been called. The Honourable Member should have got up earlier.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar**: If the next question is called with lightning speed, how can supplementary questions be put?

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The next question has been called.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar**: All right. I will obey your order.

#### EMPLOYMENT OF SECRETARIAT STAFF AS CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT INFORMERS.

1353. **\*Bhai Parma Nand**: (a) Will Government please state if Government servants in the Secretariat are or can be employed in addition to their own duties, as Government Criminal Investigation Department informers?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, will Government please state whether they grant any honorarium, etc.?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik**: (a) and (b). No Government servant is a paid informer of the Criminal Investigation Department.

#### BOOK ENTITLED "COMMUNISM AND ISLAM".

1354. **\*Bhai Parma Nand**: (a) Are Government aware of the publication of a book called "Communism and Islam" on which the writer's name is not published?

(b) Is it a fact that this book has been written by a clerk in the Home Department?

(c) Is it a fact that the book has been financed by the Public Information Bureau?

(d) Is it a fact that the Deputy Director of Information recommended to the Home Department for some honorarium to be granted to this clerk?

(e) If the answer to part (d) above be in the affirmative, will Government please state the amount of honorarium paid to him, and from which head it was paid?

(f) Is it a fact that Government have issued instructions to Local Governments, colleges and other bodies, to buy this book for propaganda purposes?

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

(b) Yes. He obtained the Government of India's permission to write this book.

(c) No.

(d) No. No recommendation was made by the Director, nor did the writer ask for an honorarium.

(e) This does not arise.

(f) No.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** Did the Honourable Member make any inquiries with regard to part (d) of the question?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** The answer to part (d) is "No. No recommendation was made by the Director, nor did the writer ask for an honorarium".

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** What is the reply to clause (b)?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** Yes. He obtained the Government of India's permission to write this book.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** In view of the nature of the subject of this book, will Government adopt it as their policy that their servants should not write on communal or controversial questions.

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** The book has nothing to do with any communal question, as far as I am aware.

#### **POLICE CONSTABLES INVOLVED IN CASES OF ABDUCTION OF WOMEN IN AJMER-MERWARA.**

1355. **\*Bhai Parma Nand:** Is it a fact that recently some police constables of Ajmer-Merwara were involved in several cases of abduction of women by the *goondas*?

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

### ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THE SUPERINTENDENT OF POST OFFICES, PESHAWAR.

1356. \***Sardar Sant Singh:** Are Government aware that one Hindu (Kanshi Ram) while working as orderly peon to the Superintendent, Post Offices, Peshawar, was given corporal punishment by the Superintendent in the presence of the staff for his refusal to cook his meals against religious feelings, and was subsequently expelled from service on this account? If so, are Government prepared to institute an enquiry into the matter and order re-instatement of the official?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** Government have no information and do not propose to obtain it. It is open to the aggrieved official to represent his case to the higher authority through the proper channel.

### WANT OF POSTAL AND TELEGRAPHIC FACILITIES IN THE CHHOTA NAGPUR DIVISION OF BIHAR AND ORISSA.

1357. \***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** (a) Are Government aware of the great want of postal and telegraphic facilities in the Chhota Nagpur Division of Bihar and Orissa and if so, are they going to take any steps to remove the same grievances?

(b) What is the number of new experimental post offices opened during the current year in the whole of India in general and in the Chhota Nagpur Division in particular?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** (a) Government are aware that there is room for improvement in the provision of postal or telegraph facilities in rural areas generally and, as the Honourable Member is aware, a sum of Rs. 50,000 was provided in the current year's budget for improving postal facilities in rural areas and a sum of Rs. 1½ lakhs is provided for the same purpose in the budget of the department for the next year. I have no doubt that the Chhota Nagpur Division will benefit with other rural areas in India. Government understand that as against 241 post offices which existed in April, 1935, there were in March, 1936, 256 offices in the division. The Honourable Member will, therefore, see that the extension of postal facilities has not been neglected in the Chhota Nagpur Division.

(b) The number of new experimental post offices opened during the current financial year, so far in the whole of India, was 222 of which three were in the Chhota Nagpur Division.

**Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** According to the next programme of the Government with regard to postal facilities, how many new post offices will be opened there?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** The programme is that a provision of two lakhs will be utilised to the best possible advantage.

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS IN THE CHHOTA NAGPUR DIVISION.

1358. \***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** (a) What are the methods of archaeological investigation?

(b) Is any archaeological investigation going on in the Chhota Nagpur Division, and if so, what and where? If not, why not?

(c) Are Government aware of the fact that in the police station of Hunterganj in the Hazaribagh District, there is a Kolhuwa Hill and have Government considered whether an archæological investigation can be conducted to the benefit of the country?

**Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai:** (a) The methods comprise a wide range including the study of inscriptions, coins, surface antiquities and, if excavation is conducted, of stratigraphical evidence and of antiquities found in the course of excavation.

(b) No; for want of funds.

(c) Yes. The Archæological Superintendent of the Circle is being asked to examine the antiquities of the place.

**MIGRATION OF LABOURERS FROM THE CHHOTA NAGPUR DIVISION.**

1359. **\*Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the approximate or definite number of labourers who have migrated from the Chhota Nagpur Division during the last five years either to any other province in this country or outside it?

(b) Is any recruitment of labourers, recognised by Government, going on in the Chhota Nagpur Division and if so, in which Districts, for which places and by which Company or organisation?

(c) What is the number of Chhota Nagpur labourers at present working in the tea gardens of Assam and the Malaya Islands?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** (a) Government have no information except that during the period, 1st October, 1933, to 30th September, 1934, 33,473 labourers emigrated from the Chhota Nagpur Division to the Tea Districts in Assam.

(b) Recruitment in Bihar and Orissa to tea estates in Assam is controlled under the Tea Districts Emigrant Labour Act, 1932. During 1933-34, recruitment was carried out in all the five districts of the Chhota Nagpur Division and the companies or organisations concerned were:

1. The Tea Districts Labour Association,
2. The Makum (Assam) and Namdang Tea Company, Limited,
3. Shaw Wallace and Company, and
4. The Empire of India and Ceylon Tea Company, Limited.

(c) I am unable to say.

**EFFECT UPON THE EARNINGS OF THE KALKA-SIMLA RAILWAY BY THE ORDER ASKING GOVERNMENT SERVANTS TO TRAVEL IN THE CLASS TO WHICH THEY ARE ENTITLED.**

1360. **\*Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the effect upon the earnings of the Kalka-Simla Railway of the orders issued by them to their servants to travel only by the same class to which they are entitled?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the number of Government servants who travelled by first and second classes from Simla to Kalka and the number who travelled by cars during the last move?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the total amount paid to first and second class Government servants and the total amount the Kalka-Simla Railway lost on account of the officers who went by car from Simla to Kalka during the last move?

(d) Are Government aware that prior to the issue of the orders prohibiting travelling by lower classes, most of the Government servants used to travel by railway by reservation of full compartments of the classes lower than those to which they were entitled?

(e) Are Government aware that Government do not pay any fare for dependents, other than wives and children of Government servants and therefore the Government servants used to find the above method more economical and convenient?

(f) Are Government aware that since the issue of the above orders Government officials find travelling by road more economical than by railway?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** (a) and the latter part of (c). The Railway Department estimated that the orders were unlikely to affect the rail traffic between Kalka and Simla.

(b) and the first part of (c). The information could be collected only with an incommensurate expenditure of time and labour.

(d) Government believe that this was the case.

(e) Government are unable to acquiesce in this exploitation of the rules.

(f) Some officers may find it more economical to travel now by road, but on the other hand others will lose the profit which they formerly made by travelling in a class lower than that for which they drew travelling allowance.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Have Government considered the effect of all this, on railway revenues?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** I do not gather that it is the object of Government to subsidise the railway revenues.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Do not the railways belong to the Government?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** Sir, this is a question of paying to Government servants travelling allowances for a higher class than that in which they travel. I gather, some Government servants, having failed to realise that uncovenanted profit, are now going by road. Well, I cannot help that, but I am certainly not going to pay them to go by rail for the sake of the railway revenues.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Cannot Government insist upon their payments made to their own servants being actually spent on their own railways for travel on duty?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** That is another question.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Are Government aware of the fact that the Postal Department are carrying mails between Simla and Kalka by motor and not by rail?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** I am not aware of that fact.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government make inquiries, and find out whether one Department is robbing another Department, or not?

**CLERKS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA SECRETARIAT QUALIFIED FOR FIRST AND SECOND DIVISIONS NOT YET PROVIDED IN THOSE DIVISIONS.**

**1361. \*Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal:** (a) What is the number of clerks in the Government of India Secretariat who are qualified for (i) First Division and (ii) Second Division, but who have not been provided in these divisions?

(b) What is the year in which these persons qualified?

(c) Is it a fact that these persons qualified more than seven years ago, and are Government prepared to devise means to accelerate the absorption of the persons concerned in the cadres for which they are qualified?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Crank:** (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table in due course.

(c) I cannot answer the first part until the information has been collected. As to the second part, it has been explained in this House before that the system of qualifying examinations has been replaced by a system of competitive examinations. Persons who qualified for a higher division under the old system did not thereby become entitled to promotion but merely became eligible for it. They are still eligible for promotion in the quota of vacancies not reserved for external recruitment, and in order to accelerate their promotion this quota has been temporarily increased, during the period from the 1st April, 1930, to the 31st March, 1936, from one-half to two-thirds in the First Division and from one-fifth to one-half in the Second Division. It has also been laid down that no unqualified person shall be promoted until all the qualified persons who are considered fit for promotion have been absorbed. On the information at present available, Government do not consider that any further measures are necessary to facilitate the promotion of persons qualified for a division higher than the one in which they are employed.

**RECRUITMENT TO THE CADRE OF DIVISIONAL ACCOUNTANTS.**

**1362. \*Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal:** Is it a fact that the appointment in the Audit Offices in the Subordinate Accounts Service is considered as a departmental promotion, and in the cadre of the Divisional Accountants as direct recruitment for the purpose of appointment of minority men, while the sources of recruitment to both these cadres are almost the same? If so, will Government please state the reasons for this differential treatment?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** With your permission, Sir, I propose to reply to questions Nos. 1362 and 1363 together.

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

**RECRUITMENT TO THE CADRE OF DIVISIONAL ACCOUNTANTS.**

†1363. \***Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal**: Is it a fact that the services of the Divisional Accountants on the cadre of the Accountant General, Central Revenues, are all-India services, having jurisdiction throughout India and even outside India, *e.g.*, in Port Blair, Bushire (Persia), and that the recruitment in the cadre of the Divisional Accountants in that office can be made from all the Divisions under its control? If so, will Government please state whether the all-India ratio of adjustment of minority communities is being observed in that office in making recruitment to the cadre of the Divisional Accountants? If not, why not?

**DISMISSAL OF POSTAL EMPLOYEES DISQUALIFYING THEM FROM RE-APPOINTMENT IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE.**

1364. \***Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim**: (a) With reference to the supplementary questions and answers in connection with question No. 1, asked by Mr. Lalechand Navalrai on the 16th July 1934, will Government be pleased to state whether there have been any instances of dismissals from service of postal employees which have not been notified in the Gazette of India, disqualifying the persons concerned from re-employment in Government service?

(b) If so, have any of the persons so dismissed been re-employed in Government service?

(c) If the answer to part (b) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state whether the service previous to dismissal has been allowed to count towards pension?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce**: (a) and (b). Government regret that they are unable to furnish the information as its collection would involve an undue expenditure of time and labour. I may, however, add, that it is not usual to notify in the Gazette the dismissal of postal employees.

(c) Does not arise.

**ARRANGEMENTS FOR WORK ON SUNDAYS AND POSTAL HOLIDAYS IN THE HOWRAH RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE.**

1365. \***Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury**: (a) Is it a fact that in reply to starred question No. 869, asked on the 22nd March, 1933, Government stated that they were not aware of the precise arrangements for work on Sundays and other Post Office holidays in the Howrah Railway Mail Service?

(b) Is it a fact that when questioned, the late Sir Thomas Ryan stated that it seemed to him that the fact as stated was improbable?

(c) Is it a fact that he promised to send a copy of the question to the head of the circle concerned?

(d) Is it a fact that the officials of the Howrah Railway Mail Service are still working for 365 days in a year without any respite, in spite of the fact having been brought to the notice of Government?

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† For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 1362.

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

- (i) the precise arrangement, if any, made in the Howrah Railway Mail Service for granting relaxation to the staff on Sundays and Post Office holidays;
- (ii) the purport of the reply received from the head of the circle in answer to the starred question No. 869, dated the 22nd March, 1933; and
- (iii) the action they propose to take in the event of no provision having yet been made to grant any relaxation to those staff?

**Mr. G. V. Bewoor:** (a), (b) and (c). Yes.

(d) and (e). Information has been called for and will be placed on the table in due course.

**GRANT OF RELAXATIONS ON SUNDAYS AND HOLIDAYS TO THE CLERKS IN THE SUB-RECORD OFFICE OF THE HOWRAH RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE.**

1366. \***Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** (a) Is it a fact that the clerical staff of the Sub-Record Office of the Howrah Railway Mail Service, who were enjoying relaxation on Sundays and holidays so long, have been deprived of the respite by their having been put on sorting duty in the Howrah Railway Service Post Office?

(b) Is it a fact that under Rule 15 of the Posts and Telegraphs Manual, Volume VII, Record Offices may be entirely closed, provided adequate arrangements are made for urgent work?

(c) Is it a fact that the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs, has stated in his letter No. E. S. A.-10/33-Coll.-18/Part II, dated the 15th November, 1935, that the period of twelve days casual leave for clerical staff attached to Record Offices was fixed solely in consideration of the fact that the staff employed in these offices have not to forego holidays?

(d) Is it a fact that there is no time-test for the clerical staff attached to the correspondence branch of Record Offices?

(e) If the answers to parts (a) to (d) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the reasons for which the clerical staff attached to the Sub-Record Office, Howrah Railway Mail Service, have been deprived of the relaxation on Sundays and Post Office holidays, and what action they propose to take against the authority for its failure to act up to the manual rule and the standing order of the Department?

(f) Are Government prepared to issue a definite order to grant relaxation to the clerical staff concerned?

**Mr. G. V. Bewoor:** Information has been called for and will be placed on the table in due course.

**FIXATION OF WORKING HOURS OF INFERIOR STAFF IN THE RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE.**

1367. \***Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** (a) Is it a fact that the working hour of inferior staff in the Railway Mail Service is fixed according to the working hour of the set to which they are attached?

(b) Is it a fact that they are entitled to enjoy the same amount of rest as the superior staff attached to the set in which they are working?

(c) Is it a fact that in the matter of granting relaxation on Sundays and Post Office holidays, the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs, issued instruction in his memorandum No. 244-Est./B-30, dated the 10th March, 1931, to the effect that menials in Mail Offices should not be kept in watertight compartments but should be pooled and given holidays in rotation?

(d) If the answers to parts (a) to (c) be in the affirmative, are Government prepared to enquire into the circumstances under which the porters attached to the Howrah Railway Mail Service set No. 1 and set No. 2 are not allowed rest just after the working hours of the set, and are made to work again the same day, and are thus deprived of the amount of rest hitherto enjoyed by them?

(e) Do Government propose to direct the subordinate authorities to act up to the instructions quoted above? If not, why not?

**Mr. G. V. Bewoor:** Information has been called for and will be placed on the table in due course.

#### AMENDMENT OF STANDING ORDERS AND RULES IN THE MATTER OF PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

1368. **\*Sardar Sant Singh:** With reference to the ruling of the Honourable the President in the matter of making of motions regarding the privileges of the Members of the Assembly, will the Honourable the Leader of the House be pleased to state if any action is proposed to be taken on the lines suggested by the Honourable the President in regard to the amendment of Standing Orders and Rules? If so, when does he propose to bring forward such amendments?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** The question whether the Rules and Standing Orders should be amended, and, if so, in what sense, requires careful study and cannot profitably receive the consideration of Government during the pressure of this legislative Session. If the Honourable Member puts a question on the subject at the opening of the Simla Session, I shall be in a position to inform him of the conclusions reached by Government and of the amendments, if any, which they propose to promote. I may add that any suggestions which may in the meantime be received from any Honourable Member will receive consideration.

**Sardar Sant Singh:** May I know why the Honourable Member requires a question from me at the beginning of the Simla Session?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** If my Honourable friend no longer feels any interest in the matter, he need not put any question, and wait and see what we are doing.

**Sardar Sant Singh:** Is not my present question sufficient to give notice to the Government that the House is very anxious to know how Members are placed in the matter of their speeches?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** Have I not made it perfectly clear that we are going to take action and we want some little time to consider the matter?

**Sardar Sant Singh:** May I know if the Honourable Member contemplates taking action in the matter of amending the law about the extension of the rights of the Members of this House to publishing their speeches in the press of the country?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** Certainly not.

**Sardar Sant Singh:** Why not?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** That is a matter of opinion. In my opinion, it ought not to be done.

**Sardar Sant Singh:** If that is the view of the Honourable Member, —and probably that is the view of the Government of India too—may I know in what way the Members of this House can tell their electorate what they have been doing in this House?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** They have not the slightest difficulty about telling their electorate what they have been doing, provided they do not utter seditious speeches.

**Sardar Sant Singh:** May I know what will be the effect upon the right of the freedom of speeches if we are to tell our electorate,—who, as the Honourable Member perfectly knows, are not always educated in English—what we are doing here, unless we publish our speeches there, and, if we do not utter sedition here in this House, then where is the freedom of speech here? (Laughter.)

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** My Honourable friend's long question is based on the assumption of a freedom of speech which does not exist.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** Does not the Honourable Member realise that the law of sedition is so very elastic that any kind of speech can be construed into a seditious speech under section 124 of the Indian Penal Code?

(No answer.)

**Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi:** Is it not a fact that, as a matter of fact, seditious speeches are not allowed in this House, and that speeches that are made by Honourable Members in the presence of the Honourable the President and other Honourable Members are certainly not to be considered seditious, as, if it were otherwise, presumably a Member making such a speech would be stopped, and so the question of publishing seditious speeches outside does not arise?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** I take it, a seditious speech cannot be uttered in this House, but we have not been so touchy as the Opposition, so as to make an interruption on every occasion that a seditious speech is in fact uttered.

**Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi:** Is it not the duty of the Leader of the House or of the Treasury Benches to interrupt when seditious speeches are made? I take it, it is the duty of the Honourable the President to stop us; there is no question of whether you interrupt or not, and speeches made in the presence of the Honourable the President must be regarded to have been not seditious.

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** I think I should exercise my discretion; otherwise every ten minutes I shall have a long discussion on whether the speech of an Honourable Member comes under section 124A or not.

**Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi:** It is not a question for the Law Member to decide, it is for the President.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Since the Honourable Member has mentioned the President's powers in this connection, the Chair may say that if the President were to consider every speech that is made here from that point of view, then the liberty of speeches in the Chamber itself may be very seriously curtailed. (Hear, hear.)

**Sardar Sant Singh:** In view of the observations made by the Honourable the President just now, may I ask the Government of India if they want to amend the Constitution as it is in India? Do not they mean to introduce legislation amending the press law and the law of defamation and the law of libel in India, in such a way as to give Members of this House liberty to re-publish their speeches and translate them?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** No, Sir.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** May I know, if the Government, as a whole, have considered this question, and come to the conclusion that the decision as adumbrated by the Honourable the President, on the existing law, is the last word on the subject, and that they are not called upon to amend the law, in order to give a freedom of speech limited to the re-publication of speeches delivered in the House,—which are now protected if they are published by the official publishers, but not by any other printer or publisher?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** This question was considered not only because of the Honourable the President's ruling, but also on previous occasions, as the debates in the Assembly will show, and we see no reason for introducing legislation.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** May I know if Government have considered this anomaly that, while speeches which are made here, seditious or otherwise,—it is another matter,—can be published by the official publisher, there is the anomaly that, if the same speeches are printed in a newspaper by a private printer, he comes within the clutches of the law, and especially of the executive?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** Government do not consider it as an anomaly at all. The circulation of the officially printed speech is limited to people who read the official proceedings, and the impression left on the minds of such people as also the number affected is quite different from the situation arising from cheap or free issues of speeches for being widely broadcasted every day.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Have Government considered the need for educating the electorates in this country, because the punishment that is given to those who make those bad speeches should not be by executive orders, but by substituting the democratic verdict of the electorates for the arbitrary unjust power of the executive which will be exercised according to various canons?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** It is absolutely unnecessary, because, if my friend gets charge of the Ministry, no prosecution for sedition can be launched without his sanction under section 196.

**Sardar Sant Singh:** May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact or not that the debates of this House can be purchased for five annas and in any number by any man?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** Has the Honourable Member no information on this matter?

**Sardar Sant Singh:** I want to know if the Honourable the Leader of the House has any information on the subject or not.

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** The Leader of the House is very ignorant, but has knowledge of this matter.

**Sardar Sant Singh:** Can those debates be sent in any number to any number of persons in the country?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** Yes, Sir, but that means any number of five annas.

**Sardar Sant Singh:** May I know if it is the Government of India's view that the Members of this House should inform their electorates of the work they are doing in the House by spending five annas, and not by spending one anna for a newspaper?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** They think that the Honourable Members of this House will not run the risk of spending so much money, nor is there any difficulty about speeches which are not seditious or libellous.

**Sardar Sant Singh:** What is the policy behind it?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** The policy has been laid down in section 67 of the Government of India Act, and we are carrying out that policy.

**Pandit Krishna Kant Malaviya:** May I tell the Honourable the Law Member, that the speech, on which action has been taken, was printed at the Government of India Press? Have Government taken any action against the printer? I got the speech printed at the Government Press. Has any action been taken against the printer?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** I have no knowledge of this particular case.

**Pandit Krishna Kant Malaviya:** I say, Sir, I got the speech printed at the Government Press. I paid for it. Are Government prepared to take any action against the printer of the Government of India Press?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** Against the official publisher?

**Pandit Krishna Kant Malaviya:** I got copies of my speech printed at the Government of India Press for the purposes of distribution. Can any action be taken against the printer and publisher?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** I am not aware that their speeches are published by the Government Press for private use.

**Mr. M. A. Jinnah:** The question is whether Government have taken any action against the printer who published his speech in the Government Press?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** We cannot, because he is protected by section 67 of the Government of India Act.

**Sir Oowasji Jehangir:** The allegation is that the Press did job work for the Honourable Member. Can he then be prosecuted?

**Pandit Krishna Kant Malaviya:** I paid for the printing of my speech, and I got that printed at the Government of India Press. Can any action be taken against the printer?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** If it has been clandestinely done by a printer, the matter will require investigation.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** In view of the reply of the Honourable the Leader of the House that action against possible sedition will lie in the hands of Provincial Governments,—I accept that,—will he consider at least this position that, so far as republication of the speeches made in this House is concerned, the Press Act ought not to be used against them; while it may be open to Provincial Governments to prosecute them for sedition, subject, of course, to certain safeguards?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** Yes, but in future it will lie entirely within the discretion of the Minister.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Will Government lay the results of consideration of the subject on the table of the House without any fresh notice from any Honourable Member, in view of the fact that the Honourable the Law Member may again repeat the same thing that he has said this morning

in reply to the questions that further notice will be necessary for the laying of these papers on the table of the House?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** Surely, my friend ought to realise that if we are moving any motions for amending Standing Orders, that cannot be done behind the back of this Assembly.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Then, what is the necessity for a fresh notice?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** It is not necessary. It is only a suggestion for getting earlier information.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** When Sardar Sant Singh or some other Honourable Member puts another question . . . . .

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It has already been threshed out. Next question please.

**ENQUIRY INTO THE CONDUCT OF EMPLOYEES OF THE ELECTRICITY BRANCH OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.**

1369. \***Sardar Sant Singh:** (a) Is it a fact that a Committee of Enquiry, consisting of three administrative officers, sat for a number of months enquiring into the conduct of a number of employees of the Electricity Branch of the North Western Railway?

(b) Is it a fact that the report of the Committee was submitted to the Railway Administration in November 1935?

(c) Is it a fact that the Committee found fault with a number of officers and subordinates and while drastic action has been taken against the Indian subordinates resulting in their premature retirement or discharge from service, similar action has not been taken against Anglo-Indian subordinates who were also found guilty of similar offences and that no action whatsoever has so far been taken against officers found guilty by the Committee?

(d) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the report of the Committee and state the action they have taken, or propose to take, on the report?

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

(c) and (d). Government are not prepared to place a copy of the report on the table of House as it is meant for departmental use only. I may, however, add for the Honourable Member's information that necessary action has been taken against subordinates concerned, regardless of communal considerations, and the question as to what action should be taken against the officers concerned is at present engaging the attention of the administration.

**REPRESENTATIONS ADDRESSED TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE VICEROY BY OFFICERS OF CERTAIN STATE RAILWAYS.**

1370. \***Raisada Hans Raj:** (a) Will Government please state the number of representations sent by the officers of the North Western, East

Indian, Great Indian Peninsula and Eastern Bengal Railways to the Railway Board for their further consideration against orders already passed by them, and to His Excellency the Viceroy against the decision of the Railway Board, during the last five years, year by year?

(b) Are Government aware that there is very great dissatisfaction amongst the officers of the various State Railways, particularly the old State Railways, *i.e.*, North Western, Eastern Bengal, and Oudh and Rohilkhand Railways?

(c) Is it a fact that, according to certain rules, the representations addressed to His Excellency the Viceroy are divided into two categories, *i.e.*, according to one category, all the representations must be sent to the Public Service Commission for their opinion, while according to the other, the representations could be held up by the Railway Board?

(d) Is it a fact that most of the Railway officers have expressed a desire that their representations should be sent to the Public Service Commission?

(e) Is it a fact that the other Government Departments are sending more or less all appeals that are addressed to His Excellency the Viceroy, to the Public Service Commission for their opinion? If so, are Government prepared to make more use of the Public Service Commission?

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

**CONTRACT WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION, DELHI, REGARDING THE TENURE OF HIS SERVICE.**

1371. **\*Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal:** (a) Will Government please state if it is a fact that they have entered into a contract with the Superintendent of Education, Delhi, regarding the tenure of his service under Government?

(b) Will Government please place on the table the terms of the said contract?

**Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai:** (a) Yes; in conformity with the usual practice in respect of non-permanent employees of Government of corresponding status.

(b) No.

**Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal:** Do Government propose to cancel the contract?

**Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai:** No, Sir, there is no need to cancel the contract.

**APPLICABILITY OF THE CHILD MARRIAGE RESTRAINT ACT TO NON-REGULATED PROVINCES, ADMINISTERED AREAS AND CANTONMENTS.**

1372. **\*Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal:** (a) Is it a fact that the Sarda Act is not yet applied in some of the non-regulated provinces, administered areas and Cantonments?

(b) If so, will Government please state the names of such places and their reasons for not applying the said Act in these places?

(c) Do Government intend to apply the Sarda Act to these areas? If so, when? If not, why not?

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

Sir, I propose to reply to parts (b) and (c) together. The information is given in the statement which was laid on the table on the 20th September, 1935, with reference to the reply given to question No. 543. As regards Cantonments in the Central India Agency, the reasons for non-application are that there has been no popular demand for such action except from a small section of "social reformers" in Neemuch, whereas petitions against application were received from local Muhammadan residents when the Act was first promulgated; and that disturbance of peaceful relations now prevailing between individuals and communities in these Cantonments might result from acceding to the request made by a small minority in the Neemuch Cantonment.

As regards other administered areas in the Central India Agency, these contain no bazaars and are merely headquarters of Political Officers; such small enclaves do not require social legislation of this type. In administered areas in other Agencies, there has been no public demand for such legislation and at present Government do not propose to move in the matter.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Are the Cantonments outside the jurisdiction for which the Government of India passes their legislation?

**Sir Aubrey Metcalfe:** Yes, they are situated outside what is definitely British India.

**Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal:** May I know, Sir, what sort of evidence or what amount of evidence will convince Government that there is a public demand for the legislation?

**Sir Aubrey Metcalfe:** That is a matter of opinion.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Do not Government consider the safety of immature boys and girls as more important than the remote possibility of averting a riot?

**Sir Aubrey Metcalfe:** That, again, is a matter of opinion.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** I want that opinion, Sir.

(No reply.)

**DEFICIENCY OF MUSLIMS IN THE GRADES OF LINO AND MONO OPERATORS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, NEW DELHI.**

1373. **\*Majlvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of vacancies of Lino and Mono Operators filled up by direct recruitment of members of each community separately since 1932, in the Government of India Press, New Delhi?

(b) Is it a fact that no member of the Muslim community has been appointed direct from outside to the posts mentioned in part (a), and the Home Department's circular regarding the recruitment of Muslims in each grade is not being rigidly observed while filling up the vacancies? If not, why not, and what action do Government propose to take in order to make up the deficiency of the Muslims in the grades of Lino and Mono Operators?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** (a) Out of three vacancies two were filled by Hindus and one by an Anglo-Indian.

(b) The appointments were made before the issue of the Home Department orders referred to by the Honourable Member, so that the latter part of the question does not arise. I may, however, mention that since 1932 three permanent Muslim compositors have been specially trained in the press of whom two have been appointed as Mono Operators and one as a Lino Operator.

**PAY OF OLD MACHINE MEN AND INKERS ON TRANSFER FROM SALARIED TO PEACE ESTABLISHMENT IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, NEW DELHI.**

1374. **\*Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur:** (a) Is it a fact that machine men and machine inkers of the Government of India Press, New Delhi, transferred from salaried to piece establishment so far are allowed the minimum class five, which is also allowed to new entrants, without giving due consideration to their long services and pay?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, are Government prepared to consider the question of fixation of class pay of old hands, in the event of their transfer from salaried establishment to piece establishment?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** (a) The machine men and machine inkers of the Government of India Press, New Delhi, transferred from the salaried to the piece establishment, were classified according to the rules for classification of piece-workers after three months' earnings on piece-work. Class 5 is the maximum and not the minimum class initially allowed to the former, and class 4 is the corresponding class for the latter. New entrants are classified according to the same rules.

(b) I am prepared to have the question considered.

**RECRUITMENT OF COMPOSITORS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, NEW DELHI.**

1375. **\*Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur:** Is it a fact that the recruitment of compositors in the Government of India Press, New Delhi, is generally made from outside? If so, are Government prepared to consider the claims of the employees already in service who do composing work? If so, are Government prepared to issue instructions to the Manager that employees in service and knowing composing work should in future be given preference to outsiders?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** Yes. Press employees are also eligible for appointment if they are able to satisfy the Manager in a practical test and such appointments have been made in the past. The last part of the question does not arise.

**NON-CONFIRMATION OF CERTAIN MEN IN THE BINDERY AND WAREHOUSE DEPARTMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, NEW DELHI.**

1376. \***Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur:** With reference to the Honourable Sir Frank Noyce's reply to unstarred question No. 1196, dated the 29th March, 1935, regarding non-confirmation of certain men in the Bindery and Warehouse Department of the Government of India Press, New Delhi, will Government be pleased to state whether any steps have since been taken to bring the proposal into effect? If so, with what result?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** As I have stated recently in reply to another question orders are about to be issued for the transfer of a large number of posts in the Government of India Presses from the temporary to the permanent establishment. These orders will result in the grant of permanent status to the temporary binders and warehousemen in the Government of India Press, New Delhi.

**LENDING AND BORROWING OF MONEY BY EMPLOYEES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, NEW DELHI.**

1377. \***Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur:** Is it not a fact that lending and borrowing money among Government servants is against Government Servants' Conduct Rules? If so, are Government aware that some clerks of the Government of India Press, New Delhi, are lending money to the Press employees in contravention of Government orders? If so, are Government prepared to take necessary steps to stop such irregular practice which is bound to produce evil effects in the discipline of the Department?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** Lending and borrowing of money among Government servants is not permissible in the circumstances mentioned in rule 8 of the Government Servants' Conduct Rules. Government are not aware of any cases of breach of this rule in the Government of India Press, New Delhi, and the latter part of the question does not arise.

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UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

**INCONVENIENT TIMINGS OF THE PASSENGER TRAINS ON THE LOOP LINE.**

362. **Babu Kailash Behari Lal:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to an article published in the *Searchlight*, dated the 26th December, 1935 and in the *Indian Nation*, dated the 18th January, 1936, regarding the inconvenient timings of the passenger trains on the loop-line?

(b) Will Government be pleased to say if the railway authorities have moved in the matter and taken any action to remedy the grievance?

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

(b) The question of the action to be taken is within the competence of the East Indian Railway Administration, but I am bringing the Honourable Member's question to the notice of the Agent.

### INCONVENIENCES OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY STAFF SENT TO QUETTA.

**363. Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha:** (a) Is it a fact that staff from various categories have been drafted to Quetta from different Divisions of the North Western Railway as a result of the recent earthquake to replace the staff killed, injured, or evacuated from the devastated area about six months ago, but no definite policy has so far been laid down by the Administration for the return of this staff who have been separated from their families for the above period?

(b) Are Government aware that the above staff are put to a lot of trouble in the way of education of their children and in regard to attending to other multifarious domestic affairs on account of their indefinite stay or absence from their homes?

(c) Will Government state what steps, if any, have been taken by the Agent, North Western Railway, Lahore, to grapple with the trouble arising out of their continued absence of this staff?

(d) Is it a fact that the staff submitted a memorial on 7th September, 1935, praying *inter alia* for the fixation of the period for one year in response to which a pledge has been given *vide* Agent's No. 522-E./244, dated the 30th September, 1935, that the cases of staff would receive consideration when the position was more stabilised?

(e) Are Government prepared to consider the desirability of taking steps so as to settle this question earlier, so that the staff might be in a position to know as to how long they are going to stay there to enable them to make necessary arrangement for the education of their children, etc.?

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

(b) Government are informed that memorials have been received from certain staff of the Quetta division who are transferred to that division in the emergency, but no complaint has so far been received in regard to difficulties in the way of education of their children.

(c) Under terms of their service agreements, staff are liable for service on any part of the North Western Railway, but Government are informed that the case of those who have been drafted to Quetta to replace staff killed, injured, etc., will receive consideration when the position is more stabilised.

(e) The matter is receiving attention.

### QUALIFICATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

**364. Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha:** (a) Is it a fact that the minimum qualifications prescribed for appointment on the North Western Railway on and from 1st April, 1926 is a matriculation, second division, or its equivalent, from a recognised University, Junior Cambridge and Diploma Examination of the Aitchison College, Lahore being considered equivalent to matriculation? If so, will Government please state if the appointments in the superior staff or any promotion from inferior to superior were made according to these instructions?

(b) With a view to getting at the accurate information, will Government please have a list of all such candidates put up according to the community to which they belong?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** (a) Government are informed that the minimum educational qualifications, as detailed in the question, are in accordance with the rules as they stood on the 1st April, 1926. The minimum educational qualification was an essential condition for staff recruited in the following categories:

Station Master and Commercial Group students, Office Clerks (excluding tracers and draftsmen), Correspondence and Shed Clerks, Ticket Collectors, Guards, Boy Firemen and certain other outdoor staff in subordinate Railway service.

With regard to promotion of staff from inferior to subordinate service, as these rules did not apply to staff in service prior to the 1st April, 1926, those inferior staff that were subsequently so promoted would be excluded from complying with this condition, provided they were otherwise considered suitable.

As regards direct recruitment in the categories specified above, the prescribed minimum educational qualification has been adhered to.

(b) The information is not readily available and its collection will involve an amount of labour and expense not likely to be justified by results.

#### POSSESSION OF MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS BY THE STAFF RE-APPOINTED ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

**365. Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha:** Is it a fact that according to the Railway Board's orders men discharged after 8th September, 1931, are to be considered as re-appointed and no previous credit is to be given to them? If so, will Government please state whether the staff discharged after the aforesaid date and reappointed possess the required minimum qualifications for appointment on the North Western Railway? If so, are Government prepared to have a statement of all such staff prepared according to communal proportion to show that no infringements have taken place?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** Government are unable to trace the orders referred to by the Honourable Member. Government are informed that educational qualifications of staff discharged in retrenchment were not re-examined when opportunity for their re-employment offered. As regards the last part of the question the information is not readily available and its collection will involve an amount of labour and expense not likely to be justified by results.

#### VACANCIES OF GRADE II CLERKS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

**366. Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha:** Is it a fact that out of every three vacancies of office clerks in grade II and above, one should be filled by direct recruitment by a suitable graduate on the North Western Railway? If so, will Government please put up a list of all the vacancies that fell vacant since 1st April, 1927 in grade II and above to show that they were filled up rigidly in pursuance of the instructions on the subject according to communities?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** Information is not readily available to show the last occasion on which graduates were recruited as office clerks direct into grade II in the manner referred to in the first part of the question, but Government are informed that this procedure has not been followed in any office of the North Western Railway since 1930 because it was found possible to recruit graduates in the lower grade.

**DIFFERENCE IN THE REBATES ALLOWED ON CHARGES FOR ELECTRICITY ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.**

**367. Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney:** (a) Will Government please state whether different rates of rebates are allowed on charges for electricity consumed in the bungalows occupied by the Agent, the District type and the Assistant type of quarters on the North Western Railway?

(b) Are Government aware that the employees of the North Western Railway submitted a representation in regard to the rebates detailed in letter No. 17-W/O., dated the 24th October, 1932, issued by the Electrical Engineer? If so, will Government please state what action has been taken in the matter?

(c) Do Government propose to cancel the differences in the rebates now in existence on the North Western Railway and prescribe rates which will be uniform for officers and subordinates?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** (a) to (c). This presumably refers to the supplementary power rate which was introduced in 1932, whereby a reduced rate of Re. 0-1-3 per unit was charged for energy consumed in excess of the average consumption fixed for each type of officers' quarters, up to which the uniform flat rate of Re. 0-3-0 per unit applied. This concession is intended for subordinates' quarters as well, but it has not been possible to give effect to it, so far, owing to practical difficulties experienced in fixing the 'average consumption' for the various types of quarters. Efforts are, however, being made to work out a single uniform tariff which will be applicable to both officers' and subordinate quarters.

**ADVERTISEMENTS INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR THE POSTS OF FOREMEN AND ASSISTANT FOREMEN IN THE MECHANICAL WORKSHOPS, MOGHULPURA.**

**368. Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney:** (a) Are Government aware that the North Western Railway administration have advertised inviting applications from outsiders with ten years experience and under 40 years of age for the posts of Foremen and Assistant Foremen in the Mechanical Workshops, Moghulpura?

(b) Are Government aware that there are a large number of senior chargemen and Assistant Foremen in Mechanical Workshops at Moghulpura who have, from time to time, officiated as Assistant Foremen and Foremen respectively, and who possess the qualifications demanded in the advertisement?

(c) Is it not a fact that in accordance with the rules regulating the recruitment and training of subordinate staff, the venue of recruitment to the Foreman's and Assistant Foreman's grades is:

- (1) workshop apprentice,
- (2) chargehand or journeyman,

- (3) chargeman,
- (4) Assistant Foreman, and
- (5) Foreman?

(d) Is it a fact that the workmen of the workshop at Moghulpura convened a protest meeting against this impending recruitment of outsiders and submitted an appeal to the authorities on the matter? If so, what action has been taken by the administration on this appeal?

(e) Are Government aware that the recruitment of outsiders under 40 years of age and with ten years workshop experience will prejudice the chances of promotion of senior chargemen already working in the Moghulpura Workshops?

(f) Are Government aware that the Eastern Bengal Railway, in about August, 1935, advertised for chargemen in the Kanchrapara Workshops, that there were a large number of journeymen already doing the duties of chargemen in the same shops for many years continuously, and that their promotion was withheld as a measure of retrenchment?

(g) Do Government propose (i) to discontinue advertising such vacancies in future and inviting outsiders to apply for same and (ii) fill all such vacancies by selection from among the incumbents of the next lower grade? If not, why not?

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

(b) The posts were advertised as no one in service was considered fully qualified for promotion at that time.

(c) The normal channel for promotion to a foreman's post is as indicated in the question, but it depends upon the fitness of an employee.

(d) Government are informed that the administration is not aware of any protest meeting or appeal in this connection.

(e) This would be the case but in view of the reasons given in reply to part (b) the recruitment of outsiders cannot be avoided.

(f) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative and to the latter part in the negative.

(g) It is not possible to give an undertaking as suggested because it may be necessary to recruit from outside on account of men in service not possessing the requisite qualifications.

#### PROMOTIONS AND DEMOTIONS OF ELECTRICIANS AND CHARGEMEN, ETC., ON THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

369. **Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney:** (a) Will Government please state whether promotions and demotions of electricians, chargemen, Assistant Permanent Way Inspectors, etc., on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway are made on a Departmental basis or on a Divisional basis?

(b) Will Government please state whether in the matter of promotions, the Great Indian Peninsula Railway follows the Divisional basis and in the matter of demotions, the Departmental basis? If so, why?

(c) Do Government propose to remedy this position and in future follow for purposes of promotion and demotion the Departmental basis?

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

(a) Promotions and demotions of Sub-Permanent Way Inspectors are made on departmental basis. Promotions of electric chargemen and electricians are made on divisional basis and demotions of these staff up to 25th July, 1938, were made on the same basis. Since that date demotions have been made on departmental basis.

(b) and (c). I am collecting certain information and will place a reply on the table of the House in due course.

#### CONDONEMENT OF SHORT BREAKS IN SERVICE OF RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.

370. **Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney:** Will Government please state if they intend condoning a break in service to make retired employees of Railways with short breaks in service eligible for railway passes?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** Agents are being empowered to condone a break in service in such cases on the same principles as are applicable in the case of breaks in service for purposes of gratuity.

#### VIOLATION OF THE GENEVA CONVENTION RULES IN THE CASE OF BALHARSHA RAILWAY STAFF ON THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

371. **Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney:** (a) Are Government aware that the Geneva Convention rules are being violated in the case of Balharsha station staff on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway?

(b) Are they aware that appeals have been sent in respect of the said violation of the Geneva Convention Rules?

(c) Do Government propose to institute an enquiry into the said violation of the Geneva Convention Rules and remedy it?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** (a) It is presumed that the Hours of Employment Regulations are referred to. If so, the reply is in the negative.

(b) Government are informed that only a station clerk appealed against being kept on continuous night duty and against the classification of his duty as 'intermittent' but, by rostering him with three other clerks, continuous night duty was avoided and it was found that the classification of his duty as 'intermittent' was correct.

(c) Does not arise.

#### DUTY HOURS OF LADY BOOKING CLERKS AT HOWRAH STATION.

372. **Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney:** (a) Are Government aware of the fact:

(i) that there are a number of lady booking clerks employed at Howrah Station, East Indian Railway;

(ii) that up till quite recently there were in operation three different shifts of these lady booking clerks; and

(iii) that there are only two such shifts in operation to-day?

(b) If the answers to part (a) (i), (ii) and (iii) be in the affirmative, is it a fact that it is a violation of the Geneva Convention Rules in that these lady booking clerks are called upon to do from ten to twelve hours' work daily, including their taking over and delivering charge of their work? If so, what steps do Government propose to take in this matter?

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

(ii) and (iii). Government are informed that three shifts are still in operation.

(b) Does not arise.

#### DETACHMENT OF THEIR INSPECTION CARRIAGES BY OFFICERS OF THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY TO GET EXTRA ALLOWANCES.

373. **Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** (a) Are Government aware that the gazetted officers of the Eastern Bengal Railway are in the habit, when out on the line on inspection duty, to detach their inspection carriages at some intermediate station on the downward journey and to attach them to trains that arrive at Sealdah Station after eight hours in order to gain additional allowances?

(b) If so, do Government propose to consider this abuse of the travelling allowance rules with a view to effecting economy to the Railway? If not, why not?

**Mr. P. R. Rau:** (a) and (b). No such cases have been brought to the notice of Government. It is the duty of the Controlling Officer to see that there is no abuse of the travelling allowance rules.

#### PROVISION OF RUNNING ROOMS FOR GUARDS ON THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

374. **Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** Is it a fact that the staff in the Traffic Department (Guards) on the Eastern Bengal Railway are not treated alike in the matter of separate running rooms at stations where running rooms are provided? If so, are Government prepared to see that discriminatory treatment is immediately discontinued and running rooms provided?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** Government are informed that separate running rooms are provided for the various communities, *i.e.*, European and Anglo-Indian, Hindu and Muslim, wherever this is justified by the number of guards of each community working to the running room station.

#### SELECTION POSTS AND PROMOTIONS IN THE LOCOMOTIVE AND TRAFFIC BRANCHES OF THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

375. **Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** (a) Is it a fact that in the rules for the recruitment and training of non-gazetted staff on State-managed Railways framed by the Railway Board and issued to the Agent, Eastern Bengal Railway, for compliance, it is stated that the Agent of a Railway may specify selection posts or selection grades in the cadre of each branch? If so, will Government please state whether the Agent has specified any selection posts or selection grades, and if so, what posts?

(b) Is it further a fact that considerable resentment is felt by the staff on account of the methods by which promotions are made both in the Locomotive and Traffic branches? If not, are Government prepared to investigate a limited number of cases to test the method of administration?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** (a) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the latter part, Government are informed that there are selection posts and grades but the list is under revision at present.

(b) Government are of opinion that the procedure adopted for making promotions is satisfactory and if the staff consider that they have any cause for complaint they can appeal through the ordinary official channels.

#### DIFFICULTY EXPERIENCED BY THE PUBLIC IN PURCHASING TICKETS AT SEALDAH STATION.

376. **Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** (a) Are Government aware:

- (i) that considerable difficulty is experienced by the public in purchasing tickets at Sealdah station as the staff occupy their time in entertaining their friends inside the booking offices;
- (ii) that certain individuals are permitted to purchase their tickets inside the booking offices instead of at the booking windows; and
- (iii) that outsiders as well as railway staff are continually in those offices to the detriment of the travelling public?

(b) Are Government aware that difficulties in the way of purchasing tickets by short journey passengers will drive intending railway passengers to travel by road? If so, do Government propose to issue instructions to make the purchase of tickets as easy as possible and to prevent unauthorised persons from entering the booking offices? If not, why not?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** (a) and (b). Government have no information, but I am bringing the Honourable Member's allegations to the notice of the Agent, Eastern Bengal Railway, for such action as he may consider necessary.

#### RECRUITMENT OF STAFF IN THE CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT AT CALCUTTA.

377. **Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** (a) Is it a fact that in the Resolution of the Home Department, Government of India, Establishments No. F. 14/17-B./33, dated Simla, the 4th July, 1934, posts in the subordinate grades in the Railways, Posts and Telegraphs, Customs, Income-tax, etc., are to be recruited in local areas? If so, will Government please state:

- (i) whether the Customs Department at Calcutta have recently recruited staff to the subordinate posts from Allahabad and other places outside Calcutta;
- (ii) whether Selection Boards are convened to select suitable men for appointment; and

(iii) whether offers of employment are made to those who excel in hockey or other games?

(b) Is it the policy of Government to appoint only hockey players to the Customs Service? If not, do Government propose to issue instructions to put a stop to this practice of recruitment? If not, why not?

**Mr. A. H. Lloyd:** (a) No. Paragraph 8 of the Resolution explains how the total reservations for minorities are to be obtained in services in which recruitment is in fact made by local areas but does not state that in any service recruitment must be made only from local areas.

(i) A few candidates residing at places outside the normal area reserved for Calcutta recruitment have been appointed.

(ii) There is no formal Selection Board, but to help him in recruitment for certain posts the Collector has nominated some of the higher officers of the Department to examine applicants and applications and to assist him with their advice.

(iii) No. For posts in the preventive department physical fitness is of considerable importance and athletic qualifications are, therefore, taken into consideration. This does not apply to other posts in the Custom House.

(b) The answer to the first part is in the negative. The second part, therefore, does not arise.

#### GARAGES BUILT AT SEALDAH.

**378. Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** Is it a fact that the Eastern Bengal Railway have built a number of garages at Sealdah for the stabling of motor cars of the gazetted officers? If so, will Government please state:

(i) the number of garages built;

(ii) the total cost of the same; and

(iii) whether any rent is realised for the use of these garages, if so, what amount per garage per mensem?

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

(i) Ten.

(ii) Rs. 5,940.

(iii) No.

#### PLACING OF PERMANENT AND TEMPORARY EMPLOYEES IN A COMMON SENIORITY LIST.

**379. Mr. Sham Lal:** (a) Is there any Government or State Railway Rule, according to which a permanent employee and a temporary employee—(appointed for a definite experimental work) can be placed in a common seniority list after the abolition of the experiment?

(b) Is it a fact that letter No. 683-E.G. of 3rd March, 1931, issued by the Railway Board, did not apply to the staff recruited for the experimental Crew system on the East Indian Railway, as acknowledged by Government in reply to starred question No. 1474(b), dated the 20th December, 1933, laid on the table of this House on the 13th March, 1934?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** With your permission, Sir, I propose to reply to questions Nos. 379, 380, 385, 396, 397 and 399 together.

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

#### ABOLITION OF THE POSTS OF TICKET COLLECTORS AND HEAD TICKET COLLECTORS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

†380. **Mr. Sham Lal:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if the posts of old Ticket Collectors and Head Ticket Collectors were abolished with the introduction of Moody-Ward system on the East Indian Railway from 1st June, 1931? If so, in what respects?

(b) Is it a fact that Head Ticket Collectors employed in a substantive capacity were forced to make room for the temporary recruits of the Crew system, which was abolished from 1st June, 1931?

(c) Under what rules can a permanent Government servant be superseded by a temporary employee under the circumstances mentioned in part (b) above?

#### RIGHT OF SENDING MEMORIALS BY STATE RAILWAY EMPLOYEES TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

381. **Mr. Sham Lal:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) if a State Railway employee has got the right of sending a memorial to His Excellency the Governor General in Council against suspension of accruing and vested rights; and

(b) if such a memorial can be withheld by the Agent or the Railway Board?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** I would refer the Honourable Member to the instructions for the submission of petitions to the Governor General in Council published with Home Department Notification No. F.-6/7/33-II, dated the 19th June, 1933, a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

#### CONTROL AND AUTHORITY ON STATE RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.

382. **Mr. Sham Lal:** Are State Railway employees under the Agent only and not under the control and authority of His Excellency the Governor General in Council?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** State Railway employees are under the control of the Governor General in Council, except in respect of matters regarding which powers have been delegated to the Agents of State-managed Railways.

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†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 379.

**SUPERNUMERARY BRAKESMEN OF THE OLD OUDH AND ROHILKUND RAILWAY.**

**383. Mr. Sham Lal:** With reference to the reply given on the 2nd September, 1935, to starred question No. 573 asked on the 26th February, 1935, will Government please state:

- (a) the period of supernumerary brakemen of the old Oudh and Rohilkund Railway pending absorption;
- (b) the number of supernumerary brakemen pending absorption;
- (c) the total number of supernumerary brakemen;
- (d) the date of abolition of the posts of brakemen;
- (e) the cause of being supernumerary;
- (f) the posts other than letter delivery clerks, in which the supernumerary brakemen were absorbed on abolition of their posts;
- (g) the material difference in the duties of a letter delivery clerk and of a train despatch clerk or a letter sorter;
- (h) the date on which the posts of brakemen were brought into reduction;
- (i) the number of the staff brought under reduction and how they were disposed of;
- (j) the reasons why the Travelling Ticket Examiners are not paid mileage allowance which they were entitled to it as Travelling Ticket Inspectors under the Accounts;
- (k) the reasons for treating the Travelling Ticket Examiners differently from the letter delivery clerks;
- (l) the present policy in respect of abolition of posts and absorption into other posts;
- (m) whether the present policy is in accordance with Government of India Resolution No. 4863 of 4th December, 1891, and if not, why not;
- (n) whether it is a fact that the supernumerary brakemen are not absorbed in categories the duties of which they are actually performing since 1926; and
- (o) whether it is a fact that the staff other than the supernumerary brakemen if and when ordered to relieve these brakemen used to draw mileage allowance and if so, whether the mileage allowance was not personal but attached to the posts and if not, whether Government will lay on the table the pay sheets of the relieving staff?

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

**SUPERNUMERARY BRAKESMEN OF THE OLD OUDH AND ROHILKUND RAILWAY.**

**384. Mr. Sham Lal:** With reference to the reply given on 2nd September, 1935, to starred question No. 573, asked on the 26th February, 1935, will Government please state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the supernumerary brakemen who were utilized as letter delivery clerks and paid Rs. 28 pay, plus mileage allowance, are now absorbed in categories the duties of which they are actually performing;
- (b) whether it is a fact that they are now fixed into new scales of pay and allowances recently introduced on State Railways;
- (c) whether it is a fact that old East Indian Railway letter delivery clerks are allowed a higher rate of pay; and
- (d) why these men have not been fitted in the old scales of pay and whether their appointment to Railway services are prior to 16th July, 1934?

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

**TRAVELLING TICKET INSPECTORS AND EXAMINERS ON THE EAST INDIAN AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAYS.**

†385. **Mr. Sham Lal:** Is it a fact that Mr. P. R. Rau in answer to starred question No. 744, asked on the 26th September, 1935, said that the Travelling Ticket Inspectors on the East Indian Railway and Travelling Ticket Examiners on the North Western Railway were "transferred" from the Accounts Department to the Operating Department? If so, are the transfers of these posts the abolition of posts and if so, under what rules?

**TRANSFER OF CONTROL OF THE RAILWAY SCHOOL OF TRANSPORTATION, CHANDAUSI, TO THE AGENT, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.**

**386. Mr. Sham Lal:** With reference to the reply given on the 2nd September, 1935, to parts (d) and (e) of starred question No. 602 asked on the 27th February, 1935, relating to the transfer of control of the Railway School of Transportation, Chandausi, to the Agent, East Indian Railway, will Government please lay on the table the declarations of staff who elected the revised scales of pay from the 16th August, 1933; and if not, are they prepared to prosecute the officials or the Agent for an incorrect and false report? If not, why not?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** I lay a statement on the table of the House giving the required information.

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†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 379.

The following staff are required to state whether they elect to come under revised scales of the E. I. R. in force from 1st September, 1930, or not. They should clearly say "Yes" or "No." The revised scales will apply to those only who elect to come under new scales:—

Sd. R. F. WOODS,

*Superintendent,*

*Railway School of Transportation, Chandausi.*

Dated the 15th August.

1	Signed or mark of thumb impression.	2	3
Peon Havildar.	Signed.		Yes.
Peon.	Thumb impression.		Yes.
"	Signed.		Yes.
"	Thumb impression.		Yes.
Waterman.	Thumb impression.		Yes.
Cooly.	Thumb impression.		Yes.
"	Thumb impression.		Yes.
"	Thumb impression.		Yes.
"	Thumb impression.		Yes.
"	Thumb impression.		Yes.
Sweeper Jamadar.	Thumb impression.		Yes.
Sweeper.	Thumb impression.		Yes.
"	Thumb impression.		Yes.
"	Thumb impression.		Yes.
"	Thumb impression.		Yes.
"	Thumb impression.		Yes.
"	Thumb impression.		Yes.
"	Thumb impression.		Yes.
"	Thumb impression.		Yes.
Bhishti.	Thumb impression.		Yes.
"	Thumb impression.		Yes.
Cooly Garden.	Thumb impression.		Yes.
"	Thumb impression.		Yes.
"	Thumb impression.		Yes.
"	Thumb impression.		Yes.
Peon.	Signed.		Yes.
Waterman.	Thumb impression.		Yes.
Sweeper.	Thumb impression.		Yes.
Cooly Garden.	Thumb impression.		Yes.

Sd. R. F. WOODS,

*Superintendent,*

*Railway School of Transportation, Chandausi.*

#### PROMOTION OF GUARDS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

387. **Mr. Sham Lal:** With reference to the reply given on the 2nd September, 1935, to unstarred question No. 171, asked on the 9th March, 1935, will Government please state the policy and procedure of normal channel of promotions amongst guards of various grades or classes or on time-scales of pay on the East Indian Railway?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to rule 15 of the 'Rules for the recruitment and training of subordinate staff on State-managed Railways', which gives the necessary information. A copy of these rules is in the Library of the House.

**PROMOTIONS AMONGST STATION MASTERS AND ASSISTANT STATION MASTERS  
ON THE EAST INDIAN AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAYS.**

**388. Mr. Sham Lal:** Will Government please state the policy and procedure of normal channel of promotions amongst Station Masters and Assistant Station Masters of various grades, classes or on time-scales of pay on the East Indian Railway and North Western Railway?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** So far as the East Indian Railway is concerned I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to rule 10 of the 'Rules for the recruitment and training of subordinate staff on State-managed Railways', a copy of which is in the Library of the House. As regards the North Western Railway, Government are informed that the following scales of pay are applicable to Station Masters and Assistant Station Masters on that railway:

<b>Assistant Station Masters (ordinary)</b>		<b>Rs. 45—5—60—3—75</b> (efficiency bar at Rs. 60 which is crossed by passing the Station Masters' examination, Course T-6.)
<b>Station Masters and Assistant Station Masters.</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>I = 78—4—90—5—95</b>
	"	<b>II = 110—5—140</b>
	"	<b>III = 150—10—190</b>
	"	<b>IV = 200—10—250</b>
	"	<b>V = 260—10—300</b>
<b>Station Masters, Assistant Station Masters, Grade V and Assistant Con'trollers. (These posts are interchangeable).</b>	"	<b>260—10—300</b>
<b>Station Masters</b>	"	<b>VI = 320—15—350</b>
	"	<b>VII = 360—20—400</b>
	"	<b>VIII = 425—25—500</b>
<b>Station Superintendents</b>		<b>600—850</b>

The normal channel of promotions for young men recruited as Station Master Group students up to Station Master, grade IV, is on the basis of promotion from grade to grade in order of seniority and fitness, dependent on vacancies in the higher grades. At grade V it has always been customary to bring in additional staff from other categories, such as guards, grade III and IV, subject to their ability to qualify in Course T-5 and securing recommendation of fitness for promotion to higher grades. This has recently been extended to include additional categories of yard foremen and yard supervisors, grade IV and above, special ticket examiners, ticket collectors, enquiry clerks, grade III and above, and platform inspectors, grade I.

Station Masters and Assistant Station Masters, grade V, and Assistant Controllers are held eligible for promotion to senior Station Masters and Traffic Inspectors on their passing the T-7 course in the Walton Training School, Lahore Cantonment.

**FILLING UP OF RELIEVING VACANCIES ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.**

**389. Mr. Sham Lal:** With reference to the reply given on the 2nd September, 1935, to unstarred question No. 172 asked on the 9th March, 1935, will Government please state the rule under which on the East Indian Railway the relieving vacancies of platform assistants are normally filled by relieving guards and not ordinarily filled by Assistant Station Masters? If no such rule is in existence, what action has been taken in the matter, and if none, why not?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** The position is that the grade of relieving guards has been created specifically with the intention that they should relieve higher grade station masters and assistant station masters which include higher grade platform assistants in the grade Rs. 280-10-330 and Rs. 130-5-250 (old scales of pay). The training of the lower paid assistant station masters is different from that of the relieving guards and the former are not considered suitable for the higher posts. The grade of relieving assistant station masters is Rs. 40-4-76 (old scale of pay) and they are intended to relieve lower grade station masters, assistant station masters and platform assistants. It is obvious that it was not intended that these relieving assistant station masters should relieve the higher grades of assistant station masters and platform assistants mentioned above.

#### SUPPLY OF *KHADDAR* UNIFORMS ON STATE RAILWAYS.

**390. Mr. Sham Lal:** With reference to the reply given on the 2nd September, 1935, to unstarred question No. 173, asked on the 9th March, 1935, will Government please state whether it is their policy to encourage the staff to use *khaddar* and to turn up in *khaddar dhoties* on duty? If so, do they propose to order the purchase of *khaddar* for the supply of uniforms on State Railways and if not, why not?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** No. Government do not propose to purchase *khaddar* for the manufacture of State Railway uniforms on account of the indeterminate and inconsistent quality of such cloth and its poor durability when compared with mill-made cloth.

#### SENIORITY LIST OF SUBORDINATE STAFF OF STATE RAILWAYS.

**391. Mr. Sham Lal:** With reference to the reply given on the 2nd September, 1935, to unstarred question No. 182, are Government prepared to consider the desirability of making State-managed Railway seniority lists of subordinate staff of all grades and pay a priced sale publication and to watch the results of increase in revenue against the present expenditure and labour incurred thereon? If not, why not?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** Government are not prepared to print the seniority lists of subordinate staff on State-managed Railways for the reasons given by the Railway Board at the tenth half-yearly meeting between the Railway Board and the All-India Railwaymen's Federation, *vide* paragraph 14 of the amplified report of the proceedings of that meeting, a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

#### PROVISION WITH A SUITABLE JOB OF STAFF DECLARED MEDICALLY UNFIT IN A CERTAIN CATEGORY ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

**392. Mr. Sham Lal:** Are Government aware that the staff who are declared medically unfit in the category required to perform their duties but declared fit in the other category of vision test on the East Indian Railway are never provided in any vacancy in that category for which they are declared fit and after keeping them lingering on for months, the Divisional Superintendents discharge them ultimately either from

the date the orders are issued or with retrospective effect? If not, will Government please state the source of information from which the staff may find out the endeavours and efforts made by the Divisional Superintendents to provide them in a suitable job and what is suitable job and whether a job on Rs. 55 is a suitable job for the staff drawing Rs. 140 per mensem?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** Government are informed, that on the East Indian Railway, the general policy in the case of the staff who are declared medically unfit in the category in which they are employed but declared fit for service in a lower category, is to make an endeavour to find suitable posts for them in the category for which they are declared fit. It may, sometimes, happen, that a post for which an employee is suitably qualified is not available and in that case there is no alternative but to discharge the employee from the service, but if there is a likelihood of such post becoming available in the near future, he may be granted leave and absorbed at the end of the leave. As regards the last part of the question an employee can always ascertain the position by applying to the officer under whom he is working.

#### VISION TEST OF RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.

393. **Mr. Sham Lal:** (a) Is it a fact that a railway servant as defined in the Indian Railway Act is required to undergo periodically a test of his vision?

(b) Is it a fact that a railway servant who is required to travel or handle the push or motor trolley is required to undergo the periodical vision test?

(c) Is it a fact that gazetted staff on State Railways who are provided with a pass to use push or motor trolley are required to undergo the periodical vision test in the interest both for himself and for the safety of the public?

(d) If the replies to parts (a) to (c) or any part thereof be in the negative, will Government please state the concise reasons for the differential treatment between gazetted and non-gazetted staff?

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

(b) Non-Gazetted staff authorised to work trolleys are required to undergo periodical vision tests as laid down in the regulations.

(d) The regulations in question do not apply to the gazetted staff for the reason that their duties differ widely from those of the subordinate staff for whom the regulations were framed.

#### SUB-INSPECTORS AND ASSISTANT INSPECTORS OF WORKS AND SUB-ASSISTANT SURGEONS CONFIRMED ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

394. **Mr. Sham Lal:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state how many Sub-Inspectors of Works, Assistant Inspectors of Works and Sub-Assistant Surgeons on East Indian Railway, have been confirmed since 1926?

(b) How many of them belong to Bengal, Bihar and the United Provinces?

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

**PROPORTION OF UNITED PROVINCES MEN IN THE PORTION OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY IN THE UNITED PROVINCES.**

395. **Mr. Sham Lal:** (a) Is it a fact that more than half the portion of the East Indian Railway administration is in the United Provinces, and the proportion of United Provinces men is far less than that of Bengalis in the Engineering and Medical subordinate staff? If so, why?

(b) How many posts in grade I have been allotted to old Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway, Inspector of Works? If not, why not?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** (a) and (b). Government have no information. In this connection I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply given by Mr. P. R. Rau to Sardar Sant Singh's starred question No. 811, asked in this House on the 22nd August, 1934.

**HOUSE RENT ALLOWANCE OF THE TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.**

†396. **Mr. Sham Lal:** With reference to the reply given on the 2nd September, 1935, to starred question No. 840 asked on the 12th March, 1935, will Government please state:

- (a) the rule under which the staff was governed for the period from 1st January, 1925, to the date the new rules were introduced in 1932;
- (b) the rule under which the staff was governed for the period from 1st July, 1925, to the date the new rules were introduced in 1932; and
- (c) the rule under which the temporary staff from 1st August, 1926, to 31st May, 1931, were provided with free accommodation in Hostels specially rented by the Administration?

**HOUSE RENT ALLOWANCE OF THE TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.**

†397. **Mr. Sham Lal:** With reference to the concluding paragraph of the reply given on the 2nd September, 1935, to starred question No. 840 asked on the 12th March, 1935, will Government please state the rule under which the privilege is continued after 31st May, 1931 (the date on which the posts of the ticket collecting and checking staff were abolished)?

**DISPOSAL OF PRIVATE COMMUNICATION, ETC., IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA DEPARTMENTS.**

398. **Mr. Sham Lal:** Will Government please state the policy and procedure of the Departments of the Central Government or attached or

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 379.

subordinate thereto in respect of the disposal of communications, letters, correspondence, etc., received by the said Departments from persons not employed by Government or from the public or otherwise and whether it is obligatory on the Department to acknowledge or reply suitably or not?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** The instructions are that communications from Associations, commercial bodies and from private individuals should be acknowledged.

**TRAVELLING TICKET INSPECTORS AND EXAMINERS ON THE EAST INDIAN AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAYS.**

†399. **Mr. Sham Lal:** Will Government please state:

- (a) whether the posts of Travelling Ticket Inspectors on the East Indian Railway and of Travelling Ticket Examiners on the North Western Railway were abolished on reduction of establishment;
- (b) whether the reduction of establishment was made on abolition of the nature of labour, work and duty of the said staff;
- (c) whether the abolished nature of labour, work and duty of the said staff is not performed by another staff from the date following the reduction of establishment;
- (d) whether the entire said staff was brought under reduction;
- (e) whether the entire said staff were discharged from the service on reduction of establishment;
- (f) the number, date and nature of the order, promulgated by notification in the Gazette in accordance with the Government of India Resolution No. 4863 of 4th December, 1891, authorizing the reduction of the establishment and discharging the staff;
- (g) whether the posts of the said staff were transferred from the Accounts Department to the Operating Department (starred question No. 744 asked in this House on the 26th September, 1935);
- (h) the datum required for declaring a post abolished;
- (i) the period given to the said staff to accept the appointments offered by the Administrations on changeover of the system and on transfer of the posts from the Accounts Department to the Operating Department; and
- (j) the rule which governs the period, transfer or abolition of posts?

**RULES REGULATING DISCHARGE, DISMISSAL AND APPEALS OF SUBORDINATE STAFF.**

**400. Sirdar Jogendra Singh:** (a) Will Government please state whether the rules made by the Secretary of State for India in Council under subsection (2) of section 96-B of the Government of India Act, 1919, and published in the Government of India, Home Department Notification No. F.-472-II-23, dated the 21st June, 1924, are retrospective in their application?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 379.

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the negative, will Government please quote the rule or orders which permitted the application of these rules only to such Government servants as had entered Government service after the 21st June, 1924?

(c) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government quote the powers of the Secretary of State in Council under the Government of India Act, 1919, and state whether the Act contemplated or empowered the Secretary of State in Council to frame rules?

(d) With reference to the reply given on the 4th February, 1936 on the floor of this Assembly to question No. 73 by Dr. N. B. Khare, and published on page 85 of the Legislative Assembly Debates, are Government prepared to issue orders to all concerned that the rules regulating the discharge, dismissal and appeals were not retrospective in their application?

(e) Will Government please state if it is a fact that the rules quoted in part (a) have been cancelled and fresh rules, called the "Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules", have been made?

(f) If the reply to part (e) be in the affirmative, will Government please state the date from which the rules quoted in part (a) stand cancelled, and also the date from which the Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules have come into force?

(g) Will Government please state whether the Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules are retrospective in their application?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Crank:** (a) I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the preamble to the Rules themselves. The Rules were retrospective in the sense that they applied, subject to certain safeguards provided in the Rules themselves, to persons appointed before the dates specified.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) I would refer the Honourable Member to the Government of India Act, itself, and, in particular, to sub-sections (2) and (3) of section 96-B.

(d) Unless it is otherwise specifically provided in the rules themselves, all rules take effect from the date on which they are made. No action is, therefore, called for.

(e) Yes.

(f) The Civil Services (Governors' Provinces) Classification Rules stand cancelled, and the Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, as originally made, took effect from the 27th May, 1930.

(g) The remarks made against part (a) apply *mutatis mutandis* to that part also.

#### **RULES FOR CLASSIFICATION, CONTROL, CONDUCT AND OTHER CONDITIONS OF SERVICE, ETC., APPLICABLE TO GOVERNMENT SERVANTS.**

401. **Sirdar Jogendra Singh:** (a) Will Government please state and quote the rules applicable to and regulating the classification, control, conduct,

inquiry into conduct, discharge, dismissal, appeal and other conditions of service of:

- (i) members of an all-India service;
- (ii) members of provincial services; and
- (iii) members of subordinate services,

for such members of these services as had entered Government service:

- (1) before the date on which the Government of India Act, 1919, came into force;
- (2) between the date on which the Government of India Act, 1919, came into force and the 21st June, 1924;
- (3) between the dates 21st June, 1924 and the 8th March, 1926;
- (4) between the dates 8th March, 1926 and the 27th May, 1930; and
- (5) after the 27th May, 1930?

(b) Will Government please state whether the individual consent of such Government servants as had entered Government service before the date on which the Government of India Act, 1919, came into force, was required or obtained in the case of:

- (i) leave rules framed under the Government of India Act, 1919; and
- (ii) rules framed under the Government of India Act, 1919, regulating the classification, control, conduct, inquiry into conduct, discharge, dismissal, appeal and other conditions of service of Government servants,

before such rules were made applicable to each Government servant?

(c) With reference to part (b), will Government please state the rules regarding classification, control, conduct, inquiry into conduct, discharge, dismissal, appeal and other conditions of service made applicable to and the exact procedure adopted in the case of such Government servants as did not give their consent to or wish the new rules made under the Government of India Act, 1919, being made applicable to them?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** (a) I regret I am unable, in the course of reply to a question, to enumerate the various executive rules and orders, statutory rules, etc., issued from time to time, regulating the conditions of service, etc., of members of the All-India Services, Provincial Services and Subordinate Services.

(b) No consent was required or obtained except that:

- (i) persons in service on the 1st January, 1922, were given the option to accept leave terms as embodied in the Fundamental Rules or to remain under those to which they had previously been subject; and
- (ii) officers (other than Military officers and members of the Indian Civil Service) appointed substantively to the services or the appointments specified in Art. 349-A of the Civil Service Regulations, who were in service on 29th August, 1919, were given the option to elect to come under the provisions of the pension rules contained in Articles 404-A, 465-A, 474-A and 475-A of the Civil Service Regulations.

(c) Does not arise.

**NEW SCALES OF PAY FOR JOURNEYMEN ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.**

**402. Sardar Mangal Singh:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that orders regarding revised scales of pay for subordinates appointed on the North Western Railway after 15th July, 1931 but before the introduction of the new scales of pay were published in the Extraordinary Gazette, dated the 24th September, 1934;
- (b) whether it is a fact that these orders have been given retrospective effect, *i.e.*, from 1st September, 1934;
- (c) if the replies to parts (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, whether they are prepared to give effect to these rules from 1st October, 1934; if not, why not;
- (d) whether it is a fact that the grades of journeymen, junior chargemen and clerks grade III were Rs. 100—10—170, Rs. 100—10—170 and Rs. 100—5—140, respectively, in the old scales of pay, while in the new scales of pay the grades offered are Rs. 65—5/2—85, Rs. 100—10/2—120 and Rs. 100—10/2—120, respectively;
- (e) if the reply to part (d) be in the affirmative, the reason for so much drastic cut in the grade of journeymen;
- (f) whether they are prepared to reconsider their decision towards the revision of the revised grades of journeymen, awarding them the same scales of pay as of junior chargemen;
- (g) whether it is also a fact that the start of a senior chargeman is the same as that of the junior chargeman *i.e.*, Rs. 100 per mensem under the revised scales of pay, whereas the start of the old scales of pay in the case of senior chargemen and junior chargemen was Rs. 185 and Rs. 100, respectively;
- (h) if the reply to part (g) be in the affirmative, the difference between a senior chargeman grade I and junior chargeman on the new scales of pay, and the reason of so much drastic cut in the pay of senior chargeman;
- (i) whether they are prepared to reconsider their decision towards the scale of senior chargeman and give them a higher start of pay than the junior chargeman as they are entitled to under the old scales of pay; and
- (j) the reason for cutting down the scales of pay for mechanical subordinates in comparison to other subordinates and whether they are prepared to reconsider the revised scales of pay for mechanical subordinates; if so, when?

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

**STRIKERS OF THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY GIVEN EMPLOYMENT ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.**

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

- (a) whether some of the strikers on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway were given employment on the North Western Railway;
- (b) whether Government are aware that they are experiencing difficulties in the matter of their children's education and in some other ways; and
- (c) whether they propose to consider their transfer to Great Indian Peninsula Railway by way of exchange of men?

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

(b) Government have no information.

(c) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given to parts (c) and (d) of starred question No. 1203, asked by Bhai Parma Nand on the floor of this House on the 13th March, 1936.

**PROVISION OF A WAITING ROOM AT NATHNAGAR STATION.**

**404. Babu Kailash Behari Lal:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if to a question put by Rai Bahadur Sukhraj Rai, on 2nd of March, 1931, regarding the provision of a waiting room at Nathnagar Station, Government replied that they were not aware of the exact arrangements at that station, but a copy of the Honourable Member's question was being sent to the Agent, East Indian Railway for his consideration?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state if they received any reply from the Agent, East Indian Railway, as to what consideration they have been able to give to the question of providing a waiting room at Nathnagar Railway station?

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

(b) No, but enquiries are being made from the Agent.

**PENSIONS OF THE CLERICAL ESTABLISHMENTS OF THE INDIAN ARMY.**

**405. Sardar Sant Singh:** (a) Is it a fact that first, second and third grade clerks in the clerical establishment of the Indian Army are paid salaries at the rate of Rs. 93, 72 and 42 per mensem respectively? If so, what is the maximum pension admissible to these incumbents?

(b) What is the maximum pension admissible to the civil employees drawing the same amount of pay?

(c) What is the reason for this difference?

**Mr. G. B. F. Tottenham:** (a) The pay and grade pay admissible to 1st, 2nd and 3rd grade Indian military clerks are as follows:

Grade.	Rank.	Pay.	Grade pay.	Total.
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs. per mensem.
1st	Dafadar or Havildar . . . . .	25	60	85
2nd	Lance Havildar . . . . .	23/8	45	68/8
	Lance Dafadar or Naik . . . . .	22	45	67
3rd	Lance Naik . . . . .	18	22/8	40/8
	Sowar or Sepoy . . . . .	16	22/8	38/8

The maximum rates of ordinary pensions admissible, which depend on rank, are:

	Per mensem.
	Rs.
Havildar after 21 years' service . . . . .	15
Naik after 18 years' service . . . . .	9
Lance Naik and Sepoy after 18 years' service . . . . .	6

(b) One-half of the average monthly emoluments drawn during the last three years' of service, but only on completion of 30 years' service.

(c) The conditions of service of military clerks are different from those of civilian clerks, and the former qualify for pension after shorter periods of service than those which civilian clerks ordinarily have to complete to earn retiring pensions (*vide* Civil Service Regulations, paragraph 465).

#### NON-RECOGNITION OF THE RAILWAY WORKERS' ASSOCIATION, MORADABAD.

**406. Mr. Anugrah Narayan Sinha:** (a) Are Government aware that the Railway Workers' Association, Moradabad, is a registered Trade Union under the Trade Unions Act and was registered as such on 19th October, 1935, *vide* certificate of registration No. 16 of 1935-36, issued by the Registrar, Trade Unions, United Provinces?

(b) Are Government aware that after its registration the Railway Workers' Association approached the Agent, East Indian Railway, Calcutta, and the Railway Board, New Delhi, *vide* letter No. 101-Recog., dated 4th November, 1935, for grant of official recognition and certain facilities for organisation in terms of the recommendations made by the Royal Commission on Labour, *vide* paras. 257, 258, 267 and 268 of their report?

(c) Are Government aware that the Railway Workers' Association assured in very strong terms both the Agent, East Indian Railway and the Railway Board in its letter referred to in part (b) of this question, and also in subsequent letters addressed to the said authorities, to the effect that (i) the Association shall always be governed by the Trade Union and Trade Dispute Acts, (ii) the Association shall always adhere to and abide by the Rules, Regulations and Standing Orders that may be framed and issued by the Railway Board, the Agent and the Divisional Superintendents, for the conduct and discipline of the subordinate staff, (iii) the Association shall always assist the Administration in matters of retrenchment, economy of expenses and generally to improve the financial position of the Railway, (iv) the Association shall always discourage strikes, lock-outs and similar other direct actions, (v) the Association shall always

remain aloof from politics and anti-Governmental movements, and (vi) it shall be the first and foremost aim of the Association to educate its members to be strictly loyal and devoted to the State?

(d) Are Government aware that while the Railway Board in their letter No. E. 35-U. T.-123, dated 3rd December, 1935, were pleased to acknowledge receipt of the Association's representation, praying for the grant of official recognition and necessary facilities, and to state that the Railway Board have not accorded recognition to any labour Union as such, as they considered that recognition of particular Unions was a matter for the Agents of Railways and to suggest that the Association should address the Agent of the Railway concerned from whom it sought recognition, the Agent, East Indian Railway, to whom as many as about half a dozen representations have been made both by the working committee and the General Secretary of the Association, has not acknowledged any of the said representations so far?

(e) Are Government aware that the Association named above also placed before the Agent, East Indian Railway and the Railway Board the fact that the Association was being managed by the Railway workers themselves and that it was in accordance with the wishes of the Government of India and the Railway Board themselves that the management was so arranged, and also that the Association sent a memorial signed by most of the office-bearers, members of the working committee of the Association and some Railway employees, praying grant of official recognition, but even then the Agent, East Indian Railway, did not move and has not communicated anything as to his views even?

(f) Are Government aware that the Railway Workers' Association also moved on the subject Mr. P. R. Rau, Financial Commissioner, Railways, *vide* letter No. 101/Gen., dated 6th January, 1936, but there is no response so far?

(g) Are Government aware that this sort of indifferent attitude on the part of the administrations concerned is an abuse of the authority vested in the said administrations and is also a disregard of the orders and injunctions issued from time to time by the Government of India and a disrespect to the Government of His Imperial Majesty who appointed the Royal Commission on Labour?

(h) If Government have no information in respect of the various points referred to in parts (a) to (f) above, do they propose to call for an immediate detailed report and place the same on the table of this House with full reasons justifying the present attitude of the Agent, East Indian Railway in the matter and take such further action in the matter of the grant of recognition as would be in conformity with the recommendations made by the Royal Commission on Labour and assurances held out by the Railway Board and the Government of India from time to time? If not, why not?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** (a), (b) and (c). Government are only aware that the Railway Workers' Association, Moradabad, applied to the Agent, East Indian Railway, for the grant of recognition and also addressed the Railway Board.

(d), (e) and (g). The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the second part Government understand that the

question of recognition of the Association referred to is still under consideration by the Agent, East Indian Railway, who will no doubt, communicate his decision in due course.

(f) An unofficial reference was received by the Financial Commissioner to which, with other communications, an official reply was issued on 20th February, 1936.

(h) Government do not propose to call for any report though the Railway Board would consider appeal, if any, against the decision of the Agent, East Indian Railway, after it has been communicated to the Association, if the decision is one refusing recognition.

**DIFFICULTIES EXPERIENCED BY THE HEIRS OF DECEASED WORKMEN IN THE PAYMENT OF DUES IN THE MORADABAD DIVISION OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.**

**407. Mr. Anugrah Narayan Sinha:** (a) Are Government aware that at present in the Moradabad Division, particularly of the East Indian Railway, immense harassment and extreme delay is caused to the heirs, which include usually the widows and minor children, of the deceased workmen before any payment of the dues in respect of working days wages, provident fund and bonus and gratuity amounts is actually made to the claimants and that the said claimants are forced to produce evidence and documents not called for under the existing rules?

(b) Is it a fact that in cases where the balance at credit of the deceased member of staff does not exceed Rs. 2,000, the payment of the said balance is regulated by section 3 of the Provident Funds Act (IX of 1897)?

(c) Are Government aware that in spite of the provision referred to in part (b) of this question, cases have actually occurred in the Moradabad Division in which the helpless and penniless *pardanashin* widows of the deceased workmen were forced to produce legal evidence and then run to this and that gazetted officer for having their signature or thumb marks verified and attested, thereby causing them hardship and heavy expenses?

(d) Are Government aware that in a majority of cases, the applications of the claimants, requesting for an early payment and addressing them to any particular address for instance through their attorneys are not heeded and they continue being addressed at their home addresses far away in the interior of their villages which again causes them much worry and expense in running to the cities to their attorneys?

(e) Are Government aware that in the Moradabad Division several cases are pending in which the claimants preferred their claims about a year ago and furnished all possible evidence in support of their claim, but no payment has been made at all?

(f) If Government have no information on the points raised in parts (a) and (c) to (e) of this question, do they propose to call for the papers connected with the claims of Musammat Basanti, widow of Bhola Nath, late pointsman, Chandok, East Indian Railway, Musammat Shahzadi, alias Bunnoo, widow of late Hussain Bux deceased shunter Rosa; Musammat Badamo and Mangli daughter and brother respectively of the late Chet Ram, deceased porter, East Indian Railway, Moradabad, and see for themselves how their claims have been handled?

(g) Do Government propose to take suitable action in the matter with a view to facilitate payments to the heirs of the deceased workmen and 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.

#### DISMISSAL AND DISCHARGE OF SUBORDINATE EMPLOYEES IN THE MORADABAD DIVISION OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

**408. Mr. Anugrah Narayan Sinha:** (a) Are Government aware that dismissal and discharge of subordinate employees, in the Moradabad Division of the East Indian Railway particularly still continues on a vigorous scale and that the instructions issued from time to time regulating the dismissal and discharge of the subordinate employees are not invariably followed?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the negative, do Government propose to call for a statement showing the dismissal and discharge of subordinate employees, with full details as to their names, designation, department, length of service, pay and the offence for which discharged or dismissed, during the last six months (from August, 1935 to January, 1936), by the Divisional Superintendent, Moradabad, and place the same on the table of this House? If not, why not?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** (a) Government are informed that dismissal and removal from service are ordered only when other penalties have been imposed and have failed to bring about the desired effect and when it becomes essential to do so in the interest of efficient working, or when the offence is very serious. Instructions issued from time to time regulating the dismissal and discharge of the subordinate employees are strictly followed.

(b) Government have no information and do not consider any useful purpose will be served by collecting it.

#### APPEALS AND PETITIONS PREFERRED BY THE EMPLOYEES IN THE MORADABAD DIVISION OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

**409. Mr. Anugrah Narayan Sinha:** (a) Are Government aware that appeals and petitions preferred by the aggrieved employees or ex-employees in the Moradabad Division of the East Indian Railway addressed to the Divisional Superintendent by name and sent direct under registered cover do not in the majority of cases bring an acknowledgment?

(b) Are Government aware that appeals and petitions addressed to authorities higher than the Divisional Superintendent bring absolutely no relief and in almost ninety cases out of one hundred, no acknowledgment is ever received from the said authority still less any communication intimating the action taken on the appeal?

(c) Is it a fact that hard and fast rules stand framed for disposal of appeals, and assurances have on many an occasion been held out to the effect that appeals when addressed within the prescribed time and in a proper manner will always be attended to by the appellate authority?

(d) Are Government aware that in the East Indian Railway particularly appeals addressed to the Agent or the Chief Operating Superintendent are usually sent back to the Divisional Superintendent concerned for disposal, although the appeal may have been preferred against orders passed by the said Divisional Superintendent and thus the matter ends?

(e) If the replies to parts (a) to (d) above be in the negative, do Government propose to call for an exhaustive statement showing the number of appeals preferred to the Divisional Superintendent, Moradabad, the Agent, and the Chief Operating Superintendent, East Indian Railway, during the last six months by the staff in the Moradabad Division against the orders of any of the subordinate officers under the Divisional Superintendent and the Divisional Superintendent respectively and the number of appeals accepted out of the total number of appeals preferred; and the discharged employees reinstated on appeal? If not, why not?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** (a) Government are informed that due consideration is always given to appeals and petitions received through the proper channel and the appellants and petitioners are informed of the decision.

(b) Government are informed that all appeals and petitions to the authorities higher than the Divisional Superintendent submitted through the proper channel are forwarded to the authorities concerned if such appeals lie to them and the decision thereon conveyed to the appellants.

(c) The reply is in the affirmative.

(d) All appeals are required to be sent through the proper channel, *i.e.*, through the officer against whose orders an appeal is submitted. If an employee sends an appeal direct to higher authority, instead of through the officer against whose orders he is appealing, that employee is committing an offence and the higher authority is justified in sending the appeal to the officer concerned for disposal.

(e) Government do not propose to collect the information as it will involve an amount of labour and expense not likely to be justified by results, but I have sent a copy of the question to the Agent, East Indian Railway, for information and such action as he may consider necessary as the matters referred to are entirely within his competence.

#### RECOVERY OF EXCESS PAYMENTS FROM CERTAIN DRIVERS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

**410. Mr. Anugrah Narayan Sinha:** (a) Are Government aware that a large number of drivers and other staff throughout the East Indian Railway were cut down as a measure of economy in 1931 with definite assurances that they would be re-promoted to their original positions on return of better times and would be allowed full benefits for the intervening periods?

(b) Is it a fact that the said persons were re-promoted early in 1934 strictly in accordance with the assurances held out to them, but on the Accounts Department having taken an exception under Fundamental Rule 26, the men concerned were subsequently again cut down without any previous intimation to them?

(c) Is it a fact that the alleged excess payments were recovered from the men so cut down again?

(d) Are Government aware that men in the various divisions and stations over the East Indian Railway were not uniformly treated in this respect, but at some places the employees were re-cut down whereas at others they continued drawing their original rates of pay and had not to refund anything?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** (u) to (d). I presume the Honourable Member is referring to certain members of the running staff who were demoted in 1931, as a measure of economy due to slack traffic. If so, I would invite his attention to the reply laid on the table of the House on the 2nd September, 1935, to Mr. M. L. Saksena's question No. 395, asked on the 21st February, 1935. I have, however, sent a copy of the question to the Agent, East Indian Railway, for information and such action as he may consider necessary.

#### NON-PAYMENT OF GRATUITY TO THE RETIRED EMPLOYEES IN THE MORADABAD DIVISION OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

411. **Mr. Anugrah Narayan Sinha:** (a) Are Government aware that there exists throughout the East Indian Railway a very acute grievance to the effect that a recovery once made, though erroneously, and short payments made erroneously are seldom refunded without much loss of time and considerable delay?

(b) Are Government aware that there are a large number of employees in the Moradabad Division of the East Indian Railway, who had retired on attaining the age-limit or under medical grounds and have not been paid their gratuity although they completed 15 years' satisfactory service?

(c) Are Government aware that there are some drivers and other staff in the Moradabad Division who complained that they were paid short their gratuity and they might therefore be furnished details, but their cases have not been given consideration?

(d) If the replies to the above parts be in the negative, do Government propose to make necessary enquiries and take such action as would secure quicker and correct payments, and 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.

#### OVERLOOKING OF CLAIMS OF THE OLD OUDH AND ROHILKUND RAILWAY STAFF.

412. **Mr. Anugrah Narayan Sinha:** (a) Will Government be pleased to call for a statement showing the number of Indians and non-Indian staff belonging originally to the late Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway, in the Loco., Traffic and Engineering Department who have been promoted since the amalgamation of the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway with the East Indian Railway, and taking over of the latter by the State, to supervisory grades as compared to the employees belonging originally to the East Indian Railway similarly promoted?

(b) Are Government aware that the posts of Assistant Running Shed Foremen, Running Shed Foremen, Inspectors, Assistant Superintendent, Power and Superintendent, Powers, etc., falling vacant in the Oudh and Rohilkhand section of the East Indian Railway, have usually been filled in by promotion of men belonging to the East Indian Railway and that the claims of the old Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway men, both Indians and non-Indians, have almost on every occasion been ignored?

(c) Will Government be pleased to justify the difference in the comparative statement called for in part (a) of this question and state full reasons why the claims of the old Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway staff have been overlooked in comparison to those of the East Indian Railway men, and if not, why not?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** Government do not consider any useful purpose will be served by collecting the information which will involve an amount of labour and expense not commensurate with the results likely to be obtained. I have, however, sent a copy of the question to the Agent, East Indian Railway, for information and such action as he may consider necessary, as the matters referred to are entirely within his competence.

**PROVISION OF CERTAIN AMENITIES IN THE QUARTERS FOR LOCO. STAFF AT MORADABAD.**

413. **Mr. Anugrah Narayan Sinha:** (a) Are Government aware that new quarters provided for the Loco. staff at Moradabad in village Harthala are not properly equipped and that there are no satisfactory arrangements for light, sanitation, safety of the residents (the place is situated in almost a jungle), education of the children of the staff residing there and pucca roads with lights on either side to and from the work places of the staff concerned?

(b) Is it a fact that the staff concerned occupying the said quarters represented the matter more than once both through joint representation and by questions in the Welfare Committees, but nothing has so far been done?

(c) If the replies to the above parts be in the negative, do Government propose to call for the required data and take necessary action with a view to provide the afore-mentioned amenities of life for the staff concerned and if not, why not?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** Government have no information but are making enquiries.

**LONG DUTY HOURS OF FIRE-DROPPERS AT DEHRA DUN.**

414. **Mr. Anugrah Narayan Sinha:** (a) Are Government aware that in the Moradabad Division of the East Indian Railway, the working hours regulations as adopted in the Geneva Convention are not being adhered to strictly and rigidly and that the employees continue to be put on long hours of duty without adequate allowances and rest?

(b) Is it a fact that the fire-droppers at Dehra Dun have to work continuously for twelve hours and that they are not paid any extra allowance and further that their representation on the subject could not relieve them in any way?

(c) If the replies to the above parts be in the negative, do Government propose to make necessary enquiries and state the action taken on the joint representation of the fire-droppers, Dehra Dun and if not, why not?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** (a) Government are informed that the Hours of Employment Regulations are being adhered to on the Moradabad Division and that the employees who work extra hours are paid overtime allowance if actually due and that rest is generally allowed to all employees.

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

(c) Government do not consider any further enquiry is called for.

#### RENT-FREE ACCOMMODATION FOR CERTAIN STAFF ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

**415. Mr. Anugrah Narayan Sinha:** (a) Are Government aware that the Railway Board in their memorandum issued on the occasion of the transfer of the East Indian Railway from the company management to that of the State and as published by the East Indian Railway administration in their Weekly Gazette, dated the 10th July, 1924, stated *vide para.* (d) of the said memorandum, relating to house rent that the rules in force on State Railways will apply?

(b) Is it a fact that there are a large number of such employees as were and are under the State Railway rules entitled to free of rent accommodation?

(c) Are Government aware that there are also quite a large number of men belonging to the old East Indian Railway brought on the jobs with which is attached the privilege of rent free accommodation on the State Railways?

(d) Is it a fact that the staff referred to in part (c) of this question have not so far been allowed the privilege assured to them in terms of the memorandum alluded to in part (a) of this question and, on their appeals, they continue to be told that the question was under consideration of the Railway Board?

(e) Are Government aware that it is now over ten years that the East Indian Railway company was transferred to the State?

(f) Will Government be pleased to state (i) why it is not possible to adhere to the assurance held out in the memorandum under reference and allow such of the staff of the old East Indian Railway as are entitled under the State Railway rules to rent free accommodation, (ii) why the rules said to be under consideration should not be allowed to operate with effect from the date they are gazetted, and (iii) how long it will take for the Railway Board to decide this issue finally?

(g) Do Government propose to issue orders for the strict observance in practice of the assurance held out in the memorandum in question and allow the persons concerned as are working on posts carrying the privilege under the State Railway rules of rent free accommodation with retrospective effect? If not, why not?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** (a), (e) and (f). When the East Indian Railway was taken over by Government on 1st January, 1925, the staff were informed that in the matter of house rent the rules in force on State-managed Railways would be applied but in the subsequent agreement which was executed by each employee and which forms the basis of contract between him and Government it was definitely laid down that "his pay, allowances, Provident Fund and gratuity and leave will be regulated in all respects by the rules and conditions of East Indian Railway service as they stood on 31st December, 1924, and that he shall have no right to claim by virtue of service under Government any of the benefits allowed from time to time by State Railway rules".

(b) Government are informed that certain categories of staff under the East Indian Railway Company rules might have benefited by the application of the State Railway rent rules, but in view of my reply to parts (a), (e) and (f) this question does not arise.

(c) Government are not aware that the number of the staff, taken over from the old East Indian Railway Company who occupied posts to which the privilege of rent free quarters was attached in accordance with the State Railway rent rules, is large.

(d) As regards the first part of the question I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to my reply to parts (a), (e) and (f). With regard to the latter part Government are informed that the Company's staff who occupied posts to which the privilege of rent free quarters was attached under the State Railway rent rules alone have not been allowed the privilege and they were advised in reply to their appeals that their claim was not tenable.

(g) In view of the reply given to parts (a), (e) and (f) Government do not propose to take any further action.

#### MUSEUMS IN INDIA.

**416. Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the Press interview given by Mr. S. F. Markham in Bombay, regarding the museums in India which appeared in the *Hindustan Times*, dated the 24th February, 1936?

(b) Is it a fact that the curators of most of the museums are untrained?

(c) What action do Government propose to take in this connection?

(d) Do Government propose to send these curators for training to Bombay or any efficient museum in India, or select some apprentices to be trained in Bombay?

**Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai:** (a)—(d). I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply given by me to Mr. Satyamurti's question No. 957, on the 3rd March, 1936.

#### CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS SPECIAL DEFENCE MEASURES FOR ADEN.

**417. Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to Reuter's cable, dated 22nd February, 1936, from London to the effect that among the supplementary demands laid before the House of Commons was an item of £400 contributed by the Government of India towards special defence measures for Aden?

(b) Is it not a fact that Aden is proposed to be separated from India?

(c) If so, why has the Government of India contributed any expenditure for its defence?

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

(c) The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given by me to a similar starred question by Mr. Satyamurti, No. 1331.

**APPOINTMENT OF A LIAISON OFFICER FOR GIVING FACILITIES TO A FRENCH EXPEDITION TO ATTACK KARAKORAM.**

**418. Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar:** (a) Is it a fact that the Government of India and the Government of Kashmir have accorded sanction to a French expedition to attack Karakoram?

(b) Is it a fact that Government propose to appoint a liaison officer to arrange for supply and transport facilities for the expedition?

(c) What is the cost involved in the appointment of such an officer, and what will be the cost for making other arrangements for the expedition?

(d) What advantage does the Government of India expect to derive from financing a foreign expedition, and why is the taxpayer's money being spent on it?

**Sir Aubrey Metcalfe:** The reply to (a) and (b) of the Honourable Member's question is in the affirmative.

(c) Any expenditure, due to this appointment, over and above the officer's leave-salary, will be borne by the Expedition.

(d) Does not arise.

**ENQUIRY AGAINST THE SALT FACTORY STAFF IN MARKANAM, SOUTH ARCOT DISTRICT.**

**419. Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar:** (a) Is it a fact that the Assistant Commissioner of Salt, Central Division, Madras Presidency, instituted an enquiry against the factory staff in Markanam, South Arcot District, on the complaint of the local merchants and the licensees?

(b) Did the Departmental head take any action against the Factory Officer, Mr. Muhammad Saleh Sahib, during whose period so much trouble and agitation started, including criminal cases in courts?

(c) Is it a fact that there were complaints against this officer in all other factories where he had served?

(d) Are Government aware that criminal cases were launched against this officer in some of the places where he had served? What is the result of those cases?

(e) Will Government state how much quantity of salt was destroyed in the Markanam factory during the regime of this officer?

(f) What are the reasons for such abnormal destruction of salt in one factory?

(g) What steps do Government propose to take against this officer for destruction of salt to the detriment of the licensees?

**Mr. A. H. Lloyd:** The information has been called for and will be laid on the table in due course.

**ISSUE OF CONCESSION TICKETS UP TO GURGAON ON THE BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY.**

**420. Mr. Sham Lal:** Is it a fact that the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway (metre gauge) issues concession tickets up to Gurgaon only and not beyond that station, *i.e.*, Rewari, Hissar, Ajmer, Phulera, Jaipur, etc.? If so, why?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** Third class return tickets, at a fare and a half, are issued on the Delhi-Gurgaon section as also on certain other sections where circumstances have arisen necessitating the Railway Administration considering it desirable to issue such tickets, *e.g.*, on the Kot-Kapura-Muktsar section, Farukhabad—Cawnpore section, Kasganj—Muttra Section, etc.

**THIRD CLASS FARE ON THE BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY.**

**421. Mr. Sham Lal:** Is it a fact that the third class fare on the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway (metre gauge) is more than on other Railways? If so, why?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** I would refer the Honourable Member to the statement placed on the table of the House in reply to Mr. Suryya Kumar Som's question No. 1297 on the 1st April, 1935, showing the basis of third class fares on the principal Railways. As regards the second part of the question, financial and other conditions on different railways do not permit of complete uniformity in the matter of passenger fares.

**THIRD CLASS FARE ON EXPRESS AND MAIL TRAINS ON THE BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY.**

**422. Mr. Sham Lal:** Is it a fact that the third class fare of Express and Mail trains on the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway (metre gauge) is more than ordinary train fare, *e.g.*, third class from Delhi—Rewari 0-15-0 and by Mail or Express 1-3-0?

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

**ABSENCE OF LADY TICKET COLLECTORS ON THE BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY.**

**423. Mr. Sham Lal:** Is it a fact that there is no lady ticket collector appointed on the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway? If so, why?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** Yes, as the administration find that they can carry on the work without employing lady ticket collectors.

**PROVISION OF A TONGA STAND AND A THIRD CLASS FEMALE WAITING ROOM AT THE REWARI RAILWAY STATION.**

**424. Mr. Sham Lal:** (a) Is it a fact that there is no tonga stand at the Railway Station at Rewari?

(b) Is it a fact that there is no third class *sanana* waiting room at Rewari Station?

(c) If the answer to parts (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, are Government prepared to provide a tonga stand and a third class female waiting room at Rewari Railway Station?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** (a) to (c). Government have no definite information on the points raised. These matters are within the discretion of the Railway Administrations concerned, and the natural channel for bringing them to notice is through the Local Advisory Committees.

**NON-ISSUE OF CONCESSION TICKETS DURING CERTAIN FAIRS ON THE BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY.**

**425. Mr. Sham Lal:** Is it a fact that no concession tickets are issued on the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway (metre gauge) on the occasions of Pushkar Mela, Muthra Jatra, Ajmer fair, etc., and that other Railways issue concession tickets on such occasions?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** The question whether concession tickets should be issued on the occasion of certain *melas* is a matter which Railway Administrations have constantly under consideration from the point of view of its possible result in the direction of increasing revenues. Government are aware that the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway are not now issuing concession tickets for the *melas* and fairs referred to, and they have no information as regards the practice on other railways.

**DISCHARGE OF COMMERCIAL STAFF ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.**

**426. Mr. Sham Lal:** (a) With reference to the answer to starred question No. 28 of the 2nd September, 1935, regarding the discharge of commercial staff on the North Western Railway in 1930, will Government please state:

- (i) whether the conditions explained in the reply to the above question, that the retention of the temporary staff was dependent on their successfully passing the course in question, etc., etc., are laid down in the agreement bond signed by the staff before their appointment;
- (ii) whether there is any rule or regulation requiring the temporary staff to pass the refresher course; and
- (iii) whether the temporary staff was informed that in case they failed to pass the refresher course examination, their services would be dispensed with?

(b) If the answers to parts (ii) and (iii) above be in the negative, do Government propose to re-instate the staff that has been discharged?

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

*KATCHA DRAIN DUG NEAR KAROL BAGH, DELHI.*

**427. Sirdar Jogendra Singh:** (a) Are Government aware that:

- (i) a *katcha* drain was dug by the orders of the Secretary, Municipal Committee, Delhi, running parallel to the East Park Road, Karol Bagh;
- (ii) filthy water is allowed to rot and stagnate in this drain;
- (iii) some of this water is drained off through a narrow pipe across the road and there is a stream of water rotting and stinking in the maidan; and
- (iv) both the drain and the stream are a source of breeding mosquitoes and other pernicious disease germs, detrimental to the health of the inhabitants of the neighbouring houses?

(b) Will Government please state whether any action has been taken by the municipal authorities on the complaints made by the inhabitants of the neighbouring houses? If not, why not?

(c) Are Government prepared to ask the Secretary, Municipal Committee, Delhi, to explain why he has turned a lane into a dirty drain?

**Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai:** The information has been called for and will be furnished to the House as soon as possible.

**NON-RECRUITMENT OF STAFF OF THE OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER OF RAILWAY ACCOUNTS THROUGH THE HOME DEPARTMENT.**

**428. Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha:** (a) Is it a fact that the clerical staff of the Railway Board is recruited through the Home Department?

(b) If the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, will Government please state why the staff of the Office of the Controller of Railway Accounts is not recruited through the Home Department?

(c) Has any clerk ever since the formation of the Office of the Controller of Railway Accounts, been recruited through the Public Service Commission, or the Home Department? If not, why not?

**Mr. P. R. Rau:** (a) The clerical staff of the Railway Board, in certain categories, are recruited through the Public Service Commission.

(b) Recruitment in the office of the Controller of Railway Accounts is made by transfer of the selected persons from the Railway Accounts Offices.

(c) No.

**FIXATION OF SENIORITY OF STAFF IN THE OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER OF RAILWAY ACCOUNTS.**

**429. Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha:** (a) Is it a fact that length of service is regarded as a criterion for determining the relative seniority of the clerical staff in the Office of the Railway Board?

(b) If the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, will Government please state whether this principle is followed in fixing the seniority of the staff in the Office of Controller of Railway Accounts? If not, why not?

(c) Are the rules for the fixation of seniority of the staff of the Railway Board's Office applicable to the staff of the Office of the Controller of Railway Accounts? If not, why not?

**Mr. P. B. Rau:** (a) Length of service is one of the criteria in determining the relative seniority of the clerical staff in the office of the Railway Board.

(b) and (c). There is a special set of rules for (of which a copy is in the Library) determining the seniority of the non-gazetted staff employed in all Railway Accounts offices. The office of the Controller of Railway Accounts, which is not a part of the Railway Board, is governed by the rules applicable to the Railway Accounts Department as a whole.

#### COST OF CONSTRUCTION OF CERTAIN GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS IN DELHI AND NEW DELHI.

430. **Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** Will Government be pleased to state the amount of money spent by them on the construction of the:

- (i) Council House in New Delhi;
- (ii) the Imperial Secretariat in New Delhi;
- (iii) the Government House (Viceregal Lodge) in New Delhi;
- (iv) building now known as the old Council House;
- (v) building now known as old Secretariat; and
- (vi) building now known as the old Viceregal Lodge?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** The required information is as follows:

- (i) Rs. 89,89,468.
- (ii) Rs. 1,92,81,569.
- (iii) Rs. 1,85,82,030 (including the cost of subsidiary buildings on the Estate).
- (iv) Rs. 3,20,367.
- (v) Rs. 10,48,415.
- (vi) Rs. 14,68,265 (including the cost of subsidiary buildings on the Estate).

#### STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE.

*Information promised in reply to starred question No. 1290, asked by Pandit Nilakantha Das on the 1st April, 1935.*

#### PURCHASES MADE ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA BY THE INDIAN STORES DEPARTMENT.

(a) and (b). A statement is attached giving the necessary information so far as the Railway, Defence and other important purchasing Departments are concerned.

(c) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply to part (d) of his starred question No. 522, dated the 25th February 1935, and to the supplementary questions put and answers given thereto.

(d) and (e). The Honourable Member has presumably taken his figures from page 181 of the Appropriation Accounts (Civil) for 1933-34. His attention is invited to the "Important Comments" made by the Accountant General, Central Revenues on page 181 of these Accounts. As explained there, the Indian Stores Department is a service department, although the Profit and Loss Accounts included in the Appropriation Accounts are apt to convey the impression that the Department is a commercial concern. The Profit and Loss Accounts of the Department are not prepared strictly on principles of commercial accounting. The present scale of departmental charges of 2 per cent. for the purchase and inspection of stores is not based on any scientific principle and does not represent the full value of the services rendered by the Department. In this connection, the Honourable Member is referred to paragraph 49(4) of the Final Report of the Stores, Printing and Stationery Sub-Committee of the Retrenchment Advisory Committee (1932), which explains the reasons for the so-called "deficit" of the Department and also to the discussions recorded on pages 100 to 105 of the Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Accounts of 1933-34—Volume II—Evidence Part I. Copies of these Reports are available in the Library of the House. The proposal for the simplification of the Profit and Loss Accounts of the Indian Stores Department mentioned by the Accountant General, Central Revenues, in his "Important Comments" referred to above has since been accepted by the Government of India and has been given effect to from the year 1934-35.

(f) The stores purchased under Rules 7 and 8 of the Rules for the supply of articles for the public service are not ordinarily available in India, and have, therefore, to be obtained direct, or through the Director General, India Store Department, London. Most of these stores such as lethal stores, medical stores, mathematical and scientific instruments and accessories are excluded from the scope of the activities of the Indian Stores Department, as these are specialised articles and the Government of India consider that the expert officers concerned should deal with them.

(g), (h) and (i). The compilation of the statistics required would involve an amount of time and labour which would be incommensurate with the value of the results. From such figures as are available, however, the value of the articles covered by Rule 8 of the Stores Purchase Rules appears to be about 17 per cent. of the total stores required by the Defence Forces.

*Statement showing (1) the officers other than those in the Indian Stores Department who make purchases on behalf of Government (2) the classes of stores purchased by them and (3) the percentage of purchases made through the Indian Stores Department.*

Serial No.	Designation of purchasing officers.	Class of stores purchased.	Percentage of stores purchased through I. S. D.	Remarks.
	A.—Railway Department.		22·7	
1	The Controller of Stores, East Indian Railway.	Metal, rolling stock items, engineering stores and machinery.		This represents the percentage of purchases made by the I. S. D. on behalf of the State-ma n a g e d Railways to the total purchases by those Railways during 1933-34.
2	The Deputy Controller of Stores, E. I. Railway.	Do.		
3	The District Controller of Stores, E. I. Railway.	Non-stock items of stores for the Railway engineering stores, hardware and machine parts.		

Serial No.	Designation of purchasing officers.	Class of stores purchased.	Percentage of stores purchased through I. S. D.	Remarks.
4	<p>A.—<i>Railway Department</i>—contd.</p> <p>The Controller of Stores, Eastern Bengal Railway.</p>	<p>Engineering plant and bridge work. Workshop machinery and plant. Permanent way materials. Steam loco and parts. Carriage and wagon underframes and bodies. Building materials (except bricks, lime, soorkey, doors and windows). Signalling and interlocking material except standardized signalling and interlocking fittings. Leather and Indian rubber goods. Hardware or metal Furniture. Electrical stores including train lighting materials. Timber.</p>		
5	<p>The Chief Engineer, Eastern Bengal Railway.</p>	<p>Girders, structural steel works and other like materials involving manufacture which are not included in the Indian Stores Department list. Ballast and boulders. Bricks. Lime, surki and sand. Doors and windows, ballast, mats. Sheds, tanks and stagings, overbridges, gates, white fancy tiles, earthenware, pipes, etc. Flower seeds.</p>		
6	<p>The Chief Medical Officer, Eastern Bengal Railway.</p>	<p>Medical requirements.</p>		
7	<p>The Controller of Stores, Great Indian Peninsula Railway.</p>	<p>Textiles, engineering, hardware, electrical, timber, glassware, miscellaneous.</p>		

Serial No.	Designation of purchasing officers.	Class of stores purchased.	Percentage of stores purchased through I. S. D.	Remarks.
	<i>A.—Railway Department—contd.</i>			
8	The principal Medical and Health Officer, Great Indian Peninsula Railway.	Drugs, dressings, surgical instruments and appliances locally if not available at the Medical Store Depot, Bombay, or when more suitable articles are obtainable elsewhere at the same or lower rate.		
9	The Chief Engineer and Divisional Engineers, G. I. P. Railway.	Bamboos, baskets, ballast, bricks, bullies, kankar, lime, mooram, sand, tiles, pottery etc.		
10	The Chief Engineer, Great Indian Peninsula Railway.	Indigenous timber and scantlings of indigenous timber.		
11	The Deputy Chief Engineer, Bridges, G. I. P. Railway.	Photographic films and plates, making of prints and enlargements.		
12	The Chief Mechanical Engineer, G. I. P. Railway.	Bricks, sand, khus khus and firewood.		
13	The Controller of Stores, North Western Railway.	All classes of stores viz. textiles, engineering, hardware, electrical, glassware, miscellaneous.		
14	The Track Supply Officer, North Western Railway.	Permanent way material.		
15	The Chief Medical and Health Officer, North Western Railway.	Medical stores.		
16	The Superintendent of Stores, Burma Railways.	Textiles, metals, hardware, permanent way material, signal and interlocking materials, vacuum brake equipment, workshop machinery, rolling stock and component parts, electrical plant and materials, track and other tools.		
17	The Loco Superintendent, Burma Railways.	Timber and wood fuel.		
18	The Chief Engineer, Burma Railways.	Sleepers, ballast, stone, bricks, structural material.		
19	The Traffic Manager, Burma Railways.	Guards' watches.		

Serial No.	Designation of purchasing officers.	Class of stores purchased.	Percentage of stores purchased through I. S. D.	Remarks.
20	A.— <i>Railway Department</i> — <i>conold.</i> The Chief Medical Officer, Burma Railways.	Drug and Medical stores.		
1	B.— <i>Defence Department.</i> The Contracts Directorate, Army Headquarters.	Food stuffs.  Equipment of a military nature for the Army and Royal Air Force including harness, saddlery, scientific instruments, tools, etc.  Barrack and hospital stores including paints and varnishes.  Mechanical transport stores including petrol, oil and lubricants.	15.65	This represents the percentage of purchases made through the I. S. D. on behalf of Defence Department to the total purchases made by that Department in India and England.
2	The Flag Officer Commanding, Royal Indian Navy.  C.— <i>Officers of other Departments of the Government of India.</i>	Coal, fuel, oil, cordage and timber.		
	The Controller of Printing and Stationery, India.  The Deputy Controller, Stationery.	Paper, typewriters, office machinery and accessories; and other printing and stationery stores.		All demands for stores dealt with by the I. S. D. (hardware textile, engineering and Miscellaneous including oils, paints, etc.) are placed with that Department.
	The Surveyor-General in India.	Scientific and mathematical instruments.	Nil	
		Textiles including tents, warm clothing, etc.	62.5	
		Photographic stores and chemicals.	9.5	
		Printing Stores for map reproduction office.		

Serial No.	Designation of purchasing officers.	Class of stores purchased.	Percentage of stores purchased through I. S. D.	Remarks.
1	<p><i>Officers under the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs.</i></p> <p>The Controller of Telegraphs Stores.</p>	<p>Telegraph instruments of all kinds.</p> <p>Strictly proprietary measuring instruments of types peculiar to the P. &amp; T. Department.</p> <p>Telephone instruments of all kinds including repeaters and parts thereof.</p> <p>Radio apparatus and equipment excluding power plant and other articles which are in common industrial use.</p>	*64.4	*During 1934-35.
2	<p>The Superintendent of Telegraph Workshops.</p>	Workshop Stores.		
	<p><i>Commerce Department.</i></p> <p>The Principal Officer, Mercantile Marine Department, Calcutta.</p>	<p>Ship's stores required for pilot vessels belonging to the Bengal Pilot Service.</p>		
1	<p><i>Finance Department.</i></p> <p>The Master, Security Printing, India, Nasik Road.</p>	<p>Building materials.</p> <p>Timber for packing cases.</p> <p>Miscellaneous small stores, nails, screws, tools, etc.</p> <p>Electrical goods, and motor supply stores.</p> <p>Lubricants, paints, soaps, disinfectants, rags.</p> <p>Coal and Coke.</p> <p>Watermarked security papers.</p>	0.3	

Serial No.	Designation of purchasing officers.	Class of stores purchased.	Percentage of stores purchased through I. S. D.	Remarks.
	<i>Finance Department—contd.</i> The Master, Security Printing, India, Nasik Road— <i>contd.</i>	Unwatermarked speciality papers. Other speciality papers. Commercial printing and wrapping papers. Inks. Gum. Photo-litho stores and chemicals for studio use, and metals for engraving. Machinery spare parts and accessories including roller skins, rubber, blankets, flannel and mole-skin. Crucibles. Coinage plant. Gas and annealing furnaces. Special lubricating oils. Special refractories. Fuel oil. Coal and Coke. Electrical Stores. Kerosine oil. Sulphuric acid. Piping and fittings. Annealing pans. Light machinery oil. Engineering. Electrical. Hardware. Textiles. Paints. Oils and greases. Furnace oil. Coke, Steam coal and Charcoal. Masonry and Building materials. Timber. Acid. Crucibles. Scales. Chemicals. Metals. Miscellaneous.	0.3	
2	The Mint Master, Calcutta.		5.54	
3	The Mint Master, Bombay.		3.39	
1	<i>Officers under the Director-General, Indian Medical Service.</i> The Director, Central Research Institute, Kasauli.	Apparatus including glass accessories, etc.	*38.5	*Only the Director, Central Research Institute, Kasauli, makes purchases through I. S. D.
2	The Director, All-India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta.	Chemicals, dyes, oils, etc. Sera, vaccine, etc.		

*Information promised in reply to starred question No. 653, asked by Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra on the 19th February, 1936.*

#### JOURNEYMEN ON THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

(a) Yes, these are two out of the four grades for journeymen in the old scales of pay on the Eastern Bengal Railway.

(b) Yes, due to lack of permanent vacancies in the higher grade, but four of them are at present officiating in that grade in temporary vacancies.

(c) Yes. It is both an efficiency and a vacancy bar.

(d) Fifteen posts under the Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer, Electrical, and five under Works Managers, Locomotive Shops, Kanchrapara and Saidpur. All of them are filled up at present except one post under the Works Managers which fell vacant on the 17th January, 1936, and the question of filling it is under consideration.

(e) Government have no information.

(f) No.

(g) Does not arise.

(h) Technically trained apprentices can rise to the maximum of the grade provided their work is satisfactory.

(i) Promotion of a journeyman to a higher grade on the Eastern Bengal Railway depends both on the man's efficiency and also on the existence of a vacancy in the higher grade.

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*Information promised in reply to starred question No. 896, asked by Mr. K. L. Gauba on the 27th February, 1936.*

#### SCHEME OF THE KING GEORGE'S DOCKS.

(a) (i) Eleven.

(ii) Rs. 9,39 crores (exclusive of interest charges).

(iii) Seven. Two of which were not included in the original scheme.

(b) Yes.

(c) No. The revised estimates of the scheme were sanctioned by the Government of Bengal after obtaining a full explanation of the reasons for the excess expenditure.

(d) The actual expenditure of Rs. 9,29,62,794 (including interest) has exceeded the original estimate of Rs. 7,63,95,000 by Rs. 1,65,67,794.

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#### ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have to inform the Assembly that up to 12 Noon on Wednesday, the 18th March, 1936, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Committee on Public Accounts five nominations have been received, out of which one candidate has since withdrawn his candidature. As the number of remaining candidates is equal to the number of vacancies I declare the following to be duly elected to the Committee, namely:—

- (1) Captain Sardar Sher Muhammad Khan,
- (2) Mr. S. Satyamurti,
- (3) Sir Muhammad Yakub, and
- (4) Bhai Parma Nand.

# THE CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL.

## *Amendment of Section 60.*

### PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE.

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik** (Home Member): Sir, I present the report of the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, for certain purposes (*Amendment of section 60*).

### THE INDIAN FINANCE BILL—*contd.*

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The House will 12 NOON. now take up the Indian Finance Bill, clause by clause.

The question is:

“That clause 2 stand part of the Bill.”

**Mr. S. Satyamurti** (Madras City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, may I make a submission? We want to move either amendment No. 12 standing in the name of Seth Govind Das, or No. 23 standing in the name of Pandit Nilakantha Das, as both of them are practically identical. As Seth Govind Das is absent today owing to a domestic calamity, will you be good enough to permit Pandit Nilakantha Das to move No. 12?

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Pandit Nilakantha Das can move No. 23.

**Dr. P. N. Banerjea** (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, with regard to amendment No. 2 which stands in my name, may I crave your permission for one minute to make a statement?

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is about a Select Committee; that stage is over now.

**Pandit Nilakantha Das** (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I beg to move:

“That to clause 2 of the Bill, the following be added at the end:

‘and the said provisions shall, in so far as they enable the Governor General in Council to remit any duty so imposed, be construed as if with effect from the 1st day of April, 1936, they remitted the duty to the extent of the said one rupee and four annas, and such remission shall be deemed to have been made out of the leviable duty by rule made under that section.’”

The Salt Act, section 7, sub-section (a), provides that the Governor General may impose a duty, and, under sub-section (b) of section 7 of the Salt Act, he can also reduce or remit any duty so imposed. What I mean in this amendment is that the duty will be levied and that duty will, under sub-section (b), be remitted by the Governor General. The effect of it will be that there may remain some import duty on salt at least in some parts of British India. All import duties will not go,—they will remain specially in Burma and Aden. Whatever that may be, my amendment is to abolish practically all duty on salt in India proper. Yesterday, the Honourable the Finance Member, in the course of his speech, said

that the salt duty is a tax paid entirely and directly to the Government treasury. These nine crores the people pay to Government and get adequate relief in State service, whereas, in textiles and sugar alone, they pay 34 crores out of which only seven crores go to the Government treasury. In any case, there has been always the principle that the proceeds of any tax shall be divided between industrialists and the Government, and this protection, if not granted to any item of industry, I do not know if it will suit Government to accept it. But if this salt tax is abolished, industrialists alone may get much advantage, for the salt industry will grow. Moreover, as to this tax and the incidence of it on the poor people, it has been said year after year in this House that salt tax means practically a deterioration in the health of our people, of our cattle, of our plants. I would not expatiate on this point; I simply put it that this duty will not only benefit the poor, but, as I have indicated the salt industry will grow in this country if salt is made free and many of the unemployed at this present juncture will get employment. With these few words, I move my amendment.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Amendment moved:

"That to clause 2 of the Bill, the following be added at the end :

'and the said provisions shall, in so far as they enable the Governor General in Council to remit any duty so imposed, be construed as if with effect from the 1st day of April, 1936, they remitted the duty to the extent of the said one rupee and four annas, and such remission shall be deemed to have been made out of the leviable duty by rule made under that section'."

**Dr. Bhagavan Das** (Cities of the United Provinces: Non-Muhamadan Urban): Sir, any arguments that may be advanced by this side of the House are not likely to carry conviction to the Official Benches. But a few facts and figures may be mentioned for the consideration of the non-official Benches. From the budget I gather that Government propose to draw Rs. 8,75 lakhs by the salt tax from a population of about 270 millions, i.e., 27 crores. This gives us an average of between five and six annas per year per person. The Government's own Banking Enquiry Committee, in their report which was published a few years ago, said that "the average income per head of the agricultural population was about Rs. 42 per year or seven pice per day". That a person whose average income is seven pice per day should have to pay out of that income six annas a year, is, to say the least, cruel. We have to remember that salt is the only seasoning, is the only condiment, for the dry bread or *sattoo* or parched gram of perhaps 150 millions out of the 270 millions of our people, and for them to be deprived of this is not fair. We have also to remember that the poor man, because of this fact, namely, that salt is the only seasoning for his dry bread, has to consume much more salt than the rich man. And he needs salt for his cattle, besides. For the rich man also, to have to pay only six annas or even less a year on account of salt out of his income of anything from Rs. 70 to Rs. 700 per day, as against the seven pice per day of the poor man, is indeed sinful.

**Sir Cowasji Jehangir** (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Why don't you divide the six annas to ascertain the burden per day?

**Dr. Bhagavan Das**: Pandit Nilakantha Das has already pointed out that a great deal of employment for the unemployed hours of the village folk has been taken away from them by the Salt Department. There is

[Dr. Bhagavan Das.]

the additional fact that a large amount of barren land which is saline—and because of the fact of being saline is left uncultivated—is also not being utilised, while a lot of home industry has been abolished by the salt tax, which could and formerly did very usefully fill up the unfilled hours of the neighbouring population. The ever-recurring and right question from the Official Benches will probably be “How to meet the deficit if we remit the salt duty?” The equally ever-recurring and more right reply must be: “Plan the economic and industrial life of the country systematically, reduce the at present excessive distance between the extremes of the highest and lowest public salaries and also reduce the at present excessive distance between the extremes of the highest and lowest private incomes”. The time for muddling along anyhow, for just getting along from day to day and saying: “Enough for the day is the evil thereof”, has gone by. Without comprehensive planning, a budget which will be really helpful to the people is not possible.

These are the few facts I have to put before the House for its consideration before the matter goes to the vote.

**Mr. Sham Lal** (Ambala Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, the salt tax is the greatest calamity in certain areas. It is not a question of finance, but a question of living for some people. If Honourable Members were to visit a part of Gurgaon district and a part of Rohtak district, they would find how this salt tax has ruined certain villages. Nature has got its own way of distributing the advantages. In a part of the Gurgaon district which is the area round Farrukhnagar, salt was the only industry and the only means of living for the people. They used to supply salt to the area round Delhi—an area of nearly 100 miles. A railway was constructed for carrying salt, and Farrukhnagar was a very famous town. The villages round about this town also used to live upon salt. It does not require much effort to manufacture salt, you have only to draw water from the well and dry it. In the area in question, no wheat crops, no gram crops and no rice crops are grown. You cannot grow anything. After the imposition of the salt tax, the town of Farrukhnagar has become depopulated, and the villages have been ruined, because salt was the only means of their livelihood.

Now, you might say that a reduction of this tax would reduce your revenue, but I think Government have no right to deprive the villagers of a certain area of their only means of livelihood. You cannot grow wheat, you cannot grow rice and you cannot grow anything else, and your lands are lying uncultivated—still you have got to live. The result is that people are dying of starvation, and people are leaving villages. If you abolish the tax altogether, the amount of money that is paid in taxation in that part of the area is saved to the people. We have a reduced rate in the case of saltpetre. The salt manufactured in the Gurgaon district is quite fit for the use of animals, for tanning leather and various other purposes, and if the tax is reduced, I think it would give to the people in that area a means of livelihood. The question is not one of increasing revenue to the Government of India; I submit that the Government of India cannot deprive a certain area of the natural conditions it has got. Suppose that in England where you have the coal and iron industries, a high tax were imposed on them and the English people were to be deprived of their coal and iron, what would be the

result? One cannot say: "Well, the revenue must come from some source". It is a question of natural advantages. In a particular area, the question is upon what the people can live. If the people in that area can live only upon the salt industry, I think Government have no right to deprive the people of the natural advantages they have got. If they so deprive the people of these natural advantages, they must provide some other means of living for them and not leave them to their own fate and allow them to leave the villages. In the town of Farrukhnagar, there was a population of 15,000; now, on account of the destruction of the salt industry, the population has come down to 5,000. In villages, where there used to be a population of 3,000 and 4,000, the population has come down to 300 and 400. When we went to some of those villages, the villagers complained: "Here we have our silver mines in the land, but we are starving on account of the salt tax. This is the only industry which we have; we can manufacture salt, we can sell it, we can give it to our animals, we can consume it, but we cannot do anything, because the tax is very high". Therefore, my submission is that, in cases, where it is the only means of livelihood, we ought to see that the question of revenue does not come in: we should provide the means of livelihood, and I think it is quite iniquitous and very unjust to deprive the people of the means of their livelihood. I, therefore, support this amendment.

**Mr. Ram Narayan Singh** (Chota Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I think this Salt Act has created havoc throughout the country. In our part of the country there was a class of people known as Lunias. After the passing of this Act, we hear no more of this class: they are no more: they migrated from one place to another in search of employment and it is difficult to say what has become of them now. This Salt Act concerns the principles of taxation. I think the Honourable the Finance Member, the *Vidhata* of the budget and of this Finance Bill, is expected to know something if not all regarding the principles of taxation. In every country of the world, direct taxation is preferred to indirect taxation. Even in his own country, 60 per cent. of the revenue is derived from direct taxation; but in this country about 60 per cent. of the revenue is derived by indirect taxation. Indirect taxation is discouraged in every part of the world, simply because they take money from the people who do not know what they are paying. Indirect taxation can very well be called a kind of theft. You take away from the people who do not know what you are taking from them. Just now, as Dr. Bhagavan Das has said, this salt tax falls to the extent of six annas per head of the population. In a small family consisting of six or five persons in this way they realise at least one or two rupees per family. The other day, the Honourable the Finance Member said, describing the condition of the country, that in former times famine continued for about 12 years, whereas there is no famine now. This reminds me of a story current in the country. There was a Brahmin girl who fell in love with a Chamar. The Brahmin girl went to the house of the Chamar. In the beginning, she used to smell very bad things all round and she was very much confused. After some time, her nose became accustomed to the smell. After some time, more she began to say: "Look here; when I came to your place, there was bad smell all round, but everything is altered now." Then the Chamar said: "No, no: it is not a fact that the smells have gone out of the place, but the thing is that your nose has become vitiated and cannot feel the bad smell." Similarly, the thing now is that there is famine all along. So nobody feels the

[Mr. Ram Narayan Singh.]

pangs of famine now as used to be the case formerly. As I have said and I think the whole House will agree with me that the salt tax is a kind of theft, and anybody supporting this Bill will be charged with aiding that theft. I can go so far as to say that, sometimes, indirect tax is unavoidable. There are circumstances in which Government will have to impose indirect taxes; but economists agree that it is the luxuries of the people which ought to be taxed and not the necessities. But this Government cannot distinguish what is the luxury of the people and what are their necessities: they tax anything and everything. This reminds me of a saying going on in the villages. It is this:

"Andher Nagari, chaupat Raja, Take ser Bhajee, Take ser Khaja."

It means:

"Chaotic town, idiot King, two pice per seer vegetables, two pice per seer sweets."

(Laughter.)

, This is the attitude of the Government exactly. They will go on taxing anything and everything, no matter whether it is a necessary of life or a luxury. The Honourable the Finance Member was proud enough to say that the country is in a very happy state these days; I invite him to my area; let him come and see. I tell him, in my part of the country, there are people who do not know what is corn for full nine months in a year. I mean the Chota-Nagpur and Sontha Parganas: for nine months in the year the people live on roots, fruits and leaves from jungles: they do not know what corn is; and still the Honourable the Finance Member comes forward on behalf of this Satanic Government and says they are happy. With these words, I wish that every Member of the House, who is not going to support and aid in this crime of theft, will support this motion.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga** (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, in rising to support this amendment, I wish to state in the very beginning that I support this amendment, not because I am opposed to taxation in every one of its forms but because I am anxious that if taxes are to be paid at all they should be paid to a Government which takes sufficient care to cut down its own expenditure upon the services, which tries to spend the maximum amount of public revenues upon public utility services and which is anxious to do all that lies in its power to develop the productive capacity and ability of the people; and also that, if taxes are to be paid, they should be paid by different classes of people in such a manner that those who can pay are made to pay to the extent that they can pay, and those who cannot pay are not made to pay even to the slightest extent possible. I find that neither the Government nor the public in this country have yet realised the necessity for helping the masses in this country to develop their own productive capacity and for helping the poor of this country to escape from the necessity of having to pay unnecessary, unfair and unduly high taxation. It is most unfortunate that whenever any surplus has been found by the Government of India in their budgets, they have tried to give tax remission only to that class of people who have been very well organised, who have become powerful in the press and who have also become too powerful even for this Government of India, which has to its credit an unenviable record of being immune to public opinion in this

country and to all criticism in the press and on the platform. The remission has to be given whenever there is a surplus in the financial position of the Government of India, but, in so doing, it is the Government of India's duty, as well as of the public, to see that only those who really deserve tax remission are given such remissions. It is true that unfortunately, not only in India, but also in the rest of the world, the poor and the down-trodden, who really are not capable of bearing any further taxation at all, are today being over-burdened with taxation, and, therefore, it is necessary that they should be given the benefit of any surplus in the budget of this Government or in the budgets of any Provincial Governments. But, unfortunately, neither the Provincial Governments nor the Central Government have tried to act up to this and to give the benefit of the surplus budget to the poor. On the other hand, they have been busy in piling up, year after year, the burdens of taxation that are inflicted upon the poor masses.

To support my point, Sir, I would only draw the attention of this House to the fact that in customs, in salt and in every direction the burden on the poor has been increased since 1918. The revenue from the salt tax itself has increased from six crores 84 lakhs in 1921-22, that is, two years after the great war had ended, to eight crores 75 lakhs by this budget. So it is two crores 59 lakhs more than what they had to pay before the war. It was then contended by Sir Malcolm Hailey, one of the predecessors of the present Finance Member, that, during war time, wages of the workers had gone up in towns as well as in agricultural areas, and, therefore, they were in a better position to bear this tax, which, after all, came to six annas per head per annum. Even that plea cannot be brought forward today, either by the Finance Member or his Secretary, because, Sir, even according to the Budget Officer, the index figures of prices of commodities are lower than what they were in 1918. What justification can there be for this additional levy of nearly two crores 50 lakhs upon the poor people; and, if we come to examine the correctness of their estimate that on every-poor man the *per capita* incidence of this particular tax is only six annas per annum, we realise that they are awfully mistaken. Sir, by levying this particular salt tax, we prohibit, as my friend, Dr. Bhagavan Das, has already stated, the ordinary people, the peasants and workers, in all those areas of the country where you have got lands, unfit for cultivation, but fit for the manufacture of salt, from manufacturing salt and thus eking out their livelihood. We also prevent large numbers of peasants from trying to supplement their incomes by manufacturing salt either on saline lands or on the sea-shore. It is these people who will be directly benefited if we abolish the salt tax. Their numbers will certainly be very much more than one million people as was mentioned by the Finance Member yesterday, who can be expected to derive additional employment if the industrialisation of this country were to be promoted by prohibiting all imports into this country and by giving every possible assistance as was mentioned by the Deputy Leader and also by the Deputy Leader of the Independent Party. And, is it not fair that the Government of India should try to attempt to provide a chance for one million and more people to get additional employment not by prohibiting all imports into this country, not by spending crores of rupees, not only from provincial coffers but also from the Central coffers, in order to stimulate the industrial development of the country, but by trying to remit the salt tax. It may be argued how then will the Central Government be able to make good this particular

[Prof. N. G. Ranga.]

loss of eight crores and 75 lakhs? Sir, I am quite prepared to show the way. Yes, some of my friends would at once think that I would suggest an income-tax upon people who get incomes from their lands.

**An Honourable Member:** Why not?

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** I would certainly be justified in suggesting a thing like that. But, unfortunately, it is no use making a suggestion like that in this House, because our Finance Member has absolutely no regard at all for history, except of course for making absurd quotations here from a book, even the name of which he could not mention here . . . .

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member must confine himself to the salt tax. the discussion must be relevant to the clause.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Sir, I shall try to be as relevant as possible. I am not quite so well prepared to make that suggestion of levying an income-tax upon people who derive their incomes from lands, I mean zemindars and other people of this country, as an alternative scheme of taxation for the abolition of salt tax. . . .

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member must confine himself to the salt tax. He cannot discuss any alternative scheme of taxation. He should confine himself to the salt tax.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** I am only taking it as a supposition. I am not prepared to make that suggestion, because, Sir, the Joint Parliamentary Committee has stated that it is for the future Provincial Governments to levy it, wherever the Provincial Legislatures think it possible and necessary. But incidentally I may be permitted to state that as much as 150 crores are being paid by the peasants of this country, by nearly one half of the peasantry of this country, to all these intermediaries between the State on the one side and themselves on the other. These intermediaries did come into existence because of the fiat of the British Government, and these people flourish even today in spite of the economic depression, because of the long arm of this Government standing behind them and protecting them and even encouraging them to enhance the rents and rates charging them most inhuman and unconscionable rents . . . .

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Again, the Chair would ask the Honourable Member to confine himself to the clause.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** All right, Sir. In asking for the remission of salt tax, I wish to suggest that the Government should be quite prepared to follow up the recommendations made by the Taxation Inquiry Committee that certain rates, at certain grades of pay, should be raised, and although that Report was submitted to them more than ten years ago, Government, even today, do not propose to charge at least the same rates as were proposed ten years ago, with the result . . . .

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Is it on salt tax?

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Not salt tax.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Then, the Honourable Member must confine himself to salt tax.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** May I ask for some guidance and information from you? Am I prohibited by the Standing Orders from making suggestions in the course of my speech for the repeal of the salt tax, to the Government of India . . . .

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member will be quite in order so long as he asks for the repeal of the salt tax, but he cannot go into any general scheme of taxation.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** I think it is my duty to this House when I propose the abolition of the salt tax that I should be prepared to show an alternative scheme of taxation in order to strengthen me in my argument.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot wander into all sorts of schemes of taxation.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** I am not wandering into all sorts of schemes of taxation, but I am pitching my attention on one particular point, and I ask the House to concentrate its attention upon another alternative scheme of taxation, and it is only one. In the last ten years, the value of commodities raised by the peasants has gone down by nearly 50 per cent. Because of the fall in prices, the value of agricultural produce raised by the peasants has gone down, as I have said, by 50 per cent., and yet the salt tax goes on rising. The revenue from it goes on rising. Soon after the War, it was maintained that because it was an emergent necessity for the Government of India to make good their deficit of nearly 20 crores, the peasants and workers were asked to bear their share of taxation, and, therefore, it was doubled. But what plea of emergency can the Honourable the Finance Member bring forward in order to ask this House to sanction a revenue of no less than Rs. 876 lakhs from salt alone? If this were the only tax that the peasants and workers were obliged to pay, then it might be contended, with some plausibility, by the Treasury Bench that, after all, it was not very much, that it was only six annas per head. But there is the land revenue assessment that is raised by all the Provincial Governments, and it alone comes to Rs. 1-7-0 per head per annum all over the country. Then there is the enormous income that is being derived in increasing dimensions by Local Governments from Stamps.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is really making a budget speech.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** If it is your intention that I should not make any speech, I am prepared to sit down.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is not the Chair's intention, but the Honourable Member must be relevant.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** I am trying to be as relevant as it is possible for me.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair wants the Honourable Member to be actually relevant.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Actually revelant I thought I was, but if I am not, I shall try to comply with your wishes.

As much as Rs. 1-7-0 is being raised in the shape of land revenue, and nearly half as much is being raised in the shape of Stamps, and a similar amount in the shape of tax on toddy and other drinks. So, it comes to Rs. 3-9-0, *plus* six annas on salt alone. Even yesterday, the Honourable the Finance Member had estimated the whole national income of this country at Rs. 1,800 crores . . .

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg** (Finance Member): 1,600 crores.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** That serves my purpose. I do not know how he has arrived at that figure, I am sure he would not be able to substantiate it because he has no use for statistics, because he has no statistical department in this country and because . . .

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The House stands adjourned till a quarter past two.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till a Quarter Past Two of the Clock.

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The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at a Quarter Past Two of the Clock, Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) in the Chair.

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**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** I was saying before the House got up for Lunch that the masses of this country are being over-burdened by one tax or the other and that on the head of land revenue alone they were paying Rs. 1-7-0, that in the form of excise duties Rs. 1-7-0 per head and then on stamps 11 annas and on customs Rs. 1-8-0, totalling Rs. 5-1-0 per head per annum. What they have to pay in the form of salt tax is in addition to the Rs. 5-1-0 per head per annum. We have to consider this question of the abolition of the salt tax only after keeping in mind this particular great contribution that they are making towards the maintenance of the Government of this country, either in the Provinces or in the Centre. The Honourable the Finance Member estimated the total annual national income of this country as 1600 crores of rupees. That gives us nearly Rs. 44-8-0 per head per annum. As I have said, I do not know how he has arrived at this figure. I remember having come across another estimate made by an eminent economist and that was put at 1200 crores of rupees. Even if we were to accept the Honourable the Finance Member's estimate of 1600 crores of rupees, high though it is in view of the enormous fall in prices during the last five years, we get only Rs. 44-8 per head per annum for the population of the whole of this country.

But, if on the other hand we were to calculate it only for the British Indians, it is, I admit, a little more. It may come up to Rs. 50, but this salt tax is being levied not only upon the urban classes but also upon the rural classes. The rural masses alone number 75 per cent. of the total population of this country and their *per capita* income is very much lower indeed. I made an estimate only recently, with the aid of the statistics published from time to time by the Government of India, and I have

arrived at the figure of Rs. 25 per head per annum for the agricultural classes, peasants and workers taken together and the other artisans dependent upon them. It is out of this Rs. 25 per annum per head that an agriculturist has to pay this Rs. 5-1-0 towards some of the taxes of the State.

In addition to the taxes that I have already enumerated, there are very many taxes, such as the cesses levied by the Local Boards, the various cesses that are being levied from time to time by the village panchayats that are being established in various parts of India and the terminal taxes, not to speak of the professional tax and various other taxes raised in the municipal areas. So, more than 20 per cent. of the total annual income of an agriculturist is being absorbed towards taxation, even according to the statistics of the Government of India. How many of the urban classes are made to pay just as much from out of their total gross income towards the maintenance of the State? Very few indeed. It is because the Taxation Committee has realised this anomaly it has suggested that other taxes should be found by the Government of India and other Provincial Governments in order to minimize, to some extent, this unequal distribution of tax burden between the rich on the one side and the poor on the other, but no action has been taken on those recommendations although it is more than ten years. It is true that some of the Provincial Governments have accepted the recommendation of the Taxation Committee to levy a tobacco duty but the Central Government has not done anything even in regard to the salt duty. Sir, the Taxation Committee has suggested that tax relief should be given to the poor and yet no attempt has been made by the Government of India. Last budget time and this budget time, when the Government of India had an opportunity of giving tax relief to some classes of people or other, they preferred to give that tax relief to those who pay income-tax and super-tax on the specious plea that there was a pledge given by Sir George Schuster, the predecessor of our present Finance Member. Sir, what was that pledge? It was a conditional pledge that was given. When he was imposing emergency taxation, direct and indirect, on the rich and on the poor; he thought it fit to give a conditional pledge only for the benefit of the rich and not for the benefit of the poor. Then the Honourable the Finance Member had to admit the other day that that pledge really did not directly cover the surcharges that were then levied upon kerosene, upon salt and other taxes. It was only implied in the sense that it was called a surcharge, it was called an emergency taxation. That clearly shows how partial this Government has always been towards the rich. And the pledge, because it was a partial, one sided and improper one, should not be considered a sacred pledge at all and when this Government is busy in disregarding so many more justifiable and sacred pledges I really cannot understand why the Honourable the Finance Member, who has not displayed very much of respect towards the proposals of his predecessors, should be so very respectful towards this particular partial and one sided and unjust pledge given by his predecessor. This relief to those who have to pay direct taxes, during these two years, increases the inequality that has always existed in the distribution of the burden of taxation between the rich and the poor, and yet I do not know why he was able to pride himself upon the fact that he was trying to help the poor and to help especially the agriculturists and the rural masses.

Then, Sir, we are met with another argument from the Treasury Benches, that, after all, it is only six annas. If it is not six annas, it may be calculated at  $4\frac{1}{2}$  annas and after all  $4\frac{1}{2}$  annas is not much. Why bother about

[Prof. N. G. Ranga.]

it? If only the Honourable the Finance Member or his Secretary, Mr. Lloyd, would care to accompany me to those innumerable villages that I am busy visiting during the recess, I would be able to show to them how valuable this 4½ annas is and can be in the family economy of any poor peasant or artisan. I can take him to any shop where there are men and women giving out small quantities of grain, it may be one third of a pice, or 1/12th of an anna to a merchant and bargaining for the supply of five or six commodities—a little bit of cocoanut oil, a little bit of castor oil, one or two drops of gingelly oil and just a little of turmeric. and, I dare say, a little bit of sweets for their children and then begin to haggle with the merchant for a little more. You may call it *dasturi* or tip or anything you may like. It is known as *kosaru* in my language. That is always being asked for and over that there are always many pleasant and unpleasant jokes at each other's expense. It is in that way that they make their purchases. I submitted a report once to the Government of Madras on the manner in which poor people make their purchases in the various shandies or markets that are held in various parts of Madras and Government were surprised, out of their wits, how this sort of business could be carried on. I had to submit that report, because I was then appointed a special honorary officer for making an economic survey. I know that the Government of India have no use for economic surveys. Experts are of no use. Statistics are of no use. Even for the Madras Government it came to be of no use, because they gave up any further surveys into the economic conditions of the peasants, when they saw the results of this survey to be so heart-rending and inconvenient. Such are the people from whom Government collects this Rs. 5 per annum per head out of the Rs. 25 per head that they earn. Is that a fair thing to do?

Then the Honourable the Finance Member might say to this House: 'Here is an Honourable Member who makes an irresponsible suggestion and who asks the Government of India to lose as much as eight crores and 75 lakhs per annum. How am I to balance my budgets? Wherefrom am I to get this revenue? If I cannot get this revenue my credit would go down and the Government's liability to pay interest periodically on their loans would become too burdensome'. He would say that it would be impossible for him to get any more money from Opium on account of the convention passed at the League of Nations. It would be impossible for him to raise any more money on land revenue because the centrally administered areas are already overburdened. Anyhow, I hope he would not think of raising land revenue in the centrally administered areas. Although the Honourable the Home Member was not prepared to accept the results published by the District Congress Committee of Delhi in regard to conditions in the rural areas, it is true that land revenue burden, even in the centrally administered areas, is too high, and, therefore, cannot be increased. Then what is the other revenue that we can think of. He will turn round and tell me that I am speaking on behalf of consumers, and, therefore, I cannot ask him to raise the customs duty any longer. Then what is that source of income from which the Government of India can derive their income in order to make up this loss? It must be a source of revenue which will go on bringing in more and more money as the needs of the State increase, and what is that source of revenue? Now, Sir, I don't think there will be any Honourable Member in this House who will suggest that all the taxes should be paid by the poor alone or by one particular section of the people alone. If taxes are

to be paid, they ought to be paid by all those who can bear them. I have looked into the past proceedings of the budget Sessions in this House. Everybody has said that certainly the poor people alone should not be made to pay the tax towards the maintenance of the State and that the rich alone should pay. That is my contention. Of course, I may be met with the argument raised by my Honourable friend, the Baronet from Bombay, and others, that the rich people have been made to pay very much more. I do not wish to go into detail. I wish only to state one particular fact for your consideration. If you look into the reports published on the collection of income-tax by the Government of India, it would be possible for you to find out that the number of people who are able to pay you income-tax has increased by leaps and bounds during recent years and especially the number of people paying income-tax on an annual income of more than Rs. 2,000 has increased to an enormous extent, by more than 60 per cent. since 1921. That naturally raises the question that if the ability of these people to pay income-tax has increased, in the last fourteen or fifteen years, how is it that they are paying less and less? What about the others? As I have already told you, Sir, at the beginning of my speech, the incomes of the poor peoples have gone down by fifty per cent. and even more in the last few years. And in spite of what my Honourable friend, Mr. Sanjiva Row, has had to say the other day, it is a fact, it is an unvarnished fact that the income of the poor people in this country, the income of the peasants in this country, has been going down and is going down even today. It may be due to the depression, it may be due to the incapacity of this Government to do anything, it may be due to the unwillingness of this Government to do anything to improve their productive capacity, and it is such people who are made to pay more and more,—from the Rs. 6,34 lakhs in 1921-22 they are asked to pay Rs. 8,75,00,000 now. Is that fair, I ask? Then if the Honourable the Finance Member thinks he cannot very well touch these rich men because they are so very powerful, and there are rich people in every party, I would only ask him why this Government, which has been powerful enough to put two lakhs of us in jail, powerful enough to keep on the Statute-book so many of these unwanted laws, powerful enough to keep thousands and thousands of people in jail without any trial, powerful enough to try to destroy our Congress and then claim, "Oh, yes, the Congress is all gone, except for these Gandhi caps in this House"—why should this Government be so very much afraid of these rich people? If it is not afraid of all the millions of people in this country who call themselves peasants and workers and who constitute by far the bulk of the population of this vast country, why should it be afraid of these rich people? Sir, it is all because it is itself in alliance with the rich people. (Hear, hear.) Sir, it is all very well for the Honourable the Finance Member to say that the Congress is generally in alliance with high finance. I say, no, Sir: it is not the Congress which is in alliance, but on the contrary high finance fights shy of the Congress; it is high finance which has entered into an alliance with Lancashire by means of the Mody-Lees pact (Hear, hear), it is high finance which sees no prospect of being able honestly to compete with Japan, it is high finance which is prepared to welcome Lancashire goods but not the goods from Japan or the products of hand-loom weavers, and, Sir, it is high finance which is today ruling in the councils of the Governor General in Council,—and it is that high finance which I want the Honourable the Finance Member, if he really wishes to be fresh in his methods as he has been posing to be so here, to touch. Well, he does look fresh enough any way. Sir, he can

[Prof. N. G. Ranga.]

somehow manage to raise this eight crores 75 lakhs. For this reason, Sir, from 34 crores to 54 crores, the customs revenue has risen in the last 14 years, that is an increase of 20 crores. That is just a little more than all that is being paid by the rich people in the shape of income-tax and super-tax. If the poor classes can be made to pay 54 crores in the shape of customs duties, eight crores and 75 lakhs in the shape of salt tax, I do not see any reason why the rich people should not be made to pay eight crores 75 lakhs for the relief of the poor people. That is the amount which will be involved in the abolition of this tax. But the Government is not going to do that.

I wish to place before this House one further fact that it is not only four annas six pies which an individual will be gaining by the abolition of this tax. You would be able to provide employment, voluntarily, for more than one million people in the country side. It is true that, the rich people and the urban classes may anyhow have to pay, hereafter, for the salt that they consume. Well, Sir, they can very well afford to pay it. I might be asked what about the urban working classes? We are being asked to pay these customs duties in order to help my Honourable friend, the Baronet from Bombay, and also the industrial workers in urban areas and should they not at least make this much of contribution to relieve the poor masses? If that is justifiable, then who are to be benefited directly by this? It is the rural masses and workers and peasants and there would be no less than 50 millions of people and each one of them would be gaining Rs. 1-8-0 per annum as addition to an annual income of Rs. 25. This sum of Rs. 1-8-0 is certainly a mentionable amount. After what Government take away from the annual income of Rs. 25—they take away to the extent of nearly Rs. 6—this additional sum of Rs. 1-8-0 is a considerable sum. Will not this Government be good enough to make that gift to the ordinary peasants.

I am not asking the Government to spend this money by devising ways and means by which industrialisation can be brought about in this country. I was surprised the other day when the Honourable Member for Industries and Labour got up and asked my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, what were his ideas of developing industry in this country? Well, Sir, it is for the Government of India to do that. It is not our business. If I were the Government of India, I would be able to produce a number of schemes from my sleeves and I would be ashamed to ask any Honourable Member of this House to produce a scheme. It is for the Government of India to produce the scheme. After 150 years of benign rule of the British Government, the Honourable the Finance Member says, there are no famines now, while there used to be famines before. I am quite prepared to believe most of the things which the Honourable the Finance Member wants us to believe. Yes, there were famines before the British Government came into this country, there was salt tax before the British Government came into this country. What is it that the British Government have done, if we are suffering today in the same way as we used to suffer before the advent of British rule? What is it that the masses have gained by British rule? Practically nothing.

**An Honourable Member:** There were no epidemic diseases before the advent of British rule.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Look at any part of India you like. There is the Khulna district, there is the Gujrat where revenue officers, the *patwari* and the *chaukidar*, had to resign their jobs on account of their inability to collect taxes that are cruelly raised by Government, in spite of the raging famine for the past four or five years. The neighbouring provinces and the neighbouring districts are all suffering from famine. There is the Burdwan and several other districts in that part of the country from which the Honourable the Law Member hails and I do not know whether he is just as fond of Bengal as we are all of India. There is famine in Burdwan. There is famine in the Punjab and in the Central Provinces. Peasant marches are being organized in those parts in order to ask for tax remission. The tragic part of it is that Government are not even prepared to extend the salt concessions to those parts which are badly famine stricken. Will the Government tell me whether they have extended the free salt concessions to any place in India during the whole of last year? If that is the result of 150 years of British rule, well, I leave the Honourable the Finance Member to feel proud of it, and I can only say, "God save us from this sort of Government".

What I want is eight crores and seventy-five lakhs as tax relief. It is not a great demand. The Honourable Member gave two crores to the rich people last year and this year. He might turn round and say, "Oh! I have given one crore last year and I am giving one crore and seventy-five lakhs this year which makes a total of two crores and 75 lakhs for rural uplift. What more do you want?" He has himself stated that there is no possibility of any more grant hereafter. Well, Sir, he has given two crores and 75 lakhs in return for how much? Fifty-four crores paid in the shape of customs duties, eight crores 75 lakhs paid in the shape of salt tax. That is for the Government of India alone. What about the Provincial Governments and the millions of money that are being paid to them? Out of Rs. 25 *per capita* head of income, nearly Rs. six is paid to the Government from the ordinary agriculturist. The Honourable Member ought to realise what he has done for peasants does not go anywhere and that it is not at all enough.

Every Honourable Member of this House has already made it perfectly clear that we want the total abolition of the salt tax. (Interruption.) I know my Honourable friends are impatient about moving their own amendments on salt tax with a view to get remission. They think if we are not able to get this total abolition, let us at least get a remission of two annas or four annas or more. It may be that this question has been discussed again and again for several years past in this House as well as in its predecessors. It may be so, but I say it is on this that the British Government is going to break itself, it is on this that the people of this country have carried a national fight all along. It is for the sake of this that Mahatma Gandhi has had to march to Dandi, it is for the sake of this that people like myself have had to give up rosy chances of jobs and come down here to fight the people's cause. It was over some such thing that the French Revolution broke out and the post-war German Revolution took place. It is over such a seemingly unimportant thing that the Russian Revolution took place. I warn the Government that, if they do not abolish this salt tax, they are bargaining for a revolution. I am not so very keen whether you heed my warning or not, because you seem to be bent on bargaining for a revolution. But if you do not want revolution in this country, then make a beginning and get rid of

[Prof. N. G. Ranga.]

eight crores and 75 lakhs. Try to make a gesture to the masses. Otherwise the masses will be perfectly justified in going about the country rising, not only against this Government, but also against all those classes who have been co-operating with this Government in order that the masses might be exploited. It is easy to say, yes, look at these people, they have gone mad. Mahatma Gandhi was once attacked as being mad. The great Wilberforce was once attacked as being mad. It serves the interests of the rich, the Anglo-Indian and the pro-Government Press to style some of us as mad people. Yes, Sir, we are mad, mad with rage, mad against injustice, mad against this Government, mad against tyranny and mad against all repressive laws. I would rather that these 365 millions of people should go so mad as to get rid of this system of Government than that we should parade ourselves as sensible people as some of my Honourable friends over there and there, and say "everything is quiet on the western front" while as a matter of fact there would be the German march into the Rhur. (Applause.)

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** In spite of the eloquent appeal to which we have just listened, I am afraid that I cannot accept his invitation to flee from the wrath that is to come, and if all this wrath is to follow the rejection by the Government of his proposal to repeal the salt duty completely, I am afraid it must come, because it is quite clear that to surrender something like eight crores of revenue on a narrowly balanced budget, which has considerable calls on it in the future, is quite impossible. I do not wish to go, in this connection, into any questions of comparative weight of taxation on different classes or even on individuals. What is quite clear is that the budget cannot at the present moment spare even a small portion of this eight crores. Sir, I oppose the amendment.

**Mr. M. A. Jinnah (Bombay City: Muhammadan Urban):** Sir, I do not share in the anxiety to save this Government. If a revolution is to come about by the continuation of the salt tax, I think we ought to welcome it. (Laughter.) If the power of Government is going to be destroyed by their deeds in Bengal and all over India, as my Honourable friend yesterday pointed out, then I do not want to correct them. Go on with your repression, go on with your salt duty; but, Sir, that is not my object,—to save the Government. Unfortunately we are here in this Legislature, and we are circumscribed within certain limits. This is not a new question, and I do not think I need assure my Honourable friends there that my anxiety is not any the less than theirs if any real relief can be given to the poor. But the difficulty that I have always found,—I have been in this Legislature for many years, and this question has cropped up every year,—the difficulty is that if you want to abolish the salt tax as a matter of principle on any grounds,—and there are many grounds for it.—then we have got to suggest an alternative. If we on this side of the House, as the Opposition, were to examine the budget critically and carefully and put forward a definite alternative to the budget, then I can understand our pressing Government and holding to our opinions and saying that the salt duty must be abolished. But, unfortunately, we have never been able to do that and no definite scheme has ever emerged from the Opposition Bench. I do not say that

it is our obligation in the sense that we are obliged to do it; but remember the situation under which we are working; and, therefore, what we have to do is this. We have to show how we can also produce a balanced budget, and a better one than Government are doing. It may be that they may not accept it, but surely we shall then justify our position before the world and say that having shown this we are going to abolish the salt tax and let the Governor General certify it. That we have not been able to do yet. I know we cannot make a motion to appropriate revenues or the monies; that is not open to us within the four corners of the Constitution, but it is surely open to us to put forward a definite scheme and say: "Here this is what we want Government to do". If that is not taken care of in the next year, let me tell you, I shall be with the Honourable Members then and say: "Now, we have given you a chance, we will abolish the salt duty altogether and you can certify it if you like." I do not, therefore, want merely a sentimental sort of thing which you bring up, and which fizzles out without clinching the thing as you should clinch it. Therefore, although I can support this amendment, I am not going, in case of a division, to walk into the Government lobby.

**Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant** (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): But you have thrown out supplies demanded for the Defence Department, and most of it is non-votable. And that was eight crores . . . .

**Mr. M. A. Jinnah:** Excuse me, that was not on the financial ground.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

That was not on the ground that we were suggesting another financial budget. That was merely, as I made it clear, a pure constitutional issue condemning the military policy of the Government.

**Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant:** But including extravagance.

**Mr. M. A. Jinnah:** I beg your pardon. The army grant was thrown out by us, not because we had no grievance with regard to that grant itself, but as a constitutional gesture. We say that the army policy of Government is so wrong that this is the only way in which we can show our disapproval. That has nothing to do with the budgetary position at all. I am now dealing with the budgetary proposals. Therefore, that is the position that I take up.

Further, I have always tried my best to understand, and I am open to conviction whether, if there is any reduction of the salt duty, it will really give any substantial relief to the poor men that we have in our minds. I really must honestly confess that I have not been satisfied that the reduction is going to give any substantial relief to the poor man. Therefore, I feel this, that neither are we going to help the poor man, nor are we in a position to suggest an alternative. And, working within the four corners of the Constitution, it will not be justifiable on my part to

[Mr. M. A. Jinnah.]

say to Government: "I have examined your budgetary proposals, and I want now to knock off eight crores or four crores, or even a crore and a half." I am not in a position to do that. At the same time, I do not subscribe to the soundness of the position of Government. And, therefore, my Party, after full consideration, have decided on this question that we cannot support the amendment, but we cannot support Government either.

**Mr. M. S. Aney** (Berar Representative): Sir, the speech, which my Honourable friend, Mr. Jinnah, has just made, has induced me to intervene in this debate. He has put forward two reasons for the attitude which he and his Party will take up. One is that those who have moved this cut have failed to put forward any alternative scheme for filling up the gap in the revenues which will be made by this amendment and without which he does not think it would be justifiable for us to demand a reduction of revenue to the tune of eight crores. At the same time he has told us that he does not think that the reduction of the salt duty will mean really any relief at all. I am unable to reconcile these two positions. If my Honourable friend thinks that a reduction of the salt duty will mean no relief to the poor at all, then the question of the entire abolition of the salt duty even . . .

**Mr. M. A. Jinnah:** I did not say it will give entirely or no relief at all. At present I am only speaking from what I am able to understand, and I am open to conviction; but I do say that at present I am not satisfied that a reduction of the salt duty will give any substantial relief to the poor man. That is my position.

**Mr. M. S. Aney:** I think I precisely understood my Honourable friend to mean what he has just said, that he is not yet convinced that a reduction of the salt duty will mean any substantial relief to the poor. That is the position and I accept that position. If that is so, how would he be justified in voting for the total abolition of the salt duty if there are alternative budgetary proposals put forward by the other Party?

**Mr. M. A. Jinnah:** I may not; but produce a scheme first.

**Mr. M. S. Aney:** If even in that case he is not going to vote for the abolition of the salt duty, then the argument that is put forward has, in my opinion, no immediate value for the purpose of considering our attitude on this particular amendment at all. All that he means to say is that anybody who comes here for the sake of the abolition or a substantial reduction of any tax which Government may want to impose through their Finance Bill must necessarily have a counter scheme, so that if a tax is thrown out or reduced, there may be something else in its place which may be reasonably considered by the House. That is all what he means in the first part of his speech. It has got nothing to do with regard to the attitude to be taken up by any member of his Party on this particular motion. I only want to draw attention to one point of view, that is the second point of view. The duty on salt has all along been considered as a duty upon one of the necessities of life, and a duty on

a necessary of life is justified only, in my opinion, when there is an emergency which compels Government to recover revenue from the people. If there is not that emergency, the general policy should be the avoidance of necessities of life being included in the list of articles which are to be taxed. This is a case on which, from the very beginning, the Congress and the Indian public have consistently and emphatically protested, and declared that the duty on salt is one of the unreasonable duties and ought to be removed. This duty has undergone various changes from the old times. It is true that under the existing condition of the budget if the duty is removed it means a loss of eight crores of rupees; there is no doubt on that point. But our attitude on this point will depend upon the reply which Government can make. Are they prepared to consider any proposal which will ultimately lead to the abolition of the salt duty within a reasonable period? If the Government's reply had been of the nature that under the existing conditions they could not consider it, but that they were prepared to proceed by gradual stages, ultimately tending to the total abolition of a duty on an extremely necessary article of diet of the Indian people, within a reasonable time, I personally would not have been inclined to vote on the amendment as it is. But the attitude of the Government is of an entirely negative nature. Such being the case, I and my friends sitting behind me cannot accept this attitude of complete negation of their grievance—which has been a standing grievance of the Indian public for the last 40 or 50 years. To that our reply is that we have to stand by the demand of the country made for so many years. For that reason, I would advise my friends to vote for the motion.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** The intervention of my Honourable friend, the Leader of the Independent Party, is always welcome in this House: I wish he intervened oftener. He has thrown out a challenge to this side practically. I propose to answer that challenge, most respectfully and very briefly. My Honourable friend says that the removal of the salt duty will not give substantial relief to the poor. I want to remind my Honourable friend that the poverty of this country is one which no English word can adequately describe. (Hear, hear.) They talk of poverty in other countries in a quite different sense. If a poor man in this country can get eight annas the whole year round, it is a real addition to his income. Many people in this country cannot buy a yard of cloth, to make an additional bit of clothing for themselves. I am sure my friend knows it; several of them cannot afford two meals a day. I, therefore, suggest that the removal of the salt duty will bring substantial relief, not in our dictionary, but in the dictionary of the poorest in this land. I suggest that the average income being between seven pies a day and two annas at the most optimistic estimate, even the relief which eight crores of taxation being removed will give to the poor is not unsubstantial. I would, therefore, appeal to his generous heart to think of the poorest in this country, and vote for this motion.

The second argument he gave was that we have not suggested alternative schemes of taxation. I am very glad that, shrewd parliamentarian that he is, he recognised that it was no part of our obligation, and, if Government had asked that question, I would have said, no; but since he has asked that question, I would attempt to answer it. I want to tell him that a ten per cent. cut in salaries will give us four crores a year. Has he ever heard of salaries, on the scale prevailing in India, in any

[Mr. S. Satyamurti.]

country in the world? How long will these fat salaries go on without their being touched in spite of the cataclysmal fall in prices? Why should we not bring them down, and give the poor this relief? Secondly, my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, who has constituted himself Deputy Providence to financial autonomy, forgot that he is the Finance Member of the Government of India. Why should we think of a revenue reserve fund out of the surplus? I ask my friend: "Is it just, is it fair, to tax the poorest in the land, make a surplus, and build up a revenue reserve fund—to create new provinces, give them funds. Why is it right, is it not a luxury comparatively speaking?"

Then, Sir, we have, I think, under-estimated the revenue this year also. My Honourable friend comes from a city where there are distinguished men who belong to Chambers of Commerce. I have been flooded—as I am sure he has been—during the last few days, with statements in which they have deliberately stated that the Finance Member has under-estimated the revenue. Taking all these together, we can easily make these eight crores.

But, Sir, I would like to conclude by supporting the point made by my Honourable friend, the Leader of the Nationalist Party. If the Government were willing to have a plan of reducing the eight crores by two crores a year or even by one crore a year in four or eight years, I can understand the attitude of the Leader of the Independent Party but their attitude is one of *non possumus*. And, after all, although my Honourable friend explained our vote on the Army cut was based more on constitutional than on financial grounds, I am sure, as one who knows the inner working of the Army Department to the extent to which "ignorant Members of this House" can ever be allowed to know these things, he ought to know—none better—that there is ample scope for retrenchment on Army expenditure. We are spending 45 crores of rupees on it; is it suggested seriously by any one, that you cannot reduce two crores out of that forty-five, can you not do it, does not my friend know it can be done? I do appeal to him—he made a valiant appeal the other day for our sitting down and settling our quarrels. Let him make a beginning today by walking into the lobby with us, and we will be starting on the road to settling these quarrels.

**Some Honourable Members:** Sir, I move that the question be now put.

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

"That the question be now put."

The motion was adopted.

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

"That to clause 2 of the Bill, the following be added at the end:

'and the said provisions shall in so far as they enable the Governor General in Council to remit any duty so imposed, be construed as if with effect from the 1st day of April, 1936, they remitted the duty to the extent of the said one rupee and four annas, and such remission shall be deemed to have been made out of the leviable duty by rule made under that section.'

The Assembly divided:

AYES—52.

Aaron, Mr. Samuel.  
Aney, Mr. M. S.  
Asaf Ali, Mr. M.  
Ayyangar, Mr. M. Ananthasayanam.  
Ba Si, U  
Banerjee, Dr. P. N.  
Bhagavan Das, Dr.  
Chattoadhyaya, Mr. Amarendra Nath.  
Chettiar, Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam.  
Chetty, Mr. Sami Vencatachelam.  
Chunder, Mr. N. C.  
Das, Mr. B.  
Das, Mr. Basanta Kumar.  
Das, Pandit Nilakantha.  
Datta, Mr. Akhil Chandra.  
Desai, Mr. Bhulabhai J.  
Gadgil, Mr. N. V.  
Giri, Mr. V. V.  
Gupta, Mr. Ghansham Singh.  
Hans Raj, Raizada.  
Hosmani, Mr. S. K.  
Jedhe, Mr. K. M.  
Jogendra Singh, Sirdar.  
Kailash Behari Lal, Babu.  
Khan Sahib, Dr.  
Khare, Dr. N. B.

Maitra, Pandit Lakshmi Kanta  
Malaviya, Pandit Krishna Kant.  
Mangal Singh, Sardar.  
Mudaliar, Mr. C. N. Muthuranga.  
Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi, Qazi.  
Nageswara Rao, Mr. K.  
Paliwal, Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta.  
Pant, Pandit Govind Ballabh.  
Parma Nand, Bhai.  
Raghubir Narayan Singh, Choudhuri.  
Rajah, Raja Sir Vasudeva.  
Rajan, Dr. T. S. S.  
Raju, Mr. P. S. Kumaraswami.  
Ranga, Prof. N. G.  
Sant Singh, Sardar.  
Satyamurti, Mr. S.  
Sham Lal, Mr.  
Sheodass Daga, Seth.  
Singh, Mr. Ram Narayan.  
Sinha, Mr. Anugrah Narayan.  
Sinha, Mr. Satya Narayan.  
Sinha, Mr. Shri Krishna.  
Som, Mr. Suryya Kumar.  
Sri Prakasa, Mr.  
Thein Maung, Dr.  
Varma, Mr. B. B.

NOES—41.

Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab.  
Allah Bakhsh Khan Tiwana, Khan Bahadur Nawab Malik.  
Aminuddin, Mr. Saiyid.  
Ayyar, Diwan Bahadur R. V. Krishna.  
Ayyar, Rao Bahadur A. A. Venkatarama.  
Bajpai, Sir Girja Shankar.  
Bewoor, Mr. G. V.  
Buss, Mr. L. C.  
Craik, The Honourable Sir Henry.  
Dalal, Dr. R. D.  
Das-Gupta, Mr. S. K.  
Dash, Mr. A. J.  
DeSouza, Dr. F. X.  
Grigg, The Honourable Sir James.  
Grigson, Mr. W. V.  
Hands, Mr. A. S.  
Hudson, Sir Leslie.  
Hutton, Dr. J. H.  
Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sir.  
Khurshaid Muhammad, Khan Bahadur Shaikh.

Lal Chand, Captain Rao Bahadur Chaudhuri.  
Leach, Mr. F. B.  
Lindsay, Sir Darcy.  
Lloyd, Mr. A. H.  
MacDougall, Mr. R. M.  
Metcalfe, Sir Aubrey.  
Morgan, Mr. G.  
Mukherjee, Rai Bahadur Sir Satya Charan.  
Noyce, The Honourable Sir Frank.  
Rajah, Rao Bahadur M. C.  
Rau, Mr. P. R.  
Row, Mr. K. Sanjiva.  
Sale, Mr. J. F.  
Scott, Mr. J. Ramsay.  
Sher Muhammad Khan, Captain Sardar.  
Singh, Rai Bahadur Shyam Narayan.  
Sircar, The Honourable Sir Nripendra.  
Spence, Mr. G. H.  
Tottenham, Mr. G. R. F.  
Yamin Khan, Sir Muhammad.  
Zafullah Khan, The Honourable Sir Muhammad.

The motion was adopted.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Then, the next one is a comprehensive amendment. If that is adopted, then I don't think any other Honourable Member can move his amendment.

The question is:

“That clause 2 of the Bill, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2, as amended, was added to the Bill.

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

“That clause 3 stand part of the Bill.”

The first amendment stands in the name of Mr. Muthuranga Mudaliar.

**Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar** (South Arcot *cum* Chingleput: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Sir, I don't move it.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The next one is No. 41 standing in the name of Pandit Nilakantha Das.

**Pandit Nilakantha Das**: Sir, I don't move it.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair finds there are two other amendments in the names of Mr. Essak Sait and Mr. Bajoria, that is No. 40.

**Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait** (West Coast and Nilgiris: Muhammadian): I don't move it, Sir.

**Babu Baijnath Bajoria** (Marwari Association: Indian Commerce): I don't move it, Sir.

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce** (Member for Industries and Labour): If it is really helpful to the House, I may say, Sir, that No. 42 is the most comprehensive.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Does Mr. Paliwal wish to move it?

**Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal** (Agra Division: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Yes, Sir.

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce**: I think, Sir, I am correct in saying that in past years you allowed all the amendments relating to letter rate to be moved together in view of a comprehensive discussion.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Supposing this is passed, then do the other amendments become unnecessary?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce** (Member for Industries and Labour): The trouble is that it is an extraordinarily complicated business, and that it is very difficult to say how far this amendment, which would involve the greatest loss to the Postal Department, would cover all the others. No. 42 involves the greatest loss to the post office.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Are there any other variations proposed?

**Mr. Sri Prakasa** (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I have a proviso to No. 52.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I will take up No. 42 first.

**Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal**: Sir, I don't move No. 42.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Then, we come to No. 44. Does Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta want to move it?

**Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta** (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Yes, Sir. My amendment is:

"That in Schedule I to the Bill, in the proposed First Schedule to the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, for the entries under the head 'Letters' the following be substituted:

' For a weight not exceeding half a tola . . .	Half an anna.
For a weight exceeding half a tola, but not exceeding one tola . . .	One anna.
For every tola or fraction thereof, exceeding one tola.	Quarter of an anna."

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair might explain that if this is carried, then no further amendment can be moved.

**Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta**: Sir, on further consideration, I have decided not to move it.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Which is the next one in order of comprehensiveness?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce**: No. 47.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar** (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I do not move No. 47, Sir.

**Mr. Mathuradas Vissanji** (Indian Merchants Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): I do not move No. 49, Sir.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): No. 50. Lalchand Navalrai. Absent. No. 51.

**Mr. Basanta Kumar Das** (Surma Valley *cum* Shillong: Non-Muhammadan): I do not move it, Sir.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti**: I also do not move No. 51, Sir.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): No. 53. **Mr. Sri Prakasa**.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Sir, I move:

“That in Schedule I to the Bill, in the proposed First Schedule to the Indian Post Office Act, 1896, after the entries under the head ‘Letters’ the following proviso be added:

‘Provided that letters containing *bona fide* postal complaints and marked as such on the envelopes addressed to officers of the Postal Department, shall not require any postage.’”

My suggestion is a very simple one; and I believe the Department can easily accept this amendment. Formerly, letters containing any complaints against the Postal Department could be sent without any postage. Now, the post office have changed that rule; and they require postage on every letter containing even a postal complaint. As I explained last year, it is rather hard to expect a man to complain against an over-charge of two pice on a bearing letter, in a letter that requires five pice of postage to send; and, therefore, I thought that it was in the interests of the Department itself to encourage persons to send complaints against itself without any pre-payment of postage. So far as I could understand my Honourable friend, Mr. Bewoor, he felt that, as complaints against every other Department of Government required postage, so should postage be required on complaints against the post office itself. But the fact is that other Departments of Government have to use postage when they send their letters, while the Postal Department does not use any postage on its own letters. And, when this Department is called a commercial department, it is up to the Department to facilitate the complaints that the public may have to make against it, and it should not effectively shut out all complaints by insisting on postage. Last year, my Honourable friend, Mr. Bewoor, said that it was easy for me to hand over a complaint to the post office as I went about my business, and that if I cared to hand over the complaint to the post office which had over-charged me, then I could do so without any extra postage. But, supposing I have a complaint against the post office of Bombay, surely the post office in Benares is not going to accept a complaint that I may have to make there. I fear the Department feels that very often complaints are not *bona fide*, and so it wants to discourage such complaints. I think there is also the idea that a lot of anonymous letters will be sent without pre-payment of postage. But I do think that all this fear is not well founded. There are not very many people in our country who pursue very far their complaints against any wrong that they feel they have suffered; and the few that want to do so should be encouraged to do so. It is in the interests of the post office itself that this proviso should be accepted.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Amendment moved:

“That in Schedule I to the Bill, in the proposed First Schedule to the Indian Post Office Act, 1896, after the entries under the head ‘Letters’ the following proviso be added:

‘Provided that letters containing *bona fide* postal complaints and marked as such on the envelopes addressed to officers of the Postal Department, shall not require any postage.’”

**Mr. G. V. Bewoor** (Director General, Posts and Telegraphs): Sir, the concession of sending, free of postage, complaints against the postal and telegraph departments was granted in the early days of post office in

India when it was considered desirable to encourage complaints in order to ascertain and remove defects in the service which might otherwise pass unnoticed, and, generally, to establish confidence in the minds of the public. This privilege undoubtedly served its purpose at the time, but it had long outlived its usefulness and had developed into a source of definite inconvenience, if not a nuisance. A very large majority of the complaints were found to be frivolous and groundless, but apart from that, the chief difficulty is this. A letter comes in a closed cover and it is not, until you have opened the letter, that you know whether it contains a complaint, or whether it is an application for a job, or whether it relates to an application for the transfer of a savings bank account, or whether it is an obscene letter, or an anonymous attack upon any one.

**Dr. P. N. Banerjea:** It can be mentioned on the cover that it is a complaint.

**Mr. G. V. Bewoor:** The mere fact that the writer mentions on the cover that it is a complaint is not a guarantee that its contents are a complaint, and, it is after long years of experience of this kind of inconvenience or nuisance, that the Government decided to take away this privilege. I wish to assure the House that we had absolutely no desire in making this change to earn any more money for the department. The amount of revenue involved in this is a very small one, but the time of the departmental officers was greatly wasted in dealing with absolutely frivolous complaints, and especially with a large number of anonymous communications which came with the superscription "Postal complaint".

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Will my Honourable friend allow me to inform him that I have myself recovered many a half anna, when there was a system of making complaints without pre-payment?

**Mr. G. V. Bewoor:** I do not quite understand the Honourable Member.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** I have recovered many a half an anna in the old days when I could complain against the post office's over-charge without pre-paying postage on letters containing my complaints.

**Mr. G. V. Bewoor:** I never accused my Honourable friend of making frivolous complaints, but there are 350 millions of people in this country . .

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Can they all write? These 350 millions? (Laughter.) That is news to me.

**Mr. G. V. Bewoor:** These are actual facts, and I can tell the House an actual story. A Superintendent began to receive a number of complaints, and when he examined them, he traced them to a certain school where a school master was teaching his students how to write letters and applications; and, in order to test whether their essay or their attempt at writing letters and complaints were really such as to impress somebody, they used to address these in a cover and send them to various postal officers. That is one of the actual instances that has occurred in the post office. This was some years ago, but my chief point is, that I do not see why in the post office there should be this particular concession which is not extended to any other department of Government. Everybody will admit, I am sure, that complaints made to the post office always receive

[Mr. G. V. Bewoor.]

the best possible attention and with the least delay. We do not wish to encourage the sending of numerous communications which are not really complaints by restoring this concession. It is not on the ground of revenue that I put this forward but on the ground of grave administrative inconvenience. I have already issued instructions that it is open to any member of the public to hand over, in an open cover or without a cover, any complaint, that he may have to make against the postal service or the telegraph service. I can perhaps satisfy Mr. Sri Prakasa by informing him that even if it is a complaint against the postal service of Bombay it will be open to him to hand over his complaint in an open cover to a postmaster with a request that it should be forwarded to the proper authorities and I shall see that instructions are issued that the complaint should be accepted and sent to the proper authority who is authorised to investigate into the complaint. I trust that the explanation I have given will be accepted by the House and that the department will not be called upon to waste the energies of its officers by investigating into a large number of frivolous complaints and thus putting a premium on people making unnecessary complaints.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** In view of what Mr. Bewoor has said, I ask for leave of the House to withdraw my amendment.

The amendment was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Sir, I beg to move:

“That in Schedule I to the Bill, in the proposed First Schedule to the Indian Post Office Act, 1936, for the entries under the head ‘Postcards’ the following be substituted :

‘Single picture stamped postcards (sold by the Post Office)	·	Nine pies.
Single (other than the above)	·	Six pies.
Reply	·	One anna.’”

Sir, before I proceed, allow me to pay my tribute once more to the Postal Service and those who are in charge of it, from the Honourable Members who sit in this House to the humble village postman and postal runner on the hill side for all that they do for us. The Post Office, Sir, is the only Department of this Government that is doing any good to the country; and it is the only Department of Government that may honestly be called honest. (Hear, hear.) It may perhaps interest you, Sir, and interest the House also, to know that during the 20 years of my public life and though I may not look very old, I have put in 20 years of public life, I have had occasion to make many suggestions, asked and unasked, to this Government; and during all this time the only suggestion of mine that Government has accepted is to allow a full half portion on the address side of a postcard for purposes of correspondence. All my other suggestions have been turned down; and I may perhaps hope that if I live for another 20 years, one more suggestion may be accepted, *viz.*, that the size of the postcard sold by the post office may be made as large as that of the private postcard.

As a recent circular of the Department said to the world, the Government have now increased the size of private postcards from 5½" by 3¼" to 5¾" by 4¼", and for the edification of the House I will show it samples

of the two. Honourable Members perhaps do not know that this concession has come, so it is just as well they should know this. Moreover the embossed postcards printed and sold by the Post Office will now have a line right in the middle on the address side, in order to give the writer a full half portion. It is a great concession because, as we know, though there was no "monkeying about" with the postcard, there was a lot of lion-ing and unicorning about it, and the royal motto—*Honi soit qui mal y pense*—was also printed on it all of which filled up a large amount of writing space unnecessarily. I understand that the motto meant: "evil to him who evil thinks". Well, it is just as well that that has been now removed, because when a full half portion has been given for writing, nobody will think evil and so nobody need be cursed with evil in return.

Now, Sir, the Post Office has introduced very pretty picture postcards. I rather like picture postcards; and my only suggestion to the Post Office would be to put some wax paper between two picture postcards that the pretty picture on one postcard may not leave smudges on the one below and thus make writing on them unpleasant. Therefore, I suggest that they should have this extra wax paper between postcards, and for that I am willing to give them an extra pice. In short, my suggestion is that picture postcards may be sold for nine pies while the ordinary ones for six pies. Picture postcards are ordinarily used by persons who have very little to write. I understand that according to the code of letter-writing in England, they do not usually begin, "my dear so and so" or end with "yours sincerely" or "yours affectionately" on postcards: they just write a few words, like "kisses to the baby", (Laughter), or sometimes, when a lady feels particularly jealous of a friend whose husband has given her a better motor car than she herself possesses, she just writes off: "your car is a beauty, my dear". Well, you see, persons who just want to write a line on postcards will be greatly facilitated by these picture postcards.

**Sir Cowasji Jehangir:** Where are these picture postcards in the Schedule? Where are they in this Bill itself?

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** When they are in actual fact in the post office, how does it matter if they are not in the Bill, they can easily be brought in it.

**Mr. G. V. Bewoor:** May I explain, Sir? I am afraid there has been some misunderstanding on the part of the Honourable Member. With regard to the picture postcards, we issued a Press Communique on the subject which apparently escaped his notice. The picture postcard has not been introduced by the Department as a regular part of its postal stationery. It is merely an attempt, by co-operation between two Departments of Government, to help in increasing traffic. We approached certain Railway Administrations and said to them: "If you would like to join us, we would have a few postcards printed with pictures representing something on your Railway and will place them for sale in post offices. We will benefit by selling a few more postcards than we might otherwise do, and you will get the publicity for important places which are situated on your Railway and thus encourage traffic". The North Western Railway very cordially came to our help. They paid for the cost of the block and of the printing and we undertook the distribution of the postcards,—a very small number, namely 100,000 postcards only have been printed, while our total sales are 200 million postcards.

**Mr. M. A. Jinnah:** What is the stamp on that?

**Mr. G. V. Bewoor:** It is the same,—the ordinary postage on a postcard, we do not charge anything extra; the extra cost of printing the picture is paid for by the North Western Railway. The Honourable Member apparently wants us now to embark upon printing picture postcards as a regular part of the postal stationery and to charge extra postage on it. Well, if we do embark upon a scheme of supplying picture postcard stationery, it is unnecessary to include this matter in the Schedule because the Schedule merely says what the rate of postage on a postcard should be. It will then be open to the Department to say that the postage is two or three pice, as the case may be, and the cost of the picture is one pice or two pice, or three pice according to the nature of the work, the colour, the picture, or the fine paper on which we print. Therefore, I hope the Honourable Member will agree to omit the entry "picture postcards" and just deal with the postage rate.

**Mr. M. S. Aney:** May I ask for some explanation? Where is the expenditure which is incurred for the sake of having these picture postcards shown in the Budget?

**Mr. G. V. Bewoor:** That expenditure is paid for by the North Western Railway out of their grant for publicity.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Sir, I know all that my Honourable friend has said but I wanted really to draw the attention of the House to two things and get what I really wanted on the sly, if I may say so, by allowing an extra pice on picture postcards and inducing Government to lower the price of ordinary postcards. Firstly, I do not want any co-operation between the Railways and the Post Office; and I do not want them to charge the Railways for the printing of their pictures. If they embark on this business, they will soon find sellers of Jintan or Sexol coming to them and asking them to print their beautiful illustrated pictures instead. (Laughter.) Then, they will get into a mess.

**Mr. G. V. Bewoor:** The Railways are a Department of the State.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** They are all Departments of the State when it suits them; and they are all commercial and business concerns when that suits them. The Post Office in India, with its vast resources, can really embark on giving us beautiful pictures on its postcards. I say, you might have postcards with good pictures which people may like to look at and alongside of which people may like to write on, while travelling in trains. For this I am willing to give an extra pice. That will cover the cost of the block to which my Honourable friend referred, as well as the wax paper which I think very necessary for picture postcards. Then, Sir . . . .

**Mr. M. A. Jinnah:** May I rise on a point of order? I understand what the Honourable the Mover's amendment wants is to substitute the Schedule, which only deals with the postcard, and not with the picture postcard. His amendment is—if you will look at it:

"Single picture stamped postcards sold by the Post Office.....Nine pice."

Well, these pictures on these postcards are not done by the Post Office except by arrangement with the Railways. I want to understand, if I am wrong does the Post Office actually produce, at their own cost, picture postcards and sell them at your cost?

**Mr. G. V. Bewoor:** As I stated, Sir, the cost of the picture is paid by the Railway but the cards are sold by the Post Office.

**Mr. M. A. Jinnah:** Perfectly true. Therefore, the Post Office has got no Department in which they produce picture postcards and sell them,—I do not know, Sir, how this amendment will fit in.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair cannot say that the amendment is out of order, because the Post Office does sell picture postcards. If any Honourable Member thinks that this ought not to be in the Schedule, then he can vote against it.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** If there is any technical defect, I would with your permission take out my first line, Sir. I fear people generally do not know that these picture postcards are sold by the Post Office. Probably Mr. Jinnah also does not know, otherwise he would rush to the Post Office and buy some.

**Mr. M. A. Jinnah:** My point is this: the Post Office has yet not established any Department for preparing or printing picture postcards and selling them on their own account. What they have done is that the Railways have paid for the making of these picture postcards which they sell on their account.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Am I to understand that the Post Office sends these postcards to the Railway, who get them printed, or do the Post Office themselves print these picture postcards? I understand, that the Post Office themselves print these picture postcards and charge the Railway for the extra cost of printing those postcards.

**Mr. M. A. Jinnah:** They are paid for by the Railways.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** I am quite prepared to have these postcards paid for by ourselves and I am quite willing to pay an extra pice on each postcard. I do not want them only to get those pictures with which the Railways are concerned.

**Mr. M. A. Jinnah:** That is a new departure. Unless the Government of India agree to accept that, your amendment is futile.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Most of our amendments are futile, I know. Here is a picture postcard, I have just got it for three pice only, I do not want the North Western Railway advertised on it. If the sense of the House, however, is that they do not want my suggestion regarding picture postcards, or that somehow or other it cannot be fitted in, I shall have no objection in taking that line off.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot do that now.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** I would suggest to the Post Office that they should put this wax paper between the postcards if they want to continue this scheme.

**Mr. M. A. Jinnah:** I am rather anxious about it, Sir. How will you put it to the vote? If you put it all together, it will certainly create a serious difficulty?

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair understands the Honourable Member's point of order to be this: the Post Office does not manufacture these picture postcards, which are manufactured by a certain Railway. Well, that does not really affect the question whether this amendment is in order or not. It is quite open to the Honourable Member to move that if they sell any picture postcard, then the rate should be reduced . . . .

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** My proposal, Sir, is that, for every picture postcard there should be the same rate as now, but for the ordinary postcards the postage should be lower.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member does not make any change in the rate, the present rate?

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Not for the picture postcard.

**Mr. M. A. Jinnah:** How are you going to put it to the vote, Sir?

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair will put the whole of it to the vote.

**Mr. M. A. Jinnah:** That does not give me the opportunity to vote on each item. I may agree to one part of the amendment and not to the other. If you put the whole thing to vote, that deprives me of the opportunity of exercising my vote.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): There are other amendments which do not mention picture postcards.

**Mr. M. A. Jinnah:** Surely it is open to you to cut short the discussion instead of allowing the time to be wasted on this question.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** I should like to know from you, Sir, whether this amendment cannot be put piecemeal to suit the convenience of Honourable Members.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): No; it cannot be done because it is an entire scheme.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** In these circumstances, I should like the leave of the House to withdraw the amendment.

The amendment was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

**Dr. P. N. Banerjee:** Sir, I beg to move:

"That in Schedule I to the Bill, in the proposed First Schedule to the Indian Post office Act, 1928, for the entries under the Head 'Postcards' the following be substituted

'Single	Six pies.
Reply	One anna.'

Sir, it is within the recollection of many of us that some years ago the value of the postcard was only three pies, but, afterwards, it was raised to six pies, and, in 1931, it was raised to nine pies. Thus the increase is 200 per cent. I may point out, in this connection, that in many countries, during the war, the price of postcards and envelopes were raised, but soon after the termination of the war the old rates were restored. It has been the complaint of the public, for a long time past, that this rise in the value of the postcard has adversely affected the poorest people in the country. Well-to-do people do not use postcards. They use envelopes. But the poorer people cannot afford to use envelopes, and, therefore, this rise by 200 per cent. in the value of postcards has adversely affected the poor people. It is needless for me to say that, even as a commercial proposition, this is not sound, because, when the price of the postcard is raised, there is a natural decrease in the sale. It was found in many countries that it was so, and when the prices of postcards and envelopes were reduced, immediately there was a substantial increase in sale. My Honourable friend, the Finance Member, will perhaps say that the decrease in the price of postcards will not lead to such an increase as will make up the whole loss. Perhaps he is right. But surely a portion of the loss will be made up by the increased sale and if that be so, I would ask him, at a time when the financial position of the country has slightly improved to take this step which has been urged by this House year after year.

The procedure adopted here in regard to the Finance Bill is very defective, and in order to introduce a more improved procedure, I gave notice of an amendment to the effect that the Finance Bill should be referred to a Select Committee. My object was that the procedure with regard to the Finance Bill might be made somewhat similar to the procedure of the British House of Commons.

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** I should like to disabuse the mind of the Honourable Member on that point. All Finance Bills must be taken in a Committee of the whole House and not in Standing Committees.

**Dr. P. N. Banerjee:** If my Honourable friend will have patience for one minute, I will make the position clear. I said "make it somewhat similar" to the procedure of the British House of Commons without the dilatoriness and without the cumbrousness of that procedure. That was why I said that the Select Committee procedure was suitable and not a Committee of the whole House. What is the advantage of this system?

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot discuss that now. He did not move it in time.

**Dr. P. N. Banerjee:** What I intend to point out on this occasion is this, that the Finance Member's objection will be that he has not much money to spare, but if the Finance Bill had been referred to a Select Committee, we might have pointed out certain sources of retrenchment, we might also have pointed out certain things on which additional taxes might be levied or we might have pointed out certain matters on which a reduction in taxation was not desirable at the present moment. That would have been the advantage of a Committee procedure. However, that is not possible now, but I hope the Honourable Member will keep this in mind and introduce that procedure next year.

Now, as regards the price of postcards, it is admitted, on all hands, that it would be a move in the right direction to reduce it. If that be so, I hope the Honourable the Finance Member will consider the amount which he will lose by accepting our suggestion. If he finds that it will not be possible for him to meet the whole loss on this account, during the coming year, he might set apart some portion of the surplus of this year for that purpose, and, in the coming year, perhaps there will be further increase in the sale of postcards and thus there will ultimately be no loss. It has been said that the Postal Department is a commercial concern; but when the price of postcards was increased from two pice to three pice, it was increased as a surcharge and it formed part of the Finance Bill. If it be a purely commercial concern, the thing should not form part of the Finance Bill. It is really an afterthought to call this Department a commercial Department. I do not quarrel with the Honourable the Finance Member for calling it a commercial Department; but I must point out that for a considerable time past, this Department has been regarded as a public utility department. As a matter of fact, it has two aspects and when we consider it from the point of view of the convenience of the public and particularly the interests of the poor, I think, we, on this side of the House, ought to insist that the price of postcards should be reduced from nine pices to six pices. Sir, I move:

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Amendment moved:

"That in Schedule I to the Bill, in the proposed First Schedule to the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, for the entries under the head 'Postcards' the following be substituted :

'Single	.	.	.	.	Six pices.
Reply	.	.	.	.	One anna."

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** Sir, I trust that you will permit me on this occasion, as you and your predecessors have been good enough to do in recent years, to utilise this the first convenient opportunity, to review the position of the Posts and Telegraphs Department in order to place the House in a better position to discuss the various amendments which have been brought forward for its consideration. I promise, Sir, that I will do so much more briefly than I did last year, when I thought it my duty to present to a new Assembly the financial history of the department from 1925-26 when its accounts were placed on a commercial basis and to trace that history in some detail through the years of depression. The performance of a duty of this kind is frequently a tiresome thing not only to the performer but to those who have to listen to his

performance; and I fear that last year I managed all too successfully to send some Members of this House to sleep during a lengthy speech (Laughter, and *Cries of "No, no", "Not at all"* "We always like to hear you") I am obliged to my Honourable friends opposite, that the local paper to which I referred the other day said that, "If we had been told that Sir Frank Noyce could be tiresome, we should not have believed it". All I can say is that I will do my best to avoid sending the House to sleep, on this occasion, when I propose to do little more than to take up the tale where I left off last year and to follow the example of my Honourable colleague, the Finance Member, in dealing, firstly, very briefly, with the financial results of the working of the department in 1934-35, and then at somewhat greater, but not I trust excessive length, with those for 1935-36 and the estimates for 1936-37, before discussing the very few outstanding points emerging from the consideration of these figures and offering a few observations on the amendments before the House. I should like to express, at the outset, my envy of the ability of my two Honourable colleagues, the Finance and the Railway Members, to make a financial statement lucid and interesting,—an ability to which I can lay no claim. I am not sure whether the fact that the Railway Member gets four days for his budget, whereas I seldom get more than one for the budget for a department which, of the departments under the Government of India, is second only in importance to the Railway Department, and administers a budget of some 11 crores,—whether that fact is a matter for envy or not. In one respect, the Railway Member is certainly more fortunate than I am and that is that he has come fresh this year to his railway budget whereas this is the fourth occasion on which I come to this House with mine; and that means that I cannot avoid endeavouring to make over again in what I am afraid will be much the same words some of the points I have endeavoured to make in past years. I must crave the indulgence of the House if I, on my part, indulge in some repetition. I would conclude this series of comparisons with my Honourable colleagues by saying that the Posts and Telegraphs Department is more fortunate than the Railway Department in that it is able to present a balanced budget both for 1935-36 and 1936-37, and that, in spite of the fact that there has been a full contribution to the depreciation fund and in spite of the restoration of the remainder of the cut in pay, the provision for increments in pay, which continue and will continue for some years to come, to be an inevitable burden on the department and a largely enhanced provision for pensions about which I shall have more to say presently.

Coming now to the figures for 1934-35 in my speech last year I stated that the revised estimates for that year indicated a profit of Rs. 13.81 lakhs. Actually the financial results of the last three months of the year were much better than we had reason to expect, and the year closed with a surplus of just under Rs. 38 lakhs. This favourable result was obtained by an increase in revenue and a decrease in expenditure. The improvement in revenue was shared almost equally between postage and message revenue, chiefly by increased sales of stamps and by miscellaneous revenue,—miscellaneous revenue mostly being increased telephone receipts. The decrease in expenditure was distributed in small amounts over several heads, and I need not weary the House with details. I would merely ask it in considering these figures to remember that the five per cent. cut in pay was still in force in 1934-35, representing a saving of Rs. 28 lakhs,

[Sir Frank Noyce.]

and that the contribution to the depreciation fund was short that year to the extent of Rs. 27 lakhs.

So much for 1934-35. Our budget estimates for 1935-36 provided for a loss of 18 lakhs, revenue of Rs. 1,133 lakhs against an expenditure of Rs. 1,146 lakhs, as against the revised estimates of a profit of nearly Rs. 14 lakhs for 1934-35 and an actual profit, as I have mentioned, of nearly Rs. 38 lakhs. Our reasons for budgeting for a deficit were the restoration of the remainder of the cut in pay, costing some Rs. 28 lakhs and the restoration of the contribution to the depreciation fund costing Rs. 19 lakhs,—still Rs. 10 lakhs short of the figure required on the accepted lives of assets, and an increase of Rs. 15 lakhs to meet annual increments in salaries. In spite of the accusation of under-estimating which will be doubtless brought against us, here and elsewhere, I am glad to say that our estimates of revenue have been exceeded, and in our revised estimates we are now taking credit for a total revenue of Rs. 1,150 lakhs, an increase of Rs. 30 lakhs over the 1934-35 figure. This improvement is undoubtedly due, in the main, to the general improvement in trade conditions, but no small part of it must, I think, be attributed to the intensive publicity campaign which has been carried on by that very live wire, the present Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs. (Applause.) Every time Members enter this building, they are given ocular demonstration of his efforts in that direction. They are reminded of the facilities and amenities provided by his department and are exhorted to make more use of them, and above all, to stamp their letters properly.

On the expenditure side, in spite of the fact that we have unfortunately proved to be out in our calculations in the amount required for pension charges by Rs. 26 lakhs,—I shall have more to say about that presently,—we still expect to be under the budget estimates by Rs. 1.63 lakhs. It is, I think, evidence of the attention which is and will continue to be paid to every opening for economy that we have been able to meet the unexpectedly heavy pension charges and still to keep within the budget estimates. The net result of 1935-36, if our revised estimates prove correct, as I hope they will,—but I should warn the House that the figures of revenue for the last two months, the months since the revised estimates were framed, are not as good as I should like to see them,—the net result for 1935-36, if as I say our revised estimates prove correct, will show a profit of Rs. 6 lakhs against the budget estimates of a deficit of Rs. 13 lakhs.

I now come to the budget estimates for 1936-37. Their salient features and the proposals we have put forward for changes in the tariff for letters have already been explained by my Honourable colleague, the Finance Member. After provision for a loss of potential revenue amounting to Rs. 13 lakhs, on account of our revision of the letter tariff, our estimate is that we shall be left with a small surplus of just over Rs. 2 lakhs. In other words, I am, for the first time during my tenure of office, presenting this House with a balanced budget—small as is the estimated surplus. I am not optimistic enough to believe that my Honourable friends opposite will allow me to retain any of the satisfaction I may now feel at that achievement. Our gross receipts have been estimated at Rs. 1,175 lakhs—an improvement of Rs. 25 lakhs over the

revised estimates for the current year. Having regard to the revenue returns for the two months since the revised estimates were framed, to which I referred a moment ago, I see no reason whatever to believe that this estimate errs on the side of optimism, even allowing for the increase in traffic which may be occasioned by the elections which we anticipate will be held next cold weather. At any rate, it is only two lakhs of rupees short of the average annual increase of Rs. 27 lakhs which was secured during the pre-depression quinquennium. One point I would emphasize in this connection is that the revenue figure we have adopted in the estimates is higher than has been realised in any year since the accounts of the Department were placed on a commercial basis in 1925-26.

On the expenditure side, we budgeted for a total of Rs. 1,173 lakhs which is an increase of Rs. 29 lakhs compared with the revised estimate for 1935-36. This increase is the final result of a number of variations under different heads, but its principal components are Rs. 12 lakhs for increments in pay, Rs. 9 lakhs for increased pension charges, Rs. 7 lakhs for haulage charges payable to railways, and Rs. 1.50 by which we are raising this year's grant of half a lakh for the provision of postal facilities in rural areas.

The net result for 1936-37 is thus, I would repeat, a revenue of Rs. 1,175 lakhs against an expenditure of Rs. 1,173 lakhs.

Before I proceed to deal with the only two outstanding features on which I propose to touch at this stage, pensionary charges and the depreciation fund, the House would, I think, wish me to deal very briefly with the working of the different branches of the Department,—a matter in which several Members of this House take rather a keen interest. The Postal Branch is, of course, our chief source of revenue as it is also our chief outlet of expenditure. In 1934-35, revenue amounted to Rs. 760 lakhs against expenditure of Rs. 736 lakhs, leaving a profit of Rs. 24 lakhs. For the current year, we estimate a profit of exactly the same amount though revenue at Rs. 788 lakhs and expenditure at Rs. 764 lakhs will both be up by Rs. 28 lakhs. For next year we have budgeted for revenue of Rs. 803 lakhs and expenditure of Rs. 786 lakhs, giving an estimated profit of Rs. 17 lakhs.

The Telegraph Branch presents, I am sorry to say, a distinctly gloomy picture. Revenue in 1934-35 was Rs. 272 lakhs against expenditure of Rs. 280 lakhs. There was thus a loss of Rs. 8 lakhs. For the current year our revised estimates show revenue at Rs. 270 lakhs against expenditure at Rs. 305 lakhs—a loss of Rs. 35 lakhs. This is in spite of the reductions in the rates made in 1934-35. I venture to hope that the lesson of these figures will not be lost on the House; that lesson is that reductions in rates do not, as is so often assumed, mean increased revenue. For 1936-37 we assume a revenue approximately the same as that for the current year and expenditure of Rs. 311 lakhs, a loss of Rs. 42 lakhs.

The Telegraph and Telephone Branches are, as the House is aware, very closely connected and as an offset to the depressing figures I have just given to the House, it is satisfactory to find that what we lose on the telegraph swings we make up to some extent on the telephone roundabouts. In 1934-35, our receipts were nearly Rs. 80 lakhs and our expenditure Rs. 56 lakhs, a profit of Rs. 24 lakhs. This year we estimate

[Sir Frank Noyce.]

revenue at Rs. 83 lakhs and expenditure at Rs. 63 lakhs, a balance of Rs. 20 lakhs. For 1936-37 we anticipate that revenue will further increase to Rs. 91 lakhs while expenditure at Rs. 64 lakhs will be very little more than this year's leaving a balance of Rs. 27 lakhs. We had hoped that the figures would be even better than this. Trunk revenue has expanded, but the number of telephone subscribers has not increased to the extent we anticipated when we made extensive reductions in the annual rates of subscription for telephone connections.

There remains the Radio Telegraph Branch, small at present but a branch which is rapidly developing. Its main revenue consists of recoveries from other Departments, more especially the Civil Aviation Department. The loss on this branch in 1934-35 was Rs. 2 lakhs. For the current year we anticipate a loss of Rs. 3 lakhs which we trust will next year be reduced to under a lakh with receipts at Rs. 10½ lakhs and expenditure at about Rs. 11½ lakhs.

In my speech last year, Sir, I mentioned that it had been decided to abandon the system of debiting the budget of the Posts and Telegraphs Department with a contribution payable to general revenues based on actuarial calculations of pensionary liability and to revert to the former practice—that of limiting the charge on account of pensions to the actual payments made during the year. I explained that the change would be made effective in the accounts for 1935-36 and expressed the hope that it would result in some benefit to the budget of the Department. Unfortunately, this hope has not been fulfilled. The actual figures for the first few months of the year indicated that our estimates were badly out and, as I have mentioned, the revised estimates exceed the budget estimates by Rs. 26 lakhs. The main reason for this is that the effect of the drastic retrenchments extending over some 3½ years on the pension bill was not fully realised. During that period over 15,000 people have been retrenched, the majority of whom, of course, have got pensions. Normal retirements have thus been anticipated by many years with a corresponding increase in the pension bill. Two important points must, however, be borne in mind in this connection. The first is that the increase in expenditure in the Posts and Telegraphs budget is reflected in the relief to central revenues which would otherwise have been paying these pensions while receiving the smaller contribution. There is thus no loss to Government as a whole. The Posts and Telegraphs Department is merely meeting expenditure which should legitimately be debited to it.

The second consideration is that the increase in the pension liability is far more than set off by the extensive saving in the pay bill which would obviously have otherwise been far higher than it is now. Were it not so, there would, of course, have been no justification for retrenchment. Retirements in the near future will be much below normal and the pension bill should, therefore, steadily fall. Many of the retrenched personnel are still on leave and will not commence to draw pension and, for that reason, we have provided for a further increase of Rs. 9 lakhs in pension charges in the estimates for 1936-37. On the other hand, the provision for increments in pay has been reduced from Rs. 15 lakhs to Rs. 12 lakhs—the first fruits of the introduction of the lower scales of pay for new entrants.

I do not propose to say much about the depreciation fund. I endeavoured to explain to the House last year the difference between a depreciation fund operated on a straight line basis and one operated on a sinking fund basis. It is fortunately unnecessary for me to repeat that explanation this year, for we have abandoned both methods and, as in the case of pension charges, have decided to adopt a much simpler method than that followed hitherto. As my Honourable colleague, the Finance Member, explained in his budget speech, it has been decided after careful and prolonged investigation, that all practical requirements will be met by instituting a renewals and replacements fund from which money will be drawn as it is required for the reconstruction and replacement of assets. To this fund will be transferred the closing balance of the depreciation fund as it will stand on the 31st of this month when we place it at Rs. 317 lakhs. To it will be added each year a sum which will be fixed by Government, from time to time, after taking into account all relevant factors, such as the capital at charge, the annual amounts likely to be required for the reconstruction of bad assets and the necessity for maintaining an adequate fund. The contribution to the fund for the next five years has been fixed at the rate of Rs. 25 lakhs per annum. The contribution to the depreciation fund which had reached the figure of Rs. 33.63 lakhs in 1929-30 will thus be reduced by over 8½ lakhs in spite of the increase in the capital at charge. On the other hand revenues benefit by the interest on the depreciation fund balances. Up till 1929 this interest was credited to the fund itself, but now it is treated as revenue. As the amount of interest, included in the budget of 1936-37, is Rs. 15.87 lakhs, the total relief secured to the department as a result of prolonged investigation into the subject is Rs. 24½ lakhs as compared with 1929-30. Here again, what we have lost on the pension swings we have gained on the depreciation fund roundabouts.

Now, I come to the amendments before this House, and at this stage, I would even at the risk of wearying the House by repetition restate the policy that the Government have endeavoured consistently to follow in administering the Posts and Telegraphs Department. That policy, which I venture to think was never seriously questioned by this House until last year, is to regard the Posts and Telegraphs Department as a public utility service and to expect from it that it should, in the same way as the railways and any other organisation which operates to the benefit of the general public and are looked upon as public utility services, pay its own way. It is a valuable monopoly and that monopoly should be so worked as to be a source of benefit to the general taxpayer without being a burden on him. As I said last year it was in order to see how far this was the case that the accounts of the department were organised on a commercial basis with effect from 1925-26. It is also the accepted policy that any surpluses in the working of the department should normally be used for the extension of postal facilities, re-organizations which may be necessary in order to ensure the highest efficiency, and also for revision of rates which may be possible and reasonable. That, Sir, is exactly the policy we are placing before the House this year. We estimated for a small surplus of Rs. 17 lakhs, and the first charge we place on that is an additional grant of Rs. 1½ lakhs for opening new post offices or for additional postmen to improve rural deliveries and to provide the additional staff that may be required elsewhere in that connection. That amount of 1½ lakhs seems small to my friend, Mr. Joshi, who, heedless of the recurring liabilities which would

[Sir Frank Noyce.]

inevitably ensue, clamoured for a grant of Rs. 10 lakhs per annum for five years. All I can say, in this connection, is, that we have to bear those recurring liabilities in mind, that we shall go ahead with the extension of postal facilities in rural areas as rapidly as funds permit, and that I have asked the Director General to submit, as soon as possible, a report on the working of the experimental post offices we have opened this year in order to enable us to form some idea of the rate at which we can safely undertake further expansion in this direction.

After making this provision, we were left with a surplus of some Rs. 15 lakhs and the question arose as to the possible and reasonable revision of rates to which this could be applied. It was obviously entirely insufficient to meet that revision of rates which Members of this House have most at heart, the reduction of the postcard rate from three-quarters of an anna to half an anna. That, on the best estimate we can frame, would cost about half a crore of rupees. Even allowing for a ten per cent increase in traffic every year, it must be several years before there is a sufficient increase in traffic to make up this loss. About that I shall have much more to say presently. Revision of the postcard rate being in our view out of the question, we had to decide what was the next best. We had no doubt about this in our own minds, nor, I think, has this House. There is no doubt whatever that the half tola limit for letters has been a constant source of irritation and annoyance to the public which has not got used to it as I hoped it would when we made the change two years ago. What it has got used to apparently is a better quality of note paper, and that it is not willing to discard. The result is that there has been a marked increase of letters posted with insufficient stamps on which charges have to be levied from the addressees, though I should like to make it clear that this increase is by no means entirely due to the half tola letter but must be attributed to a considerable extent to my Honourable friend, Mr. Bewoor's unceasing vigilance, in stopping leakages of revenue in all directions. We have taken advantage of this opportunity to revise the present letter tariff which, as a result of enhancements in rates and reduction in weights made at various times, is now thoroughly illogical. At present the postage on the first half tola is one anna. The next two tolas increase that by three pies only, but as soon as the 2½ tola limit is passed, the postage increases at once by 1½ annas up to five tolas and, thereafter, every additional 2½ tolas cost another 1½ annas. The new rate is a rational one as the postage for the first unit of one tola is an anna and for each subsequent tola it is half an anna. I have no doubt that we shall be accused of taking away with one hand what we are giving with the other, for it is true that in some of the higher categories there will be an increase over the present rate at certain stages. But I am glad to find that no amendment has been moved on this point, and so I gather that the new scale is not causing any great dissatisfaction. An increase or decrease at certain stages on the existing tariff is obviously inevitable if a rational system is to take the place of the present illogical one; and that we are giving away a good deal is evidenced by the fact that we estimate the cost of this concession at 13 lakhs. We anticipate that 70 per cent of the letters posted will still fall within the first unit of weight and we think it is not unreasonable that we should endeavour to reduce the cost of the concession by imposing a slight increase on some—not all—of the heavier letters which are mostly despatched by those who

are best able to bear an increase—Government departments and business concerns. I should like to make it clear that we do not contemplate that the revision of the letter rate we propose is going to bring about any appreciable increase in our letter traffic, and, therefore, ultimately any increase in revenue. Its effect will be almost entirely limited to a reduction in the number of insufficiently paid letters and a very substantial increase in the number of letters in the first category of weight.

With a surplus of two lakhs, after making the change in rates which we think most urgent, there is obviously nothing left for any other change. But I need hardly say that we did examine the possibility of reducing the rate on book packets, a change which has been urged upon us in the interests of business and would especially appeal to my Honourable friends in the centre of the House. Our experience of the last two years has shown that in spite of the increase in rates two years ago, the book packet traffic has declined only very slightly. The number of book packets carried in 1934-35 was about 98 millions. We estimate that it will be only a million less this year, and the next year we put it at about some 14 per cent. higher in view of the slight improvement in trade conditions and the coming elections. It does not appear probable that a reduction in the rate would bring in any appreciable increase in traffic which is not already allowed for in our assumptions. The most modest reduction in the rates proposed in any of the amendments before the House would cost us eight lakhs against our anticipated surplus of two lakhs.

Now, Sir, I come to a point which is of the greatest interest to the House at the present moment, and that is the very vexed question of the half anna postcard. I need hardly say that it would have been a source of very great satisfaction to me if I had been able to come before this House today with proposals for a half anna postcard. But in view of the statement of the financial position of the Posts and Telegraphs Department which I have placed before this House, I am compelled to ask myself and this House where the money is to come from to pay for the cost of this concession.

**An Honourable Member:** Take it from rural uplift.

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** We estimate that it would cost us about 50 lakhs. That estimate may and will be questioned, but it has been framed by those who are in the best position to judge. Whether it errs on the side of caution or not, whether say Rs. 40 lakhs would be nearer the mark than 50 lakhs, the fact remains that the Posts and Telegraphs Department simply has not the money to pay for it this year and that the result must be to add another very large sum to the Rs. 166 lakhs which is the accumulated deficit of the department. If I judge aright from what was said in the course of the Budget discussions, that fact is widely and universally recognised in this House. If I understand aright the views of many of the Honourable Members who have spoken on this point, two ways of meeting the deficit that would be caused by the reduction in the postcard rate have been suggested. One is that it should be met from the grant for village uplift and the other is that it should be met from the general surplus. The argument in both cases is the same, namely that the reduction in the postcard rate is a form of village uplift, and indeed I have heard it urged that it is as much a form of village uplift as any object to which Local Governments are devoting the money

[Sir Frank Noyce.]

they are getting. This argument, Sir, overlooks three important considerations. The one to which I myself attach most importance I shall deal with last. The first consideration I would urge is that the surplus from which it is proposed to finance the concession is not a recurring surplus. As I have said, and I would repeat it again, it is estimated that the concession this year will cost us Rs. 50 lakhs. At the very best, that amount can only be reduced by gradual stages. Where is the money to come from to make up the deficit in future years? There is no guarantee whatever that similar surpluses will be available in future years. My Honourable colleague, the Finance Member, has dealt with that point more fully and with greater knowledge than I can do, and I will pass on to the next consideration. I would ask the House very seriously to consider the exact effect from the village uplift point of view of the proposed concession. Let me put before it a few hard facts. In 1935-36 we estimate that the total number of postcards which will have passed through our hands will be 410 millions. In 1921-22 when we had a pice postcard it was 648 millions. If we were to assume, and it is, of course, an utterly impossible assumption, that we could get back to the peak figure at once, it would mean that, on the average everybody in India must send  $1\frac{1}{2}$  postcards against the  $1\frac{1}{4}$  postcards he is sending now—half a postcard more than at present. The benefit that would accrue would thus be about three quarters of a pie per head. The difference between  $1\frac{1}{4}$  postcards at nine pies and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  postcards at six pies. This is on the most favourable figure. In point of fact, it would be less than that sum, for though we have of course no means of distinguishing between the rich man and the poor man in respect of the postcards they send, between the urban and the rural community, or between the business community and the general public, it seems safe to assume that not more than 60 to 75 per cent. of postcards are sent by the rural population or by the poor man who is so often mentioned in this connection. My friend, Mr. Jinnah, in dealing with the salt tax said, that he must confess that he was not satisfied that the reduction in salt tax was going to give any substantial relief to the poor man. I can only hope that I have satisfied him at any rate that the reduction in the postcard rate is not going to give any substantial relief to the poor man.

**Mr. M. A. Jinnah:** It is just the other way.

**Sir Cowasji Jehangir:** Did the Honourable Member say that 60 to 75 per cent. of the postcards were used by the rural population?

**Mr. M. A. Jinnah:** If that figure is correct, it is just the other way.

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** The figure is obviously an assumption. We have no means for distinguishing the number of postcards sent by the various elements of the community. I am dealing with the benefit per head per annum, and the net result is a benefit of about three quarters of a pie per head per annum by the reduction in the postcard rate. If the contention is that the cost of the concession should be met from the village uplift grant, I would urge that the ephemeral benefit the village population would get from being able to send an additional postcard now and then cannot be weighed in the same scale as the benefit they should get from the schemes financed by Local Governments from the village uplift grant

which, however much my Honourable friends opposite think may be open to criticism in detail, are bound to leave a permanent mark for good on the country side.

Now, Sir, I come to what, in my views, is the most important consideration of all, though I have not much hope that it will make the same appeal to my Honourable friends opposite as it does to me. It is that to make any reduction in postal rates at the expense of general revenues is opposed to all sound financial principles and will send the Department, over whose destinies I have presided for the last four years, down the slippery slope to financial perdition. With the loyal and able assistance of my Honourable friend, Mr. Bewoor, and his predecessor, Sir Thomas Ryan, and the staff of the Department, to which I am glad that my Honourable friend, Mr. Sri Prakasa, has paid a tribute, I have been able to get the finances of that Department on an even keel. There is at last, at long last, my Honourable friends may think, indications that without any artificial aid the half anna post card is in sight. The difference between us and the Honourable Members opposite is that they are not willing to allow the convalescent patient to recover naturally. They want to hasten what they think is recovery by applying a stimulus which will prove detrimental in the end. Already I have seen in questions asked in the course of the Session indications of what would happen if the course they advocate were pursued. We shall, for instance, be asked to send newspapers and magazines to village libraries free of charge and to make concessions on the rates for journals of scientific and other learned societies. And, as I said last year, the precedent would be quoted in many other directions. We shall be asked to apply the same principle to railway rates and to give favourable rates to certain classes of goods in order to benefit that class of population which uses the postcard. What incentive will the department have to follow the straight and narrow path of economy when it feels that this House will always be willing to meet its deficit out of general revenues in order to enable it to retain the half anna postcard? Sir, this House was very wise when it adopted the principle that the Post Office should be expected to pay its way and should not be a burden on the general taxpayer. It will, Sir, I would urge with all the emphasis I can command, be very unwise if it departs from that prudent course. The Posts and Telegraphs Department is now emerging from a slough of despond. It has its head and shoulders above the mire and bids fair to get safely to solid earth. I would earnestly appeal to this House to assist its efforts and not to thrust it back into what may well prove a bottomless pit. (Applause).

Sir, I oppose the amendment.

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#### STATEMENT OF BUSINESS.

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar** (Leader of the House): Sir, with your permission, I would like to make a Statement of Business.

For Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday next, the business will be first, the completion of the Finance Bill, and, thereafter, Supplementary Demands for Grants. If the Supplementary Demands are disposed of before the House rises on Wednesday, the time remaining available will be given by Government for the moving of a non-official motion relating to the report of the Committee appointed in pursuance of the motion

[Sir Nripendra Sircar.]

adopted with reference to the report of the Hammond Committee. The Honourable the Commerce Member's motion on the subject of the Ottawa Agreements will be taken on Thursday and Friday next week, and on Monday, the 30th March. It is now clear that the volume of business remaining to be transacted will not admit of the Session terminating by the 9th April, and I request you, Sir, to direct that the Assembly should sit for the transaction of official business on Tuesday, the 14th and Wednesday, the 15th April. Honourable Members having expressed a definite desire for the allotment of two additional non-official days, which I had promised to secure in the event of such desire existing, it is proposed to move His Excellency the Governor General to allot the 16th April for Resolutions and the 17th April for Bills. If essential official business is not completed by the 15th April, I shall, at a later stage, request you to direct further meetings after the 17th April for the transaction of official business. I also take the opportunity of mentioning that representations have been addressed to me that the House should not sit on the 31st of March, which, though not a gazetted holiday, is the day of the *Ram Navami* festival. You, Sir, have provisionally directed a meeting to be held on that day, and I must leave it to you to decide whether the meeting for that day should be cancelled. In the event of your directing that there should be no meeting on that day, I would request you, in consideration of the fact that Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, the 1st, 2nd and 3rd April will also be blank days owing to the Muharram holidays, to direct that there should be a meeting for the transaction of official business on Saturday, the 4th April.

**Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur** (South Madras: Muhammadan): The Mohurram is sacred to us so far as the Muhammadans are concerned. In Muhammadan countries, 13 days are set apart for Mohurram, but we get only three days. Fortunately, we had a Saturday and Sunday included, and, therefore, we were able to have five days. During this month, the 2nd was a holiday. We requested the Government through you, Sir, that we were prepared to sit on the 2nd, and we wanted the 4th as a holiday, because it was the *Haj* day. It was not granted. We including all the Hindu Members, also, expressed a desire that we would be quite willing to sit on Saturday, but it was said it was a gazetted holiday and so we could not sit on that day. So, this time 4th April happens to be a Saturday which is generally a holiday.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): When do the Mohurram holidays terminate?

**Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur**: It terminates on the *Ziarat* day.

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar**: May I make it clear that we are not pressing the House to sit on the 4th April if they do not want to sit? I am only making the suggestion to you that as we are not sitting on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd, the House may sit on the 4th.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Is there any other day available?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** No. There is a Saturday—Saturday the 28th March. But if we do not finish the supplementary demands by Wednesday,—then I have got to allot time for Hammond Committee's Report, and I am not sure what will happen, it all depends on what happens on Tuesday and Wednesday next.

**Mr. M. A. Jinnah** (Bombay City: Muhammadan Urban): I want to know which section of the House desires that we should not sit on the 31st and that we should sit on the 4th.

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** I think I ought to explain to my Honourable friend that the Hindus, represented by Mr. Sri Prakasa, Mr. Bajoria, Mr. Soni and others, do not want to sit on the 31st. I enquired into the matter, and I found that, as a matter of fact, during the last four years, both the Assembly, when *Ram Navami* fell during the Sessions, and the Council of State, throughout, have not sat on the *Ram Navami* day. That is the reason why I am prepared to accede to their request, but I have left that matter to the President. If he thinks that we ought to sit on the 31st, I am quite willing to do so.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair would ask the Leaders of the different Groups to come to an understanding on this point. It is seen that objection is raised on behalf of the Muhammadan Members that 4th will not suit them. Then, it will have to be considered what other days are available. Before the Chair makes an announcement, it hopes that the Leaders of the Independent Party, the Congress Party, the Nationalist Party and the European Group will talk over the matter and see if they could arrive at some arrangement. There is time enough and the Chair thinks this can be settled next Tuesday.

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** There is plenty of time, Sir.

**Mr. M. A. Jinnah:** Do I understand that the discussion with regard to the Ottawa Agreement must be terminated by the evening of the 30th? Is that the understanding?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** That is what we were given to understand by Mr. Desai. He has spoken on behalf of the Independent Party also.

**Mr. M. A. Jinnah:** I only wanted to know.

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** That is our impression. The understanding is that the Ottawa should be finished by the 30th.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa** (Allahabad and Jhansi Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Yes, finished! Ottawa will be finished by the 30th!

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair hopes that the Leaders of the different Groups will consider the matter and let it and the Leader of the House know, say, by next Tuesday, as to whether they were able to arrive at some arrangement.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 23rd March, 1936.