

Friday, 16th September, 1932

THE
As
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

(Official Report)

Volume IV, 1932

(5th September to 19th September, 1932)

FOURTH SESSION

OF THE

FOURTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1932



NEW DELHI
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS
1932

Legislative Assembly.

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THE HONOURABLE SIR IBRAHIM RAHIMTOOLA, K.C.S.I., C.I.E.

Deputy President :

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RAI BAHADUR D. DUTT.

Marshal :

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

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Friday, 16th September, 1932.

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

INCONVENIENCES TO PASSENGERS ON THE BANKURA DAMODAR RIVER RAILWAY.

287. ***Mr. Bhuput Sing** : Are Government aware of the inconveniences caused to the passengers travelling over the Bankura Damodar River Railway owing to defective rolling stock ? If not, do Government propose to inquire into the matter and remedy the defects over the Railway in question ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : The Managing Agents of the Railway report that all rolling stock in use is in good order and repair.

ABSENCE OF LAVATORIES IN CARRIAGES OF THE BANKURA DAMODAR RIVER RAILWAY.

288. ***Mr. Bhuput Sing** : Is it a fact that no lavatory is provided in most of the carriages of the Bankura Damodar River Railway, and, if so, are Government aware of the inconveniences caused to the passengers due to the absence of lavatories ? If not, do Government propose to inquire into the matter and remove the said grievances ; if not, why not ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : I understand that lavatory accommodation is provided only in carriages reserved for women as required by section 64, sub-section (2), of the Indian Railways Act, 1890. Government recognise that the absence of such accommodation in other carriages may be a source of inconvenience. They have brought the Honourable Member's question to the notice of the Managing Agents of the Railway.

ABSENCE OF LAVATORIES ON PLATFORMS OF THE BANKURA DAMODAR RIVER RAILWAY.

289. ***Mr. Bhuput Sing** : Is it a fact that most of the platforms on the Bankura Damodar River Railway are not provided with lavatories and, if so, are Government aware of the inconveniences caused to the passengers waiting for trains over the said railway ? If not, do Government propose to inquire into the grievances and remove them ? If not, why not ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : The Managing Agents of the Railway report that latrines are provided on the platforms of all permanent stations.

(777)

ABSENCE OF LIGHTS IN CARRIAGES OF THE BANKURA DAMODAR RIVER RAILWAY.

280. ***Mr. Bhuput Sing :** Is it a fact that in spite of the provision of oil lamps in the carriages of the Bankura Damodar River Railway they are never lighted and are Government aware that the passengers are inconvenienced owing to pitch darkness prevailing inside the carriage of the trains running in the night ? If so, do Government propose to remove the said grievance ? If not, why not ?

Mr. P. E. Rau : The Managing Agents of the Railway report that carriages on all trains running during hours of darkness either have electric lights or are lighted by oil lamps.

LEAKAGES DURING RAINS IN CARRIAGES OF THE BANKURA DAMODAR RIVER RAILWAY.

291. ***Mr. Bhuput Sing :** Is it a fact that most of the carriages of the Bankura Damodar River Railway leak during the rains and are Government aware that passengers are greatly inconvenienced in shifting from place to place in the carriage to protect themselves and their kits from being drenched with rain water ? If so, do Government propose to remove the said grievances of the passengers ? If not, why not ?

Mr. P. E. Rau : The Managing Agents of the Railway report that the roofs of all carriages on running trains are kept in good order and repair and do not leak ; but third class carriages are provided with *jhimil* shutters only and are not glazed, and in heavy storms a certain amount of water may splash through these shutters.

IRREGULAR RUNNING OF TRAINS ON THE BANKURA DAMODAR RIVER RAILWAY.

292. ***Mr. Bhuput Sing :** Are Government aware that the total length of the Bankura Damodar River Railway line is about 60 miles and that all trains take more than four hours to complete the journey ? If so, is it a fact that the trains are run irregularly without any fixed timings ? If so, why and do Government propose to remedy the said grievance ? If not, why not ?

Mr. P. E. Rau : The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative.

As regards the second part, the Managing Agents of the Railway report that the trains are run to their scheduled timings. Detentions, which are rare, are immediately taken up.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : Is this one of the railways which have been hit hard by motor competition and in whose interest we have been asked to legislate ?

Mr. P. E. Rau : I cannot say that definitely, Sir, but it is one of the smaller railways which have not been paying their way for a long time.

DUMPING OF JAPANESE PIECE-GOODS IN BOMBAY.

293. ***Mr. Bhuput Sing :** Is it a fact that the Millowners' Association of Bombay and the Ahmedabad Millowners' Association represented to Government that there is dumping of Japanese piece-goods in Bombay ? Is it also a fact that they have represented that the cost of production of such goods in Japan is lower than the selling price of such articles in India ? If so, have Government ascertained that the facts as stated by the millowners about the cost of production of such goods in Japan are correct ?

The Honourable Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar : Representations alleging dumping of Japanese cotton piece-goods in India were received, but no representation contained any reference to the cost of production of cotton piece-goods in Japan.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : Has any action been taken by Government against this dumping ?

The Honourable Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar : The Honourable Member might perhaps know that action has been taken with regard to cotton piece-goods.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Are Government aware that the millowners in Japan consider that the higher cost of production in Indian mills depends upon their mismanagement ? I can quote this fact from their own speeches.

The Honourable Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar : The Honourable Member apparently informs the House that people in Japan consider that people in Bombay are mismanaging their affairs ?

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Yes.

The Honourable Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar : The matter is no doubt being considered by the proper authorities.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : It will mean the addition of duty. It really means an increase in prices and that comes from the consumers. Further, it means that the consumers have to pay for the mismanagement of the millowners in Bombay and Ahmedabad.

The Honourable Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar : The valuable remarks of the Honourable Member and the idea underlying them have been already considered. Government came to the conclusion that in order to give real protection to a protected industry, which cannot otherwise stand on its own legs in view of the conditions prevailing with regard to the import of Japanese goods, certain measures became necessary. The question of the consumers' interests was also considered.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmed : But have they also drawn attention of the millowners in India to the fact that they should reduce the cost of the production and manage their business a little better ?

The Honourable Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar : About the latter part of the question, no suggestions have been made by Government regarding the procedure of the Bombay Cotton Mills and their organisation and management. With regard to the former portion of the

Honourable Member's question, it was alleged that Japanese goods were imported into Bombay at rates lower than the cost of production of Bombay piece-goods in Bombay.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Is the Honourable Member aware that the cost of production of one *dhoti* in Japan is only eight annas and why cannot they reduce it to some comparable figure ?

The Honourable Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar : I take it that when the bigger inquiry, which is now going on, investigates this matter, the Honourable Member and those having the same views as the Honourable Member will place their opinions before the Tariff Board for their very careful consideration.

TRANSFER OF POLITICAL PRISONERS TO THE ANDAMANS.

294. ***Mr. Bhuput Sing** : (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they had any correspondence between themselves and the Secretary of State for India on the subject of the transfer of political prisoners to the Andamans ? If so, do Government propose to place the correspondence on the table ? If not, why not ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state what class of terrorist prisoners will be transported to the Andamans ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state whether these terrorists will be transported to the Andamans for definite periods or for indefinite periods ?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state what kind of diet and treatment such prisoners will get in the Andamans and what rate of daily allowance will be fixed for them during their stay there ?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have or had any proposal of sending the Congress leaders imprisoned for civil disobedience to the Andamans ?

The Honourable Mr. H. G. Haig : (a) The Government of India have had correspondence with the Secretary of State on the subject of removing to the Andamans persons convicted of offences in connection with terrorist outrages. They do not propose to place the correspondence on the table.

(b) Persons convicted of offences described in the answer to part (a).

(c) The prisoners are serving sentences of definite duration. They will serve those sentences in the Andamans for such period as the public interest may demand.

(d) They will receive the diet and treatment admissible to the class in which they were placed in Bengal. I would repeat that the persons to be sent to the Andamans are convicted prisoners who will serve their sentences as though they were in Indian jails. Daily allowances are not admissible to such prisoners.

(c) No.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : Will the Honourable Member please give reasons why the correspondence is not being laid on the table ?

The Honourable Mr. H. G. Haig : Because, Sir, it is confidential.

Sardar Sant Singh : May I know what is the period fixed by the Government for a person who has been transported for life ?

The Honourable Mr. H. G. Haig : No definite period, I think, is fixed, Sir. But after a certain period, their cases are reviewed.

RESENTMENT ON CHANGE OF PROCEDURE IN INTRODUCING CONSTITUTIONAL REFORMS.

295. ***Mr. Bhuput Sing :** Will Government be pleased to state whether they are aware of the strong resentment caused in India by the recent statement of the Secretary of State for India in the House of Commons on the change of procedure in introducing constitutional reforms in this country ? If so, have they communicated the same to the Secretary of State for India ?

The Honourable Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar : Government are aware of the views expressed in India on the subject. I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the Secretary of State's speech in the House of Commons on the 13th July, 1932, and to the speech delivered to this House by His Excellency the Governor General on the 5th September, 1932.

WOMEN ARRESTED AND IMPRISONED UNDER THE ORDINANCES OR IN CONNECTION WITH THE CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE MOVEMENT.

296. ***Mr. Goswami M. R. Puri :** Will Government be pleased to state how many women have been (a) arrested, and (b) imprisoned throughout India during the past three months either in connection with the civil disobedience movement or for alleged offences under any of the Ordinances ?

The Honourable Mr. H. G. Haig : I have no information as to arrests. The number of women convicted, though not necessarily sentenced to imprisonment in connection with the civil disobedience movement from the 1st May to the 31st July, 1932, was 506.

PROMOTION OF TELEGRAPHISTS.

297. ***Mr. Goswami M. R. Puri :** (a) With reference to unstarred question No. 291 answered on 29th March, 1932, regarding promotion of telegraphists, have Government arrived at any final decision ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state what decision has been arrived at in this matter ?

Mr. T. Ryan : (a) Yes.

(b) A copy of the amended rules is placed on the table.

Manual of Appointments and Allowances.

Chapter X, page 101, paragraphs 99—100 :

For the existing paragraphs substitute the following :

99. (A) The Head of a Circle may select telegraphists to draw the following special pay which has been sanctioned by the Government of India :

- (1) A special pay of Rs. 10 a month for charge of a telegraph office in which the sanctioned staff of operatives, non-operatives and clerks is less than five (excluding the telegraphist in charge).
- (2) A special pay of Rs. 20 a month for performing the duties of a Supervisor of desk work, the enquiry office, complaints branch, delivery office, public counter, paid calls and refund work and press traffic.
- (3) A special pay of Rs. 20 a month for holding charge of a telegraph office in which the sanctioned staff of operatives, non-operatives and clerks ranges from five to nine, and for performing the duties of Instructor in charge of training classes, testing telegraphist, Baudot Supervisor, Repeater Supervisor and Traffic Supervisor.

(B) In selecting staff to fill the abovementioned appointments, other than the appointments of Baudot Supervisors, the order of preference should be as follows :

- (1) telegraphists who have passed one of the examinations referred to in paragraphs 315, 324, 326 and 327 of the Posts and Telegraphs Manual, Volume IV, completed 15 years' service and passed the efficiency bar ;
- (2) telegraphists who have passed one of the examinations referred to in (1) above ;
- (3) telegraphists who have completed 15 years' service and passed the efficiency bar.

(C) In respect of the appointments of Baudot Supervisors the order of preference should be :

- (1) telegraphists who have passed the examination referred to in paragraph 324 *ibid* ;
- (2) telegraphists who have passed the examination referred to in paragraph 315 *ibid*.

In each of the above categories seniority will count from the date of passing the examination.

100. In short vacancies or when no Telegraphist with the necessary qualifications as detailed in rule 99 is available, a Telegraphist who has shown marked practical ability to perform the duties of an allowed post may be selected by the Head of a Circle to draw the special pay attached to that post.

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS RETRENCHMENT
SUB-COMMITTEE.**

298. ***Mr. Goswami M. R. Puri** : (a) With reference to unstarred question No. 292 of Pandit Satyendranath Sen answered on 29th March, 1932, will Government be pleased to state whether the recommendations of the Post and Telegraphs Retrenchment Committee as laid down in paragraphs 202 (Chapter 10) and 164 sub-paragraph B (Chapter VIII) of their *interim* report have been finally considered ?

(b) If so, to what extent ? If not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) and (b). The suggestions in the paragraphs in question are receiving attention and orders will be issued in due course : in the meantime Government are adopting in practice the policy advocated in paragraph 202 of the Sub-Committee's report.

DISCHARGE OF EMPLOYEES OF THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

299. ***Mr. Goswami M. R. Puri** : (a) What is the total number of employees who have been discharged in the Great Indian Peninsula Railway since the last general strike ?

(b) What is the decision of Government about their re-employment ?

Mr. P. B. Rau : (a) 8,739 employees were discharged on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway as a result of the economy campaign from April, 1930, to July, 1931. Fourteen employees have been discharged in the recent retrenchment.

(b) All, except 29 who were discharged on grounds of inefficiency, are borne on a waiting list and will be preferred to others in filling any suitable vacancies which may occur in future on the railway.

EXPORT OF GOLD FROM INDIA.

300. ***Mr. Goswami M. R. Puri** : Will Government be pleased to state what quantity of gold (in weight) has been exported from India during the current year till August 31, 1932 ?

The Honourable Sir Alan Parsons : 2,490,753 fine ounces from the 1st April to 31st July, 1932. The complete figures for August, 1932, are yet in my possession.

EARNINGS FROM ENHANCED INCOME-TAX FROM GOVERNMENT SERVANTS.

301. ***Mr. Goswami M. R. Puri** : Will Government be pleased to state what will be the total earnings through the enhanced income-tax from the salaries of all Government servants during the current year ?

The Honourable Sir Alan Parsons : I am afraid that it is impossible to give an estimate, but the additional income-tax receipt will certainly not be substantial.

NEW CONSTITUTION FOR INDIA.

302. ***Mr. Goswami M. R. Puri** : With reference to the reply, dated 3rd February, 1932, of the Honourable the Commerce Member to question No. 88 of Sardar Sant Singh, are Government in a position now to state when the new constitution will come into force in this country ?

The Honourable Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar : I invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply I gave to Mr. Bhuput Singh's starred question No. 100 on the 7th September, 1932.

APPREHENSION FOR DEFICIT IN CENTRAL REVENUES IN NEXT BUDGET.

303. ***Mr. Goswami M. R. Puri** : Will Government be pleased to state whether they apprehend a deficit in the Central Revenues in the forthcoming budget ? If so, what is the probable amount of such deficit and what remedies do Government contemplate taking to meet it ?

The Honourable Sir Alan Parsons : It is much too early to say what the results of the year will be.

CREW STAFF OF THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

304. ***Mr. Goswami M. R. Puri** : Will Government be pleased to state (i) the total number of Crew staff, (ii) the total annual expendi-

ture towards the maintenance of the staff and (iii) the total income derived during the year 1931-32 in the Great Indian Peninsula Railway ?

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

INDIANISATION OF REGIMENTS.

305. ***Mr. B. V. Jadhav :** Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) the names of the regiments that were selected for Indianisation under the eight unit scheme ;
- (b) the date from which the scheme came into operation ;
- (c) the number of King's and Viceroy's Commissioned Officers in each unit on the date mentioned in answer to part (b) ; and
- (d) their number on 30th June, 1932 ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : (a), (c) and (d). I lay on the table a statement giving the information desired.

(b) 14th March, 1923.

(a) The following eight units were originally selected for Indianisation :

- 2/1st Punjab Regiment.
 - 5th Royal Battalion, 5th Mahratta Light Infantry.
 - 1/7th Rajput Regiment.
 - 1/14th Punjab Regiment.
 - 4/19th Hyderabad Regiment.
 - 2nd Battalion, Madras Pioneers.
 - 7th Light Cavalry.
 - 16th Light Cavalry.
- (c) and (d).

	King's Commissioned Officers.				Viceroy's Commissioned Officers.	
	British.		Indian.			
	On 14-3-23	On 30-6-32	On 14-3-23	On 30-6-32	On 14-3-23	On 30-6-32
2/1st Punjab Regiment ..	20	8	..	8	20	20
5/5th Mahratta Light Infantry	16	9	2	8	20	20
1/7th Rajput Regiment ..	19	9	2	10	21	21
1/14th Punjab Regiment ..	20	10	..	8	20	20
4/19th Hyderabad Regiment..	16	10	..	10	20	20
2nd Madras Pioneers ..	20	10	..	8	16	15
7th Light Cavalry ..	18	7	..	10	19	19
16th Light Cavalry ..	20	8	1	10	19	19

DIVISION INDIANISED UNDER CHETWODE COMMITTEE SCHEME.

306. ***Mr. B. V. Jadhav** : Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) the name of the Division which is to be Indianised under the Chetwode Committee Scheme and the units constituting it ;
- (b) the date from which the scheme came into operation ;
- (c) the number of King's and Viceroy's Commissioned Officers in each unit on that date ;
- (d) the number of King's Commissioned Officers appointed up to the end of June, 1932 ;
- (e) the number of Viceroy's Commissioned Officers appointed in each unit, if any, during that period ; and
- (f) the number of Indian King's Commissioned Officers ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : (a), (c) and (d). The 4th Cavalry Brigade and the 4th Division have been selected for Indianisation, and sufficient Infantry and Cavalry units have been selected to fill these formations. I lay on the table a statement giving the remainder of the information asked for in this part of the question and in parts (c) and (d).

(b) 15th April, 1932.

(e) One. He was appointed to complete the establishment of Viceroy's Commissioned Officers in the 5/2nd Punjab Regiment.

(f) In addition to officers of the Indian Medical Service there are at present 109 Indian officers holding the King's Commission in the Indian Army.

(a) The Indianising Cavalry Brigade and Division will contain the following units in addition to those mentioned in part (a) of the Statement laid on the table in reply to starred question No. 371 :

- 5/2nd Punjab Regiment.
- 5/6th Rajputana Rifles.
- 5/8th Punjab Regiment.
- 5/10th Baluch Regiment.
- 5/11th Sikh Regiment.
- 4/12th Frontier Force Regiment.
- 6th Royal Battalion, 13th Frontier Force Rifles.
- 3rd Cavalry.

(c) and (d).

	King's Commissioned Officers.				Viceroy's Commissioned Officers.
	British.		Indian.		
	On 15-4-32	On 30-6-32	On 15-4-32	On 30-6-32	
5/2nd Punjab Regiment ..	15	15	..	..	20
5/6th Rajputana Rifles ..	14	14	..	1	20
5/8th Punjab Regiment ..	17	17	..	1	20
5/10th Baluch Regiment ..	17	17	..	1	20
5/11th Sikh Regiment ..	14	14	1	2	20
4/12th Frontier Force Regiment.	20	20	..	..	20
6/13th Frontier Force Rifles	18	18	..	..	20
3rd Cavalry	16	16	..	1	19

The figures for the eight units originally Indianised are given in the Statement laid on the table in reply to started question No. 371.

ARRANGEMENT FOR HOUSING ADDITIONAL KING'S COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.

307. ***Mr. B. V. Jadhav** : In furtherance of the policy of Government to replace in the Indianised units the Viceroy's Commissioned Officers by the King's Commissioned Officers, will Government be pleased to state what arrangements they have made or propose to make to house the additional 16 King's Commissioned Officers that will be appointed to each unit ?

Mr. G. B. F. Tottenham : The matter is under consideration and no final decisions have yet been reached. It will be some years before the increase in the number of officers materially affects the housing problem and, to start with, it is hoped that the existing arrangements for the accommodation of King's Commissioned Officers will be sufficient.

STATUS OF SUCCESSFUL STUDENTS FROM MILITARY ACADEMY.

308. ***Mr. B. V. Jadhav** : Will Government be pleased to state whether they will give the successful students from the Military Academy the same status which students from Sandhurst now enjoy or will enjoy in future ? Or is their status to be inferior to that of the men from Sandhurst ? Will there be any difference in pay or prospects of promotion ?

Mr. G. B. F. Tottenham : As already announced in a Press Communiqué issued on July 8th, the pay of officers commissioned from the Indian Military Academy will be less than that now given to officers commissioned from Woolwich and Sandhurst, which contains an overseas element.

The type of their commission, as explained in the Communiqué, will also be different and will be similar to that now granted, for instance, to officers of the Canadian forces. Their prospects of promotion will be precisely the same as those of British officers commissioned at the same time from Sandhurst.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Will these officers be eligible for appointment in all the regiments or only in those regiments which are supposed to be Indianised ?

Mr. G. B. F. Tottenham : The officers will be appointed in the units composing the Indianising division.

Mr. B. V. Jadhav : At present the Commissioned Officers from Sandhurst are appointed first to a British regiment. Will these officers from the Indian academy be similarly appointed first to a British regiment ?

Mr. G. B. F. Tottenham : They will be attached, after leaving the Indian academy, to a British regiment for one year.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : Why is the distinction maintained in regard to the Indian officers who come out of the Indian academy and why are they placed in regiments which are Indianised ?

Mr. G. B. F. Tottenham : That is the policy enunciated by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief that, instead of Indianising a certain number of units, we are going to Indianise a complete division of the Army.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : In view of the invidious distinction which the Honourable Member proposes between the officers trained at Sandhurst and the officers trained at Dehra Dun, it will be a legitimate inference on our part that we should demand in future that no officer should be recruited in our Army who is trained at Sandhurst.

Mr. G. B. F. Tottenham : I do not understand what invidious distinction the Honourable Member refers to.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : There will be two kinds of Commissioned Officers, one trained at Dehra Dun and the other at Sandhurst and those trained at Dehra Dun will not be eligible for appointment in the British regiments ?

Mr. G. B. F. Tottenham : I can assure the Honourable Member that there is no intention of making any invidious distinction in this matter. The change is merely intended to place the Indian army of the future on exactly the same basis as the armies of the self-governing dominions.

Mr. H. P. Mody : Apart from the overseas allowance, will there be any other difference in pay between these two different classes of officers ?

Mr. G. B. F. Tottenham : The rates of pay, as stated in the Communiqué, have not been finally settled, but the main idea on which the revision is to be based is that the Indian King's Commissioned Officers coming out from Sandhurst, at present receive in their pay an element of overseas allowance. This is not considered necessary for officers who are serving in their own country.

COMPULSORY JOINING OF OFFICERS' MESS.

309. ***Mr. B. V. Jadhav :** Is it the policy of the Army Department to compel the officers trained at the Academy to join the officers' mess even when their salaries are reduced ?

Mr. G. B. F. Tottenham : Yes, Sir. Under the King's Regulations every officer of a corps must belong to a regimental mess. It should be understood, however, that the reduction in the rates of pay, to which the Honourable Member refers, is being undertaken on the ground that it is unnecessary for the Indian officer of the future to receive the element to cover overseas expenses, which is granted to British officers of the Indian Army serving in India. The new rates of pay will be fixed with reference to the requirements of an officer serving in his own country, including the fact that he will be required to belong to his regimental mess.

Mr. B. V. Jadhav : Is it not a fact that at present officers on their first entry into service find it very difficult to make both ends meet ?

Mr. G. B. F. Tottenham : I have no information to that effect.

PROTECTION OF GLASS INDUSTRY IN INDIA.

310. ***Bhai Parma Nand :** (a) Is it a fact that the Government of India appointed a Tariff Board in 1931, to examine and report upon, *inter alia*, the present condition of the glass industry in India, and to consider the demand for protection to the industry put forth by the Indian glass manufacturers ?

(b) If so, has this Board submitted any report on the subject to Government ?

(c) If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state :

- (i) when this report was submitted, and whether Government will please lay a copy of the same on the table ;
- (ii) whether the report has been published for the information of the public ;
- (iii) whether the subject of the report, and the recommendations contained therein, will come up for discussion in this House in the ensuing session ; and
- (iv) what action has been taken, or is intended to be taken, by Government on this report ?

The Honourable Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar : (a) The question of protection to the Indian glass industry was referred to the Tariff Board in 1931.

(b) Yes.

(c) (i) The report was submitted towards the end of March, 1932. It is not usual to lay copies of the Tariff Board's reports on the table, but on publication a copy is sent to each Member of the Legislature.

(ii) Not yet.

(iii) and (iv). The report is being examined by the Government of India and until this examination is completed, the action that will be taken cannot be indicated.

Mr. B. Das : May I enquire why Government are taking such a long time to examine this report and why it has not been published ? When is it likely to be published ?

The Honourable Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar : The report raises fairly large issues, and it is hoped that the report and the decision of Government will be published very shortly.

Mr. B. Das : Before this session closes ?

The Honourable Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar : I cannot guarantee that.

PAYMENT OF *Peishkist* IN THE IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.

311. ***Mr. B. Rajaram Pandian :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if the Imperial Bank could refuse to take deposits made by the Zemindars towards the *Peishkist* payable to Government? If the answer is in the affirmative, will Government please state the reasons why ?

(b) Are Government prepared to issue instructions to all branches of the Imperial Bank to receive payments from Zemindars when made towards the *Peishkush* of their Zemindaries and also to issue instructions to the Taluk Treasuries concerned to recognise such payments ?

The Honourable Sir Alan Parsons : The matter is one for the Local Government. A copy of the question and of this reply are being forwarded to the Government of Madras for such action as they may consider necessary.

EXEMPTION FROM AGE-LIMIT OF QUALIFIED SONS OF POSTAL EMPLOYEES.

312. ***Mr. B. Rajaram Pandian :** Will Government be pleased to state whether the provincial authorities in the Postal Department or the Public Service Commission constituted in the Provinces usually exempt qualified candidates, who are the sons of Postal employees, should they be overaged at the time of the retirement of their fathers? If not, are Government prepared to issue the necessary orders for such exemption?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : Government have no information nor do they propose to issue any such general orders. The Post and Telegraph administrative authorities are vested with some discretion in this matter, which I have no doubt they exercise in a reasonable manner.

LANDING PLACE FOR AIR SERVICE IN RAMESWARAM ISLAND.

313. ***Mr. B. Rajaram Pandian :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that there was a proposal to have a landing place for Air Service in the Rameswaram island in South India?

(b) If so in what stage is the proposal?

(c) When will effect be given to it?

(d) What is the amount of expenditure Government have incurred so far to work out the scheme?

(e) What is the total outlay proposed thereon?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) No such proposal has been considered by the Government of India.

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

CREATION OF POSTS OF JOURNEYMEN IN THE MECHANICAL WORKSHOP, NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY, MOGHALPURA.

314. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that 12 posts of the Journeymen were created in grade Rs. 100—10—170 in the Mechanical Workshop, North Western Railway, Moghalpura?

(b) If the reply to part (a) above is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased further to state whether it is a fact that 27 candidates were interviewed on the 8th and 9th April in connection with the above appointments?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the necessity which made it incumbent upon Government to create the above posts in these days of financial stringency?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state whether the vacancies in the above posts were advertised and all the candidates and communities were given a fair chance for seeking appointments in this connection?

(e) If the reply to part (d) above is in the affirmative will Government be pleased to state the name and the particular dates of the issues of such newspapers in which these posts were advertised ?

(f) Will Government be pleased to state the total number of the candidates called in for interview classified according to their community ?

(g) Will Government be pleased to state also whether final appointments to these posts have been made ? If so, will they be pleased to furnish the data in the form below ?

(h) Will Government be pleased to state to which community the A. P. O. of the S. M. W.'s office belongs ?

(i) Has any attempt been made to redress the Muslim paucity in the Railway Service ?

Name of Candidate.	Candidate's Community.	Qualification.	Whether recommended by the S. A. P. Central labour to the S. M. Workshop or not.	Whether called for interview or not.	Reason for the refusal of interview.	Was the candidate successful in getting service or not.	Remarks, if any.

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a) No posts were created ; I understand 12 vacancies were filled.

(b) 37 candidates were interviewed, some on 8th April and some on 5th July.

(c) As I have already explained, no new posts were created.

(d) and (e). I understand the posts were not advertised for. I am ascertaining the reasons for this and will lay a statement on the table in due course.

(f) and (g). Of the number of candidates interviewed, 6 were Anglo-Indians, 13 Hindus, 14 Muslims, 3 Sikhs and 1 Parsee. Of the number of candidates finally appointed, 3 were Anglo-Indians, 3 Hindus, 5 Muslims and 1 Parsee.

(h) I understand he is a Jain.

(i) The position of Government in this matter was explained at length by Mr. Hayman and Sir George Rainy during the Railway Budget debates in March last and I cannot add anything at present.

STATUS OF HEADMASTERS IN RAILWAY SCHOOLS.

315. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad :** (a) Is it a fact that the Headmaster of the Oakgrove School gets first class passes from the East Indian

Railway, but the Headmasters of the Indian English High Schools do not get first class passes ?

(b) What is the scale of pay of the following teachers of the Oakgrove School and what class of passes are granted to them :—(i) First Asstt. Master, (ii) Headmistress, Girls School and (iii) Headmistress, Junior School ?

(c) With reference to Mr. Rau's answer to my question No. 945 (a) on the 24th March 1932 that the Headmaster of the Oakgrove School is not in Superior Service, what is the reason for granting him first class passes and at the same time refusing this privilege to the Headmasters of Indian High Schools ?

(d) Is it not a fact that a boy passing out of the Oakgrove School is admitted to the same class in a College or University as a boy passing out from the Indian High Schools ?

(e) Is it a fact that the Oakgrove School is of the same standard as the Indian High Schools ? If so, why does the administration make distinction between Headmasters of these institutions in the matter of passes ?

Mr. P. B. Rau : (a) Yes.

(b) (i) First Assistant Master, Rs. 300—25—425, plus Rs. 50 overseas allowance.

(ii) Head Mistress, Girls School, Rs. 250—25—350, plus Rs. 50 overseas allowance.

(iii) Head Mistress, Junior School, Rs. 250—25—350.

All these get first-class passes.

(c) and (e). The matter has been referred to the Agent, East Indian Railway. I shall lay a statement on the table explaining the position further when I receive a reply.

(d) Yes.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Why is it that the Headmaster of the Oakgrove School gets a first class pass, while the Headmasters of the Indian High Schools do not get first class passes ? What is the reason ?

Mr. P. B. Rau : That is the point on which I propose to lay a statement on the table later on when I receive the information from the Agent of the East Indian Railway.

GRANT OF HONORARY RANK OF OFFICERS TO HEADMASTERS OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY INDIAN HIGH SCHOOLS.

316. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad :** (a) Is it a fact that the Headmasters of the East Indian Railway Indian High Schools were given the scale of pay of Government High School Headmasters ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Headmasters of Government High Schools in Bengal, Bihar and the United Provinces where these Indian Railway High Schools are situated are treated as gazetted officers by their employers and not as subordinates ?

(e) Is it a fact that there are several subordinates on the East Indian Railway holding honorary rank of officers ?

(d) Are Government prepared to grant honorary rank of officers to the five Headmasters of the Indian High Schools along with the Headmaster of the Oakgrove School ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a) The pay of all teachers in Railway Schools on the East Indian Railway was assimilated to the pay of teachers in Government Schools from 1st April, 1929.

(b) From the Civil List of these provinces it appears that there are some Headmasters whose posts are not gazetted.

(c) Yes.

(d) The question will be considered.

AMOUNT OF FEES COLLECTED BY THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION FROM DIFFERENT EXAMINATIONS.

317. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh :** Will Government kindly place on the table a statement showing separately the amount of fees collected by the Public Service Commission from candidates for different examinations, year by year, since its establishment ?

The Honourable Mr. H. G. Haig : I place a statement on the table containing the information asked for.

Statement showing the amount of fees realised by the Public Service Commission from candidates in connection with the different examinations held by the commission since its inception.

Financial year.	Indian Civil Service.	Indian Audit and Accounts Service.	Indian Police Service and U. P. P. S.	Engineering and Railway Services.	Indian Forest Service.	United Provinces Civil Service.	Ministerial Service Examination (Government of India).
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1926-27 .. ..	..	..	*990	..	..	..	15,100
1927-28	13,940	11,820	1,830	5,020	1,415	5,500	†
1928-29	17,610	12,465	2,600	5,525	3,225	5,560	†
1929-30	20,680	16,325	5,365	13,295	2,310	6,975	†
1930-31	20,755/6	12,745	5,695	15,095	2,155	7,460	17,880
1931-32	26,940	†	7,920	13,880/4/6	†	6,965	†

* This amount is on account of the fees realised in connection with the Indian Police Service (Punjab Examination only. The Indian Police Service examination was taken over from the Educational Commissioner at the stage at which the scripts, were being received from the Examination Centres. No statement of receipts can, therefore, be given in respect of this examination for 1926-27.

† No examination for these Services were held in these years.

**PROPOSED INVESTIGATION INTO THE REORGANISATION OF INDIAN RAILWAYS
BY SIR HENRY THORNTON.**

318. *Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : (a) Is it a fact that Sir Henry Thornton who recently resigned the presidency of the National Railways, is coming out to India to investigate the reorganisation of Indian Railways ?

(b) If so, what are his qualifications, what exactly is the scope of his enquiry, who has authorised him to undertake this enquiry and on what terms ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : The answer to part (a) of the question is in the negative and part (b) does not arise.

TRIBUNAL ON CAPITATION CHARGES.

319. *Mr. B. Das : (a) Will Government be pleased to state the personnel of the tribunal set up to arbitrate on the question of capitation charges between India and Great Britain ?

(b) Is the tribunal the final authority or is it merely an " advisory " one ?

(c) Will the findings of this " advisory " tribunal be binding on the British and the Indian Governments ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : I would refer the Honourable Member to the Press communiqué on this subject issued on the 1st September and to the debate that took place in this House on September 6th, 1932.

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE TRIBUNAL ON CAPITATION CHARGES.

320. *Mr. B. Das : (a) In regard to the terms of reference of the advisory tribunal on capitation charges, *vide* para. (2), *viz.*,

" To examine India's claim that a contribution should be made from Imperial revenues towards military expenditure from Indian revenues and to report the basis on which any contribution should be assessed."

will Government be pleased to state if this reference to India's defence burden arose out of the deliberations of the Round Table Conference ?

(b) Why was not such a tribunal or such an expert committee appointed last cold weather simultaneously with the appointment of the Federal Finance Committee and Indian States Finance Committee ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : (v) and (b). As explained in the debate on the subject which took place on September 6th, the function of the Tribunal will be to consider, and assess the value of, certain claims and counter claims of a financial nature. These claims had their origin many years before the Round Table Conference came into being and did not arise out of the deliberations of that Conference. The Conference made no recommendation with regard to them, and there was therefore no question of appointing a Committee of the Round Table Conference to deal with them last cold weather.

Mr. B. Das : Has the attention of the Honourable Member been drawn to the *Statesman* of this morning where the military correspondent of the *Statesman* writing from London says this :

“ The advisory tribunal will also consider India's claim that a contribution should be made towards her military expenditure, and the War Office claim that India should pay a direct contribution towards the cost of the Regular and Supplementary Reserves.”

Does not that show that the views of this side of the House are also held by the military correspondent of the *Statesman* in London ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : I have not seen the statement to which the Honourable Member referred. I did not quite understand the last part of his question.

Mr. B. Das : Does not this correspondent confirm the statement which we made on this side of the House ?

(No reply was given.)

INDIA'S DEFENCE EXPENDITURE.

321. ***Mr. B. Das :** (a) Are Government aware that the Federal Finance Committee in their so called “ expert findings ” based India's military expenditure, excluding those of Burma, at Rs. 47 crores ?

(b) Were not the Government of India alive early this year to the fact that India's incidence of defence burden requires revision ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table all relevant papers they submitted to the Federal Finance Committee supporting or differing from the basic figure of Rs. 47 crores as India's defence expenditure ?

The Honourable Sir Alan Parsons : (a) 47 crores is the figure given in paragraph 10 of the Report.

(b) I presume the Honourable Member is referring to the recent appointment of an advisory tribunal to examine, among other things, India's claim for a contribution from Imperial revenues towards military expenditure. I should like to invite the attention of the Honourable Member to paragraph 7 of the report of the Federal Finance Committee in which the Committee have stated that the data on which their proposals are based should be reviewed immediately before the establishment of the Federation in the light of the information then available and that their conclusions should be held to be subject to the results of such a review.

(c) The Federal Finance Committee decided not to publish any papers submitted to it. Government therefore regret that they cannot comply with the request of the Honourable Member.

REPORT OF THE TRIBUNAL ON INDIA'S DEFENCE.

322. ***Mr. B. Das :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state when they expect to receive the report of the Advisory Tribunal on India's defence ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state if this report will be considered by the Consultative Committee or the Federal Structure Committee or the Round Table Conference or the substitutes of such committees and conferences ?

(c) Are Government prepared to convey to the British Government the desirability of expediting the work of this Advisory Tribunal ?

Mr. G. B. F. Tottenham : (a) I am unable to say when the Capitation Rates Tribunal is likely to report.

(b) For the reason given in the reply to the Honourable Member's question No. 320, it is not proposed to refer the report of the Tribunal to the Round Table Conference or any corresponding body.

(c) His Majesty's Government are fully aware of the desire of the Government of India that this question should be speedily settled.

MEETING OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE IN INDIA.

323. ***Mr. B. Das :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether there is any likelihood of the Consultative Committee meeting in India and, if so, when ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state if their attention has been drawn to the press news that the Consultative Committee has been scratched ?

(c) If the reply to part (b) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state what *modus operandi* will be adopted to discuss issues as detailed in their communiqué of 13th April last ?

The Honourable Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar : (a), (b) and (c) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to His Excellency the Viceroy's address to the Members of this House on the 5th instant.

SALE OF JAPANESE COTTON YARN AND PIECE-GOODS IN INDIA.

324. ***Mr. B. Das :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if they have received an "S. O. S." from the Bombay millowners alleging that Japanese cotton yarn and piece-goods are being sold in India at un-economic prices ?

(b) Is it a fact that Government have asked the Tariff Board to hold an immediate enquiry on the subject ?

The Honourable Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar : (a) and (b). The attention of the Honourable Member is drawn to the Resolution of the Government of India in the Department of Commerce, No. 341-T-(161), dated the 25th July, 1932, which was published in the Gazette of India of the 30th July, 1932, a copy of which is in the Library.

GOVERNMENT CONTROL OVER BOMBAY MILLOWNERS AGAINST MISMANAGEMENT.

325. ***Mr. B. Das :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if after the last Cotton Yarn Protection Act, 1930, they have applied any check or control over Bombay millowners regarding their alleged mismanagement ?

(b) Did they institute departmental enquiries before referring to the Tariff Board a fresh enquiry, if the Bombay millowners have improved their management as required by the Noyce Committee ?

(c) Are Government aware that even very recently the President of the Bombay Stock Exchange made similar charges of inefficiency and unsound finances against the Bombay millowners and their managing agency system ?

The Honourable Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar : (a) and (b). It is presumed that the Honourable Member is referring to the Cotton Textile Industry (Protection) Act, 1930. The answer to parts (a) and (b) of his question is in the negative.

(c) Government have seen a press report to that effect.

Mr. B. Das : With reference to the answer to parts (a) and (b) being in the negative, may I inquire if it is not the intention of the State to enforce the carrying out of the Noyce Committee's recommendations by the mill-owners ?

The Honourable Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar : The Noyce Committee's recommendations had really nothing to do with the particular item of mismanagement which had a wide publication in the newspapers. The alleged mismanagement consists of what is called the managing agency system and that is a matter which has not been the subject of any Resolution of the Government of India or any report of the Tariff Board.

Mr. H. P. Mody : Is it the intention of Government to extend an invitation to my Honourable friend, Mr. B. Das, to appear before the Tariff Board and give them the benefit of his views ?

Mr. B. Das : I shall be quite prepared to appear before them if they want any information from me. But in view of the fact that the Honourable Sir Frank Noyce is now a Member of the Governor General's Executive Council, and in view of the fact that his recommendations received the total sanction of this side of the House, will Government now devise means for these recommendations being given effect to by the Bombay millowners ?

The Honourable Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar : Any recommendations emanating from an authority as competent and as well-instructed as my Honourable colleague will receive the attention that they merit.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : Whatever may be done in the matter, will the Honourable Member bear in mind the supreme consideration that the mental equilibrium of the Bombay managing agents must not be disturbed on any account ?

The Honourable Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar : Government do not consider it as part of their duty to maintain the mental equilibrium of any one including that body of men, the managing agents of the Bombay mills.

ALLEGED INEFFICIENCY AND UNSOUND FINANCES OF BOMBAY MILLS.

326. ***Mr. B. Das :** (a) Do Government propose to ask the Tariff Board to inquire into (i) the causes of inefficiency ; and (ii) unsound finances of the Bombay mills and how far these Bombay *millwalas* have improved their management since the Noyce report was published ?

(b) Are Government also prepared to direct the Tariff Board to prepare statements of costs of production of cotton yarns, piece-goods, etc., on territorial basis, e.g., Ahmedabad, Delhi, Calcutta, Coimbatore, Bombay Island, South Bombay Pr., etc. ?

(c) Do Government also propose to direct the Tariff Board to prepare statements of Managing-Agency-owned mills as to the benefits enjoyed by these Managing Agents in buying and selling commissions, in office allowances, in agency fees, in speculation over cotton purchases, etc., etc. ?

(d) Do Government also propose to ask the Tariff Board to report on the effect of high prices of cotton yarns on the income of the hand-loom weavers and the present distress amongst handloom weavers in India ?

The Honourable Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar : I understand that the Honourable Member is referring to the emergency enquiry which the Tariff Board was directed to make in July last. As that enquiry has concluded, the question of what should be the terms of reference to the Tariff Board does not arise.

Mr. B. Das : May I inform the Honourable Member that my question also applies to the present inquiry as well only to the emergency inquiry ?

The Honourable Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar : That is also about three-quarters way through and the report may be expected at no distant date.

Mr. B. Das : But is it not a fact that the Tariff Board is at present in Calcutta and making inquiries into the matter ?

The Honourable Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar : That is so, of course.

Mr. B. Das : Will it not be better if the Honourable Member forwards these questions to the Tariff Board to take a note of them ?

The Honourable Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar : The members of the Tariff Board will not be unalive to the importance of the questions asked and answers given in this Honourable House.

Mr. H. P. Mody : Are Government aware that every single one of the points covered by these numerous questions of my Honourable friend has been the subject of an inquiry by the Tariff Board in the questionnaire that they have issued ?

The Honourable Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar : Very few questions appertaining to the industry have escaped the attention either of the witnesses or of the Tariff Board.

COTTON MILLS IN INDIA.

327. ***Mr. B. Das :** (a) Are Government aware that most of the cotton mills in India are working double shift and are understood to be making huge profits ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state :

- (i) the number of workers in all the cotton mills in India ;
- (ii) the number of handloom weavers ; and
- (iii) the production of cotton piece-goods in each case ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement for the two years 1928-29 and 1931-32, giving :

- (1) the total cotton yarn produced in Indian mills ;
- (2) the total piece-goods manufactured in Indian mills ; and
- (3) the total cloth produced by handloom weavers
 - (i) from mill spun yarn, and
 - (ii) from hand spun yarn ?

(d) Are Government aware also that handloom weavers, owing to high prices of cotton yarns and low level of prices of cotton goods, are getting most uneconomic wages ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) A number of cotton mills are working on two or more shifts ; but I do not think that the majority are so working, and I am not aware that all those so working are making substantial profits.

(b) (i) The number in British India in 1931 was 363,576. Figures, for the whole of India are not available.

(b). (ii) and (d). Government have no information.

(iii) For 1931-32 the figures were :

by mills 2,990 million yards,

by handlooms 1,500 million yards.

(c) A statement is laid on the table giving the information available.

Statement showing the production of cotton yarn and piece-goods by Indian mills and of cloth by handloom weavers.

	1928-29.	1931-32.
(e) (1) Total cotton yarn produced in Indian mills.		
Million pounds	648	966
(2) Total piece-goods manufactured in Indian mills.		
Million yards	1,893	2,990
(3) (i) Total cloth produced by handloom weavers from mill spun yarn.		
Million yards	1,080	1,500
(ii) Figures are not available.		

POWERS OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL IN REGARD TO THE RENEWAL OF THE ORDINANCES.

328. ***Sardar Sant Singh :** (a) Will Government kindly state whether the Government of India or the Secretary of State for India consulted their law officers in England or in India as to the powers of the Governor General of India under section 72 of the Government of India Act to renew the Ordinances before the Ordinance of the 30th June last was renewed ?

(b) If so, will Government lay on the table the text of the opinion ? If not, will Government please state why the opinion of the law officers was not taken when the validity of the Ordinances has been questioned in the press ?

(c) Are Government prepared to take this opinion now ?

The Honourable Mr. H. G. Haig : (a) Yes.

(b) I regret I am unable to lay the text of the opinion on the table.

(c) Does not arise.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : May I know if the opinion of the Law Officers in England was that Government have *not* the power to renew the Ordinances ?

The Honourable Mr. H. G. Haig : I am afraid it is the invariable rule that the opinion of the Law Officers of the Crown is not to be published. But as I have already stated that it was taken, it is perhaps a reasonable inference that the general effect of it was not what the Honourable Member suggests.

Sardar Sant Singh : May I know if the Law Officers of the Crown differed on this point, or were they unanimous ?

The Honourable Mr. H. G. Haig : There was no difference of opinion.

SIKH REGIMENTS IN THE PUNJAB.

329. ***Sardar Sant Singh :** Will Government kindly state the number of the Sikh regiments stationed in the Punjab during the years 1930, 1931 and till September, 1932 ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : The Corps Headquarters of the Sikh Pioneers is permanently stationed at Sialkot. In each of the years mentioned by the Honourable Member one Battalion of the Sikh Pioneers was also stationed at Sialkot.

No battalions of the 11th Sikh regiment were stationed in the Punjab during the three years in question. There are only two Sikh Regiments, but, if the Honourable Member will refer to the Army Lists he will find that there are a number of other units which recruit Sikhs and that many of them were stationed in the Punjab.

SIKHS BROUGHT UNDER REDUCTION ON DISBANDMENT OF INDIAN REGIMENTS.

330. ***Sardar Sant Singh :** (a) Is it a fact that Government are contemplating to disband eight Indian regiments ?

(b) If so, how many Sikhs will be brought under reduction ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : (a) Government have come to the conclusion that it is no longer possible or necessary to retain a separate organization of Pioneers. This decision will involve the disbandment of the present 7 Pioneer Battalions and 3 Corps Headquarters.

(b) I am not at present in a position to give the information desired by the Honourable Member. I can assure him, however, that endeavours are being made to retain in the army the largest possible number of men now serving in these battalions, and it is hoped that it may be possible to offer employment to a large proportion of them in other units.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : May I ask whether this action is being taken in order to secure retrenchment ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : The action is being taken partly in view of the consistent and urgent pressure to reduce the cost of the army and partly because the army have come to the conclusion that the Pioneer organisation is no longer absolutely essential.

Mr. F. E. James : Will the Honourable Member state roughly how much he expects to save by this disbandment ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : An accurate estimate of the savings has not yet been made ; but I think it will be between 20 and 25 lakhs of rupees a year.

Mr. B. V. Jadhav : Will there be any reduction in the European forces ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : That is a matter which is the subject of a separate inquiry.

Mr. F. E. James : Will the Honourable Member state whether it will be possible for any of the personnel of these pioneer regiments on disbandment to be absorbed in the Sappers and Miners ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : Yes, Sir : that is what we hope : that a large proportion of the Pioneer personnel which will be disbanded as a result of this decision will be enlisted in the Sappers and Miners, which we hope to increase in strength.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : What will be the total number of Indian regiments whom you are going to retrench ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : The whole of the Pioneer organisation is going to be disbanded : that is to say, the three Pioneer corps—the Madras, Bombay and Sikh Pioneers—and also the Hazara Pioneers.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : May I know what will be the net saving to the Government after the personnel of these Indian regiments have been absorbed into the Sappers and Miners ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : I have just given all the information I have to my Honourable friend, Mr. James : we hope that the saving will be between 20 and 25 lakhs of rupees.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Net saving ?

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

PROPOSED ADDITIONAL BRITISH REGIMENTS.

331. ***Sardar Sant Singh :** Is it a fact that three British regiments will be added to the existing number of British troops ? If so, why ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : There is no proposal under consideration to add 3 British regiments to the strength of the Army in India.

Mr. B. V. Jadhav : Is there any proposal to reduce the number of British regiments ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : As I have just replied to the Honourable Member, that is a matter which is the subject of a separate expert inquiry.

INADEQUATE REPRESENTATION OF SIKHS IN CERTAIN OFFICES.

332. ***Sardar Sant Singh :** Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) the total number of clerical appointments in the office of the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs, Postmaster General, Punjab and North-West Frontier Circle and Dead Letter Office, Lahore, separately ;
- (b) the number of such appointments held by Sikhs, Hindus and Muslims, separately ;
- (c) the number of such appointments filled up during the last six years from each of the above communities ;

- (d) if the answer to the part (c) shows an inadequate recruitment from among the Sikhs, whether Government will be pleased to give reasons why no Sikh has been taken in the above clerical establishments during the last six years ; and
- (e) whether Government propose to take action to ensure that, in future, orders for the redress of communal inequalities and about the recruitment in every third vacancy of a member of the minority communities or community not properly represented and more particularly of the Sikhs are properly observed in future ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) to (d). The information has not been called for as its collection would involve an expenditure of time and labour not commensurate with the value of the result.

(e) Government have no reason to suppose that the existing orders for the redress of communal inequalities, to which the attention of all concerned has frequently been drawn, are not being properly observed and, do not, therefore, propose to take any special action in the matter.

APPOINTMENT OF SIKHS AS ASSISTANT DEPUTY DIRECTORS GENERAL OF POST AND TELEGRAPHS.

333. ***Sardar Sant Singh :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the total number of appointments of Assistant Deputy Director General in the Office of Director General, Posts and Telegraphs, and how many of them are held by Sikhs, Hindus and Muslims ?

(b) Are Government aware that Sikhs are not represented in these appointments ? If so, do Government propose to take action to give them representation in future ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) 7, of which 5 are at present held by Hindus, one by a Muslim and one by an Anglo-Indian, none is held by a Sikh.

(b) The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, the posts are filled by selection and in this connection the Honourable Member's attention is invited to part (b) of the reply given to his starred question No. 731 on 9th March, 1932.

INADEQUATE PROPORTION OF SIKHS IN THE POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT.

334. ***Sardar Sant Singh :** (a) Is it a fact that the Sikh Rights Protection Society made a representation (*vide* its letter No. 3-F.T.(21, dated 15th January, 1932) to the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs, about the extremely inadequate proportion of Sikhs in the various branches of the Posts and Telegraphs Department ?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state what action has so far been taken or is proposed to be taken now to redress this grievance of the most important minority community of the Punjab and to ensure that their claims are not neglected like this in future ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) and (b). The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to his own similar starred question No. 728 in this House on the 9th March, 1932.

Sardar Sant Singh : May I know if any action has been taken since that reply was given in March last ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : The attention of heads of circles has been drawn to the matter.

NUMBER OF SIKHS RECRUITED IN CERTAIN CADRES OF THE POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT.

335. ***Sardar Sant Singh :** Will Government be pleased to state the number of Sikhs recruited in the following cadres of the Posts and Telegraphs Department since the issue of their orders contained in Director General's letter No. A.M.-516|12|27, dated 22nd November, 1927, viz., (that where there is a preponderance of any one community in any unit, i.e., division, office, section, etc., a third of the vacancies must be reserved for the communities not adequately represented) :—(1) Superintendents, (2) Clerks, (3) Postmen, and (4) Inferior servants ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : Government have no information and are not prepared to call for it as they consider that the time and labour which would be involved in collecting it, would not be commensurate with the value of the result.

PLACE OF A MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY IN THE ORDER OF PRECEDENCE.

336. ***Sardar G. N. Mujumdar** (on behalf of Kunwar Raghbir Singh) : Where do the Members of the Legislative Assembly come in the Order of Precedence ?

The Honourable Mr. H. G. Haig : Members of the Legislative Assembly are not included in the Warrant of Precedence. This Warrant is intended primarily to regulate the position of officials holding appointments in India.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Was not this list prepared at a time when the Legislative Assembly had not come into existence ?

The Honourable Mr. H. G. Haig : The present warrant has been revised certainly once since the Legislative Assembly came into existence.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Is it not a fact that the practice in democratic institutions is not to include members of the popular house in any order of precedence ?

The Honourable Mr. H. G. Haig : I think so far as England is concerned that the Honourable Member is quite correct : I understand that Members of the House of Commons in England have no place in the table of precedence there.

CHANGE OF PROCEDURE IN THE CONSTITUTION-MAKING.

337. ***Sardar G. N. Mujumdar** (on behalf of Kunwar Raghbir Singh) : Will Government lay on the table the correspondence that passed between the Government of India and the Secretary of State in connection with the change of procedure in the constitution-making ?

The Honourable Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar : Government are not able to lay on the table any correspondence on the subject mentioned in the question.

REINTRODUCTION OF QUARTER ANNA POSTCARDS AND HALF ANNA ENVELOPES AND INCOME FROM TELEGRAMS.

338. ***Sardar G. N. Mujumdar** (on behalf of Kunwar Raghurib Singh) : (a) Is it a fact that there has been a fall in the income of post offices ?

(b) Do Government propose to consider the question of quarter anna post cards and half anna envelopes in view of the fall in the income of post offices ?

(c) Has the income from telegrams increased since the increase in rates ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) Postage and Message Revenue has been falling since the year 1929-30, but the rate of decline has been considerably reduced since the introduction last year of enhanced charges.

(b) No. Government have every reason to believe that such a reduction would result in a heavy loss in revenue.

(c) No, because the volume of traffic has continued to decrease.

PLOTS OF LAND LYING VACANT ON THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY.

339. ***Mr. Nabakumar Sing Dudhoria :** Will Government be pleased to state :

(a) the number of plots of more than 5,000 acres that have been lying vacant and unused ever since their acquisition on the Bengal Nagpur Railway ;

(b) the names of localities (reference to stations will do) where such plots are thus lying ;

(c) the respective amounts at which each of such plot was first acquired ;

(d) whether the Company have any project for the utilisation of those plots in the near future ;

(e) whether the Company have ever projected to utilise them in any way ; and

(f) whether the Company are prepared to restore those vacant plots to the original owners on return of the compensation money ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : There are no plots of more than 5,000 acres lying vacant and unused since acquisition on the Bengal Nagpur Railway

PRESENT POSITION OF INDIAN SETTLERS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

340. ***Mr. Nabakumar Sing Dudhoria** : Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) the specific benefits for the Indian settlers that have come out of the Fazl-i-Husain Delegation to South Africa ;
- (b) the modifications that the Transvaal Land Alienation Act has undergone to the benefit of Indian settlers as the result of representations of the Government of India ; and
- (c) the modifications that the Repatriation Scheme of the South African Union has undergone in consequence of public agitation in India ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : (a), (b) and (c). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the statement made by me in this House on the 12th September, 1932.

DEATHS ON A SHIP OF SOME REPATRIATED INDIANS FROM SOUTH AFRICA.

341. ***Mr. Nabakumar Sing Dudhoria** : Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) whether they are aware that some repatriated Indians from South Africa were landed dead from board the ship when the boat arrived at Madras in May last ;
- (b) the causes of their death on board the ship ;
- (c) the number of days they suffered ;
- (d) the name and qualifications of the doctor by whom they were treated on board the ship ;
- (e) the respective ages of the dead persons ;
- (f) if any enquiry or inquest was held over their dead bodies ;
- (g) if so, the result of such enquiry ;
- (h) the number of repatriated Indians that were in the ship ; and
- (i) the tonnage and passenger-carrying capacity of the boat ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : (a) No ship carrying repatriated Indians from South Africa arrived at Madras in May last.

(b) to (i). Do not, therefore, arise.

ENQUIRY INTO THE DEATH OF MRINAL KANTI ROY CHAUDHURY, A DETENU IN THE DEOLI DETENTION CAMP.

342. *Mr. Nabakumar Sing Dudhoria : Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) whether any representation was made to them to hold an enquiry by a committee of officials and non-officials into the death of Mrinalkanti Roy Choudhury the detenu who is said to have committed suicide at the Deoli Detention Camp ;
- (b) if the answer to part (a) is in the affirmative, whether the request was acceded to ;
- (c) if the answer to part (b) is in the negative, the reasons therefor ; and
- (d) the chief points from the report of the enquiry which was held after the incident by their own officials ?

The Honourable Mr. H. G. Haig : (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) An inquest had been held ; the Government of India were satisfied as to the facts and did not consider any useful purpose would be served by a further enquiry.

(d) The finding of the Magistrate who held the inquest has been laid on the table.

“ I give a finding of suicide by fracture of the spinal column of the neck by hanging with a rope, while in a temporary unsound mind.

I would add that I consider that the jail authorities did all in their power to alleviate the condition of the deceased at all times, and that I consider the chief cause of his act was apprehension of his bodily safety at the hands of his fellow detenus, if sent back to live amongst them in the jail.”

RECRUITMENT FOR VARIOUS SERVICES BY THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

343. *Mr. Nabakumar Sing Dudhoria : Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) the services for which there will be absolutely no recruitment this year by the Public Service Commission ;
- (b) the services for which there will be indifferent or restricted recruitment this year by the Public Service Commission ;
- (c) the services for which no public examination will be held this year but there will still be recruitment ; and
- (d) whether announcement of their restricted activities will duly be made by the Public Service Commission in the chief papers of the country ?

The Honourable Mr. H. G. Haig : I lay a statement on the table.

Statement showing the position in regard to the recruitment of the services made through the Public Service Commission in 1932.

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| 1. Indian Civil Service | .. | An examination has already been held for 1932. |
| 2. Indian Police Service .. | .. | An examination is to be held this month. |
| 3. Indian Forest Service | } | There will be no recruitment to these services in 1932. The necessary announcements have been made in the Press. |
| 4. Indian Service of Engineers .. | | |
| 5. Indian Railway Service of Engineers | | |
| 6. Imperial Customs Service .. | | |
| 7. Indian Audit and Accounts Service | | |
| 8. Military Accounts Department .. | | |
| 9. Indian Railway Accounts Service .. | | |
| 10. Transportation (Traffic) and Commercial Department of the Superior Revenue Establishment of State Railways. | | |
| 11. Special Class Apprentices for the Mechanical Engineering and Transportation (Power) Departments of the Superior Revenue Establishment of State Railways. | | |
| 12. Medical Department of the Superior Revenue Establishment of State Railways. | } | It is proposed to recruit two officers of non-Asiatic domicile for Burma Railways through the Secretary of State, one for the Medical Department and the other for the Mechanical Engineering and Transportation (Power) Departments. |
| 13. Mechanical Engineering and Transportation (Power) Departments of the Superior Revenue Establishment of State Railways. | | |
| 14. Superior Telegraph Engineering and Wireless Branches of the Indian Posts and Telegraph Department. | .. | An examination will be held in December, 1932. |
| 15. Geological Survey of India (Class I) | .. | No regular annual recruitment is made to this service. Owing to reduction in its cadre, it is not expected that any vacancy will arise within the next few years. |
| 16. Indian Meteorological Service | .. | No regular recruitment is made to this service. On account of retrenchment, it is not anticipated that any recruitment to this service will be necessary in the near future. |
| 17. Ministerial Service of the Government of India Secretariat and Attached Offices. | .. | An examination for the Third Division will be held in November next. |
| 18. Indian Military Academy .. | .. | An examination was held in July and another will be held in October. |
| 19. Royal Indian Marine | .. | An examination will be held in October. |
| 20. Mint and Assay Departments .. | .. | A B. E. officer is being recruited for the Mint Department which consists of 3 posts. |

21. Mines Department (Class I) .. No regular annual recruitment is made to this service. It is not expected that any vacancies will occur within the next few years.
22. Zoological Survey of India .. No examination is held for recruitment to the Zoological Survey. Recruitment is made when occasion arises by inviting applications and selecting the most suitable candidate. It is unlikely that any officers will be recruited for the Survey in the near future.
23. Bengal Pilot Service .. Two Leadsman Apprentices have already been recruited this year. The question of further recruitment during the year is still under consideration.
24. Imperial Secretariat Service (Class I). One post of Assistant Secretary to the Government of India is likely to fall vacant in the Finance Department. It is not proposed to ask the Public Service Commission to fill the vacancy by direct recruitment.
25. Archæological Department .. No examination is held for recruitment to this Department, recruitment being made by inviting applications from suitable candidates and selecting the most suitable of the applicants. One officer is likely to be recruited for the Department this year.

RETRENCHMENT EFFECTED BY THE RETRENCHMENT COMMITTEE

344. *Mr. Nabakumar Sing Dudhoria : Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) the particular directions in which the Retrenchment Committee of the Government of India have effected retrenchment since the Assembly broke up in April last ;
- (b) the results achieved by such retrenchment ;
- (c) the total amount that is proposed to be saved by such retrenchment ; and
- (d) whether the Central Retrenchment Committee are yet functioning ?

The Honourable Sir Alan Parsons : (a), (b) and (c). Part III of the report of the General Purposes Sub-Committee of the Retrenchment Advisory Committee published at the end of July shows the directions in which retrenchments have been recommended by that Committee since the Assembly broke up in April last. Copies have been supplied to the Members of the House. The recommendations of the Committee are still under the consideration of the Government of India ; and the information asked for in (b) and (c) is thus not available at present.

(d) Yes.

AIMS AND OBJECTS OF THE "KADIANI MOVEMENT".

345. ***Mr. Nabakumar Sing Dudhoria** : Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) whether they are aware of the existence of a Muslim movement that is gaining ground particularly in the Delhi province and generally in the Punjab and is known as the "Kadiani Movement" ;
- (b) if the answer is in the affirmative, whether they are in a position to state the definite aims and objects professed by the Kadiani sect ?

The Honourable Mr. H. G. Haig : (a) and (b). The Honourable Member is no doubt referring to the Ahmadiya Community. This is a well-known religious community which publishes a considerable literature, and the Honourable Member will have no difficulty in finding out what he wishes to know about it without making a reference to Government.

Mr. K. Ahmed : Are Government aware that the Quadianis have got a different understanding of the Prophet and the followers of the Prophet whom the Government of India acknowledge to be of the Muhammadan faith and religion in India, because they grant holidays on the Birthday of the Prophet and also on the Day of the Recovery, on which days the Government allow public holidays to be observed for the Muhammadan festival ? Do Government propose to give an answer whether, on account of these differences between the Quadiani sect and the other sects, there is a dispute going on among the Muhammadans in this country ?

Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi : On a point of order, Sir. Is this House to be a place where the faith of different sects of the Muslim community is to be brought under controversy ?

The Honourable Mr. H. G. Haig : I would like, Sir, to reinforce the point made by the Honourable Member opposite.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola) : These questions are not relevant before the House. Government cannot be expected to go into details as regards the differences between colour, caste, creed or religious sects prevailing in the country.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir : Will the Honourable Member make a calculation as to the length of time taken by the Honourable Member in asking questions in this House ?

Mr. K. Ahmed : Will the Honourable Member be pleased to see his narrowmindedness.

INTEREST TAKEN BY NON-BRITISH FOREIGN CAPITALISTS IN SUGAR INDUSTRY

346. ***Mr. Nabakumar Sing Dudhoria** : Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) whether they are aware that foreign capitalists, not British, are interesting themselves in the indigenous sugar industry ; and

- (b) whether they are also aware that some Dutch sugar experts from Java or their agents have already engaged themselves in the indigenous sugar industry ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : (a) and (b). Government have no information beyond the fact that several parties from Java have visited India with the object of studying sugar conditions or of enquiring into the possibility of establishing sugar factories in this country.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Will Government make inquiries now about the matter and see whether it is a fact ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : I have already stated that Government have information that some parties from Java have visited this country. Government have no further information in their possession to justify further inquiries.

Rao Bahadur B. L. Patil : Is it a fact, Sir, that these people have approached the Government of Bombay for certain facilities ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : We have had no communication with the Government of Bombay. If my Honourable friend opposite is aware of any, I should be glad to have access to it.

IRREGULARITIES IN RAILWAY FINANCES.

347. ***Mr. Nabakumar Sing Dudhoria :** Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) whether their attention has been drawn to the serious irregularities that have recently been brought to light by the report of the Accountant-General for Railway Audit on all-India railway accounts ;
- (b) how these irregularities escaped the notice of the railway chief directly responsible for railway finances ;
- (c) whether the Financial Commissioner of Railways has been asked to offer an explanation for the unfortunate state of things disclosed by the report of the Accountant-General ;
- (d) the resolution that the Government of India in their Railway Department have adopted on that report ; and
- (e) the steps that they propose to adopt to prevent such irregularities in the future ?

The Honourable Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar : (a) and (e). I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given to my Honourable friend Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad's question No. 122 on the same subject.

(b) The object of the report is to bring these irregularities to the notice of the heads of the railway administration and of the Government of India.

(c) Explanations have been obtained from the various railway administrations, and suitable action taken. Obviously the responsibility for the irregularities lies on the administrations concerned and not on the Financial Commissioner of Railways.

(d) I place on the table a copy of a general letter addressed by the Government of India to all railway administrations on questions arising out of the report. Individual irregularities have been taken up separately with individual administrations.

No. 1728-B.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

RAILWAY DEPARTMENT.

(RAILWAY BOARD.)

Simla, the 29th August, 1932.

To.

THE AGENTS, ASSAM-BENGAL, BENGAL AND NORTH-WESTERN ; BENGAL-NAGPUR, BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA, BURMA, EASTERN BENGAL, EAST INDIAN, GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA, MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA, NORTH WESTERN, ROHILKUND AND KUMAON AND SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAYS ; THE MANAGER, JODHPUR RAILWAY ; THE AGENT, H. E. H. THE NIZAM'S STATE RAILWAY ; THE CHIEF MINING ENGINEER, RAILWAY BOARD ; AND THE CENTRAL PUBLICITY OFFICER, INDIAN STATE RAILWAYS.

DEAR SIR,

I am directed to address you on the Appropriation Accounts of Railways in India for 1930-31 and on the report of the Director of Railway Audit thereon.

While the Railway Board are confident that these have already been carefully studied by your administration in order to take necessary action to prevent in future the occurrence of irregularities similar to those noticed therein, they wish to communicate to you some general observations on them.

2. The Railway Board have noticed with concern the large number of instances in which an excess of expenditure over allotment is explained in the Appropriation Accounts as due to the absence of budget provision. They attach great importance to the principle that, except in cases of immediate urgency, no expenditure should be incurred without funds having been provided in the budget or found by re-appropriation, and they trust that in future years such irregularities will not occur with any frequency.

3. The Board have been disappointed to note the large number of cases where provision has been made in the budget under wrong heads (paragraphs 59 and 64 of the Director of Railway Audit's report). A list is attached giving extracts from the Appropriation Accounts relating to your railway. The Board consider that these irregularities can be avoided altogether by the exercise of care in the preparation of the budget, and they expect that you will take such steps as are necessary to ensure that they do not occur in future.

4. Among the various irregularities that the Director of Railway Audit has brought to notice in his report, all of which deserve careful study, the Railway Board desire to mention a few to which they consider special attention might be profitably directed.

Paragraph 54. Delay in the preparation of the Appropriation Accounts.—The Railway Board regret to note the delay in the preparation of the Appropriation Accounts both for individual railways and for all railways as a whole and hope that steps have been taken to ensure greater punctuality in future.

Paragraph 48. Irregular reappropriations.—The Board desire to emphasise the importance of sanctioning reappropriations as and when necessary. You will no doubt agree that reappropriations, sanction to which is postponed till the end of the year, reflect on the adequacy of the arrangements for control of expenditure on the railway.

Section B, of Chapter V of the Report.

Paragraphs 94 and 96.—The Railway Board desire particularly to draw the attention of your internal check organisation to the remarks in these paragraphs. They concur with the Director of Railway Audit as to the necessity for close co-operation between accounts offices and executive offices and the desirability of carrying out a definite programme of accounts inspections. They are also in full agreement with him that the duties of the Chief Accounts Officer of a railway should not be confined merely to the business of accounting and internal check, but that he should, as the financial adviser of the railway, devote special attention to a general examination of the finances of the railway in order to be in a position to make suggestions for reduction of expenditure or for increase of revenue.

Paragraph 95 (c) (2).—The Board consider that it cannot be too strongly impressed on accounts officers that certificates, such as those referred to in connection with suspense balances, should never be treated as a mere matter of routine.

Section C.

Paragraphs 100 and 103.—The advantages of periodical inspection, particularly an occasional surprise inspection, should be impressed on accounts and administrative officers.

Section D.

Paragraphs 104 et seq.—The Board trust that the instructions contained in their letter No. 6254-F. of 17th July, 1930, have put an effective stop to this type of irregularity and that no cases of the sort will find a place in the Director of Railway Audit's report for 1931-32.

Sections E, F and G.

Paragraphs 108 to 116.—The Railway Board desire to draw the special attention of railway administrations to these sections of the Director of Railway Audit's report. They wish to emphasise the necessity.

- (i) of settling, before a work actually let out on contract is commenced, the terms on which it is let, and of expressing these in the form of a contract drawn up where necessary on legal advice ;
- (ii) if and when necessity arises to modify such terms, of reducing these modifications to writing in proper form ; and
- (iii) of scrutinising most carefully in consultation with the financial adviser of the administration any payments which are not admissible on a strict interpretation of the terms of the contract before such payments are sanctioned. Your attention is invited to the principles enunciated in Government of India, Finance Department Resolution No. F. 22-XII-Ex-II]27 of 12th August, 1929, a copy of which was forwarded with this office endorsement No. 2692-S., dated the 25th September, 1929. The Railway Board expect to issue very shortly in elaboration of these principles, definite rules dealing with the preparation of contracts.

Chapter VI.

Paragraphs 124—136.—The Railway Board are aware that the reduction of stores balances is a question which is always exercising railway administrations at present. They need not, therefore, say more on this point than express their full agreement with the Director of Railway Audit as to the necessity for special vigilance on the part of purchasing officers. They trust that all railway administrations are restricting purchases to urgent requirements and with due regard to existing stocks. Even though the article required is not in stock, the possibility of using a substitute, which is in stock, as far as practicable must not be lost sight of.

Chapter VII.

Section A. Paragraphs 144 and 145.—The Railway Board regret to notice the large number of cases in which the extent of variation between estimates and actuals is high and hope that you have taken steps to improve estimating.

Section D.—The large number of cases reported in which inordinate delays have occurred in settlements between railways is also a matter of grave concern. They are writing separately to individual railways with regard to particular cases where

delays have been most marked, but, while they do not wish to minimise the difficulties that may in practice tend to delay the drafting of a final agreement, they wish here to emphasise the necessity of a railway administration taking all possible steps to see that such delay is reduced to a minimum.

Yours faithfully,

T. S. SANKARA,

Director, Railway Board.

No. 1728-B., DATED THE 29TH AUGUST, 1932.

Copy forwarded for information to the Chief Accounts Officers, East Indian, Eastern Bengal, Great Indian Peninsula, North Western and Burma Railways; the Director, Railway Clearing Accounts Office; the Controller of Railway Accounts; and the Director of Railway Audit.

By order,

T. S. SANKARA,

Director, Railway Board.

PRESENT POSITION OF CUSTOMS, INCOME-TAX AND POSTAL REVENUES.

348. *Mr. Nabakumar Sing Dudhoria : Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the customs revenue has shown some signs of revival of late ;
- (b) to what extent the proceeds from Income-tax revenue have fulfilled the expectations of the Finance Department ; and
- (c) whether it is a fact that the postal revenue has of late unusually gone down ?

The Honourable Sir Alan Parsons : (a), (b) and (c). The Customs returns are now somewhat better than the budget forecast and the postal figures are worse although still higher than the corresponding figures for 1931-32. The income-tax figures show no material variation, but it is far too early at present to attempt to arrive at any exact estimate.

DEOLI DETENTION CAMP.

349. *Mr. Nabakumar Sing Dudhoria : Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) the cost per head per month on a detenu detained at the Deoli Detention Camp ;
- (b) the number of detenues that are at the present moment detained at Deoli ;
- (c) the establishment costs of the Deoli Detention Camp in a month ; and
- (d) the initial expenses incurred prior to the starting of the Detention Camp ?

The Honourable Mr. H. G. Haig : (a), (c) and (d). The whole cost of the Deoli Camp Jail is being borne by the Government of Bengal, and I have not, therefore, accurate information on these parts of the Honourable Member's question.

(b) Ninety-two.

REPORT OF THE ORISSA BOUNDARY COMMISSION.

350. *Mr. Nabakumar Sing Dudhoria : Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) what resolution the Government of India have passed on the Orissa Boundary Commission's Report ; and
- (b) the names of associations and local bodies that have represented to Government for the separate province scheme ?

The Honourable Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar : (a) The Government of India have passed no resolution on the report, which is still under their consideration.

(b) Omitting notices of resolutions passed at public meetings the Government of India have received during the current year representations from five public associations favouring the separation of Orissa.

SIND SEPARATION COMMITTEE.

351. *Mr. Nabakumar Sing Dudhoria : Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) the recommendations of the Sind Separation Committee ;
- (b) the resolutions of the Government of India thereon ; and
- (c) the names of associations and bodies that have addressed the Government either supporting or opposing the separation scheme ?

The Honourable Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar : (a) The Honourable Member is referred to the report itself, a copy of which has been supplied to him.

(b) The Government of India have passed no resolution on the report, which is still under their consideration.

(c) Government have received during the current year copies of resolutions passed by a number of public meetings in Sind and by the Sind Azad Committee in favour of separation and by the Sind Anti-Separation Conference against its separation.

INDIANS RESIDENT, AND APPOINTMENT OF AN INDIAN TRADE COMMISSIONER, IN JAPAN.

352. *Mr. Nabakumar Sing Dudhoria : Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) the approximate number of Indians that are staying in Japan engaged either in business or service at the present moment ;
- (b) the number of the different communities into which the Indians residing in Japan fall ;
- (c) the name of the particular community to which the largest number of Indians residing in Japan belong ;
- (d) the British official who advances the business interests of Indians in particular in Japan ; and

- (e) whether the appointment of an Indian Trade Commissioner as posted in London and Hamburg has sometimes been insisted upon for better safeguarding of Indian commercial interests in Japan ?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe : (a) Approximately 279 Indians are residing in Japan.

(b) They are composed of Hindus, Moslems and Parsees.

(c) Hindus predominate.

(d) His Britannic Majesty's Consuls, Tokio, Yokohama, Osaka and Kobe are chiefly connected with Indian business interests.

(e) The Government of India received a suggestion from the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay, in February, 1931, regarding the appointment of an Indian Trade Commissioner in Japan. The Chamber was informed in reply that since further progress even with the sanctioned scheme for the appointment of such officers had been postponed owing to financial stringency, the question of extending the scheme so as to include additional posts could not be considered.

INDIANS AND EUROPEANS RETRENCHED FROM SUPERIOR ENGINEERING SERVICE ON THE EAST INDIAN AND EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAYS.

353. ***Mr. Nabakumar Sing Dudhoria :** Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of Indians (excluding statutory Indians) that have been discharged from service from the superior Engineering services on account of retrenchment on (1) the East India Railway, and (2) the Eastern Bengal Railway ; and
- (b) the number of Europeans that have been discharged from the Superior Engineering Services on (1) the East Indian Railway, and (2) the Eastern Bengal Railway, for the same reason in 1931 and 1932 ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a) and (b). No permanent members of the Superior Engineering Services have been discharged. As regards temporary Engineers, the numbers discharged on account of retrenchment are as follows :

East Indian Railway.

Indians	..		9
Statutory Indians	..	..	2
Europeans	..	..	<i>Nil.</i>

Eastern Bengal Railway.

Indians	..	..	..	1
Statutory Indians	..	..	..	3
Europeans	..	..	..	2

RESTRICTIONS IN BURMA AND BENGAL FOR GERMAN AUTOMATIC REPEATENT ALARM PISTOLS.

†354. ***Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen** : (a) Are Government aware that A. H. & Co. post Box 5001, Bombay Post No. 9 have advertised in the *Zamindar* of Lahore in its issue dated 31st July 1932 that they have for sale genuine German automatic repeatent alarm pistols for which no licence is required in the whole of India with the exception of Burma and Bengal ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state why restrictions have been imposed by the Governments of Burma and Bengal ? Are Government prepared to remove the said restrictions forthwith ? If not, why not ?

LICENCE FOR TELL AND DIANA BRAND GERMAN AIR PISTOLS IN BENGAL.

†355. ***Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen** : (a) Will Government be pleased to state why Tell and Diana brand German air pistols require licence in Bengal while they are exempt from the operation of the Arms Act in Bombay, Punjab and some other provinces ?

(b) Are Government prepared to remove these restrictions for Bengal ? If not, why not ?

PROSECUTIONS UNDER THE CHILD MARRIAGE RESTRAINT ACT.

356. ***Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen** : (a) Will Government please state how many prosecutions there have been in connection with the Child Marriage Restraint Act in the different provinces of India ?

(b) How many of those have ended in conviction ; how many with imprisonment ; how many with fine ; and how many with both ?

The Honourable Mr. H. G. Haig : (a) and (b). The information at present available shows that there have been 33 prosecutions. Fifteen cases ended in conviction. In two cases simple imprisonment was awarded, in one of which the Local Government remitted the sentence. In 10 cases fines were imposed. Three cases were dealt with under section 562 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. In no case was a sentence of fine and imprisonment awarded. I am taking steps to obtain complete figures and the result will be communicated to the House in due course.

Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen : May I know the maximum amount of fine imposed in these cases ?

The Honourable Mr. H. G. Haig : My information does not extend to that.

RELEASE OF ORDINARY CRIMINALS TO MAKE ROOM FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS IN JAIL.

357. ***Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen** : Is it a fact that ordinary criminals are often being released prematurely in order to make room for political prisoners ? If so, will Government please state the reason for this ?

The Honourable Mr. H. G. Haig : I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given by me to Mr. Lalchand Navalrai's starred question No. 105.

DUMPING OF INDIAN MARKET BY CHEAP JAPANESE GOODS.

358. *Mr. S. C. Mitra (on behalf of Mr. A. Das) : (a) Has the attention of Government been directed to the letter of the Delhi Piecegoods' Association published in the *Leader* of 22nd July, 1932 regarding Indian markets being dumped by cheap Japanese goods ?

(b) What action do Government propose to take to protect the interest of Indian mills ?

The Honourable Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar : (a) Yes.

(b) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the Government of India, Commerce Department Resolution No. 341-T. (164), dated the 30th August, 1932, and to the Notification bearing the same number and date imposing additional duties on cotton piece-goods. This Resolution and Notification were published in a Gazette of India Extraordinary on the 30th August.

ANNUAL RELIEFS OF BRITISH TROOPS.

359. *Mr. S. C. Mitra (on behalf of Mr. A. Das) : (a) What is the annual cost to the Government of India in the Military Department of the annual reliefs of British troops from England to India and from India to out of India which includes Burma and Egypt ?

(b) Does the Military Department propose to consider the advisability of ordering that there are to be no reliefs from India or the moving of British and Indian regiments in India till such time as the financial crisis has passed away ?

Mr. G. B. F. Tottenham : (a) A little over 63 lakhs.

(b) The matter has already received careful consideration. It must be remembered that India is only a link in the chain of Imperial reliefs and that the decision does not therefore rest with the Government of India. The authorities at home have, however, decided on financial grounds gradually to extend the term of service of a British battalion abroad, from 18 to 21 years ; and the result is that there will be a small decrease in the numbers of battalions entering and leaving India every second year.

AERODROME AT SITAPUR.

360. *Mr. S. C. Mitra (on behalf of Mr. A. Das) : (a) Did the Military Department not long ago decide to have an aerodrome at Sitapur and for this purpose acquire villages and a very large area of land ?

(b) What was the cost of this acquisition of land ?

(c) What was the cost of the aerodrome ?

(d) Is it a fact that after all this expenditure of Government money two mounted Transport Corps have been stationed at Sitapur and for that purpose the barracks have been remodelled for the motor transport and bridges constructed for practice ? What has been the total cost of this ?

Mr. G. B. F. Tottenham : There has been no recent decision to have an aerodrome at Sitapur. Some time before the war, in about 1913, there was a scheme for the formation of a Central Flying School

at that station : but whether any money was ever spent on the execution of that project I have not been able to discover. A reference has been made to the local military authorities and a further reply to the questions will be laid on the table in due course.

WITHDRAWALS FROM THE GENERAL PROVIDENT FUND FOR INVESTMENT IN STERLING INSURANCE POLICIES.

361. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra** (on behalf of Mr. A. Das) : (a) With reference to the reply to starred question No. 81, dated the 3rd February, 1932, will Government please state what amount of money from the Provident Fund of officers has been paid for single sterling policies (i.e., one single payment to get at the present time a policy in pounds sterling) ?

The Honourable Sir Alan Parsons : A statement containing the information promised by the Honourable Sir George Schuster in the Legislative Assembly on the 1st February, 1932, in reply to part (a) (i) of the starred question No. 81, was laid on the table on the 6th September, 1932.

SPECIAL TRAIN FOR CIVILIAN CLERKS BETWEEN SUMMER HILL AND SIMLA.

362. ***Mr. Bhuput Sing** : (a) Is it a fact that the European quarters in Simla have been reclassified as quarters for staff " living in European style " and " living in Indian style " ?

(b) Is it a fact that since that change a large number of staff of the Government of India Civil Secretariats are being allotted quarters in Summer Hill ?

(c) Is it a fact that hitherto these quarters were being occupied mostly by the Army Headquarters staff ?

(d) Is it a fact that a special train is being run from Summer Hill to Simla for the convenience of the Army Headquarters staff living in Summer Hill ?

(e) Are Government aware that this train starts from Summer Hill at about 9-15 in the morning and returns from Simla at 4-36 in the evening to suit the office hours of the Army Headquarters which are from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. ?

(f) Are Government aware that the office hours of the Civil Secretariats and the Attached Offices are from 10-30 A.M. to 4-30 P.M. ?

(g) If so, do Government propose to change the office hours of the Army Headquarters to be in line with all the other Secretariat Departments and Attached Offices of the Government of India ? If not, why not ?

(h) Are Government aware that by changing the office hours for Army Headquarters the time of the special train may be adjusted in such a way that the said special train may carry all the tenants of the Summer Hill quarters belonging both to Army Headquarters and other Civil Offices ? If so, are Government prepared to do so ? If not, do Government propose to arrange for another special train between Summer Hill and Simla with a suitable timing for the convenience of the staff of the Civil Secretariats and other Attached Offices of the Government of India living in Summer Hill quarters ? If not, why not ?

(i) Are Government aware that this sort of special treatment to one class of Government servants is causing great discontent amongst the different classes of Government employees living in Summer Hill quarters ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) The position is that the quarters which were previously known as quarters for European and Indian clerks in Simla have been reclassified respectively as quarters for clerks who live in European style and for those who live in Indian style.

(b) A number of such clerks have been allotted quarters there. I would not call it a large number.

(c), (d) and (e). The replies are in the affirmative.

(f) Yes, except that in the Army Department the hours are from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.

(g) and (h). It is not proposed to change the existing hours for Army Headquarters as these hours are considered more suitable for the general body of assistants and clerks employed in that Department. Nor is it proposed to arrange to start a special train for the convenience of the clerks employed in other offices, as the number of such men who live in Summer Hill is not large, and as it is within the discretion of the various Departments to allow such of their clerks as may reside at Summer Hill and who arrive in office by 9.45 A.M. to leave office at 4 P.M. to take advantage of the special train which is run for the Army Headquarters staff.

(i) The answer is in the negative.

COMBINATION SCHEME OF PROVIDENT FUND AND PENSION FOR GOVERNMENT SERVANTS.

363. ***Mr. Bhuput Sing :** (a) Is it a fact that in reply to the arguments of the mover of the resolution regarding gratuities to the families of Government servants moved in the Council of State on the 3rd March, 1932, the Government Member stated that Government have prepared a combination scheme of provident fund and pension and could bring it into force for their servants but they have decided to consult local Governments if they also wish to join ? If so, will Government be pleased to state whether Local Governments have been consulted and if so, whether replies have been received from them ?

(b) Are Government aware that this question has been under the consideration of the Government of India since 1924 ? Will they be pleased to state how much more time they require to come to a final decision in the matter ?

(c) Do Government propose to expedite the matter ; and, if so, will they state by what time approximately they would come to a decision ?

(d) If the opinions of the local Governments in the matter are divided, do they propose to bring into force the combination scheme immediately for the Government of India servants ? If not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir Alan Parsons : (a) Yes. We have not yet received the replies of Provincial Governments.

(b) and (c). I think it should be possible to come to a decision fairly soon after the replies of Provincial Governments are received.

(d) I am afraid I cannot answer this hypothetical question.

MOPLAHS CONVICTED DURING THE MALABAR REBELLION IN 1921.

364. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad** : (a) How many Moplahs, who have been convicted of offences connected with the Malabar Rebellion 1921, are suffering imprisonment ?

(b) How many of them are in the jails in Madras Province and how many of them are in the jails outside Madras ?

(c) How many of them have been transported ?

(d) Did the release of such prisoners in the past few years disturb the peace of the district concerned ?

The Honourable Mr. H. G. Haig : (a) All these prisoners, except about 335, have now either been released or are under orders of release.

(b) and (c). The information is being collected and I will lay a statement on the table in due course.

(d) The releases have so far had no bad effect on the peace of the district concerned.

NUMBER OF MOPLAHS WANTED BY POLICE AND DETAINED UNDER DIFFERENT LAWS.

365. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad** : (a) What is the number of those Moplahs who are even now wanted by the Police under the State Regulation III and Moplah Outrages Act and in connection with the Malabar Rebellion 1921 ?

(b) How many Moplahs have been detained under State Regulation III and Moplah Outrages Act ?

The Honourable Mr. H. G. Haig : The information in my possession is that 73 Moplahs implicated in the Malabar Rebellion of 1921 are now restricted under the Madras State Prisoners Regulation, II of 1819, as against 245 originally under restraint. Three are in jail, and the remainder are at large under police surveillance. The latest information I have shows that only one Moplah implicated in the Malabar Rebellion of 1921 is under restraint under the Moplah Outrages Act. No Moplahs have been detained under Regulation III of 1818.

GENERAL AMNESTY FOR MOPLAH PRISONERS OF THE MALABAR REBELLION OF 1921.

366. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad** : (a) Have Government received appeals for mercy on behalf of the Moplahs who are still suffering imprisonment in connection with the Malabar rebellion 1921 ?

(b) Are Government considering the question of granting a general amnesty, to release the Moplahs who are still suffering in that connection and to permit the detained Moplahs to return to their homes ?

The Honourable Mr. H. G. Haig : The Government of India have received no recent appeals from or on behalf of these prisoners ; but the Local Government are following a liberal policy of removing restraint wherever possible. Those released are at liberty to return to their homes if they so desire.

INCONVENIENT TIMINGS OF PASSENGER TRAINS BETWEEN MEERUT AND LUCKNOW.

367. *Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin : Are Government aware that passengers by every train between Meerut and Lucknow are suffering great inconvenience and waste of time by halting for several hours at both the changing junctions, viz., Hapur and Muradabad, for want of connecting trains there ? If so, are Government prepared to remove the grievances forthwith ?

Mr. P. R. Ban : Government recognise that the connections at Hapur and Moradabad are not quite convenient for passengers travelling between Meerut City and Lucknow. I am bringing the Honourable Member's question to the notice of the Agent, East Indian Railway, for such action as he may consider it possible to take to remove the inconvenience experienced.

AMOUNT SPENT ON AND PERSONNEL OF THE FRANCHISE, CONSULTATIVE AND RETRENCHMENT COMMITTEES.

368. *Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin : Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing total amounts spent on the Franchise and Consultative Committees and also various Retrenchment Committees respectively with the names of the members of each of the said committees, constituencies each of them represented, and the amount of travelling and daily allowances drawn by each member ?

The Honourable Sir Alan Parsons : I lay on the table a statement showing the total amounts spent up to 31st July, 1932, on these Committees, with the names of the members of each. The collection and tabulation of the amounts of travelling and daily allowances drawn by each member of the Committees would involve an unjustifiable expenditure of time and labour.

Statement showing total amounts spent on the Franchise, and Consultative Committees and the various Retrenchment Committees.

(i) Franchise Committee	..	£17,500
(ii) Consultative Committee	.. ..	Rs. 50,300
(iii) Various Retrenchment Committees	.. ..	Rs. 1,74,064

(It is not possible to give the figures for the various Retrenchment Sub-Committees separately.)

Statement showing the names of the members of the Franchise and Consultative Committees and the various Retrenchment Committees.

INDIAN FRANCHISE COMMITTEE.

The Marquess of Lothian, C.H., Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for India, Chairman.

Sir John Kerr, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., Deputy Chairman.

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, M.L.C.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi Azis-ul-Haque, M.L.C.

Mr. B. R. Bakhale, M.L.C.

Sir Ernest Bennett, M.P.
 Mr. B. A. Butler, M.P.
 Mr. C. Y. Chintamani, M.L.C.
 The Marquess of Dufferin and Ava.
 The Honourable Mr. E. Miller.
 Major J. Milner, M.C., M.P.
 Diwan Bahadur A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar, M.L.A.
 The Honourable Mary Pickford, C.B.E., M.P.
 Mrs. P. Subbarayan.
 Sardar Bahadur Sir Sundar Singh Majithia, Kt., C.I.E.
 Mr. S. B. Tambe.
 Sir Mohammad Yakub, Kt., M.L.A.
 Sir Zulfiqar Ali Khan, Kt., O.S.I., M.L.A.

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE.

(*Indian States.*)

The Raja of Sarila.
 Rao Bahadur V. T. Krishnama Chari, C.I.E.
 Nawab Liaqat Hayat Khan, O.B.E.
 Sir Manubhai Nandshankar Mehta, Kt., C.S.I.
 Nawab Sir Muhammad Akbar Hydari, Kt.
 Sir Mirza Muhammad Ismail, Kt., C.I.E., O.B.E.

(*British India.*)

Mr. E. C. Benthall, M.L.C.
 Mr. A. H. Ghuznavi, M.L.A.
 *Mr. M. R. Jaykar.
 *Mr. N. M. Joshi, M.L.A.
 Dr. B. S. Moonje.
 Rao Bahadur Sir Annepu Parasuramadas Patro, Kt.
 †Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, K.C.I.E.
 *Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, K.C.S.I.
 Dr. Shafaat Ahmad Khan, M.L.C.
 Capt. Sher Muhammad Khan, M.B.E., M.L.A.
 M. R. Ry. Rao Bahadur Srinivasan.
 *Sardar Saheb Sardar Ujjal Singh, M.L.C.
 †Mr. Zafarullah Khan.

Names.

Army Sub-Committee.

1. Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar, C.I.E., M.L.A. (Chairman).
2. The Honourable Major Nawab Sir Mohammad Akbar Khan, C.I.E.
3. The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Shivdev Singh Uberoi.
4. Maulvi Sir Mohammad Yakub, M.L.A.
5. Diwan Bahadur A. Ramaswami Mudaliar, M.L.A.
6. Mr. E. C. Benthall.
7. Mr. F. C. Bovenschen, C.B.
 Mr. A. F. L. Brayne, C.I.E., I.C.S. (Secretary).

*Since resigned.

†Now officiating as Members of the Governor General's Executive Council.

Railways Sub-Committee.

1. Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty, M.L.A. (Chairman).
 2. The Honourable Khan Bahadur Hafiz Mohammad Halim.
 3. Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad, C.I.E., M.L.A.
 4. Mr. N. M. Joshi, M.L.A.
 5. Mr. N. R. Sarkar.
 6. Mr. E. F. Sykes, M.L.A.
 7. Mr. Balaram Ayar.
- Mr. P. R. Rau (Secretary).

Posts and Telegraphs Sub-Committee.

1. Sir Cowasjee Jehangir, K.C.I.E., O.B.E., M.L.A. (Chairman).
 2. The Honourable Mr. B. K. Basu.
 3. Mr. Amar Nath Dutt, M.L.A.
 4. Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan, C.I.E., M.L.A.
 5. Mr. F. C. Ancsley.
 6. Mr. N. V. Raghavan.
- Mr. S. P. Varma (Secretary).

Stores Department (Stationery and Printing).

1. The Honourable Mr. G. A. Natesan (Chairman).
 2. Mr. S. C. Lyttelton.
 3. Mr. B. Dass, M.L.A.
 4. Mr. A. H. Ghuznavi, M.L.A.
 5. Mr. Jagannath Agarwal, M.L.A.
- Mr. V. K. Aravamudha Ayangar, C.I.E. (Secretary).

General Purposes Sub-Committee.

1. Sir Abdur Rahim, K.C.S.I., Kt., M.L.A. (Chairman).
 2. The Honourable Lala Ram Saran Das, C.I.E.
 3. Mr. Rangaswamy Ayangar.
 4. Mr. S. C. Mitra, M.L.A.
 5. Mian Mohd. Shah Nawaz, C.I.E., M.L.A.
 6. Mr. K. C. Roy, C.I.E., M.L.A. (Died on 7th September, 1931).
 7. Rai Sahib Harbilas Sarda, M.L.A.
 8. Mr. Ramsay Scott, M.L.A.
 9. Khan Bahadur Hafiz Walayat Ullah, I.E.O., M.L.A.
 10. An officer of the Finance Department.
- Mr. S. P. Shah, I.C.S. (Secretary).

Public Works Accounts and Audit Sub-Committee.

1. Mr. K. C. Neogy, M.L.A. (Chairman).
 2. The Honourable Mr. Hussain Imam.
 3. Mr. G. Morgan, C.I.E., M.L.A.
 4. ~~Diwan~~ Bahadur R. N. Arogiaswamy Mudaliar.
 5. Rai Bahadur Bishan Sarup.
- Mr. C. V. S. Rao (Secretary).

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE RETRENCHMENT COMMITTEES AND THE AMOUNT AGREED TO BY GOVERNMENT FOR RETRENCHMENT.

369. ***Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin** : Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the amounts of retrenchment recommended by various retrenchment committees and the amounts of retrenchment agreed to by Government in each Department respectively ?

The Honourable Sir Alan Parsons : Statements have already been laid on the table. I would refer the Honourable Member to the papers circulated with the current year's budget and the statements which the Financial Commissioner of Railways laid on the table on the 4th November, 1931, and 25th February, 1932.

DEPUTY POSTMASTER GENERAL AND OTHER STAFF IN THE BIHAR AND ORISSA AND THE CENTRAL PROVINCES POSTAL CIRCLES.

370. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra** : (a) Will Government be pleased to state how many Departmental Telegraph Officers there are in the Bihar and Orissa and Central Provinces ?

(b) How many officers, Telegraph Masters, Telegraphists and other subordinates are there in each of these circles ?

(c) Will Government please state what is the justification for retaining one Deputy Postmaster-General in each of these two circles ?

Mr. T. Ryan : (a) I presume that the word 'Officers' is a misprint, for 'Office'. There are three Departmental Telegraph Offices in the Bihar and Orissa Circle and six in the Central Circle.

(b) In the Bihar and Orissa Circle there are 2 gazetted officers, 7 Telegraph Masters, 67 Telegraphists and 53 other subordinates.

In the Central Circle there are 6 gazetted officers, 13 Telegraph Masters, 145 Telegraphists and 125 other subordinates.

(c) The posts of Deputy Postmasters General, Telegraph Traffic, in these two Circles have been abolished.

TRANSFER OF HEAD CLERKS TO SUPERINTENDENTS OF POST OFFICES AND INSPECTORS TO SELECTION GRADE POSTS IN THE GENERAL LINE.

371. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra** : (a) Is it a fact that Inspectors and Head Clerks to Superintendents of Post Offices and Inspectors R. M. S. are treated as a class of officials different from the selection grade officials drawing pay of Rs. 160—250 according to the Director-General's recent orders ?

(b) Is it a fact that during the last few months several Head Clerks to Superintendents of Post Offices or Inspectors have been transferred to selection grade posts drawing the same pay ?

(c) If the reply to part (b) is in the affirmative, will Government please state why they have been transferred to the general line ? Has this resulted in a block of promotion from the ordinary line ?

(d) Do Government propose to arrange to transfer these men to the Inspectors' line as soon as vacancies arise both due to leave and retirement ? If not, why not ?

Mr. T. Ryan : (a) The fact is substantially as stated by the Honourable Member.

(b), (c) and (d). Government have no precise information, but if any official considers that his prospects of promotion have been prejudiced by such transfers it is open to him to represent his case through the proper official channel.

STAFF OF DIFFERENT CLASSES IN CERTAIN DIVISIONS OF THE RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE.

372. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra :** (a) Will Government please furnish a statement showing the total number of staff belonging to different classes in each of the following Divisions of Railway Mail Service :—(1) C.-Division, (2) P.-Division, (3) K.-Division, (4) J.-Division, (5) B.-Division, (6) O.-Division and (7) S.-Division ?

(b) Is it a fact that N.-Division has since been added to C.-Division resulting in reduction in expenditure, and if so, do Government propose to take necessary action to abolish similar divisions of Railway Mail Service ? If not, why not ?

Mr. T. Ryan : (a) Government regret that they are unable to furnish the statement called for as the time and labour involved in its compilation could not be justified.

(b) The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative ; as regards the second part, Departmental enquiries are in progress with a view to securing all possible economies in the Railway Mail Service.

C. AND P. DIVISIONS OF THE RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE.

373. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra :** (a) Is it a fact that the Railway Mail Service C.-Division, whose headquarter is at Calcutta, and P.-Division, whose headquarter is at Benares, have been placed under the control of the Postmaster General, Bihar and Orissa Circle ?

(b) If so, will Government please state what is the reason for placing these two divisions under the control of the Postmaster General, Bihar and Orissa Circle ?

(c) How many clerks, sorters and other officials are attached to the Head Record Offices of Howrah and Benares ?

(d) What was the total amount expended for travelling allowances in visiting headquarters of the old N.-Division and P.-Division during the last year ?

(e) Do Government propose to place the C.-Division under the control of the Postmaster-General, Bengal and Assam and the P.-Division under the control of the Postmaster-General, United Provinces Circles to avoid travelling expenses ?

Mr. T. Ryan : (a) and (b). The fact is that formerly the P. Division with headquarters at Benares and N. Division with headquarters at Calcutta were under the control of the Postmaster-General, Bihar and Orissa, and C. Division with headquarters at Howrah was under the Postmaster-General, Bengal and Assam. On administrative grounds and as a measure of economy, N. Division has recently been amalgamated with C. Division. The headquarters of the combined division has been

retained at Howrah, but it has been placed under the control of the Postmaster-General, Bihar and Orissa, as the area served lies mostly within the jurisdiction of that officer. P. Division continues to remain under the Postmaster-General, Bihar and Orissa, but it has been decided to transfer its headquarters from Benares to Patna to avoid extra expenditure in supervision.

(c) 328 in all.

(d) Rs. 577-3-0.

(e) In view of the reply to parts (a) and (b) above, Government do not propose to make any change.

SELECTION GRADE POSTS IN POST OFFICES IN BENGAL AND ASSAM.

374. *Mr. S. C. Mitra : (a) Will Government please state if it is a fact that selection grade posts in Post Offices in Bengal and Assam Circle were kept unfilled for some years while selection grade posts were promptly filled in the offices of the Postmaster-General, Bengal and Assam Circle ?

(b) If so what is the reason for it ?

(c) What is the percentage of selection grade posts in the office of the Postmaster-General in Bengal and Assam Circle and what is the percentage in Post Offices ?

(d) Is it a fact that while some selection grade officials of Superintendent's Offices and in the office of the Postmaster-General, Bengal and Assam have been allowed extension, a selection grade official has been transferred by the Post Office to fill up a vacancy there ? If so why ?

Mr. T. Ryan : (a), (b) and (d). Government have no information, but if any person connected with the Department considers that his legitimate interests have been prejudiced in the way that the Honourable Member suggests, it is open to him to represent his case through the proper official channel.

(c) The percentages are 16.8 for the Postmaster-General's Office and 6.02 for Post Offices.

CORNWALLIS STREET TOWN SUB-POST OFFICE, CALCUTTA.

375. *Mr. S. C. Mitra : (a) Is it a fact that the Cornwallis Street no-delivery T. S. O. of Calcutta is opened at 7 A.M. in the morning ? Is it also a fact that it is very near to Barabazar and Beadon Street delivery Post Offices ?

(b) What is the average sale of postage stamps in the morning before 10 A.M. and how many registered articles are booked at that time ?

(c) Who remains in charge in the morning and what is his pay ?

(d) Is the work sufficient to keep the office open in the morning ? If not, why is the office kept open in the morning ? Why is no other no-delivery post office kept open from 7 A.M.

Mr. T. Ryan : (a) The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. The Beadon Street and Barabazar post offices are each about a mile from the Cornwallis Street post office.

(b) Rs. 15 during the slack season and Rs. 50 during the remainder of the year. 60 registered articles on an average.

(c) The senior clerk, designated Head Clerk. The present incumbent is an official on Rs. 160 in the time-scale of Rs. 50—160.

(d) (i) Yes, in view of answer to part (b).

(ii) Does not arise.

(iii) Should there be any public demand for extending this arrangement to any other no-delivery town sub-offices it will no doubt be considered by the Postmaster-General, Bengal and Assam.

LOCATION OF POSTAL OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION IN A GOVERNMENT BUILDING IN CALCUTTA.

376. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra** : (a) Is it a fact that the Association of the Postal Officers is located at 1 Council House Street, Calcutta which is a Government Building ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether any rent is paid by the Postal Officers' Association for the accommodation ?

(c) If the answer to part (b) be in the negative, will Government please state whether the Association has been allowed free accommodation there and whether Government allow free accommodation to other Postal or Telegraph Unions or Associations in post office premises ?

Mr. T. Ryan : (a) No.

(b) and (c). Do not arise, but I may say that the only Union or Association that has been given free accommodation in post office premises is the Calicut Branch of the all-India Postal and Railway Mail Service Union. The question of recovery of rent from that Branch has been taken up by the Postmaster-General, Madras.

INTEREST ON POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK DEPOSITS.

377. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra** : (a) Is it a fact that the amount deposited in the Post Office Savings Bank of England is invested at the current rate of interest, which is higher than the interest paid to the depositors ?

(b) Is it a fact that the amount deposited in the Post Office Savings Bank of the Imperial Post Offices of India is taken over by Government and interest is paid at a fixed rate of 3 per cent. and not at the prevailing rate of interest for loans ?

(c) Will Government please state whether they have considered the question of adopting the principle followed in England and thus making a profit in the Postal Department by crediting the balance between the 3 per cent. paid to the depositors and the higher rate obtained by prevailing Government loans ?

The Honourable Sir Alan Parsons : (a) In England all monies deposited in the Post Office Savings Banks in excess of the sums withdrawn by depositors are paid over to the Commissioners for the Reduction of National Debt and invested by them in securities in their names to the credit of the Post Office Savings Banks Fund. When the interest accruing from such securities in any year is insufficient to meet the interest required to

be paid during the year to depositors and the expenses incurred during that year, the deficiency is made good out of monies provided by Parliament. Similarly when there is a surplus, the surplus is paid out of the Post Office Savings Banks Fund into the Exchequer.

(b) Yes.

(c) Savings Bank deposits are utilised by the Government of India for their general ways and means purposes and the benefit of the difference between the rate paid to depositors and the prevailing borrowing rate of the Government of India accrues to general revenues as in England. Both in India and in England the Post Office does this work merely as an agent and is paid for the work done. There is no question in either case, of their making a banking profit out of this business.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE.

The Honourable Sir Alan Parsons (Finance Member) : Sir, I lay
12 NOON. on the table the information promised in reply to starred questions Nos. 1025 and 1026 asked by **Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin** on the 29th March, 1932.

NEW APPOINTMENTS IN THE INCOME-TAX DEPARTMENT IN THE PUNJAB, NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE AND DELHI.

1025. No new appointments of Income-tax Officers were made in the Punjab North-West Frontier Province and Delhi. 28, 3 and 6 Assessing Officers were sanctioned for the Punjab, North-West Frontier Province and Delhi, respectively of which 27, 3 and 5, respectively have been filled by appointment of members (Inspector Accountants) of the existing staff who get an allowance of Rs. 25 per mensem for the additional responsibilities involved in addition to their substantive pay.

2. 25, 1 and 4 new appointments of Inspectors were sanctioned by the Government of India for the Punjab, North-West Frontier Province and Delhi, respectively. Out of 24 posts filled in the Punjab, 12 were made by departmental promotions and 12 by direct recruitment. Two posts were filled up by promotion of two Mohammadan officials already in the Department and 6 Mohammadans were directly recruited. In the Delhi Province out of 4 posts two have been filled up by Mohammadans directly recruited. In the North-West Frontier Province only one post was sanctioned and that was filled up by a Mohammadan by direct recruitment.

3. No, new appointments in the grade of Head Clerks and Head Assistants were sanctioned by the Government of India in connection with the lowering of the taxable limit.

4. 112, 9 and 20 appointments of Assistant Clerks were made in the Punjab, North-West Frontier Province and Delhi, respectively out of which 57, 9 and 7 were filled up by Mohammadans.

EMPLOYMENT OF MUSLIMS IN THE INCOME-TAX DEPARTMENT.

1026. Details of the number of temporary Assistant Clerks employed for surcharge and ordinary work and attached to Assessing Officers are as follows :

	<i>No. of posts sanctioned for.</i>			
	Surcharge.	Ordinary work.	Assessing officers.	Total.
Punjab ..	24	60	28	112
N.-W. F. Province	2	4	3	9
Delhi ..	7	13	..	20
	<u>38</u>	<u>77</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>141</u>
				d2

The total number of 141 posts were distributed as under :

Mohammedans	..	..	..	73 or 52 per cent.
Hindus	..	..	..	41 or 29 per cent.
Sikhs and Others	..	..	..	27 or 19 per cent.

2. Of the 38 clerks sanctioned for surcharge work only 17 were filled by Mohammedans. The distribution given above was made with reference to the total number of posts sanctioned and not by taking into account the purpose for which they were sanctioned. All the Assistant Clerks employed on surcharge work alone will be discharged by the end of March when the work for which they were engaged will be completed.

3. Does not arise.

The Honourable Mr. H. G. Haig (Home Member) : Sir, I lay on the table the further information promised in reply to starred question No. 412, asked by Mr. Lalchand Navalrai on the 17th February, 1932.

RE-EMPLOYMENT OF MEN RETRENCHED FROM OFFICES UNDER THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT.

412. The Army and the Commerce Departments have issued no orders in regard to the re-employment of retrenched personnel. The former, however, have left the matter to be dealt with by the heads of Departments under their control.

2. The Education, Health and Lands, Foreign and Political Railway, Finance and Industries and Labour Departments have instructed Departments and offices under their control to give preference to retrenched personnel when filling vacancies. The Central Board of Revenue have asked Commissioners of Income-tax to give preference to the retrenched staff of Accounts Offices and in the case of the Commissioner of Income-tax, Bombay, to the retrenched staff of the Bombay Customs and Salt Departments also. There is no scope for the re-employment of retrenched staff in the Boards' other subordinate offices. In the case of the Military Finance Department, the question does not arise because the retrenchment of inefficient only was carried out in that Department.

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe (Foreign Secretary) : Sir, I lay on the table the information promised in reply to part (c) of starred question No. 961 asked by Rao Bahadur B. L. Patil, on the 29th March, 1932.

BRAZILIAN IMMIGRATION SCHEME.

961. (c) (i) The number of Indians now settled in Brazil is stated to be approximately 300. It is not however known how many of these are British Indians and how many Portuguese Indians.

(ii) No Indians occupy superior official posts in Brazil. Seven Indians are stated to be members of learned professions. Of these four are Doctors, all of whom are Portuguese subjects. Their names are as follows :

Dr. D. E. Pereira.

Dr. V. Pereira,

Dr. C. Pereira, and

Dr. M. Figueredo.

The remaining three are engineers. Two of whom are British Indian subjects belonging to the North-West Frontier Province and one is a Portuguese subject. The names of these three gentlemen are not known.

(iii) No official scheme is in existence for the encouragement of immigration into Brazil by the Brazilian Government.

(iv) No restrictions upon Indian settlers in Brazil are enforced on religious grounds. A decree was published by the Brazilian Government on the 25th August, 1931, providing that in any firm established in Brazil at least two-thirds of the employees must be Brazilian citizens. Article II of the same decree provides however that for the purposes of this decree a person shall be regarded as a Brazilian citizen if he has resided for ten years in Brazil and has Brazilian children or, for a period of five years from the date of the decree, if he has resided for the period of ten years mentioned above, but has not got Brazilian children. Apart from this no restrictions are enforced on professional grounds.

Mr. P. R. Rau (Financial Commissioner, Railway) : Sir, I lay on the table the information promised in reply to :

- (i) starred questions Nos. 229, 233, 235, 236, 237, 238, 240, 244, 245, 246, 249, and 250,
- (ii) starred questions Nos. 473, 474 and 475,
- (iii) starred questions Nos. 778, 779, 780 and 782.
- (iv) starred questions Nos. 843, 844, 845, 847, 848, and 850, and
- (v) starred questions Nos. 884 and 885.

DESIGNATION OF TICKET CHECKERS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

229. (a) The designation " Travelling Ticket Examiner " was adopted in place of Travelling Ticket Inspector as it was considered more in keeping with the work done under the present system.

(b) Yes, to a certain extent.

(c) I would invite attention to the reply to part (g) of question No. 1126. They were never known as Travelling Ticket Checkers.

(d) The answer to the first part is " owing to exigencies of the service ". The posts of Travelling Ticket Inspectors were abolished on the introduction of the present scheme which came into force from 1st June, 1931.

ALLOWANCES OF GUARDS AND TICKET EXAMINERS.

233. (a) The following are some of the privileges granted to a Guard and not to a Travelling Ticket Examiner :

- (i) Sunday and holiday allowance :
- (ii) Mileage allowance ; and
- (iii) Under rest.

(b) No.

(c) Under their conditions of service. Their pay represents a fixed element of their remuneration while mileage is an addition to their pay, its amount varying according to the work performed by them.

(d) This question does not arise as Travelling Ticket Examiners are not Running Staff.

(e) No, a Ticket Collector on Rs. 32 was paid 12 annas when out of his headquarters station and remained away for over 8 hours at a stretch whereas a Travelling Ticket Examiner on Rs. 25 is paid a Consolidated Allowance of Rs. 17-8-0 per month after 12 per cent. cut irrespective of whether he goes out of his headquarters of the line or not provided he is on duty and not on leave.

APPEALS OF TRAVELLING TICKET INSPECTORS.

235. (a) Because no appeals lay to the Railway Board.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes, such a reply was given to the appeals made by Travelling Ticket Inspectors who were absorbed on the maximum pay of the Travelling Ticket Examiner, Grade I or II as the case may be under the Moody-Ward Report.

(d) The substantive post of Mr. Ahsan was not abolished. He was only temporarily utilised as Crew Inspector on his substantive pay of Rs. 275 and not Rs. 270 as stated.

(e) Because their services were required.

REDUCTIONS OF PAY AND ALLOWANCES OF TRAVELLING TICKET INSPECTORS.

236. (a) The amount of the loss is considerably less than this.

(b) Yes.

(c) The deductions have been made on the scale prescribed in the Railways and Posts and Telegraphs (Emergency Deductions from Salaries) Rules, 1931, which are applicable to all Railway servants.

(d) Because the Travelling Ticket Inspectors provided for in the Moody-Ward Scheme are not Running Staff and are ineligible for Mileage Allowance; consequently their leave salary from 1st June, 1931, is based on their substantive pay only. The 10 and 12½ per cent. reductions made in their pay and consolidated travelling allowance respectively are based on the rules and orders issued by Government during the present emergency, and these rules and orders are applicable to Railway servants generally.

PAY OF TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS.

237. (a) Yes.

(b) The scales of grades have not been reduced, but the pay is subject to the cut in accordance with the Railway and Posts and Telegraphs (Emergency Deductions from Salaries) Rules, 1931.

(c) The leave salary of the former Travelling Ticket Inspectors varied according to their salary and mileage allowance earned. The maximum pay of a Crew-in-Charge was Rs. 90 and that of a Travelling Ticket Examiner now is Rs. 95, reduced by the 10 per cent. cut.

PAY AND MILEAGE ALLOWANCE OF TICKET EXAMINERS ON THE EAST INDIAN AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAYS.

238. (a) Yes, but the change was not merely in designation but in duties.

(b) The question of men on the permanent establishment whose substantive pay was reduced on the East Indian Railway is under consideration.

(c) The allowance drawn by Special Ticket Examiners on the North-Western Railway is a daily allowance while Travelling Ticket Examiners on the East Indian Railway draw a consolidated travelling allowance. The question of replacing the latter by a system of daily allowances is under consideration.

SUCCESS AND COST OF THE MOODY-WARD SYSTEM OF TICKET CHECKING.

240. (a) The system was introduced in June, 1931, and on the experiment proving a success was sanctioned as a permanent measure in August, 1932.

(b) (i) Rs. 5,74,692.

(ii) Inspectors	17	
Travelling Ticket Examiners	626	(representing number of Travelling Ticket Examiners actually employed).
Ticket Collectors .. .	839	
Office staff	34	

(iii) Rs. 3,55,632.

(iv) Rs. 66,432.

(v) Rs. 568.

(vi) Number of cases

under section 112	1,555
under section 113	26,391
under section 114	8
under section 419, I. P. C.	4
under section 420, I. P. C.	9

(c) Regarding Ticket Collectors—

The information is not available.

Regarding Travelling Ticket Inspectors

(i) Rs. 1,56,555.

(ii) " Officer-in-charge	1
Divisional Inspectors	6
Travelling Ticket Inspectors	148
Office Staff	50

(iii) Rs. 2,79,572.

(iv) This information is not available.

(v) Rs. 1,884 per head.

(vi) This information is not available.

RECRUITMENT OF TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS.

244. (a) Until the scheme was sanctioned as a permanent measure in August, 1930, the Agent reported that none of the temporary recruits of the former, and

(c) Crew had been confirmed. Government have no later information.

(b) Yes.

DUTIES OF TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS.

245. (a) Yes, a Travelling Ticket Examiner may be utilized as a Ticket Collector when occasion arises, i.e., at *melas*. Ticket Collectors are not utilized to work as Guards.

(b) Travelling Ticket Examiners were occasionally utilized as Ticket Collectors during big *melas* or on special checks in the interest of the Administration. As this is not a general practice and is as a rule resorted to only at *melas*, etc., no records have been kept.

PAY OF HEAD TICKET COLLECTORS AT CERTAIN STATIONS.

246. (a) Howrah	Rs. 220.
Benares Cantt.	No Head Ticket Collector employed.
Lucknow	Rs. 190.
Allahabad	No Head Ticket Collector employed.
Cawnpore	Rs. 190.
Moradabad	No Head Ticket Collector employed.
Bareilly	No Head Ticket Collector employed.
Lhaksar	No Head Ticket Collector employed.
Hardwar	No Head Ticket Collector employed.
Dehra Dun	Rs. 190 (Joint Platform Assistant and Head Ticket Collector).
(b) At Hardwar	Rs. 4,72,320 per annum.
At Benares Cantt.	Rs. 4,64,124 per annum.
At Bareilly	Rs. 5,66,480 per annum.
At Moradabad	Rs. 4,30,528 per annum.

HOUSE RENT AND MILEAGE ALLOWANCES OF TICKET CHECKING STAFF OF THE EAST INDIAN AND OUDH AND ROHILKHAND RAILWAY.

249. (a) & (b). I have called for further information and will, on its receipt, lay a reply on the table.

DISCHARGE OF TRAVELLING TICKET INSPECTORS AND TICKET COLLECTORS.

250. (a) Travelling Ticket Inspectors—

Discharged	6
Reinstated	Nil
Ticket Collectors—	
Discharged	.. 34
Reinstated	.. .. 3

(b) 2 discharged as they declined to accept the post offered in the Moody-Ward Scheme, 4 because their services as Travelling Ticket Inspectors were not satisfactory and 34 on account of inefficiency and unsuitability for employment in the New Scheme.

Three Ticket Collectors were reinstated on their cases being reviewed as it was considered they should be given a further trial.

REDUCTION OF PAY OF TRAVELLING TICKET INSPECTORS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

473. (a) and (b). The pay of the Travelling Ticket Inspectors was not reduced but their posts were abolished from 1st June, 1931. They were fitted into posts in the new scheme from 1st June, 1931, in a lower scale of pay in order to avoid their being discharged as redundant. The question of restoring the previous rate of pay to such of the permanent staff whose work is now practically the same as it was before is under consideration. A comparison of the duties performed by the former Travelling Ticket Inspectors with those of the existing Travelling Ticket Examiners as furnished in reply to Question No. 1125 (f) of Sheikh Fazal Haq Piracha indicates in what respects the duties differ.

(c) Attention is invited to the reply given to question No. 229. (a).

REDUCTION OF PAY OF TRAVELLING TICKET INSPECTORS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

474. The pay of the posts of Travelling Ticket Inspectors was not reduced.

ALLOWANCES OF GUARDS AND TICKET EXAMINERS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

475. (a) This is due to the fact that conditions of services, and duties of guards and Travelling Ticket Examiners are not the same.

(b) A Guard is concerned with the safe running of trains whereas a Travelling Ticket Examiner has no such responsibility.

(c) Because at that time they were treated on the same footing with Running staff.

ALLOWANCES OF TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS AND OF GUARDS AND DRIVERS.

778. (a) Attention is invited to answer to question No. 475 (b) asked by Lala Hari Raj Swarup on the 22nd February, 1932. Mileage is given to Guards not merely in consideration of their travelling but having regard to their duties and rates of pay.

(b) Because at that time they were treated on the same footing with Running staff.

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

(d) Government are not prepared to make an enquiry to answer a purely hypothetical question.

APPEALS OF TRAVELLING TICKET INSPECTORS TO THE SECRETARY, RAILWAY BOARD.

779. (a) They have the rights of appeal under certain circumstances.

(b) Not if an appeal lies to the Railway Board.

(c) The memorials have been under consideration of the Board in consultation with the Agent, East Indian Railway. It is hoped that final orders in the matter will issue shortly.

REDUCTION IN THE SALARY OF TRAVELLING TICKET CHECKERS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

780. Government have not seen the issue of the paper referred to. But the question of the pay and allowances of Travelling Ticket Inspectors has been under consideration of the Railway Board for some time past and it is hoped that orders will be issued shortly.

POSTS OF TICKET COLLECTORS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY PROMOTED TO TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS.

782. The posts of Ticket Collectors promoted to officiate as Travelling Ticket Examiners have not been permanently filled and will be available for such men should the necessity arise to revert them from the Travelling Ticket Examiners' grade.

APPOINTMENT OF TICKET COLLECTORS.

848. Yes. In selecting men for discharge and others for retention in the new scheme the principles laid down in that letter were followed.

APPEALS OF TRAVELLING TICKET INSPECTORS.

844. (a) Some were received in July, 1931, and some in October, 1931. They were addressed to :

- (1) Labour Member, Railway Board, Simla, through the Chief Accounts Officer, Calcutta.
The Director of Finance, Railway Board, Simla (through Chief Accounts Officer).
The Controller of Railway Accounts, New Delhi (through Chief Accounts Officer).
The Financial Commissioner, Railway Board, Simla (through Chief Accounts Officer).
The Chief Operating Superintendent, East Indian Railway, Calcutta (through Chief Accounts Officer).
- (2) G. L. Colvin, Esq., Agent, East Indian Railway, Calcutta (through proper channel).
- (3) Secretary, Railway Board, Simla (through proper channel).

There was no undue delay in considering these appeals.

(b) Government do not consider that any public purpose will be served by placing these papers on the table.

(c) Yes. The matter referred to in the memorial has been under the consideration of the Railway Board and orders on the subject will be issued shortly.

(d) (1) Yes, but only in certain circumstances.

(2) Because the appeal did not lie to the Agent as the Travelling Ticket Inspectors' posts were abolished and no appeal is ordinarily allowed against reduction of establishment.

APPEALS OF TRAVELLING TICKET INSPECTORS.

845. (a) A copy is already in the Library of the House.

(b) The appeals could be withheld under rules 10 and 15 of the Rules regulating the discharge and dismissal of State Railways non-gazetted Government servants referred to in part (a) of this question.

RAILWAY TICKET CHECKING SYSTEMS.

847. The scheme has now been sanctioned as a permanent measure.

LADY TICKET COLLECTORS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

848. (a) Travelling Ticket Examiners are not authorised to enter carriages set apart for females.

(b) Economy effected would be approximately Rs. 46,800 per annum. Lady Ticket Collectors are provided on 2.5 per cent. of stations on the East Indian Railway.

RE-EXAMINATION OF TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS.

850. The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given to Dr. Zia-ud-Din Ahmad's question No. 832.

ALLEGED INJUSTICES TO MUSLIM EMPLOYEES ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

884. (c) Yes.

(d) Yes.

(e) No. Honourary Lient. and Subedar Kanor Jalpa Persad and Subedar Abdulla Khan.

TERMS FOR DISCHARGE OF RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.

885. (b) If the term persons 'acting in the Crew Department' refers to temporary hands, they were not given the benefit of the above rule. Temporary hands of the Crew Department who were not considered suitable for employment in the new scheme were discharged with 24 hours notice.

MOTION RE COMPLETE CONFIDENCE IN THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT.

The Honourable Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar (Leader of the House) : Mr. President, I desire to make a motion in regard to what has appeared in a certain newspaper regarding you.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola) : The Honourable Member wishes to move a motion in regard to what has appeared in a certain paper. The Chair has noticed it and leaves the matter in the hands of the House as the question involves the dignity of the Chair.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola) vacated the Chair, which was taken by Sir Hari Singh Gour.]

The Honourable Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar : I desire to make this motion :

“ That in view of the attack recently made on him in the Press, this Assembly do place on record its complete confidence in the Honourable the President.” (Cheers.)

If I may be permitted to make the observation, Sir, it would seem to be unnecessary for me, after the manner in which the announcement of this motion has been received in this House, to make many remarks, but, Sir, not one of us is unaware of the peculiar position of the President of this Assembly as the guardian of the privileges of the House, as the custodian of its dignity and honour and as its official representative. In placing this motion on record this Assembly is to a large extent recording a vote of confidence in itself, in its belief in its own destiny, its belief in its own future. The dignity, the privileges and the position that the President enjoys, he enjoys as the spearhead of this Assembly. Sir, the President's position, assimilating as it does, that of the first commoner of Great Britain, the Speaker of the House of Commons, is a unique one and so far as the present incumbent of the office is concerned, it will not be forgotten that after a long political career, after a great administrative and official career, he has placed his talents and his energies, not grudging the trouble involved in that process, at the disposal of this Assembly and we are grateful to him on that account (Applause.) It has been brought to my notice, as it has been brought to his notice, that a certain newspaper has made some observations regarding him. I do not propose to deal with the subject matter of these remarks and I know I shall not be making an appeal in vain to the Honourable Members of this House when I ask that no other remarks need be forthcoming on the floor of this House except the association in silence but in complete and unanimous accord with the object underlying this Resolution. (Loud Cheers.) I assert unhesitatingly and with thorough conviction that the House will be doing its bare duty if it places on record its unabated confidence for the present and in the future in the Honourable the President. (Cheers.)

Mr. Chairman (Sir Hari Singh Gour) : The motion before the House is :

“ That in view of the attack recently made on him in the Press, this Assembly do place on record its complete confidence in the Honourable the President.”

The motion was adopted. (Prolonged and Continued Applause.)

Mr. Chairman (Sir Hari Singh Gour) : I shall make it my duty to convey the sense of this House to the Honourable the President.

THE PORT HAJ COMMITTEES BILL.

Mr. Chairman (Sir Hari Singh Gour) : Further consideration of the following motion moved by Mr. G. S. Bajpai on the 14th September, 1932 :

“ That the Bill to establish Committees in the principal ports of pilgrim traffic to assist Muslim pilgrims to the Hedjaz, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration.”

Sir Abdur Rahim (Calcutta and Suburbs : Muhammadan Urban) : Sir, the other day I was dealing with the various misapprehensions as to the scope of this Bill, that has arisen in the minds of certain bodies and individuals.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola) entered the Chamber and was greeted by the whole Assembly with prolonged and continuous applause during which Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola) remained standing. Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola) thereafter occupied the Chair, which was vacated by Sir Hari Singh Gour (Chairman), and was again greeted with prolonged applause.]

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola) : The Chair wishes to express its deep gratitude to the Honourable House for the expression of its confidence in the Chair. (Loud Cheers.)

Sir Abdur Rahim : I was pointing out that the Jamiat-ul-Ulema has been misled by certain propagandists who fear that pilgrimage to the Hedjaz might be taken advantage of as a means of promoting a pan-Islamic movement. I tried to explain to the House that such fears were absolutely groundless and had no foundation in fact. It is hardly necessary for me to explain that the Haj is a purely religious ritual and it is not a political institution and, therefore, no one who is afraid of the so-called pan-Islamic movement need be under any apprehension that pilgrimage to Hedjaz would be utilised for purposes of pan-Islamic propaganda.

Not only has the object of the Bill been misunderstood, but also its provisions. There is nothing in the Bill to suggest that the Government wish to acquire control over and to regulate pilgrim traffic. There is no provision which can lead to any such apprehension. If there was any provision in the Bill which had that effect, I should be the last person to support the Bill. The Bill, as it says, is merely intended to assist these pilgrims, many of whom are extremely poor and who have to perform long journeys by rail and steamer to go to a distant land in order to perform their religious duty. Every provision of the Bill is directed to assisting the pilgrims, and Government come in simply to help the representatives of the Muslim public and the pilgrims themselves in order to achieve this end. Then an objection was taken on the ground that Government wish to exercise control through this Bill over the Haj Committees. Sir, if the Port Committees were merely voluntary bodies, then

of course there would be no room for intervention by the Government. But the Bill proposes to confer certain statutory powers on these committees, and those powers are essential for a proper discharge by the committees of their duties, in order to enable them to assist the pilgrims, to ensure their safety and comfort and to see that they are not robbed or cheated. Sir, if Honourable Members will look at clauses 18 and 19, they will see at once that the Port Committees would be absolutely incapable of performing their essential functions if they had not the power which the Bill confers on them ; and as I have already pointed out, and which I may repeat again, unless Government support these committees, it will be almost impossible for them to help the pilgrims in the way that is necessary. Sir, if merely voluntary associations or committees had sufficed for our purpose, I am perfectly sure no occasion would have arisen for the Legislature to pass any measure like this. It is because voluntary associations and committees are powerless, without statutory authority, to help pilgrims in an adequate manner that this Bill and the other two Bills which, I am sure, will be brought before the Assembly next session, have been sought to be put on the Statute-book. Now the Port Committees have got to collect and disseminate information ; they have to see that the pilgrims are properly vaccinated, as otherwise they would suffer untold miseries in connection with the quarantine at Kamaran. They have to co-operate with the railway and shipping companies in order to ensure the comfort and safety of the pilgrims. They have to find suitable Muslims for employment by the shipping companies' pilgrim ships. They have to bring any irregularities or omissions on the part of the shipping companies in carrying out the provisions of the Merchant Shipping Act to the notice of the authorities, and they are authorised to inspect pilgrim ships to see that the provisions of the Merchant Shipping Act are properly carried out. They will also collect information as regards the way pilgrims are treated at Hedjaz and communicate to Government their suggestions as to the measures that ought to be taken in such connection. Now, these are duties and functions which could not possibly be discharged by the committees without statutory powers. That being the position, it is idle to carp at the Bill on the ground that the Bill gives too much control to the Government over these committees.

Then, objection has been taken to clause 4 as regards the composition of the committees. Now, it is true that certain members of the committee have to be nominated, including some officials. This, I say, is necessary if the committees have to work efficiently. A suggestion has, I believe, been made that bodies like the Jamiat-ul-Ulema should be represented on the committees. Now, there is nothing at all in clause 4 which will stand in the way of any member of the Jamiat-ul-Ulema or any other body to be represented there. They could easily be elected through the electoral machinery provided in the Bill. Sir, I should like also to point out that there is no question of religion involved in this Bill at all. It is only a measure to enable proper arrangements to be made for the comfort and safety of the large number of persons who collect in the ports in India and who have to sail in certain ships to the port in Hedjaz. Wherever there are such large congregations of men, it becomes necessary to make arrangements to see that they do not unduly suffer in health or otherwise. Now, in that I see nothing whatever which can be said to affect anyone's religion. It is merely an arrangement to see that the pilgrims whose numbers boarding a single ship amount sometimes to 1,000 or even 2,000

[Sir Abdur Rahim.]

do not suffer either through their ignorance of the conditions of the pilgrimage or at the hands of unscrupulous and greedy persons. It is a measure in the interests purely of humane treatment of the pilgrims, many of whom are very poor and I do not understand why there should be any apprehension that the Bill is intended to promote the interests of any particular religion. It stands on the same footing as, for instance, the regulations that are made on the occasion of pilgrimages within the borders of India or at the time of fairs and *melas*. This is nothing more than that in principle. The scope of the Bill is a little wider, because in making the necessary arrangements Government have got to deal with a country which is outside the political purview of India. Sir, I therefore, ask, this Honourable House not to delay the passing of a beneficial measure of this character and I also ask Mr. Maswood Ahmad, who has moved this motion, to withdraw it, because it would do no good to obstruct or delay a measure so necessary for the protection of the Muslim pilgrims.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola) : Order, order. As today is Friday, the House will now adjourn to 2 o'clock.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Two of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola) in the Chair.

Sir Muhammad Yakub (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions : Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, I do not envy anybody, much less any Honourable Member of this House, seeking legitimate popularity among the masses. The late immortal Maulana Hali has said in one of his couplets :

Yahí tálib-i-shuhra-t-o-nám sáre.

Bana dete hain qaum ke kám sáre.

These seekers for fame and popularity, they perform many meritorious acts for their community. But, certainly, Sir, to seek popularity at the expense of one's commonsense and conscience is really objectionable and very objectionable indeed. Sir, I claim to belong to a family in which theology and religious education has been a pride for many generations. Although I am, unfortunately, one of the unworthy descendants of that family, yet I am not behind anybody in my respect towards the learned and towards our religion. (Cheers.) I myself am of opinion that in matters relating to religion, Government ought to act with great caution and care. But, Sir, I contend, and I contend very strongly, that the measure before the House is not a religious enactment and that it has nothing to do whatsoever with the religious rights connected with Haj or the performance of rites relating to Haj. Let us see, Sir, what are the duties of this committee which is going to be appointed under the present Act. These duties are laid down in clause 18 of the Bill :

- “(a) to collect and disseminate information useful to pilgrims ;
- (b) to advise and assist pilgrims during their stay at the port, while proceeding to or returning from the Hedjaz, in all matters including vaccination, inoculation, medical inspection and issue of passes and passports, and to co-operate with the local authorities concerned in such matters ;
- (c) to give relief to indigent pilgrims ;
- (d) to negotiate and co-operate with railways and shipping companies for the purpose of securing travelling facilities for pilgrims ;
- (e) to find suitable Muslims for employment by shipping companies on pilgrim ships ;

- (f) to bring the grievances of pilgrims and any irregularities or omissions on the part of a master or owner of a pilgrim ship in the carrying out of the provisions of the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, 1923, to the notice of the authorities concerned, and to suggest remedies ;
- (ff) to authorise whenever practicable an individual pilgrim or a committee of pilgrims on board a pilgrim ship to represent the grievances of the pilgrims to the master or owner of the ship ; and
- (g) such other duties in connection with the pilgrim traffic as may be entrusted to it by Government."

Now, Sir, will any Honourable Member of the House or any zealous Mussalman belonging to any association, Jamait-ul-Ulema or any other Muslim association, point out and tell me whether any of these duties has any relation to the performance of religious rites pertaining to Haj. I submit, that it is only a secular measure proposed in order to give facilities to the intending pilgrims before they start on their journey to Mecca. Now, Sir, I do not object to anybody raising objections or moving amendments concerning any Bill before this House, nor do I object to anybody opposing any measure. But certainly it is objectionable, if you try to oppose any measure, simply because it was opposed by a section of Ulemas in a certain town or in certain cities. Sir, I contend that Islam is not a priest ridden religion. I contend, Sir, that, as a Mussalman, I am as much qualified to perform religious duties and rights as any of the big Ulemas or any big theologian. Sir, my Honourable friend, Shaikh Sadiq Hasan, who, I regret, is not here, got up to oppose this Bill, simply because it was opposed by a section of Ulemas. I think, Sir, this betrays a very great amount of weakness on the part of any Honourable Member of this House. If we have any real and genuine objections to any measure, let us oppose it, but not simply because that measure is opposed by any section of the public. Then, Sir, he said, that nobody would like to be a member of this committee when all the powers of making rules have been taken by Government under the proposed measure. Now, let us analyse for a minute what these powers are, which have been taken by the Government. These powers are given in clauses 10, 14 and 22. Clause 10 relates to rules relating to the constitution of committees ; clause 14 relates to officers and servants of Port Haj Committees and clause 22 relates to power to make rules for the financial control of committees.

Now, these are the functions which have nothing to do with the real object of the Bill, that is, to provide comforts for the intending pilgrims. These duties are all of the nature of official or executive duties, and the rules relating to these functions can only be framed by a Government at the first instance. Therefore, to say that Government have taken all the powers relating to these committees and that the committees will be at the behest of the Government in the performance of their duties is such as has no foundation at all.

Again, an objection was raised by my friend, Mr. Maswood Ahmad, that no provision has been made for the election of Ulemas on the committee. I submit, Sir, that there is nothing in this Bill which keeps the Ulemas out of the committees to be elected. On the other hand, the provisions for the election are such as give ample scope for their election, if it is necessary to have any of them on these committees. For instance, seven members are to be nominated by the Local Government, of whom not more than five shall be officials and two will be non-officials. It is quite open to Government to nominate two of the Ulemas to become members of the committee.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad (Patna and Chota Nagpur cum Orissa : Muhamadan) : Are Government prepared to promise that Ulemas will be nominated ?

Sir Muhammad Yakub : Government have been moulding Shamsul-Ulemas and if they can manufacture and mould Shamsul-Ulemas, I do not think Government will have any hesitation in nominating two Ulemas on this committee. Then, Sir, we find that two members are to be elected by the elected Muslim councillors and elected Muslim aldermen of the Corporation of Calcutta. There is nothing which can debar the Muslim councillors and aldermen of Calcutta to elect two Ulemas on the committee. In the same way, the constitution of the committees at Bombay and Karachi provides ample scope for the inclusion of Ulemas, if it is found necessary that they should be on this committee. But really I think, Sir, that the functions and the duties of this committee are such that I do not think it will be necessary to enrol the services of our Ulemas. Our holy Prophet (peace be on him !) has himself said :

Antum a'lam-u bi umur-i-dunyakum.

“ Ye people : you know better about your worldly affairs than I do.”

The affairs of the world and the duties which appertain to the functions of this committee are such as can better be performed by men of the world than by our sacred and holy Ulemas.

Then, Sir, my friend, Mr. Maswood Ahmad, whom I congratulate on the interest he has shown on this Bill and the large number of amendments he has put down on the agenda paper, said that this Bill should only be decided by the vote of the Muslim Members of this Assembly. Sir, I take strong and very strong objection to that suggestion. Sir, in one breath we claim responsible Government for this country and ask for democratic institutions in India and in the same breath we want that the primary right of a member of a democratic institution to take part in all its discussions should be refused to him. It seems to me that from separate electorates we are drifting on to separate legislatures. I do not know what will be the fate of this unfortunate country, if an independent constitutionalist, from some other country, were to come and analyse the speeches we deliver in this House and the contradictions we indulge in. He cannot form any other opinion except that we are not fit for any sort of responsibility either in the Centre or in the provinces. Sir, as I have just said, this is a purely secular measure and the duties of this committee are of a purely secular nature and I do not see what objection can there be to the inclusion of a non-Muslim, for instance, if my friend, Dr. Dalal, may be ready and prepared to look after the health of the intending pilgrims in the port of Bombay, I do not see any reason why I should not utilise his services. Personally I would prefer him to many an indifferent Muslim doctor. In the same way, if we find that there is an organised Seva Samiti in Bombay, Calcutta or Karachi and they voluntarily offer their services for the comfort of the intending pilgrims, I do not see why we should not not only allow but welcome the services of such organisations. In this way, take a Hindu festival like the Kumbh Mela at Allahabad or some festival in any other place of the Hindus. If there were some Muslim organisations to help the pilgrims and give them comforts in the matter of lodging or sanitation, I do not see why my Hindu brethren should refuse such help and assistance.

Therefore, I think that this point on which great stress was laid by my Honourable friend, Mr. Maswood Ahmad, has no logic in it. For a long time Muslims, in the Assembly, and outside it, have been clamouring for some legislation to help intending pilgrims and remove their difficulties and grievances, and when such a measure is in the last stage of being enacted, my Honourable friend here moves an amendment that it should be re-circulated for eliciting public opinion, as though we have not yet elicited public opinion thereon. This Bill has already attracted the attention of nearly all the Muslim individuals and organisations, who have any interest in the matter, and they have already expressed their opinion either for or against the Bill ; and I do not see any reason whatever why we should re-circulate it for the purpose of eliciting public opinion. My Honourable friend has got a large number of amendments and, if he thinks that the Act is very defective, let him move those amendments on the floor of this House. But what is the use of postponing the passage of the Bill ? Does he not know that we are on the threshold of new reforms, that a new constitution is soon going to be introduced in this country ? And if this Bill be not passed in this session, I am sure that it is not likely to be passed by the present Assembly, and I do not really know what will be the fate of such Bills when they come before the newly constituted Federal Assembly of India. So, Sir, I oppose the motion for circulation and support the motion that the Bill be now taken into consideration.

The Honourable Chaudhury Zafarullah Khan (Member for Education, Health and Lands) : Sir, after my learned and Honourable friends, Sir Abdur Rahim and Sir Muhammad Yakub, have dealt so ably with the objections advanced by other Honourable Members of this House against the consideration of this Bill, it would ordinarily not have been necessary for me to add anything to their speeches. But this Bill and two other connected Bills, which are not coming up for discussion during this Session of this House, have aroused so much controversy and have given rise to so much misunderstanding among the Muslims that, I believe, I may crave your indulgence and the indulgence of the House to add a few remarks to what has already been said.

It has been made abundantly clear that this Bill is in no sense a religious measure. It has been asserted on the other hand that it does, to a certain extent, interfere with religion. Without going into the history of this piece of proposed legislation, I may say this : That in case this Bill finds a place on the Statute-book, the effect of its provisions will not be to constrain any intending pilgrim to do what he is not already bound to do or to omit to do that which he either desires to do or is bound to do. The result of it will not be compulsion of any sort whatsoever. The result aimed at is that during the season when very large numbers of Mussalmans from all parts of the country begin to collect together at certain ports for the purpose of proceeding to the Hedjaz for the performance of the pilgrimage, certain assistance shall be rendered to them and certain facilities provided for them. This Bill will not add a single restriction to those that already exist. The restrictions to which intending pilgrims are subject have been provided for by other legislation, no doubt, in the interests of the pilgrims themselves. All that this Bill is intended to achieve is to render both the journey overland and the stay of intending pilgrims in ports where

[Chaudhury Zafarullah Khan.]

they intend to embark for the Hedjaz less irksome, less subject to restriction and less uncomfortable than it is at present. It does not even compulsory seek to regulate their movements in the sense that those intending pilgrims who do not desire to take the benefit of any of the provisions of this Act or any measures devised for their comfort as the result of the passage of this Bill through this House need not do so. If an intending pilgrim does not require any assistance from a Port Haj Committee or from any officers employed by it, he is not compelled to seek or to avail of that assistance. Therefore, the first matter that I wish to make absolutely clear both to Honourable Members of this House who, I am sure, do not require that assurance now after they have looked at the detailed provisions of the Bill, and to Muslims outside this House, is that the passage of this Bill through this House and its ultimately being placed on the Statute-book will not add any constraint to those to which intending pilgrims are already subject.

I was rather surprised to hear my Honourable friend, Shaikh Sadiq Hasan, criticise the Bill in the manner in which he did and to say that the Bill was somehow a mischievous device of the Government to attain some ulterior and sinister object which he did not proceed to explain. As a matter of fact, he added that he could not guess what was behind the mind of the Government when they brought this measure for discussion before the House. All that he really was concerned with was that there had been a great deal of opposition to the provisions of this Bill from certain religious bodies and associations. I am quite willing to pay a higher compliment to my Honourable friend, Shaikh Sadiq Hasan, than he was willing to pay to himself, and it is that I consider that with regard to the provisions of this Bill he is just as competent to judge of their effect and of the motive underlying them as any body of Ulemas in this country and it was his duty to have judged the provisions of this Bill on their merits rather than be guided by what certain associations might or might not have said. One or two matters of specific criticism I may advert to, although they have already been alluded to and dealt with by some of the Honourable Members who have preceded me. One matter on which stress has been laid both by Mr. Maswood Ahmad and by Shaikh Sadiq Hasan is that this Bill does not provide for the election of Ulemas or representatives of Ulema Associations on to these Port Haj Committees. As has been pointed out already, this Bill does not lay down any restrictions as to who may be a member of a Port Haj Committee, except that five out of seven, or four out of six in the case of the Karachi Committee of the nominated members may be officials. The remaining provisions of the Bill do not restrict the choice of members of Port Haj Committees to any particular category. It is, therefore, open to the electorates that might ultimately be determined under clause 4 to elect anybody as a member of these Port Haj Committees including the Ulema ; and when the members who have to be elected under the provisions of this Bill have been elected, it is then open to them in the case of each of these Haj Committees to proceed to co-opt a certain number of members and the Bill again does not lay down any restriction as to who may be co-opted. If those, who are to form an electorate

for the election of these members, are as keen to have among the members of these committees a certain number of Ulemas, as some members of this Honourable House are, I am perfectly certain that they will give effect to their desire by electing or co-opting Ulemas to these committees. One difficulty, which would have confronted Government if they had insisted as a matter of obligation in this Bill that a certain number of Ulemas must be elected, would have been the difficulty of defining what an *alim* means and to define that in such a way that the definition should have given satisfaction to all classes of Muslims. I have yet to be told and I should be glad to be told the definition of an *alim* upon which all Muslim Members of this House may agree. That is one of the many good reasons why the Bill does not proceed to lay down too many restrictions with regard to the people who may be elected to the membership of these committees. My Honourable friend, Shaikh Sadiq Hasan, was then very apprehensive with regard to the usefulness of these committees, because he said there were going to be as many as 7 out of 19 or 6 out of 17 nominated members of whom 5 or 4, respectively, may be officials; and he put a question as to whether anybody could point out any municipal committee or district board at present in operation in India on which so large a percentage of members was nominated or official members. It is not necessary to take up that challenge, although it is possible still to point out solitary instances of that kind, because these Port Haj Committees at their inception can in no way be compared with local bodies of that kind. What Mr. Sadiq Hasan must remember in this connection is that this is the very first attempt to set up bodies of this kind and, I am perfectly certain, that the moment these bodies begin to function, they will be only too grateful to Government for having provided that at least in the initial stages they should have the assistance and the co-operation of nominated members among whom there will be an element of official members. I am perfectly certain that it would be difficult for these committees to find their feet and to begin to function properly unless they did obtain the assistance of people experienced in the running of such committees and in the management of affairs like those which will be entrusted to these committees. Honourable Members should be satisfied that the number of official members is such that Government have not the slightest intention through these official members in any way to manage the affairs of these committees for them. Their very proportion of about one quarter of the total on these committees ought to re-assure Honourable Members that they are there to help the committees and not in any way to influence their decisions or to interfere in the details of the matters which they have to administer.

One point that my friend, Shaikh Sadiq Hasan, raised rather perplexed me as I had imagined that he had read the provisions of the Bill as it emerged from the Select Committee before he delivered his speech. One point of his criticism was that these committees are not being permitted to receive subscriptions, and that in this way a fairly generous source of obtaining funds would be shut out. I am afraid he had in mind the provisions of the Bill as it stood before it was committed to the Select Committee, for if he had looked at the provisions of clause 20, sub-clause (h), he would have found that the Haj

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Committee's funds would consist, among other funds, of any sums received by the Haj fund from private sources and that subscriptions, therefore, are not barred. Mr. Maswood Ahmad who has also had certain criticisms to offer does not appear to me to have made up his mind finally yet as to what modifications he desires in the provisions of this Bill. A stream of amendments has constantly been flowing in in the name of my Honourable friend, and one is rather perplexed in dealing with them as to what attitude to adopt which would conciliate him or reconcile him to the provisions of the Bill and bring in his support. One Honourable Member has assured the House that at one time Mr. Maswood Ahmad did not intend to move any amendment, and even after that assurance was given, there is a very large number of amendments put down on the order paper for the day. His very anxiety to help in so modifying the Bill that the provisions of the Bill may be acceptable to him, I think, does show that he is not very anxious to have the Bill circulated for public opinion at this stage. He seems to be in possession of the opinions and criticisms of the Ulemas who are concerned with this Bill. He himself seems to have studied it with minute care. Although he does not seem to have completed his study as yet. He was a member of the Select Committee, and I am perfectly certain that he will be content with trying to get the provisions of the Bill so modified as to make it acceptable to him rather than that the consideration of the Bill should be further delayed.

It has been pointed out that this measure and other measures connected with it are absolutely essential as preliminary measures to afford some alleviation and some comfort to the very large number of poor pilgrims who congregate together in these ports and that their passage should not be further delayed. I would, therefore, submit, Sir, that the House may be pleased to give its consent to the further consideration of the Bill rather than that it should be further delayed by the motion for circulation being accepted.

Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi (Tirhut Division : Muhammadan) : Sir, I want to record the most strong and emphatic protest against the motion of my friend, Mr. Maswood Ahmad, for circulating the Bill for eliciting opinion thereon. It is not for him to bring in a motion like this, because, as the house will soon see, it has been connected with this Bill, as it was presented before the Assembly in the Delhi session rather from the very beginning of its origin. He was a member of the Standing Haj Committee, and there it was that the recommendations of the Haj Enquiry Committee were fully considered. It appears, Sir, from the proceedings of the Standing Haj Committee which met on the 12th and 13th September, 1931, that the recommendations of the Haj Enquiry Committee on this question were thoroughly dealt with and the provisions of the Bill, as it was presented before this House in the Delhi session, had the full consent and agreement of all the Members present there. If we have done anything in this Bill, we have improved it very much. We have eliminated a large portion from the original Bill which seemed objectionable. It appears, Sir, that my friend, Mr. Maswood Ahmad, was present in that committee and had agreed that there should be nine nominated members in the Bombay Port Haj Committee, while we have reduced the number now to seven. It is clear, Sir, that he had agreed

to the number of members in the Karachi Haj Committee being 17 to which he now takes exception. He had also agreed to the quorum being fixed at five, which the Select Committee had raised to six. Therefore, Sir, I do not think that he has any justification to come before this House, after having taken part in the deliberations from the very first stage of the Bill, and ask us to circulate it for eliciting public opinion thereon. Mr. Maswood Ahmad knows very well that we have not done anything new after the Bill was circulated last April.

The germ of the provisions of the Bill was there at all the ports in India, the foundations for the Haj Committees were laid long before our recommendations were made. In 1908, the Governor of Bombay created non-official Haj Committees at the ports of Bombay and Karachi. In 1913, the Bengal Government created a non-official association, called the Haj Committee, in that city. We had Haj Committees all over India. We had a Provincial Haj Committee at Patna. When we were on the Haj Enquiry Committee, the most important thing that was pressed upon us was to improve the status of the Haj Committee so as to give them power to function effectively and to be of much greater use to the pilgrims, and we gave. I should think, most of our attention to that part of the requirements of the community. I am glad, Sir, to acknowledge here the generosity of our Chairman, Mr. Clayton, who agreed readily to all the reasonable proposals that we put forward in this connection before him. It was a unanimous report on this question that we presented to the Government, in which, of course, we wanted to have a larger number of elected members and a lesser number of nominated ones. But when the question came before the Standing Haj Committee, it appears that the members who represented this House on that committee did not see through it very carefully, and our recommendations were upset by the consent of the members in the Standing Haj Committee, because the word used in the proceedings of the Standing Haj Committee is that the proposals were all "agreed" by the members present and proposals in the Bill were put forward before us after that agreement. By that agreement we found that our recommendations had been modified to a very large extent, and that the nominated element had been introduced in a great measure. I and my other friends, Maulvi Sayyid Murtuza Saheb Bahadur, Haji Chaudhury Muhammad Ismail Khan, our friend from Multan of the Haj Enquiry Committee and all other members suggested that the nominated element should be lessened and the elected element increased. Although Government officials, who had their own way of doing things, strongly objected to this, but, seeing the force of opinion on the Select Committee, they agreed to the provisions as they are now embodied in the report of the Select Committee. Mr. Maswood Ahmad was also a member on the Select Committee. I know that he could not be present on that day, but that is not the fault of the other members of the Committee, that is his own fault. He ought to have preferred this work to the other work that he had at home. If he was not present, he should thank himself and not blame the members of the Select Committee.

I find, Sir, that although we have improved the provisions of this Bill so far as the number of elected members on the Port Haj Committees and other matters are concerned, still in the country the complaint is that Shafee Daoodi is at the bottom of the whole thing, it is he who was on the Standing Haj Committee, it is he who proposed a larger number of nominated element, and that he is doing everything behind the scenes. I am

[Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi.]

very sorry that Mr. Maswood Ahmad has brought my name so prominently in his minute of dissent in three places as if I was the author of the whole thing. I would now ask my Honourable friend, Mr. Maswood Ahmad, and the other Members of this House to look at the importance of the question. This is, as the Honourable Chaudhury Zafarullah Khan has said, the first of our experiments to have a statutory Haj Committee at the ports where pilgrims require our assistance. For the first time we are giving it a start. We had to see whether we have got sufficient material to work upon. The main question was one of finance, and we could very well see that the question of finance could not be solidly met by any other means than by a grant from provincial or Central revenues. We have seen committees like this dying out for lack of funds, and, therefore, we were constrained to look to the other side of the picture, and as such we could not so strongly object to even that much nominated element in the committee. The consideration of funds which we were going to derive from Government for the Haj Committees weighed much with us. These considerations were there before every member, and for that reason they did not think it wise to press their point of having 75 per cent. elected element on the Port Haj Committees. After all, it is a committee which has got to serve the pilgrims. It does not matter if men who Government know will be able to serve well on the committee are appointed by Government. I do not think that on a committee like this we should be insistent on having full elected element. Of course, we should be insistent on having men who are likely to serve zealously and enthusiastically on the committee. Committees have died down for want of enthusiasm of members and not for want of their being not elected. With these remarks, I would strongly oppose the motion which has been moved by my Honourable friend, Mr. Maswood Ahmad.

Mr. Muhammad Muazzam Sahib Bahadur (North Madras : Muhammadan) : It has been pointed out by my Honourable friend, Shaikh Sadiq Hasan, that the Government in this particular case have been influenced by a sinister motive, but after having heard Mr. Bajpai's statement as one of fact that there was no sinister motive behind this Bill, I think it was up to Shaikh Sadiq Hasan to have thought twice before having expressed such a charge, because I always feel that if there is any sinister motive underlying a measure brought before this House by the Government, they will never state it as a fact that there is no sinister motive unless it is devoid of every sinister motive. If any Bill has a sinister motive, they keep it back, they do not make mention of it. I should think that Shaikh Sadiq Hasan should have applied his mind before making that remark, because I am sure that Government have no sinister motive at all with regard to this Bill.

Then, as regards certain remarks which my Honourable friend, Bhai Parma Nand, has made, such as that the Government are trying to spread communalism, or remarks to that effect, which I find in his minute of dissent, page 1, where he says :

"I cannot at all see what relation there could exist between the Haj Committee of some port and the Central Legislatures except a simple inference that in the name of the Port Haj Committees the Bill, in reality, aims at the creation of a separate Muslim organisation similar to that of Khilafat Committee approved and sanctioned by the Central Legislature of the country."

My Honourable friend's apprehension is that, though these Port Haj Committees on the face of them purport to be constituted under this enactment, they will really begin to function as political organisations. (*Bhai Parma Nand* : "As communal organisations.") . . . just as the *Khilafat* Committee did in days gone by, and that, on that account, the Government ought not to countenance any measure which may have the effect of creating such political organisations in the garb of semi-religious ones. With regard to that, I say that the object of this Bill is not to interfere with the religion of the Mussalmans or with their religious rights in any way appertaining to the performance of the Haj. What the Bill aims at is to render all possible facilities, all possible comforts, to those intending pilgrims to the Hedjaz who are now suffering under very great disadvantages.

As a matter of fact, it will be up to the Port Haj Committees to be constituted in Karachi, Calcutta or Bombay to see that all these pilgrims who get on board the ships are cared for on their journey, that these committees get into active touch with the shipping authorities and thereby provide such comforts for the pilgrims as could be secured. That is the main function of these committees and if, in fixing the constitution for these committees, Government have a hand in nominating certain members, without defining what particular nationality or creed they should belong to, I do not see how the work of these committees would diminish or deteriorate by reason of such nominations. It is said that these Haj Committees ought to be purely elected bodies, elected not from Mussalmans alone but from members of any community and, so far as the Bill is concerned, it appears to me that the greatest latitude is given in so far as the candidates who may stand for election to these committees are concerned. Those who wish to get into any of these committees need not have the right to vote at the elections. Anybody and everybody may stand for election to these committees. In such circumstances I cannot see how my friend, *Bhai Parma Nand*, would call these Haj Committees communal committees.

Bhai Parma Nand (Ambala Division : Non-Muhammadan) : The members of the constituency are Muslims.

Mr. Muhammad Muazzam Sahib Bahadur : I will come to that. Then there is another argument levelled and that is that the Legislatures of the country ought to be shut out from these committees. The ground that he has put forward for the exclusion of the Muslim legislators of the country is that he cannot see any connection between the Port Haj Committees and the legislators. It seems to me that in *Bhai Parma Nand*'s mind it has always been the case that legislators are political workers, pure and simple. They have got nothing else to do except to be politicians. Does it stand to reason that because Members of this Legislature or the Legislative Councils are elected to these Port Haj Committees, their primary duty will be to convert the Haj Committees into political bodies ? I certainly wish to controvert that statement, because it is not politics alone that engages our attention. There are a thousand and one things besides politics that engage our attention. It is not for politics alone that we come here. Even now, there are a number of things not connected with politics that are being discussed in this House, such as social matters for instance. Why should he presuppose for a moment that legislators, once they enter these Haj Committees, will carry on politics and politics alone ? Then there was a suggestion put forward by more than one Member in this House, including my friend, *Mr. Maswood Ahmad*, that the Ulemas

[Mr. Muhammad Muazzam Sahib Bahadur.]

should be the necessary adjunct of these committees. I fail to see what particular charm attaches to the inclusion of the Ulemas on these committees. As a matter of fact, I personally think that far from helping these committees, the Ulemas will be the means of creating a split in the smooth working of the committees and if there had been a provision in the Bill that Ulemas ought not to be elected to these committees I should have been very glad. I think that would be a healthy provision, but, as it is, even the Ulemas are not excluded. They can come in. Nothing precludes them from standing for any of these committees. Sir, in the matter of rendering help to the pilgrims, I do not see how the Ulemas could render better aid than my friend, Mr. Kabir Ahmed. He is far remote from the Ulemas but still as a man...

Mr. K. Ahmed (Rajshahi Division : Muhammadan Rural) : How can a Muslim Member take part in this debate when he cannot pronounce a Muslim name ?

Mr. Muhammad Muazzam Sahib Bahadur : I thought, Sir, Kabir was a Muslim name.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola) : What is the Honourable Member doing now ? The Honourable Member cannot rise when the Member in possession of the House does not give way.

Mr. K. Ahmed : The Honourable Member cannot pronounce a Muhammadan name.

Mr. Muhammad Muazzam Sahib Bahadur : I really believe that Mr. Kabiruddin Ahmed would be of greater use to the pilgrims than any *alim* in this country. Then there was another remark, namely, that the nominated element was far in excess of what was required. I think that in the initial stages when this Bill has got to be brought to practical working, there ought to be a certain nominated element, because it gives very great weight to these non-official committees and this nominated element helps the committees in the proper discharge of their duties. With these words, Sir, I oppose the motion for circulation.

Maulvi Sayyid Murtuza Saheb Bahadur (South Madras : Muhammadan) : Before I proceed to speak, I should thank you for having given me an opportunity. As one of the members of the Select Committee and also of the Haj Enquiry Committee, I feel bound to give expression to my views in support of the motion for consideration. So far as this Select Committee is concerned, it consisted of four members of the Haj Enquiry Committee, that is, 50 per cent. thereof including my Honourable friends, Maulvi Shafee Daoodi, Khan Bahadur Rajan Baksh and Chaudhury Ismail Khan and myself. Every point was discussed and sifted and the Select Committee came to a cogent conclusion. In this connection I have to bring this one fact to the notice

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of this House. No doubt I am not at one with my Honourable friend, Mr. Muhammad Muazzam Sahib, when he says that Ulemas won't serve any purpose on these committees. Sir, I have got great regard for them. As one of the founders of the *Majliss Ulema*—a Muslim akin institution in Southern India—I cannot but have due regard for the Ulemas who are religiously-minded people and who are always proving themselves serviceable to Islam. (Hear, hear.) But then I cannot help observing in this connection that they were a little hasty in jumping to the decision that

Government were unduly interfering in this matter and that the Mussalman Members also were a party to it. Had they observed patience till the Select Committee came to some decision, they would have come to know how the matter was decided in Select Committee. Then, my Honourable friend, Bhai Parma Nand, in one breath says that Government would not be justified in financing these committees because they are communal and religious and in another breath he wants to take his stand on the decision hastily passed by the Jamiat-ul-Ulema. He says the Jamiat-ul-Ulema has laid such a stress on this point that they observed the 10th of June as a Haj day in order to protest against these measures,—and that day happened to be the day on which we signed the report of the Select Committee. In this connection I have to inform the House that on the Haj day we ran up to the Jama Masjid. Not only did we join the Friday congregation there, but also participated in that meeting which was convened to condemn the Government as also the Muslim Members that supported the measure. We were approached, one after another, by the audience to take the chair, but we said that inasmuch as there was something against us, we were obliged to decline the offer with thanks. The meeting was presided over by the Imam of Jama Masjid—who is also a recognized *Alim*, one who completed his course and got his degree from Darul-Ulum, Deoband. The whole question was put by the President, and then my Honourable friend, Maulvi Shafee Daoodi Sahib, and myself explained everything, when the whole audience was fully satisfied, and not only were they satisfied, but they also passed a vote of confidence in the Muslim Members and in the Select Committee. (Hear, hear.) So, Sir, had we had the opportunity of attending other meetings also, we would have convinced them and, at the same time, we would have converted them to our view. Now as regards Bhai Parma Nand, although many speakers have said something, I have to say a few words. When his name was proposed by the Deputy Leader of the Nationalist Party, we welcomed the proposal and we were under the delusion that he would prove himself helpful to the Select Committee,—or at least we thought, according to the Persian saying, ‘*Mera ba khair to ummeed necst sher merasan*’ :

“ I do not expect any good from you ; at least if you do not do me any harm, that would be deemed as an obligation.”

We were entirely disappointed—so long as the Select Committee meetings continued, he remained silent. On no occasions he voted with us. But when we perused the minute of dissent drawn up by him, we were astonished. In this connection I have to say that Mr. Maswood Ahmad was not justified in saying that our Hindu colleagues should neither support this motion nor oppose it. On the other hand, I hold a different view. My Hindu friends also should recognize that the Haj pilgrimage is not an Indian question only, but it is of international importance. (Hear, hear.) As regards this question, Muslim pilgrims have to satisfy so many conditions ; the Government of India have to abide by so many restrictions under international law. (Hear, hear.) But for these things, we would not have sought the help of the Government, but would have run the Haj administration independently of the Government. Sir, we do want to stand on our own legs so far at least as religious matters are concerned (Hear, hear), but as regards these international laws and sanitary conventions, the pilgrims have to satisfy not only this Government but also the Dutch Government, the Hedjaz Government, the French Government, the Egyptian Government, and so forth. In these circumstances the Haj

[Maulvi Sayyid Murtuza Saheb Bahadur.]

pilgrimage cannot possibly be placed on the same level as the pilgrimages made by members of other communities in India. Do we, Mussalmans, grudge any payment from provincial Governments or the Central Government for the purposes of other religionists? No, we do not and we will not; so we hope that our Hindu brethren also will not have any objection to this. Sir, in view of the fact that these measures are calculated to do good to Haj pilgrims, whose sufferings are great and must necessarily be mitigated, I support the motion whole-heartedly.

Some Honourable Members : I move that the question be now put.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions : Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, I take this opportunity to thank the Government for the honest efforts that they have made to remove the genuine grievances of the Mussalmans. Sir, I am not prepared to give a certificate that the Government's intentions are always honest, but, in this particular case, from what I have seen, I think they have really tried their level best to remove the genuine grievances of the Mussalmans. (Hear, hear.) They appointed a Haj Committee, they gave full latitude to this committee to go about and investigate the conditions all over the country, this committee produced a very good report, and the Government then formulated their recommendations in a Bill which was referred in the last session to a Select Committee consisting of about eight or nine members whose religious sentiments nobody can doubt. This Committee worked very hard. I also, Sir, take this opportunity to thank the members of the Select Committee and its President, Sir Abdur Rahim, for removing the defects which were present in the original Bill. The Bill as it has now emerged from the committee will no doubt prove very useful to the Mussalmans.

Before I come to the subject matter, I may be permitted to say one or two words with regard to the note of dissent by Bhai Parma Nand. I am perfectly sure that if he considers the principle of his minute of dissent very carefully, he will himself withdraw it. No doubt it is not the business of the Government and of the Legislature to interfere with any religion. It is not the business of the Legislature or of any Government to support one or the other religion. But it is certainly the legitimate function of every Government to support the travelling facilities of their people by whatever motives those travels may be actuated. Take, for instance, the travel by rail of the Hindu pilgrims. Have we not on the floor of the House protested against the manner in which the third class pilgrims are carried by the B. N. W. Railway? Have we not, on many occasions, protested that on this account alone it is justifiable to purchase this particular railway in order that the pilgrims may have greater facilities and comforts for their travel. To provide facilities in travel is certainly not in any way an interference or patronage of any religion. May I also remind him that we charge a terminal tax at places like Hardwar for providing comforts for pilgrims and will it be right for any person to say that he is not going to pay this terminal tax, because it only affects one particular religion. I think it is really the duty of every person to pay this terminal tax whatever religion he may profess, though it is intended for providing comforts for those Indians who go there on religious motives. May I also, Sir, say that time is money and may I ask him if we are justified, if we accept his principle, to spend any time of the Legislature on a measure which affects only one particular religion? Does not the

Bill, brought forward by my Honourable friend from Madras, does not the motion for adjournment, brought by Mr. Lahiri Choudhury, relate to a particular religion? Sir, it is the duty of the State to come forward and help every religion so long as it does not interfere with the private beliefs of the individuals. I think this is the principle on which we should work and, I hope, my Honourable friend, Bhai Parma Nand, will also accept this principle.

Bhai Parma Nand : Financial support is a different matter.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Not financial support to a religion, but financial support for providing facilities for travelling.

Now, Sir, as regards the objections raised by the Jamiat-ul-Ulema and other bodies. I have also received a large number of letters and telegrams, and one telegram was received by me when the Honourable the Secretary of the Education Department was sitting with me only yesterday in which the sender asked me to make every effort to oppose this particular Bill.

Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin (Cities of the United Provinces : Muhammadan Urban) : Every Member has got those telegrams.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Yes. But I think we had better judge these telegrams on their own merits. In this particular case, the Honourable Member in charge of Education has made it abundantly clear that this committee will not interfere with the privileges which persons may now enjoy. Those persons who want to travel in a particular manner or who want to live in a particular way will not be interfered with by this committee. The committee will only offer assistance to those persons who seek its assistance and, in that way, the present privileges will not be interfered with. I do not think there is any interference contemplated in this Bill. There are no doubt genuine difficulties under which the Mussalman pilgrims are now suffering and they have been related to me by persons who have actually travelled under these conditions. I was told that when they first go to the ship, these third class passengers are treated like cattle. They stand naked at one particular place and the Medical Officer comes in and puts a stamp on the body of passengers in the same way as is put on sheep which are taken to the slaughter-house. I was told also by some persons who have been actually to the Haj that there are enormous difficulties at Jeddah. They are asked to deposit the return half and it takes a very long time to get back the return half of their tickets. These are the difficulties which have been narrated to me and these are the difficulties which cannot be met by the present committee which is now in existence. Unless there is some authority behind this committee, it is impossible for them to meet these difficulties.

Now, as regards the nomination of official members about which objection has been taken. Speaking for myself, I am not in favour of having a large number of official members but, in this particular case, I take an exception. And I will tell the House why I take it. In order to remove the difficulty of medical examination, I would very much like to have the Medical Officer on this particular committee. If we can convince him in the committee, I am sure, it will have a greater effect than a formal resolution of this committee sent by post to the Medical Officer of the Port. I would rather have all those persons who are really concerned with the comforts of the pilgrims on this committee itself so that we may convince them. In that case there will be a greater chance that their recom-

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mendations will be accepted. It is much better to talk out with the officials in the committee than to send in a formal resolution of the committee whatever authority behind it may have. Sir, I may also point out that at present there is a practical monopoly of the pilgrim traffic. Had there been several companies and had there been several lines going from the Indian ports to the ports of Arabia, then probably the necessity of this committee would not have been so great. But, we find at present, there is a practical monopoly by this particular company and this monopoly cannot be met by a private body which now exists. Unless we have a constitutional committee, supported with the full authority of the Government, it is impossible for any body of people to meet this monopoly of the pilgrim traffic. Unless we have such a strong committee, as is contemplated in the Bill, it will not be possible to secure the same comforts and privileges from this organisation which aims at obtaining maximum profits with minimum expenditure.

Now, I come to one or two provisions of the Bill. I can say that I do not entirely agree with my friend, Maulvi Shafee Daoodi, when he said something about my friend, Mr. Maswood Ahmad. No doubt Mr. Maswood Ahmad was a member of all these committees, but it is quite possible for a man to change his opinion under the pressure of his electorate, or on account of new facts which he did not know before. I daresay, everyone of us has been pressed and it is quite possible that it may have different effects upon different persons. Some persons may be influenced more and some less.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official) : Or he may have changed his opinion honestly.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Coming to the terms of the Bill, I would very much like to have some *Alims* included in this Bill. I entirely agree with my Honourable friend, Chaudhury Zafarullah Khan, that it is impossible for any person to define an *Alim*. If you ask me the definition of an *Alim*, I would frankly say that I cannot define it. But I think he would agree that if the majority of the Muslim Members of this Legislature say that the person A is an *Alim*, then he is certainly an *Alim*, though we may not be able to define the term. Therefore, if an *Alim* is elected by the majority of the Muslim Members of the Legislature, and the majority of them have confessed that he is an *Alim*, then, I think we may take it for granted that he is an *Alim* whether he can be or cannot be defined as such.

Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin : A member of the Jamiat-ul-Ulema will be a recognised *Alim*.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : It was pointed out very clearly by Sir Abdur Rahim and also by Sir Muhammad Yakub that there was nothing in this Bill which might preclude *Alims* from this committee. I quite agree, it is quite possible that every member of this committee may be an *Alim*, there is nothing prohibiting that. But I tabled a motion simply on the ground that there was a strong agitation among certain sections that it was very desirable to include *Alims* in these committees and I know that some persons will be very much satisfied if a provision is made that at least two persons in this committee may be *Alims*. How it may be done, is a matter which we may discuss when the amendments

are before us. Here the difference is not in principle. We all like to have *Alims* in this committee. This is only a question of how these things could be put in words. We were all agreed that it was very desirable to have some *Alims* on the committee, we were all agreed that it was certain that some of them would be elected by one or all of the constituencies. The second thing to which I should like to draw the attention of the House is clause 5 which says that the constitution of the committee might be changed by the executive Government. We know the executive Government practically means the Member in charge of this particular Department. At present, no doubt, we have got a Muslim in charge of this Department, but there is no guarantee that the Member....

Mr. G. S. Bajpai (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands) : I only wish to point out that there is no provision in this Bill empowering the Governor General in Council to amend the constitution arbitrarily or secretly. There are very formal provisions put down as to how it could be done.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : I was referring to clause 5, namely, power to alter composition of Port Haj committees. This clause says :

“ The Local Government may propose to the Governor General in Council a draft of rules altering the composition of a Port Haj Committee.”

I was referring to the fact that the Governor General in Council may finally approve the draft.

The Honourable Chaudhury Zafarullah Khan : After previous publication of the draft.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : I would have preferred this power being given to the Legislature and not to the Governor General in Council as in clause 5. It is a departure from the principle that the Act of Legislature can only be altered by the Legislature. However, I do not like to wreck this Bill on this ground alone. We may possibly give a chance to the Governor General in Council and if we find that the Governor General in Council is not using the privileges in the best interests of the Mussalmans, then any of us, or any of our successors, might come forward in the Legislature and demand that this particular section might be expunged. I would certainly have preferred that a change in the composition of the committee, i.e., alteration of clause 4 ought to have been left to the Legislatures and not to the executive Government.

The last point that I should like to draw the attention of the House to is that among the sources of income Government have not considered the possibility of taking the interests which the Mussalmans have relinquished to Government in regard to the interests on savings bank deposits, war bonds and various other Government securities and the interests on fixed deposits in the Imperial Bank. Sir Haroon Jaffer, in 1927, brought forward a Bill in the Council of State and said that the money relinquished by the Mussalmans ought to be handed over to Mussalmans and may be spent for any purpose which Muslims may decide. The Government of India did not take any action on this

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and postponed the matter by usual tactics. They invited public opinion, and rejected it on the ground that it was not unanimous and that public opinion was diffused in the matter. So, nothing was done since 1927. The Government have not even kept an account of these funds. I approached the Secretary of the Finance Department about two years ago and asked him this account to be shown. I discovered that there was no material available in the Finance Department by which this fund could be indicated. This fund is a large one, and I know that the Jumma Musjid in Bombay has invested large sums of money. I was told in Bombay that the interest would be somewhere approaching two lakhs of rupees only on this item above.

The Honourable Chaudhry Zafarullah Khan : Will the Ulemas agree to the utilisation of that interest for the committee ?

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : I realise the difficulty. Ulemas might possibly object, if it is spent on religious purpose. It may be utilised in paying the salary of the executive officer and his staff, and nobody will have any particular objection and then the funds which the Government might contribute might be spent for other purposes. I wish the Honourable Member in charge of the Department considers this aspect of the question and takes out the money which the Finance Department is wrongfully keeping tight with them, the money really belongs to the Muslim community.

Several Honourable Members : The question may now be put.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola) : The question is that the question be now put.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : There is very little for me to say at this stage. I formally oppose on behalf of Government the motion for circulation which has been moved by Mr. Maswood Ahmad.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola) : The question is :

“ That the Bill, as amended by the Select Committee, be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon.”

The motion was negatived.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola) : The question is :

“ That the Bill to establish committees in the principal ports of pilgrim traffic to assist Muslim pilgrims to the Hedjaz, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration.”

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola) : Clause 4.

Mr. A. H. Ghuznavi (Dacca cum Mymensingh : Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, I do not move my amendment* No. 2 on the agenda.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Sir, I do not move my amendment† No. 3 the agenda.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : Sir, I move :

“ That in sub-clause 1 (a) of clause 4, for the word ‘ seven ’, the word ‘ four ’ be substituted.”

Sir, at the very outset I want to make it perfectly clear that I did not join my hand with that of my Honourable friend, Bhai Parma Nand, in tabling these amendments. But, at the same time, I have to say that I do not feel ashamed in joining my hands with my Hindu brethren. (Loud Applause.) I believe, the day when we all join hands will be the day of complete freedom and when Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Depressed Classes, etc., all the children of India belonging to different communities, castes and creeds join their heads and their hands, the day for complete freedom will dawn. (Hear, hear.) Unnecessary communalism cannot pay in the long run. (Loud Applause.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola) : Order, order. These are very estimable sentiments said by every section of the House, but the Chair is unable to appreciate what relevancy these remarks have on the amendment which the Honourable Member has moved.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : Mr. President, I have finished what I had to say on this point. I bow to your ruling, and I come now to the main point. I want to say that my Honourable friends should not be frightened by seeing so many long amendments on the agenda, some of them are rather consequential amendments and very few of them are amendments of principle. If you decide any principle, one way or the other, all the consequential amendments will go away and so this House will have to decide only one or two amendments of principle.

I am glad to say that I requested my Honourable colleague, Bhai Pama Nand, not to move his amendments and he has kindly accepted my proposal and he will not move his amendments. Now, Sir, coming to the merits, I will say that you cannot show any parallel law where you have got 37 per cent. nominations. You find that seven members are to be nominated of whom not more than five are to be officials and this seven out of nineteen comes to 37 per cent. There may be any backward area where such nomination may exist, but at least I am not prepared to accept either Bombay, Karachi or Calcutta to be a backward area or the Muslim community to be a backward community.

Further, Sir, much has been said about the Haj Enquiry Committee in this connection, that the committee toured all over India and spent

“ That for sub-clause (1) of clause 4 of the Bill the following be substituted :—

‘ (4) (1) The Port Haj Committee of Calcutta shall consist of nineteen members
Composition of Port Haj Committees. as follows :—

(a) fifteen members to be nominated by the Local Government, of whom not more than five shall be officials ; and

(b) four members to be elected by the elected Muslim members of the District Boards in Bengal.”

“ That in sub-clause (1) of clause 4 of the Bill for the word ‘ nineteen ’ the word ‘ twenty-one ’ be substituted.”

[Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad.]

a lot of money, thousands of rupees were paid to each member and after the troubles of years, the Haj Enquiry Committee made certain recommendations. May I ask Honourable Members, what is the recommendation of the Haj Enquiry Committee in this matter? They recommended that five out of a total of 25 members should be nominated. I will ask my mathematician friend, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad, to tell me if five out of 25 is not 20 per cent. So, this proposed nomination is not in accordance with the recommendation of that committee. What is the similarity between the Haj Enquiry Committee's recommendations and this Bill, I fail to understand. The only point of similarity is the words 'Port Haj Committee'. These words are of course common in the Bill and in the report, but other things are quite different having absolutely no similarity. But we cannot be satisfied with words only.

I want to ask those, who support this 37 per cent. nomination, whether they are prepared to accept this percentage of nominations in the future legislatures. Are they ready to accept it for their local councils? Nobody is going to accept it for the local councils and for the district boards and municipalities. Then, why is it that this 37 per cent. is being forced on the poor Muhammadans? Is this the reward of their loyalty?

Then, Sir, the Haj Enquiry Committee recommended five nominations out of a total of 25. Government have increased the five to seven and decreased the total from 25 to 19. Sir, is it called an honest intention?

Now, Sir, we have to see how the present Port Haj Committees are, what is their composition, and what is the proportion of official members on them. In this connection I will quote what the Bengal Government say. They say:

"The present provincial committee, which is also the Port Haj Committee for Calcutta, consists of 19 members and includes (four officials who are) (1) the Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, (2) the Port Health Officer, (3) the Health Officer of the Calcutta Corporation, and (4) the Deputy Commissioner, Port Police. The remaining members are prominent and influential Moslem gentlemen representing practically all sections of the community in Bengal. It is, therefore, very similar in composition to that indicated in the report and could easily be transformed into a port committee on the lines suggested."

Out of 19 members, there are only four officials and under this Bill we will have five nominated officials. Further, we find that the remaining members on the Bengal committee are prominent and influential Muslim gentlemen representing practically all sections of the community in Bengal.

Again, the Bombay Government say that they consider that a total of 18 members at the most would be sufficient of whom 13 may be selected from a panel of names submitted by the various Muslim bodies.

So, Sir, if you analyse, you will find, the Bengal Government wants about 20 per cent. nominated officials and the Bombay Government wants 28 per cent. nominated; the Haj Enquiry Committee recommended 20 per cent.; but this Select Committee gives 37 per cent. nominated members of whom five, i.e., 25 per cent. are to be officials. Some of my Honourable friends may accept this proportion, but I want to do my duty and I am not prepared to accept any such recommendation.

An argument has been advanced from some corner of the Treasury Benches that these nominated officials will be of great use to the committee and will teach the members of the committee. I say, Sir, do the Muslim community which has got men like Sir Fazl-i-Husain, Chaudhury Zafarullah Khan, Sir Ali Imam and Sir Abdur Rahim, require to be guided and to be taught by officials? Do these people require any guidance from the nominated officials? I, for one, am not prepared to accept it at all.

An Honourable Member : Why did you not press it on the Select Committee ?

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : What was the result of my pressing on other points? It is very difficult to defeat the Government when you are in a committee. I admit for arguments sake that I made a mistake in not allowing my relatives to die, and should have stayed on in spite of that. But are the Members of this House going to sacrifice the interests of the whole Muslim community for my fault? They should not sacrifice the interests of the whole Muslim community, because Mr. Maswood Ahmad was not able to be present in the committee on a particular date.

Now, Sir, I ask the verdict of the Muslim gentlemen present here whether or not they are prepared to accept such a high percentage of nominations. One Honourable Member, claiming to know Islam and religion, has said, it is not a religious question. But the same gentleman once said "The Child Marriage Restraint Act is not an interference, with the religion". He expressed his willingness for the inclusion of Muslims in the Act. But, now, he repents and wants Muslims to be exempted. Is the same gentleman prepared to say even now that the Child Marriage Restraint Act is not a religious question? I warn this House, especially our Muslim friends, that if they accept this recommendation and reject my motion, they will repent for years to come and generations unborn will also regret it. Sir, with these words I move my motion.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : Sir, I beg leave to oppose this amendment. It is not necessary for me to explain at length why I oppose the amendment, because the arguments against the amendment have already been anticipated, not merely from the Government Benches, but by members of the Select Committee who were also members of the Haj Committee.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola) : The question is :

"That in sub-clause 1 (a) of clause 4, for the word 'seven' the word 'four' be substituted."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola) : Bhai Parma Nand.

Bhai Parma Nand : May I make a few observations, Sir ?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola) : The Honourable Member is perfectly entitled to make as long a speech as he likes provided it is relevant to the amendment which he is called upon to move.

Bhai Parma Nand : I do not want to move the amendment*. I only wish to make a few general observations in withdrawing it.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola) : The Honourable Member will have an opportunity on the third reading to make general observations.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : Sir, I move :

“ That in part (d) of sub-clause (1) of clause 4 of the Bill, for the word ‘ four ’ the word ‘ two ’ be substituted.”

My reasons for this amendment are very simple and I hope this amendment will be supported by every corner of the House.

First of all, I say that we should see what the recommendation of the Haj Inquiry Committee is in this matter. They say at page 127 :

“ It is desirable that a considerable percentage of the representatives so elected should themselves have performed the pilgrimage, but we do not feel it possible to prescribe any definite percentage. In order to provide on the Committee a percentage of members with an up-to-date knowledge of the conditions of the pilgrimage, the eighteen members elected as above should co-opt two members who should have performed the pilgrimage during recent years.”

The Committee, therefore, recommends that two persons should be co-opted. Much has been said here about the Standing Haj Committee and we must see what is their recommendation. Their recommendation is to be found at page 15 of the proceedings held at Simla on the 12th and 13th September, 1931. You will find there that they also recommend two co-opted members by the elected members. We find that all the bodies recommend only two co-optations. But, in the Bill, the co-optation is four. I really wonder on what basis the Select Committee has recommended the co-optation to be four. So I am moving this amendment that this co-optation may be reduced from four to two.

I want, with your permission, Sir, to make clear something on this question. You will find in the Bill, in sub-clause (c), a distinction has been made that only those Members of the Central Legislature who come from Bombay and Bengal can vote in Port Haj Committees ; and this is the first time we see this distinction. Amongst the elected Muslim Members, a differentiation has been made. The other provinces have not been given a chance to serve on any committee ; and, at the same time, when the question of voting comes, the other provinces have been debarred from voting who should be elected on these committees. There is no provision for any seat for different provinces. Different Muslim organisations have not been provided with a single seat. *Ulemas* have not been provided with a single seat. They have not been given any chance to select their representatives. So, to remove these defects, I have proposed further amendments, which will come later on. But, for the present, I propose that this co-optation should be reduced from four to two according to the recommendations of the Haj Inquiry Committee and Standing Haj Committee. I move.

*“ That in part (e) of sub-clause (1) of clause 4 of the Bill, for the word ‘ seven ’ the word ‘ nine ’ be substituted.”

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Sir, may I just draw the attention of the Honourable the Mover that he would very much like to include some *Alims* in this committee and here is an opportunity in clause (d) for some *Alims* to be included ; but, if he will restrict the number from four to two, then the chances of their inclusion will be very much minimised. I withdrew my motion only on this ground that under this clause they are very likely to be elected. The other point is that he wants representation of different provinces, like Bihar and United Provinces ; and they will have a chance of coming in under clause (d). Therefore, I would have much liked that the number should be increased from four to six, and I was rather disappointed with the statement that he made that he wanted to reduce the number. I would certainly have supported him had he made a proposal to increase the number from four to six.

The Honourable Chaudhury Zafarullah Khan : Sir, I think it will be best if at this stage I try to point out some of the implications of the amendment moved, so that Honourable Members may have a chance of judging how it might affect certain considerations which they themselves have put forward. So far as this particular amendment is concerned, the Government would be willing to be guided by the opinion of the Muslim Members who are mainly concerned—not that for a moment I take up the position which Mr. Maswood Ahmad took up that other Honourable Members should not vote on the matter when the matter comes forward—but for the reason that for other Members and Government Members this is comparatively a matter of indifference, and I, on behalf of Government, would be willing to accept the position which commends itself to all or nearly all of the Muslim Members of this House. As you have observed, what Mr. Maswood Ahmad is seeking to do is to reduce the number of co-opted members from four to two, and then by a subsequent amendment to allot these two members for election to an electorate composed of Muslim Members of the Central Legislature. He has tabled no amendment that in case these two amendments are accepted, he will delete from sub-clause (1) (c) the provision relating to the Members of the Council of State and the Legislative Assembly elected by constituencies in the Presidency of Bengal. So that the first effect of the acceptance of these two amendments would be that Muslim Members of the Central Legislature elected from constituencies in Bengal would take part in two elections, first to help to elect six members under sub-clause (1) (c) and then to help to elect two members under the amendment which has been put forward by my Honourable friend. That would be the first effect. The next would be that the composition of this particular Committee, with regard to which the amendment has been moved, would not remain as elastic as the result of this amendment being accepted as it is at present. At present, four out of 19 seats will be filled by co-optation by eight of the elected members, and they will have the widest possible choice in the matter. There are a good many interests including the *Ulemas* and others with regard to which it might be desirable to have them represented on this committee, and surely it could be much more easily and much more inexpensively managed to bring these interests on to these committees by co-optation of four members by eight members who have been elected by an electorate which in itself was an elected body than if you took away two out of these and gave them to the elected Muslim Members of the Central Legislature. These are some of

[Chaudhury Zafarullah Khan.]

the considerations which Honourable Members may keep in view in dealing with this amendment. As I have said, so far as the attitude of the Government is concerned, it is a matter of indifference to them, and they will be prepared to abide by the decision of the Muslim Members.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : May I explain, Sir,

Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi : Sir, this is a point in which I want to support my friend, Mr. Maswood Ahmad, because he really wants to improve the constitution of the Port Haj Committees. As has been pointed out by the Honourable Member in charge of the Department, the present constitution is that the Muslim Members of the Legislative Assembly of the provinces concerned will have a right of voting for the members in their Port Haj Committees. What my friend proposes is that all the Muslim Members of the Central Legislature should have that right. It is a very reasonable proposal, and I think it is an improvement upon the constitution that was made in the Select Committee. I, therefore, support him, and I hope the House will also support him. We should not throw out a reasonable proposal, because he has made other preposterous proposals.

Mr. S. C. Mitra (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions : Non-Muhamadan Rural) : Sir, the ground for restricting the election of the Boards to Muslim Members is that the matter concerns the Muslims primarily. If we follow that reasoning logically, I do not see why the Muslim Members from Bengal should not have a greater right of representation in these Boards, when Hajees are mostly from Bengal. I know that Muslim Members of other provinces would also like to have a share in these elections. If it is once conceded that provision should be made in this Bill for exclusive voting by Muslim Members, then consistently with that principle Muslim Members from Bengal should, I think, have a greater chance of electing their representatives. So I oppose the motion of my friend, Mr. Maswood Ahmad.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : Sir, I wish to say that it would help Government to make up their mind if one or two more Muslim Members are allowed to have their say in the matter.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola) : I gave
4 P.M. all the opportunity that was available, and nobody
got up.

The question I have now to put is :

“ That in part (d) of sub-clause (1) of clause 4 of the Bill, for the word ‘ four ’ the word ‘ two ’ be substituted.”

The Assembly divided :

AYES—2.

Maswood Ahmad, Mr. M.

| Shafee Daoodi, Maulvi Muhammad.

NOES—47.

Abdul Matin Chaudhury, Mr.
 Abdur Rahim, Sir.
 Acott, Mr. A. S. V.
 Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab.
 Ahmed, Mr. K.
 Aiyar, The Honourable Sir C. P. Ramaswami.
 Allah Baksh Khan Tiwana, Khan Bahadur Malik.
 Amir Husain, Khan Bahadur Saiyid.
 Anwar-ul-Azim, Mr. Muhammad.
 Bajpai, Mr. G. S.
 Banerji, Mr. Rajnarayan.
 Clow, Mr. A. G.
 Dalal, Dr. R. D.
 Fazal Haq Piracha, Shaikh.
 Fazl-i-Ilahi, Khan Sahib Shaikh.
 Ghuznavi, Mr. A. H.
 Gidney, Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry.
 Graham, Sir Lancelot.
 Greenfield, Mr. H. C.
 Ismail Ali Khan, Kunwar Hajee.
 Jadhav, Mr. B. V.
 Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar.
 Jehangir, Sir Cowasji.
 Jog, Mr. S. G.

Macqueen, Mr. P.
 Mitra, Mr. S. C.
 Mody, Mr. H. P.
 Mukherjee, Rai Bahadur S. C.
 Naydu, Rao Bahadur B. V. Sri Hari Rao.
 Nichols, Mr. H. L.
 Nihal Singh, Sardar.
 Pandit, Rao Bahadur S. R.
 Raghbir Singh, Kunwar.
 Rau, Mr. P. B.
 Reddi, Mr. T. N. Ramakrishna.
 Sahi, Mr. Ram Prashad Narayan.
 Scott, Mr. J. Ramsay.
 Sher Muhammad Khan Gakhar, Captain.
 Sorley, Mr. H. T.
 Suhrawardy, Sir Abdulla-al-Mámün.
 Tin Tüt, Mr.
 Tottenham, Mr. G. B. F.
 Wajihuddin, Khan Bahadur Haji.
 Yakub, Sir Muhammad.
 Yamin Khan, Mr. Muhammad.
 Ziauddin Ahmad, Dr.
 Zulfiqar Ali Khan, Sir.

The motion was negatived.

Clause 4 was added to the Bill.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola) : The question is that clause 5 stand part of the Bill.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : I beg to move :

“ That clause 5 be omitted.”

The point is very simple and I have already placed it before the House. Only I would remind the House in a word or two that whatever power is given by the Act with reference to the formation of the Port Haj Committees, is taken away by clause 5. Clause 5 says :

“ The Local Government may propose to the Governor General in Council a draft of rules altering the composition of a Port Haj Committee, and the Governor General in Council, after previous publication of the draft in accordance with the provisions of section 23 of the General Clauses Act, 1897, shall take the draft into consideration.”

I say that the whole attempt of the Select Committee to make clause 4 reasonable according to their view will be frustrated by this clause. We know that the Government of Bengal do not like the present position, and I have no doubt that in the near future this clause will be a tool in the hands of the Government to change the provisions of clause 4. This is a great power that the Governor General in Council may change the composition of Port Haj Committee without asking for the assent of this Honourable House. I received a telegram last night, and I want to read it to the House. It comes from Mr. Hasanally, who is well known to this

[Mr. M. Moswood Ahmad.]

House. He served as a member of the Haj Inquiry Committee and other committees. He says :

“ Haj Committee Bill as emerged from Select Committee most unsatisfactory. Constitution retrogressive. Bill should be published. Please protect pilgrims and Muslim interests by getting at least clause 5 deleted.”

If we cannot do anything else, we must at least get rid of this clause. It is a very dangerous clause, and it will be a weapon in the hands of Local Governments. Whenever they like, they will make a report to the Central Government, and after publishing the draft in the Gazette, it will be taken into consideration and all the efforts of the Select Committee will have been wasted. With these remarks, I move my amendment.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : I rise to oppose the amendment. I think my Honourable friend, Mr. Maswood Ahmad, has entirely misunderstood the purport of this clause. There is no intention whatsoever on the part of the Government to utilise it at any stage for the purpose of making these Committees less representative than we are making them by the provisions which have been made in clause 4 of this Bill. The whole idea is this. We want to have an elastic procedure for modifying the composition of these Committees, such modifications being dictated, as is quite likely, by experience gained. One point was made by the Honourable Member in charge of my Department the other day when speaking on this Bill—that the composition of provincial Governments in the future is likely to be more predominantly non-official than it is to-day, and it is hardly conceivable that at any stage we shall have proposals from Local Governments for making these Committees less popular in their character than they will be under this Bill. Sir, I oppose the amendment.

The motion was negatived.

Clause 5 was added to the Bill.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola) : The question is that clause 6 stand part of the Bill.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : I move that clause 6 be omitted.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : I oppose the amendment, Sir.

The motion was negatived.

Clause 6 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 7, 8, 9 and 10 were added to the Bill.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : Sir, I move :

“ That sub-clause (g) of clause 11 be omitted.”

The Local Government have got many powers and I do not see why after the election, the Chairman should not take up his office without the approval of the Local Government. Why the Local Government's approval should be necessary before he takes his office ? On this ground I propose that this amendment should be made. I appeal not to leave the election of the Chairman at the mercy of the Local Government.

The motion was negatived.

(The alternative amendment to clause 11 was not moved.)

Clause 11 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 12 and 13 were added to the Bill.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : I move :

“ That after sub-clause (3) of clause 14 the following new sub-clause be added :

‘ (4) All the officers and servants of the Port Haj Committees shall be Muslims ’.”

This is my last amendment and I hope my Honourable friends will support me. All I want is that the officers and servants of the Port Haj Committees shall be Muslims for the reasons I have mentioned in my note of dissent. This is a very just demand, Mr. President, and I ask the House to accept at least this. Is there anybody who likes that executive officers and other servants of the Port Haj Committee should not be Muslims ? Sir, I move.

The Honourable Chaudhury Zafarullah Khan : Sir, the Bill has no where provided that even a single member of a Port Haj Committee should necessarily be a Muslim and I do not see any reason why it should be provided specifically in the Statute that the servants and officers of a Port Haj Committee shall be Muslims. There is no doubt that the elected and co-opted members very likely will be either all or almost all of them Muslims and if that is so, it is for them in conjunction with the nominated official and non-official members to decide which persons possessing what qualifications would serve them best for the purposes and the duties which the Committee has to carry out and I think that discretion might be well left to the Committee instead of providing in the Statute that the servants and officers of the Committee shall be Muslims.

Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi : I would like to put forward another aspect of the question. Now that Mr. Maswood Ahmad has done his best for putting up the case he was set up with, he will be applauded as a martyr by the Delhi Jamait-ul-Ulema. I would, however, like to say that there were some points in his amendments which, if they had been pressed reasonably, might have improved the tenor of the Bill, which has not been done. Therefore, I am sorry for what Mr. Maswood Ahmad has done.

Mr. President : The question is :

“ That after sub-clause (3) of clause 14 the following new sub-clause be added :

‘ (4) All the officers and servants of the Port Haj Committees shall be Muslims ’.”

(A division was challenged.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola) : Will those Honourable Members who are in favour of the amendment stand up ?

(Messrs. Maswood Ahmad, Badi-uz-Zaman and Khan Bahadur Makhdum Syed Rajan Bakhsh Shah stood up.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola) : Those against :

(A large majority stood up.)

The motion was negatived.

Clause 14 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19 were added to the Bill.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce (Member for Industries and Labour) : Sir, I move :

“ That sub-clauses (b), (c) and (d) of clause 20 be omitted and that the subsequent sub-clauses be re-numbered.”

My Honourable friend, Shaikh Sadiq Hasan, the day before yesterday appeared to think that I had some sinister motive in moving this amendment. I much appreciate the compliment he had paid me by casting me for the role of a robber chief, but I would assure him, if he were here that the part I have been called upon to play is of a much humbler and more prosaic nature. He would, I am sure, be much relieved to hear that the amendment I am moving is a purely formal one. As my Honourable friend, Sir Abdur Rahim, and also the Honourable Chaudhury Zafarullah Khan have explained, it was originally the hope and intention of Government that the three Bills relating to this subject should be placed before this House in the course of this Session and that they should be passed into law. Unfortunately it has only been found possible to proceed with the one which is at present before the House. In what Sir Abdur Rahim very rightly held to be the most important of the three Bills, that which deals with the amendment of the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, provision is made that certain funds should become the property of the Government. Those funds are the ones mentioned in sub-clauses (b), (c) and (d) of clause 20, namely, certain unclaimed deposits, unclaimed passage money and fees levied for pilgrim passes. Now, Sir, I think it will be obvious that Government cannot assign funds to the Haj Committees which are not at present in their possession, and it is for that reason and that reason alone that I am moving that these sub-clauses should be omitted. I would, however, at the same time draw the attention of the House to sub-clause (i) of clause 20 under which it is within the powers of Government to allot to the Haj Committee any sums which they choose : and I can assure the House that, as soon as the Bill amending the Indian Merchant Shipping Act is passed and these funds become available, it is the intention of Government to allot them to the Port Haj Committees. Sir, I move.

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 20 to 24 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1 and the Title and Preamble were added to the Bill.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : Sir, I move that the Bill, as amended, be passed.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali (Lucknow and Fyzabad Divisions : Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, I do not propose to make a long speech or to move for circulating the Bill for eliciting public opinion, but I do not like to record a silent vote on this very important Bill which affects my community. Sir, neither do I want to speak for notoriety's sake as might be thought in some quarters, nor do I wish to point out the inconsistencies of either Maulana Shafee Daoodi or of my friend, Mr. Maswood Ahmad, but as a friend of mine here said that we may be held answerable to the *Ulemas* who have been very unkindly and, I should respectfully

point out, injudiciously indicted in this House, I wish to affirm publicly that the Mussalmans of India entertain a very great regard for their *Ulemas*, just as our Hindu friends have a very great regard for their Pandits and their religious heads. (*An Honourable Member* : "Not always.") Sir, it may be said that nothing has actually been said against *Ulemas* (*An Honourable Member* : "Nobody said that"), but at least it has been said that they are not fit members to sit on these committees. (*Sir Abdur Rahim* : "Nobody has said that.") Sir, whether they are capable of sitting in this House or whether they are not capable of acting as advisory members on any committee, it rests with this House, which is a privileged House, to say whatever they like about the *Ulemas*. Sir, I have risen to support this Bill and to say that the principles involved in this Bill are undoubtedly—as has been explained by the Leader of my Party—sound principles. The first principle which has been enunciated by the Select Committee is the principle of democracy which I find in clause 4. Then another democratic principle adopted is the principle of election. Now I find that it has been criticised by my friend, Mr. Maswood Ahmad, and other gentlemen here that out of 19 members seven members will be nominated. Well, I submit, that the rest 12 members will come by means of election and by no other means.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : Sir, I do not wish to interrupt the Honourable Member, but I want to point out that, at this stage, the discussion of clauses is rather irrelevant ?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola) : The Honourable Member, on the present occasion, in speaking on the third reading, can speak on the general principles and give reasons why he wishes to support the motion for the third reading or why he proposes to oppose it. I wish to explain to the Honourable Member, therefore, that all arguments would be relevant if advanced for the purpose of either supporting the passage of the Bill or of opposing the Bill. To go into details *except on that main issue* would not be in order. The Chair wishes to further explain that in giving his reasons why he wishes to support the Bill, he can, in dealing with the provisions in the Bill, adduce the reasons that he proposes to place before the House in support of the motion.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali : Sir, as I was giving reasons for supporting the Bill, so one of those reasons was that the principles enunciated in the Bill are quite consistent with the democratic principles which the country is going to adopt in the new constitution. Also that the disqualifications which are sometimes placed on the heads of certain members of our community, for instance, the Moplahs, have been to a certain extent removed by this enactment. Sir, the duties of the Committee have also been defined. My submission is that all those principles which have been enunciated and the principles on which this Bill has been enacted are of a salutary character and, therefore, I support this Bill.

Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim (Chittagong Division : Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, I should not like to tire the House at half-past four, when the Honourable Members are anxious to have their tea.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola) : Will the Honourable Member kindly try to speak a little loudly, because the Chair cannot hear him ?

Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim : Sir, that is due to the peculiar construction of this House. As I happen to come from a part of the country from where a large number of Hajis happen to go to Mecca every year, I think my constituency will take me to task if I do not participate in the course of this debate and tell the House their opinion. That is my only justification for standing up at this fag-end of the day.

Generally speaking, I think, I will willingly support the principles of the Bill. You will remember, Mr. President, that when this measure was introduced in the last Delhi Session, I was one of those who objected to the composition of the Port Haj Committees so far as Bengal was concerned. But I am very glad to find that the Select Committee has very kindly seen to some of those objections which were raised during the course of that debate. But it seems to me, although clause 4 has been changed very materially, there are still some loopholes in it which ought to have been considered more seriously by the Committee. For instance, from a detailed reading of clause 4 you will find that some voting powers have been allotted to some Mussalman members who might belong to some Medical Council. I dare say from my place here in the Assembly that it will be absolutely impossible for any Mussalman to get into any Medical Council in Bengal especially in Calcutta and, as such, their joining for voting anywhere will be meaningless.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : I rise on a point of facts, Sir, to correct my Honourable friend. No seats as such have been assigned to the Medical Council of Bengal. The Medical Council of Bengal is part of an electorate to elect to this Committee.

Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim : What I meant to say was that two votes have been given to Mussalman members who might be belonging to the Medical Council in Calcutta. I am certain that they will not find any Mussalmans sitting on that Council and, therefore, the representation of Mussalmans from this side will be nil. Secondly, I should like to emphasise for the consideration of the authorities in Bengal that they ought to try to give proper effect to clause 6, because there it has been specifically mentioned that where the Committee was of opinion that the necessity was present, they might declare some of the port towns in Bengal as a centre from which the Hajis should go to the Hedjaz. In this connection, I should like to suggest for the consideration of the coming Committee and also of the Government of Bengal that my port town of Chittagong, which was for many years a place for taking out the pilgrims to Hedjaz, should also be taken as a place from where the Hajis could go to the Hedjaz with safety. My experience is that Calcutta is unpopular as a port of embarkation and the village Hajis suffer a lot there in many ways. Certain objections have been taken by certain friends that perhaps it will be more or less a compact body consisting of Mussalmans alone. But if anybody refers to the Bill in detail, he will find that the Calcutta Haj Committee will not be an one-sided affair.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola) : I hope the Honourable Member will follow the ruling the Chair gave when Mr. Azhar Ali was on his legs. On the third reading the Honourable Member can only say whether he wishes to support or oppose the motion and he can give his reasons why he either opposes it or supports it. The Chair has been unable to know whether the Honourable Member has risen to support the third reading or to oppose it.

Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim : Mr. President, it is manifest that I am supporting the passage of the Bill.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola) : But the Honourable Member should not go into such minute details.

Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim : I will not do that. Sir, objection has been taken in some quarter that the Committee will consist of Mussalmans from Bengal alone, but, Mr. President, you will find that the power of nomination has been given to the Government. Seven members will be nominated and it is no where said that they all will be Mussalmans. As a matter of fact, the Local Government have got a very wide range for their selection. I should not be surprised if out of these seven seats kept for nomination even half of them may not go to the Mussalmans. So, if there is any misapprehension with regard to that in any quarter, my submission is that it is misplaced.

Now, with regard to the position of the *Ulemas*, I have not got much to say. It has been overdone by the previous speakers but perhaps it would have been better if it were possible for Government to find out some constituency for them to be represented on these Committees. In any case, there is some loophole here also. There is a clause which says that four members will be taken by co-optation. My submission to Government would be that perhaps while considering the composition of that Committee, out of the seven nominated members whom they will take, two would be non-officials and these two, or one of them, could be easily an *Ulema* of position, who could be trusted to take a broad and practical view of the whole matter.

Lastly, a great objection has also been taken by some of my Honourable friends with regard to the powers of the Local Government in the matter of future constitution of this committee. I do not know that the millennium will be coming by the change of constitution in my Province. A doubt may be lurking in the minds of some Honourable Members with regard to the various aspects of the Bill. The autonomous administration in the provinces will not be of the kind that will show grit and independence, and as such in a legislation from here, so much power should not have been given to them. I think this is a legitimate ground for their just fear.

I am certain, Mr. President, that for the first four years, the committee will be a hand-maiden of the Local Government and I wish it all good which a pious Moslem could hope for. With these few words, I support the third reading of this Bill.

Mr. B. V. Jadhav (Bombay Central Division : Non-Muhammadian Rural) : Sir, I offer my sincere congratulations to the Muslim community for getting this piece of legislation passed. I also offer my congratulations to the Government for pushing on this Bill so very vigorously. It is well-known, Sir, that it was first moved by my friend, the late Sir Haroon Jaffer, who, it is a pity, is not in this world to see the fruition of his labours. It is well known that Hajis have many difficulties to meet with on their way to the Hedjaz and there are a number of unscrupulous people who take advantage of their ignorance and gullibility and many heart-rending cases have been exposed. I think the Haj Committees that will be established will give very useful help to the Hajis and make their passage to the Hedjaz and back as comfortable as possible. With these words, I offer again my congratulations to my Muslim friends.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : I want to make my position very clear in this matter, namely, that in my opinion this Bill is useless for Mussalmans and so I neither support this Bill nor oppose it. I do not support, because it is not acceptable to Muslims, and I do not oppose, because I know it is of no use to oppose. The House is bent upon to pass it.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : I do not think I need say anything at this stage.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola) : The question is that the Bill, as amended, be passed.

The motion was adopted.

THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce (Member for Industries and Labour) : Sir, I move :

“ That the Bill further to amend the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Mr. G. Morgan, Mr. Satish Chandra Sen, Mr. S. G. Jog, Lala Rameshwar Prasad Bagla, Mr. S. C. Mitra, Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury, Mr. B. V. Jadhav, Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim, Mr. R. T. H. Mackenzie, Kunwar Hajee Ismail Ali Khan, Mr. N. M. Joshi, Mr. K. Ahmed, Mr. H. P. Mody, Mr. K. P. Thampan, Dr. R. D. Dalal, Mr. A. G. Clow and the Mover, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the committee shall be five.”

Sir, it will be observed that the names I have read out differ in a few respects from those on the order paper. Mr. Govindu Reddy is unable to serve and Mr. S. G. Jog has been substituted for him. Haji Chaudhury Muhammad Ismail Khan has been included by mistake—probably not for the first time—for Kunwar Hajee Ismail Ali Khan. The names of Mr. Mody, Mr. K. P. Thampan and Dr. Dalal have been added and the services of these three Honourable Members will, I am sure, be of great value to the Committee.

It is I think, Sir, unnecessary for me at this late hour to say more than a very few words in support of this motion. When the Honourable Sir Joseph Bhowe moved that this Bill should be circulated for the purpose of eliciting public opinion, he pointed out that the most important amendments embodied in the Bill related to the reduction in the waiting period, the exceptions embodied in the second proviso to section 3 (1) of the Act which operate to remove the liability of the employer in certain circumstances, the increase in the rates of compensation and the extension of the Act to a large number of industries to which it did not in the past apply. We have now received opinions on these and a number of less important amendments and their mass is very formidable. In print it runs, I think, to more than one hundred pages. Those opinions are very much what one might have expected. Most employers, though by no means all, think that the amendments of the Act are likely to add an appreciable burden to their shoulders at a time of unexampled depression. The protagonists of labour point of view hold the opposite opinion and think that the Bill does not go far enough. Most Local Governments—again, not all—the United Provinces Government, for example, think that the rates of compensation in the Act are sufficiently high already as far as their Province is concerned—most Local Governments hold that the Bill hits the happy mean. It is unnecessary for me to discuss the opinions in detail. They

will, I am sure, receive the most careful consideration at the hands of the Select Committee. Sir, I move :

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola) : Motion moved :

“ That the Bill further to amend the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Mr. G. Morgan, Mr. Satish Chandra Sen, Mr. S. G. Jog, Lala Rameshwar Prasad Bagla, Mr. S. C. Mitra, Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury, Mr. B. V. Jadhav, Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim, Mr. R. T. H. Mackenzie, Kunwar Hajee Ismail Ali Khan, Mr. N. M. Joshi, Mr. K. Ahmed, Mr. H. P. Mody, Mr. K. P. Thampan, Dr. B. D. Dalal, Mr. A. G. Clow and the Mover, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the committee shall be five.”

Mr. F. E. James (Madras : European) : Sir, I rise not to oppose the reference of the Bill to Select Committee, but to place on the record of the House the point of view of certain important interests which I represent. One of the most important provisions of the Bill is that it extends workmen's compensation to labourers on plantations. Now, Sir, the estates in Southern India both Indian and European feel that such extension is neither necessary nor advisable at the present time, and that it will be difficult from the administrative point of view. In the first place, they feel that the only labourers who require special protection are those working in factories, and they at present come under the terms of the Workmen's Compensation Act. The work in the fields is not hazardous and they do not feel that it is necessary to give statutory protection in connection with that labour. They also feel that the substitution of voluntary protection which is at present exercised by employers in many ways in the matter of accidents by compulsory legislation, will tend to lessen the harmony which at present undoubtedly does exist between labour and employer on estates in South India. Then, Sir, my constituents feel that this Bill is not advisable at the present moment from this point of view. Every one who is in touch with the planting industry is aware that at the present moment the planting industry in South India,—and I suppose the same is true to some extent in the North,—is fighting for its life. Low prices of products, and cut-throat competition from other countries, make it a very difficult proposition to run estates profitably ; and there are some estates in South India which are at present facing the possibility of closing down altogether, and with the consequent throwing of labour out of work. Therefore this section of my constituents feels strongly that any additional burden placed upon the industry at the present time is one which it will be very difficult for that industry to bear, and that it may result possibly in driving parts of it out of business altogether.

Then, Sir, there are industries in South India, quite apart from the planting industry, which feel that this new Bill with its greatly increased rates is going to impose an extremely heavy burden which at present under existing conditions they are not able to bear. You will observe, Sir, from the Bill that the rates of compensation are increased to a very large extent, varying in the case of half-monthly payments for temporary disablement from 150 per cent. increase in the case of low-paid workers, to 20 per cent. in the case of workmen earning Rs. 80 a month. It also provides for compensation for workmen earning up to Rs. 200 a month as against a limit of Rs. 80 under the present Schedule. This increase in the rates, it is considered, will result in an increased burden to industries generally at

[Mr. F. E. James.]

a time when they find it very difficult indeed to bear their existing commitments. In regard to plantation labour I need not stress the difficulty of fairly administering the Act. Accidents on the field are very rare indeed and it is extremely difficult to ascertain their causes. It was the view of one Association that there is a danger that the result of this Bill will be a rapid increase in the "suicides' club". I think that is probably an unfair view to take, but there is undoubtedly a danger that in agricultural labour on plantations there is grave danger of the Act being misused.

I will touch only very briefly on another difficult problem which we feel in the South and which is not felt in the North. The planting industries which I represent cover not only the South of British India but also large portions of Indian States. The result of this Bill will be that portions of these estates will come under the Act, and those portions of the estates which are in Indian States will not come under the Act. In some cases actually the estates will be divided. I would suggest that a measure like this should be on a federal basis, and that as there is an immediate probability of a federal government with jurisdiction over the whole of India, a measure of this kind should wait until it can be brought into effect throughout the whole country.

Then, Sir, there are two other points which I wish to make and I will draw the attention of the Select Committee to these two points. The Bill extends to plantations, on the basis that it is extended to non-hazardous occupations in organized industries. I think the committee should consider the possibility of extending it first to hazardous occupations in agriculture, such as pepper and coconut collecting and toddy tapping. There is far more risk of danger in these industries, some of which are definitely organised in South India, than in ordinary plantation work on tea, rubber, or coffee estates.

Then, Sir, the second point is that there are non-hazardous occupations in agricultural industry which do not at present come under the Bill. I am sure I shall not be regarded with favour by many of my friends when I venture to suggest that many zamindars employ large bodies of labourers on definitely organised industry on their estates, as for example in the collection and transport of agricultural produce. Why should they be exempt from the operation of this Bill if you are going to apply it to organised industries on plantations? I place these suggestions before the House because I may not have another opportunity of making them before the Select Committee sits; but I do not want anybody in the House to assume for one moment that the interests which I represent, and particularly the planting interests are opposed to the amelioration of the conditions of their labour. I think I may claim that within recent years there is no body of employers which has done more for its labour than the planting industry, by the provision of child welfare, hospitals, maternity benefits, dispensaries, schools and recreation facilities. Those who know conditions intimately know how much in recent years the conscience of the employers has been quickened in the matter of providing this amelioration of the social and economic condition of labour. But there are two things which I wish to say. The first is, that there is a danger,—and I impress this as strongly as I possibly can upon the House—there is a very definite danger that much of the present voluntary effort on the part of employers will be

curtailed by the extension of the principle of State interference. I do not think the experience of Europe, particularly the experience of England, in labour matters is always a safe guide ; and I think merely to copy labour legislation from English Acts is apt to prove either ineffective or dangerous. The second point I wish to make is, that organised industry should not be looked upon as a laboratory in which social experiments ought to be carried out. That is a very dangerous principle if that is once accepted by the State in this country. Having said that, and having laid down these two main principles, I do not oppose the reference of this Bill to Select Committee but I do most earnestly hope that the members of the Select Committee will consider the points that I have made in all sincerity and with the great restraint.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 19th September 1932.