

10th March 1938

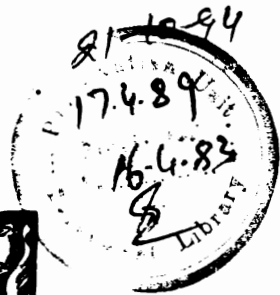
THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

(Official Report)

Volume II, 1938

(23rd February to 23rd March, 1938)

SEVENTH SESSION OF THE FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1938



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M77LAD

Legislative Assembly.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, 10th March, 1938.

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

MEMBER SWORN.

Mr. John Swithin Harvey Shattock, M.L.A. (Government of India, Nominated Official).

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

(a) ORAL ANSWERS.

REVISED INSTRUMENT OF ACCESSION.

737. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Honourable the Law Member state:

- (a) whether the revised Instrument of Instructions has been issued to the Princes;
- (b) what is the nature of the changes made in the revised instrument of instructions; and
- (c) whether any of the States have accepted it; if so, what is the percentage of the States which have accepted it?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Sir, I apologise to the House for taking upon myself yet another portfolio. I presume that the Honourable Member has in mind the Instrument of Accession since he speaks of acceptance by States and not the Instrument of Instructions. As stated in the Honourable the Law Member's reply on the 7th February, 1938, to the short notice question of Mr. K. Santhanam the final revision of the Instrument of Accession is still under consideration. The reply to part (a), is, therefore, in the negative and parts (b) and (c) do not arise.

With your permission. Sir, I should, however, like to take this opportunity to make as full a statement as possible as to the stage which has been reached regarding the possible accession of Indian States to the Federation and the facts and considerations which govern the conduct of negotiations with Rulers for this purpose. For this is a matter on which Honourable Members have by the questions put from time to time shown considerable and not unnatural interest.

According to the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935, the Federation of India can be established only if the requisite number of Rulers of States, as laid down in the Act, accede by executing Instruments of Accession which His Majesty accepts, and after each House of Parliament has presented an address to His Majesty praying him to declare by

proclamation that there shall be united in a Federation of India the Governors' Provinces and the acceding Indian States. It will then be lawful for His Majesty to make the Proclamation establishing the Federation in which the Chief Commissioners' Provinces will also be included.

Parliament has no authority to legislate for Indian States and their Rulers are, therefore, given by the Act the option either to enter the Federation or to remain aloof. Accordingly, in August 1936, enquiries were made from the Rulers of States as to their attitude towards Federation, and, in the ensuing months representatives of His Excellency the Viceroy toured the States and held discussions with Rulers and their Ministers on many points of difficulty or uncertainty with a view to dispelling possible misapprehensions and clarifying the issues involved. Replies to those enquiries have been received from practically all the States. These replies, which relate to the terms and conditions of the States' accession, including the question of the administrative machinery for giving effect in federated States to laws of the Federal Legislature in respect of matters accepted by the States as federal, involve important and difficult issues. They are now under active consideration. Under the Act the terms of accession depend upon His Majesty and the Ruler of the State concerned, and the preliminaries to the negotiation thereof are, therefore, being conducted under the direct orders of His Excellency the Crown Representative, in close and confidential consultation, throughout, with the Government of India with a view to safeguarding the interests of British India. But in the interests of these negotiations themselves their conduct must be confidential and this necessarily precludes any public announcement at this stage regarding the substance of the matters under consideration or under discussion with States or any statement, except in the most general terms, of the progress made towards Federation, the early achievement of which represents the considered policy both of His Majesty's Government and of the Government of India.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Has the Draftsman who has been specially brought out for this purpose of revising the Instrument of Accession submitted his report? Is he still in India?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I can answer the second part in the negative. As regards the first part, I require notice.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: When do the Government expect to finish the consideration?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I do not think I can add anything to the statement that I have just now read out.

WORKING OF THE RECENT COMPANIES LAW.

738. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Honourable the Law Member state:

- (a) whether he has received any representations about the working of the companies law as recently made by the Assembly;
- (b) whether attempts have been made in some places successfully to circumvent the stringent provisions in the Act; and

- (c) whether Government are contemplating any amendments to the Act to make it knave-proof?

Mr. H. Dow: Sir, with your permission I shall reply to the question as it concerns my Department.

(a) Representations have been received from time to time for further amendment of the Indian Companies Act, 1913, in order to rectify certain inconsistencies which have crept into the Act in the process of its amendment in 1936 or to meet certain practical difficulties which are anticipated in connection with the working of the amended Act.

(b) Government have no information.

(c) The Honourable Member is aware that an amending Bill has been passed into law during the course of the current Session. Government do not propose to undertake further amendments until the Act as amended has been worked for a reasonable time.

Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty: Are the Government aware that employee's deposits lying with these companies are now being separated and invested as required under the new Act?

Mr. H. Dow: No, Sir. I am not aware of that. But if the Honourable Member wishes to ask a question on the subject and will set one down, I will investigate the matter.

POST OF ENTOMOLOGIST OFFERED BY SIR BRYCE BURT TO A CAMBRIDGE LECTURER.

739. ***Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar:** (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state whether it is a fact that an offer of an appointment was made by Sir Bryce Burt, the Vice-Chairman of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research when he was in England last, to a certain Cambridge lecturer in connection with the post of Entomologist under the Council, and if so, on whose authority it was made?

(b) What was the salary the lecturer was getting there and what was the salary fixed for him in the new post?

(c) Is it a fact that he made the offer in consultation with Sir James Grigg, who was then in England, and if so, what was the status of Sir James, who was on leave? Had he any authority at the time to commit the Government of India to any expenditure?

(d) Is it a fact that the offer was made without securing the approval of the Member in charge of the Department concerned, the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, and if so, was it not a violation of the practice of the Department under which appointments of this kind had to be sanctioned by the Member?

(e) Did this question form the subject matter of discussion of an adjournment motion in the Council of State?

(f) Was this question discussed at the last meeting of the Governing Body of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research and, if so, what decision was reached?

(g) Is it a fact that the Ministers from Provinces present at the meeting of the Governing Body referred to, did take strong exception to the unauthorised conduct of the Vice-Chairman and repudiated the offer of appointment?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) No.

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

(e) No.

(f) and (g). The proceedings of the Governing Body of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research are confidential.

INCREASE IN THE PRICE OF PETROL.

740. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Commerce Secretary state:

(a) whether the price of petrol was much cheaper some months back, and whether, since then, it has increased;

(b) whether Government are aware that the increase is due to a combine of the various companies and the consequent creation of a monopoly; and

(c) whether Government have considered the advisability of regulating the price of petrol since a monopoly has been created?

Mr. H. Dow: (a), (b) and (c). No.

Mr. K. Ahmed: Is it a fact that the price of petrol is cheaper in some places and dearer in some other places? In Calcutta it varies from Rs. 1-6-0 to Rs. 1-2-0. In some other places it varies from Rs. 1-9-0 to Rs. 1-6-0? What is the reason for this variation?

Mr. H. Dow: Sir, the Honourable Member is rather like the honey-freighted bee. He is more anxious to disburden himself of his stores of information, than to make use of the present opportunity of adding to them. The Honourable Member's question, I may say, does not specify any particular place. The price of petrol varies from place to place. I have taken the trouble to get a statement of the price of petrol in some of the principal centres in India—in Calcutta, in Madras, in Lahore, etc.—and I find that the price of petrol, in recent months, has not gone up, but has gone down. If the Honourable Member wants information about any particular place, and will specify it, I shall be very glad to make enquiries.

Mr. K. Ahmed: In view of the fact that the Honourable Member while comparing me to a honey bee has treated me as a wasp and the accuracy of the figures he has mentioned will not satisfy the House, may I tell him that the price of petrol is 15 as. in Bombay while it is Rs. 1-2-0 in Calcutta, Rs. 1-9-0 in Delhi and only 1s. 2d. in London? Why is the price so disproportionate in view of the fact that the cost of production is only 1a. 6p. per gallon and the extortion of this high price amounts to committing dacoity and pilfering the public and exploiting the country?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I think it is more a speech than a question.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Do the Government mean to say that the price of petrol has not increased, say in Delhi?

Mr. H. Dow: I am afraid I am not aware.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: What about Karachi?

Mr. H. Dow: As regards Karachi I have made inquiries but have not yet received the information.

Mr. K. Ahmed: In view of the fact that the Honourable Member has his own motor car and pays Rs. 1-9-0 a gallon, how can he not know the price of petrol in Delhi?

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

Mr. Manu Subedar: With regard to the answer to part (c), may I ask whether Government have considered their position and their legal powers as to whether they can regulate a monopoly if the charges by the petrol companies were further increased?

Mr. H. Dow: The answer to part (c) is 'No'.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Are the Government satisfied that there is no virtual monopoly created by the agreement come to between the various companies dealing in petrol?

Mr. H. Dow: The Honourable Member is asking me for an expression of opinion.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I want to know as a matter of fact a monopoly has been the result of this combination: I do not want the Honourable Member's opinion.

Mr. H. Dow: The extent to which a monopoly exists in this matter is a matter of opinion.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Are the Government prepared to consider the advisability with regard to clause (c) of the question?

Mr. H. Dow: No.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know if it is a fact that questions have been asked in this House since 1931 up till today for the last seven years, that there has been a combination of all the companies selling petrol in India and the prices have been artificially raised, while the cost of the production of petrol is only 1s. 6p. a gallon at Karachi and Bombay? Will Government be pleased to make inquiries into the combination and break it?

Mr. H. Dow: I am not aware of the questions which have been asked in this House on this subject from 1931 onwards: I am quite prepared to take it from the Honourable Member that there have been a large number of questions.

Mr. M. S. Aney: In view of the reply which the Honourable Member has given to parts (b) and (c), does he mean to say that no monopoly has been created? The question refers to a monopoly.

Mr. H. Dow: Part (a) refers to an increase in the price of petrol, which I submitted, had not taken place. Part (b) asks whether in view of that increase (which has not taken place) Government are aware of the creation of a monopoly. I submit that

Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad: Will Government inform the House whether prices in the same locality have increased or diminished on account of external competition or internal conditions?

(Other Honourable Members also got up).

Mr. H. Dow: Sir, I cannot answer three questions at once. If I am required to do so, I can only reply that the answer is in the plural.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Honourable Members must realise that it is not possible for any Government Member to answer three or four Honourable Members' questions at the same time. The last question has been put by Dr. Sir Ziauddin.

Mr. H. Dow: I believe the price varies from time to time largely as a result of external competition.

Sardar Sant Singh: Is there any competition in India?

Mr. H. Dow: From time to time there certainly has been competition.

Sardar Sant Singh: And when the competition is eliminated, is it a fact that the prices are raised by this combination?

Mr. H. Dow: I should think it very likely.

Sardar Sant Singh: What steps did the Government take to prevent these large profits being made on account of monopoly?

Mr. H. Dow: Government have taken no steps in that particular matter.

Sardar Sant Singh: Do the Government propose to take any steps?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): You cannot put any further questions.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: Is it a fact that there has been a combination on the part of the various petrol companies or not?

Mr. H. Dow: I believe that collaboration between companies is a fact and a very well-known fact.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: Do the Government recognise the principle of combination the result of which is actually a monopoly?

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

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will Government state their policy with regard to oppressive monopolies and take this House into their confidence?

Mr. H. Dow: I am certainly not prepared to give an answer to a general question of that kind by way of an answer to a supplementary question.

INTAKE OF COTTON BY JAPAN AND IMPORTS OF JAPANESE GOODS INTO INDIA.

741. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar**: Will the Commerce Secretary state:

- (a) whether the intake of cotton by Japan in this financial year has been less than what she should take under the Indo-British Trade Agreement; if so, by how much;
- (b) whether the imports of Japanese goods into India are more than stipulated for in the Agreement; if so, by how much; and
- (c) whether Government have taken any steps to see that the Agreement is kept up by Japanese by taking the requisite amount of cotton?

Mr. H. Dow: Since there is no Indo-British Trade Agreement having any relevance whatever to this question, I assume that the Honourable Member intends to refer to the "Protocol regarding Commercial Relations between India and Japan". On that assumption the answers are as follows:

(a) The Protocol provides for the regulation of the annual imports into India of Japanese cotton piece-goods according to the annual takings by Japan of Indian cotton. For this purpose a "cotton year" means a year beginning on the 1st day of January whilst a "cotton piece-goods year" means a year beginning on the 1st day of April. Exports of raw cotton from India to Japan during the year 1937 amounted to 1,943,937 bales against the basic quota of 1 million bales provided for by Article 3 of the Protocol. There is consequently no breach of the Protocol.

(b) No, Sir. The Honourable Member's attention is, however, invited to the statement published in the *Indian Trade Journal* of the 24th February, 1938, copies of which are in the Library. It will be observed therefrom that in respect of the categories bleached (white) and coloured printed cotton goods the maximum quantity to be sent by Japan under Article 7 (2) of the Protocol has been exceeded during the first half of the cotton piece-goods year 1937-38. Such excess will in accordance with the terms of Article 5 (b) of the Protocol be deducted from the allotment for the categories in question during the second half-year.

(c) Does not arise.

Mr. Manu Subedar: With regard to part (c), will the Honourable Member tell this House whether any reply has been received to the representation made by the Government of India to His Majesty's Government about the difficulty created in connection with the exchange permit of cotton which is the subject matter of the question in part (a)?

Mr. H. Dow: I am afraid I cannot see the relevancy of the Honourable Member's supplementary question. It does not seem to me to arise at all.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I submit, Sir, that Japan had agreed to take a certain amount of cotton, and the Japanese Government created certain difficulties in regard to exchange permits. The Indian Government has taken this into account, and they made a representation to His Majesty's Government some time ago, and I am only asking whether any reply has been received?

Mr. H. Dow: The Honourable Member's premises are entirely incorrect. He stated that Japan had agreed to take a certain amount of cotton, but Japan has never agreed to buy even a single bale of cotton under this agreement.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know, Sir, whether in interpreting the agreement, the excess of the basic quota in one year is credited to the next year for the purpose of calculating the import?

Mr. H. Dow: I can only refer the Honourable Member to the terms of the Protocol, a copy of which is in his possession.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether the excess of the export of cotton to Japan in one year before the basic quota will be taken into account for calculating the import in the next year also?

Mr. H. Dow: There are certain provisions for a carry over, and the Honourable Member will find them set out in the Protocol.

CINCHONA PLANTATION AND POPULARISATION OF QUININE.

742. ***Seth Govind Das:** Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state:

- (a) the total quantity of cinchona produced in India this year and in last year (separately);
- (b) the provinces in which cinchona plantation has been newly experimented during the last two years;
- (c) the acreage that has been brought under cinchona cultivation in the respective provinces;
- (d) if Government have considered whether the production of quinine could be increased in order to make the country self-sufficient for her wants of quinine in another decade;
- (e) the action Government have taken in this regard;
- (f) whether Government propose leaving the control and propaganda of popularising quinine in various provinces to the Provincial Governments with a view to economising the expenditure on this head; and
- (g) if not, the reasons of Government therefor?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) A statement giving the information available is laid on the table.

(b) So far as the Government of India are aware no Provinces other than Bengal and Madras have any cinchona plantation. The Government of Assam are understood to be making some experiments.

(c) Information regarding Madras and Bengal only is available and is contained in the statement I am laying on the table in reply to part (a).

(d) and (e). At the request of the Government of India the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research are conducting an enquiry into the possibility of extending cinchona production in India.

(f) and (g). Propaganda for popularising the use of quinine in various provinces has, ever since the inception of the Montford reforms, been the concern of Provincial Governments.

Statement showing the production of Cinchona Products and the Acreage under Cinchona in India.

Name of producing Government.	Acreage under cinchona.	Quantity of cinchona products produced.			Remarks.
		Quinine salts.	Cinchona febrifuge.	Totaquina.	
Government of India .	* ..	7,464	4,568		* The Government of India plantations have lapsed to the Government of Burma, from 1st April 1927.
Government of Bengal	2,762	49,935	27,219	..	
Government of Madras	1,949	16,072	3,348	5,983	

(The figures for the Government of India and the Government of Bengal are for the year 1936-37 and those for Madras for the year 1935-36, these being the latest figures available.)

COMPETITION BETWEEN BRITISH AND INDIAN COMPANIES CARRYING HAJ PILGRIMS.

748. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Secretary for Commerce be pleased to state:

- whether Government are aware of a rate war started by the Mogul line in the carrying of pilgrims from Karachi to Jeddah;
- whether Government are aware that the rate war was started by the Mogul line shippers because the Scindia Steam Navigation Company berthed their steamers in that trade;
- whether Government had welcomed the advent of an Indian shipping company for the pilgrim traffic between Karachi and Jeddah;

- (d) whether Government have taken, or propose to take, any steps to stop the rate war;
- (e) whether Indian shipping concerns ever carried pilgrims from India to Jeddah in the past; and
- (f) the attitude of Government in this matter and whether the Honourable Member proposes to make a statement in the matter?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a), (b), (c), (d) and (f). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the replies given by me to starred questions Nos. 350 and 505 on the 17th and 25th February, 1938, respectively, and the supplementaries arising out of those questions.

(e) Probably.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know, Sir, whether there has been any precedent when the Government of India have intervened by way of conciliation when there was a rate war between shipping companies in India?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: I believe that is so, but if my Honourable friend wants details, he had better address the question to the Honourable the Commerce Secretary.

Mr. Manu Subedar: If that is so, why, on this occasion, the Government of India did not take such a step?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: For the very simple reason that the conditions which existed in the earlier cases do not exist now.

Maulana Shaukat Ali: I do hope that the Government of India will not take such action as will lead to fighting, because we have had experience of Zanzibar, and we do want Jeddah also to become a cock-pit for fighting.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: Do I understand that the intensity of the competition has not reached such a dangerous condition?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: No, Sir, when I answered the earlier supplementary question, I stated that action of a conciliatory character was taken by the Government of India when approached by one of the parties concerned, and in this particular case the Government of India have not been approached by the party concerned.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: Do I understand that the Government will look on even if the competition reaches a dangerous state?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: The Government of India expect that, if such a stage is reached, the shipping companies concerned will approach them.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: Supposing none of the shipping companies approach the Government, are the Government of India going to remain neutral or adopt an indifferent attitude in this matter?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: I think my friend will agree that where the interest is primarily that of the companies concerned, it is for the companies to make a move in the matter.

MEASURES FOR RELIEF OF CULTIVATORS.

744. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Secretary for Commerce please state:

- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recommendations of the Indian Central Cotton Committee with special regard to the relief measures suggested in the interest of the cultivators;
- (b) whether Government have taken any action on the recommendations, such as reduction of railway freights, ginning and pressing charges, etc.; and
- (c) whether Government are aware of the fear of cultivators that the low cotton prices will further encourage the British interests to pitch their demands high in the renewed endeavour for reaching an Indo-British trade agreement?

Mr. H. Dow: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) With regard to reduction of railway freights, the Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply returned by the Railway Board to the East India Cotton Association, Bombay, on the 24th December, 1937, copies of which are in the Library. Matters regarding reduction of ginning and pressing charges are not the concern of the Governor General in Council and the Government of India have not been addressed in respect of these.

(c) Government have seen this suggestion made in newspaper articles.

Mr. K. Santhanam: With reference to the reply to part (c) of the question, may I know whether the Government of India will take steps to promote the control of cotton cultivation as in the case of tea control?

Mr. H. Dow: No, Sir.

Mr. K. Santhanam: May I know why?

Mr. H. Dow: The conditions, as Honourable Members opposite realise as well as any one else, are entirely dissimilar.

Mr. K. Santhanam: May I know whether the cultivators of cotton do not deserve the same amount of sympathy as the cultivators of tea?

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

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it true that Lancashire is asking for better conditions and pitching their demands high in reaching an Indo-British agreement?

Mr. H. Dow: It hardly seems to me to arise out of this question.

Mr. Manu Subedar: The Honourable Member stated in his reply that it is stated in the newspapers, but I am asking on the floor of the House whether it is a fact that British interests are pitching their demands high. The Honourable Member is bound to have facts.

Mr. H. Dow: If the Honourable Member will read part (c) of the question, he will find it is asked there whether Government are aware of the fears of certain cultivators. I stated that Government had seen this suggestion made in newspapers. I do not understand what is the object of his supplementary question.

Mr. Manu Subedar: My question is, if British interests have pitched their demands high in the endeavour for reaching the Indo-British agreement,—I am reading the words in the question. Is it a fact that they have pitched their demands higher than before?

Mr. H. Dow: If the Honourable Member is seeking by means of this supplementary question to get me to divulge the details of negotiations which are at present going on between His Majesty's Government and the Government of India, he will be entirely unsuccessful.

Seth Govind Das: The Honourable Member said that the conditions of the cotton growers and tea growers are not the same. Is it because that European interests are not involved in cotton cultivation to the same extent as in tea cultivation?

Mr. H. Dow: No, Sir, one of the main differences is in one case there is an international agreement regulating the marketing of tea, but I know of no such international agreement regulating cotton cultivation.

EXTENSIONS GIVEN TO SIR BRYCE BURT AND COLONEL SIR ARTHUR OLVER.

745. ***Sardar Sant Singh:** (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Sir Bryce Burt and Colonel Sir Arthur Olver were recruited on a contract service system? If so, when did their period of original contract come to an end?

(b) Is it a fact that these officers have been given extensions in their services? If so, how many times and for what period each time?

(c) What are their present ages, respectively, and when are they likely to retire?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) Sir Arthur Olver was appointed on contract; his original contract expired on the 17th April, 1933. Sir Bryce Burt was appointed from the Indian Agricultural Service as Agricultural Expert to the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. His first term of service in that post expired on the 19th July, 1934.

(b) and (c). A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement showing the number and period of Extensions of Service granted to Sir Bryce Burt and Sir Arthur Olver, their age and the dates on which they are likely to retire.

Name of officer.	Number of extensions.	Period of extensions.	Age.	Likely date of retirement.
Sir Bryce Burt	3	One year, 8 months and 3 years.	57	31st March 1939..
Sir Arthur Olver	3	2 years, four months and 3 years.	62	17th August 1938..

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know, Sir, how many times were their contracts of service renewed?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: I think, Sir, twice in each case.

Sardar Sant Singh: Is it proposed to renew these contracts again?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: So far as Sir Arthur Olver is concerned, he has taken leave preparatory to retirement from May next. As regards Sir Bryce Burt, the question has not been considered yet, because his present contract does not expire until the 31st March, 1939.

OFFICIATING ARRANGEMENTS DURING THE LEAVE OF AGRICULTURAL EXPERT TO THE IMPERIAL COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH.

746. ***Sardar Sant Singh:** (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state if it is a fact that Doctor Burns, Agricultural Expert to the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, is going on leave? If so, what arrangements are contemplated for officiating in his place?

(b) Is it a fact that the claim of a senior Indian is proposed to be overlooked in favour of a European?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) Yes. Arrangements for filling the temporary vacancy are under consideration.

(b) The claims of every eligible officer will be carefully considered.

Sardar Sant Singh: Is it a fact that the senior-most officer is an Indian?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: I do not think that that is so.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know the names of the senior officers whose claims are being considered at the present moment?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: I am afraid I cannot give any information while the matter is in the consideration stage.

**MUSLIMS AND NON-MUSLIMS IN THE HEADQUARTERS OFFICE OF THE
SURVEY OF INDIA.**

747. ***Maulana Zafar Ali Khan:** Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please lay on the table a statement showing the number of Muslims and non-Muslims in the various grades of service at the Headquarters of the office of the Survey of India?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: A statement is laid on the table.

Statement showing the number of Muslims and Non-Muslims in the various grades of service at the Headquarters Offices of the Survey of India.

Grades of service, etc.	Muslims.	Non-Muslims.
1. Class I	Nil.	6
2. Class II	1	6
3. Specialist officers in General Central Service Class I and Class II.	Nil.	8
4. Upper Subordinate service	Nil.	6
5. Ministerial Establishment	17	115
6. Other Subordinate Establishments (e.g. Lower Subordinate service, technical, workshop, etc.).	210	504
Total	228	645

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable Member kindly read the statement?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: The statement is a long one, but I should be quite prepared, later on, to answer any questions after my Honourable friend has read the statement.

POSTS OF THE REGISTRAR AND HEAD ASSISTANT OF THE SURVEY OF INDIA.

748. ***Maulana Zafar Ali Khan:** (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state whether the posts of the Registrar, Survey of India and of the Head Assistant were ever held by Muslims?

(b) If not, were any steps ever taken to have these posts filled up by duly qualified Muslims?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) The post of Registrar, Survey of India, has never been held by a Muslim. That of the Head Assistant, Geodetic Branch Office, was held by a Muslim who retired in 1931. Two other posts, corresponding to that of the Head Assistant, *viz.*, those of the Head Clerk, Southern Circle Office and the Head Clerk, Eastern Circle Office, have been held by Muslims, the former until it was abolished in 1932, and the latter to the present day.

(b) Does not arise.

RATIO FIXED FOR MUSLIMS IN THE SURVEY OF INDIA.

749. **Maulana Zafar Ali Khan:** Has the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands fixed any ratio of Muslims for appointment to the various services in the Department of the Survey of India?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: The rules promulgated in the Government of India, Home Department, Resolution No. F-14/17-B./33, dated the 4th July, 1934, apply to the various services in the Survey of India Department.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: How many pupil draftsmen were admitted to the Surveyor General's Office, Calcutta, and how many of them were Muslims? By pupil draftsmen I mean apprentices admitted to the Surveyor General's Office, Calcutta, to be taught draftsmanship?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: I think my Honourable friend will have to give me notice of that question because it is one of detail.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member say why all questions with regard to Delhi, including this one, of which notice has been given—the reply to the same is the same monotonous reply that information has been called for, when Delhi is so very near? Is it not possible to get the information on the 'phone or by some other means?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: I think my Honourable friend will forgive me if I can not relieve the monotony of the replies by furnishing information which I do not possess.

PROPOSED ACQUISITION OF CERTAIN PLOTS NEAR SUBZI MANDI BY THE DELHI IMPROVEMENT TRUST.

750. ***Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad:** (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state if Government are aware of the fact that the Delhi Improvement Trust has issued notices to the owners of plots of land in Baghichi Barhalwali (Pul Andhamughal) near Subzi Mandi station, Delhi, with the intent to acquire those plots?

(b) If the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, will Government please state for what specific public purpose the Trust intends to acquire this property?

(c) If it is not required for any public purpose, why has the Trust considered it necessary to acquire the property in contravention of section 6 of the Land Acquisition Act?

(d) Is it a fact that the Trust has of late issued many similar notices to the owners of land situated in different parts of the Delhi city (*e.g.*, owners of plots in Galairi Bagh, Subzi Mandi) with intent to acquire the property for not any public purpose but with a view to selling it by auction at some later date and to reap profit thereby? If so, why?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) to (d). Information has been called for and will be furnished to the House in due course.

SUNDAY FEES FUND AT MAJOR PORTS OF INDIA.

751. ***Mr. N. M. Joshi:** (a) Will the Commerce Secretary be pleased to state the amount of annual reserve accumulated in the Sunday Fees Fund at the various major ports of India during the last five years?

(b) Will he state in what manner the amount collected in the Fund is being utilised?

(c) Will he also state whether the unexpended balance of these reserves is brought forward from year to year and whether any credit for interest is given to these reserves?

Mr. H. Dow: With your permission, Sir, I shall answer questions Nos. 751 and 752 together.

The questions should have been addressed to the Honourable the Finance Member.

SUNDAY FEES FUND AT MAJOR PORTS OF INDIA.

752. ***Mr. N. M. Joshi:** (a) Will the Secretary for Commerce be pleased to state whether the proceeds of the Sunday Fees Fund are utilised for the benefit and welfare of Indian seamen and, if so, how?

(b) Will he be pleased to state the amount spent for the benefit of European seamen and Indian seamen, respectively, from the proceeds of this Fund?

GRANT GIVEN AND ADMISSION OF INDIANS TO THE MARINE CLUB, CALCUTTA.

753. ***Mr. N. M. Joshi:** (a) Will the Secretary for Commerce be pleased to state whether the Marine Club of Calcutta is receiving any grant, directly or indirectly, through the Seamen's Welfare Association from Government?

(b) Will he be pleased to state whether Indian officers are allowed admission to the Marine Club of Calcutta?

Mr. H. Dow: (a) and (b). The reply to both parts of the question is in the affirmative.

ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN STAFF IN THE ELECTRICITY DIVISION OF THE CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT FOR THE BENEFIT OF PROVIDENT FUND.

754. ***Bhai Parma Nand:** Will the Labour Secretary please lay on the table a list showing the names of the members of the work charge establishment (wiremen and Assistant) employed in the service prior to 1929, in the Electricity Division of the Central Public Works Department, New Delhi, and state if they are allowed the benefit of Provident Fund?

Mr. A. G. Glow: As all the staff, with the exception of nine men, were employed on a daily paid basis, I regret that no record is now available in the Electrical Division of the names of the work-charged establishment employed prior to 1929. Work-charged staff in the Central Public Works Department are not entitled to contribute to any Provident Fund.

†For answer to this question. see answer to question No. 751.

‡Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE ECONOMIC ADVISER.

755. ***Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena:** (a) Will the Commerce Secretary be pleased to state the duties and functions of the Economic Adviser?

(b) What departments have been placed under him?

(c) For what period has the incumbent been appointed, and are any steps being taken to get an Indian trained to take his place at the end of the term of the contract?

Mr. H. Dow: (a) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given by me to Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar's starred question No. 672 on the 7th March, 1938.

(b) The Statistical Research Branch at the headquarters of the Government of India and the Commercial Intelligence and Statistics Department in Calcutta.

(c) The present incumbent has been appointed for five years, and it would obviously be premature to consider yet the question of his successor if any. Government, however, attach considerable importance to Dr. Gregory's services being availed of for the further training of young Indian economists of ability, and a scheme for assuring this will shortly be made public.

WIDENING OF THE SPHERE OF ACTIVITY AND FUNCTIONS OF THE AGENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA IN CEYLON.

756. ***Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak:** (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state whether Government received any representation early in 1937 from the Ceylon Indian League, Colombo, in regard to the widening of the sphere of activity and functions of the Agent of the Government of India in Ceylon?

(b) Do Government propose to put into immediate effect the suggestions outlined therein?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state whether they intend reorganising the Indian Agency in Ceylon so as to meet the changed requirements demanded by the political and economic conflict confronting the Indian settlers there?

(d) Are Government aware of the fact that the Agent of the Government of India in Ceylon has no proper facilities to secure collaboration with the non-official Indian opinion? If so, do Government propose to instruct the Agent to secure such co-operation?

(e) Is it a fact that Ceylon has the largest number of Indian settlers of all the British Colonies?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the supplementary questions and answers to the short notice question asked by Mr. F. E. James in this House on the 15th March, 1937.

(d) The reply to the first part of the question is in the negative. The second part does not arise.

(e) Yes.

DENIAL OF FRANCHISE TO INDIAN SETTLERS UNDER THE VILLAGE COMMUNITIES ORDINANCE OF CEYLON.

757. ***Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak:** Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state whether consequent upon the passing of the Village Communities' Ordinance in the State Council of Ceylon, denying franchise to the Indian estate labourers, Government have taken any action to redress this injustice against the Indian settlers there and if so, what is it?

Sir Gtrja Shankar Bajpai: As the House has already been informed, the Government of India have stopped recruited assisted emigration to Ceylon.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 266 asked by Mr. Sri Prakasa on the 15th February, 1938.

DEATH OF STATE PRISONERS CONFINED UNDER REGULATION III OF 1918.

Sardar Muhammad Yunus Khan, the other of the two State Prisoners mentioned in my previous reply, died of Cancer.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 289 asked by Mr. Sham Lal on the 15th February, 1938.

ADVISABILITY OF DELETING SECTION 239 OF THE CANTONMENTS ACT.

- (a) Yes, one.
- (b) For abetting the theft of secret papers His appeal was rejected by the Local Government under section 239(4).
- (c) Does not arise.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 292 asked by Mr. Abdul Qaiyum on the 15th February, 1938.

REFUSAL OF A PASSPORT FOR KABUL TO ONE HARNAM SINGH.

- (a) Harnam Singh applied for a pass to Kabul in October.
- (b) Yes, in November.
- (c) Government understand that Harnam Singh was married in Kabul, but it is not known where his wife is at present or whether he has any other relatives in Kabul.
- (d) Yes, because of his connections with an agent of a foreign power in Kabul.

Information promised in reply to starred questions Nos. 639 to 642 asked by Mr. Badri Dutt Pande on the 4th March, 1938.

SUPPLY OF GHEE FOR INDIAN TROOPS.

Starred Question No. 639:—(a) The average annual requirement of ghee for issue to troops is 2,400 tons and the total expenditure under Rs. 28 lakhs.

(b) Purchase is effected through an agency on commission basis.

(c) The present system of obtaining ghee through a purchasing agent dates from the 1st November, 1925.

Briefly, the terms and conditions are as follows:

- (i) The status of the firm acting as the purchasing agent vis-a-vis Government is that of an agent to his principal.

The relations between the agent and the dealers and other parties with whom the agent has arrangements for discharging his agency obligations are as between two principals and do not concern Government. Government deals with the agent alone.

- (ii) The agent acts within the limits of authority delegated to him under the provisions of the agency agreement.
- (iii) Purchases are made by the agent from day to day at prevailing market rates. The Director of Contracts lays down the price limits within which the agent is to make purchases.
- (iv) The agent is responsible for quality of ghee supplied until it has been delivered to the Government Ghee Heating Centre at Agra and finally accepted there, after heating and cleaning under Government supervision and passing analytical tests carried out by the Ghee Testing Laboratory which is attached to the Centre and controlled by the military medical authorities.
- (v) Rejected ghee is taken back by the agent who refunds its gross cost to Government.
- (vi) The gross cost (including overheads) of supply is borne by Government and the agent is remunerated for his services by a commission on the actual weight of ghee finally accepted from him as outlined under (iv) above. The gross cost of ghee consists of :

1. *Value of ghee* : At actual prices paid.

2. *Overheads* : (i) *Mandi charges* (i.e., charges incurred in buying markets from the time of purchase of ghee upto delivery f.o.r. market railway station).

(ii) *Financing charges* (i.e., charges for provision of funds by the agent for purchase and despatch of ghee to the Ghee Heating Centre, Agra, until payment is made by Government to the Agent).

(iii) *Establishment and contingencies* : (i.e., the cost of establishment and contingencies employed by the agent on Government account in the markets and other centres for purchase and supply of ghee).

(iv) *Agent's Remuneration* : All these overhead charges are paid by Government to the agent at flat rates on the actual weight of finally accepted ghee. The flat rates of items (i) to (iii) are based on past actuals.

3. *Empty Tins* : Supplied by Government at Government expense.

4. *Rail Freight* : At actuals.

(vii) The agent's accounts and books concerning the agency business are regularly audited by the Military Accounts Department.

(viii) Adequate safeguards including a substantial security deposit are provided to cover the agent's default.

No firm has held a monopoly of the agency from its commencement to date.

(d) Tenders were called for in August, 1927 and in April, 1932.

COMPLAINTS AGAINST AGENTS SUPPLYING GHEE TO THE ARMY.

Starred Question No. 640.—(a) Yes. The agent's books are subjected to Government audit.

(b) No. They are so fixed as to cover actual payments to be made by the agents.

(c) No, it has not been found to be financially advantageous to Government to exercise the option to pay at actuals those charges which are at present paid at flat rates.

COMPLAINTS AGAINST AGENTS SUPPLYING GHEE TO THE ARMY.

Starred Question No. 641.—Allegations as mentioned in this question were received. They were investigated and found to be baseless, and, therefore, it was not necessary to take any further action.

COMPLAINTS AGAINST AGENTS SUPPLYING GHEE TO THE ARMY.

Starred Question No. 642.—(a) Yes.

(b) On investigation the allegation was found to be wrong. No further action was, therefore, necessary.

(c) Yes, but on investigation this allegation too was found to be baseless.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order. I have to inform the Assembly

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): Sir, there is a short notice question and the Honourable the Commerce Secretary has agreed to answer it.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I do not know anything about it.

Mr. Manu Subedar: It was duly handed in at the office and I saw the Assistant Secretary, and the Honourable the Commerce Secretary was ready to answer it.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Commerce Secretary may be ready to answer it, but I have not received it and do not know whether it is in order.

Some Honourable Members: (To Mr. Manu Subedar) Ask it tomorrow.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON EMIGRATION.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have to inform the Assembly that upto 12 noon on Monday, the 7th March, 1938, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Committee on Emigration, eleven candidates were nominated, since when the candidature of three Members has been withdrawn. As the number of candidates is now equal to the number of vacancies, I declare the following non-official Members to be duly elected to serve on the Standing Committee on Emigration, namely:

1. Mr. M. Ghiasuddin;
 2. Major Nawab Sir Ahmad Nawaz Khan;
 3. Mr. F. E. James;
 4. Mr. N. M. Joshi;
 5. Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar;
 6. Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena;
 7. Mr. Ram Narayan Singh; and
 8. Mr. Muhammad Nauman.
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THE TRADE DISPUTES (AMENDMENT) BILL.

PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE.

Mr. A. G. Clow (Labour Secretary): Sir, I beg to present the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend the Trade Disputes Act, 1929, for certain purposes.

THE CHILD MARRIAGE RESTRAINT (AMENDMENT) BILL.

PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE.

Mr. B. Das (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I beg to present the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to amend the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929.

THE INDIAN FINANCE BILL.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have received the following Message from His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General:

"Whereas by its vote of the 9th March, 1938, the Legislative Assembly has refused to take into consideration a Bill entitled a Bill to fix the duty on salt manufactured in, or imported by land into, certain parts of British India, to fix maximum rates of postage under the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, and to fix rates of income-tax and super-tax;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Victor Alexander John, Marquess of Linlithgow, in pursuance of the provisions of sub-section (1) of section 67B of the Government of India Act, as set out in the Ninth Schedule to the Government of India Act, 1935, do recommend to the Legislative Assembly that it do pass the Bill in the form hereto annexed.

(Sd.) LINLITHGOW,

NEW DELHI;
The 9th March, 1938.

Viceroy and Governor General."

The Honourable Sir James Grigg (Finance Member): May I now move for leave to introduce the Bill in the form recommended?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Yes.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Sir, I move that leave be given to introduce a Bill to fix the duty on salt manufactured in, or imported by land into, certain parts of British India, to fix maximum rates of postage under the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, and to fix rates of income-tax and super-tax, in the form recommended by the Governor General.

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

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to fix the duty on salt manufactured in, or imported by land into, certain parts of British India, to fix maximum rates of postage, under the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, and to fix rates of income-tax and super-tax, in the form recommended by the Governor General."

The Assembly divided:

AYES—46.

Abdul Hamid, Khan Bahadur Sir.
 Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab Sir.
 Aikman, Mr. A.
 Ayyar, Mr. N. M.
 Bajpai, Sir Girja Shankar.
 Bewoor, Mr. G. V.
 Boyle, Mr. J. D.
 Buss, Mr. L. C.
 Chanda, Mr. A. K.
 Chapman-Mortimer, Mr. T.
 Clow, Mr. A. G.
 Conran-Smith, Mr. E.
 Craik, The Honourable Sir Henry.
 Dalal, Dr. R. D.
 Dalpat Singh, Sardar Bahadur Captain.
 DeSouza, Dr. F. X.
 Dow, Mr. H.
 Fazl-i-Haq Piracha, Khan Bahadur Shaikh.
 Fazl-i-Ilahi, Khan Sahib Shaikh.
 Ghulam Muhammad, Mr.
 Griffiths, Mr. P. J.
 Grigg, The Honourable Sir James.
 Highet, Mr. J. C.
 James, Mr. F. E.

Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sir.
 Kamaluddin Ahmed, Shamsul-Ulema.
 Kushalpal Singh, Raja Bahadur.
 Lloyd, Mr. A. H.
 Mackeown, Mr. J. A.
 Matthews, Mr. V. G.
 Mehr Shah, Nawab Sahibzada Sir Sayad Muhammad.
 Menon, Mr. P. A.
 Metcalfe, Sir Aubrey.
 Miller, Mr. C. C.
 Rahman, Lieut.-Col. M. A.
 Row, Mr. K. Sanjiva.
 Scott, Mr. J. Ramsay.
 Sen. Rai Bahadur N. C.
 Shattock, Mr. J. S. H.
 Sher Muhammad Khan, Captain Sardar Sir.
 Sivaraj, Rao Sahib N.
 Slade, Mr. M.
 Spence, Mr. G. H.
 Stewart, The Honourable Sir Thomas.
 Sundaram, Mr. V. S.
 Walker, Mr. G. D.

NOES—68.

Abdoola Haroon, Seth Haji Sir.
 Abdul Ghani, Maulvi Muhammad.
 Abdul Qaiyum, Mr.
 Abdul Wajid, Maulvi.
 Aney, Mr. M. S.
 Asaf Ali, Mr. M.
 Ayyangar, Mr. M. Ananthasayanam.
 Azhar Ali, Mr. Muhammad.
 Bajoria, Babu Baijnath.
 Banerjee, Dr. P. N.
 Bhagavan Das, Dr.
 Bhagchand Soni, Rai Bahadur Seth.
 Bhutto, Mr. Nabi Baksh Illahi Baksh.
 Chaliha, Mr. Kuladhar.
 Chattopadhyaya, Mr. Amarendra Nath.
 Chaudhury, Mr. Brojendra Narayan.
 Chettiar, Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam.
 Chetty, Mr. Sami Vencatachelam.
 Chunder, Mr. N. C.
 Das, Mr. B.
 Das, Pandit Nilakantha.
 Datta, Mr. Akhil Chandra.
 Desai, Mr. Bhulabhai J.
 Deshmukh, Dr. G. V.
 Deshmukh, Mr. Govind V.
 Essak Sait, Mr. H. A. Sathar H.
 Gadgil, Mr. N. V.
 Ghasuddin, Mr. M.
 Ghulam Bhik Nairang, Syed.
 Govind Das, Seth.
 Gupta, Mr. K. S.
 Hans Raj, Raizada.
 Jedhe, Mr. K. M.
 Jehangir, Sir Cowasji.

Jogendra Singh, Sirdar.
 Joshi, Mr. N. M.
 Kailash Behari Lal, Babu.
 Lalchand Navalrai, Mr.
 Malaviya, Pandit Krishna Kant.
 Mangal Singh, Sardar.
 Misra, Pandit Shambhu Dayal.
 Mudaliar, Mr. C. N. Muthuranga.
 Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi, Qazi.
 Murtuza Sahib Bahadur, Maulvi Syed.
 Paliwal, Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta.
 Raghbir Narayan Singh, Choudhri.
 Ramayan Prasad, Mr.
 Ranga, Prof. N. G.
 Rao, Mr. Thirumala.
 Saksena, Mr. Mohan Lal.
 Sant Singh, Sardar.
 Santhanam, Mr. K.
 Satyamurti, Mr. S.
 Sham Lal, Mr.
 Shaikat Ali, Maulana.
 Sheodass Daga, Seth.
 Siddique Ali Khan, Khan Sahib Nawab.
 Sikandar Ali Choudhury, Maulvi.
 Singh, Mr. Gauri Shankar.
 Singh, Mr. Ram Narayan.
 Sinha, Mr. Satya Narayan.
 Som, Mr. Suryya Kumar.
 Sri Prakasa, Mr.
 Subedar, Mr. Manu.
 Umar Ali Shah, Mr.
 Varma, Mr. B. B.
 Yamin Khan, Sir Muhammad.
 Zafar Ali Khan, Maulana.

The motion was negatived.

STATEMENT OF BUSINESS.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg (Finance Member): Sir, perhaps I might be allowed to make a comparatively non-controversial announcement as to business on Thursday and Friday next week. The first item will be the Trade Disputes (Amendment) Bill in connection with which the report of the Select Committee has been presented today and the second item will be the Hindu Women's Rights to Property (Amendment) Bill.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 17th March, 1938.