

8th April 1938

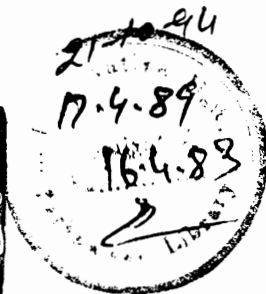
THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

(Official Report)

Volume III, 1938

(24th March to 12th April, 1938)

SEVENTH SESSION OF THE FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1938



PUBLISHED BY THE MANAGER OF PUBLICATIONS, DELHI.
PRINTED BY THE MANAGER, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, SIMLA.
1938

Legislative Assembly.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Friday, 8th April, 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.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

(a) ORAL ANSWER.

†1253*, 1254*, 1255*, 1256*.

COMPENSATION TO COMPANY-MANAGED RAILWAYS FOR LOSS DUE TO PURCHASE OF INDIAN MATERIAL.

[Postponed Question No. 925 of 23rd March, 1938.]

‡1257. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** Will the Honourable Member for Communications state:

- (a) the number of cases during 1936-37 and 1937-38 (up to the end of December), in which Company-managed Railways were compensated for loss through preference being given to Indian material in stores purchase;
- (b) what the amount paid was;
- (c) whether Government will be pleased to lay on the table the correspondence between Government and the Boards of the Company-managed Railways, as the result of which Government agreed to give such a compensation;
- (d) since which date this compensation has been given, and when the first case of such payment being made occurred; and
- (e) in which public document particulars of the system adopted by Government in this regard are given?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a) Claims for compensation have so far been received in three cases, in respect of the year 1936-37, i.e.:

- (i) Purchase of keys for steel sleepers—South Indian Railway.
- (ii) Purchase of wagon underframes—South Indian Railway.
- (iii) Purchase of an oil tank wagon—Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway.

No claims have as yet been received in respect of the year 1937-38.

(b) The total amount of compensation in these three cases was Rs. 3,142.

(c) There was no correspondence with the Boards of Directors of Company-managed Railways. The Government of India decided as a result of the recommendations of the Indian Tariff Board regarding protection to the steel and wagon industries, to promote the purchase in India of

†For these questions and replies thereto, see pages 2802-05 of these Debates.

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

rails, metal sleepers and components, and wagons and wagon parts. The Agents of Company-managed Railways, who could not under their agreements be compelled to buy from a source disadvantageous to themselves, were therefore asked to accept an arrangement under which those Railways would be compensated against loss for making such purchases in India, instead of importing from abroad. They did so with the concurrence of their Boards of Directors. It has, however, been the policy to endeavour to persuade the Company-managed Railways not to press for compensation in cases where the loss resulting from purchases in India was small.

(d) Compensation was allowed for the first time on purchase of rails with effect from 1st April, 1927. In respect of rolling stock the procedure was first applied to the orders for 1928-29 and the first claim was sanctioned in 1930.

(e) Particulars of the system do not appear in any public document; the arrangement is however simple. In the case of rails and fish-plates purchased between 1st April 1927 and 31st March 1935, the rate of compensation was fixed according to the figures given in the report of the Tariff Board. In regard to such purchases subsequent to that date no question of compensation has arisen. In the case of wagons and underframes a form has been prescribed to enable a comparison to be made between the price paid in India and the 'all in' cost of imported material, and Company-managed Railways are required to submit their claims for compensation in this form.

PROHIBITION OF RAILWAY SUBORDINATE MEDICAL OFFICIALS FROM ENGAGING IN PRIVATE PRACTICE.

1258. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that the staff of the railway medical officials of the subordinate service have been prohibited from engaging in private practice? If so, when were the orders passed?

(b) Has the same bar been applied to the senior medical officials? If not, what is the reason for this distinction?

(c) Are Government aware that there is no such bar on the medical staff employed in the Civil Department? If so, will Government please state the reasons which led them to bar such practice?

(d) Does this bar apply to the old servants of the railway, or to the new entrants only? If it applies to the former, were such people informed of this bar when they joined the service? If not, do Government propose to grant some compensation?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: I am obtaining information and will lay a reply on the table of House in due course.

POST OFFICES IN DISTRICTS OF THE CHHOTA NAGPUR DIVISION AND THE SONTHAL PARGANAS.

1259. *Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Communications be pleased to state the number of post offices in each district of the Chhota Nagpur Division and the Sonthal parganas in the Province of Bihar and also the length and the breadth of each area which each of these post offices has to serve?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: A statement giving the information asked for by the Honourable Member in the first part of the question is placed on the table. As regards the second part the information is not readily available and its collection would involve an expenditure of an undue amount of time and labour.

List showing the number of Post Offices in each District of the Chota Nagpur Revenue Division and in the district of Sonthal Parganas.

Name of District.		Number of post offices.	
		Permanent.	Experimental.
Chota Nagpur Division.	1. Ranchi	53	6
	2. Singhbhum	34	2
	3. Manbhum	85	1
	4. Hazaribagh	54	2
	5. Palamau	35	1
	6. Sonthal Parganas	56	1

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Is the Honourable Member aware that in the area referred to, there are large parts with a big population without a single post office?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: I am prepared to believe that there are such large areas without post office.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Will the Honourable Member inquire from the local officials whether there are post offices required in such areas?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: It is one of the duties of local officials to investigate the possibilities of extensions of postal facilities.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know if Government call for reports from time to time from officers as to which areas are not supplied with postal facilities?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: Information as to the extension of postal facilities comes to Government automatically.

CRIMINAL CASES AND CIVIL SUITS IN CONNECTION WITH RAILWAYS IN BIHAR.

1260. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state the number of criminal cases and civil suits in connection with railways in the Province of Bihar for the past five years, year by year, and also the contribution, if any, made by the railway authority to the Government of Bihar towards their expenses in respect of judiciary?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: Government have no information regarding the number of criminal cases and civil suits. Railways are not required to make any contribution to Provincial Governments towards the cost of their judiciary.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know if the Honourable Member means that there are no criminal cases and civil suits.

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: No.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: After having received notice of the question, did Government collect the information?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: The information is not in the possession of the Government of India.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: This being a matter relating to railways, may I know whether Government have called for information from the respective Railway administrations?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: No, Sir.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Why not, Sir?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: Because criminal cases and civil suits are primarily the concern of the Provincial Governments.

OVERCROWDING OF THIRD CLASS CARRIAGES ON RAILWAYS.

1261. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways and Communications be pleased to state the step or steps taken by the authorities concerned, or in their contemplation, to remove the grievances of the third class passengers of all Indian Railways with special reference to the overcrowding of the third class carriages of all the railway trains?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: I would refer the Honourable Member to Chapter VII, pages 94 to 107 of the Report by the Railway Board on Indian Railways for 1936-37, Volume I. The last paragraph of this chapter refers to the question of overcrowding.

SCARCITY OF WATER ON STATIONS ON THE GAYA-PATNA LINE AND THE SOUTH BIHAR RAILWAYS.

1262. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state whether the attention of the Railway authorities has been drawn towards water scarcity on the arrival of trains almost at

all railway stations in the Province of Bihar, chiefly those on the Gaya-Patna line and the South Bihar Railways and if so, what are the steps taken to meet this vital need of the travelling public?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: I would refer the Honourable Member to the information published in the Legislative Assembly Debates of the 31st January, 1938, with reference to question No. 584 asked by him on the 16th September, 1937.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Will the Honourable Member please say whether no further steps have been taken to remove the grievances?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: The action that has been taken is contained in the statement of information which was furnished to this Honourable House.

RAILWAY INCOME FROM THE SESSION OF THE INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS AT HARIPURA.

1263. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state the income which accrued to the Indian Railways on account of the holding of the last annual session of the Indian National Congress at Haripura in the month of February last?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: I will endeavour to obtain from the various Railways, if the information can be compiled without undue labour, figures showing the fares paid on tickets issued to and from Haripura and the earnings on other traffic carried to and from that station.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether the Government can make a statement with regard to the expenses incurred at the Mahdi station?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: I am not in a position to make a statement at present. I promised to make inquiries.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: By what time may we expect the information?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: I can give no information as regards that. I do not even know whether it is possible to collect the information.

POLITICAL PROPAGANDA THROUGH THE RADIO.

1264. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Communications please state whether an undertaking is taken from persons, who are called upon to speak at the radio stations in India on any subject, that the microphone should not be used for political purposes?

(b) Is there any selective discrimination employed by the Department in requesting persons to speak, particularly with a view to exclude persons, whose political opinions are known to be extreme?

(c) Has the attention of Government been drawn that in some of the rural programmes for the benefit of villagers, political matter is introduced and the radio is used for propaganda?

(d) Are Government prepared to take special steps to see that the radio should not be used for political purposes by any section of the population, or by any shade of opinion, is rigidly enforced?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a) No.

(b) The selection of speakers is primarily determined by their suitability for the subject matter of the talks. All talks are required to be submitted in manuscript before they are given and the Station Directors are responsible for ensuring that they do not offend against the accepted policy of Government.

(c) No.

(d) Government have already taken such steps and will continue to do so, whenever occasion arises.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Can the Honourable Member assure this House that the policy enunciated by Government in this matter has been carried out by the Broadcasting Department since it was established in India?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: To the best of my knowledge, yes.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether any exception is made with regard to the requirement about the submission of manuscripts?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: To the best of my knowledge, no.

ACCOUNTS OF THE ALL-INDIA RADIO.

1265. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Communications please state whether the accounts of the All-India Radio Department are maintained in the same manner as the accounts of a commercial department like the Posts and Telegraphs?

(b) Is a capital account created for the All-India Radio Department?

(c) Are calculations of interest and depreciation made?

(d) Are the final accounts shown in the form of a profit and loss account?

(e) With a view to assure the taxpayer that business principles are not ignored in the administration of this Department, are Government prepared to appoint a committee to determine the form of accounts?

(f) Have Government found any waste, extravagance, duplication, or leakage, in the finances of this Department during 1937-38?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a) and (d). No, but *pro forma* accounts on a commercial basis are compiled annually.

(b) Yes.

(c) Interest and depreciation are calculated for the purpose of *pro forma* accounts.

(e) Government do not consider the appointment of such a committee to be necessary.

(f) No such case of any importance has come to Government's notice.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Can the Honourable Member tell this House why steps could not be taken to produce the accounts of the Broadcasting Department on the same basis as the Posts and Telegraphs?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: Because, Sir, the department is not a commercial department in the sense that the Posts and Telegraphs Department is but we do produce *pro forma* accounts which are on a commercial basis.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Karmi: Have Government any intention to run this department on commercial lines?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: I replied a few days ago that they have no immediate intention of doing so.

TAKING UP OF COMMERCIAL APPOINTMENTS IN ENGLAND BY RETIRED MEMBERS OF THE RAILWAY BOARD.

1266. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways state the names of the Chief Commissioner for Railways, the Financial Commissioner for Railways, and the Members of the Railway Board, since 1924?

(b) How many of these persons after retirement have joined the board of a business firm in the United Kingdom?

(c) How many of them have joined business firms with which the Railway Board have dealings?

(d) Has any restriction been imposed, or, is the imposition of any restriction contemplated with regard to such matters, and in particular, is it proposed that, where the Railway Board have dealings with a firm, it should be obligatory for the firm to disclose whether any former member of the Railway Board was in the service of such firm as an employee or was a director thereof?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a) I lay on the table of the House a statement giving the required information.

(b) to (d). I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given in this House to his starred question No. 895 on 22nd March.

Statement showing the names of Chief Commissioners of Railways, Financial Commissioners of Railways and Members of the Railway Board during the years 1924 to 1938.

Year.	Names of Chief Commissioners of Railways.	Names of Financial Commissioners of Railways.	Names of Members of Railway Board.
1924	Mr. C. D. M. Hindley	Mr. G. G. Sim, C.I.E. (Mr. A. A. L. Parsons, C.I.E., I.C.S., Offg. from 11th February 1924 to 23rd October 1924.)	Sir Danvers Waghorn, C.B., C.M.G., R.E., upto 9th April 1924. Mr. F. A. Hadow from 24th April 1924. Mr. P. C. Sheridan.
1925	Sir Clement Hindley (Sir Austen Hadow, Offg. from 11th May 1925 to 24th September 1925).	Mr. G. G. Sim, C.I.E.	Mr. P. C. Sheridan. (Sir Austen Hadow, Lt. Col. L. E. Hopkins, offg. from 11th May 1925 to 14th September 1925).
1926	Sir Clement Hindley	Mr. G. G. Sim upto 6th March 1926 (Mr. A. M. Hayman, offg. from 7th March 1926 to 2nd April 1926.) Mr. A. A. L. Parsons, C.I.E., I.C.S. from 3rd April 1926.	Sir Austen Hadow (Mr. J. M. D. Wrench, C.I.E., offg. from 23rd April 1926 to 21st October 1926.) Mr. P. C. Sheridan.
1927	Sir Clement Hindley (Sir Austen Hadow offg. from 21st December 1927.)	Mr. A. A. L. Parsons, C.I.E., I.C.S.	Sir Austen Hadow (Mr. J. M. D. Wrench, offg. from 21st December 1927.) Mr. P. C. Sheridan (Mr. B. M. Crosthwaite, offg. from 8th May 1927 to 7th November 1927.)
1928	Sir Clement Hindley up to 11th October 1928. Sir Austen Hadow (offg. up to 28th June 1928) and again from 12th October 1928.	Mr. A. A. L. Parsons, C.I.E., I.C.S.	Sir Austen Hadow (Mr. J. M. D. Wrench, C.I.E., offg. upto 23rd June 1928.) (Mr. T. G. Russell, offg. from 25th August 1928.) Mr. P. C. Sheridan.
1929	Sir Austen Hadow, C.V.O. upto 15th October 1929. Mr. T. G. Russell, from 16th October 1929.	Mr. A. A. L. Parsons, C.I.E., I.C.S. (Mr. P. R. Rau, offg. from 3rd March 1929 to 29th September 1929.)	Mr. H. A. M. Hannay from 29th April 1929. Mr. P. C. Sheridan. Mr. A. M. Hayman from 1st April 1929. Mr. T. G. Russell. Mr. M. W. Braysbay from 14th March 1929.

1930	Mr. T. G. Russell	Mr. A. A. L. Parsons, C.I.E., I.C.S.	Mr. P. H. Madlin offg. from 29th September 1930 to 28th October 1930.) Mr. A. M. Hayman. Mr. M. W. Braysbay. Mr. H. A. M. Hannay.
1931	Mr. T. G. Russell	Sir Alan Parsons (Mr. P. R. Rau offg. from 21st May 1931 to 30th July 1931.)	Mr. A. M. Hayman. Mr. M. W. Braysbay (Mr. F. C. Pavry, offg. from 18th April 1931 to 16th October 1931.) Mr. H. A. M. Hannay (Mr. C. P. Colvin, O.B.E., offg. from 26th April 1931 to 26th December 1931.)
1932	Sir Guthrie Russell	Sir Alan Parsons up to 8th April 1932 Mr. P. R. Rau from 9th April 1932.	Mr. A. M. Hayman (Mr. C. P. Colvin, offg. from 26th May 1932 to 14th October 1932.) Mr. M. W. Braysbay up to 4th May 1932. Mr. H. A. M. Hannay up to 28th March 1932.
1933	Sir Guthrie Russell (Mr. M. W. Braysbay, offg. from 11th May 1933 to 12th October 1933.)	Mr. P. R. Rau	Mr. A. M. Hayman up to 14th January 1933. Mr. C. F. Colvin from 15th January 1933.
1934	Sir Guthrie Russell	Mr. P. R. Rau	Mr. C. P. Colvin up to 19th November 1934. Mr. A. E. Tylden Pattenson, from 20th November 1934.
1935	Sir Guthrie Russell (Sir Maurice Braysbay, offg. from 29th July 1935 to 31st October 1935.)	Mr. P. R. Rau (Mr. T. S. Sankara Aiyar offg. from 29th October 1935 to 5th January 1936.)	Mr. A. E. Tylden Pattenson.
1936	Sir Guthrie Russell	Mr. P. R. Rau (Mr. T. S. Sankara Aiyar offg. up to 5th January 1936.)	Mr. A. E. Tylden Pattenson. Mr. J. C. Hight. from 30th March 1936.
1937	Sir Guthrie Russell, K.C.I.E.	Sir Raghavendra Rau up to 8th April 1937. Mr. B. M. Staig, C.S.I., I.C.S., from 9th April 1937.	Mr. A. E. Tylden Pattenson. Mr. J. C. Hight.
1938 (up to date)	Sir Guthrie Russell, K.C.I.E.	Mr. B. M. Staig, C.S.I., I.C.S.	Mr. A. E. Tylden Pattenson. Mr. J. C. Hight.

Mr. Manu Subedar: That question did not refer to individuals whereas this question refers to certain highly placed officials by name and, my question, parts (b), (c) and (d) are with reference to these specific high officials who have left the Railway Board and who have joined firms which have sold millions worth of goods to the Railways. I submit that the question remains unanswered.

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: Sir, may I read the reply to which I referred. It was given by my colleague, the Honourable the Finance Member:

"The Government of India are not prepared to undertake a heresy hunt in regard to the past. On the other hand they think that the existing rules, etc., in the matter might very well be subjected to a re-examination. Perhaps, however, I should warn Honourable Members that the great difficulty in questions of this kind has always been the absence of an effective sanction and my recollection is that in their most recent consideration of this subject, His Majesty's Government have confined themselves to formulating general principles of conduct while leaving their application to the individual sense of what is right and wrong".

That, Sir, represented the views of the Government of India a few days ago and they have not changed in the interval.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I am referring here to certain high officials by name. The question is one of special importance because the Railways are one of the largest purchasers of goods.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The answer is that Government do not propose to pursue the inquiry into the cases of those who have already retired.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Since 1924, Sir, there are only half a dozen high officials who have retired and it is hard that even in those cases the Government should refuse to give this information.

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: Government have made it clear, as I understand it, that no good purpose will be served by making inquiries in the case of persons who have already retired.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: When does the Honourable Member propose to re-examine this matter?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: At the present moment the matter is under re-examination.

SUGGESTIONS FOR REDUCTION OF RATES ON THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA AND BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAYS.

1267. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state how many suggestions for reduced or adjusted rates, or special rates, were made to the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Administration and the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway Administration during the period from 1st April, 1937 to 31st December, 1937?

(b) In how many cases was the request granted?

(c) What were the principal reasons for the refusal of the request?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a), (b) and (c). I am ascertaining from the Agents of the two railways concerned whether it is possible to compile the information required without an undue amount of labour, and will place a further reply on the table of the House when their replies have been received.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I inquire—if the Honourable Member thinks that the information cannot be compiled without undue labour—whether he will give this House a statement as to the nature of the request and the extent to which it was found possible to grant the request of a certain class and a certain order? I merely want a general statement of policy rather than individual details, and I do not want to be put off with the statement that they will inquire whether it is possible to collect it without undue labour.

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: Sir, it may be the case that the Honourable Member wants a statement of general policy but, unfortunately, he framed his question in regard to specific cases?

Mr. Manu Subedar: That is why I am asking supplementaries. I am asking whether he will give us a statement of the general policy.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I think the Honourable Member had better put down another question.

CREATION OF AN APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT CONTROLLER OF BROADCASTING IN INDIA.

†1268. ***Sardar Sant Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable Member of Communications please state if there is a likelihood of the creation of an appointment of Assistant Controller of Broadcasting in India? If so, how is that post likely to be filled up?

(b) Is the Federal Public Service Commission going to be asked to advertise and select a man for the appointment? If not, why is this and other appointments of the Broadcasting Department not filled up through the Commission.

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a) Yes. The post is likely to be filled by the appointment of a Government officer with administrative experience.

(b) If direct recruitment is made to the post from outside, the assistance of the Federal Public Service Commission will be sought. Recruitment to other important posts in All-India Radio is already made through the Federal Public Service Commission.

PROVISION OF A BROADCASTING STATION AT PATNA.

1269. ***Babu Kallash Behari Lal:** Will the Honourable Member for Communications be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that the Education Minister of Bihar recently had any talk or correspondence over the question of providing a radio station at Patna; and

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

(b) if it is a fact that Government contemplate setting up a radio station at Patna?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a) Yes.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: When will the consideration be over?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: I am afraid I cannot give any approximation.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Does not the Honourable Member consider the question to be important, and will he not consider it as soon as possible?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: Certainly I regard any request coming from the Provincial Government as extremely important.

Babu Kailash Behari Lal: When will the consideration of the matter be over? By when?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: I have just said I could not give the time.

SUPPRESSION OF SLAVERY IN THE NAGA HILLS.

1270. ***Mr. Kuladhar Ohaliha:** Will the Foreign Secretary please state:

- (a) how far the expedition sent out for the suppression of slavery in the Naga Hills was successful;
- (b) what was the cost incurred in sending out the column of the 3rd Assam Rifles with the civil officers;
- (c) how many slaves were rescued from their masters;
- (d) how many villages were burnt by the Assam Rifles in rescuing the slaves;
- (e) how many persons were killed;
- (f) why the Pesu village was burnt, and whether there was any opposition; and
- (g) what are the names of the slaves that have been rescued?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: (a) The expedition achieved its object of freeing slaves where they were known to exist. The villages which were visited have undertaken not to indulge in slavery in future, and so far as is known there are now no slaves in the unadministered area.

(b) Rs. 9,000

(c) Seven slaves.

(d) Two.

(e) One.

(f) The village was burnt because the inhabitants refused to release their slaves and had carried out another raid in defiance of Government. There was no opposition.

(g) Government have no information.

Mr. Kuladhar Ohaliha: May I ask whether the Slavery Convention of 1926 required any of the parties to abolish slavery by a conquest like this?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: That question appears to me to contain merely an inference and not to ask for information.

Maulvi Abdur Rasheed Chaudhury: Where are the slaves even now? Are these seven slaves in their original home or elsewhere?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: I am afraid I have not been able to trace them.

Mr. Kuladhar Chaliha: Is there any other reason why this village was burnt?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: The village was burnt for reasons which I have explained, *viz.*, that they had carried out another raid. The punitive action was taken because they disobeyed the Government's order.

Maulvi Abdur Rasheed Chaudhury: How many persons were killed?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: One.

COMPLAINTS AGAINST MESSRS. J. BLISS AND COMPANY, ICE AND AERATED WATER CONTRACTOR ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

1271. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if it is a fact that the proprietor of Messrs. J. Bliss and Company, Ice and Aerated Water Contractor of the North Western Railway, lives in England and has not visited India for about 20 years? If so, who manages the contract in India and is he authorised to do so under the terms of the contract?

(b) Is it a fact that he has sub-let his ice and aerated water contract to petty contractors? If so, is he authorised to do so?

(c) Is it a fact that Messrs. J. Bliss and Company have got no ice factory or aerated water factory of their own and that they have been taking their supplies from an aerated water factory, named Smith and Campbell, at Lahore and also from other local soda water factories on the whole line not approved by the medical authorities?

(d) Are Government prepared to arrange the aerated water factories of the ice contractors on or near the Railway station premises, where they can easily be medically examined? If not, why not?

(e) Is it a fact that numerous complaints have been received by the North Western Railway against this contractor? Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state the number of complaints received in 1937 against this contractor and the action taken thereon?

(f) Do Government propose to cancel this contract? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a) The Agent, North Western Railway, states that one or other of the two persons, who so far as is known, are the proprietors of the Company, is at all times present in India during the period of the contract, and intimation is always given to the Administration as to which partner will be available during the season.

(b) The Administration have no reason to believe that the contract has been sublet.

(c) The Company obtain their aerated waters from their own factory at Karachi, from Messrs. Smith & Campbell, Lahore, and from the Sukkur Mineral Water Factory at Quetta, all three of which have been and will continue to be inspected by the medical authorities of the Railway.

(d) The Agent states that there is no difficulty in arranging for the medical examination of factories located as they are at present. Government do not consider it would be reasonable to insist on those who have obtained contracts to remove their factories to a site in the vicinity of a railway station.

(e) 14 complaints were received from the public, each of which was specially enquired into. The Agent of the North Western Railway states that suitable action was taken, with a view to effect an improvement. As the working of the Company was generally satisfactory during the year, their contract was renewed for 1938.

(f) Government see no reason to interfere in this matter in which the Agent of the railway has full powers.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: With respect to clause (e), what action was taken with regard to those complaints?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: I am unable to say what was the detailed action taken in each of the fourteen cases.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if the contract is proposed to be taken away from this company, against whom there have been at least fourteen complaints, and given to one against whom there has been no complaint?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: Sir, I do not think that fourteen complaints in a year constitute any reason for taking the contract away from the firm.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Is it or is it not one of the conditions of a contract that it cannot be sub-let?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: I must have notice of that.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: When was the contract renewed?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: I cannot give the exact date but it has been renewed for 1938, I presume it is a comparatively recent date.

Mr. Sham Lal: What rent do the Government realise from the accommodation provided for an aerated water factory in respect of each third class passenger, and at what rate?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: That, I suggest, does not arise out of the question or the answer given to it.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Are the Government prepared to cancel the contracts of those persons who did not supply aerated waters themselves and did not manufacture it themselves?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: I may point out to the Honourable Member that the contract is not with the Government.

**COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF GAZETTED OFFICERS AND ASSISTANT IN THE
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT.**

†1272. ***Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang:** (a) Will the Secretary for External Affairs please state how many (i) gazetted officers and (ii) assistants are at present employed in the External Affairs Department of the Government of India?

(b) How many of them are Hindus?

(c) How many of them are Muslims?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: (a) (i) 11.

(a) (ii) 32.

(b) 12.

(c) 6.

POSTAL HOLIDAY FOR ID-UZ-ZUHA.

1273. ***Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Communications be pleased to state whether Government are aware that on the last Id-uz-Zuha, the post office holiday was observed one day prior to the actual date?

(b) Are Government aware that the celebration of Id-uz-Zuha depends upon the visibility of the moon and in other departments of Government, either the holiday is allowed to depend on the visibility of the moon, or is given for such a number of days as to cover the actual day?

(c) Have Government considered the advisability of giving some relaxation to the present rigid rule in post offices, especially in cases where there is sufficient time available for the determination of the exact date on which the festival is to be actually observed?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a) The Post Office holiday on account of Id-uz-Zuha was generally observed in all post offices on the actual day on which the festival was celebrated in each province. In a number of instances this was a day earlier than that originally notified by the Department for its observance.

(b) The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. In the case of the Post Office, the holiday is allowed to depend on the visibility of the moon.

(c) As stated above, there is no rigid rule for post offices. Heads of Circles have definite instructions to change the date of a holiday when necessary with the concurrence of Provincial Governments. It is also permissible to grant Muslim employees casual leave or a short recess at prayer time on occasions of the festival if the day on which it falls is not a closed holiday for the particular office in which they are employed.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Are the Government aware that in the United Provinces in this circle, in spite of protests of the employees that Id was falling one day earlier than the gazetted holiday, the local authorities did not consider it fit to give a holiday at the proper time of the festival?

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

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: I do not know to whom the Honourable Member refers when he says 'local authority':

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: I mean the local circle of Posts and Telegraphs.

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: I think it will be found that he conformed with the views of the provincial authorities.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: The provincial authorities changed their holiday according to the actual festival, but the postal authorities did not change it.

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: If the Honourable Member will give me further details as to the occurrence in question, I shall make enquiries.

PROPOSAL FOR EXTENSION OF THE ROHILKUND AND KUMAON RAILWAY FROM KASHIPUR TO KALAGARH.

1274. ***Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether Government are aware of any proposals for extending the Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway from Kashipur to Kalagarh in Bijnour district?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, at what stage are those proposals, and when are they expected to materialise?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a) Yes.

(b) The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to parts (b) to (d) of Mr. Badri Dutt Pande's question No. 175 in this House on the 8th February, 1938.

CRIMINAL PROSECUTION IN CONNECTION WITH THE BAMRAULI RAILWAY COLLISION.

1275. ***Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state whether it is or is not a fact that the Railway authorities at Allahabad are launching a criminal prosecution against some persons in connection with the Bamrauli railway collision near Allahabad?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, how many counsels, and with what fees, are being engaged, and what are the approximate expenses that will be incurred in this connection?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a) Yes. A complaint for defamation has been filed.

(b) The information has been called for and a reply will be laid on the table of the House when it has been received.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Was the sanction of the railway authorities obtained before this complaint was filed?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: Did the Government make enquiries into the allegations before giving sanction for filing of complaint?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: It is not the function of the Government of India to conduct such enquiries when a complaint of this sort is filed.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: Did the railway authorities make enquiries before giving sanction?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: I do not quite know what the Honourable Member expects of us. If an allegation is made, I do not know what further enquiries are called for?

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Who made the enquiry before sanction was given?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has not admitted that an enquiry was made.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: What is the procedure adopted in these matters? Suppose a complaint is made in the papers, suppose there are certain allegations. Should not the railway authorities satisfy themselves before bringing a suit for defamation?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: As regards the procedure followed, I would refer the Honourable Member to Criminal Procedure Code.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: Was it followed in this case?

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

THIRD AND INTERMEDIATE CLASS SEATS ON THE SHAHDARA-SAHARANPUR LIGHT RAILWAY.

1276. ***Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state whether Government are aware that Saharanpur-Shahdara Light Railway administration have, in order to provide facilities to the passengers, increased the breadth of the intermediate class seats, but have reduced their length, which is proving very inconvenient to passengers?

(b) Is it a fact that similarly they have not yet taken steps to increase the breadth of the third class seats, which are much narrower than the intermediate class seats?

(c) Have Government considered the advisability of persuading the Saharanpur-Shahdara Light Railway authorities to increase the length of the intermediate class seats and the length of third class seats on their Railway?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The next question No. 1277 is in the name of Mr. Manu Subedar. He has already exhausted his quota of questions.

Mr. Manu Subedar: But I have not put one of the questions.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That does not matter. The rule is that no Honourable Member can ask more than five questions. By omitting one of the earlier questions, the Honourable Member cannot get away from the rules. The answer to the sixth question on the list will as I have pointed out before will be laid on the table.

MANUFACTURE OF STANDARDISED PARTS OF RAILWAY EQUIPMENT IN INDIA.

†1277. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways state whether Government have had during the last three years any negotiations with any firms for the manufacture of standardised parts of railway equipment in India?

(b) Which were those firms? For which articles were the negotiations carried on, and have those negotiations resulted in any industries being established, which did not exist before?

(c) What ground had the Chief Commissioner for Railways in his budget speech to say that; "Apart from the advantages the Railways obtain from standardisation in the form of reduction in first cost and maintenance charges, the industrial development of the country has been greatly assisted"?

(d) Are any negotiations going to be started with any firms? If so, with which firms and with regard to which items?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a), (b) and (d). Without a more explicit definition of the type of negotiations the Honourable Member has in mind, I am unable to give a definite reply to parts (a), (b) and (d) of the question. Government is in frequent touch with firms manufacturing and wishing to manufacture standardised railway equipment in India. If the Honourable Members refers to negotiations with a view to granting preferential treatment to firms beyond that which is already provided for under the Stores Purchase Rules the answer to parts (a) and (d) is in the negative and (b) does not arise.

(c) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply I gave to his question No. 926 on the 23rd of March, 1938.

COMPENSATION TO THE BENGAL PROVINCIAL RAILWAY FOR LOSS IN TRAFFIC DUE TO THE ADVENT OF THE HOWRAH-BURDWAN CHORD LINE.

1278. ***Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that the Bengal Provincial Railway had been running with profit and giving dividend at the rate of four per cent. to the shareholders up to the end of 1915-16?

(b) Is it a fact that the Bengal Provincial Railway has been cut into two halves by the Howrah-Burdwan Chord Line of the East Indian Railway and thereby short circuited by the Bengal Provincial Railway route?

(c) Is it a fact that the Bengal Provincial Railway had complained to the Railway Board that the advent of the Howrah-Burdwan Chord Line has caused the Bengal Provincial Railway considerable loss in income?

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

(d) Is it a fact that the Bengal Provincial Railway authorities demanded compensation for loss in traffic on the basis of compensation granted to the Howrah-Sheakhala Railway of Messrs. Martin and Company affected by the opening of the Howrah-Burdwan Chord?

(e) Is it a fact that the Railway Board had granted Rs. 11,000 per year as compensation to the Bengal Provincial Railway, basing its calculation on the income accrued to the Howrah-Burdwan Chord from the two stations, *viz.*, Belmuri and Gurup, where the East Indian Railway used to run two trains only on the Howrah-Burdwan Chord?

(f) Is it a fact that under Sir Hannay's advice a memorial was submitted by the Directors of the Bengal Provincial Railway to the Railway Board detailing the circumstances relating to Rs. 11,000 sanctioned as compensation and the Railway Board wanted the Bengal Provincial Railway to supply them with all facts and figures about their contentions and demand for further compensation?

(g) Is it a fact that the Bengal Provincial Railway had shown that they were losing Rs. 46,000 annually, while getting from the East Indian Railway Rs. 11,000 per year as fixed compensation?

(h) Is it a fact that the Railway Board dismissed the case of Bengal Provincial Railway against the East Indian Railway?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a) Information regarding the rate of dividends up to 1915-16 is not available with Government, but the percentage of net earnings on capital was less than four per cent. for most of the years between 1898 and 1915-16.

(b), (c) and (d). Yes.

(e) All the circumstances were taken into consideration and the Agent, East Indian Railway, offered compensation at Rs. 11,000 per annum. This amount was accepted by the Bengal Provincial Railway Company as a permanent arrangement, which was subsequently approved by the Railway Board.

(f) The Chairman of the Bengal Provincial Railway Company sought an interview with Sir Hugh Hannay, then Member, Railway Board, in August, 1930, and was asked to submit in writing the case regarding compensation to the Railway Board through the Agent, East Indian Railway.

(g) Yes, according to their estimates.

(h) The request of the Bengal Provincial Railway was rejected after careful examination of its merits.

Mr. Brojendra Narayan Chaudhury: On what grounds.

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: On the ground that the Railway Board did not agree with the estimates prepared by the railway.

FINANCIAL LOSS TO THE BENGAL PROVINCIAL RAILWAY.

1279. ***Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state whether it is not a fact that the Bengal Provincial Railway is being run at a loss and is going from bad to worse so far as its financial side is concerned?

(b) Is the Honourable Member prepared to reopen the case of Bengal Provincial Railway against the East Indian Railway and ask the Railway Board to reconsider the matter?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a) Government are aware that the Bengal Provincial Railway Company is being run at a loss.

(b) The Bengal Provincial Railway Company accepted the payment of Rs. 11,000 as compensation from the East Indian Railway as a permanent arrangement, and Government do not see any reason to reopen that question now.

LATRINES IN THE THIRD AND INTERMEDIATE CLASS CARRIAGES ON THE ASSAM BENGAL RAILWAY.

1280. ***Mr. Kuladhar Chaliha:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

- (a) in how many third and intermediate class carriages the standard size of latrines has been introduced in place of the old size (about two feet four inches square) in the Assam Bengal Railway System; and
- (b) in how many of them lights have been provided inside the lavatories?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a) and (b). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to part (b) of the information laid on the table of this House on 31st January, 1938, in reply to his unstarred question No. 159.

LICENCE FEES FROM STALL VENDORS ON THE ASSAM BENGAL RAILWAY.

1281. **Mr. Kuladhar Chaliha:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state what licence fees have been realised from stall vendors in the Assam Bengal Railway in 1936-37?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: Approximately Rs. 15,700.

PROMOTION TO SUB-HEAD GRADE IN THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE.

1282. ***Mr. Brojendra Narayan Chaudhury** (on behalf of Dr. P. N. Banerjee): (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

- (i) the total number of Appendix D clerks in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office in 1936 and 1937, and the number of persons promoted to class I and the sub-heads grade during those years; and
- (ii) the total number of clerks (other than Appendix D) eligible for promotion to class I and sub-head's grade, and how many of them were promoted as class I clerks and sub-head during 1936 and 1937?

(b) Will Government please state why special treatment is given to the Appendix D passed hands in the matter of promotion to class I and sub-head's grade?

(c) Will Government please state what the factors were in determining merits for promotion to the sub-head's grade during the past four years?

(d) Are Government prepared to consider the advisability of making the word 'merit' sufficiently clear?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a) (i).

	1936.	1937.
No. of Appendix D passed men on 1st January	24	29
Confirmed during the year as Sub-heads	2	3
Confirmed during the year as Clerks, Class I	4	2

(ii).

	1936.	1937.
No. of clerks (other than Appendix D) eligible for promotion as sub-heads and clerks Class I.—		
Clerks, Class I	157	236
Sub-heads	89	87
Confirmed during the year as clerks, Class I		14
Confirmed during the year as sub-heads	2	

(b) Promotion is by merit combined with seniority and it is usually found that a clerk who has passed the Appendix D examination is more efficient than one who has not passed any departmental examination or has passed only a lower one. No special promotion, however, is made merely because a clerk has passed a particular examination but only if he is efficient and fit for promotion.

(c) The relative efficiency of the clerks concerned and their seniority.

(d) The word is sufficiently clear.

Mr. Brojendra Narayan Chaudhury: Are Government aware that there is in that office a person who is very junior but who has been given several officiating appointments simply because he is the neighbour of Superintendent of the office and that he obliges the Superintendent in his private life?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: I understand the Honourable Member is asking whether promotion is given because a clerk lives next door to the Superintendent. That I suggest is an insinuation which should not have been made.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Certainly a question of that sort is not a proper question.

Mr. Brojendra Narayan Chaudhury: Is it not the rule in the department that temporary vacancies are to be filled up from the list of seniority prepared by a former Controller, Mr. Mitra?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: I must ask for notice of this question; it is something quite apart from the original question.

STATUS OF AERODROME OFFICERS.

1289. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Communications be pleased to state why the Aerodrome Officers in the Civil Aviation Department have been classed as Class II Service officers as compared with the officers of the equivalent rank in Broadcasting and Meteorological, etc.?

(b) Is the Honourable Member aware that the academical qualification of the Aerodrome Officers is the same as that of the other officers mentioned above?

(c) Is the Honourable Member also aware that the training of the Aerodrome Officers begins after obtaining the degree of Bachelor of Science in Engineering, whilst officers of the services mentioned in part (a) are posted immediately after obtaining their degree of Engineering?

(d) Is the Honourable Member prepared to give the Aerodrome Officers the same status and grade as are given to Station Directors of Radios, etc.? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a) Posts in the Indian Meteorological Department of status and pay equivalent to that of Aerodrome Officers (*e.g.*, Assistant Meteorologists) have been classed as Class II service. Posts in the All-India Radio have not yet been classified.

(b) and (c). No, Sir. A B.Sc. degree is no longer required for Aerodrome Officers who are now recruited not by direct recruitment but by promotion from the grade of Assistant Aerodrome Officers.

(d) No, Sir. I cannot admit that the duties and qualifications required of the two categories of officers afford a basis for the argument that their status and salary should be equivalent.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: What will be the grounds for keeping them on the same level?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: If their duties and qualifications are more or less the same, there is a case for giving them equal status.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Are they not the same now?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: I have just said that they are not.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: Why have not the posts in the Broadcasting Department been yet classified?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: Because they are not yet permanent posts.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: How long will they remain temporary?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: I cannot answer that.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is this department a permanent one or is it to be a temporary one?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: It is at present on a temporary basis.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: When do Government expect to come to a decision whether or not to make this department a permanent one?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: I have just said that I can give no idea.

PROMOTIONS OF CLERICAL ESTABLISHMENT IN THE CIVIL AVIATION
DEPARTMENT TO THE EXECUTIVE RANK.

1284. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Communications please state how many members of the clerical establishment in the Civil Aviation Department have so far been promoted to the executive rank of Assistant or Aerodrome Officer, and at which places in India they are working?

(b) Will the Honourable Member also please state whether they are performing the duties of Executive Officers, or are still doing the clerical work, being only classed as officers? If so, why?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a) One clerk and one floodlight operator were promoted to the rank of Assistant Aerodrome Officer. They are working, respectively, at Karachi and Allahabad.

(b) Both are employed as Executive Officers.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Why is there a strike in the aerodrome here?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: There is no strike in the aerodrome here.

Mr. Kuladhar Chaliha: Is not there a strike among the cadets in the aerodrome?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: No, Sir; there is no strike of mechanics in the aerodrome.

FILLING UP OF AN ASSISTANT'S VACANCY IN THE CENTRAL STANDARDS
OFFICE FOR RAILWAYS.

1285. ***Maulvi Abdur Rasheed Chaudhury** (on behalf of Mr. H. M. Abdullah): Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

- (a) when the last vacancy in the assistants' grade in the Central Standards Office for Railways took place;
- (b) how it was filled up, whether by promotion from office, or by recruitment from outside; and
- (c) if it is a fact that according to the Home Department instructions vacancies in the assistants' grade have to be filled alternately by promotion from office and recruitment from outside?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a) The last vacancy in the Assistant's grade, in the Central Standards Office for Railways, took place in April, 1935.

(b) The vacancy was filled by promotion from the office in accordance with the rules for the recruitment of ministerial staff in force at the time.

(c) Since 18th October, 1937, vacancies occurring in the First Division are filled as follows:

- (i) A maximum of 50 per cent. by promotion and in exceptional circumstances by transfer from other departments or offices;
- (ii) the remainder by direct recruitment.

These orders, however, came into force subsequent to the filling of the vacancy referred to above.

PROHIBITION OF SUB-ASSISTANT SURGEONS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY FROM ENGAGING IN PRIVATE PRACTICE.

1286. ***Maulvi Abdur Rasheed Chaudhury** (on behalf of Mr. H. M. Abdullah): Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

- (a) if it is a fact that Sub-Assistant Surgeons employed on the North Western Railway are debarred from doing private practice; if so, why;
- (b) if it is a fact that Sub-Assistant Surgeons under the Punjab Government are permitted to carry on private practice;
- (c) if the answer to part (b) be in the affirmative, why this distinction has been made between two similar classes of medical subordinates;
- (d) if it is a fact that the Railway Administration did not include the prohibition on private practice in the original contract of service with the subordinate medical staff;
- (e) if the answer to part (d) be in the affirmative, whether the Railway Administration have decided to give some reasonable compensation in lieu of the monetary loss which the officials affected by this prohibition are bound to suffer; if not, why not; and
- (f) if it is a fact that the Railway Sub-Assistant Surgeons have submitted a representation on the subject to the Agent; if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: Government are informed as follows:

(a) Railway Sub-Assistant Surgeons cannot undertake private practice without the written authority of the Administration except among the families of railway employees.

(b) It is understood that the practice of the Punjab Government is to permit Sub-Assistant Surgeons to undertake private practice except those posted to Jails and Mental Hospitals.

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

(d) According to the Service Agreements executed by this class of staff the North Western Railway Administration has the right to control such activities.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) As regards the first part, a representation received for better concessions under the free pass rules, etc., merely mentioned that chances of private practice on the North Western Railway were less than those available to Sub-Assistant Surgeons in other employment. The second part does not arise.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: With regard to clause (a), does the Honourable Member know that on the civil side these Sub-Assistant Surgeons are allowed private practice?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: If the Honourable Member will refer to the answer that I gave to part (b) of the question, he will see that his question is already answered.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if the administration does not in fact allow them to undertake private practice?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: I shall require notice on any question directed to finding out the extent to which this privilege is given.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it a fact that the Sub-Assistant Surgeons on the North Western Railway are paid adequately and if they were allowed private practice it would interfere with their legitimate work?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: That, Sir, I presume, is the reason why the railway administration is given the discretion to refuse the right of private practice.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are these people paid any higher salary than similar Sub-Assistant Surgeons under the Punjab Government?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: I must have notice of that question.

PROVISION OF A BROADCASTING STATION AT KARACHI.

1287. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Communications be pleased to state if he is aware that his predecessor, Sir Frank Noyce, gave hopes on the floor of this House that a Broadcasting station will be established at Karachi after the stations at Lucknow and other places already sanctioned were opened?

(b) When is a station at Karachi expected to be established?

(c) Do Government propose, in view of the importance of Karachi, and the appreciation of music in that Province, to establish a Broadcasting station at an early date?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a) Yes, but my Honourable friend will remember that Sir Frank Noyce made it clear that the available funds out of the 40-lakh grant had already been allocated and that Karachi could not, therefore, figure in the first stage of the development programme.

(b) I am afraid I am not in a position to give a definite reply.

(c) Yes, as soon as funds become available.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if there is any hope of its being established at an early date?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: No, Sir; I can give the Honourable Member no assurance on that.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if the other proposed stations have been established and now the turn of Karachi will come?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: No, Sir; Trichinopoly, Calcutta and Dacca have still to be established.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know how much time they will take on these, so that I may live in expectation?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: I should be misleading the Honourable Member by giving him any dates. The prospects of Karachi are not entirely dependant on the establishment of the last station on the present programme.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will the Honourable Member be as kind as his predecessor who gave us some hopes?

(No reply was given.)

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member tell this House the policy of Government, as to whether the capital amounts available are to be used for strengthening the stations already established or whether a certain portion is to be used for setting up new stations? Are there any general considerations which Government keep in view?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: Information has been given on that point on several occasions in this House.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government consider the advisability of first of all coming to a decision as to whether this department should be made permanent or not and whether it should be administered much more satisfactorily than at present, before it undertakes the construction of any more stations?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question relates only to Karachi.

LEVY OF FOOD TAX ON INDIAN REFRESHMENT ROOMS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

1288. ***Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

- (a) whether all the vendors of the Indian refreshment rooms and contractors have now to pay a food tax annually to the North Western Railway;
- (b) whether Messrs. Spencer and Company, contractors for first and second class refreshment rooms and dining cars on the North Western Railway are exempt from any such tax: if so, why;
- (c) whether he will lay on the table a copy of the agreement entered into by the North Western Railway with Messrs. Spencer and Company and the Indian refreshment room contractors on that Railway;
- (d) whether up to the end of 1936, Messrs. Spencer and Company used to condemn the unsold stock of winter supply of chocolates at the beginning of the hot weather, and whether the company is now using such condemned chocolates for making pudding for lunch and dinner;
- (e) whether, in the interest of the health of travelling public, he is prepared to take any action in the matter;
- (f) whether the Railway European staff are served free meals by Messrs. Spencer and Company; if so, what action, if any, has been taken against the company?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A copy of the agreements will be placed in the Library of the House.

(d) I understand that the statement made in the first part of this question is not quite correct, and have been assured that it is impossible to use condemned chocolates in the manner suggested.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The Administration have no reason to believe that free meals are supplied to the European staff of the railway. The catering contractors are under no obligation to do so.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Is the Honourable Member aware that by the supply of these free meals they get good chits from the railway officials and public complaints are thereby silenced?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: The Honourable Member assumes that I have acquiesced in his suggestion that free meals are given. I did not do so.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable Member make inquiries into this matter?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: I have made inquiries and I have given the Honourable Member the result of them.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Is the Honourable Member satisfied that he did not inquire from the very persons who are involved in this matter?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: Is the Honourable Member making an allegation against the Agent of the North Western Railway? It was to him that our inquiries were addressed.

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

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: I did not refer to the Agent. I referred to the subordinate officials.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member of Government can only make inquiries from the Agent.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Who made inquiries from those subordinate officials.

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

FREE PASSES ISSUED TO THE SUPERVISING STAFF OF MESSRS. SPENCER AND COMPANY ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

1289. ***Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state how many first and second class railway refreshment rooms and dining cars are under the management of Messrs. Spencer and Company on the North Western Railway?

(b) How many free railway passes, first and second class and intermediate class, have been given for the use of the Company's supervising staff and on what basis?

(c) Is it a fact that the company, *vide* the letter No. 6282, dated the 26th June, 1937, addressed to the Agent, North Western Railway, gave a list of their supervising staff indicating higher rates of salaries than actually paid?

(d) Are Government aware that in that list the salaries of the Director, the Manager and the Superintendent of the Company is shown to the Railway authorities as Rs. 2,000, Rs. 1,150 and Rs. 550, while actually they draw Rs. 1,300, 550 and Rs. 300 respectively? What are their actual salaries for the purpose of income-tax deductions?

(e) Is it a fact that by giving a list of the following employees the company has obtained first and second class free passes:

1 Director at Rs. 2,000 per mensem.

1 Mr. Leftwitch at Rs. 1,150 per mensem.

Manager.

4 Assistant Superintendents at Rs. 240 per mensem.

1 Assistant Superintendent at Rs. 370 per mensem.

3 Inspectors at Rs. 205 per mensem.

1 Inspector at Rs. 415 per mensem.

1 Inspector at Rs. 200 per mensem;

and whether the company is keeping the staff indicated above?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a) 31 first and second class refreshment rooms, and dining cars on seven trains.

(b) Three first, seven second and five intermediate. This is the number which the Administration are satisfied is necessary for the proper and efficient conduct of the business.

(c) and (d). The Administration have no reason to believe that the salaries shown were higher than those actually paid, nor are they aware of the actual salaries drawn for the purpose of income-tax deductions.

(e) The Agent of the North Western Railway states that, while the salary drawn may influence to some extent the class of pass to be issued, it is not the principal consideration. As regards the last part of the question, the contractors re-organised their staff and returned in September, 1937, three second class passes.

Mr. Abdul Qayyum: May I know why these passes are allowed to the employees of Spencer & Co.

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: Probably in order to ensure proper supervision of the catering facilities.

Mr. Abdul Qayyum: Are similar facilities provided in the case of Indian refreshment rooms and dining cars?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: I ask for notice.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know when these free passes were issued to the Company? My information is that many passes were obtained when there were actually no employees to make use of them.

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: In my reply I said that when the reorganisation of the Company was carried out and the staff was reduced, the Company handed back to the Railway Administration three second class passes.

Mr. Leckhamt Navairat: Is there any arrangement to see that they are using the passes for the purpose for which they are issued?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: I should like to have notice of it.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksepa: Has the Honourable Member satisfied himself whether at any time the firm had a greater number of passes than the number of employees who were entitled to use them.

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: I have said in answer to part (b) of the question that the Administration has satisfied itself that the number of passes issued is necessary for the proper and efficient conduct of the business.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksepa: Has the Honourable Member satisfied himself that the firm has the same number of employees as the number of passes issued.

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: Yes, Sir, that is my reading of the information that I have got from the Agent of the Railway.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: How long after the reorganisation were the passes returned.

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: That, Sir, I am unable to answer.

QUARTERS FOR MENIAL STAFF OF AND CLEANING AND BREAKAGE ALLOWANCE TO MESSRS. SPENCER AND COMPANY, REFRESHMENT ROOM CONTRACTORS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

1290. ***Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

- (a) if Messrs. Spencer and Company, the contractors for the first and second class refreshment rooms on the North Western Railway, have rented any quarters to their menial staff; if not, whether it is a fact that the menial staff pass their nights on the floor of the first and second class refreshment rooms;
- (b) if it is a fact that cleaning and breakages allowance is given to Messrs. Spencer and Company by the North Western Railway for the dining cars, while no such allowance is given to the Indian contractors of the Hindu and Muslim dining cars; if so, why; and

- (c) if it is a rule that refreshment rooms, first and second class, on the North Western Railway are required to be kept open for 24 hours; whether contractors for these refreshment rooms are keeping extra staff for night duty?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a) The contractors have rented quarters for their menial staff at several stations, but there have been instances in which the staff had been found sleeping in the service rooms attached to the refreshment rooms.

(b) I would refer the Honourable Member to the information given on the 31st January, 1938, in reply to Mr. Ram Narayan Singh's unstarred question No. 79 asked on the 13th September, 1937.

(c) Refreshment rooms are required to be open one hour prior to the due arrival of each passenger train and may be closed half an hour after its departure. Compliance with this rule will, in the case of certain stations, mean that the refreshment rooms there would be open throughout the 24 hours. In such cases additional staff sufficient to meet requirements is engaged.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: With regard to the answer to clause (b) of the question, the answer cited was given a very long time ago. May I know from the Honourable Member—let him say yes or no—whether any allowance is given.

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: The answer was given approximately six months ago.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: It was an unstarred question and it was not answered on the floor of the House: so I do not know it.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Is the Honourable Member satisfied that the quarters for the low paid staff are adequate for their requirements and that the fact that they sleep in the various refreshment rooms is not due to the inadequacy of accommodation.

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: Yes, Sir, I would say that the fact they sleep in the service rooms is no indication of the adequacy or inadequacy of their own quarters.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are any steps being taken by the Company concerned to construct or provide free quarters for their menial staff in places where they are not at present provided with them?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: The Honourable Member's question assumes that the accommodation provided is inadequate: that does not emerge from my reply.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The Honourable Member himself stated that in certain stations quarters are provided, and in others they are not: that is why I am asking him whether the Railway Authorities concerned or the Company are trying to provide them with quarters in those places where they have not been provided with quarters.

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: If the Honourable Member wishes to know about the future intentions of the Railway Administration, he should give me notice so that I may inquire.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: With reference to part (c) of the question may I know if the hours convention is extended to these people also—menials employed by Spencer & Co., who keep these refreshment rooms.

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: In regard to that too I must ask for notice.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: My information is that no breakage allowance is being given to Indian dining cars. Will the Honourable Member take steps to give them that in order to bring them on a level with Spencer & Co.

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: If the Honourable Member will refer to the information that was laid on the table of the House and to which I made a reference, he will get the answer to his question.

CARRIAGE OF LETTERS AND PARCELS, ETC., BY MESSRS. SPENCER AND COMPANY IN THEIR DINING CARS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

1291. ***Mr. Abdul Qayyum:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

- (a) whether from 1922 to 1937 a large store of provisions, cases, wine, tea, etc., and other goods were brought in dining cars from Karachi to Lahore and Lahore to Peshawar and station to station without any railway freight; what is the loss of revenue to the Railway on this account;
- (b) whether a report was made to the Postmaster General, Punjab by a Member of the Legislative Assembly regarding carrying of letters, parcels, etc., by Messrs. Spencer and Company in their dining cars for refreshment rooms and their outside shops against the provision of the Indian Post Office Act 1898 (VI of 1898); and
- (c) whether it is a fact that the company continued this practice from 1922 to 1937; what action, if any, Government propose to take against the company for contravention of the provision of the Act?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a) The Agent of the North Western Railway states that a search of such of the records as are now available has resulted in only one anonymous complaint being found, in which allegations were made similar to those made in this part of the question. No action was taken, as the communication was anonymous. Special ticket examiners have instructions to check dining cars.

(b) Yes.

(c) As regards the first part of the question, Government have no information: the latter part does not, therefore, arise.

Mr. Abdul Qayyum: With reference to part (a) of the question, may I know whether the dining cars of this particular company were checked by ticket examiners, for goods which were conveyed between 1922 and 1937?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: If the Honourable Member wishes information on specific points and of specific dates he must give me notice.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Since when did this checking of dining cars start?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member ~~wants notice~~.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: The Honourable Member stated that the ticket inspectors can go into the dining cars and inspect. I want to know when the inspection started. There is something wrong with Spender & Co., and I hope matters will be put right.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: May I put the questions standing in the name of Mr. Sri Prakasa?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): You must have authority, and there must have been good reasons why the Honourable Member could not be here in time.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: It will take only two minutes. I want to put them because they stand in the name of Mr. Sri Prakasa.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member ought to understand that the questions would be called in the order in which they are in the list. If for any good reasons he could not be present that is another matter.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: I seek your special indulgence.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I will allow it as a special case.

PERMISSION TO BREAK JOURNEY BETWEEN BENARES AND LUCKNOW ON THE LOOP LINE.

1253. ***Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena** (on behalf of Mr. Sri Prakasa): (a) With reference to his reply to starred question No. 286 on the 3rd September, 1937, will the Honourable Member for Railways state if he has made any enquiries as to why no break of journey is permitted to passengers holding tickets between Benares and Lucknow, if they travel *via* the Fyzabad Loop?

(b) Have Government made any representation to the East Indian Railway authorities?

(c) What, if any, reply has been received from the Railway?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a), (b) and (c). The Agent of the East Indian Railway states that, with effect from the 1st December, 1937, passengers holding tickets *between* Benares and stations east thereof and Lucknow, Alamnagar and Kakori have been permitted to break journey, when-travelling by the Fyzabad route, at all stations, except Malhaur. Jugaur, Bara Banki and Rasauli. The latter restriction has been considered

necessary, as otherwise passengers from the Benares direction, whose destination is any one of these stations, could purchase tickets for Lucknow and subsequently sell them to other passengers travelling from these stations to Lucknow.

SEATING CAPACITY IN SECOND CLASS COMPARTMENTS OF THE EAST INDIAN AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAYS IN THE PUNJAB MAIL.

1254. ***Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena** (on behalf of Mr. Sri Prakasa): (a) With reference to his reply to starred question No. 472 on the 13th September, 1937, will the Honourable Member for Railways state the result of his enquiries regarding the marking of the maximum number of passengers' accommodation in the second class compartments on the Punjab Mails running between Lahore and Howrah?

(b) Will the Honourable Member please state if he has found that the compartments belonging to the North Western Railway are marked to carry nine passengers and those to the East Indian Railway marked to carry twelve passengers in the same rake, although equal in size?

(c) What steps, if any, have Government taken to abolish this anomaly?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a) to (c). The Punjab Mail, while running on the East Indian Railway, is composed entirely of East Indian Railway's stock. On the North Western Railway, additional vehicles are attached, the large second class compartments of which have seating accommodation for nine passengers in some cases and six in others. Both the East Indian and North Western Railways have some carriages, the second class compartments of which are of about the same size, but some are so designed as to provide seating accommodation for twelve and others for nine. A preliminary examination made in respect of second class stock on State-managed Railways generally, suggests that variations in the marked seating accommodation of second class compartments exist, and the matter is being further investigated with a view to laying down a definite standard for all railways.

PRINTING OF TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES IN INDIAN LANGUAGES.

1255. ***Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena** (on behalf of Mr. Sri Prakasa): Will the Honourable Member for Communications state:

- (a) if it is a fact that the telephone directories are only printed in the English language;
- (b) if he is aware that a large number of subscribers are such as have no knowledge of this language;
- (c) if Government are considering the desirability of printing these directories in the Indian languages also;
- (d) if any representations have been received from subscribers from Benares and other places regarding the desirability of printing the directory in the Indian languages also to facilitate subscribers who do not know English; and
- (e) if so, what consideration, if any, has been given to the same?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a) Yes.

(b), (c) and (d). No.

(e) Does not arise.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: Do not the Government think that from the commercial point of view it would be profitable to issue the telephone directories in the language of the province?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: On the contrary, the Government think that it would result in a direct loss.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Government consider the advisability of making an experiment at least with regard to the two most prominent languages here, namely, Hindi and Urdu?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: There has been no real demand for this facility and I do not propose to undertake any costly experiment for the success of which I have no hope.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: Did the Honourable Member make any calculations as to how much loss the department would have to incur on account of publishing the list in these two languages?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: No. There was no need to make any detailed calculation of the loss. The proposition is obvious.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: Is it not a fact that many subscribers do not know the English language?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): You cannot have a debate like that. Next question.

DENIAL OF FACILITY TO HOLDERS OF INTERMEDIATE CLASS TO TRAVEL TO KALKA FROM BENARES EITHER *via* DELHI OR *via* SAHARANPUR.

1256. ***Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena** (on behalf of Mr. Sri Prakasa): (a) With reference to starred question No. 117 on the 26th August, 1937, will the Honourable Member for Railways state if it is a fact that holders of intermediate class return tickets between Benares Cantonment (East Indian Railway) and Kalka (North Western Railway) cannot use the Delhi and the Saharanpur routes as alternate routes while first and second class passengers can do so?

(b) Will the Honourable Member state if even the first and second class passengers holding tickets *via* Delhi have to pay a small extra charge, if they decide to travel *via* Saharanpur, which is the shorter route?

(c) What steps, if any, have Government taken, or propose to take, by way of advice to the Railway Administration concerned to abolish the anomaly?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a) Passengers holding intermediate class return tickets, on payment of the ordinary return fare *via* Delhi or *via* Saharanpur, whichever is greater, can travel, as in the case of passengers holding first or second class return tickets, by either route.

(b) The additional charge is only payable when the holder of the ticket, irrespective of its class, desires to travel by a route the fare for which is higher than the fare paid by him.

(c) There is no anomaly.

Mr. Manu Subedar: With your permission, may I ask the next question, No. 1257?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I allowed Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena to put the questions on behalf of Mr. Sri Prakasa because he had been authorised by Mr. Sri Prakasa, and he was accidentally delayed in coming. I cannot allow the Honourable Member (Mr. Manu Subedar) to put his question because I saw him coming in after the next question had been called. He was absent and the next question had been called.

Mr. Manu Subedar: My question came in immediately because the first four questions had gone out owing to the absence of the Honourable Member who had given notice of those questions.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I cannot allow the Honourable Member to put that question now.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

SUBSIDY TO FLYING CLUBS IN INDIA.

144. **Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Communications state how the subsidy of Rs. 11½ lakhs given to flying clubs in India was distributed?

(b) Are any conditions imposed with regard to the extent of this subsidy?

(c) Have Government any information how this money has been spent, and whether it has been spent on buildings and amenities for members, or on aerial equipment only?

(d) Are Government prepared to consider the advisability in future of earmarking any such subsidy, so that it should be used for aerial equipment and for encouraging the training of commercial pilots only?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

(b) Yes, the maximum which can be paid to any flying club as subsidy is Rs. 23,000.

(c) Under the terms of the present agreement with flying clubs the subsidy has been used for the maintenance of aircraft, engines and necessary equipment, salaries of instructors and technical staff, and for the establishment of accident and replacement funds and for no other purpose.

(d) No, Sir.

Statements showing the amount of financial assistance given by the Government of India, year by year to the Flying Clubs in India since their formation.

Name of the Club.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.	1932-33.	1933-34.	1934-35.	1935-36.	1936-37.	1937-38.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Karachi Aero Club	10,000	20,000*	22,550	24,800	17,850	17,600	17,100	21,000	23,000	21,799	1,95,699
Bombay Flying Club	10,000	20,000*	22,550	22,850	19,100	16,900	17,500	19,100	20,000	21,703	1,89,709
Madras Flying Club	..	..	20,450	22,100	18,350	16,900	17,000	19,500	20,000	21,762	1,56,062
Bengal Flying Club	5,000	20,000*	23,750	22,700	18,800	17,100	17,100	20,000	19,992	13,783	1,78,225
United Provinces Flying Club.	..	..	..	..	..	16,300	17,100	18,500	20,160	15,603	87,666
Delhi Flying Club	10,000	20,000*	23,300	22,700	18,600	16,800	17,000	19,600	20,000	21,799	1,89,799
Punjab Flying Club	..	..	21,950	21,500	..	..	..	..	..	..	43,450
Northern India Flying Club.	..	..	..	..	10,800	10,800	17,100	17,000	19,976	19,742	84,618
Jodhpur Flying Club.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,000	2,000	300	2,300
Total	35,000	91,400*	1,34,550	1,36,650	92,700	1,12,400	1,19,900	1,34,700	1,45,128	1,36,500	11,32,280

* An additional sum of Rs. 11,400 was divided among these 4 flying clubs as bonus. (Paid through the Aero Club of India and Burma. No record of distribution).

REDUCTION IN THE STRENGTH OF LUGGAGE PORTERS ON THE GHAZIABAD-KARNAL-KALKA SECTION.

145. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please refer to the reply given to starred question No. 830, asked in this House on the 18th March, 1938, and state the nature of action taken by the Agent, North Western Railway, on the reduction in the strength of luggage porters on the Ghaziabad-Karnal-Kalka section? If no action has been taken, why not?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: As stated in my reply to part (d) of the question referred to by the Honourable Member, a copy of the question has been sent to the Agent, North Western Railway, for such action as he may consider necessary. I would, in this connection, refer the Honourable Member to my reply to part (c) of starred question No. 174 asked in this House by Mr. Lalchand Navalrai on the 8th February, 1938.

EXEMPTION OF RUNNING STAFF FROM THE HOURS OF EMPLOYMENT REGULATIONS.

146. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please refer to the reply given to unstarred question No. 87, asked in this House on the 18th March, 1938, and state:

- (a) the rate of mileage and overtime allowances paid to the staff defined as running staff under rule 3(2) (a) issued under Government of India, Railway Department, Notification No. 40-L, dated the 31st January, 1931; and
- (b) the rules or regulations which govern the hours of employment of staff defined as running staff under rule 3(2) (a) issued under the said Notification on the Eastern Bengal, East Indian, Great Indian Peninsula and North Western Railways?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a) The information is not readily available. Staff classified as "running staff" draw overtime and mileage allowance to the extent admissible under the relevant rules in force on different railways. I would, however, point out that the definition of the term "running staff" given in the Notification referred to by the Honourable Member is for the purpose of the Hours of Employment Regulations only.

(b) No such rules have been issued by Government but as far as practicable their hours of work are regulated within the limits laid down in those regulations.

SYSTEM OF ASSESSMENT AND LEVY OF LICENCE FEE ON INDIAN REFRESHMENTS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

147. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please refer to the reply given to unstarred question No. 112, asked in this House on the 23rd March, 1938, and state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Agent, North Western Railway, contemplates introducing a system of assessment and levy of licence fee on Indian refreshments from 1st April, 1938, or thereafter; if so, whether his proposals have been approved by the Central Advisory Committee on Railways; if not approved; why not; and
- (b) what are the necessities which are sold by the stall holders, who have assessed and levied licence fees?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply I gave to his unstarred question No. 126 on the 28th March, 1938.

RECOGNITION OF TRADE UNIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS.

148. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please refer to the reply given to starred question No. 829, asked in this House on the 18th March, 1938, and state:

- (a) whether trade unions or service associations are within the category of public, as referred to in unstarred question No. 398, asked in this House on the 20th March, 1936;
- (b) the date on which the policy of the Departments of Government as declared in answer to unstarred question No. 398, asked in this House on the 20th March, 1936, excluded the trade unions or service associations from the category of *association* and of *private individuals*; and
- (c) the reasons for not acknowledging the communications from trade unions or service associations by Departments of Government?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: The policy of Government in this matter has already been stated in the reply to parts (a) to (c) of the question referred to by the Honourable Member in the opening part of this question.

TRADE APPRENTICES RECRUITED BY THE BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY.

149. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please inquire and state:

- (a) the number of Trade Apprentices in each grade recruited by the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway before 1931 and after the recommendations of the Holland Industrial Committee;
- (b) where the training was given to them;
- (c) the amount and the nature of annual increments paid for the value of their services to each individual;
- (d) the number of them who were retained in service on approved satisfaction of their five years' apprenticeship;
- (e) the number of them, who were discharged and the reasons thereof;
- (f) the appointments on which they were retained in the service, along with the scales of pay of such appointments;
- (g) whether they were before and after February 1933 treated alike in respect of training, pay and employment; if not, what were the differences in treatment and why; and
- (h) whether the rule governing their increments remained in force unchanged and uniform before and after February 1933, and if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a) to (h). Government have no information. The staff referred to are not Government servants but are the servants of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway which is Company-managed.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN SERVICES ON STATE RAILWAYS.

150. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please refer to part (b) of the answer given to unstarred question No. 86 asked in this House on the 18th March, 1938 and state:

- (a) how far the actions of the Divisional Superintendent, North Western Railway, Delhi, viz., "was promoted on the communal quota" as stated in a letter No. 456-P/28, dated the 28th April, 1937, are correct according to the said answer;
- (b) what is the quota fixed for each community for recruitment by promotions; and
- (c) whether Government consider the desirability of rectifying the error; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: I am obtaining information and will lay a reply on the table of the House in due course.

NON-ACCEPTANCE OF CERTIFICATES FROM NON-RAILWAY DOCTORS.

151. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please refer to the answer given to unstarred question No. 88, asked in this House on the 18th March, 1938, and state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Railway doctors do refuse to counter-sign certificates from other medical practitioners on the advice of the executive officers; and
- (b) what remedy is provided for the staff against the difference in opinions between the railway doctors and outside registered medical practitioners including Civil Surgeons; if no remedy is provided, why not?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a) Government have no reason to believe that the facts are as stated by the Honourable Member.

(b) Opinions may differ, but Government consider that, in view of the reasons I have already mentioned in my reply to unstarred question No. 88, referred to by the Honourable Member in the opening part of the question, the Railway Medical Officer must be the final authority in such matters.

DISCHARGE OF LUGGAGE PORTERS IN THE DELHI DIVISION OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

152. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please refer to the answer given to part (d) of unstarred question No. 109, asked in this House on the 23rd March, 1938, and state the nature of the action taken thereon by the Agent, North Western Railway; if no action is taken, why not?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: As stated in my reply to part (d) of the question referred to by the Honourable Member, a copy of the question has been sent to the Agent, North Western Railway, for such action as he may consider necessary. I would, in this connection, refer the Honourable Member to my reply to part (c) of starred question 174 asked in this House by Mr. Lalchand Navalrai on the 8th February, 1938.

VAN PORTERS IN THE DELHI DIVISION OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

153. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please refer to the answer given to unstarred question No. 110, asked in this House on the 23rd March, 1938, and state:

- (a) the rule which regulates the hours of employment of travelling van porters;
- (b) the rate of mileage allowance and overtime paid to them; and
- (c) the rule which provides summary discharges?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a) and (b). I am obtaining information and will lay a reply on the table of the House in due course.

(c) I would refer the Honourable Member to the rules regulating discipline and rights of appeal of non-gazetted railway servants, a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER SECTION 134 OF THE INDIAN RAILWAYS ACT.

154. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state the notifications under section 134 of the Indian Railways Act, 1890, prescribing the place of trial of offences against rules made under section 47(1) (e) of the said Act?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: Government have not issued any general Notification under section 134 of the Indian Railways Act of 1890.

AUTHORITY COMPETENT TO FORFEIT THE PAY OF A RAILWAY SERVANT.

155. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please refer to section 47(2) of Act IX of 1890 and state:

- (a) the authority who is competent to order the forfeiture of a sum not exceeding one month's pay of a railway servant, which may be deducted by the Railway Administration; and
- (b) the authority under which the Railway Administration may substitute the penalty of forfeiture of a sum not exceeding one month's pay by a penalty prescribed in Rule 2 issued under the Railway Board's letter No. E-34/R.G./6, dated the 22nd June, 1935?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a) The authority is the Railway administration concerned.

(b) The Indian Railways Act, IX of 1890, provides for the legal action which can be taken against railway servants for any breach of the provisions of the Act or Rules made thereunder.

The Rules issued under the Railway Board's letter referred to by the Honourable Member prescribe the departmental action which a railway administration may take against railway servants for any offence committed by them. These Rules derive their authority from the "Direction" appended to the Railway Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules issued by the Secretary of State under section 96 (B) of the Government of India Act, 1919, and continued by section 276 of the Government of India Act, 1935.

SCALES OF PAY OF NON-GAZETTED STAFF ON STATE-MANAGED RAILWAYS.

156. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please lay on the table of this House a comparative statement of the scales of pay in each category of non-gazetted staff on State-managed Railways with reasons for any difference in scales of pay on any railway?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: As regards the first part, I would refer the Honourable Member to the statements showing the revised scales of pay of non-gazetted staff on State-managed Railways, placed in the Library of the House, which give the information available with Government. As regards the second part, differences between the scales of pay, obtaining on different railways, are due to varying local conditions prevailing on each railway.

RESTRICTIONS ON THE ATTACHMENT OF RESERVED CARRIAGES FOR HARDWAR DURING THE KUMBH MELA.

157. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please inquire and state:

- (a) whether the Divisional Superintendent, North Western Railway, Delhi, has under order No. 204-T./46-S. R., dated 25th March, 1938, placed restriction on attaching of all sorts of reserved carriages for Hardwar during the Kumbh Mela period;
- (b) whether Government have considered that such restriction will not divert the traffic to road motors;
- (c) whether Government have considered that such restriction will not cause inconvenience to traffic, who offered themselves for travelling in tourist cars; and
- (d) whether the said order of the Divisional Superintendent is not against the policy of Government?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a) Restrictions have been imposed, both by the North Western and East Indian Railways, on reservations to Hardwar during the period referred to.

(b) It is not believed that these restrictions will divert traffic to the road.

(c) The restriction is necessitated by the special conditions now obtaining at Hardwar consequent on heavy passenger traffic having to be dealt with at that station. Acceptance of reservations would have involved a serious increase in shunting operations in a yard not designed for that purpose.

(d) I am not aware to what particular policy the Honourable Member refers.

EXEMPTION OF THE SHAHDARA SAHARANPUR LIGHT RAILWAY FROM THE OPERATION OF SECTION 62 OF THE INDIAN RAILWAYS ACT.

158. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please refer to section 62 of Act IX of 1890 and state the notification through which an exemption has been given from the operation of the said section to the Shahdara-Saharanpur Light Railway, and is he prepared

to consider the desirability of providing sufficient means of communication between passengers and the railway servants on trains which are to run for a distance exceeding fifty miles? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: Section 62 does not require the issue of any notification granting an exemption. I would, however, refer the Honourable Member to rule 111 of the General Rules for Open Lines of Railways in British India, a copy of which is in the Library of the House. I am having the matter looked into and will place a further reply on the table in due course.

RAILWAY OFFICERS PARTICIPATING IN THE MEETINGS OF THE INDIAN RAILWAY CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION.

159. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please refer to the reply given to unstarred question No. 104, asked in this House on the 23rd March, 1938, and state:

- (a) what sort of association the Indian Railway Conference is, whether a commercial or trade association;
- (b) the resolution of the Government authorising their officers to participate in the Indian Railway Conference Association;
- (c) the Fundamental Rule or the Pass Rule which permits the Railway officers to haul their inspection carriages over railways beyond their jurisdiction; and
- (d) whether the travelling allowances of railway officers are paid by the Association or by Government?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given to parts (a) and (d) of Prof. Ranga's starred question No. 464 on the 22nd February, 1935, in this House.

(b) No Government Resolution is necessary. It is entirely within the discretion of Railway Administrations to decide whether they should join the Association or not.

(c) Neither the Fundamental Rules nor the Pass Rules provide for haulage of inspection carriages. Such haulage as may be necessary is a matter for arrangement between the Railways concerned as and when occasion arises.

(d) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given to Pandit Krishna Kant Malaviya's starred questions Nos. 989 to 992 on the 9th October 1936.

EXEMPTION OF RAILWAY CORRESPONDENCE AND DAK FROM POSTAL REVENUES.

160. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Will the Honourable Member for Communications please state:

- (a) what amount the Postal Department receive from the Indian Railway Conference Association for conveyance of correspondence and *dak* every year (refer to reply to starred question No. 1208, asked in this House on the 13th October, 1936);
- (b) whether the correspondence and *dak* of the Railway Administrative offices is exempted from postal revenues; if so, under which authority; and
- (c) the extent of revenue lost through such exemption?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a) All correspondence conveyed through the post has to pay the usual postage. The amount of such postage paid by the Indian Railway Conference in a year is between Rs. 1,800 and Rs. 1,900.

(b) The correspondence and *dak* of Railway administrative offices are not exempted from payment of postage when carried by post. The second part of the question does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

CURTAILMENT OF RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES OF STAFF OF THE OUDH AND ROHILKUND RAILWAY ON AMALGAMATION WITH THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

161. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please refer to the information given on the 31st August, 1936 in answer to unstarred question No. 499 asked in this House on the 7th April, 1936, and state whether Government informed the staff of the old Oudh and Rohilkund Railway that their rights and privileges would be curtailed by the rules of the East Indian Railway Company on the amalgamation of the two managements? If so, will he please place on the table a copy of such order, and if no orders were issued, is he prepared to rectify this? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: There was no curtailment of rights and privileges which were admissible before the amalgamation. The facts are as follows. The rules issued in 1922 for State-managed Railways were applicable to the staff of the Oudh and Rohilkund Railway as that railway was even then a State-managed railway. These rules did not allow the grant of any concession regarding rent of quarters to the ticket checking staff. It was, however, the practice on the Oudh and Rohilkund Railway immediately before amalgamation to grant rent free quarters to ticket checking staff when available. This concession was continued even after the amalgamation to the Oudh and Rohilkund Railway staff who were actually enjoying it before the amalgamation, *vide* last sentence of the information laid on the table of the House in connection with part d(ii) of unstarred question No. 499 of 7th April, 1936.

SENIORITY OF EAST INDIAN RAILWAY AND OLD OUDH AND ROHILKUND RAILWAY STAFF.

162. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please refer to the information given on the 31st August, 1936 in the answers to unstarred question No. 547 of 7th April, 1936 and to starred question No. 1693 of 17th April, 1936, asked in this House and state the method or procedure through which fitness is ascertained?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: I would refer the Honourable Member to Rule 76, and the notes thereunder, of the Rules for the recruitment and training of non-gazetted staff (except Apprentice Mechanics, Trade Apprentices, Labourers and inferior staff) on State-managed Railways, a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

OVER CROWDING IN RAILWAY TRAINS.

163. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please refer to the answers given to starred question No. 317 asked in this House on the 11th September, 1936 and starred question No. 1255 asked in this House on 15th October, 1936, and state whether it is obligatory on the gazetted staff to detect and to prevent overcrowding in trains while travelling in their inspection carriages?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: No.

AMOUNT REALISED FROM THE SHAHDARA SAHARANPUR LIGHT RAILWAY
UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 93 OF THE INDIAN RAILWAYS
ACT.

164. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state what amount has been realized from the Shahdara-Saharanpur Light Railway under the provisions of section 93 of Act IX of 1890 during 1937?

(b) Will the Honourable Member please lay on the table a statement of the issue and collections of third class tickets, passes and privilege ticket orders, to and from Delhi Shahdara and Saharanpur respectively, on the Shahdara-Saharanpur Light Railway between 1st May, 1937 and 31st August, 1937 along with a statement of the third class accommodation provided by giving carriage numbers in each train run during that period?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a) Government are not aware of any case in which it has been necessary to take action under the section referred to.

(b) The compilation of the information asked for by the Honourable Member will involve considerably more labour than is commensurate with any use to which the information could be put.

APPLICABILITY OF GOVERNMENT SERVANTS' CONDUCT RULES TO STAFF
ON STATE RAILWAYS.

165. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please refer to the answer given to unstarred question No. 101 asked in this House on the 8th October, 1936 and state the decision arrived at as a result of their consideration?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: The matter is still under consideration of Government.

CONDUCTOR GUARDS ON STATE RAILWAYS.

166. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please refer to the answer given to unstarred question No. 107, asked in this House on the 8th October, 1936, and state:

(a) the date on which the remaining conductor guards were withdrawn;

(b) the number of conductor guards community-wise still in employment as such on State-managed Railways; and

(c) the railways on which they are still utilized, and whether their retention is considered desirable?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: I am obtaining information and will lay a reply on the table of the House in due course.

RULES FOR PAY, ALLOWANCES, APPEALS AND SENIORITY, ETC., ON STATE RAILWAYS.

167. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please refer to the answer given to starred question No. 973 asked in this House on the 9th October, 1936 and state whether the rules of pay including scales of pay, of allowances, of appeals, of seniority, of punishments, of conduct, of promotions, etc., will be embodied in the manual referred to in the answer to starred question No. 540, asked in this House on the 22nd September, 1936; and if not embodied, why not?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: All important rules governing the conditions of service of railway servants issued by Government, except those relating to matters within the competence of the Agents of railways, have been embodied in the State Railways Establishment Code.

SENIORITY IN A GRADE OR CLASS OF NON-GAZETTED STAFF ON STATE RAILWAYS.

168. **Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please refer to the reply to starred question No. 1244, given in this House on the 15th October, 1936, and state whether temporary and probationary service in a grade or class is counted in calculating continuous service towards seniority in a grade or class of non-gazetted staff on Eastern Bengal, East Indian, Great Indian Peninsula and North Western Railways other than the staff of accounts offices on those railways?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: I am obtaining information and will lay a reply on the table of the House in due course.

PREPARATION OF AN ESTABLISHMENT MANUAL FOR THE RAILWAY DEPARTMENT.

169. **Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please refer to the reply to starred question No. 540 given in this House on the 22nd September, 1936, and state the date by which the compilation of the manual taken in hand in August 1934 is likely to be finished?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: The compilation referred to has been completed but is still under print. It is expected to be ready for issue shortly.

REPRESENTATIONS MADE BY UNRECOGNISED TRADE UNIONS OR SERVICE ASSOCIATIONS.

170. **Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please refer to the reply given to starred question No. 725, asked in this House on the 30th September, 1936, *vis.*, "That would apply to any

representation made by any individual or association. It really depends upon the substance of the representation and not upon the person who makes that representation", and state the reasons why unrecognized trade unions or service associations are not afforded this treatment?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: The reply quoted in the opening portion of this question referred to dealings with associations of the type of Passengers' Associations and not to Trade Unions or Service Associations formed by Government servants. In this connection I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply to parts (a) to (c) of starred question No. 829 asked by Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali on the 18th March, 1938, in this House.

RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN THE ALLOTMENT OF QUARTERS TO RAILWAY STAFF.

171. **Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please refer to the reply to starred question No. 887 given on the 8th October, 1936, and state:

- (a) the rules governing the payment of rent by Anglo-Indian staff for their quarters;
- (b) the cases of Anglo-Indians being provided with Indian type of quarters;
- (c) the basis or consideration upon which quarters are provided to staff;
- (d) whether Anglo-Indians equal in pay to Indians are posted to a station where European type quarters are not available;
- (e) what are the differences in types of quarters; and
- (f) what are the differences in fittings, furniture, structure, etc., of European and Indian style of quarters?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a) The rules governing the payment of rent for quarters by staff are contained in Chapter II—Residential Buildings—of the State Railway Code (Revised), and apply to all communities.

(b) Government have no information.

(c) Quarters for staff are generally provided where conditions are such that private enterprise does not adequately meet the demand. A special consideration that not infrequently arises is the administrative necessity for housing certain classes of employees in the immediate vicinity of their work.

(d) Postings cannot be determined primarily with reference to the availability of certain types of accommodation, though this consideration is not lost sight of.

(e) Permanent residences on the railway are divided into 12 groups the details of which are given in a statement now placed on the table of the House. The statement also shows pooled rents recoverable for each class.

(f) Except for certain special staff, like nurses and certain school staff, no furniture is provided. Supply of electric fans and lights is limited to classes 1 to 9. All types are constructed of similar materials.

Statement

	Per mensem.		
	Rs.	A.	P.
Class 1.—Open type for administrative officers	150	0	0
Class 2.—Open type for senior officers	105	0	0
Class 3.—Open type for junior officers	75	0	0
Class 4.—Open type for subordinates	40	0	0
Class 5.—Open type for subordinates	30	0	0
Class 6.—Open type for subordinates	20	0	0
Class 7.—Open type for subordinates	10	0	0
Class 8.—Enclosed type for subordinates	9	0	0
Class 9.—Enclosed type for subordinates	8	0	0
Class 10.—Enclosed type for subordinates	5	0	0
Class 11.—Enclosed type for skilled workmen	4	0	0
Class 12.—Enclosed type for lower paid staff	1	8	0

The first seven of the above are open type quarters suited to European style of living which are also frequently occupied by Indians. The others are closed type *e.g.* with courtyards, kitchens and privies of Indian pattern where admissible.

PROOF GENERALLY ACCEPTED IN ADMITTING THE AGE OF A RAILWAY EMPLOYEE.

172. **Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state what proof is generally accepted in admitting the age of a railway employee?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given to part (c) of unstarred question No. 123 asked by Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali in this House on the 28th March, 1938.

OVER-WORK BY TRAIN EXAMINERS AT BEZWADA.

173. **Mr. K. S. Gupta:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is a fact that the Train Examiners of the broad gauge are made to look after the metre gauge at Bezwada (Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway) without the adequate supply of Assistant Train Examiners? If so, is he prepared to see to the stoppage of the overworking of the Train Examiners of the broad gauge section?

(b) Is the Honourable Member aware that the Train Examiner staff is made to work for more than eight hours shift?

(c) Are Government aware that the climate of Bezwada is most intolerable for the major part of the year, and is it proposed that the eight hours shift be strictly enforced to facilitate the work of the staff of the Train Examiners with greater care and attention?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: Government have no information. I may add for the information of the Honourable Member that the Hours of Employment Regulations are in force on the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway and Government have no reason to believe that they are being infringed.

DENIAL OF HOUSE RENT ALLOWANCE AND UNIFORMS TO TRAIN EXAMINERS ON THE MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA RAILWAY.

174. **Mr. K. S. Gupta:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is a fact that the Train Examiner staff of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway do not get an allowance for house rent, as on

other Railways and as in other departments of this Railway, in the absence of free quarters?

(b) Is it a fact that the staff of the Train Examiners is only supplied with a badge and not uniforms as is done on other Railways? If so, why not?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: Government have no information. The staff referred to are not Government servants but are the servants of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway which is Company-managed.

BHATTA PAID TO CERTAIN EMPLOYEES IN THE POWER DEPARTMENT OF THE MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA RAILWAY.

175. **Mr. K. S. Gupta:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is a fact that the *bhatta* paid to employees drawing from Rs. 50 to Rs. 100 in the Power Department of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway is only Re. 1 per day, whereas the employees drawing a salary of Rs. 35 in the Traffic Department draw a *bhatta* of Rs. 1-8-0 per day? If so, what is this difference due to?

(b) Is it a fact that there are several grades in the Power Department of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway for every station, irrespective of the traffic grade of the station?

(c) Is it a fact that every grade shoulders the same responsibility, and that the quantity and quality of the work is the same in the Power Department for all grades? If so, why are there so many grades?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a) to (c). These are matters of detailed administration on which Government have no information. I may add for the information of the Honourable Member that the Staff employed on this railway are not Government servants but are the servants of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway, which is Company-managed.

RECOGNITION OF THE INDIAN LABOUR UNION OF THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY.

176. **Mr. K. S. Gupta:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if he is aware that the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Indian Labour Union was reorganized after the resignation of its President the Honourable Mr. V. V. Giri, Labour Minister of the Madras Cabinet?

(b) Is the Honourable Member aware that the ban on the recognition of the Indian Labour Union of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway has not yet lifted? If so, why not?

(c) Is it a fact that the Agent, Bengal-Nagpur Railway, promised to consider favourably the question of the recognition of the Indian Labour Union a few months ago? If so, what is the reason for the delay?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a) Government are only aware of certain resolutions stated to have been passed in this connection by the Union in September last.

(b) Government are aware that the recognition of this Union which was withdrawn by the Agent, Bengal Nagpur Railway, has not yet been restored.

(c) As regards the first part Government have no information. The second part does not arise.

WAGE CUT DUE TO SHORT-TIME WORK IN THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY WORKSHOPS.

177. **Mr. K. S. Gupta:** (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware that there is a deep discontent amongst the wage-earners of the workshops of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway regarding the loss in wages due to short-time work?

(b) Is it a fact that the short-time work in the shops of the Bengal Nagpur Railway entails a cut of 12½ per cent. in their wages introduced seven years ago as a measure to meet the depression?

(c) Is it a fact that the wage cut has not been removed and that the salary cut of the officers and clerks was removed some years ago?

(d) Is the Honourable Member aware that a meeting of the Bengal Nagpur Railway workers took place on the 18th March, 1938 at Khargpur, demanding an early restoration of the normal working of the shops, and thus save the daily wage earners from the cut of 12½ per cent. of their wages? If so, what does he propose to do?

(e) Is there any requisition from the Indian Labour Union for the institution of a conciliation board to go through the short-time question? If so, what is the action proposed to be taken to avoid any further impending crisis?

(f) Are Government aware that the authorities have increased the number of daily rated staff by about 800 men?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given to part (a) of starred question No. 1187 asked by Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena in this House on the 6th April, 1938.

(b) Government are aware that a reduction in working hours reduces the earnings of the daily rated workshops staff.

(c) Government are unable to accept the analogy sought to be drawn between the reduction in earnings due to loss of working hours and the cut in salaries imposed in 1931.

(d) As regards the first part, the reply is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, Government understand that such a request was made to the Agent, Bengal Nagpur Railway, who did not accede to it.

(e) The reply to the first part is in the negative, the second part does not arise.

(f) No.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE.

Information promised in reply to starred questions Nos. 153 to 155 asked by Mr. J. Ramsay Scott on the 25th January, 1937.

TAXATION ON PRIVATE CARS, MOTOR BUSES AND LORRIES.

As promised by Sir Frank Noyce on the 25th January, 1937, in reply to starred questions Nos. 153 to 155, three statements showing the taxes at present levied in Governors' and Chief Commissioners' provinces, respectively, on (a) private motor cars, weighing between 20 and 30 cwts., (b) motor buses to seat 20 persons, and (c) goods lorries weighing 30 cwts., unladen are placed on the table. It is regretted that complete information is not available for centrally administered areas or Indian States.

The reply to part (c) of question No. 155 is in the affirmative.

Statement showing Annual Tax levied on Private Motor Cars weighing between 20-30 cuds. unloaded.

Province.	Provincial motor vehicle taxation.	Municipal Tax.	Remarks.
<i>Governors' Provinces.</i>			
Madras	Rs. 100	No tax.	* Tax according to area of the car in square feet Ra. 48 is for a car measuring more than 40 but less than 60 square feet.
Bombay	60	100 (Maximum).	
Bengal	48*	No tax.	
United Provinces	45	No tax.	† For vehicles seating five persons.
Punjab	100†	36 (Average. Rates vary from municipality to municipality).	
Bihar	50‡	No tax.	‡ For vehicles seating more than three but not more than seven persons.
Central Provinces and Berar	25	15 (Maximum).	
Assam	25	No tax.	§ For vehicles seating five persons.
North-West Frontier Province	50§	No tax.	
Orissa			For the areas transferred from Bihar and the Central Provinces at the rates in force in Bihar. For the areas transferred from Madras at the rates in force in Madras.

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Sind	32	Between Rs. 5 and Rs. 60	Taxation through annual registration. The fee for original registration is Rs. 40 and for renewal is Rs. 32.
<i>Chief Commissioners' Provinces.</i>			
Delhi	100 ¶	No tax	¶ For vehicles seating five persons.
Baluchistan	No tax.	No tax.	
Coorg	88	No tax.	
Ajmer-Merwara	No tax.	2 .	

Orissa For the areas transferred from Bihar and the Central Provinces at the rates in force in Bihar.
 For the areas transferred from Madras at the rates in force in Madras.

Sind 32* Between Rs. 16 and 180 * Taxation through annual registration.
 The fee for original registration is
 Rs. 40 and for renewal is Rs. 32.

Chief Commissioners' Provinces.

Delhi Outside limits. 50 No tax. ..

Within limits. 159

Baluchistan No taxation. No tax. ..

Coorg 880 No tax. ..

Ajmer-Merwara 32† Ajmer Municipality . 36 † Taxation by means of an annual re-
 gistration fee.

Nasirabad cantonment 48

Statement showing Annual Tax levied on Goods Lorries weighing 30 Cwt. and under.

Province.	Provincial motor vehicles taxation.	Municipal Tax.	Remarks.
<i>Governors' Provinces.</i>			
Madras	400	Public lorry 100 Private lorry (maximum) 5	..
Bombay	300	Municipal and Cantonment limits. 120 Other area . . . . .	..
Bengal	125	No tax.	..
United Provinces	100	..	..
	Public Service* vehicles :—		
	Special route 611		* Tax levied on authorised load which for a 30 cwt. lorry is taken as 3 tons.
	'A' class route 407½	No tax.	Special Route : Provincial road on which there is specially heavy traffic.
	'B' " " " " 324		A Class Route : Provincial road.
	'C' " " " " 264		B Class Route : District Board road.
Punjab	75		C Class Route : Unmetalled road.
		36	..
		(Average. Actual rates vary from municipality to municipality).	
Bihar	250	No tax.	..
Central Provinces and Berar	100	40 Maximum).	..

Assam	Private†	230	No tax.	† Tax levied on authorised load which, for a 30 cwt. lorry is taken as 3 tons.
	Public Service vehicles	180		
North-West Frontier Province		50	No tax.	..
Orissa	For the areas transferred from Bihar and Central Provinces at the rates in force in Bihar. For the areas transferred from Madras at the rates in force in Madras.			
Sind		32‡	Between Rs. 5 and Rs. 20	‡ Taxation through annual registration. The fee for original registration is Rs. 40 and for renewal is Rs. 32.
Chief Commissioners' Provinces.				
Delhi		75	No tax.	..
Baluchistan	No tax.		No tax.	—
Coorg	Lorries used for private trade purposes or for hire.	600	No tax.	..
	Lorries used for transporting private agricultural produce.	200		
	For agricultural purposes.	88		
Ajmer-Merwar	Private lorry	32	Ajmer Municipality	36
	Public lorry	90	Nasirabad Cantonment	48

Information promised in the first part of the reply to starred question No. 348 asked by Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya on the 7th September, 1937.

DISCHARGE OF POSTAL CANDIDATES AFTER RE-EXAMINATION IN THE MADRAS POSTAL CIRCLE.

(a) 68 in all.

(b) The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, all candidates who had not been provided for permanently before the 23rd May, 1937, the date on which the first competitive examination under the new recruitment rules was announced became ineligible for permanent appointment without fulfilling the conditions of those rules.

(c) and (e). Assuming that the Honourable Member refers to the examination for appointment of lower division clerks held in the Madras General Post Office in April, 1935, 551 candidates appeared, of whom 51, i.e., 9.26 per cent., passed.

(d) The position is that from April, 1935, the Lower division of clerks ceased to exist and the new second grade of clerks was introduced, the duties and responsibilities of which were higher than those of the former. Consequently, those, who passed the examination for lower division clerkships and had not been already permanently appointed, were required in May, 1937, to appear at the examination for second grade clerkships.

(f) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to parts (d) and (b).

(g) Those who were acting as clerks were allowed to appear at the test for second grade clerkships, and those of them that passed as also new candidates who passed were permanently appointed. Other acting clerks were ousted.

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

(i) I presume the Honourable Member is referring to departmental instructions issued pending the issue of the new recruitment rules. If so, the reply is in the negative.

(j) The Honourable Member will see from the statement laid on the table on the 7th October, 1937, that adequate steps to meet the situation have been taken by Government. I may inform the Honourable Member that as a result 54 out of 68 outside candidates referred to in the reply to part (a) have been or will be provided for and ten candidates will be allowed to appear at the competitive examination under the new recruitment rules by waiving the prescribed age limit of 21 years in their favour. The remaining four candidates are not entitled to any concessions.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 850 asked by Mr. Badri Dutt Pande on the 28th September, 1937.

DEFICIT IN THE WATER SUPPLY DEPARTMENT OF THE DELHI MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.

(a) Yes.

(b) It is correct to state that the Secretary of the Delhi Municipal Committee has repeatedly drawn the attention of the Committee to the desirability of making the filtered water supply system self-supporting. The proposal to supply water to the Delhi Cloth Mills at five annas per 1,000 gallons was, on the estimate submitted to the Committee, likely to result in a profit. Furthermore, Government understand that this particular new main is needed to serve existing areas which have no supply and new areas which will be developed on the closure of the Delhi tail distributary of the Western Jumna Canal. This need is quite apart from the requirements of the mills. The Chief Commissioner is now examining the matter and will doubtless pass suitable orders in due course on the Committee's proposals. This has been submitted to him for administrative approval.

(c) Government see no necessity for the proposed action.

Information promised in reply to short notice question asked by Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar on the 10th February, 1938.

SHOOTING AT PEOPLE BY A SOLDIER FROM A MILITARY LORRY BETWEEN DELHI AND MERRUT.

The culprits have been traced. No cognizable offence was registered. The military authorities have taken disciplinary action. Compensation has also been paid to each of the persons struck by pellets.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 252 asked by Mr. Badri Dutt Pande on the 15th February, 1938.

POLITICAL PRISONERS UNDER THE DIRECT CONTROL OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

Apart from three persons confined as State Prisoners under Regulation III of 1818, there are 14 persons convicted for political offences who are still under the control of the Central Government. This number includes the five *ex-Kakori* prisoners who were arrested in Delhi in December and sentenced to short terms of imprisonment.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 363 asked by Mr. Badri Dutt Pande, on the 18th February, 1938.

MONOPOLY FOR PURCHASE AND SALE OF MILK IN THE LANSDOWNE CANTONMENT.

(a) Owing to the lack of control over sick cows and the unclean receptacles of persons supplying milk from outside the cantonment, a central collecting station where milk can be inspected and purified and butter and cream prepared was established from April, 1937.

Villagers continue to supply, as in the past, but to the central dairy. There is no restriction on the import of milk from neighbouring villages.

(b) Yes. The intentions and advantages of the scheme were given wide publicity and mutual adjustments were made.

(c) Bye-laws under section 282 (1C) of the Cantonments Act were approved by the Provincial Government.

(d) One unit had to allow time for the termination of its existing contract, and as soon as circumstances permitted, obtained supplies from the dairy with undoubted advantage to health.

(e) No.

(f) Yes. Investigation showed that the representation was pseudonymous and that the allegations made in it were without foundation.

(g) Government do not propose to take any action.

Information promised in reply to part (a) of starred question No. 638 asked by Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena on the 4th March, 1938.

POLITICAL PRISONERS IN THE CENTRALLY ADMINISTERED AREAS.

Apart from three persons confined as State Prisoners under Regulation III of 1818, there were, on the 1st February, 1938, 14 persons convicted for political offences in the centrally administered areas. This number includes five *ex-Kakori* prisoners who were arrested in Delhi in December and sentenced to short terms of imprisonment.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 803 asked by Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya on the 18th March, 1938.

CONTEMPLATED TRANSFORMATION OF Kharda Station ON THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY INTO A FLAG STATION.

(a) Yes.

(b) Khardaha is purely a passenger station with no siding. It can hardly be classed as important.

(c) Yes.

(d) No.

(e) and (f). A saving of Rs. 2,000 per annum will be effected by the closing of the cabin at the station, but the proposal, which amounts to the removal of signals for controlling trains at the station, will not in any way alter the working of the station so far as the public are concerned.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 873 asked by Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang on the 21st March, 1938.

VETERINARY SURGEONS AT THE IMPERIAL VETERINARY RESEARCH INSTITUTE, IZZATNAGAR AND MURTESWAR.

(a) The number of Veterinary Surgeons employed in gazetted and non-gazetted permanent posts at the Imperial Veterinary Research Institute is 13 (including two Imperial Veterinary Service posts) and 11, respectively.

(b) The number of members of the different communities in gazetted posts is three Europeans, two Muslims, one Anglo-Indian and seven Hindus and in non-gazetted posts two Muslims, one Sikh and eight Hindus. Owing to the technical and special qualifications required for gazetted posts, the orders regarding communal representation do not apply to them. Steps are, however, taken, as far as possible, to ensure sufficient representation of minority communities, consistent with the requirements of efficiency. Recruitment to non-gazetted posts is made by the Director, Imperial Veterinary Research Institute, subject to the general orders regarding communal representation.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 877 (a) asked by Dr. F. X. DeSouza on the 21st March, 1938.

LEVY OF A PROTECTIVE DUTY ON COFFEE IMPORTED INTO BRITISH INDIA.

The import of coffee that has not been roasted and ground is prohibited under powers conferred by the Destructive Insects and Pests Act, 1914. Imports of roasted and ground coffee fall under the head 'Canned or bottled provisions' and are not recorded separately. On the basis of revenue returns the value of the imports of canned or bottled coffee during 1935-36, 1936-37 and the ten months, April—January, 1937-38, is estimated to be Rs. 35,092, Rs. 37,733 and Rs. 41,218, respectively.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 951 asked by Mr. K. Santhanam on the 23rd March, 1938.

CHOLA POWER HOUSE OF THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

(a) Rs. 1,31,45,354.

(b) Four turbines and six boilers.

(c) One turbine and three boilers

(d) 56 annas.

(e) Yes.

(f) The Kalyan Power House will be maintained as a standby for emergencies, until Tatas require all their available energy for other consumers when it will again supply the Railway requirements.

(g) There will be no difference in cost.

(h) 224

(i) A number of men will be required to maintain the Kalyan Power House as a standby and arrangements will be made to absorb as far as possible in other branches of the Railway the men rendered surplus under the new conditions.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 1016 asked by Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait on the 25th March, 1938.

REPRESENTATION OF MUSLIMS IN THE INCOME-TAX DEPARTMENT, MADRAS.

- (a) Nine per cent.
- (b) There are no Inspectors in the Income-tax Department, Madras, but the officers corresponding to them are designated Assistant Income-tax Officers. There are six Muslim Assistant Income-tax Officers and their proportion to the total number of Assistant Income-tax Officers is 14 per cent.
- (c) None.
- (d) Government have already issued instructions that if suitable Moplah candidates offer themselves for employment in the Income-tax Department, Madras, they should be given a trial. At present one Moplah is employed in the Department. The percentage fixed for direct recruitment of Muslims in the Madras Income-tax Department is $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. This percentage was exceeded both in 1936 and 1937. Government do not, therefore, consider it necessary to issue any further instructions.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 1021 asked by Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena on the 25th March, 1938.

WITHDRAWAL OF THE POLICE ARRANGEMENTS FROM THE AJMER CINEMA HOUSES ON INDIAN PICTURE DAYS.

(a) No. When English pictures are shown there is an increase of motor traffic and in consequence police arrangements then are somewhat more elaborate than on other occasions.

(b) Police arrangements have not been withdrawn when Indian pictures are shown. Such overcrowding at the ticket windows as exists is due to the fact that the booking offices are not opened in sufficient time. There is reason to believe that certain employees of the cinema are in league with speculators who buy up blocks of tickets in order to retail them to the public outside the cinema at enhanced prices. A warning was issued to the cinema management against the toleration of this practice, by the Superintendent of Police, in the month of January, under clause 1 of the cinema licence.

(c) and (d). As stated in reply to part (b) of the question police arrangements have not been withdrawn. It is not a fact that unlicensed hawkers collect in the neighbourhood of the cinemas, nor have any complaints come to notice of Indian ladies being molested in and about the cinema houses.

(e) Government consider that the existing arrangements for ensuring the convenience and safety of the cinema-going public are adequate and they do not propose to take any steps in the matter.

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL OF STATE.

Secretary of the Assembly: Sir, the following Message has been received from the Council of State:

"I am directed to inform you that the Council of State at its meeting held on the 7th April, 1938, agreed without any amendment to the following Bills which were passed by the Legislative Assembly at its meeting held on the 28th March, 1938, namely:

1. A Bill to provide for the temporary continuance of the existing protection conferred on the sugar industry in British India;
2. A Bill to amend the law relating to salt as at present in force in Sind; and
3. A Bill to amend the Indian Coffee Cess Act, 1935, for a certain purpose."

RESOLUTION RE APPOINTMENT OF A RETRENCHMENT COMMITTEE.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to appoint a retrenchment committee to consider all items of expenditure from Central Revenues and to suggest measures for curtailing the outlay with a view to reduce the total expenditure by ten per cent."

Sir, the House would like to know what is the need for such a Resolution as this. I need not state the reasons more elaborately than what the Honourable the Finance Member himself has said regarding this matter when he referred to the various budget speeches of the Premiers in the various provinces. From what he said yesterday, it was clear that all available sources of income had been tapped in the provinces, that various nation building activities were being starved and that the Premiers and Finance Members of the various provinces were at their wits' end to improve their resources and therefore they looked to the Central Government for help in this direction. It is exactly on that ground that provisions are made in the Government of India Act, conveying away various items of central income to the provinces. The first is the income-tax—that fifty per cent. of it is to go to the provinces sooner or later. Then there is a provision that excise duties on salt, matches and other excise articles which are now important sources of income to the Central Government may also be conveyed away or allocated to the provinces sooner or later by an Act of the Legislature, either in whole or in part. That is an item which the provinces can legitimately look to for help. If both those items go, there will be great necessity for curtailing the expenditure at the Centre.

I need not dilate on the want of adequate funds in the provinces to improve their financial position or to devote to their nation building activities. I take only one province, the province of Madras, where the three main heads of revenue are land revenue, which gives about Rs. six crores, excise revenue which gives about four crores, and stamps which give about two crores. Madras is one of the major provinces. Take land revenue. The poor agriculturist for whom my Honourable friend, the Finance Member evinced so much concern has been taxed to the hilt, and it is impossible to increase that tax by even a hundredth per cent. On the other hand, there is a clamour in the province that land revenue should be reduced. Then as regards excise, it is now an admitted position that excise revenue should become absolutely *nil* sooner or later and we ought not to tax the poor man by offering him an inducement to drink to his own detriment. Four crores of rupees go out from one province alone. Similarly, an equal or lesser sum will go out from other provinces also. With regard to stamps, owing to the slump in trade there is not much transaction going on, on account of which non-judicial stamps are not much in requisition. Transactions are not likely to increase and so that source of income is not likely to improve. Thus, I have shown that three main heads of income in a major province like Madras are not capable of being augmented and therefore they have to look to the Centre. It is right that they have appealed to the Centre in their various budget speeches

and conferences. It is right also that the Honourable the Finance Member yesterday should have addressed the House on the need of additional taxation, when he moved the Income-tax Bill, or, at any rate, of making provision for helping the provinces. The need, therefore, is there.

The Honourable the Finance Member might say that instead of curtailing the expenditure we may impose taxation. At this stage I would say that taxation should be the last resort and it is only after all the avenues for economy have been carefully investigated and explored that taxation measures ought to be introduced. I would ask the Honourable the Finance Member to take a lesson from the way in which the Premiers and the Finance Members of the various provinces are doing. They have put themselves on starvation allowances; they are not taking more than Rs. 500 a month. As far as possible in the several provinces they have tried to effect retrenchment and abolition of unnecessary officers by retrenching posts, by cutting down salaries including their own.

12 NOON. These are the three things which the Government must do, if it is a responsible Government, before it can approach this House for additional taxation, as the Finance Member wanted to do yesterday. He would then have had greater support from this House. He should have assured this House that he had effected all possible measures of retrenchment and that it was not possible consistently with efficient administration to do more.

The next reason why I say that we should effect all possible retrenchment is the Finance Member in answer to a question a few days ago said that he was not able to say when the slump would be over. Our three sources of revenue are Customs which yield nearly 42 crores, excise about 8 crores, salt 8 crores and income-tax about 14 crores. Of these Customs revenue depends upon trade both internal and external. There is no chance, having regard to the world conditions, of our external trade progressing. If war should break out trade and industry would come to a standstill. Our imports also would go down. Therefore, that source of revenue might dwindle at any moment and the Honourable the Finance Member was not able to say how it will progress or regress in times to come. As regards excise duties, they have been imposed and are impossible only for purposes of finance. That is clear. So far as sugar excise duty is concerned, we have put repeated questions and the one answer always was that Government was not able to say how many factories which were struggling to come out were hard hit by this duty. If it is possible to effect retrenchment and effect economies, then some of the excise duties as on matches and sugar may be removed as early as possible. Therefore, from that point of view also it is necessary to economise and it is not safe to expect that by merely imposing excise duties we would be augmenting our income. The slump is not yet over. The Honourable the Finance Member is not yet in a position to remove the surcharge on salt and the surcharge on income-tax. He was in haste to show that the finances of this country had been rehabilitated and he wanted to secure the confidence of the services and he was anxious to carry out his pledge of restoring the cuts, but judging from the fact that he is not able to remove the surcharge on salt and the surcharge on income-tax and that he is not even now in a position to give relief to the taxpayers, it is clear that we are not yet on sure ground. That is another reason why we ought to effect economy of expenditure in the Central Government.

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Thirdly, there is another just and proper ground. Burma has gone out of us. Under Provincial Autonomy, various subjects with which the Central Government was concerned have gone away to the provinces and from what I understand about the attitude of the provinces, it is clear that the provinces resent any interference in their internal affairs so far as these matters are concerned. So far as Burma is concerned, whereas we lost about 6 crores from Burma, we have curtailed expenditure in the civil administration only to the tune of 79 lakhs. Before the separation, on the civil administration, we were incurring expenditure of 11 crores of rupees a year. Burma was one of the major provinces of India and it is necessary to find out whether the proportion between 6 crores and 79 lakhs is a proper proportion or not. Now, there is one other aspect of this matter. Suppose province after province goes out as Burma has done. In those circumstances the activities of the Central Government must necessarily do down. Is it at all justifiable that even after this separation there should be the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs and other officers on the same old strength and salary that existed before the separation and also six Members of the Executive Council drawing the same salary? Is it proper that the number of officers at the Centre should be the same as before? Let us push the analogy a little further. Instead of one Burma, let us assume that by some stroke, some other province also goes out from this country. Then there will be left only a few provinces and the Centrally Administered Areas. The Governor General will still draw Rs. 21,000 or Rs. 700 a day and the Executive Council Members will draw six thousand odd with all their paraphernalia. I would say, Sir, that this is absolutely unreasonable. If our income goes down or if the area of our operations is curtailed, is it not reasonable that we should effect economy to that extent? Therefore, Sir, there is another justifiable ground for us here to once again go into this matter of central expenditure and thoroughly overhaul the administration wherever possible.

Then Sir, let us see how in spite of all these circumstances expenditure has grown, though our income and the area of our operations have gone down. I will address myself in brief because it is not possible in the brief space of time to go into detail with respect to every department. And it is also not the object of this Resolution that such a business should be undertaken because all these matters will naturally be left to a committee which must be appointed or which it is the object of this Resolution to have appointed to go into this matter in detail.

Now, the customs revenue is 43 crores and the excise is 7 crores. In all they come to about 51 crores. In 1929-30, when the total income was 51 crores, the expenditure was 97 lakhs. Now, Sir, the expenditure is nearly 180 lakhs. There has been an increase of nearly 80 lakhs and when the income has not correspondingly increased, I do not see any justification for keeping the old establishment on the old salary.

As regards taxation of income which is the other main source of revenue for the Centre, I would say that our income has been steadily going down since 1931-32. In 1931-32, our income was 17 crores. In 1928-29, our income was 16 crores. In 1927-28, our income was 15 crores and then the expenditure was 66 lakhs. Now, the income is 13 crores and odd but the expenditure is 79 lakhs. When the income was 15 crores,

the expenditure was 62 lakhs. When the income is 14 or less than 14, the expenditure is 79 lakhs. Sir, is it at all right that this expenditure should be allowed to stand as it is? In spite of all efforts we may not be able to get more than one crore of rupees by the income-tax bill. Even then, Sir, the charges are too much, considering the income that we are getting.

Now, I shall take one or two departments. As regards the Finance Department, which is directly in the charge of my Honourable friend, you will see that there is a Secretary who gets a salary of Rs. 4,000 and any number of other officers. Honourable Members will kindly see how all the vocabulary available in any lexicon hitherto produced in the world has been exhausted in order to create posts in this country and confer them upon those blessed souls coming from thousands of miles away. Now, there is a Secretary on Rs. 4,000, then there is an Additional Secretary on Rs. 4,000, then there is a Joint Secretary on Rs. 3,000, then there is an Additional Joint Secretary on Rs. 3,000, then there is a Deputy Secretary on Rs. 1,000—2,250 a month, and then there is an additional Deputy Secretary on the same salary; then there are two Under Secretaries all on Rs. 1,000—2,250. Sir, I am not able to coin any more phraseology.

An Honourable Member: Then there are Personal Assistants.

Another Honourable Member: How many Superintendents are there?

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Possibly those Superintendents are dark men and my Honourable friend may dismiss them tomorrow. It is enough for me to refer to this hierarchy of officials working under the very nose of the Finance Member. If my Honourable friend is an expert, then it is not necessary to have that host of establishment; and if he is not an expert, then by having this host of establishment there is sure to be a conflict of views and he will be put to difficulty.

Sir, you presided over a sub-committee, the General Purposes Committee of the Retrenchment Committee that was appointed in the year 1931-32, and a number of recommendations were made by them. I will give two specimens regarding the expenditure on income-tax collection and another concerning the Home Department, regarding the expenditure on the Public Information Bureau. The expenditure on that Bureau was put under a separate grant, under grant 32-B. The Committee that sat recommended that that Bureau might be abolished, and it is not you alone, Sir, who made this recommendation; you were assisted by the Government Member Mr. Nixon himself who was on that Committee. Of course, Mr. Nixon said that he was not prepared to subscribe to all the observations made by the Committee in the earlier paragraphs. (*An Honourable Member:* "Are they doing any honest work?") I think they are not paid for honest work. Now, it was suggested in that Committee that this propaganda on behalf of the Government was useless propaganda to which nobody attaches any value and that, therefore, it is better to issue communiques; and Mr. Nixon was a party to that, at any rate he must have thought it right to subscribe to that or at any rate must have agreed with the views expressed by the Committee, but being a servant of the Government, he said in effect, "I won't subscribe to this but I would subscribe to the other portion which is the operative portion, viz. that this Bureau of

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Information is useless and the sooner it is abolished the better". (An Honourable Member: "They have still expanded it?") They said:

"As regards the functions of the Bureau, we wish to record our opinion that publicity work is often liable to be interpreted as propaganda and is not so useful as regular communiques issued by the responsible Department concerned. In some cases it is positively harmful. The policy should therefore be reconsidered by the Home Department. Mr. Nixon prefers not to express an opinion on the Sub-Committee's views in this sub-paragraph, but Sir Abdur Rahim, Mr. Nixon and Mr. Mitra are in favour of abolishing the Bureau."

I would ask Honourable Members we might find out from Mr. Nixon whether he was not a silent party to this process of reasoning. Ultimately he agreed in the operative portion of the recommendation. But what happened? It is the dog that bites a man that dies. You recommend the abolition of an office; but it grows in importance and is augmented. The amount that was expended was Rs. one lakh and odd, and it is now Rs. 2,82,000! And this has been deleted from a major head. It is not now a demand under 32 B lest it should attract the attention of Honourable Members but it has been put as a sub-department under the Home Department. As regards income-tax, I would only say one word. Recommendations were made that the number of Assistant Commissioners should be abolished. I have calculated the number so far as my province is concerned. The number, instead of going down, has gone up from four to five. The recommendation was that in the superior ranks there must be a curtailment of the establishment and also in the inferior ranks, by ten per cent. in the case of the latter. Far from effecting that retrenchment, it went up! Then you will be surprised to see that there is an Income-tax Officer in Bombay getting a salary of Rs. 2,250. When the recommendation in the Report is that the number of Assistant Commissioners should be decreased, they make it appear that the number of Assistant Commissioners has decreased but, so as not to attract attention to it, they give him the name of "Income-tax Officer" on the same salary! I would ask if, in respect of the Committee's recommendations, it is at all right that such devices as these should be adopted. Instead of there being shown officers in high places, they put men on the same high salaries under different designations. It is not necessary to deal with any more of the details of the several departments.

So far as the Civil Administration is concerned, we are spending eleven crores of rupees a year. Then as regards that portion of the department which is responsible for collecting taxes, we are spending four crores;—in all, we are spending fifteen crores. Then I do not understand why the cut that had been imposed sometime ago ought to have been restored in the case of the superior services' salaries. I would also say that the Government should pursue Indianisation, as much as possible, and that they would also effect a retrenchment of salaries, and that they might give effect to their professions.

Now, I shall proceed from the Civil Administration to army expenditure which consumes 55 crores. I do not desire to enter into details of the army expenditure. I will address myself only to three matters. The army is here for various purposes, one of the purposes being for internal security. There are a number of troops entertained for that purpose.

Every one of the provinces is anxious to preserve law and order and maintain it even much better than the old Government was able to do. In some provinces they have increased the police and as time and occasion arises they are prepared to increase it still further and they are not going to show that they are in any way inferior to any of the best administrators in the world. Therefore, I suggest you leave that portion of the internal security entirely into their hands. They will develop their police. Let the Central Government look merely to such necessary and effective services as for example Waziristan, &c. Therefore, if retrenchment is effected, or at any rate, this department is given away to the Provincial Governments with a small contribution, we would be effecting economy in expenditure.

The second point is this. We have been talking of Indianisation in the services. In the army one European soldier costs not less than 3 or 4 times what an Indian soldier costs, even on the lowest calculation.

The third point is there is one item to which we have not been addressing ourselves particularly and that is the item relating to pensions to the extent of eight crores out of 45 or 50 crores which are spent on the army expenditure. These pensions relate also to non-effective services. Nearly half, about 3 to 4 crores are spent in this country and the balance is spent in England. These pensions also include rewards for outside operations. I am yet to know, Sir, if India has got any colony. England acquired Burma and now Burma has been separated with a lot of head load of debts. Now the Government are concentrating on bombing operations in the North-West Frontier, in Waziristan. Possibly after they have acquired Waziristan, they might separate this country also, just as they have done with Aden and Burma and leave us with a heavy load of debt. We are not anxious to get more land. The land that we have is enough. I was submitting, Sir, that these people who fought in the wars and who brought victory to us are carrying away about eight crores. Look at the way in which pensions are allowed to persons. They are allowed on various considerations. First, on account of rank, secondly, whether Indian or non-Indian and thirdly, on the length of service and so on. It is suggested that these soldiers should maintain their status and rank even after retirement. I, therefore, submit that if we make a detailed examination of the head, pensions, that is another head of expenditure where economy could be effected.

The next item to which I wish to refer is the interest on debt. We are spending 46 crores a year by way of interest on debt. Debts have been contracted both in this country and in England. The total debt of India is about 1,200 crores. Sometime ago loans were raised at a high rate of interest, such as 6 per cent, and 5½ per cent. They range between 6 and 8 per cent, in this country as well as in England. I would ask whether it is not right and necessary now that the interest rates are lower that these loans should be converted at lower rates of interest. I would point out that measures have been taken even in England to convert their loans from higher rate of interest to lower rates of interest. Is there any country in the world which pays as much as 46 crores by way of interest alone?

Lastly, I come to post offices and railways. We were clamouring for a reduction of the price of post cards, we were pressing for increasing the amenities of third class passengers. The reply of the Government all along has been that these are commercial services and they must pay their

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way. I know that the English post office pays a definite sum to the British exchequer. Are we having anything in that direction here? Why do you talk of commercial service? We are losing both ways. We are not having the necessary convenience from these departments, at the same time they are not paying anything to the general exchequer. Let them reduce the expenditure by 10 per cent.

One thing more and I have done. There are the Broadcasting and Aviation Departments. I submit they must be commercialised as early as possible. The Honourable Member in charge of the department, in reply to questions put by this side of the House, always repeats that it is not possible to commercialise these two branches of administration. I say let him draw up a scheme, and say that within the next five years he would commercialise.

In conclusion I would say that it is impossible for me to exhaust the list. I request that a committee may be appointed as suggested in my Resolution. It is not enough for the Honourable the Finance Member to try to rehabilitate this country in the eyes of the world outside that he must get credit for the country elsewhere, by merely balancing the budget. You must get credit in the eyes of 37 crores of people of this country, otherwise this Government is not fit to remain in this country. Let them have our confidence and then get credit. Sir, I move.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Resolution moved:

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to appoint a retrenchment committee to consider all items of expenditure from Central Revenues and to suggest measures for curtailing the outlay with a view to reduce the total expenditure by ten per cent."

Mr. F. E. James (Madras: European): Sir, I beg to move:

"That in the Resolution for the words 'to appoint a retrenchment committee' the words 'that an estimates committee of the Legislative Assembly be constituted' be substituted; and that after the words 'Central Revenues' the words 'relating to the civil administration' be inserted; and that the words 'by ten per cent.' at the end be omitted."

Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Delhi: General): I rise to a point of order. The amendment is out of order.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I want to know from the Honourable Member, Mr. James, what he means by his amendment.

Mr. F. E. James: Do you desire me to proceed with my speech now?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member must explain first if the substitution of the words suggested in his amendment has anything to do with retrenchment of expenditure of the Central Government. In that case he will be in order. If it has nothing to do with retrenchment of expenditure of Central Government, then in that case, it will not be in order.

Mr. F. E. James: My amendment merely amends the Resolution to the extent of the method which is to be applied to achieve exactly the same object. The Resolution at present suggests that there should be appointed

a retrenchment committee to consider all items of expenditure from central revenues and to suggest measures for curtailing the outlay with a view to reducing the total expenditure by 10 per cent. My own amendment suggests that instead of a retrenchment committee, an estimates committee of this House should be constituted to consider all items of expenditure from central revenues relating to the civil administration and to suggest measures for curtailing the outlay with a view to reducing the total expenditure. The only difference between the original Resolution and my amendment is that my amendment seeks to replace an *ad hoc* retrenchment committee by an estimates committee of this House and it suggests that instead of limiting the curtailment of expenditure to 10 per cent., there should be no limit. The only further point is that this seeks to limit the purview of the estimates committee to the civil administration departments. I suggest that it is wholly in order. The object is practically the same. It is merely a substitution of a different method.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): As the Honourable Member has explained that retrenchment is also the object of his amendment though by a different committee, I must hold it is in order. It is for the House to decide whether the amendment would carry out the object of the Resolution or not.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Are we not entitled to urge our point of order before you give your ruling?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have heard the point of order. I have considered this point and I hold the amendment is in order.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: My Honourable friend, Mr. James, rose in his seat to move his amendment and you have heard his arguments in support of his contention that the amendment is in order. You have not heard our point.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I am not bound to hear arguments on every point of order. As I have considered this point of order and am prepared to give my ruling, that is quite enough.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena (Lucknow Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Is it not the rule, Sir, that if a person rises to a point of order, he should be heard before the Chair gives its ruling.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member can only state his point.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: We are not even allowed to state our point.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Sir, I may submit that I really wanted to state a point of order and unfortunately . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Exactly. I have understood the point of order and I have considered it and I have heard what the Honourable Member, Mr. James, had to say as to the scope of his committee. If the scope of his committee is to effect retrenchment, it is in order.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Of course you have ruled it and we are bound by it, but may I make a submission on behalf of my Party?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have given my ruling that it is in order.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: May I make a submission on behalf of my Party after having bowed to your ruling? It is extraordinary that under no circumstances can we make a point and state our case; and every time we get up.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order. The Honourable Member must resume his seat. It is not true that the Honourable Member is not allowed to make a point. The point had attracted my attention and I read the amendment. . . .

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: We have not the slightest doubt about it.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order. I considered the matter and I wanted to know from the Honourable the Mover of the amendment whether the object of the amendment is to retrench expenditure. He said that that is his object and that he is going to explain how his amendment is calculated to reduce expenditure. I, therefore, held that it was in order.

Mr. F. E. James: Sir, I trust that the House will appreciate by the time I have finished my speech that we are not in the least opposed to any reasonable suggestions that are made for curtailing the outlay with a view to reducing the total expenditure of the civil administration departments of the Central Government. My only difference with the Mover of this Resolution is as to the extent to which that inquiry should be made and as to the method which should be adopted to make that inquiry.

Now, Sir, in the first place it will be observed that we have excluded from the survey of any method of inquiry for retrenchment the Defence Department. We are of opinion that now is not the time for an inquiry with a view to retrenchment, that the real need as far as the defences of India are concerned is for reorganisation and re-equipment in view of the altered situation of the world. We also suggest to the House that at the present moment when wider questions of policy are under examination which may mean some difference, at any rate, in the distribution of the defence forces of India, thus leading to some redistribution of the contribution towards those defence forces, we suggest that moment is not a propitious moment for inquiry with a view to cutting down the total expenditure by 10 per cent. We suggest that these preliminary inquiries on matters of policy have priority over any suggestions that there can be a 10 per cent. reduction in defence expenditure. Therefore, Sir, we exclude Defence from the purview of this Resolution.

Secondly, I would call attention of the House to the fact that in the Central expenditure of the Government of India there are certain intractable items of national expenditure, there are interest payments, there are payments on account of pensions, there are payments on account of grants-in-aid to the provinces, which I have not heard should be included in the purview of this retrenchment committee; and there are various provisions made for the reduction or avoidance of debt. Therefore, if these intractable

items are taken out and if Defence is excluded we are left with the civil administration departments of Government which, as Mr. Ayyangar very clearly stated, involve some 11.81 crores in the next year, and in addition to that, expenditure on what may be called the revenue producing departments. Now, Sir, it will be observed, if Honourable Members examine the budget statement, that over recent years there has been a comparatively small margin of variation in expenditure on the civil administration departments of the Central Government. Variation has taken place from 10.77 crores in 1926-27 to the present figure of 11.81 crores in 1938-39. The peak of expenditure in these departments was reached in 1930-31 when the figure reached the surprising total of 13.84 crores. Sir, our contention is that under the circumstances what is wanted is not an *ad hoc* retrenchment inquiry but an inquiry as to whether the control over the growth of expenditure both by the Government itself and by this House is adequate.

Let me first of all refer briefly to the control over the spending departments by Government itself. The Finance Department which is, I take it, the equivalent in this country of the Treasury in the United Kingdom, is the machine for controlling expenditure and effecting economies. I have been informed in more than one quarter that this machine is at present operating with greater efficiency than it ever has done before. In fact I may say that from rumours one gathers,—and after all Delhi is a whispering gallery,—that the Finance Department at the present time is regarded as

Mr. K. Santhanam (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I rise on a point of order. In spite of his explanation the Honourable Member is conveying the impression that no retrenchment is necessary and that only the growth of expenditure has to be supervised. That is clearly a negation of the Resolution and his amendment is now out of order.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If that be the opinion of the House, the House will be entitled to reject the amendment altogether. But the Honourable Member has said more than once that his object is to effect retrenchment by means of an estimates committee as he proposes.

Mr. F. E. James: My friends are very impatient this morning. I was proceeding to say that my information is that the Finance Department is criticised in many quarters today as being a department which has assumed almost dictatorial powers over the other departments, not only in regard to expenditure but also in regard to their policy. And I was reminded of a saying of Lord Salisbury in 1900 in which he stated in the House of Lords that "the Treasury has attained a position in regard to the rest of the other departments that the House of Commons obtained in the times of the Stuart Dynasty". How far rumours are true I cannot gather, but I will say this, that when the present Finance Minister eventually lays down his office it will be recognised that one of the services he has rendered to this country has been the tightening up of the control of the Treasury or Finance Department over the spending departments of Government.

Now, Sir, I do not think there is any great criticism in this House as far as the power of the Treasury is concerned. Then there is the control of the Legislature and here I think there is definite room for improvement. There is of course the Public Accounts Committee, a body which is representative of this House, which conducts post-mortem examinations over

[Mr. F. E. James.]

the whole field of administration of the Central Government. It deals mainly with accounts and audit, and although I have criticised this Committee on more than one occasion for straying into realms of policy, yet I am bound to pay a very warm tribute to the accuracy and the thoroughness and the comprehensiveness of its work.

There has been, until comparatively recently, a Finance Committee which was constituted from the membership of this House, but that Finance Committee was limited to scrutinizing proposals for new expenditure. I have been a member of three Finance Committees, two in the provinces and one here. As far as the Committees in the provinces are concerned, I believe they served an extremely useful purpose, partly because their scope of reference was not quite so limited as was the scope of reference of the Finance Committee of this House. Not only did they scrutinize proposals for new expenditure and advise on supplementary estimates, but they were also invited to consider and initiate proposals for retrenchment. But one thing is common to all these three Committees of which I have been a member, and that is a tendency to encroach upon administrative policy; that certainly was the tendency of the Finance Committee of this House of which for a time I was a member. Now, for various reasons, that Committee has not been set up, and, as a result, the control of this House over the detailed estimates of the Government of India is practically negligible. We suggest that, instead of setting up a retrenchment committee from time to time to make *ad hoc* inquiries, the effective control of the Legislature over the detailed estimates is far better achieved by setting up an estimates committee, rather on the lines of the Finance Committee which would be representative of the House, and whose functions would be to examine the estimates and suggest economies consistent with the Administration's policy.

I may perhaps, Sir, remind the House of the Estimates Committee of the House of Commons, which I had in mind when I made this suggestion. That Committee consists of 28 members of the House of Commons. It examines the estimates in blocks; it makes suggestions as regards economies; its examination is detailed; it is not concerned with policy, which after all was the principal concern of the Finance Committee, but it is concerned with rigid control over the growth of expenditure in the department itself. My Honourable friend, Mr. Ayyangar, before the conclusion of his speech made certain detailed suggestions in regard to retrenchment both in the Finance and in other Departments. Well, surely an examination on those lines is far better done by an estimates committee of this House, which sits down from time to time with three or four Departments in order to examine the detailed figures of these Departments. There has been one difficulty as far as the Estimates Committee of the House of Commons is concerned. I understand a criticism has been made in the past, first of all, that this Committee is not concerned with policy, and secondly, that the estimates are not placed before this Committee until they have been accepted by the Government. As far as policy is concerned, it would be quite inappropriate for the Estimates Committee of this House to deal with policy, for they would then be impinging upon the sphere of ministerial responsibility, but I do think that if an estimates committee were set up, it should be in a position to examine the estimates before they were accepted by the Government of India and placed before this House for final ratification.

Sir, this amendment which I rise to move is in no sense an attempt to side-track the issues that have been raised. We believe that the inquiry should be continuous, that the scrutiny of this House over the expenditure of the Central Government should not be spasmodic, but should continue from year to year through the medium of an estimates committee, that its examination should not be political but administrative, that this inquiry should not be limited to suggesting economies to the extent of 10 per cent. but should be unlimited, and that the committee should be free to make such investigations and recommendations, as they think fit, in order to carry out the main object of this Resolution, which is to suggest measures for curtailing the outlay of the Central Government with a view to reducing total expenditure. Sir, I move.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Amendment moved:

"That in the Resolution for the words 'to appoint a retrenchment committee' the words 'that an estimates committee of the Legislative Assembly be constituted,' be substituted; and that after the words 'Central Revenues' the words 'relating to the civil administration' be inserted; and that the words 'by ten per cent.' at the end be omitted."

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

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at a Quarter Past Two of the Clock, Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) in the Chair.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I rise to support the original Resolution moved by my Honourable friend, Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, although I must say right in the beginning that I am not enamoured of the last three words in it, namely, "10 per cent." But before I deal with the points which I have in view, I should just like to say a few words about the amendment moved by my Honourable friend, Mr. James. I am afraid the amendment moved by Mr. James totally changes the nature of this Resolution. If he has an estimates committee in view about which we have heard quite a lot from the Honourable the Finance Member, then I am afraid he is altogether misleading the House by saying that he wants the function of this estimates committee to include not merely an examination of the estimates in block but also to go into the policy behind the expenditure.

Mr. F. E. James: I am sorry to say if my Honourable friend gained that impression, that it is wrong impression. I made it clear that as far as this House is concerned the estimates committee could not entertain policy because that will impinge upon ministerial responsibility.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I am very glad that Mr. James has made his position perfectly clear. It should now be patent to the House that his amendment is absolutely the opposite of what we propose by this Resolution, and it really should have been ruled out of order.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg (Finance Member): Is it in order for the Honourable Member to criticise the ruling of the Chair?

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): I do not think the Honourable Member (Mr. Asaf Ali) is entitled to do that.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I only said that it should have been ruled out.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: You are criticising the ruling of the Chair.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I do not give way. Mr. Deputy President, the scope of our Resolution is much wider than the amendment of Mr. James would like it to be. The Committee which is proposed by us has many precedents. We had the Inchcape Committee, we had the General Purposes Committee, we had the Army Advisory Committee, and there were one or two others which have preceded the one which we are now proposing. These Committees were appointed in spite of the fact that the Standing Finance Committee was in existence. In other words, the estimates committee which is supposed to take the place of the Standing Finance Committee,—although I may mention the little fact that the Standing Finance Committee became anathema to the Honourable the Finance Member for the simple reason that the Standing Finance Committee did go into the policy of the Government which was responsible for a lot of expenditure.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: The Honourable Member had better do justice. If he will refer to the Honourable Member to his right, he will find that it is pretty good anathema to him also.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: After having throttled the Standing Finance Committee, the Honourable the Finance Member has lately been talking about raising the Phoenix from its ashes. When it does arise and when the Honourable the Finance Member makes a definite proposal about the estimates committee, we shall examine it on its merits, and we shall make up our minds about it whether it is acceptable in the form in which the Honourable the Finance Member would like to have it or not. But in so far as this Resolution is concerned, it covers a much wider field. The activity of the committee which we propose is not restricted only to civil expenditure but to the entire central expenditure, which means the army expenditure, expenditure on the ecclesiastical department, and also the expenditure on external affairs. In other words, we want the entire expenditure incurred by the Central Government to be examined most carefully, to be scrutinised most carefully by this committee which we propose that the Governor General in Council should appoint, with a view to propose such retrenchment or such economies as may be effected consistently with the efficiency of the various departments on which this expenditure is being incurred. My Honourable friend, Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, who moved the original Resolution covered a good deal of the ground. He made a specific reference to the General Purposes Committee and its recommendations. Will the House be surprised to hear from me that the General Purposes Committee examined no less than 26 to 28 departments of the Central Government and proposed definite economies covering more than a crore of rupees, giving good reason for the economies which they had proposed? Will the House be surprised to hear from me that not only have not the Central Government carried out those economies but they have in many instances actually gone in the diametrically opposite direction to the recommendations made by the General Purposes Committee?

One instance was quoted by my friend, Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, the instance of the Information Bureau. The General Purposes Committee made a definite recommendation that it should be abolished, but the Central Government have gone on expanding it. Not only that, but I shall give you one or two other instances of a similar nature which have covered even larger expenditure by the Central Government. The General Purposes Committee recommended that the Civil Aviation Department and the Broadcasting Department, which were bound to continue to be spending departments for a very long time to come and would not be remunerative departments, should not be encouraged; in fact, the General Purposes Committee said that Broadcasting should be altogether stopped. What have they done since then? Until then—the Honourable the Finance Member will bear me out—the Central Government did not spend more than about 3 or 4 lakhs of rupees on broadcasting, but now we have earmarked as much as Rs. 44 or 46 lakhs, in any case it was certainly more than 40 lakhs, though it might be a little less than 44 or 46 lakhs. Civil Aviation is another case in point. Since the recommendation of the General Purposes Committee the Central Government have actually gone on sinking something like over a crore of rupees in civil aviation. And are we getting any return? Nothing, and for years together we can get nothing out of it. These are only two instances. If I were to recount all of them, perhaps it will exhaust all my time and more. In each instance, the Central Government have definitely gone in a diametrically opposite direction and turned down the recommendations of the General Purposes Committee.

I do not pretend to be a financial expert. In fact, I tread very warily where figures are concerned and I should leave it to other members of my Party or Members of the House to go into facts and figures regarding expenditure other than that which is incurred on the defence forces in India. That is a subject which I have examined from time to time and I can speak with some little authority on it. In so far as the defence expenditure is concerned, I think it offers by far the widest field to the Central Government for effecting economy. Here is a department which has never been under our control and it has recently been completely excluded from our purview and I shall tell the Central Government today or whoever else may be responsible for it that if ever any trouble arises between the Government and the country it will be over this expenditure and this expenditure alone, because the country is being ruined absolutely by expenditure which neither morally nor otherwise it is responsible or can ever be held responsible for. The British troops maintained in India by all accounts that we know are here only for purposes of imperial defence. I should like to know which of the other Dominions, Colonies or British possessions, which these forces are supposed to protect and whose interests these forces are supposed to guard, are contributing a penny towards the maintenance of the troops stationed in India. Sixty thousand troops, more or less, are maintained in India, not for our purposes but for purely imperial purposes and on these sixty thousand troops nearly half the defence budget is spent. Whatever I am saying is subject to the assertions and statements I have already made on behalf of my Party and on behalf of the Congress before now. It may be summarised in a sentence, namely, that we want the withdrawal of the British forces from India altogether. We do not want a single white soldier in India, but subject to that, for the sake of argument, I am prepared to go a step further and examine the case on its own merits. One third of the British forces are

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maintained in India for internal security purposes. We have made it clear over and over again that these forces are not required for internal security at all. That is only a blind. The other two-thirds of the British forces maintained here are not for Indian purposes at all. They are kept as a sort of base from which they can easily strike across the Indian ocean this way or the other side of the Middle East.

Yesterday I was reading an article by the special military correspondent of the *Statesman* who seems to know something about these things. He asserts that the war office and the India Office have got together for the purpose of devising ways and means of re-distributing the military forces. This is the time when the Government of India should cut in and say that India cannot be held responsible for any expenditure on British troops. I cannot go into details as unfortunately my time is very limited but this is the time when the Government of India should make it perfectly clear to the British Government that India is not prepared to pay a penny for the British troops unless it is definitely and clearly made out that these troops are meant only for India and for no other purpose, in which case, not a single soldier should go out of India if a war breaks out, because we shall require them in India. They ought not to be sent to Singapore or any other place. That is the test. Unfortunately my time is limited and I cannot examine the facts and figures more closely but my point is clear. Here is a field for the Central Government to explore and to come to the conclusion that India ought to be relieved of the burden of 20 to 25 crores of rupees a year which might be better utilised elsewhere, and then the Honourable the Finance Member may not really want to tax many people for the purposes which he has in view in spite of the fact that he claims to have perhaps greater love of the Indian masses than we have.

Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar (South Arcot *cum* Chingleput: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I rise to support the motion moved by my friend, Mr. Ayyangar, and I oppose the amendment moved by Mr. F. E. James. The amendment is a direct negation of the intention of the Mover of this Resolution. There is no purpose in constituting an estimates committee which is intended to allocate the available funds among the various departments. The object of this Resolution is to effect retrenchment in the different departments of the Government of India, including the defence services. Year after year we have been crying hoarse over this increase in the expenditure of the Government of India. Periodically retrenchment committees are appointed and they make their recommendations. The Inchcape Committee has made its recommendations and lately in 1931, the General Purposes Committee presided over by Sir Abdur Rahim has also made its recommendations. There has been a pretence of carrying out some of the recommendations while others have not been carried out. Even such of those that were carried out have been subsequently reopened. The Government of India or any Government which has control of the finances of the country has to be economical in the expenditure on itself. Even where retrenchment was effected in accordance with the recommendations of the General Purposes Committee only the Indian officers and Indian subordinate ministerial staff were reduced. The higher European officers were all retained. If a list were drawn up of the number of posts in the Government of India Secretariat to day it would be much larger than it was in 1931. A reference to the list of Demands for Grants shows that the staff has been steadily increasing year by year. The Wheeler

Committee and the Maxwell Committee have all made recommendations which aimed at increasing the superior staff, mainly the Civil Service element, as evidenced by the proposal to increase the number of Under Secretaries and the abolition of the posts of Assistant Secretaries held by Indians, and the reduction of the number of Superintendents. This device is calculated to increase expenditure rather than retrench it, since the European and I.C.S., elements carry huge salaries and special allowances. Either the services should be thoroughly Indianised, or new scales of salaries should be introduced in the I.C.S., cadre. All special allowances, including the Lee concessions must be stopped.

These increases in salaries and grants of special allowances were necessitated by a rise in prices during the Great War. Now that prices have fallen, and that permanently, it is but reasonable to reduce the salaries to the pre-war level. Any Government which governs in the interest of the people of the land will certainly do so. But the foreign Government that rules over us looks only to the interest of the foreign element. The limit of taxation has already been reached and the emergency taxation raised at the time of the war was all made permanent. The average income in India per day per head is less than two annas. Any further increase in taxation to keep the bloated Government of India staff going will be greatly resented. I want the Government of India to place a list on the table of the House showing the superior staff, both European and Indian, as it stood on the 1st April, 1931, and 1st April, 1938. We may take it that the strength is bound to be double if not treble.

I can give a few instances of extravagance still practised by the Government. Take the Customs Department. The General Purposes Committee recommended the abolition of overtime and holiday allowances. I find in this year's Budget a sum of 6 lakhs 33 thousand rupees is provided under this head. The customs officials, like other Government officials, are paid their usual monthly salary, and why should they get extra allowances? All Government servants are expected to shoulder as much work as is attached to a post. Why this special treatment for customs officials, passes my comprehension. There was a recommendation for the abolition of the post of Commissioner for Northern India Salt Revenue. No steps seem to have been taken towards its abolition. There was a recommendation for the reduction of the number of Members of the Public Services Commission. There was the recommendation that Joint Secretaries in all the Departments were not necessary. There was also a recommendation that the office of the Director General of Indian Medical Service and the office of the Director of Public Health should be amalgamated. There was also a recommendation that the Foreign and Political Department should be in charge of one Secretary only, assisted by two Deputy Secretaries. I am sorry to note that not one of these recommendations, which were expected to yield a substantial saving, was given effect to. What is most heart-rending is that the staff has abnormally increased all along the line. If I had the time at my disposal, I could go on enumerating for days together the sins of omission and commission on the part of the Finance Department. While sitting in judgment over the proposals for increase of staff in other departments, the Finance Department seems to be under nobody's check. Whenever and wherever it suits the Finance Department, they go on increasing their staff. I would suggest some steps by which there could be a substantial saving effected in the Government of India staff. All men who have attained the age of superannuation should be retired forthwith

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and their places filled up by new recruits on the revised scales of pay. No extensions should be given to anybody in Government service. On the other hand I am told that there are a number of officers in every department who have been given a second and a third extension. The age of retirement must be fixed in future at fifty years for both gazetted and the ministerial services. New revised scales of pay should be introduced for all people drawing the old scales of salaries, as and when they are promoted from one grade to another. These are not impracticable suggestions. Some of them are being adopted in the Provincial Governments, and the Provincial Ministers themselves are taking only Rs. 500 per month. Sir, Honourable Members of the Assembly have been crying hoarse over the revision of the scales of pay for the I. C. S., the I. M. S., and the I. P. S., etc., but our questions only received evasive answers. It looks as if the steel-frame services would enjoy their old emoluments indefinitely!

Sir, the waste of the taxpayer's money over the British army in India is too well known to need emphasis. The British army is the pivot round which all extravagancies are perpetrated. If even the British personnel in the army is replaced by Indian, not to speak of the officers, there will be a huge saving in expenditure, for each British soldier costs five times as much as an Indian sepoy. And then there is the systematic recruitment of British nurses, against which my friend, Colonel Sir Henry Gidney, used to protest. Indianization here will bring a substantial saving. And again there is the Army Headquarters staff. More than two-thirds of this is British personnel. And every Britisher costs at least twice as much as an Indian. This Department at least might be completely Indianized and much of the cost might be saved.

Then coming to the newly-opened Federal Court, why was there this haste? We are not in a position to know when the Federation is coming. Sir A. Ramaswamy Mudaliar a Member of the Council of the Secretary of State for India coming recently from England has expressed the opinion that the British Ministers there are indifferent about the coming of the Federation; nor are the Indian people anxious to have this unwanted Federation. And yet this Federal Court is foisted on us at a cost of more than two lakhs a year. What is the efficacy in this number "three"? If the Federal Court should exist, why not begin with one judge and then, as the work expands, you can appoint a second and a third judge. Something must be done in this direction also.

Then there is the Simla-Delhi move. Between 24 and 25 crores of rupees have been lavished on the construction of the city of New Delhi so far, and another 35 to 40 lakhs are being spent annually on its maintenance. A costly P. W. D. establishment is maintained to look after it. And yet it is abandoned for seven months in the year, and a huge sum is wasted on the exodus. Neither the British Government in England nor the French Government in Paris ever made any proposal to move their Governments to a different place during the bad weather months of November, December and January. It is some consolation to find that some offices are being stopped in Delhi this year. But at this rate it will take more than three years to complete the stoppage. At least 83 per cent. of the staff should have been stopped this year. The Assembly Session also, even from this year, may be held in Delhi. The Home Member the other day in answer to a question took shelter under the plea

that the Delhi Session is costlier than one in Simla. Who is responsible for that—I ask? He says that the conveyance allowances given to Members and the haulage charges for motor cars perhaps accumulate to a large figure, but what of the Delhi-Simla travelling allowances to Members? After all is it such a big sum, Sir, that these M. L. A.'s get? It is a flea bite compared to what the Honourable Members on the other side, the European element, get from this Government. After all who stands in the way of altering the rules and stopping these haulage charges and conveyance allowances even for the Delhi Session? Some of the offices are located in rented buildings in Delhi and Simla so much so that rented buildings have to be engaged the whole year in both the places though they are occupied only for a part of the year. The Army Headquarters office and some other offices for which Governments own accommodation is not available in New Delhi or Old Delhi may be permanently located in Simla Government buildings.

Then, Sir, a number of new departments have come into existence since 1935 and in the name of efficiency a number of foreign experts have been recruited at high rates of salary and its concomitant, the Lee concessions. In some cases it was stated at the time that they were employed only for a period of three years and that they would be sent back as soon as Indians are trained. Earliest opportunity must be taken to Indianise these posts and thus effect economy.

Then, Sir, a word about the Watch and Ward department. This department was created years ago with small beginnings and it has now become a huge organisation. As the House is aware, violence is now abjured and non-violence is on the lips of everybody and there is now no fear of any bomb explosion in the Assembly. The whole of this department may be cut down and economy effected.

The post of Deputy Secretary of the Legislative Assembly Department was recommended to be abolished by the General Purposes Retrenchment Committee and in pursuance of that recommendation the post was abolished. Now, Sir, on the plea that the rules relating to questions have been altered, the post of Deputy Secretary has been revived.

Then, Sir, I will appeal to the President of the Legislative Assembly to emulate the noble example of the President of the Upper House and abjure his salary during days when the Assembly is not in Session.

I would also appeal to His Excellency the Viceroy to cut out a substantial portion of his sumptuary allowances which come to the tune of something like five lakhs. I make this appeal to the agriculturist Viceroy that in the interests of the agriculturist masses of this country, he should forego a substantial portion of his sumptuary allowances. Under all these heads, I have no doubt that a reduction of not less than 20 per cent. may be effected. I submit the Resolution is a modest one asking for a reduction of only 10 per cent. and I appeal to the House to accept the Resolution and I appeal to the Government to carry out the object of the Resolution sincerely and honestly.

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie (Defence Secretary): Sir, I remember saying on the occasion of a similar Resolution in this House last September that the issues had become confused owing to the fact that the expenditure on defence was not deemed sufficiently important to be treated by itself, but was lumped up with the expenditure on every other central department of the Government. The criticism which I then made, still so far

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as I am concerned, holds good. I think that in the present state of the world, defence is a matter of sufficiently grave importance to merit not only the closest possible attention, but attention undistracted by subjects which must in the nature of things be quite irrelevant. From what I have heard of the Honourable Members' speeches, the main point which they wish to make as far as the defence services are concerned is the high degree of expenditure incurred upon the British troops. We have had that before, not once but many times, but the arguments which were adduced show that the British troops are still necessary in this country. The main argument I understood was that they were supposed to be used for internal security purposes, but that they were not required for those duties. With that, I respectfully beg to differ. I think they are as much required now as they have ever been. The number of them retained in this country is extremely small. I have heard the British portion of the army in India described as an army of occupation. It is, I submit, impossible for an army of well under 50,000 to occupy a country containing 860 millions of people. Apart from that there are still other reasons why British troops are still necessary.

Mr. M. S. Aney (Berar: Non-Muhammadan): An army of no occupation.

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: We all hope that our whole army in India will continue to be of no occupation in the sense that armies are ultimately meant to be occupied. Certainly, if we did dispense with British troops, we should be much more likely to find our army being occupied than we are at present.

Another reason why British troops are still required is that our army is necessarily small, very small, and we have to get the best value we can for our money. From experience we find that our present mixed formations do provide the most formidable fighting instrument we can command and they do give us the best value for our money.

In the third place, it must be remembered that the British army is trained and equipped primarily for the purpose of what is usually known as a major war. We hope that such will never fall upon this country. But in these days, at any rate, I think everybody will agree that it is wise to take a certain amount of precaution. Should need arise the British navy and the British air force must be relied upon to come to India's aid.

Mr. S. Satyamurti (Madras City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): If Mussolini permits the Mediterranean to be used, the British navy can come here.

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: I should be very grateful if I am not interrupted so frequently.

Prof. H. G. Ranga: We will be grateful if you remove your army of occupation.

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: Should a great catastrophe befall us, fortunately for India, she can count upon the most powerful assistance of England. But it is surely necessary in the sphere of the army that we

should be most fully prepared, as fully prepared as we can afford to be, in order to resist an initial onslaught. Now, as against the truly incalculable benefits conferred upon India by the presence of the British army, we have to weigh the fact that they cost more than Indian troops. I notice with interest that my Honourable friend, Mr. Asaf Ali, has again returned to his old figure of a saving of 20 crores and I think if I did not misunderstand him, he improved upon that figure and said 25 crores.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I include the external affairs also; that is part of your game.

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: That shows the difficulties caused by mixing up Defence with the External Affairs Department in the matter of expenditure.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Defence and External Affairs cannot be divorced.

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: That is so, but the expenditure in their respective budgets can.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: It should not be.

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: The Honourable the Finance Member will see to that. The figures, as the Finance Member pointed out last time, are not 20 crores but somewhere in the vicinity of 7. A sum of 7 crores approximately could be saved were British troops to be replaced by Indian. That would take some little time, but that would be the saving in sight. The remainder of the saving, pension charges and so on, naturally would not accrue for a very long time indeed. But anything like 20 crores

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Why do you dread scrutiny by a committee?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: We do not dread scrutiny.

Several Honourable Members: Then accept the Resolution.

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: On the other hand, not so far in this debate but in others, I have recently heard it stated that our defence arrangements were not sufficiently complete and that more money ought to be spent on defence. Here, on the other hand, we are asked to decrease the money spent on defence. Of course we would like to decrease the money spent on defence. If we could have all our defence free as we have our naval defence free we should rejoice; but to imagine that in present circumstances the defence of this country can be carried on at all on less than the present figure is a vain hope.

I heard with interest my Honourable friend, Mr. Mudaliar, state that both the Inchcape Committee and the Retrenchment Committee had made a certain amount of recommendations but that those recommendations had been carried out half-heartedly or not at all and that what results had been achieved from the sessions of those Committees and their reports had in recent years been largely cancelled. That, Sir, I submit, can be proved to be wrong by a single glance at the budget figures. I may

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remind the House that the reduction consequent on the Inchcape Committee's report was 13 crores and that in consequence of the Retrenchment Committee's report was 10½ crores; that is, 23½ crores saved since 1923. And of those 28½ crores nothing was spent on additional defence measures. I hardly think that so substantial a saving as that can be counted as half-hearted or petty; and the present figure shows that the results then achieved have not been seriously affected even by the necessary growth of expenditure caused by the necessity for having a more powerful and efficient force than we had before. The fact that the army and our defence forces generally have been raised in efficiency from 1920 onwards and that so far from a greater sum having been spent on them more

than 20 crores less has been spent on them is, I submit, nothing short of a triumph of organisation and efficiency. India has had for her money more than she could possibly hope and as a result alone of all the great peoples of the world does not labour under the burden of vastly swollen defence estimates.

Captain Sardar Sir Sher Muhammad Khan (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, since I have come to this House I have always heard the same tune played by my Honourable friends opposite.

Several Honourable Members: You also play the same tune.

Captain Sardar Sir Sher Muhammad Khan: The demand is to cut down the defence expenditure and clear out the British troops. I am sure my Honourable friend, Mr. Asaf Ali, knows very well the proverb which means that "You must go on with the wind".

Some Honourable Members: That is what you are doing.

Captain Sardar Sir Sher Muhammad Khan: Every country in the world wants an army. My Honourable friends must have seen in the papers what Hitler said that the day will come when he will lead the greatest army in the world. Mussolini is doing the same in Italy. Therefore, every country is increasing the army and mechanising it; only here my friends say that the army is much larger than is necessary and they want to reduce it and clear out the British troops. (Interruptions.) You do not listen to reasonable speeches and that is why you do not know anything about the army. My friends complained the other day that India is not mechanising the army; but how can that be done if you do not give money and cut down the expenses? You know Japan is preparing for war, and you have your enemy on the frontier

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Does the Honourable Member know what Japan spends on her army? She normally spends 30 crores all told on her naval, land and air forces.

Captain Sardar Sir Sher Muhammad Khan: She has spent more than that in two months in China.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: That is because of the war.

Captain Sardar Sir Sher Muhammad Khan: When the enemy comes here you will probably lie down on the road and offer satyagraha.

As regards defence expenditure, surely my Honourable friend, Mr. Asaf Ali, knows what British troops are here for. As my Honourable friend, Mr. Ogilvie, said, they are here for internal security purposes.

Several Honourable Members: We do not want them.

Captain Sardar Sir Sher Muhammad Khan: Possibly, but the country wants them. Even Mr. Gandhi wants the army because after the last communal riots he said that we are yet unfit to rule. You may cut down the expenditure on all other departments but please do not touch defence. Out of a population of 380 millions you could raise an army of 10 millions but only have 150,000 troops. You want a bigger army and a mechanised army. Instead of that you get up and play the same tune and want to cut down expenditure without there being any reasonable grounds for it. As far as I understand, and I think most of the Honourable Members understand, that the British troops are here for internal security and other duties. I say, as long as British troops are mechanised, Indian troops will also be mechanised on the same basis, and will be trained with them. Indian troops will get all the training from the British troops. Let them go away from India tomorrow—I shall be much pleased if they will go away—you will see what happens. Now, Sir, I beg my Honourable friends to be reasonable; they may touch other departments—I probably would have supported them had they done so—but when they touch Defence there is no sense in that Resolution. Do not cut down the expenditure of the army.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani (Tirhut Division: Muhammadan): Sir,* the wordings of the Resolution are quite clear, and the learned Mover has very well brought home the need for a retrenchment committee. An amendment to this has been moved by my Honourable friend, Mr. James. It consists of three parts. Firstly, that the name of the committee should be the estimates committee instead of the retrenchment committee. Secondly, that the scope of the committee should be limited only to the reporting on the expenditure connected with civil administration. Thirdly, that the words "10 per cent." should be omitted from the original motion. Now, Sir, so far as the first amendment is concerned, I must tell the House that the word "estimate", all the world over, is understood to mean expenditure and not retrenchment. The very word means computation of cost. It naturally follows, therefore, that the object of the committee would be to increase the expenditure rather than decrease it. I wonder to see Mr. James hitting upon this novel method on this particular issue. He says that such a committee exists in the House of Commons; but he must as well know that England, where such a committee is stated to be in existence, is a free country. The people there are always at liberty to put any interpretation they like on such committees. But this will not hold good in the case of India, which is a slave country. This then is a move for increasing the expenditure instead of decreasing it, and is, therefore, against the original motion itself. As regards the second part of the amendment, I would only say that Mr. James has very cleverly attempted to remove the heart from the body. Can he say whether the body can live without the heart? The spirit behind the expenditure is being kept up on the plea of "Defence". I doubt if, after accepting this part of the amendment, the expenditure connected with the External Affairs and many other heads of

* Translation of the Honourable Member's Speech delivered in vernacular.

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expenditure will remain within the scope of operation of this committee. The amendment, in these circumstances, is, therefore, quite unacceptable to the House. The third part of the amendment, Sir, does all the more tend to defeat the very purpose of the original motion. It would appear from Mr. James' remarks that he does not like the 10 per cent. reduction. That means that he is trying his best to set the original motion itself at naught. May I ask Mr. James, how long is his gaze going to be fixed on England? Having once declared this country to be his home it would be unfair for him to give it a cold shoulder. In the progress and prosperity of this country lies his own prosperity and that of his community. Let me request him to take greater interest in the welfare of this country rather than offer to retard its progress.

My Honourable Friend, Mr. Ogilvie, says that any reduction in the Army would be detrimental to the interests of the country and that reduction is impossible considering the present critical times. Let me assure him that I, for one, do not desire any reduction in the Army. I even hold that it may be supplemented if occasion arises. But that does not mean that British soldiers should be enlisted and India should go on helping the foreigners. Indian soldiers should be recruited instead of British soldiers. Even if the present strength is raised to one and a half times, the balance left over, I believe, would still be sufficiently large and would help to reduce considerably the worries of the Honourable the Finance Member, who would then be in a position financially to support other important items in the nation-building programme. Are Indian soldiers, the inhabitants of this very country, who are born and would die in this land, not fit to defend their country from the attacks of foreigners? Are they still to be tested? Is this not a fact that during the last Great War of 1914 Indian soldiers saved the honour and prestige of both Britain and France by sacrificing their own lives and gallantly withstood the onslaught of the Germany Army? Having proved their mettle there, it cannot be said that they would be found wanting when occasion comes for defending their own country. During the last Simla Session, I had stated in the course of a certain debate that Indian soldiers alone can best defend their country in the true sense of the word. They are the inhabitants of this hot country. They are inured to the climate here. They can bear both heat and cold easily. As against them, British Army is composed of soldiers belonging to a cold country. Just imagine their anxiety when called upon to fight in scorching heat. They want ice and iced fruit. Their gallantry lies in fighting under the spell of drink. It is a well known fact that a free soldier is better and dependable than a hired one. If Indian soldiers were enlisted it would, in the first instance, provide the sons of the soil with bread and the cost of defence too would be less. But Government would never accept this view. The reason is that the climate of this country has now got on their nerves, and they are bound to come to grief. The Hindus remained victim to the enervating climate of this country for a thousand years; the Moslems for 750 years; but it looks as if the climate of this country has begun to tell upon the English people within a hundred years of their stay in India. I wonder if they can stand it longer.

To Government, India is a pasture land. If the number of Englishmen in any one department is reduced as a result of agitation, a new department is forthwith opened to serve them as a new grazing ground. For instance, take the case of the Indian Telegraphs Department. Look at the

classified list. The total number of the graded posts is shown as 434. Of these, only 11 are Moslems, 74 Hindus and the rest, 849, Anglo-Indians or Europeans. This is a matter for consideration. What special qualifications do the Anglo-Indians or Europeans possess to be employed there in such large numbers? So is the case with Railways, Posts, Broadcasting and other departments. All these departments are out chiefly to help the foreigners.

Now, Sir, take the question of experts. This seems to be the exclusive privilege of the Englishmen. The right to pose as experts has perhaps been given to them for good. Lately, an Income tax Adviser was appointed in the face of strong opposition from the House. And what do the experts do? They never help the country, cross the sea of extravagance. There is no one to call a halt to their extravagant demands which are conveniently termed as expert advice. Their opinion is, at times, no good. I have already stated in this House in connection with the debate on the Railway Budget that in a certain case the opinion of an expert engineer was found inferior to the opinion given by an Indian engineer, and the result was that the railway had to suffer a loss and yet had to pay the London expert all his fees. This is how the British Government in India are helping themselves. On Government railways there is no limit to extravagance. This must be stopped. We have just had the Bhita tragedy. The Agent of the East Indian Railway has had a number of the rolling stock worth lakhs of rupees damaged in Jamalpur, all for the sake of experiment done to establish the real cause of the disaster. What sane man would risk all that? Who would invite a second disaster to establish the cause of the first disaster? This disaster was evidently due to the negligence on the part of the railway staff concerned. At the scene of the disaster the slippers used on the railway track were those of 1929. They had been eaten up by rain water and were not replaced. The story is different in other sections. Orders are suddenly issued by some brilliant engineer for the removal of wooden slippers and their replacement by iron slippers. This is promptly done. It does not matter if even strong, sound slippers are condemned in the operation. Let the news come that they have built a very good engine in England. The engineers here would at once fire off an order for the new locomotive. The engine has come but they have no use for it. This is how the money of this country is carelessly wasted. The whole object is to help the British and British Companies.

So far as the province of Bihar is concerned it has almost no share either in the Departments of Income tax, the Posts and Telegraphs, the Indian Army or in other all-India Services.

Poverty in the country is increasing and income is decreasing. That being so, Government should keep a careful eye on their purse. Although we know that Government will not go by our advice, yet we must tell the world that the claim of the British Government that they are ruling the country according to the wishes of the people is wrong. With these words, Sir, I support the original motion and oppose the present amendment.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai (Sind: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I entirely support this Resolution. This is not a new subject. There is an amendment that instead of a "retrenchment committee" an "estimate committee" should be adopted. I have much regard for Mr. James, but I must tell him the truth. The object of this Resolution is that there should be a curtailment of expenditure, not that the proposed committee should have power to increase the expenditure because the Indian people are sure and

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certain of the fact that the expenditure is too much and extravagant and should be cut down. Therefore it is that the Resolution asks that a retrenchment committee should be appointed. I do not see eye to eye with my Honourable friend, Mr. James, and I do not agree with him when he said that the expenditure on the army and the defence should be exempted from being referred to the committee. On the other hand, that is the main item over which we have been agitating and where we want the expenditure to be curtailed. It will be adding insult to injury if we ask the committee not to touch one half of the expenditure and, as regards the other half, to suggest something here and something there in the shape of retrenchment. If a committee is going to be appointed it should go into the whole question of reducing the expenditure and we should not reserve something as sacred. I do not propose at this stage to show that the military expenditure is too much. My Honourable friend, Captain Sardar Sir Sher Muhammad Khan, thought that we were as if at present moving a Bill or a Resolution to cut down military expenditure. No. The committee is to go and investigate into the matter and see whether they can reasonably curtail that expenditure. That is also the reply to my friend, Mr. James—that we do not say that at once, without any rhyme or reason, the expenditure on the army should be curtailed. We only want an investigation to that end. On several occasions, on the occasion of the budgets and on other occasions it has been abundantly made clear that the expenditure on the army is enormous and that it should be considered by a committee from that point of view. Mr. James said that the events outside at present are such that the expenditure on the army should not be reduced. We leave the question, whether the Indian army should go for outside help or not and who should provide for that expenditure, open to the committee. I hope my Honourable friend, Sir Sher Muhammad Khan, is in the House.

An Honourable Member: He is.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I am not going to admire myself as he did when he said that the reasons which he gave were reasonable. There is no wonder at what he said. After all, he has spent his life in the military service, and the discipline in the army is, you have to follow your master's voice. Habit is second nature, and have we ever found him different ever since he was returned to this House—I believe he is an elected Member

An Honourable Member: No. He is nominated.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Then it is doubly sure. He has only learnt this lesson that he should not oppose the expenditure of the army even though that expenditure may be unreasonable. Whether it is spent on the Indian army or on the British army he has got no liberty to give his own opinion. Therefore, I will leave him alone. The point at issue is this. Is economy required in the expenditure or not? In considering that question we have to see what is the popular opinion and what is the opinion of this House. On several occasions, and at the time of the budgets we have proclaimed that the expenditure is too much, that the Government is top heavy and that the expenditure should be curtailed. It may be said that retrenchment committees had been before appointed and they had done their work and shown what retrenchments could be made. But I submit that those retrenchment committees did not go to that limit to which retrenchment or curtailment

could be made. They only suggested at the time a certain limit to which the retrenchment could rise. But the committee which we now propose will go into the whole question and consider what further retrenchment could be made than what those committees had advised.

There are two ways in which money could be made. One is taxation, and the second is retrenchment; there is no third alternative. So far as taxation is concerned, the country is already sick at heart about it. The poor men, even the rich men so far as income tax is concerned,—they are overburdened, and they cannot bear any more taxation. It will be imprudent on the part of anybody to say that taxation should be increased. I have personal regard for the Honourable Sir James Grigg, but it is an irony of fate that he seems to have been born with a very hard heart. If he had sympathy with Indians, if he had been sympathetically serviceable to Indians which he has not been, he would have gone from here with a feather in his cap. But from the way in which he is proceeding I am sorry to have to advise him to change, but if he does not, then he will be greeted with either "Go back", or shouted at, "Well done. Sir James Grigg gone". What I mean is that sympathy is always necessary. We have seen ever since he came over here there have been these increases of taxation and he wishes everything to be squeezed out of the people. And what is it that he does? He does not touch vested interests, as has been said in the House. He wants income tax to be increased, and he has given us to understand that it is being increased in our interests. Now, he has the habit of saying that this increase in income tax is for the benefit of the provinces. The provinces want money. But I say, do not overburden the people. Why not make retrenchment, why not save money like that, and then give the provinces that money and they will be very thankful for it. The nation building departments are in the interests of the country, and an attempt is being made in the provinces to do nation building work. But their scope and their finances are too restricted. Therefore, it is very necessary that the Central Government should give money to them for increasing the amenities to the people. It is important that this question should be thoroughly investigated to find out which are those posts where salaries can be curtailed. At the top we always find that a lot of money is being spent. It is always said that the people at the top are few and, therefore, you will get more money only if you cut the pay of *patawalas* and peons. On the contrary, they should set an example and cut their pay as the Congress Governments have done and then they should talk of retrenchment in the lower grades. I do not want to go into very much more detail and I heartily support the Resolution brought forward.

Mr. Huseinbhai Abdullahbai Laljee (Bombay Central Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I do not think that many words are required to recommend the Resolution that has been moved, especially after the speech that we heard from the Honourable the Finance Member. I must really congratulate him. Here is a Finance Member who after four years has certainly been frank enough. He quoted from the opinions of Prime Ministers and Finance Members and we have every reason to believe that he realises that money is necessary for this poor country for its uplift. I congratulate him on the endeavours he made yesterday to get a crore and a half from those who can pay. The Honourable the Finance Member has said that a lot of money is badly needed for nation building and other purposes and, therefore, it is time that something is devised by which these needs should be met. Now, my friend, Mr. James, has also said that

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the real object behind his amendment is that he does want that the expenditure should be checked and gone into but after the ruling I would put it in this way, that he wants a regular check such as we are having in the Central Legislature in the Standing Finance Committee. I have also been a member of the Standing Finance Committee in my province for many years and I do feel that by the work of this Committee a lot of good is being done in these provinces. I have not had the honour of being a member here but from the information I have got I should certainly say that the amendment of Mr. James to have an estimates committee should have been in the form of a Resolution by itself as we would all welcome a permanent committee but the retrenchment committee that is wanted by all sections of the House including the Finance Member is for purpose of finding money which is badly needed.

Now, let us see our sources. Mr. Ayyangar has pointed out that you cannot expect a larger revenue from the customs and surely if you think of having more by customs revenue, you are doing a great wrong to your own country. Every country is becoming self-sufficient and if India is not going to become self-sufficient and wants to import, the result will be that her buying power which has gone down will go down further and the customs revenue as a result of that must go down and ultimately we shall get nothing nor this revenue. Therefore, I do think that we cannot rely a good deal on it and ought not to rely in the interests of our own country on the customs revenue. There was a time when the world at large thought that it would be a good thing if people could import and export without tariff walls, without exchange troubles and without subsidies and at that time everyone could fairly and squarely rely upon customs revenues, but in these times, if you believe in that policy, then after 20 years India will not be able to buy anything at all. Those people who for years together have been thinking of India as a good market have themselves felt now that this drain should now be checked as much as possible and I repeat that in every part of the world the policy is self-sufficiency with motives not so much for helping their own people but with the motive of exploiting the conquered countries. So far as that principle exists among nations, we ought to be very careful in relying upon customs revenues.

Then with regard to the excise revenue. There again, you cannot go on relying upon excise duties and I would ask one simple question. Matches were coming to India and I remember very well that lakhs and lakhs used to be derived from customs. During the war, we began manufacturing it and the result was that the industry was formed in this country and foreigners also came in and thereafter we put on a heavy excise duty and our own industry has gone down because the consumption has gone down very heavily too, besides competition.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: What is your conclusion?

Mr. Husenbhai Abdullabhai Laljee: My conclusion is that we are too poor and we cannot rely upon increase in the customs revenue or the excise revenue. At present we have got to depend upon one thing more and that is income-tax. Certainly by all means get at all those who can pay. I am not against that but we will have to and we must look into retrenchment as well. There is no getting away from that, at the same time we have to be practical men. We cannot possibly play at present

with the army budget. It will be bad thing, although it has been a great burden upon us.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I do not propose to play with the army but to make it more efficient, but I do not want the British troops.

Mr. Husenbhai Abdullahbhai Laljee: That is another point altogether.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: That is the only point.

Mr. Husenbhai Abdullahbhai Laljee: Every one must try and see this much that, there should not be extravagance but I repeat this is not the time to reduce the army when the world situation is so bad.

Now, Sir, the other important point is that every man who is paid a high salary should spend as much as possible of it in this country. I do not want to deny better salaries if people are honest and sincere. At the same time I repeat I want them to remain much in this country and spend the major portion of that money in this country in which case the burden will be reduced. (*An Honourable Member:* "What about old age? Where will they live?") There are places all over India like Kashmir where they can go. Finally I do feel and feel very strongly that the present moment is one when we should look into this all important question of our heavy expenditure, and that the expenditure must be scrutinised very carefully.

Sardar Bahadur Captain Dalpat Singh (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I rise to oppose this Resolution, and especially so far as the defence expenditure is concerned. Sir, Honourable Members on the opposite Benches do not know that the Indian Army has already been reduced very much; and that when war clouds are hanging over us all over the world, it is not the right moment to reduce the army any more. As a regular Indian Army officer I say that my experience of the British army is that it is very useful in the battlefield, because we have fought side by side together. The British and Indian mixed army has always caused a great strain on the enemy and the enemy has always fled from the trenches and run away when he was faced by the mixed army. My Honourable friend who spoke in Urdu said that the British soldiers are not fit to work in a hot climate. Well, I can say that that is not at all correct, because I can say that in Mesopotamia the British units and our British officers used to lead us just like tigers. (*An Honourable Member:* "Kut-el-Amara.") The second thing is that the British army is badly needed at this time for purposes of internal security. (*An Honourable Member:* "How many of them are needed for that purpose?") Sir, if a war breaks out tomorrow, one set of people will say in India, with regard to these internal security troops, "we do not want Hindu officers, we do not want Hindu soldiers", and another section will say, "we do not want Muslim officers, we do not want Muslim soldiers". (*An Honourable Member:* "Why don't you go and live in England?") Please listen. If war breaks out, and if there is no strong Government, then there will be bloodshed, fighting, looting, and for whose benefit are the British forces wanted? Sir, for the benefit of my Honourable friends on the opposite Benches. (Interruptions.) If you are wise enough, I would advise you not to talk about any reduction of the defence expenditure. I advise you that if you are sincere, and if you are sensible, you should insist that more Indian army should be raised and, if there is

[Sardar Bahadur Captain Dalpat Singh.]

to be mechanization, then more British troops also are wanted at the present time, because a great war may break out at any moment. . . You may light-heartedly say, "all right, let the British Government go away", but I advise you to make yourself well prepared and then you will not talk about any reduction of the Indian army

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The Honourable Member will please address the Chair.

Sardar Bahadur Captain Dalpat Singh: With these few words, I oppose the Resolution.

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

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, the Resolution which was moved by the Honourable the Mover here and the amendment which was moved by my Honourable friend Mr. James to me appear to be two different things altogether. Although my friend, Mr. James, in the beginning tried to put it thus that he meant retrenchment altogether, in his speech, however, he made it clear that his idea was to stop growing expenditure, and that matter is altogether different. I am quite prepared to say that what my friend, Mr. James, proposes as apart from the main Resolution would have been quite welcomed, because it is a real necessity that there should be an estimates committee which may check the day-to-day expenditure and the proposals which come before the Government, and the Finance Department may place those proposals before them in order to scrutinise them and see whether they should be sanctioned or not, and I can support that view if that was his object for the future purposes; but the question which has been proposed by the Honourable the Mover of the Resolution is this. What he means is this, that although in 1982 we had a committee appointed for retrenchment and that committee made certain proposals which were given effect to, later on, when the circumstances changed and it was found that we had better times, those retrenchments were thrown over altogether, and that not only has expenditure been restored but some new expenditure has been added on to that which was at that time before the Committee.

Here we find that the financial position of the country may not be very bright in future. Although this year we have the same Budget as we had last year, I do not think we can go on every year to have the same kind of budget, the same income and the same expenditure. That is very unlikely; and I do not think that as the prospects of the trade in the country are at the present moment, they will yield us the same amount of revenue in the next year as we expect this year. If we are faced with this question, then naturally we have to examine our purse before we can spend on certain items, and the proposal which the Mover has put before the House is that we must look into the matter carefully as we did in 1982, and a committee may go into all the details of the expenditure and find out whether, on account of the changed circumstances which have been brought about by the Provincial Autonomy, we can make any savings in the central expenditure. That is the main object of the Resolution. I do not subscribe totally to the speech which the Honourable the Mover made. I do not think that the committee should be appointed only to say ditto to what he has said. The proposal should be left to the Government in order to appoint such a committee as may be, according to their views, suitable to go into this question in detail. The

Resolution does not say that the committee should be composed of Members only of this House. The retrenchment committee is to be appointed by Government. That will be a committee in which the Government have got full confidence. It can scrutinise all items of expenditure and suggest where the expenses can be curtailed. That committee may consist of Members of this House, it may consist of some who are not Members of this House. There may be a few persons coming from the other House. We expect that that committee will have the confidence of this House as well as of the Government.

I am sorry to find that some differences have arisen during the course of debate this morning about the military side of expenditure and the civil side. I see there is no necessity to quarrel over that point. I do not see why one side should fight the other. I do not see why the Government should say that the military expenditure ought to be taken out of the purview of this Committee. I agree with my Honourable friend, Mr. Huseinbhai Laljee, that this is not the time, considering the world situation, when we should think of curtailing the army. By this I understand that he means the fighting units and the material which is wanted for the army. If he wants that this Committee should not have any say in the matter of changing the troops from British to Indian or *vice versa* or reducing the strength of troops or reducing the quantity of material used in warfare, I say that such matters will not come within the functions of the committee that is proposed by this Resolution, for the simple reason that this is not an expert committee which knows what kind of army is required and what kind is not required. The committee that is proposed will concern itself purely with the financial aspect. It will not be within the sphere of the committee to go into certain details. Certainly there are certain items which are incurred by the army which are purely of a civil nature although they appertain to the army, but in the very nature of things, they are civil. The retrenchment committee can surely go into such details. The Defence Department can also put up some of their men on this committee to safeguard their interests. I can give one or two examples. For instance in the P. W. D., on the civil side, certain rates prevail for building purposes. But the same rates do not prevail on the army side. The army people give their contracts at higher rates. For instance, if the Government rate for the P. W. D. on the civil side is, say, Rs. 28 per hundred cubic feet, for the same kind of work, the same contractor will be paid at a higher rate, say, Rs. 33 per hundred cubic feet on the army side. There is no necessity why the army side should pay more than the civil side for the same work executed by the same contractor. Surely the retrenchment committee can go into questions such as these and suggest economies.

Another question which has been agitating this House for a long time is the question of supply of food. The contractors who supply *ghi* to the army department do not supply the proper or the pure variety. No doubt the contractors are paid fat for the supply of articles which they are expected to supply in a pure condition. The retrenchment committee can surely go into this question and decide whether proper supply of food is made or not. Everybody wants that the soldiers should be supplied with good rations of the pure variety and they should not be supplied oil mixtures, which are really cheap. The retrenchment committee can go into this question and help the Finance Department in saving expenditure in certain directions. I am sure, Sir, that at least a crore of rupees could be saved in the Defence

[Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan.]

Department by this method only, if they are properly looked into. I have given these instances to show how saving could be effected.

I now come to the Civil Secretariat. I know that before the Finance Department the question of the creation of posts comes in. One department sends out proposals to the Finance Department for the creation of a post, say, Under Secretary. That department might put forward the plea that they were having two persons drawing high scales of salary and that they would be satisfied with an Under Secretary on Rs. 1,500 per month. So in the place of two persons who are proposed to be sent out, they create one post on a higher salary. No doubt the proposal looks innocent on paper and the Finance Department immediately sanctions it because there is a reduction in the number of personnel of officers. Sometime later on it may be that the same department comes again before the Finance Department saying that the work has increased and that they should revive the posts which were abolished. The Finance Department cannot go on checking every day and they cannot go on refusing sanction to the other departments who put forward proposals incessantly. Therefore, I submit you require some vigilance by a committee.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

It is urged that since 1932 the expenditure on the staff has increased enormously. Several posts which were retrenched have since been revived. A committee is certainly required to go into all these detailed questions. I think there ought not to have been any difference of opinion on this subject in the House. I think everybody ought to support the Resolution and I submit the Government also should welcome such a Resolution. That will save the Finance Department a lot of botheration and that will give the Finance Department a free hand to retrench the persons recommended by the committee and at the same time it will save them the odium of retrenching the people, because that responsibility will be that of the committee. With these words, I support the Resolution.

Some Honourable Members: The question be now put.

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

"That the question be now put."

(After the bell rang.)

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai (Bombay Northern Division: Non-Muham-madan Rural): Sir, it was never intended to shut out Sir James Grigg's melodious voice but I thought he did not wish to exert it very much and there was no need to call for a division at all. We have no objection to his addressing the House on retrenchment instead of on more taxation.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I was given to understand that there had been a considerable number of speeches and I did not know that Sir James Grigg had not spoken at all.

The Honourable Sir James Grig: Sir, I spoke to the Deputy President who was in the Chair and I said that though I was quite prepared to speak I had no desire to shut out other speakers who had given their names. I understand one other member of the European Group wants to speak and that is why I did not speak till now. It was only in order not to obstruct the proceedings but to protect the rights of other speakers . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I do not know what passed between the Deputy President and the Finance Member. I understood that many Honourable Members had spoken and that it was time to accept closure. However, if it is agreed, the Honourable Member of the European Party can speak now.

Several Honourable Members: No, no.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Then the Finance Member can speak now.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I am in the hands of the House and am perfectly prepared to speak now. I want to repeat that I am very anxious that my speech now should not be regarded as a desire to shut out other Members from speaking.

Sir, of course this debate today is only another rally in the game of tennis which has been going on between the Party opposite and Government for some months now—in fact ever since September when the Party opposite put down a motion to cut down military expenditure and other expenditure in order to provide large sums of money for the provinces all of whom said that they did not want any British troops kept in India. My retort to that was to analyse expenditure and to point out certain difficulties in the way of reducing expenditure, particularly defence expenditure, and suggesting that if only the Party opposite would support me in making the rich taxpayers pay what they ought to pay, the provinces would get money in that way. Now this is the return of that service. I have since then introduced the Income-tax Bill and this debate becomes very *apropos*, and the Opposition say, “Well, if you only save expenditure you will get not one crore for the provinces but 25, 30, goodness knows how many crores.”

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: Seven crores.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I have no doubt, Sir, that this old game of tennis will go on, particularly as it is always possible for the Opposition to outbid any modest schemes of my own based on the sager, sounder and more sober claims of reality. Listening to Mr. Ayyangar's speech one would have thought that if only you cut out a few posts here and there the world's great age would begin anew; nobody would pay any taxes—no income tax but only protective taxes; everybody works for nothing and everybody has everything he wants to eat and wear and everything in the garden is nice and lovely. But one point that Mr. Ayyangar forgot was the fact that every single one of his arguments I had answered in the debate that took place in Simla on the 8rd September last. I am very sorry that he paid so little attention to my arguments but I can assure him that they were extremely good ones. I must say that I feel a little depressed that that extremely good and carefully prepared and analytical speech does not prevent him from trotting out all his old shibboleths of every kind almost in the same words.

The Honourable Member who represents Sind here looks forward to the day of my departure. I must say that my departure from this country will be completely poisoned by the fact that Honourable Members opposite

[Sir James Grigg.]

proved so completely impervious to my reasons and reasonableness. To take only two examples in Mr. Ayyangar's speech, he poured out such a flood of eloquence upon us that in the words of Dr. Johnson, "Panting Time toiled after him in vain". I did however catch two or three of his suggestions and as far as I could make out one of them was this that there was no need to count the railways,—I am not quite certain about the railways and if he says he did not mention the railways I will immediately withdraw that,—but I am certain about the Posts and Telegraphs Department. He said it is all nonsense about counting the Railways and Posts and Telegraphs as commercial departments, and what you ought to do is to make Civil Aviation and Broadcasting commercial. Let us look at that a little. The revenue of the Railways is I think 100 crores a year, that of the Posts and Telegraphs is about 11 crores a year. He said sums of that magnitude need not bother us at all or any minor commercial considerations; they are all nonsense; but when you come to Broadcasting

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What I said was that we have commercialised these services. Therefore, it is reasonable to expect a large income to the public exchequer from these departments. I said, commercialise others also.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I understood the Honourable Member to complain bitterly that whenever he asked for the post card I trotted out the old argument that it is a commercial department.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: If I ask for the post card you say it is a commercial department. If on the other hand I ask you to contribute some money to the public exchequer you say it cannot be done. You are trying to defeat me at both ends.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: If the Honourable Member suggests that I am trying to have it both ways, I suggest to him that seeing that it is a device not unknown to his Party, I am entitled to use it too.

Let us come to this business of commercial departments. I have apparently slightly maligned him in thinking that he did not want the Railways or the Posts and Telegraphs to be commercial departments, but I do not think I have done him more than a mild injustice because his explanation seemed to be not materially different from my own version of it. Anyhow he said you apply the same treatment to Broadcasting and Civil Aviation and see what you will get. The expenditure on both these departments is of the order of Rs. 15 to 20 lakhs a year each, and the losses on them, taking a narrow commercial view, must be not more than a quarter of that, so that the vast economies which the Honourable Member expects cannot amount to very much. On the whole I do not think that his essay on commercial departments was a very large contribution to the problem of retrenchment. When he came to the question of interest on debt—I want to do him justice, perhaps he would regard it as injustice—I did not gather that there was any suggestion of repudiation in his proposals.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Not now, it will also be done.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: That promise is noted. I gathered however and he confirms it, that he does not advocate repudiation, but suggests that we should convert loans to lower rates of interest. What does he think we have been doing for the last seven years since 1931? I think I gave the figures in my speech on 3rd September, and my impression is that the savings on conversion are of the order of three crores a year, and that I suggest is no mean achievement. I also pointed out in this debate on 3rd September that one can only convert loans as they fall due or as one has options to repay them. The Honourable Member pointed out the parallel of the 5 per cent. War loan in Great Britain, but he seems to have forgotten that was repaid in accordance with the options provided in the prospectus: there was no question of premature payment or of breaking the terms of the contract. In so far as a similar process is possible in India we are taking advantage of it whenever possible. As I said in my budget speech which, as far as I can remember from subsequent happenings, was such that the opposite side collapsed and did not want to listen to any further arguments, we have the right of repaying the 5½ per cent. loan in this very year, and that the time of repayment depends on market conditions. Certainly Government will lose no opportunity of converting loans to lower rates of interest. But, as far as I am concerned, it is quite a pleasure, if unexpected, to find myself in the company of the Honourable Member in that at any rate for the next five years there shall be no repudiation.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Have you subscribed to any loan?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I am not talking of the repudiation of the contract with me, but a contract for a loan which is issued on the strength of a prospectus is a contract as between a borrower and a lender and—I do not wish to give a lecture on law in front of so many learned lawyers—the holding of securities based on a public prospectus is a right enforceable in law

Mr. F. E. James: The trouble is that my friend has had his own loans repudiated by the legislation of the Madras Government.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I quite see then why he is interested in repudiation.

Perhaps after this we might come to the subject of the debate. I do not wish to be unkind to the Honourable Member, but I am bound to say that he seemed to me to impinge on the subject of the debate very little. The subject of the debate is retrenchment or economy, and it is perfectly obvious from the course of the debate that there are two kinds of economy or retrenchment. The first is retrenchment in administrative matters, that is, taking the service for granted and getting it as cheaply as possible: that is a day-to-day process which ought to go on continuously. The second is retrenchment in matters of policy. The first is ensuring economy in the day-to-day administration, that is, you get the specified service as cheaply and as efficiently as possible: this is definitely a sphere in which I think an outside agency can help Government by keeping up a continuous pressure against extravagance on the part of the Executive. I will come back to that later on. In respect to policy, in my view, the proper course is for the Government to arrive at its own conclusions and embody them in the estimates submitted to the Assembly for such judgment as the Constitution allows.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: If we defeat you, you go to the Viceroy's House. What am I to do?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: My retort to the Honourable Member's remark is that I am very glad to see that his health is improving and his interruptions are becoming more frequent and vigorous. The Honourable Member will remember that the Opposition refused, on some pretext or other which I have as yet imperfectly grasped, the whole of our supply this year, and thought the whole activity of the Government should come to an end. That being so, it was necessary for Government to take counter measures.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: To spend what you like.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: No. Of course it is no good deceiving ourselves in this matter. The first kind of economy is the sphere of small, repeated and frequent economies, and the major scope for retrenchment is in the second. From the policy point of view, as I said just now, I analysed the expenditure of the Government of India in my speech of September. I have looked at that speech again, and possibly it would be very good for the House if I read it to it again.

An Honourable Member: You cannot repeat yourself.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: But I shall spare them that excess of joy, and as there is no means of doing what they do in the United States, that is, of circulating the speech without delivering it, I must give them a short resumé of it.

Sir, military expenditure has attracted a large amount of attention in this debate. There was a great variety of opinion and an interesting oration in the vernacular which I but imperfectly apprehended. But the Defence Secretary answered, and, I am bound to say that in the present circumstances I agree with him, that he would be a bold man who thinks there is real scope for economy in defence expenditure now. I am sure the Defence Secretary and the Commander-in-Chief would agree with me that it is the business of the Executive to pursue the question of getting good value for money relentlessly and day by day, but in the present circumstances the savings of a comparatively minor order which are possible by that process will certainly have to be reappropriated to speeding up the process of re-equipment of the army. Incidentally, on that the Commander-in-Chief in another place and the Defence Secretary here made an announcement as regards certain conversations which are going on with His Majesty's Government. Those announcements were of necessity somewhat laconic and it is impossible to add to them. But I think the House will agree that those conversations are of great importance. That accounted for 47 crores out of 88 crores of general budget. I then went on to another category of 20 crores of interest, pensions and grants to provinces, and pointed out that you could only reduce that by the simple process of repudiation. That accounts for 67 crores out of 88 crores of expenditure. Then I went on to analyse the other expenditure and pointed out that in the absence of drastic revisions of policy the scope for retrenchment was at the present moment not very fruitful. At the same time I do not wish to stand here and assume an attitude of great complacency and assume that there is nothing which can be done.

and nothing which ought to be done. I am perfectly aware, as certain other Honourable Members who have spoken in this House today are aware, that there are about in the world today, the economic world, signs, black signs which are not at all cheerful, in the first instance, to those who are responsible for the finances of the country, and secondly, not particularly cheerful to the victims or objects of my attention in the way of taxation. It may be that the situation will develop in such a way that drastic reconsideration of policy as in 1931 will be necessary. But I certainly do not want to be alarmist before it is necessary. I can assure the House that those signs are being watched with great care and with considerable anxiety and that there is no chance of the necessity for drastic action coming upon us unawares. At present the Finance Department have issued a warning to departments that they can count on no further new commitments of expenditure, and they have been called upon to review those new schemes which have already been put in the budget for 1938-39 and which it is possible to abandon without detriment to the public service. As I say, that is the step which is being taken at present, and I think the House will agree that it is not wise to be panicky before it is necessary and I suggest in the sphere of policy that is the proper place to leave the matter for the moment.

Then I come back to the administrative sphere. There it is in one sense a day-to-day policy, and in another, a long range policy, and it is possible to take steps to deal with that. A good deal has been said in the House today about the setting up of an estimate committee. Sir, I am prepared to make proposals, and I have a note outlining a scheme for an estimates committee ready, which I propose to hand over to Leaders of Parties as a preliminary possibly to agreement and action. That note contains an outline of a scheme and a memorandum setting out the position in regard to the similar body in the British House of Commons. I won't read out the note on the British Estimates Committee, but if the House will bear with me I will give them the main heads of the note which I propose to submit to the Leaders for their consideration. If there is agreement upon the lines of such a committee, Government will bring forward the necessary Resolution in regard to it during the Simla Session. The note is in the form of definite and rather categorical assertions. That is not adopted in any sense of any desire to imitate some of the leaders of the totalitarian states, but simply for brevity. This is the gist of my scheme.

First, the committee will consist—perhaps I should say, should consist—of 15 non-official members elected by the Assembly for a year. But there ought to be a convention that all prominent Parties of the non-Government benches should be represented on it. The committee should elect its own Chairman. Second, the Deputy Secretary in the Finance Department dealing with the budget will be the Secretary of the committee. Third, the terms of reference of the committee will be to suggest any changes in the form in which the estimates may be presented to the Legislature and to report what, if any, economies consistent with the policy implied in those estimates may be effected therein. I think I am right in saying that those terms of reference reproduce almost exactly the terms of reference to the British Estimates Committee. The committee will be purely an advisory body. The committee will examine each year with the help of departmental officers the group of estimates selected by the Finance Department. Then I make a suggestion for the

[Sir James Grigg:]

first group of estimates. The estimates will be referred to the committee only after they had been presented to the Assembly and the committee will not report until after the estimates had been voted. The last item requires a certain amount of explanation. One of the defects of the old Standing Finance Committee—Mr. Satyamurti can think of a good many more—one of the defects of the old Standing Finance Committee was that none of the new services could be disclosed until just before the volume of demands was presented to the House on the 28th February each year on the budget day. All those new services had to be submitted to the Standing Finance Committee in the two or three days before that day at a time when Members of the House were very curious and the Finance Member was very busy. What tended to happen was, either the committee passed them without due regard to the administrative aspects of the case, by which I mean, the cheapest way in which it should be done, or some Members opposed them on general political grounds. That being so, the short time which was allowed for effective discussion was a definite bar against any serious or rational consideration by the committee. Other Members in the House have pointed out that another objection to the Standing Finance Committee was that once a project got by that Cerberus it was saved for ever and there was no question of reopening it except on the initiative of the Executive. I think both those defects are got over by this new scheme and in order to get over those defects properly the *modus operandi* should be that the committee should take a block of estimates, examine it, without any regard to having to produce their report in time for the current year's debates and report to the Assembly. The Government would consider the suggestions and recommendations made by this committee, in time to embody such of them as are accepted in the estimates for the following year and as this process would be a continuous one, going on from year to year, taking a block of estimates each year in a certain period of time, the whole field of demands for expenditure would have been scrutinised from this administrative point of view.

As Mr. Asaf Ali pointed out, there was a definite clash of ideal between the amendment and the main Resolution. I do not agree with him that the scope of the Estimates Committee was infinitely smaller than the scope of his proposal but I have given reasons, I hope, for deprecating any Retrenchment Committee which was directed to matters of policy but have suggested to the House that, at any rate this time, the House should set up machinery for a continuous scrutiny of expenditure from the administrative point of view. That being so, obviously the Government would be perfectly prepared to accept, if that were agreeable to the House, the amendment proposed by the European Group.

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

"That the question be now put."

The motion was adopted.

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

"That in the Resolution for the words 'to appoint a retrenchment committee' the words 'that an estimates committee of the Legislative Assembly be constituted' be substituted; and that after the words 'Central Revenues' the words 'relating to the civil administration' be inserted; and that the words 'by ten per cent.' at the end be omitted."

The Assembly divided:

AYES—45.

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.
 Chambers, Mr. S. P.
 Chanda, Mr. A. K.
 Conran-Smith, Mr. E.
 Dalal, Dr. R. D.
 Dalpat Singh, Sardar Bahadur Captain.
 Fazl-i-Ilahi, Khan Sahib Shaikh.
 Gidney, Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry.
 Gilbert, Mr. L. B.
 Griffiths, Mr. P. J.
 Grigg, The Honourable Sir James.
 James, Mr. F. E.
 Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sir.
 Kamaluddin Ahmed, Shams-ul-Ulema.
 Kushalpal Singh, Raja Bahadur.
 Lloyd, Mr. A. H.

Mackeown, Mr. J. A.
 Matthews, Mr. V. G.
 Maxwell, The Honourable Mr. R. M.
 Menon, Mr. P. A.
 Metcalfe, Sir Aubrey.
 Miller, Mr. C. C.
 Ogilvie, Mr. C. M. G.
 Rahman, Lieut.-Col. M. A.
 Row, Mr. K. Sanjiva.
 Scott, Mr. J. Ramsay.
 Sen, Rai Bahadur N. C.
 Shahban, Mr. Ghulam Kadir Muhammad.
 Sheehy, Mr. J. F.
 Sher Muhammad Khan, Captain Sardar Sir.
 Sivraj, Rao Sahib N.
 Smith, Lieut.-Colonel H. C.
 Spence, Mr. G. H.
 Stewart, The Honourable Sir Thomas.
 Sukthankar, Mr. Y. N.
 Sundaram, Mr. V. S.
 Walker, Mr. G. D.
 Zafullah Khan, The Honourable Sir Muhammad.

NOES—57.

Abdul Ghani, Maulvi Muhammad.
 Abdul Qaiyum, Mr.
 Abdul Wajid, Maulvi.
 Abdur Rasheed Chaudhury, Maulvi.
 Aney, Mr. M. S.
 Asaf Ali, Mr. M.
 Ayyangar, Mr. M. Ananthasayanam
 Azhar Ali, Mr. Muhammad.
 Chaliha, Mr. Kuladhar.
 Chattanadhyaya, Mr. Amarendra Nath.
 Chaudhury, Mr. Brojendra Narayan.
 Chettiar, Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam.
 Chetty, Mr. Sami Venkatachelam
 Das, Mr. B.
 Das, Pandit Nilakantha.
 Datta, Mr. Akhil Chandra.
 Desai, Mr. Bhulabhai J.
 Deshmukh, Mr. Govind V.
 Essak Sait, Mr. H. A. Sathar H
 Gadgil, Mr. N. V.
 Ghiasuddin, Mr. M.
 Govind Das, Seth.
 Gupta, Mr. K. S.
 Hans Raj, Raizada.
 Hosmani, Mr. S. K.
 Jedhe, Mr. K. M.
 Jogendra Singh, Sirdar.
 Joshi, Mr. N. M.

Kailash Behari Lal, Babu.
 Lahiri Chaudhury, Mr. D. K.
 Lalchand Navalrai, Mr.
 Laljee, Mr. Husenbhai Abdullahhai.
 Maitra, Pandit Lakshmi Kanta.
 Malaviya, Pandit Krishna Kant.
 Mangal Singh, Sardar.
 Mudaliar, Mr. C. N. Muthuranga.
 Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi, Qazi.
 Paliwal, Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta.
 Pande, Mr. Badri Dutt.
 Parma Nand, Bhair.
 Raghubir Narayan Singh, Choudhuri.
 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.
 Sheodass Daga, Seth.
 Sikandar Ali Choudhury, Maulvi.
 Singh, Mr. Ganri Shankar.
 Sinha, Mr. Satya Narayan.
 Som Mr. Suryya Kumar.
 Subedar, Mr. Manu.
 Varma, Mr. B. B.
 Yamin Khan, Sir Muhammad.

The motion was negatived.

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

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to appoint a retrenchment committee to consider all items of expenditure from Central Revenues and to suggest measures for curtailing the outlay with a view to reduce the total expenditure by ten per cent."

The motion was adopted.

RESOLUTION RE APPOINTMENT OF AN ENQUIRY COMMITTEE FOR THE BROADCASTING DEPARTMENT.

Sardar Mangal Singh (East Punjab: Sikh): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to appoint a committee, with a non-official majority and including experts, to enquire into the working of the Broadcasting Department, to make recommendations regarding its working in the future so as to make it more efficient and popular and also to suggest measures for encouraging the manufacture of radio goods in India with a view to making the country self-sufficient."

Sir, the object of this Resolution is to improve the working of the Department and to overhaul the whole administrative machinery so as to make it more efficient and economical. The Broadcasting Department, Sir, is very important from the point of view of national development, particularly, in modern times. This has been used in other countries as one of the most important instruments for nation-building. I am, therefore, of the opinion that this Department should be developed in this country on proper and healthy lines. I do not think the Government of India will come forward and oppose this Resolution and put forward the plea—as did my Honourable friend, the Defence Secretary—that there are any secrets in this Department which the Government would not like to share with the Honourable Members of this House. The object of the Resolution is to improve the administration. I do not think there is any Honourable Member of this House who would seriously maintain that there are no defects in this Department. There has been a very severe criticism of the working of this Department in the press and on the floor of this House and serious charges have been levelled against the responsible officers and the Department as a whole and up to this time the Government have not thought fit to repudiate those charges and vindicate the position of the Department or that of the Government of India.

I am sorry that this Department has commenced working at a disadvantage. This Department has suffered from the plethora of experts brought down here from the foreign countries. Sir, it looks as if the Department was created to accommodate certain experts who could not find jobs in their own countries. To begin with, the Government of India invited an expert without trying to ascertain whether they could find a similar expert in this country. They did not make any effort to see whether a competent Indian would be available to advise the Government of India as to on what lines the Broadcasting Department is to be run. Sir, I maintain that a sufficient number of Indians is available in this country who could very well advise the Government of India, but they quietly, without advertising, without taking this House into their confidence, invited an expert to conduct inquiries. This expert conducted inquiries and wrote a report but nobody knows what inquiries he made and what is the report he wrote and so far that report has not seen the light of day. The Government of India kept the report confidential; presumably there may be something which was against the intentions of the Government of India, otherwise there could be no reasonable objection in suppressing that report. That report after all presumably dealt with the new Department. No serious consideration of State was there to suppress that report but the Government of India did not think it fit to publish that. From one expert they went to another expert. They invited these experts, I won't name them. I do not mean any personal reflection but

it is my painful duty to point out to this House by making references to persons though not by name but the public would be able to trace those gentlemen. Another expert was invited, to be the head of this Department. What were his qualifications, what was the amount of pay he was drawing there, what position was he holding there? On all these points various questions have been asked in this House but no satisfactory reply so far has come forward. It is well known that the gentleman in question was holding a post which was considered superfluous, and for him—I am sorry to make these remarks—some job was to be found. We were informed that the gentleman in question was influentially connected in England, and therefore he got this job here. As to the salary he was drawing, I have been informed that he was drawing a small salary of £1,000 per annum, but here he has been offered more than Rs. 2,000 per month because India is a poor country and so we can afford to pay these fine experts several times more than what they get in their own country.

There is a third expert, the Chief Engineer in charge and he is also a foreign expert. But what sort of expert is he? A question was put in this House as follows:

"Will the Honourable Member state how much experience Mr. Goyder has had? What posts did he hold prior to his present appointment and for what period? What was the last salary he was drawing and what is his present salary?"

The answer was:

"I am sorry I have no detailed information on these points."

What information? There are no qualifications to make enquiries into. Otherwise what was the difficulty on the part of the Government Member to make enquiries about his qualifications?

Mr. M. S. Aney (Berar: Non-Muhammadan): There was nothing to enquire.

Sardar Mangal Singh: The answer continues:

"Mr. Goyder was employed in the B. B. C. prior to his present appointment and was appointed on the strong recommendation of Sir Noel Ashbridge."

The recommendation of Sir Noel Ashbridge was his only qualification.

My point is this. All these gentlemen, the so-called experts, who are appointed have really no proper qualifications, Indians with much better qualifications are available if only the Government of India would care to consider their case.

Then as regards the question as to how this expert Engineer goes about his work, I will quote a short extract from the *Modern Review*. This is what Prof. Saha, the well known scientist says:

"It is well known that when a transmitter is set up in any place, the ground signal may not be transmitted to a long distance if the soil is not suitable and the transmitter may fail to serve the area for which it is set up. Therefore it is the practice when a station is to be set up the necessary investigations are to be made."

Now, Sir, there was a question about that:

"Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state whether any preliminary investigations regarding the electrical properties of the ground at Lucknow and other transmitting stations were made before setting up a transmitter."

[Sardar Mangal Singh.]

The answer was:

"Yes. Adequate investigations regarding the electrical properties of the ground at Lucknow and other transmitting stations were made by the Chief Engineer, All-India Radio."

As to what was the nature of the investigation, the same gentleman writes:

"With respect to this answer, I wish to inform you that the Chief Engineer of the All-India Radio, Mr. Goyder, recently visited my laboratory at Allahabad and told me definitely that no investigations regarding the electrical properties at Lucknow were made prior to the selection of the site. He said that he and Dr. Wali Muhammad, Professor of Physics at Lucknow, simply went out in a car and selected the site after a few minutes drive. Dr. Wali Muhammad was also present while I was having this conversation with Mr. Goyder. So, if this is research for measurement of soil constants, I do not know what further remarks to make."

Now, Sir, this is the sort of investigation which they make prior to setting up transmitting stations. My point is this. This Department is going on haphazardly. There is no plan, there is no method, there is no policy behind it. Take any branch of this Department, whether it is broadcasting, or selection of artists or whether it is the establishment, there is no plan behind it. Everything is being done in a haphazard way.

An Honourable Member: It is a new department, let it go quick.

Sardar Mangal Singh: I won't mind if it goes quick, provided it does not spend such a huge sum of the tax-payer's money without any purpose and without making proper enquiries. How do they proceed in England? Sir, from 1923 up to this time, they have appointed four committees of enquiry in order to make improvements in the broadcasting department in England. In this country so far no committee has been appointed. This is the first time that we are coming forward to urge upon the Government of India to appoint a committee to make enquiry and to overhaul the Department so that it may work efficiently and economically and so that it may give proper return for the tax-payer's money that is spent on it.

As regards the establishment, it is a sorry tale that I have to divulge to the House. Appointments are made at the sweet will and pleasure, at the whim and fancy of the officers. Out of 110 appointments made by this department, about 70 appointments have been made arbitrarily by the officers. There was no committee of selection, there was no reference to the Public Services Commission. It is, therefore, no wonder that there is favouritism, there is nepotism and if I may say so—I am sorry for it—there is corruption and jobbery in this Department. Appointments are made to favour certain individuals. The candidates are selected without having any regard to their qualifications, without having any regard to their experience. I do not want to make any reference to particular individuals. But it is generally well known that instead of the B. B. C. in England, we have here the Bokhari Brothers Corporation (B. B. C.)

Mr. M. Ghiasuddin (Punjab: Landholders): I rise to a point of order. Can the Honourable Member refer to an officer of the Crown like this? He is not here to defend himself?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I think the Honourable Member disclaimed any intention of charging any particular officer with corruption. Having regard to that disclaimer I do not think he is out of order.

Mr. M. Ghiasuddin: But he has mentioned by name one of the officers of the Department.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): All that the Honourable Member is saying is that certain appointments are made which are irregular.

Sardar Mangal Singh: I am sorry that the Honourable Member, who interrupted me, did not listen to what I said at the beginning of my speech. At the beginning of my speech I made it clear that I have absolutely no intention of casting any reflection on any particular officer; but the fact remains that in this Department members of certain family predominate. As compared with the other Departments of the Government of India, the starting salaries are comparatively very high. Here is the case of a Matriculate, one Mr. Bhatnagar who began on 10th July 1937 as an assistant

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I think the Honourable Member had better not mention names.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Very well, Sir, I will not mention names. But here is the case of a Matriculate who was appointed on a starting salary of Rs. 245. Another matriculate was appointed on Rs. 250 and he is now getting Rs. 400. Then, Sir, there are promotions in this Department. Appointments were made in 1936 and within two years promotions have been given to the extent of 200 per cent. Here is a gentleman who was drawing, I am told, Rs. 100 before he joined this Department. He was taken on Rs. 300 and within two years he is now getting Rs. 775. Whether this is broadcasting or "fraud-casting" the House will judge. I am only sorry that under the very nose of the Government of India there is corruption in this Department, there is jobbery and undue favouritism. I submit with regret that it is a disgrace to the Government of India to tolerate such a state of affairs in this department. There are all sorts of stories; I have heard the All India Radio Department being called the "All India *Randio* Department".

As there are arbitrary appointments in this Department so are there arbitrary dismissals also. During the last three or four months at one time there have been on an average two dismissals a day. Recently a case has come to my notice where a gentleman, who was very highly spoken of in this Department and was never told that he was inefficient, got a notice a few days ago that he was inefficient and perhaps undesirable and that he should go; and he has gone. And for what? I will not mention any names, but in his place an appointment was made which is open to question. I will not say more than that. Let the Honourable Member make inquiries into this case and he will find that there is something fishy about it. As we say in the Punjab, there is *dāl men kālā kālā*. If the Honourable Member makes inquiries he will find out why this particular man was turned out, and who has been brought in his place recently. And probably this has been done in order to show to us Members of this Assembly that in spite of these Resolutions and questions the

[Sardar Mangal Singh.]

Almighty who is in charge of this Department does not care for public opinion. I, therefore, request the Honourable Member to make personal inquiries into these appointments and dismissals. There is always generally some motive to accommodate a certain individual and turn out another. I hope the Government of India will no longer tolerate such a state of affairs in this Department. For these reasons I submit that it has become eminently necessary that a committee of this House should look into this matter and put this Department on a sound footing and on proper lines.

In England, as I have already said, there were several commissions and in Canada also a properly constituted commission was appointed which went to other countries, made a report and then the department was organised. In Germany too the department was properly organised after making inquiries. But in this country the Government of India have not taken any steps to make inquiries from all points of view and then formulate a definite policy. May I ask the Honourable Member what steps this Department is taking to train Indians to hold technical posts? Three years have passed and nothing has been done. In Switzerland, which is backward like us, they started that way. When they started they entered into an agreement with a company and the Government agreed to purchase certain equipments and materials from that company and that company undertook to train Swiss young men who would take charge of that department afterwards. Government there did not have to send out money as we are doing here. At present the radio sets, transmitting equipments, receiving instruments,—all are being imported from foreign countries. As I said India is considered a dumping ground not only for experts but also for traders. They will manufacture certain articles and sell them in this country and make money. From this point of view also we have to consider how and by what methods this country can be made self-sufficient and self-supporting. This Broadcasting Department is a very important department. It spends money now to the tune of about 22 lakhs, and I hope this expenditure will go on increasing in future, but we have at present no definite policy and no programme. I submit that the Government of India should come forward and accept this proposal and overhaul this Department and put it on a proper footing so that it may serve the purpose for which it has been created.

Sir, I move.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Resolution moved:

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to appoint a committee, with a non-official majority and including experts, to enquire into the working of the Broadcasting Department, to make recommendations regarding its working in the future so as to make it more efficient and popular and also to suggest measures for encouraging the manufacture of radio goods in India with a view to making the country self-sufficient."

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 11th April, 1938.