

THE 2nd March 1938  
**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES**

(Official Report)

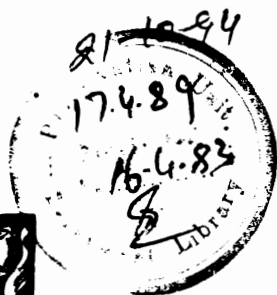
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Volume II, 1938

*(23rd February to 23rd March, 1938)*

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**SEVENTH SESSION**  
**OF THE**  
**FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,**  
**1938**



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1938

M77LAD

# Legislative Assembly.

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MR. N. M. JOSHI, M.L.A.

MR. L. C. BUSS, M.L.A.

# CONTENTS.

VOLUME II.—23rd February to 23rd March, 1938.

	PAGES.		PAGES.
<b>WEDNESDAY, 23RD FEBRUARY, 1938—</b>		<b>THURSDAY, 24TH FEBRUARY, 1938—contd.</b>	
Starred Questions and Answers . . . . .	1001—24	The Railway Budget—List of Demands—contd. . . . .	1104—56
Unstarred Questions and Answers . . . . .	1024	Demand No. 1—Railway Board . . . . .	1104—19
Statements laid on the Table . . . . .	1024—25	Failure to completely Indianise the Railway Services and the Railway Board . . . . .	1104—19
The Railway Budget—List of Demands . . . . .	1025—71	Demand No. 12—Open Line Works. . . . .	1120—43
Demand No. 6-E.—Working Expenses—Expenses of Traffic Department . . . . .	1025—37	Manufacture of Locomotives in India . . . . .	1120—43
Economy . . . . .	1025—37	Demand No. 6-F.—Working Expenses—Expenses of General Departments . . . . .	1143—52
Demand No. 1—Railway Board . . . . .	1037—43	Stores Department . . . . .	1143—52
Non-issuing of fortnightly, monthly and 45-days Return Tickets on the Assam Bengal Railway . . . . .	1037—42	Demand No. 6-B.—Working Expenses—Maintenance and Supply of Locomotive Power . . . . .	1152—53
Demand No. 6-E.—Working Expenses—Expenses of Traffic Department . . . . .	1043—60	Disregard of certain Recommendations of the Pope Committee . . . . .	1152—53
Catering Arrangements under the control of Agents . . . . .	1043—60	Demand No. 1—Railway Board . . . . .	1153
Demand No. 3—Miscellaneous Expenditure . . . . .	1060—71	Demand No. 2—Audit . . . . .	1153
Conditions of Labour and the system of supplying Coolies . . . . .	1060—71	Demand No. 3—Miscellaneous Expenditure . . . . .	1153
<b>THURSDAY, 24TH FEBRUARY, 1938—</b>		Demand No. 5—Payments to Indian States and Companies . . . . .	1153
Starred Questions and Answers . . . . .	1073—1101	Demand No. 6-A.—Working Expenses—Maintenance of Structural Works . . . . .	1154
Unstarred Questions and Answers . . . . .	1101—04	Demand No. 6-B.—Working Expenses—Maintenance and Supply of Locomotive Power . . . . .	1154
Motion for Adjournment <i>re</i> Molestation of an Indian Girl and Firing on Rescuers by European Soldiers in Muttra District—Postponed to next day . . . . .	1104		

	PAGES.		PAGES.
THURSDAY, 24TH FEBRUARY, 1938— <i>concl'd.</i>		FRIDAY, 25TH FEBRUARY, 1938— <i>cont'd.</i>	
The Railway Budget—List of Demands— <i>concl'd.</i>		The Indian Tea Control Bill—Discussion on the Consideration of clauses not concluded . . . . .	1198— 1220, 1221—31.
Demand No. 6-C.—Work- ing Expenses—Mainte- nance of Carriage and Wagon Stock . . . . .	1154	Motion for Adjournment <i>re</i> Molestation of an Indian Girl and firing on Res- cuers by European Sol- diers in Muttra District— Disallowed . . . . .	1220-1221
Demand No. 6-D.—Work- ing Expenses—Mainte- nance of Ferry Steamers and Harbours . . . . .	1154	SATURDAY, 26TH FEBRUARY, 1938—	
Demand No. 6-E.—Work- ing Expenses—Expenses of Traffic Department . . . . .	1154	Presentation of the Budget for 1938-39 . . . . .	1233—47
Demand No. 6-F.—Work- ing Expenses—Expenses of General Departments . . . . .	1155	The Indian Finance Bill— Introduced . . . . .	1247
Demand No. 6-G.—Work- ing Expenses—Miscel- laneous Expenses . . . . .	1155	TUESDAY, 1ST MARCH, 1938—	
Demand No. 6-H.—Work- ing Expenses—Electric Service Department . . . . .	1155	Member Sworn . . . . .	1249
Demand No. 7—Working Ex- penses—Appropriation to Depreciation Fund . . . . .	1155	Starred Questions and Answers . . . . .	1249—74
Demand No. 8—Interest Charges . . . . .	1155	Unstarred Questions and Answers . . . . .	1274—76
Demand No. 11—New Construction . . . . .	1156	Motion for Adjournment <i>re</i> Expulsion of the son of Haji Akbar Ali Khan, M.L.A., from North Waziristan Agency—Dis- allowed . . . . .	1276—77
Demand No. 12—Open Line Works . . . . .	1156	Election of Members to the Public Accounts Committee . . . . .	1277
FRIDAY, 25TH FEBRUARY, 1938—		Election of the Standing Committee for the Labour Department . . . . .	1277
Members Sworn . . . . .	1157	The Sind Salt Law Amend- ment Bill—Introduced . . . . .	1277
Starred Questions and Answers . . . . .	1157—82	The Indian Tea Control Bill—Passed as amended	1278—1326
Unstarred Question and Answer . . . . .	1182	The Stamp Duties Uni- fication Bill—Motion to consider not moved . . . . .	1326
Statements laid on the Table . . . . .	1182—85	WEDNESDAY, 2ND MARCH, 1938—	
Election of a Member to the Council of the Indian In- stitute of Science, Banga- lore . . . . .	1185—97	Members Sworn . . . . .	1327
Election of Members to the Court of the Delhi University . . . . .	1197	Starred Questions and Answers . . . . .	1327—66
Election of the Standing Committee for Roads . . . . .	1198		



	PAGES.		PAGES.
<b>WEDNESDAY, 2ND MARCH, 1938—<i>contd.</i></b>		<b>FRIDAY, 4TH MARCH, 1938—<i>contd.</i></b>	
Unstarred Questions and Answers . . . . .	1366—70	The Child Marriage Restraint (Amendment) Bill—Appointment of certain Members to the Select Committee . . . . .	1483
Election of Members to the Standing Committee on Pilgrimage to the Hedjaz . . . . .	1370	The Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Bill—Passed as amended . . . . .	1483—1504
Election of the Standing Committees for the Department of Education, Health and Lands and the Commerce Department . . . . .	1370	The Sind Salt Law Amendment Bill—Discussion on the motion to consider not concluded . . . . .	1504—06
The General Budget—General Discussion . . . . .	1371—82	<b>SATURDAY, 5TH MARCH, 1938—</b>	
<b>THURSDAY, 3RD MARCH, 1938—</b>		Starred Questions and Answers . . . . .	1507—28
Starred Questions and Answers . . . . .	1383—1403	Short Notice Questions and Answers . . . . .	1528—32
Unstarred Questions and Answers . . . . .	1403—04	Statements laid on the Table . . . . .	1532—39
Election of Members to the Court of the Delhi University . . . . .	1404	Election of Members to the Standing Committee for Roads . . . . .	1539
Message from the Council of State . . . . .	1405	The General Budget—List of Demands . . . . .	1539—82
Election of Members to the Standing Committee on Emigration . . . . .	1405—07	Demand No. 1—Customs . . . . .	1539—40
The Hindu Women's Rights to Property (Amendment) Bill—Introduced . . . . .	1407—08	Demand No. 2—Central Excise Duties . . . . .	1541—42
Demands for Supplementary Grants in respect of Railways . . . . .	1408—41	Demand No. 3—Taxes on Income including Corporation Tax . . . . .	1542—43
The Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Bill—Discussion on the consideration of clauses not concluded . . . . .	1441—58	Demand No. 4—Salt . . . . .	1544—45
<b>FRIDAY, 4TH MARCH, 1938—</b>		Demand No. 5—Opium . . . . .	1545—46
Member Sworn . . . . .	1459	Demand No. 6—Provincial Excise . . . . .	1547—48
Starred Questions and Answers . . . . .	1459—83	Demand No. 7—Stamps . . . . .	1548—49
Election of a Member to the Council of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore . . . . .	1483	Demand No. 8—Forest . . . . .	1550—51
		Demand No. 9—Irrigation (including Working Expenses) Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works . . . . .	1551
		Demand No. 10—Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including Working Expenses) . . . . .	1551—52

	PAGES.		PAGES.
<b>SATURDAY, 5TH MARCH, 1938—<i>contd.</i></b>		<b>SATURDAY, 5TH MARCH, 1938—<i>concl'd.</i></b>	
<b>The General Budget—List of Demands—<i>contd.</i></b>		<b>The General Budget—List of Demands—<i>concl'd.</i></b>	
Demand No. 11—Interest on Debt and other Obligations and Reduction or Avoidance of Debt . . . . .	1552	Demand No. 30—Survey of India . . . . .	1577
Demand No. 12—Executive Council . . . . .	1552—61	Demand No. 31—Meteorology . . . . .	1577
Demand No. 13—Council of State . . . . .	1561	Demand No. 32—Geological Survey . . . . .	1577
Demand No. 14—Legislative Assembly and Legislative Assembly Department . . . . .	1561—62	Demand No. 33—Botanical Survey . . . . .	1577
Demand No. 15—Home Department . . . . .	1562—65	Demand No. 34—Zoological Survey . . . . .	1578
Demand No. 16—Legislative Department . . . . .	1566	Demand No. 35—Archæology . . . . .	1578
Demand No. 17—Department of Education, Health and Lands . . . . .	1566	Demand No. 36—Mines . . . . .	1578
Demand No. 18—Finance Department . . . . .	1566—70	Demand No. 37—Other Scientific Departments . . . . .	1578
Demand No. 19—Commerce Department . . . . .	1570—72	Demand No. 38—Education . . . . .	1579
Demand No. 20—Department of Labour . . . . .	1572	Demand No. 39—Medical Services . . . . .	1579
Demand No. 21—Department of Communications . . . . .	1572—74	Demand No. 40—Public Health . . . . .	1579
Demand No. 22—Central Board of Revenue . . . . .	1575	Demand No. 41—Agriculture . . . . .	1579
Demand No. 23—India Office and High Commissioner's Establishment Charges . . . . .	1575	Demand No. 42—Imperial Council of Agricultural Research Department . . . . .	1580
Demand No. 24—Payments to Other Governments, Departments, etc., on account of Services rendered . . . . .	1575	Demand No. 43—Scheme for the Improvement of Agricultural Marketing in India . . . . .	1580
Demand No. 25—Audit . . . . .	1575—76	Demand No. 44—Imperial Institute of Sugar Technology . . . . .	1580
Demand No. 26—Administration of Justice . . . . .	1576	Demand No. 45—Civil Veterinary Services . . . . .	1580—81
Demand No. 27—Police . . . . .	1576	Demand No. 46—Industries . . . . .	1581
Demand No. 28—Ports and Pilotage . . . . .	1576	Demand No. 47—Aviation . . . . .	1581
Demand No. 29—Lighthouses and Lightships . . . . .	1576—77	Demand No. 48—Capital Outlay on Civil Aviation charged to Revenue . . . . .	1581
		Demand No. 49—Broadcasting . . . . .	1581
		Demand No. 50—Capital Outlay on Broadcasting . . . . .	1582
		Statement of Business . . . . .	1582

	PAGES.
MONDAY, 7TH MARCH, 1938—	
Starred Questions and Answers . . . . .	1583—1604
Unstarred Questions and Answers . . . . .	1604—06
Death of Mr. George Joseph . . . . .	1606—08
The General Budget—List of Demands . . . . .	1608—21
Demand No. 51—Indian Stores Department . . . . .	1608
Demand No. 52—Commercial Intelligence and Statistics . . . . .	1608—09
Demand No. 53—Census . . . . .	1609
Demand No. 54—Emigration—Internal . . . . .	1609
Demand No. 55—Emigration—External . . . . .	1609
Demand No. 56—Joint-Stock Companies . . . . .	1609—10
Demand No. 57—Miscellaneous Departments . . . . .	1610
Demand No. 58—Currency . . . . .	1610
Demand No. 59—Mint . . . . .	1610
Demand No. 60—Civil Works . . . . .	1610—11
Demand No. 61—Central Road Fund . . . . .	1611—12
Demand No. 62—Superannuation Allowances and Pensions . . . . .	1612
Demand No. 63—Stationery and Printing . . . . .	1612—13
Demand No. 64—Miscellaneous . . . . .	1613
Demand No. 65—Grants-in-aid to Provincial Governments . . . . .	1613—16
Demand No. 66—Miscellaneous Adjustments between the Central and Provincial Governments . . . . .	1617
Demand No. 67—Expenditure on retrenched Personnel charged to Revenue . . . . .	1617
Demand No. 68—Delhi . . . . .	1617

	PAGES.
MONDAY, 7TH MARCH, 1938— <i>contd.</i>	
The General Budget—List of Demands— <i>contd.</i>	
Demand No. 69—Ajmer-Merwara . . . . .	1617
Demand No. 70—Panth Piploda . . . . .	1618
Demand No. 71—Andamans and Nicobar Islands . . . . .	1618
Demand No. 73—Indian Posts and Telegraphs . . . . .	1618
Demand No. 73-A.—Indian Posts and Telegraphs—Stores Suspense (not charged to Revenue) . . . . .	1618
Demand No. 73B—Indian Posts and Telegraphs—Appropriation to Telephone Development Fund (not charged to Revenue) . . . . .	1619
Demand No. 75—Capital Outlay on Schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research . . . . .	1619
Demand No. 76—Capital Outlay on Vizagapatam Harbour . . . . .	1619
Demand No. 77—Delhi Capital Outlay . . . . .	1619—20
Demand No. 78—Commuted Value of Pensions . . . . .	1620
Demand No. 79—Interest-free Advances . . . . .	1620
Demand No. 80—Loans and Advances bearing Interest . . . . .	1620
WEDNESDAY, 9TH MARCH, 1938—	
Member Sworn . . . . .	1623
Starred Questions and Answers . . . . .	1623—39
Unstarred Questions and Answers . . . . .	1640—43
Bill Passed by the Council of State . . . . .	1640—43
Message from the Council of State . . . . .	1644
Election of a Member to the Central Advisory Board of Health . . . . .	1644

	PAGES.		PAGES.
<b>WEDNESDAY, 9TH MARCH, 1938—<i>contd.</i></b>		<b>THURSDAY, 17TH MARCH, 1938—</b>	
The Commercial Documents Evidence Bill—Appointment of certain Members to the Select Committee . . . .	1644	Members Sworn . . . .	1689
The Indian Oaths (Amendment) Bill—Appointment of certain Members to the Select Committee . . . .	1645	Starred Questions and Answers . . . .	1689—1718
The Indian Finance Bill—Motion to consider negatived . . . .	1645—59	Unstarred Questions and Answers . . . .	1719—20
The Hindu Women's Rights to Property (Amendment) Bill—Motion to consider not moved . . . .	1659	Statements laid on the Table . . . .	1720—21
The Sind Salt Law Amendment Bill—Referred to Select Committee . . . .	1659—63	The Trade Disputes (Amendment) Bill—Discussion on the consideration of clauses not concluded . . . .	1721—63
<b>THURSDAY, 10TH MARCH, 1938—</b>		<b>FRIDAY, 18TH MARCH, 1938—</b>	
Member Sworn . . . .	1665	Starred Questions and Answers . . . .	1787—95
Starred Questions and Answers . . . .	1665—82	Short Notice Questions and Answers . . . .	1795—97
Statements laid on the Table . . . .	1682—84	Unstarred Questions and Answers . . . .	1797—1805
Election of Members to the Standing Committee on Emigration . . . .	1684	Election of a Member to the Central Advisory Board of Health . . . .	1805
The Trade Disputes (Amendment) Bill—Presentation of the Report of the Select Committee . . . .	1685	The Motor Vehicles Bill—Introduced . . . .	1805
The Child Marriage Restraint (Amendment) Bill—Presentation of the Report of the Select Committee . . . .	1685	The Trade Disputes (Amendment) Bill—Passed as amended . . . .	1805—45
The Indian Finance Bill (As recommended)—Motion for leave to introduce—negatived . . . .	1685—86	The Hindu Women's Rights to Property (Amendment) Bill—Passed as amended . . . .	1845—49
Statement of Business . . . .	1687	Statement of Business . . . .	1849
		<b>MONDAY, 21ST MARCH, 1938—</b>	
		Member Sworn . . . .	1851
		Starred Questions and Answers . . . .	1851—91
		Unstarred Questions and Answers . . . .	1891—95
		Election of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways . . . .	1895—96
		Election of the Central Advisory Council for Railways . . . .	1896—97

	PAGES.		PAGES.
<b>MONDAY, 21ST MARCH, 1938—<i>contd.</i></b>		<b>TUESDAY, 22ND MARCH, 1938—<i>contd.</i></b>	
The Import of Drugs Bill— Appointment of Mr. N. C. Chunder to the Select Committee . . . . .	1897	The Control of Coastal Traffic of Indian Bill— Presentation of the Report of the Select Committee . . . . .	1978
The Indian Coffee Cess (Amendment) Bill—Intro- duced . . . . .	1897	The Motor Vehicles Bill— Discussion on the motion to refer to Select Committee not concluded . . . . .	1978—2016
The Motor Vehicles Bill— Discussion on the motion to refer to Select Com- mittee not concluded . . . . .	1898—1937	<b>WEDNESDAY, 23RD MARCH, 1938—</b>	
The Sind Salt Law (Amend- ment) Bill—Presentation of the Report of the Select Committee . . . . .	1937	Members Sworn . . . . .	2017
<b>TUESDAY, 22ND MARCH, 1938—</b>		Starred Questions and Ans- wers . . . . .	2017—51
Starred Questions and Ans- wers . . . . .	1939—67	Short Notice Question and Answer . . . . .	2051—52
Unstarred Questions and Answers . . . . .	1967—69	Unstarred Questions and Answers . . . . .	2052—56
Statements laid on the Table . . . . .	1970—75	Motion for Adjournment <i>re</i> Attack on a Taxi Driver by British Soldiers in Dehra Dun—Disallowed by the Governor Gene- ral . . . . .	2057
Motion for Adjournment <i>re</i> Attack on a Taxi Driver by British Soldiers in Dehra Dun—Postponed to next day . . . . .	1975—78	The Motor Vehicles Bill— Discussion on the Motion to refer to Select Com- mittee not concluded . . . . .	2057—92

# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, 2nd March, 1938.

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

## MEMBERS SWORN.

Mr. Kodikal Sanjiva Row, C.I.E., M.L.A. (Government of India: Nominated Official);

Mr. Ghulam Muhammad, M.L.A. (Government of India: Nominated Official).

## STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

### (a) ORAL ANSWERS.

#### CONTRACT WITH THE PENINSULAR AND STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY AND REDUCTION IN CONTRIBUTION.

557. \*Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable Member for Communications state:

- (a) when the contract with Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company expires;
- (b) when a fresh contract is to be made, whether Government propose to take steps to see that it is made subject to a condition that the Company will employ the cadets trained in the *Dufferin*;
- (c) what is the contribution paid by the Government of India at present; and
- (d) whether they propose to consider the advisability of reducing the contribution in view of the coming into existence of the air mail?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** (a) and (b). I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply I gave to Mr. Manu Subedar's starred question No. 123, on the 3rd February, but I may mention that the P. & O. Company have already undertaken to employ a certain number of *ex-Dufferin* cadets.

(c) The amount payable in 1937 is expected to be about £38,000.

(d) India's contribution will continue to be calculated according to the arrangements described in the statement laid on the table of the House in reply to Mr. Sarfaraz Hussain Khan's unstarred question No. 151 on the 28th January, 1929. It will be seen that the arrangements contemplate that the volume of India's mails carried by the steamers of the Company shall be taken into account in assessing India's contribution.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** May I know what was the answer referred to in clause (d)?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** I made a reference to a certain unstarred question.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** In view of the fact that that was in 1929, will he read out that answer again?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** The arrangement described in the reply I quoted still persists.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** May I know what that arrangement is? In view of the fact that that answer was given in 1929, will he kindly read out that reply?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** Sir, the statement in question covers about six pages and it is absolutely impossible to give that reply.

**Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** Cannot the Honourable Member give a gist of it?

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member can lay that statement on the table of the House unless it is available in the Library.

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** I shall be quite happy to lay it on the table, Sir.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Did Government have to persuade the P. & O. Company to take a certain number of cadets or did they do so on their own initiative?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** So far as I remember, it was on the initiative of the P. & O. Company.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Do Government consider the number taken by them as adequate?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** That, Sir, is not a question that arises out of this answer.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** What is the number that they have agreed to?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** Four, Sir.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** May I know whether they have agreed to take four cadets every year or once for all?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** They have undertaken to employ one ex-Dufferin cadet on each of their ships stationed in India.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** In view of the fact, if I remember correctly, that they have promised to take only four cadets for all time, will the Government of India impress upon the P. & O. Company to take a certain number every year?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** That, I understand, is not the nature of the undertaking.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Have they actually employed them or have they merely undertaken to employ them?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** I shall require notice of that question.

**Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Does the Honourable Member know how many ships they have in all?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** They have four ships which are based on Indian ports.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Then how is my statement incorrect that they have undertaken to employ only four cadets?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** It is incorrect.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Sir, I submit that the reply of Government is that the P. & O. Company have promised to employ one cadet for each ship and that they have four ships in Indian waters. And I asked whether they have agreed to take four cadets for all time and whether Government will consider the advisability of asking the company to employ more men. He said that was not correct.

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** If the Honourable Member's suggestion is that the undertaking has been that there will be only four cadets for all time, that I say is a wrong statement of the undertaking that has been given.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will Government consider the advisability of impressing upon the P. & O. Company the need for employing more cadets every year?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** I must refer the Honourable Member to the representative of the Commerce Department in this House.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I think the Honourable Member had better look at the arrangement that was arrived at.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** In view of the fact that the contribution paid to the P. & O. Company is by the Honourable Member, will he take up this question?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** There is no payment made by the Government of India to the P. & O. Company.

**Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney:** In view of the fact that the P. & O. Company in particular have been very dilatory in accepting qualified cadets from the Dufferin and in view of the fact that they receive such a heavy subsidy from Government, will the Honourable Member for Communications please inform this House whether he is prepared to reduce that contribution unless the P. & O. decide to take more cadets as officers on their steamers?



**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** I say for about the tenth time in this House that the Government of India pay no contribution to the P. & O. Company.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Is it not a fact that this contribution of Rs. 4,34,000 odd is being paid by the Government of India for getting their mails carried by the P. & O. only through His Majesty's Government and not directly?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** The payment is to His Majesty's Government in return for services rendered.

**Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney:** Is not that a contribution in kind?

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Government of India consider the advisability of making a representation to His Majesty's Government that they should, in return for this payment being made for the carriage of mails, impress upon the P. & O. the necessity of taking more cadets on their steamers?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** No, Sir; the Government of India have no *locus standi* in the matter at all.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Is it impossible for the Government of India to make such representation to His Majesty's Government?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** It is perfectly possible for the Government of India to make any sort of representation to His Majesty's Government.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Then why is it that the Government of India decline to make that representation to His Majesty's Government in regard to this?

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order. The supplementaries have gone far enough.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Sir, I have been allowed to ask the question and I should get an answer.

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

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Sir, on a point of order, the question has been allowed to be put and when the Honourable Member is about to answer, why is the next question called and he is stopped from answering?

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Because I thought that the question was not an appropriate one.

#### TERRITORIES CEDED TO MEWAR AND JODHPUR STATES.

558. **\*Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Foreign Secretary state:

- (a) how long the territories just conceded to Mewar and Jodhpur States have been under British Indian administration;
- (b) when the territories were taken under British Indian administration and whether they were taken subject to any conditions; and

(c) whether the people of the districts concerned were consulted in the matter?

**Sir Aubrey Metcalfe:** With your permission, Sir, I propose to answer questions Nos. 558 and 559 together. These questions should have been addressed to the Honourable the Leader of the House.

#### TERRITORIES CEDED TO MEWAR AND JODHPUR STATES.

†559. \***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Foreign Secretary state:

- (a) what were the immediate considerations that made the Government transfer territory to the Indian States of Mewar and Jodhpur; and
- (b) whether any more transfer of territories to these many other Indian States are under contemplation?

#### PERSONS DETAINED UNDER REGULATION III OF 1818.

‡560. \***Sardar Sant Singh:** With reference to his answer to starred question No. 35 B given on the 31st January, 1938, will the Foreign Secretary be pleased to state the names of the persons who have been under detention under Regulation III of 1818 for a period of over three years?

**Sir Aubrey Metcalfe:** The names of the persons detained under Regulation III of 1818 for a period of over three years are given in the statement which I lay on the table.

*Statement showing the names of the persons who have been under detention under Regulation III of 1818 for a period of over three years.*

S. No.	Name.	S. No.	Name.
1.	S. Abdur Rahman Khan (in the Madras Presidency).	25.	S. Nur Ahmad Khan.
2.	S. Ghausuddin Khan.	26.	S. Abdur Rashid Khan.
3.	S. Abdul Hakim Khan.	27.	S. Mohd. Haasan Khan.
4.	S. Amin Jan.	28.	S. Abdur Rahman Khan (in the United Provinces).
5.	Khan Baba.	29.	S. Mohd. Umar Khan.
6.	Mohd. Ibrahim.	30.	S. Gul Mohd. Khan.
7.	Mohd. Hassan.	31.	S. Abdul Ali Khan.
8.	Ali Ahmad.	32.	S. Abdur Rahim Khan.
9.	Mohd. Ismail.	33.	S. Mohd. Azim Khan.
10.	Taj Mohd.	34.	S. Mohd. Mohsin Khan.
11.	S. Abdullah Khan.	35.	Ghulam Nabi.
12.	S. Abdul Hamid Khan.	36.	Mohd. Din.
13.	S. Abdul Qayum Khan.	37.	Mohd. Siddiq.
14.	Khwaja Abdul Karim.	38.	Abdul Hakim.
15.	Mohd. Nasir.	39.	Abdul Majid.
16.	Abdur Rahman Jan.	40.	Mohd. Jan.
17.	Ata Mohd.	41.	Bhawani Sahai.
18.	S. Abdul Aziz Khan.	42.	V. R. Vaishampayan.
19.	S. Mohd. Azam Khan.	43.	Rippudaman (alias Sardar Guru Charan Singh ex-Maharaja of Nabha).
20.	S. Mohd. Akram Khan.	44.	Hassein-Yavar Khanji, ex-Talukdar of Sardargadh.
21.	S. Mohd. Afzal Khan.		
22.	S. Sultan Ahmad Khan.		
23.	S. Sher Ahmad Khan.		
24.	S. Mohd. Sarwar Khan.		

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 558.

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

## TRADING DISABILITIES OF INDIANS IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

561. \***Sardar Mangal Singh**: Will the Foreign Secretary please state:

- (a) whether Government are aware of the trading disabilities of Indians in the United States of America;
- (b) what steps Government propose to take to remove these disabilities; and
- (c) whether Government propose to negotiate a trade treaty with the United States of America?

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

(b) and (c). The whole matter is at present receiving the attention of the Government of India in consultation with His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom.

**Mr. Manu Subedar**: In the trade treaty which is going to be negotiated between the United Kingdom and the United States is India going to be a party?

**Sir Aubrey Metcalfe**: That does not arise, I submit; and in any case I must have notice.

**Mr. Manu Subedar**: With due submission, Sir, it does arise as it relates to the trading position between the two countries.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I think it does arise. But I think the Honourable Member says he wants notice.

**Mr. Manu Subedar**: What is the reply to my question which does arise?

**Sir Aubrey Metcalfe**: I said before that I should require notice.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar**: May I know what are the trading disabilities that Indians suffer in the United States?

**Sir Aubrey Metcalfe**: I can detail them to the House but it would take a considerable time because they are extremely complicated and the laws on the subject cover two large books.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Will the Honourable Member lay a statement on the table?

**Sir Aubrey Metcalfe**: I can do that if the Honourable Member wishes.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar**: May I know whether they are negotiating directly with the United States or through His Majesty's Government?

**Sir Aubrey Metcalfe**: We are bound to do it through His Majesty's Government in the present circumstances.

**Mr. K. Santhanam**: May I know if the negotiations with the United States will await the conclusion of a trade treaty between Great Britain and the United States, as in the case of Ceylon?

**Sir Aubrey Metcalfe**: There again I must have notice.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will it be taken up immediately or after finishing the trade treaty with Britain?

**Sir Aubrey Metcalfe:** I cannot undertake to prophesy.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** May I know whether this question of a trade treaty with the United States will be taken up after finishing the negotiations with regard to the Ottawa Trade agreement or even while that is in progress?

**Sir Aubrey Metcalfe:** The Honourable Member asks me to say what is going to happen in the future and I am not in a position to do so.

**PROMOTION OF UNQUALIFIED MEN AS ACCOUNTANTS IN THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE.**

562. **\*Mr. N. M. Joshi:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if it is a fact that some years ago some employees in the Office of the Director, Railway Clearing Accounts, Delhi, were appointed or promoted as Accountants without being required to pass any prescribed examination for Accountants?

(b) Is it also a fact that such men were confirmed subsequently in their job with the stipulation that they will not be promoted to the posts of senior Accountants or Officers unless they pass the Accountants' examination prescribed for Railway Accounts Department?

(c) Is it a fact that, despite the aforesaid stipulation, some of these men were made eligible for further promotion without being required to pass the prescribed Accountants' examination?

(d) If the reply to parts (a), (b) and (c) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the reasons for deviation from the general rule prescribed?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** (a) and (b) Yes, but all these promotions and confirmations were made strictly in accordance with paragraph 9 of the Railway Board's Memorandum No. 5565-F. of 31st July, 1929, a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

(c) and (d). The Financial Commissioner, Railways, felt that it would be anomalous to regulate promotions to gazetted ranks by a system of departmental examination and, therefore, directed that promotions above the rank of Senior Accountants, i.e., to gazetted ranks, should be made by strict selection, solely with reference to the suitability of the person for discharging the duties required of a gazetted officer.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** May I know whether this exemption from passing this accountant's examination was given and if so on what grounds? On account of advanced age?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** If the Honourable Member will refer to the answer I have already given he will get an answer to his present query.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** I am particularly asking with reference to part (b): the Honourable Member might enlighten me on that.

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** My answer was:

“(a) and (b). Yes, but all these promotions and confirmations were made strictly in accordance with paragraph 9 of the Railway Board's Memorandum No. 5565-F. of 31st July, 1929, a copy of which is in the Library of the House.”

**PROMOTION OF UNQUALIFIED MEN AS ACCOUNTANTS IN THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE.**

563. **\*Mr. N. M. Joshi:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if it is a fact that of about 1,200 men in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office, there are only 15 posts of Accountants of which about 50 per cent. are already held by persons who have not passed the prescribed Accountants' examination?

(b) Is it also a fact that the number of Accountants' posts in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office is comparatively much less than the other Railway Accounts Offices?

(c) Is it a fact that on account of the smallness of the number of Accountants' posts the prospects of those who have passed the Accountants' examination are worse as compared with other Railway Accounts Offices?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** (a) Yes. Seven out of the 15 posts of accountants are held by those who were exempted from passing the Accountants examination under paragraph 9 of the Railway Board's Memorandum No. 5565-F. of 31st July, 1929, a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

(b) The supervisory staff required in an Accounts Office depends upon the requirements of that office and Government have no reason to believe that the number of Accountants in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office is insufficient for the work to be done.

(c) Judged by the proportion of the number of Accountants to the number of sub-heads and clerks, the position in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office is not materially different from that in other State Railway Accounts Offices.

**PROMOTION OF UNQUALIFIED MEN AS ACCOUNTANTS IN THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE.**

564. **\*Mr. N. M. Joshi:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state whether it is a fact that a proposal is on foot to exempt some existing Accountants in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office who have not already passed the prescribed Accountants' examination, so as to make them eligible for promotion to higher grades without being required to pass the Appendix 'D' examination?

(b) Is it a fact that some of the Accountants mentioned in part (a) above tried to pass the Appendix 'D' examination, but failed?

(c) Are Government aware that the practice of appointing unqualified persons as Accountants is prejudicial to the interests of the qualified persons?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state whether they propose to stop the practice of appointing unqualified persons as Accountants?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). No unqualified person has been appointed as an Accountant who was not eligible for appointment in that rank in accordance with Financial Commissioner's Memorandum No. 5565-F., dated 31st July, 1929, a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

**Mr. K. Santhanam:** May I know whether it is a fact that these posts will hereafter be recruited through selection and not through examination?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** That is a question, I submit, which does not arise from the answer I have given.

**Mr. K. Santhanam:** It arises out of part (a): my question is if there is a proposal to recruit them without passing any such examination?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** Sir, the question does not refer to recruitment but to promotion after recruitment has taken place.

#### LATE RUNNING OF CERTAIN TRAINS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

565. **\*Mr. Badri Dutt Pande:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state how many days in the week during the last three months the following important trains have been late?

(a) Nos. 5 and 6 Up and Down Punjab Mails (Howrah to Lahore via Lucknow);

(b) Nos. 9 and 10 Doon Expresses; and

(c) Nos. 17 and 18 Punjab Expresses.

If so, what is the reason therefor?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** (a) 5.6 and four days.

(b) 3.3 and four days.

(c) Six and 2.9 days.

In regard to the last part of the Honourable Member's question, I would refer him to the reply I gave to part (b) of question No. 402 asked by Mr. Abdul Qaiyum (on behalf of Mr. Sri Prakasa) on the 21st February, 1938.

**Mr. Badri Dutt Pande:** What is the reason for these mails running late?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** If the Honourable Member will refer to the answer I gave a few days ago he will get a full reply.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Are any steps being taken to see that these trains will run to time and not be delayed so much?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** I understand that that is a matter which is engaging the attention of the administration concerned.

**Mr. K. Santhanam:** May I know what is the normal disciplinary action taken against persons concerned for such delays?

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That really does not arise.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** They get promotion!

STATION CLERKS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

566. **\*Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

- (a) the number and character of grades of Station Clerks on the North Western Railway;
- (b) the pay of each grade and the rules governing promotion from one grade to another;
- (c) whether there is an efficiency bar in each grade, and if so, at what stage;
- (d) the grounds on which the working of an efficiency bar in a purely clerical cadre is justified and continued; and
- (e) whether Government are prepared to consider the desirability of removing this bar so as to allow members of each grade to reach the maximum of their respective grades on a time-scale automatically?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** (a) to (c). As regards parts (a), (c) and the first part of part (b), the available information will be found in the North Western Railway Gazette Extraordinary, dated Monday, August 6th, 1934, a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

As regards the second part of part (b), promotion from one grade to another is governed by vacancies in the higher grade and the suitability of the employee concerned.

(d) and (e). The reason for placing an efficiency bar is to enable the administration to review the record of service of an employee at the stage at which the bar is placed and to consider his qualifications for further promotion. This is a practice commonly adopted in most Government services including superior services and Government are not prepared to discontinue it.

**Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar:** Are Government aware that promotion does not always depend upon merit or seniority but that considerations other than merit weigh with the authorities?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** No. I am not so aware.

**Mr. K. Santhanam:** May I know the proportion of people who are being promoted on grounds of efficiency alone?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** I must have notice in regard to matters of that sort.

## PAY OF GRADE I CLERKS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

567. **\*Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state how the pay scale of grade I clerk on the North Western Railway compares with that of the lowest grade clerks in offices of the Central Government situated in the Punjab?

(b) What are the qualifications required for the grade I clerk of the North Western Railway and for the other clerks referred to in part (a) above? Is it a fact that there is not much difference, and if so, how is the wide disparity in the pay scales justified?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** (a) and (b). I am afraid I am unable to reply to the Honourable Member's question unless he specifies the names of the offices of the Central Government situated in the Punjab to which he refers.

**Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar:** I refer generally to all officers of the same grade?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** That information does not permit me to reply to his question.

## HOURS OF DUTY OF CERTAIN CLERKS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

568. **\*Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state what are the hours of work prescribed for the grades I and II clerks of the North Western Railway and how they compare with the offices of the Central Government situated in the Punjab?

(b) Is it a fact that station clerks on the North Western Railway have often to work more than 60 hours a week, and if so, why, and is any compensation given to them?

(c) What are the holidays, public and communal, allowed to the clerks in the offices of the Central Government in the Punjab?

(d) Are these holidays allowed to the station clerks on the North Western Railway, and is it a fact that they do not get days off even for *Id* and *Dewali*?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** (a), (c) and (d). As regards the first part of part (a), I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given to part (a) of starred question No. 171, asked by Mr. Lalchand Navalrai in this House on the 8th February, 1938.

As regards the second part of part (a) and part (c) and the first part of part (d) of the question, I am afraid I am unable to reply unless the Honourable Member specifies the names of the offices of the Central Government situated in the Punjab to which he refers.

With regard to the second part of part (d), I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply to part (b) laid on the table of the House on the 31st August, 1936, in connection with starred question No. 1661, asked by Mr. Lalchand Navalrai on the 16th April, 1936.

(b) As regards the first part, the Hours of Employment Regulations apply also to station clerks on the North Western Railway and Government have no reasons to believe that these Regulations are infringed.



As regards the second part, I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given to part (e) of starred question No. 171, asked by Mr. Lalchand Navalrai in this House on the 8th February, 1938.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** What is the answer to the second part of part (d) of this question?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** I referred the Honourable Member to the reply to part (b) laid on the table of the House on the 31st August, 1936, in connection with starred question No. 1661, asked by Mr. Lalchand Navalrai on the 16th April, 1936.

#### AMALGAMATION OF CLERICAL GRADES ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

569. **\*Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state whether Government are prepared to consider the desirability of amalgamating grades I and II on the North Western Railway and allowing existing men in grade I to pass into grade II automatically?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given to part (f) of unstarred question No. 288, asked by Mr. M. S. Aney in this House on the 9th March, 1936.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** In view of the statement made by the Honourable Member the other day on this point that there are vacancies going to be available in Grade II to which the clerks in Grade I will go, may I know from the Honourable Member whether that will apply to station clerks also?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** If vacancies occur in Grade II, then I presume the promotions will be made from Grade I.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** I am asking because the Honourable Member stated the other day that there are vacancies available.

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** The statement I made was to the effect that there are sufficient vacancies in Grade II to provide for a reasonable flow of promotion from Grade I.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** That will apply to station clerks also—that is what I am asking.

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** If the officers to whom the Honourable Member refers are Grade I and Grade II officers, then certainly it would apply.

**Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** If representations are made by any of these grade officials and they are not sent to the Honourable Member but suppressed, what is the next procedure for the officials to adopt?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** That is an entirely hypothetical question.

GRIEVANCES OF CERTAIN CLERKS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

570. **\*Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state whether there were memorials in past years, and if so, how often since 1927, regarding the lot of the grade I clerks on the North Western Railway? What was the decision of Government in respect thereof?

(b) Have Government received any memorial recently from any member or members of the grade I or grade II station clerks, and if so, what action do they propose to take?

(c) Is it a fact that officers of grade I are not provided with residential quarters near the stations and are Government aware that they are put to the necessity of travelling long distances to reach their offices? If so, do Government propose to take necessary steps to redress this grievance?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** (a) and (b). As regards the first part of part (a) Government have received more than one memorial from grade I clerks of the North Western Railway. As regards the second part of part (a) and second part of part (b), I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply given today to his starred question No. 569.

With regard to first part of part (b), the reply is in the affirmative.

(c) Government have no information. This is a matter of detailed administration within the competence of the Agent, North Western Railway, to whom I am sending a copy of the question for such action as he may consider necessary.

**Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar:** Is the North Western Railway an autonomous body that you should have no information about this?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** I do not understand what the Honourable Member means.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** My Honourable friend wants to know if you have no control over the administration that you should be unable to get information about that.

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** Certainly we have a certain amount of control over the administration.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Then what is the difficulty in getting this information?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** No difficulty.

**Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar:** Is it not a fact that the higher paid officers get their quarters near the station while the lower paid men are not given any dwelling quarters?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** I have no information as to the situation of the quarters of the higher paid officials.

**Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar:** Will the Honourable Member call for information and place it on the table,

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** No.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Why not?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** It does not seem to have any relevance to the question asked.

#### TRANSMITTING EQUIPMENT FOR BROADCASTING.

571. **\*Mr. Manu Subedar:** Will the Honourable Member for Communications state:

- (a) what amount Government have spent on transmitting equipment for Broadcasting since the Broadcasting service was taken over by them;
- (b) whether the orders for transmitting equipment were placed after calling for open tenders;
- (c) if not, how they were placed;
- (d) whether Government will state the values of orders for transmitting equipment placed with various firms;
- (e) whether Government are aware that efficient transmitting equipment has been and can be built in India at a lower cost;
- (f) whether Government have made any effort to obtain locally manufactured equipment for their requirements;
- (g) whether Government will state their objections, if any, to locally manufactured equipment; and
- (h) whether Government propose to give local manufacturers an opportunity of competing for this business in future?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** (a) Rs. 16 lakhs approximately.

(b) and (c). Yes, except that in one case limited tenders were called by the High Commissioner in England.

(d) A statement giving the required information is laid on the table.

(e) No.

(f) Excepting in the case to which I have already referred tenders for the transmitting equipment were invited by the Indian Stores Department by advertisement in India in the usual manner. No Indian firm tendered.

(g) and (h). There is no objection to locally manufactured equipment if in the matter of cost and reliability it meets the requirements. These requirements, however, are, and will be, advertised by the Indian Stores Department in the usual manner and local manufacturers must tender and take their chance with the rest.

*Statement showing Values of Orders placed by the Government of India for Transmitting Equipment since their taking over the Broadcasting Service.*

	Rs.
1. Philips Electrical Company (India) Limited . . . . .	5,91,969
2. Indian Radio and Cable Communications Company, Limited . . . . .	5,09,477
3. Marconi Wireless and Telegraph Company . . . . .	2,77,230
4. Standard Telephones and Cables, Limited . . . . .	24,568
5. Rama Brothers, Karachi . . . . .	1,28,936
6. Gramophone Company, Limited, Dum Dum . . . . .	375
7. Eastern Electric Engineering Company . . . . .	2,616
8. G. E. C. (India), Limited . . . . .	6,389
9. Indian Cable Company . . . . .	2,061
10. Associated Manufacturers' Agencies, Bombay . . . . .	735
11. Balmer Lawrie and Company . . . . .	27,563
12. Shaw Wallace and Company . . . . .	2,344
Total . . . . .	15,74,263

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Does this Rs. 16 lakhs represent the total capital outlay on the radio, or is it only for the transmitting equipment?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** For transmitting equipment.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** What is the total capital outlay on the radio?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** I must have notice of that. The Honourable Member asked me to supply information for transmitting equipment only.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** With regard to the answer to parts (g) and (h) where the Honourable Member said that the Indian Stores Department will call for tenders in future in India, will Government consider the advisability of putting in a press note on the subject of such equipment, that if it is made in India Government would prefer it?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** No. I see no reason to depart from the ordinary stores policy that has been laid down by the Government of India.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Are Government aware that much of what is being imported, including up to a screw—everything is being imported while it can be made in this country?

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** All the screws are loose!

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** I am perfectly willing to take the Honourable Member's (Mr. Manu Subedar's) word for it, but the important thing is whether it can be made economically.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Is any experiment being made by the Indian Stores Department through the Industrial Research Bureau that they have under themselves, to see whether these transmitting equipments can be manufactured in this country, and that economically?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** I must refer my Honourable friend to the representative of the Commerce Department in this House.

**Mr. K. Santhanam:** May I know the names of the firms whose tenders were actually accepted?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** I have already said that I am laying on the table of the House a statement giving the names.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** The Honourable Member mentioned limited tenders in reply to part (b). What are limited tenders?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** As I understand it, it is that tenders are invited from a limited number of persons.

**Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Are these notifications published in local papers, or in the Indian and English papers only?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** Is it the intention of the Honourable Member to ask whether we publish the tenders in vernacular papers?

**Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Exactly.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** May I know if the High Commissioner for India tried to obtain these articles at the cheapest price in the world market?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** The practice is to invite tenders through the Indian Stores Department in India. The tender system is one which is designed to give the most favourable financial results to the purchaser.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** I ask the Honourable Member about the practice that is adopted by the High Commissioner in England in calling for open tenders.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That does not arise out of this.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** That arises because the Honourable Member said that the High Commissioner called for limited tenders in England. The Government of India are purchasing through the High Commissioner in England and through the Indian Stores Department in India, and I asked what practice is adopted—whether the tenders are invited only in England, or in some other countries where these articles are manufactured, such as Germany, France, etc., so that we may have the cheapest articles in the open market in the world.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): You cannot argue that now.

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** Sir, there is no practice so far as the High Commissioner is concerned. On one isolated occasion, he did invite tenders on the limited system. In all other cases the practice has been that tenders were invited through the Indian Stores Department and the High Commissioner had nothing to do with it.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Will the Honourable Member give the House full particulars of the tenders that were invited on that one occasion when limited tenders were called.

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** If the Honourable Member will give me notice of the question, I shall consider what reply can be given.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** I am asking for the information. It may be supplied later to the House and I take it that no further notice is required.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If the Honourable Member is not in possession of the information, the reply will be laid on the table in due course.

**Mr. K. Santhanam:** May I know whether the tender was limited to British firms or whether American and other firms were allowed to compete?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** I must ask for notice of that question.

#### REFRESHMENT ROOMS AND RESTAURANT CARS ON STATE RAILWAYS.

**572. \*Mr. Manu Subedar:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount of subsidy directly given towards the maintenance of first and second class refreshment rooms and restaurant cars on each of the State-owned Railway systems during the year 1937-38;
- (b) the number of restaurant cars and the capital outlay thereon for each of the State-owned railways;
- (c) the cost of maintenance and repairs in respect of restaurant cars for each of the State-owned Railways per year; and
- (d) whether Government are aware that, those, who do not like English food, both in substance and in the style of cooking, are put to a very great inconvenience and that this inconvenience is suffered largely by Indian first and second class passengers?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** (a) to (c). I have called for the information required from the Railways concerned and will lay a reply on the table when it has been received.

(d) A certain amount of inconvenience is perhaps caused to a comparatively small number of passengers. I am, however, asking Agents of certain principal railways to discuss with their respective Advisory Committees what action might suitably be taken in this matter. As the Honourable Member is doubtless aware, restaurant cars catering in Indian style are run on certain trains, and there are separate refreshment rooms for Hindus and Muhammadans. Particulars of these will be found on pages 99, 103 and 104 of the Railway Board's Report for 1936-37, Volume I.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** The Honourable Member said that the inconvenience is caused to a small number. Is it because the number of the Indian passengers is small or because the people who do not like this food are few? Is the Honourable Member aware that the majority of passengers in first and second class are Indians?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** The Honourable Member's question contains the assumption that there is a considerable amount of inconvenience. That is not my information.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Is the Honourable Member aware that the majority of passengers in first and second class are Indians and not Europeans?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** I take the Honourable Member's word for it.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** You ought to know.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** Am I to take it from the Honourable Member's reply that he is not aware that subsidies are being given to European refreshment rooms and not to Indians?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** I made no such suggestion. The question I was asked was what are the amounts of subsidies which are given. My reply was that I am having inquiries made and will produce the information in due course.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** May I know from the Honourable Member why when subsidies are being given to these European refreshment rooms, no subsidies are being given to Indians also?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** There is a question on that subject which will come up later in the morning.

**Maulana Zafar Ali Khan:** With regard to (d) may I know whether there was a dining car in the Sind Karachi Express providing Indian food and that this dining car is running no longer? Will the Honourable Member assure the House that this deficiency will be made up.

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** I am obtaining full information and shall lay a statement on the table in due course.

#### INDIANISATION OF HIGHER OFFICES IN THE KARACHI PORT TRUST.

573. **\*Mr. Manu Subedar:** Will the Honourable Member for Communications state:

- (a) whether Government have received any representation from the Buyers and Shippers Chamber at Karachi in regard to the Indianisation of higher offices in the Karachi Port Trust; and
- (b) what action Government have taken on this representation?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** (a) Yes.

(b) None so far. It will receive due consideration when the occasion arises.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Have the Government made any inquiry into this matter?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** Inquiry into which matter?

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** With regard to the representation made that there was not enough Indianisation. Have Government made any inquiry as to how many officials are Indians and how many are not?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** The Government are fully aware of the number of officials who are Indian and who are not.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Will Government consider the advisability of issuing a circular to all Port Trusts on this subject of Indianisation?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** A circular, I am informed, has gone to all Port Trusts.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Will Government place the circular on the table of the House?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** I must ask for notice of that.

**Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** No information was sought and only the circular was asked to be placed on the table. I do not understand why the Honourable Member should require notice for that.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member probably wants to consider the matter.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** May I know from the Honourable Member when that circular was issued?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** I am unable to give the Honourable Member the exact date when it was issued. It was a few years ago, if my memory is correct.

**Mr. K. Santhanam:** May I know the actual proportion of Indian officers to European officers?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** I must ask for notice again. I have not got details of that sort with me.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** May I know if representations have been received after the issue of the circular, pointing out that Indianisation is not adequate?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** The representation to which reference is made in this question was received after the issue of the circular.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Have you received several other representations on the subject since the date of the circular, on the question of Indianisation generally?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** Other representations have been received.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** In the light of the further representations received, will Government consider the advisability of sending a fresh circular now?



**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** No.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** Does the Honourable Member know that the Chairman of the Port Trust has always been a European and that there is a demand that that place should be given to Indians. Is the Honourable Member going to take any steps in that direction?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** In reply to part (a) of this question, I have replied that we are aware that a representation in the sense referred to by the Honourable Member has been made. When the occasion arises for making any new appointment, the matter will be given consideration as to who should be appointed.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** Does that circular refer to this question of the Chairman?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** No, Sir, not to the Chairman.

#### REDUCTION IN THE WEIGHT OF ROLLING STOCK ON RAILWAYS.

574. **\*Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the paper entitled "The Development of Passenger Rolling Stock" by Dr. H. J. Nichols, Bridge Engineer, Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway?

(b) Have Government considered hitherto any proposals to reduce the weight of rolling stock by substituting aluminium for steel on the same lines on which it has been done in the United States and in two cases in the United Kingdom?

(c) Do Government propose to make a statement informing this House of the relative advantage of any haulage costs weighed against the disadvantage of heavier initial capital costs?

(d) If the reply to the above be in the negative, do Government propose to consider the same and apprise this House at an early date?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** (a) No.

(b) The possible advantages of substituting aluminium for steel in selected applications have been considered and a number of applications have in fact been made.

(c) and (d). Government are fully alive to the advantages accruing from the use of lighter rolling stock and are actively investigating the problem. The cost of haulage depends on many factors, such as gradients, speed, number of stops and starts in the service. All of which make it impossible to express in monetary terms the precise saving that can be obtained by reduction in tare weight of vehicles.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Is it the Standardisation Office of the Railway Board that is considering this matter or have the individual Railway administrations also been considering this matter?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** I understand that the subject is engaging the attention of the Standardisation Office.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Will Government consider the advisability of asking the Railway administrations also to investigate the same topic?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** I am informed that the Administrations themselves are also undertaking investigations in regard to this matter.

**ENGLISHMEN, ANGLO-INDIANS AND INDIANS IN THE SERVICE OF STATE RAILWAYS.**

**575. \*Mr. Manu Subedar:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways state how many (a) Englishmen, (b) Anglo-Indians, and (c) Indians, are in the service of State Railways (whether managed by the State or by Company) in receipt of Rs. 400 and upwards?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** So far as the subordinates staff on State-managed Railways is concerned, I would refer the Honourable Member to the available information given in the "Classified Lists of Subordinates Staff of all departments on scales of pay rising to Rs. 250 and above", published by the Eastern Bengal, East Indian, Great Indian Peninsula and the North Western Railways. Copies of these lists are in the Library of the House.

As regards the subordinate staff on Company-managed Railways, the only information available with Government is given in statement II of Appendix 'F', pages 146 to 148 of Volume I, and the statement at page 236 of Volume II of the Railway Board's Report for 1936-37, copies of which are in the Library of the House.

In regard to Gazetted Officers, both on the State-managed and Company-managed Railways, the available information will be found in the "Classified List of State Railways Establishment and Distribution Return of Establishment of all Railways, corrected up to 31st December, 1936", a copy of which is also in the Library of the House.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** My question was with regard to the people getting more than Rs. 400. The Honourable Member replied only with regard to the people getting more than Rs. 250. So I do not consider the information given as adequate. I know that between Rs. 250 and Rs. 400 there are many Indians, but you have excluded Indians above Rs. 400.

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** I have referred the Honourable Member to the available information given in the Classified List of the subordinate staff of all Departments on scales of pay rising to Rs. 250 and above.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Is the Honourable Member aware that in this question no mention is made of people who are paid Rs. 250 and less?

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has not followed the answer at all; the Honourable Member has said that there is a compilation in which the list is given of subordinates drawing pay rising to Rs. 250 and above. That includes Rs. 400 and above.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** I submit for your consideration, Sir, that the Honourable Member has given in the initial part of his answer an answer to the effect that such and such records should be referred to in regard to the number of officers employed on salaries below Rs. 250, but no such information has been asked for?

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has not followed the answer.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** I submit he has not answered the question, Sir.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): He has answered the question.

**Mr. K. Santhanam:** May I know if there are any insuperable difficulties in getting particulars of men drawing salaries of over Rs. 400,—according to the question?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** I have told the Honourable Member where he may find the particulars of establishment drawing pay up to Rs. 250 and above.

**Mr. K. Santhanam:** I am asking whether there are any insuperable difficulties in giving the precise information asked for as regards salaries above Rs. 400,—not for salaries of Rs. 250 and above.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has given the answer. He has referred to the book where you can get the information.

**Mr. K. Santhanam:** Here the information asked for, Sir, is for salaries of Rs. 400 and upwards?

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If the information is there, that is quite sufficient. I consider that that is a sufficient answer.

**RECOGNITION OF THE ASSAM-BENGAL EXTRA-DEPARTMENTAL POSTAL AND RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE ASSOCIATION AND GRIEVANCES OF THE EXTRA-DEPARTMENTAL EMPLOYEES.**

576. **\*Mr. Brojendra Narayan Chaudhury:** Will the Honourable Member in charge of Communications (Postal) please state:

- (a) if Government are aware of the existence of the Assam Bengal Extra-Departmental Postal and Railway Mail Service Association;
- (b) if Government are ready to recognise this association;
- (c) if Government are aware of the following grievances of the Extra-Departmental employees:
  - (i) they do not get any opportunity to represent their grievances before superior officers who very often turn a deaf ear to their grievances, and
  - (ii) to most of employees the postal employment is the main source of income and not supplementary;
- (d) if the reply to sub-part (c) (ii) be in the negative, whether Government propose to hold an enquiry to ascertain to what extent the income from employment in Post Office is supplementary income only;

- (e) if Government are prepared to consider a revision of the pay of extra-departmental officers; and
- (f) if Government are prepared to consider the desirability of removing the age bar for departmental examinations in case of extra-departmental employees?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** (a) Yes.

(b) No application for recognition has been received from this association.

(c) (i) and (ii). No.

(d) No.

(e) Extra-departmental agents do not receive any pay. Their allowances are fixed after due consideration of the amount of work and attendance involved in each case, and Government see no justification for a revision of the allowances.

(f) No, Sir.

**Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad:** May I ask if it is in the interest of efficient working that extra-departmental men are employed in the postal services?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** The Honourable Member asks me for an expression of opinion, I think.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is asking for an expression of opinion.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** With regard to the answer to part (e), will Government consider the advisability of raising these allowances that are being made to these extra-departmental officers?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** No, Sir.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Sir, have Government received any representations from these extra-departmental employees in post offices to the effect that their allowances should be increased?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** Sir, the question of representations does not, I submit, arise out of the answer I have given.

#### PROPOSAL TO RUN THE SIND EXPRESS VIA MULTAN.

577. **\*Bhai Parma Nand:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that Multan is one of the most important cities in the Punjab and that it is a place of pilgrimage noted for commerce and it has got a Cantonment?

(b) Is it a fact that the Municipal Committee of Multan made an application to the Railway authorities to run Sindh Express *via* Multan in the interest of the City?

(c) Is it a fact that the Railway authorities have declined to listen to their request?

(d) If the answers to parts (a), (b) and (c) be in the affirmative, are Government prepared to make an enquiry into the case and reconsider their decision?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** (a) Government are aware of the importance of Multan.

(b) The Agent of the North Western Railway states that no application has been received from the Municipal Committee.

(c) and (d). Do not arise. The Agent has, however, explained that Multan is already adequately served by the 43 Up and 44 Down Express trains and 7 Up and 8 Down Karachi Mails which pass that station at convenient hours and provide suitable services to and from Lahore and Karachi. The diversion of other trains, *via* Multan, would increase the time taken between Karachi and Lahore, resulting in later arrivals at these two important centres and would be inconvenient for the through traffic for which these trains principally run.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** May I know if this question will be placed before the Local Advisory Committee?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** Sir, I will send a copy of the question and of the reply to the Agent of the Railway for consideration whether it should or should not be placed before the Local Advisory Committee.

REVISED SCALES OF PAY APPLIED TO RECORD SORTERS OF THE OFFICE OF THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, PUNJAB AND NORTH-WEST FRONTIER CIRCLE.

578. **\*Bhai Parma Nand:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Communications be pleased to state if it is a fact that some of the record suppliers (engaged in semi-clerical duties) employed in the office of the Postmaster General, Punjab and North-West Frontier Circle, Lahore, used to draw their pay in scale of Rs. 45—4—85, sanctioned by the Government of India in their letter No. 11-P.-T.-E., dated the 13th July 1928, till 1932, but were brought on to the revised scale of pay, *viz.*, Rs. 20—1—40 afterwards? Was the previous sanction of the Governor General in Council obtained to the application of the revised scale?

(b) Is it a fact that the scale of Rs. 20—1—40 was sanctioned by the Government of India for the record-lifters employed in the office of the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs only, and if so, why it has been fixed for the record suppliers as well? Are Government prepared to remove the hardship of the sufferers?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** (a) Two of the record-suppliers employed in the office of the Postmaster General, Punjab and North-West Frontier Circle, were incorrectly granted the scale of Rs. 45—4—85 referred to. That scale of pay was intended for men performing semi-clerical duties in addition to their ordinary work of record suppliers. It was found on examination that there was no difference, between the work of the record suppliers in the Circle Office at Lahore and that of record suppliers in the Director-General's office and in the Secretariat where the scale for such persons is Rs. 20—1—40. Opportunity was, therefore, taken on the retirement of the two men on the scale of Rs. 45—4—85 on the 1st

September, 1932, to reduce the scale for record suppliers to Rs. 20—1—40. No previous sanction of the Governor General in Council was called for:

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

#### DISTINCTION BETWEEN LITERATE AND ILLITERATE CLEANERS AND FIREMEN ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

579. **\*Bhai Parma Nand:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Communications be pleased to state if it is a fact that in 1928, the Railway authorities were pleased to make some distinction between literate and illiterate cleaners and firemen in grades I and II and decided to give some sort of preference to literate cleaners and firemen over illiterate ones?

(b) Is it a fact that a circular letter No. 177-E.-15, dated the 24th August, 1928, was issued by the Agent, North Western Railway, to all Divisional Superintendents under him to the effect that in future, while filling up vacancies on the list of cleaners and firemen, endeavours should be made to recruit at least 50 per cent. men sufficiently literate in English, so that they should eventually be promoted to shunters in this grade?

(c) Is it a fact that subsequently it was decided by the North Western Railway administration that, in future, promotions of cleaners to firemen and firemen to shunters should be made in the ratio of 50 per cent. from literate cleaners and firemen, respectively, and to give effect to this, separate seniority lists of literate and illiterate persons were maintained in all the Railway offices?

(d) Is it a fact that in certain cases promotions were made according to the above ratio?

(e) Is it a fact that in 1933 these orders were cancelled? If so, can the Railway administration state any special reasons for discontinuing this mode of preference?

(f) Is it a fact that the Railway Administration no longer accord preferential treatment to literate cleaners and firemen over the illiterate ones?

(g) Are the Railway Administrations prepared to consider this question again? If so, when and, 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.

#### PROMOTIONS IN THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE.

580. **\*Mr. Umar Aly Shah:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if it is a fact that in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office promotions are generally governed by the discretionary powers of the Director and not according to the ordinary rules of seniority?

(b) Is it also a fact that representations against such out-of-turn promotions were made by the clerks affected to the Director and higher authorities but with no result? Will Government please state if they propose to take some action to put a stop to such practice?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** (a) Promotion in the Railway Accounts Department is made at every stage by merit, due regard being paid also to seniority; the authority empowered to make promotions, *viz.*,

the Director, Railway Clearing Accounts Office, in the case referred to, has to exercise his powers in accordance with this principle.

(b) All representations received from the staff have been given due consideration both by the Director and by higher authorities, where necessary; Government are satisfied that no action on their part is necessary.

**Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad:** Are these promotions given on the ground of seniority, or efficiency, or one or the other according to the sweet will of the officer?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** The considerations taken into account are merit and seniority.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** In view of the fact that more than seven hundred people are employed in this office, may I ask why Government has not appointed a selection committee in order to look into this question of promotion,—instead of leaving it to the discretion of these Directors?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** Sir, there is no reason in the world why they should not leave the question of promotion to the discretion of the Director.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Sir, is it not resulting in a lot of nepotism and too much favouritism and discrimination?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** No, Sir. I repudiate the insinuation made by my Honourable friend.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** May I ask whether, in cases where seniority is overlooked, those cases are examined by the Government?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** No, Sir.

**Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad:** In case any person is passed over on the ground of efficiency, though he is senior, is his case examined by any higher official?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** He has the right of appeal to higher authority.

**Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney:** Which is given preference in making a selection—seniority or merit?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** Merit is the first consideration.

**Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney:** Is it not a fact that the unbridled use of merit by some selecting officers throws open the flood gates to nepotism?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** That is a matter of opinion.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** To whom does the appeal lie from the action of the Director?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** To the Controller of Railway Accounts.

**Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad:** Was not the assurance given on the floor of the House that, whenever any person is passed over because of his inefficiency, his case will ultimately be examined by the higher authorities and not as a result of appeal only?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** I am not aware of any such general assurance.

#### PROMOTIONS IN THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE.

581. **\*Mr. Umar Aly Shah:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state whether it is a fact that the posts of Sub-heads are governed by selection in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office and three selections of Sub-heads have taken place from 1928 to 1934?

(b) Is it also a fact that one general list of the three selections was drawn up, incorporating the names of all clerks selected for promotion to the rank of Sub-head, whether selected in 1928, 1930 or 1934 selections in the order of seniority as required *vide* sub-paragraph 2 of paragraph 152, page 67, Railway Clearing Accounts Office Manual, Volume I?

(c) Is it a fact that from 1928 till February, 1937, promotions in the Sub-heads grade were made from amongst the selected candidates of 1928, 1930 and 1934 strictly in the order of seniority?

(d) Is it a fact that the present Director has changed the past order and has set up a new formula to promote the Sub-heads according to the length of officiating service, with no regard to seniority or equal efficiency and has reverted all the senior men who were officiating before and most of whom have put in 20 or 25 years service and have been replaced by their juniors?

(e) Is it also a fact that a representation against this order was made by the senior men affected in August, 1937, and no action has so far been taken? Will Government please state if they propose to redress the grievances of the suppressed senior men and issue general instructions to the authorities that promotions to higher grades be made strictly in the order of seniority with due regard for efficiency?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** (a) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, I would observe that the Director, Railway Clearing Accounts Office, prepares at intervals, in consultation with his officers, lists of candidates who are considered *prima facie* fit for promotion to the rank of Sub-heads, and that he prepared three such lists in the period referred to.

(b) Yes.

(c) No.

(d) No. In making promotions from the approved list the Director takes into account the relative merits of the persons concerned; and one of the factors that he has to consider is the length of experience as Sub-head. As a consequence, men, who are selected to act as Sub-heads earlier, may continue to act, or get confirmed, as such, in preference to men who are selected for promotion later, notwithstanding the fact that the latter may have put in longer service as clerks, *i.e.*, in lower ranks than Sub-heads.



(e) A representation was submitted by the staff to the Controller of Railway Accounts, requesting him to issue orders that promotions to the grade of Sub-heads should be made on the basis of seniority alone, and the Controller of Railway Accounts has recently passed orders negating the request. Government are not prepared to interfere with the orders passed by the Controller of Railway Accounts.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will Government consider the advisability of seeing that the Controller of Railway Accounts periodically reviews the manner in which the selections are being made and the promotions are being made in this office?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** It is one of the functions of the Controller of Railway Accounts to control the officers who are under him.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** How often does he review the promotions that are being made in his office by the Director?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** I cannot give the Honourable Member that information. If he wants it, he can give notice.

#### PROMOTIONS IN THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE.

582. **\*Mr. Umar Aly Shah:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state how many out-of-turn promotions and confirmations in class I and Sub-heads grade have taken place in the Clearing Accounts Office from January, 1937, to January, 1938?

(b) Is the Financial Commissioner, Railways, prepared to intervene and call for papers and reverse the orders passed for confirmations and officiating chances in the class I and Sub-heads grade?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** (a) During the period in question seven confirmations were made in the grade of sub-heads. As I have already indicated in my reply to part (d) of question No. 581 which I have just answered, promotion to the grade of sub-heads is made by selection; the question of promotions out-of-turn does not, therefore, arise. During the same period 16 confirmations were made in class I; and out of these 12 were made in the strict order of seniority; the remaining four being made out-of-turn on the merits of each case.

(b) Government see no reason to intervene in the matter.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Is there any annual report being made by the Controller of Railway Accounts about this office and the way in which these promotions are made?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** I have already said that I must have notice of the detailed nature of the control that is exercised by the Controller of Railway Accounts.

**Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad:** In part (b) of the question, it is definitely asked whether the Financial Commissioner has examined these papers. They do not ask whether the Government would interfere in the matter. May I know whether the Financial Commissioner has examined the papers?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** Well, Sir, the Financial Commissioner is not independent of the Government of India and if I have said that the Government of India see no reason to intervene, the Honourable Member may take it that the Financial Commissioner will not intervene against our wishes.

**Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad:** Have the Government of India given instructions to the Financial Commissioner not to examine the papers of those candidates who have been passed over simply because of their inefficiency?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** No, Sir; the Government of India have given no such definite instructions.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** In view of the fact that a large number of representations have been made complaining of nepotism, do the Government propose to review this at least now?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** No, Sir.

**Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Will the Financial Commissioner receive representations to this effect now?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** Certainly the Financial Commissioner will receive representations though I cannot imagine that any good purpose will be served by forwarding them.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Why is it that in spite of the repeated representations being made to the Government of India containing so many complaints about the management of this Railway Clearing Accounts Office, Government have refused to review the manner in which this office is managed and have refused to intervene?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** Government have never refused to review the management of the office.

#### PROMOTIONS IN THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE.

583. **\*Mr. Umar Aly Shah:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if it is in the knowledge of Government that 50 per cent. of the vacancies in the Sub-heads' grade are being given to Appendix D men in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office? Is it not contrary to the orders on the point?

(b) Does the Financial Commissioner, Railways, propose to issue clear and definite orders that promotions to higher grades be made strictly in the order of seniority with no reservation for any class?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** (a) Government are satisfied that the Director, Railway Clearing Accounts Office, is making the promotions in question strictly in accordance with the orders issued to him, namely, that he must select the men for promotion to this grade so as to secure a high standard of efficiency.

(b) Government are not prepared to issue orders that promotions should be made on the basis of seniority alone.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** May I ask how many cases the Government have investigated after these complaints were made to satisfy themselves that the Director was acting according to the rules?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** I must have notice of questions involving details of the sort referred to.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** The Honourable Member said that the Government are satisfied and therefore I would like to know if there has been a single case in which investigation has been made to find out if the complaints were frivolous?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** If the Honourable Member wants details, he must give notice.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** On what basis does the Honourable Member say that the Government are satisfied that these complaints are groundless and the Director's report is correct without examining cases?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** Government have no reason to believe that the Controller of Railway Accounts is performing other than his duty.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Then, what is the object of making complaints to the Government when they sit with folded hands and take it for granted . . . . .

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot discuss the matter.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** I am only asking the question on what grounds does he think that the Director has acted according to the rules?

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It is a question for debate.

#### INCOME OF RAILWAYS FROM TOURIST TRAFFIC.

584. **\*Mr. Brojendra Narayan Chaudhury:** Will the Honourable Member in charge of Railways please state:

- (a) if any attempt has been made in recent years to estimate the income to Railways from tourist traffic;
- (b) if so, what is the estimated income;
- (c) if the tourist traffic is increasing or decreasing;
- (d) the amounts spent in the last five years on propaganda to encourage tourists traffic in the continent of Europe, America and London, separately; and
- (e) from which of the three countries, England, America, and the continent of Europe, the largest number of tourists comes?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** (a), (b), (c) and (e). Endeavours have been made to ascertain the volume of tourist traffic to India and the revenue accruing to Railways therefrom, but it has been found impossible

to get the necessary particulars on which any reasonable estimate could be framed. Such information as is available is published in the Annual Reports of the Central Publicity Bureau, Indian State Railways, copies of which are in the Library of the House.

(d) I am placing on the table a statement showing the expenditure of both the London and New York Bureaux for the last five years. The London Bureau is responsible for propaganda in Europe generally.

*Statement.*

Year.	London.	New York.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1932-33 . . . . .	79,435	2,08,659	2,88,094
1933-34 . . . . .	92,883	1,85,863	2,78,746
1934-35 . . . . .	1,11,000	1,49,000	2,60,000
1935-36 . . . . .	1,36,000	1,66,000	3,02,000
1936-37 . . . . .	1,52,000	1,52,000	3,04,000
Total . . . . .	5,71,318	8,61,522	14,32,840

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Are Government satisfied that the amount spent on propaganda is amply repaid by the tourists who visit this country?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** The decision recently taken by the Government of India has been that the amount expended on the New York Bureau was probably not worth while. As regards the London Office, they consider that it is worth while incurring the expenditure which they now incur.

**Mr. Brojendra Narayan Chaudhury:** Is there any return prepared showing the amount that India gets from the tourists who come from America?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** I have already said that I am unable to form anything like an accurate estimate of the number of tourists that visit this country.

**LICENCE FEES CHARGED FROM REFRESHMENT ROOMS AT DELHI.**

585. **\*Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad:** (a) Is it not a fact that the Honourable the Railway Member repeatedly gave assurance on the floor of the House and in the Standing Advisory Committee that the taxes are levied on vendors and stalls on Railway stations not for increasing income, but for disciplinary reasons and at reasonable rates?

(b) Will Government please state the amount of the licence fee now charged from

- (i) the Hindu Refreshment Room,
- (ii) the Muslim Refreshment Room, and
- (iii) the European Refreshment Room.

at Delhi central station?

(c) On what basis are these licence fees charged?

(d) In case the licence fees are charged on the income of the Refreshment Room, will Government please state whether the licence fee is charged on net income or on gross income?

(e) What is the net income and gross income of these three stalls on which licence fee has been calculated? What is the amount of licencing fee?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** (a) I have not been able to trace any assurance of the nature referred to.

(b) (i). Rs. 7,025 per annum. The contract in this case includes the sale of Hindu sweetmeats, bread and tea on the platform.

(ii) None at present, but it is proposed to levy a fee of Rs. 70 per mensem from the 1st April, 1938.

(iii) None. The contract is held by a firm who are also the general catering contractors for other refreshment rooms, some of which are remunerative and others are not.

(c) and (d). In the case of the Hindu refreshment room at Delhi, the amount recovered accords with the offer made by the contractor, which incidentally was not the highest received when the combined contract was put to tender.

In the case of the Muslim refreshment room, the amount is based on what the Administration consider after investigation to be a reasonable charge, having regard to the amount of business done.

(e) Particulars of income are not available. The reply to the latter part of the question is given in my answer to part (b).

**Maulana Zafar Ali Khan:** May I know why this invidious distinction in favour of European refreshment rooms in the matter of levy of licensing fees?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** In my reply to part (b) (iii), I have given the reason for the distinction.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** I did not follow the reply he gave to that part. Will the Honourable Member please repeat that answer?

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If Honourable Members carry on conversation among themselves or if they are otherwise engaged, how could they hear the answers when they are read out?

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Will the Honourable Member please state what money is now being received from the Wheeler Bookstall?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** That, I submit, Sir, does not arise.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** It is covered by part (a) of the question.

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** I think the Honourable Member had better give notice of the question.

**Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad:** Is it not a fact that the licensing fee is supposed to be not a source of income to the railway administration? If so, is a sum of Rs. 7,500 supposed to be good licensing fee?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** The reasonableness of that figure must be viewed in relation to the turn over of the stalls in respect of which it is paid.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS.

CONTRACTS FOR TEA STALLS AND REFRESHMENT ROOMS, ETC., ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

586. **\*Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state whether it is not a fact that in some divisions of the East Indian Railway the contracts are given to the highest bidder by inviting tenders?

(b) Is it not contrary to the promises of the late Railway Member?

(c) Will Government state their definite policy applicable to all the Railways about giving contracts to tea stalls, small vendors and refreshment rooms?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to page 35 of Appendix A to the Railway Board's Memorandum (No. 357-T., dated the 11th September, 1936) for the meeting of the Central Advisory Council for Railways.

(b) I have not been able to trace any promises made by my predecessor.

(c) I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply in this House on the 23rd February, 1938, to the debate on catering contracts initiated on Sir Abdul Halim Ghaznavi's motion for a reduction in the demand under the head "Railway Board".

CONTRACT FOR ARTICLES OF DIFFERENT VARIETY AT DELHI RAILWAY STATION.

587. **\*Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state whether it is a fact that the contract of articles of different variety at Delhi central station is given to the same person?

(b) Is it not a fact that these vendors give sub-contract either on commission basis or fixed amount?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** (a) On the assumption that the Honourable Member's question refers to contracts for the sale of various articles of sweetmeats, tea, bread, etc., the reply is in the affirmative.

(b) The Agent, North Western Railway, states that he is not aware of any proved cases of sub-letting.

SUB-CONTRACT OF THE HINDU TEA STALL AT LAKHSAR.

588. **\*Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state whether it is a fact that the contractor of Hindu Tea stall at Lakhisar gave a sub-contract to Mr. Joti Pershad?

(b) Is it not a fact that the Railway Administration wanted Joti Pershad to vacate the stall, but he refused to do so on the ground that he had no direct contract with the Railway?

(c) What action did the Railway Administration take in the matter?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** (a) The contract was sub-let to Messrs. Kanshi Ram Joti Pershad.

(b) and (c). Messrs. Kanshi Ram Joti Pershad were advised that, as the sub-letting was in violation of the agreement with the contractor, the latter's contract for the tea stall had been terminated, and the Administration could not recognise the sub-letting. I am, however, enquiring from the Agent, East Indian Railway, what developments there were in this matter, and will place a further reply on the table of the House in due course.

**LOWERING OF FREIGHT ON GROUNDNUT KERNEL FROM CERTAIN STATIONS TO VIZAGAPATAM ON THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY.**

589. \***Mr. K. S. Gupta:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways and Communications be pleased to state whether he is aware that hundreds of boatmen, several hundreds of cartmen and labourers of the Port of Bimlipatam are to be thrown out of employment by the lowering of freight on groundnut kernel by the Bengal-Nagpur Railway from:

- (1) Vizianagram to Vizagapatam wharf, and
- (2) Chicacole Road to Vizagapatam wharf?

(b) Is it done to improve the financial condition of the major port of Vizagapatam?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** (a) Allegations on these lines have been made in representations submitted to the Government of Madras.

(b) The Agent of the Bengal Nagpur Railway states that the reduction was made on the representation of merchants at Vizianagram who offered to rail their traffic to Vizagapatam Port, instead of carting it to Bimlipatam, if a rate of one anna per maund were quoted.

**GRANT OF REBATE ON KERNELS EXPORT DUES AT VIZAGAPATAM HARBOUR.**

590. \***Mr. K. S. Gupta:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways and Communications please state whether it is a fact that the Vizagapatam Harbour authorities are granting a rebate of 50 per cent. on kernels export dues to all the shippers over 4,000 tons?

(b) Is it not a fact that the export dues come to annas ten per ton due to such granting of rebate?

(c) If so, is it not very low when compared to the export dues in other major ports of India?

(d) Is it not a fact that the port of Vizagapatam exports 600,000 tons a year and Bimlipatam Port exports only 25,000 tons?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** (a) Yes.

(b) Yes, when the quantity exported by any shipper is in excess of 4,000 tons in any year.

(c) No.

(d) Exports from the port of Vizagapatam during the year 1936-37 totalled 4,36,255 tons but groundnuts only accounted for 27,228 tons. I have no information as to the amount of the total export trade of the Port of Bimlipatam but exports of groundnuts amount to about 20,000 tons per annum.

### FREQUENT AND DRASTIC REDUCTIONS IN FREIGHT ON THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY.

591. **\*Mr. K. S. Gupta:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state whether it is a fact that the commercial officer of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway held a meeting of merchants etc., in Vizianagram very recently and held hopes to further reduce the freight to eight pies per maund from one anna per maund?

(b) If so, what is the object of such frequent and drastic reductions at such short intervals?

(c) Do Government propose to see that the original rate in freight is restored?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** (a) The District Commercial Officer of the Bengal Nagpur Railway held a meeting at Waltair of merchants interested in groundnut traffic from Vizianagram to Vizagapatam Port when the groundnut exporters asked for a reduction of four pies per maund in the existing rate. This matter is under consideration by the Administration.

(b) Such reductions as have been made are intended to bring additional traffic to the railway.

(c) The matter is under consideration.

### PAUCITY OF ORIYAS ON THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY.

592. **\*Pandit Nilakantha Das:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state whether it is a fact that the number of Oriya employees is insignificant in Traffic and Catering Departments, including even the station porters and their contractors in that portion of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway which passes through Oriya lands?

(b) What portion of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway passes through Oriya lands and what is the proportion of Oriyas in the employ of the Railway in:

(1) passenger traffic,

(2) goods traffic, and

(3) catering:

(i) Hindu,

(ii) Muhammadan,

(iii) Departmental?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** As regards (a) and second part of (b), Government have no information. The recruitment of employees and the selection of contractors are matters within the competence of the Agent, Bengal Nagpur Railway, which is Company-managed.

As regards first part of part (b) the Bengal Nagpur Railway has about 500 miles in the Province of Orissa.

### RECRUITMENT OF ORIYAS AS PASSENGER CANVASSERS ON THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY.

593. **\*Pandit Nilakantha Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state whether it is a fact that passenger canvassers are being and are to be appointed in Bengal-Nagpur Railway? How many have already been appointed? How many are Oriyas?



(b) What was the manner and method of recruitment and by whom was it made?

(c) Was it by advertisement on the basis of any qualification?

(d) Were the men recruited by promotion, or selection from among the old employees?

(e) Were there Oriya candidates? If so, who are they and what is their qualification?

(f) How many are still to be appointed and in what manner or method?

(g) Is it a fact that this appointment was contemplated and created under recommendations of the newly appointed development officer, and is it also a fact that he is the *de facto* appointing authority and also the man who was responsible for the manner and method of selecting men for these posts?

(h) Are Government prepared to see that Bengal-Nagpur Railway administration recruit passenger canvassers from among men of the area through which the railway passes, and from among those particularly who are expected to know best the location and local festival, etc., which attract pilgrims?

(i) Do Government propose to see that adequate number of Oriya passenger canvassers are recruited in the new service created for the purpose?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** (a) to (i). These are matters of detailed administration on which Government have no information. The staff employed on this railway are not Government servants but are the servants of the Bengal Nagpur Railway Company.

I am, however, sending a copy of the question to the Agent of that Railway for such action as he may consider necessary.

#### NON-STOPPAGE OF 118 DOWN FAST PASSENGER TRAIN AT DELHI-SHAHDARA ON THE 20TH JANUARY, 1938.

594. \***Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways state:

(a) if it is a fact that the 118 Down Fast Passenger train from Delhi is scheduled to stop at Delhi-Shahdara;

(b) if it is a fact that it did not so stop on the 20th January;

(c) if this involved any risks to passengers owing to the timings of other trains running over the line at the same time;

(d) who is responsible for the non-stopping of the train on that date; and

(e) what action, if any, Government have taken in the matter?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) No. The section of the line was not occupied by any train and "line clear" had been obtained for 118 Down to proceed.

(d) The station master on duty at Delhi-Shahdara and the driver of the train have been held jointly responsible.

(e) I understand the Administration are taking disciplinary action, and Government's interference in the matter is not called for.

#### AIR-CONDITIONED CARRIAGES ON RAILWAYS.

595. \***Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways state:

- (a) how many air-conditioned coaches, and of which classes, are running on the various lines at the present day;
- (b) what is the extra charge levied for the same;
- (c) if there is any proposal for making any third class coaches air-conditioned; and
- (d) if there is any movement to make the saloons of Executive Councillors air-conditioned; if not, why not?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** (a) Five full I class air-conditioned coaches run between Bombay and Howrah and one coach with only three I class compartments air-conditioned runs between Bombay Central and Delhi.

(b) The surcharge per passenger travelling in air-conditioned coaches is:

- (i) Between Bombay V. T. and Howrah.—Rs. 2 per 100 miles, or Rs. 26/8/- from Bombay to Howrah. This includes the supply of bedding to passengers:
- (ii) between Bombay Central and Delhi.—Rs. 5 for any portion of the journey between Bombay Central and Delhi. The adequacy of this charge is under consideration.

(c) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given on 24th February, 1938, to part (c) of Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar's starred question No. 467.

(d) There is no proposal at present to air condition the Executive Councillors' saloons.

#### INCOME FROM AIR-CONDITIONED CARRIAGES ON RAILWAYS.

596. \***Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways state:

- (a) what extra income, if any, was derived from air-conditioned coaches during the time, month by month, that these coaches have been run; and
- (b) if Government are satisfied that the outlay on the same has been justified by results?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** (a) The running of air-conditioned coaches on the Bombay-Howrah service was commenced on December 1st, 1937. Excluding earnings derived from intermediate bookings, which are not at present available, the actual earnings derived from the surcharge levied for travel in these carriages amounted to Rs. 5,685 during the month of December, 1937, and Rs. 6,833 during the month of January, 1938.

(b) The coaches have not yet been in service for a sufficiently long period for Government to formulate a definite opinion. The results obtained to-date indicate that the outlay is likely to be justified.

#### EXPEDITION INTO SNOWY MOUNTAIN REGIONS IN INDIA.

597. \***Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Will the Foreign Secretary state:

- (a) if permission has recently been given to any foreign expedition to go into any snowy mountain regions within the jurisdiction of the Government of India, and if so, to whom;
- (b) if Government have made sure that there is no danger to the lives of these foreigners;
- (c) if it is a fact that a number of Indian labourers accompany such expeditions and whether Government are making sure by proper physical examination and otherwise that those who are to accompany these expeditions are fully capable of bearing the hardships involved; and
- (d) if Government propose to make sure that the expeditions that take these labourers with them, assure their dependents of adequate compensation in case there should be accidents?

**Sir Aubrey Metcalfe:** (a) Permission has been given to a German Expedition to attempt the ascent of Nanga Parbat this summer.

(b) No. There is always some element of risk in mountaineering expeditions.

(c) The porters employed by such expeditions are carefully selected through mountaineering experts, who make sure that they possess the physical and other qualities necessary for the work they are expected to do.

(d) Government fully recognise the desirability of such arrangements and so far as they are aware adequate compensation has always been paid, when accidents have unfortunately occurred.

#### ACCIDENT TO A HAJ PILGRIM TRAVELLING BY THE KARACHI MAIL TRAIN.

598. \***Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

- (a) if it is a fact that a passenger going for Haj pilgrimage by the Karachi mail train fell out of the carriage on the night between the 20th and 21st January, 1938, and expired, being unattended;
- (b) if it is a fact that the alarm signal chain of the train was not in working order and that, in spite of the fact that the chain was pulled with great strength by the passenger to stop the train, it did not stop? If so, has any action been taken against those responsible for seeing and maintaining the train and its various parts and instruments in order; and

- (c) whether an article published in the *Khadim Kaaba* of Lahore, dated the 4th February, 1938, under the heading "*Railway walon ki qabil muakhiza ghaflat*" was brought to the notice of Government and whether Government have made any enquiries about the facts stated in the article and taken any action against those responsible? If so, what is the result of the enquiries made and the action taken?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** (a) The guard of 8 Down Lahore-Karachi Mail reported to the station master at Ghotki that, at about 9-50 P.M. on the 21st January, 1938, a passenger had fallen out of the train between Sarhad and Ghotki. A search was made by the Permanent Way Inspector and a travelling police constable, by trolley, and the dead body of an old Muhammadan gentleman was found between the stations named. The travelling police constable remained in charge of the body.

(b) No. The guard of the train reported that the alarm chain had been pulled by a passenger in a third class compartment and the train stopped at mile 333. The passenger, who pulled the chain, stated that the man fell out of the train while he was washing his hands. No complaint was made of failure to operate the alarm chain.

(c) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative, and in view of my reply to parts (a) and (b), the second part does not arise.

#### BOGIE CARRIAGES ON RAILWAYS.

599. **\*Babu Kailash Behari Lal:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of bogie carriages, both broad-gauge and metre-gauge, in different Railways;
- (b) which Railways have constructed or are constructing the improved type of bogie carriages, and what is the number thereof; and
- (c) how many of such carriages are third class and intermediate class?

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

#### POSITION IN REGARD TO WAZIRISTAN.

600. **\*Sardar Mangal Singh:** Will the Foreign Secretary please state:

- (a) whether the tribes have been faithfully carrying out the terms of the compromise arrived at last year; and
- (b) what is the latest position in regard to Waziristan?

**Sir Aubrey Metcalfe:** (a) So far as Government are aware the tribes have complied with the orders announced to them.

(b) Active operations on a large scale in Waziristan have ceased, but no settlement has been reached with the Faqir of Ipi, and minor incidents still occur from time to time.

## MANUFACTURE OF AEROPLANES IN INDIA.

601. \***Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Communications state if it is a fact that the first aeroplane was built in India by the staff and cadets of the Aeronautical Training Centre of India to be used for training the reserved forces?

(b) What is the cost of the plane, and did it make its first flight?

(c) Was only the assembling of parts done in India, or were the parts and the engine and the machinery imported, and if so, from which country?

(d) Have Government given any contribution for the building of the plane, and, if so, how much?

(e) Has the experiment proved successful, and do Government propose to establish a Government factory for manufacturing aeroplanes in India? If so, when and, if not, why not?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** (a), (b) and (c). The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to question No. 88 by the Honourable Raja Yuveraj Datta Singh in the Council of State on the 17th February, 1938. The aeroplane is intended to be used for civil purposes only, and was assembled as a training exercise for the students in the Aeronautical Training Centre of India, Limited. The cost is not known.

(d) No.

(e) Does not arise.

## INDIANS IN CERTAIN BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS IN AFGHANISTAN.

601A. \***Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani:** Will the Foreign Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate number of Indians in Afghanistan doing business as money lenders, bankers, brokers and merchants;

(b) whether the Indian capitalists and merchants of the Punjab have submitted any representation to the Government of India requesting them to recommend to the Afghanistan Government to give them fruits monopoly? If so, with what results; and

(c) the total number of Indian medical doctors, professors, engineers and others serving in Afghanistan?

**Sir Aubrey Metcalfe:** (a) Money lenders and Bankers—Nil; Brokers—35 and Merchants—105.

(b) No such representation has been received.

(c) Doctors—15, Compounders—seven, Professors—17, Engineer—one and Mechanics—nine. The figures are approximate.

## UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

## RULES FOR THE RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING OF SUBORDINATE STAFF IN DIFFERENT DIVISIONS OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

46. **Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Karmi:** (a) Will the Honourable Member in charge of the Railways be pleased to state whether there are different

rules for the recruitment and training of subordinate staff in different Divisions of the East Indian Railway?

(b) Is it a fact that in Lucknow, Dinapur and Allahabad Divisions, Assistant Station Masters, Travelling Ticket Examiners and employees of other branches are provided as Guards when they apply or when vacancies exist?

(c) Is it a fact that in Moradabad Division they are told that this is not their avenue of advancement and outsiders are recruited when required?

(d) Is it a fact that in the Moradabad Division rules undergo a change with the change in the set of officers?

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

(a) No.

(b) Transfer of staff from one category to another is permissible, provided the employees concerned are suitably qualified and vacancies exist.

(c) The reply to part (b) applies equally to the Moradabad Division.

(d) No.

#### RESTRICTION ON RAILWAY SERVANTS AGAINST QUALIFYING IN THE DUTIES OF OTHER POSTS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

47. **Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state whether there is any restriction on Railway servants on the East Indian Railway against qualifying in the duties of other posts?

(b) Can a Booking Clerk, Relieving Clerk, Assistant Station Master, Ticket Examiner qualify in the duties of a Guard, Controller, etc.?

(c) Do Government consider it futile to increase the qualifications of Railway employees when they offer to do so?

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

(a) No.

(b) Yes.

(c) Does not arise.

#### PROMOTION OF C CLASS GUARDS IN THE MORADABAD DIVISION OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

48. **Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state whether it is a fact that C class Guards are not promoted to D class in the Moradabad Division unless they qualify in the duties of an F class Assistant Station Master?

(b) What is the avenue of advancement of a C class Guard as per Rules for the recruitment and training of subordinate staff?

(c) What is the maximum pay of a C class Guard and what is the maximum pay of an F class Assistant Station Master? Are these posts on the same or identical time-scales?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** With your permission Sir, I propose to reply to unstarred questions Nos. 48, 49 and 50 together. I am obtaining information and will lay a reply on the table of the House in due course.

**GRIEVANCES OF F CLASS ASSISTANT STATION MASTERS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.**

†49. **Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state what is the avenue of advancement of F class Assistant Station Masters on the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway section of the East Indian Railway?

(b) Are Controllers non-qualified Assistant Station Masters, and are they better qualified for the post of an Inspector than the F class Assistant Station Masters? How many non-qualified Assistant Station Masters have been promoted as Inspectors during the last two years, and what was the pay drawn by each and what was the pay of an F class Assistant Station Master on the day? Have these men to check the work of Station Masters and Assistant Station Masters, and have they any experience in that line?

(c) Is the combined seniority list maintained in the Office of the Chief Operating Superintendent being strictly adhered to, or is it subject to deviation? If so, why?

**GRIEVANCES OF F CLASS ASSISTANT STATION MASTERS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.**

†50. **Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state whether Station Masters on Rs. 200 grade are held senior to F class Assistant Station Masters drawing Rs. 290 pay?

(b) Are F class Assistant Station Masters posted as Station Masters to stations on corresponding pay? If not, why not?

(c) Is it the intention of the Railway Administration to abolish the posts of F class Assistant Station Masters? If so, why?

(d) How many F class Assistant Station Masters are now in existence and since when are they blocked on Rs. 290, the maximum of their grade?

**ABOLITION AND CREATION OF POSTS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.**

51. **Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state how many posts were abolished on the East Indian Railway during the last eight years, and how many were created?

(b) What is the policy of Government in respect of the rights of the State Railway employees whose posts are abolished and who are utilised on posts created in place of those which have been abolished?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** (a) Government have no information and they consider that the labour and expense involved in collecting it will not be justified by the results to be achieved.

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 48.

(b) The rights of employees whose posts are abolished are regulated by rules and conditions of service applicable to the new posts to which they may be appointed.

#### WEEK-END RETURN TICKETS ISSUED ON RAILWAYS.

**52. Mr. Umar Aly Shah:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member state if week-end return tickets are issued by all Railway companies? If not, why not?

(b) Why is the issue of week-end return tickets restricted to Fridays and Saturdays only? Why are they not issued on Sundays, Mondays and Tuesdays as well?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** (a) Week-end return tickets, subject to certain restrictions as regards the minimum distance, are issued over practically the entire system on the East Indian and Eastern Bengal Railways, for all classes, on the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway for first and second classes, and on the Assam Bengal and Bengal Nagpur Railways for intermediate and third classes. Other Railways have not considered that the grant of such concessions will bring them any additional revenue.

(b) The issue of these tickets is restricted to Fridays and Saturdays to permit of their being availed of by those desiring to take advantage of Sunday being a holiday.

#### CLOSING OF THE KOTIPALLI-COCONADA BRANCH OF THE MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA RAILWAY.

**53. Mr. Umar Aly Shah:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member state if it is a fact that the Kotipalli-Coconada Branch of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway will be closed? If so, when and why?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** A proposal to close this branch is under consideration. It is being run at a loss due, in some measure, to uncontrolled road competition. It has, however, been decided to delay a final decision, in order to ascertain the effect of the measures which are under contemplation for the co-ordination of road and rail transport.

#### OPENING OF STATIONS NEAR VILLAGES ON THE MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA AND SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAYS.

**54. Mr. Umar Aly Shah:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member state whether Government are aware of the difficulties of the villagers where the Railway stations are situated far from the villages, *e.g.*, Kotipalli, Biccavole, Durgada, on the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway and Srivilliputtur and Palani on the South Indian Railway?

(b) In places where the Railway lines are running near the villages, why are the stations situated far from the villages?

(c) Have the villagers assured the Railway authorities the minimum income per day? If so, why are their requests not complied with by opening the stations?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** (a) Government are aware that it is more convenient to live near a railway station.



(b) Station sites are selected in consultation with the local civil authorities, but technical railway considerations, both engineering and operating, have also to be taken into account.

(c) Possibly Government at all times take into account opinion expressed by local authorities as to the volume of traffic to be expected for any particular station. They cannot, however, always accept this in its entirety as expert investigation usually shows that the volume of traffic has been over-estimated.

#### ISSUE OF RETURN TICKETS FOR THE FACILITY OF SOUTH INDIAN RESIDENTS IN DELHI AND SIMLA.

**55. Mr. Umar Aly Shah:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state whether Government have considered the question of affording facilities for the South Indian residents in Delhi and Simla by the issue of concession return tickets available for not less than one month throughout the year?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** No, but I will convey the Honourable Member's suggestion to the Agents of the Great Indian Peninsula, Madras and Southern Mahratta and South Indian Railways for consideration.

#### ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON PILGRIMAGE TO THE HEDJAZ.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have to inform the Assembly that upto 12 Noon on Friday, the 25th February, 1938, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Committee on Pilgrimage to the Hedjaz four nominations were received; since when the candidature of two members has been withdrawn. As the number of candidates is now equal to the number of vacancies, I declare Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang and Maulana Shaukat Ali to be duly elected.

#### ELECTION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, HEALTH AND LANDS AND THE COMMERCE DEPARTMENT.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have also to inform the Assembly that the following Members have been elected to the Standing Committees for the Department of Education, Health and Lands and the Commerce Department, respectively:

*Standing Committee for the Department of Education, Health and Lands.*

1. Mr. P. J. Griffiths.
2. Mr. K. M. Jedhe.
3. Sardar Sant Singh.

*Standing Committee for the Commerce Department.*

1. Mr. J. D. Boyle.
2. Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar.
3. Babu Baijnath Bajoria.

### FIRST STAGE.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The General Discussion of the Budget will now go on. Under the Standing Orders, I fix 15 minutes as the time limit for discussion for any Honourable Member, and 20 minutes for Leaders of Parties and one hour or more, if necessary, for the Government Member's reply.

**Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai** (Bombay Northern Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Mr. President, I rise to make a statement, in consultation with the Deputy Leader of the Independent Party and the Leader of the Congress Nationalist Party and the Leader of the Democratic Party, for all practical purposes, the real majority of this House. . . .

**An Honourable Member:** Elected majority.

**Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai:** I am willing to accept the correction as a matter of form though the number of Members for whom I am speaking today is the majority in the House.

As matters stand, this year, looking down the Demands for Grants on which cuts used to be moved and the vote of the House used to be taken, there are absent the Demands for Grants under three heads: the Staff, Household and Allowances of the Governor General, Foreign and Political Department and the Defence Department. It is the last two with which my present statement is concerned, that is to say, the Foreign and Political Department and the Defence Department. Ever since 1924, the Demand for Grants under General Administration have been divided into several heads, and among them a place has always been found in one name or another for Foreign and Political Department and the Defence Department. The result of that sub-division has been that this House has had an opportunity of expressing its opinion by means of a direct vote on the policy of the Government as regards these two important parts of Government machinery. It is somewhat strange that this year, and notwithstanding the fact that so far as the constitutional provision is concerned it continues to remain the same, that the Government have chosen to take this particular extraordinary course. Looking at the Government of India Act, 1919, section 67-A(3), the provision relating to the powers of the Governor General and of the Governor General in Council are in *pari materia* the same as those which are contained in the transitory provisions contained in the new Act in Schedule IX. I will call your attention and the attention of the House to those provisions:

"The proposals of the Governor General in Council for the appropriation of revenue or moneys relating to the following heads of expenditure shall not be submitted to the vote of the Legislative Assembly nor shall they be open to discussion by either Chamber at the time when the annual statement is under consideration, unless the Governor General otherwise directs."

Then follow the different items to which this provision applies. I call attention to what appears as item (v) under that head:

"(v) expenditure classified by the order of the Governor General in Council as—

- (a) ecclesiastical,
- (b) political,
- (c) defence.

[Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai.]

If I may call attention to the terms of section 67-A as it appears in the Ninth Schedule, the only changes that I can see, which are verbal, are that instead of item (v) it is item (vi) and the language used is this :

"expenditure classified by the order of the Governor General in Council as :

- (a) ecclesiastical
- (b) external affairs
- (c) defence, or
- (d) relating to tribal areas."

There are four heads instead of the three in the old Act. The only change which, so far as I can see, is not material for the purposes of this statement is that, whereas under the Act of 1919 the sub-head was (v), here the sub-head is (vi), and that the sub-divisions have one added item under the new Act, namely, the one relating to the tribal areas which did not exist in the old Act, but so far as political and defence are concerned, they are described in the New Act as external affairs, and in respect of defence the language for all practical purposes is the same. It is true that there is constitutional power to do what the Government of India have purported to do, and the question really is not whether they have the power; the question is whether they should have or must exercise the power which undoubtedly has been given to them by the law, the power which was held in abeyance for a long period of time since larger and larger popular representation in this House became the Opposition from time to time. And even as regards the power the position may be looked at in terms of the section both as regards its opening paragraph as well as with reference to sub-head (vi) to which I have referred. There may be a difference of opinion, and I am prepared to concede that there can be, as to whether or not the Governor General himself could not have intervened in this matter by lifting what may appear to be a ban on the casting of a straight vote on defence and external affairs. The language, Sir, is this :

"The proposals of the Governor General in Council for the appropriation of revenues relating to the following heads of expenditure shall not be submitted to the vote of the Legislative Assembly, nor shall they be open to discussion by either Chamber unless the Governor General otherwise directs."

It is true that it is possible to hold that the words "unless the Governor General otherwise directs" merely qualify the right to discuss, but in the way in which the section has been framed the better opinion appears to be or what would appear to be that, "unless the Governor General otherwise directs" qualifies both parts of the opening portion of the section. In other words, it was competent to the Governor General, had he so chosen to maintain what had grown up to be a salutary, useful and important convention in this House, that this House shall express its opinion by a direct vote, and not by some indirect method, for the purpose of letting the irresponsible Government know what, at all events, is the view of the elected Members of the House, the taxpayers' representatives on their policy under these two heads during the year in question. In any event, whether the Governor General could or could not intervene, the matter at all events does not admit of any difficulty in so far as sub-clause (vi) of the transitory provisions of section 67A is concerned. They are under sub-clause (vi)—expenditure classified by the order of the Governor General in Council. Then among the heads mentioned are external affairs and

defence. I presume that in order to discontinue the former practice the Governor General in Council must have passed an order whereby they wanted to bar what is more material; and I want to emphasise this before the House that the right of a direct vote, even though it may be superseded by the Government in exercise of their powers, is a right to which the House attaches great value (*"Hear, hear" from Congress Benches*), for, an emphatic expression of opinion reiterated from time to time might even,—to use the language of one of the Members of the European Group,—by its acidity, dissolve a certain amount of rust on the minds of even an irresponsible executive. For, indeed that is really the value of all votes so long as you have not a true democratic Constitution. I am aware, as is sometimes said, that in the budgets of democratic responsible Governments not many changes could be introduced by way of amendments because of their commitments, either foreign or internal or for social purposes, but they have the paramount control over the personnel of the executive itself which puts forward these proposals, so that, no vote may be immediately necessary in a matter of this kind in truly responsible Governments; but in the case of irresponsible executives the vote becomes one of paramount value and importance.

I wish to call attention in this connection to the Report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee which reveals to a certain extent the mind behind the step which has been taken and what is in store in the future so far as the new Government which is contemplated by the Act is concerned. I shall read, Sir, only a few lines from the Report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee, page 22. It deals with the Central Legislature and the Army Budget:

"The one real danger of friction, and that a serious one, lies in the very large proportion of central revenues, which is, and must continue to be, absorbed by the Army budget. It is true that this difficulty is inherent in the facts of the situation."

Sir, it is not my desire to enlarge upon this, but in one word the facts of the situation mean an army of occupation in this country. (*"Hear, hear" from Congress Benches.*) It exists at the present day, and this is the danger which all my friends opposite have scented in order at least that before any other changes come on, they may not have to be influenced, if they at all care to be influenced, for I know that they have followed the old policy of Bourbons,—they learn nothing and they forget nothing. The report continues:

"Ever since the Act of 1919 the Central Legislature has constantly sought to—*this is in inverted commas, in the report itself*,—magnify its functions in the reserved field of the Army Budget."

It was realized that this House has continued to discuss the question of the Cut on the Army Budget in all its varied aspects including or rather commencing with that odious word, which becomes necessary in this country,—Indianisation,—and of course the over-burden of taxation by reason of extravagant and excessive expenditure. I continue to call attention to the report which throws more light than the words themselves would indicate, if only you read carefully and with a certain degree of circumspection.

"The serious friction thus caused would be likely to manifest itself in even stronger form in the future in a Central Legislature such as was proposed by the Statutory Commission", viz.—

[Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai.]

—a Central Legislature consisting entirely of what are now called British Indian Provinces exclusive of the Princes, somewhat similar in colour to this House without the nominated block. Interesting though it is, I will leave out the rest because it is unnecessary for my present purpose :

“Yet, in spite of these weighty considerations the danger of friction between the Governor General and the legislature over the Army Budget undoubtedly furnishes an additional argument against responsibility at the Centre in a purely British India Federation.”

I do not want to read any more. We are in a sense, at least so we are told by constitutional lawyers, functioning as a Federal Legislature in certain respects. It is obvious, therefore, that until we become trammelled or controlled or guided or stabilised in a way somewhat different to the present nominated block today the British India Legislature is not allowed as they do not wish it, to have a right of direct vote under the head of defence and under the head of external affairs. The reasons are provided more by the Joint Parliamentary Committee than I could have expressed. I have my own view, a little more strict than what there appears, but I suppose it is their desire to accustom the future tamed Legislature to a habit of accepting the fact that as a matter of vote these items will find no place. But whatever may be their motives with which I am not concerned nor this House, the fact remains that nothing had occurred except a vote against them each time to which they might or might not have given even a temporary thought but which is a thing that they do not desire this year.

As the Joint Parliamentary Committee itself states very clearly and definitely, a large part of the central revenue is absorbed by the Army Budget. It is a sore point with us because we believe that our monies should be better utilised by economies in that particular branch of Governmental activity. And we, therefore, find ourselves in this situation today that contrary to the practice of many years past the two heads under the demands for grants do not exist. And taking stock of the situation and the manner in which our vote has hitherto been responded to,—if you call it a response which is always an entire absence of response,—we do not wish to give the Government the pleasure of becoming parties to a form of democratic Government without its reality. We wish to point out that if they go on step by step in the direction in which they are moving, the only remedy is their removal; and, therefore, in consultation with my friends, we have come to this decision that we shall not take part in the general discussion of the Budget, that as and when the demands for grants are moved, without any speech we propose to oppose them; and when they come to the Finance Bill their fate by that time will be properly sealed. So that the protest which is not a mere matter of words but which, I am glad to find, all elected self-respecting Members of this House support, has taken the form which I am placing before you. We wish the House and the world to know the attitude of all of us on the manner in which the practice of their making these demands has been broken in a manner and under circumstances which expose the hollowness of a Constitution intended to make it appear to the outside world that there sits in India a legislature controlling the executive. The sooner it is known that that is a bare hypocritical statement wrapped in a constitutional form and the sooner that knowledge comes home to all of us and to the world at large, the better. I, therefore, submit, Sir, that the conduct of Government has

furnished us an opportunity of saving ourselves a considerable amount of time which most of us may easily employ better for purposes and in the services to which we have dedicated ourselves. And I should be very glad if from tomorrow other business were introduced of a legislative nature where, at all events, we are in a position to give a vote on every item brought before us. Assent may be withheld if we change it too far but that is a final resort. In any case in those measures we have a larger voice and we propose to continue to exercise that for the present. But in a matter in which our voice has remained unheard and our vote has been treated with scant courtesy and now that even the right of vote is itself denied, we have taken the decision which we have decided to take.

**Sir Cowasji Jehangir** (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, even a cursory glance, at the Budget that has been presented to us, will show that the Defence Department plays a greater part, than it ever did before; but unfortunately, this House has been deprived of the privilege of moving a direct cut on the Defence Department, thus depriving Honourable Members of this House from expressing their opinions and making their suggestions in a concrete form. I will not go into the legal aspect of the case. My Honourable friend, the Leader of the Opposition, who is a well-known lawyer in India, whose services have been at the disposal of this House for the last few years and,—I take this opportunity of stating,—have been appreciated by all sides of this House including Government, has expressed his opinion. It is not for me as a layman to endorse that opinion, but I may be allowed to express an opinion based on common sense if not on law, that to deprive this House, at this stage, of the privilege, it has had of expressing its opinion on the Defence proposals of Government by a direct vote, is a most unwise policy on the part of Government. Perhaps, busy as they are, they have not had sufficient time to consider that aspect of the case.

It may be contended, that we can express our opinions on the Defence problems without a vote. No one knows better than yourself, Mr. President, the great difference between merely expressing opinions and not being able to find out whether a majority of this House endorsed these opinions by a direct vote or not. I have heard discussions in this House, where opinions have been expressed without a direct vote, and I have also heard, what those not present in the House have said about the opinions expressed. Why, it can be contended by men having two opposite points of view that the discussion supported each of them; but, when you come to a vote, there can be no speculation as to what the House really believes. We do not want to be in the position of having to speculate, or allowing the public to speculate as to what is the opinion of the House on the question of Defence. Why, there was a debate in this House, the other day, on a motion for adjournment, and I found that certain members of the public imagined that the discussion showed that this House was strongly in favour of a larger and larger expenditure on the army. That is how the opinions of the House and those expressed by Honourable Members without a direct vote can be misunderstood. Therefore, the importance of a vote cannot be emphasised too often. My Party has had the privilege for a number of years of moving the cut under this Demand and we were just considering as to what form it should take, when we found that the Demand did not appear in the Budget. Let me now try and draw the attention of Honourable Members of Government

[Sir Cowasji Jehangir.]

to the great difference in the constitutional position of this House, and of the House, that they hope, will come into existence under Federation . . . . .

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** It will never come into existence.

**Sir Cowasji Jehangir:** It is true, that under the Constitution as framed in the Act of 1935, the non-official Members of this House will be deprived of a direct vote on the question of Defence; but, anybody, who has followed the discussions in the Round Table Conference, will realise that that point was not forgotten: it was discussed at considerable length, and to meet the arguments of those who went from India, it was conceded that the Ministers of the future, who will be from the elected representatives of the country, would have full knowledge of the administration of the Army, and be able to express an opinion in private to the Viceroy with regard to the expenditure on the Army. Where are those Ministers here today? Who is there to give advice to the Viceroy with regard to the expenditure on the Army today? In the Federation as I visualise it, the Ministers will be in a position not only to give advice, but to give that advice after full and careful consideration and study. That advice may be rejected, but when discussions take place in this House—it will certainly be without a vote—and issues are raised by non-official Members, I take it that the Ministers will also reply in defence of the proposals of the Government, if they are in agreement with those proposals. No such thing exists today. We are still under the old Constitution of 1919; and the only right and privilege which we had of expressing our opinions from this side of the House and getting those opinions endorsed by a vote, has disappeared on the present occasion.

Now, it may be contended that the Viceroy and Governor General in Council cannot help themselves. It may be contended, that, however, much they may be in agreement with the opinions expressed by us on this occasion, they are bound by the Act of 1935. That is the legal aspect and I am turning to it again for one minute. We are advised that it was in the power either of the Viceroy or of the Governor General in Council to continue this privilege so long as the Constitution of 1919 applies to this House, and that there is nothing in the Act of 1935, which forced them to take the steps they have taken on the present occasion. If that is so, then a strong protest from this side of the House is more than due, and it has to be considered what shape and form this protest should take. My Party and I have come to the conclusion that the protest should take the form just stated by my Honourable friend, Mr. Bhulabhai Desai. We shall take no part in the general discussion of the Budget, and we shall help without speeches to throw out the demands. In short, we are of opinion, that, deprived of this vote, any discussions in this House would be a waste of time. We are here to do our legitimate duties, and that we shall continue to do. We shall request Government to bring forward business in which we can take as effective or ineffective a part as we have done in the past, and it will be our duty to give our best attention to such business. But with regard to the Budget, we have come to the definite conclusion that under the altered conditions, speeches will be of no avail. Mere ventilation of views we have had enough. With regard to the Finance Bill, we shall adopt the same attitude, under the present circumstances and conditions.

I have nothing further to say, Mr. President. We sincerely regret to have to take this step, but we are not responsible for it. (Hear, hear.) The responsibility for having forced us to take this step, is on the shoulders of my Honourable friends, who sit opposite. (Hear, hear.) They must bear the responsibility, and they must answer their masters, as we have to answer our masters, the Indian Electorate, (Hear, hear) and I trust and hope that they have got a good answer for their masters in England.

**Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan** (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, the Honourable the Finance Member in his speech the other day said that India is a disappointing country for prophets. He also quoted some predecessor of his who had described it to him as a land of unfulfilled prophecies. When he used the expression that the Budget maintained the *status quo* I think he made a wrong prophecy, and also when he made an observation in his speech that the agreement as regards the naval expenditure would not be criticised as his other previous agreement, he made a wrong prophecy. The Budget is not a dull one as he thought. It is a very exciting one. The excitement which it has created does not remain within the walls of this House; it will go not only throughout India but abroad, and I think that that excitement will be in the good interests of the country.

As pointed out by the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition we have been exercising this right under the Constitution of 1919 and the same words are embodied in the Constitution framed in 1935. We have enjoyed a certain right for the last 17 years and when we are deprived of it, it is a step which we cannot like nor can we approve of it. While we have been fighting for an advance in the rights and privileges of this House, we find that not only are no greater privileges accorded to us, but even the little that have been enjoyed by this House before are being taken away under a section which has not been used for the last 17 years. My Party is fully agreed that we must lodge our protest against this. We cannot be a party to any curtailment of the rights of this House. (Hear, hear.) Whatever Party we may belong to while sitting in this House, as Members of this House it is our duty to see that the rights and privileges of this House are not curtailed.

The Government Members may say that they have no voice, no personal voice, that they are dictated by one gentleman from outside and that they cannot express their own opinion. That is an unfortunate position, but I think as Members of this House they ought to have come out and fought for the privileges of this House whether they are debarred from expressing their opinion openly on the floor of this House or not. I do not know how this decision has been taken, and what the Members of the Executive Council were doing behind the *purdah* when this decision was being arrived at. They ought to have stood boldly as Members of this House. Their duty was twofold: one as Members of the Executive Council and another as Members of this Legislature. As Members of this Legislature they ought to have pleaded the cause of the Central Legislature and the enlargement of its rights. Even the paltry sums generally put up before us for the houses of Indian soldiers or the bungalows of the Indian officer, or some such minor details—the criticism of even these has been debarred from this House. I do not think that any Member of this House can sleep over a curtailment of the rights of this House and I, on behalf of my Party, join in this protest and we shall not take part in any discussion.



**Mr. M. S. Aney** (Berar: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I have risen to endorse what the Leader of the Opposition has already announced to the House. My Party has also agreed to take up the attitude towards this Budget, Demands for Grants, and the Finance Bill, in accordance with the decision just announced to the House. I endorse all the arguments which the Leader of the Opposition has so eloquently placed before the House. I find myself in a very peculiar position. We, Members on this side of the House, have been elected to this Legislature under the old Constitution, evidently under an expectation that we shall be discharging our duties to our constituencies within the limits permitted by the old Constitution and in accordance with traditions established under that old Constitution. Now, it has been abundantly made clear that under the old Constitution, since its very inauguration in the year 1921, the Demands for Grants used to contain these important items, *viz.*, Defence and External affairs on which cuts could be moved and a direct discussion over the question could be raised and a verdict of the House properly given. That has gone on all these years without anybody ever suspecting that there was anything wrong in it. This year a serious departure was made and I am surprised to find that the Honourable the Finance Member in a speech which lasted for about an hour I believe, had not a word of explanation to say about a departure like the one that has been made in the Demands for Grants which he has placed before this House seriously for our consideration. It has been the general practice of Finance Members—may I remind my Honourable friend, Sir James Grigg—when ever any little departure was made in regard to the procedure of framing the Budget or the Demands for Grants some explanation used to be given by the Finance Member in the Budget speech. But the ethics which my Honourable friend, Sir James Grigg, has shown in regard to this matter are not the normal order of morality which govern man and man. He has his own peculiar ideas about this matter and he thought it more prudent and more diplomatic to take you by surprise or leave you in the lurch rather than tell you the part, the diabolical part, he has played in framing the Budget. My point is that if he had given an explanation of this in his Budget speech we would have given a notice of a motion for adjournment against this, because we would have known that thing immediately. When we were trying to find out where we should give the cut, then we learnt rather too late yesterday that this particular item, a very important item, was not there at all. So, a discussion about the propriety of the step taken by the Governor General in Council on this point became impossible on account of the House being kept in the dark about this matter for a long time.

There is another thing which is of some importance. When I look at these Demands for Grants I find that it contains about 80 demands, but you will find that there is no demand which is numbered 72 at all. They have counted it without there being 72 at all. There is 71 and there is 73. Evidently, it seems to me that those who first prepared these proposals had a number given—72—to that demand. Some portion of it must have been kept voted; but, later, counsels seem to have prevailed and the idea of having 72 as voted seems to have vanished in the air. It means the interpretation which we are placing upon the Constitution and even upon the transitory provisions which regulate our budget proposals this time was probably the interpretation followed by those who were responsible for originally framing the Budget, but then some difficulty

might have occurred which is unknown to us and it appears to me that at the eleventh hour the idea flashed "Oh, no more discussions about Defence matters and no more shall we be harassed by an adverse vote on defence and foreign affairs". It seems that a generous impulse that existed at first was deliberately killed and then the idea of robbing you of a vote on a direct discussion by means of a cut relating to the Defence Department has occurred later on. However, I do not want to enter into the question of interpretation. I am sure the House has appreciated the point of view which was placed before this House by the Leader of the Opposition on this point.

There is a third thing which I want this House to consider, because, if we understand that, we shall have some idea of the future which faces us hereafter. Most of us know that and most of you must have read also that there is a distinct instruction given that the defence shall be primarily the concern of the elected representatives who should, therefore, be associated in an increasing degree in the consideration of all matters relating to defence. This is the principle solemnly laid down in a very important document which is going to be the guide for the Governor General in Council who will administer this country hereafter. Now, what is the spirit in which that instruction is going to be carried out? Whatever little right this House possessed in the matter of the discussion of Demands for Grants, particularly pertaining to defence and foreign affairs, that right is taken away today. Is that the spirit in which that instruction is going to be carried out hereafter? That is also another point which makes it necessary for us to record our protest as strongly as we can against the step—the arbitrary and reactionary step—taken by the Governor General in Council as regards this matter. It was suggested by somebody in the lobby—I know that lobby conversation ought not to be imported into the discussion of this House—I think the suggestion was made by somebody from above, to the effect that you can make a cut in the demand for the Executive Council and the purpose will be served. My point is this. We do not assemble here for the sake of carrying on a desultory discussion. We want definitely to appraise the House and the country abroad that elected Members have certain definite opinions upon certain important questions of policy which should be discussed directly. The opinion recorded by this House as regards the military policy and the policy regarding foreign affairs will be a guide for the world to know how far the administration of this country is being conducted in regard to those matters in conformity with the opinions of the accredited representatives of the people. We want to show the disparity in those two things and expose the reality and the hollowness of the whole affair to the world and one of the ways by which it was possible for us to do so was by raising an appropriate discussion by moving appropriate cuts in the Demands for Defence and External Affairs during the Budget discussion. As that valuable right is taken away, I think it is necessary that all elected and non-official Members must take concerted action to express their indignation and resentment at the step taken by the Government. I do not think that the step suggested by the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition is strong enough. I would have gone even further than that; but anyhow the Government should know that all the elected Members on this side of the House are recording their protest against what they have done and on behalf of my Party I want to announce that we shall decline to participate in the discussion. We shall turn down every grant

[Mr. M. S. Aney.]

that may be moved on behalf of the Government without a single word being uttered either for or against it and when the Finance Bill comes up, all that we shall then do is to see that the Bill is voted down.

**Sir H. P. Mody** (Bombay Millowners' Association: Indian Commerce): For years we have worked under a system under which so far as the Budget at any rate is concerned our debates have been reduced almost to a farce. As if to emphasize this unreality, it has now been decided to take away almost the only vestige of influence which the House can exercise in a vital matter and to remove from the purview of the House any item relating to the Defence Budget. Sir, it seems to me to be a very unpleasant reminder of the sort of responsibility which this House enjoys, and I for one am wholly unable to understand why this departure should ever have been made. My Honourable friend, the Leader of the Opposition, has just pointed out that under the old Act as well as under the new Act, the direction given to the Governor General is identical, and I cannot understand why under the cloak of the new Constitution a different interpretation shall be given to the provision. In order to anticipate any argument which may be urged by my friend, the Law Member, I would at once point out that in the copy of the Government of India Act which I have seen, and which is a clean copy and not obtained from any second-hand book shop, there is not a single comma in the provision, so that the words "unless the Governor General otherwise directs" apply both to the submission to the vote of the House as well as to the discussion of the Budget. Sir, it is not easy to appreciate why the Defence Budget should have been sought to have been invested with the sanctity which ordinarily applies to divorce Court proceedings. I am still hoping that, now that it has been realized how the House has viewed the matter, the Governor General will be the first to vindicate the honour and self-respect of this House. (Hear, hear.)

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg** (Finance Member): Sir, it has, of course, been borne in upon me that the House is protesting about something, but even now I am not quite clear exactly what it is they are protesting about. (Hear, hear'.) If they want to protest against the fact that defence expenditure in any real sense is outside the vote of the House, then there is nothing to be said. This is, and always has been, the case. If they want to make a demonstration against the Constitution, all right, let them make their demonstration, but as that is for the time being settled, there is nothing for me to say about it. If the protest is that something has happened this year, that some change has happened this year by which the Opposition have lost something real which they have had for the last twenty years, then let me assure them that they are mistaken. I need not read the two relevant sections of the two Acts because the Leader of the Opposition has already done that, but perhaps I might make a few remarks about them. As far as I can see, both the sub-sections are mandatory. The latter one introduces quite definite changes of content. That is admitted. And, of course, the new section or sub-section, has got to be related to a definite series of constitutional changes. The constitutional basis of the 1935 Act is quite different to that of the 1919 Act. I need only mention one point. The old Act proceeded on the basis of the delegation of powers: the new Act proceeds on the basis of surrender of powers. But be that as it may, though certain

parts of the old Act have been re-enacted, subject to certain changes, in the Ninth Schedule of the new Act, this Schedule has got to be read not in the context of the old Act but in the context of the new Act. Clearly, then, it became necessary to review in detail the distribution of grants between voted and non-voted. As I understand the position, it is that it is mandatory to exclude from the voted category expenditure falling under any of the specified heads, unless the Opposition are going to argue that you can invent figments and classify, for example, expenditure in the Persian Gulf as agriculture, or something of that sort.

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali** (Dahli: General): Read sections 33 and 34 of the new Act, and you will change your opinion.

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** Then on the question whether any particular item of expenditure falls within the specified heads, the decision of the Governor General is final. Well, in connection with the general review, which was in any case essential on the passing of the new Act, expenditure in the Defence Department amounting to four lakhs out of forty-five crores of defence expenditure as a whole came under consideration. This had previously not been classified as defence expenditure and, therefore, became subject to the vote of this House. The Governor General takes the view that, in the conditions of the new Constitution, this is defence expenditure, and it seems to me very difficult to take any other view, having regard to the ordinary meanings of words. Now, it has been said that the opposite view has been taken under the different conditions of the old Act. But once the question has had to come under review in detail, as it certainly had to do, and in an entirely new setting, I do not see how the Governor-General in Council—if you like, the Government of India—could have avoided taking a decision, and taking the decision which they have done. So much for legal and constitutional technicalities. I do not attach very much importance to them.

Now, let us come and see whether the grievance of the Opposition is in fact real. The Governor General has thrown open the whole subject of defence to discussion, exactly as in previous years. There is no change there. There is no less complete freedom or opportunity for a full and free discussion. . . . .

**Dr. P. N. Banerjea** (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): But no vote.

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:**.....but, say the Opposition and Professor Banerjea also, "we cannot express our view by our vote", but they can, to no less an extent than heretofore. In previous years the Opposition have visited their wrath about defence expenditure on some clerks and peons in the Defence Department, and by rejecting the whole of the provision for that, namely, four lakhs, have forced the Governor General to restore this element of defence expenditure—which, I apologize for emphasizing to the House, covers one-tenth of one per cent. of the whole. I think it will be admitted that to visit the wrath of this House on matters of defence policy on a few clerks when their wrath is really directed against those who control or are in charge of defence expenditure is a highly artificial proceeding. (Interruption.) So, if we can find a method not appreciably more artificial by which the Opposition can express its distaste for the authors of defence policy, they have no grievance. And there is certainly such an opportunity. It has been mentioned

[Sir James Grigg.]

casually by one or two Members, but there it is, the House can make a vote, a perfectly effective vote, by discussing the Executive Council. After all, it is the Executive Council that it is intended to censure in matters of defence policy—not the poor clerks in the Defence Department. (Interruptoin.) It is perfectly true that the pay of the Members of the Executive Council is not included in this vote, but their travelling allowances are (Hear, hear): and as we are in any case discussing an extremely artificial basis of expressing opinions by vote, it is pretty clear that, to express that view on the Executive Council impinges on the authors of the policy far more directly than expressing the view on the salaries of a few clerks, whose pay—I apologize for mentioning once more—amounts to one-tenth of one per cent. of the whole defence expenditure of this country, and that they are expressing their view on the authors of the policy in a more direct way than they would be if they followed out the old plan. But my Honourable Colleague, the Law Member, reminds me that in the case of “repressive” policy, the Executive Council vote was the vehicle, the channel by which it was sought to convey the displeasure of the House and so I do not think the House is entitled to complain that one method is more artificial than the other. To me it is quite clear that the whole grievance is either an unreal one or it is one which has existed for twenty years and will continue to exist, viz., that defence expenditure, in any serious sense, is outside the purview of this House. I have no expectation, of course, that any explanations that I can give will affect the decision which the Parties opposite have come to. I hope, however, that in course of time the true state of affairs will be understood in the country as a whole and it will be understood that this is an entirely manufactured and artificial grievance.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The general discussion of the General Budget will now go on.

(No Honourable Member rose to speak.)

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar** (Leader of the House): Sir, if no one is going to speak, I may remind the House of what fell from the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Desai. I think he suggested that if there is going to be no discussion and if two days will not be taken up by the general discussion as previously allotted, some work may be fixed for tomorrow. That, Sir, we are quite willing to do if that is the desire of the House. We could put on the work that has not yet been finished, namely, the Supplementary Grants in respect of Railways, the Workmen's Compensation Act and some other items which I do not remember now. If the House approves of that, it can be done.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I take it that it is not necessary to cancel the days that are allotted for the general discussion of the Budget.

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar**: It is not necessary to cancel them because two days are allotted for general discussion but two days have not been taken up and the work has been completed.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): In that case, the Governor General in Council can propose for the remaining day other official business.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock, on Thursday, the 3rd March, 1938.