

Tuesday, 4th April, 1939

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THE
COUNCIL OF STATE DEBATES

VOLUME I, 1939

(23rd January to 18th April, 1939)

FIFTH SESSION

OF THE

FOURTH COUNCIL OF STATE, 1939

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COUNCIL OF STATE.

Tuesday, 4th April, 1939.

The Council met in the Council Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, the Honourable the President in the Chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

SPECIAL COMBINED RAILWAY FREIGHT RATES QUOTED FOR TRAFFIC FROM INDIA TO OTHER COUNTRIES AND *vice versa*.

225. THE HONOURABLE MR. B. N. BIYANI: Will Government state:

(a) Whether there are combined freight rates of railways and of shipping companies from India to other countries and *vice versa*?

(b) If so, for what commodities and countries?

(c) If there are combined rates, will Government lay on the table a statement giving the details of these rates?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL: (a), (b) and (c). There are no special combined freight rates quoted for traffic from India to other countries and *vice versa*. In response to the trade demand, through booking arrangements with steamer companies have, however, been made by certain railways as follows:

N. W. R.—For wool, goat hair and cotton, full-pressed, from certain stations to Liverpool and Manchester.

S. I. R.—Goods traffic of all descriptions, except explosives and other dangerous goods booked to and from any station south of Madura on the S. I. R. to Colombo, *via* Tuticorin, and *vice versa*.

A. B. R.—Traffic booked from the United Kingdom to certain stations on the A. B. and D. S. Railways, *via* Chittagong Port.

In all these arrangements, however, the railway freight rates are those ordinarily applicable to the same articles or commodities.

INTERCEPTION OF THE PRIVATE CORRESPONDENCE OF SOME PUBLIC WORKERS IN THE UNITED PROVINCES.

226. THE HONOURABLE MR. B. N. BIYANI: Will Government state:

(a) Whether private letters of some responsible public workers are opened, read and in some cases, kept undelivered in the United Provinces Post Offices?

(b) Whether the C. I. D. officers of the Provincial Government also help the postal authorities in the matter? and

(c) Whether this practice is observed throughout India or is it only confined to the United Provinces? Why is this practice followed and on what basis?

THE HONOURABLE MR. F. H. PUCKLE : (a) to (c). It is not in the public interest to give any information of the kind asked for.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : Is the action taken private ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. F. H. PUCKLE : Were any action taken it would be secret.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : Do Government doubt whether letters are detained ?

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : Government have already said such action would be secret.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : The question is whether they are aware of it or not ?

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : You cannot compel any Honourable Member of Government to answer any question.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : Let him say that he cannot give any information.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : He has said it is a secret matter.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : I have not heard that he has said that it is a secret matter. Are Government aware that the letters are detained ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. F. H. PUCKLE : I have nothing to add, Sir.

PROSCRIPTION OF CERTAIN BOOKS PUBLISHED BY THE SASTA SAHITYA MANDAL.

227. THE HONOURABLE MR. B. N. BIYANI : (a) Have the Ajmer-Merwara Government proscribed some of the books published by the Sasta Sahitya Mandal from 1930 to 1933 ? If so, which of them ?

(b) Are many of these books mere translations of books in other languages ?

(c) If so, have the original books also been proscribed ?

(d) Have Government received any representation in this connection ?

(e) Do Government propose to lift the ban on these books ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. F. H. PUCKLE : (a) Five books published by the Sasta Sahitya Mandal were proscribed by the Ajmer-Merwara Administration between 1930 and 1933, namely, (1) *Yug Dharm*, (2) *Aniti ki Bah Par*, (3) *Asia ki Karanti*, (4) *Hamare Zamane ki Gulami* and (5) *Samajik Kuritiyan*.

(b) *Hamare Zamane ki Gulami* and *Samajik Kuritiyan* are alleged to be Hindi translations of Tolstoy's *The Slavery of our Times* and *Social Evils and their Remedy*.

(c) No.

(d) Yes.

(e) The ban on the book *Aniti ki Rah Par* was removed in 1932. The question of the removal of the ban on the remaining books is under consideration.

STOPPAGE OF 5-DOWN AND 6-UP PUNJAB MAILS AT BURHANPUR, G. I. P. R.

228. THE HONOURABLE MR. B. N. BIYANI: (a) With reference to my question No. 281 on the 4th April, 1938, in the Council of State on the subject of the stoppage of the 6-Up and 5-Down Punjab Mail Trains at Burhanpur, will Government state whether any action has been taken by the Agent of the G. I. P. R. in the matter?

(b) If none, does the Agent concerned contemplate doing the needful at an early date?

THE HONOURABLE SIB GUTHRIE RUSSELL: (a) and (b). The matter has been considered by the General Manager, G. I. P. R., who states that the travelling public to and from Burhanpur are not in any way inconvenienced by the fact that 5-Down and 6-Up Punjab Mails do not stop there. If booked to stop at Burhanpur, the timings would be very inconvenient—between 2-30 and 3 A.M. in the morning. This station is conveniently served by the Peshawar Express trains Nos. 197-Down and 198-Up at 8-21 and 19-48. The General Manager, therefore, does not propose to take any action in the matter.

REGISTRATION OF FOREIGNERS RESIDING IN INDIA.

229. THE HONOURABLE RAJA YUVERAJ DATTA SINGH: (a) Will Government state whether they have established an agency for registering the names of foreigners residing in India?

(b) If so, what is the number of foreigners of various countries, excepting diplomatic representatives, envoys and ambassadors, residing in India at present?

THE HONOURABLE MR. F. H. PUCKLE: (a) and (b). The Honourable Member is referred to the Registration of Foreigners Bill which was passed by the Legislative Assembly on 31st March, 1939, and is now before this House.

PERCENTAGE OF STORES PURCHASED FOR GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS OF INDIAN AND NON-INDIAN ORIGIN.

230. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR SRI NARAIN MAHTHA (on behalf of the Honourable Raja Yuveraj Datta Singh): Will Government state the percentage of stores purchased in India of Indian produce and Indian manufacture as compared to that of British and foreign manufacture for the use of the military and other Government departments?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. DOW: So far as the purchases made by the Indian Stores Department are concerned, the Honourable Member will find the information he requires in the annual Administration Reports of the Indian Stores Department, copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

REDUCTION IN THE COST OF RADIO RECEPTION.

231. THE HONOURABLE RAJA YUVERAJ DATTA SINGH: Will Government state whether they propose to reduce the import duty on wireless sets along with the registration fee?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. D. GORWALA: Government have under examination all aspects of the problem of reducing the cost of radio reception.

ALL-INDIA RADIO.

232. THE HONOURABLE RAJA YUVERAJ DATTA SINGH: Do the All-India Radio Department propose to fix particular days in a week for social, religious and educational discourses for Indian children in their programmes?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. D. GORWALA: No.

GRIEVANCES OF MENIALS EMPLOYED IN THE GOVERNMENT TEST HOUSE, ALIPORE, CALCUTTA.

233. THE HONOURABLE MR. SUSIL KUMAR ROY CHOWDHURY: (a) Is there a Physical and Chemical Laboratory styled the Government Test House located in Calcutta owned and managed by the Government of India?

(b) Is there no permanency of the tenure of the persons employed there as chaprasis, bearers and khalasis even after they have served for 20 to 25 years and are there no facilities for Provident Fund for them?

(c) If so, what steps have the Government of India taken or propose taking in this respect with a view to allaying the grievances of these poor menials?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. DOW: (a) Yes.

(b) Out of a total staff of 57 inferior servants, 48 are permanent and only nine are temporary. The permanent employees are pensionable. None of the temporary employees has put in more than three years' service.

(c) Does not arise.

DISMISSAL, ETC., OF THE MENIALS EMPLOYED IN THE GOVERNMENT TEST HOUSE, ALIPORE, CALCUTTA.

234. THE HONOURABLE MR. SUSIL KUMAR ROY CHOWDHURY: (a) Are Government aware that the poor employees mentioned in the preceding question are dismissed or degraded by their superior officers without giving them any facilities for defending themselves against the specific charges that are framed against them and they are deprived of the legitimate rights that are given to them (menials, servants) under Bengal Board's Miscellaneous Rules, 1918, section 77 (a), (b) and (c)?

(b) If so, what steps have Government taken or propose to take in this respect, and how many chaprasis, bearers or servants have been dismissed, degraded, fined or awarded any other kind of punishment during the last five years and what are their names?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. DOW: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS AND ACID POISONING AMONG THE MENIALS EMPLOYED IN THE GOVERNMENT TEST HOUSE, ALIPORE, CALCUTTA.

235. THE HONOURABLE MR. SUSIL KUMAR ROY CHOWDHURY: (a) Are Government aware that most of these menials referred to in the preceding question suffer from T. B. and acid poisoning and that each year a

large number of these sufferers die of these diseases for lack of any medical assistance ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to conduct an inquiry into the matter ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. DOW : (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

REDUCTIONS AND INCREASES OF STAFF IN THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

236. THE HONOURABLE HAJI SYED MUHAMMAD HUSAIN : Will Government state the reasons for the reduction in the number of :

- (i) Section superintendents including assistants to chief superintendents and selection grade posts (finance).
- (ii) Assistants,
- (iii) Head clerks,
- (iv) Second division clerks,
- (v) Record suppliers,

and increase in the number of :

- (i) Third division clerks (newly created),
- (ii) Stenographers ?

in the Office of the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. D. GORWALA : In the different cadres of the Director General's Office such reductions and increases of staff have been made from time to time as were found necessary in the interests of efficiency.

REDUCTIONS AND INCREASES OF STAFF IN THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

237. THE HONOURABLE HAJI SYED MUHAMMAD HUSAIN : (a) Was the total number of letters and files received and diarised in 1928 in the Office of the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs, about 70,000 and in 1938 was it above 90,000 ?

(b) If the reply is in the negative, will Government furnish correct figures ?

(c) If the reply to (a) is in the affirmative, will Government state the reasons justifying reduction in the strength of the staff and imposing additional work on the remaining staff ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. D. GORWALA : (a) and (b). The figures were 69,278 in 1928 and 86,765 in 1938.

(c) The question of the staff necessary for the Office of the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs was recently examined by an Officer on Special Duty and Government have passed orders after taking into consideration the recommendations made by that Officer. Government are satisfied that the work does not impose any special burden on the staff.

REDUCTION AND INCREASE OF STAFF IN THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

238. THE HONOURABLE HAJI SYED MUHAMMAD HUSAIN : Will Government state reasons for the reduction in the number of clerks in the General C (Issue) Section of the Office of the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs, and making the remaining clerks work hard ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. D. GORWALA : The reduction in staff is due to decrease in the work done in the General C (Issue) Section. The correspondence and record work which used to be done formerly in that Section has been taken away from it and its work is now confined to typing and despatch.

REDUCTION AND INCREASE OF STAFF IN THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

239. THE HONOURABLE HAJI SYED MUHAMMAD HUSAIN : (a) With a view to effect retrenchment in the cadre, were the record lifters of the Office of the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs, examined in 1931 to find out how many of them could be transferred to Circles as lower division clerks ?

(b) Did 14 record lifters come out successful in the said examination and were eventually selected for transfer to Circles ?

(c) Will Government state how many record lifters thus selected have since been transferred to Circles and how long will it take to transfer the remaining selected men ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. D. GORWALA : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Four have been transferred to Circles, two are unwilling to leave the Director General's Office, two have died, and one has been appointed in the third division in the Director General's Office. As to the last part of the question, I cannot give any definite period, but efforts will be made to transfer the remaining five to Circle offices as soon as opportunity occurs.

ISHURDI-PABNA-SADHUGANJ RAILWAY PROJECT.

240. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMARSANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY : (a) With reference to question No. 26, answered on 26th January, 1939, in the Council of State will Government state :

(i) the cost of survey of traffic incurred for the Ishurdi-Pabna-Sadhuganj Railway project in 1925-26 and the time taken thereon ; and

(ii) the name of the officer or officers by whom the revision of the cost and the traffic prospect and also working expenses of the project in 1930 were carried out, the time taken and the cost incurred therefor ?

(b) With reference to the answer given to part (b) of question No. 26 of 26th January, 1939, will Government state when the examination referred to therein, is likely to be completed, and if it has already been completed, with what result ?

(c) What is the approximate cost likely to be incurred and the time required for the re-investigation of the project, relating to traffic, referred to in (a) above ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL: (a) (i). The estimated cost was Rs. 4,160 which allowed for a period of two months and five days.

(ii) The responsible officer was Mr. N. Pearce, who was the Agent of the Railway, and the question of time and cost does not, therefore, arise.

(b) Sir, I lay on the table of the House copy of a letter which we have received from the Government of Bengal. In view of that Government's attitude to this project, no further action is considered justified.

(c) Does not arise.

Copy of letter No. 598-R., dated 4th March, 1939, from the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Communications & Works Department (C. and B.), Railway Branch, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Railway Department (Railway Board).

Ishurdi-Pabna-Sadhuganj Railway Project.

With reference to your letters Nos. 321-W (B), dated the 27th January, 1939 and 1st February, 1939 to the Secretary, Passengers' Association, Pabna, on the subject noted above, I am directed to forward herewith a copy of a letter No. 434-P. A., dated the 25th January, 1939, from the Secretary of the Association together with a copy of the reply to the addresses of welcome presented to Honourable Minister in charge of the Department of Communications and Works during his visit to Pabna on the 17th January, 1939, in so far as the Railway project is concerned, and to say that the Provincial Government are not prepared to pay for any further investigations required by the Passengers' Association on the project on the grounds that it is contrary to the established policy of Government to duplicate the existing means of communication, and also as the high railway embankment is sure to be detrimental to the natural drainage and public health of the country through which the line would pass specially because there is already an embanked road in the area.

RATE OF INTEREST ADOPTED IN CALCULATING INTEREST ON CAPITAL OUTLAY ON NEW RAILWAY PROJECTS.

241. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMARSANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY :

(a) Will Government state what return per cent. per annum on capital outlay is required by the Railway Board to make a new railway project remunerative and what were the returns formerly insisted upon to make railway projects remunerative ?

(b) Is it a fact that formerly 6 per cent. and 5 per cent. were fixed as returns per annum on the capital expenditure and now 4½ per cent. are fixed as returns on capital outlay to make railway projects remunerative ?

(c) Will Government lay on the table, the relevant circulars, letters, memos. and orders which have been issued by the Railway Board, from time to time, fixing returns on capital outlay of new railway projects, since the creation of the Railway Board ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL: (a), (b) and (c). As far as I have been able to ascertain the only circular letter issued by the Railway Board on the subject of the rate to be adopted in calculating interest on capita

outlay on new projects was the Railway Board's letter No. 2131-F., dated the 17th June, 1935, of which I place a copy on the table. No general orders had been issued on the subject before, each project being judged then on its merits with due regard to the current rate of borrowing. For the latest views of Government on this subject, I would invite the attention of my Honourable friend to the reply given on the 18th February, 1939 to Mr. Satyamurti's starred question No. 290 in the other House.

Copy of Railway Board's Circular letter No. 2131-F., dated the 17th June, 1935, to Agents, Class I Railways, etc.

Rate of interest to be adopted in calculating interest on capital outlay on new projects.

I am directed to say that it has been decided that in future in calculating interest on capital outlay for the purpose of estimating the financial results of new projects, or determining the amounts of guarantee recoverable in the case of unremunerative lines guaranteed by Local Governments or local authorities under the Government of India, Railway Department Resolution No. 2131-F., dated the 19th February, 1925, the rate of interest to be adopted should be the rate charged by the Government of India from time to time on advances made to the Provincial Loans Fund. For the purpose of framing estimates the rate obtaining at the time should be adopted, and for the purpose of arriving at the actual results the rate or rates in force during the period in which the capital expenditure is actually incurred, should be taken, the particular rate obtaining in any year being applied to the portion of the expenditure incurred during that year.

ISHURDI-PABNA ROAD.

242. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMARSANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY : Will Government state :

(a) Whether the Ishurdi-Pabna road in Bengal has been tarmacaded out of the Road Board Fund and, if so, when, and at what cost ?

(b) The length of the road referred to in (a) above, and when is it expected to be completed ?

(c) The freight charged by the Pabna and Balurghat E. B. R. Out-Agencies on different kinds of goods between (i) Ishurdi-Pabna and (ii) Hili-Balurghat ? and

(d) Whether in issuing ordinary and week-end return tickets by the Pabna Out-Agency over Ishurdi-Pabna road, no concessions are allowed to II and III class passengers as are allowed to these classes of passengers over the Hili-Balurghat Road, by the Balurghat E. B. R. Out-Agency ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. D. GORWALA : (a) The improvement of the Ishurdi-Pabna road including the provision of a bituminous macadam surface, is being financed from the Central Road Fund at an estimated cost of Rs. 9,18,812.

(b) About 16 miles. The work is nearing completion.

(c) A statement giving the necessary particulars is placed on the table.

(d) The reply is in the affirmative.

Statement showing goods rates over Pabna and Balurghat Out-Agencies.

(i) *Between via Ishurdi railway station and Pabna Out-Agency.*

Annas.

| | | |
|--|----|--|
| Upto 20 seers | 3 | Minimum charge per consignment is 6 annas. |
| Over 20 seers and upto 40 seers | 6 | |
| Piece-goods from Pabna to via Ishurdi | 4 | per maund. |
| Orange traffic from Gielle Khola, Madirhat and Gauhati and for mango traffic at owner's risk, from via Ishurdi to Pabna Out-Agency | 4 | per maund. |
| Coal, coke, and patent fuel in bulk at owner's risk | 3½ | per maund plus 12½ per cent. surcharge. |

(ii) *Between via Hili railway station and Balurghat Out-Agency.*

-Per maund
Annas.

| | | |
|--|----|--|
| All goods except bidy leaves, furniture and coal and coke | 2 | |
| Bidy leaves and furniture up to 20 seers per package | 3½ | } Minimum charge per consignment is 4 annas. |
| Bidy leaves and furniture over 20 seers and up to 40 seers per package | 4 | |

As. P.

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Coal and coke in bags | 2 | 6 | Plus a transhipment of Re. 1 per ton |
| Coal and coke in bulk | 3 | 7 | for coal in bags and 0-14-3 per ton for coal in bulk, plus 12½ per cent. surcharge. |

POLICY ADOPTED BY RAILWAYS IN CONNECTION WITH VENDING AND REFRESHMENT ROOM CONTRACTS.

243. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMARSANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY : Will Government state :

(a) The policy of the Railway Board in giving vending and refreshment room contracts ?

(b) Whether on the E. B. R. stations, the contracts referred to in (a) above, are not given to local people who are willing to take them, but are generally given to outsiders ?

(c) Whether at most of the stations on the E. B. R. the contracts for vending and refreshment rooms are generally given to Marwaris and up-country people in preference to the local people ready to take them ?

(d) Whether repeated requests were made by local people to the General Manager, E. B. R., to give the contracts referred to in (a) above, to them, but to no effect up to this time ? and

(e) Whether Government propose to take steps for inviting applications for vending and refreshment room contracts from the local public and to give contracts to them in preference to the Marwaris and up-country people ? If not, why ?

THE HONOURABLE SIE GUTHRIE RUSSELL: (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to the Memorandum prepared for the meeting of the Central Advisory Council for Railways held on the 3rd and 8th October, 1936, in which full details are given regarding the policy adopted by Railways in connection with vending and refreshment room contracts.

(b) and (c). Government understand that this is not a fact.

(d) and (e). In respect of vending and refreshment rooms other than upper class, applications are received and the policy is to give contracts to local men provided they are suitable.

MR. HANNAH, SLEEPER PASSING OFFICER, E. B. R.

244. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMARSANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY: Will Government state :

(a) Whether Mr. Hannah, a sleeper passing officer, has been in the North Bengal and Assam section for the last eight years having his headquarters respectively at Saidpur, Belakoba and Siliguri on the E. B. R. ?

(b) Whether Mr. Hannah passed sleepers in January, 1939, without the permission of the Sleeper Control Officer, and if so, what steps were taken by the latter officer against Mr. Hannah ? and

(c) Why Mr. Hannah has been placed in that station for such a long period ?

THE HONOURABLE SIE GUTHRIE RUSSELL: (a) Yes. .

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

(c) Sleeper passing officers of the Eastern Group are allowed to reside at any station they find convenient. As the Eastern Group area is a large one, and as officers are not appointed to any particular circle of inspection, it is immaterial to the Administration where they reside.

CONTRACTS FOR LABOUR ABOUT ON RAILWAY STATIONS, E. B. R.

245. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMARSANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY: Will Government state :

(a) Whether labour contracts of important stations on the E. B. R. have been given to K. Sorabjee and Choudhury Raghunandan Singh for more than ten years ?

(b) Whether it is the policy of Government to give monopoly of these contracts to the two persons referred to in (a) above and not to the public or other contractors ?

(c) Whether the E. B. R. Administration invites applications for contracts, referred to above, from the public ? If not, why not ?

(d) Whether labour contracts on the E. B. R. stations are generally given to the station masters ? On what terms and conditions and for what periods are such contracts given to them ?

(e) Whether the cooly contract at Sealdah Station has been given to the Station Superintendent, who is a highly paid officer ? What is the

reason for giving the contract to him in preference to other contractors or the public? and

(f) Whether Government propose to take necessary steps for letting out labour and other contracts on State Railways by public advertisement? If not, why not?

THE HONOURABLE SIB GUTHRIE RUSSELL: (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) Yes. Limited tenders are invited.

(d) Such contracts are only given to station masters of roadside and less important stations. I lay on the table a statement showing the conditions of these contracts and am making inquiries for what periods they are given.

(e) Yes, as it is considered by the Administration to be in the best interests of both the railway and the travelling public.

(f) It is the practice on all State Railways to call for tenders for important contracts.

Extract paragraph 54, Chapter XIV of Part II of the E. B. R. Traffic Manual.

54. *Handling of Goods at Stations.*—When station masters have the contract for this work, they are responsible for the following:—

- (a) Carrying between platforms and railway wagons, both inwards and outwards goods.
- (b) Loading and unloading.
- (c) Weighing and re-weighing.
- (d) Hand shunting.
- (e) Marking of goods.
- (f) Transhipping goods from damaged wagons.
- (g) Any damage or loss caused by his coolies.
- (h) Handling contents of wagons re-checked.
- (i) The provision at his own expense of tally clerks or other staff to assist him in carrying out the terms of his contract.

NOTES.—(i) The contract must not be sublet.

(ii) A sufficient number of coolies must be employed.

(iii) A record of their attendance and work done must be kept in a register.

GHAT CHARGES LEVIED FOR CARRIAGE OF TRAFFIC FROM DHUBRI STATION TO DHUBRI GHAT, E. B. R.

246. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMARSANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY: Will Government state:

(a) The transshipment rates from Dhubri Station to Dhubri Ghat on the E. B. R.?

(b) Whether the transshipment rates are fixed with the object of benefiting merchants and whether these rates are paid by the latter?

(c) Whether transshipment rates referred to in (a) above are high, compared with other ghat stations on the E. B. R. ? and

(d) If the answer to (c) above be in the affirmative, do Government propose to take necessary steps for reducing the transshipment rates in (a) above, for affording relief to the merchants ? If not, why not ?

THE HONOURABLE SIB GUTHRIE RUSSELL : (a) Presumably, the Honourable Member is referring to the Ghat charges which are two annas per maund levied for the carriage of traffic from the rail-head at Dhubri to Dhubri Ghat.

(b) Transshipment charges are levied to cover the extra cost incurred by railways for the provision of transshipment facilities, and are paid by the merchants.

(c) No. In view of the fact that a carting service has to be maintained between Dhubri and Dhubri Ghat, no comparison between these Ghat charges and others where this factor is absent can be made.

(d) Does not arise.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, NEW DELHI.

247. THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : (a) Will Government state whether unreserved vacancies in the Government of India Press, New Delhi, are open to all communities on merit ?

(b) Is it open to minority communities to obtain on their merit more than their reserved percentage ?

(c) If the replies to (a) and (b) are in the affirmative, will Government state how many unreserved vacancies in the Government of India Press, New Delhi, have been given to Muslims during the past one year ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. M. S. A. HYDARI : (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) Four permanent and two temporary vacancies in 1938.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, NEW DELHI.

248. THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : (a) Will Government state whether in 1937 an open test for the posts of compositors in the Government of India Press, New Delhi, was held and was a list prepared according to merit ?

(b) Will Government lay a copy of the list, if any, on the table of the House ?

(c) Will Government state how many men of each community from the list have since been absorbed and what are the prospects of the remaining men ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. M. S. A. HYDARI : (a) Yes, but it was only a qualifying test and was not designed to list the candidates in order of merit.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Information has been called for and will be placed on the table of the House in due course.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, NEW DELHI.

249. THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: (a) Will Government state whether a test for the posts of composers in the Government of India Press, New Delhi, was held in December, 1938 ?

(b) Was Mr. Jagdish Pershad Vasdev holding the lowest position in the approved list given a first chance for a compositor's post and consequently promoted to the post of lino-learner by superseding several other senior men ?

(c) What are the special reasons for this supersession ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. M. S. A. HYDARI: (a) The test was held in January, 1939.

(b) and (c). Mr. Jagdish Ram (not Pershad) Vasdev, being the only Matriculate among those who passed the composers' test in 1937, was selected for a compositor's post in preference to others in view of his educational qualifications. He was also the only Matriculate who applied for the post of lino-learner.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, NEW DELHI.

250. THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: (a) Has certain important and profitable work which was hitherto being done by senior Muslim composers now been given to juniormost non-Muslims by the Assistant Manager ?

(b) If so, will Government state whether or not it is in contravention of the rules in the Press Hand Book ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. M. S. A. HYDARI: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, NEW DELHI.

251. THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: (a) Did certain Muslim suppliers of the Government of India Press, New Delhi, apply for the posts of compositor but their applications were refused on the ground that no internal promotion will be made ? Were certain Hindu warehousemen promoted to the posts of copy-holder ?

(b) What are the reasons for this differential treatment ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. M. S. A. HYDARI: (a) and (b). Two type suppliers, one a Muslim and the other a Hindu, were not appointed as composers in the special temporary establishment for Budget and Assembly work as they were not sufficiently experienced. Two Hindu warehousemen were accepted as copy-holders as they were the only qualified candidates who applied.

PROPOSED SEGREGATION SCHEME IN THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

252. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR SRI NARAIN MAHTHA (on behalf of the Honourable Raja Yuveraj Datta Singh): (a) Will Government state whether they propose to intervene on behalf of the South African Indians

who are sought to be segregated by the South African Government by the introduction of two Bills to that effect in the Legislature there.

(b) Do Government propose to do something effective to check this colour prejudice against the Indian settlers there.

THE HONOURABLE KUNWAR SIR JAGDISH PRASAD: (a) and (b). Representations have already been made to the Union Government in regard to the scheme of the Minister of the Interior involving racial segregation. Further developments are awaited. So far as the Government of India are aware no Bills have yet been introduced on the subject.

DEPARTMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA SECRETARIAT WHICH ISSUE ARMS LICENCES IN CERTAIN CASES.

253. THE HONOURABLE RAO BAHADUR K. GOVINDACHARI: Will Government state the names of respective Departments under the Government of India who issue licences for export of arms under rule 17 (1) (a) of the Indian Arms Rules, 1924, on behalf of the Governor General in Council [other than officers empowered under rule 17 (1) (b)] in the case of export to—

- (a) Afghanistan and Nepal,
- (b) Ruling Chiefs of Indian States,
- (c) Members of the families of Ruling Princes and nobles of the Indian States exempted from the operations of the Arms Act by respective political authorities?

THE HONOURABLE MR. F. H. PUCKLE: (a) The External Affairs Department.

(b) and (c). Such persons are exempted under rule 3 and no licence is ordinarily required for the export of arms and ammunitions in their case.

NUMBER OF DUFFRIES AND RECORD SORTERS EMPLOYED IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA SECRETARIAT.

254. THE HONOURABLE MR. RAMADAS PANTULU: Will Government state:

(a) Whether there are 500 duffries and record sorters in the Government of India and its attached and subordinate offices?

(b) Whether there are only 234 quarters available for them? and

(c) Why these quarters have been allotted to jamadars before meeting the duffries' demand?

THE HONOURABLE MR. M. S. A. HYDARI: (a) The number of duffries and record sorters employed in the Government of India and other offices is not readily available, but on the basis of their demand for quarters in New Delhi for the year 1939-40 the number appears to be about 460.

(b) Yes.

(c) Government see no reason why a difference should be made any longer between more or less similar classes of servants in the matter of residential accommodation.

NUMBER OF PEONS AND JAMADARS EMPLOYED IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA SECRETARIAT.

255. THE HONOURABLE MR. RAMADAS PANTULU: Will Government state (a) the number of peons and jamadars employed in the Government of India and (b) the number of quarters for peons in New Delhi ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. M. S. A. HYDARI: (a) The number of jamadars and peons employed in the Government of India is not readily available. Accommodation has been applied for for 110 jamadars and 1,889 peons for the winter season 1939-40.

(b) The number of peons' quarters in New Delhi is 1,134.

QUARTERS FOR DUFTRIES AND RECORD SORTERS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA SECRETARIAT IN NEW DELHI.

256. THE HONOURABLE MR. RAMADAS PANTULU: Will Government state :

(a) Whether in 1926 when duftries' quarters were constructed, it was proposed to allot them to duftries and record sorters only ?

(b) Whether these quarters are being allotted to jamadars this year contrary to the practice so far followed ? If so, why ? and

(c) Whether the Home Department was consulted in this matter ? If not, why not ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. M. S. A. HYDARI: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes. I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the answer which I have just given to part (c) of his question No. 254.

(c) No. The matter is not the concern of the Home Department.

THE HONOURABLE MR. RAMADAS PANTULU: Were the duftries' quarters constructed with the orders of the Home Department ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. M. S. A. HYDARI: I could not tell you.

THE HONOURABLE MR. RAMADAS PANTULU: Are these quarters being allotted to jamadars with the consent of the Home Department now ? Do you consult the Home Department in allotting quarters to jamadars ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. M. S. A. HYDARI: No ; what happens is this. Each Department is given a certain number of quarters and they allot them themselves amongst their staff.

THE HONOURABLE MR. V. V. KALIKAR: Are there separate quarters built for duftries ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. M. S. A. HYDARI: Hitherto there used to be separate quarters built for duftries and jamadars were placed along with peons, but we thought there was no reason why a difference should be made as between jamadars and duftries, whose pay and status are more or less similar.

SCALES OF PAY OF JAMADARS AND DUFTRIES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA SECRETARIAT IN 1926 AS COMPARED WITH PRESENT SCALES OF PAY.

257. THE HONOURABLE MR. RAMADAS PANTULU: (a) With reference to the reply given to part (b) of starred question No. 840 asked in the Legislative Assembly on the 7th March, 1939, will Government state whether there was considerable difference in the scales of pay of the jamadars and duftries in 1926 as compared with the present scales of pay? If not, why are these quarters being allotted to jamadars now when it was not done 13 years ago?

(b) Did the jamadars apply for duftries' quarters before? If so, will Government place on the table of the House a copy of the note of the Honourable Mr. Clow on the subject?

THE HONOURABLE MR. M. S. A. HYDARI: (a) No. I am not aware why jamadars were not classed with duftries and record sorters for the purposes of allotment of quarters in New Delhi in 1926, and I have already given the reasons for doing so now in my answer to part (c) of the Honourable Member's question No. 254.

(b) Yes. The answer to the second part is in the negative.

RENT CHARGED FOR QUARTERS ALLOTTED TO DUFTRIES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA SECRETARIAT IN NEW DELHI.

258. THE HONOURABLE MR. RAMADAS PANTULU: (a) Will Government state whether during the summer season duftries' quarters are given on rent at Rs. 8 per month, while the house rent allowance given to duftries is only Rs. 1-8-0 per month? If so, why?

(b) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of giving adequate rent allowance to them?

THE HONOURABLE MR. M. S. A. HYDARI: (a) Quarters are allotted to duftries free of rent during the period they are on duty at New Delhi and rent ranging from about Rs. 6 to Rs. 8 is recovered only in the event of their retaining the quarters while not on duty in New Delhi. A house rent allowance of Rs. 1-8-0 per month is given to duftries on duty who do not secure Government accommodation.

(b) No.

EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS OF DUFTRIES AND RECORD SORTERS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA SECRETARIAT.

259. THE HONOURABLE MR. RAMADAS PANTULU: Will Government state whether duftries and record sorters of the Government of India are literate while peons and jamadars are illiterate?

THE HONOURABLE MR. F. H. PUCKLE: I presume the Honourable Member refers to literacy in English. Some knowledge of that language is required of duftries and record sorters for the proper discharge of their duties. Many peons and jamadars can read and write their own language and have a smattering of English, but literacy is not demanded of them.

REGISTRATION OF FOREIGNERS BILL.

THE HONOURABLE MR. F. H. PUCKLE (Home Secretary): Sir, I move :

“ That the Bill to provide for the registration of foreigners in British India, as passed by the Legislative Assembly, be taken into consideration.”

When this Bill first came before the other House it had one real object and one real object only, and that was to enable the Government of India to maintain and to keep up to date a register of all foreigners entering India in the future or at present resident in British India. It had no other object at all. A register of this kind was thought to be required for three reasons. First of all, it is an essential preliminary to taking any restrictive action against foreigners in a country that you should have some idea how many foreigners there are in the country, where they are and where they come from. Secondly, we have of late, and particularly in connection with the immigration of Jewish refugees, found considerable inconvenience in answering questions of Members about the immigration of foreigners into India. All other reasons apart, it would have been desirable for that reason alone to take some kind of census of foreigners. I have given two reasons. They are of some importance. But by far the most important reason is that in the event of war we should undoubtedly have to take restrictive measures of a sweeping kind against enemy subjects. When I say this I do not mean to say that Government expect war tomorrow or the day after or next year or this year, but it would only be common prudence in the present state of the international situation to consider now what we should have to do should war suddenly come upon us. One of the first things we should have to do would be to take steps to restrain, either by keeping them in India or by sending them out of India back to their own country, enemy nationals. Therefore, quite apart from any other reasons, we consider it essential to prepare as soon as possible a register of foreigners and, once that register has been prepared, to keep it up to date. It is in fact a necessary preliminary in peace time to what would be essential measures in time of war.

The Bill is a simple one. I will leave out at the moment any mention of section 2, which is the definition section. Section 3 gives the Central Government power to make rules to register foreigners entering into India in future or who are here at present, to make rules to ensure that foreigners who move about within the country give some indication of their movements, and to make rules to ensure that foreigners who leave the country keep the proper authorities informed of this. That at first sight may sound rather a finicky provision—and I thought so myself at one time—but actually it is not. If you have a register of foreigners, obviously you must know when you can fairly strike a man off it if he leaves the country for good. Sub-section (d) in section 3 is not exactly an essential part of maintaining a register of foreigners but it is easily justified as ancillary to the maintenance of such a register. At the moment, except at the place at which a foreigner has to produce his passport under the passport rules, there is no power, as far as we can discover, to make anybody disclose his identity. You might find a man wandering about the precincts of an aerodrome or some military works and unless he was actually committing an offence, as far as we can discover, you could not call upon him to show whether he was an Englishman or a Bulgarian or a Chinese or anything. Well, rules under (d) will make it possible for the prescribed authority to call upon a foreigner to show who he is. Sub-section (e) deals with the registration of foreigners in hotels, boarding houses and the like. As you

[Mr. F. H. Puckle.]

know, that is an absolutely universal feature of travel abroad. The first thing you do, if you come into a hotel in any foreign country, is to write your name and your nationality. It is the simplest and the least vexatious way of keeping a check on the movements of foreigners inside the country. Sub-clause (f), I think, carries its own explanation in it. The simplest and the least vexatious way of discovering what foreigners enter the country is to get hold of them and get the necessary particulars out of them before they have left the vessel or aeroplane on which they arrive. To do this one requires the co-operation of the shipping companies and the airship companies and this section enables us to lay the duty of making returns upon shipping and airship companies.

Clause 4 is reproduced from the British law on the subject. There was some discussion in the other House about this clause, mainly owing to the fact that for drafting purposes it has been necessary to put in "notwithstanding anything contained in the Indian Evidence Act, 1872". I do not think I need go into that. Those words are there purely for drafting purposes and it is, I think, reasonable that, when an authority says to a visitor to this country, "You are a foreigner; your passport says you are a foreigner", the onus of proving that he is not a foreigner, if he wishes to prove it, should be on the foreigner himself.

I do not think I need say anything about clause 5, or clause 7 or clause 8. Now clauses 2 and 6 go together. As the House is doubtless aware, when this Bill came before the Legislative Assembly the definition clause was somewhat different from what it is now. It then read :

"The word 'foreigner' has the meaning assigned to it in the Foreigners Act, 1864, except that it does not include a person duly appointed by a foreign Government to exercise a diplomatic function or a Consul or Vice-Consul or any Ruler or subject of any State in India".

That is to say, a foreigner was, with those three named exceptions, to all intents and purposes a person who was not a British subject. Well, the Legislative Assembly decided that this was a good opportunity for indicating its disapproval of the policy adopted by certain Dominion Governments towards Indian nationals, and in pursuance of this desire they altered the definition of "foreigner". So that now, for practical purposes "foreigner" means a person who is not a British subject domiciled in the United Kingdom or who is not a British Indian subject or who is not a Ruler or subject of an Indian State. That is to say, citizens of definitely foreign countries and also British subjects not domiciled in the United Kingdom and not British Indian subjects, are lumped together as foreigners. Well, I do not propose here to waste the time of the House discussing whether this gesture was advisable or whether this Bill was the right place at which to make it, because Government have no intention of attempting to alter the decision of the Legislative Assembly. And one reason for acquiescing in that decision is that after all this classing of British subjects not domiciled in the United Kingdom with foreigners is given a certain amount of colourable excuse by the wording of section 111 of the Government of India Act, which, if you remember, only provides British subjects domiciled in the United Kingdom with a certain protection with regard to rights of entry and travel and the like in British India. Another reason why we acquiesce in this change of definition is that in the Assembly clause 6, which is the exemption clause, was left untouched, except that a proviso was inserted ensuring that any orders passed under this clause should be laid on the table of the House as soon as made. As was stated by the

Honourable the Home Member in another place and as I have repeated today, the object of this Bill was simply to provide for registration. Therefore, it is the intention of the Government of India to use this Bill only for that purpose. When the registration of a particular class of person which is allowed by the Bill is necessary, they will undertake it. But, until they think it necessary, the Government of India reserve complete liberty to make use of the exemption clause, clause 6. For instance, we have no intention of burdening executive officers and asking Provincial Governments to undertake the registration of something like 300,000 Nepalese or of 80,000 Afghans, or of another 50 or 60 thousand—I believe it is nearly that; a great many thousand—other subjects who are residents of contiguous Asiatic States. We are not going to attempt to register those at present. If need should arise to register them, the power is here in the Act and it will be open to the Government of India to do so. Nor, I may say, do we propose, at present at any rate, to apply all the provisions of this Bill to British subjects domiciled outside the United Kingdom. For the main purpose of this Act it is not thought necessary that this should be done, and though, as the Honourable the Home Member explained in another place, if certain action were under contemplation against citizens of the Dominions or the Colonies, we should register them, for the moment we shall have plenty to do registering other more important people. I think, Sir, it has been generally recognised that the power which this Bill gives is necessary. I think it is also recognised that Government have not acted a moment too soon in taking this power. In fact, it may be said with justice that they should have taken it a long time ago. However, we wish to take it now, and now that the Bill has been amended to give effect to the wishes of the majority in another House, I feel quite safe in commending it to this House.

THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU (United Provinces Southern: Non-Muhammadian): Sir, the reasons for this measure have been explained lucidly by the Honourable Mr. Puckle, and I have no desire to comment on them. I wish, however, to invite your attention to one or two clauses of the Bill and say something about those clauses. Sir, I welcome the definition clause, clause 2. I think that in clause 2 we have a more satisfactory definition of "foreigner" now. Under this clause the word "foreigner" shall denote a person who is not a British subject domiciled in the United Kingdom. That is to say, people who belong to the Dominions or who belong to other parts of the British Empire will under this clause be foreigners. I think that this is a change in the right direction. We cannot go, as Indians, to South Africa. We are not treated there as British subjects. Therefore, I see no reason why we should treat these insolent South Africans in a manner different from that which is accorded to us? I think the Assembly was right in insisting that the old definition, which was to be found in the Act of 1864, should change. This change in the definition of "foreigner" is a step in the right direction. Sir, the fact of the matter is that we are treated as foreigners in Dominions and other parts of the British Empire and I see no reason why we should treat Dominion subjects differently.

Then, Sir, clause 6 gives some rule-making powers to the Executive Government. Under this clause the Executive Government will have the power to make certain exemptions from the application of the Act. I was rather concerned to hear from Mr. Puckle that Government has no intention of using the power, which has been given under this Act, against South Africans and the other Dominions who treat Indian subjects badly. Sir, it is not possible for Indians to go to South Africa even as tourists. They cannot get admission

[Mr. P. N. Saprú.]

into decent hotels. Indians who are resident there are treated very badly. What is the use of this British Commonwealth for us if we are not going to be treated properly in the Dominions? I see no reason why we should treat these South Africans, because they happen to have a different colour, better than they treat us and I should have thought that a national Government would first use this power against those who come from these insolent young Dominions. Therefore, Sir, I was rather sorry to hear Mr. Puckle apologising for these insolent peoples of the Dominions. I hope, Sir, that the rule-making power which has been given under this clause will be so used as to lay down conditions similar to those on which our nationals are admitted into the Dominions. Particularly, Sir, stringent rules should be laid down about the admission of South Africans.

So far as the object of the Bill is concerned, I have said that I have no quarrel with it. The object is to enable the Government to maintain a register of foreigners resident in India. That is an essential preliminary to any restrictive action against them. Sometimes inquiries are made about foreigners here and I think Government ought to be in a position to answer inquiries made about them. The objects are all right. But I hope that proper use will be made of the rule-making power under clause 6. I am glad to note that a copy of every such order made under clause 6 will be placed on the table of both Houses of the Central Legislature. We shall of course scrutinise those rules carefully.

With these words, Sir, I give my general support to the Bill.

THE HONOURABLE MR. RAMADAS PANTULU (Madras : Non-Muhamadan) : Sir, I rise to support the Motion made by the Honourable Mr. Puckle. My main reason for doing so is that though the Bill is not a very satisfactory one as it stands, yet it contains necessary powers which may be used by a future Government of India. When a genuine Federal Legislature is set up and the executive becomes responsible to that Legislature, the Act may then be used for the benefit of India in a manner in which the present Government may not be expected to use it. I am content with the definition of the word "foreigner" occurring in clause 2, and also with the provisions of clause 6. The foreigners to whom exemptions under clause 6 will be extended will no doubt depend upon the Government for the time being. The present Government of India may be well or may not be well advised in their attitude to exempt all subjects of Dominions from the operation of this Act. That seems to be their intention; but there is nothing to prevent a Government of India differently constituted from utilising section 6 under changed circumstances, for other objects we have in view and which Hon'ble Mr. Saprú has enunciated. I agree that the present Bill is intended mainly to deal with registration and it is mainly concerned with the defence aspect. I think questions of immigration and restrictions on entrants of foreigners and retaliation are irrelevant for the purpose of this Bill. Again we have already an Act of 1864. Its purpose is some what different. It gives power to the Government of India to prevent the entry of undesirable foreigners into this country, to arrest them and deport them to prevent any danger to the peace and tranquillity of this country. Provincial Governments too, I find, have got similar powers under section 19 of the Foreigners Act of 1864. Those powers are not affected by this Bill, which is to be read as supplementary to the Act of 1864. Therefore, Government have ample power under the old Act of 1864 to prevent undesirable foreigners from coming in. And so far as British subjects of the United

Kingdom are concerned, a new restriction is now placed by section 111 of the Government of India Act on the power of Indian Legislature to deal with them. Even that section has got a proviso which says that if the Governor General or the Governor of a Province thinks that for the peace and tranquillity of India it is necessary to suspend the operation of section 111 that power may be exercised by them. Therefore, taken together, by the Act III of 1864, section 111 of the Government of India Act, and this Bill, the Government of India is armed with ample powers to deal with foreigners. Therefore, Sir, though the powers under this Bill may not now be properly used and it is not as satisfactory as it might have been, I feel that it vests in the Government of India useful powers which may be more properly used in the future. For these reasons I support the Motion.

THE HONOURABLE MR. F. H. PUCKLE : Sir, first of all I would make it clear to my Honourable friend Mr. Sapru that I never apologised for any South African. I have as a matter of fact, and so has the Government of India—as was clearly stated in another place—very considerable sympathy with the attitude which resulted in changing this definition. That does not alter the fact that all we want this Act for is to enable us to register and find out the whereabouts of gentlemen who may be a source of danger to the State in time of war. That is the first object for which we shall use the Act. With the present definition it can be used for other purposes, but we do not propose to use it for other purposes at present.

And let me say again quite clearly that the Act was not intended to be introduced as a retaliatory measure. We have other methods of retaliation for the slighting and ill-treatment of Indian nationals. This Act will enable us to register the citizens of countries which give us cause for just resentment and that is all. It is not a retaliatory measure.

As regards the Honourable Leader of the Congress Party I could not quite make out whether he was opposing the Motion or supporting it. (*Several Honourable Members :* “Supporting it”.) I beg his pardon. In that case, Sir, there is nothing more for me to say.

THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMARSANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY (East Bengal: Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, on a point of information, may I ask the Honourable Mr. Puckle whether in view of section 8 of this Act the definition of “foreigner” in clause 2 will mean a foreigner under the Act of 1864 also? What I want to know is whether the definition of “foreigner” in this Act will be applicable to the word “foreigner” in the Act of 1864?

THE HONOURABLE MR. F. H. PUCKLE : I shall want notice of that question. I am not quite sure what it means.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : The Question is :

“That the Bill to provide for the registration of foreigners in British India, as passed by the Legislative Assembly, be taken into consideration.”

The Motion was adopted.

Clauses 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and Preamble were added to the Bill.

THE HONOURABLE MR. F. H. PUCKLE : Sir, I move :

“That the Bill, as passed by the Legislative Assembly, be passed.”

The Motion was adopted.

STATEMENT OF BUSINESS.

THE HONOURABLE KUNWAR SIR JAGDISH PRASAD (Leader of the House): Sir, no further Bills have been received from the Legislative Assembly but it is expected that some Bills will be passed by that House by Thursday, the 6th April. I therefore suggest that the Council may meet on Thursday, at 5-30 P.M. for the purpose of laying on the table the Bills passed by the other House. Honourable Members are aware that the 7th to the 10th are Easter holidays. The Motions for the consideration and passing of the Bills which might be laid on the table on the 6th instant may be discussed on Tuesday, the 11th April, after the Easter holidays.

The Council then adjourned till Half Past Five of the Clock on Thursday, the 6th April, 1939.
