

18th February 1938

**THE**

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES**

**(Official Report)**

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**Volume I, 1938**

*(31st January to 22nd February, 1938)*

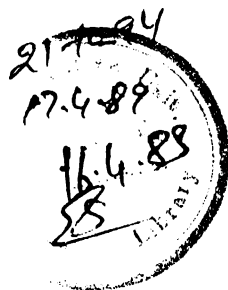
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**SEVENTH SESSION**

**OF THE**

**FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,**

**1938**



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1938

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# Legislative Assembly.

*President :*

THE HONOURABLE SIR ABDUR RAHIM, K.C.S.I.

*Deputy President :*

MR. AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA, M.L.A.

*Panel of Chairmen :*

MR. S. SATYAMURTI, M.L.A.

SIR COWASJI JEHangIR, BART., K.C.I.E., O.B.E., M.L.A.

DR. SIR ZIAUDDIN AHMAD, C.I.E., M.L.A.

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

*Secretary :*

MIAN MUHAMMAD RAFI, BAR.-AT-LAW.

*Assistants of the Secretary :*

MR. M. N. KAUL, BAR.-AT-LAW.

RAI BAHADUR D. DUTT.

*Marshal :*

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

*Committee on Petitions :*

MR. AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA, M.L.A., *Chairman.*

MR. M. S. ANEY, M.L.A.

MR. M. GHIASUDDIN, M.L.A.

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

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

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

*Friday, 18th February, 1938.*

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

## MEMBER SWORN.

Mr. Parakat Achutha Menon, M.L.A. (Government of India: Nominated Official).

## STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

### (a) ORAL ANSWERS.

#### REPORT OF MR. JOYCE ON THE REORGANISATION OF THE PUBLIC INFORMATION BUREAU.

356. **\*Mr. M. Asaf Ali** (on behalf of Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar): Will the Honourable the Home Member state:

- (a) whether Mr. Joyce has presented his report with regard to the reorganisation of the Bureau of Public Information;
- (b) whether Government have considered the report; and
- (c) if so, what is the result of their consideration?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The report is still under consideration.

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** May I know what difference has been made by the transfer of the large volume of work used to be done in the office of the Director of Public Information since the provinces have got their own Public Information Bureaus. Has it affected in any way the organisation of the Public Information Office?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** No, Sir, the Central Information Bureau never did any work for the provinces. It always worked for the Government of India.

#### RETRENCHMENT DUE TO TRANSFER OF CERTAIN SUBJECTS TO THE PROVINCES.

357. **\*Mr. M. Asaf Ali** (on behalf of Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar): Will the Honourable the Finance Member state:

- (a) whether the Finance Department have examined whether, in view of many subjects originally administered by the Government of India having been transferred to the provinces after 1st April, 1937, any retrenchment could be made in any of the departments;



- (b) if so, what has been the result of the examination; and
- (c) whether any retrenchments have been effected; if so, how much and in which departments?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** The position is the same as that indicated in my reply to the Honourable Member's starred question No. 462 in the last Session.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Can the Honourable Member say that the Finance Department personnel has not seriously increased?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** Certainly it has, but the work thrown on the Finance Department has increased, and I am quite clear that the additions are not more than are required to cope with the increase of work.

#### EXEMPTION FROM TAXATION OF INTEREST ON STERLING SECURITIES.

358. **\*Mr. M. Asaf Ali** (on behalf of Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar): Will the Honourable the Finance Member state:

- (a) whether interest on sterling securities is exempt from taxation;
- (b) whether this exemption depends upon the residence of people holding the security, or whether it applies to all;
- (c) what is the reason for this differentiation between rupee and sterling securities; and
- (d) what will be the probable loss of income arising out of this exemption?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** (a) Yes.

(b) It applies to all. The interest is not liable to tax unless brought into British India.

(c) Liability to tax depends on where the interest is payable.

(d) It is not possible to calculate the amount of loss. A good deal depends on how much extra Government would have to pay on its sterling borrowings if the exemption were not given.

#### EXEMPTION FROM INCOME-TAX OF PAY OF ANY CLASS OF SERVANTS UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

359. **\*Mr. M. Asaf Ali** (on behalf of Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar): Will the Honourable the Finance Member state:

- (a) whether the pay of any class of servants under the Government of India is exempt from income-tax, even while they reside and serve in India;
- (b) if so, who are the persons that have the benefit of this exemption; and
- (c) what is the probable loss of revenue out of this exemption?

**Mr. A. H. Lloyd:** (a) No.

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

## RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WHEELER AND MAXWELL COMMITTEES.

360. **\*Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh** (on behalf of Seth Govind Das): Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

- (a) the reason for the delay in publishing the Wheeler-Maxwell recommendations;
- (b) whether Government consulted Provincial Governments regarding the recommendations on issues concerning them (Provincial Governments);
- (c) whether Provincial Governments have protested against any of the issues concerning them; and
- (d) whether Government will lay on the table a copy of their correspondence with the Provincial Governments emerging from the Wheeler-Maxwell recommendations?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** (a) There was no delay in the publication of the Wheeler Committee's Report. As announced in answer to a question asked in this House on the 2nd September, 1936, it was published as soon as the Government were in a position to state their conclusions.

(b) Yes.

(c) The recommendations have been generally accepted.

(d) As stated in answer to Mr. K. Santhanam's starred question No. 89 on the 2nd February, 1938, I am unable to lay the papers on the table as the views of Provincial Governments have been ascertained informally and by personal discussions.

**Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** Was there no protest by the provinces?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** What protest?

**Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** With reference to (c) was there no protest by provinces?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** I said the recommendations were generally accepted by Provincial Governments. There was no protest.

## SALE OF SURPLUS GOVERNMENT SILVER.

361. **\*Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state whether Government had any agreement with the United States of America and other silver-producing countries of the world, now preventing them from exporting surplus Government silver for sale to the central market in London?

(b) When did the agreement expire?

(c) What is the total quantity of surplus silver sold by Government during 1935-36, 1936-37 and the first nine months of the current year?

(d) How much silver has been disposed of by Government by sales locally in India?

(e) If none, why not?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** (a) Yes, but the effect of the agreement was to restrict, not to prohibit sales.

- (b) 31st December, 1937.
- (c) A statement is laid on the table.
- (d) There have been no sales in the open market in India.
- (e) It would not be in the public interest to make a statement on this subject.

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*Total Quantity of Surplus Silver sold by Government.*

	Standard tolas.
Silver sold during 1935-36 . . . . .	2,60,26,525
Silver sold during 1936-37 . . . . .	23,70,205
Silver sold during 1937-38 (nine months) . . . . .	26,77,052

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**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Is it a fact that Government are holding up silver in the expectation of better prices?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** That is precisely part (e) of the question in another form. It would not be in the public interest to make a statement on the subject.

**MATCH FACTORIES IN INDIA.**

362. **\*Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state how many match producing factories there are in British India?

(b) How many of them are not owned or controlled by the Western India Match Company?

(c) How many match factories are there in Indian States, which are in the pool?

(d) How many match factories are there in Indian States which are not in the pool?

(e) Has any request been made to Government for credit in respect of banderols?

(f) If any credit is being given, is it being given uniformly to all match factories, or is a special treatment being given to the Western India Match Company?

**Mr. A. H. Lloyd:** (a) 122, according to the information available at present.

(b) The information is not available.

(c) and (d). The information is being obtained and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(e) and (f). Under clause 46 of the Matches (Excise Duty) Order, 1934, the issue of banderols on credit is permissible. The Government understand that only a limited number of factories have taken advantage of the credit system, but there is nothing to show that special treatment is being accorded to the Western India Match Company.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Is there any over-production in the match industry according to the information of Government?

**Mr. A. H. Lloyd:** I think, Sir, the question whether there is over-production is a matter of opinion.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** With regard to (b), are Government aware that the Western India Match Company, which is a foreign corporation, is acquiring control over good many Indian companies directly and indirectly?

**Mr. A. H. Lloyd:** I understand, Sir, that the Western India Match Company is a company incorporated in India or established in India, but the Honourable Member describes it as a foreign company. That is my answer to that part of the question. For the rest, I am not aware of the fact to which he refers.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** But I am asking again whether according to the information of Government that company is getting an undue amount of hold, almost amounting to a monopoly in India.

**Mr. A. H. Lloyd:** May I submit, Sir, that whether any amount of control is undue is a matter of opinion?

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

363. **\*Mr. Badri Dutt Pande:** (a) Is the Defence Secretary aware of the fact that from the 1st April, 1937, the Cantonment Authority at Lansdowne has given in a way, the monopoly of the purchase and sale of milk to one person?

(b) Was any representation made to the authorities concerned by the milk sellers and the general consumers of the Cantonment respectively? If so, was any reply given to them?

(c) Before the enforcement of this system was any notice published in the local official gazette or was the same sent to the Local Government for approval and confirmation as required by section 284(1) of the Cantonment Act of 1924 (II of 1924), as amended by Act XXIV of 1936?

(d) Is it a fact that one of the battalions stationed at Lansdowne continued to take milk from outside in violation of the so-called notice? If so, has there been found any difference in the health of those troops which took milk from outside and of the troops which took their supply from the dairy man?

(e) Is it a fact that since the enforcement of the new system the consumption of milk in the Cantonment has fallen considerably?

(f) Have Government received any representation from the public of Lansdowne? If so, what action is being taken on the same?

(g) Are Government prepared to consider the advisability of instructing the authorities concerned to withdraw the order creating a milk monopoly?

**Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie:** I am collecting the information and will lay it on the table in due course.

## EXPULSION OF ONE TARA DATT SATI FROM THE RANIKHET CANTONMENT.

364. **\*Mr. Badri Dutt Pande:** (a) Does the Defence Secretary know that Tara Datt Sati, a house proprietor of Chaubattia, was expelled from the Ranikhet Cantonment in 1935 because of the police report that he was a congressman and that his brother participated in the non-co-operation movement?

(b) Did the police report that he keeps a gambling den, which was a baseless charge?

(c) Is it the intention of Government to reconsider the advisability of cancelling this order of expulsion as early as possible?

**Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie:** I am collecting the information and will lay it on the table in due course.

## MILITARY CAMPAIGN IN WAZIRISTAN.

365. **\*Mr. Badri Dutt Pande:** (a) Will the Defence Secretary please state whether the military campaign in Waziristan has come to an end?

(b) When was it started and what for, and when did it end and with what result?

(c) What is the total number of British and Indian soldiers killed and wounded in this campaign?

(d) What is the total cost of the campaign?

(e) What area in Waziristan has been "peacefully penetrated" in this campaign, and what area still remains to be penetrated?

(f) Has the Faqir of Ipi, who led the Wazirs in this campaign been subdued?

**Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie:** (a) No.

(b) I refer the Honourable Member to Command Paper No. 5495 presented to Parliament by the Secretary of State in June, 1937, copies of which are in the Library of the House.

(c) and (d). I refer the Honourable Member to the reply I gave to part (a) of his starred question No. 199 of 10th February, 1938.

(e) I refer the Honourable Member to the answer given by the Foreign Secretary on the 31st January, 1938, to parts (b) and (c) of Mr. Abdul Qaiyum's starred question No. 33 on the same subject.

(f) I refer the Honourable Member to the press communiqué of the 9th February, 1938.

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** Is it not a fact that the figures which the Honourable Member gave last time related to the end of the year 1937? Are figures received later available now?

**Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie:** The figures are exactly the same now as when I answered the question.

## REDUCTION OF SALARIES OF SERVICES RECRUITED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

366. **\*Mr. Thirumala Rao** (on behalf of Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar): Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

- (a) whether the Secretary of State has been addressed by any Provincial Government regarding the reduction of salaries of present or future holders of posts borne on the cadres of services to which recruitment is made by him; and
- (b) whether the Government of India have been consulted by the Provincial Government concerned or by the Secretary of State at any stage, and if so, what their recommendations were?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** On the assumption that the Honourable Member refers to the period since the 1st April, 1937, the answer to his question is as follows:

- (a) Not so far as Government are aware.
- (b) Does not arise.

PROCEDURE *re* CORRESPONDENCE ON SERVICE MATTERS BETWEEN PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

367. **\*Mr. Thirumala Rao** (on behalf of Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar): Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

- (a) what the procedure now is for the communication of despatches from Provincial Governments to the Secretary of State for India regarding service matters in respect of which the Secretary of State is, under the Government of India Act, 1935, the final authority; and
- (b) what is the part played by the Government of India in such correspondence; whether they submit their views also on the questions raised by Provincial Governments; and if so, on what grounds interference with Provincial autonomy is justified?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** (a) and (b). In the past, communications from Provincial Governments have been transmitted generally to the Secretary of State through the Central Government, and the Central Government have offered such comment as they consider necessary. The procedure to be adopted in the circumstances of Provincial Autonomy is at present under examination, and it will remain for the Secretary of State to prescribe the channel of communication to be adopted, and whether in any particular case or class of cases he desires the views of the Central Government.

## PROVINCIALISATION OF THE INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE AND THE INDIAN POLICE SERVICE.

368. **\*Mr. Thirumala Rao** (on behalf of Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar): Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

- (a) whether the Secretary of State for India has been addressed either by the Government of India or by any Provincial Government on the question of the provincialisation of the Indian Civil Service, or the Indian Police Service; and if so, with what result;

- (b) the services to which recruitment was made by the Secretary of State in 1919 which have now been provincialised, or the recruitment to which has ceased; and
- (c) whether it is a fact that the Government of India are opposed to the provincialisation of the Indian Civil Service and the Indian Police Service; and, if so, why?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** (a) If the question relates to the period after the 1st April, 1937, the answer is that the Government of India have made no such communication. I cannot say whether any Provincial Government have made any representation direct to the Secretary of State.

- (b) (i) Indian Agricultural Service.
- (ii) Indian Educational Service.
- (iii) Indian Forest Service.
- (iv) Indian Forest Engineering Service.
- (v) Indian Service of Engineers.
- (vi) Indian Veterinary Service.

(c) The Government of India have not had occasion to consider the matter since the Government of India Act, 1935, was passed.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MAXWELL COMMITTEE.

369. **\*Mr. Thirumala Rao** (on behalf of Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar): With reference to the answer to Mr. Satyamurti's starred question No. 499, dated the 14th September, 1937, will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

- (a) whether the Maxwell Committee has recommended that "Federal Ministers should have no knowledge of the departmental discussions and therefore official files are not to be submitted to them in original and in their place only a concise, self-contained memo. including specific recommendations, will be submitted to them by the heads of Departments";
- (b) what decision has been reached on this recommendation; and
- (c) the reasons for the recommendation?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** I would refer the Honourable Member to Mr. Mudie's reply to Mr. S. Satyamurti's starred question No. 499 on the 14th September, 1937, and to the replies given to supplementary questions on that occasion.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WHEELER COMMITTEE.

370. **\*Mr. Thirumala Rao** (on behalf of Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar): Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

- (a) what are the recommendations of the Wheeler Committee, to which effect has been given so far, which yet remain to be acted upon and which have been rejected, and why;

- (b) to what extent the recommendations of the Wheeler Committee have been nullified by the recommendations of the Maxwell Committee and why; and
- (c) the cost of the Wheeler Committee?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** (a) The extent to which the Wheeler Committee's recommendations have been accepted has been fully explained in the Press Note issued on the 17th November, 1937, a copy of which has been placed in the Library of the House. I am unable to add anything to that at present, but if the Honourable Member will mention to me any particular recommendation in regard to which he has failed to find sufficient information in the Press Note, I will consider what I can do to oblige him.

(b) The recommendations of what is sometimes called the Maxwell Committee are embodied in a confidential note which has not been published, and I am unable to give any information about it.

(c) The cost was approximately Rs. 72,120.

**SUBJECTS DISCUSSED AT THE FINANCE MINISTERS' CONFERENCE.**

371. **\*Mr. Manu Subedar:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member state:

- (a) whether a conference of Finance Ministers was held recently;
- (b) what the subjects discussed at this conference were;
- (c) whether the question of the proposed sales tax on sugar-cane was discussed; and
- (d) whether any compromise was offered by the Central Government in consideration of the Provincial Governments foregoing the levy of the sales tax?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** (a) Yes.

(b), (c) and (d). As I said in reply to a previous question, the proceedings of the conference must be regarded as confidential.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Will the Honourable Member say whether Stamp Duty was one of the subjects discussed?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** Yes.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** What were the alternatives discussed at the conference?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** The Honourable Member is trying to get in detail what I have refused to give him in general.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Will Government please mention the reasons why they will not send out to the public a statement of the subjects discussed with such information as Government themselves choose to give?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** No.

†372\*.

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†This question was not put by the questioner.



OBJECTION TAKEN BY THE COLONEL AT RAZMAK TO THE PLAYING OF INDIAN MUSIC IN THE MESS.

373. \***Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** Will the Defence Secretary please state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Colonel objected to the playing of Indian music in the mess of the 2nd/1st Punjab Regiment about the end of December, 1937, at Razmak;
- (b) whether it is a fact that on that occasion the said Colonel addressed the Indian commissioned officers in the following words, or similar words:

“If you want to play Indian music go and eat cow-dung in your villages”;

- (c) whether it is a fact that the said Indian commissioned officers bitterly resented the Colonel's remarks and that they lodged a protest;
- (d) whether it is a fact that instead of their grievance being redressed, the said Indian officers were brought before a Court of Inquiry;
- (e) if so, what was the result of that Court of Inquiry; and
- (f) whether Government are prepared to take steps to see that such incidents do not recur?

**Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie:** (a) to (f). The facts are approximately as stated in the question. The incident is, however, a purely domestic concern of the unit involved. It has been brought to a conclusion satisfactory to all concerned and it is not in the interests of the unit or of its officers to discuss it further.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Have any orders been given that Indian music will be allowed in future?

**Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie:** Not that I know of.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Will Government consider the matter?

**Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie:** I think there is no need for Government to consider it.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Are Government aware that Indian music is most important thing in the cultural life of an Indian Officer and should be allowed?

**Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie:** I understand the point does not concern Indian music: it was concerned with the time and place at which it was played.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Are Government supporting my proposal that orders should be given to permit Indian music?

**Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie:** There is no need to give such orders. Indian music will be permitted just as much as any other music.

**Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** May I know, with reference to parts (d) and (e) whether these officers were brought before a Court of Inquiry, and, if so, when that Court of Inquiry was held?

**Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie:** The officers were not brought before a Court of Inquiry. A Court of Inquiry into the incident was held at which the officers concerned gave evidence.

**Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** May I know how many officers gave evidence or were examined by this Court of Inquiry?

**Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie:** All the Indian Commissioned Officers of the regiment, as far as I know.

**Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** May I know what was the result of this Court of Inquiry?

**Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie:** The result was, as I have said, that the matter has been brought to a conclusion satisfactory to all concerned.

**Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** May I know if Government will take or have taken any action against the Colonel who took exception to a very legitimate act of Indian officers?

**Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie:** I should like to say again that the proceedings of this completely domestic concern should not in the opinion of the Government have been ventilated in Parliament, and that incidents of this kind should not be given such a degree of publicity. I might suggest to the Honourable Member that all the information he can possibly desire on this subject he could readily obtain from the sources from which he obtained the material of his question.

**Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** I was listening to a lecture by the Honourable Member as to how we should behave in Parliament. We are not here to be lectured to by the Honourable the Defence Secretary.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): There was no lecture at all.

**Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** I request I may be allowed to put a supplementary question . . . .

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

#### INDIANISATION OF THE POSTS OF INSPECTING OFFICERS OF CANTONMENTS.

374. **\*Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh** (on behalf of Mr. Sham Lal): Will the Defence Secretary be pleased to state:

- (a) what number of officers is employed as Inspecting Officers of Cantonments and their Assistants (now styled as Deputy Director, Cantonments and Assistant Deputy Director) in India, and the average rate of their pay;
- (b) whether it is a fact that none of these officers is an Indian; and

- (c) if the answer to part (b) be in the affirmative, what steps Government propose to take to Indianise these posts?

**Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie:** (a) Four Deputy Directors on salary of Rs. 2,145 per mensem each. Three Deputy Assistant Directors, the average pay of existing incumbents is Rs. 1,275 per mensem each.

(b) Yes.

(c) Appointments to these posts are made by selection, and Indian Military Estates Officers are eligible for selection.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** May I know with reference to part (b), why it is that Indian officers are not appointed?

**Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie:** Up to the present, there has been no King's Commissioned Indian Officer or Indian Commissioned Officer in the Cantonments Department.

#### DEMAND FOR ENHANCED RENT FOR QUARTERS TO BE BUILT IN THE SANATAN DHARAM TEMPLE COMPOUND IN THE RISALPUR CANTONMENT.

375. **\*Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh** (on behalf of Mr. Sham Lal): Will the Defence Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Executive Officer of Risalpur Cantonment demanded enhanced rent for quarters which were proposed to be built in the compound of Sanatan Dharam Temple by Hindu residents; if so, why; and

(b) whether Government are prepared to waive this demand for enhanced rent?

**Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie:** (a) and (b). Yes. The site was applied for for the erection of a temple and quarters for the *Pujaris*, School Mistresses, *Pandits* and visitors. The full market rent of the site is Rs. 225 per annum but as it was required solely for religious purposes and the accommodation of persons connected with the temple, the Government of India sanctioned the lease on a nominal rent of Rs. 5 per annum. The lease provides that the premises shall not be used for any purpose other than that of a place of worship. The lessees, by renting the quarters to private persons have contravened the terms of the lease, and Government are entitled to determine it. Government do not desire to take this drastic step but had the site, or a part of it, been applied for for erecting quarters to be rented out, full market rent would have been charged for that portion of the site. The lessees have been asked to comply the terms of the lease, and their reply is awaited before Government can determine their future action.

#### GRIEVANCES AGAINST THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE RISALPUR CANTONMENT.

376. **\*Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh** (on behalf of Mr. Sham Lal): Will the Defence Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the present Executive Officer of Risalpur Cantonment has been stationed there for the last 18 years;

(b) whether Government are aware that he is extremely unpopular with the public, who have made several representations to higher authorities on the subject;

- (c) whether it is also a fact that this Executive Officer always remains sick and therefore cannot perform the office work properly; and
- (d) if the answer to the above be in the affirmative, what action Government propose to take in this matter?

**Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie:** (a) Yes. He was, however, appointed Executive Officer from 1st December, 1932.

- (b) No.
- (c) The reply is in the negative.
- (d) Does not arise.

**CHARGES FRAMED BY THE JHANSI CANTONMENT BOARD AGAINST ITS EXECUTIVE OFFICER.**

377. **\*Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh** (on behalf of Mr. Sham Lal): Will the Defence Secretary be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that serious charges of corruption and falsification of accounts were framed by the Jhansi Cantonment Board against its Executive Officer; and
- (b) what action was taken by Government against that officer?

**Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie:** (a) Yes. The charges were, however, found on enquiry to be unsubstantiated.

- (b) Does not arise.

**EXERCISE OF POWERS OF THE PRESIDENT WHILE ON LEAVE BY THE ELECTED VICE-PRESIDENT OF A CANTONMENT BOARD.**

378. **\*Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh** (on behalf of Mr. Sham Lal): Will the Defence Secretary be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that when the permanent Officer Commanding the station goes on leave for two or three months in summer to hills or *ex-India*, the senior military officer, who takes over the command of troops from that very date assumes the Presidentship of the Cantonment Board and exercises executive powers of the Board;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that on return of the permanent Officer Commanding from leave, he again becomes the President of the Board;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that by this arrangement the elected Vice-President of the Cantonment is deprived of the right of exercising the powers and duties of the President; and
- (d) whether Government are prepared to issue instructions to allow the elected Vice-President to exercise powers of the President during leave?

**Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie:** (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) and (d). The elected Vice-President can only function as President when the permanent President is absent temporarily on duty or on station leave. Under section 22 (2) of the Cantonments Act, 1924, it is within

the discretion of the President to empower the Vice-President to perform any duty or exercise any power specifically imposed or conferred on him under the Act, and Government do not consider it necessary to interfere with this discretion.

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

379. **\*Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** (a) Will the Defence Secretary please state whether Government's attention has been drawn to a piece of news which appeared in the *Hindustan Times* of the 2nd February, 1938, on page 3, column 4, under the heading "Tommy Runs Amuck", stating that a soldier fired at random from a running lorry, and injured many passers by?

(b) To what extent is the news well-founded, and how many persons have thus been injured?

(c) What steps have Government taken against the offender?

Sir, the Honourable Member need not answer parts (a) and (b), but I simply want to know what further steps have been taken by Government to bring the offenders to book.

**Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie:** The matter stands exactly as it is when I answered Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar's question.

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** I am asking about taking further steps.

**Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie:** The matter stands exactly as it did that is to say, the police are still inquiring into the incident, and it has not yet been decided whether the case will be brought before Civil Courts or not.

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** I want to know whether the Honourable Member is in a position to give any further information on the subject? Have the police made any further progress with their investigation, if so, is the Defence Secretary in possession of these facts?

**Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie:** No, I am in possession of no further facts.

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** Have you made any inquiries?

**Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie:** Yes.

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** Then the police don't propose to reply to you.

**Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie:** Undoubtedly when they have completed their investigation.

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** What is the latest information?

**Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie:** That they have not completed their investigation.

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** I don't wish to put this question† (No. 380) because it has already been answered in a communique issued by the Government, but I should just like to know if the postponed visit is likely to come off some time later, and if so, when?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** I am not in a position to answer that.

#### MEASURES FOR PROHIBITION OF COW-SLAUGHTER.

381. **\*Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

- (a) whether they have taken notice of the petition of nearly a hundred thousand signatures submitted to His Excellency the Viceroy from Poona city, demanding the immediate and complete prohibition of cow slaughter in the interests of the health and agricultural industry of the nation, and with a view to satisfy the religious sentiments of millions of Hindus; and
- (b) what Government intend to do in this matter?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** (a) and (b). The matter does not concern the Central Government.

#### MEASURES FOR PROHIBITION OF COW-SLAUGHTER.

382. **\*Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

- (a) whether in view of the recent public utterances by His Excellency the Viceroy deprecating the indiscriminate cow-slaughter in cities and the desirability to stop it immediately even by legislative measures, the Imperial Government have formulated any Bill to that effect;
- (b) if not, when such a Bill should be expected to appear before this Assembly;
- (c) whether the Provincial Governments have sent in their opinions as regards such a Bill; whether they were asked for in the month of December, 1936;
- (d) whether such opinions of the Provincial Governments, if arrived, will be published; and

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+380. **\*Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state whether Government's attention has been drawn to a piece of news which appeared in the *Hindustan Times* of the 2nd February, 1938, on page 3, column 1, suggesting that His Majesty the King Emperor may visit India towards the end of this year?

(b) Is there any truth in this statement?

(c) If the reply to part (b) be in the affirmative, will Government please state what will be the amount of expenditure which will be debited to the Indian exchequer in connection with this visit?

- (e) whether Government have in view any other schemes to bring about this cow-slaughter prohibition?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** With your permission. Sir, I will answer this and the next together, and the answer is that I am unable to answer this question. It should have been addressed to the Honourable Member representing the Department of Education, Health and Lands.

#### MAINTENANCE AND PUBLICATION OF STATISTICS FOR COW-SLAUGHTER.

†383. **\*Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state whether Government are prepared to ask all Provincial Governments to maintain accurate statistics of cows and other cattle slaughtered in municipal areas, notified areas, cantonment areas, and all other rural areas within their jurisdiction, and to publish these statistics regularly and annually for the information of the public?

#### TRANSFER OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF SALT, MATCHES AND SUGAR FROM CERTAIN PROVINCES TO THE CENTRAL BOARD OF REVENUE.

384. **\*Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state why it has been decided to transfer the administration of salt, matches and sugar from the hands of the Provincial Governments of Bengal and other Eastern Provinces to the Central Board of Revenue?

(b) Was the opinion of the Bengal Government sought in the matter and if so, did the Bengal Government agree to such a proposal?

**Mr. A. H. Lloyd:** (a) The Government of India considered it desirable on merits that the administration of Central Excises and particularly that of Sugar Excise should be under their own close control and should be conducted on as uniform lines as possible. The question of taking over control of Central Excises and Salt from the Government of Bengal is still under consideration.

(b) Yes, but they have not agreed.

#### TRANSFER OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF SALT, MATCHES AND SUGAR FROM CERTAIN PROVINCES TO THE CENTRAL BOARD OF REVENUE.

385. **\*Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state whether it is not a fact that Bengal has collected the largest excise revenue in matches during the past three years?

(b) Have not the Bengal Government appointed and trained up a large staff for the maintenance and collection of the matches and sugar revenue during the last three years? If so, what will be the fate of these officers?

(c) Are Government aware that the people of Bengal have been trying to revive the salt industry and several public limited concerns have been granted licences to manufacture salt in different areas of the sea-board, and experiments are being regularly carried on by these manufacturers with a view to developing large factories in the near future?

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†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 382.

**Mr. A. H. Lloyd:** (a) Yes.

(b) The Bengal Government administer these duties through their Excise Department, which has been enlarged in this connection by the appointment of one Superintendent, seventeen Inspectors and ten Sub-Inspectors. As regards the second part, the whole matter is under consideration.

(c) The Government are aware of the experiments made by certain concerns and the results achieved by them so far.

#### EXTENSION OF THE SALT (ADDITIONAL IMPORT DUTY) ACT OF 1931.

386. **\*Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state whether Government contemplate a further extension of the Salt (Additional Import Duty) Act of 1931?

(b) What are the views of the present responsible Government of Bengal towards its further extension?

(c) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state their future policy regarding development of salt manufacture in Bengal? Will the additional duty collected from Bengal be spent exclusively for the purpose of salt manufacture in Bengal in an industrial scale, to make the province self-supporting in the matter of salt?

(d) Are Government prepared to consider the desirability to appoint during the ensuing reorganisation a special officer in Bengal as Salt Development Officer to advise and guide the prospective manufacturers and to grant subsidies, with the sanction of Government, in deserving cases?

**Mr. A. H. Lloyd:** (a) Government do not disclose their intentions in regard to taxation in advance.

(b) They have not so far been consulted.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

**Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** With reference to part (b) of this question, may I know, Sir, whether the Government of India are contemplating to take the advice of the Bengal Government in this matter?

**Mr. A. H. Lloyd:** I should like to have notice of that question.

#### BURMA CURRENCY NOTES IN CIRCULATION IN INDIA.

†387. **\*Sardar Mangal Singh:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a considerable number of currency notes with the Stamp "Legal tenders in Burma only" are in circulation in India;

(b) whether it is a fact that currency offices refuse to accept them;

(c) whether Government propose to stop their circulation in India or take steps to remove the difficulties of the public in getting them cashed;

(d) whether the Honourable Member is aware that the exchange banks charge some commission for making cash payments for such notes; and

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



- (e) whether Government propose to instruct the currency offices to accept them on face value?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** (a), (b) and (c). I would refer the Honourable Member to the statement made on this subject in the annual Report of the Reserve Bank which was published in the Gazette of India, dated the 5th of February, 1938.

(d) Yes.

(e) No.

#### RETURN OF THE KALGHI OF GURU GOVIND SINGH TO THE SIKHS.

†388. **\*Sardar Mangal Singh:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

- (a) whether, as has been stated in Lady Logan's reminiscences it is a fact that, when the British Government took over the possession of Lahore fort from Maharaja Dalip Singh, a plume (Kalghi) which was said to be that of Guru Govind Singh was found in the Tosha Khana;
- (b) where that plume now is; and
- (c) whether Government propose to return the same to the Sikhs?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** (a), (b) and (c). I have not been able to trace the statement on which the Honourable Member's question is based, and cannot, therefore, give him the information he desires.

#### REMARKS OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE PUNJAB ON POLICE METHODS TO SECURE CONFESSIONS.

389. **\*Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang:** (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the remarks of the Chief Justice of the Punjab in the Kiroo case from Rawalpindi on police methods of attempting to secure a confession in the case?

(b) If so, are Government prepared to consider the desirability of enquiring into police methods in other Provinces with a view to revising the law of confessions in India?

(c) Are Government aware that in a large majority of cases in most provinces, confessions are retracted at the trial on the ground of their having been procured by torture?

(d) Are Government prepared to consider the desirability of instituting an enquiry, in co-operation with the Provincial Governments into the investigation of crimes generally by the police and, if necessary, of amending the Criminal Procedure Code and the Evidence Act?

(e) Has any general enquiry been held since that ordered by Lord Curzon in 1903?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** (a) No, except for what has appeared in the Press.

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

(c) and (e). No.

(b) and (d). While Criminal Procedure is a concurrent subject included in List III of the Seventh Schedule to the Government of India Act, 1935, Police is a provincial subject. The fact that there have been strictures on the methods employed by the police of a Province, purporting to be acting under the provisions of Chapter XIV of the Code of Criminal Procedure, is no reason for assuming that the substantive provisions of the law are defective and require amendment, and the Government of India are not prepared to embark upon any enquiry such as has been suggested by the Honourable Member unless they are asked to do so by Provincial Governments.

## UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

### PRINTING OF CURRENCY NOTES OUTSIDE INDIA.

30. **\*Mr. Manu Subedar:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any denomination of currency notes which the Government of India still get printed outside India;
- (b) if the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, why arrangements for printing these notes cannot be made in this country; and
- (c) whether Government will be pleased to lay on the table any papers or correspondence on this subject, explaining the difficulties in the production of these notes locally?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** (a) No.

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

### ARREST AND IMPRISONMENT OF *ex*-KAKORI PRISONERS IN DELHI.

31. **Mr. Badri Dutt Pande:** (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state when and for what reasons the *ex*-Kakori prisoners (i) Jogesh Chandra Chatterjea, (ii) Mr. A. K. Khatri, (iii) Manmoth Nath, (iv) S. N. Bakshi and (v) Ram Dulare, were arrested and subsequently imprisoned in the Province and City of Delhi?

(b) What are their terms of imprisonment?

(c) In which class are they kept?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** (a) All the prisoners were arrested on the 2nd December, 1937, for disobeying notices served on them under section 3 of the Punjab Criminal Law Amendment Act.

(b) Each of the prisoners was sentenced to four months' rigorous imprisonment.

(c) Class "B".

## STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE.

*Information promised in reply to starred question No. 487, asked by Khan Bahadur Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim on the 13th September 1937.*

### INSTALLATION OF LOUD-SPEAKERS IN THE INDIAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY CHAMBER.

In 1935-36 the ceiling and the walls of the Assembly Chamber at Simla were sprayed at a cost of about Rs. 10,000 with an absorbent material calculated to reduce the reverberation and this has led to some improvement in the acoustics of the Chamber. From enquiries made, Government are not satisfied that the installation of microphones and loud-speakers is likely to prove satisfactory.

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*Information promised in reply to part (a) of starred question No. 109 asked by Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar on the 2nd February, 1938.*

### MADRASIS TRANSFERRED TO BURMA IN THE POSTAL AUDIT AND CONTROLLER'S DEPARTMENT.

(a) 104 (including an Assistant Accounts Officer and two Divisional Accountants).

### MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL OF STATE.

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

"Sir, I am directed to inform you that the Council of State at its meeting held on the 17th February, 1938, agreed without any amendment to the following Bills, which were passed by the Legislative Assembly at its meetings held on the 31st January, 7th February and 1st February, 1938, namely:

- (1) A Bill to repeal certain enactments;
- (2) A Bill further to amend the Dangerous Drugs Act, 1930, for a certain purpose; and
- (3) A Bill further to amend the Indian Companies Act, 1913, for certain purposes."

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**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar** (Leader of the House): Sir, may I make a statement about the legislative business which is appearing on the agenda paper for today? There are two items, one relates to the Stamp Bill and the other relates to the Tea Bill. The Stamp Bill will not be moved today, and therefore the only matter for discussion will be the Tea Bill. Many Honourable Members were under the impression that matters will not be expedited to this extent, and I understand it is the general desire of the Opposition that the clauses of the Tea Bill may not be discussed today. If that is the view of the Opposition, and if the Chair will permit it, we have no objection to proceed with the Tea Bill up to the stage of the consideration of the motion on the Report of the Select Committee, and the clauses may be left for another day. Government not proceeding further today. This may involve the House rising earlier than 5 o'clock, but we are quite prepared to do that if the Opposition and the Chair will agree to it.

**Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta** (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I do not propose to oppose the suggestion made by the Honourable the Leader of the House, but I think I owe it to certain friends to inform the House that some gentlemen have left

Delhi on the assurance that the Tea Bill will not be taken up today,—an assurance, if I may be permitted to say so,—which was given by the Honourable the Leader of the House. . . .

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** What do you want now?

**Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta:** I may not be misunderstood. . . .

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** I have not misunderstood you. but I made a proposal in order to help your friends, that the clauses of the Tea Bill may not be taken up today.

**Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta:** I have already said that I am not opposing it.

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** If you are not agreeable, then I will withdraw my request to the Chair. It is not a question of your not opposing. If you are not agreeable to my proposal, I shall withdraw my request to the Chair.

**Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta:** The proposal, I take it, is that the Tea Bill will be taken up only up to a certain stage?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** Yes.

**Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta:** Very well, I agree to it. I never intended to oppose.

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali** (Delhi: General): Sir, so far as we are concerned, we agree to the suggestion made by the Honourable the Leader of the House. In fact, I may make it perfectly clear that the last attempt we made was for making it a holiday today. That having failed, we had to fall back on a half holiday, and the suggestion made today really comes to a half holiday, and we entirely agree with it.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair is not disposed to grant a half or full holiday, and it is for the Government to say whether they are going to make certain motions which are on the agenda or not. If business is thereby dislocated that, of course, is the responsibility of the Government and the Chair has nothing to do with it. It is left to the Government to act as it pleases in this matter.

#### ELECTION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

**Mr. A. G. Olow** (Labour Secretary): Sir, I move:

“That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, three non-official Members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects with which the Labour Department is concerned.”

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

“That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, three non-official Members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects with which the Labour Department is concerned.”

The motion was adopted.

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

**Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai** (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands): Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, two Muslim Members to sit on the Standing Committee on Pilgrimage to the Hedjaz, *vice* Sir Abdoola Haroon, M.L.A., and Maulana Shaukat Ali, M.L.A., whose term of membership expired on the 12th February, 1938."

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

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, two Muslim Members to sit on the Standing Committee on Pilgrimage to the Hedjaz, *vice* Sir Abdoola Haroon, M.L.A., and Maulana Shaukat Ali, M.L.A., whose term of membership expired on the 12th February, 1938."

The motion was adopted.

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**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I may inform Honourable Members that for the purpose of election of members for the Standing Committee for the Labour Department and the Standing Committee on Pilgrimage to the Hedjaz the Notice Office will be open to receive nominations upto 12 noon on Friday, the 25th February, 1938, and that the elections, if necessary, for both the Committees will take place as usual, in the Assistant Secretary's Room in the Council House, New Delhi, between the hours of 10-30 A.M. and 1 P.M. on Wednesday, the 2nd March, 1938. The elections will be conducted in accordance with the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote.

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## THE STAMP DUTIES UNIFICATION BILL.

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg** (Finance Member): Sir, I do not move my motion\* today.

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## THE INDIAN TEA CONTROL BILL.

**Mr. H. Dow** (Commerce Secretary): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill to provide for the control of the export of tea from, and for the control of the extension of the cultivation of tea in, British India, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

Sir, the Bill, as it has emerged from the Select Committee, has undergone no such drastic alteration as will make it necessary for me to detain the House long in explaining the changes that have been made. The House will also have gathered from the fact that Government have given no notice of any amendments to the report of the Select Committee that Government are prepared to stand on that report. These are the principal changes that have been made. Firstly, it is proposed that certain of the members of the Committee which will be set up under

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\*"That the Bill to fix uniform rates for the levy of certain stamp duties throughout British India, to impose for a period of two years a stamp duty on cheques, and to formulate the principles in accordance with which the net proceeds of the said duties shall be distributed among the Provinces be taken into consideration."

Chapter I of this Bill shall be elected instead of nominated. Government have no objection in principle to this. It is Government's desire that the members to represent those interests, in whatever way they are selected—whether by nomination or in some other way—, should be as truly representative of those interests as can be. Possibly there will be difficulties experienced by the Committee when they come to work out the rules for the election of these representatives; but it has always been Government's object to select by nomination people who are as truly representative of those minor interests as possible. Another important change is one that I adumbrated in my opening speech. It will be found in sub-clause (f) of clause 3, where Government propose that there should be a Chairman nominated by the Central Government in consultation with the members of the Committee. Government have no ulterior or Machiavellian motive in putting forward this proposal, which the Select Committee have accepted. It is common ground both with Government and with the present Committee and I believe with all sections of this House that the small growers in particular should feel confidence that their applications for export quotas are being dealt with in a satisfactory manner by someone who entirely understands the facts; and the Committee themselves, as I have already pointed out, realise that they are not, as at present constituted, in a position to make the small growers feel that they have been treated with absolute fairness and understanding. It is the intention of Government, if this clause is carried and if the motions for an Appeal Board, of which notice has been received, are not carried, to appoint to this post an Indian officer of Government with district experience and also, if possible, some experience of commercial matters. Government's main object is that the small grower, in particular, should feel that his applications are being fairly and squarely dealt with. Another change made affects the transfers of export quota rights. I said in introducing the Bill that Government would be prepared to support any measures for the reduction of speculation in these rights, and Honourable Members will see that it is proposed to restrict transfers to owners of tea estates. There is also a change made in clause 22 of the Bill which restricts the maximum fees which the Committee can levy. The other important change is the addition of the Schedule to the Bill defining the crop basis and making provision for allowances for young areas and low producing areas.

Now, coming to the amendments of which we have received notice, the most important of them may be roughly classified under three heads. Some of them are aimed at altering the constitution of the Committee by giving still further representation to minority interests. I made it very clear in my speech introducing the Bill that the Bill, as introduced, gave an extremely weighted representation to these minority interests. It will, therefore, be impossible for Government to accept amendments which give still further representation to those interests, because it is quite clear that if those amendments are agreed to, it will result in a committee on which the minority interests had representation in excess of the majority interests. I do not think that in the circumstances Government can go any further than they have done in representing the minority interests on the Committee.

Secondly, there are amendments devoted to the setting up of an Appeal Board. The object which these amendments are designed to achieve

[Mr. H. Dow.]

are the same as those which the Government have in mind in setting up a permanent chairman of the committee; and in the opinion of the Government the remedy which they have proposed is one which is likely to prove far more acceptable to the smaller growers for whom it is designed; it is likely to be very much cheaper, and it will be more efficient in every way.

The other amendments are devoted to the expansion of the area under tea. In that matter what is possible to Government is very strictly limited by the terms of the international agreement itself, and Government obviously cannot accept any position which would not be fully in accord with their international obligations.

Sir, that is all I think I need say at this stage; and with these words. I move that the Bill may be taken into consideration.

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

"That the Bill to provide for the control of the export of tea from and for the control of the extension of the cultivation of tea in British India, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

**Mr. Badri Dutt Pande** (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, the report of the Select Committee on the Tea Bill is before us, and I have listened to the speech of the Honourable Member in charge of this Bill. In my speech on that day I said that one representative should be given to the Kangra Valley but the Select Committee has not acceded to our request in that respect. I think, however, that their case is very strong. Out of a little more than 5,000 tea planters, the Kangra Valley has got I think 2,500. So their number is great. That is the argument in their favour,—that their number is very great and they must have a representative. How can a majority be denied a representative? It is a majority, it is not a minority even, it is nearly one-half of the population of the tea planters. Of course, the area grown is not so large. In our district of Almora we are petty zemindars all over, so in a population of six lakhs we have one lakh and thirty-five thousand votes there, because every gentleman is a small zemindar there. Why one-half of the population of tea growers should be denied the vote I cannot understand. Dehra Dun, Kangra, Kumaon and Bihar are the unrepresented areas and I think one member will not make the committee so big as to be very bulky, as the Honourable Member opposite says. Then there is another factor which I shall represent. Tea employs nine lakhs of labour, and that labour is not represented. On that side the argument is—what has labour to do here? Now, what has Mr. Joshi to do here, then? The same argument applies to him. Why should Mr. Joshi represent ten crores of labour here, out of 35 crores of total population of India? Here nine lakhs of tea labour goes unrepresented. So I think Mr. Joshi will strongly support my proposition that one labourer should also be taken on this committee to represent the under-dog who is now nowhere in the picture. We do not know what his demands are. There officers move about in motor cars and in aeroplanes everywhere but they do not go to the villages, they do not go to the labourers' quarters, they do not care to know in what filthy condition they live and they do not care whether they get two meals a day or not. So, that is the problem; you do not know how they live in their places and

what miseries they have to undergo. Sir, it is with their labour and industry that you and I and everybody else get our tea, and the tea industry makes its profits. So, I think one representative of labour at least ought to be granted.

As regards the creation of an Appeal Board in Kangra Valley, I am told that there are a hundred appeals to the Viceroy pending just now. I have just got the figures, showing that there are a hundred appeals to the Viceroy or Governor General in Council. So the case for an Appeal Board comes in strong. But since September last when these appeals were forwarded they have not heard anything on the matter; Sir, when the case for an Appeal Board was brought forward they argued at length the question of expense. Now, we have got a very big Federal Court with Judges getting big salaries, although they have very little work to do these days. In spite of that, the salaries are very big, Rs. 7,000, Rs. 5,500 or Rs. 6,000. They have only to look into cases arising out of the Government of India Act and into occasional disputes between the Provinces and the Centre. That Court is not an original Court. Of course, I am not a lawyer but I have a bit of common sense.

**Babu Baijnath Bajoria** (Marwari Association: Indian Commerce): I doubt it.

**Mr. Badri Dutt Pande:** You are my old friend but devoid of common sense. As the Federal Court will not have much work to do, so this appeal Court will not have work for the whole year, but they will have enough work for two or three sittings in Calcutta and Madras where most of the cases come in, and if they have some cases in Kangra they could run up there and I think in two and a half months they could finish their business. They would only have four or five appeals a day to dispose of. There is not much legal work, it is only technical work, and I think an appeal Court is a necessity in this case.

Then the people of Kangra complain—I have received many representations from them—that:

“under the existing law tea can be exported to Afghanistan and Tibet without a license. It will not be possible to do so under the new rules unless, of course, the assurance given to the deputation of some of the tea planters of the Kangra district that a Government Gazette notification will permit the export to trans-frontier countries is given effect to. The matter has been brought to notice again so that there may be no omission in this respect.”

I am told that Japan is capturing the markets of Afghanistan, Tibet, Gilgit, Tashkand and other countries.

**Mr. H. Dow:** Is the Honourable Member referring to tea or to other commodities?

**Mr. Badri Dutt Pande:** To tea. I am told by the planters of the Kangra Valley that Japan is capturing the tea markets also and those are the markets where the Kangra tea mostly goes. They supply most of the green tea which is in demand in Kabul, Kashmir and countries further north. This thing has to be looked to, whether they will have to take license or whether Government notification will do in their case.

About tea quotas, they want the same relief as is being given to Darjeeling. They say that, last year, the same Inspector who gave a quota



[Mr. Badri Dutt Pande.]

of 844 in one garden later on reduced it to 480. This sort of thing is being done by the same Inspector in the same Estate. Therefore, I say that one representation should be given to the Kangra Valley. With these remarks, Sir, I resume my seat.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi** (Nominated Non-Official): After having read the Bill as well as the report of the Select Committee, I am afraid I cannot support the motion made by my Honourable friend, the Commerce Secretary. I fully realise that international agreements are very useful especially when there is competition which is harmful to all countries. But, Sir, I expected that the Select Committee would make some remarks on the manner and the method of bringing about international trade agreements which should be binding upon our country. This Bill seeks to give effect to an agreement which was arrived at between some of the planters in our country and the planters of two or three other countries. I am sure that the Government of India will agree with me that it is not only the planters who are interested in the tea industry. You and I who drink tea are as much interested in the production of tea as the planters themselves. I take tea and I take coffee too. If an international trade agreement is to be arrived at and if that agreement is to be accepted by Government on behalf of the nation and if legislation is to be introduced it is absolutely necessary that at the time of coming to an agreement all interests which are involved in that industry should be consulted. The consumers of tea were not consulted. The workers who work on the plantations were not consulted. The Government of India were not consulted. Unfortunately, the Government of India is a Government which is willing to carry into effect an agreement in which they were not consulted. I feel that they lack in a sense of their own dignity. However, it is their business. I feel, therefore, that the Select Committee should have laid down the procedure by which an international agreement should be arrived at, if that agreement is expected to be given effect to by the Government and by the Legislature.

Moreover, this Bill seeks to give a sort of protection to the planting community in India. I thought that the Select Committee would also make some remarks whether the Government of India should have given protection to this industry without any inquiry. Whenever an industry wants some protection from the Government it is generally the practice of the Government of India to give protection to that industry after an inquiry. I should like to know either from the members of the Select Committee or from the Government of India whether any inquiry was made into the conditions of this industry. We are controlling the export trade. We are also controlling the production of tea. You are taking away the right of some people who want to plant tea and make some money. You are taking away the right of people who want to earn some wages by working on the tea plantations. Certainly, it was absolutely necessary before taking such a step that an inquiry should have been made into the financial condition of that industry. We are going to control the production of tea and it is necessary for us to know whether under the present conditions the tea industry is making profits or losses and what is the rate of profits or losses which they are making. We must also know whether the industry is properly managed. What are the prices ruling in our country as well as outside. We must know also what is the cost of production.

We know nothing about these. Not only that. My point is that there is no authoritative inquiry. Does the Commerce Secretary tell me that when some industry comes for protection, there are no facts or no figures available at all? There are figures available but the Government of India and the Legislature do not accept those figures. They insist upon a proper inquiry being made by an expert committee. There may be some figures given by the planters but these figures were not inquired into by the expert committee. I, therefore, think that an inquiry should have been made before the Government of India and the Legislature and the Select Committee agreed to give protection to this industry.

As regards the principle of controlling production, I am against that control unless a very strong case is made out for the control of production. When you control production several interests are affected, the interests of the consumers and the interests of the workers. If you control production, the workers lose their employment. As a matter of fact, on account of the control which has been in existence for some years, the wages of the tea industry are going down and have gone down considerably. Therefore, **an inquiry should have been made.** Unfortunately, no inquiry has been made. As regards production itself, we do not know whether there is a good case for controlling production. As a matter of fact, if you study the few figures that are available, there seems to be no need for any control of production. At present, we produce about 500 million pounds of tea, out of which we export about 340. There remains 160 million pounds. About

12 NOON. 160 million lbs. of tea are not sufficient for a population of over 350 millions, it does not work out to even half a lb. per man.

The fact is that tea is not at present cheap enough for the people in this country and, therefore, it is a matter for enquiry whether the price of tea should be allowed to remain high when people in the country cannot afford to make use of the tea which we produce. My point is that these facts have not been enquired into. Without an enquiry, so far as I am concerned, I am not in favour of controlling the production of tea, especially controlling the production for consumption in the country. I have no objection **to your controlling the export of tea.** By all means have control if you find that tea will not be sold outside, but if you are going to control tea which is necessary to be used by people in this country, I shall require much stronger case before I consent to any control. I am, therefore, for the present inclined not to support a measure which seeks to control production of tea for internal consumption.

Now, if we are going to have any control, what is going to be the machinery by which that control will be exercised. This Bill has proposed a certain Committee to control the operations of this control of export as well as of production. I feel that the Government of India, in this matter too, have not shown a proper appreciation of the interests involved in the control of tea industry. I have already said that it is not the planters alone who are interested in the maintenance of the tea industry in this country. There are the consumers who are also interested. The consumers want tea as cheap as they can get it. **Then there are the working classes** who are interested. If you are going to control production of tea, then certainly the workers in the industry lose employment. We want more employment for the workers in the country and by controlling tea you reduce their employment. Not only that. If you control production of tea, then the workers are thrown out of employment with the result that

[Mr. N. M. Joshi.]

the wages go down, and the wages have gone down during the last few years on account of the control which has been established. I, therefore, feel that if a Committee is to be established for regulating control, it is absolutely necessary that the workers in this industry should be represented on that committee. (Interruption.) If people are pleased to put me on that Committee, I shall consider whether I should accept the offer or not. But I shall consider it a great privilege if I am asked to serve on that Committee. That is not the point. The point is that there is great need for labour representation on that Committee. Both their employment and their wages are involved in this matter. Therefore, if the wages of the working classes are to be protected, if their employment is to be protected, then they must be represented properly and adequately on the Committee which is to control the regulation of production and export of tea. Then, Sir, the consumers in this country must also be properly represented. We all want cheap tea and we do not get it. As a matter of fact, it is not the planters who are making so much money. No doubt they are making money, but it is the middlemen who are making a large amount. I may not know all the figures, but the fact is well established that it is the middlemen who make the largest amount of money in the tea business. Therefore, if any control is to be established, let the profits of the middlemen be also controlled. Unfortunately, there is no provision made in this Bill for that. But if the interests of the consumers are to be protected at all, let them be represented on this Committee, let them have sufficient and adequate representation, so that they can at least do something, although they cannot do very much by merely sitting on this Committee, still they can do something to protect their interests. I, therefore, feel that the Bill as it has emerged from the Select Committee is very defective in the matter of the machinery which has been established for carrying out the regulations of the tea industry.

I am in favour of giving a larger representation to the small planters. The Honourable the Commerce Secretary said, how can you give representation to minorities as against majorities. What the Honourable the Commerce Secretary exactly said was that minorities should not be converted into majorities. The important question is who is the majority. Are the planters the majority in the country so that they should control the production of tea in this country? Why should planters of Assam and Madras control the regulation of tea industry? Are they the majority? Sir, the reason why we ask for a larger representation to the small planters is this that this Committee is going to form a monopoly of planters. I am against monopoly in the hands of any private merchants or traders or industrialists. If the tea trade is going to be a monopoly at all, it should be a Government monopoly. There is at least some protection for us: we can make a speech in this Assembly about the use of that monopoly. But I am against monopoly by private merchants and private industrialists. Therefore, if that monopoly is to be checked to the slightest degree, it can only be done by proper and adequate representation and, if I may say so, even a proportionately large representation of small planters. If anybody requires proper protection when control is established it is not the big monopolists, but it is the small planters who require some protection. I, therefore, hope that the House when it discusses the clauses will vote for a larger representation of the small planters.

There is only one small point and that is about the consultation with the Provincial Governments. I am aware that the Provincial Governments have consented to this Bill, but I am not quite sure whether the Provincial Governments have given sufficient time to a measure of this importance from the point of view of the agriculturists in this country or from the point of view of the consumers in this country and of the workers in this country. I hope, Sir, that the Provincial Governments will give larger attention to a matter in which the interests of the consumers of tea are involved, in which the interests of the workers on the plantations are involved and the interests of the smaller planters are also involved. I, therefore, feel that I am unable to give my support to the Bill as it has emerged from the Select Committee.

**Mr. Brojendra Narayan Chaudhury :** Surma Valley *cum* Shillong: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, the Honourable the Commerce Secretary has been very beautifully brief in opening this debate as also in the debate on the first occasion when the Bill came up for discussion. That is the reason why we heard from Mr. Joshi so much of what I may respectfully say is irrelevant. Mr. Dow in opening the debate on the last occasion referred Honourable Members to the discussions on the Bill of 1933 which is going to expire. If Honourable Members had turned to the proceedings of that debate they would have found that during the years 1928—31 the prices of tea had gone down very low, that the price realised at that time was below the cost price and all the gardens were more or less losing and a few had to close down, throwing a large number of labourers out of work. At that time I was in charge of the office of the local District Congress Committee. One of the workers came to me one day and told me that a certain garden near the railway station of Kalaura was going to close, the result of which would be that about 300 labourers would be thrown out of employment. I was told also that it belonged to a European company and the company had ordered that the factory should be demolished and sold as scrap material. I asked the worker to go and request the manager of the garden not to demolish the factory but only to close it and allow the labourers of the estate to share the plantation among themselves, cultivate small plots on their own account and to make tea by the hand,—hand-made tea is also fairly common,—and then hand over that tea to us so that we might sell that tea which we call *khaddar* tea,—*khaddar* in our parlance being equivalent to hand-made industry,—through the Congress Committees of Bombay and Lahore. But that request was not granted. So, Honourable Members must realise that but for the Tea Control Act of 1933 the whole industry, big and small, would have gone to rack and ruin,—both our big brothers sitting there as well as our small brothers in Kumaon who are small petty cultivators. That thing must be realised.

The next complaint is that owing to this control the consumers in India are losing. I say without fear of contradiction that the consumers in India are getting tea at almost cost price. If my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, would look to the prices in the auction sales of tea. . . .

**Mr. N. M. Joshi :** Leave aside auction sales. We are interested in the prices we have to pay to the shop-keepers.

**Mr. Brojendra Narayan Chaudhury :** I will come to that. If my Honourable friend would go to these auction sales at Mission Row he would

[Mr. Brojendra Narayan Chaudhury.]

find that tea for internal consumption is being sold at from four to five annas a pound only, whereas . . . . .

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** But we have to pay 12 annas and sometimes one rupee a pound.

**Mr. Brojendra Narayan Chaudhury:** . . . . . whereas our cost price is something over four annas. It may be asked then how we can manage with such low prices. We are managing somehow and we admit that we are making a small profit, but that is not out of the Indian consumer but out of the pockets of the foreign consumer to whom we are selling at eight or ten annas a pound in the same auction market at Calcutta. That is the whole secret of the thing. Some Honourable Members in this House are under the misapprehension that we are doing some nefarious act and are exploiting somebody. My Honourable friend, Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, is not here but in a discussion with me he used the term "nefarious". I had to admit that the thing was no doubt nefarious; we are robbing somebody but not our own countrymen. If we are robbing anybody we are robbing the accursed foreigners including the British people who live in England. I think Honourable Members, my nationalist friends on this side of the House, will be glad at that statement. We have heard a good deal as regards the consumer, and Mr. Joshi has complained that he gets his blended tea at Re. 1 a pound and certainly not less than 12 annas a pound. That is true. I have not been able to find out the reason why the difference between the blended retail tea and the price at the auction sale at Calcutta should be so high. It is either that the consumers in this country have acquired a bad taste for blended tea or that the blenders are a very clever set of people. I would advise Mr. Joshi to purchase in retail "garden teas" as they are called and which are found in shops in every big town. The tea which we sell in the auction at five annas a pound Mr. Joshi can get for about seven or eight annas a pound at some of the shops in Calcutta. It may be asked, why that difference of two or three annas? That is due to retailing; you pay a higher cost because you have imbibed a bad taste for the mixture.

Now, as to the interests of labour, it has been complained that in this scheme the interest of labour has not been consulted. I had a short discussion with Mr. Joshi the other day and I advised him to find out some means or some formula whereby he could compel the owners of tea estates who will be making profits or at least saved from losses, by taking the help of this Act, to pay a bonus out of the profits to the labourers. If Mr. Joshi can devise some practicable formula, I will certainly be with him.

As regards the charge that by controlling the further extension of areas in the scheme under chapter III we are doing harm to labourers, I will say that more extensions mean more demand for labour and are certainly welcome to the labourers; but would it not be a folly and a disaster now to further extend our areas when we are unable to sell the tea, which we are producing in our present areas, in the world market?

The Honourable Mr. Joshi asks for an inquiry into the figures. Probably he does not know that the tea industry in India, thanks to our

big brothers—the Indian Tea Association,—is a very well organised industry: it is the most organised industry not only in India, but is one of the best organised industries in the world. The figures given by them cannot be controverted, and the important figures are not collected by the industry but by the Government. Now, it is true, and I will admit that if the restriction on the extension of areas had not existed and if it were possible for planters to extend, labourers would certainly have been benefited. But in the present state of things no planter would be so foolish to extend as he would not be able to sell the tea. I would assure the House there is absolutely no restriction about the production of tea on our present areas called old areas for internal consumption. But, nevertheless, there are a large number of planters under the control of the Indian Tea Association who have voluntarily agreed to control their production. The reason for it is this: the quota, *i.e.*, the amount of tea which you can export out of India, which is being granted to us under the international agreement is only about 60/65 per cent. of our production. If we produced the balance of 40 per cent. also, all our tea would not sell. If we could induce every Indian to consume half a pound of tea a year we would be very fortunate. We are trying that through our Tea Expansion Board, and during the last few years we have been successful to a considerable extent in increasing the amount of tea consumed in India: within the last ten years it has increased by about six times, but the total figure of consumption in India is still far below what we can even now produce from our existing areas.

Now, coming to the Bill itself, as regards representation on the licensing Committee, I am at one with the previous speakers in demanding further representation on the Licensing Committee for the small owners. That has been objected to by the Honourable Mr. Dow on the ground that small proprietors should not swamp big proprietors. There is no question of swamping the big proprietors. The European Associations of Calcutta and Southern India with their affiliated branches have too many representatives on the Licensing Committee, and if we are now to add one more to represent the small owners who are still left out, we should not still be giving the smaller Indian proprietors the majority of seats. The key to the situation, namely, the majority would still be with the European Association and yet without jeopardising the interests of the big planters. It will do one good, it will give to the small owners a sense of confidence that they have somebody on the committee who could speak for them.

I strongly oppose, Sir, the proposal for an official chairman. The official chairman is a move on the part, I suspect, of the European Tea Association to shunt off the proposal for an appeal board. An appeal board is the only way in which we can win the confidence of the small owners. As Mr. Dow said, it should be our chief concern to see that we win the confidence of the small owners, which we have lost. On this point Government as well as the European Association are in agreement with us: we only differ as to how this should be done. We say that an appeal board is the only way in which you can win their confidence. Then our proposal is not our original proposal, it is one which was put forward by the London Sub-Committee which is the father and master of the European Associations here. Now, this is being opposed on the flimsy ground of cost. I would like to know what the official chairman proposed will

[Mr. Brojendra Narayan Chaudhury.]

cost. I would not be divulging any secret if I tell the House that we have estimated the cost at not less than Rs. 50,000 including his office and travelling cost. We have been assured that the official would have to be a senior I.C.S., which means Rs. 30,000 a year, *plus* about Rs. 20,000 for travelling and other expenses.

**An Honourable Member:** We will discuss it on amendments.

**Mr. Brojendra Narayan Chaudhury:** I am only traversing the points made by Mr. Dow, I am doing nothing more; and I am here also doing penance for the omission of Mr. Dow to discuss in detail the real significance, the real purpose and the structure of the Bill. When we come to the amendments I will try to show to the House by figures from Ceylon that an appeal board will be less costly than an official chairman.

There are certain other amendments tabled by us. The number of amendments is not large, many overlap one another, and when we come to discuss the Bill on Thursday there will be seven or eight amendments only. Mr. Dow says that some of the amendments are against the international agreement. We will show, they come within international scheme and agreement and it is perfectly competent for the House to legislate in accordance with our amendments.

With these words, I will resume my seat.

**Mr. H. Dow:** In the course of this brief debate I think I received the most unkindest cut of all from the last speaker, who held that the brevity of my former speeches was responsible for the irrelevancies which came from my friend, Mr. Joshi. I do not altogether think that cut was justified, because Mr. Joshi, I think, was capable of quite a large number of other irrelevancies even if my former speeches had precluded him from those in which he indulged. If I may borrow a simile once used by Martin Luther, I should say that his mind is like the drunken peasant on horse back. When propped up on one side, he nods and reels on the other. In introducing the Bill, it seemed to me that the circumstances of the tea industry generally were so well-known to every Member of this House, that it would have been almost an impertinence for me to run over the whole history of the tea industry from before the time when the 1933 Bill was introduced. It is notorious that the tea industry was in an extremely bad way; it was not only likely that the **planting interests** would be ruined, but the labour interests with which Mr. Joshi is primarily concerned were likely to suffer a great deal more.

Now, coming to the remarks made by my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, he seemed to think it very necessary that tea drinkers should be directly represented on this committee. He has asked for two members to represent the tea drinkers. He would probably then ask for separate representation of minority interests among tea drinkers, such as, the people who drink tea from the Kangra Valley—I do not know where this will end.

**An Honourable Member:** And for small tea drinkers.

**Mr. H. Dow:** Yes, for small tea drinkers, and for drinkers of small tea, and of tea dust.

Now if, for example, instead of considering a tea restriction scheme we were considering an opium restriction scheme, would Mr. Joshi suggest that the people who should be largely represented on the committee should be the opium addicts?

Then he has brought forward the interests of labour, which is a matter with which the whole of this House has a great deal of sympathy. But he has not told us in the case of this committee what point of view the labour representative is going to put forward. This is a committee primarily for the allocation of tea export quotas: I was waiting to hear from my friend what exactly he expected the labour representative to do, what interests he could put forward. The most definite thing he said was that at any rate he "may be able to do something to protect labour interests." What that something was we got no indication of.

Coming to the remarks of the first speaker, he wanted representation of certain sectional interests in the Kangra Valley. It is true that the number of tea estates in that area is very large, but the number is only large because the estates themselves are extremely small. Out of the total area under tea of, I think, something like 8,26,000 acres—I am speaking from memory—the Kangra Valley represents less than 10,000 acres. Again, in defending his proposal for an appellate board, he seemed himself to bring forward a very strong argument against such a board as he proposed. The board, it is proposed, should consist of three members of whom one should be a High Court Judge and another a barrister or pleader of some kind; and the Honourable Member went on to say that one of the reasons why this board would be able to work so well was that there was not much of legal work to do. That does not seem to me to be a very good reason for setting up a board of three of whom one is to be a High Court Judge and the second is to be a lawyer of repute.

I should like in conclusion again to refer to Government's proposal for an official chairman and to assure the House that Government have no kind of *arrière pensée* in their mind, and no secondary intention in putting forward this proposal that they have not put before the House. The proposal is backed by Government because, and solely because, they consider it in the interests of the small grower and its only connection in Government's mind with the proposal for an appeal tribunal is the connection that I have already made clear in my previous speeches. If in spite of that I am told that this is a gift horse which must be regarded with suspicion, I can only refer him to Bacon's Essay on Suspicion which contains, I believe, the words "Nothing makes a man suspect much more than to know little." With these words, I commend my motion to the House.

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

"That the Bill to provide for the control of the export of tea from, and for the control of the extension of the cultivation of tea in, British India, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.



**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I understand that the Government do not wish to proceed with the rest of the Bill—the consideration of the clauses and so on—today; and if that is also the desire of the rest of the House I shall adjourn the House now as there is no other business.

**Honourable Members:** Yes, yes.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 21st February, 1938.