

9th September, 1933

THE  
**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES**  
(Official Report)

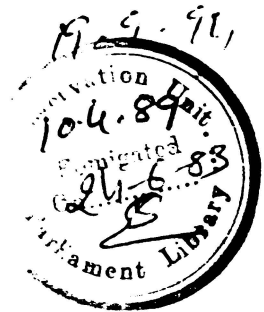
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Volume VI, 1933

*(5th September to 14th September, 1933)*

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**SIXTH SESSION**  
OF THE  
**FOURTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,**  
**1933**



NEW DELHI  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS  
1934

# Legislative Assembly.

*President :*

THE HONOURABLE SIR SHANMUKHAM CHETTY, K.C.I.E.

*Deputy President :*

MR. ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY, M.L.A.

*Panel of Chairmen :*

MR. H. P. MODY, M.L.A.

MR. K. C. NEOGY, M.L.A.

SIR LESLIE HUDSON, Kt., M.L.A.

SIR ABDULLA-AL-MAMUN SUHRAWARDY, Kt., M.L.A.

*Secretary :*

MIAN MUHAMMAD RAFI, BAR.-AT-LAW.

*Assistant of the Secretary :*

RAI BAHADUR D. DUTT.

*Marshal :*

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

*Committee on Public Petitions :*

MR. ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY, M.L.A., *Chairman.*

SIR LESLIE HUDSON, Kt., M.L.A.

MR. B. SITARAMARAJU, M.L.A.

MR. GAYA PRASAD SINGH, M.L.A.

KUNWAR HAJEE ISMAIL ALI KHAN, O.B.E., M.L.A.

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

*Saturday, 9th September, 1933.*

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) in the Chair.

## MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

### EXPULSION ORDER PASSED BY THE COMMISSIONER ON SOME RESIDENTS OF THE PHULRA STATE.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Just about five minutes back, I received a notice of a motion for adjournment from the Honourable Member, Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi, on a matter of urgent public importance, namely, the Government not accepting short notice of a question on a matter of urgent public importance which relates to the expulsion order passed by the Commissioner on some residents of Phulra State within seven days from the date of the order. Is the Political Secretary in a position to state whether Phulra State is an Indian State ?

**Mr. B. J. Glancy** (Political Secretary) : As far as I understand, it is not an Indian State. It is situated partly in the district of Hazara on the North-West Frontier Province and, partly, I understand, in tribal territory. I am not fully conversant with the situation myself and I, therefore, asked for the usual period of notice in order to enable me to study the position.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Under these circumstances, I would permit the Honourable Member, if he still desires, to make this motion on Monday, and I will waive the objection on the question of urgency. It will then be decided whether it is in order or not when the Honourable Member makes a motion on Monday.

**Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi** (Tirhut Division : Muhammadan) : All right, Sir.

## THE INDIAN STATES (PROTECTION) BILL.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Has the Honourable the Home Member got to make any statement with regard to the suggestion made yesterday by Sir Cowasji Jehangir ?

**The Honourable Sir Harry Haig** (Home Member) : At the end of our proceedings yesterday, my Honourable friend, the Leader of the Independent Party, speaking on behalf of that side of the House, said that he was prepared to accept the amendment for circulation of this Bill by 7th January, 1934, and he appealed to the Government, if they were also prepared to accept it, to announce their decision at once, so that we could

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[Sir Harry Haig.]

save time and close the debate. Well, Sir, the object of Government, as I have already explained, is that the House should take a final decision on this Bill not later than the end of the next Budget Session. After going into the details, we have thought that that result can be achieved by the method proposed by my Honourable friend, the Leader of the Independent Party. We have no objection to criticism and to the fullest examination of the provisions of this Bill. (Hear, hear.) We propose that the motion for Select Committee should be taken up after receipt of the opinions at the very beginning of the January Session and I hope we might expect perhaps that Honourable Members who have already made speeches will not at any rate repeat the same remarks on that occasion. (Laughter.) I should be very glad to set an example myself. The Government are, therefore, prepared to accept the amendment for circulation. (Applause.)

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The Chair takes it that, in view of what the Honourable the Home Member has said on behalf of Government, it is the desire of the House generally to close the debate now.

**Several Honourable Members** : Yes.

**Sirdar Harbans Singh Brar** (East Punjab : Sikh) : I quite agree that the debate should be closed, but my remarks yesterday had been misunderstood in some quarters and I just want to speak for a minute or two to clear up that misunderstanding. Yesterday I was developing my argument regarding the paramountcy and that the function of protecting a State from external aggression as well as from internal commotion was resting with the Paramount Power and that the Paramount Power was asking us to share the responsibility regarding the protection of the Indian States, in one manner and not in the other. I had not yet completed my arguments, but my remarks have been misunderstood in some quarters as would appear from the reports appearing in this morning's newspapers in Delhi and other places. It has been understood that I was opposing the Princes and their cause. I was simply attacking the Government regarding their desire to ask us to share with them the responsibility of the functions of paramountcy in one direction and not in the other. I meant no reflection on any Indian State, nor on any Prince, nor on their Governments, and much less against my esteemed friend, His Highness the present Chancellor of the Chamber of Princes. I do not desire in any way to lengthen the debate, but I simply wanted to make these remarks to clear the misunderstanding and, I hope, the Press would clear it in the way that I have explained just now. Yesterday I had not developed my argument and, unless I had done so, the Press had no right to conclude that I meant any reflection on anybody and that I was against the Princes.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai** (Sind : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, I want to say one word.....

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : What is meant by saying one word ? Does the Honourable Member want to make a personal explanation ?

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai** : I want to say a word with regard to the statement made by the Home Member about circulation.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The Chair understood that it was the general desire of the House to close the debate, Government having accepted the motion for circulation.

**Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh** (Muzaffarpur *cum* Champaran : Non-Muhammadian) : Cannot an Honourable Member oppose the motion for circulation ?

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Is it the desire of the House that the debate should be continued ?

**Several Honourable Members** : No, no.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai** : I am not advancing anything as regards the debate. I am only making a suggestion with regard to the motion for circulation ; if you permit, I will make that suggestion.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The question is that the question be now put.

(Mr. President, by gathering the voices, declared that the " Ayes " had it, when a division was asked for by Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh.)

(When the division bell was ringing.)

**Mr. B. R. Puri** (West Punjab : Non-Muhammadian) : On a point of order, may I make a submission ?

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : There cannot be a point of order when the division is on.

The Assembly divided :

AYES—57.

Acott, Mr. A. S. V.  
 Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab.  
 Allah Baksh Khan Tiwana, Khan Bahadur Malik.  
 Bajpai, Mr. G. S.  
 Bhore, The Honourable Sir Joseph.  
 Chatarji, Mr. J. M.  
 Chimmam Lal, Rai Bahadur Lala.  
 Clow, Mr. A. G.  
 Cox, Mr. A. R.  
 Dalal, Dr. R. D.  
 DeSouza, Dr. F. X.  
 Ghose, The Honourable Sir Bepin Behary.  
 Glaney, Mr. B. J.  
 Graham, Sir Lancelot.  
 Haig, The Honourable Sir Harry.  
 Hezlett, Mr. J.  
 Hoon, Mr. A.  
 Hudson, Sir Leslie.  
 Ismail Ali Khan, Kunwar Hajee.  
 Ismail Khan, Haji Chaudhury Muhammad.  
 Jadhav, Mr. B. V.  
 Jehangir, Sir Cowasji.  
 Kamaluddin Ahmad, Shams-ul-Ulema Mr.  
 Lal Chand, Hony. Captain Rao Bahadur Chaudhri.  
 Lee, Mr. D. J. N.  
 Mackenzie, Mr. R. T. H.  
 Millar, Mr. E. S.  
 Misra, Mr. B. N.

Mitchell, Mr. A.  
 Mody, Mr. H. P.  
 Muazzam Sahib Bahadur, Mr. Muhammad.  
 Mukherjee, Rai Bahadur S. C.  
 Noyce, The Honourable Sir Frank.  
 Pandit, Rao Bahadur S. R.  
 Phookun, Mr. T. R.  
 Raghunir Singh, Rai Bahadur Kunwar.  
 Raismann, Mr. A.  
 Rajah, Rao Bahadur M. C.  
 Ramakrishna, Mr. V.  
 Rau, Mr. P. R.  
 Roy, Rai Bahadur Sukhraj.  
 Schuster, The Honourable Sir George.  
 Scott, Mr. J. Ramsay.  
 Shafee Daoodi, Maulvi Muhammad.  
 Sher Muhammad Khan Gakhar, Captain.  
 Singh, Kumar Gupteshwar Prasad.  
 Singh, Mr. Pradyumna Prashad.  
 Sitaramaraju, Mr. B.  
 Sloan, Mr. T.  
 Smith, Mr. R.  
 Sohan Singh, Sirdar.  
 Studd, Mr. E.  
 Tottenham, Mr. G. R. F.  
 Uppi Saheb Bahadur, Mr.  
 Vazir Muhammad, Khan Bahadur Shaikh Yakub.  
 Wajihuddin, Khan Bahadur Haji.  
 Ziauddin Ahmad, Dr.

## NOES—9.

Das, Mr. B.  
 Hari Raj Swarup, Lala.  
 Jog, Mr. S. G.  
 Lalchand Navalrai, Mr.  
 Neogy, Mr. K. C.

Puri, Mr. B. B.  
 Reddi, Mr. T. N. Ramakrishna.  
 Singh, Mr. Gaya Prasad.  
 Thampan, Mr. K. P.

The motion was adopted.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The question is :

“ That the Bill to protect the Administrations of States in India which are under the suzerainty of His Majesty from activities which tend to subvert, or to excite disaffection towards, or to interfere with such Administrations, be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 7th January, 1934.”

The Assembly divided :

## AYES—66.

Abdul Matin Chaudhury, Mr.  
 Acott, Mr. A. S. V.  
 Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab.  
 Bajpai, Mr. G. S.  
 Bhore, The Honourable Sir Joseph.  
 Chatarji, Mr. J. M.  
 Chimman Lal, Rai Bahadur Lala.  
 Chinoy, Mr. Rahimtoola M.  
 Clow, Mr. A. G.  
 Cox, Mr. A. R.  
 Dalal, Dr. R. D.  
 Das, Mr. B.  
 DeSouza, Dr. F. X.  
 Dudhoria, Mr. Nabakumar Sing.  
 Ghose, The Honourable Sir Bepin Behary.  
 Glancy, Mr. B. J.  
 Graham, Sir Lancelot.  
 Grantham, Mr. S. G.  
 Haig, The Honourable Sir Harry.  
 Hezlett, Mr. J.  
 Hoon, Mr. A.  
 Hudson, Sir Leslie.  
 Ismail Ali Khan, Kunwar Hajee.  
 Ismail Khan, Haji Chaudhury Muham-  
 mad.  
 Jadhav, Mr. B. V.  
 Jehangir, Sir Cowasji.  
 Kamaluddin Ahmad, Shams-ul-Ulema Mr.  
 Lahiri Chaudhury, Mr. D. K.  
 Lal Chand, Hony. Captain Rao Bahadur  
 Chaudhri.  
 Lee, Mr. D. J. N.  
 Mackenzie, Mr. R. T. H.  
 Millar, Mr. E. S.  
 Misra, Mr. B. N.

Mitchell, Mr. A.  
 Mitra, Mr. S. C.  
 Mody, Mr. H. P.  
 Morgan, Mr. G.  
 Muazzam Sahib Bahadur, Mr. Muham-  
 mad.  
 Mukherjee, Rai Bahadur S. C.  
 Noyce, The Honourable Sir Frank.  
 Pandit, Rao Bahadur S. R.  
 Phookun, Mr. T. R.  
 Raghubir Singh, Rai Bahadur Kunwar.  
 Raisman, Mr. A.  
 Rajah, Rao Bahadur M. C.  
 Ramakrishna, Mr. V.  
 Rastogi, Mr. Badri Lal.  
 Rau, Mr. P. B.  
 Roy, Kai Bahadur Sukhraj.  
 Schuster, The Honourable Sir George.  
 Scott, Mr. J. Ramsay.  
 Shafee Daoodi, Maulvi Muhammad.  
 Sher Muhammad Khan Gakhar, Captain.  
 Singh, Kumar Gupteshwar Prasad.  
 Singh, Mr. Pradyumna Prashad.  
 Sitaramaraju, Mr. B.  
 Sloan, Mr. T.  
 Smith, Mr. R.  
 Sohan Singh, Sirdar.  
 Studd, Mr. E.  
 Suhrawardy, Sir Abdulla-al-Māmūn.  
 Tottenham, Mr. G. R. F.  
 Uppi Saheb Bahadur, Mr.  
 Vazir Muhammad, Khan Bahadur Shaikh  
 Yakub.  
 Wajihuddin, Khan Bahadur Haji.  
 Ziauddin Ahmad, Dr.

## NOES—7.

Bhuput Sing, Mr.  
 Lalchand Navalrai, Mr.  
 Neogy, Mr. K. C.  
 Puri, Mr. B. R.

Reddi, Mr. T. N. Ramakrishna.  
 Singh, Mr. Gaya Prasad.  
 Thampan, Mr. K. P.

The motion was adopted.

**The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore** (Member for Commerce and Railways) : Sir, I do not propose to move this motion\* today.

\*“ That this Assembly do signify its opinion in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 670 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894 (57 & 58 Viet. Ch. 60) that the dues imposed by the Order in Council of His Majesty, dated the 17th December, 1931, in respect of the Lighthouses and buoys specified in the Schedule thereto ought to be levied in British India.”



## DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS.

### CIVIL.

#### MINT.

**The Honourable Sir George Schuster (Finance Member) :** Sir, I beg to move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 23,675 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1930-31 in respect of ‘ Mint ’.”

The motion was adopted.

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#### SUPERANNUATION ALLOWANCES AND PENSIONS.

**The Honourable Sir George Schuster :** Sir, I beg to move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 6,05,127 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1930-31 in respect of ‘ Superannuation Allowances and Pensions ’.”

The motion was adopted.

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#### STATIONERY AND PRINTING.

**The Honourable Sir George Schuster :** Sir, I beg to move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 85,605 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1930-31 in respect of ‘ Stationery and Printing ’.”

The motion was adopted.

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#### REFUNDS.

**The Honourable Sir George Schuster :** Sir, I beg to move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 11,89,271 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1930-31 in respect of ‘ Refunds ’.”

The motion was adopted.

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#### COMMUTED VALUE OF PENSIONS.

**The Honourable Sir George Schuster :** Sir, I beg to move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 3,20,354 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Capital actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1930-31 in respect of ‘ Commuted Value of Pensions ’.”

The motion was adopted.

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#### LOANS AND ADVANCES BEARING INTEREST.

**The Honourable Sir George Schuster :** Sir, I beg to move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 2,30,88,871 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1930-31 in respect of ‘ Loans and Advances bearing Interest ’.”

The motion was adopted.

## INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT.

**The Honourable Sir George Schuster** : Sir, I beg to move :

" That an excess grant of Rs. 5,37,109 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1930-31 in respect of ' Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department '."

The motion was adopted.

## RAILWAYS.

## RAILWAY BOARD.

**The Honourable Sir George Schuster** : Sir, I beg to move :

" That an excess grant of Rs. 34,327 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the railway expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1930-31 in respect of ' Railway Board '."

**Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad** (United Provinces : Southern Divisions : Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, I just want to ask one question, and that is, whether the money we are going to vote now will be added to the deficits of the current year.

**The Honourable Sir George Schuster** : I think my Honourable friend must have noticed that we are dealing with the expenditure chargeable to revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1930-31, and the expenditure has already been incurred and included in the accounts for that year. This is merely regularising what has been spent in excess.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The question is :

" That an excess grant of Rs. 34,327 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the railway expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1930-31 in respect of ' Railway Board '."

The motion was adopted.

## WORKING EXPENSES—ADMINISTRATION.

**The Honourable Sir George Schuster** : Sir, I beg to move .

" That an excess grant of Rs. 18,70,248 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the railway expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1930-31 in respect of ' Working Expenses—Administration '."

The motion was adopted.

## APPROPRIATION FROM DEPRECIATION FUND.

**The Honourable Sir George Schuster** : Sir, I beg to move :

" That an excess grant of Rs. 2,39,58,961 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the railway expenditure actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1930-31 in respect of ' Appropriation from Depreciation Fund '."

The motion was adopted.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

**The Honourable Sir George Schuster** : Sir, I beg to move :

" That an excess grant of Rs. 14,960 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the railway expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1930-31 in respect of ' Miscellaneous '."

The motion was adopted.

## APPROPRIATION FROM THE RESERVE FUND.

**The Honourable Sir George Schuster :** Sir, I beg to move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 6,36,160 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the railway expenditure actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1930-31 in respect of ‘ Appropriation from the Reserve Fund ’.”

The motion was adopted.

## STRATEGIC LINES—WORKING EXPENSES AND MISCELLANEOUS.

**The Honourable Sir George Schuster :** Sir, I beg to move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 1,67,449 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the railway expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1930-31 in respect of ‘ Strategic Lines—Working Expenses and Miscellaneous ’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANT.

## NEW CAPITAL WORKS AT DELHI.

**The Honourable Sir George Schuster (Finance Member) :** Sir, I beg to move :

“ That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 9,81,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1934, in respect of ‘ New Capital Works at Delhi ’.”

**Mr. Jagan Nath Aggarwal (Jullundur Division : Non-Muham-madan) :** Sir, this expenditure of Rs. 9,81,000 appears to be part of a very large project the details of which have not been supplied to the House. We got some information the other day in reply to a question that an expenditure of something like a crore of rupees was to be incurred in building quarters for clerks, for the Members of the Legislature and for various other purposes, and that the New Capital project, which had been closed owing to stringency in the year 1930-31, was now going to be revived. Although this expenditure of Rs. 9,81,000 appears to be a fleabite in connection with the expenditure on New Delhi, the point underlying it is a very important one. The point underlying is, is this chapter of capital expenditure in New Delhi going to be re-opened, and for how long ? What is in contemplation ? I ask this more for the sake of seeking information at this stage than of saying anything of my own, because we should like to know more definitely as to the programme to which we are going to be committed by this expenditure of Rs. 9,81,000. It appears that the idea is to provide accommodation for a large body of clerks. If it is part of a scheme that a number of offices are going to be retained in New Delhi and their migration to Simla is going to be stopped, then perhaps many of us may welcome that step. If it is to be in connection with the Federal Legislature, that would be something which we shall have to do, and we might as well be told what is in contemplation, whether it is in view of the fact that the Federal Legislature will be holding its sittings in New Delhi during the summer period or whether it is only to provide accommodation for them in the winter and that they will be holding their Sessions in Simla, or what. In fact, this grant of Rs. 9,81,000 opens up a very large chapter, the details of which have not been furnished to us. I

[Mr. Jagan Nath Aggarwal.]

would submit that more information on this subject be vouchsafed to us so that we might know what we are going to be committed to by sanctioning this expenditure.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai** (Sind : Non-Muhammadian) : With respect to this item of capital expenditure on new construction at New Delhi, I might say I was on the Standing Finance Committee when this question came up. It was decided by a majority, but it was not decided without a contest. The first point raised by me was this. That this project had been kept in abeyance, and what were the reasons now-a-days, when our budgets are precarious, for reviving it ? I may say for the information of the House that two reasons were put forward. One was that at the time the money market was such that they could borrow money on easy terms, and the second was that labour could be got at cheaper rates. We know that this is the question on the new Constitution. We do not know whether the Federal Legislature is going to sit all the time at Delhi, or what is going to happen when the Federal Assembly is brought into existence. It is premature to say that all this is being done with the intention of providing in advance of the Federal Assembly. Therefore, that point does not support the case of the Government. The next question is the easiness with which money can be got now. Why should it be said that the money conditions will not be better still later ? Therefore, unless there is some ulterior motive in it, which I cannot understand, nothing substantial in the shape of reasons has been put forward before the Standing Finance Committee or in this House and I do not think the House would be justified in sanctioning this project being taken at this time. The second reason given was easy labour conditions. We do not know whether labour expenses are going to increase or going to decrease. These are hypothetical contentions and will not hold good unless there are other reasons which necessitate this expenditure at this time. I may say plainly that they want to build 57 bungalows for officers. Those officers are living now in Delhi and they have their bungalows which they have got on rent. They can wait until the finances prosper.

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce** (Member for Industries and Labour) : May I interrupt the Honourable Member ? I understood him to say 57 bungalows. The number is 37.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai** : I am sorry. It was only a mistake. 37 is correct. With regard to quarters for subordinates, several quarters are proposed to be constructed. But they can also wait, because some of them are accommodated in Government quarters and some in rented houses. These two questions were carried by a majority and I saw that there was no hope of my carrying my point. I thought that it would be much better not to oppose the third item without prejudice but on principle I would say that the whole scheme should wait and should not be taken up in a hurry and without any cogent reasons which have not been disclosed.

**Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad** (Patna and Chota Nagpur cum Orissa : Muhammadan) : Sir, I can not be a party to such waste of public money. I would suggest to the Government to wait and not be in a hurry to spend so much amount in these days of depression. It is true that now-a-days they can get money at a cheaper rate, but more important items are before us. You will remember, Sir, that on several occasions when proposals for expenditure were laid before Government, they said that money was not

available. Take Agriculture or Education. If you want to improve these matters, you will find the Finance Member saying that money is not available. Money is not available for agricultural improvement, for education, for the development of industries and for improving communications. There are two alternatives. Either money is available or it is not. If money is not available, what is the use of spending it on these buildings, when there are more important items pending before them for want of funds. If money is available, then I would suggest that it should be spent on more deserving objects. Whatever money is spent by Government, you will find that it is spent on bricks and on quarters. If the question of education comes, you will find that so large a proportion is spent on buildings that very little is left for professors and actual training. If the question of agriculture comes, again the major portion is spent on quarters for officers. I want money to be spent on real improvements and not on bricks. On this principle I oppose the whole idea and would ask Government to wait and see.

We do not know when the Federal Assembly will come into existence, whether it will come after two or three or four or ten years or whether it will come at all. There are so many *ifs* in the White Paper that you can say nothing with certainty about it. If there is no certainty, what is the use of spending so much money? Now, Sir, if you turn to page 51 of the proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee, you find that no mention of the recurring expenditure is made. When so many buildings are going to be constructed, they will certainly require a large amount of money for recurring expenditure, for maintaining those buildings. I find it is put down as *nil*. Turning to part (b), I thought I would get there some information as to what amount Government consider they will get back on account of rent, but I find only a two line remark to this effect "Recoveries of rent from the officers, clerks and legislators in respect of the residential accommodation which will be allotted to them". This is a very plain thing. Every one knows that when you spend something on buildings, you will get something in the shape of rent. I want to know from the Finance Member what amount they expect to get from these bungalows. There is absolutely no mention of that in the proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee. Unless we know something about what the return will be on these buildings, we cannot sanction this amount.

Further, I find that the type of quarters provided for the legislators, the representatives of the people, is of an inferior one to that of officers. It is very evident from this fact that they have provided Rs. 10 lakhs and 50 thousands for 37 bungalows and only five lakhs for 33 legislators' quarters. The numbers 37 and 33 are almost the same, but the sum to be spent is less than half.

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce** : May I ask the Honourable Member two questions? One is—what about the families of officers? The other is—would legislators be willing to pay the same rent for their quarters that the officers pay for theirs?

**Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad** : I think legislators will not object to pay ten per cent. which is realised from the officers. We are prepared to pay you Rs. 60.

**Sir Cowasji Jehangir** (Bombay City : Non-Muhammadan Urban) : May I ask the Honourable Member whether he meant to insinuate that non-official legislators should have no families?

**Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad :** I find officers getting Rs. 200 or Rs. 300 get much bigger and better quarters and only ten per cent. is taken from their pay. In this way, I think, Government are losing money.

You will also find that the opinion of the Committee was this :

“The Committee approved the proposal, but with regard to officers’ and clerks’ quarters, Mr. Jadhav, Diwan Lalchand Navalrai and Sirdar Harbans Singh Brar dissented on the ground that sufficient information had not been provided regarding the possibility of accommodating Government servants in private bungalows.”

So I say that full information has not been provided to us. With these words, I suggest that Government should wait.

**The Honourable Sir George Schuster :** I rise to intervene at this stage in order to deal with the main point which has been raised—the justification of this expenditure. I am very glad to have an opportunity of defending this particular proposal and I must confess, to a very great astonishment, that Honourable Members opposite should have found any reason for objecting to it at all. I would defend it on two grounds, both general grounds and particular grounds. As regards the general ground, I think Honourable Members opposite have not been backward in urging on the Government that they should take some steps to relieve the present economic depression and one of the courses which has been at all times urged on the Government is that they should undertake public expenditure on public works which would give employment. Now, Sir, one of the great difficulties in carrying out proposals of that kind is to find opportunities for expenditure which are justifiable and remunerative. Honourable Members know that we have been studying the matter in connection with the Railways and that if we can find remunerative occupations for capital we think that the time has come when the restrictions on capital expenditure which have had to be imposed during the last three years should be relaxed. We have also been studying opportunities in other directions, such as undertaking a programme of building construction of this kind where the buildings are urgently needed and where some commercial return can be obtained from them. This is a very excellent example of the sort of public works that can be undertaken and which can have some small effect on relieving the present economic depression. I am told that the state of unemployment in Delhi is particularly bad.

12 Noon.

There is a large population which has accumulated from the days when big contracts were being given out. That population cannot be hastily dispersed over the rest of India and our information is that the distress among the population of that kind in Delhi has been particularly bad. Now, Sir, this is only a small move, but at least it is doing something to relieve that very great distress. On that general ground I think that a programme of this kind deserves support from all quarters of this House.

I should like to tell the House something of the history of this project. When I came out to India as Finance Member I was met by a very urgent demand for further expenditure on housing accommodation in Delhi. It was found that the original programme was by no means sufficient and that there was a definite urgent need for expenditure on housing accommodation amounting to well over a crore, even after cutting down the departmental demands to the very minimum that we could do. Unfortunately, at that time I foresaw that Government’s credit was going to be very severely taxed and that in the next few years it was absolutely necessary to put a check on capital expenditure of all kinds. We had to get the situation in hand. We

have now succeeded in getting the situation in hand and the House will remember the very moderate demands for capital expenditure which I brought forward in the Budget of this year. We have, in fact, got our credit on to a very high level and we have practically reduced the demands which we make on the public for new loans to loans which are required for redeeming existing loans. Now, Sir, having reached that position, on broad financial grounds we feel that we are in a position to undertake capital expenditure again and we have been looking about for projects, as I have already said, with the idea that we can by starting schemes of this kind produce some small effect to relieve unemployment. That being so, it obviously became a reasonable thing for us to reconsider re-opening this Delhi capital project and make good the arrears of housing accommodation which we had put aside for over three years. Then on top of that came an additional reason. We had to contemplate the need for considerable additional accommodation at Delhi when the new Constitution came into being. Now, I do not agree with my Honourable friend, Mr. Maswood Ahmad, in saying that that is such a distant prospect that we need not take it into account at all. We must take these things into account, and we must undertake the construction of buildings particularly at a time when we can take advantage of bottom prices—bottom prices as regards the cost of building and bottom prices as regards the cost of raising the capital which is necessary. I am sure that the inhabitants of New Delhi in the future, say, three or four years hence, would have very good cause to criticise us most severely if we had not taken this opportunity of making a change in our policy. Then, Sir, turning to other particular grounds—and I have already dealt with this point incidentally—there is definitely a most urgent need for housing many Government officials, particularly among the clerks. I am told that the overcrowding at present has reached a very undesirable stage and provided that money is available, we certainly ought to meet a need of that kind. My Honourable friend, Mr. Maswood Ahmad, has raised the question as to whether we shall get any return from this expenditure at all. It is very difficult to make exact calculations because it is impossible to estimate exactly how many of these houses will be occupied for the full year. A large proportion of the Delhi houses is, of course, occupied for the full year, but it is difficult to say as regards a particular house whether it will be occupied for six months or 12 months. But on the basis of the rents now charged and the building costs which we now estimate, if a house is occupied for a full year we can look for a return of up to 5 per cent. If the house is occupied only for half the year, probably we can only get 2½ per cent. return. The annual return, therefore, will be something between 2½ per cent. and 5 per cent., and as we now can raise money at something like 4 per cent. or under, I think the House will recognise that a loss involved in construction of these houses is not a great one. Moreover, it is bound to be a diminishing loss because, as things advance, one is bound to see greater use, say, for 12 months in the year, of houses in Delhi.

Honourable Members have raised the question of the Simla exodus. Well, Sir, we are not ready to make any definite statement about that, but I can tell my Honourable friends that Government are seriously reconsidering that position in the light of two factors. The first is that the shortage of water, which was one of the chief reasons for not enlarging the summer population in Delhi, will shortly be overcome. The other reason is that we must look forward to conditions which will prevail in the future. When there is a Federal Assembly, I think Honourable Members will re-

[Sir George Schuster.]

cognise that anything in the nature of a Simla Session will probably be impossible.

**Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad** : What will be recurring expenditure every year on these cases ?

**The Honourable Sir George Schuster** : I do not think I need be interrupted in order to answer my Honourable friend's question, for I do not think it is particularly relevant to the main line of my argument. I was making the point, Sir, that if we look forward to the future, we must foresee an inevitable change in the nature of the all-year-round population in New Delhi. Therefore, my point is that this expenditure is likely to become increasingly remunerative. Sir, on these grounds I hope that the House will pass this small supplementary estimate which, as I said at the outset, I feel really represents a policy which deserves support from every quarter of the House.

**Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad** (United Provinces : Southern Divisions : Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, I welcome the announcement of the Finance Member that he has succeeded in establishing the credit of the country and that he is now in a position to embark on the scheme of new capital expenditure. Those of us who have studied the world conditions in economic matters will realise that it has not been a joke to maintain the credit of a country during the last three years and it will not be a joke to maintain the credit of the country during the next few years. Every country is really in a very difficult position and, comparing our country with other countries, I am glad to say—and I congratulate the Honourable the Finance Member—that we are much better off than many other countries in the world. But before he embarks on the scheme of capital expenditure, which I would welcome very much, I would like to ask whether his scheme of retrenchment which began about two years ago will now end. A large number of persons have been thrown out of employment. These persons were drawing very low salaries and they were in a miserable condition. Before we embark on any scheme of capital expenditure to relieve unemployment, we should have some kind of official statement from the Honourable the Finance Member that the future retrenchment in the various branches of the Government departments will now cease. It may be possible to have more economic administration in some branches, but economic administration is very different from the retrenchment of the hands in order to save money. Therefore, I would like the Finance Member to reconsider this particular question and give a statement on the floor of the House that all the retrenchment schemes, which we had been having during the last two years, will now come to an end.

**Mr. B. Das** (Orissa Division : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, coming as I do from one of the most distressed areas, the province of Orissa, that is so much flood-stricken now, I was very much touched to hear the speech of the Honourable the Finance Member. For the first time the Finance Member feels for economic distress of the people or those on the unemployed list. He said that he had increased the credit of the Government of India though some of us, on this side of the House, do not believe it in view of the fact that the Government of India and the Punjab Government floated their recent loans at heavy discount. Yet he says that the tide has turned and the Government now turn their mind to revive the new capital project of Delhi in order to give better



houses for their clerks and officers and also to improve the conditions of the distressed people in Delhi who have gathered there for a large number of years to eke out their livelihood through the building projects of the Government. But, if I could believe the pledges which the Honourable the Finance Member gave to this House and if Government are in a position of solvency, then their first duty would have been to reduce taxation. But they have not done so. Instead of doing that, they incur fresh capital expenditure and, according to the estimate of the Honourable the Finance Member himself, the project will not bring more than four per cent. to the exchequer while the Honourable Member will borrow at a higher rate of interest. When the economic distress set in, the Government of India were very solicitous about their officials and revised the house rents that were paid by the front-benchers and by the back-benchers of the Government of India. What happened? Just on the eve of the economic depression, every official on the front-benches has been paying 50 per cent. less than what he used to pay before. I know even the Members of the Legislature, at whom I do not know why the Honourable Sir Frank Noyce had a joke a few minutes ago, even they are paying less than what they used to pay three or four years ago. We do not know why the Government are so solicitous for those who can pay and yet they bring out deficit budgets every year and increase the burden of taxation on the people. I cannot subscribe to any new capital expenditure until the pledge which the Honourable the Finance Member gave to this House is redeemed. Before any capital expenditure is incurred, I want there should be reduction of taxation. The income-tax level which was reduced to Rs. 1,000 should be raised to the level of Rs. 2,000 and the surcharges on income-tax should be taken off. As long as that is not done, we, on this side of the House, cannot support any extravagant expenditure on the part of the Government of India.

Two years ago, when the Gandhi-Irwin Pact was under discussion and when Mahatma Gandhi visited Delhi, he went to the residence of my Honourable friend, Sir George Schuster, and also to the residence of Mr. (now His Excellency Sir Herbert) Emerson and, after visiting them, Mahatma Gandhi said that in the Swaraj Government he would not like to tolerate officials having residences extending to three acres of land with extensive gardens, while poor people were still living in congested areas like Delhi, Bombay and other places. But I believe that the officials, who are now adorning the front and back benches, know that what the Congress was demanding or what Mahatma Gandhi was demanding will not materialise. There will be no Government in the nationalist fashion or in the Congress fashion. Now the Government of India can enter again on their policy of extravagance in house building for their officers while it is well known even to the Honourable the Finance Member that in New Delhi many private buildings have been built. There are several fat contractors who got themselves enriched through the New Delhi project. I do not want to repeat, seven or eight years afterwards, the scandals of the New Delhi project and the mismanagement of the huge funds and how a capital project of four crores ultimately became sixteen crores. I do not want to allude to the stone-yard scandal and other scandals, I do not want to refer to Commissions, non-official and official that sat for days. Yet there are today in Delhi many contractors who can build private houses. I ask the Government, why do they not subsidise private contractors to build private houses? There are still many

[Mr. B. Das.]

private houses empty in the winter season in New Delhi. Apart from that, I understood that the Government of India practised retrenchment and reduced their staff of clerks and officers. Where is this sudden demand in the number of quarters for the officers and clerks, for whom, I am glad to see, that the Honourable the Finance Member is so solicitous? Where did this sudden demand arise? If there is a demand, that demand can be postponed until the Honourable the Finance Member introduces his Budget next Session, until he reduces taxation, until he shows that there is real solvency in the country and also of the Government.

I am alarmed to learn that my Honourable friend is already dreaming of having new capital expenditure in the railways. He knows it that the railways have not paid him his share of six crores of rupees for the last two years. Let the railways pay first six crores to the General Revenue with all the arrears and then the Honourable the Finance Member can accord sanction to the Financial Commissioner, Mr. Rau, to incur further capital expenditure on railways. Of course I have seen a pamphlet (Report of the Statutory Railway Authority Committee) circulated showing that the future Legislature, whether it is the present Legislature or the Federal Legislature, will not be asked to scrutinise the expenditure on railways. In future, the Legislature will only be asked to meet the deficit on railways. I hope my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, has read that document and, knowing the extreme deficit condition of the railways, he still foreshadows that there will be further capital expenditure on railways. I look with alarm and the country would look with alarm at the suggestions which the Honourable the Finance Member has put forward. I will be the first man to congratulate him if he will show in his budget speech on the 28th February next that Government have turned the tide and that Government have brought out a surplus Budget and that Government have reduced these emergency taxes for which the Honourable the Finance Member took power in September, 1931, on the fair promises which he gave then. He did not even acknowledge on a subsequent occasion that he gave any promises to the House and to the country at that time. Until then, I do hope, this House will not accede to any idea of capital expenditure or to any increase in the deficit of the Government either in the General Budget or in the Railway Budget.

**Mr. B. V. Jadhav** (Bombay Central Division : Non-Muhammadian Rural) : Sir, the present demand is only for Rs. 9,81,000. But as my Honourable friend, Mr. Aggarwal, has said, this opens a very great problem on which a larger amount of nearly 50 lakhs will be spent. Sir, the present demand is for housing some of the clerks and officers, and when the Standing Finance Committee asked for more information, the reply was that the information required was not available. I now find that the information has been denied even to this House. We have seen, Sir, that each bungalow for officers costs Rs. 31,000 and the return, that is got from them, even if they are occupied for all the 12 months, is hardly 4 per cent. The Honourable the Finance Member said that it was 4 per cent., but I find that, as only 10 per cent. is taken from the officers, the calculated interest will not amount to even 4 per cent. Information on this point was asked in the Standing Finance Committee, but it was not forthcoming; and, in spite of our objections and protests that the consideration of this demand should be postponed till the

second meeting of the Finance Committee, the whole thing was hurried on. I do not think there is any justification for this. The housing in New Delhi may be insufficient, but at the same time I may point out that private owners have been investing their money and erecting houses suitable for the officers and the staff. Information was asked about the number of private houses that were available for accommodating officers. That information also was not available at the time the Finance Committee met, and it has not been made available even now. In such circumstances, it will not be proper for this House to give its consent to this heavy expenditure which does not stop at Rs. 9,81,000, but will be multiplied in the long run many times over. The town of New Delhi is increasing and the number of private houses that are being built is also on the increase. Government do not want to take any notice of this fact and do not take into consideration the number of private houses that will be available specially for the officers and the clerks, and they want to rush this House into sanctioning this scheme which will entail on the finances of Government a very large amount in future. Sir, I hope this House will reject this demand.

**Mr. Amar Nath Dutt** (Burdwan Division : Non-Muhammadian Rural) : Sir, there is a saying that he who builds a New Delhi digs his own grave, and this saying is based upon history. We have read of the seven cities of Delhi wherein lie the graves of the founders of those cities. Sir, when the capital was transferred from Calcutta, it was a great Viceroy, who had imagination, who said that Delhi was a city of forgotten kings and dynasties and that the Capital ought not to be removed from Calcutta to Delhi. With Calcutta the history of the rise of the British power is associated and I could not understand how many patriotic Englishmen could agree to such an outrageous proposal of severance from past associations and sacred memories of their great work in this land.

Sir, at the beginning we were given to understand that about 12 crores would be needed for building the new Capital at Delhi. Immediately land grabbers came in and around Delhi, but the Government outdid them. They built New Delhi on the ruins of Old Delhi. Those who had occasion to drive to the Kutb Minar in those days from the old city of Delhi might have noticed that the area consisted of one or two hamlets with a little arable land here and there and that it was full of jungles and graveyards. It may be said that that land has now been rendered into a paradise. I do not know whether it is a paradise or not, but we know that we bled the Indian tax-payer to build the New Capital while there was already a Capital with all necessary paraphernalia in Calcutta. Whatever might have been the motive behind the transfer of Capital, I submit that to spend such huge sums upon building a new city in a country where old and ancient cities with sacred memories behind them abound is a thing which no Government should have undertaken. Sir, from 12 crores gradually several more were being added year after year and we thought we had nearly come to the end, but we see that there is to be no end of capital expenditure upon this New Delhi. One piece of advice that I shall give to the Honourable Member in charge of this motion is that he should advise the Government of which he forms a part to go back to Calcutta. (Laughter.) Sir, I see the Government Members are laughing. Of course Delhi is a very safe haven for them for there is little public life and little criticism of their actions. But I

[Mr. Amar Nath Dutt.]

tell you, Sir, and tell them through you that a time will come when Delhi like Calcutta will have a forceful public opinion and probably they will have to shift themselves to some desert area near by or to Sind. But Calcutta enjoyed the benefit of being the Capital City of the country only for a century or so, and, to deprive her of that position, was not at all proper. I would not have grudged any money to the Government, but my point is that if, at this time, as is said, money is cheap owing to the low rate of interest, I would advise them to try and relieve the distress of the agriculturists with this money. Why not remit some revenue so that the landholders may remit the rent of their tenants? These are things which we have always pressed upon Government and I think it will be better if, instead of spending nine lakhs on the building of a few houses for clerks and for the legislatures, they were left to find out their own accommodation in New Delhi where many houses are available as also in Old Delhi where I think there is plenty of accommodation.

Sir, if you remember the days when the Capital was at Calcutta, neither the clerks nor high officers had quarters built for them there : but they could easily find accommodation for themselves in that City of Palaces. What was the necessity then of removing the Capital to Delhi ? To say that these clerks and officers have to be provided with accommodation is rather amazing, as they form an infinitesimally small proportion of the people for whom nobody cares to provide accommodation. They have either to build their own houses or to hire houses for themselves. Then, why this solicitude for a class of people who live at the expense of the tax-payers and provide them with accommodation at the cost of the tax-payer ? I am opposed to any such grant on principle, and, as I have pointed out in this House, the initial mistake was the transfer of the Capital from Calcutta to Delhi. Again, to say at first that only 12 crores would be required and, then, by leaps and bounds, to add several more crores, is wrong : I submit we must be told when this sort of expenditure will come to an end. But I think it will not come to an end so long as the poor Indian tax-payers can be robbed of their hard-earned money. If the Capital at Delhi could continue from the year 1912 till now, for nearly a quarter of a century, without this accommodation, I cannot understand why suddenly, in this year of grace, 1933, there should be a necessity for expenditure of this amount. We must be given to know how these clerks and officers accommodated themselves previously, and what was their difficulty. There are lots of bungalows in the Civil Lines and there are lots of houses in the old City of Delhi and, if a simple bus service is instituted.....

**An Honourable Member :** Those houses are unfit for habitation.

**Mr. Amar Nath Dutt :** But the predecessors of the present Executive Council Members and others lived in the houses in the Civil Lines and all of them were accommodated there. It was only a few years ago that these houses in New Delhi were built for them. I do not think they were inconvenienced in any way. At least there was one Honourable Member who can bear me out—I mean the Honourable the Commerce Member, who was at that time also in the Government of India, and he will bear me out that the Executive Councillors did not find themselves in any difficulty whatsoever by living in those bungalows.....

**The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore** (Member for Commerce and Railways) : I was not an Executive Councillor in those days, and, therefore, I cannot speak from personal experience.

**Mr. Amar Nath Dutt** : At least you have knowledge of those days and you were living in a house there. However, whatever that may be, I have laid down the principle of my objection to this ; and unless I am convinced that this New Delhi has been built for the interests of the people or of the Empire, I for one cannot subscribe to any further capital outlay, and I would like, if there are purchasers for all these buildings in New Delhi, to have all of them sold up and the Capital transferred once again to Calcutta.

**Mr. Muhammad Muazzam Sahib Bahadur** (North Madras : Muhammadan) : Sir, whether the Government of India were right or whether they were wrong in shifting the Capital from Calcutta to Delhi, the step has once for all been taken and now, having taken that step, they stand committed to provide facilities in that part of Delhi known as New Delhi, which was practically waste land when the Government shifted their headquarters from Calcutta to that City. Having come there, I ask, is it not the duty of the Government of India to provide these officials and to provide us, who come from distant places, with quarters, with housing accommodation ? I wish my Honourable friend, Mr. Amar Nath Dutt, had been an officer of the Government of India : then I think he would have pressed the case for housing accommodation as a pressing necessity. I, therefore, say that the main question for consideration is whether this is really a pressing necessity ; and whether it is justified in the circumstances which the Honourable the Finance Member characterised as being the most opportune conditions in which such a scheme like this could be taken up. If the statement of the Honourable the Finance Member cannot be controverted on the point that the present is the best season as it were at which money could be raised, and when it is borne in mind that owing to cheap labour and cheap material at the present day there will be a saving of as much as 25 per cent. if this scheme is taken up at once, and that, if it is taken up three or four years hence, we shall be losing that 25 per cent. which we are saving now, then I think we are perfectly justified in spending this amount and in charging it to capital expenditure. No doubt, three years ago, it was decided that whatever expenditure might be incurred in constructing buildings in New Delhi ought not to be charged to the head of capital but to revenue. That step was taken at that time probably as the Government were not quite sure of their own financial position ; but as I find that the Honourable the Finance Member has assured us that the position, as it now exists, is far better and they can control the financial position at the present moment, I think the step which is now sought to be taken is a justifiable one. Something has been said as to the special necessity which has arisen on account of the Federation which is to come into being. Quite apart from that aspect of it, I think that, so far as the present extension of house accommodation for officers and clerks of the Government of India and for Members of the Legislature is concerned, the House will be doing the right thing in voting for the grant.

**Sirdar Harbans Singh Brar** (East Punjab : Sikh) : Mr. President, I had opposed this grant in the Standing Finance Committee on the ground that enough material was not placed before us regarding the availability of private accommodation for officers. I had not at that time considered the other points which touch this particular item. There is no doubt that

[Sirdar Harbans Singh Brar.]

the information supplied to the Standing Finance Committee was insufficient and misleading to some extent. In the item, say, for Officers' Bungalows which are 37 in number, Rs. 10 lakhs and 50,000 are provided for. No account has been taken of the valuation of the site which is to be used for building these bungalows, and, therefore, taking the average sale price of each of these sites at Rs. 10,000, it comes to Rs. 3 lakhs 70 thousand, thus making a total of about 14 lakhs 20 thousand for 37 bungalows. No figures have been given regarding the return which we will get on this capital expenditure nor on the capital expenditure for other buildings. There is some difficulty for the taxpayer to know what the return is exactly going to be, but the other considerations cannot be ignored altogether. If the Government have decided, as a matter of policy, to provide bungalows for the officers, they cannot provide for some officers and leave the 37 officers without any housing accommodation. In New Delhi, we have provided accommodation for almost all officers who are stationed there, and to leave 37 officers alone without any accommodation out of so many thousands of officers is rather unfair to the members of the services. You cannot discriminate between officers, and you must treat them alike.

There is another very important factor which must be taken into consideration, which was stressed by the Honourable the Finance Member, and that is, that unemployment is very much on the increase. There are so many engineers remaining unemployed with foreign training, there are so many youngmen remaining unemployed, so many M.Sc.'s and B.Sc.'s remaining unemployed, because recruitment to the P. W. D. and other departments has been stopped, and I think it is high time that we must provide these youngmen with some occupation to maintain themselves....

**Mr. Amar Nath Dutt :** Bara Khamba Road is full of buildings.

**Sirdar Harbans Singh Brar :** My friend must have seen as much of it as I have seen. Those are the bungalows which cannot be suitable for ordinary officers of Government. Those are meant for Princes, and, in the earlier days, when accommodation was not available, these Princes rented these bungalows at fabulous sums ranging from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 50,000 for a week's occupation, and people, under the impression that they will be able to get the same fabulous sums, built more of these palatial buildings, and an officer, with a small family, will not be able to maintain such a big house, nor will he be able to pay such a heavy rent for those bungalows. Even if that fact is not taken into consideration, during our Delhi sojourn we seldom find any of these houses lying vacant. Almost every one of them is occupied. There are no figures placed before us by Honourable Members to show how many houses are actually available at reasonable rates for the occupation of officers during their stay in Delhi....

**Mr. Amar Nath Dutt :** If the Government want the figures, I can supply them.

**Sirdar Harbans Singh Brar :** As far as the clerks' quarters are concerned, the rules provide that they shall be given a certain allowance in lieu of accommodation. These house allowances are prohibitive and Government have to pay, I think, a couple of lakhs or more to the clerks as house allowance, which is again a burden on the taxpayer.

Sir, this building programme of Government will provide occupation for labour, skilled as well as unskilled, and it will also provide accommoda-

tion for the officers of Government. If the Federation materialises, as we all hope it will in the not distant future, housing accommodation, office accommodation and officers' bungalows, legislators' quarters, etc., will be needed. It will then naturally take sometime to build all those things, with the result that it will put the legislators as well as the officers of Government into much inconvenience if this building programme is not undertaken immediately. I, therefore, think that this expenditure will do a lot of good to the country as a whole, because it will be a capital programme which will afford enough employment for labour. These are my grounds for supporting this motion, though I had in the Standing Finance Committee opposed it believing that there was sufficient housing accommodation.

**Mr. Amar Nath Dutt :** You changed so soon ?

**Sirdar Harbans Singh Brar :** I have a right to reconsider and review my opinions in the light of subsequent events and in the light of subsequent information which has come to my knowledge. There are no private works going on now in New Delhi to keep the unemployed busy, and it is the business of the Government,—Government have done so in all countries—during the period of depression that they should start public works for the employment of labour. In addition to this, I think we should also press on the Government that they should start capital railway works and other public works. Why should we allow our youngmen to remain idle in their homes and to engage themselves in revolutionary activities ? If they are not given some work to do, the result will be that they will join the revolutionary ranks and take to manufacture of bombs and other things.....

**Mr. Amar Nath Dutt :** Then you should spend more money in Bengal.

**Sirdar Harbans Singh Brar :** When Honourable Members come to Delhi and when they do not get sufficient orthodox quarters, they complain, and when the Government ask for more money for building quarters, they stand and oppose the demand. Only a short time ago, we were discussing the housing problem, and almost all the Members of the House Committee were stressing the need for more orthodox quarters, and here Government are now going to give us 33 more quarters. What we stress on the Government is that as much economy as possible should be practised in this building programme, and, as I understand, the rates for building materials are very low just at present, and the time is certainly very opportune, because the tenders are about 30 per cent. below the estimated price. We cannot find a better time to start this programme. In the Standing Finance Committee the Chief Engineer to the Government of India was pleased to tell us that he had, in anticipation, invited tenders which showed that work could be done 30 per cent. below the estimated cost. That is to the benefit of the taxpayer, and I think that Government have chosen a very opportune time to start this building programme now. With these few words, I support the supplementary grant.

**Mr. S. C. Mitra** (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions : Non-Muhamadan Rural) : The Honourable the Finance Member has already made two speeches on this motion, but still I think he has not convinced the House by giving accurate information relating to these demands. The three of the most important members of the Standing Finance Committee, Messrs. Jadhav, Lalchand Navalrai and Harbans Singh, dissented on the

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ground that sufficient information had not been given to the Committee, and that they had to record a dissentient note....

**The Honourable Sir George Schuster :** I cannot accept my Honourable friend's description of those three members as the most important members on the Standing Finance Committee as correct. All members of the Standing Finance Committee are equally important.

**Mr. S. C. Mitra :** I never said that they were more important than other members, but I take it that all members are important, but, to justify my statement, I might say that they are all elected Members, and if you will look at the list of members, you will see that more than half the number of members are nominated, and Government can now secure half the number of members by election to any of these Standing Committees. My purpose was to emphasise the fact that the dissentient note was from the elected Members, and not from nominated Members.

However, the anxiety of the Honourable the Finance Member was for the unemployed of this country. I congratulate him for the great anxiety he has shown for the unemployed of this country, because he has been unlike his other colleagues who, however, when the question of unemployment is raised in this House, try to dissociate themselves by pointing out that this question of unemployment is a matter for the Provincial Councils.

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce :** I must protest against the assertion of my Honourable friend. As Member in charge of the Industries and Labour Department, I can naturally closely associate myself with the proposals now under consideration before the House.

**Mr. S. C. Mitra :** May I ask my Honourable friend whether he did or did not, in reply to a question in this House, say that unemployment was primarily a matter for the Local Governments ?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce :** That is perfectly true. We can only take steps in regard to it in our centrally administered areas and this project is one of the steps which we ourselves are prepared to take.

**Mr. S. C. Mitra :** May I hope that in the next year's Budget the Finance Member will provide for large estimates on this scale for the other big cities also, Rs. 50 lakhs each, as he has done for Delhi, and I shall be very glad to welcome such a Budget.

What the Standing Finance Committee wanted to know was whether this project could stand on its own legs from economic standpoint. Where is the difficulty in giving these figures ? They know that, at least for the buildings that are meant for the clerks and officers, they can get rent at the rate of 10 per cent. They know the class of clerks or the officials that will occupy these houses, and they can easily calculate the rent that will be realisable from them. They certainly owe it to this House to tell us that Government will cut their coat according to their cloth. In the past the Government had been reckless in their construction programmes not to care for the public interest. It is not Government's case that these officers and clerks should be given some concession and provided with houses at lower rates of rent. That is not the Government's case. From past experience we know that the expenditure that has been incurred for providing houses for officers and clerks involved a great loss. When they are now coming with plans for new building construction, is it not their



duty to calculate what is the amount of rent realisable from the officials and clerks ? And it is not difficult to find out the exact results. From that we can see whether the project is economically a sound one. When this matter was raised in the Standing Finance Committee, the Finance Member was not in a position to tell them whether the expenditure of so many lakhs and lakhs of rupees was economically sound or proper. We are not opposed to the policy of building quarters for the officers or for the clerks or for the Members of the Legislature, particularly when the rate of interest is low. We accept the policy, but this House must get correct figures when a question had been asked in the Standing Finance Committee, and now the Finance Member, without supplying us with relevant figures, wants us to vote a blank cheque. It is difficult for us to vote on a question like this ; otherwise, on principle, we are agreeable to this motion.

**Mr. R. S. Sarma** (Nominated Non-Official) : I should not have been a party to any conspiracy to wasting the time of the House, but I am desired by my Party to inform.....

**Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury** (Bengal : Landholders) : On a point of order, Sir. How can the Honourable Member say we are wasting the time of this House ?

**Mr. R. S. Sarma** : If any conspiracy really existed, it applies, otherwise.....

**Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury** : Not conspiracy, but you said wasting the time of the House.

**Mr. R. S. Sarma** : Yes. I have been asked by my Party to say that we are in favour of this demand for grant, if for no other reason than this, that it will provide employment in these hard days for a large number of labourers and it is most essential that those people who had even been asked to quit Delhi should now find re-employment under this new scheme of building construction. At the same time, our Party wants to impress upon the Finance Member two things, namely, one, that the grant should not exceed what is now provided and, secondly, that as far as possible all these contracts are given to Indians.

**Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh** (Muzaffarpur *cum* Champaran : Non-Muhammadian) : Sir, I find some difficulty in understanding the position of some members of the Standing Finance Committee and also of the Government in this matter. One particular member of the Standing Finance Committee, who has spoken in support of the grant today, dissented from the proposal in the Standing Finance Committee's meeting held on the 19th August. That is what the proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee of that date contain :

“ The Committee approved the proposal, but with regard to officers' and clerks' quarters, Mr. Jadhav, Dewan Lalechand Navalrai and Sardar Harbans Singh Brar dissented on the ground that sufficient information had not been provided regarding the possibility of accommodating Government servants in private bungalows. Dewan Lalechand Navalrai also considered that the matter was not sufficiently urgent to justify expenditure at the present time. With regard to the Legislators' quarters, Mr. Jadhav dissented. Sardar Harbans Singh Brar and Dewan Lalechand Navalrai did not wish to press their objection to this part of the proposal as the rest of the scheme had been accepted by a majority of the Committee.”

My Honourable friend, Sirdar Harbans Singh Brar, seems to have changed his position, and has now supported this motion on the floor of the House. I said at the outset of my speech that I was also not convinced

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as to the proper position of the Government in this matter of New Delhi expenditure. They must once for all make up their mind whether it is their intention to abandon the Simla exodus, and to make Delhi the permanent Capital of India, or their intention is to continue the Simla exodus as merrily as before and to go on sinking crores and crores of rupees amidst the tumbling graveyards of Delhi. I find from the proposal which was put forward before the Standing Finance Committee :

“ The Government of India had recently to reconsider the question of re-opening the project estimate in connection with the serious shortage, in New Delhi, of residential accommodation for officers and clerks of all Departments which will, it is anticipated, be greatly aggravated on the introduction of the new constitution.”

This House, as representative of the people of this country and as the custodian of public revenues, has a right to know from the Government once for all what is their intention with regard to the question of transferring offices from Simla to Delhi and *vice versa*. If, as I have stated, the Government want to shirk this question and not to arrive at a proper decision, this House will be justified in refusing any further grant for the extension of residential quarters in New Delhi. With regard to that point, questions have been asked in this House. I myself was responsible for asking a question, perhaps some other Members also were responsible for asking questions on the subject. But, as usual, the Government tried to evade the real issue and gave answers which were not at all satisfactory from the public point of view. If they make up their mind to abandon the Simla exodus, the question will arise as to the fate of the immense house property which will be left in Simla. Now, Sir, opinion has been expressed in

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many quarters, and I think my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, has himself stated it this morning on the floor of the House that with the advent of the Federal Legislature, the holding of the Simla Session will have to be abandoned. I do not pronounce any definite opinion on this project just now, but I have a right to ask as to what will be the condition with regard to the transfer of offices and the pleasure trip of the high officials on the hill top. Does this mean that the highest officials in the land will continue to have their annual pleasure trips at the expense of the taxpayers, but only the Members of the Federal Legislature will be deprived of the opportunity of coming up to Simla. That, Sir, is a point which must be carefully looked into. I really object that the rate payers' money should be squandered in lakhs and lakhs every year for the pleasure of a few individuals who might choose to come up to Simla with their offices and clerks and their other establishments, while, we, the representatives of the people from whose pockets the revenue comes should alone be sweltering in the plains of Delhi. It is, therefore, necessary that Government should unfold their plans definitely, and should not keep anything up their sleeves. We should like to know really what is their intention. Are they going to come up to Simla, leaving us to our fate in Delhi ?

There is just one other little point I should like to mention before I proceed further. Labour conditions in Delhi, being what they are, I should like to know what arrangements have been made for housing the labour population there. A question was asked in this House in the last Session. Perhaps I was myself responsible for asking that question and some other Members also. The Municipality of Delhi had given notice to many hundreds and thousands of coolies, who were responsible for making New

Delhi what it is today, to quit their quarters. I understand their water supply was stopped and they were asked to clear out bag and baggage. I should like to know in that connection what is the arrangement which Government contemplate to make in order to house the labour population of New Delhi. I mean the labour population which they will employ in building these additional quarters proposed in the scheme before the House just now. Then, again, I should like to bring to the notice of this House the scheme which is under contemplation. It is said that a scheme was worked out in 1930 and that it was estimated that the demand for residential accommodation then comprised additional quarters for at least 52 officers and 837 clerks, the provision of which cost about 79 lakhs. I should like to know what happened to that scheme, as to how many officials' and how many clerks' quarters were provided and how many yet remain to be provided. It is said that the scheme was approved in principle, but had to be postponed owing to the difficulty of providing funds. I should like to know how far the financial situation of the Government of India has improved to justify them in embarking upon this costly project. If there is a plethora of funds at the disposal of Government, I should like to submit that the rate payers of the country were entitled to the first relief. A portion of the taxation, with which they are burdened and under which they are groaning, ought to have been remitted, but, instead of that, I find that costly projects are undertaken. I am not referring principally to this item which is on the agenda just now. There have been so many other directions of expenditure in which the interests of the rate payers have been lost sight of. "Since 1930, rates for buildings have dropped considerably, while money can also be obtained at much cheaper rates." The Honourable the Finance Member has not enlightened the House as to his scheme for providing money at much cheaper rates for the building of these quarters. "The Government of India therefore consider" the statement continues "that the present moment is a suitable opportunity for re-opening the project estimate, particularly in view of the serious shortage of quarters." I find that in Simla also quarters are being provided. Only recently some expenditure was incurred in providing kitchen arrangements for some of the Members of the Legislative Assembly occupying Longwood Hotel, New Block. I quite welcome that piece of expenditure, but I should like to know whether Government have a settled plan in tackling this question finally and definitely.

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce :** I should like to mention with reference to what the Honourable Member has just stated that the provision of kitchens at Longwood, which has been urged on me for some time past, is a very small work costing a few thousand rupees.

**Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh :** I have myself stated just now that I welcome that project, and, as a member of the House Committee, I was responsible for recommending the building of these cooking sheds. Therefore, I do not grumble at that little bit of expenditure which the Honourable Member's Department has incurred. I should have liked him to spend a little more in that direction, if necessary ; and I should like to know once for all what is up their sleeve in finally settling this question of exodus and the permanent residence of the Government of India in New Delhi. The statement says :

"As matters stand at present, the staff of all Departments are being subjected to great difficulties in finding suitable accommodation. During the winter season of 1932-33, there was a total demand for 2,651 married clerks' quarters and 290 officers'

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bungalows, while only 1,602 quarters and 191 bungalows were available for allotment."

This House would like to have a clear statement showing up to now how many quarters have been built, at what expenditure, both for officers and clerks, as well as for Members of the Legislative Assembly, and what is the cost of each quarter. Now, I understand that a project is on foot for building some additional quarters for Members of the Legislature in New Delhi. Now, the House Committee met the other day, and has submitted a recommendation that the plan of the new quarters should be submitted to the House Committee for their approval in consultation with the Engineer in charge of the Department concerned. I hope, Sir, the Honourable Member's Department will look into the matter and comply with the request made therein.

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce :** I have already promised that.

**Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh :** I am glad that my Honourable friend has promised to look into the matter and to build those quarters in consultation with the representatives of this House on the House Committee :

"A large part of the clerical staff find themselves compelled to choose between finding accommodation in the already overcrowded city of Old Delhi, or of sharing with those to whom it is allotted the insufficient available accommodation in New Delhi, to an extent far in excess of that which would be adopted were they allowed reasonable freedom of choice."

I should like the Government to throw more light on this somewhat complicated sentence which occurs in their proposal. What exactly is the number of clerks who reside in Old Delhi and what are the quarters available to them, and how Government want to provide bungalows for them in New Delhi, and in what locality :

"The difficulties experienced, for want of adequate residential accommodation, by the superior staff are also well known."

I should like to understand clearly what is meant by the superior staff ? Does it refer to Gazetted Officers or only to non-gazetted officers ? How many of them have found accommodation in Government buildings, and how many of them have to be provided for in the new plan which Government have before them :

"It may be noted that large numbers of officers are embarrassed every year by not knowing till the last moment whether they can count on finding any accommodation at all in New Delhi, while some of the highest civil and military officials are unable year after year to procure any Government residence and are compelled to reside in hotels."

The mention of the military officials brings me, Sir, to the question of accommodation for the Members of the Legislature in the Western Hostel in New Delhi. I understand that last time a few Members of the Legislative Assembly, who applied for quarters in the Western Hostel were not provided with quarters, just for the reason that they were in occupation of some of the military officers and officers of the Air Force. Of course, I do not object that they should have been accommodated in the Western Hostel, but I should like to know definitely what is the plan of the Government in dealing with applications for quarters from officers of the Government and the Members of the Legislative Assembly in the Western Hostel. I understand that the Western Hostel was built expressly for the purpose of the Members of the Central Legislature, and I think that they should be given a preferential right to reside in the Western Hostel.

If there is an extra accommodation available, then it should be made over to the civil or military officers of the Government of India. In this connection, I should like to bring to the notice of the Government one other recommendation which was made by the House Committee the other day. It was to the effect that one block of the Western Hostel should be reserved for Members of the Assembly.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The Chair would like to know from the Honourable Member how long he will speak. In view of the advanced discussion on this motion, the Chair proposes to sit until this motion is finished.

**Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh** : I hope, Sir, you are not sitting in the afternoon.

**Mr. President** : The Chair proposes to adjourn the House after the question is put on this motion.

**Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh** : Then I will take two or three minutes more. I was submitting, Sir, that the House Committee had made a recommendation that one block of the Western Hostel should be reserved for Members who live in orthodox style and that a kitchen should be provided behind the block. In view of all these considerations, to which Members of this House have given expression, I hope the Honourable the Finance Member or the Member in charge of the Department will look into the whole question. It should not necessarily be supposed that we are opposing the item which is before us, but we should like to be enlightened on those points to which the attention of the Government has been drawn in the course of the debate this morning.

**The Honourable Sir George Schuster** : Sir, I do not wish to make a long speech now. I wish only to take advantage of the opportunity which you have given me to answer one or two points that have been made. In the first place, my Honourable friend, Mr. Mitra, referred to the distinction between elected and nominated members of the Standing Finance Committee. I would like to remind the House that the Standing Finance Committee consists of an official Chairman and 14 unofficial members elected by this House and that, at present, out of these 14 members, 11 are elected members and only 3 are nominated members. One of these three nominated members is actually the nominee of one of the unofficial parties in this House. I think there is no Committee which has a hand in transacting business in connection with the Legislature which is so predominantly unofficial in its character as the Standing Finance Committee. I am the only official on the Committee and I have taken every opportunity that I have had of testifying to the very great assistance which I have always had from every member of the Standing Finance Committee, whether they be elected or nominated.

Then, Sir, my Honourable friend raised the question of lack of information. If there has been lack of necessary information, I sincerely apologise to the House. I was not, as the Honourable Members know, at the Standing Finance Committee when this matter was taken up, and I confess I did not know if there was any unsatisfied demand for information. A good many questions have been asked in the course of this debate and, I am sure, I am entitled to say on behalf of my Honourable colleague, the Member for Industries and Labour, that his Department will go into all these ques-

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tions and that, before the House is asked to take any further step in connection with this programme, we will endeavour to put before the House information on all the points that have been raised.

Now, Sir, there is only one other thing that I wish to say and that is as regards the general financial position. There has been, I think, certain amount of confusion in some of the remarks which have been made by my Honourable friends opposite between capital expenditure and expenditure which has to be charged to revenue. I never ventured to state that, so far as the budgetary position was concerned and so far as the balance between current revenue and the current expenditure was concerned, we had any justification for looking forward to any definite improvement. We hope that things are getting better, but there certainly is no evidence on which I can express an opinion of that kind. What I did say was that as regards the Government's capacity to undertake capital expenditure, the position had entirely changed. But I wish to say now that we should not, even in the present position, feel ourselves justified in undertaking capital expenditure which was going to put upon the revenue position of the Government in future any serious burden. In the case of the present proposition, the expenditure is, to a very large extent, remunerative. The slight difference that may occur between the actual return from the letting of the houses and the interest that is to be paid will, at any rate, on the amount of expenditure which is now in contemplation, not appreciably affect the Budget or the Government's power to remit taxation. We are not asking the House to undertake any project which will substantially or appreciably deteriorate the budgetary position. That, Sir, makes the position perfectly clear and I will not detain the House any longer with my remarks on this subject.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) :  
The question is :

“ That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 9,81,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1934, in respect of ‘ New Capital Works at Delhi ’.”

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 11th September, 1933.