

THE

12th March 1940

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

Official Report

Volume II, 1940

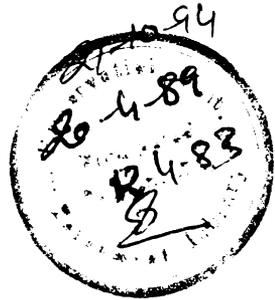
*(6th March to 26th March, 1940)*

ELEVENTH SESSION

OF THE

FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,

1940



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

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# Legislative Assembly

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SIR ABDUL HALIM GHUZNAVI, M.L.A.

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, 12th March, 1940.

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

## STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### (a) ORAL ANSWERS.

#### GRIEVANCES OF SEMI-SKILLED WORKERS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

**335. \*Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if his attention has been drawn to the memorial submitted by the semi-skilled workers of the North Western Railway during the year 1939? If so, how has that memorial been disposed of?

(b) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware that no semi-skilled workers have been promoted as skilled workers on the North Western Railway during the last fifteen years in spite of the fact that many of them have passed the trade test of skilled grade? If so, why? When do Government propose to grant them promotion? If not, why not?

**The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow:** (a) The answer to the first part is in the negative and the second part does not arise.

(b) The answer to the first part is in the negative and the other parts do not arise.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** May I know why the answer to the first part is in the negative?

**The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow:** The first part asks whether my attention has been drawn to a memorial. I said "No".

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** May I draw the attention of the Honourable Member to part (b)—to the alternative I have proposed there? Now that they have not had any promotion for 15 years, will the Honourable Member do something for them or leave them in the lurch?

**The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow:** My answer to part (b) was that the answer to the first part is in the negative and the other parts do not arise. My information is that it is not correct that semi-skilled workers are not being promoted to skilled grades during the last 15 years and that there has been promotion on almost all the divisions and workshops.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** If not for 15 years, at least they have suffered for five or six years. For some years they have not been given promotion and there is discontent. Will the Honourable Member at least enquire into that and give them some relief?

**The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow:** If they make a complaint, it will doubtless be dealt with by the proper authorities, but I have no information about the complaint.

**REDUCTION IN UNIFORM OF THE CARRIAGE AND WAGON STAFF ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.**

**336. \*Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if his attention has been drawn to the memorial submitted by the Carriage and Wagon Staff of the North Western Railway, regarding the reduction in uniform? If so, what do Government propose to do to restore the supply of uniform to the staff according to the old regulations?

**The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow:** The answer to the first part is in the negative and the second part does not arise.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** May I know whether these people have been enjoying the uniforms and they have been stopped?

**The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow:** I have neither received any such memorial nor heard of it.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** It is not a question of memorials. They were enjoying uniforms before. All of a sudden they have been stopped. Will the Honourable Member send this question and answer to the Agent and ask him to give some relief?

**The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow:** I see no need for sending the question. If the memorial has been sent to the General Manager, he will no doubt consider it.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** What I am saying is that if the Honourable Member himself has not considered this, the question and answer may be sent to the Agent, and the reply might at least be sent to the Honourable Member, if not to us.

**The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow:** I have given the Honourable Member a complete answer. The Honourable Member has asked whether my attention has been drawn to a certain memorial, and I said that I have not seen it.

**Mr. M. S. Aney:** May I ask whether the Honourable Member has enquired from the proper authorities whether they have received a memorial from these persons on this point?

**The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow:** There is no need for it. If the memorial has been despatched, presumably it has been received.

**PROMOTION OF MISTRIES OF THE MECHANICAL DIVISIONS OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.**

**337. \*Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** Has the attention of the Honourable Member for Railways been drawn to the memorial submitted by the

mistries of the Mechanical Divisions of the North Western Railway regarding their promotions to Junior Chargemen, or their being brought on thirty days wages, a permanent cadre of service? If so, what do Government propose to do to bring these men in the permanent cadre of service?

**The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow:** The answer to the first part is in the negative and the second part does not arise.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** May I ask the Honourable Member whether he possesses no information at all about this?

**The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow:** I have neither seen nor heard of this memorial.

**STATION AND ASSISTANT STATION MASTERS PASSING VISION OR COLOUR TEST IN A LOWER STANDARD ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.**

**338. \*Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Station and Assistant Station Masters, grades, ordinary, I and II, employed on the North Western Railway, who pass their periodical vision or colour test in a standard lower than that fixed for them, are eligible for employment in alternative posts on the same pay or carrying nearly equivalent rates of pay?

(b) If the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member please lay on the table of the House a copy of these orders?

(c) If the reply to part (a) above be in the negative, what is the nature of the orders on the subject?

(d) Who issued these orders, whether the Railway Board or the General Manager, North Western Railway?

(e) Is it a fact that Assistant and Station Masters drawing rates of pay between Rs. 78 to Rs. 140 are fixed on Rs. 60 only in circumstances enumerated in part (a) above? If so, what is the reason for so much reduction in their emoluments?

(f) Has there been any rider to the orders referred to either in part (b) or (c) above, as the case may be? If so, who issued that rider and will the Honourable Member be pleased to lay on the table of the House a copy of the rider, if any, under which pay of staff is reduced as stated in part (e) above?

(g) Is it a fact that Guards on failure in vision or colour test, are fixed up as Baggage Guards or Conductors on practically the same pay? If so, why are the Station Masters and their Assistants dealt with differently?

**The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow:** (a) and (g). Alternative employment is found for staff who fail in vision tests whenever possible, but the rate of pay admissible is dependent mainly on the available vacancies.

(b), (c) and (d). There are no specific orders issued by Government on the subject other than rule 10 (a) of the Rules regulating discipline and rights of appeal of non-gazetted Railway Servants, which refers only to

staff removed from service for inefficiency. I lay on the table a copy of the orders issued by the General Manager, North Western Railway.

(e) As regards the first part, Government have no information, and as regards the latter part I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply I have given to part (a).

(f) The answer to the first part is in the negative, and the other parts do not arise.

*Copy of para. 24(b) of Agent's Circular No. 1 of 1937, Part 'A' revised 1937.*

(b) Men incapacitated for service in any class by accident, ill health, failure of eyesight, etc., and transferred to another class. In such cases, no guarantee can be given of their employment as this must depend on vacancies. Endeavours will, however, be made to find for them posts for which they, in this incapacitated state, may be suitable and in which they can be usefully and efficiently employed without risk of injury to themselves. Their fellow-workers and the travelling public. The pay and seniority of an employee so appointed to a post will be fixed with due regard to the following considerations :

- (i) That the appointment made does not in any circumstances deprive an efficient and deserving employee who can reasonably look forward to advancement in that line.
- (ii) That the pay of an employee when appointed to a lower grade shall be fixed on the maximum of the grade or on a stage in that grade equivalent to or next below the rate of pay he is actually in receipt of, whichever is less.
- (iii) That the employee will rank junior to all in receipt of the rate of pay granted to him on such appointment. After deciding which post an employee incapacitated for service in a class can be considered for and the rate of pay therein which can be given to him, he will be asked to apply for the said post. If he does not apply for the post, he will be granted leave due preparatory to retirement and if, during that period, no better post can be found for him without detriment to the legitimate claims of other staff, he will be retired on the expiry of that leave and granted gratuity under the rules.

**Mr. F. E. James:** Sir Henry Gidney asked me last evening whether I would put his questions on his behalf. He promised to send a letter of authorisation this morning, but unfortunately he is ill and has not been able to send it.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The practice is that there should be a written authority.

**Mr. F. E. James:** In that case, I wonder whether these questions might be left over to be asked tomorrow, if there is time.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): There are other Departments whose questions will be answered tomorrow. The answers will be laid on the table and if anything arises on those answers, the Honourable Member can put in fresh questions.

#### FRAUD IN THE CUSTODY STORES AT QUETTA.

+339. \***Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state whether it is a fact that a fraud has recently been discovered in the Custody Stores at Quetta on the North Western Railway, and a Committee was appointed to enquire into the matter?

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

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member please place on the table of the House, a copy of the report of that Committee?

(c) Is it a fact that an Anglo-Indian Stock Verifier was charged with carelessness in working in this connection, and was suspended for six months and later reverted as a clerk on half his salary?

(d) Is it a fact that a Hindu Inspector of Stores Accounts was charged with suppression of facts with a view to promoting fraud in the same connection, but was not suspended and has not been punished so far?

(e) What were the charges which the Committee considered were proved against each of the two employees, referred to in parts (c) and (d) above?

(f) Is it a fact that a gazetted officer of the North Western Railway has been considered by the Committee to be responsible in connection with this fraud, and, if so, what action has been taken against him?

**The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow:** (a) Yes.

(b) No. The report is confidential and certain action has still to be taken in connection with it.

(c) Yes.

(d) Yes. The question of disciplinary action to be taken is still under consideration.

(e) I lay on the table a statement giving the information required.

(f) With regard to the first part, the Committee allocated certain responsibility to a gazetted officer of the North Western Railway. As regards the second part, no action has yet been taken as the Administration have not yet accepted all the findings of the Committee.

*Statement showing the charges which, in the opinion of the Enquiry Committee, had been proved against the Inspector of Stores Accounts.*

1. That he failed to report to proper authorities the irregularities which came to his notice during the course of his inspection.
2. He failed to exercise adequate check over the Custody Stores Ledger maintained in the Custody Stores Depot at Quetta.
3. He failed to notice the wrong balancing of 1000 Nos. in Open Line sheets on 24th October, 1936, for M. S. corrugated sheets 8' x 2'—8" 22 G.
4. He failed to detect the falsification of Issue Note Nos. 18-A, dated 20th May, 1938, and 29-A, dated 27th May, 1938, and reported these as over charges instead of falsification of vouchers.
5. He failed to detect the falsification of Issue Note No. 118-A./B., dated 25th August, 1938.
6. He made a false statement before the Enquiry Committee that one copy of Issue Note No. 118-A./B., dated 25th August, 1938, was altered to read 420 instead of 42.
7. He made a false statement that he had reported the irregularities noticed during the check of the above Ledgers to the I. S. A. (Office).
8. He failed to discover falsification in Custody Ledgers of S. M. Flat 1/2" x 1/4" in the case of Issue Note No. 206-A., dated 12th December, 1938.
9. He failed to report suspicious account of receipt of 60 cwts. of S. M. round 1/2" on Issue Note No. D. A. without date from Inspector of Works, R. Khanai.

10. He failed to check the cement stock and the Custody Ledgers for it.
  11. He failed to notice that no procedure had been laid down for the maintenance and reconciliation of Custody Stores Accounts.
  12. He failed to see that the Stock Verifier was not exercising the check laid down in para. 13, Chapter III of S. V. Manual.
- The charges proved against the Stock Verifier were as follows :
1. He carried out the verification of corrugated iron sheets in the Custody Stores Depot, Quetta, in a careless manner.
  2. He failed to take notice of heavy adjustments in the book balances of Custody Stores Ledgers, Quetta, just before the stock verification.
  3. He accepted an undated Issue Note No. D. A. for 60 cwts. of S. M. Round 1/2" diameter.
  4. He failed to exercise the check laid down in para. 13 of Chapter III of the Stock Verification Manual.

#### SECRETARY OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT SOCIETY.

+340. \*Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state how long the present Secretary of the North Western Railway Co-operative Credit Society, has held charge of that post?

(b) Is it a fact that the Controller of Railway Accounts laid down that the same officer will not be allowed to hold charge of this post for more than three years?

(c) Is it a fact that the post has always been held by an officer of the same community?

(d) Are Government prepared to consider the appointment to this post of officers of different communities by turn?

(e) Is the officer, now holding the post, the same person who was considered by the Committee appointed to enquire into the Quetta Stores fraud case to be responsible in connection with it?

**The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow:** (a) Since the 31st August, 1925.

(b) No such orders are traceable, but I would point out that the Secretary of the Society is appointed by the Committee of Management of the Society, which is a registered body under the Co-operative Societies Act.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise, but I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply I have given to part (b).

(e) No, but there is a part-time Honorary Secretary, who is a Railway officer and is the officer referred to in my reply to part (f) of the Honourable Member's preceding question.

#### DISCHARGE OF BRIDGE DEPARTMENT STAFF ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

341. \*Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) With reference to the Honourable the Railway Member's reply to parts (a) and (e) of my starred question No. 97, asked on the 15th February, 1940, will the Honourable Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that persons mentioned in part (a) of the Honourable Member's reply have never been discharged during the last

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

fifteen years or so on the cessation of works but their emoluments have been debited to different works on the commencement of the new financial year? If so, why should they not be absorbed as surplus hands?

(b) Is it a fact that certain members of the Construction staff were discharged in 1932 on the cessation of the works against which they were employed? If so, were they re-employed on the occurrence of vacancies in various other offices?

(c) Was any age or educational qualification restriction enforced in case of persons referred to in part (b) above? If so, will the Honourable Member please lay a copy of the orders on the table of the House? If not, why are these restrictions being enforced against Bridge Department staff?

(d) With regard to the Honourable Member's reply that no age limit has, however, been insisted upon in case of temporary clerks of the Bridge Department for appointment to permanent posts in that Department, is it a fact that no post has fallen vacant during the last ten years and that one which is likely to fall vacant on or about the 11th March, 1940, is to be filled through the Labour Exchange and not from amongst the clerical staff now employed in the Bridge Department? If so, how does the Honourable Member reconcile his reply?

(e) Is it a fact that in the General Manager's office the condition of age and educational qualifications has been relaxed for the promotion of daftries in the inferior service to clerical appointments? If so, why are the restrictions enforced against the Bridge Department staff?

**The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow:** (a) Only one out of the 29 men referred to has over 15 years' continuous service. Their pay has been debited to the works for which they were engaged for the period of their employment on each work. As regards the latter part, I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to part (e) of his starred question No. 97 on the 15th February, 1940. Definite rules are laid down for the recruitment of permanent staff on Railways, and temporary staff engaged for special works have no claim to be absorbed in the permanent cadre unless they fulfil the required conditions for appointment to the permanent cadre.

(b) and (c). I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to parts (a) and (b) of Sardar Sant Singh's question No. 253 on the 1st March, 1940.

(d) I am not in possession of these particulars but even if they are as stated, it would not appear that any reconciliation is necessary.

(e) As regards the first part, Government are not aware if this is so, but the promotion of permanent staff from the inferior service to the subordinate service has no connection with the appointment of temporary subordinates to permanent posts.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** May I know whether these people are put on general construction or particular constructions?

**The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow:** My impression is that they move from one construction to another as a rule.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** May I know whether these people are kept on the waiting list until other construction is taken up or they are discharged?

**The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow:** Apparently one man has been in continuous service for 15 years, so that they cannot always be discharged.

**DUTY HOURS OF CERTAIN GUARDS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.**

†342. \***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) With reference to the reply to part (c) of my starred question No. 280, dated the 22nd September, 1939, laid on the table of the House on 6th February, 1940, will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that waiting duty guards have been performing eight hours duty for years?

(b) Is it a fact that, for the present, guards have been excluded from the 'Hours of Employment Regulations'; and that other members of the staff enjoy shorter hours of work; if so, why the duty hours of guards on waiting duty should be raised from eight to twelve per day?

(c) Is it a fact that waiting duty guards may be booked out any time, in the course of their waiting duty hours?

(d) Is it a fact that under paragraph 787 (d) of the Operating Manual (Provisional issue of 1926) Guards and Drivers could claim rest after sixteen hours continuous duty with a train? Is this rule still in force? If so, why has this paragraph been removed from the revised issue of the Operating Manual?

(e) Do Government propose to reduce waiting duty hours for guards to eight hours as was the practice for years before and after the application of the 'Hours of Employment Regulations'? If not, why not?

(f) Does the Honourable Member also propose to direct the amendment of the Operating Manual on the North Western Railway to contain the paragraph referred to in part (d) above? If not, why not?

(g) What is the maximum number of duty hours that a guard has to do at a stretch without claiming rest?

**The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow:** (a) Yes.

(b) Running staff are excluded from the application of the Hours of Employment Regulations, but that has nothing to do with the raising of the duty hours of guards on waiting duty from eight to twelve. The entire period of waiting duty is one of inactivity. As far as practicable the hours of work of running staff are regulated within the limits laid down in the Hours of Employment Regulations.

(c) Yes.

(d) The answer to the first two parts is in the affirmative. As regards the last part, as this was a Personnel matter rather an Operating matter it was issued in the form of an instruction to the Divisional Superintendents.

(e) The answer to the first part is in the negative. As regards the latter part, I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply I have just given to part (b).

(f) No. I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply I have just given to part (d).

(g) Sixteen.

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

## PROVISION OF A RADIO STATION AT KARACHI.

**343. \*Mian Ghulam Kadir Muhammad Shahban:** Will the Honourable Member for Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of radio stations in India;
- (b) which Provinces have more than one station;
- (c) the reasons for providing more than one station in such Provinces;
- (d) whether the Honourable Member is prepared to take steps to provide a radio station in Sind also which speaks a different language, if not, why not;
- (e) whether Government have received any representation from Sind Government requesting provision of a radio station at Karachi; if so, what is the result of this representation; and
- (f) the difficulty in providing a radio station in Sind; if it is financial, whether Government propose to provide a radio station in Sind in the first allotment of funds made for provision of more radio stations; if not, why not?

**The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow:** (a) All-India Radio maintain broadcasting stations at Delhi, Calcutta, Madras, Bombay, Lahore, Lucknow, Trichinopoly, Dacca and Peshawar.

(b) Bengal and Madras.

(c) The location of these stations was decided upon in connection with Government's broadcasting programme with reference to linguistic factors, density of population and the possibility of providing programmes, the object being to provide as good a service as can be given within the resources available to the greatest number of people.

(d), (e) and (f). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the replies given to Mr. Lalchand Navalrai's questions Nos. 1914 of 7th December, 1938, and 146 of 23rd February, 1940. The claims of Sind will receive full consideration when the situation permits of any fresh undertaking being given.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** May I know, with regard to the answer to clause (d), whether, in view of the fact that a radio station has not been opened for the present in Karachi in Sind, will the Honourable Member, also in view of the fact that the news are being given out in different languages,—Persian, Urdu and all other kinds of languages,—ask the Radio Stations to give the news in Sindhi also for the purposes of the people of the Sind Province?

**The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow:** I am afraid I could not give any undertaking to that effect. The broadcasting of news in a large number of languages emanating from one station already creates considerable difficulty, and I presume that most of those possessing radio licenses in Sind are able to understand one or more of the languages already used.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** I am thankful to the Honourable Member for the credit that he has given to the Sind people, but in fact they want news

in Sindhi so that all the people in the mufassil also should understand it, especially in view of the fact that from day to day we find that the news are being increased, and why is it . . . .

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

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai**: I am simply asking whether that is to be done or not . . . .

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That question is not admissible; it is not a question at all, it is a speech.

#### RECRUITMENT OF CLERKS IN THE OFFICES OF THE ALL-INDIA RADIO.

**344. \*Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali** (on behalf of Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad): (a) Will the Honourable the Communications Member kindly state whether it is a fact that the Controller of Broadcasting is holding a test on the 28th February, 1940, for recruitment of about 25 clerks in the offices of the All-India Radio, excluding the Controller's office stationed at Delhi and New Delhi?

(b) If so, will he please state in which papers these posts were advertised? If not, why not?

(c) How many applications have been received so far and how many persons in service as well as outsiders have been allowed to appear in the examination?

(d) Was the approval of the Government of India obtained for adopting such a procedure for recruitment? If not, why not?

(e) Are Government prepared to stop the examination to be held on the 28th February and advertise the posts and date of examination in the recognised papers all over the country in order to give a chance to thousands of well qualified and unemployed persons to sit for the test?

**The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow**: (a) An examination was held on the 28th February, 1940, to select candidates for filling vacancies in the clerical grades in the offices subordinate to the Controller of Broadcasting in Delhi and New Delhi. There are at present only three vacancies but some more are expected to occur during the course of the year. These will also be filled by candidates who qualify in this test.

(b) It was not considered necessary to advertise these posts as a large number of applications had already been received and it was possible for the Controller of Broadcasting to select from these a sufficient number of suitable candidates.

(c) About 400 applications were received and 191 candidates were allowed to appear for the examination. Twenty-five were persons in Government service.

(d) No. The Controller of Broadcasting is competent to make these appointments.

(e) In view of the reply to part (a), this does not arise.

**Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** As to the answer to part (d), are there any special rules for such procedure? Can the Controller waive such rules without obtaining the approval of the Government of India?

**The Honourable Sir Andrew Olow:** The specific sanction of the Government is not necessary in such a case.

**Mr. Lalchand Navabhai:** May I know from the Honourable Member who conducts this examination—the Controller or a Committee?

**The Honourable Sir Andrew Olow:** I must ask for notice of that question.

#### EXAMINATION FOR RECRUITMENT OF POSTAL INSPECTORS.

**345. \*Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Communications be pleased to state whether the Government of India in the Postal Department have instituted this year a competitive examination for the recruitment of Inspectors?

(b) Is this examination open to candidates who are not already in the postal service; if not, what are the qualifications for admission to this examination?

(c) Is it not a fact that this examination is for qualifying the candidates for admission to the posts of Inspectors and subsequently to the posts of Superintendents?

(d) Is it proposed that the Postal Department will observe the Resolution of 1934 of the Government of India about communal representation? If not, why not?

(e) At what centres were these examinations held?

(f) Was Karachi one of the centres of examination? If not, why not?

(g) Will Railway Mail Service officers be also recruited on the result of this examination?

(h) Have Government fixed a quota for the Muslims in various Provinces? What is the quota for the United Provinces and will this quota be observed in the United Provinces and other Provinces?

(i) Do Government propose to appoint a selection committee to select the candidates from the list of persons who have passed this examination, or will the result be prepared on the numerical marks obtained by the candidates?

**Sir Guranath Bewoor:** (a) A competitive examination for the appointment of Inspectors was introduced in 1939 and the first examination was held in December last.

(b) The reply to the first part is in the negative. As regards the latter part, the attention of the Honourable Member is invited to rule 3 of Part II of the Director-General's Special General Circular No. 19, dated the 18th October, 1938, a copy of which has been placed in the Library of the House.

(c) Candidates will be selected for appointment, in order of merit and up to the number required, from amongst those who qualify in the examination. Officials belonging to the cadres of Inspectors of Post Offices

and Railway Mail Service are eligible for promotion to the grades of Superintendents of Post Offices and Railway Mail Service up to the limit of fifty per cent. of vacancies in those grades.

(d) The Resolution mentioned by the Honourable Member does not apply to recruitment by promotion.

(e) A statement giving the names of the centres is laid on the table.

(f) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative. The second part does not arise.

(g) Inspectors, Railway Mail Service, will also be recruited on the result of the examination.

(h) Quotas for Muslims are not fixed by provinces, but by Postal Circles, and are observed when direct recruitment is made. The quota for the United Provinces Circle is 16½ per cent. and this is observed in that Circle, but not in other provinces.

(i) The reply to the first part is in the negative and to the second part in the affirmative.

Statement.

Name of Circle	Names of Centres	Total
Bengal and Assam Circle	Bogra, Berhampore, Chinsurah, Comilla, Dacca, Calcutta, Jalpaiguri, Khulna, Gauhati, Sylhet, Dibrugarh, Port Blair.	12
Bihar and Orissa Circle	Bhagalpur, Calcutta, Cuttack, Muzaffarpur, Patna, Ranchi.	6
Bombay Circle	Bombay, Rajkot, Ahmedabad, Baroda, Poona, Belgaum.	6
Central Circle	Nagpur, Jubbulpore, Indore, Ajmer	4
Madras Circle	Madras, Trichinopoly, Rajahmundri, Bangalore, Calicut.	5
Punjab and N. W. F. Circle	Lahore, Delhi, Amritsar, Rawalpindi, Multan.	5
United Provinces Circle	Agra, Allahabad, Benares, Cawnpore, Lucknow, Meerut, Aligarh, Jhansi, Dehra Dun, Fatehgarh, Fyzabad, Gorakhpur, Naini Tal, Bareilly.	14
Sind and Baluchistan Circle	Karachi, Hyderabad (Sind), Sukkur, Multan.	4
		56

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** May I know from the Honourable Member whether in all the Provinces recruitment is done from amongst the officers that are already in the service or also directly, and, if so, to what extent in the Sind Province?

**Sir Gurunath Bewoor:** As I have already said, it is done from amongst those already in service.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** Why is the recruitment restricted to this source and not extended to better material which might be obtained by direct recruitment?

**Sir Gurnath Bewoor:** These are posts which have always been filled by departmental promotion.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** It is not a question of "always", but of "why it is not done hereafter"? In many walks of Government service no doubt they used to do it traditionally, but . . .

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is arguing again.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** May I rise on a point of order? I am submitting this. When we put a question, we do also give certain facts and then put a question. If I were to say in the very beginning, "will the Honourable Member say . . .".

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): What is the point of order?

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** I am asking whether the Chair will allow this that we should always put the question first and then give facts so that the Honourable Member may understand it . . .

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member knows very well, as well as anybody else, that one can argue in the form of a question as well as in any other form.

**Mr. M. S. Aney:** May I ask one question? Will the Honourable Member say how the results of this examination are published? Are they published in the Gazette of India or elsewhere?

**Sir Gurnath Bewoor:** They are published by the Postmasters-General in their circulars which are supplied to all members of the staff.

#### SITUATION IN WAZIRISTAN AND TRIBAL AREAS.

**346. \*Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali** (on behalf of Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad): (a) Will the Secretary for External Affairs be pleased to state what the general situation in the Tribal Area, particularly in Waziristan, is?

(b) Is it a fact that big military campaigns have been started in the Ahmad Zai salient?

(c) What are the circumstances which necessitated the campaign?

**Mr. O. K. Caroe:** (a) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to the first portion of part (a) of question No. 56C., asked by Mr. Lalchand Navalrai in this House on the 9th February, 1940, to which I have only to add that the Shabikhel Mahsuds have now made their peace with Government, and that since the operations in the Ahmadzai Salient started there has been a diminution of raiding into the settled districts.

(b) No. All that has been undertaken is a small operation to clear hostile gangs out of the Ahmadzai Salient and establish posts which will prevent the use of this area as a harbourage for raiders. The Ahmadzai Salient is only a small corner of Waziristan, being less than five per cent. of the whole in area, and it is very sparsely inhabited.

(c) The circumstances necessitating the small operation, as has already been explained in the Press, are the continuous raiding which has taken place from the Ahmadzai Salient beginning with the raid on Bannu city in July, 1938. This raiding had produced an intolerable situation in the adjoining portions of Bannu and Kohat districts. The local Maliks and tribesmen in spite of repeated promises have entirely failed to control the situation and the present operations are the only means left to Government of fulfilling their responsibility for the protection of the settled districts.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** May I know from the Honourable Member if this tribe, the Ahmadzai, is also committing dacoities and kidnappings in Dera Ismail Khan?

**Mr. O. K. Caroe:** No, Sir, they live too far from Dera Ismail Khan.

**Mr. M. S. Aney:** What are the other tribes committing dacoities in Dera Ismail Khan?

**Mr. O. K. Caroe:** Mostly Mahsuds and Bhitannis. The latter have since made their peace with the Government.

#### REDUCTION OF TELEPHONE CHARGES FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

†847. **Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Communications be so good as to inform this House if the installation charge for placing a telephone in an M. L. A.'s quarter is Rs. 10?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member state how this high cost is calculated and what labour, both manual and skilled, is entailed in installing a telephone?

(c) Is the Honourable Member aware, of the fact that for two or three Sessions of the Legislative Assembly which will hereafter be held per annum in Delhi, a Member of the Legislative Assembly will have to pay three separate charges of Rs. 10 for the installation of his telephone, i.e., Rs. 30 per annum?

(d) Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that a Member of the Central Legislature is charged Rs. 47 each time a telephone is installed in his suite of rooms? Is it proposed to reduce the telephone charges from Members of the Legislative Assembly? If not, why not?

(e) Is the Honourable Member prepared to consider the advisability of levying a daily or a monthly rate from Members of the Legislative Assembly for the use of the telephone? If not, why not?

**The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow:** (a) Yes.

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

(b) The charge for the installation of a telephone in the premises of a subscriber is uniform all over India for all new connections and has no relation to the cost incurred in giving such a connection in any individual case or class of cases.

(c) Yes, this would be the case if the Member took a new connection each time, and three sessions were held.

(d) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. This charge includes the rental for a telephone connection for a period of two months. The answer to the second part of the question is in the negative, for reasons indicated in the reply to part (e).

(e) Telephone connections within a radial distance of three miles from an exchange and provided they can be supplied at no appreciable cost, can be rented for short periods at Rs. 2 per day subject to a minimum of Rs. 10 and a maximum of Rs. 30 for the first month and thereafter Re. 1 per day. No installation fee is charged for such casual connections. It is open to the Members of the Legislative Assembly to avail themselves of this rate.

#### GRADUATE ASSISTANTS IN THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

†348. \*Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: (a) Will the Honourable the Communications Member please state whether it is a fact that under the Home Department ruling none but graduates are entitled to appear at the examination for First Division Assistantship?

(b) Will Government kindly state how many Assistants in the office of the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs fulfil the conditions stated in part (a) above?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) A candidate for admission to the examination for the recruitment of Assistants must have passed the written examination for obtaining a university degree or a Cambridge Higher School Certificate.

(b) 25.

#### NON-ROTATION OF DUTIES AMONG ASSISTANTS IN THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

†349. \*Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: (a) Will the Honourable the Communications Member please state whether it is a fact that post office clerks, sub-postmasters and Superintendent's Head Clerks are not allowed to remain in the same post or in the same station for generally more than three years?

(b) Will Government kindly state why the above principle of rotation is not observed in the office of the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs, specially among the Assistants?

(c) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the article under the caption "Non-Rotation of Duties among Assistants in the P. & T. Directorate" published on page 4 of the *Young Muslim* dated the 9th February, 1940, suggesting certain names of Assistants who are in immediate need of rotation?

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

(d) Do Government propose to ensure that the principle of rotation is observed among the Assistants?

**The Honourable Sir Andrew Olow:** (a) The fact is not exactly as stated by the Honourable Member except in the case of sub-postmasters. No condition of rotation after a fixed period has been prescribed in respect of post office clerks in general but clerks employed in certain branches are changed after certain periods which vary according to the nature of duties performed in those branches. Head Clerks to Superintendents are generally transferred after four years' tenure.

(b) The reason is that the nature and conditions of work in the Director General's Office are wholly different from those in post offices and compulsory change of duties at fixed intervals would not be conducive to efficiency. But the desirability of giving a change of work to Assistants at intervals is recognised.

(c) Yes.

(d) Government do not consider that any system of obligatory rotation is desirable; but the Director General will examine the cases of Assistants who have spent considerable periods on the same duties with a view to making such changes of duty as are expedient.

#### ATTACK ON ISA KHEL BY TRIBAL RAIDERS.

**350. \*Bhai Parma Nand:** (a) Will the Secretary for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the press report that the tribal raiders of the North-West Frontier Province who recently attacked Isa Khel, District Mianwali, have again sent letters to the residents of Isa Khel threatening that they will again attack the town in order to wreck vengeance for the death of their bandit companions?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, what steps do Government propose to take for the safety of the town?

(c) Is it not possible to have a permanent military post at Isa Khel?

**Mr. O. K. Caroe:** (a) Yes.

(b) The Police force at Isa Khel has been greatly reinforced, and defence measures generally have been improved.

(c) No. The responsibility for the local security of Isa Khel normally rests with the Civil authorities of the Punjab, who are in a position to ask for military aid when their resources appear unlikely to be adequate to deal with any particular situation.

I should add that in connection with the raid on Isa Khel troops were in fact requisitioned by the Provincial Government, and were immediately provided.

**Bhai Parma Nand:** Did they reach in time to protect them?

**Mr. O. K. Caroe:** They did not reach in time to repel the raid on Isa Khel, but the villagers of Isa Khel put up an extremely stout resistance. They were called in to comb the hills in the neighbourhood of Isa Khel.

**Mr. Lalchand Navairai:** Why did the troops not reach in time? Was it due to the fact that they were called late?

**Mr. O. K. Caroe:** I imagine that the raid was not anticipated in time to get troops to the spot.

#### COMPLAINT BOOKS AT RAILWAY STATIONS.

**351. \*Bhai Parma Nand:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state whether Government are prepared to place complaint books at principal railway stations for the public to record their complaints against the railway officers?

**The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow:** Complaint books are already provided at important stations.

#### RAILWAY FACILITIES FOR RELIEF OF PEOPLE IN FAMINE-STRIKEN AREAS IN THE PUNJAB.

**352. \*Bhai Parma Nand:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state whether any facilities were granted by the Railway Department for the relief of the people in famine stricken areas in the Punjab or elsewhere? If so, what are they?

**The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow:** Railways, when requested to do so by Provincial Governments, have introduced special rates for the transport of fodder to famine-stricken areas. I would refer the Honourable Member to the statement showing these concessions on the broad, metre and narrow gauges, which was laid on the table, in reply to Mr. T. S. A. Chettiar's starred question No. 757 of the 28th February, 1939. In imposing the recent enhancements of freight, an exception was made in favour of fodder and manures.

#### COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE HINDU VENDING CONTRACTOR FOR FRUITS AND CIGARETTES AT THE DELHI RAILWAY STATION.

**353. \*Mr. H. M. Abdullah:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state whether it is a fact that serious complaints have been made against the Hindu vending contractor for fruits and cigarettes at Delhi Junction?

(b) Is it a fact that the said contractor was fined during the month of October 1939 by the D. C. O., Delhi Division, for selling fruits of inferior quality?

**The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow:** (a) I understand that three minor complaints were received during 1939.

(b) Yes, but the fine was subsequently cancelled on appeal.

**Mr. Lalchand Navairai:** With regard to clause (a), is it not a fact that there was only one vending contractor for fruits and now that there are two contractors, there is so much disturbance between them? Is the Honourable Member aware of that?

**The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow:** I am not aware of that.

**DIVIDING OF CERTAIN VENDING CONTRACTS ON COMMUNAL BASIS IN THE DELHI DIVISION OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.**

**354. \*Mr. H. M. Abdullah:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state whether it is a fact that in 1935 orders were passed by the Railway Board for dividing the betel leaves, matches, cigarettes, *bidis* and nuts vending contracts on communal basis between Hindu and Muhammadan contractors?

(b) If so, have those orders been carried out at all stations in the Delhi Division?

**The Honourable Sir Andrew Glow:** (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

**ARRANGEMENTS FOR VENDING AERATED WATERS TO MUSLIMS AT THE DELHI RAILWAY STATION.**

**355. \*Mr. H. M. Abdullah:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state whether any arrangements exist at present for vending aerated drinks to Muhammadans by a Muhammadan contractor at Delhi Junction platforms and passengers hall, and, if not, why not? Is it proposed to make some arrangement in the near future and, if not, why not?

**The Honourable Sir Andrew Glow:** I am having enquiries made and hope to lay a reply on the table of the House shortly.

**MUSLIM HAWKERS AT THE DELHI RAILWAY STATION.**

**356. \*Mr. H. M. Abdullah:** (a) Is the Honourable the Railway Member aware that the number of Muhammadan hawkers at the Delhi Junction is 25 as against 75 Hindus?

(b) If so, will he be pleased to account for this disparity?

**The Honourable Sir Andrew Glow:** (a) I am not aware of the communal distribution of the vendors.

(b) This does not strictly arise but as I stated in reply to part (a) of the Honourable Member's question No. 354, the Railway Board did not issue orders directing that vending contracts should be distributed on a communal basis.

**UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.**

**BATHING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THIRD CLASS PASSENGERS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.**

**66. Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) With reference to the reply to parts (a) and (c) of my starred question No. 1005, dated the 13th March 1939, laid on the table of the House on 6th February, 1940, will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state why no bathing arrangements have been made on the North Western Railway for third class passengers?

(b) In view of the fact that bathing arrangements exist at many stations on other State-managed Railways, do Government propose to provide similar arrangements at stations on the North Western Railway? If not, why not?

**The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow:** (a) I understand that bathing arrangements exist at Delhi and a design for the provision of suitable bathing compartments at Lahore is under consideration.

(b) The attention of the North Western Railway Administration had already been drawn to the absence of bathing facilities and my reply to part (a) indicates that action is being taken.

#### REFUND OF OVERDRAWALS BY CERTAIN EMPLOYEES ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

**67. Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) With reference to the reply to my starred question No. 1537, regarding refund of overdrawals by certain employees on the North Western Railway, laid on the table of the House on 6th February, 1940, will the Honourable the Railway Member please state why full amount of the deductions made has not been refunded?

(b) Did the North Western Railway Administration obtain opinion of the Supervisor of Railway Labour, whether the deductions referred to in part (a) above were legal within the provisions of the Payment of Wages Act? If so, was the reply to the effect that the deductions would be illegal?

(c) Do Government, in view of the Supervisor, Railway Labour's opinion, propose to refund the full amount? If not, why not?

**The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow:** (a) Because the amounts deducted represented overpayments.

(b) I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to parts (b) and (c) of his question No. 281 asked on 22nd September, 1939.

(c) In view of my reply to part (b) this does not strictly arise; but no further action is contemplated.

#### DISPOSAL OF REGISTERED ARTICLES BY BRANCH POST OFFICES.

**68. Mr. N. M. Joshi:** (a) Will the Honourable the Communications Member be pleased to state whether recently all the Branch Offices, departmental or extra-departmental, have been authorised to accept registered articles of the letter and parcel mail direct, independent of their account offices?

(b) If so, what is the cost of printing of vernacular registered and parcel lists and journals and in how many languages are those printed?

(c) What is the cost of supplying number slips and name stamps to the Branch Offices?

(d) What is the number of Branch Offices which book more than 50 registered articles of the letter or parcel mail per month?

(e) Is it proposed to restrict the authorisation to Branch Offices booking more than 50 articles of each class per month?

(f) Is it a fact that the measure referred to in part (e) above is taken to save waste of labour and stationery?

(g) If not, what is the intention of the Department in authorising the Branch Offices which book less than 50 articles per month?

**The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow:** (a) The orders are that all branch postmasters, departmental or extra-departmental, should ordinarily be authorised to perform registration and parcel work (excluding insurance

and value payable) independently of their account offices, but in special cases where the Divisional Superintendent concerned considers that an extra-departmental branch postmaster cannot be relied upon to perform the work properly he should not be so authorised.

(b), (c) and (d). The information is not readily available and cannot be collected without an undue expenditure of time and labour.

(e) No.

(f) This measure is not being taken.

(g) The intention in making the change is to expedite the transit of registered letters and parcels as well as to save labour by obviating duplication of work in the accounts offices.

#### INSTRUCTIONS RE GRANT OF EXTENSIONS OF SERVICE IN THE BOMBAY POSTAL CIRCLE.

**69. Mr. N. M. Joshi :** Will the Honourable the Communications Member be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are aware that Rule 421 of the Bombay Civil Service Rules of the Bombay Government provides that extensions of service beyond superannuation will be given to the officers in their own grades and that they will not be entitled to promotions in higher cadres;
- (b) whether similar provision was introduced by the Postmaster General, Bombay, on the ground that the officers after superannuation, if not already tried in the higher grades, will be considered as unfit for that higher grade, although they may be fit in their own grade because of their having worked in that grade;
- (c) whether the provision referred to in part (b) was recently cancelled under instructions from the Postmaster General, Bombay; and
- (d) whether Government propose to re-impose the same for all central services to secure efficiency of service?

**The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow :** (a) The relevant rule is rule 165 of the Bombay Civil Services Rules, which provides *inter alia* that "without the previous sanction of Government no promotion, whether acting or substantive, in a permanent or temporary establishment should be given to a Government servant who is under extension".

(b) An order was issued by the Postmaster-General, Bombay Circle, in January, 1939, to the effect that men on extension should not be considered eligible for any promotion, whether acting or permanent.

(c) The order referred to in part (b) was cancelled by the Postmaster-General, Bombay Circle, in June, 1939.

(d) No. An extension of service is granted to an officer only on public grounds and only if he continues to be fit and efficient.

#### POST OFFICES IN THE BOMBAY POSTAL CIRCLE.

**70. Mr. N. M. Joshi :** Will the Honourable the Communications Member be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Post Offices in the Bombay Circle:

- (i) with four clerks and a Postmaster; and
- (ii) with five clerks and a Postmaster;
- (b) whether it is a fact that offices mentioned in part (a) above are required to be in charge of a selection grade Postmaster; and
- (c) if the reply to part (b) be in the affirmative, how many of each kind are in charge of selection grade Postmasters, and what steps are being taken to sanction the required selection grade appointments in respect of (i) and (ii) referred to in part (a) and when they would be sanctioned?

**The Honourable Sir Andrew Olow:** (a) (i). 12.

(ii) 15.

(b) No. The general principle followed, subject to funds being available, is that where post offices have not less than five clerks and a postmaster, the postmaster should be in the selection grade.

(c) (a) (i). None.

(a) (ii). Five.

The question, in relation to post offices with not less than five clerks, is one for the consideration of the Postmaster-General in the first instance, and a copy of this question and answer will be sent to him.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY RESULT OF EXAMINATION FOR RECRUITMENT OF CLERKS IN THE BOMBAY POSTAL CIRCLE.

**71. Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Will the Honourable the Communications Member be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that in Bombay Postal Circle a supplementary result of the recruitment examination for clerical cadre held in October, 1938, was published a year after, in October, 1939, and that a second supplementary result was published in January, 1940;
- (b) what steps have been taken to protect the rights of sons and dependents of the Post Office employees for whom a reservation is provided and who may exceed the age limit on account of non-holding of the said examination in 1939 and declaring supplementary results in 1939 and 1940;
- (c) what is the number of officials below clerical cadres in the Bombay Circle who have completed five years permanent service or 28 years of age in October, 1939, and who are also matriculates of the Bombay University; and
- (d) whether the subordinates referred to in part (c) above have a reservation of 50 per cent. of the clerical posts and if so, whether the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs proposes to take them up immediately in the clerical cadre subject to their passing the prescribed test, to compensate them for their loss in non-holding of the recruitment examination in 1939 and declaring supplementary results in 1939 and 1940; and if not, why not?

**Sir Gurunath Bewoor:** (a) Yes.

(b) The rights of sons of the post office employees for whom a reservation is provided were not injured by the announcement of the two supplementary results as the number of candidates selected did not exceed the number originally advertised. There is no reservation for the dependents of post office employees other than sons and daughters. No examination was held in 1939 as there was a sufficient number of qualified candidates available to fill all the anticipated vacancies during 1940.

(c) The information is not readily available and its collection would involve an undue expenditure of time and labour.

(d) As regards the first part, the position is not exactly as stated by the Honourable Member. Fifty per cent. of vacancies in certain cadres are reserved for departmental employees who have had five years' substantive and unblemished service and who appear and qualify in the prescribed examination by obtaining the minimum number of marks. The latter part of the question does not arise.

**GRIEVANCES OF MUSLIMS IN THE MORADABAD DIVISIONAL OFFICES ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.**

**72. Mr. M. Ghiasuddin:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

- (a) whether he has received a copy of Memoranda Nos. 1, 2 and 3 from the East Indian Railway Muslim Employees' Association, Moradabad;
- (b) if the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, the action taken to enquire into each item of complaint contained therein;
- (c) if the reply to part (a) be in the negative, the reasons for not enquiring into each item of those complaints; and
- (d) the steps taken to provide for Muslim quota in the establishment Section of the Moradabad Divisional Office on the East Indian Railway; if no steps have been taken, why not?

**The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow:** (a) I have seen copies of memoranda Nos. 1 and 2, but I have not been able to trace receipt of memorandum No. 3.

(b) No action has been taken.

(c) Because it is open to any employee who considers that he has received inequitable treatment to make a representation to the proper authority in the proper way; I would add, however, that an officer has been appointed on special duty to look into certain matters regarding communal representation, and it is contrary to the principles adopted by Government to deal with allegations of this character put forward by unrecognised unions.

(d) There is no Muslim quota fixed for an individual office of this kind; but Government have brought to the notice of General Managers of State-managed Railways the necessity for ensuring that no particular communities are handicapped by the undue preponderance of any one community in the Establishment Branches of Railway offices.

**COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF CERTAIN STAFF IN THE MORADABAD DIVISIONAL OFFICES ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.**

**73. Mr. M. Ghasuddin:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please lay a statement of Muslims, Hindus, Europeans, Anglo-Indians, Parsis, Indian Christians, Sikhs, Jainis and other communities employed in the various sections of the Divisional Office, Moradabad, on the East Indian Railway showing the strength of each community and the grades of pay in each class of:

- (a) Transportation Inspectors (Movement, Traffic, Commercial, Stock, Power respectively);
- (b) Chief Controller, Deputy Controllers, Section Controllers and Assistant Controllers;
- (c) Drivers, Firemen, Shunters, Cleaners;
- (d) Station Masters, Assistant Station-Masters, Yard Masters, General Supervisors, Yard Foremen;
- (e) Chief Booking Clerks, Chief Parcel Clerks, Chief Goods Clerks; and
- (f) Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors of the Engineering Department (Permanent Way, Block, Works and Signals)?

**The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow:** (a) to (f). With the exception of Controllers, none of the classes of staff referred to by the Honourable Member is employed in sections of the Divisional Office, Moradabad. With regard to Controllers, such information as is available to Government is contained in the Classified List of Subordinate Staff of all Departments on scales of pay rising to Rs. 250 and above, corrected up to 30th September, 1939, for the East Indian Railway, a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

**COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF CERTAIN STAFF RECRUITED BY THE DIVISIONAL SUPERINTENDENT, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY, MORADABAD.**

**74. Mr. M. Ghasuddin:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state the number of Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs, Parsis, Jains, Anglo-Indians, Europeans, Indian Christians and other communities recruited against permanent vacancies since June 1934 by the Divisional Superintendent, East Indian Railway, Moradabad, in the following categories:

- (a) ministerial establishment,
- (b) superior establishment, and
- (c) inferior establishment?

**The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow:** No superior establishment is recruited by the Divisional Superintendent. I regret it is not possible for Government to undertake the researches necessary to obtain the information required by the Honourable Member over these years for ministerial and inferior establishment. The communal returns submitted to Government do not show recruitment by divisions but by departments and ministerial staff are not shown separately.

**COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF TEMPORARY EMPLOYEES IN THE MORADABAD DIVISION OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.**

**75. Mr. M. Ghasuddin:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state the strength of temporary employees (Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs and Indian Christians) maintained in the temporary panel of 1936 and *Kumbh Mela* panel, and how many from each category have been provided by now with permanent posts by the Divisional Superintendent, East Indian Railway, Moradabad?

**The Honourable Sir Andrew Olow:** A statement is placed below giving the information required by the Honourable Member.

*Statement.*

	Muslims.	Hindus.	Sikhs.	Indian Christians.
Staff on temporary panel on Moradabad Division 1936.	26	85	1	Nil.
Staff on temporary panel on Moradabad Division 1936 absorbed in permanent posts.	24	81	1	Nil
Staff on temporary panel for Kumbh Mela on Moradabad Division 1938.	76	192	1	8
Staff on temporary panel for Kumbh Mela on Moradabad Division 1938 absorbed in permanent posts.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

**SUSPENSION OF STAFF IN THE MORADABAD DIVISION OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.**

**76. Mr. M. Ghasuddin:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state the number of persons placed under suspension during the preceding five years in Moradabad Division on the East Indian Railway, the nature of punishments inflicted on them and the payments of wages made for the period of suspension?

**The Honourable Sir Andrew Olow:** I regret that I cannot undertake the research necessary to secure this information; but if the Honourable Member has any particular recent cases in view regarding which he desires information, I shall endeavour to secure it.

**HARASSMENT OF VENDORS AT THE AMBALA CANTONMENT AND DELHI RAILWAY STATIONS.**

**77. Mr. M. Ghasuddin:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

- (a) whether Government are aware that vendors are now and then harassed by the staff at Ambala Cantonment and Delhi Railway Stations on the North Western Railway;

- (b) whether Government are aware that that harassment causes great inconvenience to travelling public; and
- (c) the steps taken to prevent harassment; if no steps have been taken, why not?

**The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow:** (a) and (c). I am having enquiries made and hope to lay a reply on the table of the House shortly.

(b) No.

#### PUBLICITY OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETINGS OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Mr. F. E. James has drawn\* my attention to the fact that certain decisions purporting to have been arrived at by the Select Committee on the Excess Profits Tax Bill had been published by a press agency and appeared in a number of newspapers and had even been broadcast by the Government of India from the All-India Radio Station in Delhi several days before the Select Committee presented its report to the House. The Honourable Member has asked me to give explicit directions in the matter and to put beyond any doubt the position of the Members of the Select Committee and the confidential nature of their proceedings and clear up any doubts that may have arisen in this connection from some previous rulings of the Chair. I was rather surprised at the statement made by Mr. James and wanted to find out how such wirespread violation of an important privilege of the House had occurred. There seemed to me some force in the explanation suggested by the Honourable Member, though the real position is quite simple.

When the Legislative Assembly appoints a Select Committee, it directs the Committee to report its conclusions to the House itself and it has been always understood that the proceedings of such a Committee are entirely confidential, so that what transpired during the deliberations of the Committee cannot be discussed even on the floor of the House. The press and the public are not admitted to the meetings of a Select Committee and it has never been doubted that it is a breach of privilege to publish the Committee's report before it has been presented to the House. It is laid down in May's Parliamentary Practice (page 482):

"Both as a breach of the Commons' privileges and pursuant to the Resolution of the House forbidding the publication, no Member, or any other person, may publish any portion of the evidence taken by, or documents presented to Select Committees, which have not been reported to the House; and this rule extends equally to the report of a Committee before it has been presented to the House."

I find, however, that on the 14th April, 1934, Sir Shanmukham Chetty, in explaining the position, used the following words in one passage of his ruling:

"It is essential that the press should not give publicity to *detailed reports* of the proceedings of a Select Committee until that report had been actually presented to the House."

It has been hinted that these words may have given rise to a misunderstanding and created an impression to the effect that while publication of a *verbatim* or detailed report of the proceedings of a Select Committee would constitute a violation of the privilege of the House, no such ban is placed upon publication of the gist or substance of the proceedings

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\*Vide pages 912 and 979 of these debates, dated the 5th and 6th March, 1940, respectively.

[Mr. President.]

of a Select Committee or of some of its decisions in anticipation of the presentation of its report. Such a notion, if entertained by anyone, is wholly unfounded. Sir Shanmukham Chetty's observations must be taken to have been confined to what had happened in the particular case on which his ruling was sought and where the offending publication was a detailed report of the Select Committee concerned. The privilege of the House covers the entire proceedings of a Select Committee and it is equally a breach of that privilege whether the proceedings or the report of a Select Committee are published *verbatim* or in detail or only a summary or selected portions of its proceedings or of its report is published before it is presented to the House. It is not permissible to a Member of the Select Committee or to any one who has access to its proceedings to communicate directly or indirectly to the press any information regarding its proceedings including its report or any conclusion supposed to have been arrived at finally or tentatively before the report has been presented to the House. It is equally expected of the Press to co-operate with the House in this matter and to abstain from publishing such information from whatever source it may have been received.

I trust this makes the position quite clear and will help to remove any doubt that might have arisen on the subject. In this case, as I have indicated, there has been a gross breach of the privilege of the Assembly and, that being so, it would ordinarily be incumbent on the Chair to take such appropriate and adequate action as is available against those who have offended. After anxious consideration, however, I have come to the conclusion that I should not take any further action in the matter, since it is possible that those who supplied the information in this case and those who published it might not have fully realised the exact scope of the privilege of the House in this connection and might possibly have been misled by certain words in the ruling of my predecessor already referred to. I would, at the same time, express a hope that what has happened is in no way due to the fact that the Indian Legislative Assembly has not been vested with the same plenary powers to deal with offences of this character as the British Parliament possesses.

**The Honourable Sir Andrew Ulw** (Member for Railways and Communications): Sir, I would like to express my regret that All-India Radio was one of the organisations which disseminated the substance of the message received from this Agency.

## THE GENERAL BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS—*concl'd.*

### SECOND STAGE—*concl'd.*

#### DEMAND No. 12—EXECUTIVE COUNCIL—*concl'd.*

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The European Group will now move their cut motion. The Chair understands they want to move motion No. 54 on the final list.

#### *Taxation Policy of Government.*

**Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer** (Bengal—European): Sir, I move:  
"That the demand under the head 'Executive Council' be reduced by Rs 100."

In and out of season the Congress Party in this House and their press in the country are never tired of telling us that the financial policy of the Government of India follows no plan; or, alternatively, that in so far as it does follow a plan, that plan is to further the interests of England at the expense of the interests of India. They go on to say that the financial policy results in an unfair burden being placed on the poorest classes, leaving the wealthier classes comparatively lightly hit. Finally, they say that that policy is damaging to the trade and industry of the country.

Now, Sir, at a time such as this when the Congress threatens once more to throw this country into turmoil claiming as they do that they alone have the right to speak on behalf of India and to settle the future of the Constitution, it seems to me to be of great importance that this House should express its views on the financial policy that has been so consistently attacked by the Congress Party. I should like to draw the attention of the House to the nature of their propaganda directed against this financial policy. Long before Hitler discovered that by the constant repetition of inaccurate statements people come to believe—or a large section of people come to believe—that there is some truth or substance in these statements, the Congress had made use of this idea. As an example,—I can quote many examples, but one will suffice,—last year the Government of India decided to increase the duty on imported cotton. The Congress Party in this House and their press throughout the country endeavoured to suggest that that was not only a burden, and an unfair burden on a heavily protected industry, but also—it is almost laughable to think of it—a damaging blow aimed at the producers of Indian cotton.

**Sir Abdul Halim Ghusnavi** (Dacca *cum* Mymensingh: Muhammadan Rural): Is it the cotton producer or the cotton mills?

**Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer**: My Honourable friend may well ask me whether it was the cotton producer or the cotton mills. The Congress propaganda was such as to suggest that it was not only on the mills but also on the producers. The intention of the Government in imposing this increased duty was to safeguard these producers from the activities of those who took advantage of the enormous stocks of American cotton that were at that time flooding the world markets to depress the price of cotton for the agriculturists all over northern India. The Congress Party which had in the past told us that higher and higher protective duties were essential for the development of this country's industries at once adopted a different tone. They said in this case that such a duty was a bad thing.

Now, Sir, I consider this a very good example of Congress propaganda . . . . .

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra** (Presidency Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I rise to a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member has not at all been speaking on his motion. He is constantly referring to the Congress Party and their activities last year which has nothing to do with the motion before the House.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member obviously wants to show that a certain kind of propaganda which admittedly has relation to the taxation policy of the Government is not justified.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai** (Sind: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I rise to a point of order. Can the Honourable Member attack the Congress whose members are not present here in this House? The Congress Party are being condemned in their absence.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair does not think the Honourable Member is attacking any individual or any Member of the House who is absent. He is merely impugning the policy of a large political body.

**Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi**: Is not the Honourable Member, Mr. Lalchand Navalrai, part of the Congress?

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai**: Ask yourself whether you belong to the Muslim League?

**Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer**: I will leave the Congress. I only referred to the point to show that the Congress Party have consistently misrepresented the financial policy of the Government of India. They have represented it to be what in my opinion it is not. I propose to examine that policy now from four points of view. First of all, has it been in the interest of India. That is the acid test which Mr. Gandhi applies and quite rightly applies to his judgment of the policy pursued in this country. Secondly, has it strengthened the financial position of the Central Government, not only of that Government but also of the Provincial Governments that are so largely dependent upon it for very considerable sums of revenue. Thirdly, has it spread the burden of taxation evenly and fairly over all sections of the community? Fourthly and lastly, what has been its effect on trade and industrial development of India?

In regard to the first point, I believe, and we on these Benches all believe that no impartial critic will deny that the policy pursued by the Government of India during the last eight years has been wholly in India's interests. There is no country in the world that since the great financial depression of 1931 has made such a remarkable recovery as India. In the beginning of 1932, the whole basis of the financial structure at the Centre was undermined and threatened. Today thanks to the policy of successive Finance Members, a very different picture is before us. The position of the Centre has been completely restored and, in addition to that, enormous sums—crores of rupees—are surrendered annually to enable the Provincial Governments to carry on their administration. For three years, we have had Governments responsible to Provincial Legislatures functioning in this country. These Provincial Governments, though no one would suggest that they have ample resources, at all events are a great deal better off than they would otherwise have been had the Government of India not pursued the financial policy that they have pursued.

I turn now to the question of the spread of the burden of taxation. Has it been evenly and equitably spread over all sections of community? I have referred to the strengthening of the financial position. That has been achieved without any increase on these three or four main heads of Central taxation that press most severely on the poorest classes. In regard to the middle classes, the whole policy of my Honourable friend's predecessor was directed to shift the burden of direct taxation, partially at least, from the shoulders of those less able to bear it to the shoulders of those better able to bear it. For example, in the Income-tax Amendment Act and by raising the free minimum from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 2,000, as well as in various other ways, the Government of India quite

definitely shifted the burden of taxation to some extent from the middle classes on to the shoulders of the wealthier classes. We all know that the middle classes in this country are not only heavily hit by direct taxation but they are also the people who most suffer through indirect taxation arising from protective tariffs, revenue duties, excises and so on.

In this connection, there is a very close relation between the Central Excises and the sales taxes that are now being imposed by many Provincial Governments. In doing this, that is to say, in shifting the burden to some extent from the middle classes, the whole policy of the Government of India has been designed to strengthen the social and economic structure of the State. But they have done this also in another way. They have firmly refused, notwithstanding strong propaganda from certain quarters, to resort to a policy of taxation by loans. They have all along believed in the policy of balanced budgets.

The Honourable the Finance Member told us the other day that it can never be a sound policy to spend beyond your means. What I should like to hear from him today would be a slight development of that very point. I should like him perhaps to take up the time of the House for a few moments by explaining how it is that failing to balance your budget and resorting, therefore, to large loans you are tending to shift back the burden of taxation from the wealthier classes on to the shoulders of the middle classes and the cultivator. In regard to excises also a good many crores of revenue is dependent on these Central Excises, and I should like to hear from the Honourable the Finance Member what steps he is taking to protect these excises against inroads from sales taxes imposed by the provinces. I refer not only to existing excises but the excises that the Honourable the Finance Member may have to impose to find money to off-set the certain loss of revenue that will arise as the war progresses. By "revenue", of course, I mean the revenue duties on imported articles.

And here I come to the effect of Government's taxation on the trade and industrial development of the country. We all know that here, as in other directions, the Congress cry has been that the Government policy so far from being designed to assist trade and the development of industry has been designed to damage Indian industry and to help British goods imported into this country. Now, Sir, whatever may have been the case over one or two famous instances in the past no one, with any sense of fairness, can make such a charge today, against Government. The whole of their policy has been directed along lines wholly in the interests of the development of Indian industry. The Congress also says that the Finance Members of the Government of India do not pay sufficient regard to the broad background of industrial development. I suggest that that is a very unfair charge. Since discriminating protection was adopted by the Government of India that is an aspect of the background that we must never overlook in criticising their policy, because as a result of that protection they have lost many crores of revenue. As a result of that protection also, of course, they have gained many crores of revenue from income-tax, and otherwise, derived from the industries so protected.

The Honourable the Finance Member has warned us that as this war progresses and as the war on sea is intensified he is likely to be faced with danger of a serious falling off in his revenue duties. It is, therefore, very

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important that the Government of India, and, in particular, the Honourable the Commerce Member should consider how they propose to develop industry in this country or to encourage its development during the time of war. One of the recommendations of the Fiscal Commission was that industries necessary for national defence, in the widest sense, should be encouraged and I should like to hear the Commerce Member's views on this point. But in addition to that we should like to know what steps Government are taking to plan for what is going to happen *after the war* to industries that have come into being *during the war*. Stability in industry is of very great importance not merely to industry itself but to the whole country. On the occasion of the last war very unstable conditions arose after the war and we should like to know what Government propose to do in this regard at this time. We should also like to know what steps they propose to take to maintain and strengthen the existing import trade, threatened as it certainly will be by the war on sea. In this connection it is perfectly clear that they can mainly do this by encouraging more trade with the United Kingdom. No one in this Group would suggest for one moment that to encourage the import trade of India any of the great industries in this country should be damaged. On the contrary we also fully support the idea that these great industries should be developed and encouraged in every possible way. But what I do suggest is that in view of the great importance to the Finance Member of the revenue he derives from revenue duties he and his Colleagues should take every step that they can to secure that imports are maintained at this time.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** Now the cat is out of the bag.

**Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer:** It is not only in Government's interest, but it is also in the interest of exporters such as come from my Honourable friend's own province. How can the Bengal cultivator secure the benefits derived from jute exports if there are insufficient imports to off-set exports? How is the Bengal cultivator going to get a decent price for his jute?

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** The cultivator gets nothing.

**Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer:** My Honourable friend suggests that the Bengal cultivator gets nothing. All I can say is that his views are entirely contrary to the views of all those in the province who have any knowledge of the circumstances of the province.

Now, Sir, we should like to know what Government's views are on that point—the maintenance of imports—and also in regard to the encouragement of export trade generally. Exports, as I have said, obviously cannot be encouraged if the import trade is not going to be maintained. So that on both these points we should like to have Government's views. We should like to know also what they think about such matters as export licenses. Accurate information regarding Government's policy in regard to such matters at this time is of very great importance to all traders. We should like to hear from the Commerce Member in a few brief sentences the basic principles that determine the granting of these licenses.

**Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim):** The Honourable Member has one minute more.

**Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer:** Finally, I should like to hear from the Honourable the Finance Member what steps he is taking in consultation with the Provincial Governments to protect industry from the two shearers who approach it from either side,—the Finance Member of the Government of India and the Finance Members of the provinces,—each seeking to shear that rather fat lamb, let us hope, to shear it not too closely that it may die of cold! Sir, I move.

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

"That the demand under the head 'Executive Council' be reduced by Rs. 100."

**Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad** (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I heard with great interest the speech of my Honourable friend, Mr. Chapman-Mortimer. He has been diffident in giving expression to his own views but he has invited the Commerce Member and the Finance Member to state the steps which they propose to take on various measures mentioned by him. As I stated on the General Discussion of the Budget, I agree with the Finance Member on four points. Firstly, that the budget deficits should not be met by loan but should be met by taxation. Secondly, that taxation should be levied as far as possible on the rich and the middle classes, and the poor should be avoided altogether. The third point is about the repatriation of the sterling loan and the fourth, which I noted with great satisfaction, is the programme of ways and means resulting in strengthening the position of the rupee in the world market.

The taxation policy of Government is really based on the Fiscal Commission's Report, which was written in 1922. But four important factors have since occurred and the whole policy, therefore, requires thorough revision and investigation. These four factors are: (1) the collapse of the monetary system of several countries, resulting in the introduction of the barter system. Many countries have got no money to pay and they can only barter their goods. (2) the high tariff walls initiated by smaller countries in Europe and, afterwards, imitated by bigger countries and even by free trade countries. (3) the introduction of combines and monopolies of sale on a very large scale, which was mentioned in the Fiscal Commission's Report. Warning was given at that time but now it is freely exercised in this country. The incidence of taxation by this system falls entirely on the consumers. (4)—and this is very important—the chaotic conditions introduced by the Act of 1935 in not clearly defining the sphere of Central and Provincial Governments in matters of taxation. I will give a few illustrations to prove this.

My first illustration is the subject which Mr. Chapman-Mortimer took—petrol. This unfortunate commodity is one which every person who has the power to tax lays his hands upon. We have the Central Government levying a duty of 10½ annas per gallon; and it is further being taxed by the Central Government by two annas a gallon. The Provincial Governments also levy a duty of two annas per gallon in the form of Sales Tax. The local bodies also levy a certain kind of duty in the name of Vehicle Tax. The second example is sugar. I shall not discuss it in detail now as I shall discuss it later on on the Finance Bill. I merely wish to say now that the action of the United Provinces Government and the Bihar Government has created a vicious circle. We really gave protection to the industry but the action of the Provincial Governments has transferred that protection

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from the industry to the sugarcane growers. The third illustration is income-tax. The Government of India levy taxation under the name of income-tax super-tax, Excess Profits Tax and other names. Now, the provinces have come forward and levied a duty on the same income under different names: Profession Tax, Employment Tax and some other names. There is also confusion about the House Tax. The House Tax was always the exclusive privilege of the Central Government, but what do we find in Bombay? The Provincial Government is trying to collect more money from this source called, Property Tax.

**Babu Bajjnath Bajoria** (Marwari Association: Indian Commerce): When did the Central Government put on a House Tax?

**Mr. N. M. Joshi** (Nominated Non-Official): This is news to us, that the House Tax was a Central Tax!

**Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad:** Confusion between local bodies and Provinces. I think there ought to be simplification on this point. There ought to be a more clearly defined jurisdiction of the powers of the Central Government and the Provincial Governments as also of local bodies in this matter. A fourth illustration I will take is the proposed cess on agricultural products. This is really an encroachment on the powers of the Provincial Governments. A cess, if any, ought to be levied by Provincial Governments. It is they who ought to decide whether any commodity needs any kind of Central Research and they ought to contribute from their own funds. I have given these illustrations to show the necessity of defining very clearly the sphere of the various Governments in levying these taxes so that there should be no overlapping and the same article should not be taxed twice over.

Coming to the Fiscal Commission's Report, I would just draw attention to two important points. That Commission said very clearly at page 168:

"The ordinary functions which we suggest should devolve upon the Board are as follows:

"To watch the effect of protective duties or other measures of assistance on industries; to review periodically the results of such protection on each industry, and to make recommendations when necessary for the modification or withdrawal of protection."

May I ask the Honourable the Commerce Member whether he has ever examined the effect of protection given either to iron and steel, or to sugar or to textiles or to any other industry? They have failed in their duty in this respect and they have not laid reports before the Legislature from time to time on this point. The Fiscal Commission also say regarding combines:

"A protectionist system certainly gives the opportunity for undesirable forms of combination. In a free trade country no combination of manufacturers is able to keep the price of a commodity above the world price . . . . ."

By means of combinations it is possible for the home manufacturers to keep the price distinctly above the true competitive level without inviting foreign competition . . . . ."

The matter should be investigated by the Tariff Board which we propose should be established, and if the Board reports that the combination is in effect injurious to the interests of the Indian consumer, and the Legislature accepts the view, the protection given to the industry could be lowered or withdrawn, or possibly special legislation could be introduced to deal with the matter."

They were contemplating that there would be a permanent Tariff Board to look into the matter. I may just mention here that when protection was given to iron and steel, at which time the present Commerce Member was also present, I pointed out at the end of my speech that I calculated the monetary value of the protection given under various items and then said:

“Before I sit down, I will only say that the Tata Company would put a tablet in gold engraving—to commemorate the generous gift of sixteen crores from the Honourable Sir Joseph Bore, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., the greatest patron of the Tata Company.’ (Hear, hear). Sir, in another small village known as Murdanagar, there will be small tablet: ‘Here lies buried the hopes of Indian consumers and of the small industries in iron and steel as the result of the action of our own countrymen. God save us from our friends.’ (Loud Applause).”

This was in 1934. Subsequent events have verified that the amount which I then put down at sixteen crores was really a very low figure and the actual amounts they have pocketed during the last few years on account of the protection we have given is much greater than anybody ever anticipated in 1934. In spite of this, no action has been taken by the Commerce Member. We know that they have pocketed such a big amount. We know the value of the shares has gone up; but in spite of all that, nothing has been done. I have got the prices of various articles here, but I do not want to mention them in detail in the fifteen minutes I have got now. Tata Company has fixed a lower price for exports and higher price for the markets in this country, which shows that the iron and steel industry which we are protecting are developing the smaller industries outside India and discouraging local industries in this country.

The next point is about the Niemeyer Award. This report was written in 1936 under the circumstances then existing. Those circumstances have now changed entirely and it is now time that we reconsidered the matter. The Niemeyer Report said at page 12:

“I recommend therefore that, the initial prescribed period under Section 138 (2) (a) being five years, the prescribed sum which during that period the Centre may in any year retain out of the assigned 50 per cent. shall be the whole, or such sum as is necessary to bring the proceeds of the 50 per cent. share accruing to the Centre together with any General Budget receipts from the Railways up to 13 crores, whichever is less.”

They gave 13 crores to the Centre out of the income from the Railways and the income from income-tax. On account of the changed financial position of the Railways on account of war conditions, I think it is highly desirable that we should no longer follow the Niemeyer Award. We should no doubt follow the Government of India Act. That is very necessary. But the Award is really out of date and the Government will be well advised to revise the Niemeyer's Award.

I think, therefore, the time has now come when we should now revise the whole of the fiscal policy, and consider the Niemeyer Award as well as the Fiscal Commission Report of 1922 as documents of classical interest, but which should have no practical application in the present financial policy of the country. Sir, some persons. . .

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has two minutes more.

**Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad:** Pity. Therefore, I would beseech the Government that their entire taxation policy including the manner of protection and supervision needs revision. The Government may set up a Commission either now or after the war to evolve a new

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policy. That is the first point. The second is that the Government should set up a permanent Board to review and watch the working of protection and recommend whether greater or lower protection would be needed; thirdly as Mr. Chapman-Mortimer pointed out, we should develop the industries during the war and ensure that they will not be killed as soon as the war is over, and fourthly, the division of functions in taxation between the Provinces and the Centre cannot be based so much on statutory provisions as on the traditions which may be established, and I hope the traditions will soon be established about this, in order to have a clear understanding between the Centre and the Provinces.

**Babu Baijnath Bajoria:** Sir, both the Central Government as well as the Provincial Governments pose to be friends of our trade and industries in this country, and they always cry hoarse that they are trying to advance our trade and industries, but from what they have been doing recently, we find that both of them are vying with one another as to how much more tax each can impose on the trade and industries of this country, how much each of them can squeeze out of our trade and industries by way of imposing fresh taxation. What do we find? During recent years there has been an increase in taxation both in the Centre as well as in the Provinces and in this matter the advent of Provincial Autonomy has made matters worse. Here, at the Centre, the Government impose income-tax and super-tax, while the Provincial Governments also impose a similar tax; for instance, the United Provinces Government coined a new word and called it an Employment Tax on a graded scale, as they called it, and they imposed taxes which were nothing but a duplicate form of income-tax. I understand the Government of India considered the Employment Tax imposed by the United Provinces Government as unjust and so an amendment of the Government of India Act was made in the Parliament, and the Employment Tax has been declared *ultra vires*. Then, again, the Bengal Government also has levied an Employment Tax at a flat rate of Rs. 30 on each individual employed. The Provinces have also imposed another tax called the Sales Tax. For instance, petrol is one of the articles which has been very much in the fore-front as far as taxation is concerned, both at the Centre as well as in the provinces. The Excise Tax on petrol has been increased now to twelve annas per Imperial gallon, whereas many of the Provincial Governments have also levied a tax ranging from one anna to two annas; in many provinces it is rather two annas than one anna, and it is called a Sales Tax, which is identical to this Excise Tax. The judgment of the Federal Court in favour of the Provincial Governments enabling them to levy the Sales Tax has made matters worse, because, since that judgment has been delivered, the Bombay Government has also imposed a Sales Tax on cotton piecegoods. Here you have got a duty on piecegoods, and in Bombay, which is the greatest centre of piecegoods manufacture in India, there is a Sales Tax of one anna or 6½ per cent. on sales of cotton piecegoods.

**An Honourable Member:** It has been removed.

**Babu Baijnath Bajoria:** I am glad it has been removed. . .

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman** (Finance Member): It was not imposed. Power was taken to impose it, but it was not actually imposed.

**Babu Baijnath Bajoria:** Sugar is also one of the articles which has been in the fore-front to come under taxation. The excise duty on sugar was Rs. 1-8-0 formerly, then it was raised to Rs. 2 and now it has further been raised to Rs. 3 per cwt. As regards provinces, both in the United Provinces and Bihar, which are the provinces which manufacture sugar on a large scale, we find that the price of cane has been raised tremendously to ten annas per maund and with the increase in price of sugar by every three annas over the basic price there will be an increase in the price of cane by one pice per maund. Then there is also a cess on cane of six pies per maund. Therefore, it will be seen that sugar, which is an article of consumption by the masses, is taxed very heavily. I do not entirely agree with the Honourable the Finance Member when he said in his budget speech that sugar is not consumed by the masses. . . .

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** Refined sugar.

**Babu Baijnath Bajoria:** Sugar is called refined sugar.

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** I said factory refined sugar is not consumed by the poorest classes.

**Babu Baijnath Bajoria:** The poorest classes do consume a considerable quantity of *Gur* and *khandsari* sugar. but they also use refined sugar on a large scale, specially in provinces where sugar is not manufactured, there sugar made in the mills is sent because the quantity of *Gur* and *khandsari* sugar available in those parts is small. Sugar is a commodity mostly consumed by the masses and it has been very highly taxed. So we find that both the Central as well as the Provincial Governments are out to tax the industries in all possible ways, and this is having a very depressing effect on industries. For once I agree with my Honourable friend, Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad, when he said that the policy of the Tata Company is not very just inasmuch as they sell to foreign customers their products at cheaper rates than they do for internal consumption. This fact was borne out in another debate in this Assembly in the matter of helping the cottage industries of this country. I hope they will revise their method and help the Indian industries, because a big industry can help the smaller concerns in these matters. It is my considered view that there should be co-ordination between the Provinces and the Centre so that taxation on the same articles may not be levied by both the Governments. The present taxation is very high, especially on the industries. . . .

**Mr. M. S. Aney** (Berar: Non-Muhammadan): Mr. Chapman-Mortimer does not agree with you.

**Babu Baijnath Bajoria:** Does he say that the taxation is low?

**Mr. M. S. Aney:** That it is in the best interests of the industries.

**Babu Baijnath Bajoria:** I do not agree with him there. There is a reason for his saying so now, because, probably, he thinks that the amount received from increased taxation will go to help his country and its industries. The suspicion that I have got in my mind is that it is not considered desirable that Indian industrialists and Indian commercial men should make large profits and retain them because we are considered to be dangerous

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to British commercial interests, because if we have more money with us we will expand the industries of this country, which will mean that correspondingly imports of those articles from Britain and other countries will diminish and they will suffer consequently.

**Mr. F. E. James** (Madras: European): What do you do with all the money that you have got? Have you expanded industry?

**Babu Baijnath Bajoria:** Oh, yes, we have. It is well-known that with the money which has been made, the sugar, cotton, steel industries have all expanded. But for the profits which had been made after the last war, these industries would not have been in the state in which they are now, and they would not have been in a position to supply the major requirements of this country. If more money is made, I am sure the industries will continue to expand, but if the Honourable the Finance Member takes away all that profit. . . .

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** Only half.

**Babu Baijnath Bajoria:** It is not half. As I have pointed out, what with the Excess Profits Tax, the income-tax, the super-tax, he is taking away practically about 75 per cent. in the case of individuals and 62½ per cent. in the case of companies. In conclusion, I would submit that we must cry halt as regards this rapid increase in taxation which affects the industrial development of the country, and there must also be some co-ordination in the matter of taxation policy as between the Centre and the Provinces. With these words I resume my seat.

**Mr. M. S. Aney:** I listened with great attention to the speech of my Honourable friend, Mr. Chapman-Mortimer. It is always interesting to listen to him. I tried to gather from his speech the purpose which he had in view in moving this cut motion. He began by attacking the Congress Party on certain propoganda which seems to have touched him adversely. After that, he came with a good deal of praise for the existing policy of taxation pursued by the Central Government, and on that point he said that our strong financial position is itself a proof of the soundness of the policy of taxation pursued by the Government of India. So, he has no complaint about that, that is perfectly clear. Then he put a number of questions at the end of his speech without saying anything about the soundness or unsoundness of the policy. He argued his case in the form of putting a number of questions and thereby indicated that something has to be done by the Government of India to relieve him from extra burdens that are cast in the name of provincial taxation. That appeared to me to be the trend of the questions which he put one after another. That was the whole of the speech, if I mistake not, delivered by my Honourable friend, Mr. Chapman-Mortimer. I agree with him that there is a good deal of complaint in the country on account of the overlapping jurisdiction of the Provincial and Central Governments in the sphere of taxation. The complaint is there, but there is one fact which I wish the Honourable Members of this House to bear in mind with regard to this. Provincial Governments in one form or another are bound to remain in existence in this country and the Central Government will also be in existence here. Unless one is entirely and hopelessly mistaken in prejudging the future, I have no doubt

that most of the powers at present assigned to Provincial Governments will also remain with them in any future arrangements that may be made. We are trying to enunciate some principles for the sake of taxation which have to come into force in future. So, we must try to peep into the future as much as we can. Assuming this position to be in the manner in which I have tried to visualise it, namely, that the Provincial Governments will practically be having the same jurisdiction with regard to a number of subjects as they have today, we have to see that they are also duly provided with means for carrying out their responsibilities. Whether you tax a people in the name of the Central Government or whether you tax a people in the name of the Provincial Government, it is ultimately the people who will have to be taxed. It is now well-known, and this fact has been thoroughly recognised by the Central Government and also by various financial reports that were made before the present arrangements came into existence, that the resources at the disposal of the Provincial Governments as they are at present are not sufficient to enable them to raise the funds requisite for carrying on their duties efficiently and properly. If they have to lend their helping hand to some extent in the building up of the nation by carrying out properly the nation building work which is entrusted to them, then they are required to be in possession of bigger funds. The need for that is appreciated by the Central Government already. That is one of the reasons why the Niemeyer Award has made certain provision for allotment of a considerable portion of our income to them under certain conditions which I need not refer to now. What I wish to bring to the notice of the House is this. I think all Provincial Governments will be very glad to be entirely rid or deprived of the power of taxation and only left with the power of spending money. They will be very glad to do that and they will only say:

“We do not want to tax at all. We prepare schemes and shall carry them out and you provide us with the necessary funds. Let all the taxation power be given to the Central Government. Let them find the money both for the Central Government and the Provincial Governments and divide the funds between the Central Government and the Provincial Governments on certain definite proportions.”

It matters very little who taxes. I am sure if we take away the power of the Provincial Government's taxation in certain matters, the necessity for the money under which they are labouring will not be obviated thereby and they will make a demand on the Central Government for money. In that case the Central Government will increase their own taxation on the several articles about which we are complaining that there is double taxation now and the tax will be recovered in their own name. That is one of the main ways in which the Central Government might try to meet the difficulty. Unless we are in a position to find out some other independent articles, the money must come from higher taxation on the articles which have already been taxed. If we take away the jurisdiction of the taxing power of the Provincial Governments and the Central Government is made to find the resources for them, then it is obvious that the Central Government will impose the additional taxation in their own name, keep what they want for themselves and give the rest to the provinces. So this question is not to my mind so easy as it appears to be.

It is not a question merely of asking the Government of India or the Parliament to make certain rigid rules to demarcate the spheres of taxation between the provinces and the Centre in such a way as to make it impossible for them to overlap each other. The difficulty of demarcation is not very great. They can be easily demarcated but that solution by

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itself will not really prove a solution of the difficulties under which the Provincial Governments will have to labour for want of funds. In that case who will provide the money? We shall have to take away from the provinces their jurisdiction over the subjects entrusted to their charge and assume the task of the nation building departments ourselves. In that case, the Central Government will have to assume much more responsibility than they have today. This question of taxation, if we are to go into the details of it, is not by itself such as can be detached from the broader questions of the constitution itself. The position comes to this. The proper time in my opinion for the consideration of the revision of the policy of taxation will be when the entire question of constitutional reform will have to be tackled by the Government of India or the British Government and the sooner that time comes the better. That was the plea that I put forward when I moved my cut motion yesterday. On account of certain minor points made by my Honourable friends on my left and on my right, the main point of that cut motion was entirely ignored. The main point of it was that the time had come when the whole question of constitutional reforms ought to be tackled by the Government of India and the sooner it is done the better for all concerned and I pointed out that by not visualising the magnitude of that subject, the Government of India were running a great danger. Unfortunately the object of my cut motion could not be seen even by so shrewd, astute and highly intelligent a Member as the Leader of the House himself. He said that he did not appreciate the purport of the motion. The real object of that motion was to bring to the notice of the House the urgent need of tackling the question of constitutional reform and accommodating all our differences in such a way that we will be able to solve all these questions as early as possible, so that the serious catastrophe which is likely to come and engulf the whole of this country, if proper steps are not taken, may be averted. The picture I tried to draw was not realised and today we are taking up a little point about taxation policy. If the Government of India could not make a considered statement on the very serious question I raised yesterday, I am sure the question of the taxation policy cannot be considered by them detached from that main problem to which I tried to invite their attention yesterday with all the earnestness at my command. I was mistaken by my friends . . . .

**Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad:** Can we discuss again the points we discussed yesterday on Mr. Aney's cut motion?

**Mr. M. S. Aney:** I am not discussing it again. I am only trying to show how the question raised by this motion is inter-linked and inseparably connected with the question I brought up yesterday and if the attitude of the Government on that question is one of indifference of the kind which was shown by them yesterday, then I say that any interest that they may show on this question must be a bogus interest and a sham interest. That is what I want to say. They cannot consider this question of taxation entirely separately from the wider question of constitutional reforms. Whatever they may say on this question of taxation today, they will not be able to carry it out within a reasonable period of time.

**Mr. F. E. James:** May I congratulate my friend on his agility in replying to yesterday's debate?

**Mr. M. S. Aney:** I am not taking any undue advantage of the opportunity given to me to speak on this motion.

So far as the main question is concerned, I have already said what I wanted to say and there is not much left for me to say anything else. The various points raised by Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad are no doubt very important but I am very doubtful whether the Government can really make up their mind to make a considered statement on the whole position without appointing a small committee to go thoroughly into the whole question of taxation and study all the details. Without this, it seems to me that the object cannot be easily achieved. My Honourable friend, Mr. Chapman-Mortimer, did not make any suggestion to that effect. He only put in a number of questions in the nature of supplementary questions which are put in the course of the interpellation hour and if answers are given without much deliberation I do not think they will serve any useful purpose. With these remarks, I support the motion.

**Mr. J. Ramsay Scott** (United Provinces: European): Mr. President, I propose to deal with one aspect of taxation only, namely, the sugar industry. I shall be definite and I hope I shall be able to satisfy Mr. Aney. Though it is very hard to satisfy Mr. Aney.

**Mr. M. S. Aney:** I am one of the most reasonable of men in the world.

**Mr. J. Ramsay Scott:** To begin with I should like to congratulate the Finance Member on his candour and honesty. Unlike his predecessor, who maintained that the increase in the excise on sugar was put on to benefit and save the industry, he plainly states that he has increased the excise because he needs to raise money in this emergency. I propose to deal with the serious plight of the sugar industry today, due mainly to the Pull Devil, Pull Baker policy of the Government of India on the one side and the United Provinces and the Bihar Governments on the other.

Each party is looking after its own interests in its own way and brooking no interference. A complete lack of co-ordination, co-operation and consultation is evident. There is no sign of a consistent policy in any shape or form. I would, however, admit that conditions have not been very stable but I hope Government will be able to give us some indication of their plans, if any. The industry itself may be not altogether free from blame, but this is irrelevant to my cut motion. It is an old story; for the last decade Government has accepted the recommendations of a Tariff Board that sugar should be a protected industry for a period of fifteen years and has presumably envisaged the loss of the whole of the Customs revenue of eight crores in the course of time. There was to be a review of the position by a Tariff Board after seven years. In 1931 an emergency and financial chaos caused the Government to reconsider their position and in order to increase revenue, amongst other measures taken, was one which increased the protection on sugar by twenty-five per cent. Under the wing of such increased protection, the sugar industry rapidly expanded and India soon occupied the proud position of being the greatest sugar-producing country in the world; and instead of importing 900,000 tons of foreign sugar, she produced over one million and a half tons of sugar in her own factories. This enormous production, however, only utilised about sixteen per cent. of the cane grown in India. The

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industry prospered, and the Government of India imposed an excise of Rs. 1-4-0 per cwt. to make up part of what they had lost of the customs duty. Then came the measure for the further increase of excise to Rs. 2 per cwt., which was to slow down expansion and weed out the financial weak factories. Last year the Honourable the Commerce Member gave the sugar industry a promise of protection at a certain rate for two years and promised an inquiry in 1940 and the inquiry was, if I understood rightly, to take into consideration the effects of provincial legislation. This year, however, we have had the excise increased by a further one rupee per cwt. and the import duty has also been increased by a similar amount. The Honourable the Finance Member will no doubt tell you that by doing so he has honoured the obligation of the Commerce Member and I am prepared to admit that to a certain extent he has, but I propose on this point to reserve my comments for the Finance Bill, as a protest can be more effectively made then. This is the Pull Devil case and it does not sound a telling indictment by itself. I now come to the Pull Baker story.

The Provincial Governments of Bihar and the United Provinces thought something was to be made out of sugar, so they brought in legislation, firstly, to fix the price of cane, secondly, a cess on cane of half anna per maund, thirdly, a payment of co-operative societies commission of three pies per maund on cane, fourthly, the fixation of a minimum wage to sugar workers of five annas per day,—I would like some of the Honourable Members to remember that—fifthly, the zoning of areas to factories from which they can draw their cane supplies, sixthly, the licensing of factories, and seventhly and finally, the selling agency,—the Sugar Syndicate. All this sounds very nice in theory, but there has been no consultation, co-operation or co-ordination between the Centre and the Provinces, and one effect which the Finance Member has forgotten is that the higher he pushes the price of sugar by excises or increases thereof, the higher the cost of cane to the factory, as the price of cane is based on the selling price of sugar . . . .

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** No, no,—not on the price including the excise.

**Mr. J. Ramsay Scott:** . . . . as the price of cane is based on the selling price of sugar. The effect of all this legislation is to put up the price of sugar to the consumer and to decrease the profits to the factory to a vanishing point. This is a situation which is disastrous to the Central Government.

We have a Tariff Board, which is an advisory body, and while its recommendations are in part sometimes accepted by the Central Government, there seems to be no obligation on the Provinces to pay any attention to its recommendations. The Tariff Board, after an exhaustive inquiry, has stated that cane can be produced in the United Provinces and Bihar for an average price of three annas six pies per maund, to which they add one anna per maund for cartage and half an anna for profit, a total of five annas. This figure gives the cultivator eleven per cent. profit. My Honourable friend, the Commerce Member, in reply to question No. 64 said the other day that the Tariff Board stated five and a half annas per maund and I presume this included the half anna cess. The price of cane at the time the Budget was introduced, as fixed by the Bihar and the

United Provinces Governments, was ten annas per maund, or with the cess ten annas six pies per maund, which gave the grower over one hundred and twenty per cent. profit. The selling price of sugar was Rs. 11-14-0 per maund and I will now show you how it is made up. If I take an abstraction of nine per cent. sugar from cane, this means that it takes eleven maunds of cane to make a maund of sugar:

	Rs.	A.	P.
Eleven maunds of cane at ten annas per maund equals . . . . .	6	5	0
The Provincial cess at six pies per maund . . . . .	0	5	6
The cane Co-operative Society commission at three pies per maund . . . . .	0	2	9
The charges incurred on handling and unloading as allowed by the Bihar and U. P. Governments.	0	4	6
The existing excise duty . . . . .	1	7	6
Manufacturing costs as allowed by the Tarriff Board . . . . .	2	4	9
Total . . . . .	11	8	0
On the 29th February, current price of sugar at factory . . . . .	11	4	0
Profit to factory, per maund . . . . .	0	6	0

Since the outbreak of war, factory costs have increased by four annas six pies, which has been admitted by the United Provinces and Bihar Governments so that the cost is Rs. 11-12-6 per maund, and all that is left for the poor factory is Re. 0-1-6 profit per maund, or just slightly less than one per cent. You have only to examine sugar factory results to see how true this is.

Sir, in quotations given in a financial paper for sixteen companies, of the total in the list nine pay no dividend at all, while five pay on an average seven and a half per cent. and two lucky companies, in Indian States which pay no income-tax, pay eleven and a quarter per cent. and twelve and a half per cent. The consumer, however, pays Rs. 11-14-0 per maund for his sugar. The increase in excise by one rupee per cwt. or Re. 0-11-9 per maund means a further increase in price to the consumer of eleven annas and nine pies per maund, or a cost of sugar to the consumer today of Rs. 12-9-9 per maund. When the previous increase was put on, it took some time before it could be passed on to the consumer and this is the case today. You can expect little or no income-tax from sugar factories, and certainly no Excess Profits Tax.

Sir, I ask for a thorough examination of the position, a thorough examination of the effect of the Pull Devil Pull Baker policy and I ask for three C.'s: Co-ordination, Co-operation and Consultation between the Provinces and the Centre and a constant constructive policy of the Government of India. This alone can save the sugar industry from ruin, and I censure the Government for their lack of foresight and their lack of any constructive policy. Surely they cannot but see that a prosperous industry like "A thing of Beauty is a joy for ever".

**The Honourable Diwan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar** (Member for Commerce and Labour): Mr. President, I am thankful to my Honourable friend, Mr. Chapman-Mortimer, for raising certain very important issues in connection with this debate, but I cannot promise that I shall be in a position to state the considered views of the Government on each of those issues. The Honourable Member has raised the question of the development of industries during the time of the war, particularly in view of the basic need that has arisen owing to war conditions; and, secondly, owing to the fact that important import commodities are either not being imported or are coming in a very restricted quantity. Sir, this question has been under the consideration of the Government for some months now. The outbreak of the war has naturally deflected the even course of the Commerce Department in many ways and new problems have presented themselves, problems whose weight, whose importance and the urgency of solution of which I need hardly point out to this House. The development of industries which are required for war necessities is a matter of concern to this Government and I stated some time back as the Chairman of the Industries Conference what the policy generally of the Government would be with reference to the development of such industries. It was pointed out by more than one commercial organisation, and has been repeated in the press, that during the last war several industries came into existence which were of the very greatest help in the prosecution of the war to the Government of the day but that after peace was restored, those industries languished for want of support and that many a person who had invested his all in those industries stood a ruined, a sadder man at the end of the period of the war. I stated then, and I repeat, that I am unable to agree that that criticism is just. It is to be remembered that the Industrial Commission had just reported about the end of the war, that the Fiscal Commission had not yet sat and considered the various problems which afterwards were solved by the recommendations of that Commission, that the Government of India had not accepted the policy of discriminating protection which has since the year 1923 been put into effect and, above all, that conditions during the last war and at the end of the war were naturally different from the conditions prevailing now. But, I gave this assurance on behalf of the Government that we shall not put ourselves in a position to be liable to the same charge once more and that in case we in any form encouraged the development of industries for our war needs, we shall make it clear that at the end of the war those entrepreneurs who had come to the assistance of the State and had developed such industries would not be left high and dry to take care of themselves.

One of the indications of this attitude of the Government in this respect would at least be found in the report of the Select Committee of the Excess Profits Tax Bill which has been presented to the House where a provision is contained that with reference to such new industries, the calculation of the excess profits and all the rest of the procedure will be on a different basis. But I would go further and state that the question is under active examination as to how far the essential industries that are needed for the prosecution of the war and for making up the lacuna in key industries that is found owing to the loss of some of our imports can be encouraged by the Government. The Fiscal Commission report lays down certain conditions regarding protection. It is possible that if those conditions are merely re-stated and industries have to be developed on the basis of those conditions, capital may not be attracted for the development of such industries as the Government want to develop at this time. As I

said, the matter is under consideration and I hope, with the help of the various Departments of Government and the Finance Department in particular, to be able to come to a conclusion on this subject. I cannot anticipate what that conclusion will be at present, but broadly I may state that so far as my Department is concerned, our ideas are running on the line of making a little liberalisation in the conditions of the Fiscal Commission so as to encourage the production of those commodities which we feel essential for war needs.

Sir, Honourable Members would have noticed that an announcement was made recently by the Honourable the Finance Member, in another place, regarding the possible constitution of a Board of Scientific and Industrial Research, which could take up the question of such research as may have to be carried on urgently for the development of such industries as the Government may want to bring into existence. The lines on which this Board will be established, the kind of work that it will do, the personnel of the Board, I hope to announce by the beginning of the next week. I should gratefully acknowledge the liberal assistance that has been given to me by the Honourable the Finance Member who has placed a sum of five lakhs at my disposal both for the constitution of this Board and for disbursing grants and subsidies or scholarships to those research scholars who are spread all over the country and to whom may be allotted the task of conducting such research as we feel essential for the purpose of inaugurating new industries or developing such industries as exist at present but which are handicapped by the lack of essential imported commodities.

**An Honourable Member:** Will it be a recurring grant?

**The Honourable Diwan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar:** The grant of five lakhs is for this year.

Next, Sir, I would like to refer to a more general question that has been raised by my friend, Mr. Chapman-Mortimer. He emphasised the need for imported goods into this country and stressed its importance from two points of view. First, that our revenue system was so based, our taxation policy—the policy of indirect taxation—was so based that without a good deal of customs revenue, the machinery of administration from the financial point of view will break down. That aspect of the question I shall leave to my Honourable colleague, the Finance Member. But there was another aspect of the question even more interesting which I am glad he referred to and which I should like to take this opportunity of giving my views upon. He stated that the export of commodities from this country was inextricably connected with the question of the import of commodities from other countries. I fully share that view. There can be no one-way traffic with reference to trade. If we want to export our commodities, we must import commodities from other countries. If we want to keep up the very favourable position that we have with reference to exportable goods, we must realise that to a certain extent there ought to be freedom for importing goods from other countries into India. There is no use of relying upon the fact that our products are required by every other country, that we export agricultural products, that jute, for instance, is a monopoly with which no country can help doing business, and that, therefore, our position as an exporting country is absolutely assured whatever line of policy we adopt with reference to either the character of

[Diwan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar.]

goods that we import or the quantum of goods that we import from other countries. I very respectfully differ from that view if it is put forward by any responsible commercial organisation or economic authority. There can be no question of self-sufficiency in these matters. It seems to me, even as the world is situated today, that exports and imports are the obverse and the reverse of the same picture and that without the one the other is impossible and the vital need for India to be an exporting country, a large exporting country, is obvious. My Honourable friends who have been speaking in the name of the agriculturist will be the first to realise that if export markets are cut off, it will mean absolute ruination to the vast millions and millions of agriculturists in this country.

Sir, my Honourable friend then drifted to the question of increased trade between India and the United Kingdom.

**Maulana Zafar Ali Khan** (East Central Punjab: Muhammadan): The question is one of industrialisation of India.

**The Honourable Diwan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar:**

My Honourable friend then referred to the question of increased trade between the United Kingdom and India. Well, Sir, this question has so often been connected with political considerations that I do not want to prejudice the issue by importing such considerations. But at the present time, there are practical considerations which I should like to place before this House and before the commercial public in general. There are practical reasons why import from the United Kingdom should be more resorted to than ever before. That practical consideration is merely this, that shipping facilities, priorities and all those other factors in which the Government of this country can help the trader are only possible and can only be done with reference to products that are coming from the United Kingdom or from some of the Dominions of His Majesty. I would, therefore, like to convey to the commercial interests in this country my own belief that it will be to their best advantage if now and even more so in the coming months they resolve to place their orders within the orbit of the British Commonwealth of Nations as far as possible while they of course do not ignore the trading interests of other friendly nations.

There was one last point which Mr. Chapman-Mortimer referred to and that was the question of export licenses, and he wanted to know on what basis this was being worked. One of the greatest difficulties that the Commerce Department had in framing regulations with reference to export licenses was the consciousness that to a certain extent the trader would be hampered, would have difficulties placed in his way, but the overwhelming considerations of war and the necessities of the war were factors which influenced us in coming to this decision. On the narrow issue that has been raised, I may point out that it is not necessary for an export licensee to have a formal order in his pocket before he applies for his quota. There are two classes of export licensees: First, the regular shippers who have been shipping before, the established shippers and who therefore can have their quota readily because it is based on the averages of the previous two or three years as the case may be. When they apply for their quota on that calculation they are readily granted the licenses for the amount

that they have to export, but they are told that they must produce the actual order by the fifteenth of the second month in the quarter for which they have been given this quota. As my Honourable friend knows this quota is based on a quarterly basis. They can apply for the quota at any time without producing any order of regular sale or a formal sale, and they will be given licenses for that amount, but within the 15th of the second month, they have to produce the actual order of sale; otherwise we will be merely giving quotas for a man who may not do business, and, thereby, some other person will be injured or hampered by the lack of that facility.

Let me now turn just for one moment to my old and honoured friend, Sir Ziauddin Ahmad, with whom on another side of the House I confess I was in a much more comfortable position. My Honourable friend referred to the Tariff Board, to the Fiscal Commission Report and to the recommendation in particular which the Fiscal Commission made, that from time to time there may be a review of the position of the protected industries. He has specially singled out the Tata steel industry to show that the Government did not carry out their purpose and had allowed the protection to be continued when perhaps it was not necessary or at any rate not necessary at the level which had been adopted by the Government and by this House. My Honourable friend knows that it is a very old controversy whether there should be a permanent Tariff Board or whether there should be these *ad hoc* committees. It is equally an old controversy which he has raised on several occasions and which distinguished predecessors of mine in this side have answered whether the Tariff Board should merely examine the schemes for the protection of industry or should also go into the question of how far protection granted continues to be justified during the period it was granted.

**Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad:** Both.

**The Honourable Diwan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar:** I had hoped within the very first few weeks after taking charge of reviving that question, because I personally was interested in the solution of that question. But again war broke out and the Tariff Board reports and all questions connected with it had necessarily to be put in cold storage.

But there are one or two considerations which I should like to place before the House. In other countries, the United States of America, for instance, the Tariff Board makes a report for the protection of an industry, and very often there is no time limit fixed at all and the duty is cast by the Act on the Tariff Board itself to scrutinise from time to time how this policy of protection or how the actual tariff wall raised is working and to make recommendations to the Government with reference to the level of duties. In this country we have adopted the system of protection for short periods, making it possible for the Government to institute periodic enquiries into the position of the industry and make recommendations. I believe that the steel industry is one of the very few industries that has been given a period of seven years protection, other industries have been given much shorter periods of protection.

My Honourable friend, Mr. Ramsay Scott, referred just now to one instance where every three years or so, the roots of the industry are dug up over and over again and the position of the industry is examined. Now.

[Diwan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar.]

I should like my Honourable friend to consider in view of these short periodic investigations and enquiries that are made into the industry whether he would further handicap the industry by almost annual revision or whether it is fair to the industry concerned to give it a certain limited time wherein it can adjust itself, rationalise its own industry, if I may use that very happy, that very unconvincing phrase and to see how far the industry can organise itself before the next enquiry. That is the only consideration—without prejudging the issue of either a permanent tariff board or of giving powers to the Tariff Board to conduct these investigations—that is the only point I should like to raise before the House and present it to my Honourable friends. I do not think, Sir, I will be justified in taking up any more time of the House.

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** Sir, the points on which my Honourable friend, the Mover of this cut motion, desired to elucidate the attitude of the Government have largely been dealt with by my Honourable Colleague and I think the House will agree with me that he has shed a good deal of light on the immediate questions which face us during the war.

A discussion on taxation policy is at any time a difficult subject for a Finance Member to participate in. It is well-known that taxes  
 1 P.M. are usually determined under the stress of immediate necessity. Although I entirely agree with the view that the actions taken in emergencies should be related to a general policy, it is obviously difficult and dangerous to attempt to formulate too precisely the terms of that policy when one may have to adjust oneself to the needs of a rapidly changing situation. Standing as I do now at this point of time when the future is dark with uncertainty and when many emergencies which cannot be foreseen may arise in the next few months or years, it would obviously be highly imprudent of me to lay down for myself a policy to which I can undertake to adhere closely. I claim that the circumstances are such that it is inevitable that any one in my position must retain for himself a large measure of discretion to deal with situations as they arise. But having said that, Sir, I am free to admit that many of the objections which have been raised in different quarters this morning have considerable force and that at a suitable time they would call for serious consideration. I refer particularly to the problem to which speaker after speaker has drawn attention, and not for the first time, to the overlapping of Central and provincial taxation. That, Sir, is a matter which has given continuous and deep anxiety to the Government of India; and I should like at this moment to pay a tribute to the insight of my distinguished predecessor in this respect. For he it was who realised from the earliest moment that this was going to prove one of the most difficult and perplexing aspects of the new constitution in working. He endeavoured at the very first occasion that he could get into contact with the Finance Ministers of the provinces to evolve a working basis for the Centre and the units. If he did not succeed, Sir, I have the very best reasons for knowing that it was not for lack of trying. I myself had intended, if circumstances had been different and if a conference of Provincial Finance Ministers could have been held early this year, to make another effort to secure co-operation on this subject. But the development of the political situation, of which the House is aware, frustrated that intention. I would, however, like to emphasise this point. The attitude of the Centre in regard to this matter

is an acute realisation of the difficulties and dangers inherent in an unco-ordinated policy. But the political circumstances hitherto have been such that the attitude of various units has, I regret to say, not been one of whole-hearted co-operation. To put the situation plainly, the attitude of many provinces has been that the only solution which they were prepared to contemplate is one which resulted in an immediate transference of large sums of revenue to the provinces. That, Sir, is a solution which, obviously, was not compatible with the maintenance of the financial stability of the Centre, and, therefore, a solution which the Centre could not accept.

The constitution itself contains certain provisions which enable the conflicting claims of the Centre and the Provinces to be adjusted on the basis of a harmonious policy of co-operation between the two. There are provisions which contemplate that the Centre would levy taxation to be handed over to the Provinces or that it would share the proceeds of Central taxation. Many of the Provinces were not disposed to await the development of that type of solution. They were determined to exercise their own powers of taxation and immediately to assume to themselves additional revenues. In that situation, Sir, the only relief which the unfortunate taxpayer could have obtained would have been by an immediate remission of Central taxation, and that, in its turn, would have meant severe financial difficulties for the Centre. I hope, Sir, that when the constitution resumes its normal working,—and I agree with my Honourable friend, Mr. Aney, that this problem is part of the larger constitutional problem,—we shall find ourselves in a position to tackle this problem. I said just now that I agree with my friend, Mr. Aney, that it is part of the larger political problem, because, as I have just indicated, the reason why it presented so much difficulty was that there was not an atmosphere of full co-operation. It was because certain units did not accept the necessities of the Centre and were not prepared to proceed on a basis which recognised both sides of the question. So long as there is not an atmosphere of co-operation so long it is obvious that a question of this kind cannot be solved. No constitution however carefully framed can exclude the possibility of overlapping jurisdiction in the fiscal sphere; and if we are to be driven constantly to the courts for decision of problems no finality can ever be reached. I am sorry, Sir, to have taken so long in dealing with this point but it seemed that this question of overlapping jurisdictions was an aspect of this motion which, apart from the questions posed to my Honourable Colleague, was the one which most concerned the House.

My Honourable friend, Mr. Ramsay Scott, delivered himself of a tirade on the same subject. I think the case of the sugar industry illustrates what I have said as fully as any other case. It is true that there has been a lack of co-ordination but I claim that that is not the fault of the Government of India and I am not prepared to accept any censure on that subject. I claim that the Government of India were prepared to consider the case in question in a reasonable spirit.

**Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali** (Lucknow and Fyzabad Divisions : Muhamadan Rural) : May I know whose fault was it then?

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman**: The Honourable Member can draw his own inferences. But here again, as in other spheres, the solution could not come by sacrifices only on the part of the Central Government. At the same time, I do not wish to anticipate what I shall have to say when the question of the sugar excise comes up in connection with the Finance

[Sir Jeremy Raisman.]

Bill. I am not prepared to accept the proposition that the commodity sugar is over-taxed and that brings me to one and the only other matter which I should like to deal with in the few minutes left; and that is, the relation of a Central Excise Policy to the policy in regard to the import trade. At the stage when requests are being made to the Central Government to assist in the development of indigenous industry, glowing visions are frequently held out of the revenue which will accrue to the Centre and the general economic benefit which will accrue to the country from the substitution of indigenous products for imported commodities. It has been accepted as a principle by the Fiscal Commission that the use of excises in order to make up for losses of revenue is not only legitimate but desirable in order to prevent the taxpayer from being laid under an excessive contribution. In the case of the sugar industry we have an example, which, as my Honourable friend, Mr. Ramsay Scott, himself explained, shows how the imports of a commodity can be almost entirely replaced by indigenous production. I agree that the sugar industry has reached the stage at which it commands practically the whole of the Indian market. Mr. Ramsay Scott said that we must be considered to have reconciled ourselves to the loss of over eight crores of revenue at the time when we embarked on the policy of protection of the sugar industry. That I entirely deny. It seems to me that it is preposterous to suggest that Government by embarking on the protection of the sugar industry in any way forewent its right to tax so suitable a commodity as sugar, a commodity which in all countries, as I explained in another place, the other day, invariably carries an important tax. It does not matter whether the sugar consumed in this country is derived from abroad or is produced in this country. At the moment, and looking at it from the purely financial point of view, I am entitled to see whether sugar is a commodity which can suitably bear an indirect tax, and I come to the conclusion, as most other countries have done, that it is admirably suited to bear such a tax. When the sugar industry comes forward and claims that it should be exempt from this fundamental and vital revenue consideration, I say that it is making a claim which is entirely unwarrantable. If the establishment of the sugar industry were to have meant that the Government should for all time forego its claim to this important revenue, then I say that no fiscal commission and no tariff board would have been prepared to recommend that the protection of the industry should be proceeded with. A calculation of the amount which the revenues would have to forego on that basis would have resulted in astronomical figures . . . . .

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It is now quarter past one of the clock. The question is . . . . .

**Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer**: Sir, I want leave of the House to withdraw my motion.

The motion was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock

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

*Grievances of Government Employees.*

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Sir, I move:

“That the demand under the head ‘Executive Council’ be reduced by Rs. 100.”

**Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta):** What Number?

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** It is Demand No. 12, at page 3, No. 21 in the Final List. The object of moving this cut is to discuss the grievances of Government employees. I have sent in motions from Nos. 19 to 23 to discuss various questions affecting the interest of employees, and I shall discuss the subject under all these cuts in one speech. The first point which I should like to make is that, although Dr. Gregory, the Economic Adviser to the Government of India, and the Honourable the Finance Member have admitted that there is a rise of 40 per cent . . . .

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** In the price of articles of export.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** In the prices of articles of export, and although the prices of all other articles of internal consumption tend to advance in unison with the prices of exported articles, the Government of India have taken no steps whatever to increase the salaries of their employees. Admittedly the cost of living has gone up. I had referred to this question during the Railway Budget. The Government of India had then stated that they had not reduced the salaries of their employees, although in their view the cost of living had gone down. That was their argument for not giving any war allowance. I said, on that occasion, that that argument might be a good one in the case of those Government employees who were already enjoying a proper standard of life, but in the case of those employees whose standard of life was inadequate the argument did not hold good. You cannot reduce the standard of life of your employees beyond a certain limit, and if there is a threat of its being lowered, then the Government of India must take steps to give them increases in their salaries so that their standard of life may not go down.

Sir, the Government of India a few years ago introduced new scales of pay. I do not know why they did it. It may be that they did it because the prices had gone down. But, Sir, there are services in which new scales were not introduced at all. Naturally, the services who were not paid new scales of pay were the ruling services. If you study the payments made to the Government employees who rule over us from the Governor General down to the Under Secretary, and from Members of the Executive Council in the provinces to District Magistrates and Assistant Magistrates, no new scales of pay were introduced. I suppose only in their case the prices had not gone down. The fact is that those people who have got the Government in their hands do not like to make any sacrifices. It is easier for them to ask others to make sacrifices. Sir, I would like the Government of India to consider whether, at least in the case of new entrants, they should not give war allowances in order that their standard of life should not go down.

[Mr. N. M. Joshi.]

Sir, I have got many grievances to refer to, and so I shall now refer to another grievance of the inferior servants of the Government of India. That subject I have placed before the Assembly on several occasions. I think in 1937 I moved a Resolution asking that the pension rules applicable to inferior servants should be the same as those applicable to superior and subordinate servants. The Finance Member of those days admitted that at least in some cases the rules deserved to be looked into. For instance, a man belonging to the inferior service does not get half pension; his maximum pension is Rs. 8. If his salary is Rs. 20, ordinarily he should get Rs. 10, but he is told he shall not get more than Rs. 8. Then, Sir, ordinarily members of the subordinate service who get fat salaries and, therefore, live longer, get half pension after 25 years' or at least 30 years' service, but in the case of inferior servants, they become entitled to what is called full pension of Rs. 8 only after forty years' service. Not only that they must serve for 40 years, but they must also become 60 years old. I am told on the authority of people who have collected statistics that on account of the low scales of pay which the Government of India are paying to their inferior servants, they do not live as long as their other servants, with the result that a very small number of people who belong to the inferior services enjoy pensions sufficiently long. In the matter of pensions, Sir, the Government of Bombay have progressed far beyond what the Government of India have done, and the Government of India's inferior servants in the Bombay Presidency feel that, while those people who are the employees of the Government of Bombay get better rates of pension and better terms, they, employees of the Government of India, are treated very shabbily. I asked a question last year whether the Honourable the Finance Member could at least take steps to revise the rules relating to the maximum qualifying service which he himself had admitted deserved to be looked into, and I do not know what the Government of India have done.

Then, Sir, I have got to place before the Assembly some specific complaints of the employees of the Government of India of the Imperial Secretariat here. They have got inferior servants belonging to various categories, peons, dufftries, duffedars and Jamadars. Sir, the members of this service get very low salaries. You will be surprised to know that in Delhi they pay Rs. 14 a month and those people who are on new scales get Rs. 14 and end there. Those who belong to the old scales get Rs. 14 and rise to Rs. 16. The first grievance of the inferior servants of the Government of India Secretariat is that their salaries are low. Some of the members belonging to the inferior service of the Government of India Secretariat are given some allowance. Some of them get Rs. 3-4-0 and others get Rs. 4-8-0. I am told that the Government of India have now decreed that as the headquarters of the Government of India will be permanently located in Delhi the allowance is not necessary. I do not know why this should be done. The present allowance is paid to the inferior servants both when they are in Delhi and when they are in Simla. The allowance has been given to them for more than fifteen years. Merely calling Delhi as the headquarters of the Government of India—I do not know how that makes any difference at all. I could have understood if the allowance had been paid only when they went to Simla. But the allowance is paid when they live in Delhi and also when they live in Simla.

What difference is made by changing the name of the place of the headquarters I do not know. I do not know whether Delhi or Simla is the headquarters of the Government of India. For my purpose it is not necessary, because the allowance is paid at both the places. It is in my judgment very cruel on the part of the Government of India to take away this allowance on a flimsy ground, namely, the mere change of the name of the headquarters. I hope the Government of India will not do such a thing. It is wrong, and it is wrong especially at this time when the prices have gone up, when the cost of living has gone up. Besides this grievance, some of them have got a grievance about pensions. I have already spoken about pensions. I would like the Government of India to give pensions to all their inferior servants according to the same rules as are followed in the case of subordinate services and superior services.

I would like to say a word or two about the employees of the Government of India in the Postal Department. There again, I would like to restrict myself generally to what are known as inferior servants. In the case of the subordinate servants of the Postal Department, my demand is the same, namely, that there should be a war allowance given to those people who do not enjoy an adequate standard of life. I would like to make a request to the Department, namely, that they should examine the conditions under which their inferior servants are working. I am told that the Government of India do not make any distinction between those people who work on the plains and those who work on the hilly tracts. The postmen who have to distribute letters in villages and plains have not to undergo as much exertion as those postmen who have to walk several miles in hilly tracts. I would like the Government of India to consider the case of those people who have to travel every day long distances in hilly tracts. Then, as regards distances, I think the Government of India are somewhat cruel. Every postman is expected to walk every day ten miles. I do not know what will happen to me if I begin to walk ten miles every day and distribute letters.

**An Honourable Member:** Very good exercise.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** It may be a very good exercise but it is too good. I would like the Director General of Posts to consider this question. Ten miles is the minimum that has been prescribed. In the case of some postmen they have to walk twelve miles, and in the case of some others they have to walk fourteen miles. Ten miles is the minimum. I mention specially the case of those people who have to walk on hilly tracts. I shall mention the case of runners. The postmen have to walk ten miles, sometimes twelve and sometimes even fourteen, on the plains. But the runners have to run. Ordinarily, if a man has to walk, he can do ten miles in a day, but if you are asked to run, ordinary common sense will tell you that you cannot ask a man to run ten miles. (Interruption.) Ten miles is too long a distance for a man to run every day. For a race, you can run once in a way ten miles. In this case also ten miles is the minimum beat. Some runners have to do twelve miles, some fourteen miles. I would like the Department to consider this question from a humanitarian point of view and reduce the distance which these runners have to run every day.

[Mr. N. M. Joshi.]

Then, there is the question of the shortage of staff and over-work. These two points are really two aspects of the same question. The Government of India are very rightly opening new Post Offices in villages and also in towns. Unfortunately, although they open new Post Offices and some of the Post Offices are well patronised, the Government of India do not increase the staff. They keep the staff on a temporary basis for some years, and they go on waiting till the staff goes on agitating, and when they find that the agitation has reached the extreme limit they make some of the staff permanent. I think it is wrong for the Government of India to keep people temporary and hanging about without any permanency in the department longer than one year. After a year the man should be made permanent. But they keep these people on a temporary basis. I hope the Government will change their policy. I hope the Government of India will also appoint a sufficient number of people so that there will be no over-work.

**Mr. Deputy President** (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The Honourable Member has got two minutes more.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** I shall not detain the House much longer. The grievances which I have to place before the Assembly are too many, but I shall content myself with requesting the Government of India to consider these grievances very sympathetically. I would like them to look into those grievances very carefully and to do justice to a class of their employees who are not sufficiently educated to carry on an agitation on their own behalf and who suffer on that account. Moreover, I would like to say a word to the Members of the Legislative Assembly. I would like them to take some interest in the case of these low paid employees of the Government of India.

**Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** My Honourable friend, Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad, says, "hear, hear". Let me tell him that among these employees of the Government of India, especially in Delhi, there is a very large section of Muslims. Dr. Sir Ziauddin belongs to the Muslim League Party and I would like his Party to take some interest in this subject. It is no good blaming people for keeping contact with the Muslim masses. We are going to keep contact with the Muslim poor people. If you prevent us from getting into contact with the Muslim poor people, the best thing is that you should keep contact with them. If not, you should not prevent us from keeping contact with them. I hope that the Members of all Parties in this House will take interest in the case of these poorest employees of the Government of India.

**Mr. Deputy President** (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Executive Council' be reduced by Rs. 100."

**Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi:** Sir, this morning we listened to an inspired speech by the Mover of the cut motion of the European Group.

**Mr. J. D. Boyle** (Bombay: European): Who inspired it?

**Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi:** That explanation I will give you in the lobby. In the afternoon, Mr. Deputy President, we have listened to the speech of my Honourable friend—a labour staff. His inner man failed him. My friend's inner man failed him because he could not give us the stage thunders; when making his speech, he knew that he had no case. Now, what is the case he has made out for this Honourable House to consider: poor labourers of the Government of India, menial servants, inferior servants—those are the words he has used.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Not my words. I used a better word.

**Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi:** I am only quoting you and particularly you mentioned, pointing out to my Honourable friend, Sir Ziauddin Ahmad, 'Bear in mind that large numbers of those employed in Delhi are Mussalmans'.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** They are.

**Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi:** He said to Sir Ziauddin 'Don't oppose me. Support me as you are a Muslim and you belong to the Muslim League Party'. My Honourable friend's first grievance was that, as the Honourable the Finance Member said that things are going up . . .

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Prices.

**Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi:** Prices are going up. Therefore, these inferior servants of the Government of India and everybody else—shall I say the Government of India employees . . . .

(Here the Honourable Member was engaged in conversation with Mr. Joshi.)

**Mr. Deputy President** (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta). The Honourable Member had better address the Chair.

**Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi:** . . . should get a war allowance.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** He does not want the other cuts to come.

**Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi:** Mr. Deputy President, is it fair? He took 15 minutes.

**An Honourable Member:** 20 minutes.

**Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi:** . . . . and he does not allow me to speak even for five or six minutes.

**Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani** (Tirhoot Division: Muhammadan): We are hearing you patiently.

**Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi:** He wants the employees of the Government of India to get a war allowance. The prices of commodities have gone up. I don't think the prices of foodstuffs have yet gone up to that height . . . .

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** You have got lots of money. You don't go to the *baniya*.

**Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi:** You mean to borrow money?

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** I don't know whether you borrow or not. I mean the grocer's shop.

**Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi:** The newspapers will give you the prices of the commodities.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** Come to some substantial point.

**Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi:** What did he say?

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** Nothing wrong.

**Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi:** The various chambers considered this question . . . .

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** The Government of India themselves considered this question. The Finance Member has put it down in his speech. Why don't you take him as your authority. 40 per cent. rise of prices of articles.

**Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi:** Take for instance expensive cigars—50 per cent. rise. Now cigar is an article. Has that anything to do with the inferior staff of the Government of India that they should get war allowance on that account?

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** You have not read his speech.

**Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi:** I have. Here is the speech. Do you want to see that? What I want to impress on the House is this. We realise that the inferior servants have got fixed pay. Whether that pay is too little or too big or too high, I am not questioning that, but they should be entitled to an allowance if the prices really go up. Immediately after the war, three months after—we had a conference in Calcutta . . . .

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** What is the use of saying this. It refers to jute.

**Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi:** I am not discussing jute. My friend will not allow me . . . .

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** On a point of order. I see that there is more or less a dialogue going on between two Members. Is that allowable?

**Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta):** Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi.

**Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi:** The various chambers considered the position because we felt that if any increase should be given to the employees, it should be for all—a general rate to be accepted by all concerned. Ultimately it was felt that the time has not yet come. It is not too high yet but if the war goes on and if after another few months it is necessary, certainly that point will have to be considered. It is only three or four months.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** You won't be here.

**Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi:** My Honourable friend can come before this House next year.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Why not now?

**Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi:** Because I feel that they are not entitled to the excess amount which you want to give them now. The prices have not gone up, so far at any rate as food-stuffs are concerned; that is actually we have now to consider only the point about foodstuffs.

**An Honourable Member:** . . . . and clothing.

**Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi:** . . . . and clothing. There is the controlling body throughout the provinces, viz., the Provincial Governments. They are reducing the prices, they are sending men who want to profiteer to jail, they are fining people every day, and they are keeping down the prices at a fair price level. So my friend cannot have any grievance whatsoever; in any province they have not allowed the prices to go up.

**An Honourable Member:** Question.

**Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi:** It is no use arguing; the point is that a strict control is being maintained in the provinces, and whenever they find any man who profiteers, that man gets the penalty that he deserves. Sir, then my Honourable friend goes on to the postmen. He shed crocodile tears because the postman has to walk ten miles. What a shame! Why should not he get a motor car or a motor cycle . . . .

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** That is the right thing to do . . . . .

**Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi:** . . . . to deliver a few, four or five letters, which have to be delivered in the course of the whole day? After that, he goes on to the postal runners. How cruel the Government are! They get the runners to run, not walk, and ten miles a day they have to run! Sir, my Honourable friend spends the whole of his life-time in Bombay, Delhi and Calcutta . . . .

**An Honourable Member:** . . . . and Geneva.

**Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi:** . . . . and Geneva at the Government expense . . . .

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Well, Sir, not always at Government expense.

**Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi:** . . . and he has no experience of mufassil life. Mr. Deputy President, you and I come from East Bengal; you have landed properties and I have too.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** That is the worst of it.

**Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi:** God has given us landed properties. What do we do to collect our rents? We employ peons: do they not walk ten and twenty miles and collect the rents and bring them into the Kutcherry? Are they not paid to do that? Is not the postman being paid? Does he not get a salary to deliver those letters? Our peons, Sir, walk almost seven miles an hour. Surely our servants who go into the mufassil to collect rents have to go for miles to collect rents. (Interruptions.)

**Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta):** There should be no interruptions. The Honourable Member has got only two minutes more.

**Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi:** Mr. Deputy President, it is difficult to proceed with so many interruptions from all sides.

**An Honourable Member:** Why don't you close your ears to all that?

**Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi:** Next time I will do that. Sir, my Honourable friend made four points in his speech. The first was to give a war allowance. The second was pensions and higher pay, as Rs. 14 is not enough. The third was, why should Government discontinue allowances to the Secretariat staff because they have not to run up to Simla? So, he said, better give that allowance. Then, next the postmen walking ten miles, and as regards the runners, he said that running shortens their average life-span . . . .

**An Honourable Member:** . . . . and his girth.

**Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi:** Sir, if the Honourable the Finance Member concedes to the proposals that he has made, then the Excess Profits Tax will have to be raised to 75 per cent. I oppose the cut motion.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** Sir, I rise in the interests of the poor. There is no question of Hindu and Muslim with me.

**Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad:** Question.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** I am not going to tell the Honourable Sir Ziauddin Ahmad that you should have more of Muhammadans in the service, but I say, Muhammadans or Hindus, they are on the same basis on this point, so do not raise the question of Hindu-Muhammadan or any communal questions here. Therefore, let us take this as a joint question and join hands with Mr. Joshi in securing some relief for these poor people who are suffering so much. The first point that arises is whether the prices of food have at present risen or not. I was glad to learn from the Honourable Sir

Abdul Halim Ghuznavi that the prices have not risen, but the truth is perhaps that the prices have not risen in his case, because, it may be, he may be getting his food at concessional prices, or, as an Honourable Member is hinting to me, he does not pay for food, but I do not go so far. Any way, he is a gentleman who is so well-known, is an M. L. A., who wields an influence in coal mines and others, and he says the prices have not risen. Well, he may not be touched by the rise in prices, but the fact cannot be concealed from anybody that the prices have risen and if they are affecting anybody more, it is these poor people.

Now, there were two cuts by my friend, Mr. Joshi, Nos. 20 and 21, and when he at once came down to No. 21, I wondered whether he was also letting go the case of these peons and duffries and others, but I was glad again when he took up the point as a general issue and under that general cut he has spoken of the sufferings of these poor people also. Now, he has placed before us some cases in order to show that justice should be done to these men. The first point that he made or rather the first reason that he gave for the increase was on account of these higher prices. The second, he says, is, put them on the same level as they are in the provinces. Why should it be that they being the Central subordinate servants and inferior servants at the Centre, why should they get lesser emoluments or allowances than what they are getting in Bombay and other places; and, therefore, that there ought to be a uniform system, because, after all, they are all peons, and their conditions everywhere are the same,—unless it be that they get their food at certain places at lower prices and at other places differently, and then it may be that a difference might be made, but Delhi is costly, so is Simla, therefore these people should, on the contrary, be given certain concessions and certain increases. What, however, I fear is going to be done now is that instead of giving them anything, their pay or rather their allowances are being cut down. Is that fair, I ask?

Now, it is necessary to give a few details with regard to what their complaints are. Let me take up the first, the case of the peons. Peons at present in the old scale have been getting a pay of Rs. 14 to Rs. 16, but now the new scale is to come into force. Government are going to reduce their pay. Is there any justice for doing this? The new scale of pay is Rs. 14 only without any rise. They must die on this pay. If it is correct, then I appeal to the Honourable the Finance Member to be a little more sympathetic to them. Then, there is the question of the pension. They get now Rs. 8 as pension, but I am told and I would like to know from the Honourable the Finance Member if it is a fact that their pension is going to be stopped altogether.

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** That is not a fact.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** Therefore, my fear is removed and they will be thankful to the Honourable the Finance Member on that account.

Then, Sir, I come to the allowances. The question of these allowances is applicable to all the inferior servants. It is a question that the Honourable the Finance Member should take into his own hands and consider whether any injustice is being done to them. Even from those days when the seat of Government was in Calcutta, these inferior servants used to get certain allowances. The peons used to get Rs. 3-4-0 a month, with the result that it was a sort of permanent addition to their pay of Rs. 14 to Rs. 16. Now, it is said that that allowance is going to be removed. I wish

[Mr. Lalchand Navalrai.]

the Honourable the Finance Member could give me a reply that that was also not a fact. But if he is not in a position to give me that reply, I hope he will look into this matter, otherwise it will be a great hardship. It might be said that this allowance is going to be stopped, because the Simla exodus has been curtailed. But, all the same, the inferior servants will be stationed both in Delhi and in Simla for some part of the year, and, therefore, there is no reason why their allowances should be stopped. Even when the seat of Government was in Calcutta, they used to get these allowances although they were not stopping in Simla throughout the year. Sir, these allowances have become their right as they have been getting them for the last 25 or more years.

I now come to other inferior servants. Take the daftaries. Under the old scale, they used to get from Rs. 15 to Rs. 35. Under the new scale, they will get from Rs. 15 to Rs. 30. They used to get an allowance of Rs. 4-8-0 a month which is now going to be stopped. Their case is on all fours with that of the chaprassis and they should also be given this allowance.

Then, I come to the Jamadars. They get from Rs. 25 to Rs. 30. Their grievance at present is about the pension. Their pension is only Rs. 12 a month instead of half the pay which they used to get before. Mr. Joshi and several other Honourable Members have been advocating that their pensions should be revised and increased, whereas now they are going to be curtailed. Their allowance is also going to be removed. This is a great hardship.

Then, I come to the Dafadars. Their pay is from Rs. 17 to Rs. 22. In their case, the pension is Rs. 8 only. Why should they not get half their pay as pension? There should not be any invidious distinction in the case of smaller Government servants and those servants who stand on a higher pedestal and get half their pay as their pension. Do not grudge these inferior servants these small concessions, but do them some good.

**The Honourable Diwan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar:**  
For all Government servants!

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** Not so much for those servants who get fat salaries and put by so much in their bank accounts.

**The Honourable Diwan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar:**  
Invidious distinction!

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** Then, let us have a limit at Rs. 500 a month at the top.

With regard to these Dafadars, the complaint is the same in respect of the allowances. Sir, we are concerned more or less with the subordinate and inferior servants. The bigger servants, who are really bigger masters, take care of themselves. They do not want our help. They have the treasury in their own hands and they get their support from a higher place, namely, the Secretary of State for India. But so far as these subordinate and inferior servants are concerned, their grievances come into our hands and we request the Members of the Treasury Benches to consider their cases favourably. Please do not take away what they have been getting so long.

Then, I come to the Postal Department. Small clerks and the peons and runners also require a revision of their pay and their allowances. Something more should be given to them. Sir, I do not want to take any more time of the House, and I finish my speech by saying that this is a very serious matter and I trust the House will pass this cut motion.

**Sir Gurunath Bewoor (Government of India : Nominated Official) :** Sir, I should like to intervene in this debate only to deal with those points raised by the Honourable the Mover of this motion which relate to the Post and Telegraph Department. Those questions which affect all the servants of the Central Government including those of the post and telegraph department will be dealt with by the subsequent speaker on this side of the House. My Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, referred to the hardship involved in postmen and runners being required to walk or run ten miles a day. Sir, I am afraid my Honourable friend was speaking of the hardships judging them from his own personal point of view. I have seen my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, going out for a walk in the evenings after his day's labours here and probably when he had walked about a mile or so, he felt extremely exhausted. He probably judged that when he felt so exhausted by a walk of a mile, what the postmen or the runners must feel after walking or running ten miles. I am afraid his standard is somewhat misleading. We must judge the work involved by the class of persons who perform this work. I have no doubt that if a postman was asked to sit in a chair from morning ten o'clock till the evening and if he was asked to write all the time sitting at the desk, he would be absolutely dead beat and consider it a great grievance.

**Mr. F. E. James:** Ask him to sit in this House and be dead.

**Sir Gurunath Bewoor:** The point I wish to make is this, that in fixing the number of postmen for any particular area, we take the general standard of eight hours duty per day and a walk which involves about ten miles a day. In the case of the city postmen, of course, there is no question of their walking ten miles a day. In the bigger cities, they walk about three miles and probably they climb hundreds of steps. But in the case of the village postmen, they generally walk about ten to twelve miles a day, but they do not do it at one stretch. They go from village to village and in each village they probably spend a certain time, one hour or more and they take their meals also at one of the villages. So the ten miles they cover in a day are not always at one stretch. In the case of runners, it is usually five miles at a stretch, then they halt and hand over the mail bag to the next runner or to the Post Office; then they wait for a few hours and take rest and return to the place wherefrom they started. Ten miles walk a day should not be considered extraordinary for a villager. It is not any terrific exertion.

Then, Sir, Mr. Joshi spoke about the inadequacy of staff in the Post Offices. This question has been raised by him before and I have had to tell him that owing to want of funds, we were sometimes unable to give the full staff that was justified. That is no longer the case. I have not got the exact figures with me, but in 1939 up to now, we have increased the number of clerks by over 300 and the number of postmen by nearly 400. We have always been anxious to see that the staff required is always given. When Mr. Joshi talks of the staff being temporary, he must remember that the increase of work in a Post Office is not always necessarily a permanent

[Sir Gurunath Bewoor.]

increase. If, therefore, we increase the staff permanently and the increase of the work ceases to exist, we shall be left with men on our hands and we shall have to employ them unnecessarily. Therefore, the usual procedure is to employ the staff on a temporary basis and watch and see if the work has increased permanently; if so, the staff is made permanent; if not, the temporary staff is got rid of or employed elsewhere in some other office where the work warrants their employment.

I am always full of admiration for my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi's advocacy of the grievances of the employees of the Department and I always listen to his speeches with great care and I am always prepared to take into consideration any genuine grievances that he may bring to my notice. It is quite possible that there may be cases, individual cases where perhaps a runner is asked to run far too many miles. I forgot to mention one particular point—If it is a hilly tract, the runner is not required to cover ten miles a day. It is always reduced somewhat in proportion to the amount of height which he has to climb and then get down on the other side. For example, in the hilly tracts of Kashmir, the runner is not necessarily required to cover ten miles a day.

In conclusion I can only say to Mr. Joshi that I shall always be prepared to listen to any genuine grievance that he may bring to my notice, but I cannot admit that the standards which we have fixed are unreasonable.

**Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani:** Sir, I have full sympathy with the class of men whose cause Mr. Joshi has been pleased to take up today. They have the same flesh and blood as we have, the only difference is that they cannot ventilate their grievances in an effective way. They do not know how to strike. They do not know how to compel their superiors or masters to yield to their requests. They do not belong to that class of employees who have some opportunity of getting *inams* or rewards or other illegal gratifications. Some of these chaprassis are standing here today and they have no opportunity of giving vent to their grievances and troubles. I fail to understand the argument of the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs that it is very difficult to sit in the chair, but that it is very easy to walk or run ten miles a day. It is well-known that these poor classes of people not only attend to their public duty, but they also attend to the private duties of their masters at home. Honourable Members sitting on the Government Benches should be conscious of the fact how much private duties are extracted from these poor chaprassis and menials. They have to yield to their master's words and perform private duties, lest they should lose their jobs otherwise. So they have double grievances.

My Honourable friend has not taken up the case of those who are not in railway services. These poor people employed outside the Railway Department do not get any free passes. Whenever they are asked to go on duty, they hardly get their actual fare. They have to manage their food within two annas daily allowance that they are paid. So far as the Budget this year is concerned, we are aware that in the name of war allowances highly paid officers are paid huge sums of money. These highly paid officers are having additional opportunities of getting more allowances. No where do we find any opportunity for these poor creatures to get any additional allowance. I hope the Government will take into consideration their pitiable case and will do some justice to them. The other day I

heard that a poor employee in the General Post Office, Delhi, was slapped by his higher officer. Such poor people are subject to beating and they have no opportunity even to go to a court of law to vindicate their rights. They have no redress against the actions of fatly paid officers. I cannot say what punishment has been given to the said officer.

Their lot is miserable and they deserve actual sympathy. My friend, Mr. Joshi, appealed to Sir Ziauddin to help him in the matter because there are large numbers of Muslim employees. Well, I do not know how far his calculation is correct but I know that it is only among these runners, chaprassis, *begars* and additional men that the Muslim percentage is made good and nowhere else. These people are our own men and I have every sympathy with their grievances.

**Maulana Zafar Ali Khan:** Sir, I associate myself with the views expressed by my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, and I congratulate my friend, Mr. Lalchand Navalrai, on the excellent way in which he pleaded the cause of these poor people who were the care of the British Government, but whose case, by a bureaucratic irony, has to be pleaded by us instead of the Finance Minister, the Commerce Minister, the Home Minister and the Education Minister. Some friend was telling me the other day that the Moghul Emperors of yore are run down on the score that they loved pageantry and pomp; they loved magnificence and spent millions of rupees on their buildings, and this led to their downfall. The same is the case with the British Government as they also love pageantry. Look at those poor chaprassis who are standing there in their gold cloth? That gold cloth is for showing us that you are the Emperors of India but underneath that gold cloth there is the famished body and gnawing hunger. You pay a chaprassi Rs. 14 a month; you expect him and his family to live on that sum and you grudge him even an increase of Rs. 2. A Mussalman is allowed to have four wives, and if a man has four wives and eight children, do you expect him to live on Rs. 14 a month. Even if a man has only one wife and two children, can he live on Rs. 14 a month? And they are your own servants, the servants of men who roll in millions and talk in billions. Today I was reading in the newspapers that the Governor of Sind from his high pedestal of glory was giving a lecture to the people of Sind and was telling them that under the Provincial Autonomy the Ministers are responsible to the Legislature and the Members of the Legislature are responsible to the people and so it was necessary to have a palatial building for the ordinary people to come and see what was going on, and for that purpose 16 lakhs of rupees are provided for. Here we are faced with a deficit budget and the Government of India, which gives a subsidy of one crore to Sind, do not raise any objection and my Honourable friend, Mr. Lalchand Navalrai, also keeps mum.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** Sir, on a matter of personal explanation, I can only talk here and the question does not arise here. Will the Honourable Member say what the Ministers in other provinces have done?

**Maulana Zafar Ali Khan:** Two wrongs do not make one right. We are talking of Sind and these 16 lakhs. My Honourable friend, Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai, scrapes out 12 lakhs of rupees by imposing a cess on agricultural commodities for the benefit of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. And our Honourable friend, the Finance Member,

[Maulana Zafar Ali Khan.]

scrapes out only eight crores of rupees by taxation and super-taxation; and it does not meet even one day's cost of the war. And here their servants are starving. We talk of these poor men the Jamadars and Daffadars, whose lot is decidedly very hard. I will go one step further as my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, did not proceed so far. What is the lot of the railway employees and clerks who are getting only Rs. 30, Rs. 40, or Rs. 50? I have seen in England a constable getting Rs. 150 a month. Here a constable gets only Rs. 15 a month and they are bound to be corrupt and take bribes. And these poor chaprassis who are standing there in a row would probably like me to speak in Urdu so that they may understand how we are pleading their cause. But, unfortunately, the rules of this House would not permit that.

(Here the Honourable Member proceeded to speak in Urdu.)

**Mr. Deputy President** (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Order, order.

**Maulana Zafar Ali Khan:** Well, Sir, the time has come when the British Government, if they want that there should be no discontent, should revise the scales of pay for these poor people who are their own servants, before doing anything else. Sir, I support the motion.

**Mr. M. S. Aney:** Sir, I do not want to record a silent vote on this motion. Misery wherever it exists must naturally evoke sympathy from every right-thinking man and right-minded person. The case of these poor men who serve their masters so faithfully has been very satisfactorily and eloquently put before us by Mr. Joshi, Mr. Lalchand Navalrai and others. There is one point which strikes me particularly as of great importance. The matter of allowance is one which should be considered, particularly in connection with men drawing such poor salary as Rs. 12 or Rs. 14 a month. The story of a big family to be supported by a man on Rs. 14 as Maulana Zafar Ali has just narrated, is not an exaggerated one. That is exactly the situation. Many of my Honourable friends on the Treasury Benches who come from England do not realise what an Indian family really means. Their idea of a family is a husband and wife with probably one or two children. But in the case of the Indian, whether Muslim or Hindu, and whatever a man's personal law may be, the traditions of joint family exist in the sense of living together. And if there is one earning man a lot of other persons depend on him,—some because they are old and cannot earn themselves and some too young. So that the earning man has to feed and clothe so many people. So with regard to the salary of these people, in times of dearness and famine and other calamities, it is necessary to consider the question of their allowances.

I am sure if the case for an allowance has at any time been unchallengeable and unanswerable, it is in the case of men of this type. They serve us faithfully, and it was rightly pointed out by my Honourable friend, Maulana Zafar Ali Khan, that we ought not to be the persons to plead for them. Those whom they serve should have known these things much better, and I am sure they know them; but there is a procedure without which certain things do not move; and the procedure is this: that that machine cannot move unless a push is given from this side. That is the procedure always. So I am sure we are here to give that necessary

push to make that automobile move, and my friend, Mr. Joshi, has really done us a service in bringing the grievances of these poor men to the notice of this House and for the consideration of those who know these grievances as much as we do. Sir, I support the motion.

**Some Honourable Members:** The question may now be put.

**Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta):** The question is:

“That the question be now put.”

The motion was adopted.

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** Sir, I have listened to a very harrowing account of the tremendous hardships and difficulties under which labour the faithful menials and subordinate staff who live and work around us. I could wish that my friend, Mr. Abdul Ghani, would assist us in the difficult problem of recruitment by coming and haranguing the crowd of candidates which besieges our doors whenever there is a vacancy and would make their flesh creep and their blood run cold with stories of the dreadful conditions under which they will have to labour, because that would greatly facilitate the problems of recruitment. At present our difficulty is that for every vacancy, even in the menial staff, we have enormous numbers of candidates clamouring; and what is more, relations of those who have already undergone these horrible tortures for the better part of a life-time, their sons, brothers and so on clamour to undergo the same frightful experiences. When the reasonable standards of the class from which they are drawn are presumably so much higher than those which they are enabled to enjoy by service under Government, it seems to me extraordinary that there should be so much pressure to enter these services. But, Sir, the recruitment and conditions of service of all staff, and particularly of subordinate and inferior servants must surely be a matter which is regulated very largely by supply and demand. If you get a reasonably qualified type of person by offering a certain pay and conditions, it seems to me obvious that there is nothing very seriously wrong with those conditions. However, it is not my object to put forward the contention that Government should not be a model employer. So I will come to the points that Mr. Joshi raised in detail.

The first one was the question about a war allowance, and I understood him to be putting forward this proposal, not on the basis of what was due to the inferior servants, so-called, but to the large body of Government servants. I do not wish to traverse again the ground which was covered by my Honourable colleague, the Communications Member, in the course of his Railway Budget speech, where he dealt with great care, if I may say so, and very thoroughly with this exceedingly important and difficult problem. I am sure the House will realise that this is a question which involves, not thousands or lakhs, but crores of rupees, that it is a question which does not merely concern one Department of the Central Government or even the Central Government only, or any single Provincial Government—it is a question which has to be considered in relation to the whole body of Government servants in India. When the amounts at stake are of that magnitude, I am sure the House will realise that a question of that kind has to be approached with the utmost care.

[Sir Jeremy Raisman.]

What are the facts? As was pointed out by my Honourable colleague, although there has been an appreciable rise in prices, as compared with the levels before the war, there has certainly not been a rise in the cost of living to the standard which existed at the time when the scales of pay now being drawn by the majority of Government servants were fixed. So, the case rests really on the claim that Government servants should be compensated for a certain fluctuation which has taken place from a rather low level of prices to a level which is not yet as high as the level subsisting when their scales of pay were fixed. Viewed in relation to those facts, I suggest that the case is one which requires a good deal more substantiation than it has yet received. It has been argued that we should not necessarily stand absolutely on a standard of prices, many years old, on which the present scales were fixed. At the same time we could not possibly undertake to compensate Government servants for fluctuations in levels of prices which were not of a really substantial order; and although my friend, Mr. Joshi, has quoted me as saying that there was a forty per cent. rise in the prices of export commodities, he is quite as well aware as I am that there has been nothing approximating to that rise in the cost of living of individuals or of Government servants. Such investigation as has been made into the question indicates that the order of the rise is something nearer ten per cent. and we cannot accept the proposition that an upward fluctuation of ten per cent., even though it may be due to war, must be compensated by an increase in salaries regardless of the history of prices on the basis of which salaries were fixed.

I come now to Mr. Joshi's second point which related to pensions. In the first place, he had a grievance about the fixation of a maximum, which is Rs. 8 in the case of inferior servants. Well, Sir, I cannot say very much on that point except to point out that there are a large number of Government servants whose pension, though it may reach half their salary, is subject to a maximum, and it is a principle which is applied to many individuals in this class. The second point is one on which I have a little comfort to give to my Honourable friend. He has been agitating for some time that the present rule which requires an inferior servant to complete 40 years service before he can draw the maximum pension should be modified. I have, Sir, recently given my attention to this question and have borne in mind the previous hopes which were held out to Mr. Joshi in this connection, and I am glad to be able to inform him that I intend to reduce the period required for the full pension to 35 years, and in addition to this, I intend to change the basis for determining the amount of pension for servants who have completed from 25 up to 35 years' service and enhance the fraction which is applied to their pay in order to determine their pension by substituting 35 for 40 as the denominator in that fraction. I think my friend, Mr. Joshi, will understand what that means. It means that not only will an inferior servant not have to complete 40 years in order to get the maximum pension which is now expressed in 80ths, that is to say, after 40 years he draws 40/80th of his pay subject to his maximum, and after 25 years—he now draws, I think, 25/80th,—he will in future draw 25/70th rising up to 35/70th for that amount of service . . . .

**Mr. F. E. James:** How much will that cost?

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** I am not in a position to calculate the exact effect, but all these changes do amount to quite substantial sums, and I must congratulate my friend, Mr. Joshi, on having secured one of the objects for which he has been agitating.

I now come to his next point which was the question of local allowances to certain members of the Imperial Secretariat. I am sorry that Mr. Joshi was not in the House the other day when I was ready to reply to a question which was put down on this subject, because I should have expected then to have had an opportunity of dealing with this point possibly in reply to supplementary questions from him, but it is a fact that this local allowance was originally granted to compensate the inferior servants for extra expenditure involved in spending six months in Delhi and six months in Simla. That was the sole ground on which this local allowance was originally granted. It was realised that it was a hardship for men of this standard of life to have to shift their establishments twice a year. Now that the bulk of the staff will remain permanently in Delhi, the basis for the grant of the allowance will disappear, and it is natural that the Finance Department should have taken up the question of abolishing this allowance. However, we realise that the complete withdrawal of the allowance will cause considerable hardship, and so we are considering the question of compensating these inferior servants for the loss of the compensation which they formerly received because they had to move between Simla and Delhi. Having ceased to move between Delhi and Simla and ceased to have a claim for that compensation, we now have to compensate them for the loss! Well, we are considering the question of giving them some compensation of that kind.

As regards the migratory staff, that is, those who continue to move to Simla, they will be paid a suitable allowance during their stay in Simla. Then, Sir, my friend, Sir Gurunath Bewoor, dealt with Mr. Joshi's four points which related to the Postal Department . . . . .

**Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** May I ask a question, Sir? Is it not possible to provide cycles to these poor runners who are put to a great deal of trouble? The cycles are very cheap now.

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** I understand, Sir, that the difficulty is that where runners run they cannot use a cycle.

That, Sir, completes all the points which Mr. Joshi brought forward, and that is all I have to say.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Mr. Deputy President, in view of the announcement made by the Honourable the Finance Member making certain concessions to the inferior servants, though really they do not satisfy me, I propose to ask your leave to withdraw this motion.

**Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta):** Has the Honourable Member the leave of the House to withdraw his motion?

**Several Honourable Members:** Yes, yes.

The motion was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

*Indifferent Attitude of the Government towards the Welfare of the Scheduled Castes.*

**Rao Sahib N. Sivaraj** (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I move:

“That the demand under the head ‘Executive Council’ be reduced by Rs. 100.”

Sir, my object in moving this motion is to draw, with such force as I can command, the attention of the Government to the nature of the mind that is brought to bear upon the problems affecting the welfare of the scheduled castes in India. Sir, I know that having regard to my voting strength in this House, I cannot carry through this motion, but I depend not on the strength of numbers to establish my case, but on the justice of my cause which affects the welfare of millions of human beings who, for some unknown reason, are treated as untouchables and even worse than animals in this country.

This attitude of the Government started in the very early stages of the British administration, and the first point that I want to bring before this House is that in dealing with this problem of the scheduled castes, the Britisher whether as a member of the East India Trading Company or, subsequently, as a member of the Government, did not view this question in its proper light. The first mistake that he made was to think that the question of the untouchables was a question which related to Hindu religion, which according to me is not the case. Really speaking, it ought to have been treated as a question of race, and according to us, it can be substantiated from various points of view that this question of untouchability is a matter of racial antagonism rooted deep in history. But the Britisher treated it merely as a matter of Hindu religion. That is not all. He went further and declared a sort of non-intervention and neutrality in matters relating to religion, thereby making it impossible for me and for the Government to do as much as any civilised government would do, for the welfare and happiness of a large section of its own population. I do not know if it is a matter of unwillingness or inability on the part of the Britisher to do this. I do not think it is a case of inability, for when he can put down such immoral customs as sati, infanticide, human sacrifice, etc., I personally think that if he had attempted he should have succeeded in removing untouchability. However, whether it is a matter of unwillingness or inability, the Government cannot escape the charge that it was indifference on their part to leave this question where it was, and I know that it is the root cause of all the subsequent evils and disabilities that we are suffering from.

Having regard to the fact that it is not possible, during the short time at my disposal, to deal with all the aspects of the question, I will content myself with relating to the House some points which will generally show the lack of interest and the callous indifference of this Government. I want to bring to the notice of this House the question of the numbers of my community, namely, the total strength of population of my community. Any layman will be surprised at the fact that the Government of India are not sure of the numbers of our community. They have given various accounts of our population at different stages and at different times, and even the way in which the census is prepared is wrong and because in the initial stages and to start with, when the census is prepared, the majority

of the people who are enumerators or whatever they are called, mostly happen to belong to the higher classes, the census is not prepared in the proper and legitimate way. I know that the enumerators do not get into the *Cheries*, they stand on the roadside and ask people and they put down imaginary figures of men, women and children and send that on. I know that at the time of enquiry by the Simon Commission when it was touring this country before it prepared its report, the question of our numbers was even in doubt, and it is not creditable to the Government of India that they could not give the correct figures, because the figures ranged from 28 millions upwards to 60 or 70 millions. But the really interesting point about it was this. Every one, both the Government and the non-officials, every one was saying that the population of India was increasing by leaps and bounds, and the surprise is that the population of the depressed classes is stated to be going down or that the number has not improved at all. It must be some kind of magic,—I do not know, whether the magic of the Mahatma or the wonderful power of the Government of India—to reduce the numbers of the depressed classes without reducing untouchability itself. It is a point on which I expect the Government of India to be careful in future and to see that the returns of the depressed classes are made properly and recorded properly and that real statistics are given.

The next point I wish to refer to is the question of the educational facilities provided by the Government of India for the depressed classes. In the year 1928 it was very gratifying to find that the late Lala Lajpat Rai, who was a very great and sincere friend of the scheduled castes and who never wanted to use the question of the depressed classes merely as a political lever,—moved an amendment to a Resolution which was brought forward by another equally good friend of the scheduled castes, namely, Mr. Jayakar. The late Lala Lajpat Rai brought in an amendment before the House to set apart a sum of one crore of rupees for providing special facilities for the education of the depressed classes. He said that the chief reason why he brought up such a proposition was that there was such a variety of opinions held and there was such a divergence of procedure adopted in the various provinces towards the question of the scheduled castes that it ultimately became the responsibility of the Government of India to provide special facilities for the education of the depressed classes. Unfortunately, that amendment was, for some reason, withdrawn, probably because of the recalcitrant attitude of the Government of India. I know that the Government of India would bring forward the argument that it was needlessly costly, and that the Government of India could not provide funds. But I can suggest to the Government of India, if they can impose a cess upon the public to meet the expenditure upon certain of their special activities, like the agricultural cess and for animal research,—I can suggest to them, and I do not think it is at all ridiculous, that the Government of India can impose a poll-tax upon all those people who treat us as untouchable, and thus get funds to provide special educational facilities. According to me that works out to be a kind of cess only.

Now, the Government of India have provided special facilities for the education of European children and they spend any amount on that, and they have also shown the same special concern for the education of the Anglo-Indian community, whereas we have been shunted on to the Provincial Governments and to depend on their particular whims and fancies. The trouble in the provinces is that, of late at any rate, this question of depressed classes is sought to be used as a political lever and every one

[Rao Sahib N. Sivaraj.]

whom we want to help us asks us in return a price, and that is political support. Unfortunately, the matter has been complicated on account of the existence of the Poona Pact. Where can we get justice? The whole thing depends upon the support that we can give to the party concerned, and it is in this way that our education is sought to be throttled. Otherwise, as I have indicated, if special facilities had been provided and if special efforts had been made by the Government of India or under their instructions by the Provincial Governments, we should now have been able to produce quite a good number of educated men to take up responsible posts both in the Government offices and outside, and particularly in the Legislatures. I would suggest to the Government of India that it is not yet too late . . . . .

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

. . . . . and perhaps, particularly just now, it is very incumbent upon the Government of India to set apart a good sum of money for affording special educational facilities to the depressed classes, and, if necessary, to appoint a special officer to take care of the education of the depressed classes. Unless that is done, it is impossible for a long, long time for the scheduled castes to come up in the matter of education and there is no use the Government of India turning round and saying, "You have no education, you have no organisation", and so on and so forth, and I know what sort of organisation the various communities and various political parties in this country have. So far as the British Government itself is concerned, I think its organisation has really the British gun behind it and so far as the Hindus are concerned, the real organisation behind them is their supremacy of caste and as for the Muslims the real organisation behind them is Islam and I think the only organisation that I can think of is my universal suffering in this country.

There is another point which I want to bring out about the indifference of the Government of India. They make large grants by way of rural reconstruction to the various provinces and they do not know how all these monies are utilised in the provinces and I do not know what control they exercise in the matter of these rural reconstruction grants but I can never think of a greater programme of rural reconstruction and a more humane programme of rural reconstruction in this country than the improvement of the lot of the scheduled castes who happen to be a considerable proportion of the population of these rural parts. I do wish that the Government of India in future at any rate will, while making these grants, give a direction to the Provincial Governments that these rural reconstruction funds should, as far as possible, be utilised to provide better amenities for the scheduled classes. I know some Provincial Governments have started by providing radio sets and other amenities in the villages and I am perfectly certain and I am sure every Member of this House who has visited a village will agree with me that the *Cheris* or the residential areas of the scheduled castes would have never seen a radio set.

Then, I come to the other point, about the representation in the services. I find that the Resolution of the year 1934, while it shows concern for all the communities in India including the Sikhs, who always

seem to be a sort of depressed class—at least they say they are depressed—shows concern for all the communities, the Sikhs, the Indian Christians and the Anglo-Indians and the Muhammadans, for some reason known to itself our community is classed with caste Hindus. It should have very rightly guessed that there is no ghost of a chance of a depressed class man getting a post in the services when he is classed with the Hindu. I know that in the Madras Presidency, owing to the efforts of the Justice Party of which my Honourable friend, the Commerce Member, was a well-known member and whose battles he has fought in that presidency on many an occasion and on very important issues, a Resolution called . . .

**Maulana Zafar Ali Khan:** May I ask a question? Do you renounce the claim of being a Hindu?

**Rao Sahib N. Sivaraj:** I am sorry I have not got the time to deal with this question.

Owing to the efforts of the Justice Party, a Government Order, called the Communal G. O., was issued. Under it a certain number of appointments was reserved for the scheduled castes. If there were twelve appointments, one at least was reserved for the scheduled castes and thereby we have now today in the Madras Presidency a number of people who are occupying very big places. The community has been able to provide men for these jobs.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has two minutes more.

**Rao Sahib N. Sivaraj:** And today we find that there are a number of Deputy Collectors, Deputy Superintendents of Police and other men occupying high places on account of the result of this order, and I suggest to the Government of India that they ought to make a reservation separately for us and not merely leave that Resolution of 1934 as it is, showing only a preference to the scheduled castes. As a matter of fact I wrote two letters, one to the Secretary of the Central Board of Revenue asking him to give a direction to the Commissioner of Income-tax in Madras, when he advertised for a job of Income-tax officer, when all the qualifications necessary were satisfied by a depressed class student. I made particular mention of that name and sent it to the Commissioner of Income-tax and the Central Board of Revenue and I find that that man has not been nominated but on the other hand a community which is over-represented, namely, the Brahmin community has got a person selected from that community. Again the Federal Public Service Commission advertised for a post in the Meteorological Department and applications were called for. It is a very rare thing that the depressed classes produce a science graduate and one depressed class candidate from the Tata Institute applied for the job and there again I wrote to the Home Department a letter which was forwarded to the Department of Communications, asking the Government to issue directions to the Federal Public Service Commission to show some preference to the scheduled caste man and I find that the result is nil. It is a question of the attitude of indifference on the part of the Government of India. I have got many other matters to mention but, in conclusion, I would only say this, that

[Rao Sahib N. Sivaraj.]

the Government of India seem to have merely followed the policy which their predecessors have followed—whatever the type of Government that was in existence—namely—keep the depressed classes ignorant and keep them poor.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member's time is up.

**Rao Sahib N. Sivaraj**: I merely want to say as a true friend of the Government of India and in the interests of India that they cannot afford to keep millions of people discontented and disappointed. Already, Sir, the feeling is coming over . . . . .

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member's time is up.

**Rao Sahib N. Sivaraj**: One second. The feeling is coming over the members of my community that there is a conspiracy between the Britisher, the Brahmin and the *baniya* of this country to keep us in slavery, poverty and superstition. Sir, I move.

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

“That the demand under the head ‘Executive Council’ be reduced by Rs. 100.”

**Mr. M. S. Aney**: Sir, my Honourable friend, Mr. Sivaraj, has moved his cut and placed before this House the general grievances under which his community, the scheduled castes of India, have been labouring on account of the indifferent attitude of the Government of India as well as the indifferent attitude of certain classes of the Hindu community itself. In his speech there was some ring of resentment against the wrong that has been done to his community for a long time. One is not surprised at that. The wrong which they have been undergoing is a very long standing one and any doctor who has got some experience of dealing with longstanding diseases can say that if we want to have an effective cure, the remedies take some time before the disease is cured but I believe in these days of advanced science no disease is considered so chronic as to be incurable. Therefore, even if you call it a chronic disease, I am sure my friend, Mr. Sivaraj, will not lose hope that the disease will not be cured. I believe that whatever we have to say about the conduct of our own men in regard to this matter in the past will soon be a matter of history and a new chapter in the history of Hinduism is being written, although it may take some time to complete the writing of that chapter. My Honourable friend, Mr. Sivaraj, will not deny that a welcome change has come over the minds of the members of the higher classes of Hindus in this matter, and although he might have come across instances in the Madras Presidency and elsewhere to justify his remark that the work of the depressed classes is being taken up by some persons as a political stunt, I can assure him that all those who are interested in this work are not actuated by political ideas. I do not say that there may be none; it is rather difficult, it would be a large proposition for anybody to assert that, but most of those who have now taken up voluntarily this work of doing something to serve these depressed classes and to make their lot much better and to remove untouchability altogether, have taken up that work in a truly missionary spirit and there

is no sordid motive behind it. It is from a humanitarian spirit, so to say, that the people feel that this state of things ought not to exist and it must disappear.

Sir, I am not here and I do not think I shall plead their cause better than what my Honourable friend has done. It may be true that the Provincial Administrations in the various Provinces of India may not have done their work up to the expectations of my friend, Mr. Sivaraj, but he will excuse me if I say that the record of our Provincial Governments of the efforts made towards ameliorating the lot of the depressed classes during the last two years and a half can certainly be favourably compared to the record of any other Provincial Government that has preceded them. It may not have been up to the expectations of my friend, Mr. Sivaraj, but I can assure him that there was a genuine desire on the part of those Governments to do as much as they could in the matter of helping our unfortunate friends to rise from the position of helplessness in which they, unfortunately, have been on account of traditions and usages to rise to a better and higher economic and social level. The genuine attempt made is genuine and sincere. No doubt even the hands of the Provincial Governments in these matters are considerably held up on account of the limited resources at their disposal, and on that point my Honourable friend has pertinently referred to a very important suggestion made on the floor of this House by my departed Leader, the late Lala Lajpat Rai, several years ago. He suggested here that the Government of India should earmark a sum of a crore of rupees for the sake of the uplift of these scheduled class persons in the country. Well, the suggestion was there.

**Bhai Parma Nand** (West Punjab: Non-Muhammadan): And he was a *Bania*.

**Mr. M. S. Aney:** My Honourable friend has sarcastically used the words "Brahmin" and "Bania". He does not think of any particular individual; but there is a feeling of resentment, as he thinks that these classes have suffered under the tyranny of those classes amongst whom the Brahmins and Banias were prominent, and we must bear a share of the blame for the time being for what has been done in the past. So I do not make a grievance of that. But I am sure that he does not mean to say that the Brahmin or Bania is incapable of producing better men; in fact had that been his position, he would not have come before a House in which Brahmins and Banias are bound to play important part at any rate. In fact the movement has been started today, as Mahatma Gandhi a great *Bania* himself has stated, as a measure for the atonement of the sins committed in the past by those very classes. The burden of carrying on this work lies heavily on them. I agree with Mahatma Gandhi, that we should not make any serious grievance of the complaint made by my friend, Mr. Sivaraj, that his class has suffered at the hands of the Brahmins and the *Bania* in the past. Whether the sum of one crore of rupees can be earmarked or not today I am not in a position to say, but that point has to be borne in mind by the Central Government for this reason that if this work of the uplift of the scheduled classes is to be carried on expeditiously and has to become successful, within a reasonable time, then we cannot leave all these things to be done either by the voluntary efforts only of the non-official organizations in the country or solely with the resources at the disposal of the

[Mr. M. S. Aney.]

Provincial Governments: the Government of India must come to their help with certain definite, tangible monetary assistance. The need of that kind of assistance from the Central Government is felt by the Provincial Governments, and not only that, I go further, it must be clearly earmarked for that purpose and there should be a concrete programme of some kind of uplift for them and such a programme should actually be sketched out and the Provincial Governments should be instructed to spend money only for that purpose. If some such effort is made by the Central Government, I believe it will be for the non-official organizations to imitate and follow that programme, and the work will gather a momentum and then the pace of progress will be much more quick than what it is. I wish that the point to which he has drawn the attention of the Central Government will be carefully considered by them and I hope that they will not altogether shelve it but try to give effect to it as much as, according to their resources, they can do, under the existing conditions.

Sir, as regards the other points which he has raised, they are numerous, but I believe this thing. Although I would not advise the Government to improve their circular of 1934, to which I am opposed strongly on principle, still I do wish that, whenever it is possible, the claims of the duly educated and deserving members of the depressed classes in the matter of Government services ought to be recognized, and more liberally and preferentially dealt with. If things move in this way, probably we shall be hearing less and less in the nature of the ventilation of such grievances on the floor of this House, Sir, I am yearning for the day when we shall no longer hear in this sacred land of ours the words "scheduled classes" or "depressed classes". We shall only I hope hear that we are all "Indians" without any class of this kind. I am yearning for that day. I hope my friend's motion will be favourably considered by the Government of India and I support it whole-heartedly.

**Maulana Zafar Ali Khan:** Sir, my heart bleeds—and I see an Honourable Member laughs, well, you laugh and I weep—whenever anybody talks something about those unfortunate people whom they have given the name of "untouchables", "Harijans", "Achuts", and so on. I really wonder what has become of man,—“man, made in the image of God.”

**Mr. M. S. Aney:** According to the Bible.

**Maulana Zafar Ali Khan:** . . . and "man made a Khalifa of God on God's land" according to the Holy Koran.

**Mr. M. S. Aney:** "Man is God Himself" according to the Vedas.

**Maulana Zafar Ali Khan:** But you don't act up to the Vedas.

**Mr. M. S. Aney:** That is another matter; it is not us alone against whom you can bring that charge.

**Maulana Zafar Ali Khan:** The Khalifa of God in this world is man, not as a Mussalman, but as a man,—and man in this land of India is treated as worse than an animal. Well, that is a sight, in the words of the Greek mythology, for the gods to see. Sir, I have been to Cochin, I have been to Travancore. I have been to Madras and I have gone all over the Provinces and I have seen a lot of the depressed classes myself. A so-called

*achut* cannot walk on the same road as the Brahman *Deota*; he cannot draw water from the same well as the Brahman *Deota*; he cannot enter the temple as the Hindus of the upper classes. He cannot do all that. He cannot be educated in the same *Viddiyulas* as the Hindus. This is his lot in Southern India and his number there is greater than in any other province of India. Their numerical strength in this country is seven crores. Seven crores of people, which can constitute a great nation in themselves, are being treated as worse than animals.

My Honourable friend, Mr. Sivaraj, started his speech with wrong premises. He has charged the British Government in India for having treated them indifferently, whereas this charge ought to have been levelled against the great Hindu community or against their heads. It is they who have treated them indifferently. Sir, the question is not merely a racial one. According to Manuji and according to his *Dharam Shaster*, it is a religious question. Historically, the question may be reduced into a few facts! The Aryans, coming from their homeland somewhere in Central Asia, marched towards the Punjab and then into the Ganges valley and for 1,400 years they were conquering the whole of Northern India and they were driving back the original population of this part of the country known as the Dravidian. These Dravidians were driven beyond the confines of Narbadha and there they are to be found in larger numbers. Some of them have been left in the Central Provinces and also in the Punjab and other parts of Northern India. There was a colour-bar even in those days. As the colour of the Aryans happened to be a little fairer than that of the Dravidians, these blackies were driven to the South and the whites remained in the North. A section of these Aryans marched towards the West and went to England and Germany and other places, where we see this colour bar even up to this time. These Brahmins of the West and the Brahmins of the East combined together in driving the Dravidians out. So, they became the victim of the Brahmin conspiracy. It may not be the conspiracy of the British Government but it is a conspiracy of the Brahmins of the West and the Brahmins of the East. I was yesterday pointing out to the House what our theory is,—our theory of nationality and our conception and our ideal of the greatness of man. We, as members of the Muslim community, number ten crores in India and we constitute a great nation in India. As such, we hold out our hand in full sympathy to our brethren, the so-called depressed classes, and tell them that we do not ask you to embrace Islam. We simply co-operate with you as man co-operates with man. We acknowledge your right as man, the right that has been wrested from you. Sir, as long as this curse of untouchability is in India, there will be no independence for India. How can you talk of independence when you call these men *Achuts* and *Harijans*? No, you will not get it. But, God willing, we shall get them independence. You talk of the Constituent Assembly in which you will be 75 per cent. and we 25 per cent. I tell you in a few months' time or in a few years' time, there will be 16 crores of Mussalmans and *Achuts* and they will be in the majority. . . .

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order. The Honourable Member must confine his remarks to the motion before the House, namely, the indifferent attitude of the Government towards the welfare of the scheduled castes.

**Maulana Zafar Ali Khan:** I have already pointed out that it has not been so much the indifference of the British Government as the indifference of the Brahmin community and the Hindu community as a whole that these poor people, this great nation, has been treated so shabbily.

In lending my support to this cut motion, I would ask the Imperial Government, if they realise their responsibilities, that a sum of one crore of rupees should be raised by imposing an educational cess on both the *Achuts* and the Mussalmans. We are ready to help them. Wherever I go, I ask the Muslim educational institutions to set apart 20 per cent. of seats for depressed class students. I ask them to give these students scholarships and help them in every way. So, we are prepared to give our share. So far as this educational cess is concerned, this money should go towards raising their position educationally. I should also like the British Government to set apart a number of posts in various Departments for these so-called *Achuts*. I would also like them to be represented in the Legislatures of the country and a number of seats set apart for them. These are a few suggestions and with these suggestions I support the cut motion.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Mr. President, I have great pleasure in supporting the motion of my Honourable friend, Mr. Sivaraj. Recently, a good deal of verbal sympathy has been expressed by all classes of people in this country for the untouchable classes. The Britishers make the existence of the scheduled classes an excuse for not giving self-government to India. Well, Sir, the British Government have been tried and found wanting. They have been here for nearly a century and untouchability still remains. Then, we, the educated Hindus, also expressed a good deal of verbal sympathy for the untouchables. My Honourable friend, Mr. Aney, pleaded that untouchability is being gradually removed. He said the Congress Governments are spending at least a little more money than the previous Governments. I am not satisfied with the progress made so far. The problem is a very important problem and it affects the interests of the country in its vitals. If we, the Hindus, and even others tolerate untouchability and allow it to continue longer, then whatever aspirations we may have for our country, they will not be satisfied. My Honourable friend, Mr. Aney, said, we must be patient. We have been patient long enough as regards untouchability. I feel that this problem can be solved if we make a great effort. Spending a few lakhs is not enough. The number of untouchables who are suffering from this curse of untouchability is very large. If we want to educate them we should not stint any money. I remember the speech of the late Lala Lajpat Rai when he proposed to set apart a crore of rupees for the education of the depressed classes. I would suggest the setting apart of 100 crores. Did we not give away 100 crores during the last war as a free gift to Great Britain? We can give Great Britain now the gift of removing untouchability by spending a similar sum. If there is a good case for Government spending money for current expenses out of loans, that good case is in spending money for the uplift of the depressed classes even out of loans. I feel, Sir, that the Provincial Governments ought to do their duties. They are not doing their duty in my judgment. Even the Congress Governments did not do their duty. So far as the Central Government is concerned, they can do a great deal for the education and for the employment of the untouchables. It may be said that education is a transferred subject, it is a provincial subject. But may I ask if the Government of India are not spending lakhs of rupees on the Aligarh and Benares Universities? Why

are they doing that? Why should they grudge spending similar sums on the untouchables? The Government could easily have put down a provision in the Government of India Act to the effect that the education of the untouchables will be a Central subject. If they can include the Aligarh and the Benares Universities as Central subjects, why should they not include the education of untouchables under the Central head? What are they doing for education of the depressed classes in the Centrally Administered Areas? If they can spend ten lakhs every year for the education of a few thousands in the Aligarh and Benares Universities—for the sake of a few Hindus and Muslims—they must spend the same amount for the education of the untouchables in the Centrally Administered territories.

I would suggest to the Government of India that provision should be made for sending to school every untouchable. I know it is difficult for poor people to send their children to school on account of their poverty. They want their children to earn their bread by working. I would suggest that the Government of India should give adequate scholarships to all the children of untouchables in order that they may be able to attend schools. I would also suggest that no untouchable who has passed the primary school stage should be prevented from going to secondary school for want of money, that every boy who passes primary examination should be given sufficient scholarship to go to secondary schools. Similarly, let every untouchable boy who passes the secondary school be given sufficient scholarship to go to college. I have no doubt that if we feel strong over the matter the untouchable community can be educated within a short time. Similarly, the Government of India should be willing to reserve a certain percentage of employment to the untouchables. The Government of India at present reserve employment for every class of minority, for the Muslims, the Christians and even for the few lakhs of Anglo-Indians. All these communities are fairly well-educated and employed. When the Government can reserve posts for such fairly well-advanced minorities, why should they not earmark certain number of posts for the untouchables. They may say that the candidates are not forthcoming, that the candidates are not available. Why not put down in the Act that so many appointments are reserved for the scheduled classes and if scheduled class candidates are not available, then some others should get them. Where was the difficulty in putting down in the legislation or under your rules, say 15 or 20 per cent., whatever may be the quota fixed, should be reserved for the untouchables and that if untouchable candidates are not available, then certainly others should be employed. Similarly, they can make concessions for the untouchables as regards qualifications also for the posts. I know that from minority communities people are appointed although in competition with other communities they are not as well qualified as members of other communities. Why should not the Government make a similar concession in the case of untouchables, that when an untouchable candidate is to be appointed, even if he is not as well qualified as the other candidates he should be given preference.

Similarly, the Government of India can pass legislation making it a penal offence to treat any human being as an untouchable. The Government of India had time to pass all sorts of legislations, but they had not yet had time to pass legislation making it penal to treat a human being as an untouchable. I hope, Sir, the Government of India will give up

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their present lethargy and do everything that is in their power for the education of the untouchables and for giving them employment and for making it penal offence to treat any human being as an untouchable. I hope the Government of India will move in the matter and I suggest to the House that this cut motion should be passed.

**Babu Baijnath Bajoria:** Sir, I had no intention of intervening in this debate but for the sweeping remarks which have been levelled by my Honourable friend, Maulana Zafar Ali Khan, against the caste Hindus. I should like to refute some of those allegations which he has made against the Hindus in general.

**Maulana Zafar Ali Khan:** Will you dine with Mr. Sivaraj?

**Babu Baijnath Bajoria:** If the Honourable Member means that only by inter-dining and by inter-marriage love and friendship can be made, then, I, for one, would say that he is absolutely mistaken.

He said that the caste Hindus treat the untouchables as worse than animals. He is absolutely wrong. As a matter of fact, there is no such caste as "untouchable" in the Hindu shastras. This word "untouchables" was coined by the Government. Similarly, the words "scheduled classes" and "depressed classes" were coined by the Government. All Sudras are not untouchables. The so-called untouchables belong to the fourth class amongst Hindu social order (Interruption.) I know better than my Honourable friend, Maulana Zafar Ali Khan, about the caste system of Hindus. I know that certain sections of the people are very vocal in their solicitude for the untouchables. But theirs is only lip sympathy. As far as the economic amelioration of the condition of the untouchables, or for the matter of fact, the amelioration of Sudras or any section of the Hindu community, or of the Muslim community or of any other community in this country, is concerned, I am of opinion that it should be carried out. In that respect I agree with the cut motion of my Honourable friend, Rao Sahib Sivaraj. If my Honourable friend, Rao Sahib Sivaraj, goes further as Maulana Zafar Ali Khan wants, that they should be allowed to enter temples and so on, I am not in favour of such a course.

**Rao Sahib N. Sivaraj:** I am not in favour of temple entry by untouchables.

**Babu Baijnath Bajoria:** I know that Rao Sahib Sivaraj is not in favour of temple entry. I said this only because of the provocative speech of Maulana Zafar Ali Khan. If my Honourable friend, Maulana Zafar Ali Khan, is so very solicitous about the depressed classes, why did not the Muslim community give any of their reserved seats to the scheduled classes? Under the Poona Pact, all the seats that were reserved for the depressed classes came out of the seats allotted to Hindus. (Interruption.) I wish my Honourable friend does not interrupt my speech. I was keeping quiet when he attacked the Hindu community, and I expect him to bear with me for a few minutes.

In our social order, different kinds of work were specially reserved for the Sudras and they were faring well by performing these vocations by themselves. They care only for their economic uplift and salvation and

do not desire to meddle with the Hindu shastras or do anything which would incite the caste Hindus against them.

Sir, the time at my disposal is very short. The subject is vast and requires one or two hours for doing justice to it. I will, therefore, discuss it on a more suitable occasion but for the present I will express sympathy with the motion and the view that the depressed classes should be properly and generously treated by the Government.

**The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell** (Home Member): Sir, I have listened to the Honourable the Mover's speech with the attention and sympathy it deserved, but a motion of this kind has to be tested not by one's general sympathy with the object which he has in view so much as by the test of what the Government could or should do or what the Government of India have left undone that they ought to have done in regard to the object underlying this cut motion. Judged by this test we find that there is very little shown that the Government of India ought to have done or that it has omitted to do. Only two of the specific points mentioned by the Honourable the Mover concerned the Central Government at all. One is in regard to population. I do not mean that the Central Government is responsible for the population. We are responsible for counting the population and in the census that is to take place next year we hope to make very adequate arrangements for ascertaining the population of the scheduled classes as accurately as possible. Certainly we can meet the Honourable the Mover on that point. The only other point that concerns the Central Government, is about the facilities afforded to the members of the depressed classes for entering Government service. I, of course, mean Government service under the Central Government because we cannot do anything about the provinces. So far as the Central Government is concerned, the Resolution of 1934 is well-known to the House and I think the Honourable the Mover did not complain about it. But what he said was that posts should be reserved for the depressed classes, that is to say, apparently reserved for them irrespective of their qualifications.

**Rao Sahib N. Sivaraj**: I referred to the difference between the Government of India Resolution of 1934 and the communal ratio which is now obtaining in Madras. I said that under the Resolution specific reservation of posts should be made for the depressed classes, of course with the required qualifications.

**The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell**: I am afraid I do not quite appreciate the Honourable Member's point. If he is complaining about the way in which these things have been managed in Madras I am not able to help him. But, at any rate, so far as the Government of India are concerned the interests of the depressed classes in the matter of employment are safeguarded as far as possible; and even in cases where the avenue of employment is through competitive examinations the orders of 1934 leave open a loophole by which they may get in, but not without submitting themselves to some kind of educational test. The avenue through which they can get in is by nomination of persons who have shown themselves possessed of the minimum qualifications; and only last year my Department issued a circular to all Central Departments asking them to give their special attention to them and, if possible, to reserve or at any rate

[Sir Reginald Maxwell.]

to keep aside a certain number of posts when they were filling them, and to offer them to qualified candidates of the depressed classes, if available. And actually in regard to the examination for the Indian Civil Service an attempt was made to find a depressed class candidate last year. We failed, I am sorry to say, but again this year it has been publicly announced that one post will be reserved for nomination of a member of the scheduled classes if available with the required qualifications. And we have asked all Provincial Governments to send us names so that the field of choice may be as wide as possible. I do not think the Central Government can do more than that.

As regards the other things mentioned by the Honourable Member about educational facilities in particular or rural reconstruction expenditure, these are now matters for the Provincial Governments, and, therefore, it is beside the point to attack the Central Government complaining of their lack of interest and callous indifference or charge the Government of India with attempting to keep the depressed classes ignorant and poor. These are quotations from the Honourable the Mover's speech; and to my mind it is rather a remarkable thing that he should have come here from a province in which the Government have, until very recently, belonged to a party which claim to be giving a lead to India in the matter of removing disabilities of the scheduled classes. He should go to the Provincial Government and ask them to do these things. Similarly, my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, stated that untouchability has remained under the British Government. If he really believes that the British Government have had anything to do with the perpetuation of untouchability or deliberately countenanced it I can say to him that during the last two years the Provincial Governments have been under autonomous institutions; and if the British Government has failed in these matters he should go to the autonomous Governments of his own people and ask them what they have done for the depressed classes.

**Mr. M. S. Aney:** Why should the Central Government be jealous of the Provincial Governments? Why should the Honourable Member speak of them as something different?

**The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell:** The Honourable Member does not seem to have understood my remarks. Where these charges have been levelled against either the British Government or the Central Government my reply is that in the majority of matters to which the Honourable the Mover has specifically referred the Provincial Governments, *i.e.*, the duly elected ministries, have during the last two years been responsible. And let us ask them what they have done in these matters and whether they have done more than the Central Government have done. That, Sir, is my reply to the motion.

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

"That the demand under the head 'Executive Council' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The motion was adopted.

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

“That a reduced sum not exceeding Rs. 1,26,900 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, 1941, in respect of ‘Executive Council’.”

The motion was adopted.

#### DEMAND No. 1—CUSTOMS

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 78,30,000 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, 1941, in respect of ‘Customs’.”

The motion was adopted.

#### DEMAND No. 2—CENTRAL EXCISE DUTIES

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 18,80,000 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, 1941, in respect of ‘Central Excise Duties’.”

The motion was adopted.

#### DEMAND No. 3—TAXES ON INCOME INCLUDING CORPORATION TAX

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 78,46,000 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, 1941, in respect of ‘Taxes on Income including Corporation Tax’.”

The motion was adopted.

#### DEMAND No. 4—SALT

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 55,94,000 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, 1941, in respect of ‘Salt’.”

The motion was adopted.

#### DEMAND No. 5—OPIUM

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 23,64,000 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, 1941, in respect of ‘Opium’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 6—PROVINCIAL EXCISE

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,32,000 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, 1941, in respect of 'Provincial Excise'."

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 7—STAMPS

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 22,68,000 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, 1941, in respect of 'Stamps'."

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 8—FOREST

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,67,000 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, 1941, in respect of 'Forest'."

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 9—IRRIGATION (INCLUDING WORKING EXPENSES), NAVIGATION, EMBANKMENT AND DRAINAGE WORKS

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,22,000 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, 1941, in respect of 'Irrigation (including Working Expenses), Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works'."

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 10—INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT (INCLUDING WORKING EXPENSES)

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 11,12,04,000 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, 1941, in respect of 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including Working Expenses)'."

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 11—INTEREST ON DEBT AND OTHER OBLIGATIONS AND REDUCTION OR AVOIDANCE OF DEBT

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 92,23,000 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, 1941, in respect of 'Interest on Debt and other Obligations and Reduction or Avoidance of Debt'."

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 13—COUNCIL OF STATE

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,46,000 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, 1941, in respect of ‘Council of State’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 14—LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEPARTMENT

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,15,000 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, 1941, in respect of ‘Legislative Assembly and Legislative Assembly Department’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 15—HOME DEPARTMENT

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,71,000 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, 1941, in respect of ‘Home Department’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 16—LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,66,000 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, 1941, in respect of ‘Legislative Department’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 17—DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, HEALTH AND LANDS

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,73,000 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, 1941, in respect of ‘Department of Education, Health and Lands’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 18—FINANCE DEPARTMENT

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,66,000 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, 1941, in respect of ‘Finance Department’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND NO. 19—COMMERCE DEPARTMENT

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,71,000 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, 1941, in respect of ‘Commerce Department’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND NO. 20—DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,32,000 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, 1941, in respect of ‘Department of Labour’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND NO. 21—DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,00,000 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, 1941, in respect of ‘Department of Communications’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND NO. 22—CENTRAL BOARD OF REVENUE

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,90,000 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, 1941, in respect of ‘Central Board of Revenue’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND NO. 23—INDIA OFFICE AND HIGH COMMISSIONER'S ESTABLISHMENT CHARGES

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 18,79,000 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, 1941, in respect of ‘India Office and High Commissioner's Establishment Charges’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND NO. 24—PAYMENTS TO OTHER GOVERNMENTS, DEPARTMENTS, ETC., ON ACCOUNT OF ADMINISTRATION OF AGENCY SUBJECTS AND MANAGEMENT OF TREASURIES

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,14,000 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, 1941, in respect of ‘Payments to other Governments, Departments, etc., on account of Administration of Agency Subjects and Management of Treasuries’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 25—AUDIT

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 93,83,000 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, 1941, in respect of ‘Audit.’”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 26—ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 62,000 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, 1941, in respect of ‘Administration of Justice.’”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 27—POLICE

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,09,000 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, 1941, in respect of ‘Police.’”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 28—PORTS AND PILOTAGE

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 14,08,000 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, 1941, in respect of ‘Ports and Pilotage.’”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 29—LIGHTHOUSES AND LIGHTSHIPS

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,29,000 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, 1941, in respect of ‘Lighthouses and Lightships.’”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 30—SURVEY OF INDIA

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 19,11,000 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, 1941, in respect of ‘Survey of India.’”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 31—METEOROLOGY

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 20,79,000 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, 1941, in respect of ‘Meteorology’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 32—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,57,000 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, 1941, in respect of ‘Geological Survey’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 33—BOTANICAL SURVEY

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 50,000 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, 1941, in respect of ‘Botanical Survey’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 34—ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,27,000 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, 1941, in respect of ‘Zoological Survey’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 35—ARCHÆOLOGY

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 10,44,000 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, 1941, in respect of ‘Archæology’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 36—MINES

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,46,000 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, 1941, in respect of ‘Mines’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 37—OTHER SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENTS

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,82,000 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, 1941, in respect of 'Other Scientific Departments'."

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 38—EDUCATION

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,38,000 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, 1941, in respect of 'Education'."

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 39—MEDICAL SERVICES

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,13,000 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, 1941, in respect of 'Medical Services'."

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 40—PUBLIC HEALTH

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,53,000 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, 1941, in respect of 'Public Health'."

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 41—AGRICULTURE

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 26,52,000 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, 1941, in respect of 'Agriculture'."

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 42—IMPERIAL COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,21,000 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, 1941, in respect of 'Imperial Council of Agricultural Research'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 43—SCHEME FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF AGRICULTURAL MARKETING IN INDIA

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,21,000 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, 1941, in respect of ‘Scheme for the Improvement of Agricultural Marketing in India.’”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 44—IMPERIAL INSTITUTE OF SUGAR TECHNOLOGY

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 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, 1941, in respect of ‘Imperial Institute of Sugar Technology.’”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 45—CIVIL VETERINARY SERVICES

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,20,000 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, 1941, in respect of ‘Civil Veterinary Services.’”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 46—INDUSTRIES

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,23,000 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, 1941, in respect of ‘Industries.’”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 47—AVIATION

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 59,08,000 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, 1941, in respect of ‘Aviation.’”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 48—BROADCASTING

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 28,91,000 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, 1941, in respect of ‘Broadcasting.’”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND NO. 49—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON BROADCASTING

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 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, 1941, in respect of ‘Capital Outlay on Broadcasting’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND NO. 50—INDIAN STORES DEPARTMENT

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 21,15,000 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, 1941, in respect of ‘Indian Stores Department’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND NO. 51—COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE AND STATISTICS

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,50,000 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, 1941, in respect of ‘Commercial Intelligence and Statistics’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND NO. 52—CENSUS

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,56,000 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, 1941, in respect of ‘Census’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND NO. 53—EMIGRATION—INTERNAL

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 13,000 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, 1941, in respect of ‘Emigration—Internal’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND NO. 54—EMIGRATION—EXTERNAL

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,31,000 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, 1941, in respect of ‘Emigration—External’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 55—JOINT STOCK COMPANIES

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,60,000 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, 1941, in respect of ‘Joint Stock Companies’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 56—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,63,000 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, 1941, in respect of ‘Miscellaneous Departments’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 57—CURRENCY

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 25,50,000 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, 1941, in respect of ‘Currency’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 58—MINT

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 33,54,000 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, 1941, in respect of ‘Mint’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 59—CIVIL WORKS

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 96,89,000 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, 1941, in respect of ‘Civil Works’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 60—CENTRAL ROAD FUND

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,73,00,000 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, 1941, in respect of ‘Central Road Fund’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 61—SUPERANNUATION ALLOWANCES AND PENSIONS

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,10,46,000 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, 1941, in respect of ‘Superannuation Allowances and Pensions.’”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 62—STATIONERY AND PRINTING

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 37,40,000 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, 1941, in respect of ‘Stationery and Printing.’”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 63—MISCELLANEOUS

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 22,67,000 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, 1941, in respect of ‘Miscellaneous.’”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 64—GRANTS-IN-AID TO PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 61,000 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, 1941, in respect of ‘Grants-in-aid to Provincial Governments.’”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 65—MISCELLANEOUS ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN THE CENTRAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,62,000 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, 1941, in respect of ‘Miscellaneous Adjustments between the Central and Provincial Governments.’”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 66—DELHI

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 50,80,000 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, 1941, in respect of ‘Delhi.’”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 67—AJMER-MERWARA

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 33,94,000 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, 1941, in respect of ‘Ajmer-Merwara’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 68—PANTH PIPLODA

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 12,000 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, 1941, in respect of ‘Panth Piploda’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 69—ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 37,19,000 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, 1941, in respect of ‘Andaman and Nicobar Islands’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 70—INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 13,19,000 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, 1941, in respect of ‘Indian Posts and Telegraphs’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 71—INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS—STORES SUSPENSE (NOT CHARGED TO REVENUE)

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 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, 1941, in respect of ‘Indian Posts and Telegraphs—Stores Suspense (Not charged to Revenue)’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 72—INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON TELEPHONE PROJECTS (NOT CHARGED TO REVENUE)

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 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, 1941, in respect of ‘Indian Posts and Telegraphs—Capital Outlay on Telephone Projects (Not charged to Revenue)’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 73—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON VIZAGAPATAM HARBOUR

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 10,000 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, 1941, in respect of ‘Capital Outlay on Vizagapatam Harbour.’”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 74—DELHI CAPITAL OUTLAY

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 15,67,000 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, 1941, in respect of ‘Delhi Capital Outlay.’”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 75—COMMUTED VALUE OF PENSIONS

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 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, 1941, in respect of ‘Commuted Value of Pensions.’”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 76—INTEREST-FREE ADVANCES

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 81,22,000 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, 1941, in respect of ‘Interest-free Advances.’”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 77—LOANS AND ADVANCES BEARING INTEREST.

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 54,13,000 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, 1941, in respect of ‘Loans and Advances bearing Interest.’”

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 13th March, 1940.