

15th February 1938

THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

(Official Report)

Volume I, 1938

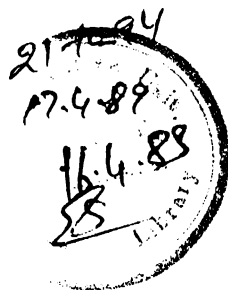
(31st January to 22nd February, 1938)

SEVENTH SESSION

OF THE

FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,

1938



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1938

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A

Legislative Assembly.

President :

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

Deputy President :

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

Panel of Chairmen :

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

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

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

Secretary :

MIAN MUHAMMAD RAFI, BAR.-AT-LAW.

Assistants of the Secretary :

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

RAI BAHADUR D. DUTT.

Marshal :

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

Committee on Petitions :

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

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

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

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

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

CONTENTS.

VOLUME I.—31st January to 22nd February, 1938.

	PAGES.		PAGE.
MONDAY, 31ST JANUARY, 1938—		TUESDAY, 1ST FEBRUARY, 1938—<i>contd.</i>	
Members Sworn	1—2	Motion for Adjournment <i>re</i> Refusal of the Under Secretary of State to consult the Provincial Governments <i>re</i> introduction of the Federation—Not moved	170—71
Starred Questions and Answers	2—32	Message from His Excellency the Governor General	171
Unstarred Questions and Answers	33—37	Panel of Chairmen	171
Statements laid on the Table	38—68	Committee on Petitions	171
Motion for Adjournment <i>re</i> Mechanisation of the British Portion of the Indian Army—Talked out	69, 111—34.	The Indian Companies (Amendment) Bill—Passed as amended	172—74
Governor General's assent to Bills	69	The Indian Tea Control Bill—Referred to Select Committee	174—76
Message from the Council of State	69—79	The manœuvres, Field Firing and Artillery Practice Bill—Passed as Amended	176—206
The Trade Disputes (Amendment) Bill—Appointment of certain Members to the Select Committee	79	The Destructive Insects and Pests (Amendment) Bill—Motion to consider adopted	206—13
The Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Bill—Appointment of certain Members to the Select Committee	79	WEDNESDAY, 2ND FEBRUARY, 1938—	
The Indian Companies (Amendment) Bill—Discussion on the consideration of clauses not concluded	80—88	Member Sworn	215
The Repealing Bill—Passed as amended	88—92	Starred Questions and Answers	215—43
The Indian Tea Control Bill—Discussion on the motion to refer to Select Committee not concluded	92—111	Unstarred Questions and Answers	243—46
TUESDAY, 1ST FEBRUARY, 1938—		Statements laid on the Table	247
Member Sworn	135	The Import of Drugs Bill—Appointment of Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan to the Select Committee	247
Starred Questions and Answers	135—70	The Destructive Insects and Pests (Amendment) Bill—Discussion on the consideration of clauses not concluded	247—49
Unstarred Question and Answer	170		

	PAGES.		PAGES.
THURSDAY, 3RD FEBRUARY, 1938—		FRIDAY, 4TH FEBRUARY, 1938—	
Starred Questions and Answers	251—72	Member Sworn	325
Unstarred Questions and Answers	272—74	Starred Questions and Answers	325—37
Motion for Adjournment <i>re</i> Transfer of certain Villages in Merwara District to the Administrations of Jodhpur and Udaipur States—Disallowed by the Governor General	275, 293—94.	Short Notice Questions and Answers	337—39
The Durgah Khawaja Saheb (Amendment) Bill—Passed as amended	275—81	Unstarred Questions and Answers	339—42
The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill (Amendment of section 386)—Motion to continue adopted	282	Motion for Adjournment <i>re</i> Export of Cotton to Japan contrary to the announcement of the Japanese Government—Disallowed	342—44
The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill (Amendment of section 205)—Motion to continue adopted	282	Resolution <i>re</i> —	
The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill (Amendment of section 103)—Motion to continue adopted	282	Constituent Assembly—Debate adjourned <i>sine die</i>	344—45
The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill (Amendment of section 167)—Motion to continue adopted	283	Employment of Indians and payment of adequate wages to them by aided or subsidised industries—Adopted	345—78
The Child Marriage Restraint (Amendment) Bill—Passed as amended	283—93, 294—318.	Constitution of a Standing Committee for the Indian Army—Discussion not concluded	378—93
The Muslim Dissolution of Marriage Bill—Discussion on the motion to circulate not concluded	318—23	MONDAY, 7TH FEBRUARY, 1938—	
The Indian Tea Control Bill—Appointment of certain Members to Select Committee	323	Starred Questions and Answers	395—412
		Short Notice Questions and Answers	412—17
		Motion for Adjournment <i>re</i> Ban put by the Government of the Punjab on Prof. N. G. Ranga, M.L.A.—Disallowed	418
		Election of Members to the Public Accounts Committee	418—19
		The Control of Coastal Traffic of India Bill—Appointment of certain Members to the Select Committee	419
		The Destructive Insects and Pests (Amendment) Bill—Passed as amended	419—26

	PAGES.		PAGES.
MONDAY, 7TH FEBRUARY, 1938—<i>contd.</i>		THURSDAY, 10TH FEBRUARY, 1938—<i>contd.</i>	
The Commercial Documents Evidence Bill—Referred to Select Committee	426—31	The Indian Tea Control Bill—Presentation of the Report of the Select Committee	558
The Dangerous Drugs (Amendment) Bill—Passed as amended	431—35	MONDAY, 14TH FEBRUARY, 1938—	
The Criminal Law Amendment Bill—Circulated	436	Member Sworn	559
TUESDAY, 8TH FEBRUARY, 1938—		Starred questions and answers	559—85
Starred Questions and Answers	439—44	Message from His Excellency the Governor-General	585
Unstarred Question and Answer	444—45	The Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Bill—Presentation of the Report of the Select Committee	585
The Insurance Bill—Amendments made by the Council of State agreed to, subject to further amendments	446—66	Presentation of the Railway Budget for 1938-39	585—92
WEDNESDAY, 9TH FEBRUARY, 1938—		Election of the Standing Committee for the Department of Commerce	593—94
Starred Questions and Answers	467—80	Election of the Standing Committee for the Department of Education, Health and Lands	595
Unstarred Question and Answer	480	The Stamp Duties Unification Bill—Introduced	596
Election of Members to the Public Accounts Committee	480	The Indian Oaths (Amendment) Bill—Referred to Select Committee	596—600
The Indian Railways (Amendment) Bill (Insertion of new section 42-B)—Circulated	481—95	TUESDAY, 15TH FEBRUARY, 1938—	
THURSDAY, 10TH FEBRUARY, 1938—		Member Sworn	601
Member Sworn	497	Starred Questions and Answers	601—34
Starred Questions and Answers	497—507	Short notice Question and Answer	634—35
Short Notice Question and Answer	507—08	Unstarred Questions and Answers	635
Statements laid on the table	508	Statements laid on the Table	635—42
The Muslim Dissolution of Marriage Bill—Circulated	509—13	Motion for Adjournment <i>re</i> failure to safeguard the interests of India in the Financial Settlement between India and Burma—Not moved	643—44
The Child Marriage Restraint (Amendment) Bill—Discussion on the motion to refer to Select Committee not concluded	513—58		

	PAGES.		PAGES.
TUESDAY, 15TH FEBRUARY, 1938—<i>contd.</i>		THURSDAY, 17TH FEBRUARY, 1938—<i>contd.</i>	
Resolution re—		Unstarred Question and Answer	789
Constitution of a Standing Committee for the Indian Army—Adopted as amended	644—64	Motion for Adjournment re Dispersal of the crowd in front of the Legislative Assembly Chamber under section 144 by the District Magistrate, Delhi—Disallowed	790—91
Establishment of a University at Peshawar—Discussion not concluded	665—86	The Railway Budget—General Discussion	791—834
Statement of Business	686—87	FRIDAY, 18TH FEBRUARY, 1938—	
WEDNESDAY, 16TH FEBRUARY, 1938—		Member Sworn	835
Starred Questions and Answers	689—715	Starred Questions and Answers	835—53
Unstarred Questions and Answers	716—17	Unstarred Questions and Answers	853
Motion for Adjournment re—		Statements laid on the Table	854
Failure of the Home Member to meet a deputation for protesting against Government's support to the Child Marriage Restraint (Amendment) Bill—Disallowed	718—19	Message from the Council of State	854
Constitutional crisis occasioned by exercise of powers conferred by section 126 of the Government of India Act—Disallowed	719—23	Election of the Standing Committee for the Labour Department	855
The Child Marriage Restraint (Amendment) Bill—Referred to Select Committee	723—42	Election of Members to the Standing Committee on Pilgrimage to the Hedjaz	856
The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill (Amendment of Section 103)—Motion to circulate negatived	742—58	The Stamp Duties Unification Bill—Motion to consider not moved	856
The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill (Amendment of Section 167)—Discussion on the motion to circulate not concluded	758—64	The Indian Tea Control Bill—Motion to consider adopted	856—67
THURSDAY, 17TH FEBRUARY, 1938—		MONDAY, 21ST FEBRUARY, 1938—	
Member Sworn	765	Starred Questions and Answers	869—86
Starred Questions and Answers	765—89	Unstarred Questions and Answers	886—88
		Motion for Adjournment re Arrest of Haji Akbar Ali Khan, a member of the Frontier Legislative Assembly—Ruled out of order	888—89
		Message from the Council of State	889

	PAGES.		PAGES.
MONDAY, 21ST FEBRUARY, 1938—contd.		TUESDAY, 22ND FEBRUARY, 1938— contd.	
The Railway Budget—List of Demands	890—938	The Railway Budget—List of Demands—contd. . .	950—99
Demand No. 1—Railway Board	891—938	Demand No. 1—Railway Board—contd. . . .	950—95
Provident Fund for low paid employees . .	892—95	Composition of Staff attached to the Office of the Conciliation Officer—Col. Wagstaff—in Calcutta	950—53
Railwaymen's grievances	895—907	Imposition of undue Demands made by the Railway Board for House Rent of Railway Employees of G. I. P. Railway . .	955—58
Policy behind increased output of State Railway Collieries . . .	907—28	Salaries of Railway Improvers and Apprentices in service before introduction of pre-co-ordinated Rates of Pay and New Scales of Pay with special reference to E. I. Railway . . .	958—59
Advertising for Drivers and Guards on the G. I. P. and E. I. Railways on terms in Violation of the Railway Board Notification .	928—31	Difficulty in obtaining leave legitimately due to Staff owing to reduction in Staff . .	959—61
Violation of Rules governing the Payment of Wages Act	931—32	Policy of Rates and Freight affecting Commerce and Industry	962—78
Deprivation of Passes to Railway Employees .	932—35	Failure of the Railway Board to enforce the Home Department Resolution re 25 per cent. services to Muslims in Railway Services	978—95
Violation by Railway Administrations of Railway Board Rules governing Promotion of Subordinate Staff .	935—38	Demand No. 6E—Working Expenses—Expenses of Traffic Department .	995—99
Composition of Staff attached to the Office of the Conciliation Officer—Col. Wagstaff—in Calcutta . . .	938	Economy	995—99
TUESDAY, 22ND FEBRUARY, 1938—		Message from the Council of State	999
Starred Questions and Answers	939—50		

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, 15th February, 1938.

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

MEMBER SWORN.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney, M.L.A. (Nominated Non-Official).

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

(a) ORAL ANSWERS.

RETENTION OF BRITISH TROOPS IN PROVINCES FOR INTERNAL SECURITY PURPOSES.

246. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar**: Will the Defence Secretary state:

- (a) whether, since the last Session, Government have addressed the Local Governments whether they insist upon having British troops for internal security purposes; and
- (b) whether Government have received any replies, if so, what is the nature of their replies?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know why the Government of India have consistently refused to address Local Governments in this matter?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: I would refer the Honourable Member to the question asked during the last Session at which the answer given was that it was unnecessary and had never been done before, that it was undesirable, and that Government could not do so.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: Will Government state the reason why it is considered undesirable?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: Because there is no good to be gained from following the procedure suggested.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if confidentially Provincial Governments have been taken into confidence in regard to this question?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: I do not understand what the Honourable Member's question is.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: My question is that although the general public might not be taken into full confidence, whether the Government of India have ever been confidentially in communication with the Provincial Governments in this matter?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: There is nothing confidential about this matter at all.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In view of the fact that the substitution of British troops will be a cause of great saving to the Indian exchequer, will they consider the advisability of addressing Local Governments?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: No, Sir.

MOVEMENTS OF TROOPS FROM BRITISH INDIAN PROVINCES.

247. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Defence Secretary state:

- (a) whether troops were moved from any of the British Indian Provinces this year;
- (b) whether any of the Local Governments protested against the replacement of British by Indian troops; and
- (c) if so, which were the Provinces and what were the grounds of their protests?

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

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

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Sir, I do not put question No. 248.

†248*.

RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE RESERVE BANK OF INDIA ABOUT FINANCING OF CO-OPERATIVE ORGANISATIONS.

249. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member state:

- (a) whether Government have received any replies from the Provincial Governments regarding the recommendations made by the Reserve Bank in their report with regard to financing of co-operative organisations;

†This question was not put by the questioner.

- (b) what is the nature of their replies; and
- (c) whether they have come to any conclusion in the matter?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: (a) and (b). The replies so far received relate to matters which are within the competence of the Provincial Governments.

- (c) Does not arise.

STOPPAGE OF THE EXODUS OF CERTAIN ATTACHED OFFICES TO SIMLA.

250. ***Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government contemplate not to take some offices to Simla this year; and
- (b) what will be the approximate net saving to Government on account of their leaving these offices behind at Delhi?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to the Press Communiqué, dated the 19th January, 1938, and to the reply given on February 2nd, to Mr. Santhanam's question No. 90.

- (b) The necessary information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

INDIAN TROOPS SENT TO THE FAR EAST DURING THE RECENT SINO-JAPANESE WAR.

251. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Defence Secretary state:

- (a) whether the Indian troops sent to the Far East during the recent Sino-Japanese war were ever called into action;
- (b) if so, what was the nature of the action and what is the extent of casualties; and
- (c) how much longer their presence will be necessary there?

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

- (b) Does not arise.

- (c) It is not yet possible to say.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: May I know what are the exact functions that these troops are now performing?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: They are forming a portion of the garrison of Hong Kong.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: What is the amount of the total cost of sending these troops?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is not in the question. Next question.

POLITICAL PRISONERS UNDER THE DIRECT CONTROL OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

252. ***Mr. Badri Dutt Pande:** Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state if there are any prisoners convicted or detained for political offences still under the direct control of the Government of India or have they all been released?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I am collecting information and will lay a reply on the table of the House in due course.

CENTRALISATION OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF CENTRAL EXCISE WORK.

253. ***Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh** (on behalf of Seth Govind Das): Will the Honourable Member-in-charge of Finance Department be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have definitely decided to proceed with centralization, under the Central Board of Revenue, the administration of central excise work, now performed by Provincial Governments;
- (b) since when this proposition will take effect;
- (c) the Provinces in which it will be given effect;
- (d) the officers in whose hands the routine administration will be left;
- (e) whether any new posts will be created to take charge of the administration the centralisation involves;
- (f) the reasons actuating Government for the centralisation of the administration; and
- (g) the Provinces which will be adversely affected as a result of centralization of administration and whether any relief will be granted to such Provinces?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: (a) and (b). The Government of India have decided to centralise the administration of Central Excises under the Central Board of Revenue with effect from the 1st April, 1938.

(c) The question of the action to be taken in Bengal is still under consideration. Otherwise, the scheme is being proceeded with in all the provinces except Sind and Orissa.

(d) In Bombay and Madras the arrangements will, in the first instance, be put in the hands of the Collectors of Salt Revenue in those provinces and in the Northern Indian provinces in those of the Commissioner of Central Excises and Salt, Northern India, in whose appointment has been merged that of the Commissioner, Northern India Salt Revenue.

(e) Yes. Under the Commissioner of Central Excises and Salt, Northern India, two Deputy Commissioners and a Chief Accounts Officer have been appointed with effect from the 1st February, 1938. It is also proposed to appoint some Assistant Commissioners, Superintendents and subordinate staff under the Commissioner of Central Excises and Salt,

Northern India, with effect from the 1st April, 1938. For Madras and Bombay the existing temporary whole-time posts of Collectors of Salt Revenue will be retained. It is also proposed to continue the post of the Headquarters Assistant in Madras after the 28th February, 1938, and to create a similar post in Bombay from the 1st April, 1938. Certain subordinate staff will also be required for Bombay and Madras and the question is being examined.

(f) The Government of India considered it desirable on merits that the administration of Central Excises, and particularly that of Sugar Excise, should be under their own close control and should be conducted on as uniform lines as possible.

(g) The Government of India do not see how the scheme can adversely affect any Province that has been making a proper charge for exercising its agency functions.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the financial effect of the centralisation?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: I am afraid I cannot answer that question absolutely accurately at this stage. There will be a small extra charge compared with what we are now paying.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: Were the Provincial Governments consulted before the idea of centralisation came in?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: Well, Sir, the idea of centralisation was first formed and Provincial Governments were then consulted.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: Was the Bengal Government consulted in this matter?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: Yes, Sir.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: May I know what is the opinion of the Bengal Government?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: No, Sir.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: With regard to clause (e), may I know whether the officers required have been already appointed, or any more officers will be appointed, if so, who, and how many?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: No more officers will be required to take charge of the administration than is there referred to.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will there be subordinate officers appointed?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: I do not know what part of India the Honourable Member is speaking of? Is it Sind?

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Certainly Sind.

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: In regard to Sind, the answer is given in my answer to part (c):

"Otherwise, the scheme is being proceeded with in all the provinces except Sind and Orissa."

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: In regard to the United Provinces, may I know if the Government consulted were the interim ministry?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: My impression is that the reply came in after the present ministry was in office, but I cannot be quite certain. I know a number of replies came in after that.

PROOF FOR CLAIMING REFUND OF INCOME-TAX IN RESPECT OF REPAIRS TO PROPERTY.

254. ***Mr. K. Santhanam:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

- (a) whether, in making the allowance permissible under section 9—1 (i) of the Income-tax Act, 1922, in the case of properties in respect of which the owner has undertaken to bear the cost of repairs, vouchers or other proof, showing the cost of repairs done to the property during the year, are required to be produced by the owner in support of his claim for the allowance; and
- (b) if the answer to part (a) be in the negative, whether Government are prepared to consider the desirability of insisting upon such proof?

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

(b) No. Government cannot insist on such proof as the amount of the allowance has been fixed by law.

CERTAIN GOVERNMENT OF INDIA OFFICERS DRAWING SPECIAL PAY.

255. ***Mr. K. Santhanam:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of officers under the Government of India who are getting a salary of Rs. 1,000 and above and are drawing special pay in addition;
- (b) the grounds on which the special pay is granted to them;
- (c) whether these grounds are periodically scrutinised;
- (d) how many of these officers are liable to be transferred to posts carrying no special pay;
- (e) whether the special pay counts for leave and pension;
- (f) when an officer having special pay is on leave, whether the person appointed to officiate in his post also gets the special pay, while the officer on leave is getting it; and
- (g) the total saving that would accrue to the Government of India if the special pay is abolished?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: (a), (d) and (g). It is presumed that the Honourable Member's question refers to all officers whose salaries are debited to Central Revenues, and not merely to officers serving

in the Government of India Secretariat. The Government of India consider that the time and labour involved in the collection of the information required would be out of proportion to any advantage likely to be gained. The Honourable Member may take it that the great majority of these posts are mentioned in the Pay and Cadre Schedules and in the Superior Civil Services Rules, copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

(b) Attention is invited to Fundamental Rule-9 (25).

(c) Yes.

(e) and (f). Yes.

Mr. K. Santhanam: With reference to part (g), would it not be in the order of some crores?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I cannot believe that, because to the best of my recollection the whole of the pay of the Indian Civil Service for the whole of India would be of the order of two crores and so their special pay cannot possibly amount to some crores.

Mr. K. Santhanam: If you take into consideration all the officers in the Government of India Secretariat?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I am absolutely certain without any investigation at all that the figures involved are not anything like that or indeed other than a small fraction of the amount the Honourable Member mentioned.

INDIANS AND NON-INDIANS WITH HIGHER SALARIES EMPLOYED IN THE ARMY, INCLUDING NAVY, ETC.

256. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Defence Secretary state the number of (i) Indians and (ii) non-Indians employed in connection with the defence in all branches of the army, including navy and air forces and the general staff, who are in receipt of a salary (including allowances) of Rs. 400 per month or more?

(b) Will he please give the corresponding number of Indians and non-Indians in 1930-31 and 1934-35?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: (a) and (b). The information required by the Honourable Member cannot readily be extracted from the accounts and would require an expenditure of time and labour which would not be justifiable.

As far as officers are concerned, however, the following information may be useful as a guide, and in conjunction with the Navy, Army and Air Force lists, copies of which are in the Library of the House, will enable an approximate calculation to be made in respect of officers.

All officers of, and above, the following ranks are in receipt of monthly emoluments of Rs. 400 per mensem or above:

I. Royal Indian Navy—

(a) British Officers—

- | | | | |
|----------------------|---|---|------------------------------------|
| (i) Executive Branch | . | . | Lieutenant of two years seniority. |
| (ii) Engineer Branch | | | On promotion to Lieutenant. |

(b) Indian Officers—

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| (i) Executive, and Engineer Branches | . | . | Lieutenant of four years seniority. |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|-------------------------------------|

II. Army—

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| (a) British Officers (including K. I. C. O.) | . | . | 2nd Lieutenant. |
| (b) Indian Commissioned Officers | . | . | Those over three years and nine months service as Lieutenant. |

III. Air Force—

(a) British Officers—

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|---|-----------------|
| General Duty and Stores Branches | . | . | Pilot Officers. |
|----------------------------------|---|---|-----------------|

(b) Indian Officers—

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|---|---|--------------------|
| (i) General Duty Branch | . | . | Flying Officer. |
| (ii) Stores Branch | . | . | Flight Lieutenant. |

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The statement that has been read out by the Honourable Member should have been laid on the table.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Can the Honourable Member say, in view of the fact that the information asked for by me cannot be given, whether the number of Indians in the grades which he read out has increased since 1934-35 or has diminished?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: My impression is that it has substantially increased.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Similarly, has the number of Europeans also increased.

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: That I am not prepared to say. I do not think it has.

MEASURES FOR RELIEF OF AGRICULTURAL DEBTORS.

257. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to lay on the table a summary of measures passed by the Provincial Governments for the relief of agricultural debtors?

(b) Are Government aware of any of the Provincial Governments having consulted the Reserve Bank authorities on this subject?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: (a) The information can be obtained from the proceedings of the Provincial Legislatures.

(b) I would refer the Honourable Member to the statements made on this subject in the report of the Reserve Bank for the year 1937 and in the Governor's address to the share-holders at the general meeting held on the 7th of February.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Can the Honourable Member assure the House that several legislations which have been passed on this subject in the Provincial Legislatures do not encroach on the province of the Government of India as provided in item 38 of the Seventh Schedule of the Government of India Act?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I can answer that if the Honourable Member puts down a specific question about a specific measure.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: Do the Government contemplate bringing in similar measures for the centrally administered areas?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: No, Sir.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: Why not, Sir?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I do not think that arises out of this question.

ORDERS OF THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES AT LANSDOWNE RE CELEBRATION OF THE INDEPENDENCE DAY.

258. ***Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena:** (a) Will the Army Secretary be pleased to state if it is a fact that the military authorities at Lansdowne passed orders regarding the celebration of the Independence Day, prohibiting the reading of the pledge of independence in public places, including the bazar area?

(b) If so, were the orders passed under instructions of the Government or on the initiative of the local authorities?

(c) Were similar orders issued at any other place? If not, for what reasons were the orders passed?

(d) Do Government propose to cancel the aforesaid order?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: (a) The facts of the case are that the O. C. station met certain local political leaders and discussed with them the undesirability of reading the "independence pledge" in Lansdowne Cantonment. The discussion was friendly and the people concerned voluntarily decided not to proceed with the reading of the pledge. In this particular case therefore, the question of prohibition did not arise. The military authorities and local leaders acted in friendly co-operation.

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

(c) Government have no information. In this respect, however, I draw attention to the answer given by me to part (b) of Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar's starred question No. 147 of the 7th February, 1938.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Is it a fact that persons were told that they will be turned out of the Cantonment if they held a meeting there on the 26th?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: I am not quite sure what the trend of the Honourable Member's question is. It rather seems that he was disputing what I have read to him.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Is it not a fact that the persons were threatened to be turned out of the Cantonment if they persisted in holding a meeting on the 26th of January?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: As far as I know, they did hold the meeting and were allowed to hold one. They were not allowed to read the Independence Pledge, rather they agreed not to read it. If they had not agreed not to read the Independence Pledge, I have no doubt that the threat the Honourable Member has spoken of would have been administered.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Were the processions banned on that day?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: The actual terms agreed upon were as follows: No processions were to be taken outside the Bazaar area.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: What about the processions within the Bazaar area?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: Within the Bazaar area, apparently, they were allowed. It was said that all celebrations, meetings, etc., were to take place strictly within the Bazaar area.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: May I know under what law the threat would have been administered if they had read the Independence Pledge?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: If the Honourable Member will read section 239 of the Cantonments Act, he will see that the Officer Commanding the station has power, in the event of any one doing anything or being likely to do anything or seeming to him likely to do anything which will disturb the tranquillity of his troops, will affect their discipline or is directed against their loyalty, to take steps to expel him from the cantonment.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Can the Cantonment authorities act against the orders of the Provincial Government or go beyond them?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is a hypothetical question.

RELEASE OF STATE PRISONERS.

259. ***Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena:** (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state whether Government have considered the advisability of releasing the State prisoners? If not, do they propose to do so at an early date?

(b) When were the cases of the detenus, confined in Naini jail, considered last and by whom?

(c) When was the case of *ex*-Maharaja of Nabha detained at Kodaikanal reviewed last? For how long has he been under detention, and under what conditions, if any, is he to be set at liberty?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) and (b). There are three State Prisoners for whom the Central Government are responsible, namely, the three prisoners who were until recently lodged in the Naini Central Jail

but who are now in the Delhi District Jail. Their cases are reviewed every six months by the Government of India and were last considered in September, 1937.

(c) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply given by the Honourable the Leader of the House to Sardar Mangal Singh's question No. 255 on the 1st September, 1937.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: With regard to part (c) of the question, may I ask if the Government have re-considered the question after the last answer was given?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: That is a matter for the Crown Representative and not for the Government of India.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Is it not a fact that my question relating to the *ex*-Maharaja of Nabha was about his health? That question had nothing to do with his release.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The Honourable Member's question was: "Will the Honourable the Leader of the House please state whether the question of the release of the *ex*-Maharaja of Nabha, who is now confined at Kodaikanal under Regulation III of 1818, now rests with the Madras Government or the Government of India?"

It had nothing to do with his health: it was about his release.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: May I ask why these detenus were transferred from the Naini Central Jail to the Delhi District Jail?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I am not certain: I must have notice.

MINISTERIAL OFFICERS BELONGING TO ASSAM IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA SECRETARIAT.

260. ***Maulvi Abdur Rasheed Chaudhury:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

- (a) the total number of ministerial officers in the Government of India Secretariat;
- (b) how many of them, if any, belong to the Province of Assam; and
- (c) whether Government propose to take more Assamese in these services in future?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) and (b). I presume the Honourable Member refers to Assistant Secretaries and Superintendents. The number of permanent Assistant Secretaries and Superintendents on the 1st February, 1938, was 18 and 60, respectively, and none of them belongs to the Province of Assam.

(c) Government have not recognised the principle of territorial representation, and there is no reservation in the Central Services for Assamese as such.

Maulvi Abdur Rasheed Chaudhury: May I know on what basis the ministerial officers of the Government of India Secretariat are appointed? Are they appointed on provincial basis or any other basis?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The Honourable Member is aware that there are certain reservations for minority communities, but there is not, and never has been, any reservation for the inhabitants of any particular province or area.

Maulvi Abdur Rasheed Chaudhury: Am I to understand that the Assamese will have no chance of having any appointment in the Government of India Secretariat?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: They have exactly the same chance as anybody else.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: If Government are not following any territorial basis for appointment, how is the British ratio fixed in these services? Is it not on a territorial basis?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is a matter for argument.

INADEQUACY OF THE POLICE ARRANGEMENTS AND THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES DURING SUMMER SEASONS AT NEW DELHI.

261. ***Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state if after the Government of India move up to Simla annually, the public services, municipal and other, are cut down drastically in New Delhi till Government moves down again in winter?

(b) Is it a fact that most of the roads in New Delhi are either unlit or only partially lit during the nights of the summer season?

(c) Is it a fact that, during this period, a number of thefts occur owing to the paucity of the police force in New Delhi?

(d) Will Government place on the table a statement showing the number of thefts reported to the police during the summer seasons of 1935, 1936 and 1937 and also the number of cases in which the police were able to trace the property and hand it over to the owners?

(e) Are Government prepared to consider the desirability of maintaining the police and the municipal sanitary services at their full level during the ensuing summer season?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The information is being obtained from the Chief Commissioner, Delhi, and will be laid on the table in due course.

ALTERATION IN THE RULES RE *VIVA VOCE* OF THE INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION IN INDIA.

262. ***Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state the reasons for the recent alteration in the rules regarding *viva voce* examination for candidates appearing for the Indian Civil Service examination in India?

(b) Does the same rule prevail in England for the London examination? If not, why has a departure been made in the case of Indian students appearing in India?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) I presume the Honourable Member is referring to the notice issued by the Federal Public Service Commission to the effect that the Commission will require only those who qualify in the written tests to present themselves for interview. The reason for this procedure is that, in view of the large increase in the number of candidates, it would be impossible for the Commission to interview all the candidates in the time available.

(b) No; since the circumstances necessitating the adoption of this procedure have not arisen in England.

Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar: Are the Government aware that by the latest procedure prescribed for *viva voce* examination the candidates will be obliged to incur double expenditure in travelling which involves great hardship for those coming from long distances?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: In the case of candidates who succeed in obtaining a certain standard of marks, in the written test, it would mean their coming back for interview in Delhi. I believe some of the candidates have always got to do that.

Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar: Will the Government allow travelling allowance for candidates who have to attend a second time?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I must have notice.

PROPOSALS FOR THE REDUCTION OF PAY OF THE INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE AND THE INDIAN POLICE SERVICE.

263. ***Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member state at what stage the proposals for reducing the pay of the Indian Civil Service and the Indian Police Service are at present?

(b) Are Government aware that in Madras, Bombay and the United Provinces, schemes have been or are being put through for permanently reducing the pay of new entrants to the provincial services?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) The position is still as stated in the answer given on the 30th September, 1937, to the Honourable Member's starred question No. 933.

(b) I understand that certain Provincial Governments have reduced or contemplate the reduction of rates of pay for new entrants into the Provincial Services.

Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar: For how long will this consideration be carried on?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The answer to the Honourable Member's previous question was:

"The question has been deferred till the occasion arises to review the future recruitment and conditions of service of the Indian Civil Service and the Indian Police Service".

PAUCITY OF INDIAN OFFICERS IN THE DEFENCE DEPARTMENT.

264. ***Babu Kailash Behari Lal:** Will the Defence Secretary be pleased to state:

- (a) if it is a fact that in the Defence Department there is not a single Indian down to the post of an Under Secretary;
- (b) if it is a fact that on the administrative side of Army Headquarters, civilians of Indian nationality cannot be Under Secretaries;
- (c) if it is a fact that the audit of military expenditure is handed over to a civilian of British nationality; and
- (d) if it is a fact that an officer from the War Office is to be imported for the post of Financial Adviser to the Defence Department?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: (a), (c) and (d). I refer the Honourable Member to the replies given by the Home Secretary to parts (b) and (c) of starred question No. 807 asked by Mr. S. Satyamurti on the 27th September, 1937.

(b) There are no posts of Under Secretary in Army Headquarters.

CERTAIN STATE PRISONERS UNDER REGULATION III OF 1818 IN THE PUNJAB.

265. ***Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable the Home Member state:

- (a) if it is a fact that Messrs. Amir Haidar Khan, Teja Singh Swatantra, Ram Kishan and Vasudeva Singh are indefinitely confined in the Punjab jails under Regulation III of 1818;
- (b) if so, how long they have been so confined and when their cases were last examined; and
- (c) if Mr. Teja Singh Swatantra is being prohibited from attending to his duties as an elected member of the Punjab Provincial Legislative Assembly?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) to (c). The responsibility for these State Prisoners passed to the Provincial Government from the 1st April, 1937, on the introduction of Provincial Autonomy.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Is it a fact that Regulation III prisoners are also now under the Provincial Government?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Yes, Sir.

DEATH OF STATE PRISONERS CONFINED UNDER REGULATION III OF 1818.

266. ***Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable the Home Member state the number of prisoners confined under Regulation III of 1818 that have died since 1932 and the disease from which each died?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Two. One died of apoplexy. I am ascertaining the cause of death of the other.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: What are their names?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: One who died of apoplexy was **J. M. Sen Gupta**. He died on 23rd July, 1933. The name of the other is **Sardar Muhammad Yunus Khan** son of the late *Ex-Amir* **Muhammad Yakub Khan**, who died on 4th March, 1932.

REHEARSALS OF AIR ATTACKS, ETC., IN INDIA.

267. ***Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Will the Defence Secretary state:

- (a) if it is a fact that rehearsals have taken place in India of attacks from the air on some principal towns as also of "black outs", "gas masks", etc.;
- (b) what is the average cost of each such operation; and
- (c) what good these do to the population as a whole?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: (a) and (b). I have no information beyond what has appeared in the press:

(c) It cannot be estimated.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Are not the Government of India consulted before such rehearsals are ordered?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: No, Sir.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Which is the authority directly responsible for such rehearsals?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: The Provincial Governments arrange these.

Mr. B. Das: Do not the Central Government loan the services of their air force?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: The air force always co-operate when asked to do so, if it can possibly arrange to do so.

Mr. B. Das: Does that mean that the Bengal Government asked the co-operation of the Government of India to arrange the air force demonstrations over Calcutta on the 23rd of this month?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: No, Sir. It means that the Bengal Government obtained the co-operation of the local air force authorities.

Mr. B. Das: Do the Bengal Government or the Government of India pay the cost of this demonstration?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: No extra cost of any kind is involved. Aeroplanes are allotted a certain quantity of petrol a year and, provided that that is not exceeded, they can carry out flights for the purposes of training without any extra cost being involved.

IMPROVEMENT OF THE COURT BUILDING AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A HIGHEST APPELLATE COURT FOR CENTRALLY ADMINISTERED AREAS AT DELHI.

268. ***Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please refer to my questions of 1935, regarding the dilapidated condition and scattered location of the various court buildings of the metropolis, and state what steps, if any, have been taken during the last three years to build suitable courts in a central place, easily accessible to the litigants of Old and New Delhi?

(b) What steps, if any, have been taken to establish a Circuit Court of the Lahore High Court, or another Court of highest appellate jurisdiction, for the convenience of the litigants of Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara Provinces?

(c) Are Government prepared to consider the feasibility of undertaking necessary legislation to constitute an appellate court of the highest criminal and civil jurisdiction for Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara and any other centrally administered areas, at Delhi, and confer the necessary powers upon the Judges of the Federal Court?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) Government have been considering the matter and have a scheme under preparation.

(b) The question of establishing a Circuit Court of the Lahore High Court to deal with Delhi appeals has been considered and dropped. I am not aware of any proposal for hearing appeals from Ajmer-Merwara in Delhi.

(c) Apart from legal difficulties Government do not consider the proposal a suitable one.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: With reference to part (a), may I remind the Honourable Member that he held out a similar promise about three years ago? Have Government taken three years to mature their plans and have not yet come to any conclusion?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: We have come to a pretty clear conclusion but it is now a question of money. The Honourable Member had better try his persuasive powers on my Honourable colleague, the Finance Member.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: With reference to part (b), may I know why this proposal has been dropped?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: One difficulty was the question of accommodation for the Court; and I think there is a legal difficulty also. I do not think it would be possible to establish a Circuit Court within the terms of the existing Letters Patent.

MECHANISATION OF THE INDIAN ARMY.

269. ***Mr. Badri Dutt Pande:** (a) Will the Defence Secretary be pleased to give the House a detailed account of the scheme for the mechanisation of the army in India?

(b) Will mules and horses be eliminated from the mechanised Army?

(c) What are the units that are to be mechanised?

(d) What is the cost of the whole scheme?

(e) How much of it is to be borne by the English exchequer and how much by the Indian treasury?

(f) How many years will the whole scheme be spread over?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: (a), (c), (d) and (e). I refer the Honourable Member to my speech of 31st January, 1938, on Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar's adjournment motion.

(b) Yes, except for officers' chargers in peace time.

(f) It is impossible to say at present.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Is it a fact that Government are intending to mechanise the Military Audit Department and introducing machines to make calculations and eliminating all men?

LOWERING OF THE AGE-LIMIT FOR RETIREMENT FROM THE ARMY.

270. ***Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** (a) Will the Defence Secretary please state whether Government are aware of the fact that the British Government have reduced the age of retirement in the British Army, and under the new scheme a certain number of old Generals have had to retire, and younger men have taken their place?

(b) How many officers of the British Army in India have been affected by this scheme, and how many officers are therefore due to retire?

(c) Will Government state why no steps have been taken in India to enforce the age-limit in respect of the British Army in India, and also the Indian Army to allow younger men to replace those who have reached the age of retirement under the British scheme?

(d) Will Government please state how many British officers of (1) the British, and (2) the Indian Army will have to retire within the next five years under the new British scheme?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: (a) As far as Government are aware, there has been no change in the age prescribed for retirement in the British Army.

(b), (c) and (d). Do not arise. I may, however, inform the Honourable Member that the present rule in the Army in India, as in the British Army, is that promotions to, and beyond, the rank of lieutenant-colonel are by selection.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: May I know what exactly was the import of the announcement that was made in the papers quite recently about reducing the age of retirement in the British army? I suppose the Defence Secretary knows something about it?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: I presume that it meant that in practice owing to the number of retirements effected the age of retirement would be reduced, but the official age up to which an officer can serve has not, so far as we are aware, been altered in any way.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Will the Government of India consider the desirability of following the British Government's decision in this matter and make room for younger men?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: I do not know which younger men the Honourable Member has in mind.

NOTICES SERVED ON CERTAIN CONGRESS WORKERS OF THE DELHI PROVINCE.

271. ***Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please state if it is a fact that on 19th November, 1937, (1) Satyawati Devi, (2) Brij Kishen Chandiwalla, (3) Shatrugan, (4) K. Nair, and (5) Sarupa Nand, Congress workers of the Delhi Province were served with a notice from the Local Government directing them that they:

- (i) shall abstain from all forms of political agitation in the Delhi Province, and
- (ii) shall not take part in any procession or in any meeting in the Delhi Province?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Yes.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: With reference to part (ii), will Government please invite the attention of the Local Government to the fact that orders of this sweeping nature are really illegal and an interference with the ordinary civil liberties of the citizens, because the order says that they shall not take part in any procession or in any meeting in the Delhi Province which may even mean a funeral procession or possibly a marriage procession?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I do not agree that the order was illegal or in any way outside the terms of the section. But that is hardly a matter which can be debated on the floor of the House. If the persons concerned consider it illegal they surely have their remedies.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: What were the reasons for passing this order?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I think I stated that in reply to a previous question on the subject.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: If I remember aright, that answer was that they were going to the interior and were addressing meetings of villagers. I want to know why orders were passed in regard to meetings and processions in the city itself.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Because they were conducting a campaign for refusal to pay land revenue and because they had announced that their intention was to make a demonstration before the Chief Commissioner's House which could not be permitted.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: How long will this order remain in force?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: For a period of three months from the date of the order. The order was passed on the 18th November, 1937; so it will last till the day after tomorrow.

STATE PRISONERS UNDER REGULATION III OF 1818.

272. ***Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state the number of prisoners, known as

State Prisoners under Regulation III of 1818, still detailed in jails all over India and also mention their respective places of present confinement?

(b) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state how many of the aforesaid State Prisoners are from Bengal, and how many of them belong to Provinces other than Bengal and the number of years each of them has been kept under confinement under Regulation III?

(c) Have Government their immediate release in contemplation? If so, when do they contemplate releasing them?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) Three, so far as the Central Government are concerned. All of them are confined in the Delhi Jail.

(b) None come from Bengal. Two belong to Delhi and the third to Ajmer-Merwara. One has been in confinement for about six years, another for four and a half years, and the third for 2½ years.

(c) No.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Sir, the replies are read in such a low tone that we could not hear anything.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I think the questioner heard it all right.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Many Members on this side could not hear it.

(Voices of: "We did not hear".)

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Sir, in the U. P. Assembly loud speakers are installed and

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

NATIONAL DEBT OF INDIA.

273. ***Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state the total amount of India's National Debt as it stands today, and the total amount of interest India has to pay on that amount yearly?

(b) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state the occasions and the time when these debts had to be incurred by the Government of India?

(c) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state if he has considered the possibility of repayment of this debt with all interests? If so, in how many years and how?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: With your permission, Sir, I shall deal with questions Nos. 273 and 274 together.

Full information regarding the total amount of debt outstanding, the portion attributable to Railways, and the distribution of the interest charges, is given in the Finance and Revenue Accounts, copies of which are available in the Library of the House. The debt can only be repaid in accordance with the terms on which individual loans were raised. The rate of interest payable on new loans depends on market conditions.

Mr. Lalchand Navalraj: May I know from the Honourable Member whether Finance and Revenue accounts also give the moneys paid and at what time?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: They give a list of individual loans.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member ought to be vigilant and know that when his question has been answered he must go on to the next.

DEBT OWED BY STATE RAILWAYS TO THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT.

†274. ***Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state the total amount which Railways (State) owe to the Central Government and the interest realised by the latter on that amount and if any interest has already accrued and has not been realised?

(b) In how many years will this amount be realised by the Central Government?

(c) Has the Honourable the Finance Member any scheme under his consideration or contemplation to enable him to repay the aforesaid debts, or get repayments from State Railways within ten years?

(d) Is the Honourable Member prepared to consider the advisability of raising a loan at two per cent. interest of a large amount to liquidate an equivalent amount of debt and save a large amount in interest to be spent on village improvement schemes in the centrally administered areas, or through Provincial Government?

NEWSPAPERS SUPPLIED TO THE CADETS AT THE INDIAN MILITARY ACADEMY, DEHRA DUN.

275. ***Sardar Mangal Singh:** Will the Defence Secretary please state:

- (a) the names of the daily newspapers which are supplied to the cadets at the Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun;
- (b) whether there is any ban against the entry of newspapers of any political party into the Academy;
- (c) whether there is any similar restriction on the cadets at Sandhurst in England;
- (d) whether it is a fact that in England the cadets are allowed to read the newspapers of all political parties; and
- (e) whether Government are prepared to reconsider this matter and allow the cadets to read the newspapers of all political parties? If not, why not?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: (a) The following daily newspapers are provided at the Indian Military Academy:

The *Times* (daily edition).

The *Statesman*.

The *Civil and Military Gazette*.

The *Times of India*.

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 273.

- (b) No, as any such action has not been found to be necessary.
 (c) No.
 (d) Yes.
 (e) In view of the answer to part (b) no reconsideration is necessary.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Is it merely by an accident that no nationalist paper or socialist paper is allowed in the Academy?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: If the Honourable Member had listened to my reply he would have heard the answer.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Who decides the question?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: The question of what papers are to be provided free by the Indian Military Academy for the use of cadets is decided by the authorities of the Academy in consultation with the cadets themselves who have a voice in the selection of papers through their representatives on the Library Committee.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Is any friendly advice given as to what papers may be subscribed for or got?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: That does not arise.

CERTAIN EXPENDITURE IN THE DEFENCE DEPARTMENT.

276. ***Sardar Mangal Singh:** Will the Defence Secretary please state:

- (a) the annual expenditure incurred on salaries and allowances of (1) Indians and (2) Europeans, separately, in the Defence Department;
- (b) the total annual expenditure incurred on equipment of the Indian Army (i) in India, (ii) in England and (iii) in other countries; and
- (c) whether any part of the British military budget is spent out of the country? If so, how much?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: (a) The average annual expenditure incurred on salaries and allowances in the Defence Department Secretariat are as follows:

	Rs.
(i) Indian	3,32 lakhs
(ii) British	1,94 lakhs.

(b) The information, as far as it can be extracted from the accounts is as follows. It concerns the year 1937-38.

Expenditure on Equipment of the three Defence Services incurred in:

(i) *India—*

	Rs.
Army	169,80 lakhs.
Air Force	4,38 „
Royal Indian Navy	5,54 „

Or roundly Rs. 180 lakhs in all for India.

(ii) *England*—

	Rs.
Army	88,84 lakhs.
Air Force	46,52 „
Royal Indian Navy	5,21 „

Or roundly Rs. 140 lakhs in all for England.

(iii) *Other Countries* —

No precise figure can be extracted from the accounts, but the expenditure may be taken to be so small as to be negligible.

(c) Government have no information.

EXPENDITURE FOR MECHANISATION OF THE INDIAN ARMY

277. ***Sardar Mangal Singh:** Will the Defence Secretary please state:

- the total initial expenditure required to mechanise the whole of the Indian Army, and what would be the annual saving thereafter; and
- whether it would be possible to reduce the strength of the Army after it is mechanised?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: (a) and (b). The information asked for is not available, as there is no intention of mechanising the whole of the Army. Any such scheme would be wholly impractical, as a proportion only of mechanised troops is required.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Ohettiar: Is there any programme of mechanisation for any part of the Indian Army.

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: Yes, the matter is now under detailed consideration.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Is there any literature available which will give us some idea of what mechanisation means.

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: I should say there is a vast quantity of it.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: Is it available in our Library?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: I am not sure, but it is certainly available in the Army Headquarters Library.

VISIT OF HIS MAJESTY THE KING EMPEROR TO INDIA.

278. ***Sardar Mangal Singh:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

- whether it is a fact that His Majesty the King Emperor will pay a visit to this country next cold weather;
- whether a Royal Darbar will be held on the occasion of His Majesty's visit to this country;
- if the answers to parts (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, when the formal announcement is likely to be made;

- (d) whether the Government of India were consulted by the British Government before the decision about His Majesty's coming visit was arrived at; and
- (e) whether the Provincial Governments were consulted in the matter and, if so, which Governments are for and which against the Royal visit?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: With your permission, Sir, I will reply to this question and the next question together. I invite attention to the announcement made in the newspapers of the 11th instant that His Majesty will not be visiting India next cold weather.

Sardar Mangal Singh: What is the answer to part (b)—were the Government of India consulted by the British Government?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I have nothing to add to my reply.

VISIT OF HIS MAJESTY THE KING EMPEROR TO INDIA.

†279. ***Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena:** Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

- (a) if the attention of Government has been drawn to the Reuter's recent message regarding the proposed visit of His Majesty the King Emperor to India;
- (b) whether the Government of India were consulted regarding the proposed visit; if so, what advice they have given; and
- (c) what is the amount of the expenditure over the visit?

DISPARITY IN PAY OF THE BRITISH AND INDIAN COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is a great disparity in the pay of the British officers and the Indian commissioned officers in the Indian Army;
- (b) whether it is a fact that a British officer on appointment to the Indian Army gets more pay than an Indian commissioned officer would get after nine or even eleven years' service; and
- (c) whether it is a fact that, in view of this great disparity, Indian commissioned officers cannot maintain the same standard of living as the British officers?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: (a) and (b). I refer the Honourable Member to statement "A" laid on the table of the Council of State on the 14th September, 1937, which shows the difference in the pay of King's Commissioned officers and Indian Commissioned officers of the Indian Army.

(c) I refer the Honourable Member to the speech of Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby in this House on the 28th August, 1934, in connexion with the Indian Army (Amendment) Bill touching on this point, which is published on page 2262 of the Debates for that day. The standard of living of British officers varies from unit to unit. Government are fully

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 278.

satisfied that in the indianised units the emoluments of Indian Commissioned Officers are sufficient to enable them to live in the same way as the British Officers in those units.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: With reference to part (b) of the question, may I know if it is a fact that an Indian Commissioned Officer gets the same pay which a British Officer starts with, after nine years?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It is difficult for an Honourable Member to keep all these facts in his head.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: The question was given notice of in (b).

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Was that answered?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: The answer can be found in the statement laid on the table of the Council of State. I can give it if the Honourable Member likes.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: I want to know whether the Honourable Member can refer to the answer given in the Council of State?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): This has been the practice here, because it is published and is open to Members.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: The answer can be given—yes or no: it is a fact or is it not?

Mr. M. Anathasayanam Ayyangar: They cannot refer to answers given in the Council of State.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): You cannot discuss anything that takes place in the Council of State, but the information that is given there is available to Members, and there is no reason why that answer should be repeated and the time of the House unnecessarily taken up.

Mr. K. Santhanam: I submit this is a simple question which has to be answered by an yes or no.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It is not so simple, it applies to every question. If the information is available and is published in the proceedings of the Council of State, it ought not to be repeated here.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: If any question has been

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order. I have given my ruling.

GRIEVANCES OF THE INDIAN COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.

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

- (a) how long an Indian commissioned officer spends at the Indian Military Academy before he is gazetted;

- (b) what is the corresponding period for a British officer at Sandhurst;
- (c) whether it is a fact that in spite of being given one year's ante-date, an Indian commissioned officer is still kept junior to his contemporary at Sandhurst by three days; if so, whether this does not involve a delay in the promotion of the former;
- (d) whether Government propose to take speedy steps to eradicate this hardship; and
- (e) whether it is a fact that a British officer is allowed to draw marriage or lodging allowances; whether the same allowances are paid to the Indian commissioned officers?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: (a) The course of instruction at the Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun, extends to 2½ years.

(b) The corresponding period for British officers at Sandhurst is 18 months.

(c) In spite of the fact that an officer from Sandhurst joins his unit a year before the date on which an Indian Commissioned officer who entered Dehra Dun at the same time joins his, he is not counted as senior by a year, but by three days only. In other words, the Indian Commissioned officer is made a gift of approximately one year's seniority.

(d) No. There is no hardship.

(e) I refer the Honourable Member to the statement laid on the table of the Council of State on the 14th September, 1937, showing the pay and allowances of King's Commissioned officers and Indian Commissioned officers of the Indian Army.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: With reference to the answer to part (c) may I know why 'three days' difference is in favour of British officers?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: In order that the fact that an officer who has already been with his unit as a serving officer for a whole year may be at least nominally marked.

GRIEVANCES OF THE INDIAN COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the quarters built for or assigned to the Indian commissioned officers are inferior to those intended for British officers;
- (b) whether it is a fact that an Indian commissioned officer has to pay five per cent. of his pay for these quarters;
- (c) whether it is a fact that when a British officer occupies the quarters built for Indian commissioned officer, he is given a remission out of his lodging allowance as compensation for inferior accommodation; and

- (d) if the answer to part (c) be in the affirmative, whether Government propose to take speedy steps to remove this inequality?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: (a) The new quarters specially built for Indian Commissioned officers are slightly smaller than those for British officers. No distinction is, however, made in allotting available British Officers' quarters to Indian Commissioned officers.

(b) Yes.

(c) No. Compensation for inferior accommodation is not admissible to a British officer below the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.

(d) Does not arise.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: May I know if the quarters are smaller because the families are smaller?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: When it was decided to Indianise a large number of regiments, the officer cadres were much greater than they had been in the old Indian army in view of the fact that all the officers from platoon commander upwards were commissioned officers. It, therefore, became necessary to embark on a large building programme and the expense was naturally very great. A committee was, therefore, assembled for the purpose of considering how this could be done satisfactorily and as cheaply as possible. The Committee included two Members of the Legislature and the plans which it put forward were those on which the quarters for junior Indian Commissioned officers were now built.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: May I know if the quarters that will be built for British officers in future will also be of the same size?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: No, Sir.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know if part of the lodging allowance is remitted to a British officer when he occupies what the Honourable Member describes as smaller quarters?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: Only in the case of an officer of the rank of Lieut.-Colonel.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Will the Honourable Member disclose the names of two Members of the Indian Legislature?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: I cannot do so off-hand.

GRIEVANCES OF THE INDIAN COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.

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

- (a) the total number of Indians commissioned from Sandhurst and the Indian Military Academy up to date;
- (b) how many of these are actually serving today;
- (c) what is the cause of this enormous waste;
- (d) whether Government are quite satisfied that Indians from Sandhurst and the Dehra Dun Academy are being treated fairly; and

- (e) whether Government are prepared to appoint an enquiry committee consisting of the elected members of this House to go into the question of the grievances of the Indian commissioned officers and the King's commissioned Indian officers?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: (a) 209 from Sandhurst and 187 from the Indian Military Academy.

(b) 143 from Sandhurst and 184 from the Indian Military Academy.

(c) The causes of the wastage are as follows:

Deaths, 3.

Retirements and resignations, 50.

Removals, 3.

Transferred to Special Unemployed List, 13.

(d) Yes.

(e) No.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: With reference to part (c), may I know what is the cause of so many Sandhurst returned Indian officers leaving the Army?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: I am afraid that it is impossible to assign any general reason. The cause probably differs in each individual case. If any general reason could be given, I suppose it was due to the fact that they did not like a military career as much as they thought they would.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: How is it that Indian officers in the Academy in spite of the inferior status like a military career, while the Sandhurst officers prefer to leave it?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: The most senior officer from the Indian Military Academy has at present only four years' service and has not yet reached a stage when he could draw either pension or gratuity.

APPOINTMENT OF THE INDIAN COMMISSIONED OFFICERS TO THE MILITIA OR THE SCOUTS.

284. ***Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** Will the Defence Secretary please state whether any Indian commissioned officers have been appointed so far to the Militia or the Scouts?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: No.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know the reason why Indians are not appointed in the militia or the scouts?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: I cannot possibly say. The selection of officers for such appointments rests with the civil authorities.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Is there any standing order that Indians ought to be excluded from these services?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: Certainly not.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Is it proposed to take Indians?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: I cannot possibly say.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: Who are the civil authorities that make the selection?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: The militia and the scouts are civil forces, and they are not military at all.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Who makes the appointments for the militia and scouts?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: I require notice.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Do these posts carry extra allowances?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: I want notice.

Mr. K. Santhanam: May I know if the civil officers concerned take the advice of the military authorities in selecting officers for militia and scouts?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: I suppose they do.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know if these valuable opportunities for training are denied to Indians?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: I really cannot say.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Are the expenses on the militia and the scouts borne on the Defence Budget?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: No.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: Is the Honourable Member a civil authority or a military authority?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): With reference to what I said in regard to referring Honourable Members to replies made in the Council of State, it has always been the practice to refer to them, but it does not mean that in every case an answer like that would be sufficient. I did not mean to imply that, but in this particular case, there only certain figures were wanted, and that information has been already supplied in the Council of State and is available to the Members.

CLASSIFICATION OF THE CANTONMENTS.

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

- (a) what cantonments have been classified as Class I, Class II(i), Class II(ii), Class II(iii) and Class III for purposes of section 13 of the Cantonments Act;
- (b) whether any steps have been taken to ascertain the strength of civil population in cantonments on hills during summer, as the last official census was taken in winter;

- (c) if the answer to part (b) be in the negative, what steps Government propose to take to hold a special census during summer to correct the classification of these cantonments;
- (d) whether it is a fact that in some cantonments the old system of Corporation Sole and nominated Board still continues, and the elected Boards are not yet formed; if so, where;
- (e) if the answer to part (d) be in the affirmative, when the elected Boards are likely to come into existence in those cantonments; and
- (f) whether there are any cantonments in which a military officer, other than the Officer Commanding the Station, is the President of the Cantonment Board? If so, where?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: (a) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to section 13 of the Cantonment Act, 1924, and to part (b) of the reply given by Sir Richard Tottenham to starred question No. 561 asked by Seth Govind Das in the Legislative Assembly on the 11th September, 1936.

(b) Yes.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes. Elected Boards have not yet been constituted in Abbottabad, Ambala, Kohat, Nowshera, Risalpur, Murree Gahis, Loralai, Delhi, Ahmedabad and St. Thomas Mount.

(e) Elections will be held as soon as the necessary formalities have been completed by Provincial Governments and the Local Authorities concerned.

(f) No.

BAZAR COMMITTEES CONSTITUTED IN CANTONMENTS.

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

(a) the names of the Cantonment Boards in Class I and Class II Cantonments, where Bazar Committees have and have not been constituted in accordance with section 43A of the Cantonments Act;

(b) the reason why these Cantonment Boards have failed to constitute these statutory Committees so far;

(c) whether it is a fact that in some cantonments although the Committees are nominally constituted, they have not yet started functioning; if so, why; and

(d) what powers have been delegated by the official majority in Cantonment Boards to the Bazar Committees in each Cantonment?

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

BUNGALOWS RESUMED IN CANTONMENTS.

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

- (a) how many bungalows were resumed in the year 1936-37 in various cantonments in India, the names of their owners and the price paid;
- (b) whether any of the bungalows so resumed were rebuilt, and at what cost;
- (c) whether all the resumption proceedings were undertaken under the Land Acquisition Act, or in any other way;
- (d) what number of bungalows Government are resuming in the current year 1937-38 and for what purposes; and
- (e) whether it is a fact that two bungalows in Kohat Cantonment and two in Rawalpindi are being resumed simply because the owners did not sign the acknowledgment (that they held land under General Order 179 of 1836) and not because they were required for military?

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

GRANTS-IN-AID PAID TO CANTONMENT AUTHORITIES AND BOARDS.

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

- (a) what amounts of ordinary and special grants-in-aid were paid to various Cantonment Authorities and Boards in the years 1936-37 and 1937-38 and the purpose or purposes for which they were paid;
- (b) whether there is any increase in the total amount of grants-in-aid over the year 1935-36;
- (c) what amount of annual income has started accruing from lands hitherto under the management of Cantonment Boards and now under the direct management of Government;
- (d) what methods have been adopted to allocate this income to the Board, which has been deprived of it as a result of direct management as contemplated by Government in paragraph (1) (2) of the Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Cantonments Amendment Bill;
- (e) whether Government have received any representation from the All-India Cantonments Association urging the giving of liberal grants-in-aid to Cantonment Boards; and
- (f) if the answer to part (e) be in the affirmative, what action Government propose to take on this representation?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: (a) A statement is laid on the table showing the payments made to cantonments in India as grants during 1936-37 and 1937-38.

The further allotment of grants for the year 1937-38 is still under consideration.

(b) Yes.

(c) The information will not be available till after the end of the year.

(d) If any compensation for the loss of revenue is required to enable cantonments to maintain financial stability, the necessary grant-in-aid will be given.

(e) Yes.

(f) It has been noted.

Grants-in-aid paid to Cantonments (excluding those in Burma) during 1936-37 and 1937-38.

1936-37.

Ordinary grants to maintain financial equilibrium.

	Rs.
Dharamsala	1,432
Campbellpore	6,043
Subathu	2,969
Amritsar	5,107
Lebong	5,017
Jalapahar	7,141
Almora	4,849
Ahmednagar	4,450
	<u>37,008</u>

Extra street lighting.

	Rs.
Mardan	2,415
Risalpur	2,429
Bannu	959
	<u>5,803</u>

Special grants.

Station.	Amount.	Purpose.
Pachmarhi	1,150	Provision of latrines.
Wellington	11,000	Electrification.
Nasirabad	5,000	Repairs to roads.
Ferozepore	5,000	Improvements to the Sukka Nulla.
Campbellpore	8,615	Completion of certain works in village Campbellpore.
Drigh Road	2,695	Construction of sweepers' quarters.
Delhi	6,000	Improvement to certain roads.
Ahmednagar	13,950	Famine Relief works.
Poona	10,000	Improvements to Ghorpuri and Wano-wrie villages.
	<u>63,410</u>	
Total	<u>1,06,221</u>	

1937-38.

Ordinary grants to maintain financial equilibrium.

	Rs.
Dharamsala	1,191
Campbellpore	5,524
Amritsar	6,000
Subathu	4,113
Almora	4,091
Lebong	5,000
Jalapahar	6,158
Deolali	4,000
Pachmarhi	1,000
	<hr/>
	37,077

Extra street lighting.

	Rs.
Risalpur	3,011
Mardan	2,415
Bannu	920
Kohat	4,920
	<hr/>
	11,266

Special grants.

A sum of Rs. 9,500 has been paid to Hyderabad (Sind) Cantonment for the construction of quarters for the Executive Officer.

NOTE.—Further grants to be made to cantonments during 1937-38 are under consideration.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: Will the Honourable Member inform this House whether the annual recurring expenditure for the maintenance of cantonments is on the increase or not?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: It may be said to be slightly on the increase.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: Could the Honourable Member tell the House approximately how much?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: This year's figures are not ready but the increase in 1936-37 was just over 16,000 rupees.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: What is the increase due to?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: Due probably to greater generosity of the Central Government in the matter of offering amenities to the civil population of the cantonments.

ADVISABILITY OF DELETING SECTION 239 OF THE CANTONMENTS ACT.

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

- (a) whether any person has been removed from any cantonment by the Officer Commanding the Station under section 239 of the Cantonments Act during the last three years;
- (b) if the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, what were the particular reasons for such removal; and

- (c) if the answer be in the negative, whether Government propose to consider the advisability of deleting this section from the Cantonment Municipal Act?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: I am collecting the information and will lay it 12 Noon. on the table in due course.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS.

REDUCTION OF STAMP DUTY ON INLAND BILLS.

290. ***Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

- (a) whether Government have received the opinions of the Provincial Governments regarding the reduction of Stamp duty on Inland Bills; if so, whether he will please lay a copy of the same on the table;
- (b) whether Government are aware of the recommendations of the Reserve Bank of India that such duties should be reduced to two annas per thousand per annum;
- (c) whether Government propose to reduce the duty to the figure recommended by the Reserve Bank of India in their Report on Agricultural Credit Department; if not, why not; and
- (d) what loss in the revenue is expected if such a reduction is carried on?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: (a), (b) and (c). I would refer the Honourable Member to the Bill which I introduced yesterday.

(d) It is estimated that with the reduced duty the increased use of inland bills will obviate any loss of revenue.

STRIKES AND LOCK-OUTS IN MILLS OF DELHI.

291. ***Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable the Home Member state:

- (a) if it is a fact that there have been for some time past strikes or lock-outs or both in some of the mills at Delhi;
- (b) if any official or non-official agencies have maintained any censorship on the press so that news regarding these may not be published;
- (c) what the exact situation at the present moment is and what the causes have been that have led to these troubles;
- (d) what action, if any, Government have taken to bring about an amicable understanding in the interest of all concerned; and
- (e) what assistance, if any, Government have given by supplying policemen and other official agencies in this connection, and in whose interest this has been done?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I am unable to reply to this question which should have been addressed to the Honourable Member representing the Labour Department.

REFUSAL OF A PASSPORT FOR KABUL TO ONE HARNAM SINGH.

292. ***Mr. Abdul Qayyum:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

- (a) whether Harnam Singh son of Mistri Nanak Singh, driver, applied for a passport for Kabul to the Police at Peshawar;
- (b) whether any reply has been sent to him; if not, why not;
- (c) whether it is a fact that Harnam Singh was married in Kabul and that he is anxious to meet his relatives there; and
- (d) whether it is a fact that the passport is being withheld from him; if so, what are the reasons for such refusal?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) to (d). The Central Government have hitherto received no reference on the subject from the passport authorities, and inquiries are being made to ascertain the facts.

RESTRICTIONS ON PARKING OF CARS ON THE ROAD JOINING THE BARAKHAMBA ROAD AND CURZON ROAD IN NEW DELHI.

293. ***Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Senior Superintendent of Police has put some unusual restrictions on the parking of cars on the road joining the Barakhamba Road and Curzon Road in Connaught Circus, New Delhi? If so, why?

(b) Is it a fact that the Superintendent of Police has put these restrictions on the representation made by the managers of the *Statesman* and the *Burma Shell*? If so, did the said authority ever consider the necessity of providing a suitable car park for the residents of the other buildings on the road?

(c) Is it not a fact that in spite of the representation made by the residents and shopkeepers of the Bombay Life Building on the road, the Superintendent has failed to make any suitable arrangement for parking their cars?

(d) Are Government aware that nowhere else in Connaught Circus are such restrictions put on the motorists? If so, do Government propose to instruct the authorities concerned to withdraw these orders? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The information is being obtained from the Chief Commissioner, Delhi, and will be laid on the table in due course.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER.

ORDERS OF MOBILIZATION TO CHINA FOR THE MEERUT COMMAND.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Defence Secretary be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Meerut Command is under orders of mobilization to China?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: No, Sir.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: May I know how many Indian troops there are at present in China?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: I do not think that arises out of this short notice question.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

EXPENDITURE ON CENTRAL COMMITTEES OR BOARDS.

25. Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state how many central committees or mixed boards of officials and non-officials are functioning, and what was the expenditure incurred on their activity during the last official year, for which complete accounts are available?

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

EXPENDITURE ON CONFERENCES PRESIDED OVER BY A MEMBER OR SECRETARY OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT.

26. Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state the names of conferences, which were held, presided over by a Member of Government (Central), or a Secretary to Government (Central), during the last year, for which complete accounts are available, and the expenditure incurred in connection with each of them?

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

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE.

Information promised in reply to starred questions Nos. 192 and 204 asked by Rai Bahadur Seth Bhagchand Soni, on the 25th January, 1937.

GRANT TO THE AJMER MUNICIPALITY FOR DRAINAGE AND WATER SUPPLY SCHEMES.

Starred question, No. 192.—(a) Although some years ago it was the practice in the United Provinces for the Local Government to make grants to the extent of 50 per cent. of the capital cost for public health schemes in the principal cities of the Province, financial stringency has since intervened and this is now no longer the case. Occasionally small grants are still made for the purpose but generally if local resources are not equal to the expenditure Government aid takes the form of a loan.

In the Punjab, grants-in-aid are made to local bodies on the recommendation of the local Sanitary Board. The magnitude of these grants depends on the cost of the scheme. For very expensive works this grant represents $\frac{1}{3}$ rd of the cost. For schemes upto two lakhs the grant is 50 per cent.

(b) This is not strictly the case. In the United Provinces, the Provincial Public Health Engineering Department only executes schemes for municipalities who either have no adequate staff of their own or who do not wish to entrust the work to a commercial firm. In the Punjab, the practice is for the Public Health Engineering Department to carry out such schemes on the recommendation of the Sanitary Board, or at the specific request of the local body concerned.

(c) No. The Superintending Engineer, Health Services, Delhi, is directly under the Chief Commissioner, Delhi. His advice, however, is available to Government in connection with sanitary schemes, etc., in centrally administered areas.

(d) and (e). As a result of a recent visit by the Public Health Commissioner with the Government of India, the question of Ajmer sanitation and water supply is under review.

IMPROVEMENT OF WATER SUPPLY IN AJMER.

Starred question No. 204.—(a) The water supplied by the Ajmer Municipality is from two sources :

- (i) The Foyasagar lake.
- (ii) The wells at Bhaonta.

Both sources have recently been examined. That from the Foyasagar lake has been found, without cleansing treatment, unfit for human consumption. That from the Bhaonta wells has been found quite fit for all domestic purposes including human consumption.

(b) Chlorinating action is being taken in respect of the Foyasagar lake supply and possible methods of adequate filtration are also under investigation.

(c) The question of the Ajmer water supply is under review.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 24 asked by Mr. Lalchand Navulrai on the 31st January, 1938.

PROMOTIONS TO GRADE V ASSISTANT STATION MASTERS' POSTS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

(a) The Honourable Member is referred to the information laid on the table of the House in connection with parts (b) to (d) of starred question No. 29 asked by him on the 23rd of August, 1937, in this House.

Government are informed as follows :

(b) Yes, the following other categories of staff are eligible for promotion to posts of Assistant Station Masters, grade V, after they qualify in Course T-5 and Control duties :—

- (1) Guards, grade II, III and IV.
- (2) Platform and Luggage Inspectors of all grades.
- (3) Special Ticket Examiners, Ticket Collectors, Enquiry Clerks, grade III and upwards.
- (4) Yard Foremen and Supervisors, grade IV and upwards.

(c) As an Assistant Station Master, grade V, is eligible for promotion to Station Master, grade V and from grade V to grades VI, VII, and VIII and from grade VIII to the post of Station Superintendent, it is essential that he should have a knowledge of both goods and transportation duties. For this reason certain higher categories of staff from amongst both the Transportation and Commercial branches are considered eligible for such advancement if found suitable and are given a course of training in T-5 in the Walton Training School.

(d) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the latter parts, Station Masters and Assistant Station Masters are eligible for transfer on promotion to other posts such as :

- (1) Chief Cash Witness.
- (2) Sales Inspectors.
- (3) Stationery and Forms Inspectors.
- (4) Assistant Controllers.
- (5) Traffic Inspectors.
- (6) Enquiry Clerks.

The promotion to other posts depends upon their suitability for the post and occurrence of vacancies.

(e) A statement showing categories of staff to which Assistant Station Masters or Station Masters were promoted from 1st January, 1935 to 31st December, 1937, is laid on the table of the House.

(f) A statement showing categories of staff promoted to the posts of Assistant Station Masters grade V is laid, on the table of the House.

Statement showing Categories of Staff to which Assistant Station Masters or Station Masters were promoted from 1st January, 1935 to 31st December, 1937.

Name of category.	No.
Chief Cash Witnesses . . .	2
Traffic Inspector . . .	1
Assistant Sales Inspectors . . .	2

Statement showing Categories of Staff promoted to the post of Assistant Station Master, Grade V.

Name of category.	Grade.	No.
Guards	III	14
Guards	IV	4
Station Masters	I	2
Enquiry Clerk	III	1
		<hr/> 21 <hr/>

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 115 asked by Mr. Brojendra Narayan Chaudhury on the 3rd February, 1938.

VANS FOR CARRYING MOTOR VEHICLES ON THE ASSAM BENGAL RAILWAY.

- (a) 16.
- (b) Rs. 20,261.
- (c) Yes.

Information promised in reply to a supplementary question asked by Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar in connection with Mr. K. Santhanam's short notice question on the 4th February, 1938.

AGREEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA WITH THE GOVERNMENTS OF CEYLON AND THE NETHERLAND INDIES FOR CONTROL OF EXPORT AND CULTIVATION OF TEA.

THIS AGREEMENT made on the 18th day of November 1936 between THE INDIAN TEA ASSOCIATION (LONDON) of 21 Mincing Lane in the City of London and THE SOUTH INDIAN ASSOCIATION IN LONDON of 21 Mincing Lane aforesaid of the first part THE CEYLON ASSOCIATION IN LONDON of 11 Idol Lane in the said City of London of the second part THE VEREENIGING voor de THEE CULTUUR IN NEDERLANDSCH INDIE of AMSTERDAM and THE NEDERLANDSCH INDISCHE VEREENIGING voor de THEE CULTUUR of BATAVIA of the third part and the INTERNATIONAL TEA COMMITTEE of 59 Mark Lane in the said City of London of the fourth part WHEREAS the parties of the first, second and third parts represent the majority of tea growers in India Ceylon and the Netherlands East Indies. AND WHEREAS by the Agreement, dated the 9th day of February, 1933, and made between the parties of the first second and third parts (hereafter called the original Agreement) provision was made for the regulation of the export of tea from, and the limitation of extension of tea areas in, the producing countries therein mentioned for a period of 5 years commencing from the 1st April 1933 (hereafter called the original period) in order to restore equilibrium between supply and demand. AND WHEREAS pursuant to and for the purposes of the original Agreement the International Tea Committee were set up. And whereas pursuant to the Memorandum of Recommendations dated also the 9th February, 1933, and signed by representatives of the parties of the first second and third parts (herein-

after in Clause 12 referred to as the said Recommendations) the International Tea Committee were given power (*inter alia*) to study the progress of and ways and means for increasing the consumption of tea and to recommend measures for the improvement, development and/or control of the production and consumption of tea. And whereas the International Tea Committee, having prior to the date of this Agreement studied the whole position pursuant to their powers and having considered all relevant factors, have come unanimously to the conclusion that equilibrium as contemplated by the original agreement cannot be fully achieved by the end of the original period and that the continuance of regulation is necessary. And whereas the Associations representative of growers of tea in the producing countries aforementioned have expressed their approval of such continuance. And whereas the conclusion of this Agreement and the carrying out of its terms are subject to the approval and continued approval of each and all of the Governments of the producing countries hereinafter defined and to the passing and/or continuance of and enforcing of such enactments ordinances and/or amendments thereof or other provisions by such Governments as are necessary. And whereas for the purposes of this Agreement and of the Annex hereto the following expressions shall have the following respective meanings:—

"The new period of regulation" means the period 1st April 1938 to 31st March 1943;

"Tea" shall include any kind of tea;

"Producing countries" shall mean (a) India that is India as defined by section 311 (1) of the Government of India Act, 1935, and is therefore exclusive of Burma which is defined in such section, (b) Ceylon, and (c) Netherlands East Indies (which shall include Java, Sumatra and the other Islands in the Netherlands East Indies);

"Year of Regulation" shall mean the period 1st April to the succeeding 31st March;

"The Committee" shall mean the International Tea Committee;

"Exports" shall mean total exports from a producing country of tea produced in that country and shall include such tea when exported as ships' stores or by parcel post but shall not include tea when exported by way of samples which are made up as packages not exceeding 8 oz. each in weight or re-exports of tea.

NOW IT IS HEREBY AGREED AS FOLLOWS:—

1. Regulation of exports of tea from the producing countries shall be continued for the new period of regulation.

2. The standard of each producing country upon which regulation of exports is fixed shall continue to be based on the maximum exports of tea from each of the producing countries in any one of the three years 1929, 1930 or 1931 and accordingly has been ascertained to be and shall respectively be as follows:—

(a) India	383,242,916 lbs. avoirdupois.
(b) Ceylon	251,588,012 „ „
(c) Netherlands East Indies . .	173,597,000 „ „

Total	808,427,928 „ „
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3. The figure of regulation (*i.e.* the permissible exportable quantity) for each year of the new period of regulation shall for each of the producing countries continue to be such percentage of the ascertained standard as the Committee with the approval of the respective Governments of the producing countries shall fix on or prior to the 31st of December (including the 31st December, 1937) preceding such year of regulation.

4. No exports of tea from any of the producing countries* shall be permitted during the new period of regulation without a licence. Subject to the following proviso the exports of tea from any of the producing countries in any year of regulation shall

* Burma is, or is about to be, separated from India. In view of this separation the export of tea without licence from India to Burma, which has taken place during the existing Tea Regulation Agreement of the 9th February, 1933, must, as from 1st April, 1938, cease: in other words no tea as from the date last mentioned shall be exported from India to Burma except under licence.

not exceed the said figure of regulation for that year PROVIDED ALWAYS that tea, for the export of which licences have been or can be acquired during a year of regulation (hereafter in this clause called such year) but which has not been exported by midnight of the 31st of March of such year, may pursuant to special licences to be issued by not later than the following 14th of April be exported up to but not after the 31st of May next following (when such special licences shall become invalid). Exports under such special licences shall be treated as exports of such year.

5. During the new period of regulation :—

- (a) If production of tea in any of the producing countries is greatly in excess of the amount which it is entitled to export *plus* its requirements for local consumption, such country shall without delay take all such steps as it may deem necessary to restrict such excess production.
- (b) The Governments of the producing countries shall be asked to co-operate with each other to prevent smuggling, evasion and other abuses of regulation.
- (c) The export from any of the producing countries of seeds, roots, stumps, cuttings, buds, or any living portion of a tea plant which may be used to propagate it, shall be prohibited but this prohibition shall not apply to any such seeds, etc. exported from any one to any other of the producing countries which seeds, etc., are required for scientific purposes by a scientific Institution in any one of such producing countries provided that a licence to export the same be obtained from such other producing country and that such licence specifies the name and address of the scientific Institution requiring the same.

6. During the new period of regulation the infilling or supplying of vacancies on land planted with tea on 31st March 1938 shall be permitted. Replanting of tea shall also be permitted (a) upon land planted with tea at the 31st March 1938 from which the original bushes have been uprooted or (b) upon land planted with tea on 31st March 1936 from which the original bushes have been uprooted since such 31st March 1936 and which at the 31st March 1938 is lying fallow in accordance with usual planting practice, but the replacing of tea areas by planting new areas shall not be permitted.

7. (1) During the new period of regulation—

- (a) The prohibition of the sale or lease of further areas for tea cultivation and/or of the planting of tea on unplanted land or on land carrying other products shall continue;
- (b) Tea areas existing on the 31st March, 1938, shall not be extended in any producing country, except for such experimental or other special purposes and on such conditions, as its Government may consider necessary, and with the express permission of such government.

(2) Under no circumstances, except in the case of either of the two provisos next hereafter mentioned, shall any such extensions in any producing country exceed, during the new period of regulation, one-half of one per cent. of the total tea areas existing in such producing country on the 31st day of March 1936.

Provided first that owners of tea areas in any producing country, which areas after the 31st of March 1933 and up to the end of the new period of regulation (a) have been or will have been permanently destroyed by subsidence, flood, river erosion, earthquake or other Acts of God, or (b) have been or will have been taken over by the Government or Local Authorities and no longer carry tea, may on satisfying the controlling authority as to the loss of tea areas sustained by them, be permitted by their Government to replace such areas to an equal extent, on land not planted with tea, without such replacements being included within the one-half of one per cent. above mentioned. And provided secondly that the planting of nurseries may also be permitted in any producing country by its respective Government on land not planted with tea, without such land being included within the said one-half of one per cent. but on the express condition that the total area of nurseries so planted in such producing country shall not be greater in extent at the end of the new period of regulation than that which was similarly planted on the 31st day of March 1933.

(3) For the purposes of this clause and the preceding Clause 6 the expression "land planted with tea" and "tea areas existing" mean areas planted in tea in regular upkeep and registered in the producing countries as such.

8. The Governments of the producing countries shall be asked to levy cesses there-in, for the purpose of propaganda in the joint interests of their tea producers, at rates to be mutually agreed upon between the parties to this Agreement.

9. The Governments of the producing countries shall be asked to furnish to the Committee all reasonable assistance to enable the Committee, properly and efficiently, to discharge their duties, such assistance to include all necessary statistical information particularly as regards exports of tea, tea plantings and matters the subject matter of this Agreement and its Annex.

10. The powers functions duties and procedure of the Committee, the voting capacity of the representatives of the producing countries, and the basis on which their expenses shall be defrayed shall be in accordance with the provisions scheduled to this Agreement as Annex A thereto.

11. The terms on which any other tea growing country* may be admitted to the regulation scheme and the formal admission of such other tea growing country shall be dealt with by agreement supplemental to this Agreement.

12. Notwithstanding anything hereinbefore contained tea which is actually exported in the first year of the new period of regulation—

either (a) pursuant to and within the time limited by special licences under Clause 5 (c) of the said recommendations.

or (b) pursuant to determination of the Committee under clause 5 (e) of the said recommendations,

shall not, for the purposes of this Agreement, be treated as exported in such first year.

As Witness The Hands Of The Parties.

ANNEX "A".

(REFERRED TO IN CLAUSE 10 OF THE FOREGOING AGREEMENT.)

1. (a) The Committee (that is the International Tea Committee) shall be composed of not less than 6 and more than 12 members.

(b) Of such members—

not less than 2 and not more than 4 shall be appointed by Associations representing the Tea Growers of India to represent India.

not less than 2 and not more than 4 shall be appointed by Associations representing the Tea Growers of Ceylon to represent Ceylon.

not less than 2 and not more than 4 shall be appointed by Tea Growers' Associations in the Netherlands and in the Netherlands East Indies to represent the Netherlands East Indies.

(c) Each of the Governments of the producing countries may appoint a representative on its behalf and such representative shall be at liberty to attend meetings of the Committee, of which he shall be given notice. Such representative, attending any meeting, will be provided with all information, whether verbal or written, furnished to the members of the Committee attending such meeting.

(d) A representative appointed under (c) may be a member of the Committee.

2. The first business of the Committee shall be to elect from its members a Chairman and a Deputy-Chairman.

3. The members of the Committee, or a majority thereof, representing a producing country shall designate in writing to the Chairman one of their number who shall, at meetings of the Committee, cast the votes on behalf of such producing country, and shall also designate in the same manner an alternate member to act and vote in the absence of the member so designated.

4. The seat of the Committee shall be in London, at which an office is to be maintained during the term of the Agreement.

*In view of the separation of India and Burma, the latter will be an "other tea growing country," and in such circumstances this clause will cover the future admission of Burma in the same way as it does any tea growing country other than India, Ceylon and the Netherlands East Indies.

5. The number of votes which the producing countries through their respective voting members shall be entitled to cast at any meeting of the Committee shall be as follows :—

India	38
Ceylon	25
Netherlands East Indies	17

6. The unanimous vote of the Committee shall be required to modify, alter or repeal any resolution of the Committee, which has been adopted upon the condition that it shall not be modified, altered or repealed except by such unanimous vote.

7. Any recommendation, arrangement, or agreement proposing or providing for the admission to the tea regulation scheme of any tea growing country other than the producing countries, shall require the unanimous vote of the Committee.

8. The figure of regulation to be fixed by the Committee as mentioned in Clause 3 of the Agreement shall be so fixed by unanimous vote.

9. If the Committee are not by the 31st of October in any year (including the 31st October 1937) able to agree as to the figure of regulation for the year of regulation following such 31st of October the difference between them shall be referred for decision, either to an arbitrator to be appointed by the unanimous vote of the Committee, or failing this to a neutral arbitrator to be appointed by the President for the time being of the International Chamber of Commerce, and the figure so arrived at by such arbitrator or neutral arbitrator shall be adopted by the Committee and shall be the figure fixed by them for such year of regulation. Such arbitrator or neutral arbitrator shall sit in London and shall act upon such information and statistics as may be furnished to him by the voting members of the Committee or their alternates.

The figure, at which the arbitrator or neutral arbitrator arrives, shall not be higher or lower than the highest or lowest suggested figure of regulation submitted to him by such voting members or alternates.

The figure to be decided by the arbitrator or neutral arbitrator and adopted as above must be so decided and adopted by not later than the end of the 30th day following such 31st of October.

10. The figure of regulation, as soon as it has been fixed as aforesaid, shall at once be reported by the Committee to the Governments of the producing countries for their approval. In order to cause as little disturbance of the tea market as possible it shall be considered a matter of major importance that the public announcement of the figure of regulation shall not be delayed beyond 30th of November.

11. With a view to co-ordination and in order to secure a permanent improvement of the tea producing industry the Committee shall have the following powers :—

- (a) to consult and cause to be consulted the Governments of each of the producing countries and the Associations representative of the tea growers therein with a view to considering whether, after the new period of regulation, regulation of exports should be further continued and if deemed necessary or advisable to make recommendation to that effect and to indicate the terms on which such further continuance should take place.
- (b) The consideration and discussion, with actual and/or potential producers of tea in, and the Governments of, any other tea growing country, of measures of mutual interest with a view to agreement or arrangement affecting or providing for the admission of such other tea growing country to the Tea Regulation Scheme.
- (c) The collection of statistics and information respecting areas under tea, production, exports, consumption and stocks of tea in all other countries, as well as in the producing countries, and the publication thereof at regular intervals.
- (d) The study of the progress or retrogression of the world's tea production and consumption and the reasons therefor.
- (e) The study of ways and means for the increase of the consumption of tea in the world.

- (f) The recommendation of measures for the improvement, development and/or control of production and consumption of tea and for the improvement of the method of selling and marketing.

12. The Committee shall appoint a Secretary, as well as such statisticians, attorneys, accountants and such additional staff as may be necessary to carry on the work of the Committee subject at all times to the control of the Committee.

13. Before the end of January (including January 1938) preceding each year of regulation the Committee shall draw up their budget for the forthcoming year of regulation showing, under appropriate headings and in reasonable detail, the estimates of the expenses of the Committee for that year. The budget shall be communicated to the appropriate authorities of each of the producing countries and shall show the share of the expenses falling upon each such producing country in accordance with the ratio laid down in Clause 14 of this Annex.

As soon as possible after the end of each year of regulation, the Committee shall also cause to be drawn up and audited, by a duly qualified chartered accountant, a statement of account showing the money received and expended during such year and shall publish it in their annual report.

14. Each of the producing countries shall defray its share of the said expenses of the Committee in the same ratio as its ascertained standard figure, specified in Clause 2 of the Agreement, bears to the total of the ascertained standard figures therein mentioned.

15. None of the foregoing provisions of this Annex shall be revoked or amended except by the unanimous vote of the Committee and with the approval of the Governments of the producing countries, except that the Committee may draw up, put into force, modify or abrogate rules for the conduct of its business and procedure as may from time to time be necessary so long as such rules shall not conflict with or alter the foregoing provisions of this Annex.

THE INDIAN TEA ASSOCIATION (LONDON).

A. N. STUART, Chairman.

W. H. PEASE, Secretary,

as Agents, together with the South Indian Association in London for and on behalf of the majority of the India tea growers above referred to.

THE SOUTH INDIAN ASSOCIATION IN LONDON.

H. R. LOCKIE, Chairman,

W. H. PEASE, Secretary,

as agents, together with the foregoing Indian Tea Association (London) for and on behalf the majority aforesaid.

THE CEYLON ASSOCIATION IN LONDON.

ANDREW YOUNG, President,

A. G. BAYNHAM, Secretary,

for and on behalf of the majority of the Ceylon tea growers above referred to.

VEREENIGING VOOR DE THEE-CULTUUR IN NEDERLANDSCH INDIE.

W. G. DE JONGE, Chairman,

M. A. VAN LENNEP, Secretary,

on behalf of

NEDERLANDSCH INDISCHE VEREENIGING VOOR DE THEE-CULTUUR OF BATAVIA (JAVA).

S. W. ZEVEERIJN.

For and on behalf of the

INTERNATIONAL TEA COMMITTEE.

R. GRAHAM, Chairman,

H. M. HAYWOOD, Secretary.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

FAILURE TO SAFEGUARD THE INTERESTS OF INDIA IN THE FINANCIAL SETTLEMENT BETWEEN INDIA AND BURMA.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have received a notice from Mr. Santhanam of a motion for the adjournment of the business of the Assembly "for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, *viz.*, the failure of the Government of India to safeguard the interests of India in the financial settlement between India and Burma, by not carrying out the directions of the Amery Tribunal".

I should like to know from the Honourable Member when this failure took place as the matter must be urgent in accordance with the meaning of the Rules.

Mr. K. Santhanam (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I came to know of it from a communiqué which I read in the papers only this morning.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Sir James Grigg.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg (Finance Member): Sir, I would with your indulgence like to appeal to the Honourable Member not to press this adjournment motion in present circumstances. The Indian Member of the Committee on whose recommendation this Order-in-Council has been made and who is a Member of this House is unfortunately unable to be present today owing to the sudden death of his wife last night, and I think it would be due to this House and to the Honourable Member I have referred to that he should have an opportunity of making a full statement of the reasons which led him to put forward this recommendation as he himself took the initiative for this particular recommendation. I may, however, say that it was merely a reversion to the original contention of the Government of India before the Amery Committee; but if the Honourable Member responds to the appeal I have made to him, I suggest that this a matter which can be fully debated and a full statement made on behalf of the Government during the general debate on the Budget.

Mr. K. Santhanam: I think I shall agree if the Government will be agreeable to taking this up after the 24th.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That does not depend upon the Government.

Mr. K. Santhanam: Will you, Sir, allow it to be taken up at some future date?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): No, I cannot allow that, but the Government I understand would be in a position to make a full statement when the Honourable Member referred to is present.

Mr. K. Santhanam: I do not know whether any particular date will be fixed for this discussion, or it will be taken up only during the Budget discussion. If they will make a statement before the Budget discussions, I am agreeable to withdrawing this motion. In view, however, of the statement of the Honourable Member, I do not press this motion today.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member knows what will happen to it if it is sought to be moved afterwards.

RESOLUTION *RE* CONSTITUTION OF A STANDING COMMITTEE FOR THE INDIAN ARMY.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Assembly will now resume the further discussion of the Resolution* moved by Mr. N. V. Gadgil regarding the election of a Standing Committee of the Indian Army on the 4th February, 1938. Mr. Asaf Ali.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Delhi: General): Mr. President, I rise to move the following amendment:

“That at the end of the Resolution the following be added :

and that the functions of the said Committee shall include tendering advice to the Governor General in Council on such matters as he may refer to the Committee from time to time, with particular reference to :

- (1) sending of Indian troops outside India.
- (2) new proposals involving additional expenditure, and
- (3) Indianisation of the Army’.”

I have made two small verbal alterations above in the amendment as originally typed.

Sir, at the very outset I must congratulate my Honourable and learned colleague, Mr. Gadgil, who presented his case most ably the other day. I should also make it clear that this Resolution was really a Resolution of the Party, and in the light of the discussion which ensued the other day I thought it necessary to give notice of this amendment with a view to clarifying the entire position. I must also state it straightway that I do not find myself in a position to congratulate my Honourable friend the Nawab of Domeli (Captain Sardar Sir Sher Muhammad Khan) who made a very unfortunate speech the other day in which he made certain very unhappy references to certain imaginary incidents in the life of a historical personage, Sultan Salauddin, which were very strongly resented, I understand, by a certain section of the House. Sir, we expected this ex-Indian army officer to take a more reasonable view of the whole situation. I did not imagine for a moment that such objections would proceed from a person who had had some experience of the army, and on lines which were so wholly untenable. However, Sir, I think I may leave the points raised by other people alone and try to convince the Government that my amendment really removes all objections that they may otherwise have to the Resolution, because each one of the items I have mentioned in my amendment is covered by one or the other of the provisions in the Government of India Act or the Instrument of Instructions issued to the Governor General himself. Take for instance, the first one relating to the sending of troops outside India. It is covered

*“This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that in order to associate the elected Members of the Central Legislature with the Indian Army early provision should be made for the election of a Standing Committee of Indian Army.”

by paragraph 17 of the Instrument of Instructions issued to the Governor General which reads as follows:

"Our Governor General shall bear in mind the desirability of ascertaining the view of this ministers when he shall have occasion to consider matters relating to the general policy of appointing Indian officers to Our Indian Forces or the employment of Our Indian Forces on service outside India."

Sir, this provision is very definite and very clear. If the Governor General is to carry out the instructions with which he has been charged, he is bound to consult the representative and responsible Ministers of whatever Legislature it might be at the time. We realize today that the Ministers of the Government or the Members of the Executive Council are neither representative nor responsible, in which case, if the Governor General refers any matter to his own Cabinet, they must take into their confidence the Members of the Legislature who have been elected, and for that reason it is but obvious that the very first item I have mentioned in my amendment. . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): You want to change the words "Crown Representative" to "Governor General in Council"?

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Yes, Sir, I have substituted the words "Governor General in Council" for the words "Crown Representative" in order to bring the Resolution into conformity with the Government of India Act.

Then, Sir, we come to the next one. "New proposals involving additional expenditure." That also is covered by the Government of India Act of 1935. But, before I make any reference to the Government of India Act of 1935, I want to make it perfectly clear that we have as a Party definitely rejected the Federal scheme contained in the Government of India Act. If I am now making any reference to this Act, it is only for the purpose of argument and to convince the Government that even, if they view their case according to their own provisions, they are bound to carry out the purpose which I have outlined in my amendment. Section 150 of the Government of India Act of 1935 reads as follows:

"No burden shall be imposed on the revenues of the Federation or the provinces except for purposes of India or some part of India."

The provision is very comprehensive and wide, and it certainly makes it perfectly clear that no burden can be placed upon the Federation or the Central revenues which in any way can be questioned on the ground that it is not for purposes of India. For instance, take the British troops in India today. I am certain that my Honourable friend, the Defence Secretary, will agree with me that only one-third of the British troops stationed in India are detailed for purposes of internal security and the other two-thirds are meant for purely Imperial purposes. Now, the expenditure incurred on the British troops which are stationed here for Imperial purposes cannot be debited to the Indian exchequer. India cannot be legitimately saddled with the expenditure which is incurred for Imperial purposes. Therefore, if I ask the Government of India today to create a nucleus of a Committee which should be consulted from time to time as regards the new proposals involving additional expenditure. I am not asking for anything for which provision has not already been made in the Government of India Act.

[Mr. M. Asaf Ali.]

Last of all, the third item of my amendment relates to the Indianization of the army. That, again, is covered by paragraph 17 of the Instrument of Instructions to the Governor General which I have already read. I repeat those words again:

"Our Governor General shall bear in mind the desirability of taking the views of his Ministers when he shall have occasion to consider matters relating to the general policy of appointing Indian officers to Our Indian Forces."

These words really are interpreted by me in a simpler phrase which is nothing else but Indianization of the army. This, I repeat, is a very modest demand. In 1936, this House debated a similar Resolution and passed it with an overwhelming majority. The only action which the Government took after that Resolution was passed was that His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief called, I think, a small Committee which consisted of some elected Members and consulted them about some trifling matters relating to Indianization and matters of that sort. Later on, when certain troops had to be despatched out of India, His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to consult Party Leaders after the troops had been despatched. This was all that was done by the Government of India by way of implementing the Resolution which was passed by an overwhelming majority of this House in 1936.

Then, again, matters regarding which we are asking the Government to appoint a Standing Committee are such as have engaged the attention of various Committees from time to time. We can go as far back as 1926 when the Skeen Committee had to consider a large number of questions relating to the army. Then, again, in 1932 there was the Retrenchment Committee presided over by the Honourable Mr. T. Rangachariar. That Committee also went into a large number of questions relating to the army. But since 1926, the policy of various Governments in the world with regard to armament and the defence of their respective countries has undergone enormous changes, and the time has come when a permanent nucleus has to be created and when some sort of a permanent Committee has to be created which must go into these matters, not only from decade to decade as has been done previously but to go into these matters from day to day.

After all, even if the Federal scheme, of which the Government of India Act contemplates, had come into operation and if it had been made possible for that scheme to come into operation, what would have been the position? The annual financial statement would have been laid before the House from year to year; somebody would have been in charge of the Army Budget, who would have had to explain matters and would have gone into all the questions which might have been raised on the floor of the House in this connection. That being the case, how can the Government of India today deny the elected representatives of the Central Legislature the right to go into some of the questions at any rate. We are not asking for divulgence of any defence secrets but we are only asking to be associated with the military affairs, the affairs of the defence of our country, to the extent to which we ought to be associated with them in our representative capacity. How can they deny us that right? I may here mention one little fact that as a Party we are definitely opposed to any kind of war. We are certainly opposed to all aggressive acts which may involve any violence or destruction of life or property.

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

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: At the same time, we are for negotiation and collective security. We oppose any kind of increase of armament and we want reduction of the burden of defence expenditure to the very minimum. Finally, we want to relieve India of the wholly unjustifiable burden of the expenditure incurred on the British troops maintained in India for purely Imperial purposes, and subject to this fundamental policy, we want Indianisation of the Indian army entirely and absolutely within the shortest period possible and in fact immediately if possible, and to raise the efficiency of the army to the maximum for the purpose both of internal security and defence against external aggression.

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

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I will conclude in a minute.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Rules are imperative. The Honourable Member cannot have any more time.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: With these words, I commend my amendment for the acceptance of the House.

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

"That at the end of the Resolution the following be added :

'and that the functions of the said Committee shall include tendering advice to the Governor General in Council, on such matters as he may refer to the Committee from time to time, with particular reference to :

- (1) sending of Indian troops outside India.
- (2) new proposals involving additional expenditure, and
- (3) Indianisation of the Army'."

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie (Defence Secretary): Sir, I propose to limit myself to the terms of the Resolution and the amendment which has just been moved. It appeared to me that many, I do not say all, but many of the speeches which I listened on the last day were in practice devoted to expressing disapproval of the existing form of the Constitution. With that I am not concerned. My business is to defend so far as in me lies the policy of the Defence Department within the present Constitution, in which, as matters stand at present, the responsibility for defence lies with the Governor General in Council.

Before I proceed to explain the policy of Government in regard to this Resolution, I wish, however, to clear up certain misunderstandings which obviously exist. In the first place the Honourable the Mover, who I was glad to see, had studied the admirable book of Captain Cole, was under a misapprehension of fact as to the constitution and functions of the Committee of Imperial Defence to which, he said, the duties and functions of the proposed Standing Committee might in some sort approximate. There is only one permanent Member of the Committee of Imperial Defence and that is the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister invites those Members of his Cabinet who are particularly interested in matters of defence or who

[Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie.]

are particularly concerned in matters of defence and also the heads of the fighting services to consult on defence problems. In order, therefore, to become a Member of the Committee of Imperial Defence a person has either to achieve Cabinet rank and become a Member of the Government of the day in power, or he must become the head of a fighting service. The idea of the Prime Minister appointing haphazardly chosen Members of Parliament for such a task would not in practice be even thought of. If the Honourable Member will think a little on the subject, he will realise, I think, that the existing position very closely approximates to that in the United Kingdom. The main reason why there is not a Committee of Imperial Defence here and why no need for one has ever been felt, is that at present the head of the fighting services, His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, is a Member of the Governor General's Council and no special meetings at which he is to be invited as an outsider have to be arranged.

Various Honourable Members including the Honourable the Mover, Mr. Santhanam and, I think, Mr. Abdul Qaiyum dwelt to some extent upon military control of defence and he said that it was time it was stopped. I think the House should realise that there is no military control of defence. The Governor General in Council is not a military body. It contains, it is true, one military officer, but the control of defence in this country cannot possibly be described as military. Other Honourable Members argued that this alleged military control of defence indicated a distrust of India. I trust from what I have said that this allegation like the others must fall heavily to the ground. Other Honourable Members, I think Sardar Mangal Singh in particular, dwelt upon the alleged failure to keep promises in respect of that. I have not the time to go into this matter in full, but I would refer Honourable Members of the House to the debate in 1936 when my predecessor dealt most fully with the subject in his speech. In brief the position is that the Government have never, on a single occasion, even hinted at the possibility of appointing a Standing Committee of Defence. Other Honourable Members, I think again, Sardar Mangal Singh is one of them, urged that an agreed solution was come to, because on the last occasion of a debate on this subject, there was no division. The opinion of the Government must be sought, I submit, from the speeches of its spokesmen and not from the fact of whether or not it has chosen to challenge a division.

I now turn, Sir, to the constitutional position. This Resolution readily divides itself into two halves. What is the constitutional position and what is the practical position? Constitutionally the Governor General in Council is responsible for defence and it is a responsibility which he cannot shelve or share. In no country in the world, does the legislature encroach upon the responsibilities of the executive in regard to the administration of the Defence services. In no country in the world is such a thing regarded as possible. Honourable Members, it is true, have stated many times that Government are in fact advised by Standing Committees on various subjects. I agree that that is the case, but I also submit that the practice which has been followed of inviting Committees of the legislature to enter the sphere of executive responsibility is a constitutional anomaly. In my own mind, I have no doubt that it is entirely unsound. As regards Defence of course it would be far more unsound than in any other matter, except possibly foreign relations. Much play has been made

with the Constitution Act and the Instrument of Instructions of the Governor General. I submit, Sir that the constitutional position, both in practice and in theory, is abundantly clear. The Report of the Joint Select Committee, the Constitution Act itself and the Instrument of Instructions all look to the time when the Federal Constitution, which is not yet in force, has supervened. They do not envisage the consultation by the Governor General with a collection of Members of the Legislature chosen from any Party, but consultation by the Governor General with the Ministry, that is to say, with the representatives of the Party in power.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Where are they now?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: They are here, Sir. And even if we were to give way in this matter, on the practical ground, constitutionally I submit that it would be a most serious mistake and an extremely bad precedent. I imagine that when the new Constitution does supervene Honourable Ministers would most strongly object to the Viceroy consulting persons other than themselves in the Legislature. All reference, therefore, in this matter to the report of the Joint Select Committee or to the Constitution Act or to the Instrument of Instructions is irrelevant.

I now turn to the practical side of the question. Constitutionally I submit that the position is hopelessly against the Honourable the Mover and his supporters. In practice what would be the use of such a Committee and how could we consult it? The answer is that there are very few matters on which a Committee formed in the manner suggested could be consulted. Honourable Members have disclaimed the wish to probe into military secrets. I can assure them that it would in practice be most difficult, if not impossible, to separate any class of subjects connected with Defence which would not involve a knowledge of military secrets. There are a large number of questions in every aspect of the Defence administration which can only be properly understood when one has a knowledge of secret war plans and mobilisation arrangements which can never in any circumstances be divulged. There are, of course, questions occasionally in which unofficial opinion is valuable; and when such questions arise *ad hoc* committees have been appointed and will continue to be appointed. I may quote the Skeen Committee, the Shea Committee which dealt with territorial and provincial battalions, the Indian Military Academy Committee and the Army Retrenchment Committee. If further questions arise on which the advice of Honourable Members would be of value, as it frequently has been in the past, it will be sought.

Now, it has frequently been stated that the formation of such a Committee would help Honourable Members in understanding Defence problems and many Honourable Members said that Defence was a closed book, that the Army Department was in *purdah* and that they were allowed to know nothing about it. I submit, Sir, that is entirely wrong, and indeed that so far from being ignorant of Defence matters Honourable Members on that side know as much about them as any layman in any country of the world. Their questions show a knowledge of even the minutiae of organisation of particular units, and no question of military policy is not considered by them. I imagine that I must have in the course of last year answered in the House over a thousand questions in one way or another. Resolutions are freely debated and neither questions nor Resolutions are disallowed unless they clearly are contrary to the public interest.

[Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie.]

Apart from this, every facility has been provided to interest Honourable Members in Defence problems. On the side of finance, big questions of policy or questions of fresh expenditure cannot, for the reasons which I have already given, be entrusted to a Committee of Members of this House. That is obvious enough; but on the administrative side, as opposed to the side of policy, they are at liberty to make and they do make every manner of suggestion they can. The Public Accounts Committee goes in the very greatest detail into military expenditure. The results of its labours are published and Honourable Members can see for themselves the detail with which all questions of business and finance are examined. The Audit Report, the Report of the Public Accounts Committee, the evidence taken by that body, the Commercial Appendix and the Military Appropriation Accounts are all published, and they are all in very great detail. I submit, Sir, that there is no need to add anything to this mass of information which exists. The Commercial Appendix contains the fullest statement of account of all manufacturing and trading concerns which function within the Defence services. Profit and loss accounts, assets and liabilities, stores accounts,—everything of the kind is set forth fully and clearly. There is no need then, I submit, for the appointment of a Standing Committee to do again work which is already done very well by this body. In addition, a pamphlet is produced every year dealing with important Defence events which have occurred, and that is placed in the hands of Members. In addition to that, a special production entitled, "Some facts and figures about Indian defence" in which every matter connected with the army, navy and air force which has excited political interest has been fully discussed, and that book I think contains a wealth of information in a very small compass. In addition to that, Honourable Members who are interested in Defence are encouraged to belong to the Army Headquarters library where every possible work which they can want on the subject is available to them. I think, Sir, that nothing further can possibly be done to render Defence an open book than is actually being done.

In conclusion, I may say it is open to any Honourable Member of this House or any Group of Honourable Members to make any suggestions that they wish on matters concerning Defence to Government. Many already do so from the floor of the House. If they would send communications on any subject relating to the Defence Department containing any suggestions which seem to them good, I can assure them that they will be most carefully considered. In this connection I may again remind Honourable Members that if any questions arise on which their advice is required by Government *ad hoc* committees will certainly be appointed, but I have no option, both on constitutional and on practical grounds, but to oppose both this Resolution and the amendment.

Mr. P. E. James (Madras: European): I have listened with very great interest to the speech of the Defence Secretary and I may say that it generally indicates the attitude that we take up on this particular subject. Much ground already traversed in this debate was traversed in a debate nearly two years ago when on the floor of the House our then Leader, Sir Leslie Hudson, whose absence we all very much deplore, stated very clearly what our position was. I think perhaps I had better read to the

House the remarks that he then made; after pointing out the constitutional difficulty Sir Leslie went on to say:

"But this does not mean, however, that we have no sympathy with the general idea that there should be constituted some kind of an advisory committee on defence affairs on which the Central Legislature would have representatives and which would be in a position to discuss matters referred to it by the authorities and would thus serve to keep in touch to some extent at any rate, with questions of defence and provide that phase of education to which my Honourable friend, Sir Cowasji, has referred to enable members of the Government which will succeed the present one to carry out their duties."

Sir Leslie went on to say:

"It is difficult to think of any precise formula at the moment and it would require not only the most careful examination but a spirit of accommodation on the part of the Legislature."

I do not detect in the Defence Secretary's speech any lack of appreciation of the spirit underlying the Resolution and the amendment, but the very fact that the Honourable the acting Leader of the Congress Party was obliged to table an amendment to the Resolution moved by his own Party illustrates to my mind the practical difficulties of the situation.

Reference has already been made to the position that will obtain under Federation, and I do not expect that if federal conditions obtained today there would be any demand for an advisory committee of this House apart from the Government of the day. The difficulty at present seems to me is this: it is a practical one. We are in a transitional stage. If we were sitting in a House which looked forward to a prolongation of its life under the existing Constitution, there would have been a very much stronger case for something on the lines that have been suggested by the Resolution. But it is not the case today: we are in a transitional stage, and it is to be expected that within a comparatively short time this transitional stage will come to an end and will be replaced by something more permanent. Members may all say "question, question", but they have not as yet placed any alternative to the scheme which is adumbrated under the Government of India Act, and for the purpose of our argument we may reasonably assume that inasmuch as a large part of the Government of India Act is in force, the remaining sections will sooner or later be in force also. Now, Sir, therefore it is a really practical difficulty to devise a constitutional machinery which would be appropriate to the transitional period. Even if the transitional period were not in existence, the question is whether the particular method suggested in the Resolution is the proper method. Sir Leslie in his speech of 1936 had something rather different in view when he referred to a Committee on which certain representatives of the Central Legislature would sit: that is quite different from the proposal in the Resolution that there should be a Standing Committee of the Legislature on the Indian Army.

Sir, the difficulty I have mentioned is admitted by Mr. Asaf Ali in his amendment. for, whereas the original Resolution suggests that a committee should be elected by this House presumably to advise the Governor General in Council on matters concerning the Indian Army, Mr. Asaf Ali recognises that the Crown Representative must remain absolute in his discretion in the matter, and suggest, therefore, that this Committee should tender advice with particular reference to certain specific items. Quite obviously, Sir, he is thinking not of the existing Constitution but of the Federal Constitution which may come into operation.

Mr. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): It does not follow.

Mr. F. E. James: His speech seemed to indicate that he appreciated that at present there is no responsible Ministry in this House, and that he merely wanted to anticipate the position under Federation and give those functions to this Committee which perhaps later on may devolve on the Federal Ministry. That, Sir, seems to me to be a very difficult position indeed, and to our mind it does preclude any practical value arising from the adoption either of the original Resolution or of the amendment which has been moved, under present conditions. Yet, Sir, while we take that view, we also recognise with very great sympathy the increasing interest which has been shown recently in different parts of the country in matters affecting the defence of India. There is a simple reason for that increased interest. India no longer is outside the danger zone of a possible international war; and throughout the country, in the various provinces, there is a remarkable increase in the interest of the public in matters relating to military efficiency, coastal defence, air raid precaution, and manœuvres. I am quite sure that the Honourable the Defence Secretary will be the first to acknowledge this welcome growth in public interest on defence matters; and I would go further and suggest to him that, while acknowledging what the defence authorities have done recently in the direction of making their activities more public, they would do well to redouble their efforts in that connection.

It will be within the recollection of Members of the House that recently in England there has been a tremendous nation-wide campaign to make the British army popular, and under the inspiring leadership of our Defence Secretary's counterpart there, Mr. Hore-Belisha, there is much more attention paid to the army and navy in the United Kingdom now than at any other time since the great war. Would it not be of stimulating interest if we could see pictures in the press and on the screen in the cinemas of our Defence Secretary attending parades tasting the curries or sipping the tea at canteens during the time of manœuvres, or indulging in all sorts of sports along with our troops, both Indian and English, in this country? That is the kind of thing which perhaps would stimulate still further this welcome growth of interest in matters relating to defence; and while we do not think that the particular method suggested in this Resolution is the method which is either suitable to the present Constitution or appropriate to its transitional stage, we do wish every encouragement to this growth of interest in the public, and we do hope that the defence authorities will continue their work of making more available to the public the vast and beneficial activities of the great defence services of this country which are assuming an increasing importance in view of international developments.

Babu Baijnath Baioria (Marwari Association: Indian Commerce): Sir, I rise to support the Resolution as well as the amendment moved by my friend, Mr. Asaf Ali. The other day I was accused of being irritatingly long. Today I will be pleasantly brief. The total expenditure of the Government of India is something over Rs. 83 crores, while the total expenditure on defence matters is about Rs. 44½ crores or just more than half of the total expenditure. That is why I say that this Army Department is the better half of the Government of India

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Child marriage!

Babu Baijnath Bajoria: . . . and I do not wish that this Army Department should be absolutely divorced from my friends like Mr. B. Das and Mr. Sri Prakasa who get all their inspiration from their better halves. In these days when the defence of India is of vital concern not only to the Army Department but to the people of India, when there is every danger of India being attacked both from the east and the west, it is, I think, the primary duty of every citizen that we should also have the confidence of the Government of India: rather the Government of India should take us into their confidence. I do not mean that they should divulge the army secrets, but they should take us into confidence so that we may help them in the proper defence of India when the time comes, in such matters as black-outs and other things against foreign attacks. The subject matters which have been enumerated by my friend, Mr. Asaf Ali, are very appropriate matters which can be discussed without any secret being divulged by the Standing Committee. For example, whenever any Indian troops are sent with the approval of this Standing Committee, then the people at large in the country will know and will realise that because their own elected representatives have also considered this point there must be something why these Indian troops are being sent outside India, and then there will not be such unrest here. That will be of great help to the Army Department.

Similarly, as regards questions of additional expenditure, this is also a very important item. Every year we have been fighting in this House that the expenditure on the army in this country is abnormal as compared to our revenues. At the present moment there is another point to be considered. We think that the expenses are not made as they should be. The question of Indianisation of the army also comes in. We think by Indianisation we can have greater stability and also a great amount of saving in the expenses. I promised to be very brief and so I will not take more time of the House. I heartily support this Resolution.

Mr. M. S. Aney (Berar: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I rise to support the amendment as well as the original Resolution. I have listened very attentively to the eloquent speech of the Honourable Member, the Defence Secretary, and I confess it was considerably disappointing. He tried to take objection to the Resolution both on constitutional grounds as well as on grounds of practical considerations; and yet he also wanted this House to believe that all that is needed to enlighten the people on problems of Indian defence and in matters pertaining to the defence of British India is being done, and now nothing more is wanted. In fact he went to the length of asserting that the Members of this House are more informed in matters of defence than any layman in any other country.

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: Equally.

Mr. M. S. Aney: I am quoting the words of my friend which I have taken down here. Therefore, so far as the thirst for knowledge is concerned, to use the expression which was used by the Honourable the Leader of the House yesterday, it is more than quenched and there should be no further demand in that direction: that is the suggestion made by the Honourable the Defence Secretary. As regards the definite suggestions and

[Mr. M. S. Aney.]

observations made with regard to this matter in parliamentary debates and the report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee, he has told us that that is intended to be considered when the Federation would come in and it is not a matter for this House to consider at this stage. That is the way in which he has disposed of those observations; and, therefore, according to him there is absolutely no case for the House to consider so far as the present Resolution and the amendment moved by my friend, Mr. Asaf Ali, are concerned. Now, let us look at the question purely from an Indian point of view.

This demand for some kind of association of the non-official Indians with the machinery which deals with the defence problem, in order to keep those who are in charge of the defence affairs of India duly informed of the Indian point of view, is an old and a very old demand. The question has been considered more than once and a demand to that effect was also once made in this House. It was carried also.

1 P.M.

But even before that, it must be a matter of common knowledge to all those who take an interest in the political development of this country, that the Indian National Congress appointed a committee of its own some time in the year 1927, which was presided over by the late Pandit Motilal Nehru who played such an important part in the constitutional struggle carried on on the floor of this House and also outside and whose name will long be remembered in the history of Indian political struggle. That Committee prepared a report generally known as the Nehru report. In that report, a distinct reference is made to the necessity of constituting a committee of Indian defence. The committee succeeded in preparing a certain constitution which, in spite of the difficulties which came in its way, would have furnished the British Government with a model that would have satisfied public opinion at any rate at that time. In fact, the Indian National Congress offered an opportunity to the British Government to accept that tentatively and to bring to an end the struggle that was going on between the people and the British Government as regards the future Constitution of this country. In the consideration of that constitution, not only Pandit Motilal Nehru but one of the most experienced Members of the Executive Council of the Government of India and an ex-Member of Council, Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, took part. A suggestion was then made that the Governor General in Council shall appoint a Committee of Defence consisting of the Prime Minister (because that report contemplated a state of things in which there was a purely responsible form of Government), the Minister for Defence, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Commander-in-Chief, the Commander of the Air Forces, the Commander of the Naval Forces and the Chief of the General Staff and two other experts. At least two members of that Committee, the Minister for Defence and the Minister for Foreign Affairs as well as the Prime Minister were to be persons elected by the people.

It is conceded by many of us that the defence problems consist of many questions which are of a technical nature and it has always been held that there are certain subjects of practical importance in which the advice of the non-official elected element will be of great use. This fact is not at all denied by any Defence Minister in any part of the world. It is true that the Committee of Imperial Defence that is constituted in England

consists mainly of the Prime Minister. It is more or less dominated by him. It is also true that the Committee of Imperial Defence is there to give advice to the Prime Minister on such questions as are placed before it from time to time by the Prime Minister. It means that the Prime Minister in spite of the technical assistance he already has got from the Army Department and the Defence Department there seeks the assistance of his elected colleagues in the formulation of policy. If the present arrangement continues, I ask what is the arrangement by which it is possible for the Defence Department in India or the Governor General in Council to get any non-official assistance in matters of policy. I do not see any machinery at all at present in existence from which they can get that assistance. The question of the Committee of Imperial Defence has been very recently considered in England.

The other day one Honourable Member wanted to know what will be the function of the Committee that we propose to set up here. The functions of that committee and the powers that are going to be given to them are now specified in Mr. Asaf Ali's amendment. In this connection I want to invite the attention of Honourable Members to a statement which clearly defines the duties performed by such a committee in England. The Committee in England has always been a consultative and advisory body and that is what we want here. Instead of the Prime Minister, we shall have the Governor General in Council. The Committee in England is a consultative and advisory body created to supply the Prime Minister and his Cabinet with the best available advice on all matters connected with defence. This is the condition in England, but in India alone those who are in charge of defence think that they are self-sufficient and want no more enlightenment from any source at all. They are averse to any light. They are content with the darkness which envelops them and they prefer to remain groping there for all time to come. The world has changed. The international situation has changed and the policy pursued by the Defence Department does affect not merely the Defence Department but crores of people who pay for running this big machinery. If that is the position, it is in conformity with modern conditions of civilised Government that some arrangement should be made to associate public opinion with the highly technical work performed by the Defence Department. The Resolution which my Honourable friend has moved gives the Government an opportunity to remedy the defect which exists in the system that obtains today.

I want to welcome very heartily the attitude that was once taken up by the European Group on this question and the quotation which my Honourable friend, Mr. James, has just cited from the speech of Sir Leslie Hudson is in my opinion the best support that we could receive for a Resolution of this kind. He has made two admissions there. The first is for a better association of the people, and the second is that such an association will have the effect of educating the people more and more in the intricacies of the problems of Indian defence. I believe that is the best reply that could be given to the objections raised by my Honourable friend, Mr. Ogilvie. He thinks that there is no further need for enlightening us and for giving more information. On the other hand, Sir Leslie Hudson's position was that there is need for that, and from that

[Mr. M. S. Aney.]

point of view some kind of a Committee of the House should be appointed and thereby this House should be given an opportunity unofficially to associate itself with the consideration of questions relating to Indian defence. Now, after having quoted that I was a little bit puzzled by the observation which my friend, Mr. James made. I believe by quoting Sir Leslie Hudson's observations on this point which he made, knowing the responsibility that they have to bear as belonging to the European Group, I thought those who are present there on those Benches would have followed the noble lead given by their chief some time before in this very House. I thought the Honourable Members of the European Group would unanimously support the very modest demand that has been made in the form of this Resolution by my Honourable friend, Mr. Gadgil, but anyhow he only thought it proper to give a good deal of advice. As regards the actual support, he thought it better to leave it to some future time rather than give any present promise at all. This is somewhat unfortunate in my opinion.

The time has really come when questions of defence are not to be left merely to the discretion of those who have run the military machine of this country. The particular points which my friend, Mr. Asaf Ali, suggested are those to which certainly no objection can be taken. Even in the present constitution of the Government of India Act, provision is made for this so far as the expenditure on Indian troops is concerned, and it is only permissible if the troops are employed in India, but if any of these troops are employed outside, I believe under the Government of India Act this would not be permissible or even constitutional. Even the despatch of such troops without the consent of this House is certainly not constitutional if we properly read the sections of the Government of India Act on this point, and yet recently a certain thing has happened and *post facto* after the thing is done, some Members of this House have had some kind of consultation with His Excellency the Viceroy. I do not want to criticize the particular thing but I am only trying to show that if this new Act is to be faithfully worked, there is need for the Government to have some representative people sitting close by their side, to be consulted at any moment. You never know what contingency may arise, and you will have to act upon your own responsibility at the time. So in order to provide against emergencies and contingencies of a similar nature arising in the future, it is necessary, in order that the Government of India should keep itself within the limits of the present Government of India Act, 1935, that some kind of Committee ought to be appointed by them so that they may be able to consult members of that body. The section I was referring to is this:

"150. (1) No burden shall be imposed on the revenues of the Federation or the Provinces except for the purposes of India or some part of India.

(2) Subject as aforesaid, the Federation or a Province may make grants for any purpose, notwithstanding that the purpose is not one with respect to which the Federal or the Provincial Legislature, as the case may be, may make laws . . ."

You may go through the other provisions also.

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

Mr. M. S. Aney: My point is this that in order that the new constitution which is enacted should be given a fair trial, and although the Federation may not be coming into existence yet, the spirit of the new Constitution should be borne in mind, and in order that it should be properly worked, I think it is necessary that Government should appoint a Committee on the lines suggested in the Resolution by my friend, Mr. Gadgil, and for the purposes to which reference is made in the amendment moved by my friend, Mr. Asaf Ali. I, therefore, support the motion.

Several Honourable Members: I move that the question be now put.

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.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): The question be now put.

Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty (Madras: Indian Commerce): Sir, the speech of the Honourable the Defence Secretary is nothing if not candid. He has shattered the lurking hope that this House had entertained in regard to some date when there will be a possibility of the formation of a Standing Committee to advise on Army matters and that he did successfully. But I must say that his speech is full of contradictions. He began by saying that this Resolution is impracticable on account of two main considerations, namely, constitutional and practical. On the constitutional ground, the Government of India cannot share the responsibility of the defence of this country with any non-officials nor would it be proper on the part of the Government to allow Honourable Members of this House to go into military secrets and diplomatic matters. Sir, this difficulty of sharing the responsibility of the Government with the representatives of the people is applicable to all the Departments of the Government and it is not peculiar to the Military Department. On that ground it was never argued, at any rate, by other Honourable Members of the Government that they cannot take into confidence the representatives of the people, at least in respect of such matters as are not entirely confidential. Therefore, to quote the constitutional ground as an objection to allow the representatives of the people to have some insight into the knowledge of the working of the Military Department, seems to me an argument which is invoked for the purpose of refusing what they at one time promised to this House. If on constitutional grounds it is impossible to constitute a Committee of this sort, I am sure the Honourable Members of the Government who had preceded the Defence Secretary would have quoted that to be a reason why they would not accept a Resolution of that sort. But it is common knowledge of all the sections of this House that, at any rate, at one time one of the ex-Commanders-in-Chief had definitely promised to this House that he would consider the desirability of constituting a Committee to supervise the matters connected with the Military Department. Each year the Defence Secretaries have put forward new set of reasons to oppose a

[Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty.]

Resolution of this kind. Last year the predecessor of the present Honourable Member stated that the statement of the Commander-in-Chief was not correctly appreciated by the House and that, at any rate, he did not quote the reasons which the present Defence Secretary has stated.

Again, with regard to practical considerations that he says stand in the way of accepting this Resolution, this House has already been made aware of numerous matters connected with the Military Department and from time to time facts and figures are being supplied to the Honourable Members of this House. There is, therefore, no harm in associating them in the form of a Committee for any further advice. While saying in one breath that they cannot constitute this Committee because their thirst for knowledge would be so great that they would try to probe into the secrets of the military diplomacy, and to say in the same breath that all that is necessary is being supplied to the Honourable Members of this House and that the constitution of a Committee is superfluous, seems to me to be blowing hot and cold in one breath. It looked from the latter part of the speech as though there is nothing secret from the Members of this House and therefore the appointment of a Committee is unnecessary, and that with regard to the expenditure, the Public Accounts Committee has the fullest opportunity to examine how the moneys are expended. I wonder which is more correct? Is it a fact that the information that is necessary is supplied to the Members of this House or not? If the information is being supplied, why should there be any difficulty about supplying that information to a Committee that may be appointed by this House.

The truth of the matter is that there are ugly spots in the administration of the Military Department which the Defence Secretary and the Government of India would not like to be exposed by the search-light of criticism of the Honourable Members of this House. If it be not so, there does not seem to be any reason why they should not constitute this Committee, at least to consider the points that have been put in in the very reasonable amendment of the Congress Party moved by my Honourable friend, Mr. Asaf Ali.

If the Honourable the Defence Secretary has shattered the hope extended by his predecessors, I must say that my Honourable friend, Mr. James, has practically disappointed us in the matter of expectation of any support from that quarter. My Honourable friend, Mr. James, is always more clever than logical and I think he has overplayed his part on this occasion and has disappointed none else than his illustrious Leader and perhaps his group. It was because of that speech of Sir Leslie Hudson on the last occasion that the Government dared not challenge the House to a division, because they were practically certain that the Europeans would support the Congress Party in the matter of that Resolution. Today my Honourable friend, Mr. James, has let down his absent Leader rather very badly.

Apart from that, Sir, my Honourable friend, Mr. James, has been very patronising both to the Mover of the Resolution and the Mover of the Amendment. He said and he also assured us of his sympathy and

of his Party's sympathy with regard to the motive underlying this Resolution and the amendment, but he was not supporting this. Sir, he set too much value upon his sympathy if that does not accompany his co-operation also in the matter of carrying out this Resolution. I do not think the Congress Party needed his sympathy. What we want is his vote. In the way of practical difficulties, he has repeated what the Honourable the Defence Secretary has stated. So they do not require further answer from me or from my Party. But he spoke of the transitional stage. I do not know of what transitional stage he was speaking about, whether transition in his own mind of the evolution of ideas or the transition from one minute to another. Sir, everything is in a transitional stage. What is the particular transitional stage that could operate as an impediment for effectuating the object of the Resolution. As a matter of fact the amendment moved by my Honourable friend, Mr. Asaf Ali, has been well commented upon by my distinguished friend, Mr. Aney, and it was intended to clarify the real object of the Congress Party in moving this Resolution.

We are not anxious to probe into the secrets of the military diplomacy nor are we going to be unpatriotic enough to expose those secrets which we might come across in order to desert our own country. We wanted this Committee for certain specific purposes, particularly with regard to the despatch of Indian troops to foreign lands in respect of wars with which India is not connected and also with regard particularly to expenditure. What reasonable objection could there be for associating a Committee of this House in matters like these? Moreover, the choice has been entirely given to the Crown Representative to put such matters as in his opinion would be advisable to place before this Committee. Would it still be said that we are desirous of probing into your military secrets? Could this thing be said to be unreasonable? Yet, Sir, even as we were thinking that this amendment would gain support of the European Group, this very amendment is considered to be a reason why they should not extend their co-operation to us. The fact that we have realised that there are difficulties in the matter of accepting an absolute proposition like the one moved by my Honourable friend, Mr. Gadgil, has made us to table an amendment to clarify the position, and still the Honourable Members of the European Group say that because there are difficulties we shall not vote with you for the constitution of this Committee. That sounds to me to be a disingenuous argument.

An Honourable Member: That was not said.

Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty: Mr. James said in effect that there were practical difficulties and that was why his Group could not support this Resolution.

An Honourable Member: Certainly not.

Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty: Please refer to the shorthand notes of the speech made by Mr. James.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The Honourable Member has only one minute more.

Mr. Sami Vencatachellam Chetty: I was speaking of the longish life of the Council. Now, I see there is only one minute. Sir, why should this longish or shortish life of this Assembly stand in the way of the constitution of this Committee? If the life of the Assembly is going to be short, the life of the Committee will also be correspondingly short. If it is going to be long, the life of the Committee will be correspondingly long also. Sir, I, therefore, suggest that if the Government should oppose this Resolution it will be going against its own pledged word, and if the European Group is not willing to support the Resolution, then that Group is actually letting down its Leader.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I move that the question be now put.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): When the Leader of a Party, Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan, has got up to speak, I cannot accept closure. Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I am not at all against your allowing the Leader of a Party to speak. At the same time, if the discussion on a subject goes on for a long time and if the Leader does not get up sufficiently early in the Debate, how then are the rights of other Members to be protected?

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Dutta): Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. The Resolution before the House is a very simple one and the amendment is also very simple. The Resolution says that the elected Members of the Central Legislature should be associated with the Indian Army. My Honourable friend, Mr. Asaf Ali, has moved an amendment by which he has clarified the intention of the Resolution; he has given out the definite purpose for which the elected Members of the Legislature should be associated with the Army Department. What then is the objection of the Defence Secretary in accepting this Resolution? The amendment imposes three main conditions for which the Resolution seeks the association of the Members of this House with the Army Department.

The Honourable the Defence Secretary has taken two objections, firstly on a constitutional basis and secondly on practical basis. He says that constitutionally the Members of this House are not entitled to have any voice in the matter. Does my Honourable friend suggest that when Indian troops are sent outside India, the Members of the Central Legislature have no right to be consulted? Does my Honourable friend mean that constitutionally the Members of this House cannot give advice in case Indian troops are sent outside India? Surely that cannot be a valid objection of the Defence Secretary. The second condition laid down in the amendment is that when new proposals involving additional expenditure are undertaken this House should be consulted. Does the Honourable the Defence Secretary suggest that in such a case the Members of the Central Legislature should have no voice and they should have no right to advise the Government of India whether such new expenditure should or should not be incurred? The Honourable the Defence Secretary should not embark upon new expenditure without taking the views of this House. Therefore, what is the objection on this score? The third point laid down

in the amendment is 'Indianization of the Army'. That matter has always been dealt with by this House. As far as I remember only last time when Indian troops were sent to Abyssinia to protect the interest of Indians there, an undertaking was definitely given by the Government of India that no steps should ever be taken in this respect without consulting the opinion of this House. When troops were sent out last time, the House was not in Session. Therefore, on another occasion, the Governor General sought the views of some of the Members of the House by inviting them for consultation. Now, Sir, this point has been conceded by the Government of India which is represented in this House by the Honourable the Defence Secretary. I do not know whether the Defence Secretary is representing the views which had already been expressed by the head of the Indian Government, that is, the Governor General or he is representing his own views, or he is representing merely the views of his Department. Certainly, it cannot be said that they are the views of the Government of India. So, I take it that they are the views of his own Department with which certainly he cannot bind the Government of India at all.

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: I have spoken for the Government.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: If the Honourable the Defence Secretary says that he spoke on behalf of the Government of India, then I take it that the Government of India have vetoed the action of the Governor General.

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: No, Sir.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: If they have not, then in this respect the Honourable the Defence Secretary cannot say that it is not acceptable to the Governor General.

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: Yes, he can.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Then let it be an anomaly in the character and words and sayings and doings of the Governor General.

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: Not at all, Sir.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: I am not here to defend the Governor General. He has to defend himself against the utterances of the Defence Secretary. This being the position, I think the interpretation of the Constitution as given by the Defence Secretary cannot be accepted by this House. This House has got privileges and powers which must be exercised by the House, and no curtailment of these powers and privileges would be acceptable even to those who, if they were free to vote according to their conscience, would have voted otherwise. From the practical point of view I do not agree that it is difficult that the elected Members should be consulted on all matters. Their confidence should be gained by Government and I agree with Mr. Aney when he said that Government should show now that they are ready to co-operate with the people of India and gain their confidence, specially when the Defence Secretary must have realised that Members on this side are also prepared to defend their country. They have begun to see that India is really in danger and.

[Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan.]

on the last occasion, they made it clear that they would not hesitate to spend any money that may be required for this specific purpose. In the face of that expression, I do not think it is a good policy to refuse to take this House into confidence. In the end they might find themselves in a position of giving more than is demanded at first. I think it is a wrong policy not to take us into their confidence, and on both points I submit that no case has been made out by the Government of India for opposing this Resolution which should be accepted by all sides of the House

Several Honourable Members: The question may now be put.

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

"That the question may now be put."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. N. V. Gadgil: Sir, I am glad to note that the Resolution has been generally accepted by the non-official sections of the House. I was somewhat surprised when I heard my Honourable friend, Mr. James, from the European Group taking quite a different attitude from the one taken by his Leader when a similar Resolution was under discussion in the House on the 4th February, 1936. In reply I was going to refer to the statement to which he referred, but somehow or other he was good enough to refer to it in his own speech and tried to impress on the House that it was a statement not categorical in its character. Sir, if you refer to what Sir Leslie Hudson said you will find that he complained about the vagueness of the Resolution then under discussion, but at the same time he went on to say :

"It is difficult to think of any precise formula at the moment and it would require not only the most careful examination but a spirit of accommodation on the part of the Legislature. Such a committee could only be consultative and experimental. I do not think, however, that it is beyond the wit of man to devise some machinery of this description which would have the effect which I have outlined and which would go to a large degree. I think, in meeting the wishes of my friends here. The desire to form some liaison between matters of defence and representatives of the Legislature is a natural one and in our view is deserving of consideration by the Government and the Secretary of State."

Then towards the conclusion of his speech he said that even under the present Constitution and even during the transitional stage, if I were to accept the description of the present position as given by Mr. James, he does advise the constitution of such a Committee :

"In the meantime, however, it would not seem to be unreasonable if, on the lines which I have indicated, within the scope of the present constitutional position, some machinery could be devised within defined limits, without in any way impairing the authority of the Governor General in regard to defence, of giving the representatives of the Legislature the opportunity to be consulted upon and to be informed upon some of the problems involved in India's defence policy."

I, therefore, submit that so far as the Members of the European Group are concerned, if consistency counts for anything in politics, they are bound to accept and vote for this Resolution.

Mr. F. E. James: Sir, will my Honourable friend allow me just to make one thing clear? We have not in any way gone back upon the declaration made by Sir Leslie Hudson at that time. What I endeavoured to point out in my speech was that the considerations which then moved him to decline to support that particular Resolution are the same considerations in regard to this particular Resolution and amendment, which make it impossible for us to accept them as they stand.

Mr. N. V. Gadgil: Sir, I can understand Mr. James losing a good case. If you were to compare the Resolution then moved with the Resolution which I have moved, there is absolutely no difference. I was told in my college days that man is a bundle of contradictions. I never realised its truth but I realise it today. Sir, that finishes Mr. James' objection.

Referring to the speech of the Defence Secretary, he said that there were constitutional difficulties. If that were so, how is it that even according to him and even according to his predecessor, several committees used to be appointed from time to time in order that non-official agency may be associated with defence matters? If the Constitution then did not prevent the appointment of such committees from time to time I fail to see how the Constitution can be taken to bar out the consideration of a Resolution of this character. In fact he gave away his whole case when he said that the Defence Department would be always willing to welcome any suggestion that may be made in connection with its policy. All that the Resolution demands is that these occasional suggestions coming from unorganised sources would be more useful if a Standing Committee is constituted, and that is exactly the purpose of this Resolution. I therefore submit, Sir, that there is no difference on the principle so far as this Resolution is concerned; and the amendment moved by my colleague, Mr. Asaf Ali, made it further clear, if there were any purist among the objectors who wanted the scope to be defined in more particular terms.

3 P.M. In fact, if the Resolution, as it is, is accepted, it would be better, but if the amendment which curtails the scope of the Resolution, secures the unanimous acceptance of the House, I have not the slightest objection to it. I submit that the House will be well advised in accepting my Resolution.

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

"That at the end of the Resolution the following be added:

'and that the functions of the said Committee shall include tendering advice to the Governor General in Council on such matters as he may refer to the Committee from time to time, with particular reference to:

- (1) sending of Indian troops outside India,
- (2) new proposals involving additional expenditure, and
- (3) Indianisation of the Army'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is that the Resolution as amended be passed: the Resolution is this:

"This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that in order to associate the elected Members of the Central Legislature with the Indian Army, early

[Mr. Deputy President.]

provision should be made for the election of a Standing Committee of Indian Army, and that the functions of the said Committee shall include tendering advice to the Governor General in Council on such matters as he may refer to the Committee from time to time, with particular reference to :

- (1) sending of Indian troops outside India,
- (2) new proposals involving additional expenditure, and
- (3) Indianisation of the Army."

The Assembly divided:

AYES—53.

Aaron. Mr. Samuel.
 Abdul Ghani, Maulvi Muhammad.
 Abdul Qaiyum, Mr.
 Abdul Wajid, Maulvi.
 Abdur Rasheed Chaudhury, Maulvi.
 Aney, Mr. M. S.
 Asaf Ali, Mr. M.
 Ayyangar, Mr. M. Ananthasayanam.
 Azhar Ali, Mr. Muhammad.
 Bajoria, Babu Baijnath.
 Banerjee, Dr. P. N.
 Chaliha, Mr. Kuladhar.
 Chattopadhyaya, Mr. Amarendra Nath.
 Chaudhury, Mr. Brojendra Narayan.
 Chettiar, Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam.
 Chetty, Mr. Sami Venkatachalam.
 Das, Mr. B.
 Das, Pandit Nilakantha.
 Deshmukh, Mr. Govind V.
 Essak Sait, Mr. H. A. Sathar H.
 Gadgil, Mr. N. V.
 Ghasuddin, Mr. M.
 Ghulam Bhik Nairang, Syed.
 Gupta, Mr. K. S.
 Hans Raj, Raizada.
 Jedhe, Mr. K. M.
 Jogendra Singh, Sirdar.

Joshi, Mr. N. M.
 Kailash Behari Lal, Babu.
 Lahiri Chaudhury, Mr. D. K.
 Lalchand Navalrai, Mr.
 Mangal Singh, Sardar.
 Misra, Pandit Shambhu Dayal.
 Mudaliar, Mr. C. N. Muthuranga.
 Murtuza Sahib Bahadur, Maulvi Syed.
 Pande, Mr. Badri Dutt.
 Parma Naud, Bhai.
 Raghubir Narayan Singh, Chondhri.
 Rao, Mr. Thirumala.
 Sakseena, Mr. Mohan Lal.
 Santhanam, Mr. K.
 Shaikat Ali, Maulana.
 Sheodass Daga, Seth.
 Sikandar Ali Chondhury, Maulvi.
 Singh, Mr. Gauri Shankar.
 Singh, Mr. Ram Narayan.
 Sinha, Mr. Satya Narayan.
 Som, Mr. Suryya Kumar.
 Sri Prakasa, Mr.
 Subedar, Mr. Mannu.
 Umar Aly Shah, Mr.
 Varma, Mr. B. B.
 Yamin Khan, Sir Muhammad.

NOES—45.

Abdul Hamid, Khan Bahadur Sir.
 Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab Sir.
 Aikman, Mr. A.
 Ayyar, Mr. N. M.
 Bajpai, Sir Girja Shankar.
 Bewoor, Mr. G. V.
 Boyle, Mr. J. D.
 Buss, Mr. L. C.
 Chanda, Mr. A. K.
 Chapman-Mortimer, Mr. T.
 Clow, Mr. A. G.
 Conran-Smith, Mr. E.
 Dalal, Dr. R. D.
 Dalpat Singh, Sardar Bahadur Captain.
 Dow, Mr. H.
 D'Souza, Mr. F.
 Fazl-i-Haq Piracha, Khan Bahadur Shaikh.
 Fazl-i-Ilahi, Khan Sahib Shaikh.
 Gidney, Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry.
 Griffiths, Mr. P. J.
 Grigg, The Honourable Sir James.
 James, Mr. F. E.

Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sir.
 Kamaluddin Ahmed, Shamsul-Ulema.
 Kushalpal Singh, Raja Bahadur.
 Lloyd, Mr. A. H.
 Mackeown, Mr. J. A.
 Mani, Mr. R. S.
 Metcalfe, Sir Aubrey.
 Miller, Mr. C. C.
 Ogilvie, Mr. C. M. G.
 Rahman, Lieut.-Col. M. A.
 Scott, Mr. J. Ramsay.
 Sen, Rai Bahadur N. C.
 Sher Muhammad Khan, Captain Sardar Sir.
 Sircar, The Honourable Sir Nripendra.
 Shivaram, Rao Sahib N.
 Slade, Mr. M.
 Smith, Lieut.-Colonel H. C.
 Spence, Mr. G. H.
 Staig, Mr. B. M.
 Stewart, The Honourable Sir Thomas.
 Sundaram, Mr. V. S.
 Thorne, Mr. J. A.
 Walker, Mr. G. D.

The motion was adopted.

RESOLUTION *RE* ESTABLISHMENT OF A UNIVERSITY AT PESHAWAR.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum (North-West Frontier Province: General): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that a University subsidized by the Federal Government be at once set up at Peshawar for the Settled Districts and the Tribal Areas of the North-West Frontier Province."

I think the word "financed" is a misprint and I would substitute the word "subsidized" for it in the Resolution. So far we have been told that only solution for the frontier problems, which has come from the side of the Government and which has been acted on by the Government, is the so-called forward policy to which they have consistently adhered ever since the British came in contact with the tribes and people of the Frontier Province. We have also been told that there is no other solution for this very vexed problem and that the only way to straighten out matters on the frontier is by sending annual expeditions, by raining bombs on the people and by carrying on various activities of a very doubtful nature and of very doubtful value from the Indian point of view, through the agency of the political agents. We have also been told that there is absolutely no other solution for this problem; and in moving this Resolution I want to show to this House and to the country at large that there are other and more humane methods for dealing with the frontier problem than the forward policy which has been hitherto pursued by the British Government. They have been trying the forward policy in the frontier, they have been sending out annual expeditions; and they have been wasting crores of rupees collected from the Indian taxpayers on frontier expeditions in attempting to pacify and control the tribes there; but the Government will have to admit that all their expeditionary forces and all the monies which they have been hitherto spending have not brought any good either to the people of the frontier or to the people at large in this country; and that the problem still remains unsolved. The only way to solve the frontier problem is by educating the people, by improving their economic conditions; and I can assure this House and the people of my country that this solution will cost much less than the amount annually spent in sending out expeditionary forces into the lands of the unfortunate tribes.

The necessity for a unitary residential university in the frontier is very great indeed, and it has been accepted, even in principle, by the various officials of the Government of India. In the frontier, you have the tribal area and the settled districts; and it is a well known fact that the tribal area and the settled districts constitute one unit: there may be an artificial line dividing the settled districts from the tribal area, but the fact remains that the people on both sides of this artificial line speak the same language, follow the same religion and belong to one and the same stock. In fact, as has been very aptly described by one of the conservative statesmen of the frontier, that in the Frontier Province, the tribal area and the settled districts are like the two wings of one and the same eagle and that they cannot be divided by artificial means.

The reason why the people of the Frontier and the tribes should be educated is very obvious. The people of the frontier are not at all afraid

[Mr. Abdul Qaiyum.]

of education and it is well known that in spite of the fact that education has made considerable headway in the settled districts, the people in the settled districts have not become weaklings and have not lost their nationalist instinct and are the strongest supporters of the nationalist movement in India. They are believers in the most progressive institution, *viz.*, the Indian National Congress, and they have always given the most unqualified and consistent support to that body. So we are not in the least afraid that if this system of education is extended to the tribal area, it will in any way affect the stamina of those people or weaken them in their resistance to the onward march of British imperialism. Even from the British point of view I can say—and I have got authority in support of my contention—that there are many British educationists who believe that the only solution of the frontier problem lies in imparting education to the tribal people. In this connection I may quote an extract from the remarks of an eminent educationist on the frontier—no less a person than the head of the most important college in the frontier, the Islamia College. Mr. Holdsworth, an Englishman, who is the head of this institution, commands the respect not only of the people of the settled districts, but also of the people in the tribal areas. The respect that he commands indicates that it is educationists who are wanted on the Frontier and not people who believe in the cult of bombs and bullets, and that people still respect the former in spite of differences in race and religion. This is what Mr. Holdsworth writes:

“A system of organized forestry in Tirah might solve the vexed problem of the water supply. A development of quarries, for marble, coal and even oil, might bring great prosperity to Tirah. Improved methods of sheep breeding might alter the whole outlook in Waziristan. But the tribesmen must be educated first so that the youngmen themselves may ask Government for help. Tribal students must go back to tribal villages and preach a more tolerant view of Islam, a more go-ahead view of economics and agriculture.”

This is not all. The same authority writing about the Frontier students who come from tribal areas has remarked in similar strain,—and he has got considerable experience of the tribal students because he is in most intimate touch with them,—because a very large number of tribal students are educated in the Islamia College in Peshawar. This is what he writes:

“I have always found them exceptionally hard working and I should think that they have a record of good health unequalled in the whole college. They lead a simple life, though generally cleanly dressed, whether they adopt European or Pathan clothes. From the point of view of discipline, they are much more amenable than those from administered areas, though there is nothing servile about their attitude to discipline.”

Now, Sir, this is what an eminent authority writes about the problems of educating the tribal people. Sir, it is a well-known fact that in the Frontier Province a very large number of tribal students are being educated in the Islamia College, and their number is increasing every year. But the Frontier Province has its own limitations. The Frontier Government as a result of the subvention which they receive have to carry out many duties which include extensive work in the tribal belt. It is also a well-known fact that the Director of Agriculture in the Frontier Province and other heads of departments have to work in the tribal area, and the money which they spend is derived out of the provincial revenues. Further, it is also an admitted fact that most of the Deputy

Commissioners have to work as political agents, and some of the establishments under them deal mainly with work connected with the tribal belt. And it cannot be denied that the hospitals in the Frontier Province are being increasingly used by patients from the tribal areas,—and their number is increasing tremendously in the Frontier hospitals. Similarly, in the matter of Frontier jails, it cannot be denied that in times of trouble when the political authorities are at loggerheads with the tribes, the frontier jails have to receive a very large number of hostages and prisoners, and they have to feed them and keep them. All these things require a considerable amount of money, and this money comes out of the Frontier provincial budget. There is no doubt that a part of it is subsidized, but there is no denying the fact that the tribal people are being educated at the expense of the people in the settled districts, and that there are many other services which are paid for by the people in the settled districts for the benefit of the people in the tribal areas.

Sir, some time ago the question of establishing a University at Peshawar was considered by the Government of India in conjunction with the Minister of Education of the N.W.F. Province, and I think Sir George Anderson took a lead in this matter. There was a lot of correspondence at that time with the educational authorities in the Frontier Province, and a scheme was drawn up for the establishment of a University at Peshawar. It was at that time believed that the University at Peshawar should be of a unitary residential type, that it should not suffer from any denominational tinge, and that it should be entirely non-denominational in character. It cannot be denied that at present the Islamia College at Peshawar, even though the word "Islamia" occurs before the word "College", is in fact a national College, and its doors are wide open to Hindu and Sikh students alike, and their number is large considering their population ratio. The non-Muslim students enjoy the same privileges which their Muslim brethren enjoy, and they all live in perfect concord and amity in the same hostel. The idea was that this Islamia College and the Edwards College in Peshawar should be converted into a residential non-denominational university, and it was estimated that the cost of such a university would be 6 lakhs non-recurring spread over a period of 3 years, and that the recurring expenditure would only amount to 2½ lakhs. Now, Sir, taking into consideration the fact that a University is a very expensive affair, the estimate which was then made for this particular University leans on the side of moderation,—6 lakhs for 3 years non-recurring and 2½ lakhs recurring,—and this is not a large figure; but the argument advanced by the Government benches was that even though the idea of a University in the Frontier province is a very good one, still they cannot find money for subsidizing the institution.

Now, it cannot be denied that even after years of contact with the tribes and even after years of some sort of administration in Baluchistan, there does not exist even a single university or college in these areas. Sir, a very large number of students from Baluchistan come to the Frontier Province and join the Islamia College and continue their studies there. It will also not be denied, I hope, that the number of students who join this college in Peshawar from such places as the tribal belt, the Frontier States of Chitral, Dir and Swat is increasing year after year. It will be equally admitted that the Government of India is responsible for the education and for the economic improvement of the people

[Mr. Abdul Qayyum.]

in the tribal belt, but the fact remains that so far the Government of India have been only tinkering with the problem, and they have not done anything towards adopting any effective steps for educating the people. It will also be admitted that the population of the tribal areas and of the settled districts is about the same, namely, 2½ millions—five millions in all. Now, what has the Government of India done so far in financing education in the Frontier Province? Is it not their duty to give the best and the highest form of education to the people in the tribal areas, and if such a University were set up in Peshawar it would also be able to supply the needs of the whole of the Frontier Province. Sir, the people of the tribal areas speak the same language, and have the same culture as that of the people of the Frontier Province. Now the question of money of course is an important one. There is no doubt that the Frontier Government will be quite willing to advance a part of the money required to set up a University, but the Frontier Government is certainly not in a position to meet the entire cost which would be incurred in setting up a residential university of the type contemplated. Now, Sir, the students from the tribal areas and Baluchistan come and study in this college, and there is, therefore, absolutely no reason why the Government of India should not subsidize this University by meeting at least a part of the cost which is necessary for setting up a University, and thus satisfy a long felt need of the people of the Frontier Province.

It is a wellknown fact that in regard to the question of money, when there is a war or some frontier campaign, the Government of India do not hesitate to spend crores and crores of rupees on expeditions. It was admitted by the Defence Secretary not very long ago on the floor of this House that the campaign in Waziristan which began on the 25th November, 1936, had not officially ended, and that up to the end of 1937 an additional expenditure of 1 crore 94 lakhs had been incurred in prosecuting this campaign on the Frontier. Now, we all know the results of these campaigns, and I can say without fear of contradiction that in spite of all the propaganda so far done to show that we have extended the protected areas, that we have built so many more miles of metalled roads and so forth, the conditions in Waziristan are even more disturbed today than they were before this colossal expenditure was incurred. Now, in spite of these crores of rupees which are being spent on the tribal area, the results compared with the colossal expenditure are absolutely negligible. This is not the first campaign of this kind. I can say, without fear of contradiction, that practically every year or every other year an expeditionary force is sent to wage war against one or other of the tribes. One year, it is the Mohmand area which is involved, next year it is Waziristan, the third year it is probably some other tribe, in the fourth year it is probably the Bhattanis who are at loggerheads with the Government. It is not an abnormal expenditure which is being incurred by the Government in dealing with these tribes. I can safely say that this so-called additional expenditure is the normal expenditure incurred by the Government year in and year out in the prosecution of that forward policy in which they believe and to which they have so consistently adhered.

An English educationist on the Frontier submitted a report some time ago about the setting up of a Frontier University. I am quoting from the opinion of the Principal of the Islamia College. He says:

"Such a university would be a national and Imperial asset". I do not agree with everything that he says, because he and I look at this problem from different angles. He looks at it from the Imperial point of view—the insurance against peace and the so-called pacification that will follow in its wake. I look at it from a different point of view. I want these people to become more independent, even more nationalist than they are, even stronger than they are, to oppose this imperialism which is threatening their liberty. The Principal says:

"Such a university would be a national and Imperial asset. Enough money has been spent on some recent Frontier operations to pay twice over for the establishment of a first class university on the Frontier. That money had to be spent because the law was broken. But what are the factors that make for disobedience of law across the border. Surely ignorance and superstition. It is not the fault of the tribes that they are ignorant and superstitious. Only when the tribesmen have learnt by experience that a university of this kind can give them that the law is their friend and not their enemy will it be possible to say that the problem of the North-West Frontier has been solved. If the Frontier University can help to do this work it will no longer be possible to say that education is an unremunerative department. Rather will it be regarded as an insurance policy for peace."

I am supported in my contention by an eminent British educational authority who is in touch with these tribal students and the students from the settled area and who has spent quite a long time in that province and is well conversant with the special problems that exist there. He also believes that the only two ways of solving their problem are firstly by giving them the best possible type of education and secondly by improving their economic condition. I was talking of the colossal amounts of money which are being spent by the Government of India on the frontier, and as an additional instance I will cite another matter which recently occurred.

Before the introduction of Provincial Autonomy, I think the House is well aware that the Governor of the Frontier Province had to deal with the tribal belt and also with the problems of the settled districts which are now in the hands of popular Ministers. That Governor was quite capable of dealing with the problems of the settled districts and also with the problems of the tribes without the aid of a resident or a special resident for the tribal belt. But after the introduction of Provincial Autonomy when all these subjects, *viz.*, law and order and jails and all the rest of it, were handed over to popular Ministers and the Governor's work became absolutely negligible as far as the Governor's provinces was concerned, a new post was created in the Frontier Province, namely, of a Resident to deal with the tribal areas. I believe the gentleman who is performing that duty draws a salary of Rs. 4,000 or Rs. 5,000 a month and he has got a staff also, which costs a good bit to the taxpayers of this country. I think if we knock out a few of such officers and some of the meaningless and foolish campaigns which are waged on the Frontier, it is quite possible for this Government to subsidise not only one university but several universities of this type.

But the fact remains that the Government of India is absolutely unresponsive to all constructive and useful schemes which emanate from the people. They believe in certain policies and adhere to them regardless of the cost. I am not at all surprised that this is the attitude of the Government of India. It is an irresponsible Government which is out of touch with the people and it cannot be expected to act in a manner different from that in which they are acting. They are absolutely dead to the

[Mr. Abdul Qaiyum.]

clamour of the people. They believe in their forward policy and they are not ashamed of spending crores of rupees which come out of the pockets of our people on foolish campaigns on the Frontier. They will have to answer some day to the people of this country for the colossal waste of their money. Crores of rupees are being thrown away on the tribal hills. They think perhaps that this is all necessary for the purposes of Imperial Britain. Perhaps it is absolutely necessary for British Imperialism. Perhaps this money must be spent in order to afford proper training ground for British troops, so that they may be absolutely fit and ready to take the field when a first class war breaks out. They think nothing of shooting the tribesmen and of bombing them from the air—people whom they have kept deliberately illiterate in spite of long years of contact with them. They can afford to shed crocodile tears for the bombing of the Abyssinians by the Italians and of the bombing of the Chinese by the Japanese. But they do not mind bombing the men in the tribal areas and of throwing some hand bills from the air, which the people do not understand. An airman comes and tells them that he has thrown so many notices from the air and finished one or two villages and they are quite satisfied.

I have proved that this plea of lack of money has absolutely no foundation and they can find the money for starting this university. If they will not subsidize the whole of this university scheme, they are at least morally bound to subsidize a part of it, because under the Government of India Act of 1935, they still remain responsible for the government of the tribal areas and they are also responsible for the government of Baluchistan which is being treated as a Chief Commissioner's province. If a university is set up which caters not only for the settled districts of the Frontier but also for the tribal belt and Baluchistan, the Government is morally bound to subsidize the scheme and it cannot take shelter behind the argument that there is absolutely no money for subsidizing this venture. In support of my contention, I can quote the remarks of Sir George Anderson, the Educational Commissioner with the Government of India, who wrote to Sir Abdul Qaiyum, the then Minister of Education in the Frontier, strongly advocating the establishment of a university of the type which I am now advocating before this Honourable House. I shall read a few extracts from that letter of Sir George Anderson and if after hearing those extracts the Government of India still remain unconvinced, I can only conclude that they are dead to all appeals to reason and conscience and that they do not want to change their decision. (Interruption). I am not giving way. Sir George Anderson addressed this letter from Simla in June, 1933, to the Government of the North-West Frontier Province and it has been published and it is a well-known document. He says:

"It seems to me inevitable that sooner or later a unitary university will have to be established in Peshawar.

The University (any new one) would be well advised to concentrate its energies and resources on a few Departments of study, especially more of a professional type and should not attempt to traverse the whole field of university education. The new university should not be started on a grandiose scale.

If this is borne in mind, the cost of such a university in Peshawar would not be as great as might be contemplated."

Now, the reasons why it is absolutely necessary to have a university for the Frontier Province are the following, and the reasons are quite obvious. They are not only reasons which are ideal, but there are other practical

considerations which have forced the people of the frontier and the tribal areas to demand that a university should be set up for them. Now, there is no doubt that the people of the frontier and of the tribal areas constitute a unit altogether different from the people of the Punjab. The University of Lahore is under the jurisdiction of the Government of the Punjab but the colleges of the Frontier Province are affiliated to that University at present. We have of course our own problems and our own special qualities which require development, and there are special needs of ours in addition. It is a well-known fact that recently the University of Lahore has concentrated all the higher forms of education at Lahore and the students of the Frontier Province—and when I say students of the frontier I include the students of the tribal belt, who are being educated in very large numbers in Peshawar—have to pay large sums in registration fees and for purposes of admission, even though they do not get any benefit from the specialised type of education which is being imparted at Lahore. Then it is impossible for a progressive Government like that of the Frontier Province to change the school curriculum, and they are absolutely helpless in the matter as their boys and girls are all forced to sit for the Punjab matriculation examination and thus they cannot bring about any change. Then discriminatory tariffs are being levied by the educational institutions outside the Frontier Province. Take one institution say, the Lyallpur Agricultural College. There the frontier students are not only forced to pay double the amount of the ordinary fee, but every student has to pay Rs. 800 per annum if he wants to be admitted to that college and this sum of money has to be borne by the Government concerned. Now, it is a well-known fact that there is a first-class residential college at Peshawar which imparts education up to the M. A. standard in Mathematics, Persian and English, and which imparts education up to the B.Sc. standard in Zoology and Botany

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The Honourable Member has only one minute more.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: I shall take only two minutes, Sir. And there is an agricultural college affiliated to this institution. Now, it is quite easy to convert this college into a sort of university which will cater not only for the people in the settled districts but for all the people in the tribal areas as well as for the people in Baluchistan. So far the Government of India have not even established an intermediate college for the people of Baluchistan. I submit that the cost of such a university is not prohibitive and I appeal to the Government of India to subsidize at least in part the finances of such a university, because it would be impossible for the Provincial Government to meet the entire cost. Under the circumstances, as all the frontier officials have to divide their time between the settled districts and the unsettled areas and because part of our Budget is certainly being spent upon tribal areas, I submit the Government of India is bound morally to subsidize this university. With these words, Sir, I conclude my speech.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Resolution moved:

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that a University subsidized by the Federal Government be at once set up at Peshawar for the Settled Districts and the Tribal Areas of the North-West Frontier Province."

Some Honourable Members: I move that the question be now put.

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi (Dacca cum Mymensingh: Muhammadan Rural): Mr. Deputy President, the Resolution as worded in the printed List of Business sought that the "Federal Government" should "finance" this proposed university, which made me take an attitude of hostility to the Resolution. The substitution of the word "subsidizing" for "financing" has somewhat altered the complexion of things and consequently of my attitude towards it. The Federal Government's money should not have been available to the North-West Frontier Province only but it should be available to all the Provinces. Now, as the Honourable the Mover has substituted the word "subsidized", he has our sympathy. He has every right to ask the Central Government for assistance. A further difficulty has been created by the use of the words "Federal Government" as that Government has not come into existence yet and in that case he has to wait till that Government comes into existence. This House is not a Federal House and, therefore, his Resolution cannot be discussed in this House and I doubt if this House can take cognizance of this Resolution at this moment and should pass a pious Resolution of this character. My Honourable friend the Mover of this Resolution is a member of the Congress. Does he admit that he wants Federation?

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Sir, on a point of explanation. I should be prepared to substitute the word "Central" for the word "Federal", if he so desires.

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: That is a different matter. Your Party has opposed Federation day in and day out,—your Party has put this subject before the whole of India and have said that they will fight tooth and nail against Federation. (Interruption.) I am not giving way.

Therefore, Sir, my first point is that this Resolution is out of order. We cannot discuss this Resolution as it is printed in the List of Business. We are now discussing what is exactly on the paper. The Mover has already made one change, namely, "financing" to "subsidizing", and the Honourable Member must not be allowed to make changes as and when it suits him.

An Honourable Member: Are you raising a point of order?

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: Yes.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): I am afraid it is now too late to raise a point of order.

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: I want to raise this point that this House is not competent to go into this Resolution as my Honourable friend has made it perfectly clear in the List of Business by the wording of his Resolution that he wants the Federal Government and not this Government to subsidize the university to be immediately established at Peshawar.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar (Law Member): Have we not got at this moment a combination of the British Indian provinces? I am only asking you this question: I am not expressing an opinion.

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: There is a Federal Court, but the Federation has not yet come into existence. But let me make it perfectly clear that I am not opposed to my friend having a university at Peshawar. But what I say is this that if it is his intention that the Federal Government should subsidise the university . . .

Congress Members: No, that is not his intention.

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: Then, let him move another Resolution. He may mean so many things but we have to deal with the Resolution before us.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The Honourable Member had better speak on the merits of this Resolution.

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: As I said, Mr. Deputy President, the House cannot deal with the Resolution as it is worded. This House has no right to deal with this Resolution because it is neither a Federal House nor is the Government a Federal Government.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Delhi: General): Is it a reflection on the discretion of the President who admitted this Resolution?

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: Certainly not. Look at the point of order which my Honourable friend has raised. What has it got to do with the President?

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: He has admitted it.

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: That has enabled us to discuss the Resolution and to say that it is out of order and that this House is not competent to deal with it. That is what he has allowed us to do.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Order, Order. Is it necessary to remind the Honourable Member that it is not for him but for somebody else to declare whether it is in order or not.

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: Thank you, Sir. So far as the ambition of the Honourable Member to have a university at Peshawar is concerned, we have every sympathy with it.

Congress Members: Lip sympathy!

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: Not the lip sympathy of the kind which my Honourable friends show but real sympathy, but I cannot support the Resolution in the form in which it has been put before us. I am not a believer in having a number of universities. I do not believe that these universities have helped us at all, especially the higher education. There are already a number of universities in India and what we should do is to bring them to perfection. There is a university at Lahore which is less than 3 hours run from Peshawar. Let my Honourable friend be satisfied with that university for the time being and when the Federal Assembly and the Federal Government come into existence, he can then bring his Resolution before them. But if he wants to have a university just now and wants this House to do something in the matter, then I will invite his attention to the proverb "God helps those who help themselves". First find out a portion of the money yourself in your own province . . .

Congress Members: There is some money already there.

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: Who has said that? What the Honourable Member said was that he wants a portion of it to be subsidized, but he did not say a word about the amount which they have collected. Let him start the university before he comes to this House with a beggar's bowl. Take the assistance of every Mussalman in your province for the establishment of that university and then come to this House.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: God save us from the Mussalmans.

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: I am not at all surprised to hear this remark from my Honourable friend. I wish Dr. Khan Sahib had heard the remark that has been made now.

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan. Rural): He was talking of the Bengali edition.

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: I am talking of the Peshawar and the U. P. Edition.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: On a point of order, Sir. Is the Honourable gentleman making a second speech? I think he has already exhausted his time.

Some Honourable Members: No, No.

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

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: Whether I have exhausted my time or not, is a matter for the Chair to decide.

Congress Members: But we are exhausted.

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: You always get exhausted except when you hear your own voices. It does not take you long to exhaust yourselves. Only the other day when the Sarda Act was being discussed, you soon got exhausted. But you must accustom yourselves to listen to others. As I said, this is not the Federal House and what my Honourable friend has said is that he wants the Federal Assembly and the Federal Government to subsidize the university which he wants to be established at Peshawar. He should, therefore, wait till that body comes into existence. This Resolution, therefore, is premature.

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe (Secretary, External Affairs Department): Sir, my Honourable friend, who moved this Resolution, waxed extremely indignant over Government's policy on the Frontier and said that they had no ideas in the world beyond bombs and bullets which they rained upon the unfortunate inhabitants. I understand and I hope the House will have understood too that this is not an occasion or a time on which I can enter into a general discussion of Frontier policy. The Resolution is limited, so far as I understand it, to a particular proposal for the establishment of a University, and all that I can do is to try and clear up very briefly some mis-statements of fact and some of the misapprehensions which I think

my Honourable friend has created. There is one small point of fact which

4 P. M. I would like to join issue with him at once upon and that is the instance of extravagance which he quoted against the Government of India in having appointed a Tribal Resident. If I heard him correctly he said that the Tribal Resident was enjoying a salary of Rs. 4,000 or Rs. 5,000 with a large staff under him. Actually, Sir, the post is paid Rs. 3,500. He has no staff at all except a stenographer and two or three chaprasis and the post replaces an equally expensive post which is being abolished from the 1st April, a post which has been in existence for many years of a Resident in Waziristan. The Tribal Resident will do the duties of the Resident in Waziristan in addition to the other duties which will fall to him throughout the entire tribal area. That is merely a point of fact which I wish to clear up for the information of the House.

Let me now go on and try to remove the idea which my Honourable friend the Mover holds and which he has tried to impart to this House that Government have been entirely indifferent to the educational needs of the people who live in the tribal area. That, Sir, is not the case. Government have attempted for many years to do everything within the limits of the financial possibilities and other possibilities, which I shall mention later on, to promote the cause of education in tribal areas. The present recurring expenditure, which has been incurred for some few years, is in the neighbourhood of one lakh on schools and of course beyond that there is non-recurring expenditure, of which I have not got the actual figures available. The number of schools which at present exist in the tribal areas on the North-West Frontier Province is, in Waziristan, three middle schools and 16 primary; in the Malakand, one middle and 12 primary; in the Khyber, either six or seven primary schools; in the Khurram valley, one middle and 13 primary. For Baluchistan, I am afraid I have got no figures available because the Honourable Member who moved the Resolution did not give me warning that he intended to touch upon Baluchistan. But so far as Baluchistan is concerned, I may inform the House that there has recently been a careful examination of the educational needs of the Province, since the earthquake took place and destroyed practically all the schools that existed there, and it is hoped that with generous aid from the Centre quite a reasonably good scheme will be evolved, which will give to the residents of Baluchistan a real chance of improving and increasing their education. So much for what has been done.

There have in the past been various and much more ambitious schemes put forward by the Local Administration. I mention this, because I had the honour of serving for some time in the Province and these schemes were frequently put forward and were blessed by the Government of India, but there were various difficulties which prevented their being carried out. I wish to make it quite clear that the sole difficulty has not been merely a financial one. There are other difficulties and one of the difficulties, which I do not think is appreciated at all, is the existence in tribal areas of a large and powerful conservative party which resent any kind of Government activity, even educational activity, in those areas of which we are not at present in full control. From what I have said already you will notice that most of the primary schools exist in places such as the Malakand and Kurram, where Government have fairly complete control, although they leave the tribes as far as possible to manage their own affairs. In such areas Government are in a position to set up schools and the people

[Sir Aubrey Metcalfe.]

appreciate their efforts in this direction. There are other areas such as Tirah and Mohmand country where the tribes still desire, as I am quite sure my Honourable friend is aware, to preserve their isolation and not to allow Government officers to come in or even Government schools to be established. In illustration of the attitude of the conservative party and of the difficulties to which Government are exposed in these areas I may quote the case of a school which was built some four years ago in Tirah at a place called Chora. The school was built and it was doing well, but a time of tribal excitement arose, in which the anti-Government conservative party became powerful and burnt the school. Well, Sir, you will understand that Government are not anxious to start schools at considerable expenditure and then have them burnt for no reason except that the fanatical element in the tribe gets, for the moment, the upper hand. I quote that to show the absolute necessity of Government going slow in these matters and not rushing through expansive schemes of education without the full support and assistance of the responsible elements in the tribe. Those elements must be so responsible that they are able to control popular excitement at various times and to see that Government schools are properly treated.

There remains the question—which my Honourable friend has also raised—of higher education. It is not for me to discuss the educational value of University and college education, when only a very small ground work of primary education exists. But Government have not been unmindful of the needs for higher education among the residents of the tribal area. We are at present spending something in the neighbourhood of Rs. 20,000 per annum in giving scholarship to boys of the tribal area in order to enable them to secure in the North-West Frontier Province or in other parts of British India, that higher education which they cannot obtain actually inside the tribal area. To spend more on higher education, it seems to me, would not be legitimate use of the Indian taxpayer's money since it must be remembered that the inhabitants of the tribal area hardly pay any taxes—they pay water rate in certain places where water is provided for them, but that is payment for a definite thing supplied to them. They do not pay any such taxes as would finance the educational, medical and other facilities which Government have given them from time to time with a very fairly lavish hand.

There is also another more practical experiment, of interest to the House, which we are attempting purely as a result of the operations which have been necessary in Waziristan recently. During those operations a battalion was raised and placed under military discipline for the purpose of making certain roads. It has been agreed that for some time at any rate that battalion shall be kept in being under discipline in order to provide technical education for a number of young men of the tribes in Waziristan in such things as the construction of buildings, road making and so forth. All these will be activities which it is hoped that they will be able to practise thereafter and will help them to earn an honest livelihood. There is an additional advantage of this method of education and that is that while they are learning, they will be able to assist in the construction of works which are of value to the Government and thereby save the Government a certain amount of expenditure. That, Sir, I submit is a far more useful way of tackling the problem of education in the tribal area than the

one which the Honourable Member proposed of setting up a university. I hope that what I have said is sufficient to convince the House that Government are by no means unsympathetic with the ideals which have prompted the Honourable the Mover to make this motion. They have great sympathy with those ideals, but they are bound to look at the practical realities of the case and the difficulties which beset any such scheme as he has put forward; and it is for that reason alone that I oppose the motion.

Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I heard with great attention the speeches delivered on this Resolution, but I thought that most of the remarks made by Honourable Members really touch only the side issues and not the main problem itself. At one time it was universally believed, after the establishment of the London University in 1820, that the affiliating universities were most suitable to concentrate educational activities to common centre. On the model of the London University we established our universities of Calcutta, Bombay and Madras in 1858, but subsequently the London University ideal was changed as a result of the Hadow Report and the Calcutta University Commission, which sat on the question of university education and whose report is the last word on the subject, definitely condemned the affiliating universities and recommended that they should gradually be changed into teaching and residential universities wherever possible. The Government of India accepted the recommendations of the Calcutta University Commission and on their model they immediately established a university at Decca and a university at Delhi. They separated the Delhi University from the University of the Punjab only as a result of the recommendation of the Calcutta University Commission, because they thought that Delhi had got sufficient educational activities which would justify the establishment of a separate university. Several other provinces followed the scheme. The U. P. Government established several universities; the Madras Government also established several universities on the same principle. So it is now the recognised policy of the Government of India, in the absence of any other policy or authoritative statement by a committee or commission, that wherever possible these colleges should be developed gradually into teaching and residential universities. Therefore the main issue in this particular Resolution is whether circumstances are such that the Frontier Province should have a university of its own, and the colleges in Peshawar be separated from the Punjab University in the same manner as the Delhi colleges were separated about 17 years ago. So the first contention is that according to the recommendations of the Calcutta University Commission and also according to the opinion of several members of the Punjab Inquiry Committee we ought to establish a teaching and residential university at Peshawar; and that is really the main issue in connection with this Resolution.

The second point which arises out of this Resolution is who should finance it and who should legislate for it. About legislation itself I think the Government of India considered this question some time ago in connection with the Patna university. The Punjab University caters for more than one province, therefore it does not really come under Education but under corporation and therefore it is under the jurisdiction of Central Government and the Central Government should decide whether a separate university should be established for the Frontier Province. Whether the legislation should be by this House or by the Provincial Legislature is a

[Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad.]

constitutional problem and I do not wish to enter into its details. I think we will have to express our opinion and the proper legislation ought to be undertaken by the Provincial Government.

The next question is about finance. Naturally, if it is to be a university of the Frontier Province that Government should provide funds for the university. But the plea put forward by the Honourable the Mover is that there are sufficient reasons which justify him in coming to the Government of India for funds and for a subsidy; and this is the thing which I wish to discuss. We are not discussing now the forward policy or the backward policy of the Government of India; we are not to discuss the administration and expenditure on the tribal area. But one thing is certain, which my Honourable friend, the Foreign Secretary, has also admitted, that the Government has now undertaken to provide education to the people of the frontier tribes and they are spending about a lakh of rupees for primary education.

An Honourable Member: From what fund?

Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad: From funds at the disposal of the Foreign Secretary. Now the Frontier Government will say that they do not derive any revenue from these frontier tribes. If a university is established at Peshawar they will receive fair number of students from these frontier tribes who would be educated in this particular university. Therefore, you will have to decide this question of a subsidy in either of these two ways. Either the Government of India should pay a sum of Rs. 500 for the education of each student which the Peshawar university may take from the frontier tribes or they may compound this particular contribution by giving fixed subsidy. We are not discussing about the method of subvention; the subvention question may be postponed for the present. It may be either on the basis of the number of students or it may be in the form of a block grant. But that is a minor issue which is not under discussion now. I think my Honourable friend, the Foreign Secretary, will agree that if they could manage to give higher education even to a limited number of students from the frontier tribes, they in turn will be in a position to establish schools in their tribal area. When you export your own teachers who have no sympathy with the feelings of the people, the people of the frontier tribes resent it. But if the schools are opened by the efforts of teachers belonging to the same tribe and having the same sentiments and feelings, the spread of education will be very much facilitated. Therefore, in order to spread education and enlightenment which is part of their duty and which they have already accepted and given expression to on the floor of the House, it is I think natural that we should train a fairly large number of teachers who in their turn may be able to open schools in the tribal areas. Therefore, the reasons on account of which the Honourable the Mover of the Resolution has demanded a subsidy is this that they will cater for the students of the frontier tribes from whom that Government is getting no income whatever, and it is the legitimate duty of the Government of India to contribute for this university which will be intended not purely for the people of the Frontier Province but also for the people residing outside it.

Now, taking the case of Baluchistan, it is a very neglected province, even the Parliament forgot it when it was engaged on the Government of

India Act. So, if it is neglected by the Government of India also I should not be surprised at it. But at the same time we ought to remember that after all it forms part of India, and the education of the people of Baluchistan is a problem which the Government of India ought to undertake. The only university which will be nearest to the people of Baluchistan will be a university in the N.-W. F. P., and if a university is established there I am sure that education in Baluchistan will spread more quickly.

An Honourable Member: It is very far.

Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad: My friend says Baluchistan is very far, but certainly it is much nearer than Aligarh where we get a fairly large number of students from Baluchistan. I am sure that the number of students from Baluchistan will increase if they find facilities for their education in Peshawar itself. Therefore, one issue which I think the Government of India cannot challenge is that it is their duty to support the establishment of a teaching and residential university wherever it may be possible, and then they cannot deny that it is their legitimate duty to support or to give subsidy to students from Frontier tribes and from Baluchistan which are under their charge. This is really the main argument of the Mover of the Resolution.

I do not think that the question will be raised about the establishment of the university, otherwise I would discuss it in greater detail. At one time I wrote a note myself for late Sahebzada, Sir Abdul Qaiyum, in which I pointed out my reasons for the immediate establishment of a university at Peshawar. The Islamia College and the Mission College may be the nucleus for a teaching university. I think the educational position of the N.-W. F. P. at present is much more advanced than the educational position of Delhi in the year 1920 when they established a university here, and the Government of India have no reason to refuse the establishment of a university at Peshawar, where the circumstances are much riper and more advanced than they were in Delhi about eighteen years ago.

The second point is that they ought to give subsidy. I have already given the arguments for it and I have one more argument. After all it is a province which has been created by Government for reasons more political than economic. For this reason they are giving a subsidy to this particular province, and if they can increase the subsidy for this very good and laudable object I think it is reasonable and just. With these words, I support the motion.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I lend my whole-hearted support to the Resolution so ably moved by my friend from the Frontier. Three provinces have been created by the Government of India—Sind, Orissa and the Frontier. They are the children, I may say, of the Government of India, and so it is up to them to feed, educate and clothe these children and provide all the paraphernalia of a province. They must help them in every way to be self-supporting till they are fully grown up to manhood and can take care of themselves.

Now, what is being done in the Frontier Province? There is a proverb—one apple a day keeps the doctor away. The Government of India

[Mr. Badri Dutt Pande.]

say one lakh a day will keep the Faqir of Ipi away. That fellow is happy and gay, and we have to spend about two crores in frightening these people. Only recently more than 2 crores have been spent, I am not talking of the years and years during which money has been spent on that unfortunate province in bombing and bulleting them, in terrifying them and in coercing them. I am a resident of the hills, I love liberty, I love liberty-loving people, I have very great sympathy for these brave men, and I shall be happy if they come under the banner of liberty and the whole province is united and not made into an Ulster—you are trying to make an Ulster of it.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member had better confine himself to the Resolution.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: I want all those tribal areas in the frontier should be united into one province. The money that is spent on the Frontier Province is about two crores, but that spent on education is only 21½ lakhs. Two crores are spent on tribal areas and Rs. 65 lakhs is spent in Baluchistan—we cannot ask questions as to how all this money is spent: all this—2 crores on the Frontier, 2 crores on tribal areas and 65 lakhs on Baluchistan—makes about five crores, and I think there will be money enough for a university and for colleges, but they will not allow us to unite there: so that is the real trouble. These tribal areas and the frontier are practically peopled by the same race. Of course, they say that they resent education. England resented education in 1885: Japan resented education when it was made free and compulsory. In every country there are people of the type of Babu Baijnath Bajoria and Sir Halim Ghuznavi who resent everything that is noble and good. In every country you will find thorns, in every flower, in every rose there is a thorn, but they are thorns which can be removed and which have to be removed. They are our children, they ought to be protected, they are to be sympathised with and placed under one Government. If they are placed under one Khan Sahib—one of those two noble brothers—there will be peace. With him and his noble brother called the Frontier Gandhi there will be no bombing and no bulleting. If you will allow him to govern for some time and the people to unite, there will be peace, and money will be available for a university and you will receive his blessings and those of his people. I think a strong case has been made for a university.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani (Tirhut Division: Muhammadan): Sir*, I do not like to take much of the valuable time of the House and I shall, therefore, be very brief in my observations. But before I proceed to speak on the Resolution I want to say a few words regarding the remarks just made by my Honourable friend, Mr. Badri Dutt Pande, against some of my friends like Sir A. H. Ghuznavi and Babu Baijnath Bajoria whom he has described as thorns, but I want to tell him that sometimes roses come out of thorns and are much loved.

The Resolution recommends for the establishment of a university at Peshawar for the spread of higher education in the N.-W. F. Province. It is to be seen whether the province justifies it.

* Translation of the speech delivered in the vernacular.

The first and foremost element for the existence of such a seat of learning is the burning desire for learning among the sons of the soil and it can only be judged by their number in the institutions already in existence there; there are four kinds of institutions, say, primary, middle, high and college, which build up a university, and let us compare, Sir, the conditions of these feeders in the N.-W. F. Province with those of any other province having a university. Let us take the Delhi-Ajmer-Merwara Province where we are sitting and discussing the Resolution and which has a university of its own as just pointed out by my Honourable friend, Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad. The latest figures which we can rely upon are available for 1935 from the Education Report of the Government of India.

It will be admitted, no doubt, that the only college at Peshawar in N.-W. F. Province has less number of pupils than the Delhi University college; but, I will tell you that students in other stages in N.-W. F. Province are more than those in Delhi-Ajmer-Merwara. There are 15,278 pupils in the High stage in N.-W. F. P. against 13,830 in Delhi-Ajmer-Merwara say, 1,448 pupils more. There are 32,797 pupils in the Middle stage in N.-W. F. Province against 13,149 pupils in the same stage in Delhi province, say, 19,648 pupils more. Lastly, you will notice, Sir, that there are 42,506 pupils in the Primary stage in N.-W. F. Province against 37,148 pupils in Delhi province that is, 5,358 pupils more. Thus taking the position as a whole we find that the total number of pupils in various stages in N.-W. F. Province is 91,500 against 68,278 in Delhi province, thus there are 23,222 pupils more in N.-W. F. Province.

Similarly the number of schools in all stages in N.-W. F. Province is far greater than those in the Delhi-Ajmer-Merwara Province. As regards the education of girls the N.-W. F. P. is not behind Delhi Province. The number of trained teachers is also greater in N.-W. F. P.

I do not like to criticise here the forward policy of the Government of India as it is out of the scope of the Resolution under discussion, but I cannot help impressing upon the Government the pressing need of a university in the N.-W. F. P. which I hope will produce more qualified citizens in the province and they will be better guards of the gate of India in their Frontier Province against foreign invasion, and thus the Government of India will be relieved much of their responsibility of defending the country against foreign invasion.

To conclude my speech, I do not agree with my Honourable friend, the Mover of the Resolution, in saying that the Government of India spend money only over bombing and killing the people there, as I find that they spend Rs. 19,56,830, out of Rs. 29,45,791 spent over the education in the N.-W. F. Province and it amounts to 66.42 per cent. of the total expenditure. Thus it cannot be said that the Government of India do not make at least some atonement. I hope the Government will consider the pressing necessity of a university in N.-W. F. P. and accept the Resolution. Sir, with these words, I support the Resolution.

Mr. Brojendra Narayan Chaudhury (Surma Valley cum Shillong: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I have listened with great attention to the arguments put forward on behalf of the Resolution by the Honourable the Mover. His demand is that a university should be set up at once

[Mr. Brojendra Narayan Chaudhury.]

at Peshawar. In the major portion of his speech he discussed the question of education in general and he spoke very slightly about university education in particular. I am at one with him in saying that sound general elementary education should be spread in the Frontier Province in the tribal areas. As an argument for the establishment of a university, he pointed out the large expenditure in the defence budget and said the cost of the university could come out of it. He wants us to believe that if a university were set up at Peshawar the people there and in the tribal areas would all become peaceful and will not disturb the peace of the country by raids and so we will be saved a lot of expenditure in punitive expeditions. I am able to go with him up to the extent of a sound general elementary education. Certainly, sound elementary education would train the minds of the people. It would make them peaceful and God-fearing; but the main reason for the frontier raids and the expeditions that follow are more economic, as has been admitted by the Honourable the Mover himself.

He spoke of students flocking to the college at Peshawar from the tribal areas. I am very glad to hear it. I had already the impression that after all the tribal people are not so backward—at least the leading chiefs of that area are highly cultured people. But it does not appear from the figure of Rs. 20,000 at Rs. 800 per student mentioned by the Honourable the Government Member—scholarships paid to the students to read in these colleges—that the number of students is very large. If my Honourable friend means that the Central Government should encourage higher education in the Frontier Province, there is already a college and a very good college at Peshawar. If he wishes to make out a case for a university, he has to satisfy this House why the college should be converted into a university. The learned Knight, Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad, did make some attempt to make out a case for a university and cited certain authorities to show that every college in India should be turned into a residential university. Without controverting this academic standpoint as a practical man I am not ready to go so far now. Though I am very sympathetic towards the needs of higher education in the Frontier Province, I am sorry I cannot support this Resolution because I am not convinced of the immediate necessity—the Resolution says “at once”—of the establishment of a university. If we were to support this demand, I am quite sure tomorrow several such demands with better cases will be before us. What about Assam? (An Honourable Member: “Why not?”). The interruptions from my own Benches provokes me to say: “Study the Wardha scheme of education. Does not that scheme say that we the people of the upper classes in charge of the governments here and in the provinces are spending more on higher education than we are justified in spending out of the pockets of the poor people?” That is laid down in the Wardha scheme. I will give a warning to friends on this side. We are already spending too much on higher education, and it is high time for us to consider whether we should spend any more money on higher education out of public funds.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, the question may now be put.

Maulvi Abdur Rasheed Chaudhury (Assam: Muhammadan): Sir, I rise to support this Resolution. We in this country are so backward in education compared to other countries of the world that any scheme which aims at giving better facilities for education should be welcomed by all well wishers of the country. When we remember that 90 per cent. of our population is illiterate, and when we compare the illiteracy prevailing in other countries, we find that our illiteracy stands at a point which cannot remain at a standstill any longer. When we compare the literacy figures with other progressive countries of the world, we find that in place of 8 in India, it is 96 in Japan, 92 in England and 99 in Germany and America. Such being the case, we cannot remain at a standstill so far as the educational progress is concerned. According to statistics, we find that we have one educational institution for every 1,300 of our people, and until our educational institutions increase to thirteen times, we cannot remain satisfied with our educational progress. Now, so far as the North-West Frontier Province is concerned, it has got its own history. Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad said that this province has been created solely for official purposes by the Government of India. Sir, I may go a little further and say that the conditions in the North-West Frontier Province are altogether different from those prevailing in India. As soon as one crosses the Kabul river, one would feel as if he was going to a quite different country. The people of those parts are different, their traditions and culture are different, their mode of thinking is different. I can point out to the representative of the North-West Frontier Province in this House and say that in comparison with him, the other representatives in this House look like mere pigmies. They eat a different kind of food, in fact there are vast differences between those people and the people inhabiting this side of India. But it has been very wisely decided that there should be a university at Peshawar. With due deference to my friend, Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi, I would submit that even if the headquarters of the Punjab university was within 3 miles of the Kabul river, I would have supported the idea of starting a university at Peshawar, because the Frontier Province has no comparison with the rest of India.

The Honourable the Mover of the Resolution has quoted the opinions of some educational authorities of that province regarding the establishment of a residential type of university at Peshawar, and the only thing is, I find, they require a sum of Rs. 2½ lakhs recurring expenditure for the establishment of a university there. Sir, this is a very insignificant amount. In this country our Government is spending on an average only a rupee per head for the education of the people. The Honourable the Foreign Secretary said that they are spending a lakh for the education of the people of the tribal area in the Frontier Province annually. Now, let us calculate and see what it comes to. The population of the area is 2½ million or 25 lakhs and they are spending a lakh annually for the education of these 25 lakhs of people; that is, they are spending about three pice per head on education in that part of the country. Is this an adequate amount? Even if we compare the amount spent on education in British Indian provinces, this figure is very low. As I have said, Sir, in British Indian provinces, the average expenditure on education is a rupee per head, while in the tribal area it is 3 pice per head. Therefore, I think the Government can easily raise this figure of 3 pice to one rupee, and there can be no dearth of money for doing it.

Then my friend, Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi, said that we must first collect some money and then come to Government for help. I think the

[Maulvi Abdur Rasheed Chaudhury.]

Frontier Province is contributing not less than Rs. 50,000 a year by way of students examination fees to the Punjab University. As soon as a university is established, this amount will be available to that university, and the Government can easily come forward and meet the balance. There is another point in this connection. The Honourable the Foreign Secretary has stated that they are providing Rs. 20,000 a year to enable tribal students to go outside the Province for higher education. If this 20,000 is added to the 50,000 that is contributed from the fees of the examinees, which are given to the Punjab University, it becomes a good sum to start a university. I think the Mover of the Resolution has made a very good case for establishing a university and I wholeheartedly support it.

Mr. A. K. Chanda (Bengal: Nominated Official): Sir, I must confess that I am left very bewildered by the discussion that has gone on in this Honourable House. Most of the speakers have been discussing at great length the financial implications of having a university in the frontier and have tried to discuss and devise means for finding the money for establishing the university. Hardly anybody has put forward a case for having a university in the frontier at all. The last speaker spoke about the frontier people eating different food from the Punjabees, wearing different clothes and being taller than he is, and therefore he thought that the frontier should have a university. As a school master, however, I feel that this argument leaves me very cold. The fact of the matter is that what is much more important in India today is to liquidate the tremendous illiteracy which prevails all over the country. It is this problem only which faces the educationists today and not the luxury of having a different university in each province. Somebody said, that the Government of India had created new provinces—I think this Honourable Member came from the hills and the mist of the hills must have crept into his mind and befogged the arguments which he put forward; he said that because the Government of India founded new provinces, therefore, they must create separate universities there also. What has happened is this. In the province of Bihar, they had the luxury of a separate university on account of the insistent demand of the people of Bihar to be separated from the University of Calcutta and they spend today the noble sum of 1.6 per cent of the total Government expenditure on education, on primary education while nearly 26 per cent of their total Government expenditure on education is diverted for university purposes. (An Honourable Member: "Question".) Only 1.6 per cent of the total educational expenditure of the State is spent for the education of the villager of whom we talk so much nowadays.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Do you know what is the amount spent by the Government of India on Centrally Administered Areas?

Mr. A. K. Chanda: I am not discussing the Centrally Administered Areas.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: You should.

Mr. A. K. Chanda: I am quoting the figures from the latest report of the Educational Commissioner on "Education in India". (Interruption.) I am afraid it requires a little patience to go through these educational

statistics. I sympathise with the Honourable Members opposite if they find these rather bewildering, because it does require a little background to understand the figures which are given there. (Interruptions.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member must not be interrupted.

Mr. A. K. Chanda: I don't mind, Sir. When their argument is weak, they rely on interruptions for making their points. I was told that when your case is weak, you must abuse your opponent. You won't allow any abuse here. So they try to interrupt me and make a point. In Bengal, the province from which I come, the figures are equally bad. We spend a great deal more of our money for university education, so that very little is left for the education of the masses. I should have thought, Sir, that the Honourable Member, who comes from the Frontier Province and, therefore, is more in touch with the realities of the frontier, would have come forward and press here, if necessary, for more money from the Centre (I do not know whether it is possible to get it) for giving a proper and true education to the ordinary people and not demand a University to produce a larger number of unemployed and unemployable young men. This is after all what the universities are doing.

He said that they had an excellent college in Peshawar, called the Islamia College. Why spoil that excellent college and make it an inefficient university? We have had experience of a certain number of inefficient universities which are cropping up on all sides. (An Honourable Member: "What are they?") It would be invidious to speak about the universities which are inefficient. Of late, there has been a demand from Orissa for having the luxury of a university. In Assam, I believe there is a demand for having two universities, one for the Surma Valley and another for the Assam Valley, so that you don't know where to stop. What I really wanted to emphasize is that the crying educational need today is to devise an adequate scheme for the training of the ordinary villager and to give him an education that will be more in keeping with the surroundings in which he is brought up and the surroundings to which he will go back rather than give him a fictitious university education which leads him nowhere and which is not in touch with the realities of the country. You cannot have a system of education which has no roots. If you bring a plant from the nursery, with an earthen ball round it and if you don't dig deep and lay it properly, it will have a kind of life for a time and then it will wither away. The plant of the educational tree must be well laid, with its roots deep in the soil, and that is why, I don't think, it will be well laid in the frontier, till suitable atmosphere of education is provided there. The Honourable Member spoke about the want of education in his parts. It seems to me that is the strongest argument that he has advanced against having a university, and for having a net work of properly devised schools, so that the ordinary villagers may be given a good education. He quoted with great gusto a letter from Sir George Anderson. I have not seen the letter, but from what he read out I do not think that Sir George Anderson in any way supported the scheme of a university in Peshawar.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: He did support a scheme for a university in Peshawar. I think you can find that document here in the Government of India. It was written in June, 1933.

Mr. A. K. Chanda: I stand corrected, but the letter as he read out seemed to convey to my mind that what the letter said was: if Peshawar does have a university it should be of the unitary type and there should be no duplication of the work which is being done elsewhere, but that it should concentrate on giving practical technical education. But that does not seem to me the proper function of a university. The principal function of a university is to give a good, general, all-round education. If the Honourable Member had come forward here for having a good agricultural college in his own province or having a good technical college in his province, he would have had all my sympathy, but when he comes forward with a scheme for having a university in the tribal area, I am afraid I must oppose it.

STATEMENT OF BUSINESS.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar (Leader of the House): Sir, will you allow me to make a statement? We have been pressed with a request that we may not meet on Friday next. Sir, if we do not meet on Friday next, the only days remaining available for ordinary official business before the Finance Bill is disposed of will be Friday the 25th February and Tuesday the 1st of March. We consider it essential that the Stamp Bill, which was introduced yesterday, should be disposed of not later than Friday, the 25th February, and that the Tea Control Bill, on which the Select Committee's Report was presented last week, should be disposed of not later than the 1st March. If we can be reasonably assured by the Parties that in the event of the House not sitting on Friday next, all stages of the Stamp Bill will be disposed of on the 25th February and that the Tea Control Bill, if not concluded on that day, will be disposed of on Tuesday the 1st March, we will not object to the cancellation of the meeting fixed for Friday next. I may tell the House that as a matter of fact today we have received something like forty-one notices of amendments to the Tea Control Bill; some have come from the Congress Group, and as regarding others, I think, my friend, Maulvi Abdur Rasheed Chaudhury, is responsible for more than a dozen. So that is our position. We will not object to Friday being taken off, provided we can get some kind of assurance from the Parties here that we can finish

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I do not know who will be prepared to give that sort of assurance.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: If not, then my position is, Sir, that I cannot agree.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Delhi: General): Sir, in so far as the question of assurances is concerned, all I can say is that the Stamp Bill is a non-contentious measure, and my Party at any rate is not going to delay the business of the House so far as that is concerned; and as regards the other Bill, well, if there are so many amendments—we shall try to cut down ours,—we can give you an assurance that we will not unnecessarily prolong the business of the Assembly even on that; but I certainly cannot speak on behalf of the other Parties. It is for them to decide.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I do not think it is possible to get assurances of that character from Members generally.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Sir, I do not expect an absolute guarantee, but if the sort of guarantee that my friend, Mr. Asaf Ali, has given me is also forthcoming from the other Parties, I should be quite satisfied.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): We do not want to stand in the way of this business being got through

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is too vague. When the Leader of the House says that certain Government business must be finished within certain time—and I am not satisfied from what has been said that there can be any such guarantee—the present arrangement must stand. The Assembly stands adjourned till 11 o'clock tomorrow.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 16th February, 1938.