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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES
(Official Report)

Volume II, 1933

(23rd February to 10th March, 1933)

FIFTH SESSION
OF THE
FOURTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
1933



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1933

Legislative Assembly

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THE HONOURABLE SIR IBRAHIM RAHIMTOOLA, K.C.S.I., C.I.E. (Upto 7th March, 1933.)

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. K. SHANMUKHAM CHETTY. (From 14th March, 1933.)

Deputy President :

MR. R. K. SHANMUKHAM CHETTY, M.L.A. (Upto 13th March, 1933.)

MR. ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY, M.L.A. (From 22nd March, 1933.)

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

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MR. C. S. RANGA IYER, M.L.A.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Saturday, 25th February, 1933.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. Chairman (Sir Hari Singh Gour) in the Chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

INDIAN STUDENTS IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

464. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of the Indian students studying in the United States of America?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the number of the Indian students who were taken into custody in the United States of America and deported from there during the last three years?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe: (a) The number of Indian students studying in the United States of America was 201 during the year 1930-31. The figures for 1931-32 are not yet available.

(b) So far as Government are aware, the number of Indian students deported from the United States of America during the last three years is fourteen.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: May I know, Sir, the reason for the deportation of these Indians from the United States of America?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe: I explained to the House some days ago in answer to another question that the United States of America have certain regulations which define the conditions upon which students are allowed to enter and the conditions upon which they are allowed to stay. It would take some time to repeat all that, but the information is, I think, already available in the records of the House.

DISPUTE BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND THE CORPORATION OF CALCUTTA REGARDING TITLE AND OWNERSHIP OF LAND UTILISED FOR THE CURZON GARDENS.

465. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra** (on behalf of Mr. C. C. Biswas): Is it a fact that a dispute is going on between Government and the Corporation of Calcutta regarding title and ownership to the land now utilised for the Curzon Gardens near Esplanade Junction, and have any enquiries been made by Government in the matter with a view to settling the dispute? If so, with what result?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: Neither the Government of India nor the Government of Bengal are aware of any such dispute.

DISCUSSION IN PARLIAMENT ON INDIAN AFFAIRS.

466. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** (a) Are Government aware of the Right Honourable Sir Samuel Hoare's recent statement in the Parliament on the 7th February, 1933?

(b) Have Government received a copy of the discussion that took place in the Parliament on Indian affairs on the 7th February, 1933?

The Honourable Sir Brojendra Mitter: (a) Government have seen a newspaper report of the statement in question.

(b) No.

MAINTENANCE OF SEPARATE REGISTERS OF POLITICAL OFFENCES.

467. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** (a) Is it a fact that at the end of November, 1932, 17,145 persons were imprisoned, and that at the end of December, 1932, 14,815 persons were imprisoned for political offences?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have separate registers for political offences?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: (a) The figures quoted refer to persons imprisoned in connection with the civil disobedience movement.

(b) The figures are compiled from statements furnished by Local Governments who maintain separate statistics of convictions in connection with the civil disobedience movement.

PROPOSALS FOR THE FEDERAL CONSTITUTION FOR INDIA.

468. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** Are Government aware that His Majesty's Government have expressed their intention to lay before the Parliament in the form of a White Paper their full proposals for the Federal Constitution for India and to invite Parliament, before the Easter recess, to appoint a Joint Select Committee to examine the proposal?

The Honourable Sir Brojendra Mitter: With your permission, Sir, I shall answer questions Nos. 468 and 469 together.

The replies to questions Nos. 468 and 469 (a) are in the affirmative. As regards part (b) of the Honourable Member's second question, Government will have no objection, if Honourable Members of the House so desire, in giving an opportunity for the discussion of the general question of constitutional reform. I would like, however, to add with reference to the form in which this question is put, that I have no information of the manner in which representatives of the Indian Legislature might be selected for the purpose of consultation with the Joint Select Committee.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: Will Government be pleased to state what will be the course open to the Opposition for the discussion of the constitutional question.

The Honourable Sir Brojendra Mitter: I can imagine that it may be done by means of a Resolution.

Diwan Bahadur A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Does the Honourable Member suggest that this discussion should take place after the issue of the White Paper? If so, is he in a position to state that the House will be in Session after the issue of the White Paper to discuss this question?

The Honourable Sir Brojendra Mitter: As I have said in my answer, if the House so desires, Government will have no objection in giving an opportunity for the discussion of the general question of constitutional reforms. It is for the House to express its desire as to whether it wants this discussion before the White Paper is published or after the White Paper is published.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: We want the discussion after the issue of the White Paper.

The Honourable Sir Brojendra Mitter: The attitude of the Government is that they will afford an opportunity for a discussion if the House wants it.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: We want that an opportunity be afforded.

Mr. K. Ahmed: What is the probable date when the White Paper will be published?

Diwan Bahadur A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I want to know from the Honourable Member, as the House is anxious to have a discussion after the issue of the White Paper, whether there will be an opportunity afforded to this House while the House is in Session: also whether the House will be in Session after that date?

The Honourable Sir Brojendra Mitter: I am not in a position definitely to answer that question, but from newspaper reports it appears that the House will be in Session when the White Paper is published. If that be so, an opportunity can be afforded.

Diwan Bahadur A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: May I take it then that if the House expresses its desire, Government will be pleased to give sufficient opportunity through official days for the discussion of the subject?

The Honourable Sir Brojendra Mitter: I cannot answer the question as to the precise manner in which the opportunity will be afforded. All I can say at the moment is that an opportunity will be afforded.

DEBATE IN THE PARLIAMENT ON THE FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL CONSTITUTION FOR INDIA.

†469. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** (a) Are Government aware that there would be a debate in the Parliament on the Federal and Provincial Constitution for India before the appointment of the Joint Parliamentary Committee?

(b) Do Government propose to give an opportunity to this House for a debate on the future constitution for India before the election of the Members of the Central Legislature to sit with the Joint Parliamentary Committee?

ELECTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE.

470. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state when they intend to elect Members of the Legislative Assembly to sit with the Joint Parliamentary Committee and what will be the number of the representatives of the Assembly?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 468.

(b) Do Government propose to elect the representatives of this Assembly by means of single transferable votes of the elected Members?

The Honourable Sir Brojendra Mitter: (a) and (b). I can only refer the Honourable Member to His Excellency's address to the Members of this House on the 1st February and to the Press report of Lord Irwin's speech in the House of Lords on the 9th February.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: In making nominations to the Joint Parliamentary Committee, may I ask if the claims of some of those Members who supported the Government in what is known as the Ottawa Betrayal will be taken into consideration?

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: In continuation of this suggestion, may I also ask, Sir, whether the Government will take into consideration the claims of those Members who tried to support the Government in an indirect manner?

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: I find my remark has gone home.

(No answer.)

APPOINTMENT OF A SEPARATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION FOR DELHI, AJMER-MERWARA AND CENTRAL INDIA.

471. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** (a) Will Government kindly say when a separate Superintendent of Education for Delhi, Ajmer-Merwara and Central India was appointed? Will Government also kindly say what were the reasons which necessitated this appointment?

(b) Will Government kindly state what extra expenditure has been involved in the creation of this appointment, i.e., Superintendent's pay, stenographer's pay, jemadar and peons, and travelling allowances of all the above?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) On the 7th April, 1931. As regards the necessity for the appointment, the Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply given in this House by the Honourable Sir Fazl-i-Husain on the 2nd February, 1931, to Lala Jagan Nath Aggarwal's starred question No. 260.

(b) The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 17,420 in 1931-32, exclusive of savings of at least Rs. 3,780 per annum effected by the abolition or reduction of certain posts.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: Is it a fact that about Rs. 5,000 are spent for preparing the quinquennial report and that that amount is apart from the amount which has been just mentioned by my Honourable friend?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I could not say off-hand what the amount spent by the Delhi Administration on the preparation of their part of the quinquennial report is, but the figures which I have given relate only to the cost of maintaining the post of the Superintendent of Education and his ordinary staff.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: Is it not a fact that the two posts, i.e., of the Educational Commissioner and of the Superintendent of Education, were in the hands of one officer when the separate post of the Superintendent of Education was not created by the Government of India? Is it a fact that in those days no separate officer was appointed to prepare this report?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: My recollection is—I am speaking from memory—that even when the Educational Commissioner with the Government of India held the collateral charge of the post of the Superintendent of Education, there was always a Special Officer appointed to prepare the quinquennial part of the report.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: Will the Honourable Member see the file?

CREATION OF THE POST OF A CLERK IN THE OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION, DELHI.

472. *Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: Is it a fact that a post of clerk has recently been created in the office of the Superintendent of Education, Delhi? Will Government kindly say whether this post was advertised in any paper? If not, why not? If it was advertised, will Government kindly state the name of the paper in which this advertisement appeared? If no advertisement was made, was the Deputy Commissioner's office or the Chief Commissioner's office asked to nominate any one to the post, if there were any candidates in those offices? If not, why not? Is it a fact that a non-matriculate daftri of the Superintendent of Education's office was appointed to that post although there were applications of Muslims with higher qualification?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: Yes. The post was purely temporary and the man referred to by the Honourable Member was selected for it, because he had officiated as clerk on three previous occasions before the appointment of the present Superintendent, to do the same kind of work as is required of the incumbent of the present temporary post. It was not considered necessary, therefore, either to advertise or to go outside the office. As there were six Muslim clerks out of nine clerks in the Superintendent's office at the time this appointment was made, the need for limiting the selection to a Muslim did not arise.

WITHDRAWAL OF THE DELHI CONSPIRACY CASE.

473. *Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: (a) Will Government be pleased to make a statement in regard to the circumstances which led to the withdrawal of the Delhi Conspiracy Case?

(b) Will Government please state:

- (i) the cost of the case,
- (ii) the names of the accused detained under Regulation III of 1818,
- (iii) the names of the released accused,
- (iv) the names of the accused who will be tried under the ordinary law and the section of the Act under which they will be tried,
- (v) the Courts by which they will be tried, and
- (vi) the estimates of the new trials?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: (a) The facts are stated in the Communiqué issued on the 3rd February to which I would refer the Honourable Member.

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

Statement.

Cost of the Case.	Names of accused detained under Regulation III of 1818.	Names of accused released.	Names of accused to be tried under ordinary law.	Sections of the law under which they are charged.	Name of the trying court.	The estimated expenditure of trial of cases in column 4.
Rs. 3,52,573 up to January 31, 1933.	1. Vidya Bhushan 2. Khali Ram Gupta.	1. Rudra Dutt Miera. 2. Harkeeh. 3. Bhagirat Lal. 4. Hardwari Lal Gupta.	1. Dhanwantri. 2. Vaishampayan. 3. Poldar 4. Vatsayan. 5. B. R. Gupta 6. B. P. Jain.	307, I. P. C. and 19 (f) of Indian Arms Act. 4, 5 and 6 of the Explosive Substances Act. 4 and 5 of the Explosive Substances Act and 19 of the Indian Arms Act.	Special. Magistrate, Delhi. A court in the U. P.	Rs. 46,800.*
			7. Kapur Chand 8. N. K. Nigam	20 of the Indian Arms Act.		

*N.B.—These figures exclude expenditure on account of the police establishment employed in connection with these cases for protective and other duties.

COST OF THE MEERUT CONSPIRACY CASE.

474. *Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: Will Government be pleased to state the total cost of the Meerut Conspiracy Case?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given by me on the 21st instant to part (a) of Mr. S. C. Mitra's starred question No. 396, which gives the expenditure incurred by the Government of India. In addition, certain expenditure was incurred by the Government of the United Provinces. This is being ascertained and I will lay a statement on the table in due course.

AMOUNT OF FIVE PER CENT WAR LOAN AND BONDS CONVERTED INTO FOUR PER CENT LOAN.

475. *Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: Will Government be pleased to state, according to the latest figures available, what amount of five per cent War Loan of 1929—47, five per cent Bonds of 1933 and six per cent Bonds of 1933—36 have been converted into four per cent loan of 1960—70?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: I would refer the Honourable Member to the Press Communiqué issued this morning which states that conversions effected up to the 24th February amounted to about Rs. 26 crores.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: Is a copy of that communiqué in the Library?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: I do not understand what my Honourable friend is asking for. I have given the information that conversions up to the 24th February amounted to approximately 26 crores.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: What was the total sum out of which these 26 crores were converted?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: I am afraid I cannot give the Honourable Member that information, but it will be published in full when the loan closes.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon: At present the time for this conversion is up till the 28th February. Do Government intend to extend the time?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: Certainly not; if any holders of the convertible securities do not take the opportunity, which we are offering them to convert on very favourable terms, then Government will be the gainer.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: If any person has given notice before the 28th February and the transaction is not completed, will the transaction be allowed to be completed after the 28th February?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: I am afraid I cannot tell the Honourable Member off-hand what the exact regulations are; but the regulations followed will be exactly the same as those which are always followed in every conversion scheme.

DIFFERENT QUALIFICATIONS FOR WOMEN VOTERS.

476. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** (a) Have the Government of India received any reference, regarding the different qualifications for women voters, from the Right Honourable Sir Samuel Hoare, the Secretary of State for India?

(b) Have Government invited the opinions of Local Governments in this connection?

(c) Do Government propose to ascertain the views of the different Women's Associations of India in this matter?

(d) Do Government propose to ascertain the views of the Legislative Assembly before forwarding their opinion to the Secretary of State?

The Honourable Sir Brojendra Mitter: The Government of India have been in correspondence with Local Governments and the Secretary of State in regard to the franchise proposals generally, including differential qualifications for women. I can say no more than that the proposals are now under the consideration of the Secretary of State.

Mr. K. Ahmed: How is it that the Government of India and the Provincial Governments have taken steps to ask the district officers to prepare electoral rolls in the constituencies, and how is it that it is going on in active motion now?

The Honourable Sir Brojendra Mitter: When Local Governments are consulted, it is for them to decide what steps they will take to ascertain the views of the province, and the Government of India do not go into the details of the machinery used by the Local Governments.

†477.

STRIKE ON THE MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA RAILWAY.

478. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** (a) Will Government kindly make a statement regarding the strike on the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway on the facts which have taken place after Government's reply to my short notice question in December, 1932?

(b) If any settlement has been arrived at, what are the terms of that settlement?

(c) Have all the strikers been re-appointed or not? If the reply to the above be in the negative, will Government please state the number of those who have not been re-appointed with reasons for doing so?

†This question was not put by the questioner.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré: Sir, as the answer is somewhat lengthy, I propose, in order to save the time of the House, to lay it on the table.

(a) In the statement made by me in the House on the 24th November, 1932, I dealt with the facts up to that date. The strike continued beyond the 24th November, 1932, without any change of importance in the situation until the 18th December, 1932, when a Committee was convened by the Sheriff of Madras consisting of prominent citizens, under the Chairmanship of Mr. F. E. James, with a view to effect a settlement. The Committee succeeded in framing terms for a settlement which were accepted by both parties and the terms of settlement were published on the 23rd December, 1932. Unfortunately, the dispute was prolonged on account of differences of opinion as to the interpretation of the terms of settlement regarding the exclusion of 63 workmen at Arkonam and some 300 workmen at Hubli and the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Employees' Union advised the men not to go back to work on account of an alleged breach of the terms of settlement on the part of the Agent, Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway. A communiqué was issued by the Agent, Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway, on the 27th December, 1932 (copy of which is in the Library of the House), in which the Agent stated that the exclusion of certain workmen at Arkonam and at Hubli had been made clear by him to the Citizens Committee on the 18th December, 1932, and that he had then intimated that the Administration would not go back on the action taken. The Agent's communiqué of the 27th December, 1932, also stated that though two paragraphs which the Agent had suggested for inclusion were not actually contained in the terms of the settlement, the Agent had received the assurance of the Chairman of the Committee that the position at Arkonam and Hubli had been made clear and accepted. Members of the Committee then in Madras during the Christmas holidays met the Union representatives in the meantime, and strongly advised a resumption of work pending the re-assembly of the full committee when the outstanding issues would be taken up. The Citizens Committee re-assembled on the 2nd January, 1933, and made further endeavours to bring the parties to an agreed conclusion but the Committee abandoned their efforts on the 5th January, 1933, owing to the unwillingness of the Union to withdraw the allegation of a breach of the terms of the settlement by the Agent. The Committee issued a communiqué on January 5th (a copy of which is in the Library of the House) explaining the position as it stood at that date, affirming that there had been no breach of the settlement by the Agent, and that the charges levelled against him had made a settlement of the outstanding issues more difficult. As a rejoinder to the communiqué issued on the 5th January by the Committee, the Union issued a statement to the Press on the 6th January, 1933, which in turn was followed by a further communiqué from the Citizens Committee on the 7th January, 1933. Subsequently the strike was called off by a resolution passed by the Central Council of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Employees' Union on the 7th January, 1933, accepting the terms of settlement arrived at by the Committee, but affirming that in their opinion they involved the re-instatement of all the men at Arkonam and Hubli, and that further action would be taken in that connection.

(b) A copy of the terms of the settlement has been placed in the Library of the House.

(c) No. The Agent reports that all the strikers were taken back except 63 workmen at Arkonam whose places were filled during the strike and some 300 workmen at Hubli who were excluded, being surplus to the requirements of the Administration. The facts are as explained by the Agent in his communiqué of the 27th December, 1932, that between the 4th and 10th December, 1932, the strikers at Arkonam were warned that if 64 strikers of certain categories required to carry on work did not return to work by a specified date new men would be taken on to replace them on a permanent basis; that in the result one striker returned, 39 men who had been retrenched last year and who were consequently on the waiting list were re-employed and 24 new men were taken on. It is understood that the 63 men of the strikers at Arkonam have been taken back on a temporary basis in spite of the non-withdrawal by the Union of its allegations. The workshop staff at Hubli were similarly warned by the Agent on the 21st November, 1932, that any man absent from work without leave on the afternoon of the 22nd November or thereafter until further notice would be assumed to have left the Company's service and would be refused admittance to the works. In accordance with this warning about 300 men who were surplus were not taken back at Hubli.

It is understood that prior to the warning given at Hubli on the 21st November notice had been given by the Agent that no retrenchment was contemplated in the shops there but warning the men that there was a surplus of labour in the workshops at Hubli and that if the men struck work, all would not be taken.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: Are Government aware that by laying the statement on the table, it will be very difficult for us to put supplementary questions?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré: After studying the statement carefully, my Honourable friend can always raise any point he wishes to raise, by another question

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state whether Mr. James who was the President of the Citizens' Committee is the same gentleman who is a Member of this House?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré: Yes, Sir.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: There was some allegation that the Agent did not follow the terms of the settlement. Will Government be pleased to state what are those particular terms with regard to which this allegation was made?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré: If my Honourable friend had listened to the speech made by Mr. James on the last occasion, that point would, I think, have been clear to him.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: I do not find my reply in that speech.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: In view of the fact that this matter is very important and that we would like to ask supplementary questions, will the Honourable Member be good enough to read his reply?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré: I have no objection, but I thought the House was desirous of getting to the business of the day as quickly as possible

Mr. Chairman (Sir Hari Singh Gour): That point has been decided already.

NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF MUSLIM ENGINEERS ON THE RAILWAYS.

479. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number and percentage of Muslim Engineers on the Railways?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state :

(i) whether these Engineers are appointed as a result of a competitive examination, or

(ii) whether they are appointed by the Agents of the different Railways or the Railway Board?

(c) Do Government propose to appoint more Muslims as Engineers on the different Railways to redress their past inadequate representation?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) On 1st April, 1932, the number and percentage were as follows:

State-managed Railways	18	4.9 per cent.
Company-managed Railways	8	2.9 per cent.

Full information regarding individual Railways will be found in Appendix F of the Report by the Railway Board on Indian Railways, copies of which are in the Library of the House.

(b) Selections for the Indian Railway Service of Engineers for State-managed Railways are made through the Public Service Commission, who hold a competitive examination. On Company-managed Railways appointments are made by their Boards of Directors.

(c) Rules for the recruitment of Engineers to the Indian Railway Service of Engineers provide that $\frac{2}{3}$ of the vacancies will be filled on the results of the competitive examination in the order of merit. The remaining $\frac{1}{3}$ vacancies are reserved to redress, so far as may be necessary, marked communal inequalities. Appointments made on these grounds are made after consultation with the Public Service Commission.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: The Honourable Member referred to a certain book in the Library. Are the figures there up to 1931-32 or up to 1932-33?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I think the report is with reference to 1931-32.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: The object is to give us the latest figures, and, if you give one-year old figures, the object is frustrated.

Mr. P. R. Rau: I have given figures up to 1st April, 1932.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: But we want the figures for 1933.

Mr. P. R. Rau: The 1st April, 1933, is still to come. I am sure the House does not require us to collect figures day by day.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: In view of the Honourable Member's reply to the last question that communal proportion is decided by reference to the Public Services Commission, will the Honourable Member inform this House whether that decision is based primarily on the actual representation at the time of the various communities in these services?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I must ask for notice of that question. I do not recollect the exact procedure.

COUNTRIES WITH GOVERNMENT OF INDIA REPRESENTATIVES, HIGH COMMISSIONERS OR TRADE COMMISSIONERS.

480. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** Will Government please state the names of the countries in which they have their representatives or High Commissioners or Trade Commissioners? What amount is annually spent on these representatives?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Shore: With regard to the first part of the question, the attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given by me to part (a) of his question No. 451 on the 23rd February, 1933. To that list of countries should be added Arabia and Iraq. As regards the latter part, the information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House as soon as possible.

PERCENTAGE OF INCREASE IN IMPORTS AND DECREASE IN EXPORTS.

481. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** (a) Is it a fact that the imports have increased in the month of December, 1932, as compared with the figures for the corresponding month of the preceding year and exports have gone down?

(b) If the reply to the above be in the affirmative, will Government please state the percentage of increase in imports and decrease in exports?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the position of export and import in the month of January, 1933, as compared with the figures for the corresponding month of 1932?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Shore: (a) and (b). The Honourable Member is referred to the statement on page V of the Accounts relating to the Seaborne Trade and Navigation of British India for December, 1932, a copy of which is in the Library of the Legislature.

(c) A statement is laid on the table.

Statement showing the values of British Indian imports, exports and re-exports of private merchandise in the month of January during the years 1932 and 1933.

	January.	
	1932.	1933.
	Rs. (000)	Rs. (000)
Imports	10,93,35	10,65,60
Exports	13,19,81	11,43,45
Re-exports	36,68	28,09

REFUSAL OF LEAVE ON FULL AVERAGE PAY TO INFERIOR SERVANTS IN THE LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

482. ***Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi** (on behalf of Maulvi Sayyid Murtuza Saheb Bahadur): (a) Is it a fact that under the Fundamental Rules inferior servants are eligible for leave on full average pay for four months at a time and that such leave is granted to inferior servants in the Home and Finance Departments?

(b) Is it a fact that leave on full average pay exceeding one month is, as a rule, refused to inferior servants, especially daftries, in the Legislative Department?

(c) If replies to parts (a) and (b) above are in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state whether the lack of uniformity of treatment in the various Departments is due to varying interpretation of the rules or to the existence of leave reserve in some and its absence in the other Departments?

(d) Is there no leave reserve for daftries in the Legislative Department? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (a) Inferior servants in Departments of the Government of India and elsewhere are eligible for leave under the Fundamental Rules, but the absentee allowance of an inferior servant on leave must not exceed what remains from his pay after provision is made for the efficient discharge of his duties during his absence. In practice, therefore, the period for which an inferior servant may draw full leave salary depends on the length of time for which his head of office can spare him without engaging a substitute.

(b) and (c). Certain Departments of the Government of India have had in the past ampler leave reserves of inferior servants than others, notably the Legislative Department, and have, therefore, been able to allow their inferior servants to enjoy longer periods of leave on average pay within the limits allowed under the Fundamental Rules. During the recent retrenchment campaign, however, most Departments have reduced their inferior establishment with the probable result that inferior servants will get shorter periods of average pay leave. In Finance Department, for example, the leave reserves are now such as to admit leave on average pay for only one month annually, which approximates to the period which the Legislative Department has been able to give in the past.

(d) There is no leave reserve for daftries in the Legislative Department, but the question of adding one leave reservist, with the object of securing one month's leave annually for this class of staff, is under consideration.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask, Sir, why the Government of India make a difference between the inferior servants and others in the matter of leave?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: I am afraid, I cannot answer the Honourable gentleman's question offhand. I think I must ask for notice.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Is it not a fact that it is the policy of Government to give more to those who possess more and less to those who possess less?

PROTECTION TO PAPER INDUSTRY.

483. ***Lala Rameshwar Prasad Bagla:** (a) Will Government please state the number of paper mills in India in the year 1924 before protection was granted to the paper industry for the first time?

(b) Will Government please state the present number of paper mills existing in India?

(c) Will Government please state how many of these mills are under European control?

(d) Is it a fact that Government Resolution No. 202-T. (28), dated the 3rd February, 1932, regarding bamboo pulp industry exempts the old paper concerns, which are mostly European, from fulfilling certain conditions laid down in the Fiscal Commission Report as necessary obligations on the industry claiming protection?

(e) Are Government aware of the allegation levelled against Government that the above resolution was designed only with a view to helping the European concerns? If so, is there any truth in the allegation?

(f) Are Government prepared to assure the House that all the old and new concerns will be required to satisfy in entirety all the conditions stipulated in the Report of the Fiscal Commission?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: (a) The Honourable Member is referred to paragraph 6 of the Tariff Board's Report of 1925 regarding the grant of protection to the Paper and Paper Pulp Industries, copies of which are in the Library.

(b) and (c). The Government of India have no information beyond that contained in paragraphs 10 and 106 of the Tariff Board's Report of 1931 on this subject, copies of which are also in the Library.

(d) The Honourable Member is referred to paragraph 7 of the Government Resolution in question.

(e) No, but if any such allegation has been made, it is entirely without foundation in fact.

(f) I have nothing to add to what was stated in the Government Resolution to which the Honourable Member has referred.

ABOLITION OF POSTS OF CERTAIN CADRES IN EACH POSTAL CIRCLE.

484. ***Mr. N. M. Joshi:** (a) Will Government please furnish a statement, circle by circle, showing the number of posts abolished, from the 1st January, 1932, up to the end of December, 1932, in each of the following cadres:—(i) Overseer postmen, (ii) Mail Overseers, (iii) Head Postmen, (iv) Sorting and Reading Postmen, and (v) Postmen and Village Postmen?

(b) If the information is not readily available, are Government prepared to collect it and place it on the table as early as possible?

Sir Thomas Ryan: (a) and (b). The latest date for which figures are readily available is 30th November, 1932, and a statement containing them is laid on the table. Though the statement does not classify the personnel exactly on the lines of the Honourable Member's question, Government hope that it will meet his requirements as the collection of more detailed information would involve a great expenditure of time and labour.

Statement showing the number of appointments, abolished of—

- (1) *Overseers (including Mail and Cash Overseers)*
- (2) *Head Postmen, Postmen and Village Postmen,*
- (3) *Sorting postmen—for the period from the beginning of Retrenchment upto the 30th November, 1932, laid on the table in reply to Starred Question No.*

Designations of posts.	Bengal and Assam.	Bihar and Orissa.	Bombay.	Burma.	Central.	Madras.	Punjab and N. W. F.	Sind and Baluchistan.	United Provinces.	Total.
1. Overseer (including Mail and Cash Overseers).	1	7	3	3	16	5	6	1	23	65
2. Head Postmen, Postmen and Village Postmen.	371	97	315	84	155	93	376	21	275	1,787
3. Sorting Postmen.	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12

CONVERSION OF BRANCH POST OFFICES INTO EXTRA-DEPARTMENTAL ONES IN EACH POSTAL CIRCLE.

485. ***Mr. N. M. Joshi:** (a) Will Government please furnish a statement, circle by circle, showing the number of departmental branch post offices converted into extra-departmental ones from the 1st January, 1932, up to the end of December, 1932?

(b) Is it a fact that even those departmental branch post offices which were remunerative were also converted into extra-departmental? If so, will Government please furnish a statement, circle by circle, showing how many such remunerative branch offices have been so converted up to the end of December, 1932?

Sir Thomas Ryan: (a) The latest figures available are those for the period ending the 30th November, 1932, and are as follows:

Bengal and Assam Circle	84
Bihar and Orissa Circle	75
Bombay Circle	108
Burma Circle	37
Central Circle	53
Madras Circle	55
Punjab and N.-W. F. Circle	98
Sind and Baluchistan Circle	10
United Provinces Circle	44

(b) It is probable that in some cases the facts are as stated by the Honourable Member. An extension of the system of employing extra-departmental agents to hold charge of small post offices was recommended by the Posts and Telegraphs Sub-Committee of the Retrenchment Advisory Committee as likely to result in important economies and is now being carried out wherever conditions permit; but Government have no information as to the number of remunerative branch offices so converted.

POSTAL CLERKS IN EACH POSTAL CIRCLE.

486. ***Mr. N. M. Joshi:** (a) Will Government please furnish a statement, circle by circle, showing the number of posts in the lower division of clerks in the Postal Department at the end of December, 1932?

(b) Will Government please state how many of the posts in each circle in the upper division of the clerical cadre in the Postal Department were replaced by posts in the lower division up to the end of December, 1932?

Sir Thomas Ryan: Information is being collected and will be placed on the table in due course.

APPOINTMENT OF INDIANS IN THE INDIAN VETERINARY CORPS.

487. ***Bhai Parma Nand:** (a) Is the Indian Veterinary Corps open to qualified Indians?

(b) Are Englishmen who have passed M. R. C. V. S. from the Royal Veterinary College, London, eligible for such commissions in the I. V. C.?

(c) Is there any objection to Indian M. R. C. V. S. from the same College to get a Commission in the I. V. C.?

(d) When will the next selection for Commissions in the I. V. C. take place this year?

(e) Are Government prepared to keep in view the claims of Indians and appoint qualified Indian M. R. C. V. S. candidates?

(f) To what authority Indian M. R. C. V. S. candidates should apply for Commission in the I. V. C. in India or England?

(g) If such appointment is secured by competition, where and when will the examination be held?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: (a) Yes.

(b) No, Sir. They are eligible for commissions in the Royal Army Veterinary Corps.

(c) No.

(d) Probably no selection will be made this year.

(e) Certainly.

(f) To the Quartermaster General in India.

(g) The method of recruiting Indians for King's Commissions in the Indian Army Veterinary Corps in future is under consideration.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: May I know, Sir, if there is any Indian in this section of the Indian Veterinary Corps?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: Yes, Sir, the whole of the Indian Army Veterinary Corps is composed of Indians.

PAY AND ALLOWANCES OF THE TRAVELLING TICKET INSPECTORS AND OTHERS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

488 ***Kunwar Hajeer Ismail Ali Khan** (on behalf of Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin): (a) Will Government be pleased to state if the decision in the case of the pay and allowances of the T. T. Is. and others on the East Indian Railway as promised in reply to my starred question No. 939 in the November Session of 1932 has since been given by Government?

(b) If the answer be in the affirmative, has the decision been communicated to the Agent, East Indian Railway? If so, on what date?

(c) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the decision?

(d) Is it true that the decision in connection with the North Western Railway staff has already been communicated to the individual employee, whereas on the East Indian Railway it is still being treated as an official secret?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) Yes.

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(b) The decision of the Railway Board was communicated to the Agent of the East Indian Railway on the 22nd December, 1932. It was supplemented by a further communication dated the 30th January, 1933, to remove some doubts that he had in the matter.

(c) The decision of the Board was that an employee who held a permanent post in a substantive capacity prior to the introduction of the Crew system and who, on the introduction of the Moody-Ward scheme, was assigned duties approximately the same as prior to the introduction of the Crew system, should be allowed the option of retaining the scale of pay applicable to the permanent post held by him in a substantive capacity prior to the introduction of the Moody-Ward scheme. Employees who held permanent posts of Travelling Ticket Inspectors in a substantive capacity before the Crew system and drew a mileage or running allowance were also allowed, as an *ex gratia* measure, to draw monthly consolidated travelling allowances at special rates.

(d) I understand that the decision in the case of the staff of the North Western Railway has been communicated to them. As regards the East Indian Railway, there was some unavoidable delay owing to the fact that the Agent had some doubts regarding one point, and these doubts were resolved only after the further orders of the Railway Board issued at the end of January. I am informed that it is expected that the orders will be communicated to the staff concerned very shortly.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: May I ask whether copies of these orders will be laid on the table or are they confidential?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Sir, the orders actually issued to the East Indian Railway contain some reference to a point which is still under consideration, and it is for that reason that I am unable to place a copy of those orders on the table of the House.

Sardar Sant Singh: Is it a fact that the option which was given to the T. T. Is. on the other Railways has not been extended to the T. T. Is. working on the N. W. R.?

Mr. P. R. Rau: That point was brought to my notice the other day by some Honourable Members on the opposite side and I am having it examined.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know if it is a fact that the old duties which these T. T. Is. were required to do were abolished and some collective system was introduced on the N. W. Ry., and that now since sometime past the same duties have been allotted to these T. T. Is. with less remuneration?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I have no information about that at present. That is a question which will come under examination in connection with the investigation which I have referred to.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: Will the Honourable Member please inform this House when orders will be conveyed to these employees, T. T. Is. and T. T. Es. on the N. W. Ry., as to the decision of the Railway Board? I wish to point out to the Honourable Member that this is the only Railway on which these employees do not know what has been decided regarding their appeals.

Mr. P. R. Rau: Orders have already been communicated to the N. W. R. Staff.

APPOINTMENT OF MUSLIMS AS ASSISTANT SURGEONS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

489. ***Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi:** (a) Are Government aware that there is no Muslim Assistant Surgeon employed in the Medical Service of the East Indian Railway?

(b) If the answer is in the affirmative, do Government propose to take early steps to make up the deficiency in that direction?

(c) Are Government aware that there are some vacancies of Assistant Surgeons in the Medical Service of the East Indian Railway for which recruitment is going to be made?

(d) Are Government prepared to take such steps as would ensure the appointment of Muslims to these posts?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) and (c). Yes.

(b) and (d). A copy of the question has been sent to the Agent, East Indian Railway, who is competent to make these appointments, for such action as may be necessary. He is aware of Government's policy with regard to preventing a preponderance of any one class or community in the railway services.

RESTRICTIONS ON GUESTS LIVING WITH THE INDIAN CLERKS OF THE VICEREGAL ESTABLISHMENT.

490. ***Mr. K. P. Thampan** (on behalf of Mr. T. N. Ramakrishna Reddi): (a) Is it a fact that Indian clerks of the Viceregal establishment living in the Lower Ridge Road and Hasting Square are required to obtain permission of the Military Secretary to His Excellency the Viceroy to put up their guests with them? If so, why is this permission considered neces-

sary? Is it a fact that other clerks of the Government of India living next to the Hastings Square and nearer the Viceroy's House have no such restrictions imposed upon them?

(b) Are Government aware that this restriction entails unnecessary **hardship and inconvenience** to the clerks concerned? If so, do Government propose to remove them?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: (a) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. The reason is that the quarters, which are occupied free of rent, are under the administrative control of the Military Secretary to the Viceroy.

(b) The order, which makes it necessary for Indian clerks of the Viceregal Estate to apply for permission to put up guests in their rent-free quarters, is also applicable to the European clerical and Household establishments. As permission to have guests is refused only in cases, which would involve overcrowding or in which the guests to be invited are undesirable characters, Government do not consider that any hardship is caused and do not propose to take any action.

DISADVANTAGE CAUSED TO THE PUBLIC BY THE AMENDMENT OF THE CURRENCY NOTES (REFUND) RULES, 1921.

491. *Mr. S. C. Mitra: (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the serious disadvantage caused to the public by the amendment of the Currency Notes (Refund) Rules, 1921, effected by the Finance Department in 1927, making it practically impossible for the lawful holder to **get full value for half notes** of higher denominations, if the other halves of the notes are lost, stolen or destroyed?

(b) Is it a fact that under the altered rules:

(i) the Currency Department cannot refuse payment to any person who presents the other half, even if that be stolen property; and

(ii) it is not obligatory on Government to inform the police or the lawful holder of the notes when the stolen half or full notes are presented and payment is made, in spite of timely information being given to the staff concerned?

(c) If the answer to part (b) be in the affirmative, will Government kindly state:

(i) the reasons for such a change in the rules; and

(ii) whether they are satisfied that this is not against the principles underlying section 45, Cr. P. C., and sections 175 and 176, I. P. C.?

(d) Have Government considered the question whether this rule will increase the risks of the notes of higher denominations and is likely to affect prejudicially their circulation?

(e) If so, do Government propose to revert to the former unamended rules? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (a) Representations have been made to Government.

(b) (i) No.

(ii) Yes

(c) (i) The reasons were fully explained in a resolution at the time.

(ii) No.

(d) The figures do not indicate that this change in the rules has had any adverse effect on the note circulation.

(e) No. The decision was taken after full consideration and Government see no reason to alter it.

RETRENCHMENT IN THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE, DELHI.

492. ***Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen:** (a) Is it a fact that the Government of India orders make it obligatory upon all its Departments to retire, as a measure of economy, such men as have attained the age of 55 or have put in 30 years' service?

(b) If the reply to the above question be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state:

(i) what is the number of such clerks in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office;

(ii) how many of them have been made to retire; and

(iii) what amount of saving has been effected by the retrenchment of such clerks?

(c) Is it a fact that there are still some persons in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office, who come under the above category, but have not yet been retired, whereas men with four or five years service have been retrenched?

(d) Is it a fact that the retrenchment of these clerks is in contravention of the recommendations contained in the Finance Department's letter dated the 3rd August, 1932?

(e) If so, why was this unusual course adopted?

(f) Are Government prepared to take steps to re-employ these retrenched clerks?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) I presume my Honourable friend is referring to the orders contained in the Finance Department letter dated the 3rd August, 1931, which he mentions in part (d) of the question. These orders were not intended to apply to the railway staff in whose case special orders were issued by the Railway Board in March, 1931. The orders applicable to the railway staff, who were retrenched in the first block retrenchment, were to the effect that men who were to be selected for discharge should be selected in the following order:

(1) those who were inefficient;

(2) those who were least efficient;

(3) those who had short service; and

(4) those who were nearing the age of superannuation.

It was subsequently decided, following the recommendation of the Railway Court of Enquiry, that further discharges were to be effected according to the simple rule of length of service.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There are none in Service who have completed the age of 55, but there are 28 men who have completed 30 years service.

(d) No.

(e) and (f). Do not arise.

**VOLUNTARY RETIREMENTS IN THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE,
DELHI.**

• 493. ***Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the period for inviting applications for voluntary retirement was restricted in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office from the 1st October, 1932, to the 30th November, 1932?

(b) Are Government aware that there are still some clerks in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office who are willing to offer themselves for retirement, but that such clerks could not do so for insufficiency of time and ignorance of that circular?

(c) If so, are Government prepared to extend the period to give these men a further chance to enable them to apply for putting in their applications for retirement?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) The last date was 31st October, 1932, as in the majority of State Railways.

(b) I have been informed of one such case.

(c) The suggestion will be considered.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: Will the Honourable Member be pleased to give the name of the officer who wanted to retire?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I think it was a clerk; I have not got the name with me at present.

ALLEGED BEGINNING OF REPRESSION IN BALUCHISTAN.

494. ***Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether their attention has been drawn to a leading article under the heading "Beginning of Repression in Baluchistan", which was published in the *Inquilab* of Lahore, dated the 6th February, 1933?

(b) If so, are the contents thereof correct?

(c) Is it true that the repressive policy adopted there is in connection with the recent All-India Baluch Conference, as alleged therein?

(d) Are Government prepared to stop such policy?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe: (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) No repressive policy has been adopted.

(d) Does not arise.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon: Were any clerks discharged after this Conference was held in Jacobabad?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe: I am not in a position to give the Honourable Member a reply to that question. I have answered what he asked me in my reply to his main question. If he wishes to raise any particular case, I must ask for notice.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: May I ask whether the discharge of men is not public property? It cannot be confidential, and I think there is no point in withholding the information.

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe: I have not the least objection to communicating the reply if I knew it; but it is obviously impossible for me to say whether a clerk has been discharged or has not.

ELEVATION OF BALUCHISTAN TO THE STATUS OF OTHER PROVINCES IN INDIA.

495. *Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon: (a) Are Government prepared to lend their support to the All-India Baluch Conference resolutions to bring up Baluchistan to the level of the other provinces in matters educational, social and economic?

(b) If so, do they contemplate obtaining the services and support of the prominent Sardars and Chiefs of Baluchistan, with a view to achieving the object more easily?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe: The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the replies recently given to his previous questions on the same subject.

RECRUITMENT OF COVENANTED OFFICERS IN THE SIGNAL DEPARTMENT OF STATE RAILWAYS.

496. *Mr. S. C. Mitra: (a) Is it a fact that a large number of covenanted officers in the Signal Departments of the State Railways have been recruited during the last five years? If so, will Government be pleased to state the number of such covenanted officers and the reasons for such recruitments?

(b) Is it a fact that Indians with experience of the signal engineering and working of English and Continental Railways are available in India and, if so, will Government be pleased to state why European covenanted officers are recruited from abroad?

(c) Is it a fact that Messrs. Ridley and Elidge in the Signal Department of the Eastern Bengal Railway were recruited under a contract for a certain term? If so, will Government be pleased to state the period of the original contract? Is it a fact that they are still being retained, though the period of their original contract was over; if so, why? Do Government propose to replace them by equally qualified Indians, if available? If not, why not?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) The number of officers directly recruited to the superior service of the Signal Department of State Railways in the last five years was five, of whom two were Europeans. These were all recruited between February 1928, and April 1929, and since then there has been no further recruitment.

(b) Government are informed that there are at present Indians available with experience of Signal Engineering work; but, as I have already pointed out, there has been no recruitment since 1929.

(c) Messrs. Ridley and Eldridge, who are subordinates and not officers, were recruited in January, 1925, and July, 1928, respectively, on a five-year contract through the High Commissioner as no Indians of requisite qualifications were available in India at the time. They were recruited on the understanding that if they proved satisfactory, their employment would continue beyond the initial period for which the contract was made. Government do not propose to terminate their contracts, except in the contingency of their proving unsatisfactory.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know, apart from these two Europeans, what was the race of the other three?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Indians, Sir.

Diwan Bahadur A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: The Honourable Member said that they were recruited on the understanding that, if they proved competent, their term will be extended. May I know, in what form that understanding has been incorporated and at what stage that understanding was arrived at?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I believe it was in the contract.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: The Honourable Member said that these two subordinates were recruited as officials in England in view of the fact that no one fitted or suitable was available in India at that time. Will the Honourable Member inform this House what inquiries he made in India and, if he seriously contends that in these years of advanced tuition and experienced Indians begging for appointments, the Public Service Commission did not supply him with adequately qualified Signal Engineers and that they were compelled to recruit these subordinates in England?

Mr. P. R. Rau: We are referring to periods five and eight years ago.

Diwan Bahadur A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Am I to understand from the Honourable Member's reply that there is an objection on the Government to renew their contract, that the option is really on the other side and not on the side of the Government?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The understanding in respect of contracts of this nature is that, if a man, who is employed for the initial period of five years, proves his worth and his work is satisfactory, he is continued indefinitely.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: At the termination of the contract of these officers and if, at that period, Indians and others are procurable, men capable of doing the work, will Government give an undertaking that these contracts will be terminated and that the appointments will be filled in India?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Unless at the time of recruitment these men were given definitely to understand that they were employed only for a period of five years. I submit, it is inequitable to terminate their contracts after that period.

Mr. S. O. Mitra: Why should they not be given to understand definitely that when trained Indians will be available, they will be replaced after their contract period expires?

Mr. P. R. Rau: As I have already mentioned, these things happened in 1925 and 1928, and I am unable to explain what happened then.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: Will the Honourable Member state whether or not, on the termination of this contract, their services will be terminated?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré: I would like to make it clear to the House that the Government cannot vary a contract or an understanding given at the time of the contract, but Honourable Members have raised a very important matter indeed and I promise to go into that question.

Mr. B. V. Jadhav: Is it not a fact that when Government enter into a contract for about five years with a servant, they have to pay higher salary than if they appointed a man outright on probation?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I do not think that was the fact in this case.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether that policy of giving an understanding has been changed or not?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I do not think there have been any fresh recruitments in the last few years.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I am asking a general question, a question of general policy.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré: I think that my reply covered that. I said that a very important matter had been raised and I promised to go into that question.

LOWERING THE FREIGHT OF RICE AND PADDY ON THE BURMA RAILWAYS.

497. ***Diwan Bahadur A. Ramaswami Mudalliar** (on behalf of U Ba Maung): (a) Are the Government of India aware that owing to the low price of rice great distress prevails in Burma among cultivators?

(b) Have Government any intention of lowering the freight of rice and paddy on the Burma Railways in order to assist the rice trade?

(c) Is it a fact that on some Indian Railways the freight for wheat has been lowered on account of the low price of wheat?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) Government are aware of the fall in price of rice which must naturally be a source of distress to the cultivators in Burma.

(b) The question of lowering the freight rate for rice and paddy on the Burma Railways is not at present under contemplation by Government.

(c) The Honourable Member has apparently in mind the reduction in the rates for wheat to Karachi which were effective at the end of 1930. These rates were temporarily reduced in the hope of enabling surplus

wheat to find a market overseas and have since been withdrawn. This reduction was not solely on account of the low price of wheat and I am unaware that the freight rate for wheat has been lowered on any railway for this reason.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: Is it a fact that rates on N. W. R. for rice are less than the rates on the E. I. R.?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I believe the contrary is the case.

Diwan Bahadur A. Ramaswami Mudallar: Are Government aware that, owing to the depreciation of the Japanese yen, the freight charges from Rangoon to Colombo have tumbled down to disastrous levels and are they thinking of lowering the freight charges on the South Indian Railway to enable Indian rice to compete favourably in the Ceylon market?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I must have notice of that question. It does not directly arise from this question.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: Will the Honourable Member please refer to his letter dated the 22nd February, 1933, in which he mentions the rates on the N. W. R. and E. I. R. when saying that the facts I said were not correct and that it was quite the contrary?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Will my Honourable friend kindly read the extracts which he refers to?

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: It is this way:

Schedule C/B for any distance . . . . .	. 333 pie per md. per mile.
Schedule C/K for the first 150 miles . . . . .	. 380 pie per md. per mile.
Plus for distances between 151 and 250 miles . . . . .	. 333 pie per md. per mile.
Plus for distances between 251 and 500 miles . . . . .	. 200 pie per md. per mile.
Plus for distances between 501 and 700 miles . . . . .	. 130 pie per md. per mile.
Plus for distances in excess of 700 miles . . . . .	. 100 pie per md. per mile.

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer: On a point of order, Sir. Even though the statement arises from a question put from the other side, I should like to know whether it is in order during interpellation time to read a whole statement which we are not able to follow, with statistics and things of that kind? Is it not proper that this question should be put in the shape of a question on paper, so that Honourable Members may have an opportunity to understand it?

Mr. Chairman (Sir Hari Singh Gour): The Honourable Member is putting a supplementary question and is refreshing the memory of the Financial Commissioner with reference to what the Financial Commissioner has himself said.

Mr. P. R. Rau: If you will permit me, I can just explain in brief to the House that the statement made by my Honourable friend is not correct: the rates for the first 100 miles on the N. W. R. and the E. I. R. are the same, *viz.*, 2 a. 9 p. For 300 miles on the E. I. R. it is 6 a. 2 p., and on the N. W. R. 7 a. 4 p. For 500 miles the rate on the E. I. R. is 7 a. 10 p.,

and on the N. W. R. 9 a. 4 p. For 700 miles the rate on the E. I. R. is 9 a. 6 p. and on the N. W. R. 11 a. 3 p. For 1,000 miles, the rate on the E. I. R. is 12 a. and that on the N. W. R. is 14 a. 2 p.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: What about the *plus* rates which you are not taking into account?

Mr. P. B. Rau: I do not know what my Honourable friend is referring to by *plus* rates.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: They are in your letter. You charge a certain amount over and above the rates given, after certain distances.

ACCUMULATION OF ARREARS IN THE IMPERIAL COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH DEPARTMENT DUE TO RETRENCHMENT OF STAFF.

498. ***Kunwar Hajee Ismail Ali Khan** (on behalf of Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim): (a) Is it a fact that the posts of one Assistant, two second division clerks and one third division clerk were surrendered with effect from March, 1932, by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research Department as a measure of economy?

(b) Is it a fact that the above posts were sanctioned on account of the transfer of the Sugar Bureau work from the control of the Director, Pusa, to that of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research Department? If so, are Government aware that the transfer of work, without the provision of additional staff, throws extra burden on the existing staff which is believed to be already meagre and much over-worked?

(c) Is it a fact that the whole staff right from the Superintendent to the Receipt Clerk has to sit invariably late and take files home and that in spite of this hard work the staff has huge arrears (cases about two or three months old) on their tables? If so, have the Department taken any steps to give them some relief?

(d) Is it a fact that the record work in the Department is hopelessly in arrears inasmuch as cases disposed of in September or October, 1932, have not yet been recorded and monthly indices for the cases recorded in 1932 have not yet been prepared? Is it a fact that no clerk is at present employed on recording A & B cases? If not, how does the Department propose to clear off arrears in recording?

(e) Is it a fact that five posts of clerks have been lying vacant in the Department for over a month? If it is so, and if the state of work is as described in parts (c) and (d) above, why were not these vacancies filled up soon after they occurred? Has not the postponement of recruitment to these vacancies added to the accumulation of arrears in the Department and the throwing of additional work on the staff? How does the Department justify this state of affairs?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) It is a fact that some of the members of the staff including the Superintendent and higher officers have frequently to work till late hours in office and also sometimes have to take work home. It is also true that in spite of this, arrears accumulate at times of pressure which are, however, cleared off afterwards as soon as possible. In view of the prevailing financial stringency, it has not been possible to secure the revival of the surrendered posts referred to in part (a) of the question.

(d) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative, and that to the second part in the negative. The third part does not arise.

(e) No; there were only three short leave vacancies, which have since been filled up. They could not be filled up earlier as suitable men had to be selected from a very large number of applicants.

ACCUMULATION OF ARREARS IN THE IMPERIAL COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH DEPARTMENT DUE TO RETRENCHMENT OF STAFF.

499. ***Kunwar Hajee Ismail Ali Khan** (on behalf of Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim): Is it a fact that the stenographers attached to the Vice-Chairman, Animal Husbandry Expert and Secretary of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research have little work to keep them sufficiently employed during office hours? If not, have Government considered whether one of them, especially the stenographer to the Vice-Chairman, who gets a special allowance of Rs. 50 p. m., in addition to his pay, is employed on case work and the remaining two attached to the three officers? If not, why not? Has the Secretary considered the desirability of giving some case work to his stenographer?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. All the stenographers are fully occupied. The other parts of the question do not arise.

ACCUMULATION OF ARREARS IN THE IMPERIAL COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH DEPARTMENT DUE TO RETRENCHMENT OF STAFF.

500. ***Kunwar Hajee Ismail Ali Khan** (on behalf of Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim): What are the headings dealt with in the cash branch of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research? What is the average number of receipts marked daily to a clerk in the cash branch and to a clerk in the Agriculture, General and Veterinary sections? If the number is comparatively much too low, does the Department propose to consider the advisability of transferring some more headings to the cash branch in order to maintain an equilibrium of work in the Department?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: The headings dealt with by the cash branch of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research Department are the same as those dealt with by cash branches of other Departments of the Government of India. The Cashier of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research Department also acts as Cashier for heavy payments connected with grants sanctioned by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research for research schemes.

As regards the second part of the question, Government regret that they cannot supply the figures as the labour involved in collecting them will not be commensurate with the results. The cash branch is composed of two clerks who are fully occupied.

DISPOSAL OF FILES PERTAINING TO ACCOUNTS MATTERS IN THE IMPERIAL COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH DEPARTMENT.

501. ***Kunwar Hajee Ismail Ali Khan** (on behalf of Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim): Is it a fact that the Accountant to the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, who is a senior member of the Subordinate Accounts Service, is required only to note on files concerning the maintenance of the accounts of the Council and has been forbidden to put up

draft replies in accordance with his notes as is done by Assistants in the Secretariat? Is it a fact that the drafts on the basis of his notes are put up by clerks who are not well versed in accounts matters and are submitted to the Secretary through the Accountant, and that the latter has often to revise them in their entirety to elucidate the technical points involved? Are Government aware that the system results in unnecessary duplication of work, and have Government considered whether it will lead to quick disposal of files if the receipts pertaining to accounts matters are marked direct to the Accountant for disposal and he is permitted to submit them direct to the Secretary with complete action thereon?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: According to the bye-laws of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House, the main duty of the Accountant is to assist the Secretary in maintaining the accounts and to advise him on all matters concerning audit and accounts and any Government rules which may be made applicable to the Society. The Accountant also puts up drafts where necessary. The apportionment of duties between the Accounts Section and other Sections is a matter to be decided by the Department with due regard to administrative convenience.

SUBMISSION OF FILES BY THE LAC CESS COMMITTEE TO THE VICE-CHAIRMAN, IMPERIAL COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH DEPARTMENT.

502. ***Kunwar Hajee Ismail Ali Khan** (on behalf of Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim): Is it a fact that the Lac Cess Committee submit their files to the Vice-Chairman, Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, because he is the President of the Committee? Does this work form part of the Secretariat work for which the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research Department was created and is it ever submitted to the experts attached to the Council or its Secretary? If not, why is this work not done by the Personal Assistant to the Vice-Chairman and submitted direct by him to the Vice-Chairman?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, the administration of the Lac Cess has recently been transferred from the Commerce Department to the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research Department, and, as such, cases relating to administration pass through the Secretary and also, when necessary, through the Agricultural Expert. The last part of the question does not arise.

MUSLIM PERMANENT ASSISTANT SURGEONS (MILITARY) ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

503. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** (a) Is it a fact that on the East Indian Railway the sanctioned strength for permanent Assistant Surgeons (Military) on the 31st March, 1932, was 14, out of which one, was a European, 11 were Hindus, and two were Anglo-Indians?

(b) Is it a fact that not a single Muslim is in employment in the posts mentioned in part (a)?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) and (b). The sanctioned strength of Military Assistant Surgeons for the East Indian Railway is four, one of whom is a European and three Anglo-Indians. •

MUSLIM ASSISTANT SURGEONS (RAILWAY) ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

*504. **Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** (a) Is it a fact that on the East Indian Railway there was not a single Muslim Assistant Surgeon (Railway) on the 31st March, 1932?

(b) Has any Muslim been appointed since April, 1932, up till now on the East Indian Railway as Assistant Surgeon (Railway)?

(c) Is it a fact that a few posts of Assistant Surgeons have fallen vacant and new appointments are expected in the near future?

(d) Do Government propose to appoint sufficient number of Muslims to redress their long standing grievance?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) Yes.

(d) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply I have just given to parts (b) and (d) of Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi's question No. 489.

MUSLIM SUB-ASSISTANT SURGEONS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

505. **Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** (a) Is it a fact that out of 102 Sub-Assistant Surgeons on the East Indian Railway there are only eight Muslims?

(b) If the reply be in the negative, will Government be pleased to state the correct figure?

(c) Is it a fact that on the East Indian Railway, Muslims are not adequately represented in the Sub-Assistant Surgeons' ranks?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) and (b). There are 99 Sub-Assistant Surgeons on the East Indian Railway of whom seven are Muslims.

(c) The figures speak for themselves. I should explain, however, that most of the present incumbents were recruited when the East Indian Railway was under Company management. It is expected that the position will alter by the recruitment rules which are now in force.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: Will Government be pleased to state how many Assistant Surgeons have been recruited after this Railway came under State management?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I should like to have notice of that question.

Mr. S. C. Mitra: Is it a fact that a Muhammadan Officer has been the Chief Medical Officer of this line for some considerable time now?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I believe that is a fact.

IMPORT OF RICE.

506. **Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the value of the "rice not in the husk" imported into India during the first nine months of the current financial year?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the value and quantity of rice in other forms and of rice products imported into India during the first nine months of the current financial year?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré: (a) The Honourable Member is referred to page 47 of the Accounts relating to the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of British India for December, 1932, a copy of which is in the Library of the Legislature.

(b) Imports of rice in the husk from foreign countries into British India during the first nine months of the year, namely, April to December, 1932, amounted to 10 tons valued at Rs. 655 and those of rice flour one ton valued at Rs. 196.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: Will Government be pleased to state whether in the Schedule to the Ottawa Agreement they have mentioned paddy as well?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré: I should like to have notice of that question

IMPORT OF RICE.

507. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** In connection with the reply to starred question No. 289 on the 8th February, 1933, will Government be pleased to state what quantity of rice and rice products have been imported into India in each month from April, 1932, to December, 1932, and in January, 1933?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré: I lay on the table a statement containing the information asked for by the Honourable Member.

Statement showing imports of rice and rice products during the months of April, 1932, to January, 1933, inclusive.

	Rice in the husk.	Rice not in the husk.	Rice flour.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
April, 1932	1	505	..
May, 1932	1	8,780	..
June, 1932	1	4,340	..
July, 1932	1	1,243	..
August, 1932	1	1,192	..
September, 1932	1	1,320	..
October, 1932	2	1,252	1
November, 1932	2	3,612	..
December, 1932 . . . . .	..	4,395	..
January, 1933 . . . . .	..	4,572	..

SHORTAGE OF WATER SUPPLY IN OLD DELHI.

508. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** (a) Will Government please state whether the scheme referred to in their answer to my starred question No. 1298, dated the 21st November, 1932, regarding shortage of water supply in Old Delhi, has been prepared and considered?

(b) If so, will they please lay a copy of the scheme on the table of the House?

(c) Have Government accepted the scheme *in toto*? If not, what items have not been accepted and what are the reasons for not accepting them?

(d) If the scheme has not yet been prepared or considered, are Government prepared to consider the desirability of its early adoption in view of the approaching hot weather?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) to (d). Government have approved of the general outlines of a scheme, details of which are being worked out, for the improvement of water supply arrangements in Delhi. The scheme will take two years to complete, but work will be started as soon as possible and every effort made to complete the first stage in order to enable the requirements of the present population to be met during the forthcoming season.

CIVIL HOSPITAL, DELHI.

509. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** (a) Are Government aware that the Civil Hospital of Delhi is quite insufficient for the growing needs of a town having a population of more than four lakhs?

(b) Will Government please state:

(i) when this Hospital was built;

(ii) what was the population of Delhi at the time when it was built; and

(iii) what the population of Delhi is at present?

(c) Are Government aware that in the Civil Hospital, Delhi:

(i) there is not a single private family quarter for indoor patients;

(ii) there are only six rooms for paying patients;

(iii) the accommodation in the general ward is very limited;

(iv) there are underground cells for poor patients where the rays of the sun never reach; and

(v) the arrangements for outdoor patients are also very unsatisfactory?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) Yes.

(b) (i) In 1888.

(ii) About 1½ lakhs.

(iii) About 8½ lakhs.

(c) The Honourable Member's information is correct. I may add that the question of improving hospital arrangements in Delhi has been engaging the attention of Government for some time and only financial stringency stands in the way of making a beginning in this direction.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: With reference to part (c) (iv), may I know whether what is stated there is correct,—that poor patients are kept in underground cells and better places are reserved for paying patients?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: No, Sir, I do not think that there is any differentiation between rich and poor patients. The position is, there are only six rooms for paying patients and the others take their chance in these lower regions.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask why preference is given to paying patients and not to poor patients?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: Obviously for paying patients there is preference, but only in respect of six rooms which I have mentioned.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether these paying patients pay all the charges defrayed on their account by the Hospital?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I should have to find out from the Chief Medical Officer what exactly is demanded from the paying patients.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Will Government kindly make inquiries into this matter?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: Certainly.

SHAHI IDGAH OF DELHI.

510. ***Shaikh Fazal Haq Piracha:** (a) Are Government aware that most of the Muslims of Delhi and its suburbs offer their *Id* prayers in the *Shahi Idgah* (*Id* mosque) situated on the Ridge and that the number of Muslims using it has of late years largely outgrown the accommodation provided within the four walls of the *Idgah*?

(b) Are Government also aware that as a consequence a large number of the congregation is obliged to say their prayers outside the *Idgah*?

(c) Are Government aware that the adjoining grounds outside the *Idgah* are of uneven character, full of ponds and filth and quite unsuitable for casual occupation necessitated by *Id* prayers?

(d) If so, are Government prepared to consider the desirability of expanding the *Idgah* compound, so that it may accommodate the number of Muslims who offer their prayers there or at least of arranging to have the said adjoining grounds levelled and cleared of filth, so that they may be used without any inconvenience by the Muslims for their *Id* prayer? If not, why not?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) The ground adjoining the *Idgah* is uneven and pits exist to the south. The eastern side which is used for prayers is rocky, but does not contain pits.

(d) The matter was considered last year by the Local Administration and it was pointed out to the Trustee of the *Idgah* that it was for the community to raise funds for the purpose of levelling the area.

PURCHASES MADE THROUGH THE INDIAN STORES DEPARTMENT BY THE OFFICES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

511. *Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: Will Government kindly furnish a statement showing the names of the different Departments of the Government of India and offices subordinate to them, the percentage of the purchases which they make through the Indian Stores Department, the percentage of purchases made separately, giving the percentages of Indian goods and foreign goods, separately, since the Indian Stores Department came into existence, year by year?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I regret that I cannot undertake to supply the information asked for year by year since the Department came into existence, as its collection would entail immense labour and trouble out of all proportion to the value of the information supplied. I would, however, invite the attention of the Honourable Member to Appendices V, VI and VII to the Annual Administration Reports of the Indian Stores Department, and would add that all Departments of the Government of India except the Army and Railway Departments purchase all their requirements, except specialised stores, through the Stores Department.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: Sir, is there no record available in the Indian Stores Department showing the purchases made upto date through the Indian Stores Department and the percentage of purchases made independently of this Department?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I would ask the Honourable Member to refer to the Appendices I have mentioned, and, then, if he wants any further information, I will see what can be done.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know whether the Indian Stores Department purchase goods made in India in preference to foreign goods when Indian goods are available in the country?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Goods available in India are obviously purchased in India.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: In preference to foreign goods?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Yes, Sir; provided quality and price are suitable.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Are any tenders called for? How do they determine the prices?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Under the rupee tender system. I should be glad to send the Honourable Member a copy of the rules under which stores are purchased which, I think, will satisfy him on these points.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Thank you.

PROPOSED EXTENSION OF AIR SERVICE.

512. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** Is there any proposal to extend the air service from Delhi to Calcutta and Rangoon, and from Delhi to Lahore, Rawalpindi and Peshawar? If so, what is the name of the Company which will operate this service; what is its composition and the terms of contract?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Proposals for the extension of air services in India are under the consideration of Government, but in no case have matters yet reached a stage at which it is possible for me to make any definite statement with regard to the details.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: May I take it that in coming to a decision on this matter, Government will bear in mind the desire expressed in this House that the majority of shareholders should be Indians and that there should be rupee capital?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I can assure the Honourable Member that in this matter the first object of the Government will be to safeguard Indian interests.

Mr. O. S. Ranga Iyer: Will Government consider the advisability of taking every available step to promote the extension of air service in this country?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Government are in entire sympathy with the Honourable Member's object.

THEFT COMMITTED IN FORT WILLIAM, CALCUTTA.

513. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) Is it a fact that a daring theft was committed in Fort William, Calcutta, recently, when it was discovered that magnetos and carburettors of four armoured cars due to leave Calcutta shortly were stolen thus rendering them useless, by making a hole in the wall of the garage at night, without attracting the attention of any of the sentries on duty near by, and that a secret tunnel had been constructed through which a man could stealthily make an entry, and that this tunnel is reached by crossing the moat that surrounds the Fort?

(b) Is it a fact that on a previous occasion also, the Fort was entered at night by some unknown persons who removed a heavy copper lightning conductor?

(c) Will Government kindly make a statement on the subject and the steps taken in the matter?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: (a) and (c). The armoured car garages in Fort William were broken into on the night of the 24/25th January and certain parts of four armoured cars were stolen. The loss is estimated at Rs. 1,800.

The manner in which the theft was carried out and other attendant circumstances are at present under investigation and every possible precaution has naturally been taken to prevent the recurrence of such thefts.

(b) I have no information regarding this incident.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: May I know if the result of the inquiry will be available to the Members of this House?

Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham: Yes, Sir. If the Honourable Member wishes, I shall lay it on the table.

THIRD CLASS WAITING SHED AT BEAWAR, BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY.

514. *Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: (a) Are Government aware that Beawar is an important trading centre and station on the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway (metre gauge), yielding an average daily return of about Rs. 1,500 both from coaching and goods traffic?

(b) Are Government aware that the present third class waiting shed is quite insufficient, and that the Agent had called for a plan for its extension as appears from his letter dated the 13th April, 1929, addressed to the Secretary, Mahalakshmi Mills Co., Ltd., Beawar?

(c) Is it a fact that there is no separate third class waiting shed for women, and that the Agent had agreed to provide the same, in his letter referred to in part (b) above?

(d) Are Government aware that the water supply for passengers at Beawar is insufficient to cope with the requirements?

(e) Are Government aware that about 150 mill-owners, merchants and other prominent persons of Beawar sent up a representation in September, 1932, to the Senior Government Inspector of Railways, on the above and other points? Do Government propose to take any steps for the removal of the grievances mentioned above?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I have sent a copy of the question to the Agent, Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway for consideration of the suggestions made. Government have received no complaints till now about the inconveniences referred to.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: Have they not received any representation from the Secretary of the Mahalakshmi Mills, Beawar, detailing the grievances which form the subject matter of my question?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I have not been able to trace any such representation.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: I have myself seen a copy of it.

CONTEMPLATED TRANSFER OF CERTAIN LAHORE CONSPIRACY CASE PRISONERS TO THE ANDAMANS.

515. *Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: (a) Is it a fact that on the 18th January, 1932, Shiv Varma of the Lahore Conspiracy Case and a hunger striker was actually carried in a stretcher to a train with the object of sending him and other prisoners to the Andamans, and that, after a journey of about 36 to 40 hours, was brought back, and lodged in the Berhampur Jail the very next day?

(b) Is it a fact that an Indian Medical Service Officer who examined Kundan Lal, one of the Lahore Conspiracy Case prisoners, reported that he cannot recover even if he is sent to a sanatorium? Has this prisoner been sent to the Andamans? Who are the Lahore Conspiracy Case prisoners who have been or are about to be sent to the Andamans?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: (a) I have no information on the point. The prisoner in question has not been removed to the Andamans and is still in the Berhampur jail where he was transferred at the end of December.

(b) I have received no such report. Prisoners transported to the Andamans must be certified by a Medical Board as fit for deportation. Five Lahore Conspiracy Case prisoners have been transferred to the Andamans from jails in the Madras Presidency.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: May I know, whether since the receipt of this question, any inquiry was made into the subject matter of my question?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: No, Sir.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know from the Honourable Member with regard to part (a) of the question, whether this prisoner was really on hunger strike?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: The prisoner is certainly one of those who went on hunger strike.

REMOVAL OF RESTRICTIONS ON CANDIDATES FROM INDIAN STATES APPEARING AT EXAMINATIONS HELD BY THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION FOR MINISTERIAL SERVICE.

516. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) Is it a fact that under section 96-A of the Government of India Act, a subject of an Indian State is required to obtain a declaration by the Secretary of State for India in Council before he can be permitted to appear at a competitive or qualifying examination for, or appointment to, any public service in British India?

(b) Is it a fact that this restriction has recently been removed in the case of candidates from Indian States appearing at the examination held by the Public Service Commission for ministerial service?

(c) If the reply to part (b) be in the affirmative, will Government please state whether the restriction has been removed in the case of any service other than ministerial? If so, which are those services?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: (a) If appointments to a particular service are otherwise restricted to British subjects, a subject of a State in India cannot be appointed thereto save by virtue of a declaration under section 96A of the Government of India Act. If appointments to a particular service are not restricted to British subjects, no such declaration is required as a condition precedent to the appointment of a subject of a State in India.

(b) A declaration under section 96A was formerly required in respect of a candidate appearing at the examination held by the Public Service Commission for admission to the ministerial service of the Government of India. The ministerial service of the Government of India is, however, not confined to British subjects and the requirement of a declaration under section 96A was accordingly anomalous and it was not imposed on the occasion of the last examination.

(c) No.

REDUCTION IN DIET ALLOWANCE OF CERTAIN STATE PRISONERS.

517. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra:** (a) Is it a fact that since the reduction in diet allowance, State Prisoners Messrs. Surendra Mohan Ghosh, Jibonlal Chatterjee and Pratul Chandra Ganguli have been forced to do without some of their daily meals?

(b) Is it a fact that they have been living on one meal a day now-a-days?

(c) Are they still in the Trichinopoly Jail or have they been transferred elsewhere?

(d) What is the latest report about their health?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: (a) and (b). For a short period a rate higher than the existing rate was allowed under a misapprehension, but the existing rate is the first rate that received due sanction and it has not since been varied. The amount is considered adequate. The Government of India have received no complaints regarding restriction in the number of meals.

(c) The prisoners are still in Trichinopoly.

(d) The latest medical report shows that their health is satisfactory.

STATE OF HEALTH OF STATE PRISONER MR. BENOYENDRA RAI CHOWDHRY.

518. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra:** (a) Is it a fact that State Prisoner Mr. Benoyendra Rai Chowdhry has been ailing for a long time?

(b) Is it a fact that last year he was sent from Rajahmundry Jail to the Madras Jail for medical examination at the General Hospital?

(c) If so, what was the report of the Madras doctors?

(d) Has there been any improvement in his health since he was examined at Madras?

(e) What was his weight on admission, and what is his present weight?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: He has been suffering from Neurasthenia for some time, but his medical examination in Madras did not disclose that he had any organic disease and the medical authorities recommended dietetic treatment, and ordinary drugs. As stated in my reply to the Honourable Member's question No. 256 on the 8th February, 1933, the latest report is that his general health is satisfactory and he appears to have improved recently. His weight in November, 1931, was 129 lbs. but for some time he has been maintaining a weight of 119 lbs.

STATE OF HEALTH OF STATE PRISONER MR. PURNA CHANDRA DAS.

519. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra:** (a) Is it a fact that Mr. Purna Chandra Das, a Bengal State prisoner, now confined in the Central Provinces, has been ailing for some time past?

(b) Is he still confined in the Damoh Jail along with Messrs. Bhupati Majumdar, Suresh Chandra Das and Jyotish Chandra Ghosh?

(c) What is the latest health report of all these four State Prisoners now in the Central Provinces?

(d) Are Government prepared to consider the proposal of transferring them to a cooler place during the next hot weather?

(e) Have Government received any complaints about the treatment they have been getting or about the allowances that have been sanctioned to them? If so, what action have Government taken or propose to take?

(f) What allowances have these four State Prisoners been getting?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: (a) No.

(b) Yes.

(c) The latest medical report received shows that they are in good health.

(d) No.

(e) Complaints of a minor nature were made by the prisoners and have been dealt with on their merits.

(f) I would refer the Honourable Member to the statement laid on the table in answer to question No. 163 on the 12th September, 1932.

HEALTH REPORT OF MR. SATINDRA NATH SEN, A BENGAL DETENU.

520. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra:** (a) What is the latest health report of Bengal detenu Mr. Satindra Nath Sen?

(b) Has there been any improvement in his health?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply on the 8th February to his question No. 253, which was based on a report received on the 31st January.

DETENUS IN THE DEOLI DETENTION CAMP.

521. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra:** (a) What is the total number of detenus now in the Deoli Camp (or Jail)?

(b) Is it a fact that arrangements are being made to increase the accommodation there?

(c) How many more detenus is it proposed to bring from Bengal, and when?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: (a) 97.

(b) Yes.

(c) The enlarged jail will be capable of accommodating 500 detenus in all, including those at present under detention there. I am not able to say when the work will be completed, or when the transfer of additional detenus from Bengal will take place.

STATE OF HEALTH OF CERTAIN STATE PRISONERS CONFINED IN THE MIANWALI JAIL.

522. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the complaints published in the *Tribune* some time back to the effect that the relatives of State Prisoners Messrs. Manoranjan Gupta, Arun Chandra Guha, Bhupendra Kumar Dutt and Satya Bhusan Gupta were for a long time kept entirely in the dark as to their health and welfare and that enquiries addressed by the relatives to the Superintendent of the Mianwali Jail, where they were confined, were not answered to by that official?

(b) Were any steps taken by the Government of India or by the Punjab Government to redress that grievance?

(c) What is the latest health report of these four State Prisoners?

(d) What allowances have Bengal State Prisoners in the Punjab been getting? Have any complaints been received from them as to the inadequacy of allowances? If so, what action have Government taken or propose to take?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: (a) and (b). I have seen the complaints which the Honourable Member mentions. The Government of India also received representations from these State Prisoners in regard to the delay in the transmission of their correspondence. The whole matter was very thoroughly examined and it was found that the complaints were not justified. I understand that in a large measure the inconvenience complained of results from a continued disregard on the part of these State Prisoners of the correspondence rules.

(c) The latest medical report states that their health on the whole is satisfactory.

(d) As regards the first part, I would refer the Honourable Member to the statement laid on the table in answer to question No. 163 on the 12th September last. The answer to the second part is in the negative and the third part does not arise.

Mr. S. C. Mitra: Are Government in a position to tell the House if they can give any idea as to the release of these State Prisoners who have been in jail for four or five years?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: I am afraid I am not in a position to make any statement on the subject, but I do not think that any of these prisoners have been under detention for five years.

Mr. S. C. Mitra: Three or four years?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: I should doubt it. If the Honourable Member wants precise information, I would ask him to put down another of his somewhat numerous questions.

RESIDENTS OF THE MADRAS PRESIDENCY DETAINED IN PRISON WITHOUT TRIAL FOR POLITICAL REASONS.

523. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra:** (a) Are there any residents of the Madras Presidency who are detained in prison without trial for political reasons? If so, how many are there, and where are they detained?

(b) Is it a fact that two persons are thus detained in Vizagapatam Jail?

(c) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, what are their names and under what law, Regulation or Ordinance have they been detained?

(d) What allowances are being given to them for their maintenance and for the maintenance of their families?

(e) Is it a fact that these allowances are poor when compared with the allowances granted to detenus similarly imprisoned in other provinces, *viz.*, Bengal and the Punjab?

(f) Do Government propose to take steps to increase the allowances to what is granted to other detenus similarly imprisoned in Bengal and the Punjab?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: (a), (b) and (c). No residents of the Madras Presidency are detained in jail without trial either under Regulation III of 1818, or the Madras State Prisoners Regulation II of 1819. Such detention may be ordered by the Local Government in exercise of the powers vested in it by certain enactments of local application, *viz.*, the Ganjam and Vizagapatam Act, 1839, and the Moplah Outrages Act, 1859. The latest reports I have received showed that two persons were detained under the former Act and none under the latter.

(d), (e) and (f). These are matters for the determination of the Local Government.

ILLNESS OF STATE PRISONER MR. SARAT CHANDRA BOSE,

524. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra:** (a) Is it a fact that Bengal State Prisoner Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose has been suffering from diabetes (or Glycosuria) since his incarceration?

(b) Is it a fact that in spite of the best efforts made by the Superintendent of the Jubbulpore Jail, there has been no appreciable improvement in his condition?

(c) Is it a fact that since July, 1932, he has been kept quite isolated and separate in that jail?

(d) Is it a fact that he has repeatedly asked to be allowed to have evening motor drives on medical grounds? Was not this request endorsed repeatedly by the Superintendent of the Jail and by the Deputy Commissioner of the Jubbulpore District?

(e) Has not Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose repeatedly complained about this extreme solitude, and has he not asked for a suitable companion for himself? Has not this request been also recommended by the Jail Superintendent and by the Deputy Commissioner of the Jubbulpore District?

(f) Are there not other Bengal State Prisoners in the Central Provinces, and have Government considered the question of their transfer to the Jubbulpore Jail?

(g) Are Government prepared to arrange for a suitable companion for Mr. Bose and permit him to have evening motor drives, as they allowed in the case of Mr. J. M. Sen-Gupta at Jalpaiguri? In the alternative, are Government prepared to remove Mr. Bose to a place where these facilities may not be necessary?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: (a) and (b). As stated in my reply to the Honourable Member's question No. 199 on the 13th September, 1932, the State Prisoner has been suffering from glycosuria for a considerable time prior to his incarceration. The latest medical reports show that his condition has not deteriorated and that he is in fairly good health.

(c) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given by me to part (a) of his question No. 1617 on the 12th December, 1932. As the Honourable Member is no doubt aware, his brother Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose was temporarily sent to Jubbulpore *en route* to Bombay.

(d) to (g). The request of Mr. Bose for a companion has been recommended by the Deputy Commissioner, Jubbulpore, and this request is still under consideration, as stated by me in the reply given on the 8th of February, 1933, to the Honourable Member's question No. 251. Mr. Bose made a request to be allowed to have motor drives, but it was not found possible to arrange this at Jubbulpore. Instructions were, however, issued to give him proper facilities for evening walks.

With reference to the last part of (g), this question is also under consideration.

Mr. S. C. Mitra: Are Government in a position now to state when

12 Noon. Mr. Sarat Chunder Bose will have an associate or will be transferred to other jails where there are other suitable persons as associates?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: I am afraid, Sir, I am not at the moment in a position to make a definite statement about that, but the matter is under active consideration.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

RECRUITMENT OF INCOME-TAX INSPECTORS IN THE UNITED PROVINCES.

9. Rai Bahadur Lala Brij Kishore: (a) Is it a fact that some Income-tax Officers have been retrenched in the United Provinces even after seven years of service?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state why the post of Income-tax Commissioner could not be given to an Assistant Income-tax Commissioner?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state what special pay is drawn by the present Income-tax Commissioner, United Provinces?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state the total travelling allowance drawn by the present Income-tax Commissioner in 1932?

(e) Are Government aware that many of the retrenched employees of the Audit and Account Offices, United Provinces Government, also applied for the post of Income-tax Inspectors and that most of the retrenched employees of the Audit and Accounts Offices were holding substantive appointments under the Government?

(f) Are Government aware that most of the retrenched employees of the Audit and Accounts Offices, who applied for the post of Income-tax Inspectors, were drawing higher pay than the pay of the posts of Income-tax Inspectors?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (a) Yes.

(b) The question is not clear. As the Provinces of Central Provinces and United Provinces were combined for income-tax purposes, there was no question of an appointment of a new Commissioner. The question was one of reduction of the post of one Commissioner.

(c) No special pay is drawn by the present Commissioner.

(d) Rs. 8,062 in the financial year 1932-33 up to the end of January, 1933.

(e) Some of the retrenched employees of the Audit and Accounts Department of the United Provinces applied for the posts of Income-tax Inspectors. It is not true, however, that many of them were holding substantive appointments.

(f) As most of those who applied have not stated in their applications what pay they were getting prior to retrenchment, it is not possible to say anything definitely. Only two of them have stated their pay and the pay of only one out of these was a little higher than the initial pay for Inspectors.

RECRUITMENT OF INCOME-TAX INSPECTORS IN THE UNITED PROVINCES.

10. **Rai Bahadur Lala Brij Kishore:** (a) Are Government aware that the Governor in Council, United Provinces, had issued several orders to the heads of Departments to offer fresh vacancies to the retrenched men of the Audit and Accounts Offices?

(b) Are Government aware that in utter disregard of the orders issued by the Governor in Council, the Income-tax Commissioner, United Provinces, recruited eleven Income-tax Inspectors from non-Government servants?

(c) Are Government aware that the Auditor General and Accountant General had also written to the Income-tax Commissioner to offer fresh vacancies to the retrenched men of the Audit and Accounts Offices?

(d) Are Government aware that most of the retrenched men of the Audit and Accounts Offices who had applied for the posts of Income-tax Inspectors had rendered four to six years service to Government?

(e) Are Government aware that most of these men had as high academic qualifications as the men recruited?

(f) Will Government be pleased to state the reasons for which the Income-tax Commissioner gave preference to non-Government candidates over the retrenched Government servants with more experience at their credit?

(g) Will Government be pleased to state on what authority the Income-tax Commissioner overlooked the claims of retrenched men?

(h) Is it a fact that the Income-tax Commissioner did not call any Selection Committee at the time of the appointment of the Income-tax Inspectors?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (a) Yes.

(b) It is not correct to say that the Commissioner of Income-tax made appointments of Inspectors in utter disregard of the orders issued as the claims of the retrenched men were duly considered.

(c) There was correspondence between the Accountant General, the Accounts Office, Central Public Works Department and the Commissioner as regards these retrenched men.

(d) The retrenched men had served four to six years in temporary posts.

(e) Government are aware that some of them had University qualifications.

(f) The Income-tax Commissioner appointed men best suited for the work for which they were recruited with due regard to claims of various communities and retrenched men.

(g) The Commissioner of Income-tax did not overlook their claims. He gave due weight to them, but found these men not suitable for the posts to be filled up.

(h) There are no orders which require the Commissioner of Income-tax to call selection committees to fill such posts.

RECRUITMENT OF INCOME-TAX INSPECTORS IN THE UNITED PROVINCES.

11. **Rai Bahadur Lala Brij Kishore:** (a) Are Government aware that the Income-tax Commissioner, Bengal, gave preference to the retrenched employees of the Audit and Accounts Offices, United Provinces Government, over men of his own province?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state why the Income-tax Commissioner, United Provinces, could not follow the example set up by the Income-tax Commissioner, Bengal?

(c) Will Government be pleased to make a statement whether every further vacancy of Income-tax Inspector will be offered to a deserving retrenched employee of the Audit and Accounts Offices, till the list of retrenched men is completely exhausted?

(d) Are Government aware that the Income-tax Inspectors recently recruited by the present Income-tax Commissioner hold purely temporary appointments?

(e) Do Government propose to replace the present Income-tax Inspectors who hold exclusively temporary appointments by the retrenched men of the Audit and Accounts Offices?

(f) Will Government be pleased to state whether they propose to take up the question of the retrenchment of those who have completed 25 years of service or attained 55 years of age with a view to helping the retrenched men?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (a) It is not correct that the Commissioner of Income-tax, Bengal, gave preference to the retrenched employees of the Audit and Accounts Offices over men of his own province.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government cannot make any such statement. All that they can say is that claims of the retrenched employees will be duly considered as hitherto in filling vacancies amongst Inspectors.

(d) The Inspectors recently appointed do not hold temporary appointments. The appointments are permanent and the Inspectors have been appointed to officiate therein.

(e) and (f). The reply is in the negative.

ASSESSMENT OF INCOME-TAX AND SUPER-TAX IN THE UNITED PROVINCES.

12. **Rai Bahadur Lala Brij Kishore:** Will Government kindly state:

(a) how much income-tax and super-tax was assessed in the United Provinces in 1930-31; and

(b) how much under each of the above two heads was assessed communitywise, viz., Hindus, Sikhs and Muhammadans?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (a) Income-tax Rs. 68,49,188. Super-tax Rs. 18,28,482.

(b) The required information cannot be supplied as payments of tax are not classified according to the community to which a tax-payer may belong.

BERAR REPRESENTATIVE IN THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

13. Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: Is it a fact that a Member for the Legislative Assembly is elected in Berar and then is nominated as "Berar Representative"? If the answer be in the affirmative, will Government kindly state the reasons for this peculiar procedure?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given by Sir Malcolm Hailey in this House to Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh's starred question No. 541 on the 1st March, 1924.

†14.

SCHOOLS FOR THE CHILDREN OF INDIAN AND EUROPEAN EMPLOYEES OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

15. Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: (a) How many children are there under the charge of the Headmistress, Girls School, attached to the Oakgrove School?

(b) How many children are there under the Headmistress, Junior School, attached to the Oakgrove School?

(c) What is the standard up to which the Junior School of the Oakgrove School teaches? Is it higher than the Indian High Schools run by the East Indian Railway?

(d) Do Government regard this Junior School superior to the Indian High Schools? If so, in what respects is it superior?

(e) How many children are there in each of the five Indian High Schools run by the East Indian Railway?

(f) Are the assistant teachers in a so-called residential school superior to the Headmasters of Indian High Schools who hold independent charge of their respective schools?

(g) If Government regard a junior residential school superior to High Schools, can they refer to any educational code to justify their attitude?

(h) Is it a fact that three out of the five Indian High Schools are also residential?

(i) Are the Headmasters, holding independent charge of Indian High Schools, inferior to the assistants in the Oakgrove School in the matter of scale of pay and status?

(j) If the answer to part (i) be in the negative, why do Government allow first class passes to these assistants and only second class passes to the Headmasters of Indian High Schools?

Mr. P. B. Rau: (a) 106 } on roll in December, 1932.
(b) 175 }

(c) 3rd Standard. No.

(d), (f), (g) and (i). Circumstances are so different that no genuine comparison is possible.

(e) Asansol 462; Sahibganj 255; Jamalpur 300; Dinapore 354; Tundla 806 on roll in December, 1932.

(h) No. But there are hostels attached.

(j) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply to part (b) of Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh's question No. 144 given on 6th February, 1933.

SUPPLY OF " KHADI " TO THE INDIAN RELIEF AGENCIES FOR CLOTHING INDIAN DESTITUTES.

16. **Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** (a) Are Government aware that the United States of America Congress has approved a Bill and has sent it to Mr. Hoover with the recommendation to supply to the Red Cross and other relief agencies 350,000 bales of Farm Board cotton for clothing the destitutes?

(b) Do Government propose to take similar action for the supply of *Khadi* for clothing Indian destitutes to the Indian relief agencies?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) Government have no information.

(b) Relief of destitutes is primarily the concern of Local Governments.

MEMORIAL SUBMITTED BY THE EMPLOYEES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, NEW DELHI. IN CONNECTION WITH HOUSE RENT AND WATER TAX.

17. **Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** Will Government be pleased to state whether the employees of the Government of India Press, New Delhi, submitted a memorial to the Department of Industries and Labour in the month of July, 1932, regarding their grievances in connection with the ten per cent. house rent and water tax? If so, what action have Government taken on the memorial?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Yes. The matter is under consideration.

DENIAL OF THE BENEFIT OF PENSION RULES TO THE SUPERIOR EMPLOYEES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, NEW DELHI.

18. **Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that inferior and superior employees of the Government of India Press, New Delhi, recruited before 1920, are entitled to Pension and Contributory Provident Fund, respectively? If so, why superior employees have been ignored from the benefit of Pension Rules?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: No: no distinction is made between inferior and superior employees recruited before 15th July, 1920, in this respect. But of those recruited after that date only superior servants are admitted to the contributory provident fund, because it was found administratively inconvenient to include inferior servants.

LOWER GRADE CLERKS AND COMPUTERS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, NEW DELHI.

19. **Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** Will Government be pleased to furnish the information in the following statement in respect of permanent lower

grade clerks and computers employed in the Government of India Press, New Delhi? :

Name.	Date of Appointment.	Qualifications.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: The information is given in the statement below.

Statement showing date of appointment and educational qualifications of permanent lower grade clerks and computers employed in the Government of India Press, New Delhi.

Name.	Date of appointment.	Date of appointment to permanent establishment.	Educational qualifications.
Surendra Nath Banerjee .	19th Aug. 1913	1st Sep. 1917	Read up to Entrance class.
Munawar Ali .	22nd May 1919	8th Aug. 1919	Read up to Matriculation standard.
T. C. Das . . .	1st Sep. 1924	5th Jan. 1925	School Leaving Certificate.
Braham Dutta Sharma .	20th April 1925	20th April 1925	Do.
Brijmohan Lal . . .	21st Dec. 1920	1st June 1925	Read up to Matriculation standard.
Mohammad Yaqub . . .	1st June 1925	4th Oct. 1928	Matriculation.
Benarsi Das . . .	22nd Sep. 1926	Do.	Do.
Madan Mohan Lal . . .	17th Jan. 1927	Do.	Do.
Hidayat Ullah . . .	11th Sep. 1925	Do.	School leaving certificate.
Bakhat Bahadur Srivastava	15th June 1927	Do.	Commercial Diploma.
Mohammad Zafar . . .	12th Jan. 1925	Do.	School Leaving Certificate.
R. Massey . . .	2nd Dec. 1920	Do.	Read up to Matriculation standard.
Narendra Prasad . . .	12th April, 1926	Do.	Do.
Abinash Ch. Bose . . .	15th Jan. 1925	Do.	Matriculation.
Imtiyaz Ali . . .	26th April, 1920	Do.	Read up to VIII class.
Mohan Singh . . .	6th Nov. 1928	15th April, 1929	Matriculation.
Raghunandan Lal . . .	15th Nov. 1928	18th June, 1931	School Leaving Certificate.
Gokal Chand . . .	22nd Sep. 1916	1st Nov. 1931	Read up to IX class.

APPOINTMENT OF MUSLIM CLERKS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS NEW DELHI.

20. Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: Will Government be pleased to state whether certain proposals were submitted by the Manager of the Government of India Press, New Delhi, to increase the strength of the clerical staff both in the upper and lower grades? If so, what steps do Government propose to take to make up the deficiency of Muslims in both these grades?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Yes, in 1929. But the proposal was held in abeyance by the Controller of Printing and Stationery owing to the pressing need for keeping down expenditure. Fresh recruitment

of clerks in the Press, if any, will be made in accordance with the policy of Government regarding communal representation; but promotions from one grade to another are not made on communal grounds.

POOR REPRESENTATION OF MUSLIMS IN THE SUBORDINATE RANKS OF THE FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE AND COLLEGE, DEHRA DUN.

21. Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: (a) Is it a fact that, leaving aside the gazetted and research staff, Muslim representation even in the subordinate ranks (technical as well as clerical) of the Forest Research Institute and College, Dehra Dun, has hitherto been extremely poor probably not more than five or six per cent.?

(b) Is it also a fact that a number of the non-Muslims among this staff are not even matriculates? Are they prepared to adopt some special measures in the matter besides the existing rule of filling every third vacancy by a member of the minority community, such as the temporary suspension of recruitment and confirmation of the non-Muslims till the Muslim representation becomes a little more equitable?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) The number of Muslims in the subordinate technical and clerical staff of the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, is about nine per cent.

(b) Yes, there are a few who are not Matriculates, but the majority of the posts held by them are technical in which technical skill is more important than literary qualifications. Government's existing orders regarding the appointment of members of minority communities are quite adequate in their opinion.

POOR REPRESENTATION OF MUSLIMS IN THE SUBORDINATE RANKS OF THE FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE AND COLLEGE, DEHRA DUN.

22. Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: (a) What is the number of vacancies that occurred in the temporary as well as the permanent clerical and technical staff of the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, during the last six years and by whom were they filled? Is it a fact that inspite of the undue preponderance of the majority community, Government of India orders to fill every third vacancy from a minority community have not been observed in filling these vacancies? Is it also a fact that even unqualified non-Muslims have been appointed by the Forest Economist to some of the clerical posts when qualified Muslims were available? If so, why? Are any efforts made to fill such posts by Muslims? If so, what measures are adopted?

(b) How many Muslims and non-Muslims were retrenched recently and what proportion did they bear to their respective strength on the staff?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given by the Honourable Sir Fazl-i-Husain to parts (c) to (e) of question No. 227 asked in the Council of State on the 19th December, 1932.

FACILITY GIVEN TO SICK CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE EXAMINATIONS OF THE DELHI UNIVERSITY.

23. Bhagat Chandi Mal Gola: (a) Will Government be pleased to state if any candidates for the degree examinations of the Delhi University have been given the facility of answering question papers at their own residence on the plea of illness in the course of the last five years?

(b) If so, will Government please lay on the table a statement showing the names of candidates, their parents and the examinations they appeared at?

(c) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government please quote the rules and regulations under which such facilities were provided?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) Yes.

(b) It is not possible to furnish the details asked for by the Honourable Member, as the University records relating to the arrangements for the conduct of examinations are not preserved beyond a period of three months after the publication of results. The number of cases, in which this facility has been provided, has, however, been extremely limited, being not more than five during the last five years.

(c) Arrangements for this facility are made on the recommendation of the Principal of the College concerned, in exceptionally hard cases of illness, by the Registrar of the Delhi University and the Superintendent of Examinations jointly, with the approval of the Vice-Chancellor, under Rule (3) of the Rules defining the powers and duties of the Registrar, and under Regulation (1) regarding Directions to Superintendents of Examinations.

RELEASE OF MAHATMA GANDHI.

24. Mr. O. S. Ranga Iyer: (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to a press telegram from Poona published in the *Statesman* of February 8th, 1933, under the heading "Written word to stand" "Mr. Gandhi's Reply", in which Mahatmaji has not accepted the Home Member's interpretation of his statement of January 14th, nor that of the Bombay Congress Bulletin?

(b) Are Government aware:

- (i) that Mahatma Gandhi has no politics inside the prison and that his principle is that a prisoner must leave his politics at the Jail gate;
- (ii) that Mahatma Gandhi avoided answering the question regarding civil disobedience under his code as a model prisoner; and
- (iii) that his concentration on the removal of untouchability has resulted in the bulk of his followers in the country doing likewise?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state:

- (i) whether it is not a fact that the number of civil disobedience prisoners has dwindled;
- (ii) the number of civil disobedience prisoners in jail in every province of India last year and this year;
- (iii) if the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative why Government do not release the Mahatma and his supporters in jail?

The Honourable Sir Harry Maig: (a) I have seen the press message referred to.

(b) and (c) (iii), I would refer the Honourable Member to the replies given by me on the 6th February, 1933, to his starred question No. 220 and to the supplementary questions in connection therewith regarding the release of Mr. Gandhi and other civil disobedience prisoners. I have nothing to add to what I said there.

(c) (i). Yes.

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

STATEMENT.

Total number of convicted persons (under ordinary law and Ordinances) undergoing imprisonment for offences connected with the Civil Disobedience Movement at the end of—

Province.	Janu- ary, 1932.	Febru- ary, 1932.	March, 1932.	April, 1932.	May, 1932.	June, 1932.	July, 1932.	August, 1932.	Septem- ber, 1932.	October, 1932.	Novem- ber, 1932.	Decem- ber, 1932.	January, 1933.
Madras . .	849	1,244	1,650	1,784	1,970	2,027	1,774	1,603	1,603	1,492	1,415	1,165	1,051
Bombay . .	1,894	4,278	5,546	6,612	6,943	7,154	6,447	5,609	5,104	4,661	4,376	3,937	3,522
Bengal . .	883	5,156	5,555	5,398	4,835	4,544	3,693	2,604	2,604	2,442	2,300	1,933	1,704
United Provinces	3,254	5,856	6,270	6,582	6,150	5,863	4,933	4,237	3,887	3,610	3,373	3,016	2,848
Punjab . .	179	574	931	990	1,023	1,006	895	747	635	541	460	358	300
Burma . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bihar and Orissa	2,351	4,041	4,469	4,280	3,261	2,670	2,542	2,527	2,452	2,266	2,206	1,781	2,035
Central Pro- vinces.	347	1,071	1,537	1,723	1,720	1,605	1,166	858	715	524	408	311	214
Assam . .	34	331	625	681	725	747	722	636	533	457	384	357	199
North-West Frontier Pro- vinces.	2,086	4,255	4,063	3,646	3,864	3,313	1,988	1,922	1,912	1,967	1,950	1,793	1,660
Delhi . .	114	323	392	433	420	366	384	383	282	163	154	145	120
Coorg . .	125	183	185	187	130	122	67	54	55	66	69	80	99
Ajmer-Merwara	66	100	122	142	156	150	101	92	76	64	60	43	36
Total . .	12,182	27,412	31,345	32,458	31,197	29,597	24,732	21,422	19,858	18,253	17,155	*14,919	13,788

* As corrected up to 23rd February, 1933.

ABSENCE OF RAILINGS IN OUTER CORRIDORS OF "D" TYPE QUARTERS IN NEW DELHI AND PROTECTION OF LAWNS.

25. **Mr. S. C. Mitra:** (a) Is it a fact that the outer corridors in "D" type orthodox clerks quarters in New Delhi have got no railings? Are Government aware that the small children of the occupants of "D" type quarters step outside the corridor to the common path way, which is used as a public road by motors and *tongas*? Are Government aware that the small children of the inmates of these houses are under the risk of being run over every moment?

(b) Are Government aware that by allowing the vehicular traffic inside the squares the green lawns attached to the squares are spoilt? Is it a fact that large sums of money are spent for the maintenance of such lawns in the squares and, if so, will Government please state why measures are not taken for protecting these houses?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) The verandahs of these quarters have got no railings, but I would point out to the Honourable Member that the verandahs do not abut on to the roads. The risk of children being run over arises from their playing on the roads, and there is no greater risk than occurs in other places from this practice.

(b) I am unable to understand why traffic on the roads inside the squares should spoil the green lawns. There is no need for traffic to leave the roads and go on to the lawns, and I am informed that it does not do so. The usual amount allotted for maintenance is spent on the lawns and necessary steps are taken for their preservation.

CONFIRMATION OF JUNIOR CLERKS IN THE ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

26. **Mr. Bhuput Sing:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that recently some of the junior clerks in the Accounts Department of the East Indian Railway have been confirmed in supersession of some senior clerks;
- (b) if the answer be in the affirmative, what is the number of such confirmed clerks; and why such differential treatment has been meted out?

Mr. P. B. Rau: (a) Yes.

(b) 29 clerks who were recruited after competitive examination in 1929-30 were confirmed in virtue of the conditions of their recruitment.

VACANCIES IN THE DIFFERENT GRADES OF THE ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

27. **Mr. Bhuput Sing:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of vacancies in the different grades of the Accounts Department of the East Indian Railway;
- (b) the number of temporary clerks in the different grades of the Accounts Department, East Indian Railway, their qualifications regarding the departmental examination and the number of years of their service; and
- (c) what do they propose to do with them?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) Sub-heads 7, Clerks Class I, 27, Clerks Class II, 23 and Clerks Class III, 59, total 116.

(b) The number of temporary clerks in the different grades is sub-heads 7, Clerks Class I, 12, Clerks Class II, 2 and Clerks Class III, 166, total 187.

1 sub-head and 3 clerks Class III have passed part I of the Subordinate Railway Accounts Service examination, 2 sub-heads have passed Part II of the same examination and 1 sub-head and 1 Clerk Class III have passed the appendix D examination. Out of the remaining clerks only 13 have passed the Appendix C examination prescribed for the Railway Accounts Department. The length of service of these men is 3 over 8 years, 14 over 7 years, 29 over 6 years, 24 over 5 years, 48 over 4 years, 10 over 3 years, 14 over 2 years and 45 about 1 year.

(c) It is proposed to confirm them as early as possible.

VACANCIES IN THE CLERICAL GRADES IN THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ACCOUNTS OFFICER, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

28. Mr. Bhuput Sing: Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that since 1929 no confirmation in the clerical grades has been made by the Chief Accounts Officer, East Indian Railway? If so, what is the reason for this and why have these vacancies not been filled?

Mr. P. R. Rau: For a reply to the first part of the question, a reference is invited to the answer to question No. 26. The question of confirmation was deferred pending the preparation of a proper seniority list, which is now reported to be almost complete.

OCCUPATION OF SCHOOL, COLLEGE AND LIBRARY BUILDINGS BY MILITARY BATTALIONS IN BENGAL.

29. Mr. Bhuput Sing: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the school, college and library buildings were occupied by the battalions sent to the different parts of Bengal;
- (b) if so, the names of such places; and
- (c) whether they are aware that such practice causes great inconvenience to the public, and whether they propose to instruct the Local Government to have such educational places vacated at once?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I have called for the information and will lay a reply on the table in due course.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW SCALES OF PAY FOR POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT.

30. Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen: (a) With reference to starred question No. 211 of Mr. S. C. Mitra answered on the 18th September, 1932 (regarding introduction of new scales of pay for Posts and Telegraphs Department), will Government please state what decision has been arrived at by now?

(b) Is it a fact that the existing employees of the Posts and Telegraphs Department will be transferred to the new scales of pay when promoted to higher ranks?

Sir Thomas Ryan: (a) and (b). No decision has yet been reached on the subject.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS RETRENCHMENT SUB-COMMITTEE.

31. Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen: (a) With reference to starred question No. 298 of Mr. Goswami M. R. Puri answered on the 16th September, 1932 (regarding recommendation of the Posts and Telegraphs Retrenchment Sub-Committee), will Government be pleased to state what are the definite orders, if any, issued on the subject?

(b) If not, why not?

Sir Thomas Ryan: In accordance with the recommendations in paragraph 202 of the Sub-Committee's report orders have been issued to the effect that the principle of selection from the best officers of the Department, seniority being regarded only when other qualifications are practically equal, should be followed in filling all superior posts in the Posts and Telegraphs Department. The recommendations contained in paragraph 164 (b) of the above Report are still under examination.

COMBINATION SCHEME OF PROVIDENT FUND AND PENSION FOR GOVERNMENT SERVANTS.

32. Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen: (a) With reference to starred question No. 363 of Mr. Bhuput Sing answered on the 16th September, 1932 (regarding a scheme for substituting a Contributory Provident Fund or other benefits of a corresponding kind for the existing pensionary system), will Government be pleased to state whether replies from Provincial Governments have been received by now? If so, will Government be pleased to state if they have come to any conclusion?

(b) If not, will Government be pleased to state the reasons for the abnormal delay in deciding the question pending since 1924?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (a) Yes. A summary of the facts and Government's decision on the subject is laid on the table.

(b) Does not arise.

RESUME.

SUBJECT:—*Statement relating to the schemes for the substitution, partial or entire, of a provident fund or other corresponding benefits, for pensionary benefits.*

A problem which has engaged the attention of Government for some years has been that of affording, by official arrangement, some means whereby provision might be made for the dependents of pensionable Government servants who die before they are due for pension. When the contingent pensionary right is thus extinguished, the dependents may be left in indigence, and it was felt that it should be the object of public policy to avoid or mitigate this result."

2. A certain amount of the ground has, of course, been covered, as provision for the families of members of the Indian Civil Service, of European members of other Superior Services, and members of certain miscellaneous services has been made through the medium of family pension schemes or special provident funds. A prominent feature of such schemes is that in the main they do not impose any charges upon public funds over and above the

charge which would be involved by the payment of pensions under the normal pensionary system. It was clearly recognised that any new scheme designed to secure provision for the families of other Government servants must likewise not increase the burden on public revenues.

3. Investigation shewed that it would be quite impracticable to institute for Government servants for whom no such scheme exists a family pension scheme on the lines of those to which Europeans subscribe, primarily, because of differences of social customs and the absence of adequate vital statistics.

Other alternatives were carefully considered, and finally the choice was narrowed down to the three alternative schemes summarised below :—

Scheme A would provide for the surrender of one-third of prospective pension in return for the guarantee of a lump sum payment equal at most to twelve months' pay on retirement or death in service.

Scheme B would provide for the surrender of the entire prospective pension in exchange for the guarantee of a lump sum payment on death or retirement.

In both cases the lump sum would be so calculated that the employee or his family would receive the full equivalent value of the average cost to Government of the pension surrendered without any increased burden being thrown on public funds.

Scheme C would provide for the entire abolition of pensions and the substitution of a contributory provident fund.

It was realised that terms as liberal as those enjoyed by subscribers to the State Railway Provident Fund, who, in addition to the periodical contribution paid by Government under the Fund Rules, receive a generous gratuity, could not be granted as this would involve a material increase of expenditure.

4. In 1929 those three schemes were laid before local Governments and Associations of Government servants, with a view to eliciting opinions.

Local Governments generally were of the opinion that there seemed to be little likelihood of any scheme proving acceptable which did not involve increased expenditure, and expressed the view that they could not contemplate the prospect of increased expenditure with equanimity.

Of 95 Associations which expressed views on the subject only 6 and 5 respectively were in favour of schemes A and B, subject in most cases to the terms being liberalised, 67 expressed a preference for scheme C, subject in 47 cases to the grant of terms equivalent to those for which the State Railway Provident Fund Rules provide, and the balance preferred the existing pension system.

It was abundantly clear that none of the three schemes was acceptable to Government servants in the form put forward, and equally clear that no scheme was likely to be welcomed unless its provisions were so liberal that they must inevitably cost Government a good deal more than the pension system.

5. As the majority of Associations had expressed a preference for a contributory provident fund, Government proceeded to examine in detail the question of instituting such a fund in place of the existing pension system.

When the question was considered at a Conference of Provincial Representatives held in May, 1931, however, the conclusion was reached that this particular scheme would have to be abandoned. The main reasons for this decision, apart from objections on the score of expense, were that it would be most difficult to devise a method of transfer for men already in pensionable service, and that a scheme which includes an element of pension is definitely preferable on administrative grounds as it secures greater stability and continuity in the services.

It was further agreed at the Conference that the better of the two remaining schemes was scheme "A", which would involve the surrender of about one-third of prospective pension in return for a lump sum payment on retirement or earlier death. The chief reasons which led to this conclusion were the simplicity of the scheme, its ease of application to existing members of the services, and its similarity to a system which had operated satisfactorily in England since 1909.

6. Very few Associations of Government servants when consulted had expressed a favourable opinion of scheme "A", and Government concluded that if it was to be adopted it would be necessary to make its terms more attractive, to the extent at any rate that the portion of prospective pension to be surrendered should be reduced from one-third to one-quarter. Doubts were felt whether, even with this improvement in its terms, there was

any real prospect of a revulsion of feeling in favour of this scheme; and it was of course realised that the adoption of the revised scheme would result in a material increase in expenditure.

The suggested liberalisation of the terms of scheme "A" rendered it necessary to consult Provincial Governments again. This was done, and it was found that these Governments shared in full the doubts felt by the Government of India. None of the Provincial Governments was favourably disposed to the scheme, mainly on the grounds that it would not be popular with the services and that in the present financial condition of the country it would be most unwise to incur the extra liability involved.

7. Thus the ultimate position is that, after a most careful investigation extending over a considerable period, it has been found to be quite impracticable to devise any scheme acceptable to the services which would not involve additional expenditure unjustifiable in the face of existing financial conditions; and the Government of India have been obliged to accept the conclusion that the existing pension system must remain in force.

RECRUITMENT OF GRADUATES AND INTERMEDIATES ON SPECIAL INITIAL RATES OF PAY IN THE POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT.

33. **Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen:** (a) Is it a fact that the Government of India decided in September, 1930, that the practice of recruiting graduates and intermediates on special initial rates of pay should continue in the Posts and Telegraph Department and that the concession should be extended to all branches of the Department?

(b) Is it a fact that the Director General issued orders discontinuing such concessions in the first week of May, 1932, pending orders from the Governor General in Council?

(c) Is it a fact that though concessions are still allowed in other branches, it is denied to the Telegraph branch?

(d) If the reply to part (b) be in the affirmative, will Government state the reasons for the withdrawal and whether the Director-General has power to issue such orders under circumstances mentioned above?

Sir Thomas Ryan: (a) No. The decision of Government referred to was given in December, 1929, subject to the fixation by the Director-General of limits to the numbers of graduate and intermediate recruits to be granted the higher initial pay. The orders were reproduced in the Director-General's general circular No. 20, dated the 29th September, 1930.

(b) No; but orders were issued by the Director-General in December, 1930, stopping the recruitment of graduates and intermediates at special initial rates of pay pending a decision as to the number that should be so recruited. Final orders of the Director-General fixing the numbers of graduates and intermediates recruited during the years 1929-30 and 1930-31 to whom the concession should be allowed and announcing the final withdrawal of the concession in respect of later recruits were issued in May, 1932.

(c) No. The concession has been stopped for all branches of the Posts and Telegraphs Department.

(d) Government, after a review of the position, did not consider it necessary to grant a starting pay higher than the minimum to graduates and intermediates. The discontinuance of the practice was also recommended by the Posts and Telegraphs Sub-Committee of the Retrenchment Advisory Committee. The orders issued by the Director-General to which I have referred in reply to part (b) received the approval of Government.

REPORT OF THE TELEGRAPH ESTABLISHMENT ENQUIRY COMMITTEE.

34. Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen: (a) Will Government please state if the Report of the Telegraph Establishment Enquiry Committee has been published? If not, when is it likely to be published?

(b) Will Government please state the cost of the Committee?

(c) Is it a fact that the proceedings of the Committee were open to the public and the Press? If so, will Government please state whether any public body or individual gave any evidence? If so, who are they?

Sir Thomas Ryan: (a) No. Government do not propose to publish the report which is purely departmental in character.

(b) Rs. 32,000 approximately.

(c) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the press communiqués, dated the 24th and 27th October, 1932. The evidence of the Telegraph Service Associations and of Departmental officials only was taken. The last part does not arise.

REPORT OF THE TELEGRAPH ESTABLISHMENT ENQUIRY COMMITTEE.

35. Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen: (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether the report of the Telegraph Establishment Enquiry Committee would be available to the public on payment? If not, why not?

(b) Will it be available to the employees of the Posts and Telegraphs Department? If not, why not?

Sir Thomas Ryan: (a) No. The Report is purely departmental in character.

(b) It may not be possible for Government to supply copies of the Report to individual employees, but they will certainly be supplied to recognised departmental Associations of the staff interested in the Report.

APPOINTMENT OF MR. BUTCHER AS A MEMBER AND SECRETARY OF THE TELEGRAPH ESTABLISHMENT ENQUIRY COMMITTEE.

36. Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen: (a) Is it a fact that Mr. Butcher, a member and Secretary of the Telegraph Establishment Enquiry Committee is a retrenched officer from the Directorate?

(b) Is it a fact that he has been recalled from leave to serve in the Committee?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state if there was no other capable officer in service in the Posts and Telegraphs Department who could occupy Mr. Butcher's place?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state the amount of the special pay and allowances granted to this officer in addition to his own legitimate salary?

Sir Thomas Ryan: (a) Yes.

(b) No. The officer served with the Committee only as a temporary measure without cancelling his leave.

(c) Yes, but as Mr. Butcher was an experienced officer of the Telegraph Traffic Branch whose services were more conveniently available he was considered as most suitable for the temporary duty.

(d) He was given a fixed pay of Rs. 1,000 per mensem for the period he held his temporary post with the Committee in addition to his leave salary, subject to the usual emergency cut.

TELEGRAPH ESTABLISHMENT ENQUIRY COMMITTEE.

37. **Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen:** (a) Is it a fact that the Telegraph Establishment Enquiry Committee has been appointed to reorganise the Telegraph establishment?

(b) Is it a fact that retrenchments in personnel and status of Telegraph Offices have been carried on by the Director General while the Committee was investigating and had not submitted its report?

(c) If so, are Government prepared to reconsider their decisions in the light of the recommendations of the Committee when published? If not, why not?

Sir Thomas Ryan: (a) No; the Committee was an advisory one only and was concerned only with certain matters relating to the telegraph traffic service.

(b) Yes, the retrenchment campaign started before the appointment of the Committee and is independent of any recommendation that the Committee may make.

(c) Does not arise.

SELECTION OF TELEGRAPHISTS FOR TRAINING IN HIGHER BAUDOT TECHNIQUE SUBJECTS IN THE POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT.

38. **Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen:** (a) Is it a fact that the selection of telegraphists for training in higher Baudot Technique subjects in the Posts and Telegraphs Department is made at present according to local or circle requirements?

(b) Is it a fact that the training in the higher Baudot Technique subjects was primarily intended for Telegraphists qualified in departmental examination, and as the qualified men were insufficient to meet the requirements, ordinary Baudot operators were recruited for the training in accordance with the Director General's Circular in 1926?

(c) If the answer to part (b) be in the affirmative, will Government please state if all the qualified men have been imparted the training and that also according to their dates of passing? If not, why not?

Sir Thomas Ryan: (a) No, it is made according to the requirement of the Department as a whole.

(b) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, ordinary Baudot Operators were admitted to the training as the number of qualified Baudot Supervisors who volunteered for it was insufficient.

(c) All qualified men have been or are being trained, but as the training was optional and selections for it were made from suitable qualified Baudot Supervisors as they volunteered or as the exigencies of the service permitted, the men did not join the training class strictly in accordance with the dates on which they passed the Baudot Supervisors' examination.

EXAMINATIONS FOR BAUDOT SUPERVISORS AND TELEGRAPH MASTERS.

39. **Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen:** With reference to the examination for Baudot Supervisors and Telegraph Masters (*vide* reply given on the 19th September, 1932, to Mr. Amar Nath Dutt's unstarred question No. 45), will Government be pleased to furnish an up-to-date statement showing (i) the number of telegraphists qualified in departmental examinations (Telegraph Mastership and Baudot Supervisorship examinations) and awaiting promotions to the Telegraph Masters' cadre, (ii) the total sanctioned strength of Baudot Supervisors, (iii) the number of telegraphists qualified in ordinary Baudot supervisory examination awaiting appointment as Baudot Supervisors, (iv) the number of telegraphists qualified in higher Baudot Technique subjects only awaiting appointment as Baudot Supervisors, and (v) the number of telegraphists qualified in both subjects referred to in (ii) and (iv) awaiting Baudot Supervisory appointments?

Sir Thomas Ryan: Information is being called for and will be laid on the table in due course.

RECRUITMENT OF LOCAL SERVICE TELEGRAPHISTS.

40. **Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen:** (a) Is it a fact that in the year 1920-21 Indian probationers were recruited for training and subsequent appointment as Local Service Telegraphists?

(b) Is it a fact that non-Indians, who were the contemporaries of such men, were entertained in the General Service?

(c) Is it a fact that when these men nearly completed their course of training, they were compelled to accept a newly introduced service, *viz.*, Station Service on pain of dismissal?

(d) Is it a fact that these men, when compelled to accept the Station Service, expressed their willingness to accept the General Service? If so, why was their prayer not granted?

(e) Is it a fact that the Rangachariar Committee recommended that these men should be retained in the Local Service?

(f) Is it a fact also that owing to the abolition of the Local Service all the Local Service men were transferred to the General Service? If so, why was not the same procedure adopted in dealing with the cases of these men?

(g) Is it a fact that even after the compulsory transfer of these Local Scale Indian probationers to the Station Service, non-Indians were recruited for the General Service through certain institutions? If so, why?

(h) Will Government be pleased to place on the table the following figures:

- (i) how many men were forced to accept the Station Service;
- (ii) how many Indians and non-Indians were thus affected; and
- (iii) how many outsiders were recruited to the General Service from the time of appointment of these men up to now, and how many of them were Indians and non-Indians?

(i) Is it a fact that in the year 1928 a batch of compulsory Station Service men were transferred to the General Service? Is it also a fact that subsequently it was announced that another batch would be transferred in the near future?

(j) Is it a fact that in spite of this assurance only a few such cases were considered and a good number of vacancies were filled up by appointment of other classes of men, *especially outsiders*? If so, will Government be pleased to state why the cases of these men were again ignored even after a lapse of eleven years, and why outsiders were given preference over men already in service?

(k) Is it a fact that these men were subjected to additional signalling and medical tests on two occasions to prove themselves fit for General Service?

(l) Is it not a fact that telegraphists of all classes undergo the same training and while in service they have to pass the same number of tests? Is it also not a fact that the General Service Telegraphists have to pass only one medical test?

(m) If the above facts be true, will Government be pleased to state why the Director General has subjected these men to hardships on several occasions as mentioned at part (a) and what cost was involved in their medical examination?

(n) Have Government considered the question of the abolition of these examinations? If not, why not?

Sir Thomas Ryan: (a) Yes.

(b), (c) and (d). The Honourable Member is referred to the reply to Mr. M. K. Acharya's question No. 881 in this House on the 27th January, 1926.

(e) Yes.

(f) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply to Mr. M. K. Acharya's question No. 24 in this House on the 31st January, 1927.

(g) Yes. Government were bound by certain undertakings with various educational institutions which had to be observed; and, further, Government had never recognised any obligation to provide for all local scale probationers in the General Service.

(h) (i) 252.

(ii) Precise figures are not available, but the totals are approximately 239 and 18, respectively.

(iii) The information asked for could not be collected without an undue expenditure of time and labour.

(i) Yes.

(j) As regards the first part, it was not "in spite of" as stated by the Honourable Member, but in accordance with the assurance referred to that a batch of 46 'forced' station service telegraphists were transferred to the general service. The reply to the second part is in the affirmative. As regards the third and fourth parts, Government have never recognised an obligation to transfer all 'forced' station service telegraphists to the general service; some outsiders were recruited in the interest of the efficiency of the service.

(k) Government have no precise information, but whenever a local service or station service telegraphist volunteered for transfer to the general service according to requirements, he had to pass the tests

referred to, to prove his fitness at the time for the general service conditions of employment, no matter whether he had already passed such tests on a previous occasion.

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

(m) The first part does not arise in view of the replies to parts (k) and

(l). As regards the second part, Government have no precise information.

(n) Does not arise.

PAY OF TELEGRAPHISTS TRANSFERRED FROM STATION TO GENERAL SERVICE.

41. **Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen:** Is it a fact that the telegraphists transferred from Station to General Service get no immediate increase of pay? Will Government be pleased to state why in the best interests of economy and efficiency such transfers were not made from these men and outsiders recruited on the General Service Scale of pay?

Sir Thomas Ryan: Generally speaking, the reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, I presume that the question relates to recruitment made some years ago. Government did not consider that the best interests of efficiency would be served by filling all vacancies in the general service by the transfer to it of station service telegraphists, although a proportion of the vacancies were so filled.

TRANSFER OF FORCED STATION SERVICE TELEGRAPHISTS TO GENERAL SERVICE.

42. **Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state how many compulsory Station Service Telegraphists passed the extra signalling and medical tests on the last occasion? How many of such men have not yet been transferred to the General Service? When can such transfers be expected?

(b) Is it a fact that in the year 1928 transfers to the General Service were made from the Local and forced Station Service men only? Is it also a fact that in the year 1930 the above procedure was not adopted and a certain percentage of the vacancies were filled up by direct recruits and pure Station Service men owing to the modification of recruitment rules?

(c) If so, will Government be pleased to state the reasons for changing the policy of recruitment without transferring the remaining forced Station Service men to the General Service?

Sir Thomas Ryan: (a) As regards the first and second parts, the number are approximately 188 and 92, respectively. As regards the last part, Government regret that they do not see any prospect of its being possible to make any further transfers to the general service.

(b) The reply to both parts is in the affirmative.

(c) Government have never recognised that men in the so-called "forced" or "compulsory" station service class have a right to claim transfer to the general service, though they allowed some such transfers as a matter of grace when recruitment was being made of additional telegraphists.

TRANSFER OF FORCED STATION SERVICE TELEGRAPHISTS TO GENERAL SERVICE.

43. Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen: (a) Is it a fact that as the result of various representations for transfer of forced Station Service Telegraphists to General Service from different service associations the Government of India in the Department of Industries and Labour, though declining to announce a definite scheme for transfer of such men, assured in 1926 that their case would be sympathetically considered, when surplusage which then existed in the General Service had been worked off?

(b) Is it also a fact that, notwithstanding this surplusage, recruitment to the General Service through certain institutions, which entertained non-Indians only, went on as usual?

(c) If the reply to part (b) above be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state how far this policy was consistent with the assurance given to these men?

Sir Thomas Ryan: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes, but only to the extent of the minimum figure to which Government were at that time pledged to the institutions referred to.

(c) There was no inconsistency in view of the replies to parts (a) and (b). The pledges to the institutions were withdrawn as soon as was practicable.

FORCED STATION SERVICE TELEGRAPHISTS.

44. Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen: (a) Is it a fact that the total number of telegraphists known as 'forced Station Service Telegraphists' is very limited being less than 200 in all India and Burma?

(b) Is it also a fact that Government were able to provide only 92 of these men to the General Service during these long six years after the assurance was given to them in 1926?

(c) Is it not also a fact that had the recruitment to General Service been confined to these and Local Service men only, at least from the year the said assurance was given, all of them would have been absorbed by this time?

(d) If the answer to part (c) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to lay on the table:

(i) the total number of men recruited to the General Service since the assurance was given in 1926,

(ii) the number of men appointed direct to the General Service from outsiders, Indians and non-Indians, and

(iii) the number of men transferred to the General Service from each of the following cadres of telegraphists, viz., Local Service, Forced Station Service, only Station Service?

Sir Thomas Ryan: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes, but I would point out that there was no assurance of transfer to the general service.

(c) Government are not prepared to express an opinion.

(d) (i). 393.

(ii) 252, of whom 204 were Anglo-Indians and 48 Indians.

(iii) 17, 92 and 82, respectively.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR RECRUITMENT TO THE TELEGRAPH TRAINING CLASSES.

45. **Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen:** (a) Is it a fact that Indian graduates recruited to the telegraph training classes in the year 1920 were allowed to enter the General Service?

(b) Is it also a fact that this rule was subsequently modified and Indians, whether graduate or not, are not allowed to enter the General Service?

(c) If the answer to part (b) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the reason for such modification?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state the minimum educational qualifications required of a non-Indian to enter the General Service?

Sir Thomas Ryan: (a) Yes.

(b) No, the Honourable Member's attention is invited to the memorandum regarding the conditions of service, recruitment and training of telegraphists in the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department dated August, 1928, a copy of which is in the Library of this House.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Honourable Member is referred to paragraph 12(d) of the memorandum already referred to.

DISTINCTION BETWEEN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS AND DAY SCHOOLS.

46. **Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** (a) Do the Provincial Education Codes make any distinction between residential schools and day schools of the same grade run by Provincial Governments? If so, which code?

(b) Do the Government of India make distinctions in the centrally administered areas between residential and day schools of the same grade?

(c) Is it a fact that according to the Provincial Education Codes the status of schools depends upon the grade of instruction imparted therein, and not upon whether they are residential or day schools?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) and (b). Such information as is available to Government does not suggest that any distinction is made between residential schools and day schools of the same grade maintained by the Provincial Governments. The centrally administered areas usually follow the provisions of the Education Code of a neighbouring province.

(c) Yes.

SCALES OF PAY OF THE HEAD MASTERS OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY INDIAN HIGH SCHOOLS.

47. **Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** Is it a fact that the Headmasters of the East Indian Railway Indian High Schools have the same scale of pay as the Headmasters of Government High Schools in Bengal, Bihar and the United Provinces?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Yes, except the present Head Master of the East Indian Railway Indian High School, Tundla, who is on a special scale.

SERVICE, DISABILITY OR INVALID PENSIONS IN THE ARMY.

48. **Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** (a) Is it a fact that service, disability or invalid pensions are given to all ranks, combatants and non-combatants, including religious teachers of the Indian Army?

(b) Is it a fact that mustering-out pensions or gratuities are admissible to the personnel of the Indian Army, who are discharged on account of the disbandment of a unit and consequent elimination of its reserve, or on account of reduction of establishment or in any other circumstances due to no fault of their own, without any restriction to any date of their enlistment or re-enlistment in the Indian Army?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: (a) Generally speaking, the answer is in the affirmative, except that the service of religious teachers is non-pensionable. They are, however, eligible for gratuities in the circumstances mentioned in paragraph 216 of the Pension Regulations.

(b) The rules for the grant of mustering out pensions and gratuities to Indian ranks are contained in paragraph 218 of the Pension Regulations.

PETITIONS OF EX-INDIAN OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS OF THE INDIAN ARMY IN RESPECT OF ARREARS OF PAY, ALLOWANCES AND PENSIONS.

49. **Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** Is it a fact that petitions of ex-Indian officers and soldiers of the Indian Army, in respect of arrears of their pay, allowances and pensions are not attended to even by the highly-placed military officers? If so, will Government kindly state the reason for such a procedure and their attitude towards their loyal and faithful servants?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. The second part does not arise.

STATEMENT RE VOTERS' LISTS OF THE CENTRAL AND PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURES.

The Honourable Sir Brojendra Mitter (Leader of the House): Sir, in reply to a question supplementary to Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad's question No. 1170, I agreed on the 14th November, 1932, to place copies of the Voters' Lists of the Central and Provincial Legislatures in the Library of the Central Legislature, on the understanding that they were sold cheaply by Local Governments. It has now been found that the cost of compliance with the Honourable Member's wishes would come to be prohibitive and would amount to many thousands of rupees. Though several Rolls have been already purchased, Government have decided, in view of the expenditure involved, to purchase no more. I may add that the copies already received weigh about six maunds and there is not sufficient space in the Library of the Central Legislature to store such bulky documents. (Laughter.)

THE RAILWAY BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS—*contd.*

SECOND STAGE—*contd.*

DEMAND No. 1—RAILWAY BOARD—*contd.*

Paucity of Muslims in the Railway Services—contd.

Mr. Chairman (Sir Hari Singh Gour): Further consideration of Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad's motion:

"That the demand under the head 'Railway Board' be reduced by Rs. 100"

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa: Muhammadan): Sir, I am glad to see the Honourable the Home Member and the Honourable Member for Industries and Labour before us. I want to repeat my long standing grievances on the floor of this House.

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig (Home Member): On a point of information, Sir, I hope the Honourable Member is not repeating his speech for my benefit, because I happened to listen to it yesterday afternoon.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: Today my Honourable friend will find new facts and figures which also will benefit him. Mr. Chairman, in this connection, without wasting a single minute of the House, I want to review broadly the position as regards Muslim representation in the railway services. I shall take up the Railway Board first.

An Honourable Member: What is your motion? Move it first.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: It was already moved yesterday and it is now under discussion. If my Honourable friend had been in his seat, but is still not aware of it, I am sorry I cannot help it. (Voices: "Go on.")

Sir, in the Railway Administration Report, at the end they publish the names of the Officers who are in the Railway Board. I am sorry to say that first of all in the list of Members of the Railway Board including the Financial Commissioner, I do not find a single place for my community, while other important communities have got their share. Then among the Directors also, I find that there is not a single Muslim Director on the Railway Board. Now, Mr. Chairman, on the 31st March, 1930, there were four Muslim Officers out of a total of thirty-five and, on the same date, in 1931, there were four Muslim Officers out of a total number of thirty-eight, which means that our percentage there also was reduced. In this report for 1931-32, I find the name of only three Muslim Officers, and my information is that, out of the three Officers, Mr. Yakub Shah, whose name I find in the list, is not now in the Railway Board. So this is the position concerning my community's representation on the Railway Board. This is how the Muslim percentage has been raised by my Honourable friends!

Now, turning to the Agents, you will find there is not a single Muslim gentleman. When I come to the Deputy Agents, I want to remind the House that the Honourable the Financial Commissioner as well has admitted that an undertaking was given that the case of Muslims in this connection would be considered.

Mr. P. E. Rau (Financial Commissioner, Railways): No, Sir. I have never admitted that case. That is not a fact.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: In this connection, Mr. Chairman, first of all I want to refer to the Legislative Assembly Debates of the 22nd February, 1932, Vol. II, No. 2.

Mr. P. E. Rau: I am sorry I misunderstood my Honourable friend, Sir. If he meant to say that an undertaking was given by the Honourable Sir George Rainy that such a case would be considered, that is of course a fact.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: Then my Honourable friend now admits it, because I have referred him to the actual Debates. (Applause.)

Now, you will find, Sir, that there is not a single Muslim Agent. Then, when I turn to the Deputy Agents, I take first the case of the East Indian Railway. As regards the Deputy Agents there, let us see what were their qualifications when they were appointed as Deputy Agents, what was their length of service and in what place they were in the seniority list. I want the Honourable Member to let us know that. Take Mr. Robertson. I repeat the several questions mentioned above.

Now, Sir, when you turn to the North Western Railway, you will find that the Deputy Agent, Mr. Cameron, is about 29 points below others in the Seniority List. So he has superseded Mussalmans, he has superseded Hindus, he has superseded all. Further, you will find that Mr. Cameron was junior by 13 places to Mr. Ghulam Hussain Shah and he was 19 places down as compared with Mr. Muzaffar Hussain and 7 places below Mr. Yakub Shah and three and two places below Sayed Hussain and one more Muslim gentleman. My Honourable friend may stand up and correct me about one or two places, because although I wanted to see the Seniority List, I was not supplied with this, but the fact will remain that that cannot affect my case much.

Now, I want to say that in the Great Indian Peninsula Railway also there is one Mr. Woods who, in the Seniority List, is junior to several others.

Similar is the case with Mr. Pringle—the Deputy Agent on the Eastern Bengal Railway. I am not attacking them in their personal capacity. They all are gentlemen and I will be glad to see them as Agents. I am only pointing out the injustices to my community.

Then, when I turn to the gazetted ranks, because I want to survey the whole situation one after another, and I may say that I do not want to comment, but I want to leave this matter in the hands of the House and my Honourable friend the first Indian Railway Member, who is sitting opposite,

Sardar Sant Singh (West Punjab: Sikh): Will my Honourable friend let us know if Mr. Cameron was below, by 17 or 18 places, other Indians, Anglo-Indians and Europeans also?

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: About Mr. Cameron I said he was much below Indians—not only Mussalmans, but Hindus as well. He was below them all. As to Mr. Woods, who has been appointed the Deputy Agent, Great Indian Peninsula Railway, after the late Mr. J. Scott, I say,

he too is down in the list after many others. I have not got the reference with me just now so as to be able to quote the names of the senior Hindu and senior Mussalman gentlemen. My Honourable friend may want to refer to the reference and then it would be very difficult; so I omitted that portion. I asked my Honourable friend for the seniority list itself and he has replied that he cannot supply me with that; I have got that letter also with me. I hope my Honourable friends will get sufficient chance and, therefore, they need not waste my time by these interruptions. Besides, Mr. Chairman, you asked me yesterday to ignore these interruptions, and so I will ignore them.

Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin (Cities of the United Provinces: Muhammadan Urban): He is advocating the cause of Indians and not of Muslims only.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: Now I turn, Sir, to the list of Gazetted ranks. In this connection I will take the case of the State-managed Railways first, because my Honourable friends opposite have in the past contended that they have not much control over the Company-managed Railways and, therefore, they had taken last year the figures for the State-managed Railways. But, I think, they did that, because it was suiting them on that occasion. So, I will take the figures for the Department over which my Honourable friend, Sir Joseph Phore, has got full control. Now, what is the condition there? You will find that on the Burma Railways there is only one Muslim out of 111. I am quoting from page 50 of 1931-32 report.

On the Eastern Bengal Railway, in which area the Muslims are in a great majority, I find there are only six Muslim employees out of a total of 184.

On the East Indian Railway, there are 11 Muslims out of a total of 319 employees.

On the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, there are 10 Muslims out of 225.

On the North Western Railway, there are 20 out of 259.

In the Railway Board, they have mentioned four Muslims out of 78, although there are only three Muslim names mentioned in the list on the last page of the report. There might be some mistake about it. Be that as it may, the fact remains that there are not more than four Muslims in the Railway Board out of 78 Gazetted Officers.

Now, Mr. Chairman, on the 1st April, 1925, the Muslim percentage in the Gazetted ranks was 3.17. My Honourable friend, Sir Joseph Phore, yesterday or the day before compared the figure about the number of Indians with the figure of 1925 and showed that there was an increase. I admit that since 1925 our percentage has gone up, but by one per cent. only and this has happened in seven or eight years. What happened in 1932? On the 1st of April, 1932, this figure has gone down to 4.62 whereas it stood at a higher figure in 1931. All other communities have gained, but the Muslim community has lost its percentage.

Now, I come to the Company-managed Railways. Here the case is much more disgraceful. The Muslim percentage on these Railways is 2.55 per cent. only and the total of the State-managed Railways and the Company-managed Railways comes to 3.75 per cent. only. So, it will be

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quite clear that my community has lost on State-managed Railways during the year 1931-32 whereas other communities have gained. I do not grudge the Hindus if they have gained a few more posts, as their percentage also is not satisfactory, but my community is the more loser. Everything has gone in someone else's pocket. The great difficulty is that Europeans have been divided into three categories in themselves. There is one schedule for Europeans, another for Domiciled Europeans, and yet another for Anglo-Indians, and the last two communities have been shown amongst Indians.

I now turn to the new recruitment. My Honourable friend may say that they could not raise the percentage of Muslims, because of the retrenchment and other reasons, but what about them when you come to the question of new recruitments? This is the point. In this connection I will read a chart which I have taken from the report of 1931-32.

It has been formulated from page 50 of the report and it relates to permanent posts. Honourable Members will be surprised to hear the position when I put it before them:

In 1928-29, the total number of posts which were filled was 63, out of which Europeans, Anglo-Indians and Domiciled Europeans combined got 27, Hindus 29, others 3 and we, Muslims, about whom they have got so much sympathy and love, got only four. In 1929-30, they filled 41 seats, out of which Europeans, Anglo-Indians and Domiciled Europeans got 15, Hindus 19, others three and the Mussalmans got only four. In 1930-31, out of 60 seats actually filled, Muslims got five, Europeans and Anglo-Indians 31, Hindus 20 and others four. In 1931-32, 32 seats were filled, out of which 24 went into the pockets of Europeans and Anglo-Indians, Hindus got only eight and the Mussalmans one, and others nil. So, you will find that in four years out of 196 seats, 96 went into the pockets of Europeans, Anglo-Indians and Domiciled Europeans, Hindus got 76, Muslims 14 and others 10. And if you take the figures for the three years, they come to this: Total of three years 133 seats, out of which 69 went to Europeans and Anglo-Indians, 47 to Hindus, 10 to Mussalmans and 7 to others.

Now, I turn to different Departments.

In the Accounts, Mussalmans could not get a single seat, although two seats were filled in the accounts branch in 1930-31. In the case of Engineering, we got only four seats out of 33 and in the case of Transportation and Traffic we got four seats out of 54. In the case of the Stores Department, out of three seats we cannot get a single seat. The total of Muslims comes to 10 out of 133 in these three years. Sir, it is in this way that my Honourable friend has tried to raise our percentage.

I have already shown to the House the figures of the previous years in the case of Company-managed Railways and how they were filled. I will now quote the figures for 1931-32, Part I of the Schedule. In the statement showing the number of permanent vacancies filled in the superior establishment of Class I Company-managed Railways excluding the Nizam's and Jodhpur Railways, out of 30 seats, which were actually filled, Muslims could get only one seat. And if you will combine the temporary seats as well you will see that Muslims, instead of getting anything, got minus one, because two men were retrenched and one got a seat; so, in the aggregate, we lost one seat.

Now, Sir, I propose to examine the Muslim posts in the upper subordinate services where the pay is from Rs. 250 upwards. There you will find, on the State-managed Railways, the position of my community is as follows:

We have 11 posts out of 440 on the Burma Railways, on the E. B. Railway we have 12 out of 435, on the Eastern-Bengal Railway we have 46 out of 2,035, on the G. I. P. we are 85 out of 1,426, on the North Western Railway we are 190 out of 1,348 and in the Railway Board we have 18 out of 176. The net result is that our percentage in this cadre is 5.32 on State-managed Railways.

In the Company-managed Railways, we have got three out of 93, on the Assam-Bengal Railway, 15 out of 873, on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway, six out of 109, on the B. and N. W. Railway, 36 out of 1,006, on the B., B. and C. I. Railway, and in the M. and S. M. Railway, we have *nil*. In the gazetted ranks of the M. and S. M. Railway as well you find that there are no Muslims. Then, in the Robilkhund Railway we have one out of 22 and in the South Indian Railway we have five out of 309, and the total percentage comes to 2.31.

Now, Sir, you will find, when you come to the cause of this decrease in our percentage in 1932 from 1931, in the State-managed Railways, that the authorities of the Eastern Bengal Railway and the East Indian Railway are responsible for this. You will find that on the Eastern Bengal Railway the Muslims were seven in Gazetted rank and their number has been reduced to six only, while the total number of gazetted ranks is the same, 134. So they did not reduce their total strength, but the number of Muslims in the gazetted ranks was reduced from seven to six. If you will turn to the East Indian Railway, you will find that the Muslims were 15 there and, in 1932, their number was reduced to 11, while the total of Indians was 134 and it has been reduced to 131 only. So the total number of Indians there were reduced by three only, but the Muslims were reduced by four.

Then, Sir, I will now take the case of the menials. In 1930, we were 22.81 and in 1931, this number has gone down to 22.13, and in 1932, this percentage has gone down to 21.59. So you find that every year the Muslim percentage has gone down, while the percentage of Europeans *cum* Anglo-Indians has gone up from 2.4 to 2.41 and 2.48. This is a case for my Honourable friend Bhai Parma Nand, and his community also has gone up from 70.8 to 70.86 and then to 71.19. In this connection I will quote about Class I Railways. Mr. Hayman, on behalf of Government, last year, stressed for Class I Railways. But what is the result of Class I? Now, I turn to Class I Railways. Mr. Hayman himself admitted that the percentage of Muslims had gone down. In 1930, it was 22.6 per cent. in 1931 the percentage became 22.4 per cent. and in 1932 it comes down to 22.2 per cent.

So you will find that there is a gradual decrease of .2 per cent. every year in the last three years.

Now I want to reply to two points raised by Bhai Parma Nand, and I do it with great pain. I do not want to raise bitterness, but I will fail in my duty if I will not reply. He has raised one question about the literacy of Muslims. I am sorry that the figures in the 1931 Census have not been published yet and are not in the Library. So I cannot quote

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from that. But I am quoting from the report of at least one province, namely, Bihar and Orissa, the report of which I have got with me, and where we are in minority.

Bhai Parma Nand (Ambala Division: Non-Muhammadan): I was talking only of the proportion of literates in Bengal.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: You did not say that the other day. Please refer to your speech. Now, you will find, Sir, that among the literates, the Muslim percentage is not at all low. Though I am not prepared to admit that the posts should be divided amongst the different communities only on a literate population basis, I want to inform my Honourable friend that in Bihar only you will find that Muslim literates are 4.9 per cent. of their own population while the Hindus are 4.5 per cent. And, if you look at the men, who are literate in English, you will find that in Bihar the English knowing men amongst the Muslims are 57 while amongst Hindus they are 50 only. So you find that in literacy the Muslims are not backward at all.

Now, I turn to my friend, Sir Henry Gidney. He has also stressed the fact that education is everything and seats should be distributed on the educated population basis only. I should ask my Honourable friend to stick to any one point. If he says that education is everything, I will ask him to compete with the M.As of our communities and with the B.As of our communities. But you do not do that at all. When the question of B.As and M.As comes in, you say that in driving an engine there is no need for B.As and M.As. If you represent that view of technical knowledge, you have absolutely no right to raise the question of literacy. I will ask my Honourable friend to withdraw that remark.

Some one raised the question of competitive examinations. I want to ask, when we are spending lakhs of rupees on our Universities, what is the use of another competitive examination? We must stick to the University qualification. Come and fix M.As for clerks, come and fix B.As for drivers, I have no objection. Whatever you want for your whole Railway Services, I am ready to supply—I am speaking for my province of Bihar and Orissa. I beg the Department and my Hindu friends to tell me, how many M.As and B.As they require. I am ready to supply them from my Mussalman community from one province only. Therefore, Sir, there is no dearth of B.As and M.As in my community, but I do not rely, I am sorry to say, on the competitive examination. There are many reasons for the suspicion against these competitive examinations. We are spending thousands and thousands of rupees on Universities, and it is not advisable to ignore the qualified men of our community produced by them.

Now, a glance to the figures which I have quoted just now, and to the solemn promises which have never been fulfilled shows their intention. I remember here a verse now which is very common and which is known to others:

*"Tamannaon men uljhaya gaya hun,
Khlone de ke bahlaya gaya hun."*

The translation is that they have kept us in hopes only and that they have given us toys only to play with.

Now, Sir, I turn to two points more. One is Mr. Hassan's Report. In that connection, I am very sorry to say that Government have taken full one year in getting that report, and another year is passing, but still they are doing nothing. Sometimes they say that the file is in the Home Department and the Member in charge of the Home Department, when asked, says that he does not know where the file is, it has passed through his hands. One more point about Mr. Hassan's Report, namely, that there was an idea everywhere in this House and in the Railway Board that the Mussalmans have got more seats in the railway workshops. I will not take the time of the House in quoting the figure, but I will ask those Members, who have got in their hands a copy of the Report, to read it, and, when they have done so, they will find that the Mussalmans have got nothing more than their shares—rather they have got much less. The other point is, that when we wanted any figure to check these figures, on several occasions we were not supplied with them and we were told that it would take much time to compile them. When we wanted to get the pay sheets, it was said that it was very difficult to lay on the table such a bulky thing. When I asked that these pay sheets should be placed at our disposal, they did not care to comply. When I said that I would like to see the pay sheets in the offices, they said that it was a confidential document. Unless you get the names of officers, you cannot check the figures which are supplied to us, if they are at all supplied.

I am very glad, Mr. Chairman, that truth comes on the lips and that is what happened on that occasion when my friend, Bhaiji (Bhai Parmanand) was speaking the other day. He suggested that Muslims should be given only 25 per cent. of all the posts in services and he said that if Mussalmans get 25 per cent. posts, he has got no objection, but he suggested that these 25 per cent. posts should be distributed over all the Railways. In this connection I say that the Mussalmans will not mind to go to work on the M. and S. M. Railway or any other Railway. They are ready to go anywhere. They want only service. The Mussalmans are not unwilling to go and serve in other countries. But in the interest of the public, I will suggest to keep the employees in their home province so that they may be more helpful to the people.

I say that Government do not stick to any principle. Sometime they say that they fill these posts on efficiency basis, but I do not know if there is any apparatus to test efficiency. Up to now Europe has failed to make any apparatus to test the efficiency of a man. But the only test is the whim of the officers, and, Mr. Chairman, in this connection I will say that certainly it is very difficult for Mussalmans to satisfy the whim of any officer. Sometimes they say that they want experienced officers, when there are senior Muslim officers, then some other non-Muslim officer supersedes them. When we ask for any Mussalman to be provided in the post of Agents or others, they say that they cannot supersede any one, as it is very unjust, but, when the cases of others come, then the question of supersession comes automatically.

I want really to know one thing from my Honourable friend, and I want to put this question. Would you like to see that members of my community as a whole should threaten you and that you want that members of my community should now take part into non-co-operation? Is

[Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad.]

it a fact that in those circumstances alone they can do justice to any community? Let them tell so frankly on the floor of the House in a business-like way. I hope my community will accept the challenge and they will not be behind any community in making any sacrifices. If that is the only course for getting jobs, then I think my community will certainly accept the challenge and adopt these tactics. With these words, I move my motion.

Mr. Chairman (Sir Hari Singh Gour): Motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Railway Board' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Sardar Sant Singh: Sir, a similar motion for the representation of my community stands in my name a bit lower down. I think I had better say what I have to say in connection with this motion made by my friend, Mr. Maswood Ahmad. Before I begin, Sir, I want to congratulate my friend, Mr. Maswood Ahmad, on the spirit in which he has moved the Resolution and the attack that he has directed not against the sister communities of India, but against those who are at this time monopolising the higher jobs in this particular service. I am glad, Sir, that this year, the discussion about this employment in the services is turning to a more national outlook and I will not be guilty of saying anything, Sir, which may displease my other friends belonging to other communities. So far as the Sikhs are concerned, I may say that our population is 13 per cent. in the Punjab and a little over one per cent. throughout India. As the Railway systems run throughout the whole of India, if the figures are taken for the whole of India, you will find that so far as the Sikhs are concerned they are unrepresented in most of the provinces. This is not a matter for regret, because we are not found in other provinces and, therefore, we cannot expect service in those provinces. But, at the same time, it becomes a matter of necessity that the chief recruiting ground, the province of the Punjab, should supply at least the number according to the population to that railway system which runs through the Punjab. I mean the North Western Railway. In the statistics for the North Western Railway, I find that on the whole service the Sikhs are 8.04 per cent., while the population is about 13 per cent. It is, therefore, clear that we are not represented even according to our ratio of population . . .

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): The North Western Railway is not confined to the Punjab.

Sardar Sant Singh: It runs through that province where the Sikh population lives. Even in Sind and the United Provinces, there is a greater number of Sikhs living than in other parts of the country. Therefore it is expected that their representation on the North Western Railway should be something over their population basis. But the figures tell us that we are not represented even according to our population basis. In several services we find that there are no Sikhs; there is not a single Sikh in the lower gazetted services in any branch of the North Western Railway. There are no Sikhs in the cadres of labour wardens, telegraph traffic inspectors, signal interlocking inspectors, controllers, deputy controllers, claim tracers, clerks of grades 4, 5 and 8, station supervisors and goods supervisors. There is a very poor percentage in

shed foremen, traffic inspectors, head collectors, assistant surgeons, higher grade station masters, permanent way inspectors and claims inspectors. We find that the main services have no Sikh representation. While, coming to the higher grades, as my friend has been discussing the Railway Board Directors, Deputy Directors, etc., we do not find any Sikh at all. Not only this injustice has been done on account of lack of recruitment, but it is done on this account as well, that there are no Sikhs to protect the interests of the members of their community. The result is that whenever there are questions of promotion from the lower grade to the higher grade, naturally our community has the greatest grievance in not being properly represented before the highest officer. My friend, Sir Henry Gidney,—while speaking on behalf of his community, the Anglo-Indians,—said that they have got a special aptitude for this sort of job and they must be over-represented in this branch of the service . . .

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney (Nominated Non-Official): I have never said that on the floor of this House: I said we may imbibe our railway aptitude in our mother's milk.

Sardar Sant Singh: That is a stronger expression. What I mean to say is that if this criterion is adopted that a particular community is adapted for a particular branch of service, in that case, I am afraid, that other communities will be entirely barred from entering into that particular service; and if the Government give effect to this policy of aptitude, then I will be perfectly satisfied if the Military Department is reserved for my community. Then, I will not claim any share in the Railway Department or any other Department: I shall be perfectly satisfied if the ratio is made up by giving us military ranks and taking away the few services from the Railway and other services. But I am afraid . . .

An Honourable Member: Do you want that exclusively for yourself?

Sardar Sant Singh: If the Anglo-Indians want the Railways exclusively for themselves, then I want the military exclusively for myself, and I shall be perfectly satisfied with that. Lastly, I will say one word and I will finish. In the year 1931, I made a request to the Government that while publishing statistics about the communal representation in the various services, the Sikhs should be shown separately. I find that no such information is available from the published records. I will make that request again, that in order to give us an adequate idea of how our community is represented in the railway services, steps should be taken to publish statistics for our information, so that we may not depend entirely on outside agencies to supply us figures which may be questioned by the Honourable Member while giving replies. Therefore I would request the Honourable Member to take necessary steps to get the necessary representation of my community in the various grades of the railway services.

U Kyaw Myint (Burma, Non-European): Sir, I have never intervened in this House in any debate which has not concerned Burma exclusively, but I feel I have got to intervene in the present debate; and my Moslem friends will pardon me if I say at once, frankly, that I am opposed to the motion. The Honourable the Mover of the motion displayed considerable emotion. I was touched by his emotion, but not so greatly touched as to have my reason clogged by emotion. In me, who is neither a Hindu

[U Kyaw Myint.]

nor a Muslim, there is the great gift of impartiality in such a debate. I am a mere spectator and perhaps I see, as usual, more of the game than the actual participants.

The greatest tragedy in India is this constant communal tussle. I have seen both sides of it. In Burma I am a member of a majority; in India I am a member of a minority; in this House, for example, I am, if you will pardon a phrase, first used, I think, by G. K. Chesterton, in a minority of one at the present moment. Unless we can so educate ourselves, unless we can get accustomed to the absolute forgetfulness of the communal idea, unless we become accustomed to the cultivation of a national idea, one hardly dares to say what is going to happen to India as a nation and as a country in the very near future.

I belong to a nation which numbers only 12 millions out of a total of 340 millions in the Indian Empire. I am certainly in a majority in Burma; I am in a hopeless minority when Burma is considered as part of the Indian Empire . . .

Sir Abdulla-al-Māmūn Suhrawardy (Burdwan and Presidency Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): That is why you want to separate?

U Kyaw Myint: I am not one of those who want separation. That has been the strongest argument in favour of separation; and now that one of my Honourable friends has been pleased to interrupt me and introduce the subject, you will allow me, Sir, to touch upon that subject also. The threat of racial extermination, the threat of being swallowed up in the diversity of communities in the Indian Empire, that has been the strongest argument in favour of the separation of Burma from India. That argument we have always met squarely in this way: I would much rather see the Burmese nation disappear than foster such communal ideas for ever. (Hear, hear.)

Sir, the Honourable the Mover of the motion, as my Honourable friend, Sardar Sant Singh, has pointed out, directed his criticism not merely against the sister community, but he directed his criticism largely against the community represented by my Honourable and gallant friend, Sir Henry Gidney . . .

An Honourable Member: They are also a sister community.

U Kyaw Myint: We have got to learn now that the reforms are on the horizon, that we have to think nationally, and we have got to get rid of the minority problem. The communal problem must disappear before we achieve nationality. (Hear, hear.) I am one of those who believe in the future . . .

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: A good deal depends on the Railway Member.

U Kyaw Myint: The Honourable the Railway Member will be in charge of the Railway Department for only a short time. We are in charge of the nation's destiny. Until we can think of India as a whole, until we can think of all the communities in India as one entire nation, we shall never go forward . . .

Ident. Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: Quite right, hear, hear.

U Kyaw Myint: On that ground alone, and purely as a matter of principle, I oppose this motion.

Diwan Bahadur A. Ramaswami Mudaliar (Madras City: Non-Muham-madan Urban): Sir, if I intervene in this debate, it is only to make some suggestions with regard to a question that has been so constantly raised both on the floor of this House and outside it and has generally created a great deal of heat. I may at once say that I am in entire agreement with the general attitude that has been taken up by my friend from Burma. He and I are at one in the idea that we should try to think nationally, that we should try to see that communal cleavages are a thing of the past, and that every community feels secure in the new constitution that this country is going to have. If I venture to make remarks which are in dissonance with those he has made, it is because I find the way of nationalism along certain lines different from the lines which he has tried to make out this morning. Sir, there is an old saying in the South that two people went, and one suggested "you bring the rice and I will bring the husk, let us mix the two together and we will divide it equally after winnowing it." That is the sort of argument that is suggested, when those, who are in an advantageous position, ask others, who are less fortunately placed, to think nationally and not to raise these communal issues. I feel that that is not the way how the question can be attempted to be solved. We must be much more square in these matters and try to look at the other side of the picture also and see whether there is any real, genuine grievance with reference to this matter.

Listening to the debates from time to time in this House, I have often heard it suggested that the introduction of the principle of communal representation is a vicious principle, that it creates a virus into the whole national body politic and that it destroys the entire structure of society. It has been suggested that nowhere else in the world has this system been applied and that no Government which try to call themselves a civilized Government will venture to create these differences or to recognise these differences.

Sir, I want to approach this question from two points of view. I want to suggest, first of all, that this principle of communal representation in the services is neither so new or strange as it is so often suggested in this House and elsewhere, and then I want to go to my real task of placing before the Honourable Member in charge of the Railways some constructive suggestions how once and for ever, if possible, this question can be solved so that this House may not see the farce, if I may say so, or the sorry spectacle of innumerable questions being asked or innumerable motions being made time after time. Sir, if my reading of the political history of various countries serves to help me in solving this question, I find that the principle of communal representation has been applied in several dominions and in several foreign countries. Go to South Africa, and there you find that the Dutch and the English have tried to live together as brothers, merely because they realised and they gave facilities for the realisation of the principle of equal opportunities for both these communities. Go to France, and you find the same principle working; go to Canada, and you find that the French and the English people have

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been able to live like brothers, only because they faced this question squarely and tried to see that in the service of the country both the communities had equal opportunities. At one time it was suggested that the question of communal representation in ministries is as hopelessly out of variance with all ideas of cabinet unity and of cabinet responsibility that I ventured to look up this question with reference to various constitutions and with reference to various countries, and it was a surprise to me to find, that, even with reference to this question on which I thought there could be no two opinions, self-governing countries have recognised the principle and have given effect to that principle. Let me quote, Mr. Chairman, the example of Canada

Mr. Chairman (Sir Hari Singh Gour): The Honourable Member is perfectly aware that Mr. Maswood Ahmad's motion is a very narrow one dealing with the paucity of Muslims in the railway services.

Diwan Bahadur A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I am trying to point out that the claim of Muslims for representation in the railway services is a perfectly legitimate claim and I am trying to meet the arguments of those who have spoken or who are going to speak after me that there is something vicious, something wicked, about this principle and that it ought not to be recognised. I am supporting the motion of my friend, Mr. Maswood Ahmad: (Applause from Muslim Members.)

"In considering the claims of the leaders of political parties at Ottawa and at the provincial capitals in forming the Cabinet, the new Premier" says an eminent writer:

"must also regard the claims of French Canada, the claims of the other eight provinces, the claims of the English-speaking population, of Quebec and the claims of the Roman Catholic population of the Dominion that is not French. Three of the Cabinet or ministerial offices are usually assigned to French Canada, . . . and no Cabinet has been formed without a representative of the English-speaking Roman Catholic Church."

Summing up the position, this writer, Mr. Edward Porritt, in his excellent book "Evolution of the Dominion of Canada", says, that the distribution of Cabinet offices based on geographical considerations

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Non-Muhammadian Rural): On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable gentleman is referring to distribution of cabinet offices in Canada, while Mr. Maswood Ahmad's motion is not referring to the distribution of cabinet offices even in India, but to the paucity of Muslims in the railway services. I want to know what has the distribution of cabinet offices in Canada got to do with Mr. Maswood Ahmad's motion.

Mr. Chairman (Sir Hari Singh Gour): I have already ruled that the Diwan Bahadur is straying a little too far wide of the subject. We are here concerned only with the paucity of Muslims in the Railway service and not with the wider constitutional issue to which the Honourable the Diwan Bahadur has been referring. That would be perfectly pertinent on another occasion.

Sir Muhammad Yakub (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhammadian Rural): What about Sardar Sant Singh's speech? He was advocating the claims of the Sikhs on this motion which was quite irrelevant.

An Honourable Member: Why did you not object then?

Mr. O. S. Ranga Iyer: I should like to know whether the Honourable gentleman, who just made an observation in regard to Sardar Sant Singh's speech, was reflecting on the ruling of the Chair.

Diwan Bahadur A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I am trying to point out that in various other countries the distribution of office is based on "geographical considerations and on claims of race, religion and specially financial and material interests and that it is not an innovation which is sought to be applied to this country in particular". I think it is perfectly legitimate for me to point out that when my Muslim friends, my Sikh friends, my Anglo-Indian friends and even my European friends want certain representation in the services, they are not suggesting something absolutely novel, something which is against the whole spirit of any other administration in any other country. In fact, it has been stated "that the spirit of giving a little more than an equal division of the spoils of office, concessions here and concessions there to race and creed, has been the basis on which the statesmanship of various premiers and other officers has depended in the solution of this question".

Let me not refer to Cabinet Ministers, Sir, if that is a violation of the rules of strict relevancy to this subject. Let me refer to the case of the humble appointments which are made. If you again go to the question of the constitution of offices with reference to the Parliament of Canada, you will find that every office is so divided between the French and the English that they practically have equal opportunities. As has been humorously put by this writer:

"A roll call of the staffs of the two houses, including even the boys, in knickerbockers who act as pages, would contain the names of almost as many French-Canadians as Canadians of British ancestry."

Now, Sir, I wish that all communities in this country realise that it is a legitimate ambition for every community to have a proper place in the service of the country and that by every means possible we should try to bring about concord between the various communities by meeting that legitimate ambition. It is no good saying that efficiency will suffer. It is no good suggestion that only the test of merit should be applied in these matters.

Bhai Parma Nand: May I ask, whether in Canada there is separate representation in railway service for Roman Catholics and Protestants?

Diwan Bahadur A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: The Honourable Member may be absolutely certain that that is a fact. He can go through the relevant books if necessary. He will find that in the province of Quebec certain rules have been made by which the two communities are more or less equally represented. The same rules apply elsewhere also.

Bhai Parma Nand: The Honourable Member has not stated whether there is separate representation in the services for the Roman Catholics and the Protestants?

Diwan Bahadur A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Not only is that so in Canada, but in various other countries. The trouble is that my friend, **Bhai Parma Nand**, speaks in the name of the whole Hindu community. He includes 40 millions of my brethren in the Madras Presidency who do not see eye to eye with him on this subject and makes observations without adequate knowledge of the facts of the case. Sir, I am not a Muslim. I am a Hindu. I venture to think that my policy will benefit the Hindus more than the policy which has been so far pursued by **Bhai Parma Nand** or those gentlemen of the Hindu Mahasabha who have been advocating the cause of the Hindus.

Bhai Parma Nand: That has nothing to do with the subject before us.

Diwan Bahadur A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I have the high authority of various persons, at least as eminent as my friend, **Bhai Parma Nand**, including illustrious members of the Indian National Congress, members of the Round Table Conference of all communities gathered in London, whether they belong to the Congress, or the Liberal Party, Muslims or Hindus, for the statement that for the happiness of the country, for the future success of the constitution, the claims of the various communities in the services should be recognised. You are not going to help yourself, you are going to make an absolute failure of this constitution, whatever it may be and whatever it may be worth, if you are not going to recognise this elementary principle.

Bhai Parma Nand: You are introducing the communal virus according to your own principle.

Diwan Bahadur A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: It was the argument of communal virus that I was trying to meet in the quotation which I read out to the House from the Canadian Constitution. Now, let me go to the subject itself. You will have found, Mr. Chairman, in your experience as a Member of this House during the last 12 or 13 years that there have been innumerable questions on this subject from Muslims, from Sikhs, from Anglo-Indians and from various communities, and no Budget discussion, either on Railways or the General Budget, has been free from this question. Is it not time that we should put our heads together and try to see that this sorry spectacle is not repeated year after year?

Bhai Parma Nand: Who began it? Are you supporting that?

Diwan Bahadur A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: My Honourable friend is absolutely incapable of appreciating my point of view. If he can only listen more and interrupt less, he will find that I am pleading for the Hindus much more effectively than my Honourable friend. I may not get the encomiums of a certain section of the press, but I venture to think that I am pleading for that larger unity and that greater nationalism which we all desire. This question has been agitating the House during the last ten or twelve years.

Bhai Parma Nand: You are introducing communalism.

Diwan Bahadur A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Resolutions and motions have been made in the Assembly. You take any agenda of questions and you will find that 50 per cent. of the questions are full of this subject, questions relating to individuals, groups, supersession, and so on and so forth. Shall we not come to an understanding on this side, so that we can work together in greater harmony in the future? That understanding can be arrived at. Let me take the administration of the Railways. My Honourable friend, Sir Joseph Bhore, is in charge of the subject. He is an Indian Member. He will enter into my feelings on this matter and he will try to understand it better than a European Member. We should come to some understanding on this question of filling the appointments in the railways and I make this constructive suggestion, if I may venture to so call it. I leave aside for the present the appointments that have been already made. I am in entire agreement with what the Honourable Member said yesterday that with reference to promotions and with reference to selection grade promotions, the question is entirely different and it ought to be so. I take the question of initial recruitment now and I take the subject of the State-managed Railways.

With reference to initial recruitment, you say that 30 per cent. should be set aside to make good any communal inequalities and that 70 per cent. should be recruited on considerations of merit. I cannot for the life of me understand how this principle will work in practice or how it is working in practice. An appointment is made. At that time, is the officer to say "This appointment should be earmarked for redressing communal inequalities" or is he to say that the appointment will be filled on the basis of merit? Is his judgment going to be exercised on the issue whether 30 per cent. to redress communal inequalities is required or not? I do not see how in actual practice it will work at all and I, therefore, make this suggestion. It is high time that you think of constituting a Public Services Commission entirely for the recruitment of the railway employees. It is high time that you lay down certain general principles for that recruitment. Take the clerical establishment. You have got thousands of appointments to be made. These appointments can be made by the various Agents, Deputy Agents and heads of administrations in various places. On what basis are they to make? How are these communal inequalities to be redressed? I suggest a principle which has been accepted elsewhere. Let us decide what communities require representation. Let us decide what percentage should be given to each of these communities with reference to initial recruitment and then let us take ten appointments and state that, by rotation the first appointment will go to a Hindu, the second to a Muslim, the third to a Sikh, the fourth to the Anglo-Indians, the fifth to a Hindu again, the 6th to a Parsi or I would suggest that certain appointments be earmarked for miscellaneous communities—a certain number to be fixed for Hindus, a certain number for Muslims, a certain number for Anglo-Indians and a certain number for Europeans also if you please. That is the only way in which you can rebut the charge that in the selection of these men favouritism has been shown to a particular man and that a better man with higher qualifications has been neglected and a man with poorer qualifications has been taken. The suggestion has been made by Bhai Parmanand himself that he has no objection if in the future recruitment the ratio of the populations of the various communities should be reflected in the ratio of the recruits taken for such new appointments.

Bhat Parma Hand: Only on one condition, if the Muhammedans persist in it. I do not want it. I do not like it. I know it is against our national interest. But if they want it, then I say let them have for both the Railway systems, State-managed, as well as Company-managed, their 25 per cent.

Diwan Bahadur A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I think the Muhammadans and other minorities do persist in it; if so, we think that that is the way by which this question can be solved.

Now, Sir, having laid down a condition that out of, say, ten appointments, so many should go to each community, there should be a fixed rotation by which these appointments should be made; and then I am entirely in favour of another suggestion which my Honourable friend, Mr. Lalchand Navalrai, made. I am for competition, but I am for a limited form of competition. Let there not be a feeling of grievance in any community that men are preferred merely on account of the influence that they bring to bear on particular members of the Government or on officers. Having fixed these proportions for the various communities, then have what is a well-known method of recruitment for various places, namely, a form of limited competition. Sir, there is a wide complaint amongst members of every community, from the community of my Honourable friend, Sir Henry Gidney, down to others, that in the actual filling up of posts by these men, not even the best men of that community are selected, but only those men who have some influence, who are the relations of this or that head of an office or of this head clerk of a ministerial officer or that; that is how these men get into the service.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: Quite right.

Diwan Bahadur A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: That is responsible for many of these questions and it is that which I venture to deprecate so strongly. I, therefore, suggest that a Public Service Commission entirely for Railways should be constituted, that that Commission should be told of the proportions in which the various communities ought to be recruited, and then that Commission should be asked to have minimum qualifications fixed for each appointment, and that, if necessary, that Commission should conduct a limited form of competitive examination for the recruitment of these various men to these various posts.

Then I should like to come to another question, namely, the question of promotions and the question of those who are already in service. Now, here I venture to think that no man would like injustice to be done to any man already in service. (*Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney:* "Hear, hear.") Let us not punish them for the sins of those administrators, if sins they be, or for the want of foresight of those administrators. Sir, they are there, they have left off other avocations, they have loyally and faithfully devoted their lives to the services, they depend on promotion within that service, and, therefore, whether such a man be a Hindu or a Muhammadan, a European or an Anglo-Indian, to punish him, merely because of his community and of his birth, and to supersede him purely on that ground is one of the most vicious things that no Government can tolerate. (*Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney:* "Hear, hear.") My Honourable friend, Sir Henry Gidney, may rest assured that I shall not be a party to penalizing men in service (Hear, hear), merely on the ground

of their birth and their creed. But, then, arises the question, is everything right in the state of Denmark? Are promotions made on account of merit? Is seniority even the only or chief consideration? No administration has recognised that seniority can be the only consideration with reference to promotions. Merit must be the consideration. The exact amount of weightage to be given to seniority and merit in promotions and in making selection appointments is one of the most difficult of issues which every Head of a Department has to face. But, having done that, what is the exact procedure? Sir, I do not know whether you want to adjourn now.

Mr. Chairman (Sir Hari Singh Gour): How long does the Honourable Member expect to take?

Diwan Bahadur A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: About 20 minutes more.

Mr. Chairman (Sir Hari Singh Gour): The House will now adjourn to Half Past Two.

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. Chairman (Sir Hari Singh Gour) in the Chair.

Diwan Bahadur A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Mr. Chairman, just before the House rose for Lunch, I was dealing with the question of promotions to the various grades of those who had already been recruited for the service. I said that while considerations of communal representation might be applied to the initial recruitment, there should be no such considerations with reference to promotions and that it should be purely based on two considerations, seniority and merit. What amalgam must be made of these two considerations is a very vexed and difficult question which ought to be left to the judgment of the heads of the Department. But we see in this House that time after time there have been questions relating to the grievances of those who have been overlooked, superseded or wrongly demoted, to use the word of my Honourable friend, Sir Henry Gidney. Other countries have tried to solve this question and I should like to put before the Honourable the Commerce Member a suggestion based on the analogy of other countries. The Honourable the Commerce Member belongs to a very distinguished service and he knows that the idea of a competitive examination was first initiated with reference to the Indian Civil Service. In the year 1813, the Hailebury school was started and it was, on the basis of competition with Professors like Professor Malthus, that that school conducted its recruitment. In 1853, Lord Macaulay, the great Mr. Jowitt, afterwards the Master of Balliol, and other men devised a scheme whereby the present open competitive examination came into existence. While Great Britain has made strides since then, we are exactly where we were in the year 1853 with reference to promotions. It is sometimes suggested that an officer has not received his deserts and that he has been superseded, owing to personal considerations of the head of the Department. In Great Britain this has been attempted to be

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solved by what is termed a Promotions Board, being appointed with reference to such promotions. This Promotions Board consists of an establishment officer, an officer of some other Department and generally the head of one of the sub-departments. This Board makes its recommendations to the head of the Department even with reference to promotions. I do not want any outside agency to interfere in this matter, but when it is largely a question of a single man judging of the merits with reference to promotion, the chances of abuse are not very small indeed. I venture to think that the time has come when the model of Great Britain should be copied in this country and, as far as possible, Promotions Boards be established so that it may be the decision of more than one person and not the mere fancies or the whims or the likes and dislikes of any single individual that will sway such promotions.

There has been a number of questions which have been asked by my friend, Mr. Maswood Ahmad, and various other Members with reference to the effect that the retrenchment proposals have had on the composition of various communities in the service. During the last five or six days, Mr. Chairman, you have been a witness to the number of questions that have been asked with reference to the effect that the retrenchment had particularly with regard to the Muslims in the services. I venture to think that that grievance would be also removed if the suggestion were adopted based again on English analogy of having some sort of Staff Councils (Whitley Councils as they have been called) which will be in a position to deal with these questions. My friend, Mr. Joshi, knows about this matter much more thoroughly than I do. If I have understood the English precedent aright, all those who get a salary of less than £700 a year belong to the class of Staff and for their benefit the Staff Council has been constituted, half of which is composed of officers above £700 who deal with the questions of promotions or grievances of services and half are elected by the persons who are affected. It is this joint Council that deals with such questions as retrenchment. So, whenever any grievances are put forward, it is this Staff Council that discusses the matter and comes to a settlement on the issues.

Mr. F. E. James (Madras: European): May I ask my Honourable friend if there are any such Promotions Boards in the Railways in Great Britain?

Diwan Bahadur A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Railways in Great Britain are private-owned and private-managed; they are not State Railways. Naturally, therefore, there is no such thing, but I am talking of State-managed Railways and obviously considerations differ with reference to these Railways. My observations are not necessarily confined to the Railways and have a wider application to all services under the Government of India. The reason why I am placing these general observations and suggestions is that I want to get rid of these questions once for all. I, therefore, advocate a Promotions Board composed of officers of the department with reference to promotions and I advocate a sort of Whitley Staff Council to consider the grievances such as those that have been agitated with reference to retrenchment and particular members of particular communities being removed from office. If these suggestions are accepted and if, as I have said, a Public Service Commission is constituted for such a great service as the Railways, and if the rules for their recruitment and the lines on which such recruitment should be

done are laid down by the Government of India, again on the basis that I have suggested, I venture to think that the time of this House and the time of the future Assemblies will not be taken up by questions of the nature that we have had to deal with during the last four days. I would also venture to make a humble appeal to my friends whether they are Hindus, Mussalmans or Sikhs who have cumbered the pages of the agenda with innumerable questions on these subjects. Please remember, these questions are not going to do any good either to the members of the community or to the services as a whole. It was my friend, Dr. Ziauddin, who said the larger the number of questions that Mr. Maswood Ahmad put the smaller the result; the law of diminishing returns will begin to operate so far as the members recruited from that community are concerned. I think there is an element of truth in that. If the head of a Department is pestered day after day with questions on these matters and if care is not taken to see that the grievances that are ventilated in this House relate to real and specific matters, naturally the reaction on the service will be great. And what happens now? Every member of the service is in a demoralised state even if he has done his work properly. Therefore, it is not good for your services and it does not promote efficiency. At the same time, I venture to think that we should be careful also to see that conditions are so laid down that there will be no scope for Members to ask these questions in the Assembly. Then, probably the Chair may be able to regulate the admission of the questions in a better way than it has now been able to do because the forum for ventilating the grievances will be different. The Board or the organisation which will deal with these questions will be different and the Legislative Assembly or the future Federal House need not be cumbered with these matters.

Sir, I wish to make one final observation. It is a matter of peculiar good fortune, as I consider it, that the Honourable Sir Joseph Bore is in charge of this particular Department at present. (Hear, hear.) He is neither a Hindu nor a Mussalman, and I venture to think that he commands the confidence of every section of the House whether it is Hindu, Mussalman, Christian or Sikh. (Hear, hear.) It may, therefore, be his proud privilege to put forward proposals which will so deal with this question that the necessity for an agitation over this question may disappear. I know that here and there in the least responsible section of the press attacks have already appeared about my Honourable friend—attacks which are baseless, which are absolutely without foundation and which no Member of this House would support for a moment as being either just or fair. I need not defend the Honourable Sir Joseph Bore. His career and his distinguished conduct are answers against such attacks. I do not want to give greater publicity to the journal which dealt with this matter by referring to it specifically on the floor of the House. I, therefore, repeat that he has got the absolute confidence of every section of this House to deal with this matter equitably and justly.

Now, Sir, the future constitution is before us; it is coming whether we like it completely or in parts or whether we do not like it at all. Opportunities for the expression of Indian opinion and for carrying out that opinion will be greater than it ever will be. Many of my friends are complaining of safeguards which have been accepted here and there. I do not venture to express an opinion on those safeguards on this occasion, but I venture to state one thing—that if this question is removed out of the way, if a solution is found for this

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communal problem, if the various communities are satisfied, if what they feel to be their just claims and what they put forward as their grievances are met and remedied, I venture to think that none of us need trouble ourselves about safeguards or special powers of the Governor or of the Governor General. Therein lies the work of nationalism and to that great work of nationalism I apostrophise my Honourable friend, Sir Joseph Bhore, to address himself to. There have been many men who have worked for the promotion of the material and moral benefit of this country; there have been many more who have worked for the constitutional progress of our motherland. The Indian National Congress has done it; the Round Table Conference delegates, much as they have been maligned in some quarters, have attempted to do it. But I venture to say that none would have done a greater national task, none would have achieved greater constitutional progress for this country, none would have laid the foundations of a united India and of that Swaraj which is our hope, than my Honourable friend, Sir Joseph Bhore, when he addresses himself, as I am sure he will, to the question that I have raised and to the line of progress that I have indicated with reference to the solution of this question. Sir, I have done.

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer: Sir, I shall begin where the Honourable the Deputy Leader of the Independent Party concluded. When he apostrophised or expected some one in this House on the Treasury Benches to apostrophise, I was reminded of some Miltonic expression which is almost unpronounceable, an apocalypst. Sir, here is an Honourable gentleman who was just referring to some attacks in the newspapers and trying to curry favour with the Treasury Benches. (Laughter.) Here is an Honourable gentleman who was referring to attacks in the newspapers and supplying ammunition for a renewed attack and a renewed campaign by making impossible and preposterous demands. He calls upon the Honourable the Commerce Member, whom he flatters as the angel of nationalism who will hold the balance even, and tells him, "You must do this, you must do that and you must do the other thing; you must in short give a new communal award to the services and then you will be a ministering angel; flowers will be thrown upon you all over the land; there will be processions singing 'Sir Joseph Bhore Sahibki jay'!" (Laughter.) Sir, I cannot understand the Honourable Member assuming the wisdom of the wily crocodile. The crocodile of the fable, it is said, sheds tears when it devours its victims; and here is an Honourable gentleman who invites the Commerce Member to open in the first place a communal board under the garb of a service board and in the second place a communal Public Services Commission to go into the question anew of the appointment of certain communal groups in the services. And he says: "You are, Sir, a wonderful man; you are not a Hindu, you are not even a Muslim",—I suppose that is what that newspaper wrote,—"You are a Christian". And then that newspaper showered not encomiums, but vituperation. This gentleman asks him to do all these things. Then Sir Joseph Bhore will go down in history as the great master builder of India. I do not want to attract Sir Joseph Bhore with these false pretensions, I do not want to flatter him as commanding the confidence of this House, because on not a single motion has he been defeated in this Session.

An Honourable Member: How is all this relevant?

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer: It is relevant by way of reply; I did not make the original speech. Repeatedly I rose to a point of order, but the House was drenched by ideas of the Round Table, a Round Tabler going round and round the rugged rock of constitutionalism. (Laughter.) He said there will be a reaction in the services if you do not do this and do that and do the other thing. But he forgot that if the Honourable the Commerce Member were to swallow all his indigestible suggestions, the reaction in the country will be increased a hundredfold. He assumed the attitude and played the role of a friend of the Muslims. I hope, when I conclude, they will not decry me as their enemy. I do not hate the Muslims, but I must say in all frankness that I love my community to the same extent as my friend over there, Sir Henry Gidney, loves his community. I am not here to throw stones at Sir Henry Gidney or, for that matter, at the Muslim Members, but I must answer some of the most extraordinary suggestions emanating from a Round Tabler of all people.

In the first place, he said that the Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore should have Great Britain as his model. I know Britain is on the brains of these gentlemen who have just returned from their joy trips. (Laughter.) But I must remind them that this is India and not Britain. He said that in Canada,—though he had not the opportunity to go to Canada recently,—there was communal representation in the services. Bhai Parma Nand, who, I believe, will not take part in this debate, for he wants others to have their say, and very rightly, put a very innocent question to the Diwan Bahadur: "What is your authority?" He said: "Take it from me; I know history, and am I not an authority? When I say that this is so, none dare dispute my facts." But what about his model country of Great Britain? There were also Jews a hundred years ago suffering from disabilities which were removed by a Parliamentary Statute. There were also Catholics and Protestants who, history records,—he asked us to go into history,—who, history records, fought like the inhabitants of Kilkenny. But there was never in Great Britain any communal representation in the services. I would ask him to read books, I have got a large number of them here and I can make a present of them to him. I do not want to quote, but I want him to read those books and to lecture to us

An Honourable Member: What are those books?

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer: Books on Constitution (Laughter), books in regard to the constitutional development and the growth of the services. My knowledge, I admit, is poor, but I never read of that model country, Great Britain, having introduced the communal virus into the services. So much for his model country. There are other countries also, model countries and though not so small like the United Kingdom, very much resembling ours, the United States of America, and if he reads all about the United States of America which resembles this country much more than Canada does, he will find that in the United States of America there are 19 conflicting races, but it has been the policy of the United States to assimilate these races into a harmonious whole, not by introducing separatism in the services which has already, I admit, been introduced, much less by fanning the flame as the Honourable gentleman has done in the Presidency of Madras, by introducing that wretched system of rotation.

Mr. Uppi Sahab Bahadur (West Coast and Nilgiris: Muhammadan): Did not the Aiyars create Ramaswami Mudaliars?

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer: My Honourable friend comes from Malabar and he represents the very energetic community of the Moplas and I welcome his energetic interruption.

Bhai Parma Nand: Mr. Ramaswami Mudaliar in his turn is now afraid of a similar awakening in the depressed classes of Madras.

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer: Well, I was about to answer my friend from Malabar, but my Honourable friend from the Punjab has completely vanquished him. I do not propose like my Honourable friend over there, Bhai Parma Nand, who, I know, can look after himself, to measure swords with the Moplahs of Malabar, a great and honoured community who too have looked after themselves on historic occasions. I shall deal with the Deputy Leader of the Independent Party, supporter of the Non-Brahmin Movement in Madras, who says: "Sir, you are a great man, but you will be a greater man if only you become like myself a frog in the well and exchange your All-India for the provincial outlook". He wants you to introduce this rotation system—it rotates and rotates—(Laughter) increasing the mischief regularly developing an atmosphere of tension, which I do not want the Mussalmans of India to adopt. Let them not vitiate the existing situation by adopting an impossible and stupid system discredited in Madras and inapplicable to the whole country. I do not want them to walk deeper and deeper into the mire. The Mussalmans are entitled to have their legitimate grievances redressed. I have not stood against them in the past. I also contributed my share to bring about the Lucknow Pact editing a newspaper at the time in Lucknow which supported it, and in my capacity as a member of one of those Committees in those distant days hoping it would end the separatist spirit and demands. I warn the Muslims against being tempted by a snake charmer today, not being snakes themselves. They are wise people, good men who want to improve their status in the society, but here is a gentleman who assumes the role of a snake charmer. He says: "I will charm you. You rotate like the snakes (Laughter) in that rotation system", but the Mussalmans are not snakes to go round and round. They may have their grievances and none more than Sir Joseph Bhoré, Sir Brojendra Mitter and Sir Fazl-i-Husain, honoured Members of the Viceroy's Executive Council, have devoted their attention to this question anxiously discussing the matter and trying to solve it. Why increase their difficulties? Mr. Maswood Ahmad assumed the attitude of a humble man requesting the Government to give a little more attention to that matter. I say, while devoting the attention to the Mussalman, for Goodness' sake do not do injustice to my community: justice to Mussalmans must not mean injustice to the Hindus. (Applause.) That is all. I want that the majority must not be reduced to a minority, and I know that no body, who is sane, even among the Mussalmans, wants it. They are reasonable. They do not want to rotate and rotate. (Laughter.) They do not want a snake charmer's music in this matter. Here, is a Round Tabler who comes and tells us "Introduce a Promotions Board and a Demotions Board". Promotion or demotion, surely a Round Tabler ought to have known that this was no place for it. The whole constitution is in the melting pot. If he could not tackle them across the sea, it is utterly,—I will not say impertinent, but,—inappropriate for the

Honourable gentleman to come and tell Sir Joseph Bhore: "You do this, you do that. You anticipate a new constitution, and you will become a Messiah, an angel, and flowers will be showered upon you". Ridiculous kind of sophistry to which this House was never treated before.

Mr. Mudaliar, started by attempting to make worse the communal atmosphere in this House. He said: "I stand up as the Messiah of the Mussalmans" as if we are here ready to eat up the Mussalmans. We want justice. Give unto the Mussalmans their due, but do not take away from the Hindus what is their due. There are other communities and there are other classes. For all Departments and services, strike an even balance, then nobody will condemn you, but do not force the pace of communalism in the railway services in the guise of placating a minority. I will tell the Honourable the Mover, by all means take your due in good time, taking all services together. I do not quarrel with the Mussalmans, but I have every quarrel with an instigator of a riot in this House. And then he said "merit must have consideration". That is the view of even His Highness the Aga Khan, but after saying that, merit must have consideration, he said that there must be a rotation of merit—wheel of charm. (Laughter.) Then he quoted Bhai Parma Nand. Presently he declared that he was speaking here for 40 million brethren in the Madras Presidency! May I know, who are those 40 million brethren for whom he talks? The Honourable gentleman has no answer to give. That shows that he was pretending. He denied the authority to Bhai Parma Nand to talk for the people whom he represented, who talked for his constituents in the Punjab, though he has an All-India position. But here is a gentleman who assumes the role of speaking for 40 million brethren of his without mentioning who they are and what percentage he has recommended for them in his rotatory scheme in Madras and how many of them have been shown justice? These non-Brahmin leaders of Madras have separated themselves into an ugly clique of disgruntled politicians who have deprived millions of depressed classes of their just dues. Sir, in the deepest deep there is a deeper deep. (Laughter.) The Honourable gentleman should have gone to the Madras Presidency and introduced that rotatory system for the millions of dumb people for whom he pretended to speak. I want him to act.

Mr. Uppl Sahab Bahadur: He has already done it.

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer: My friend from Malabar says he has done it. Yes, by way of oratorical speech today. He said there was a communal representation in South Africa and in Canada, but he refused to tell us what was the percentage that each community got over there. He has read his history wrongly or he has no facts before him. Until he produces his facts, I will reserve my comments. Then he said, we were talking from "a vantage position". What did he mean by a vantage position and what did he mean by "we"? What did he mean when he arrogated to himself the position of a representative of 40 million people. Sir, I have listened to several debates in the House of Commons, I have not yet heard a leader of the House of Commons saying that he represented even 10 million people.

And then he spoke about the way to Nationalism. The way to Nationalism does not lie through the blind alley of communalism. He

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said, let us think nationally, but he forgot that he was acting communally.

3 P.M. I need only mention that this question of communal representation in the services, to which I am opposed, and have always been opposed, will be opposed by my Muslim friends in the near future, because they will understand from their own experience, having got what they want, that communalism will not be to the good of the community—that that was the view held by great Muslims like Maulana Muhammad Ali; and personally I repeat my faith that nationalism is the only way: I do not want to attack their demand for communal rights, but will resist every communal wrong to my people. While repeating my faith in nationalism, I hope this faith that I am repeating today will be shared by them in the not distant future. As it was truly said by Lord Donoughmore in his report about Ceylon:

“It is generally agreed that communal representation is least desirable when on a religious basis. The main ground on which the claim for this representation is made is that certain laws and customs of the Muslims based on their religion differ from those of the larger communities and disabilities in these matters might be imposed by people in the absence of Muslim advocates and Muslim spokesmen. . . . It is interesting to note that the disintegrating effect of communal representation on the community itself is illustrated by the case of Muslims in Ceylon.”

In this particular case the Honourable gentleman for Madras was trying to develop a communal electorate even in the services by the rotatory system:

“Their merging in the general electorate will link them up more definitely with the other communities of Ceylon as an element in a population which, though diverse in character, has yet a common country and who possess a common national consciousness.”

The Donoughmore Committee went on to say:

“It is our opinion, however, that the very existence of communal representation tends to prevent the development of national relations and that only by its abolition will it be possible for the various diverse communities to develop together a true national unity.”

That being so, I will ask my Muslim friends not to support a rotatory system, because that will naturally create mischief. They have had communal representation in the services; they want more representation; the principle is no longer in dispute; but the vicious programme of rotation has been advocated today and I would warn them against its acceptance

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: Can you suggest a better method?

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer: If the Honourable Member will walk with me into the lobby instead of making this the platform for washing the communal points, if he does not want that I should convert this House into a laundry of communalism

Sir Muhammad Yakub: He did walk with you at Lucknow and Allahabad two months ago, and he has seen the result.

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer: My Honourable friend knows that I did not go to Allahabad; and he ought to know that I did not go to Lucknow and, therefore, much as I would like to show a respectful hearing to my Honourable friend, Sir Muhammad Yakub, I want to correct him when I say that I neither went to Allahabad nor to Lucknow.

Sir Muhammad Yakub: I know that my Honourable friend has no position either in his own community or among the Muslims: he could not go therefore. (Laughter.)

Mr. O. S. Ranga Iyer: My Honourable friend is acquiring a position in his own community by indulging in vituperation against my community. (Laughter.)

Sir Muhammad Yakub: I copy my friend.

Mr. O. S. Ranga Iyer: My Honourable friend ought to know that I represent and have represented repeatedly, in spite of opposition, a constituency which has a Hindu electorate; and until I am ousted from that position, I will ask him to suspend his judgment. I am representing not the constituency of my Honourable friend over there from Aligarh (pointing to Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad), a Muslim constituency, but a Hindu constituency

Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): I represent Aligarh, not he.

Mr. O. S. Ranga Iyer: I welcome that sense of humour which the leader of the United India Party has introduced in this debate by way of pleasant contradiction. I am a little bit surprised that my friend, Sir Muhammad Yakub, arrogates to me a non-representative capacity in my own community. Possibly he would be right in future if he had subscribed to the doctrine preached at Allahabad and at Lucknow of joint electorates: then, it would not have been possible to find out how many Muslims I represent. At present, the joint electorate not having been introduced and I having repeatedly held the fort for three continuous Assemblies, I humbly claim that I have as great an authority to speak for my community as he has for his—I shall not go so low as to deny his representative capacity in this House, for I want to deal with matters in a Parliamentary manner as we are all aspiring for Parliamentary institutions. I am capable of dealing with my friend in a personal manner, but I do not do so (Laughter), unless there is provocation.

I was quoting—and perhaps the quotation was a little too much for the Honourable Member—Lord Donoughmore's observations in regard to rampant communalism which is advocated by Mr. Mudaliar. If nationality has been developed in Canada, if nationality has been developed in South Africa, if nationality has been developed in the United States of America, it is not by introducing and aggravating this curse of communalism, but by avoiding it. I would ask the Honourable Member for the Railways not to walk into the trap that an Honourable gentleman from the Opposition Benches spreads before him. I would ask the Honourable the Railway Member to keep before his mind the example of the great countries which have achieved freedom and are working freedom. I do not want to throw away the freedom that is coming to us by walking into the trap that has been laid before us by the gentleman who has just concluded his speech.

[Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer.]

Sir, this opinion is held by as high an authority as M. deMello Franco who, speaking in the League of Nations, said :

"The introduction into the laws of countries of provisions protecting minorities would be enough to cause them to spring up where they were least expected, to provoke unrest among them, to cause them to pose as having been sacrificed"—(a pose which the Honourable the Commerce Member must be familiar with by now even in this House)—"and generally to create an artificial agitation of which no one up to that moment dreamed. It would be rather like the imaginary illnesses from which so many people think themselves suffering the moment they read a book on popular medicine."

We have had books read to us by the previous speaker which were not on popular medicine: but on the Canadian constitution which excluded separate representation in regard to the communities in the services.

Sir, measuring swords with my Honourable friend from Burma who, with his usual clarity and eloquence, presented the case for this side of the House, the Honourable gentleman for Madras said, we were thinking communally. There was nothing communal in the speech that the Member from Burma delivered. He made a purely nationalistic speech, worthy of every good nationalist; he condemned the splitting up of the communities; he condemned the increasing cleavage which is sought for, by this motion, in the services. He said it will have a disastrous effect, because he was anxious that India and Burma should march together to the goal of national freedom, and not communal thralldom. And here is an Honourable gentleman from Madras, very clever at misrepresenting facts and equally clever in sugary perorations, contradicting his original statements,—here is an Honourable gentleman who has the audacity to misrepresent the very truly nationalistic speech of my friend from Burma. But having heard the Honourable Member from Burma, who so seldom speaks in this House, having listened to the very fine ideas which he has placed before this House, I do not think Honourable Members will expect me to labour this point further. As M. deMello Franco put it:

"It seems to be obvious that those who conceived this system of protection did not dream of creating within certain States a group of inhabitants who would regard themselves as permanently foreign to the general organization of the country. On the contrary they wished the elements of the population contained in such a group to enjoy a status of legal protection which might ensure respect for the inviolability of the person under all its aspects and which might gradually prepare....."

Mr. B. Sitaramaraju (Ganjam cum Vizagapatam: Non-Muhammadian Rural): May I ask the Honourable Member to tell us who this deMello Franco is?

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer: I would ask my Honourable friend to read the proceedings of the League of Nations.

Mr. B. Sitaramaraju: Is he also a crocodile?

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer: According to the famous Miltonic saying "not to know him argues thyself unknown".

"..... and which might gradually prepare the very conditions necessary for the establishment of complete national unity."

Sir, I am very anxious for the establishment of complete national unity. Throughout my speech I have abstained from making any remarks on any Member of any other community except my own. I am answering the speech of a Member of my community who chooses to represent 40

millions of people, and, in answer to his speech, I say that the only way to destroy complete national amity is to intensify this canker of communalism in the services. Once this motion is agreed to, there will be no peace in the communities. It is bad enough for politicians to quarrel, whether at Allahabad or Lucknow or on the floor of this House, but it will be very much worse if you carry the quarrel into the services.

Sir, any one who has studied the working of constitutions and institutions in lands that are free knows that freedom has been retained and sustained by avoiding the spirit of quarrelsome communalism within the services. Our speeches on the floor of this House are being heard on the galleries, overheard outside by the people in the services. Day after day we are putting questions in the House as to how many Hindus or, for that matter, how many Muslims or, for that matter, how many members of some other community are there in the services and so forth and so on. I do hope, whatever the new constitution may be, it will not tolerate or permit this practice. It must be possible, Sir, as in France, whose railway system is worth studying, to take the day to day details with the consent of the House to another body like the Superior Advisory Council or the Supreme Advisory Council in France. Speaking from recollection, Sir, I believe that Council has 60 members. 30 Members are drawn from the French Parliament. 15 members are drawn from the ministerial staff and 15 members are drawn from the railways concerned. Not Canada, but France resembles India so far as the State-management of Railways is concerned. I want all Railways to be State-managed, but that will be beside the point to discuss at present, but in view of the State-management of the Railways and in view also of the agonising questions as to how many Hindus or how many Muslims or how many members of some other community in this Department or that Department have been entertained, I think the time has come to take that away to another body to be created by this House or its successor. I say its successor, because I am not going to present to the Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore greater activities in the shape of fresh constitution making, appointment of promotion and demotion boards and rotation committees and so on and so forth. Sir, this great authority, who spoke at the League of Nations, said :

"We must avoid creating a State within a State, and if the services are to be treated to that rotatory system, then that will be a community within a community, and if that is created, what will be the result. *(The result will be chaos and intolerance among the members of the services themselves.)* We must prevent the minority from transforming itself into a privileged caste."

In this country of caste systems let us not make matters worse, and taking definite form as a foreign group under the rotatory system instead of becoming fused in the society in which it lives. To pursue the quotation :

"If we take the exaggerated conception of autonomy of minorities to the last extreme, these minorities will become disruptive elements in the State and a source of national disorganization. The decision has been taken, not only to protect, as before, *individuals considered separately*, but to a certain extent to attribute rights to *minorities regarded as collective entities*."

He further went on to say :

"If equality of treatment of all the inhabitants of the country is an element of political and social peace, the recognition of rights belonging to minorities as separate entities, by increasing their coherence and developing among them a sense of their own strength, may provoke them to separate themselves from the State of which they form part; and, in view of the right of peoples to dispose of themselves, the recognition of the rights of these minorities runs the risk of leading to the disruption of States."

[Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer.]

Sir, we are on the threshold of a great future. We want a great self-governing Constitution. We not only want it, but we are anxious to work it. We do not want that you, Sir, should, during your term of office, increase the difficulties of the people. We do not want, Sir, that you should go down in history as one who created this communal cleavage, who intensified it, who fanned it into a flame to destroy the Constitution itself. If you do that, Sir, future generations will condemn that one who stood out before for the unification of the communities should have now condemned the communities to quarrelsome communalism. I hope and trust that you will not walk into the trap for intensifying communalism which we condemn with all our enthusiasm and with all our emphasis. If you accept the advice that has been given to you today, Sir, the result will be that you will bury in the bowels of the earth the future Constitution itself. Why complicate matters? Why not leave the future in the hands of the future itself? Honourable men, who will meet here and elsewhere, Members of the official block eliminated,—will be able to settle the question for themselves. I am not impatient not to wait for two years, having waited all these years. Why hurry matters over which you should not have control and should not aspire to have control? The future is in the lap of the Constitution which the Honourable gentleman, who had just concluded his speech, has had sufficient opportunity to shape. Now, he comes here and says "Strike and make the metal hot". I would rather ask the Commerce Member to wait, for we shall strike when the iron is hot. (*An Honourable Member*: "Who is this gentleman?") Sir, my Honourable friend over there inquired, who is this gentleman.

Mr. B. Sitaramaraju: I want to know whether he is the man who was kicked out of Spain for rioting in the Spanish Revolution?

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer: I do not read revolutionary literature. I have no time to read revolutionary literature, but if the Honourable gentleman thinks that he has had a hand in kicking him out of Spain just as his cousin from Madras, representing 40 million people, well, he is entitled to that claim. But deMello Franco, whether he was kicked out or not, had the support of Sir Austen Chamberlain. Sir Austen Chamberlain associated himself with this authority

Mr. B. Sitaramaraju: May I ask the Honourable Member how I could have had a hand in kicking him out?

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer: I want the Honourable gentleman to withdraw that remark.

Mr. Chairman (Sir Hari Singh Gour): I think the Honourable Member transgressed the Parliamentary etiquette.

Mr. B. Sitaramaraju: May I explain my position? The Honourable gentleman said that I had a hand in kicking him out and I asked him how I could have had a hand in kicking him out.

Mr. Amar Nath Dutt (Burdwan Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Kicked with hands.

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer: As Mr. Anur Nath Dutt says: "kicked with hands". I congratulate him (Mr. Raju) for speaking like the Delphic oracle. I do not want his head on a charger. I was referring to Sir Austen Chamberlain associating himself with that great authority who got on their nerves. (Laughter.) I myself like the idea of having supplied some opportunity to laugh for Honourable gentlemen. I wish that from the plane of furious and frenzied communalism we could come down to the plane of jovial laughter and, if I have supplied that opportunity, I am glad. From the heat which was attempted to be imported into this debate, not by a Mussalman, but by the previous speaker, if I have succeeded in creating a lighter vein, I am glad that I have achieved my object. We can discuss questions even in regard to representation in the services without increasing our present difficulties and if I succeed in discussing this thing humorously, imparting more light than heat, without assuming the role of a snake charmer, that is some achievement.

Sir, I was referring to the Donoughmore report. I shall today refer to what the late Edwin Montagu, the maker of the new constitution, had to say about this inordinate desire of a few to feed the flame of communalism. The late Edwin Montagu said after careful review of the conditions prevailing in other countries: "We conclude unhesitatingly that the history of self-government among the nations who developed it and spread it throughout the world is decisively against the admission by the State of any divided allegiance". If I do not subscribe to the ideas that have been presented by the previous speaker, if I oppose the motion before this House which was responsible for that speech, it is because I do not want a divided allegiance in the services. If my Honourable friends cannot talk nationally, if they cannot act rationally, if they must aggravate communalism, let them by all means do so, but I shall not be responsible for encouraging them—(pointing to the Independent Party Benches) laugh as they may laugh, the loud laugh that speaks the vacant mind. Sir, the late Edwin Montagu observed in his report that he was opposed to the State doing anything which encourages the citizens to think of themselves as a smaller unit than the State itself. Sir, the danger of aggravating communalism in the services is real. It will create a set of people who will primarily think of themselves as different from the State. Representing as I do a Hindu constituency, I cannot support it. I know the feelings of the nationalists among the Hindus whom I represent. I would be untrue to my constituents if I stood up on the floor of this House and supported this motion advocating extended communalism in the services, turning the services into communal compartments, so that the communities will work against each other and the constitution of the future will go to rack and ruin. It is not always that one can give advice that one wants to give. I can only speak out my mind, not for 40 million people, but for my humble constituents of nine districts in the United Provinces which I have had the opportunity of representing for over nine years in this House, whose views I have had the opportunity of reporting to this House for three continuous assemblies and, speaking for them, I say, that I share the view of the late Edwin Montagu and the warning which he conveyed in these words:

"A minority which is given special representation owing to its weak and backward state is positively encouraged to settle down into a feeling of satisfied security. It is under no inducement to educate and to strive to make good the ground which it has lost compared with the stronger majority".

[Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer.]

That, Sir, is the danger of this motion. You are going to lull a minority into a sense of satisfied security. There is a greater danger in the suggestion made by Diwan Bahadur Ramaswami Mudaliar. The danger lies in the fact that this motion proposes to lull a minority into this false sense of security. As Edwin Montagu pointed out, if on the other hand you don't encourage them, a great deal too much in the way in which the Mover did, then it will be good for the community itself and for the nation. If this motion is not rejected, as the late Edwin Montagu, said :

"the latter (namely, the stronger majority) will be tempted to feel that they have done all they need do for their weaker fellow-countrymen and that they are free to use their power for their own purposes. The give-and-take, which is the essence of political life, will be lacking "

in the services themselves if the methods that are suggested and the ideas that are put forward are endorsed and accepted by the Government.

"There is no inducement to the one side ",

as Mr. Montagu, said :

"to forbear or to the other to exert itself. The communal system stereotypes existing relations. We regard any system of communal electorates, therefore, as a very serious hindrance to the development of the self-governing principle ".

Much more so communalism in the services as contemplated by this "cut".

We condemn, Sir, the principle that was suggested by the Honourable gentleman who spoke before me, because it would vitiate the principle of self-government itself.

Mr. Amar Nath Dutt: He has fled.

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer: As my friend, Mr. Amar Nath Dutt, with his usual sense of humour, said, Sir, he has fled. If Honourable Members fly on migrant wings, after having delivered a strong onslaught upon the views and opinions of others, I do not deny them their joy. Sir, representing as you do the views of my Party, of which you are the esteemed Leader, you did not mince matters as a representative of my community; and writing on this question, you observed in a historic Report that the claim of the Mussalmans to a share in the Cabinet appointments or in the services on communal grounds must be repelled as "a political heresy". You said: "it is a political heresy to prompt a backward community to rule or materially influence the policy of an advanced community". I must place on record, Sir, these pregnant words embodying your own views in this matter as you are the Leader of my Party. (Hear, hear.) I wish, in conclusion, that the Honourable the Deputy Leader of the Independent Party had summed up his speech in the words uttered by H. H. the Aga Khan:

"It is impossible for Mussalmans to live happily and peacefully in India if friction and suspicion are to prevail between them and the Hindus ".

That was one aspect of his speech which he did not develop as he preferred to plunge into those contentious suggestions which would make matters worse. I personally have every sympathy with the opinion of the esteemed Leader of the Mussalman community, H. H. the Aga Khan. The Government of India, by giving the representation that they have given to the

Mussalman community, have done homage to that great Mussalman Lender. Therefore, I do not want to take away from the Mussalmans what they have got, while I still adhere to my view that my community must retain its due, hoping as a nationalist that the Mussalmans, after they have had the communal experience which they are seeking, will come back to us. I shall only say, Sir, that you should not aggravate the situation by accepting this motion or acceding to the suggestions that my predecessor has made. (Applause.)

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: Sir, I rise to take part in this debate, because I desire to support the motion before the House; and I support the motion in spite of the tirade against the Anglo-Indian community made in the speech of the Mover of this motion. Sir, I do not believe that, if one is smacked on one side of the face, he should offer the other to be smacked as I appear to be doing in supporting this motion, but in this case I wish to give every assistance to the Mover. I support this motion, Sir, not as a Hindu or a Muslim or as an alien of the hybrid or the domiciled variety. I do so, Sir, as a son of India, as a citizen of the country and as one who wants to help every other community to develop a spirit of nationalism out of this welter of communalism (Hear, hear), and with a desire ultimately to kill communalism . . .

Mr. Amar Nath Dutt: You want to kill communalism by communalism.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: Sir, we have just listened to arial flights of oratory from the Deputy Leaders of the Independent and National Parties—one in the guise of a snake-charmer, my Honourable friend, Mr. Mudaliar, and the other in the guise of the snake that has been charmed, my friend, Mr. Ranga Iyer, who, if judged from his gyrations and rotatory movements and the heat he displayed in his speech, seems as if the snake-charmer has unearthed a snake from the National Party Benches. Or was it a mongoose that was charmed by the Diwan Bahadur which led to a fight between the snake and a mongoose? Sir, my Honourable friend, Mr. Ranga Iyer, did a great disservice to my Honourable friend, Diwan Bahadur Ramaswami Mudaliar, when he tried to belittle his achievements at the Round Table Conference. Sir, if any delegate rendered a solid and great contribution to the Round Table Conference, it was my friend, the Diwan Bahadur. (Hear, hear.) As a delegate myself, I can testify to his great achievements. One has only to read the proceedings of the Round Table Conference to see what the leading politicians of England and the British delegation have said about the Diwan Bahadur and you will bow your head in gratitude to the Diwan Bahadur for the great part he played. The future historian will, I am sure, adequately assess the Diwan Bahadur's great efforts for India and I regret Mr. Ranga Iyer should have undervalued his work. (Loud Applause.) Sir, after coming from these arial flights to *terra firma*, I support the motion, because I am a common sufferer with the Muslim community. (A voice: "A common sufferer?") Yes Sir, and I will tell you how and why. (Laughter.) Sir, we are both minority communities, but I think my friend, Mr. Maswood Ahmad, has forgotten the existence of a Pact called the "Minority Pact". He has clearly forgotten when he made his speech and derided my community. (Laughter.) Leaving that Pact aside, if I may, because, it is past history, Sir, it is said that one must be as

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careful in the selection of his enemies as in the choice of his friends. In Mr. M. Ahmad I see not a friend, but an enemy. I hope I am wrong. I remember the year 1926-27 till when every Muslim Member in this House was silent as regards Muslim representation in the services and in the Railways in particular; and I think it was from this very seat that I had the pleasure of being the first Member to bring to the notice of Muslim Members regarding the paucity of their representations in the Railways. (Hear, hear.) My Honourable friend, Mr. Ghuznavi, will, I know, support me in this statement—I am glad he nods approval—but for a Muslim Member to now take advantage of that help and to launch an attack on my own community is not what I expected from a Muslim today. However, Sir, I pass that over as the penalty of public service. But it is strange that in representing his grievance Mr. M. Ahmad who, last year, attacked the Hindus, has completely altered his view and having made a left turn, delivers his attack this year against the Anglo-Indian community, not as the Anglo-Indian community, but calling me European *cum* Anglo-Indian community. Now, what sort of a hybrid community this is, I know not. I should like to know whether that is new hybrid or what it is. Whatever it is, I do believe that the joining up of the Anglo-Indian with the European in his comparison with Muslim representation is unfair to my community. (An Honourable Member: "Why do you sit with the European Group?") That is my business, I say. (Laughter.) Now, when you come to analyse communal representation in the superior grades, you will find that the Anglo-Indian community has not received its rightful share at all. Moreover, in view of the fact that no new appointments are being created on Railways today, I challenge anyone in this House or on the Railway Board to put his hand on his heart and conscientiously say whether it is a fact or not a fact that every appointment that is today given to an Indian is taken away from either a European or Anglo-Indian. In other words, we are daily being deprived of our appointments and yet we are considered Statutory Indians. I challenge any one to deny the truth of this statement. I ask my Indian friends, why this haste to replace us? Why don't you wait? Moreover, if the Honourable Member waits for the figures of 1933, he will then see with what meticulous care the Railway Board have protected the Muslim community on Railways based on Mr. Hassan's report, and with which evidently the Mover of this motion is not in agreement as far as Anglo-Indian employment is concerned, because Mr. Hassan has certainly sympathised with and supported the special claims of the community for employment on Railways. Let him wait for the report of 1933 for, I am sure, he will then find that the Muslims have got even more than what they have asked for and what the Mover is demanding in his motion.

Now, Sir, my friend made a great show of what should be the test of recruitment for Railway employment. He said he had a whole army of M. A.s, B. A.s, and B.Sc.s from Bihar no doubt whom he could produce for service on the Railways. Now, does my Honourable friend want an M. A. to drive an Engine and a B. A. to repair it? Sir, if we had an M. A. to drive an engine, you would soon have to add the letter "D" to it for he would soon go MAD and instead of attending to the regulator of his engine he would be reading "Paradise Lost" and this would end in his train being lost and Mr. Maswood Ahmad

would not be here today to move his motion or to show his emotion. Again, if you had a B. A. to repair an engine, you would have to put the letter "D" after it, for his work would be BAD. So, let us have no more nonsense about having M. A.s and B. A.s. What we want on Railways is brain and brawn, not academic degrees. What you want are good technical institutions in India for official training which India has been denied hitherto, and to be a good railway servant you must start when you are young and not wait till you get your M. A. or B. A. degree. Such persons prefer to sit under *punkhas* and drive quills in some office. Let our M. A.s or B. A.s join the Legislative Assembly and make speeches or become lawyers, but do not talk such nonsense about your M. A.s and B. A.s being drivers and mechanics and upper subordinates and which are the very jobs the Mover is objecting to Anglo-Indians holding, i.e., those from Rs. 200 per mensem and above upper subordinates. What we really want are technical schools such as we have in England. I say, Sir, that the reason why there is a demand for experts from other countries is that we have got no higher technical schools and colleges in India. Give us these and India will supply all her officials from her own country. We can certainly provide men from this country if we are given the opportunity for training them here. My Honourable friend, Sardar Sant Singh, in supporting this motion, talked about various communities having the monopoly of certain jobs and quoted the Anglo-Indians holding certain special jobs. I think he was quite right when he said that various communities hold monopolies of various special jobs. He said why should the European *cum* Anglo Indian have a majority of certain jobs, meaning of course upper subordinates as Drivers, Guards, etc. Let me ask him one question with all the kindness of heart for my friends from Madras. I ask Sardar Sant Singh why do Madrasis have a monopoly in the Audit and Accounts Departments? Why should Chinamen have a monopoly in the carpentry section of the carriage and wagon department at Lillooah? Again, will he tell me why should Gurkhas have a monopoly in the Watch and Ward Department? Why should he and the members of his Sikh community have a monopoly of the Army Department? We are just as martial as he is and why should we not be enlisted in the same way as he is in the Army? Are we and other fighting communities less martial than he is? But that is not the point, Sir. It is efficiency that we want and the efficiency does not lie in the fact of a man's being an M. A. and B. A., but in the knowledge of mechanism and technical skill. Produce these men with a certain degree of education, and I feel sure that the Railway Board will give the Muslims adequate employment. My friend, Diwan Bahadur Ramaswami Mudaliar, suggested to the Honourable Member in charge of Commerce and Railways a very reasonable and a very sound system, one that has worked very successfully in Madras called the rotatory system, in which each community has its chance annually. If there is one province in India that is devoid of communalism, it is the province of Madras and so far as the services are concerned, this is due to the introduction of this rotatory system some years ago. Let me tell Mr. Ranga Iyer that while he decried this system, he showed complete ignorance of it. After all, what did the Diwan Bahadur ask of the Honourable Member in charge of Railways? He suggested that till nationalism was really established and practised in India, there must be a transitional period and, as India is today unfortunately impregnated with communalism and you cannot get rid of it—indeed it will take years and years before

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we get rid of it,—during this transitional period, he felt sure, the Madras system of rotation would satisfy all minorities and so put an end to the present unrest. I am sure my friend, Mr. Ranga Iyer, has never done a day's hard labour in his life and, as far as the Railway services, he condemns this rotatory system, because he is totally ignorant of it. I therefore do not think it is right to condemn a system of which he knows nothing. He then quoted from Montagu and deMello Franco and exhibited evidence of an attack of ague, probably of the Monty ague variety.

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer: May I remind the Honourable gentleman of a famous Christian motto: Never speak ill of the dead.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: May I remind the Honourable gentleman of another motto: Never quote from the dead.

Sir, I myself see no need why this battle arose between nationalism and communalism. I am a confirmed believer that communalism is the direct negation of communalism and I would join any party which devised a scheme by which we could avoid this incessant questioning of the Railway Board regarding communal employment. I drew the attention of the House to this very matter last year. We are not concerned as to how many Hindus, how many Europeans and how many Europeans *cum* Anglo-Indians are appointed to the various posts. What we are concerned with is the successful and efficient administration of the Railways. Sir, I would ask my Honourable friend, the Mover, not to overdo his point. In my humble opinion, he is overdoing it and may harm his own cause which we are all out to help. I have also suffered from the same error, but I have cured myself of it. I want my friend, Mr. Maswood Ahmad, to learn the same lesson. Don't think that the only pebble on the beach is the Muslim pebble, there are many other pebbles as well. There is the Anglo-Indian pebble next to yours. Let us try together to achieve something good, for the Railways and for our country, India. Stop this wrangling and for goodness' sake, do not bring charges against the community which I have the honour to represent and which has served the Indian Railways so well. But the ugliest remark that the Honourable Member made was the veiled threat he gave to the Railway Board at the conclusion of his speech. Was that nationalism or was that an effort towards revolutionism? Does he mean to say that he has the support of the Muslim party when he says if the percentage of his community does not go up to a certain figure, Muslims will threaten the Railway Board with a strike or some such reprisal? He would do well to withdraw that part of his speech. I, however, support the Honourable Member when he said that the Muslims should have a greater employment on the Railways, because I think they deserve it.

Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan: Sir, I do not wish to indulge in humorous speeches dealing with the mongoose and the snake and the snake charmer, but as the time is drawing to a close, I should like to confine myself to a very few brief remarks. I have been in this House for a very long time and you will bear me out, Sir, when I say that I have never made a speech or put a question on communal matters. I have always stood out of communalism, and I believe that the trend

of events in the last few years has, instead of doing any good to the Muslims, done them harm. These questions about the non-representation of Muslims in the services have become a stale question and the replies of Government are now more and more evasive and meaningless. It is only because the thing has been overdone. May I ask what have my Muslim friends gained during all these years? If they were four per cent. in 1924 and about 4.6 per cent. today, in spite of all their questions and speeches and cut motions in this House, what have they gained? They have gained practically nothing and it would now be better for them to stop asking these questions.

Sir, I remember in 1930, when there was a debate on this very subject, we had two very prominent speakers, Mr. Jinnah and Pandit Malaviya. I will just quote a few sentences from their speeches and that will enlighten the House. Pandit Malaviya said:

"I whole-heartedly support the motion that there should be a larger employment of Mussalmans in the Railway services."

He said further on:

"All that I wish to say on this occasion is that, while I give credit to Mr. Hayman for having endeavoured to make a very reasonable statement, and while I note that he has promised that he will do everything that is in his power to see that a larger percentage of Muslims is employed, I do think that the figures which have been quoted disclose that there is a great deal more to be done, and which should have been done by this time."

Further on he said:

"I feel that there are some steps which may be taken. There is something evidently wrong. The number of Muhammadan young men available in the country is happily now very much larger than it was twenty years ago. Education has made great progress and Muslim young men are giving a very good account of themselves even in the competitions at the Universities and in their examinations."

This is the point which was made by the revered leader of the Hindu community, because the figures, which had been disclosed by Mr. Hayman and by the supporters of that cut, were disgraceful and Panditji could not help lending his support.

Then, Mr. Jinnah said:

"Now, I think it is admitted and cannot be denied that they disclose a most deplorable state of affairs. The next question is, what have the Government of India been doing, and what have the real authorities been doing. That is the next question. The same story goes on year after year. It is true,—and here I can assure my Hindu friends,—that some of us feel very keenly, feel very strongly on the subject, and yet we restrain ourselves from questions of this character in this House if we can possibly help it, because we do not desire that there should be created any bitterness or ill-feeling amongst Honourable Members of the position and responsibility that we find in this House. But I have always wondered, and I wondered when my Honourable friend was speaking as to what is the cause of all this. He said it may be want of due advertisement. It may be due to some causes, something or other. Sir, am I to assume that the Government and the Railway Board are so inefficient or so ignorant and so incapable of understanding a simple question of this character, namely, the recruitment of a particular community on the ground of fairness and justice to that community? Are they so incompetent that they cannot devise methods and measures? Are the Government really so bankrupt that they cannot handle this simple question? And for all these years, you know, Government knows, Sir, that this has been one of the sorest points with the Mussalmans, and we find unfortunately, beggars cannot do anything else except to wait in deputations on the Railway Board and the Government Member and His Excellency the Viceroy, when he goes on tour, and every time a very nice reply is given, and we are informed that we are very loyal, and Government are always our friends, Government are always ready to do anything for the Mussalmans particularly, but 'what can we do, you are not efficient, you are backward in education, we cannot find men in your community suitable for the various posts'. Now, Sir, that is the argument and reason that is advanced. I am

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really beginning to think—and I am sorry if I am unduly accusing the Government of India—but I really am beginning to think that this is done with some object or policy behind it. I hope I am wrong. I make the statement with great hesitation. I am really beginning to think, Sir, that this is done with some definite policy or object behind it, and that object, it seems to me is this, that Government deliberately—not because of their incompetence or incapacity of realising or appreciating—I refuse to believe that—but they deliberately follow a policy which leaves a very great grievance on the part of the Mussalmans. There are unfortunately some Hindu friends of ours who look upon this question with great resentment, and who say that the Muhammadans are, day in and day out, clamouring for appointments in the services of the Government whether they are efficient or not."

Mr. S. C. Mitra (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): On a point of order, Sir; is it in order to read a whole speech in this House?

Mr. Chairman (Sir Hari Singh Gour): Any Honourable Member is entitled to reinforce his argument by reading quotations and there is no limit to the length of the quotation that he may read. And, as there is no limit to the extent of the speech, the Chair is powerless to give any ruling on the lines suggested by the Honourable Member.

Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan:

"The Government take advantage of that sentiment of the Hindus. In view of this sentiment the Government feel that, whenever the question comes up, the Hindus are more likely to stand up and take up this position that in the services nothing but pure merits should count, recruitment should be by competitive examination—in short, survival of the fittest. Government rely upon this attitude and feel sure that some will resort to this argument. Government, therefore, make use of all the sentiments, feelings and the opinions which are expressed, and know that, whenever the question comes up, the Hindus are not likely to support the Mussalmans, and that therefore the Mussalmans will be provoked, embittered, and thus estranged, they will look to Government for favours and so then steps in the Government and goes on with sweet words and occasionally throws a few crumbs with the definite object that there may not be any good understanding arrived at between the Hindus and the Muhammadans."

4 P.M.

This is the speech made by Mr. Jinnah on the 24th February, 1930, and further on he asked his Hindu friends not to estrange the feelings of the Mussalmans on this question, because he was sure that whatever they might be trying to do would be fruitless. I have seen for many years this question of the Mussalman percentage is being dealt with on the floor of this House and we have wasted on this Railway Budget three or four days of the public time. The same went on in 1930 and the same comes in 1933 and it was exactly the same in 1924. What is the good—no good has been achieved. However much the Mussalmans may clamour—and they will go on clamouring if they choose to do so—they will never get their object. The percentage of Muhammadan representation wanted by my Muhammadan friends will not come within five or six years, while on the other hand the percentage has been reduced to denimal something within the last seven years. Therefore, what can you expect to get in the life of the present Legislature? It is no use clamouring for it.

Then, I come to the question of efficiency. Some Honourable Members said efficiency was the test which had been put by the Government. That is a wrong test, it can never be a right test. The people who are efficient

may be made inefficient. If one chooses to call a man efficient, he will be efficient, if one chooses to call him inefficient, he will be inefficient. It has always been found that a particular job the recruitment to which may be confined to a particular test has been filled by people who are not up to the mark, and, in this way, qualified men, more efficient men, do not get their chances, they are not allowed to enter into any particular service, although they may be qualified. So the test question is absolutely ridiculous. In my province, the United Provinces, when the Reforms came, we had some very good leaders, the Raja of Mahmudabad, Pandit Jagat Narayan and Mr. Chintamani, with Sir Harcourt Butler as Governor. These four gentlemen sat down to devise means, as they knew that, when the Reforms came, they would have to feel the pulse of the people in the Provincial Council in regard to the appointments of different communities and they wanted to settle the question once for all in advance, and at that time there was nobody who raised any objection to the settlement. They decided that out of the 12 appointments, three would be reserved for appointment by the Governor, and, in order to redress inequalities in the communal representation, it was decided that out of the nine three should be reserved for competition by Mussalmans and the remaining six for competition among Non-Mussalmans. It was also decided to reserve $\frac{1}{4}$ of the posts by nomination for the sons of men belonging to respectable families who have rendered services to the Government for centuries, but who may not be successful in competitive examinations. Thus the claims of all classes were sought to be satisfied. The Governor nominates men of certain classes although they may not be able to pass examinations.

I do not know what has happened in Madras actually. I think Mr. Mudaliar may be able to speak on this point. In my opinion, this question must be settled once for all between the Hindus and the Muhammadans, I am one of those who—I do not say about the other Members—would say “do not give a single job to a Mussalman, if my Hindu brethren so desire”. I think the Mussalmans should also learn how to enter trade and commerce instead of looking up to Government for Government jobs merely, and they should enter into commerce and other business which they have up to now despised. But I shall have no objection to a proper understanding being arrived at between the communities so that this question may be settled once for all. For instance, if there is a competition between a Hindu and a Hindu, and between a Muhammadan and a Muhammadan, no communal jealousy will be created. I have no fear about my election in my constituency from Hindus as no Hindu might interfere with me. There will be no heat generated into the constituencies in the matter, as everything is settled and cut and dried. Everybody knows where he stands. About the proportion, the proportion must be filled out of the best men of each community. I cannot believe for a moment that the Hindus are inefficient or the Mussalmans are inefficient or the Englishmen are inefficient. Everybody is efficient. Unfortunately, we have got at present communalism in this country. A beginning should be made for the settlement of this question among all Indian politicians. Some say “Do not give the jobs to the Europeans”. Why should the Europeans come in? That is the seed of communalism. When you wanted to deprive the Europeans, who monopolised a particular job, you said that they should be debarred from entering, although it may be in open competition in the I.C.S. examination that they stand very high, more than forty per cent—

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer: May I ask the Honourable gentleman if he will agree with the suggestion that both Hindus and Muslims will withdraw from the services leaving it in the hands of the Europeans?

Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan: I merely said that the question arose from that. The present arrangement is that they should not get more than 40 per cent. in the I.C.S. and there the principle was laid down of discrimination between Europeans and Indians. We have it also in the Legislatures and Executive Councils—that there should be so many seats reserved for Indians and so many for the Europeans. That is the position today and we cannot help it. We have the European Benches here who come up by the votes of Europeans: no Indian has got a voice in returning any of those Members. Therefore, there is discrimination already. . . .

Mr. Lalchand Navarai (Sind: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Have a joint electorate and remove discrimination.

Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan: My friend may be pleased to say what he likes—it is something which even Plato did not dream of. We stand on practical ground and we want to see what India wants today—not what India will be in future. I am one of those who supported your Bill, Sir, for intermarriages in the very beginning. I made speech after speech that the only remedy lay in intermarriages between Hindus and Muslims and then there will be fusion of communities. If the example, that the great nation-builder, Akbar the Great, laid down, had been followed, we would today have a different state of affairs. But is it practical? You may desire it and I may support you; but will the House support you? You did not have the support of the House even on this question. We are having the temple entry issue: one side is asking for the Temple Entry Bill and another side is saying "No Temple Entry Bill". . . .

Diwan Bahadur Harbilas Sarda (Ajmer-Merwara: General): If there is joint electorate, there will be no opposition to any temple entry.

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer: May I ask the Honourable gentleman, where is that Utopia whose angelic denizens never differ amongst themselves?

Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan: I do not like to deal with that question in the limited time at my disposal. I merely say this: that as long as we do not gain our object of nationalism, as long as we remain in water-tight compartments, as long as we have got communalism in different spheres, we must find a solution how best to live with the greatest peace. We must give and take and we must devise means to see how this thing may die down, and not how to increase it. It will never die down by one community objecting to what the other does. It will die a natural death only if we see that we do not interfere with each other and, at the same time, look forward to some other goal which we may have in view. That is the only object that we must strive to achieve and that can only be done by full understanding between ourselves. That understanding must be arrived at first. I shall wait for the reply of my Honourable friend. I do not think it will be advisable for us even to challenge a division on this question—I do not think it is worth going into the lobbies over this; but I have shown that there is a great deal of justification for the motion. The Honourable Member in charge is an Indian who has got

every sympathy with Indians and he is looking forward to the progress of the country which is now on the eve of the new reforms: he must find out something which may last for some time and which would be considered by the communities as something on which they can rest in peace and which would not hamper them and make them clamour as they have been doing in the past.

Mr. O. P. Colvin (Government of India: Nominated Official): With your permission, Sir, I should like to give certain information regarding the subject of the motion now before the House as I wish to try and remove any misapprehension that may have been caused by the speech of my Honourable friend, Mr. Maswood Ahmad, as to the action taken by the Railway Board and by Railways in connection with the representation of Muslims in railway services.

Special action for the representation of minority communities was first taken in 1925 and the Railways were then instructed that one-third of all appointments should be reserved for minority communities. In 1932, the Muslim proportion of all staff on Railways was $21\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. It varies very much on different Railways—from five per cent. on the South Indian Railway to 54 per cent. on the North Western; and, while the percentage of Muslims in the total staff of Railways is perhaps not very inadequate, it must be remembered that the greater portion of this representation are employed in what are known as inferior posts, posts held by labourers, workshop hands and the inferior servants at the stations. In the better paid posts, which are known as the subordinate posts, the proportion of Muslims is no doubt smaller than $21\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.—exactly what it is, I am afraid, I do not know: we have the information which was given to us in Mr. Hassan's Report so far as the four State-managed Railways were concerned—it was $17\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in the subordinate services. On other than State-managed Railways, the proportion will certainly be less than $17\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. We will be safe to assume that it is not more than 17 per cent., and probably it is nearer 12. The Railway Board feel that the representation of Muslims in the subordinate services is inadequate and that special steps should be taken to try and improve it. Mr. Hassan in his report recommended that a certain percentage should be fixed on certain Railways. The Railway Board have formulated proposals in support of their view that Muslims are not adequately represented in the subordinate services, and those proposals are now under the consideration of Government. It is hoped that it will be possible to make a fairly early announcement of the action to be taken. The Railway Board, before making any announcement, propose to discuss it with the Central Advisory Council for Railways. The Honourable Mr. Maswood Ahmad drew attention to the delay that has taken place in dealing with Mr. Hassan's report. Admittedly there has been delay; nevertheless, I think it has had no actual effect because, owing to retrenchment due to loss of traffic on Railways, there has been practically no recruitment of staff. Really, for the last three years, no great change could have been made in the communal proportions of the railway services. Very few appointments have been made. So far as the men who were retrenched were concerned, orders were issued, as was explained by Mr. Hayman last year in this House, to ensure that the same proportion, as far as possible, of each community should be maintained on Railways after retrenchment as before. Mr. Hayman last year quoted figures showing that action on those lines had been taken and that the results were satisfactory with the retrenchment that was made. This

[Mr. C. P. Colvin.]

year—for 1932—the retrenchment started in July and is still proceeding; similar instructions were issued and, when the retrenchment is completed, we shall have figures as to what the results are; from such information as we have we have no reason to think that there will be any change in the representation of communities on the Railways owing to retrenchment.

Certain minor recommendations were made by Mr. Hassan in his report. The provisional views of the Railway Board regarding these recommendations have been communicated to the Agents of the Railways and their views are awaited. It is proposed to make an announcement regarding those minor recommendations shortly, and at the same time, as the announcement regarding the bigger question of separate percentages for Muslims which is under consideration. It must, however, be appreciated that the Railway Board are averse to any action which would lead to communal discrimination as regards staff who are already in the service. There is no doubt from what we have heard during the last day or two that the feeling of the House supports that view. Any action on those lines would undoubtedly lead to unmerited supersession.

Mr. Maswood Ahmad referred this morning to the question of Deputy Agents on Railways. Certain Muslim Members of the Assembly last year represented that posts of Deputy Agents should be held more frequently by Muslims.—I do not think they have ever been held by Muslims,—and Sir George Rainy agreed to consider the matter. What he actually said was this:

“ Now, I come to the fourth point which he (Sir Muhammad Yakub) took. He wants two Mussalmans of proved ability and strong character to be appointed as Deputy Agents, Personnel. That is a matter which I shall consider; but until I have before me the recommendations of the Railway Board, I cannot commit myself finally about it ”.

The Board have not yet been able to make such an appointment. No Muslim of sufficient seniority and experience in that particular class of work has been available at present. A letter was addressed to the Board about a vacancy which has recently occurred as Deputy Agent, Personnel, on the North Western Railway. On the recommendation of the Agent, a European Officer was appointed to that post. There are only two Muslim Officers on the N. W. Railway who are senior to that European Officer. One is already holding the post of Deputy Chief Engineer, which post has the same status and pay as that of the Deputy Agent, and the other Muslim Officer, who is senior to the European Officer, who is holding the post of Deputy Agent, has had no experience of the work in connection with staff and personnel matters. The European Officer, who is now officiating in the post of Deputy Agent, has been connected with that work uninterruptedly since 1924.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: May I interrupt the Honourable Member? Mr. Cameron and Mr. Ghulam Hassan were both men from the traffic side.

Mr. C. P. Colvin: There are many other aspects of traffic work than staff and personnel matters. The Muslim Officer, who is senior to Mr. Cameron, has been practically all his service performing duties in connection with commercial work and he has had no experience of staff and personnel work. I understand that there are no Muslim Officers on other State-managed Railways senior to Mr. Cameron, but, even if there were

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: I want to know if my friend is correct in his statement. Mr. Cameron was 29 points below in the seniority list.

Mr. C. P. Colvin: 29 points below whom?

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: There were 28 Officers senior to Mr. Cameron and he has superseded 28 persons.

Mr. C. P. Colvin: Mr. Cameron has got the post of Deputy Agent before various officers, both Muslims and Europeans, and there were no Muslim Officers on any other Railways who were senior to Mr. Cameron

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: Khan Bahadur Muzaffar Hussain, Mr. Yakub and others?

Mr. J. P. Colvin: Khan Bahadur Muzaffar Hussain is already holding a post of the same status and pay as I explained just now.

Mr. S. C. Mitra: There is certainly some thing rotten somewhere.

Mr. C. P. Colvin: In February, 1931, Mr. Hayman stated in the Assembly that he was very anxious to have an adequate number of Muslim officers employed on staff duty and to see that senior men were appointed as Head Clerks and Superintendents when they were sufficiently qualified by seniority. The State-managed Railways were addressed on this matter on the 6th November, 1932, and the present position is as follows. At present there are eight Staff Employment Officers on the State-managed Railways and 69 Office Superintendents or Head Clerks. In 1930, there were 3 Staff Employment Officers, so that there has been an increase from three to eight in two years, and there were 55 Office Superintendents or Head Clerks

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: This question was not raised in the debate.

Mr. C. P. Colvin: The question was not raised in the debate, but I gathered from my friend's speech this morning that he considered that the Railway Board had failed to carry out their obligations and their undertakings as regards the employment of Muslims, and I was trying to explain that, as far as I could see that was not the case.

As regards Muslim Officers, in 1925 the European Officers on State lines were 822, in 1932 there were 710, a decrease by 112 officers or 13 per cent.; Indians or Statutory Indians between 1925 and 1932 increased by 36, that is by 30 per cent. Muslim Officers increased during the same period from 36 to 52, that is by 16,—an increase of 44 per cent. And on Company-managed lines the European Officers between 1925 and 1932 decreased from 668 to 560,—a decrease of 108 or 15 per cent. Indian Officers increased from 143 to 263,—an increase of 120 or 83 per cent.; Muslim Officers on Company lines during these seven years increased from nine to 21,—an increase of 12 or 133 per cent.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: What has been the result of the last three years? The Honourable Member is giving us figures for 1917, 1920 and 1924, and so on.

Mr. C. P. Colvin: As I explained before, it is not very much use taking the last three years,—I can give the figures,—because during the last three years, owing to the fall in traffic, there has been practically no recruitment. A certain number of staff of all sorts were retrenched, others resigned or retired in the ordinary way, and their places were not filled, because the Railways found that they could carry on without filling all these posts, so that it has been very difficult to improve the position of minority communities as you would be doing at a time when you are recruiting in fairly large numbers, when of course the prescribed policy of reserving 33½ seats is of considerable value. For the last three years, it has been of very little value. Actually, the position for the last three years is this. On the State-managed lines in 1929 there were 1,300 Officers,—or, taking 1930, there were 1,270 Officers, and in 1932, 1,126 Officers—there has been a decrease between 1930 and 1931 of five per cent., and between 1931 and 1932, of six per cent. Among European Officers between 1930 and 1931, there was a decrease of five per cent. and between 1931 and 1932 of six per cent. Among Indian Officers during that period there was a decrease of five per cent. in 1931, and of six per cent. in 1932. Among Muslim Officers out of the Indian Officers, in the first year there was an increase of 1·8 per cent., in the next year there was a decrease of seven per cent. As I have said before, during these three years there has been little opportunity of redressing communal inequalities by the operation of the 33 and one-third per cent. rule.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: Was that rule applied in the case of communities inadequately represented?

Mr. C. P. Colvin: This rule applies to all staff, but no appointments to speak of have been made. So, it has had very little effect.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: Then the figure quoted by me that 133 posts were actually filled was incorrect. Do you mean to say that?

Mr. C. P. Colvin: I do not know what the Honourable Member's question is.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: The question is this. In my speech I said that 133 posts were actually filled in the last three years. Out of this, 69 went to Europeans and Anglo-Indians, 47 to Hindus, 10 to Muslims and seven to others. Is this figure correct or not?

Mr. C. P. Colvin: I cannot say whether the figure is correct or not. I do not quite follow where it comes from.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: The Financial Commissioner has verified it.

Mr. P. B. Rau: I am sorry I have not verified it.

Mr. C. P. Colvin: Regarding subordinate staff drawing a salary of Rs. 250 and over, the higher paid subordinate staff on State Railways, if we compare the position in 1925 and 1932, it is this. Among Europeans, there was a decrease of 23 per cent. Among such posts held by Indians and statutory Indians, there was an increase of 31 per cent. Amongst

such posts held by Muslims, there was an increase of 68 per cent. It rose from 191 in 1925 to 312 in 1932. Regarding the same subordinate staff, drawing Rs. 250 and over, on Company lines, the position is as follows: since 1925 and up to 1st April, 1932, there was a decrease among Europeans of 23 per cent. and an increase among Indians and statutory Indians of 14 per cent., and among Muslims of 31 per cent.

The figures that I have given show that there is no inattention on the part of the Railways or the Railway Board regarding the policy prescribed by Government, and that every care has been taken to see that it is carried out correctly. As I have said, the absence of any recruitment, to speak of, during the last three years has made no marked change to the proportions of the different communities during these years.

Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi (Tirhut Division: Muhammadan):

Sir, the question which was raised by this cut motion was a very important one. I thank Diwan Bahadur Mudaliar who gave us some constructive suggestions on this point. All Honourable Members here know that the Muslims have been adversely affected by the recent retrenchment made in the Railway Department. I do not understand how the Honourable Member who just preceded me told us—his actual words were “no change in the communal representation has been made on account of the retrenchment recently made”—while I find from the report that has been supplied to us, that the Muslim employees have been put in a very serious position on account of the recent retrenchment.

Take only one example which is given on page 44 of the first Volume of the report. I find that the Muslim employees of the Railways were in 1931 one lakh 72 thousand and 975. In 1932, it came down to one lakh 57 thousand 714, that is to say, a reduction of 15,261, that is 9.6 is the proportion of their reduction compared with their number before the retrenchment while the reduction of other communities is only 36,379, a figure, which when worked out in percentage, comes to only 4.6. I cannot think for a moment that figures like this can be belied by simple statements made on the floor of the House. Reading the whole report it appears that no other community has been affected so much as the Muslims in the recent retrenchment. I take these figures as correct and proceed further and say that some way has to be found out for this injustice done to the community. I was grateful to Diwan Bahadur Mudaliar for suggesting a means to do away with this inequality, which is a very fair one. It is being practised in other Departments. We have got the Public Services Commission in India which is trying to do justice to all the communities, and there is less complaint as regards that body. It has been suggested that there should be a Railway Services Commission composed of representatives of different communities, and in their hands should be given the appointments for new posts. I have not heard a single word on this point from the Honourable Member who just now spoke on behalf of the Government. I hope this constructive suggestion of Diwan Bahadur Mudaliar will receive due attention from the Honourable Member and, if the Honourable speaker who has just preceded me, did not like to touch on this point, I hope the Commerce Member or the Financial Commissioner will touch on this point and give us a satisfactory reply.

[Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi.]

I think that my friend, the Acting Leader of the Nationalist Party, should have shown a better mood than what he had done especially after the interruptions to the very able and honest speech of Diwan Bahadur Mudaliar by Bhai Parma Nand,—the acting leader of the Nationalist Party should have come forward to give some lesson to his followers and tell them that this is not the way to achieve harmony in India.

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer: I heard the Honourable gentleman say that he wanted some replies from the Honourable the Commerce Member. I just rise to remind him that at 5 o'clock there will be the guillotine. He can easily deprive the Honourable the Commerce Member of his right of reply.

Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi: I shall just conclude. It was really a surprise—because it was the acting Leader who on the last occasion pacified the atmosphere; it was his speech that brought about harmony. I think it is a very serious question, because our young men are exhausted at present for they do not find any opening for themselves. . . .

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer: I would not have interfered in this debate, Sir, had not provocation come from a misrepresentation of the feelings of 40 millions of the Hindu community.

Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi: It was no provocation at all.

Diwan Bahadur A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: On a point of personal explanation. Mr. Chairman, I did not wish to interrupt my Honourable friend. The reply that I would have given is quite simple. The rotation principle that I suggested was approved by the Madras Legislative Council which represents 40 millions of Hindus. That was what I was referring to. I did not say that I represented in my humble capacity the 40 millions of Hindus.

Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi: I do feel, Sir, that in a country like this we should have an adjustment of this question also, otherwise it will play havoc with our future destiny. I do not know why Bhai Parma Nand came forward to brag of his nationalism. I do not think that he can claim to be a nationalist really. It is one who really works for all in this land that can lay claim to being a nationalist—not he who lives for one community and one community alone (Hear, hear), it is not he who is dividing the natural water into Hindu water and Muhammadan water that can claim to be a nationalist. Sir, is he not doing that? It is these things he should have prevented before he could presume to come before this House and give us a lecture on the nationalism that he thinks of. I do hope, Sir, that the Honourable the Commerce Member will give us a satisfactory reply.

Several Honourable Members: The question be now put.

Mr. Chairman (Sir Hari Singh Gour): I accept the closure. The question is that the question be now put.

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore (Member for Commerce and Railways): Sir, this question has been debated so often on the floor of this House and it has aroused so much feeling on almost every occasion that I do not want to say anything which may inadvertently excite, instead of allaying, that feeling. There is, as far as I can see, very little, Sir, that I can usefully add to the actual information that was given by my Honourable friend. I do realize the depth of feeling among Mussalmans on this subject; and I would ask them equally to realise the anxiety we feel that they should appreciate the fact that we really and honestly want to do all we can to remove any reasonable cause for the existence of that feeling. Here I can assure my Honourable friend, the Mover, that it is not merely through any desire to postpone the matter that specific action has not been taken on Mr. Hassan's Report. As the House has already heard, the provisional conclusions of the Railway Board have been formulated on that report; but I think the House will realise that in a matter of this great importance, some general uniformity of principle should be adopted, some principle which will be applicable not merely to the Railways, but to all the Departments of Government. (Applause from the Nationalist Benches.) That, Sir, is really the reason which is delaying action, so far as the Railway Department is concerned. I think my Honourable Colleague, the Home Member, explained in reply to a question the other day that the matter was under active consideration and personally I hope that it will not be long before we shall be able to arrive at some general conclusions which will be of universal application. I hope myself that, if it is possible and I am able to hold a meeting of the Central Advisory Council before the Session concludes, I may be able to put up certain suggestions to them in this connection for their examination.

Now, I would only refer to certain general points which are no doubt present to the minds of Honourable Members. They do realize, I am sure, that in the past, owing to educational, and economic disqualifications or disadvantages or handicaps, the Muslim community has not been adequately represented in the services; and they will also realize that so far as the Railway Department is concerned, it is difficult at once, or indeed in the immediate future, to make any material change in the percentages by reasons of the enormous size of these particular services. But Honourable Members may rest assured that this matter will not be allowed to rest so long as I am here. (Hear, hear.) I hope, as I said, that orders will be passed upon Mr. Hassan's Report and that those orders will remove all reasonable grounds for complaint. I feel, personally, they should do so.

As regards the suggestions and proposals which came from my Honourable friend, Diwan Bahadur A. Ramaswami Mudaliar, naturally, Sir, the proposals made are of such great importance and so far-reaching that I do not think he could expect a pronouncement from me on this occasion at such short notice. (Hear, hear.) I am glad that in one or two matters my Honourable friend agreed with me. I made my position, I think, perfectly clear the other day so far as promotions to selection grade posts are concerned. My Honourable friend, I think, was able to see eye to eye with me on that question. He very rightly pointed out that in coming to a conclusion as to the comparative merits of individual officers, mistakes are likely. I frankly admit that; but personally I think there is always a remedy,—the remedy of an appeal or a review, and I can

[Sir Joseph Bhore.]

assure the House that when these appeals come to me, though I cannot ensure that absolute justice will be done, at any rate so far as I am concerned, I can say that I shall come to a decision on this question with an absolutely open mind and endeavour to hold the balance as evenly as I possibly can. (Applause.) Now, Sir, the real thing is to concentrate on future recruitment, as my Honourable friend said, and that my Honourable friend and the House may rest assured we shall do. As was pointed out by my Honourable friend, Mr. Colvin, the fact is that owing to retrenchment or the very material reduction of fresh recruitment, we may not be able in the immediate future or in the next year or two to show any very great enlargement of percentages so far as any particular community is concerned. But I think what will satisfy my Honourable friend and the House will be the enunciation of certain principles which will remove all reasonable grounds for complaint from any community. (Loud Applause.)

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: Sir, first of all I wish to thank Diwan Bahadur A. Ramaswami Mudaliar. He has very ably placed the case, and his suggestions were, no doubt, of a constructive nature. I do not think that a system which has been successfully tried in Madras will fail in other parts of India. Mr. Chairman, in this connection I want to say this that the man who will settle this perplexed question once for all will be the master-builder of the nation. Nations will remember him and his name will be written with golden letters in the history of India. In my opinion, that is the only point worth solving and if you once solve that problem, the whole trouble will vanish. What I actually want is justice for Mussalmans, for Hindus, for Anglo-Indians and for everybody. I want the reign of justice for the whole of India.

Mr. Chairman, I will certainly ask my Honourable friend, Sir Henry Gidney, that if any expression from me has injured his feelings, I am sorry for it. Last year I placed one side of the picture and this year I have placed another side.

Lieut-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: Next year place the right side.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: Mr. Chairman, it has been said that we should wait, but we have waited very long. Every year it is said that we should wait, but when the result comes in our hands, we find from the administration reports that our case is going from bad to worse. I am very glad to find that this year at least no Member from the Treasury Benches dared to correct or challenge my figures.

After listening to the speech of the Honourable the Railway Member in which he said that there would be no injustice to anybody as long as he was in charge of it, I think we must rely on his words. I hope he will show that the injustice that has been done to my community will not be prolonged and that our percentage will be increased. He should also see that with the assistance of another Indian gentleman, namely, the Financial Commissioner, proper representation is secured to the members of my community in the accounts department where at present there is a great paucity of Mussalmans. My Honourable friend, the Financial Commissioner, should prove that the interest of Muslims is safe in the hands of an Indian. So, Mr. Chairman, with your permission and with the permission of the House, I wish to withdraw my motion.

Mr. Chairman (Sir Hari Singh Gour): The question is that Mr. Maswood Ahmad be permitted to withdraw his motion.

(Mr. Amar Nath Dutt objected to the withdrawal of the motion.)

Leave refused. The House will now divide on the main motion.

Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan: Before you put this motion, may I point out to you that it is now 5 o'clock.

Mr. Chairman (Sir Hari Singh Gour): The motion can be put. The question is:

"That the demand under the head 'Railway Board' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Chairman (Sir Hari Singh Gour): The question is:

5 P.M.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,31,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1934, in respect of 'Railway Board'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 2.—INSPECTION.

Mr. Chairman (Sir Hari Singh Gour): The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 82,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1934, in respect of 'Inspection'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 3.—AUDIT.

Mr. Chairman (Sir Hari Singh Gour): The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 12,30,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1934, in respect of 'Audit'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 4.—WORKING EXPENSES: ADMINISTRATION.

Mr. Chairman (Sir Hari Singh Gour): The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 10,30,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1934, in respect of 'Working Expenses: Administration'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 5.—WORKING EXPENSES: REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION.

Mr. Chairman (Sir Hari Singh Gour): The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 38,12,50,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1934, in respect of 'Working Expenses: Repairs and Maintenance and Operation'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 6.—COMPANIES' AND INDIAN STATES' SHARE OF SURPLUS PROFITS AND NET EARNINGS.

Mr. Chairman (Sir Hari Singh Gour): The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 54,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1934, in respect of 'Companies' and Indian States' Share of Surplus Profits and Net Earnings'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 9.—APPROPRIATION TO DEPRECIATION FUND.

Mr. Chairman (Sir Hari Singh Gour): The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 13,75,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1934, in respect of 'Appropriation to Depreciation Fund'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 11.—MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURE.

Mr. Chairman (Sir Hari Singh Gour): The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1934, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Expenditure'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 14.—INTEREST CHARGES.

Mr. Chairman (Sir Hari Singh Gour): The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,83,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1934, in respect of 'Interest Charges'."

The motion was adopted.

Expenditure not charged to Revenue.

DEMAND No. 7.—NEW CONSTRUCTION

Mr. Chairman (Sir Hari Singh Gour): The question is:

“ That a sum not exceeding Rs. 31,25,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1934, in respect of ‘ New Construction ’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 8.—OPEN LINE WORKS.

Mr. Chairman (Sir Hari Singh Gour): The question is:

“ That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,92,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1934, in respect of ‘ Open Line Works ’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 10.—APPROPRIATION FROM DEPRECIATION FUND.

Mr. Chairman (Sir Hari Singh Gour): The question is:

“ That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,77, 12,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges, which will come in course of payment, during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1934, in respect of ‘ Appropriation from Depreciation Fund ’.”

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 27th February, 1933.