

10th August 1938

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

(Official Report)

Volume IV, 1938

(8th August to 25th August, 1938)

EIGHTH SESSION OF THE FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1938



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Legislative Assembly.

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SYED GHULAM BHIK NAIRANG, M.L.A.

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

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, 10th August, 1938.

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

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

(a) ORAL ANSWERS.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Sir, I have been authorised to put these questions (Nos. 89 and 90) on behalf of Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha.

MEMORIAL FROM THE BUDDHISTS OF CEYLON ABOUT THE CONTROL OF BUDDHA GAYA TEMPLE.

89. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti** (on behalf of Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha) : Will the Honourable the Home Member please state :

- (a) whether the Government of India or the Government of Bihar and Orissa received in 1925-26 a memorial from the Buddhists of Ceylon, asking for joint control of the Buddha Gaya Temple by the Hindus and Buddhists ;
- (b) whether the Buddhists suggested any sort of legislation in their memorial ;
- (c) if so, what the opinion expressed by Government was ; and
- (d) whether he will please lay on the table of the House a copy of the memorial together with the reply of the Government ?

The Honourable Mr. R. M. Maxwell : (a) The Government of India received no such memorial. They have no information whether one was received by the Government of Bihar.

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

ACTION ON THE BUDDHA GAYA TEMPLE BILL.

90. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti** (on behalf of Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha) : Will the Honourable the Home Member please state :

- (a) whether Government have taken any action on the Buddha Gaya Temple Bill after its introduction in 1936 ; and
- (b) if so, what action they have taken or propose to take ?

The Honourable Mr. R. M. Maxwell : (a) and (b). There has not been any occasion for Government to take any action.

POSITION OF MILITARY PENSIONERS IN RELATION TO THE CONGRESS.

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

- (a) whether it is an offence or against the conditions of a military pensioner to vote for a congress candidate in the elections to any Provincial or the Central Legislature, or to a local body ;
- (b) whether a military pensioner can stand as a congress candidate ;
- (c) whether a military pensioner can become a member of any primary Congress Committee ;
- (d) whether Government are prepared to issue a *communiqué* explaining the real position about this matter, as great doubt and misapprehensions exist in the public mind ?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie : (a), (b) and (c). A military pensioner may vote for the candidate of any political party, or stand himself for election, or become a member of any committee or other organisation of any party, but it must be understood that active participation in any movement which aims at overturning the Government by unconstitutional or unlawful means may result in the forfeiture of pension.

(d) No. Government do not consider it necessary.

REMARKS ABOUT INDIAN ARMY MADE BY SIR PHILIP CHETWODE IN A SPEECH AT TROCADERO.

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

- (a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the speech of Sir Philip Chetwode, *ex-Commander-in-Chief* of India, which he is reported to have made at the annual Indian Civil Service dinner at Trocadero on the 10th June, 1938, particularly to the remarks that those now taking commissions in the Indian Army were " not of the right type " and " there must be no politics in the Army " ; and
- (b) whether Government endorse these remarks ?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie : (a) and (b). Government have seen the press report in question. They entirely agree with Field Marshal Sir Philip Chetwode's remark that there must be no politics in the Army. As regards his remarks about the quality of candidates for commissions in the Indian Army, Government agree that a considerable proportion of the candidates are not of the right type.

TENDERS FOR THE PRINTING AND DESPATCHING OF *Fauji Akhbar*.

†93. *Bhai Parma Nand : (a) Will the Defence Secretary be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Editor, *Fauji Akhbar*, Simla, invited during May, 1938, through a notice published in the press, tenders for the printing and despatching of copies of the *Fauji Akhbar* ?

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

(b) Is it a fact that according to this notice no presses, except those located at Simla, Ambala, Meerut and Delhi were permitted to submit tenders for this work ?

(c) Will the Defence Secretary be pleased to state if any tenders were received from presses situated at places other than those mentioned in part (b) above and how these rates compared with the rates submitted by the other presses ?

(d) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state the reasons for the exclusion of presses other than those situated at Ambala, Meerut, Delhi and Simla ?

(e) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state at what hour a letter posted at Simla in the afternoon will reach Delhi, Meerut, Ambala and Lahore ?

(f) How are Meerut, Ambala and Delhi easier of communication with Simla than Lahore ?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie : (a), (b) and (c). Yes. Some of the rates from places excluded by the terms of the notice were lower.

(d) Because the Editor must have easy access to the Press.

(e) Normally the next day.

(f) They are not.

WITHDRAWAL OF PRESIDENCY TOWNS COMPENSATORY ALLOWANCES FROM CIVIL SERVANTS.

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

(a) whether he is aware of the news on page 9 of *The Hindu*, dated 17th May, 1938, that presidency towns compensatory allowances to civil servants have been withdrawn on the ground that they were no longer compensatory but a source of profit ;

(b) whether any of the civil servants concerned had protested against the withdrawal ; and

(c) if so, with what effect ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) The matter is under consideration.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar : May I know whether this matter was raised in Parliament, and the Secretary of State represented that these additional concessions have been conceded to them again ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : The first part of the question is, I believe, correct—that somebody did ask the Under Secretary of State a question in Parliament ; but I am quite sure that the Under Secretary of State did not give any definite reply to the effect that the Honourable Member has suggested.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar : May I know what they have been withdrawn if they are going to be conceded again ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I think some of the civil servants concerned have a right of representation to the Secretary of State.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : With reference to the answer to clause (b), may I know in what form the protest has reached the Government of India, and whether these protests have been addressed to the Government of India and to the Secretary of State also, and if to the latter, with or without the knowledge of the Government of India ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I cannot answer that without notice. My impression is that they were referred to us and were sent on to the Secretary of State.

Mr. K. Santhanam : May I know which Government was responsible for providing these allowances, provincial or central ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Central.

Mr. K. Santhanam : In view of the fact that the pay of the civil servants has not been revised, while the pay of other services has been revised, will the Government consider the advisability of not restoring these compensatory allowances ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I think the Honourable Member can draw his own conclusions from the fact that the Government of India originally withdrew them.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : May I know with whom the final voice rests in this matter ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Over a portion of the field, with the Secretary of State.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : With regard to the part of the field which rests with the Government of India entirely, may I take it that the Government of India have no intention of restoring this concession ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : The Honourable Member must not assume more than I say.

TALKS GOING ON BETWEEN THE WAR OFFICE AND THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

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

(a) what are the matters over which talks are going on between the War Office of His Majesty's Government and the Government of India ;

(b) whether any conclusions have been reached ;

(c) if so, on what matters ;

(d) whether it will effect any increase in expenditure from Indian revenues ; and

(e) if so, to what extent ?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie : With the permission of the Honourable the President. I propose to answer questions Nos. 95, 113 and 131 together

I refer the Honourable Members to the reply given by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in another place on the 4th April, 1938, and to the reply given by me in this House on the 7th April, 1938, to Mr. Abdul Qaiyum's short notice question on the same subject. Government are not yet in a position to add anything to those replies.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : With reference to the answer to question No. 131, may I know whether Government are pursuing in any active manner, with the British Government, the question of the cost of British troops now maintained in India ?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie : The whole subject of defence expenditure is under discussion.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : I shall be grateful for some more enlightenment. I am asking, with reference to clause (a) of my question specifically, whether the cost of maintenance of British troops in India is being discussed with His Majesty's Government.

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie : These discussions, as I think the Honourable Member should be aware, largely arose because of the cost of maintenance of British troops.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : May I know what the specific answer to part (c) of my question is, whether Government have pressed on the British Government the need for their paying the entire cost of the British troops in India, so long as they remain here ?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie : I can give no more specific answer than that I have already given.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : May I know whether Government have made any representations, "as they are at liberty to make", on this aspect of the question, namely, the British Government having to pay the entire cost of British troops in India ?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie : I cannot answer that question categorically. I can only say that every aspect of the question is the subject of consideration.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : May I know whether the same answer covers the answer or the non-answer to clause (d) of my question, viz., whether Government have taken up with the British Government or propose to take up the question of the cost of other troops being shared on a fairer basis between Britain and India ?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie : The same answer that I have already given applies.

Seth Govind Das : By what date is it expected that these discussions would be concluded ?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie : No definite answer can be given to that at this stage.

Mr. Manu Subedar : May I know if it is intended to take the leaders of parties in this House into confidence and place the Government of India's proposals now being considered in the United Kingdom before them ?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie : I can make no forecast with reference to that.

Mr. Manu Subedar : It is no forecast. I am asking whether the Government of India intend to take party leaders into confidence.

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie : It is asking for a forecast. Government have not considered the matter at all.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : With reference to clause (b) of question No. 113, may I know who represented the Government of India at these inter-departmental talks, and whether the Viceroy now on leave, Lord Linlithgow, and his Private Secretary, Mr. Laithwaite, took any part in these discussions on behalf of the Government of India ?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie : The names of the representatives of the Government of India have appeared in the press and were quoted yesterday by the Honourable Mr. Jinnah.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : May I know whether, apart from these representatives or in addition to them, the Viceroy now on leave took any part in these discussions on behalf of the Government of India ?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie : I am unable to give any information on that subject.

Mr. K. Santhanam : With reference to the answer to part (c) of the same question, no answer was given : I want a specific reply.

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie : The Government of India have been in constant correspondence with the representatives.

Mr. K. Santhanam : That is not my question ; it is whether the representatives were under the instructions of the Government of India or under the instructions of the Secretary of State ?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie : I am afraid I am unable to give you a specific answer to that question.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : May I know for elucidation, whether in matters where the Secretary of State for India and the Government of India differed, these representatives took their instructions from the Government of India or from the Secretary of State ?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie : I am unable to enter into these details.

SITUATION IN THE WAZIRISTAN FRONTIER.

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

- (a) whether there has been trouble again in the Waziristan frontier ;
- (b) whether any casualties have occurred ; and
- (c) what has been the extent of the money spent in the actions taken in the Waziristan frontier in this financial year ?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie : (a) Yes. I refer the Honourable Member to the press communiqué, dated the 19th May, 1938, and subsequent communiqués.

(b) Yes. 35 killed and 117 wounded.

(c) The extra expenditure incurred between 1st April and 30th June, 1938, as a result of the recrudescence of trouble in Waziristan amounts to about Rs. 10 lakhs.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar : May I know what has been the cause of this fresh trouble ?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie : I would refer the Honourable Member to the most detailed communiqué of May the 19th, and to also the score of such different communiqués as have appeared in the press.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum : Is it not a fact that the trouble has been continuous without any break, if so, how does the Honourable Member describe the present trouble as fresh trouble ?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie : There was certainly a break, I admit it was a short one.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum : May I know from what date did this break occur ?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie : I would again refer the Honourable Member to the last communiqué published on May the 19th.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum : Is it not a fact that a number of people have been kidnapped from lorries plying in the two agencies in Waziristan ?

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

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum : It does arise out of this, Sir, because it relates to disturbances in Waziristan.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The Honourable Member cannot ask that question.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum : May I know if the tribal *lashkars* from Waziristan raided Bannu recently ?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie : I don't see how it arises out of this question.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar : May I know how much money has been spent after the 30th June, 1938 ?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie : Not at present.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar : Can he give an approximate amount ?

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

Mr. S. Satyamurti : May I know whether, in dealing with these troubles, the Government have ever consulted the N.-W. F. Provincial Government or whether they propose to do so ?

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

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Why not ?

(No answer.)

Mr. Abdur Rasheed Chaudhury : May I know what is the number of Britishers and of Indians who have been killed or wounded ?

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

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar : May I know if the number of casualties given represent only the casualties on the Government side or they also represent the casualties on the civil side ?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie : The figures given refer only to soldiers.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande : What was the total number of troops engaged there ?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie : I shall require notice of it.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum : Did you have resort to bombing there ?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie : I don't think how it arises out of this.

REORGANISATION OF THE PUBLIC INFORMATION BUREAU.

97. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar :** Will the Honourable the Home Member state :

(a) whether Government have finished consideration of the Joyce Report to reorganise the Office of the Director of Public Information ;

(b) if so, what are the main proposals of reorganisation ; and

(c) what is the total cost of this reorganisation ?

The Honourable Mr. R. M. Maxwell : (a) Yes.

(b) So far as the staff is concerned, the effect of the reorganisation is to add one Administrative Officer and one Assistant Information Officer and to strengthen the ministerial staff.

(c) In the current year the cost will be less than Rs. 50,000. The cost, if all the new posts were filled for a complete year, would be about Rs. 58,000.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar : May I know, out of the new appointments that were going to be made, how many men have already been taken ?

The Honourable Mr. R. M. Maxwell : The Assistant Information Officer is being recruited through the Public Service Commission. The Administrative Officer has already been appointed.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar : Has he also been recruited through the Public Service Commission ?

The Honourable Mr. R. M. Maxwell : No, I do not think so.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar : May I know the reason why one officer has been recruited through the Public Service Commission, and another directly by the Government ?

The Honourable Mr. R. M. Maxwell : He was promoted from an office as Superintendent of the office.

Mr. Manu Subedar : May I know what steps have been taken by the Honourable the Home Member to satisfy himself that the organization of this office, which is primarily for the use of the press representatives, is giving satisfaction to the press representatives ?

The Honourable Mr. R. M. Maxwell : I am afraid the Honourable Member will have to ask the press for that.

Mr. Manu Subedar : In view of the complaints which some of us are hearing sometimes, may I inquire whether the Honourable the Home Member or his Secretary would take the trouble to invite the press representatives and ascertain whether they are satisfied with the present organization or if they would like to suggest some small changes ?

The Honourable Mr. R. M. Maxwell : The Principal Information Officer is always ready to hear complaints from the press and to do all he can to meet them.

Mr. Manu Subedar : Supposing the complaints are against the Principal Officer himself, may I inquire.....

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : He cannot ask a hypothetical question.

Mr. Manu Subedar : I am only asking whether....

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The Honourable Member has already given an answer.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : May I know whether, as a result of the re-organization of the office, the system of giving subsidies to certain newspapers has been definitely given up ?

The Honourable Mr. R. M. Maxwell : No subsidies of any kind are paid on behalf of the Office of Director of Public Information to any newspapers or journalists.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : May I know whether any matter is being supplied from his office to certain "friendly presses", for special publication on behalf of the Government ?

The Honourable Mr. R. M. Maxwell : Not so far as I am aware.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : May I take it that all the newspaper agencies are treated equally and impartially ?

The Honourable Mr. R. M. Maxwell : Entirely.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : May I know whether all Government Departments are properly equipped and staffed for doing publicity work for Government ?

The Honourable Mr. R. M. Maxwell : No, Sir ; the office of the Principal Officer of Information exists for that purpose ; the other Government Departments are not so equipped.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Have these Departments any press sense, and do they respond to the demands of this department with a view to canvassing public opinion to the extent to which that department can for the activities of all the other departments ?

The Honourable Mr. E. M. Maxwell : Ordinary Secretariat Departments are not expected to have a press sense, and it is for that purpose the Public Information Office exists.

REMARKS ABOUT INDIAN ARMY MADE BY SIR PHILIP CHETWODE IN A SPEECH AT TROCADERO.

98. ***Mr. Brojendra Narayan Chaudhury :** (a) Will the Defence Secretary please state if his attention has been drawn to the report, dated the 10th June, 1938, from London, appearing in Indian daily newspapers, of the Annual Indian Civil Service Dinner, where Sir Philip Chetwode is said to have stated that those Indians now taking Army Commissions were not quite of the right class ?

(b) Do Government contemplate any further steps to get at quite the right class of persons ? If so, what steps ?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie : (a) Yes.

(b) The nature of the steps to be taken is at present being actively considered, but no decision has yet been reached.

Mr. Brojendra Narayan Chaudhury : Will Government consider whether the nominations made by District Magistrates and other high officials for candidates for training are of the right type ?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie : I don't think that arises out of this.

Mr. Brojendra Narayan Chaudhury : I am only suggesting an inquiry into the nominations made by District Magistrates and other high officials whether the nominations do not impede recruitment of the right type ?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie : The competition is now entirely open and most of the steps which had already been taken in the past have been wiped out, but the whole matter, every aspect of it, is at present under consideration.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : With reference to (a) may I know, whether the Government have considered, in view of their answer "Yes", that Sir Philip Chetwode's remarks that those Indians now taking army commissions are not quite of the right class is a serious reflection on the Indian families of these officers, and will Government dissociate themselves from those remarks ?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie : I think that Field Marshal Sir Philip Chetwode's remark which is quoted is divorced from the context, and that no reflection is intended on anybody. What he intended to say was, so far as I am aware, that some candidates presenting themselves were not of the right class to make officers in the army ; he does not say that they are a bad class in the very least, but merely said that some of them were not fitted for a military career.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : In view of the fact that some of the candidates did not belong to the right class, may I ask whether the Government of India will take steps to permit boys belonging to the poorer classes to be candidates for recruitment ?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie : Boys of the poorer classes at present enter the commissioned ranks of the army through the ranks, but it must be accepted, I think, though perhaps I am answering more than I should do in a supplementary question, that boys who have not got a good education and the type of home life that comes with a certain amount of means are not likely to be able to hold their own in the commissioned ranks of the army.

Mr. Abdur Rasheed Chaudhury : What is wrong with the Indian officers who are said to be not of the right type at present.

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie : No more can be said than that a certain proportion are not suited to the life of a commissioned officer. That is all.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali : I understood the Honourable Member to say that Sir Philip Chetwode's speech did not really imply what is suggested here, in fact the quotation here is divorced from the context, but the quotation given is as follows—'Whether Sir Philip Chetwode is said to have stated that those Indians now taking Army Commissions were not quite of the right class',—not presenting themselves for,—'but now taking army commissions were not quite of the right class'. Do Government hold that view or dissociate themselves from it?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie : Government certainly holds the view that a sufficient number of persons who appear for commissions and who ultimately get them are not altogether of the right class.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali : The expression used here is 'now taking Army Commissions'. Do Government dissociate themselves from that view?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie : Government do not dissociate themselves from that view.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali : Then Government really mean to reflect on persons who are now holding King's Commission. Is that the view of the Government?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie : I think that the Honourable Member is placing an unnecessarily harsh construction upon the affair. The fact is that a large number, a regrettably large proportion of the officers, have resigned and a number of others still serving find that army life is not altogether to their taste and a still larger number, a regrettably large number, endeavour to get out the ordinary line into departments, political and so forth and the conclusion that one has to draw is that a proportion of those now taking commissions are not of the right type, that would be a better word than the word 'class', to enter and adopt the army as a permanent career.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali : In view of the fact that Mr. Ogilvie has stated that a large number of persons who have taken King's Commission have resigned, may I ask him if it is not due to the fact that some of them have been treated exactly in the same way as Captain Lamba and the treatment meted out to them makes it impossible for them to continue in the army?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie : I cannot contradict the insinuation made by the Honourable Member sufficiently strongly. I reject the insinuation *in toto* and as I should be unable to do justice to the subject in less than a long speech, I leave it at that.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : When the Honourable Member refers to the advantages of life which boys from the richer classes have over boys from the poorer classes, what exactly does he mean. Does he mean that the boys from the richer classes have the advantage of being able to drink and gamble and do something else.

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie : I dispute the Honourable Member's suggestion that the only advantages of comparative wealth are the ability to gamble and drink and I think that it may be taken as a general truth that those who have a certain amount of means are likely to be better educated in every sense of the word than those who are not.

Mr. M. S. Aney : May I ask whether the Honourable Member means that the class, caste or community from which these officers have come is not the class caste or community from which any recruitment should be made. Is that the implication ?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie : No, Sir. It is definitely not the implication and I hope that the Honourable Member will get out all ideas of caste or community out of his head. I think that the chief reason for the misunderstandings which have arisen is the use of the word 'class'. The word should have been 'type'.

Seth Govind Das : The Honourable Member has said that a large proportion of these persons are not of the right type. Will he tell us what is that proportion which is not of the right type ?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie : I cannot go into exact details but it is considerable. It is much greater than we would like.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : May I ask whether the Honourable Member and the Government of India will take steps to enable boys coming from well educated poorer classes to get into these military colleges by giving them scholarships.

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie : There are already a large number of scholarships and opportunities do exist for well educated boys of the poorer classes to obtain commissions but the main point is that comparatively few of them are well educated.

Maulvi Abdur Rasheed Chandhury : Is it not a fact that the outburst of the late Commander-in-Chief was definitely intended to debar Indians from entering the commissioned ranks and thereby delay Indianisation ?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie : The late Commander-in-Chief had never any such intention whatever in any shape or form and no one could have devoted more care and attention to this problem than he.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Have Government examined in any proper manner the causes for the "regrettably large number", I am using the words of Mr. Ogilvie, of cases of officers who have either resigned or want to take to other avocations, and have they arrived at any conclusions ? Will they appoint a committee of this House to go into the

whole question and satisfy this House that this regrettable tendency is not due to ill-treatment but merely, as Sir Philip Chetwode said, because they are not of the right type ?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie : As I have already said, the whole question is under the most careful, active and sympathetic consideration. As to future developments with regard to the consultation of the members of this House, the Honourable Member, I think, is wishing to forecast the results of my answer to a Resolution which has been tabled and will shortly come up for discussion. I would ask him to wait until then, when I shall give him a full and proper answer.

RULES FOR THE GRANT OF LEAVE TO GOVERNORS OF PROVINCES AND EXECUTIVE COUNCILLORS OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT.

99. *Seth Govind Das : Will the Honourable the Home Member please state :

- (a) whether there is any rule governing the grant of leave to Governors of Provinces and Executive Councillors of the Central Government ;
- (b) whether, under the rules, a Governor or Executive Councillor can take leave for any length of time on full pay ; and
- (c) whether the grant of leave is entirely at the discretion of the Governor General ?

The Honourable Mr. R. M. Maxwell : (a), (b) and (c). I would refer the Honourable Member to paragraph 2 of the Letters Patent constituting the office of the Governors of Provinces, paragraph 8 of the Government of India (Governors' Allowances and Privileges) Order, 1936, and section 86 in the 9th Schedule to the Government of India Act, 1935, copies of which are in the Library. The leave allowance of the Members of the Governor General's Executive Council is Rs. 3,333-5-4 per mensem.

Seth Govind Das : When a Governor goes on leave, does he ever think of going to an Indian health resort ?

Mr. Sri Prakasa : May I know if Provincial Ministers are included among the Executive Councillors ?

The Honourable Mr. R. M. Maxwell : No.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Is there a convention by which Governors and Governors General must go on leave for four months during their tenure of office and that civilians must get a chance to act as Governors ?

The Honourable Mr. R. M. Maxwell : I am not aware of any such convention.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : For the last ten years, to my knowledge, civilians get a chance to act as Governors when the latter go on leave. Is there a convention by which Governors must go on leave so that civilians can act, one after the other ?

The Honourable Mr. R. M. Maxwell : I am not answerable for the private arrangements of Governors of Provinces.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : I am asking whether these civilians bring pressure to bear on these unfortunate Governors to go on leave, so that they may get an opportunity to act.

EXCHANGE RATIO.

100. *Seth Govind Das : Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state :

- (a) whether Government are contemplating the alteration of the exchange value of the rupee ;
- (b) if not, the resources available at present to justify the continuance of the ratio exchange ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the sterling resources in the bank department of the Reserve Bank have been considerably depleted during the last several months from about twenty-five crores in April, 1937, to about two crores of rupees at present ;
- (d) whether it is a fact that the committee of the Indian Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta, have objected to the drawing of bills from paper currency reserve for maintaining the present rate of exchange and other methods of contraction of currency of credit ;
- (e) whether Government consulted the various Provincial Governments in the matter of lowering, or maintaining the present exchange ratio ; and
- (f) if not, their reasons ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : (a) to (f). I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the communiqué issued by Government on the 6th June, 1938, and the published weekly accounts of the Reserve Bank of India.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : May I know whether Government are considering the question of supplementing the information, because I believe that Government also believe in educating public opinion in this country ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : That is a large question. I have on various occasions tried to educate public opinion, not always to the gratification of Honourable Members opposite.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : "Monkeying with the ratio" has become an immortal phrase. Apart from that, however, may I know, whether Government will publish an objective statement of the pros and cons of the present ratio and the reasons why they refuse to change the ratio in order to attempt to convince public opinion in this country ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Well, that is a large question ; I am prepared to talk to my Honourable friend about that outside.

Seth Govind Das : Are Government aware that there has been a lot of agitation as far as changing the ratio is concerned, and have they revised their attitude after June last ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : The answer to the last part of the question is no.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar : What are the answers to clauses (d) and (e), Sir ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I have not answered clause (d) for the simple reason that I do not understand it ; there is no such thing as a Paper Currency Reserve now.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar : With regard to the answer to part (e), may I know whether they were consulted at all ? I do not want the details of the correspondence. Were they consulted at all ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I am not prepared to answer that.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar : Have any Provincial Governments made any representations in this behalf ? If so, what are these ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : That is the same question.

PENSIONS FOR INFERIOR SERVANTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

101. ***Mr. N. M. Joshi :** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state :

- (a) whether his attention was drawn during the discussion on a Resolution in the Legislative Assembly in 1937, regarding certain deficiencies in the rules for pensions for inferior servants of the Government of India ;
- (b) whether he has given consideration to this subject since the discussion of that Resolution ; and
- (c) whether he has come to any decision, and, if he has, what is the decision ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : (a), (b), and (c). The revised pension rules were issued in 1936 and in my view it is still too early to undertake any further revision.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : May I know when the proper time is likely to come ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I should think not in the next nine months.

LOTTERY TICKETS SOLD BY THE TOURIST AGENCY IN CONNAUGHT CIRCUS, NEW DELHI.

102. ***Bhai Parma Nand** (on behalf of Mr. Lalchand Navalrai) : (a) With reference to my starred question No. 1658, asked on the 16th April, 1936, will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state whether legal action, then contemplated, was taken against the Tourist Agency which was selling lottery tickets in Connaught Circus, New Delhi ?

(b) Is that Agency, or one similar to it, doing business in lottery in New Delhi ? If so, what steps do Government propose to take against them ?

The Honourable Mr. R. M. Maxwell : (a) Yes.

(b) The information has been called for and will be supplied when it becomes available.

LOTTERIES AUTHORISED BY GOVERNMENT.

103. ***Bhai Parma Nand** (on behalf of Mr. Lalchand Navalrai) : (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state which kind of lotteries have Government authorised in India and to which person or persons and for what reasons ?

(b) Is the Honourable Member aware that the press deprecates the many spurious lotteries that have sprung up all over India by which public are being swindled on a large scale ? If so, what steps do Government propose to take to stop such bogus lotteries ?

(c) Are Government aware that in Sind a state lottery has been started, the proceeds of which would be utilised by Government in various public charities in the Province ?

(d) Are such lotteries started by the Government of India and other Provincial Governments also ? If so, have Government sanctioned such lotteries ? If so, under what conditions ?

The Honourable Mr. R. M. Maxwell : The Government of India have authorised no lotteries. I have no information about lotteries, if any, authorised by Provincial Governments, other than the Sind Government. In view of the Honourable Member's allegation about the Sind Government I have made enquiries and find that no State lottery has been authorised by that Government. It is not for the Government of India to take steps if illegal lotteries are run in Governors' Provinces.

Seth Govind Das : Is there any rule prohibiting lotteries in aid of foreign institutions which are generally subscribed in India ?

The Honourable Mr. R. M. Maxwell : Section 294-A of the Indian Penal Code applies in certain cases.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Are any steps to be taken to prohibit these lotteries being indulged in in different parts of India ?

The Honourable Mr. R. M. Maxwell : That depends on Provincial Governments now.

Mr. Sri Prakasa : Is it not a fact that District Magistrates run lotteries in order to sell off their cars before they retire ?

(No answer.)

CERTAIN INFORMATION IN RESPECT OF THE TRAINING OF INDIANS IN CERTAIN MILITARY COLLEGES.

104. ***Mr. M. Asaf Ali :** Will the Defence Secretary please furnish the following information in respect of the training of Indians in (i) Sandhurst, (ii) Woolwich, (iii) Cranwell, and (iv) Indian Sandhurst (Dehra Dun) :

(a) how many Indians have been admitted to each of these institutions during 1934-35-36-37-38, and how many of the successful candidates are serving in the Indian Army now ;

(b) what amount India pays annually to the institutions mentioned in (i), (ii) and (iii) for the training of Indian Cadets, and what is the average annual expenditure on each Indian in (i), (ii) and (iii) above ; and

(c) how such cost of training compares with similar cost in Germany, Italy and Japan ?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie : (a) Since the inception of the Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun, in 1932, Indians have not entered the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, or the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich.

I lay on the table a statement showing the number of Indians admitted to the Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun, and the Royal Air Force College, Cranwell, during 1934-38, and the number now in service.

(b) The cost of training an Indian cadet at Sandhurst and Woolwich in 1931 was £677, of which £477 was paid by the parent or guardian and £200 by Government. The amount paid annually for training of Indian cadets at Cranwell depends on the number of candidates. The average expenditure per Indian cadet is Rs. 16,750 a year, which is a concessional rate.

(c) Government have no information.

Statement showing the number of Indians admitted to the Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun and the Royal Air Force College, Cranwell, during 1934-38, etc.

Year.	Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun.			Royal Air Force College, Cranwell.	
	Admitted.	Passed out.	Now serving.	Admitted.	Now serving.
1934 ..	69	..	..	2	1
1935 ..	75	47	45	..	..
1936 ..	69	54	53	2	2
1937 ..	66	55	55	..	..
1938 ..	60	59	59	3	3
Total ..	339	215	212	7	6

Number still under training—159 for the Indian Army, and 43 for Indian State Forces.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar : Does this figure of Rs. 16,750 include the charges for training and tuition ?

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

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Is any portion of this big sum being met by the Government of India ? If so, what proportion ?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie : Yes, a very large part of it.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : What is the approximate extent of it ?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie : Of this sum, Rs. 1,667 is borne by the parent, and Rs. 15,083 by the State.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali : With regard to the answer to part (c), the Honourable Member said that the Government have no information. Have Government tried to collect the necessary information for the facility of intending candidates who would like to be trained in any of these countries—for instance, Germany, Italy or Japan—if it happens to be cheaper there ?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie : There is no possibility whatsoever of Germany, Italy or Japan allowing the training of non-nationals in their military, naval or air establishments.

Mr. K. Santhanam : With regard to the answer to part (b), are any steps being taken by the Government of India to train air pilots here in India itself ?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie : So far, no exact conclusions have been come to in that matter. At present not sufficient facilities exist in this country for training an air pilot.

Mr. K. Santhanam : Am I to understand that this matter is receiving the active consideration of the Government ?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie : It is.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar : What is the proportion which has not taken to army life, after training ?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie : The figures I have given in a statement which is to be laid on the table.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar : What is the total number ?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie : It is somewhat complicated. In the first year those who took commissions did not come from the Academy. They came from Sandhurst, but in these years 215 officers have passed out, of whom 212 are now serving and 159 are still under training.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali : Is the Honourable Member aware whether any candidates go from any of the Dominions for training to Sandhurst, Cranwell or Woolwich ?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie : The Dominions have their own military academies. About Cranwell I should require notice ; I am not sure.

MAXIMUM RATE OF PAY FOR CERTAIN ARMY CLERKS.

105. ***Mr. M. Asaf Ali :** (a) Will the Defence Secretary be pleased to state whether it is a fact that :

- (i) none of the R. I. A. S. C. Clerks (Sy. and A. T.) who retired on superannuation pension during the last twelve years could reach the maximum rate of pay laid down for them (*viz.*, Rs. 375) in A. I. I. No. 863 of 1923, or even thereabouts ;

- (ii) representations submitted from time to time since 1923 both by individuals and by the R. I. A. S. C. Civilian Association, requesting re-adjustment of grades with a view to making the maximum reachable by the clerks then in service, have not so far met with success ;
- (iii) the Memorial submitted by the R. I. A. S. C. Civilian Association to His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General in India on the 1st September, 1934, was turned down ;
- (iv) a subsequent Memorial submitted by the R. I. A. S. C. Civilian Association addressed to the Secretary of State for India in Council on the 22nd August, 1935, was withheld by the Government of India ; and
- (v) the R. I. A. S. C. Civilian Association has submitted a further representation to the Government of India (on the 11th January last), in which all the statements made by the Government on which their decision was based, have been challenged ; and that the Association has now submitted authenticated particulars in support of their demands ?

(b) If the replies to part (a) (i) to (v) above be in the affirmative, will Government state what action they are taking to meet the demand of the R. I. A. S. C. Civilian Association, which is to the effect that Government should make the maximum grade of Rs. 375 reachable, which Government themselves laid down for them ?

(c) If no action is being taken, why not ?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie : (a) (i) to (iv). I refer the Honourable Member to the reply I gave to Bhai Parma Nand's starred question No. 1336 on the 12th of April, 1938.

It will be seen from information subsequently provided and laid on the table that two clerks have reached the maximum and two have approximated thereto.

(a) (v) and (b). The representation of the Royal Indian Army Service Corps Association is receiving consideration but an early decision is unlikely.

(c) Does not therefore arise.

APPOINTMENT OF BRITISH OTHER RANKS AS OFFICE SUPERINTENDENTS IN THE SUPPLY AND TRANSPORT BRANCH OF COMMAND HEADQUARTERS.

106. ***Mr. M. Asaf Ali :** (a) Will the Defence Secretary be pleased to state whether it is a fact that :

- (i) British Other Ranks of the R. I. A. S. C. are at present employed as Office Superintendents in the Supply and Transport Branch of a Command Headquarters which consists entirely of Indian clerks ;
- (ii) normally the senior Indian clerk in the Supply and Transport Branch of a Command Headquarters is designated as Head Assistant, but the duties and functions of the appointment

of the Head Clerk are, in practice, performed by the British Superintendent ; and

- (iii) the Government are aware that the Indian clerks of the R. I. A. S. C. have strong feelings against the policy of employing British Other Ranks as Office Superintendent in the Supply and Transport Branch of a Command Headquarters, and that they have expressed this feeling through resolutions passed at the several Annual Conferences of the R. I. A. S. C. Civilian Association ?

(b) If the replies to parts (a) (i) to (iii) be in the affirmative, will Government state whether they propose to consider the question of allowing Indian Head Assistants to function as Office Superintendent, instead of British Superintendents ?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie : (a) and (b). I refer the Honourable Member to the reply I gave to Bhai Parma Nand's unstarred question No. 186 on the 12th April, 1938.

EXCHANGE RATIO.

107. ***Sardar Mangal Singh :** Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state :

- (a) which Provincial Governments have written to the Central Government, urging upon the latter to change the rupee exchange ratio from 1s. 6d. to 1s. 4d.; and
- (b) whether the Central Government have examined, or propose to examine, this question with a view to taking action on the lines suggested by some of the Provincial Governments ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : (a) Communications between Governments are confidential.

(b) I would refer the Honourable Member to the Government of India's communiqué of June 6th.

Sardar Mangal Singh : May I ask which Governments have written to the Government of India ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Communications between Governments are confidential. If I tell the Honourable Member which Governments have or which Governments have not sent in any opinions, I am starting on the slippery slope which breaks the rule of confidentiality.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Sir, the Honourable Member is taking the line that all correspondence between Provincial Governments and the Government of India is confidential and therefore no question will be answered. May I ask what is the extent to which this rule can apply ?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Has the Honourable Member seen the letter which the Government have written ?

Mr. S. Satyamurti : A supplementary question is asked whether any Provincial Governments have addressed them on this matter and even to that the answer is "no".

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : What did the Honourable the Finance Member say ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I said that I was not prepared to say whether any Provincial Governments have addressed the Government of India or not.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Have any Provincial Governments addressed the Government of India on the question of the rupee ratio at all ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : That is one of the questions which I am not prepared to answer.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : What is the public interest involved ? After all, the Provincial Governments function in this country.....

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The Chair is not concerned with the question of public interest at all : the Chair has nothing to do with it. The Chair has only to regulate the proceedings according to the rules and standing orders. Whether a question can be answered or not in the public interest is a matter for the Government to decide.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : If the Government want to treat the correspondence with the Secretary of State on the one hand and the Provincial Governments on the other as confidential and no questions are to be answered on those subjects, then the scope of the questions is very much limited.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : It is a matter on which there may very well be considerable difference of opinion and I as the occupant of the Chair cannot say whether a reply should be given or not.

EXCHANGE RATIO.

108. ***Sardar Mangal Singh** : Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state :

- (a) whether Government are aware of the fact that there is a strong public opinion in this country against the present exchange ratio ; and
- (b) whether Government are prepared to appoint a committee to examine the question of exchange ratio ; if not, what other course Government propose to adopt to solve this question ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : (a) I am aware that certain business interests are or have been conducting an agitation against the present ratio.

(b) The reply to the first part is in the negative. As regards the second part, I would refer the Honourable Member to the communication issued by Government on the 6th June, 1938.

Seth Govind Das : The Honourable Member has said that there are certain business interests which are against the ratio. Will the Honourable Member say whether there is any interest in India which is for this ratio ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Quite a lot.

Seth Govind Das : Will the Honourable Member name those interests ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : People who conduct an agitation against the ratio are, in the main, the people who will benefit from the ratio, but they are not the majority or any appreciable number of the people of India.

Seth Govind Das : Has the majority, which the Honourable Member is referring to, expressed any opinion in this respect ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I never said anything about expressing opinions. I was talking about their interests.

Seth Govind Das : How is it that the Honourable Member says that there are only certain business interests which are against the ratio ? I want to know which are those interests which are for this ratio ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : The Honourable Member did not understand or listen to my answer. My answer was not categorical. I said I am aware that certain business interests are conducting an agitation against the ratio.

Seth Govind Das : I want to know which are those interests which are for this ratio ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I said quite a lot.

Seth Govind Das : I want to hear the names of those interests ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : You mean business interests ?

Seth Govind Das : I mean those interests which are for this ratio, whoever they may be ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I imagine that if they knew the facts, the whole of the agricultural population of India would be for the present ratio.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Is the Honourable Member aware that the *Kisans* who form a great majority of this country, are absolutely in favour of a change in this ratio ?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : I understand there is a Resolution put down on this matter. This subject, therefore, should not be discussed now.

FALL IN THE RECEIPTS FROM CUSTOMS DUTIES.

109. ***Sardar Mangal Singh :** Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state :

- (a) to what extent the receipts from customs duties have fallen this year as compared with the corresponding period of the last year ; and
- (b) what are the causes of this rather abnormal fall in the receipts from customs duties, and what steps Government have taken, or propose to take, to stop this fall ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to the published revenue returns.

(b) I referred in my Budget speech to the fact that there had been some set-back in trade. How severe this will be and how long it will continue it is impossible to say. In June and July, there were some signs of a recovery not only in India but elsewhere. The second part of the question raises issues which cannot be adequately dealt with in a parliamentary answer, but I may say that the Government of India propose to abstain from all action which is likely to retard recovery.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : May I ask whether the Government are considering the particular question of the balance of trade between this country and other countries ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Government are always considering this question.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : May I know what consideration they are giving to the unfavourable balance of trade which has been so marked in recent months and years in this country ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I think the Honourable Member is exaggerating. The balance of trade has not been so good as in some previous years but it has certainly not been unfavourable.

Mr. Manu Subedar : May I inquire whether the Finance Member intends to revise the tariff schedule with a view both to protect Government revenues and to take into account all other considerations which are relevant thereto ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I wish the Honourable Member will specify 'all other considerations' because then I would be able to expose the dilemma into which he always puts himself, namely, that if goods are kept out of India the customs revenue will decrease.

Mr. Manu Subedar : I reject with contempt the insinuation made by the Finance Member. I repeat the small supplementary. I would remind him of his own promise which he made when he came to this country. He then said that the tariff arrangements were all topsy-turvy and he would take the earliest opportunity to revise them. I am simply asking whether he has made up his mind or found time or whether he has the talents to take up this task and to finish it ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : The Honourable Member is quoting a statement of mine, which has been subsequently qualified to the extent that the time and circumstances were not favourable for a comprehensive revision of the tariff. I think I said that in my last Budget speech.

INDIANISATION OF THE STAFF OF THE IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.

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

(a) whether the Imperial Bank of India had agreed to Indianise their staff ;

(b) if so, whether Government receive reports from time to time about the progress of Indianisation in the Bank ;

- (c) whether in 1928 a resolution was passed by the Board of Directors of the Bank that no more non-Indians were to be taken up ;
- (d) whether three Europeans have been recently imported as Foreign Exchange Managers and Probationary Officers ; and
- (e) if so, the reasons for this departure from the resolution ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the reply I gave to question No. 1026 on the 26th March, 1935.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar : What is the answer to clause (d) ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the reply I gave to question No. 1026 on the 26th March, 1935.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Clause (d) of this question asks " whether three Europeans have been recently imported as Foreign Exchange Managers and Probationary Officers " and, therefore, to talk of 1935 is irrelevant.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Not at all. The Government have nothing to do with the domestic arrangements of the Imperial Bank of India.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar : May I ask whether it is not the responsibility of the Government to see that the Resolution which was passed in 1928, when the Bank was under their control, is not superseded now ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : The Statute of the Imperial Bank of India has been completely altered since 1928.

SETTING UP OF AN AEROPLANE FACTORY IN INDIA AND TRAINING OF INDIANS.

111. ***Mr. K. Santhanam :** Will the Defence Secretary be pleased to state :

- (a) whether recently a military mission went to the United States of America and Canada for making arrangements to supplement the production of aeroplanes in Britain for military purposes ;
- (b) whether it discussed with the Government of Canada proposals to set up more factories or subsidise existing factories in Canada for the production of such planes ;
- (c) whether any proposal is being considered to set up an aeroplane factory in India for the production of military planes for the use of the Indian Army ;
- (d) whether the Government of India propose to approach the British Government for assistance in the establishment of such factory ; and

- (e) whether it is considered politically undesirable to establish such a factory in India, or to train Indians in the processes of such manufacture ?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie : (a) and (b). Government have no information other than what has appeared in the Press.

(c) No.

(d) No.

(e) No. The reasons which have so far precluded the establishment of an aircraft factory in India are of an industrial and financial, and not of a political character.

Mr. K. Santhanam : Is it not desirable strategically to have an aeroplane factory in this country ?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie : I should say that there are undoubtedly certain strategic advantages in this.

Mr. K. Santhanam : May I ask if the military policy is solely decided by commercial and industrial considerations and not by strategic considerations ?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie : The military policy of the Government of India is conditioned by the fact that the Budget cannot normally exceed 45 crores.

Mr. Manu Subedar : May I ask whether it would be the policy of the Defence Department to assist the production of basic metal required for building the aeroplanes in this country ?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie : I do not think that I can possibly give an answer to a highly technical question like that without notice.

Mr. Manu Subedar : What is the general policy of the Defence Department towards the establishment of industries or for the production of articles of strategic value ?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie : As I have already said several times in this House, the policy of the Defence Department is to encourage their production by every means in its power.

Mr. M. S. Aney : What are the industrial objections for establishing a factory in India ?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie : I do not think I should be called upon to dilate upon the industrial disabilities of India in answer to a supplementary question.

Mr. K. Santhanam : May I know whether the Government of India will get the information with reference to parts (a) and (b) ?

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

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CREATION OF A POOL OF FINANCE OFFICERS.

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

- (a) whether the arrangements for the creation of a pool of Finance officers have been completed ;
- (b) what will be the initial strength of the pool ;
- (c) what will be the respective ratios of Indian and European officers in this pool ; and
- (d) whether any definite ratio has been fixed for future recruitments ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : (a), (b), (c) and (d). The arrangements for a pool of officers for the Finance and Commerce Departments are not yet complete. When they are, a comprehensive Resolution will be published on the subject.

I may add that they are very nearly complete and I do not expect any very serious delay before the Resolution is published.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : What is the purpose of creating a pool of officers for these two departments ?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : That does not arise out of the question.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I am quite ready to answer this. It is to provide expert officers for expert jobs.

Mr. K. Santhanam : Will the promised Resolution contain answers to (b), (c) and (d) of my question ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I think the Honourable Member will be able to gather that from the Resolution when it is published.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Just now, can the Honourable Member give a reply to part (d), namely, whether any definite ratio has been fixed for future recruitments ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I am prepared to go as far as to say that there is no racial ratio at all, but there is a ratio between I. C. S. and other Central services.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : What is the ratio ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Now the Honourable Member is trying to get at the contents of the Resolution by instalments.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : As a result of this pool, may I take it that there would be no further need to import any experts from England with regard to Finance and Commerce ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I am not a prophet.

Mr. Sri Prakasa : Will this pool be available for the public to bathe in ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : It is a reservation.

INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CONFERENCE AT LONDON BETWEEN INDIA AND THE WAR OFFICE RELATING TO THE IMPERIAL REORGANISATION OF THE BRITISH ARMY.

†113. ***Mr. K. Santhanam** : Will the Secretary for Defence Department be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Inter-Departmental Conference at London between India and the War Office relating to the Imperial reorganisation of the British Army has been concluded ;
- (b) who represented the Government of India at these talks ;
- (c) whether the Government of India were directly instructing their representatives, or whether the matter was left to the Secretary of State for India ; and
- (d) whether the Government of India are prepared to take the public into confidence regarding the military and financial implications of this conference ?

ENQUIRY INTO THE CONDUCT OF CERTAIN CUSTOMS OFFICIALS IN MADRAS.

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

- (a) whether the enquiry into the conduct of certain customs officials in Madras has been concluded ;
- (b) whether any orders have been passed in the case of any of the persons charged ; and
- (c) whether the report of the enquiry and copies of the orders passed will be placed on the table of the House ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : (a) The Central Board of Revenue's enquiries have been completed.

(b) Yes.

(c) No.

Mr. K. Santhanam : May I know if the orders are secret and will not be made available ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Some of them are under appeal.

ATTENDING OF MEETINGS OF CERTAIN POLITICAL BODIES BY GOVERNMENT SERVANTS.

115. ***Mr. Sham Lal** : Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state :

- (a) the names of different Departments which have already issued written instructions removing restrictions on Government servants employed under them in various parts of India to attend without previous permission of the heads of their offices, meetings organized by the :
 - (i) Congress,
 - (ii) Muslim League,

- (iii) Hindu Sabha,
- (iv) Liberal Leagues of the All-India Liberal Federation,
- (v) Sikh Khalsa Diwans, and
- (vi) Zamindara Leagues of the Unionist Party, Punjab, without any active participation therein ; and
- (b) the names of different bodies mentioned in part (a) above for which restrictions are still maintained ?

The Honourable Mr. R. M. Maxwell : (a) As far as I am aware no Department of the Government of India has issued any such instructions.

(b) Government servants are precluded from taking part in any political movement in India or relating to Indian affairs under rule 23 (1) (i) of the Government Servants' Conduct Rules, 1926, and rule 20 (1) (i) of the Conduct Rules, 1935, copies of which are in the Library of the House. There is, so far as I am aware, no restriction aimed specifically at any of the parties mentioned in the question.

Seth Govind Das : What about pensioners ? Are they also asked not to join any of these institutions ?

The Honourable Mr. R. M. Maxwell : No, Sir. Not so far as I am aware.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar : Does prohibition against taking part include also attendance at public meetings ?

The Honourable Mr. R. M. Maxwell : No, Sir ; not necessarily, unless attendance at public meetings involves taking part in a political movement.

Mr. Sham Lal : In view of the fact that the Congress Governments are functioning in seven of the Provinces, will the Government consider the desirability of removing these restrictions ?

The Honourable Mr. R. M. Maxwell : I have said that there are no restrictions.

Mr. Sri Prakasa : Have the Government any definition of ' politics ' and ' political movement ' ?

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

PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT TO PERSONS BELONGING TO RESPECTABLE FAMILIES FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

116. ***Mr. Sham Lal :** (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the sons of well-to-do parents and persons belonging to respectable families, are receiving preferential treatment in the matter of several posts and services in several Departments of the Government of India, while candidates possessing similar qualifications not similarly circumstanced, have often to suffer from unemployment ?

(b) If so, do Government intend to replace the requirements of Family Respectability by those of personal services in future recruitment of candidates for various posts and services in various parts of the country ?

The Honourable Mr. R. M. Maxwell : (a) No. Appointments to the public services are made with due regard to the candidates' suitability for those services in all respects. Their personal attainments are of course a primary consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

Mr. Sham Lal : Do I understand that the fact that they belong to a respectable family is not considered to be a qualification ?

The Honourable Mr. R. M. Maxwell : No, Sir.

Sardar Sant Singh : Is it a fact that the marks for interview are so extraordinarily high that the question of respectability of the family is included when the marks for interview are awarded ?

The Honourable Mr. R. M. Maxwell : The marks for interview are determined by general considerations according to each class of service recruited. They have no particular object in them.

Sardar Sant Singh : Is it a fact that the family history of the candidate is supplied to the Board that sits for interviewing candidates ?

The Honourable Mr. R. M. Maxwell : In certain cases the Board is in possession of that information.

Sardar Sant Singh : Is it also a fact that the political views of the parents are also placed before the Public Service Commission when marks for interview are given ?

The Honourable Mr. R. M. Maxwell : No, Sir.

Sardar Sant Singh : Is it a fact that applications are submitted to the district magistrate who makes a confidential report on the family history of the candidate ?

The Honourable Mr. R. M. Maxwell : I have said that in certain cases the Board does possess this information.

Sardar Sant Singh : If the candidate's own qualifications are the criteria to judge his merits, why then are applications insisted to be sent through the district magistrate and his remarks invited ?

The Honourable Mr. R. M. Maxwell : Because the Board has to know the suitability of a candidate in all respects and also if the Board knows something about the family circumstances of the candidate, then it will be in a better position to interview the candidate.

Mr. K. Santhanam : Is it a fact that the oral interviews are often held after the results of the written examination are available and therefore the family connections of the candidates do enter into selections ?

The Honourable Mr. R. M. Maxwell : They do not enter into selection.

Mr. K. Santhanam : Is it a fact that *viva voce* is held after the results of the competitive examination are made available to Members of the Public Service Commission ?

The Honourable Mr. R. M. Maxwell : Not necessarily. I do not believe that to be the case in most circumstances.

MEMBERS OF THE SCHEDULED CASTES EMPLOYED UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

117. *Mr. Sham Lal : Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state the number of members of the Scheduled Castes employed on the 31st March, 1935, and the 31st March, 1938, in various Departments of the Central Government in various capacities all over India except as sweepers or day-labourers ?

The Honourable Mr. B. M. Maxwell : The annual communal returns prescribed by the Government of India relate to the calendar and not the financial year, except in the case of the Railway services. I place on the table a statement showing (so far as figures are available) the number of members of the Depressed Classes in the Central Services on the 1st January, 1935, and onwards and the various capacities in which they were employed.

Statement showing the number of members of Depressed Classes in the I. C. S. and Central Services on the 1st January, 1935—1938.

NOTE.—Figures have been given where available.

Service, Department, etc.	Number on the 1st January.			
	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
1	2	3	4	5
1. Indian Civil Service	1	1	1	
2. Government of India Secretariat and Attached offices	3	4	4	
3. Commercial Intelligence and Statistics Department—Lower Division clerk .. ..	..	1 (a)	1(a)	
4. Indian Stores Department ..	1	3	4	..
5. Meteorological Department ..			1 (a)	1 1 (a)
6. Subordinate Railway Services*—				
(i) N. W. Railway		19		
(ii) E. B. Railway		151		
		1 (a)		
(iii) E. I. Railway .. ..		..
(iv) G. I. P. Railway		289		
		2 (a)		
(v) A. B. Railway .. ..	..	72		..
(vi) B. and N. W. Railway ..	..	79		..
(vii) B. N. Railway .. ..	..	57		..
		1 (a)		
(viii) B. B. and C. I. Railway ..	..	240	..	..
(ix) M. and S. M. Railway ..	..	108	..	..
(x) R. and K. Railway .. ..	..	1	..	..
(xi) S. I. Railway .. ..	..	..	..	..

(a) Temporary.

*Figures relate to the 1st April and not 1st January.

Service, Department, etc. 1	Number on the 1st January.			
	1935. 2	1936. 3	1937. 4	1938. 5
7. Posts and Telegraphs Department—				
(i) Telegraphist/Teleraph Master	1	1	1	
(ii) Clerks	177	137	150	
(iii) Line Staff	92	96	101	
(iv) Postmen, Mailguards, etc.	496	535 5 (a)	577 8 (a)	
(v) Other Non-clerical Superior Staff	6	6	6 1 (a)	
8. Indian Army Ordnance Corps ..		1	1 1 (a)	1 1 (a)
9. Indian Army Corps of Clerks (excluding Army and R.A.F. Headquarters Section) .. .. .	..		2	
10. Ordnance and Clothing Factories ..	..		1	1
11. Indian Army Veterinary Corps ..	..	..	5	
12. Survey of India ..	38 43 (a)	45 28 (a)		.. ..
13. Forest Research Institute and College, Dehra Dun	2 (a)	2 (a)	2 (a)	1 (a)
14. Imperial Agricultural Research Institute and Sub-stations ..	5	5	..	..
15. Imperial Veterinary Research Institute and Sub-stations ..	12	12	11	11
16. Imperial Records Department ..	1	1	1	1
17. Central Research Institute, Kasauli	9	8	8	8
18. Office of the Imperial Serologist, Calcutta	1	1	1	2

Service, Department, etc.	Number on the 1st January.			
	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
1	2	3	4	5
19. Audit and Accounts Department—				
(i) S. A. S.	1	1	1	..
(ii) Divisional Accountant ..	1 (a)	..	..	..
(iii) Clerks	6 6 (a)	7 10 (a)	12 11 (a)	.. ..
(iv) Record clerks	1 (a) ..	2 (a) ..	1 3 (a)	.. ..
(v) Typists .. ..	..	..	1 (a)	..
(vi) Sorters	3 ..	3 2 (a)	4 7 (a)	..
20. Currency and Mint Department	1 1 (a)	1 1 (a)	1 1 (a)	1 (a)
21. Customs Department	2	2	2	1 (a)
22. Income-tax Department—				
(i) Income-tax officer (Assam)	1	1	1	1
(ii) Inspectors of Income-tax	1 1 (a)	1 (a) ..	..	.. ..
(iii) Non-clerical staff	2 1 (a)	1 (a) ..	.. ..	1 (a) ..
(iv) Clerical staff	14 9 (a)	8 11 (a)	7 2 (a)	5 4 (a)
23. Salt Department	7 1 (a)	4 1 (a)	4 2 (a)	4 4 (a)
24. Opium Department	1 (a)	2 (a)	2 (a)	2 (a)
25. Printing and Stationery Department—				
(i) Government of India Press, Calcutta .. ..	..	10 5 (a)	13 5 (a)	13 4 (a)
(ii) Central Stationery Office, Calcutta	1	1	1	1
(iii) Government of India Press, New Delhi	3 1 (a)	3 ..	9 ..	7 ..
(iv) Central Publication Branch, Delhi	1	1	1	..
26. Military Accounts Department ..	2	2	2	..

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Are any special steps being taken to see that the number of scheduled classes employed in the Central services is increased ?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : That does not arise.

Mr. Sri Prakasa : How does the appointment of a few members belonging to any particular community elevate that community ?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : That question does not arise.

STILL

REDUCTION IN THE SALARIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCILLORS, ETC., ON THE SEPARATION OF BURMA FROM INDIA.

118. ***Mr. Sham Lal :** (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Burma was separated from India on the 1st April, 1937 ?

(b) If so, is any reduction in the salaries of the members of the Executive Council of India and those of others connected with Central Government, to be made in consequence of the reduction of responsibility ? If so, to what extent ?

The Honourable Mr. R. M. Maxwell : (a) Yes.

(b) Government do not consider that there has been such reduction of responsibility as to justify a reduction of salaries.

Mr. Sham Lal : If there is a reduction of responsibility, will the salary be reduced ?

The Honourable Mr. R. M. Maxwell : That is a hypothetical question.

Mr. Sri Prakasa : Is the salary fixed according to one's capacity to eat or one's capacity to carry on the responsibilities of the office to which he is appointed ?

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

RUPEE COINS, TOKEN MONEYS AND CURRENCY NOTES IN CIRCULATION IN INDIA AND BULLION KEPT IN RESERVE.

119. ***Mr. Sham Lal :** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state :

(a) the number of rupee coins, token ones and currency notes, manufactured from time to time within the last three decades together with the various amounts of income accruing to the Indian Exchange from these various sources respectively ; and

(b) the amounts of bullion which are kept in reserve for rupee coins, token moneys and currency notes in India, together with the approximate number of coins and currency notes of various denominations in circulation at present throughout India ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : (a) The information required by the Honourable Member is available in the annual reports of the Controller of Currency, the Reserve Bank's Reports on Currency and Finance for 1935-36 and 1936-37, the annual Mint Reports and the Finance and Revenue Accounts of the Government of India, copies of all of which are in the Library of the House.

(b) The amount of coin and bullion kept in reserve against note issue in the Issue Department of the Reserve Bank of India is given in its published weekly account. In addition, Government held about 419 million tolas of standard silver on the 31st March, 1937. Government have no information as to the number of coins in circulation. The number of currency notes of various denominations in circulation is given in the Reserve Bank's Report referred to in (a).

Prof. N. G. Ranga : In view of the fact that there is very little information given to Honourable Members of this House, will the Government consider the advisability of making these reports available to Members of this House ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : They are in the Library of the House. So far from there being very little information available, my answer showed that there is really a great deal available.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Will a copy be supplied to every Member of this House ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : No, Sir.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar : So far as the number of coins in circulation is concerned, is the Honourable Member aware that it is estimated at 450 crores of rupees ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I have seen various estimates ;

12 NOON.

I am not in the least able to check the authenticity or accuracy of them.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS.

INITIAL EXPENDITURE ON NEW CAPITAL AT DELHI.

120. ***Mr. Brojendra Narayan Chaudhury :** Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state :

(a) the main heads of public expenditure of Rs. 15.75 lacs budgeted for 1938-39, initial expenditure on new capital at Delhi ;

(b) the amount spent up-to-date on this item from the very beginning, i.e., the laying of the foundation by Their Imperial Majesties in December, 1911 ;

(c) if the Honourable Member is aware that the Despatch from the Government of India to the Secretary of State, dated Simla, the 25th August, 1911, in paragraph 22 stated :

“ We cannot conceive, however, that a larger sum than four million sterling would be necessary, and within that figure probably could be found the three years' interest

on capital which would have to be paid till the necessary works and buildings were completed. We might find it necessary to issue a 'City of Delhi' gold loan at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. guaranteed by the Government of India, the interest, on this loan being eventually obtainable from rents and taxes. In connection with a general enhancement of land values, which would ensue at Delhi as a result of the transfer, we would endeavour to secure some part of the secured value, which at Calcutta has gone into the pockets of the landlords. Other assets which would form a set-off to the expenditure would be the great rise of Government land value at Delhi and its neighbourhood, and a considerable amount which would be realised on the sale of Government land and buildings no longer required at Calcutta."

- (d) if the projected gold loan has been raised ; if so, how much and what part of it has been repaid ;
- (e) if the expectations of the redemption of the cost from rents, taxes, enhancement of land values in New Delhi and sale of Government land and buildings in Calcutta, have been realised ; if so up to what amount in each of the above-mentioned categories ; and
- (f) if the Honourable Member is in a position to assure any limit in future expenditure on this item of Initial Expenditure on new capital at Delhi ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : (a) and (b). I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the Demands for Grants and Finance and Revenue Accounts of the Government of India.

(c) Yes.

(d) No.

(e) There were no such expectations. I may however add that the original expectations regarding cost were completely upset by altered circumstances.

(f) No.

**CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST PRIVATE WOODS OF LEICESTERSHIRE
REGIMENT STATIONED AT JUBBULPORE.**

121. ***Mr. Brojendra Narayan Chaudhury :** Will the Defence Secretary please state :

- (a) if his attention has been drawn to the fact that criminal proceedings started against Private Woods of Leicestershire Regiment stationed at Jubbulpur in the court of the city magistrate for entering the compound of a civilian and attempting a heinous offence, have been dropped on intimation by military authorities that they would court-martial him ;

- (b) if the civil authorities are bound to drop the prosecution in such cases ;
- (c) what punishment has since been given to the accused by the military authorities ; and
- (d) what is the effect of conviction of a soldier to imprisonment by a civil authority ; whether he would be detained in a civil authority prison and whether the conviction would automatically result in dismissal from the army ?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) No punishment was awarded since on investigation there was found to be insufficient evidence to support a charge.

(d) A soldier sentenced to penal servitude or imprisonment by a civil court would serve his sentence in a civil prison. Discharge from the Army does not follow automatically upon a conviction by a civil court, but provision is made in King's Regulations for the Army for the discharge of a soldier who has been so convicted.

CUTTING DOWN OF EXPENDITURE IN GOVERNMENT OF INDIA DEPARTMENTS.

122. ***Mr. Brojendra Narayan Chaudhury :** Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state :

- (a) if towards the close, or at the end, of the last session of the Assembly he asked heads of Departments to scrutinise and cut down expenditure budgeted and sanctioned for the year ;
- (b) total savings expected due to these efforts ;
- (c) if these retrenchments are meant to be permanent, or only with a view to temporary saving for a temporary purpose ; and
- (d) if the latter, what is the purpose ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : (a), (c) and (d). I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to my reply to the debate on Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar's Resolution for the appointment of a retrenchment committee. (Page 2865 of Debates, Volume III, No. 10.)

(b) About Rs. 80 lakhs.

POLITICAL PRISONERS IN THE DELHI PROVINCE.

123. ***Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal :** (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a message published in Hindi *Milap*, dated the 8th July, 1938, with the following heading "Possibility of Civil Disobedience in Delhi Province", specially to the following portion of the message :

"Under the circumstances the Central Government will do their utmost to avert a crisis and it seems possible that the question of remitting the sentences of political prisoners may be taken up."

(b) Will Government please state the actual position regarding the remission of sentences of the political prisoners belonging to the Delhi Province ?

(c) What is the total number of political prisoners in Delhi Province ?

The Honourable Mr. B. M. Maxwell : (a) I have seen the article referred to by the Honourable Member.

(b) and (c). There are three State Prisoners in jail in Delhi Province : the question of their release or further detention is considered twice yearly and is at present under the consideration of the Government of India. There are also five prisoners convicted in Delhi for offences committed from what might be considered political motives. They are all confined in jails outside the Delhi Province. The Government do not propose to remit their sentences on grounds other than those which are normally taken into consideration.

WITHHOLDING FROM PUBLICATION IN INDIA OF THE RESULTS OF BOMBING ON THE FRONTIER.

124. ***Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal :** (a) Will the Defence Secretary be pleased to state whether his attention has been drawn to the leading article in the *Daily Arjun* of Delhi, dated the 7th July, 1938, under the caption "Disregard of India", in which the following comment is made :

"The results of bombing on Frontier were made known in the end of June, to the British papers. Only it was not thought worthwhile to acquaint Indian papers with the results. This is an example of how British administrators are disregarding India."

(b) Will Government please state if the allegations contained in the above extract are correct ? If so, were the results of bombing on Frontier withheld from publication in India ?

(c) What is the policy of Government regarding the publicity of bombing on Frontier ?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie : (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) Their policy is to issue frequent press communiqués on the subject of any operations. Between 30th May and 29th July, 1938, no less than 28 such communiqués were issued.

SUPERSESSION OF THE CLAIMS OF DR. S. N. A. JAFRI TO THE POST OF THE PRINCIPAL INFORMATION OFFICER.

125. ***Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal :** Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state :

(a) if it is a fact that Dr. S. N. A. Jafri has been relieved of his post as Deputy Principal Information Officer ;

- (b) if the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, who took the initiative of sending Dr. Jafri to the United Provinces ; whether it was the Central Government or the United Provinces Government ;
- (c) if it is a fact that according to seniority Dr. Jafri was a claimant to the post of Principal Information Officer ;
- (d) if it is a fact that Dr. Jafri officiated for the Principal Officer three times ; and
- (e) if Government are aware of the great resentment felt throughout the country as a result of the claims of an Indian being ignored ?

The Honourable Mr. R. M. Maxwell : (a) and (b). The services of Dr. Jafri have been replaced at the disposal of the United Provinces Government by the Central Government.

(c) and (d). It is a fact that Dr. Jafri officiated in the post on occasions. But it is not correct that he had any particular claim to be appointed to the post when it became permanently vacant.

(e) No.

PUBLICATION OF THE *Information Series*.

126. *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal : Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state :

- (a) the average number of the copies of *Information Series* printed every fortnight ;
- (b) the amount spent in the publication of that *Series* so far ;
- (c) the name of the editor of the *Series* ;
- (d) the list of Hindi and Urdu papers to whom the *Series* is sent regularly ; and
- (e) whether Government intend to publish it in principal vernacular papers of the country ?

The Honourable Mr. R. M. Maxwell : (a) 2,700.

(b) I understand that the normal cost of production of an issue is between Rs. 300 and 400 : this includes all production charges, including the Government Press overhead charges. In addition the average cost of postage is about Rs. 78.

(c) The Principal Information Officer.

(d) I lay a list on the table.

(e) The publication is available on request to any newspaper, whether published in English or in an Indian language.

List of Urdu Newspapers in India to which "Indian Information Series" is supplied.

URDU.

BOMBAY.

1. Ajmal.
2. Roznama-e-Khilafat.
3. Sarosh Weekly.

SIND.

1. Sind Zamindar, Sukkur.

UNITED PROVINCES.

1. Madina, Bijnor.
2. Hamdar, Lucknow.
3. Haqiqat, Lucknow.
4. Zamana, Cawnpore.
5. Mujib, Farrukhabad.
6. Hitkari, Lucknow.

PUNJAB.

1. Inqilab, Lahore.
2. Zamindar, Lahore.
3. Milap, Lahore.
4. Pratap, Lahore.
5. Ehsan, Lahore.
6. Mujahid, Lahore.
7. Karam Vir, Lahore.

DELHI.

1. Tej.
2. Millat.
3. Watan.
4. Riyasat—Weekly.
5. Al-Jamiat.

BENGAL.

1. Rozana Hind, Calcutta.
2. Asr-e-Jadid, Calcutta.
3. Weekly Hind, Calcutta.

NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE.

1. Frontier Advocate, Peshawar.

List of Hindi Newspapers to which "Indian Information Series" is supplied.

HINDI.

BOMBAY.

1. Shri Venkateswar Samachar.

UNITED PROVINCES.

1. Bharat, Allahabad.
2. Pratap, Cawnpore.
3. Vertman, Cawnpore.
4. Aj, Benares.
5. Sainik, Agra.
6. Abhyudaya, Allahabad.
7. Hitkari, Lucknow.

PUNJAB.

1. Milap, Lahore.
2. Shakti, Lahore.

DELHI.

1. Arjun.
2. Nav Yug.
3. Hindu.

BENGAL.

1. Viswamitra, Calcutta.
2. Lokmanya, Calcutta.
3. Bishal Bharat, Calcutta.

CENTRAL PROVINCES.

1. Karam Vir, Khandwa.
2. Swarajya, Khandwa.

BIHAR.

1. Nava Shakti, Patna.

AJMER.

1. Rajasthan.
2. Navajyoti.

STATES.

1. Jayaji Pratap, Gwalior.
2. Veena, Indore.

PREPARATION OF PLANS AND ESTIMATES BY CONTRACTORS OF BUILDINGS IN QUETTA.

127. *Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad : (a) Will the Defence Secretary please state whether it is a fact that the contractors of buildings in Quetta are required to make their own plans and estimates ?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to place on the table a copy of the notice inviting the tenders for building on conditions mentioned in part (a) ?

(c) Did the Government of India follow the practice of inviting tenders on the basis that contractors will present their own plans and estimates ? If so, in which cases ?

(d) Did the Chief Engineer of the Government of India advise the Government to follow the practice ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In the first six contracts for Quetta, Military Engineer Services designs were supplied to tenderers. They were invited to quote on those designs, or on their own designs or both.

(d) The Engineer-in-Chief, Army Headquarters, who is the chief adviser to the Defence Department in such matters, recommended the practice mentioned in part (c).

CORRESPONDENCE WITH PROVINCES *re* LEVY OF PROVINCIAL EXCISE TAXES, ETC.

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

- (a) with which Provinces correspondence has taken place with regard to the proposed levy of provincial excise taxes or sales taxes, or other taxes, which, in the opinion of Government of India, are encroaching on the sphere of Central taxation ;
- (b) at what stage the matter rests in these cases ; and
- (c) which of these matters are being referred to the Federal Court at the instances of (i) Provinces, and (ii) Government of India ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : (a), (b) and (c). I presume that the Honourable Member's question is confined to Provincial taxes which might be held to encroach upon the Central subjects of Central Excises and Customs. Various aspects of this question were discussed at a meeting which I had with the Provincial Finance Ministers and have also been the subject of unofficial correspondence. These discussions were quite informal and it would not be proper for me to give any indication of their scope or character. There has been official correspondence with two Provincial Governments on subjects of this kind ; with the Government of Bengal regarding the electricity tax there collected, the validity of which the Government of India have no intention of challenging ; and with the Government of the Central Provinces and Berar with regard to the Central Provinces and Berar Sales of Motor Spirit and Lubricants Taxation Act, 1938. In consultation with the Provincial Government a reference has been made to the Federal Court regarding the validity of this last-named Act. So far as the Government of India are aware, no other reference to the Federal Court is under consideration at present.

ADVICE TENDERED BY THE RESERVE BANK AS TO THE RATIO BETWEEN RUPEE AND STERLING.

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

- (a) whether a communication has been received from the Central Board of the Reserve Bank tendering advice as to the ratio between rupee and sterling ;

- (b) what is this advice ;
- (c) whether Government have sent any reply or rejoinder ; and
- (d) whether Government propose to publish this correspondence ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : (a), (b), (c) and (d). Correspondence between the Reserve Bank and the Government of India is confidential.

CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE ON THE QUESTION OF THE RUPEE-STERLING RATIO.

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

- (a) whether there has been any communication between the Government of India and the Secretary of State on the question of the rupee-sterling ratio ; and
- (b) whether it is the intention of Government to place this correspondence on the table for the information of this Assembly ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : (a) and (b). Communications between the Government of India and the Secretary of State are confidential.

COST OF MAINTENANCE OF BRITISH TROOPS IN INDIA.

†131. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti :** Will the Defence Secretary please state :

- (a) whether his attention has been drawn to the recent question and answer in the House of Commons about the British Government taking over the cost of maintenance of British troops in India and the answer of the Under-Secretary to the effect that the cost of the British troops was only one item of Indian defence problem and that problem was constantly engaging the attention of the Secretary of State ;
- (b) whether any correspondence or negotiations are going on now between the Government of India and His Majesty's Government about the cost of the defence forces in India ;
- (c) whether Government have pressed on the British Government the need for their paying the entire cost of British troops in India so long as they remain here ;
- (d) whether Government have taken up with the British Government or propose to take up the question of incidence of the cost of other troops being shared on a fairer basis between Britain and India ; and
- (e) what the results of the negotiations are ?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 95.

NON-INDIANS EXPERTS IMPORTED IN THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT OR OFFICES UNDER ITS CONTROL.

132. *Mr. S. Satyamurti : Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state :

- (a) the number of non-Indian experts who have been imported into this country either for permanent jobs or for committees or for temporary appointments during the last four years, beginning from 1934, up to date in the Finance Department or offices under its control ;
- (b) the cost on account of these experts and the purpose for which they were imported ; and
- (c) whether in every case the Government satisfied themselves that there were no competent Indians available for these jobs, and, if so, how ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : (a), (b) and (c). I lay a statement on the table giving the information required.

Statement showing the number, cost, etc., of non-Indian experts imported by the Finance Department since 1934.

(a)	(b)		(c)
Number.	Cost.	Purpose.	Whether Government satisfied themselves that there were no competent Indians available, and if so, how.
1. Mr. E. B. Lewis.	Rs. 1,000—50—1,400 <i>plus</i> overseas pay £30 p.m.	For appointment as Special Mining Expert in technical charge of the Mines in the Salt Department.	Yes. By advertising both in India and England. This officer was considered to be the most suitable for the post.
2. Messrs. C. W. Ayers.	Rs. 71,687 (pay and travelling allowance).	To carry out an expert investigation into the Indian Income-tax system and to report upon the incidence of income-tax and the efficiency of administration of the system.	Yes. The only Indians possessing the requisite qualifications could not be employed as their services were required in the posts of Commissioners of Income-tax.
3. And S. P. Chambers.			
4. Mr. S. P. Chambers.	Rs. 2,500—3,000 p.m.	To advise the Central Board of Revenue on technical matters relating to Indian Income-tax ; on contract for three years.	Ditto.
5. Mr. A. Rowlands, M.B.E.	Rs. 3,250 p.m.	For appointment as Financial Adviser, Military Finance.	Yes. The only officers—British or Indian—with the requisite qualifications were required for posts of corresponding status.

PROTECTION OF THE INDIAN SALT INDUSTRY AGAINST IMPORT OF FOREIGN SALT.

133. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti** : Will the Honourable the Finance Member please, state :

- (a) whether he has heard from the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry about the dumping of foreign salt in India within three months of the refusal of the Government to continue their protection to the Indian salt industry ;
- (b) whether Government propose to take any action under the Sea Customs Act with regard to the reported shipment of over 13,000 tons of foreign salt from Liverpool and Port Said ; and
- (c) whether Government propose to introduce a Bill to protect the Indian salt industry against further import of foreign salt in India, and if not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) The Government of India do not announce their intentions with regard to taxation matters in advance.

KEEPING OF A PORTION OF THE SECRETARIAT IN DELHI THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

134. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti** : Will the Honourable the Home Member please state :

- (a) whether final decisions have been taken with regard to the portion of the Secretariat to remain in Delhi throughout the year from the next financial year ;
- (b) if so, what the decisions are ; and
- (c) what the resultant savings will be to the Indian exchequer ?

The Honourable Mr. R. M. Maxwell : (a), (b) and (c). The question is still under consideration.

REMOVAL OF A VEGETABLE AND FRUIT SHOP BY THE CANTONMENT AUTHORITIES AT RANIKHET.

135. ***Mr. Badri Dutt Pande** : (a) Will the Defence Secretary be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Cantonment Authorities at Ranikhet have recently ordered the removal of a vegetable and fruit shop from an area near the motor terminus ?

(b) Why was the shop removed in spite of the strong protests and representations of the public ?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie : (a) Yes.

(b) The Board decided unanimously not to renew four licences for fruit and vegetable shops outside the vegetable market, as the medical authorities were unable to exercise supervision over isolated shops, and the Board had reasons to believe that the carrying on of this trade outside the market was and would be dangerous to the public health.

PLACING OF AN INDIAN-OWNED RESTAURANT IN RANIKHET CANTONMENT BAZAR OUT OF BOUNDS FOR INDIANS.

136. ***Mr. Badri Dutt Pande :** (a) Will the Defence Secretary be pleased to state whether his attention has been drawn to a note published in the *Leader* of Allahabad, under the caption "Indians not admitted", dated the 17th July, 1938, wherein it was stated that some Indians who wanted to take refreshments in a restaurant, owned by an Indian at Ranikhet Cantonment Bazar, were told by a waitress that the place was out of bounds for Indians ?

(b) Was this order, placing the Indian-owned restaurant out of bounds for Indians, issued by the military authorities ?

(c) Have Government given instructions that restaurants in Cantonments be opened on the condition that the owner would keep them out of bounds for Indians ?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie : (a) I have seen the *Leader* of the 17th June, 1938, but can find no item with the caption "Indians not admitted".

(b) Neither the cantonment nor any military authority issued any such order.

(c) No.

REFUSAL TO ALLOW A LAWYER DRESSED IN *Dhoti* AND *Kurta* TO ENTER THE PALADIUM CINEMA IN THE MEERUT CANTONMENT.

137. ***Mr. Badri Dutt Pande :** (a) Will the Defence Secretary be pleased to state whether the sergeant on duty did not allow a lawyer of the Meerut Bar, who was dressed in the normal Indian dress of *dhoti* and *kurta*, to enter the Paladium Cinema in the Meerut Cantonment on the 16th April, 1938 ? If so, the circumstances under which this was done ?

(b) Was any order issued by the Brigadier Commanding the station that persons dressed in *dhoti* and *kurta* should not be allowed entry into the cinema ? If so, why ?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie : (a) The circumstances are that the Manager of the Cinema, and not a sergeant as stated, declined to allow an Indian gentleman to occupy a seat reserved for officers and their friends. His action was entirely correct.

(b) No such order by the Officer Commanding Station has been issued.

HARASSMENT OF RAILWAY PASSENGERS BY TERMINAL TAX OFFICIALS OF THE CANTONMENT AUTHORITY, AMBALA.

138. ***Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang :** (a) Will the Defence Secretary please state if it is a fact that passengers who detrain at the Ambala Cantonment Railway Station and other passengers, when travelling along the Grand Trunk Road to Ambala City, are stopped by Terminal Tax officials of the Cantonment Authority, Ambala, compelled to go to the terminal tax *chauki* opposite the railway station, and made to obtain a transit pass on payment of two annas for such articles of their luggage as may be entered in the Terminal Tax Schedule as chargeable with terminal tax, although such articles are not imported into the Cantonment at all, nor are they intended to be so imported ?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, is it a fact that after paying two annas for a transit pass at the Ambala Cantonment Terminal Tax Barrier, as stated in part (a) above, the persons obtaining such transit pass have to pay the full amount of terminable tax or octroi duty to the Ambala City Municipality without getting any credit for the amount paid for the transit pass as described in part (a) above to the Ambala Cantonment Authority ?

(c) If the reply to part (b) be in the affirmative, or if Government have no information about it, are they prepared to issue orders to the Ambala Cantonment Authority that passengers travelling from the Ambala Cantonment Railway Station, or otherwise, by the Grand Trunk Road, to Ambala City, or from Ambala City side to the Cantonment Railway Station or some other destination, by the same road, are not made to obtain a transit pass on payment of a fee ? If not, why not ?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie : (a) Yes. Under Byelaw No. 9 of the Terminal Tax Byelaws when goods ordinarily liable to terminal tax on import are to be exported immediately after import, the person importing such goods shall declare them as such at the barrier of import and shall specify the barrier through which they are to be exported. The officer in charge of the barrier issues a transit pass on payment of such fee, not exceeding 2 annas as the Cantonment Board may prescribe.

(b) Yes.

(c) Does not arise.

ABANDONMENT OF AIR BOMBING ON THE FRONTIER.

139 ***Mr. K. Santhanam :** Will the Defence Secretary be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the statement of the Prime Minister of Great Britain in the House of

- Commons that they were prepared to abandon the practice of air bombing on the Frontier under certain circumstances ;
- (b) whether the Government of India were consulted in the matter ; and
- (c) whether Government propose to take steps to put an end to this practice ?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie : (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) Government do not propose to alter its present policy, unless the eventuality alluded to in part (a) materialises.

COURT MARTIAL AND DISMISSAL OF CAPTAIN BALWANT SINGH LAMBA.

140. ***Mr. Badri Dutt Pande :** Will the Defence Secretary be pleased to explain the circumstances that led to the Court Martial and subsequent dismissal of Captain Balwant Singh Lamba of the 17th Rajput Regiment, and also place on the table all the correspondence concerning this dismissal ?

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie : Reports of the proceedings before the court-martial have already appeared in the press.

The correspondence on the subject is privileged and Government are, therefore, not prepared to lay it on the table.

UNSTARRED QUESTION AND ANSWER.

†6.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE.

Information promised in reply to parts (a) to (d) of unstarred question No. 18 asked by Mr. Brojendra Narayan Chaudhury on the 4th February, 1938.

TEA GARDENS GRANTED EXPORT QUOTAS AND THE TEA CONTROL BOARD.

(a) to (c). A statement is laid on the table giving the necessary particulars as far as possible. It may be added that the Indian Tea Licensing Committee have found difficulty in distinguishing between Indian-owned and other tea estates as a large number of concerns have share capital owned by both Indians and others and thus fall between the two categories in question. The method of distinction adopted for the present purpose is explained in the Note to the statement.

(d) A statement is laid on the table giving the necessary particulars.

†This question was withdrawn by the questioner.

Statement giving the particulars in respect of parts (a) to (c).

(The latest year for which figures are available is 1937-38.)

Districts or States.	*Total number of tea gardens registered with the Licensing Committee.	Total quantity of export quota allotted to estates in Column 2. (lbs.)	*Total number of †Indian-owned tea gardens registered with the Committee.	Total quantity of export quota allotted to tea gardens in Column 4. (lbs.)	Total number of enquiries and inspections by the Licensing Committee about assessment.
1	2	3	4	5	6
(i) Surma Valley ..	225	55,401,355	87	5,160,181	<i>Nil.</i>
(ii) Dooars ..	154	60,832,770	52	11,947,185	<i>Nil.</i>
(iii) Jalpaiguri } ..	22	4,117,100	7	993,028	<i>Nil.</i>
(iv) Terai .. }					
(v) Darjeeling ..	112	12,730,490	35	2,831,574	<i>Nil.</i>
(vi) Assam Valley ..	634	133,942,631	286	10,785,387	3
(vii) British North India other than (i) to (vi) above. ..	675	4,873,989	658	4,165,777	487
(viii) British South India	2,462	50,039,780	2,150	2,236,983	2,076
(ix) Indian States ..	1,171	6,399,091	1,171	6,399,091	992
Total ..	5,455	328,337,206	4,446	44,519,206	3,558

*NOTE (1).—Figures are corrected up to February, 1938.

†NOTE (2).—The above statement has been compiled from application forms for tea export quota. Where these are signed by Indians the gardens have been classified as 'Indian-owned'. The remainder consist in the main of Companies and there are no records in the office of the Licensing Committee to determine the extent, if any, of the capital held by Indians.

Statement giving the particulars in respect of part (d).

Income and Expenditure of the Indian Tea Licensing Committee.

Year.	Income.			Expenditure.		
	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
1933-34	80,552	8	2	92,016	4	0
1934-35	1,44,354	9	3	119,437	3	8
1935-36	1,45,987	12	6	1,45,858	8	8
1936-37	1,54,328	5	6	1,66,974	2	5

Information promised in reply to part (c) of starred question No. 90 asked by Mr. K. Santhanam on the 2nd February, 1938, and to part (b) of starred question No. 250 asked by Seth Govind Das on the 15th February, 1938.

STOPPAGE OF THE EXODUS OF CERTAIN ATTACHED OFFICES TO SIMLA.

Attention is invited to the statement laid on the table on the 30th March, 1938, in reply to Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar's starred question No. 1089.

Information promised in reply to parts (b) and (c) of starred question No. 722 asked by Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar on the 9th March, 1938.

RUNNING OF REFRESHMENT ROOMS AND RESTAURANT CARS BY RAILWAYS.

(b) The catering is on commercial lines. The financial results for the last three years for which figures are available on each railway are as follows :

Bengal Nagpur Railway.—

1934-35—a profit of Rs. 36,500.

1935-36—a loss of Rs. 15,700.

1936-37—a profit of Rs. 31,000.

Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway.—

1935-36—a loss of Rs. 8,571.

1936-37—a profit of Rs. 13,017.

1937-38—a profit of Rs. 13,217.

South Indian Railway.—

1934-35—a loss of Rs. 568.

1935-36—a loss of Rs. 21,127.

1936-37—a loss of Rs. 4,214.

(c) The Agent and General Manager of each Railway states as follows :

Bengal Nagpur Railway.—

The arrangement has proved better than the previous procedure of working by a contractor.

Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway.—

The management is generally considered to be more satisfactory to the travelling public than if contractors were employed.

South Indian Railway.—

The departmental management is much appreciated by the public and the general impression is that the food, service, etc., are better than those obtaining in rooms worked by licensees.

Information promised in reply to part (a) of starred question No. 728 asked by Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena on the 9th March, 1938.

COST OF THE ENQUIRY INTO THE RAILWAY ACCIDENT AT BIHTA.

The total cost of the enquiry is Rs. 2,57,621.

Information promised in reply to starred questions Nos. 1108 and 1109 asked by Sardar Mangal Singh on the 30th March, 1938.

REFUSAL OF A PASSPORT TO CANADA TO MASTER KABUL SINGH.

Starred question No. 1108.—(a) and (b). Yes.

(c) and (d). The matter is now under the consideration of the Central Government.

REFUSAL OF A PASSPORT TO THE CONTINENT AND ENGLAND TO ONE MR. VIRENDRA.

Starred question No. 1109.—(a) and (b). As stated by the Honourable Sir Henry Craik on the 17th September, 1937, in reply to Mr. Sham Lal's starred question No. 1406, an application for a passport made by Mr. Virendra in 1936 was rejected. Since then he has not made any formal application, but has made various representations to the Punjab Government who have informed him that the decision of 1936 still stands.

(c) Ostensibly to pursue his studies in journalism.

(d) The matter is under consideration.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 1258 asked by Sardar Sant Singh on the 8th April, 1938.

PROHIBITION OF RAILWAY SUBORDINATE MEDICAL OFFICIALS FROM ENGAGING IN PRIVATE PRACTICE.

(a) The practice is not identical on all the State Railways. No prohibition has been issued, but on the North Western Railway, orders were issued in February, 1938, drawing the attention of all members of the medical subordinate staff to the fact that they cannot undertake private practice except among the families of railway employees without the written authority of the Headquarters Office. Permission is granted if the sanctioning authority is satisfied that such permission will not prevent the employee concerned from discharging adequately his duties to the railway staff and their families.

(b) As I have already explained, the orders did not impose an absolute bar. The position in respect of the District Medical Officers is the same, and the latter part does not arise.

(c) I understand that medical officers of other Civil Departments are, within certain limitations, permitted to engage in private practice. The second part does not arise.

(d) The orders make no distinction between new entrants and others. Government clearly cannot allow medical officers to undertake private practice to an extent which interferes with the duties for which they are employed, and there is no proposal to grant any compensation.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 1363 asked by Mr. Ram Narayan Singh on the 8th April, 1938.

RAILWAY INCOME FROM THE SESSION OF THE INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS AT HARIPURA.

The information is given in the reply to Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar's starred question No. 5 on the 8th August, 1938.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WEDGWOOD COMMITTEE.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : With regard to the adjournment motion of which notice has been given by Mr. Satyamurti relating to the Wedgwood Report, I understand that Government circulated copies of the statement of the action along with the budget papers. Mr. Satyamurti, therefore, said that he did not want to move it.

Seth Govind Das does not move the three motions given notice of by him.

ARREST OF A BRITISH SUBJECT BY THE DEWAN OF TEHRI STATE.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Mr. Badri Dutt Pande has given notice of an adjournment motion to discuss the forcible arrest of a British subject in British territory by the Dewan of Tehri State. I should like to know what the facts are.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions : Non-Muhammadian Rural) : A certain gentleman was forcibly arrested in Rishikesh in British territory by the Dewan, put in a car and taken into the Tehri territory. He has now been convicted in that State for some alleged offence there.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Is the matter under adjudication ?

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande : There is now another case against the Dewan for arresting the man.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Then it cannot be moved.

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan (Leader of the House) : Sir, I may just say that the man was not arrested in British India. I am afraid a misunderstanding has arisen because though Rishikesh is in British territory he was not arrested there. The arrest took place on the road next to the thana Munikireti which is within Tehri-Garhwal and not within British India.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Mr. Brojendra Narayan Chaudhury has given notice of an adjournment motion to discuss the failure of the Government of India to arrange elections for elected seats on the Indian Tea Licensing Committee under the provisions of the Indian Tea Control Act, 1938. I should like to understand what the position is.

Mr. Brojendra Narayan Chaudhury (Surma Valley *cum* Shillong : Non-Muhammadian) : Sir, under section 3 of the Indian Tea Control Act of 1938, four elected seats were granted to the Assam Valley, Surma Valley, Madras and Upper India tea estates. Now that section provides that Government shall make rules for these elections. They have not made rules yet though the Act came into force on the 1st April last. Instead of that they have taken an undue advantage of section 4 which says that if the authority or body which is entitled to elect fails to elect, the Central Government may make nomination. Here the Indian planters of Surma Valley and Assam Valley have not elected simply because they were not asked to elect.

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : Sir, the position is this. This Act was passed, I think, on the 23rd March last and came into

[Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan.]

force on the 1st April. The Central Government at once took up the question of the framing of the rules. The Act required that the names of the Committee should be published by 1st July. There was necessarily some correspondence between the Provincial Governments concerned and the various Tea Associations before the rules were actually settled. It was unfortunately found that the rules could not be settled by the 1st July. They have now been settled and were published on the 23rd July. In the meantime there was this statutory obligation to publish the names of all the members of the committee, so that as there was no time to hold the elections in between, four members were nominated in place of the members to be elected. The whole matter has been explained in a Government communiqué. It has been explained that these four members will hold their seats only so long as the elections cannot be completed, and the elections are now in course of being completed. These Associations have been called upon to elect members. Though technically even when elected they will have to be put on by nomination, they will be put on to the committee in place of the four members who in default of such election have been nominated.

Mr. Brojendra Narayan Chaudhury : In spite of what has been said in the communiqué, I, as representing the Indian planters, will suffer an injury because the committee which has been constituted does not contain my elected representative.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : They are being elected now.

Mr. Brojendra Narayan Chaudhury : But, in the meantime, the committee constituted will be functioning and would be dealing with my applications for export quotas.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, provision has been made for that eventuality in sub-section (3) of section 3 in which it has been laid down that until the new committee is constituted the old committee under the old Act will continue. The point involved in the adjournment motion is that these nominations are *ultra vires*, illegal and absolutely against the provisions of the Act and quite unnecessary.

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : It was permitted under the Act in the meantime for the old committee to continue but within three months the new committee's names had to be published. During these three months the old committee could continue. The obligation was to publish the names by the 1st July.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta : That obligation was to publish the names of the members elected.

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : But there is power in the Act for Government to nominate if the members have not been elected.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta : The Honourable Member should read section 4 and say whether it can be said that the constituency has failed to make the election within the meaning of that section.

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : Of course they have. It may be that it was not their fault that they could not elect but they have surely failed to elect.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta : That is straining the language too much. That was not the intention of the section.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : After hearing the facts of the case from both sides, I do not consider that this is a matter of urgent public importance.

Then comes Mr. Asaf Ali's motion, *re* the arrest and conviction in Delhi of 60 Congress workers on the 22nd July, 1938.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Delhi : General) : As a matter of fact, Sir, before giving notice of this motion I had taken up the matter with the Local Government and I have now received their reply. I intend pursuing the matter with them, and, therefore, I will not move this motion.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The next one is also from Mr. Asaf Ali, but it is barred by the motion of Mr. Satyamurti moved on the 9th August. The next one is from Mr. Abdul Qaiyum *re* the Government's frontier policy.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum (North-West Frontier Province : General) : I am moving it.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : What has recently taken place ?

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum : Quite recently, Sir. After the last Session and shortly before this Session. There was a raid on Bannu ten days before the Assembly met.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Why does not the Honourable Member mention this in his notice ?

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum : This is one incident : there is a series of incidents and the Government communiqué itself admits it.

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe (Secretary, External Affairs Department) : May I take a preliminary objection, Sir ? That is that since the matter of the adjournment motion deals exclusively with tribal areas, it requires the consent of the Governor General, which, so far as I know, has not been obtained.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Have you obtained the consent ?

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum : No, Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : If the Honourable Member wishes to obtain the consent, I can let it stand over.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum : Thank you very much, Sir. I will apply for the consent.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : I have had occasion to point it out before that in regard to these matters relating to tribal areas, no adjournment motion can be moved without the previous consent of the Governor General. Every Honourable Member ought to be prepared, if he wants to move a motion which requires the consent of the Governor General, to obtain that consent.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali : If I am not mistaken, Sir, that rule applies only to Resolutions and not to adjournment motions.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : It applies to adjournment motions also. I will let this stand over till tomorrow.

Then, the motion of Mr. Abdur Rasheed Choudhury is covered by that of Mr. Brojendra Narayan Chaudhury.

As regards Sardar Sant Singh's motion to discuss the recent continuous violation of the Indian soil during the last fortnight by the Trans-border tribes, that has been disallowed by the Governor General, as also his other motion *re* racial discrimination in the Army against King's Commissioned Indian Officers. The next motion in the name of Maulana Shaukat Ali to discuss the failure of the Government of India to abandon the bombing of the tribal area has also been disallowed by the Governor General.

There is no other adjournment motion. The House will now proceed with the consideration of Resolutions. The first Resolution was moved by Sardar Mangal Singh, and I think he finished his speech and the Resolution was put to the House.

RESOLUTION *RE* APPOINTMENT OF AN ENQUIRY COMMITTEE FOR THE BROADCASTING DEPARTMENT—*contd.*

Khan Bahadur Nawab Siddique Ali Khan (Central Provinces and Berar : Muhammadan) : Sir, my Honourable friend, Sardar Mangal Singh, has recommended that an enquiry committee be appointed to inquire into three things, namely, cheap radio sets, the working of broadcasting stations and lastly nepotism and jobbery in the department. I shall try to deal with them separately.

Taking the question of cheap radio sets first, my information is that there are about 55,000 radio sets in India today and there are seven or eight broadcasting stations. From the figure of radio sets which I have given, it will appear that broadcasting is at present a luxury ; it is only a limited number of people who can purchase radio sets worth Rs. 300 or Rs. 400. It is, therefore, necessary that radio sets should be sold at cheap rates. The question is how can we achieve that object ? I do not think the appointment of an enquiry committee of Honourable Members of this House can solve this problem. Their only recommendation will be that cheap radio sets should be sold. I am told that attempts are being made to assemble parts of radio sets in India and then to sell them in India. I would suggest in this connection that Government should manufacture radio sets in India and the price of these sets should be such that a poor man may buy them. It is desirable that Government should encourage private research and should ask the Industrial Research Bureau to take up this work at an early date.

As regards broadcasting organisation, I would state that it is in its infancy and is, therefore, in an experimental stage. There are very few broadcasting stations and more have to be opened. During this short time I do not think it has been possible for the department to gain experience of problems of different provinces. In the circumstances it will be premature to hold an enquiry at the present juncture in regard to programmes, etc. Let us have more experience. I suggest that Government should appoint advisory committees of really competent non-officials at every station. After the experience of a couple of years when data have been collected a committee of this nature could serve a useful purpose.

I will now deal with alleged nepotism and jobbery in the department. It is desirable that individual cases should be referred to Government and not to any committee. I have come to the conclusion that the general complaint of nepotism is not well-founded. It appears from newspapers that Government have already taken action that recruitment to higher posts should be made by the Public Service Commission and the smaller posts ought to be filled up by the Controller in consultation with the non-official members of advisory committees. I learn that eminent people like Dr. Zakir Hussain of the Jamia Milla in Delhi and Lala Sri Ram of Delhi are members of that committee : my Honourable friend, Sir Ziauddin Ahmad, says that the Vice-Chancellor of the Delhi University is also a member of the Committee. If in any case the Controller has not consulted them, we should press Government to investigate the matter ; but the general sweeping charge of nepotism and jobbery cannot be maintained. Sardar Mangal Singh made some undignified remarks about the Bokhari Brothers' Corporation and the All-India *Radio* Department. I have followed the attacks on the Bokhari Brothers in the vernacular communal press. I do not know the two brothers personally but very few of the Urdu knowing people in India are unacquainted with the older Mr. Bokhari who, for his literary abilities and character, commands very great respect. These two brothers are not the heads of the Radio Department. If they have done any wrong, let the Members inform the Government of their misdeeds and let the matter be investigated. It is becoming a common practice these days to run down Muslim officers who show ability and promise. Is this nationalism ? Allegations have been made against a highly placed officer of a vague nature without a shred of proof in a place where he can't defend himself. This is unworthy of the dignity of this Honourable House.

In conclusion, I would request the House to go into the realities of the matter and not press for the appointment of this Committee which would at best be premature and not likely to yield any useful results at this stage. After some years, when experience has been gained, such a Committee could more usefully be appointed.

Sir, with these words, I oppose the Resolution moved by my Honourable friend, Sardar Mangal Singh.

Mr. J. Ramsay Scott (United Provinces : European) : Sir, with the Resolution itself and with the first dozen lines of the Mover's speech, I have nothing but praise, and I am sure that if he had stopped there, he would have had the support of the whole of this House. We are all anxious that the Research Department should help our Radio manufacturers in the turning out of cheap and efficient sets. I understand specifications have been issued, which, if our manufacturers and assemblers in India get on to, will enable a radio set to be produced for Rs. 60 to Rs. 70. Radio sets today which are imported at this price and duty paid cost Rs. 100 are listed at Rs. 300 so that the retailer is making a good profit. It is obvious that there is a profit to the dealer or there would not be the numbers of dealers there are. The slump will come and prices will drop, and it is for this reason I suggest that perhaps the Director of Broadcasting might call a meeting of the biggest dealers with a view to arranging that there should be no cut-throat competition, but also that a fair profit is obtained and the interests of the consumer considered.

[Mr. J. Ramsay Scott.]

There is no limit to the sale of radio sets provided they are cheap, efficient and properly serviced.

The Broadcast vote for Rs. 40 lakhs ; of this about Rs. 32 lakhs will have been expended by the end of 1938-39. We have eight Broadcasting stations and a further two stations are to go up. When the scheme is completed we shall have a chain of stations which will cover the whole of India. Of course, Mr. B. Das will probably say that Orissa has been treated in a Cinderella fashion, but I assure him that the Calcutta station will supply all his needs. The scheme, as I say, is not yet completed, and it is too early to criticise the results so that I think any inquiry would be out of place until 1941 or until Federation comes in or whichever is earlier. This date seems to be the zero hour of an Utopia.

Now as regards the programmes, I understand a non-official Committee has been formed in Delhi and this Committee has been found to be so useful that other Committees will be set up starting with the presidency towns first.

Then I come to the meat of the proposer's speech, and I wish that he had omitted this part which is nine-tenths of his speech. He firstly complains of the appointment of the Director, saying that because he was superfluous in England he had to be dumped on India. This gentleman, he further states, was getting £1,000 a year and comes out here on £1,800 a year, a figure several times more than he got. I am afraid the Mover has so exaggerated his case that I need not criticise his arithmetic. I would, however, like to say that £1,000 a year, together with a pension in Great Britain, is a good income and I very much doubt if the Director is making a fortune by coming out to India. I think, in his case, he shakes the Pagoda tree in a time of famine. His English post was not superfluous, and the post is at present in existence and filled.

From the first case the proposer hops to the third expert, and he states that his only qualification was his recommendation from Sir Noel Ashbridge. Our Engineer is a B.Sc., London, and has had experience in North and South America, France and England, and his sponsor is the Chief Engineer of the B. I. C. Probably my Honourable friend, the Mover, would have preferred a recommendation in this form : " This is my nephew, passed or failed B.A. He is a very nice man and speaks and writes well but has not been able to get a job yet. Yours sincerely, J. Ramsay Scott, M.L.A. ". I need not ask which is the better recommendation. India is not yet radio-minded, and I think I may say without fear of contradiction that our Broadcasting Department is doing its best in this direction.

The proposer cites the selection of the Lucknow station site as one for condemnation. I wonder if he has seen it, because I have. I consider it an ideal site and one which will be quite free from any electrical disturbances. They say reception is good, and I have heard no complaint. I suggest that this is a case of the " Have nots " being jealous of the " Haves ". Allahabad is deadly jealous of Lucknow. This may have something to do with this complaint.

Next we get the complaint of men starting on Rs. 245 and Rs. 250 rising to Rs. 400 in a year, promotions amounting to an advancement of 200 per cent. This again is an over-statement of the case by over 100

per cent. Then there is the case of a man on Rs. 300 now getting Rs. 775. If my Honourable friend will look at these appointments from a less suspicious angle, he will see that the expansion of this department has been enormous in the last year, and I would say that this is the one department of the Government of India where appointments and promotions are made on merit and merit alone, and where if a man makes good he has been advanced instead of the post being filled by the appointment of new and untried men from outside. My Party and I are not prepared to censure Government for advancing proficiency and merit. I may say that now these posts are filled that appointments and advancements will presumably be slowed down to the ordinary yearly increments.

Sir, in conclusion I would state that I think India has every reason to be proud of its Broadcasting Department. Eight stations have been put up in eight months. I can see no reason to cramp its style and waste money on any useless Committee of Inquiry. This debate will serve a very useful purpose, and I am sure the Honourable Mr. Clow will welcome any constructive suggestions for the good of Broadcasting in India. Sir, I oppose the Resolution.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra (Presidency Division : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, the Resolution before the House seems to me a very harmless and non-contentious one, but, unfortunately, in the two speeches delivered immediately before me, speakers have imported into it a communal or partisan spirit which one fails to see in the Resolution as it stands on the Order Paper. My Honourable friend, Mr. Siddique Ali Khan, saw three things in it, of which the first was an allegation of jobbery, for which I searched in vain in the Resolution. (Interruption.) I am talking of the Resolution itself, and not of any individual speech which might have been made in the last Delhi Session. It is on the Resolution which is before the House that I am speaking, and it is on this Resolution that debate will go on and ultimately the vote of the House taken and not on any speech of any Honourable Member.

I submit the Resolution simply asks for the appointment of a Committee ; and what is to be the function of this Committee ? The function of the Committee would be to inquire into the working of the Broadcasting Department of the Government of India with a view to make it more popular and effective. That is the first part of it and the second part, as I understand it, is, that ways and means should be found by which radio appliances can be manufactured in this country so as to place the benefits of radio within the easy reach of the poor people of this country. It seems to me that these are the two functions which are desired by this Resolution. I seriously ask how can the importance of these propositions be challenged ? Opinions may perhaps differ as to the success or otherwise of the Indian Broadcasting Service in this country and speaking for myself, I am positively of opinion that it is neither popular in this country nor is it effective. This, I believe, is also the view of the vast body of my countrymen. My Honourable friend, Mr. Ramsay Scott, on the other hand says that it is satisfactory and that India can be proud of this service. As an Indian I cannot be proud of it. It is hopelessly inefficient and ineffective and even demoralizing. Does the broadcasting service of this country really discharge the important functions that were expected of it ? Look at the progressive countries in the East and

[Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra.]

in the West. There the wireless is a most powerful dynamic social institution, entertaining, educating, elevating and enlivening the people. And what is the position in India ? From the broadcasting service here, we generally have some music, some descriptions of travel, some stories, some light talk, market rates of some commodities, the results of some football game or cricket match and things like that. Is it the function of the broadcasting service to do only this kind of thing ? Has it no more important, useful or serious thing to do ? Compare things in India with those in Japan, Europe and America and you will be convinced that the broadcasting service in India has failed of its purpose.

An Honourable Member : What should be done ?

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra : I am coming to that. (Interruption.) I am not opposing any community. I am not entering into personalities. I expect some amount of charity and patience while I am dealing with this subject in an entirely non-communal and non-controversial spirit. I am talking of principle and policy. If we look at the past history of this service, we find that it was in the early stages maintained by private organisations like the Radio Clubs in Bombay, Madras and Calcutta. They could not function well because of the paucity of funds. The Government of India no doubt came to their rescue and financed them from the licence fees. But the service could not be carried on. It was then taken over by the Indian Broadcasting Company so that it might cater to the needs of the whole sub-continent of India. Accordingly, in the year 1927, one station was opened by the then Viceroy in Bombay and another in Calcutta by the Governor of Bengal but, after functioning for two and a half years, the Company closed down as it could not make itself popular and finally the Government of India had to take it up in the year 1930. When we came to the Assembly we found that the predecessors of my Honourable friend, Mr. Clow, had framed a detailed programme of development and what they did was to bring out from Great Britain Mr. Fielden. He became the Controller of Broadcasting of the Delhi Station and eventually of the whole broadcasting service in India. Later on, as the House is aware, we budgeted 40 lakhs for further development of the broadcasting service in the year 1937. The House will realise that in the past, at every stage of its development this service received a set-back. At present Government of India have been functioning in their own way and most of us know from personal experience that it has not been functioning in the way in which similar institutions are functioning in all advanced countries in the world. Therefore, I think that an inquiry is not only desirable but necessary so that we may not waste further money on it. Mr. Kirke was brought from England. He produced a report on the wider development of broadcasting in this country. This report was not published. The people of this country were left in the dark about it. Then Mr. Goyder was brought in. He is said to be an Engineer. With the collaboration of these estimable gentlemen, who are supposed to be experts, Government formulated and put into operation an elaborate scheme of broadcasting for the whole of India. The programme today is, that the cities of Calcutta and Bombay are each to have a high power transmitter of 10 kilowatt aerial power and the city of Madras one 10 kilowatt transmitter for the whole Madras Presidency and another transmitter of smaller power for the Madras city only. Now,

you can understand when these short wave and medium wave stations are introduced into this country, what complications are likely to arise. As things stand today, it is a common complaint that wave lengths of the stations clash, that Calcutta cannot pick up Delhi and Delhi cannot pick up Calcutta, Delhi cannot catch Bombay and Bombay cannot catch Delhi.

An Honourable Member : We can hear them quite well.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra : You may have super-sensitive ears, but we cannot hear them. I don't know whether Honourable Members have perused the statements that have appeared in the Press from time to time about the working of these radio stations. It is said that the wave length of the Delhi station happens to pass rather too close alongside of the Bombay line, with the result that they clash with each other. Some of my Honourable friends must have noticed statements in the Press to that effect. I want my Honourable friends, Mr. Scott and Mr. Boyle, to pay a little attention to this as they seem to be highly satisfied with the present Broadcasting in India. Indian scientists of very great eminence have pointed out that these stations have been indiscriminately set up without proper scientific soil research and in total disregard of their surroundings and of the power of receptivity and conductivity of the electromagnetic waves. I see my Honourable friend, Mr. Bewoor, smiling. This is a scientific matter and not one of Posts and Telegraphs. Dr. Megh Nad Saha, F.R.S., an eminent Indian scientist, expressed the view that this whole scheme of Broadcasting has got to be fully investigated and a thorough scientific research and inquiry undertaken in connexion with these broadcasting stations, if they are meant to be effective. Mere smiling will not do. And the pity is that no Indian scientist or expert has been utilised or consulted in this vast Indian enterprise run with Indian money !

I submit, Sir, that by merely establishing transmitting stations in different parts of the country like Lucknow, Dacca and Peshawar and also by installing high-power transmitters in other places, they may not solve this problem of effective Broadcasting in India and all this may after all prove to be a waste. The radio is a most useful social institution and, if properly conducted, it may act as a powerful lever of moral, intellectual and material progress in this country. But, after all, what story does the actual situation in this country tell ? It is the same old story of further imprisonment of India, her further economic drain without any appreciable compensating gain. During the last four years, the number of licensees has well nigh trebled and the income of Government from license fees has increased by 300 per cent. and that from customs duties by 600 per cent. I find, Sir, there is derisive murmur going on on the Treasury Benches, but I will give the actual figures. In the year 1932-33 the total value of radio imports into this country was 10 lakhs. In 1933-34, it was 11 lakhs. In 1934-35 it was 16 lakhs. In 1935-36 it was 28 lakhs. In 1936-37 it was 35 lakhs, and in 1937-38 during the nine months for which figures are available it has amounted up to 41 lakhs.

I have other figures also. But time is pressing.

The Honourable Mr. A. G. Clow (Member for Railways and Communications) : I was not disputing the Honourable Member's figures. I am very grateful for these unsolicited testimonials.

Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions : Muhammadan Rural) : Is the Honourable Member quoting the income from customs ?

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra : I am giving the value of the imports of radio articles into this country. Now, what are the countries which are profiting most at the cost of India and as a result of the Indian broadcasting development ? In the first place it is the United States of America which had exported to this country to the tune of 13 lakhs in the year 1937-38 during the nine months and 14 lakhs in 1936-37, and Rs. 10,96,345 in 1935-36. So America is leading all the countries of the world in the matter of exporting radio goods to this country. Next comes the United Kingdom.

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

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra : Sir, I am sorry. I have so many things to say and I have had so much interruption during my speech. The United Kingdom comes next. Then the funny thing is that the Netherlands, of all countries, comes third, exporting to the tune of Rs. 10,83,000 in the year 1937-38 and all other countries in the last year, articles worth Rs. 3,54,928. The House will thus realize what a vast amount of money is being drawn out of this country. Year after year. So we want a Committee composed of non-officials, experts, as well as of officials to investigate the question of manufacture of wireless appliances in this country and if necessary to give directions to the Broadcasting Department to give direct help and encouragement for the manufacture of radio sets in this country. We may thereby stop a vast amount of about half a crore of rupees being drained out of this country every year. Sir, a poor country like India cannot afford to have high-priced radio sets. There must be cheap sets for her people. This vast development in Broadcasting will be of little use to the country if its benefits are not placed within the easy reach of the poor masses.

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

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra : I will finish, Sir. The number of licensees has now mounted up to 55,000. But this is negligible compared to her vast population. This Resolution, Sir, is not intended as a censure upon Government. They have from time to time appointed so many committees and commissions ; let them agree to this Committee. This is an offer of co-operation on our part. We all desire that broadcasting in India may be run on sound and healthy lines. With these words, Sir, I support the Resolution.

Lieut.-Colonel M. A. Rahman (Nominated Non-Official) : Sir, I cannot help commenting on the very low level on which the debate took place on the last occasion when my friend, Sardar Mangal Singh, brought forward so many accusations against the All-India Radio Department and the many wild statements he made. Sir, he then made many insinuations against certain officers of the Department and, especially, I will make an allusion to his reference to the Bokhari Broadcasting Corporation in India, without giving any shred of proof in support of the statements he made. He mentioned that certain officers were appointed on very low pay and that

in a very short time they got rapid promotions. Well, this is only the natural course in a department which has just been established and which is growing rapidly in every direction. This state of affairs is usual and it cannot be helped, because when officers of suitable qualifications and special adaptability are engaged perhaps on low pay, to be tried at first, and then when occasion arises and they prove their worth, well, they are given rapid promotion. Sir, when new stations are opened in different places, such a state of affairs is natural and will be occurring every now and then. I believe that in a service like the broadcasting service the rigors of the ordinary Government rules and regulations should not apply so much as in other departments. Merit and special adaptability of the candidate for the service should be the only criterion, as it is the case in the B. B. C. in England. Even if it is admitted that a few appointments have been made, I fail to understand how my friend Sardar Mangal Singh, could connect it with one or two officers who have nothing to do with the controlling of broadcasting or the policy followed in that Department. This perhaps is only a reflection of the cheap propaganda which has been carried on in some of the vernacular papers, and perhaps with a certain amount of communal bias.

Mr. S. Satyamurti (Madras City : Non-Muhammadian Urban) : You introduce that now. Keep it on a high level ! (Interruption.)

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

Lieut.-Colonel M. A. Rahman : This House should certainly refrain from being influenced by such petty considerations, and should encourage a small body of officers, mostly Indians, who are doing their best to establish this department which has got so many potentialities.

The next point I will touch upon now and on this point the House has very pronounced views and that is the importation of experts from abroad. Well, as far as I know, only three experts have been imported in this Department. I think I am right in saying that the only experts who have been imported are the Controller, the Chief Engineer and the News Editor. All of them have been imported on short service terms only and their fundamental duty is to train Indians, and as soon as they find them capable of replacing them, they will leave this country. (*Voices* : "Are you sure ?") Sir, I am second to none in my desire to see my own nationals getting preference in the appointments in every department of the Government, but I am not prepared to admit that, when Indians of suitable qualifications are not forthcoming, we must spite our face and refrain from getting experts from outside even on a short term, who could render useful service to our country. The necessity of importation of experts has been proved and I hope a day will come when we shall be self-contained in this department. I hope it will come soon. But till such time as we are capable of running this Department, we should not pass any remarks or bring any false accusation against the running of the department. There is no use ignoring the realities of the situation. Radio had been introduced in European countries long before it came to India and the Europeans naturally have got more experience in the organisation, in the technique and in many other ways of establishing broadcasting system in India. Therefore, the Government of India were in duty bound to do what they thought was the best in the present situation by employing experts from outside, who are doing, as far as my knowledge goes, admirable work

[Lieut.-Colonel M. A. Rahman.]

under very strange and difficult circumstances. Besides, this department, as far as my information goes, is now recruiting in India for higher appointments through the Federal Public Service Commission and I am also informed that lately many advisory committees have been set up.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Delhi : General) : Where have they been set up ?

Lieut.-Colonel M. A. Rahman : In Delhi and in other places. That is my information.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali : Your information is quite wrong.

Lieut.-Colonel M. A. Rahman : Well, Sir, now I come to another point of my Honourable friend, Sardar Mangal Singh, as regards favouritism which he mentioned in his speech on the 8th of April last. He then used many words like nepotism, favouritism, corruption and so on. Now, take favouritism. It is the curse of India that when new jobs are advertised, hundreds apply owing to unemployment. Those who are not taken, they do not attribute it to the failure of merit on their part but they attribute to the influences brought about by the candidates who are taken in. That is the curse of India. But the leaders of public opinion should not encourage it. Now, Sir, there is the question of programme. My friend, Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra, has just said, what is this broadcasting in India ? A few love songs, a few country songs, a few news, and so on, are being broadcast. I would like to ask him, what else does he want besides these love songs ? Another remark which he made was regarding soil research. I happen to have read Prof. Saha's articles on these various matters. It is not at all true to say that the Professor has said that no research has been conducted as regards the soil, electric conditions, and so on. Now, Sir, as regards the programme of music, there has been a lot of controversy. Some like classical music, some prefer light music. Therefore, it is only to be expected that you cannot satisfy all tastes when there is a diversity of languages and when there are different schools of music. Take classical music first. How many of you can understand and appreciate classical music ? Will Prof. Ranga or Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad appreciate classical music ?

Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad : I will be the last man to appreciate it.

Lieut.-Colonel M. A. Rahman : I know Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad enjoys music, but not classical music. Anyhow, the work which is entrusted to the department must be judged with patience and sympathy. The Radio Department is gaining experience day by day. They have been inviting public criticism and they have been most anxious to get public opinion. They are changing their programmes accordingly. I know all these things are being done. Now, what are the complaints regarding music programmes. To start with, let us see what the department is doing in this direction. There is hardly a well-known musician or a speaker or a dramatist or a writer who himself or his work has not been presented to the microphone. At least, we must give them the credit for giving us the best Indian culture as far as it has been possible to do so. I do not know whether the House will appreciate it, but the question of the percentage of classical music as against light music is a very debatable point

not only in India, but in every country of the world. A critic, of course, looks at the light music as a degradation and he looks at the classical music as an art, but remember there is such a thing as microphone suitability. Your best speakers and your best musicians may be an utter failure before a microphone. So, the people who say that the music here is utterly nonsensical do not know the realities of the situation. It is quite a different thing to see a musician singing before you making his gestures and expressions, but you do not pay so much attention to the quality of his voice. But before the microphone, all these things are excluded except the quality of the voice.

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

Lieut.-Colonel M. A. Rahman : Then, Sir, the new type of music is called the Tagore school of classical music and I believe also some of the film companies indicate possible line of change which is in the direction of simplification, increased stress on voice quality and in the words of songs and greater realization of the importance of form.

In the end, Sir, I wish to appeal to the House that Radio, as we all know, is new to India. It has many possibilities, not only for amusement, but for education and instruction, for health and sanitary conditions, for economic and social life. Let us not be led away by hearsay and prejudices and narrow-mindedness, but stand for the growth of this newly born child. Let it grow up. It is likely to help in the solution of many difficult problems in this country. Give it a chance. Let the organisers establish their reputation ; let them build up their organisation and judge them when they have crystallized their position and then there will be plenty of time for you to criticise and bring forward this Resolution. But under the present circumstances I cannot see my way to support the Resolution. I oppose it because I believe that no useful purpose will be served by appointing this Committee.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau :

1 P.M.

Indian Commerce) : Sir, may I, with your permission, at the outset clear up what appears to be a positive misunderstanding: I heard with very great care the speech that my Honourable friend, Sardar Mangal Singh, delivered in moving this Resolution and I am sure what he was trying to do was to refer to the kind of criticism to which this department was being subjected outside in the press and in private conversations. Sir, on behalf of my Party—in fact, on behalf of every non-official Member here—I will say straightaway that nobody is trying to make capital out of this at all politically or communally. I request every Member of this House belonging to any community not to treat this great subject with the pettiness and narrowness with which it has been suggested that it may be treated. I would make an appeal to every Member of this House and to every section to look at this with the importance which it deserves and which I will endeavour to point out as we go along. Sir, I will go further and make it quite clear that I have nothing whatsoever to do, with, and I have never set my eyes on any official of this department and that none of us is actuated by any personal or any narrow motive of any kind. I will go further and say that I am willing to recognise and I will ask Honourable Members here to

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recognise that when a department is newly set up, when it is experimental, when the staff and the people are new, when they are new to team work, when they are assailed with personal criticisms, criticisms of personal liking, when listeners from all quarters belonging to different sections and different types of culture ask for this, that and the other, I want Honourable Members of this House to recognise that such a department is bound to have difficulties and to sympathise with such difficulties. But at the same time I wish to bring to the notice of this House an experience which I had with another department, created *ad hoc* for the purpose in Bombay called the Development Department of Bombay. This department was created by bringing into being in the first instance as director what they thought was a powerful man. The department expanded rapidly almost on parallel lines like this department has been expanding and it ultimately landed the province and the Government of Bombay into a loss of several crores of rupees which the province will be paying for years and years—for the next sixty years. It is my intention to point out to this House and to warn them that we must take care that notwithstanding all the defects of this department such a situation does not arise. The importance of this department lies in the fact that it had been favoured by Sir James Grigg ever since he became the Finance Member and that progressively increased allowances and increased expenditure from revenue has been sanctioned. Up-to-date, that is to say up to the end of the present financial year, this department would have spent in revenue and capital charges no less than 85 lakhs of rupees. This is a big sum and we, Sir, as Members of this House, are the custodians of the taxpayers' finances and it should be our object to see whether we get adequate return for every rupee spent in this manner.

Sir, I will also point out to the fact that the department is not what it was when it started. It may have started as a small baby, as all new departments start, but it has expanded rapidly. Some of us doubt whether the expansion has been on proper lines. In any case, it has expanded rapidly so much so that many new stations are now being opened. It is a debatable point whether it is of importance to strengthen a few central institutions or whether it is of importance to set up several small provincial centres. That is a large matter of policy. The department has now expanded and is working in so many districts and it is difficult to control them from the Centre. We have, therefore, expensive tours on behalf of the Controller, we have meetings of the stations directors also held. It is the curse of this country that costly conferences are held at the Centre, with regard to each and every department. I say it is worth while watching whether this department is now working and is going to work in the next few years on the most economic lines. Its work is undoubtedly difficult. I do not wish to withhold sympathy or credit from those who have been tackling this work, so far as they deserve such, sympathy and credit. But there are many major matters with regard to this department which require looking into and which require looking into by responsible Members of this House. We are going to criticise this department not merely for what it has done. We give them credit when they have done well. We say that there are some things which have not been done. That is not denied. In fact the very clever Member in charge of this department, the Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart, in reply to several questions in this House,

admitted the defects in very sound parliamentary language. I will repeat those words. "I should be reluctant", said Sir Thomas Stewart, "to claim that the absolute has been reached in any of these matters". He further said, "Government are now not so complacent as to assume that perfection has been attained". Now, Sir, this is a parliamentary admission of defects. All that we now say is, let us have a committee, the constitution is not restricted in the Resolution beyond saying that we want a non-official majority. Let us have a committee which will examine not only what has been done in this department in the past, but what should be the general lines of development in this department in future.

With regard to the past, I will take up a few points only as the time at my disposal will not permit me to deal with them in detail. With regard to the past, vast purchases have been made. A very small portion of the money is being spent in this country and the major portion is being spent in England without calling tenders, competitive from Germany or America. It has been spent in the United Kingdom also by the system of limited tenders. All these matters have been admitted. I do not say that there was necessarily anything wrong, but I say that we should lay down sound lines for the future. Then, we raised the question as to the manner in which the accounts were kept. We were told that capital and revenue accounts were not kept separately, that commercial accounts were not kept, that interest and depreciation were not reckoned separately, that mere *pro forma* accounts were kept. We were told that it was not the immediate intention of the Government to turn this department into a commercial department. May I ask, why not? It will be realised that considerable sums are involved. It is a matter of policy which I would ask this committee to examine, whether the duty on the import of radio sets should be 50 per cent. It is further a matter of policy whether license fees should be Rs. 10, when it is pointed out that in the United Kingdom it is almost half of what you are proposing to charge and what you are actually charging in this country. Both from the point of view of the taxpayer and from the point of view of the listener, there are issues involved which need a close examination. Then, Sir, we had the question about audit, we had the question about recruitment of the personnel through the Public Services Commission on which I am glad on the information of my Honourable friend, Colonel Rahman, who spoke last that all the new posts are now being recruited through the Public Services Commission. Sir, with regard to the personnel, I do not want to say that any particular individual who has come is fit or not. I only judge by the results as they strike the public. We are entitled to feel some apprehension as to whether everything has gone right when we are told that several places which were filled up were filled up without any advertisement. For example, I am told that Mr. Fielden's post was never advertised, that Mr. Gyder's post was never advertised. It may be that by selection you may find a good man; on the other hand in all public State departments the invariable rule and the only safe rule is to advertise for these places. Then, Sir, I do not want to discuss the qualifications of individuals, but I will take the opportunity to quote Sir Thomas Stewart's own words:

"The Controller of Broadcasting has no technical, i.e., scientific or engineering qualifications, but he possesses specialised knowledge and knowledge of the administrative side of broadcasting."

[Mr. Manu Subedar.]

I have no reason to doubt that he does possess it, but all I say is that after he came here, here was a department rapidly expanding. It may be that he has made his best effort, but whether this effort has given adequate results or not is for the taxpayer, who has paid the piper, to judge. All I am saying is that we should have a committee to examine these matters. Let us have this committee and see whether the promotions which have been very rapid in this department have been rightly rapid or whether there has been an error, an error to which all officials, being human, are liable. I do not say that the committee will necessarily find against them; the committee may find that everything has been done properly and the committee may even give credit to those who have done it properly. But generally in such matters what raises difficulty is the question of prestige. From these Benches we have asked questions for information, questions which do not involve any personal or any other low, narrow or petty motive; and yet we have been definitely turned down and no information is vouchsafed. Even the faults of the department, which are well-known, are being covered up by the answers in their defence. It may be the right parliamentary system but we say that now after nearly four years of the existence of the department it is time to take a review and to examine whether everything is all right and what should be the lines for the future.

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

Mr. Manu Subedar : Then, Sir, I will summarise in a single sentence that with regard to the two technical matters there is discontent,—discontent with regard to the non-publication of the Kirke report, and discontent with regard to the choice of the wave lengths, which I can see from the representation of the Association of Radio Dealers who ought to know what they are talking about. There is a wrong choice between 60 and 90 taken, a wave length which many existing machines of listeners do not provide the facility to catch.

Then, Sir, lastly I will say that this department is not being run on business-like lines. I endorse everything that my Honourable friend, the Nawab Saheb, said with regard to the production of cheaper sets. It will be a business proposition for Government to produce cheaper sets in order to increase the number of licensees. Why are they neglecting their own opportunities by this kind of thing? I am sure there are ways and means of doing this.

Lastly, Sir, I repeat that this demand is not narrow or communal. This demand is a broad demand from everywhere. No less a party than the editor of the estimable paper *Statesman*,—a party which generally has a soft corner for Government,—is now saying that “there is something basically wrong” with this department and that the demand for a committee is fit and proper. I hope, Sir, that in view of the several important financial and business considerations which I have put forward, the House will abandon every other narrow test and will say that on these grounds we who are responsible to the taxpayers must look into this and discharge our responsibilities properly.

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

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

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official) : Mr. Deputy President, I am afraid I may not be able to keep this discussion on a very high level. I have to refer to very small incidents because from these small incidents I have formed the impression that this department of the Government of India is not being conducted in an efficient manner. The things which I shall narrate are a part of my correspondence with this department.

About a year ago this department asked me whether I would give a broadcast talk ; and in that letter they mentioned that a paid telegram form was enclosed with that letter. I did not find the telegram form. I wrote to the department telling them that I could not broadcast as I was busy, but there was no telegram form enclosed. I wrote to them for two reasons : I am interested in seeing that the public departments in this country, departments of the Government of India, should be managed efficiently. I am also interested in seeing that those officers who conduct our departments are above suspicion in the matter of money. I thought that if the telegram form was not enclosed with the letter either it was a mistake of somebody or somebody was in the habit of swallowing nine annas and not send the telegram forms. I expected the department to write to me saying that they had made enquiries and that it was either a *bona fide* mistake or, if somebody had taken the money, they had punished that man." I heard nothing. This is one of the instances. I do not wish to judge this department by this one case. Then I was again asked to give a broadcast talk and a sort of contract form was enclosed with that letter. I accepted the invitation, signed the contract form and sent it to the department. I gave the broadcast talk and they asked me, if I wanted the money I must send the contract form. But I said I have sent them the contract signed already. They said : " Our accountant is changed and the form may have been lost."....

An Honourable Member : Did you get the money ?

Mr. N. M. Joshi : I got the money all right because I signed another contract form. I will give another instance. When they wrote to me asking me to give a broadcast talk, the letter was addressed not to any address which is known to me. I quite realise that mistakes are made : I assure you I realise that. I myself make mistakes. I, therefore, wrote to the department asking where they got this address of mine, because I had never stayed at the place to which the letter was addressed. I thought I might receive a reply that a mistake was made and they were sorry for it. No, Sir. That was not the reply. The reply was that they could not trace how a mistake was made or who sent that letter....

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division : Muhammadan Rural) : What was the date of that letter ? Was it the 1st April ?

Mr. N. M. Joshi : I do not know all those dates. I have given these three cases. If there had been one instance I would not have complained. I would not have drawn the conclusion that the department was inefficiently managed ; but these are three cases in the correspondence with one man within a short period of about a year ; and if I draw the conclusion that the department is inefficiently managed, may I ask you whether my conclusion is absolutely without foundation ? But my complaint is not only that. I quite realise that this is a new department as our Honourable friend, Colonel Rahman, has told us, and it may take some time to attain efficiency. But what I found was unwillingness to be efficient. If I go out of my way to tell them that something wrong has happened, I expect them to take steps that these things will not happen. On the other hand these people try to suppress these acts of inefficiency of their subordinates. I would, therefore, like the Government of India to make a close inquiry. It is not right to excuse inefficiency on the ground that the department is a new department. Let us make some allowance for the fact that the department is a new one : but let us at least see that the department is willing to reform itself. I have seen no signs of that. I was sorry that my Honourable friend, Mr. Ramsay Scott, gave a certificate to this department for its efficiency. He may have some personal knowledge about its efficiency but my experience is quite different. I would like to make one or two other remarks about the financial aspect of this department.

I would like the Government of India to tell us whether this department is conducted in such a manner that its burden will not fall on the poor people. So far as I can judge today, it is the well-to-do classes in this country who are making use of the radio department. The radio sets are mostly practically beyond the means of what I may call the poor people. I myself have not been able to purchase one set yet. I, therefore, propose that the cost of the department should not fall on the general revenues of this country. The cost should fall upon those people who want this department. I am not suggesting that the department of broadcasting should not be maintained at the public expense. If the department is to be maintained at the public expense, its benefit must go to the poor people. I, therefore, want to know what the Government of India is doing to make the broadcasting service available to the poorest people in this country. If they are making losses on this department in order to benefit those classes who can afford to spend a fairly large amount of money to purchase a radio set they are not justified in spending public revenue on this department. I, therefore, want the Government of India to take steps in co-operation with the various municipalities in this country, in co-operation with the Provincial Governments in this country, to see that the broadcasting service is made available to the poorest people in this country. Even the poorest people in this country have a right to have some recreation and to have a powerful means of education and instruction.

Last year during the Delhi Session I was one of those people who asked the Honourable Member in charge whether he publishes a sort of commercial account for this department. I was told, no. I do not know, Sir, why. This is not a department intended for the poor people. This is not a department of which the poor people get the full benefit. Fairly well-to-do classes get the benefit of this department, and it is

our business to see that this department's accounts are kept on commercial lines. The Government of India have taken steps to put their Postal and Telegraph Department on commercial lines. Why are they afraid or ashamed of putting the Radio Department on commercial lines? I, therefore, feel that the Government of India should revise their policy and place the accounts of the Radio Department on commercial lines.

One word more, Sir, about the training of Indians for this department. I was told by my friend, Mr. Ramsay Scott, that it is necessary to import experts in the beginning. But, Sir, before we import any experts, is it not the duty of the Government of India to train Indians for this purpose? The Radio Department was not started over-night. The Government of India must have considered this question for about two years. The thought must have occurred to them that India must have a broadcasting service. Then they must have held certain conferences and consultations, and I am quite sure they must have spent about two years' time in considering the question. If the Government of India had sent say two, three, four or five Indians abroad to be trained for this purpose, the money would not have been wasted. But it is not the policy of the Government of India; their policy is not to train Indians and place them in charge of important departments. The Government of India is afraid of placing Indians in charge of important offices. That is the real secret. If the Government of India really wanted Indians to be trained and placed in charge of the departments, there was time enough for them to do so. Moreover, we are told that these officers will train Indians. I am very doubtful about it.

An Honourable Member : Everybody is doubtful.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : The other day the Honourable the Commerce Member told us that he did not ask an Indian whether he would accept a post or not depending upon ordinary human nature. May I ask, Sir, whether it is ordinary human nature for a foreign expert who has come to our country to train Indians knowing very well that he would lose his job the moment he trains them, whether it is ordinary human nature to train suitable Indians to occupy the positions which these foreign experts themselves are holding today?

The Honourable Mr. A. G. Glow : Hundreds have done it.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : Hundreds have done it; hundreds may not have done it. We have got experience of people who were brought here as experts for a certain period and they are continuing still, and that shows clearly that these foreign experts have not trained Indians. Hundreds may have done it, thousands may not have done it, and we know very well that we are being trained for over a hundred years by foreign experts, and the services are still indispensable! I, therefore, feel, that the right policy for the Government of India is not to import foreign experts, but to send out Indians to be trained abroad. The Indians who are trained abroad will remain in this country; they get experience and they will be able to give the benefit of their experience to this country even after they have retired from Government service. Our money is spent on foreign experts and that is wasted. A foreign expert comes here; he becomes a better expert after five years even if he trains an Indian, and when he gets experience for five years,

[Mr. N. M. Joshi.]

he goes out of the country. The country loses the experience which he has got at our expense. I, therefore, feel that the Government of India should revise their policy in this matter. Whenever they want experts, they should send out Indians abroad to be trained, so that not only they may occupy positions which are necessary to be filled in, but the country also may get their experience even after their retirement from service. I hope, Sir, that the House will pass this Resolution.

One word more about the appointment of a Committee. This is one department, Sir, about which we have heard all sorts of things. I am not saying there is truth in those rumours. I have had no occasion to verify those rumours, but the fact remains that all sorts of queer rumours are there. Is it in the public interest, I ask, that anybody here or any section of this House or the Government of India should oppose an inquiry? By not agreeing to an inquiry, you will only give justification for those rumours and for the further spread of those rumours. I, therefore, hope that the Government of India will not oppose this inquiry, not only to give a quietus to these rumours, but also to see that this department is conducted in the interests of this country.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan : The Resolution, Sir, says that a Committee be appointed in order first, to inquire into the working of the Broadcasting Department, secondly, to make recommendations regarding its working in the future so as to make it more efficient and popular, and thirdly, to suggest measures for encouraging the manufacture of radio goods in India. I will take each case separately. I shall take the question of popularity first. I am very glad that my friend, Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra, from Bengal, gave us certain figures, and they clearly show that within the last six or seven years this Department has made radio very popular in this country. If the figures of radio goods imported into this country have gone up in the manner stated by the Honourable Member, then there is very little doubt that radio is becoming very popular in this country. In fact it has become very popular.

Then, the second thing is whether the department should be made more efficient. The Committee which is proposed to be appointed is to have a non-official majority, and my friend also suggests that some experts should be included. I am always doubtful, Sir, whether the efficiency of a department's working can ever be achieved by the advice of non-officials who have had no experience of the working of a department?

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena (Lucknow Division : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : You have no faith in yourself.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan : If there are going to be experts on the Committee, certainly they can advise much better, but from where are we going to get experts to advise on the working of the radio?

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena : From India.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan : But the same question will come before this House again and it will be said that foreign experts have been imported here. We had an expert appointed to make the railways more efficient, and people were brought not from India, but from South Africa, from England and other countries. Now, my friend gives to

the Government a handle to appoint foreign experts, knowing very well that there are no experts in India who know anything about the working of a Radio Department. If we import experts from abroad, then some people will take the Government to task and ask the Government of India as to why they brought outsiders from abroad.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra : We have got enough experts here.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan : It may be my friend's opinion, but as far as I know, there are no experts here except those who are employed in the Radio Department. Then, Sir, if some non-officials sit together, what advice can they give about the working of the radio or to improve its efficiency ?

Mr. M. Asaf Ali : Are you a member of the Advisory Council ?

Mr. S. Satyamurti : What are you there for ?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan : I will tell you very soon. The other point comes in about working in the future. That is something connected with efficiency. I need not bother about it as I have already explained. The third point is about the manufacture of radio goods in this country. May I ask how any committee of non-officials, combined with experts, who may be experts only in the working of the department, can advise about the manufacture of radio goods ? My friend Mr. Subedar, comes from Bombay and is probably connected with all the financiers there. This is the duty of the merchant class. As he was saying, patriots are not lacking in this country. Only day before yesterday, they were saying that people are ready to sacrifice and accept jobs on lesser salary. When these rich merchants of Bombay come forward to produce cement, buy Tatta shares and steel shares and so on, why cannot they have radio sets made in India. Everything which people want to shelve is referred to a committee and a committee which is appointed to do anything does away with the object for which it has been appointed. Let us see frankly what this Resolution means. Lot of questions have been put in this House for a long time on the personnel of the staff of the radio. If you read the debates of this House there have been every day questions as to why such and such a man has been appointed, why such and such a man has been given promotion. This department employs certain individuals and certain posts fall vacant and naturally people make applications for appointment and if they are disappointed they seek the help of the Members of this House. I think there is bound to be deterioration in the service if Members of the House interfere in the selection of the staff. Anybody who gets disappointed rushes up to one Member and asks him to put a question. The Honourable Member from Bombay said that this committee should examine whether any individual has been given rapid promotion or not. I would have whole-heartedly supported this Resolution but for the underlying motive behind this Resolution. Why do you pick up one department and ask for an investigation ? If you want to retrench the salaries, then take up all the departments of the Government of India and see if anybody has got too rapid a promotion in the last ten years and is receiving twice or thrice the salary he was getting. Why make this invidious distinction and pick up one department and why attack two or three individuals who cannot defend themselves. That is not the proper way for the House to adopt.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali : I should like to know whether the Honourable Member was against the Skeen Committee and the Inchcape Committee also. They were dealing with expert questions.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan : I am not going to speak on all the things in Timbuctoo. The Advisory Council advises only on certain matters which are put up before it. As far as the radio programme is concerned, there is a committee. The Council divides itself into several sub-committees. One is the rural programme sub-committee. There is another sub-committee which advises about the music department. The people there do their best but I am sorry to say on the floor of the House that we really do not get sufficient material which we ought to get before us and the advisory council should be taken into greater confidence and their advice should be sought on broader issues. I am not here to justify the doings of the department but what I stand for is this. The Resolution as it is drafted is not very desirable. The reference which has been dragged in about personalities is most undesirable and this House should never indulge in this sort of thing. Had this Resolution been worded better and if the personalities had not been dragged in, then the Mover would have found greater support for his Resolution than he is finding today. I think the committee will do no good. It is not desirable. It is not wanted and I hope that the House will not accept this Resolution.

Babu Kailash Behari Lal (Bhagalpur, Purnea and the Sonthal Parganas : Non-Muhammadan) : I rise to support this Resolution not so much with the hope of its acceptance by the House

3 P.M.

but to have my say, as I want to say something. I have lost hope of the acceptance of this motion because in the very beginning some questions have been introduced which even the Mover of the Resolution had not in his mind. I appeal to the sections of the House which have introduced this feeling or this controversy to consider the matter coolly. The Mover of the motion did not mention the name of any Muhammadan but he mentioned the name of one Mr. Bhatnagar, when he was pulled up by the President, and he mentioned that this man had been raised from a petty salary to the position of one drawing a salary of some Rs. 500 or 700 a month and from this very instance it might appear that his intention was far from attacking any community particularly. After going through his speech, which is already in print now, one can very well find that his intention was far from communal, but it was an attack on the whole system of administration as carried on by the particular Department.

An Honourable Member : What about the reference to the Bokhari brothers ?

Babu Kailash Behari Lal : Of course it is unfortunate that that has been interpreted by one section of the House in that light but speaking against the Bokhari brothers or the Bihari brothers or against any other brothers does not amount to attacking any particular community. Our friends should have taken it in that light. Now, even if there were a relative of some of our friends here, and if the Department was being mismanaged, any reference to that relative should not be taken in that light that it is a personal or communal attack but it is an attack upon the Government, upon the administration which is being run not

properly. If it is looked upon from that point of view, from the point of view of the best administration, then of course it would appear that there was no such intention. I have gone through the speech of my friend, Sardar Mangal Singh, and have found that there seems to be no intention of an attack against any particular community, though it might be an attack against a particular individual who might be mis-managing affairs. If our friends would have taken the matter in that light, the fate of the Resolution that is now going to be determined would have been otherwise. However, I have already said that I have to say something and I must have my say. There are different points of view that have been placed before this House. Some friends have given the history of the broadcasting movement here in India. Some have given a certificate to the Department that it is carried on very efficiently and some have wanted efficiency in the matter of the supply of cheap radio sets. Some have wanted a particular thing and others have wanted something else. To me it seems that although for a poor country like ours the supply of cheap radio sets is surely a necessity, at the same time we should not lose sight of the justice that should be done equitably to all parts of the country. We find that even the *Statesman* in its editorial today has hinted that of course if the Government would have given as much attention to the supply of cheap radio sets as the Government is giving its attention to the setting up of so many radio stations, the All-India Radio Department might have done some real good. That is quite in conformity with the idea that the Europeans should be still pampered as they have been up till now. Our conviction is that up till now the Government has catered very much more for the pleasure of the European section in this country than for the real education and the progress of this country. The important stations are in the important presidency capitals where the European section predominates. They have got radio stations there since a long time, and it is those places that are being provided still further number of stations. Sir, I put a question during the last Simla Session regarding the radio stations in the provinces where they are not in existence and the reply of the Government was that the existing stations are supplying their need and though the stations that were being contemplated to be established would have supplied the needs of the different parts of the country, they have not yet got any radio station. My question was whether the present radio stations are really serving the needs and I had doubted that perhaps the distance which they were intended to serve was not being served by the present radio stations and the Honourable Member replied that as a general statement this was correct; that is, the Government admitted that the provinces that have not got any radio station up till now are not being properly served by the stations that are in the neighbouring provinces, and the promise was that the new sets of stations that were being contemplated would serve the purpose. That was in 1937. And to a supplementary question of my friend, Mr. Azhar Ali, when he put the question, "will the people of the provinces who are unemployed find employment in this department in the respective provinces?", the Honourable Member from the Government replied that this did not arise from the question. To me, this question though it may not be arising technically out of my question was the most important thing arising out of the question. As we have found just now from all the

[Babu Kailash Behari Lal.]

sections of the House, it is not only the educative value of the broadcasting that we so much stress upon. The question of loaves and fishes and sharing the benefit out of it economically also arises, and we find that not only the people of this country in the different provinces are at loggerheads over the economic advantages but people from abroad who have got no interest in this country are also a sharer in this economic benefit ; and, under the circumstances, we cannot shut our eyes to this aspect of the question ; when the question of sharing the economic benefits arises how can we say that the employment of the people of the respective provinces does not arise ? What I want to impress upon the House is that although I had very little to say on this Resolution because I come from a province where there is no radio station and where people are very little acquainted with technology of Radio or with the corruptions prevailing in the Department, the general feeling is that in spite of so much talk about the popularization of radio, very little has been done to popularize it in our Provinces. (Interruption.) As a matter of fact I am not speaking only of my province, but as my friends reminded me a little before, I am speaking on behalf of all provinces which have not got any radio station. My own province has not got as yet any radio station. Keeping in view this point, I think perhaps this Department of the Government has failed to keep its sense of justice and sense of proportion so far as the establishment of radio stations in all the provinces is concerned. It might be even today that those who are occupied very much with their own sense of pleasure might be thinking of cheap radio sets to be provided for them. For instance, the *Statesman* has advocated this today and many of my friends here think only of their cheap radio sets because they have already got radio stations and other advantages in their province, but to us in the provinces where there is no radio station we think of that aspect also which may bring other kinds of economic advantage to the people.....

Babu Baijnath Bajoria (Marwari Association : Indian Commerce) : Do you want to be saddled with one ?

Babu Kailash Behari Lal : I know my friend, Babu Baijnath Bajoria, has got very orthodox views and perhaps he might be thinking about the radio as a "burden" and so he speaks of saddling. Perhaps he may startle us with some novel and orthodox idea about broadcasting. But I think we should welcome broadcasting and if we urge for an inquiry it is not with a destructive motive but with a constructive motive. Our motive is that it may improve. Unless we inquire into so many things that have been said up till now, how can we say where the corruption lies ? If an inquiry is started for the justice of the whole thing, our province may also be benefited by that inquiry because, having once accepted the principle of administering the department justly, the inquiry committee may bring within its scope the extension of Radio stations to Provinces where they do not exist because this Resolution seeks to inquire into the working of the Broadcasting Department as it has worked up till now and also to inquire for the future progress. If this Resolution is accepted, I think the scope of the inquiry will also include whether it is to be popularised in the provinces

where there does not exist a radio station. I have stressed upon this aspect of the question and, if the Resolution is accepted, I hope it will be taken into consideration.

There is one other question to which I would like to refer. It has been said by some Members on Government Benches that what else my friend, Mr. Maitra, wanted when he said that the Broadcasting Department only broadcasts love songs. Some Honourable Members also said that not only does he want love songs but singers of those songs as well. Although I do not attach importance to this joke, but I am afraid this is the only thing that has been placed before us and our mind has not gone beyond the songs and the singers according to the programmes of the Broadcasting Department. I would just like to tell my friend who said what else do we want except the love songs that this Department may have accepted the suggestion which the person responsible for the Bombay station had announced, namely, to relay the Congress session at Haripura, but which was subsequently cancelled. Of course, Government might say that they do not want their Broadcasting Department to dabble in the politics of this country. I can understand it if they are anxious to keep their radio stations free from politics, but, at the same time, I would ask them to have some principles in this matter. They have not yet got any principle in the matter. If you go into the matter carefully, you will find that this Department has allowed itself to be used by reactionary politicians and their speeches have been broadcasted. (A voice : "Can you mention any name ?") Sir Chimanlal Setalvad was allowed to broadcast his speech. However, I do not want to dispute the principle which the Government want to enunciate.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) : The Honourable Member's time is up.

Babu Kailash Behari Lal : If the Government does fix some principle in this behalf, it will find it easy to run this department at least for the benefit of the people.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) : Dr. Sir Zia-uddin Ahmad.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Sir, I rise on a point of order. It has been ruled here more than once, and after I came here, it has also been ruled by the Honourable the President of this Assembly that at a fairly early stage in the debate on a non-official Resolution somebody on behalf of the Government ought to intervene and state the Government position. This debate started on the last non-official day and it had been going on now for some time. About six speakers have already taken part in it, and it is now a quarter past three. I request you, therefore, to ask the Government to put up one speaker at least from their side. I want also to remind you and the Government that they have the right of reply also, otherwise we shall be simply beating the air all the time. I, therefore, request you to call upon the Government to let the House know their attitude in the matter as to what they propose to do with regard to this Resolution. It is a well-known parliamentary principle that in order to make the debate useful, it must be participated in by the Government at a fairly early stage.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) : Although I cannot rule, still I do think that it has been always held to be desirable that somebody on behalf of Government should indicate their views at an early stage of the debate. I think it is quite a reasonable request and I hope the Government will not disregard it.

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions : Non-Muhamadan Rural) : If they have no case, what are they to do ?

(The Honourable Mr. A. G. Clow got up to speak.)

Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang (East Punjab : Muhammadan) : On a point of order, Sir. You have already called upon Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad to speak.

Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad : Sir, had my friend, Sardar Mangal Singh, finished his speech after delivering his first sentence, I dare say he would have received considerable support from the House, but he would not have achieved his object by his first sentence. He has introduced in his speech a novel phraseology which he called the Bokhari Brothers Corporation. If I follow his chain of argument then I am entitled to call the Central Public Works Department as Mangal Singh and Sant Singh Preserve. (*A voice* : "Question ?") My friend says 'Question'. Then, I also question the phraseology of Sardar Mangal Singh. Now, my friend, Mr. Joshi, has suggested, and I entirely agree with him, that we ought to send out some persons to England for training, but this will not be sufficient. A person who is to be trained in England and has not sufficient experience will be good enough to run a department but he will not be competent to start a new department. In any case, we do require some experts, and the time will come when the Indians will be able to look after themselves.

Now, this question of the radio has been taken up by several Universities in India. I know of several Universities where persons are being trained and I am confident that after five years Indians will be available in sufficient numbers who will be able to manage the Radio Department as a whole. I agree that we ought to take every step to train our Indians but I also maintain that this does not dispense with the requirement of experts to start an entirely new show. My friend, Mr. Maitra, mentioned a good deal as to what the function of the Radio Department should not be, but I am sorry he had no time left to explain what the functions of the Radio Department should be. I hope he will be able to find some time during the Session of the Assembly to explain to us what his views about the functions of the Radio Department are. Sir, I doubt very much whether the Committee of the type suggested in my Honourable friend's Resolution will serve the purpose which he has in view. If we have a non-official majority on it and persons like himself and myself are put on it, what can we say about the suitability of medium waves and long waves or about the position of the soil and all kinds of technical terms which my friend, Mr. Maitra, introduced in his speech.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra : I understand those things.

Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad : I can assure you that I understand them still better, but I cannot call myself an expert.

Sir, there are a few suggestions which I would like to make in connection with this debate. In the first place, Government ought to take very great care that the radio in India is not used for propaganda in party politics whether it is a propaganda for the Government or whether it is on behalf of any other party. Therefore, this ought to be left as an amusement and as an instruction to the people and in no case should it be utilised to advance party politics of any party in this country. I am glad the Government is taking care about this point.

Another suggestion is this. As my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, said, it should be a commercial concern. It is a commercial concern and a profitable one. From 1933 up to the present time the Government have earned 74 lakhs and they have spent 39 lakhs over this department. That is to say there has been a saving of 35 lakhs which has gone into the pockets of the Government. I should suggest that the savings of this department ought to be utilised for the improvement of this department. I have got figures of income and expenditure for all these years. Without going into details, I must say that the savings should be utilised for the development of this department.

I wish to say a word about the price at which these radio sets are sold in the market. I have gone through the figures carefully. These radio sets are landed in Bombay *ex-duty* at Rs. 58 per set and its retail price is Rs. 300 and more. This is really enormous profit. I am told that some of these people are having a profit of nearly 275 per cent. That is if a set costs Rs. 100, it is sold for Rs. 375. I think it is really the business of the Government to popularise the radio in this country and towards this end the Government should try to put an end to this profiteering on the part of the radio dealers. In their broadcast talks the Government should announce that a particular radio set costs at the factory so much, that the customs duty is so much. In this case the buyer of the radio sets will know how much he is paying for the set, and whether the price demanded is a reasonable one.

The next point I should like to touch upon is the appointments. I understand that Government have already introduced the system that all higher appointments should be made through the Public Services Commission. I welcome this particular change. At the same time I should like to suggest that in order to avoid all the criticisms which have been levelled today, all other appointments should be made through a selection committee. The recommendations of the selection committee should not be set aside by one or other individual officer of the department. The decision of the selection committee should be final and the only authority which could over-ride the recommendations of that committee should be the Government. The Government should interfere if they are convinced that the selection was not a fair one, that the selection committee has been influenced or prejudiced? I would suggest that the members of the committee should not be permanent because the moment it is known that the members are permanent, then a large number of recommendations would be pouring in. The members of the committee should be select-

[Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad.]

ed *ad hoc* as they are selected in many other departments and they should not serve year after year. The committee should include permanent officials of the department, also non-officials. I know that the selection committee in the case of the army selection is an *ad hoc* committee and it is not a permanent body.

The next suggestion I should like to make is that there should be some officer of the department who should be capable of making better selection of persons chosen for giving talks. Very often they select persons to talk who merely come for Rs. 25. We should really have talks from persons who do not care for Rs. 25. At Delhi station particularly there is great advantage. The Government have very often expert committees whose members assemble in Delhi almost every month, or every fortnight. The Broadcasting Department should be on the look out for such experts and request them to talk on subjects in which they are proficient. They will have to fix the time according to the convenience of these experts and not according to the convenience of the radio apparatus. I myself have a sad experience, I was asked only once to deliver a lecture. But they gave me a particular time and a particular subject. On that particular day I happened to be in Calcutta and I sent a substitute to talk for me and it was given out that I had delivered the speech !

Now a word about customs duty. I say the present rate of 50 per cent. ought to be reduced because the consumers won't care to purchase radio sets at a heavy cost. If you fix the customs duty at 50 per cent., the profits of the seller are also proportionately increased. I suggest that the customs duty should be reduced from 50 per cent. to 10 or 15 per cent.

I would also like to put in a plea for the appointment of an advisory committee in the same way as the Government have advisory committees in the post office and in other departments of the Government of India. This advisory committee will probably be able to help the Government a good deal and they will get useful suggestions from the committee.

The last point that I wish to touch upon is this. In schools and colleges we find that a large number of students do not pronounce English words correctly. I am sure the radio can be utilised to teach correct pronunciation of the English language. It can be also utilised to improve the general knowledge of our boys and girls. Therefore, I suggest that the programme committee of this department ought to work out a detail so that the radio may be utilised for educational purposes. I hope the Government will take into consideration all these suggestions. But I am absolutely certain that these things cannot be achieved by the kind of committee contemplated in this Resolution. I, therefore, oppose the Resolution.

The Honourable Mr. A. G. Glow : Sir, before asking you for permission to address the House, there is one point I should like to make with regard to what fell from my Honourable friend, Mr. Asaf Ali. I am perfectly willing to fall in with the wishes of the House at any time but the difficulty is that this is a debate in which attacks, and in some cases savage

attacks, if I may say so, were made on a particular department. And I am not sure that these attacks are finished. One Honourable Member who is hostile to the department has not yet spoken. I, therefore, hoped that it would be possible for me to make only one speech and that a speech in reply ; but if I have a right of reply I am perfectly willing to speak now. The only point is that some of my legal friends hold that I have no right of reply unless Sardar Mangal Singh exercises that right. I suggest that you might ask him, Sir, if he intends to exercise that right.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) : Even without asking him, if the Honourable the Mover of the Resolution chooses to reply and the Honourable Mr. Clow wants to make another speech after the reply and wants my permission for the second speech, he will have it.

The Honourable Mr. A. G. Clow : Thank you, Sir. I have listened to this debate with interest and I am very gratified to notice that it has not gone on on the lines on which it started in Delhi, because it was started, if I may say so, by a rather unfortunate speech. Other speakers of all parties have, I think, tried to raise the tone of the debate and I shall try to follow them by dealing, as far as possible, with the major issues that arise. Now, Sir, I have listened to some constructive suggestions and I think it will be convenient if I deal first with the only constructive suggestion made in the Resolution itself ; and that is the suggestion that this committee might in some manner be able to encourage "the manufacture of radio goods in India with a view to making the country self-sufficient". Now I do not subscribe to the fallacy which I think underlay Pandit Lakshmi Kant Maitra's speech that every rupee you send out of the country is a rupee lost to India. But I do not want to argue that economic issue at the moment. What I would say is that if I thought that a committee would be able to establish an industry, making cheap radio sets in India, I should be in favour of it. But what are the facts ? We have a heavy duty on all broadcasting apparatus, a duty which has been criticised as an obstacle to the development of broadcasting and which Sir Ziauddin Ahmad has suggested should be greatly reduced. It is a duty which, although not protective in intention, is in height comparable to those duties which we have come to associate with protective tariffs. And there is another fact which Dr. Sir Ziauddin mentioned just now,—the extraordinary disparity between the landed price and the price at which articles are listed. But there has been no move whatever to make radio sets in India. That is not due to the apathy or lack of enterprise on the part of Indian manufacturers. I happen to know that in the city from which Mr. Manu Subedar comes the matter has been examined. But the fact is that you have not got a market ; and particularly and most unfortunately, you have not got a market for the cheap set. It is possible to put on the market a set costing Rs. 50 or Rs. 60 which is perfectly capable of good local service, a set like the sets which were used in Europe until very recently, because it is only within the last few years that people have been demanding short wave sets there. But, unfortunately, India has got into the habit of demanding short wave sets and listeners are not content with the local station. And in order to get a set capable of picking up distant short wave stations you have got to spend Rs. 150 or Rs. 200 or more. So that this demand for the cheap set is far too limited to make it worth while for a manufacturer to undertake manufacture here. I am sure my business friends in the House will agree with me there. And the one thing that a duty cannot do is to

[Mr. A. G. Clow.]

create a market. You cannot by any amount of raising the duty create a market. The only way of doing it would be by giving heavy subsidies which would mean doling out money that we want very badly for far more useful activities in the department and at the same time sacrificing the extensive duties which, although not earmarked for the department, form to some extent a justification for carrying it on.

Now, I turn to a rather unpleasant subject and that is the subject of appointments, because a good deal of interest has been shown in that. In fact, it was suggested by Mr. Manu Subedar that one of the functions of this committee would be to examine the appointments we have made. It will see whether each appointment is justified or not, and presumably if it comes to the conclusion that it is not justified, the gentleman will be dismissed. I think Mr. Manu Subedar tried to defend the opening speech on the ground that Sardar Mangal Singh was merely repeating what was said outside. Unfortunately, that was not the case. Let me read a short extract from his speech.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Why revive it ?

The Honourable Mr. A. G. Clow : I am reviving it because this sort of thing is not only being said by the Sardar Saheb but is being said universally. It is what my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, referred to as "all sorts of strange rumours". What the Sardar Saheb said is this :

"It is, therefore, no wonder that there is favouritism, there is nepotism and if I may say so,—I am sorry for it,—there is corruption and jobbery in this department. Appointments are made to favour certain individuals. The candidates are selected without having any regard to their qualifications, without having any regard to their experience. I do not want to make any reference to particular individuals. But it is generally well known that instead of the B. B. C. in England, we have here the Bokhari Brothers Corporation (B. B. C.)."

There are all sorts of strange rumours going round. These are rumours spread among others by a professor friend of Mr. Saksena's who said that it is well-known that there are as many as five members of the Bokhari family in the department. In fact rumours go much further than this. By the courtesy of a distinguished gentleman who once adorned the front Bench opposite, we got a list some one had sent to him of alleged relatives, who have been supposed to be in the department, alleged relatives of the Bokharis and of another Muslim family, and it was forwarded and headed, "A statement showing" how these two families "have monopolised the posts at the several radio stations." It contained, I think, over two dozen names of which the majority were alleged to be Bokharis. Now, I have got the Controller to investigate this case with particular care, to examine all the possible relationships and to examine in what way any of the gentlemen impugned might have influenced appointments. And I am satisfied as a result of this investigation that in addition to the two well-known members of the family, who occupy important posts in the department, there is only one other relative,—and he is related to only one of them,—a gentleman recently approved by the Public Service Commission for a post. And while in some cases these gentlemen had recommended people or had reported on them, they were doing no more than a duty which any officer in such a position is expected to do. I do hope we have heard the last of this kind of attack which, I am sorry to say, to my mind is tinged by communal bias.

There is another point I want to deal with and that is that there is an impression that this department proceeds by what I may call " hiring and firing ", introducing large numbers of men and getting rid of large numbers of men. Sardar Mangal Singh told us, I think, that in the two or three months before he spoke two men had been dismissed on the average per day. Two men have been dismissed ; that is the total for two years. The total number of men discharged or dismissed in the last three years is, I am told, about 17 ; and the majority of these were probationers brought in for trial and not confirmed because they were not satisfactory.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena : What about Miss Sullivan ?

The Honourable Mr. A. G. Clow : I am not going into personalities any more ; I regret that I have had to do it already.

I must say that if any criticism can be levelled against the Controller on that ground, I should be more disposed to level it on the ground that he has not gone far enough, and this canker of absolute security which tends to spread like dry rot in Government departments is in danger of reaching this Department.

I now come to the more pleasant subject of programmes. We are told there is a great deal in the programmes that does not please listeners. Of course there is. There is a great deal in the programmes that does not please me ; there is a great deal in the programmes of the B. B. C. that does not please me. And if you think it over, in a free country where men are free to exercise their tastes, tastes must differ. Modern dictators want to make everybody's taste the same ; but not even the All-India Congress Committee is aiming at that yet.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : The Government of India want us to have only one taste, and that is to love the Government !

The Honourable Mr. A. G. Clow : I think we allow extraordinary liberty of taste. If, for example, any gentleman in this House goes into a bookshop he does not expect that all the books will appeal to him. Most of us are men of fairly versatile tastes, but I do not suppose that if I go into a bookshop more than one-tenth of the books there have any interest for me. In a programme there is bound to be an immense amount that is bound not to appeal to any particular listener ! the man who likes classical music is not as a rule fond of hearing light or frivolous music. The man who wants serious talks does not care for cabaret. And it is unreasonable to expect that any programme will please any listener all the time.

In addition to these difficulties which confront all broadcasting organisations is the tremendous difficulty in this country of language. You have got to broadcast in more than one language. For example, we had issued a questionnaire, the results of which are not quite complete yet, recently in Bombay and questions were asked as to which languages the listeners wanted talks in. The figures so far tabulated are as follows :

English 2,500 :

Hindustani 2,600 :

Marathi 1,600 :

Guzerati 1,700.

[Mr. A. G. Clow.]

Quite obviously a large number of people want talks in each of these languages, but very few are so accomplished as to enjoy talks in all the languages. In fact most people could not possibly enjoy talks in more than one or at the most two languages. There must, therefore, be a large number of items in the programme which do not appeal to every listener. If you look at an issue of the *Indian Listener* and in imagination set yourself the problem of preparing a programme for one station for one week—I would like some Members of the House to try it—it is an extraordinarily difficult task, and remember that is going on week after week with a large number of stations. In fact, the *Indian Listener* has a variety which is offered in very few countries in the world. With an ordinary short wave set you can pick up perhaps five or six out of the nine different programmes offered every evening; and there are the foreign stations as well. The All-India Radio does not of course claim any credit for the foreign stations, but I would mention the fact that it is already making the culture and powers of India known abroad. The Controller of Broadcasting gets about 70 letters a week from people as far scattered as Africa, Australia, America, etc. I will read from one of them: this is from Nairobi:

"We, your Indian nationals here, are extremely proud amongst other Indian Radios of progressive Bombay Station. The news programme is very useful and as it happens to be transmitted at 9 P.M. Indian time, we can receive it here quite clearly. The same applies to music programmes which are always entertaining."

Now, I think on the whole that it is a very remarkable variety that is offered and the listener who cannot find something to please him in that is very very hard to please indeed. As a matter of fact, such enquiries as we have made show that far from being displeased, listeners are on the whole satisfied with the programmes they get.

My Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, went on to talk about the cost to general revenues, about which I will have to say a word later and asked what we were doing to spread broadcasting among the poorer classes. Village broadcasting is proving extraordinarily difficult and I think the House will have no difficulty in realising why that is so. There are a number of sets provided by Provincial Governments in Bengal, the Frontier Province, the Punjab, Bombay and the United Provinces—small numbers, about 15 or 20 in each: and the provinces seem to prefer to have these at a considerable distance from the stations, where it is extraordinarily difficult for members of the broadcasting department to visit sets if they go wrong, and where the expense of re-charging batteries—for these sets are run on batteries—is very considerable. In addition to that the preparation of a village broadcast is rather a costly matter. There was an attempt made in Delhi, a very successful one, in which two wise-acres known as Ghulam Muhammad and Ram Lal attempted conversations—I am not alluding to my Honourable friend behind me. It was extraordinarily popular; and some of the letters received are both humorous and pathetic. One gentleman wrote:

"I listen to your Rural programme daily. It seems as though your Ghulam Muhammad is an experienced agriculturist and knows all about the diseases of men and animals. I shall be thankful if you will suggest to me some remedy for my sick cat."

Another, in a pathetic letter, said :

“ My child has been ill for the past two years. I have tried the ablest physicians in Lahore. Could your Ghulam Muhammad suggest any remedy ? ”

And then, when there was an interruption in the series, someone wrote :

“ Your Ram Lal seems to have been absent for a few days lately. Please do not let any one of them—Ghulam Muhammad and Ram Lal—leave the Station even for a day.”

That was a successful series.

An Honourable Member : Who has written this letter ?

The Honourable Mr. A. G. Clow : These are letters written by villagers. I have quite a number of them.

An Honourable Member : Are they in English ?

The Honourable Mr. A. G. Clow : They are translated, I think. The preparation of this series took two men almost one day on each occasion and it constituted only one-sixth of the village programme. However, we are going to try another experiment on a larger scale in Delhi in which we are going to try 120 sets grouped in units of about ten with a generating station serving each, having a man who can attend to the sets : In this limited area and with this more intensive experiment I think we ought to learn a good deal.

Now, we are being told constantly that this is not as good as the B. B. C. Very remarkable indeed. The B. B. C. has got to cover an area about one-seventeenth of the size of India. It spends on its programmes about 15 times what we spend, and it has spent on its equipment 12 times what we have done. The funds which we have had to spend, although they look large, are in fact for an organisation like this extraordinarily small.

An Honourable Member : Why do you not spend all the sums you get ?

The Honourable Mr. A. G. Clow : We do. What has happened ? Three years ago when the present Controller came, I think there were two medium wave stations in Bombay and Calcutta. We have added a chain of four short-wave stations covering the whole of India : that does not mean of course, as Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra seemed to expect, that every station is going to be heard in the whole of India. The range in normal circumstances is about 500 miles for each and that provides a second grade service, because, of course, short-wave service, although it has a much longer range, is not service of the same quality as the medium-wave. In addition there are now eight medium wave stations serving big centres of population and there are two more in preparation.

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

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra : Does the Honourable Member say that with the 10-K. W. transmitters that will be placed now, they will have a range of only 500 miles ?

The Honourable Mr. A. G. Clow : I said that ordinarily they are expected to serve an area of 500 miles range : some of them can be heard even at longer distances, they are heard as I said in Australia, Africa, etc., but that is the range which they are intended to serve continuously, in which you can expect a good and effective service. Now, here is this impressive chain of stations set up, and set up with extremely limited funds. Here is an immense variety of programmes.....

Mr. M. Asaf Ali : Limited funds for India ?

The Honourable Mr. A. G. Clow : Yes. Let me just turn to the point which Mr. Joshi made and that is where does this money come from ? What is actually being done ? I know my Honourable Colleague, the Finance Member, will object if I say that the customs revenue on these sets is part of the income of the Broadcasting Department : it is not. But it was put on with a view to making the broadcasting service possible and it has made it possible, and the money in the end comes out of the pockets of the listeners—these men of means against whom Mr. Joshi was speaking. The money received from the customs together with the money received directly from the listeners and from the publications—if you add these together they exceed by about two or three lakhs the total sum that has been spent on getting this organisation and the total capital expenditure : in other words, you have got this whole system put up practically free of charge, if you allow that the money comes from the listeners.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : If you spend all the money on them, there is no tax on them.

The Honourable Mr. A. G. Clow : We are taxing them : they are paying for it. I suggest to the House that it is a remarkable achievement, and one for which the House has reason to be grateful to the department, and the Controller and his officers can feel proud. And yet it is suggested that we should now have an exploratory Committee, in other words, we are just coming near the end of this programme, and we are told, ' let us have a look at all your appointments, let us dig up all your foundations, it is true you have built three storeys, and are about to add the roof but we have a right to dig up the foundations and have a look at them '. Sir, Committees can be useful in their way, but I do not think a Committee of this kind, a peripatetic Committee as it will have to be, going round all the stations and burrowing into all the details, will serve any valuable purpose. There has been a suggestion that there should be Advisory Committees. We have got one in Delhi on which some distinguished men serve, and the Controller has been in touch with the Governments of Madras and Bombay recently with a view to establish such Advisory Committees.....

Mr. M. Asaf Ali : The Delhi Advisory Committee has not met for seven months.

The Honourable Mr. A. G. Clow : But these Committees can have only limited functions. They cannot be present at the auditions before people come to the microphone. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad threw out a suggestion for appointing general Advisory Committees. There are, I think,

three Committees already attached to the Communications Department, we have one Committee for Posts and Telegraphs, one for Roads, and another for other subjects.....

Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad : One for Railways.

The Honourable Mr. A. G. Clow : I am certainly prepared to consider whether the Committees that we have already for other subjects could not take a larger part in Broadcasting ; I am not sure at present, but I will examine the question to see whether there is really room for a fourth separate Committee.

I should just like to say one word in conclusion, and it is this. I believe that you have in this Radio an instrument which is capable of doing an immense amount of good to the people of India. I think each one of us, including myself and everybody else, each of us has attempted to live in a little circle enjoying our own culture, reading our own language, hearing our own music, and here is this immense instrument which is raising the curtains of ignorance, curtains of suspicion and curtains of shyness, and we are beginning to get a fuller realisation both of the cultural variety that India offers and of its fundamental unity. That is a work in which I think the Controller and his staff deserve all the encouragement they can get. I have been in some stations lately, and I was very much struck, not merely by the enthusiasm of the men, mostly young men, whom the Controller has collected round him, but also by the way in which, whatever their community, they were co-operating and carrying out their duties. Rancour and communal bitterness, so far as I could see, were absent. I hope they will be absent in this debate, and I would appeal to all Members of this House to withdraw this Resolution and to show their confidence in this department.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena : Sir, I am sorry that the debate has been side-tracked. Once more, with your permission, Sir, I should like to assure the House that the Resolution does not aim at individual persons in the department. Its aim is much higher, and its scope much wider. True, there are complaints against the department regarding inefficiency and incompetence, complaints of jobbery and nepotism, but we could have left these matters to the Honourable Member in charge to deal with. We know that the Honourable Mr. Clow is sufficiently strong to deal with Fieldens, Goyders, Gopalans and Bokharis, and to wipe out inefficiency and corruption from the department under him. For killing flies we do not require machine-guns, much less to scare them.

The scope of the Resolution is much wider, as I said in the beginning, and it is really very unfortunate that certain sentences which appeared in Sardar Mangal Singh's speech should have given a handle to some persons to interpret the Resolution in a way in which some of them have done. The Resolution seeks the appointment of a Committee for three-fold purposes,—and the first is to examine the working of the department. Sir, it was said just now that after they had built three storeys we wanted to dig up the foundations to see whether they were sound. I may remind my friend, the Honourable Mr. Clow, what has been done in England. It was only in 1936, that a third Committee known as the Ulswater Committee was appointed to inquire into the working of broadcasting there. Broadcasting commenced working in Great Britain

[Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena.]

in November, 1922, and in 1923, a Committee was appointed to inquire into its working. Again a Committee was appointed in 1926, and a third Committee known as the Ulswater Committee was appointed in 1936.....

.....
The Honourable Mr. A. G. Clow : What are the other two Committees ?

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena : The first was in 1923, appointed by the late Lord Brentford under the presidency of the Post Master General, the second Committee was appointed under the Chairmanship of the Earl of Crawford, and the last one was appointed under Earl Ulswater. So I had thought that there was practically consensus of opinion that, as compared with the broadcasting departments of other countries there was a considerable lee-way to be made up by us. I should like to remind the Honourable Member in charge that no less an authority than the *Times* of London has said that if broadcasting is to be worked properly in India, the present organization has to be scrapped. Even, friendly papers, like the *Statesman*, the *Civil and Military Gazette* and the *Pioneer* have urged the appointment of a Committee to inquire into the working of this department. For the last two years I have been in touch with eminent scientists who have had opportunities of studying the working of Broadcasting departments in other countries. I am not ashamed to be a friend of Prof. Megh Nad Saha. He has never attacked any individual member ; he has always urged the want of research in the Broadcasting Department. There has been practically little or no research in this department. In this connection I might refer Honourable Members of this House to a small extract from the speech of the late Lord Rutherford which he wrote immediately before his death for the Silver Jubilee session of the Indian Science Congress, and this speech was read at the Science Congress after his death. These are a few lines from his speech :

“ Finally, a word might be said concerning the need for research on radio-communication, so important a matter to a large country like India. I do not refer to technical research in transmitting and receiving apparatus, but rather to the type of fundamental investigations, pursued under the Radio Research Board in Great Britain. These investigations, begun in the early days after the War, have shown that the propagation of radio waves over large distances is very sensitive to the electrical state of the upper atmosphere. It is now established that a number of electrified layers exist in the higher atmosphere which under certain conditions are able to reflect electric waves. The details of this electrical distribution vary considerably with the hour of the day and with the season of the year, as well as with geographical location. Such information, which is of practical importance in the selection of the most suitable wavelengths for radio-communication, must obviously be secured by research conducted in the country itself. Moreover, it does not seem impossible that such a survey may prove of value in long range weather forecasting.”

May I know, Sir, what research has been done in the Broadcasting Department, and who is in charge of research ? Mr. Gopalan has not even had scientific training in any university or school. He is only a B. Com. and he has been grandiloquently called a Radio Engineer. In other words, he was only a supplier of radio sets and a repairer and he has been provided here. He possesses only a correspondence diploma of the City Guilds of London and he is supposed to supervise research in India. I think there cannot be a greater slur on the Government of India

and insult to the scientific talent in India. This is a land where research had been carried on by Sir J. C. Bose long before broadcasting was started even in England. There was a Science College. Professors have been working on wireless telegraphy. There is Dr. Wali Muhammad of Lucknow University who has been working for over 20 years and here you import a man and say that there is no expert available in India. And he has no knowledge either of engineering or the scientific side of broadcasting. These are the qualifications of the Controller of Broadcasting of whom you are proud and for whom you wanted applause in this House.

There is one thing more. The object of the committee is to find out who is going to run the show. You have to decide what is going to be the scope of this department, what are going to be its functions and on what lines this department is to be worked. I want to point out that broadcasting is no more an apparatus for providing amusement to idle persons who go to their house after the day's work. Broadcasting is playing a very important part all over the world. It has become a tremendous force. It has acquired power even greater than the Press which is generally considered as the Third Estate. The whole nation is interested in the broadcasting department. I want a commission consisting of publicists and experts and persons who can take a long view of things to go into the working of this department and lay down the lines on which this department is to be worked. I will only read to the House an extract from the Committee on Colonial Broadcasting. Perhaps the Honourable Mr. Clow is not aware of it. This is what that committee says :

"We envisage the development and justification of colonial broadcasting as an instrument of advanced administration, an instrument not only and perhaps not even primarily for the entertainment but rather for the enlightenment and education of the more backward sections of the population and for their instruction in public health, agriculture, etc. The potentialities of broadcasting as an instrument of administration are so great, in the Committee's opinion, that at least some expenditure is demanded of colonial Governments by way of experiment and investigation."

Is the Honourable Mr. Clow aware that there was a broadcasting commission appointed in the United States of America? Is he aware that in Australia there is an organisation like the B. B. C. and also in Canada? Everywhere we have an organisation like that. We cannot entrust the destinies of this great department to the whims and caprices of any individual or individuals.

My friend, Sir Ziauddin, spoke of selection committees. Does he know what the Controller of Broadcasting said regarding selection committees in reply to one of his listeners? I cannot lay my hand on the letter at this moment but the purport of what he said was that he did not believe in selection committees or boards. According to him they are the most ingenious devices brought into existence by democracy. At the worst it is a screen for making appointments of those persons who come with chits. At the best it is only a medium for the appointment of mediocres. Then so far as the staff was concerned, he said he wanted to have only those persons who are the representatives of the listeners. I may tell him and the House that it is not only the 50 thousand and odd people who are listeners who are interested in the fate of this department. The whole nation is interested in the working

[Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena.]

of this department. Every province has been spending lakhs over this department. In my own province we want to have in every district thousands of receiving sets and every one of the Provincial Governments are, therefore, interested in the proper working of this department.

Then, Sir, I will say one word about appointments. I may tell you that I am not one of those who is interested in the appointment of one person or another. So long as the person is efficient, I don't mind who is appointed. I may tell on the floor of the House that I don't mind if the department is manned by the members of one family. I care a tuppence for it so long as they are efficient. It does not worry me in the least. It is not simply gossip as the Honourable Mr. Clow tried to make out, I have got facts and figures from his own department. It does not require an inquiry committee to establish that persons who were appointed on Rs. 100 are now drawing Rs. 500 and more. They are Hindus and Muhammadans both. There is one Mr. A. K. Sen and there is one Mr. Rasheed Ahmad. They were both appointed as programme assistants on Rs. 100 and now they are getting Rs. 500 *plus* car allowances.

The Honourable Mr. A. G. Clow : Why not ?

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena : I may tell you that all the directors of these stations, with the exception of Mr. Stapleton, have had no previous experience of broadcasting. There are brilliant graduates both Hindus and Muslims who have had research experience in broadcasting and physics who could have been appointed to these posts. I know the Controller of Broadcasting would not have accepted them, because he is afraid of scientists.

Then, Sir, may I ask Mr. Clow one question. If the whole department was working as satisfactorily as he has tried to make out, may I know why it was felt necessary to invite an expert from England, Mr. Kirke, to investigate into the working of this department ? If three storeys have been built today, two storeys had been built in 1936, and why was it necessary to call Mr. Kirke to investigate into the working of this department ? Why has his report not been published ? May I know ? Was it because he had made recommendations for the reorganisation of this department, and because he had made certain recommendations which were not acceptable to the Government ?

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

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena : I know my time is up but I would like you, Sir, to give me only two minutes. There is one thing my friend, Mr. Clow, just now said that people have been dismissed for inefficiency. I have also got a list, Sir, and I can prove that it is not so in every case.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The Honourable Member must conclude his speech.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena : Sir, I should like to say (*Cries of "Order, order"*) a few words for just one minute.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : No.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena : Sir, one Miss Sullivan, a lady typist, worked for three years and eleven months and then she has been dismissed for inefficiency. Surely a department which takes three years and eleven months to detect inefficiency in a lady typist needs looking into and the man who is in charge needs pulling.

Babu Baijnath Bajoria : Sir, the Department of Broadcasting has been a pet and a spoilt child of the Government of India ever since its birth. This Department has ever since its birth been fed from the public revenues and though this child has grown seven or eight years, still it is to be fed by feeding bottles, and the bottles are getting bigger and bigger. Sir, it is said that it is a development department but I say it is a wasting department. If I remember aright, every year in the Budget lakhs and lakhs of rupees are provided for the upkeep of this Department from general revenues. Sir, I think my Honourable friend, Mr. Manu Subedar, gave the figure of Rs. 85 lakhs which have been spent on this Department during the last five years. I was agreeably surprised when my Honourable friend, Mr. Clow, said just now that this Department has become self-supporting and is making a gain of two or three lakhs of rupees. I have not been able to follow how this has been possible. Probably he is counting upon the revenue import duties which are secured from the import duty on radio goods, but they are revenue duties, they are not protective duties at all, and I do not think that that method of calculation is right. Revenue duties should not be calculated to the credit of this Department.

Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad : Are they revenue duties ?

Babu Baijnath Bajoria : Will the Honourable Member inform me whether it is a revenue duty or a protective duty ? Whether the duty is 50 per cent. or it is 500 per cent., as long as it is called a revenue duty, it will be a revenue duty. I would say that this Broadcasting Department must be thoroughly reorganized and put on a strict commercial basis just as the Railway Department or the Postal Department is. Sir, this broadcasting is catering only for the luxurious few and at most for the poor among the affluent classes. Sir, I cannot visualise the time when broadcasting will be of real benefit to the masses. Even if the radio sets are sold at rock-bottom prices, even at Rs. 30 or Rs. 25 a set, I dare say without fear of contradiction that the masses, the villagers, and even the middle-class people will never buy a radio set. Sir, they have got other things, other necessities of life to care for. What they are more interested in is they want good water, good food, good health and good education. They do not care so much for these luxurious programmes, for these love songs, dialogues and dramas. Sir, I was very much surprised when one of the Honourable Members today, Colonel Rahman, said : " what more do you want ? Love songs are there ! " Well, broadcasting need not, I think, go into these love songs, dialogues and dramas,—as if the cinemas are not already sufficient to demoralise the people of this country. What do we find in the cinemas ? In Calcutta we have got more than 42 cinema houses and most of their plays are romantic plays and they act very prejudicially on the minds of uneducated or semi-educated juvenile members of the community and this broadcasting, as it is being run now, only adds fuel to the fire. Sir, I would say that if broadcasting is to justify itself.

[Babu Baijnath Bajoria.]

it must absolutely change its angle of vision and it must do something for the real good of the country. It must have lectures on health and on moral and intellectual topics which conduce to the health and the moral betterment of the people. As it is, at the present moment it rather demoralizes the people, and I would like it to be mended or ended. Sir, as I am not in favour of this Department as it is run at present, I do not think that a Committee on the lines as framed in this Resolution can do any good under the present circumstances. (Interruption.) Sir, even the *Statesman*, which paper is generally supporting the Government in all its actions, has some interesting observations to make. I will only read a few lines from its editorial which appeared today :

“ The experimental period on programmes will continue for many years to come.”

So the experiment will go on, and we will be suffering :

“ Trials will be made and errors continued so long as All-India Radio endeavours, as we believe it is endeavouring now, adequately to serve the public. But it is a poor service, probably as disappointing to the men behind the microphones as it is to the listeners.”

What then is the use of having such a service ? Then it goes on :

“ The process of adaptation to the tastes of the people will be painfully slow.”

“ An expensive broadcasting service has been introduced and expanded year after year without any really determined effort to ensure that the number of listeners justifies it.”

Sir, this service has not justified itself and I say that it must be thoroughly reorganized so that it may be of benefit to the community and the country. With these few words I oppose this motion.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali : Sir, neither on the last occasion when this Resolution was moved nor even today until about fifteen minutes ago had I the slightest intention of intervening in this debate but, unfortunately, an impression has been created by certain speeches which I am bound to state does not represent the view of our Party. If I were asked to state the view of our Party, it would be expressed in a few words which would not go beyond the phrasing of the Resolution itself. Our object is nothing more and nothing less than this and this is what the Resolution says. I shall just read out the relevant portion from it :

“ To appoint a committee, to make recommendations regarding its working in the future so as to make it more efficient and popular and also to suggest measures for encouraging, etc.”

Now, it appears to be admitted that the All-India Radio depends entirely and absolutely on voluntary public support. Every penny which comes into the coffers in the name of the All-India Radio, whether as duty realised on radio sets imported or as the fees of licences, is contributed by people voluntarily. It is not a tax realised by the Government's order. Therefore, the All-India Radio stands to gain everything and to lose nothing if an inquiry is held into its workings and if ways and means are thought of to make it a little more popular in future. Now, if after seven years of working, the All-India Radio cannot boast of more than 55,000 licences, surely it cannot be considered a very popular department. It certainly ought to have been infinitely more popular than it is, but it is not so. We can certainly understand the difficulties in the way of every-

body concerned in so far as the cheaper radio sets are concerned, but we want to find out whether it is not possible for us to find ways and means of making cheaper sets available to the public. That is one point. Then, Sir, there is just one other point which I wanted to mention and it is this. I appeal to Mr. Clow to listen to me when I am saying what I have to say now. Mr. Clow and the Government of India are fully aware of section 129 of the Government of India Act. Today it is a Central Department but under section 129 it can any day be provincialised. Each province may have its own transmitting station and each province may broadcast any matter it likes. Well, if there is a public demand and if there is a public criticism of your department, why should you not accept it. If you want to set your department right with the public, have this inquiry committee and let the public know that there is nothing wrong with it, so that the provinces may not start with their own transmitting stations if you satisfy the public demand. I am speaking as a friend of broadcasting; I am not speaking as an enemy of broadcasting. I have been a friend of broadcasting all along. In fact, I was a friend of broadcasting at a time when the whole of my Party was for turning it down. Surely, I have not changed my opinion today. I consider it as a powerful instrument of cultural development. But that cultural development can only take place in accordance with the wishes of the people and the capacity of the people. I am prepared to admit that every word that has been said in criticism of this department may not be right, but is it or is it not your duty to appoint a committee of inquiry to look into all these things and declare to the public that there is nothing wrong with the All-India Radio Department and for the future also to find out ways and means of making it more popular.

Now, Sir, that is another point, and, in the same connection. I should like to remind the Honourable Mr. Clow of another danger which is ahead of him and of the Broadcasting Department. And that is the future Federal Legislature. I do not know when it is to come and under what circumstances it is to come but it is bound to come some day and, when it does come, the Communications Department will be in charge of a popular Minister. Well, if you are going to resist this inquiry today, a popular Minister will have to hold an inquiry tomorrow, and if you are going to declare to the world today without a popular inquiry that there is nothing wrong with this Department, God help you when a popular Ministry is in office. It is a short-sighted policy on behalf of Government to expect us to withdraw this Resolution which is intended to help them. It is not intended to hold an inquisition. Whoever said that we wanted to go into the details of various appointments, etc. ?

The Honourable Mr. A. G. Clow : Mr. Manu Subedar said that.

Mr. Manu Subedar : On a point of personal explanation. I did not mean that. Mr. Clow has got me entirely wrong.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali : I was just saying, Sir, that there is no intention on our part that there should be an inquisition; we do not want to hold an inquisition; but we certainly want to put the All-India Radio Department right with the public. That is the whole point. Now, in so far as my Honourable friend, Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan, is concerned and some other gentlemen also who maintain that an inquiry committee is not called for, may I present the Government with a precedent from the

[Mr. M. Asaf Ali.]

B. B. C. Quite recently a public inquiry was held and it was held under a resolution of the British Parliament. If the B. B. C. can be subjected to a public inquiry, why cannot the All-India Radio be subjected to it? I now quote a high Government authority, who is also regarded a great expert, I mean the Controller of Broadcasting. In an interview on the 20th of October, 1937, he said as follows :

“ Broadcasting in its early stages needed both rapidly increasing funds and the ready co-operation and support of the public.”

I entirely agree with him. But what does he say next? He next says :

“ Without this, it might fall into a vicious circle as it has done in India.”

Now, if the Controller himself says that broadcasting in India has fallen into a vicious circle, is it not right that we should hold an inquiry into the workings of the Broadcasting Department and satisfy at least the Controller who does not seem to agree with the Government nor do the Government seem to agree with him because, later on, I understand, the Controller with official approval reproduced an article that appeared in the *Times* of London some time ago. I think that article appeared in the *Times* in its issue of the 28th of July, 1937, when, I believe, the Controller was in England. The *Times* in its leader of the 28th of July advocated the transfer of the control of broadcasting from Government to an independent organisation and this was quoted by the Controller himself with approval in the *Indian Listener* of the 2nd August, 1937. This is the view of the Controller who is supposed to be your expert. When he holds a different view, are we or are we not justified in asking for a committee of inquiry to look into the working of the broadcasting because there is a rift in the lute somewhere. Therefore, we are not asking for anything very extraordinary. We want the Government to put the whole department right with the public and to make it more popular. That is all that we are asking for and I do not see why there should be any possible objection to it. With these few words, I support the motion.

Some Honourable Members : The question may now be put.

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

“ That the question be now put.”

The motion was adopted.

Sardar Mangal Singh (East Punjab : Sikh) : Sir, I have most carefully listened to the speeches of Honourable Members, particularly of those Honourable Members who spoke against this Resolution. The arguments advanced by them have already been answered by some of the Members from this side of the House and I, therefore, do not propose to take up much of the time of this House. I wish to refer to one or two points which concern me personally. Objection has been taken to some of the remarks which I made in my speech while moving this Resolution in the Delhi Session. I made it perfectly clear then that I did not mean any personal reflection on any of the officials of the department. I had no personal objective in moving this Resolution. Again I assure Honourable Members of this House that the issues involved in this Resolution are not communal and I hope my Honourable Muslim friends from the Punjab will bear me out when I say that during the last 20 years of my public

career, I have never raised any communal issues. I have never done anything against the interest of Muslims. When moving this Resolution, I merely repeated the allegations that were being freely made outside the House. There were serious allegations made outside the House and by repeating them inside the House I tried to establish a *prima facie* case for an enquiry to look into the working of this department. My object was absolutely non-communal. I will be glad to see my Muslim friends holding responsible positions in the public life of this country. I would personally be glad if in the place of Mr. Fielden there is a Muslim occupying that post. But is it suggested that if a Muslim or a Hindu or a Christian or a Sikh happens to be the head of the department we are precluded from criticising that department? I would beg of my Muslim friends to rise above these petty considerations and appreciate the wider issue involved in this Resolution. The issue consists merely in making the radio department work on sound lines. This is one of the most important of the nation-building departments of our country. Again, Sir, I am surprised to hear the amazing argument of my Honourable friend, Mr. Ramsay Scott, when he said that this Resolution was a censure on the Government. Sir, it is nothing of the kind. The Resolution merely seeks to appoint a committee of enquiry to look into the working of this department, to make recommendations regarding its working in the future so as to make it more efficient and popular and also to suggest measures for encouraging the manufacture of radio goods in India with a view to making the country self-sufficient. May I ask whether this is a censure on the Government of India? This Resolution aims at securing the co-operation of the public with the Government of India so as to make the department efficient and self-sufficient. How can the appointment of a committee be construed as a censure on the Government of India? Is it seriously suggested that the British Government was censured four times when the radio department was started in England because there were four enquiries into its working? I do hope that the Honourable Member from the European Group did not mean his argument seriously. It has been said by the Honourable Mr. Clow that behind this agitation there is a communal motive.

The Honourable Mr. A. G. Clow : I do not think I said anything of the kind. I suggested that in the talks which I have seen frequently outside the House about a certain family, I suspected there was a communal tinge. I never said the Resolution was put forward or started on communal grounds.

Sardar Mantral Singh : I am sorry I referred wrongly to the Honourable Mr. Clow. It was Colonel Rahman who suggested communal motives behind this Resolution. I hold in my hand several cuttings from a newspaper.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The Honourable Member should reply to the arguments already advanced by other speakers. He cannot introduce new matter in his reply. I think the Honourable Member wants to quote from some newspaper.

Sardar Mangal Singh : Sir, I am merely replying to the points which have been raised in the course of the debate. On the 18th July a public meeting was held in Delhi which was presided over by a Muslim lawyer

[Sardar Mangal Singh.]

named Syed Raza Mirza. At that meeting a Resolution was passed urging upon the Government of India to look into the affairs of the radio department. Not satisfied with merely passing a Resolution the public meeting also appointed a Standing Committee called the Radio Reforms Committee. The President of that Committee is Masihul-mulk-Hakim Jamil Khan. The son of the late Hakim Ajmal Khan. The Secretary of that Radio Reforms Committee was Syed Raza Mirza and amongst the members of the committee are one or two Muslims. Then, again, there was a complaint from Lucknow in a daily paper called *The Vakil*. This paper severely criticises the staff of Lucknow and their music programme. By citing all these examples, what I wish to establish is that behind this agitation there is nothing communal. It is only to side-track the issue, it is only to take shelter behind it that this communal issue has been raised. If there is nothing wrong in the department as has been suggested, then why there so much nervousness is exhibited at the suggestion of appointment of an enquiry committee? If the department is all right, if the affairs of the department are good, if their accounts are clear the proper thing for the Government is to come forward and accept an open enquiry by a committee so that the position of the department might be vindicated. Instead of coming forward for an open impartial enquiry by a committee, the Government are taking shelter behind lame excuses. It may be that some of the Government officers may be satisfied with the working of the department. Whenever a subordinate makes a mistake, the common feature that we see in the Government departments is that the head of the department justifies the mistake. This is a common feature of the administration of the Government of India. The Honourable Mr. Clow may be satisfied, but the public outside will not be satisfied with this hole and corner enquiry. The public demands an open and impartial enquiry into the affairs of this department, so that the department might be made more efficient and the country may be self-sufficient in the matter of supply of radio goods. I expected the Honourable Mr. Clow to stand up and say, "we welcome this Resolution and we will appoint a committee and we will have the co-operation of this House also". The allegations which have been made can be refuted in an open enquiry committee. I, therefore, appeal to the Honourable Members of the Muslim Group to rise above these petty considerations. I assure them that we do not mean any injury to any Muslim interest. Surely, a few Muslims do not constitute Islam. If the head of a department is a Hindu and if there is corruption in his department, should Hindus object to an enquiry into the affairs of the department? Similarly if the head of the department is a Sikh or a Christian or a Muslim and if there is corruption in that department, should the people belonging to that particular community resist an enquiry, then I am afraid there will be a premium on inefficiency and corruption. I would gladly accept the proposal of my Honourable friend, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad, should he bring forward a proposal to institute an enquiry into the affairs of the Public Works Department. I shall walk into his lobby and I hope he will walk into my lobby this time so that the honour of the officials of the radio department may be fully vindicated. With these words, I appeal to all Honourable Members to pass this Resolution so that the radio department might be made more efficient.

The Honourable Mr. A. G. Clow : Sir, I wish to say only a few words in reply. I am sorry that my Honourable friend, Mr. Saksena, dwelt so much on personalities, and the best comment I can make is perhaps to say what Mr. Asaf Ali said that 'things that have been said may be wrong'. I do not propose to enter into personalities any further; I am sorry I had to touch on one in my earlier speech. Mr. Asaf Ali took a bigger view of the case and was looking somewhat far ahead. I am sorry if I gave the impression that either I or this department in any way resent reasonable public criticism. I know the Controller and his officers receive every day an immense number of letters criticising or appraising or approving the work they do, and they welcome them all. We want to know both the things you approve and the things you do not approve. But I do not believe that a committee of the type suggested is going to achieve that. Nor am I in the least afraid of what will happen when a Federal Minister sits in my place. Mr. Asaf Ali thought that if I resisted a committee now there was something terrible going to happen then. Not at all; I am merely saying that at the moment that I am standing here I do not believe that the time has come for an inquiry of this kind. If in a few years' time a Federal Minister, in an entirely different situation, thinks that an inquiry is necessary, no doubt he will institute it and he will be perfectly right in instituting it.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury (Bengal : Landholders) : How are you so sure that Federation is coming soon ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : Mr. Satyamurti has told us it is coming very soon.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : When did I say that ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : You said yesterday that you will be occupying these seats much sooner than people expect !

The Honourable Mr. A. G. Clow : I am sorry that so much was said about the communal issue in Sardar Mangal Singh's closing speech; and I should like to make it clear that I at least do not suppose for a moment that this Resolution or those who have supported it are doing so with any communal motive in view. I quite recognise that this is a matter which interests all the communities of India and a matter in which we welcome the co-operation of all; and I think the Controller has done a large amount to secure the co-operation of men who on other subjects are very deeply divided indeed. But we come fundamentally to the point which Sardar Mangal Singh made clear in his final speech and that is that he wants a committee,—I quote his words,—“to refute allegations”. Now I maintain, while I would repeat Sir Thomas Stewart's words and mean no more than Sir Thomas Stewart said that neither this department nor any other department has attained perfection, that these allegations are based on a misconception of the facts, and an ignorance of what this department is doing. And I ask the House to say that there is no cause for an inquiry which is to be virtually an accusation on charges that are not proved.

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

“ That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to appoint a committee, with a non-official majority and including experts, to enquire into the working of the Broadcasting Department, to make recommendations regarding its working in the future so as to make it more efficient and popular and also to suggest measures for encouraging the manufacture of radio goods in India with a view to making the country self-sufficient.”

The motion was negatived.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, the 12th August, 1938.