

8th March, 1933

THE  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES  
(Official Report)

Volume II, 1933

*(23rd February to 10th March, 1933)*

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FIFTH SESSION  
OF THE  
FOURTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,  
1933



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1933

M97LAD

# Legislative Assembly

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

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

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

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, 8th March, 1933.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. Deputy President (Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty) in the Chair.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

### MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF GIRL STUDENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT NORMAL TRAINING SCHOOL FOR WOMEN, DELHI.

694. \***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to an article published in the *General News* of Delhi, No. 80, dated the 27th June/5th July, 1931, regarding medical examination of girl students of the Government Normal Training School for Women, Delhi, by the male Civil Surgeon of Delhi? If not, do Government propose to see the article?

(b) Is it a fact that Miss Rudra, Principal of the institution, sent her girl students to the male Civil Surgeon for their medical examination, who examined their chests, lungs, teeth, eyes and other parts?

(c) Will Government please state whether permission from the parents or guardians of the girl students was obtained by the Principal before sending them for medical examination by the male Civil Surgeon? If not, why not?

(d) Is it prescribed in the rules of the institution that students will be examined by the male Civil Surgeon? Was no lady Assistant Surgeon or Sub-Assistant Surgeon available in Delhi for their medical test?

(e) Will Government kindly state whether the students of the Government Normal School for Women, Delhi, were similarly examined by the Civil Surgeon in previous years before the appointment of the present Superintendent of Education, Delhi? If so, will Government please state the years and the names of the examining Civil Surgeons?

(f) If the replies to parts (d) and (e) above be in the negative, will Government kindly state the circumstances under which the Superintendent of Education allowed such an irregularity or whether he took any action against his subordinates who were responsible for this medical inspection? If so, what? If not, why not?

**Mr. G. S. Bajpai:** (a) to (f). Government have seen the article referred to by the Honourable Member. The incident occurred in 1931. In almost all Training Institutions pupil teachers have to undergo medical examination before admission and in accord with previous practice, the pupil teachers referred to in the article were sent to the Civil Surgeon for medical examination. Through an unfortunate oversight, the Civil Surgeon was not asked to have the examination conducted by a lady doctor. Government regret that this should have happened, but they

have no reason to think that the incident was anything more than the result of a misunderstanding. As soon as the matter was brought to the notice of the Superintendent of Education, instructions were issued in writing that in future no women student should be examined medically under any circumstances by any one except by a doctor of their sex, and these instructions are being scrupulously observed.

**Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** Will Government be pleased to state under what rule this medical examination was considered compulsory?

**Mr. G. S. Bajpai:** I have already stated, Sir, that it is in accord with practice. I do not know if there is any special rule on the subject.

**Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** Is it a fact that Mr. Littlehailes was the Superintendent of Education before the present incumbent?

**Mr. G. S. Bajpai:** Mr. Littlehailes was Superintendent of Education, yes.

**Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** Is it a fact that when this medical examination was held in the time of Mr. Littlehailes, the wording in the letter issued to the Civil Surgeon was "Kindly arrange medical examination", but in the time of the present Superintendent of Education, the wording in the letter issued to the Civil Surgeon was "Kindly examine the students"?

**Mr. G. S. Bajpai:** Sir, the position is that the Superintendent of Education did not issue any instructions on the subject. The instructions or the request was sent by the Principal of the College, and as I have explained in the course of my answer, unfortunately it was not stated in the letter that the medical examination should be conducted by a lady doctor.

**Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** My question is still unanswered. I want to know whether it is a fact that on the previous occasion, in the time of Mr. Littlehailes, when the letter was written to the Civil Surgeon, the wording was "Kindly arrange for the medical examination", but on this occasion in the time of Mr. Chatterjee the wording in the letter was "Kindly examine the students". I want to know the difference between the two letters?

**Mr. G. S. Bajpai:** There must have been a difference in the language of the two letters, otherwise there was no reason why the previous practice should not have been followed.

**Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** Why did you not admit it before?

**Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad:** May I understand that the Honourable gentleman thinks that both these words convey the same idea?

**Mr. G. S. Bajpai:** No, Sir; I do not for a minute say that they convey the same idea. If they had conveyed the same idea, then undoubtedly the previous practice which was that the examination shall be conducted by a lady doctor would have been followed.

**Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad:** Why were these orders changed? That was the question asked by my friend?

**Mr. G. S. Bajpai:** As I have stated, it was unfortunately an oversight. That is all.

**Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad:** It is really unfortunate that there should have been an oversight in this important matter, and, in the case of such a responsible officer, "oversight" is not the right word to use.

**Mr. G. S. Bajpai:** Well, Sir, I fail to see really what possible motive this officer could have had to change the practice. It must have been an oversight. It could not be anything else, because as soon as the matter was brought to his notice, he varied the original order.

**Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** Did it not occur to the Civil Surgeon that it was the height of impropriety to examine lady candidates in the manner he did? Did he not see the impropriety of it? He ought to have sense enough to understand that it was the height of impropriety to examine the lady candidates himself?

**Mr. G. S. Bajpai:** Well, Sir, I do not really think that that charge can be levelled against the Civil Surgeon. I understand that he had the Matron of the Hospital to assist him in conducting this examination, and, what is more, the Civil Surgeon examines women patients every day.

**Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** Will the Honourable Member kindly give me the answer to part (c) of this question?

**Mr. G. S. Bajpai:** Well, Sir, I have read the question very carefully, and I answered it as a whole, and as regards part (c), I say that these pupil teachers were informed a week beforehand of the medical examination and nothing was heard about it from them.

**Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** Is there any record to show that they were informed a week before about this medical examination? They were forced for this examination.

**Mr. G. S. Bajpai:** I must really repudiate the suggestion that the local authorities made statements without any authority.

**Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** Is there any written proof to show that these instructions were given to them a week beforehand?

**Mr. G. S. Bajpai:** The notice obviously must have been conveyed in writing or personally to the pupils.

**Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** Will Government kindly place in the Library a copy of those instructions which were given to these lady candidates a week before?

**Mr. G. S. Bajpai:** I have already stated that I do not definitely say that the instructions given were in writing. I said either they were in writing or they were conveyed personally to the pupil teachers. I will make inquiries.

**Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** My friend cannot get anything in black and white?

**Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** That seems quite inconsistent?

**Mr. G. S. Bajpai:** If my Honourable friend would not do me the courtesy of listening to my answer, I must leave the House to him to judge whether I am consistent or not.

**Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** Is it not a fact that unless it was a written document, he could not answer it in that way?

**Mr. G. S. Bajpai:** What I said was that the instructions were either in writing or given personally to the people who were there.

**Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** That is, afterwards you spoke like that.

**Mr. G. S. Bajpai:** No, Sir; if my Honourable friend were to go through the script, he would see that I have safeguarded myself in my answer.

**Mr. S. C. Mitra:** Do the Government accept the statement made in part (b) as quite correct?

**Mr. G. S. Bajpai:** Well, Sir, I cannot specify as to how the medical examination was conducted by the doctor.

**Mr. N. N. Anklesaria:** Has there been any complaint from any lady student or from any parent or guardian of any of these lady students in regard to this matter?

**Mr. G. S. Bajpai:** Well, Sir, the position is that until this article was unearthed by my friend, the whole matter was obscure and nobody ever heard anything about it.

**Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad:** Could they ever make any complaint under any code of decency?

PRINCIPAL, GOVERNMENT NORMAL TRAINING SCHOOL FOR WOMEN, DELHI, AND THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF GIRLS' EDUCATION, DELHI.

695. **\*Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** (a) Is it a fact that both the ladies, namely, the Principal, Government Normal School for Women, Delhi, and the Assistant Superintendent of Girls' Education, Delhi, are subordinates of the present Superintendent of Education, Delhi?

(b) Is it also a fact that the Superintendent of Education, Assistant Superintendent of Girls' Education, and the Principal of the Government Girls' Training School, Delhi, are all of one community?

(c) Is it a fact that the majority of the students in the Girls Training School, Delhi, are Hindus?

(d) Is it a fact that none of the posts mentioned in part (b) above are held by a Hindu?

**Mr. G. S. Bajpai:** (a) The Assistant Superintendent of Women's Education, Delhi, works under the general supervision of the Superintendent of Education, Delhi, Ajmer-Merwara and Central India, and the Headmistress, Government Normal School for Women, Delhi, is subordinate to her.

(b) and (d). Yes.

(c) There are 27 Hindus out of 62 students in the Girls' Training School, Delhi.

**Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** Will Government please state what is the number of other communities in that school?

**Mr. G. S. Bajpai:** Yes, Sir, I can give the information required by my friend. There are 20 Muslims, 11 Christians, two Sikhs and two others.

**Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** Is it a fact that only one community, i.e., the Christians have got a kind of monopoly amongst the staff in that school?

**Mr. G. S. Bajpai:** In this particular school, the Girls' School, undoubtedly the Christian predominate, but so far as the other schools under the administration of the Municipality are concerned, that is not so.

**Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** Will Government please state why there is a monopoly of only one community in regard to teachers?

**Mr. G. S. Bajpai:** If my Honourable friend will kindly wait for the answer to his next question, he will see that I give a statement there which will give him the information required.

**MUNICIPAL BOARD GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL, NEW DELHI.**

696. **Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** (a) Is it a fact that the Municipal Board Girls' Middle School, New Delhi, was raised to the High School standard in 1932? If so, will Government please state what additional staff has been appointed to meet the requirements of the High School?

(b) Will Government kindly state how many Europeans or Anglo-Indians, Indian Christians, Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs have been appointed or selected for appointment among the additional staff?

(c) Is it a fact that the additional staff mentioned in parts (a) and (b) above was appointed by the Secretary, New Delhi Municipal Committee, on the recommendation of the Superintendent of Education or the Assistant Superintendent of Girls' Education?

(d) Is it a fact that there is an undue majority of one community in the additional staff, and will Government kindly state if it is a fact that all the three officers, i.e., (1) the Secretary, New Delhi Municipal Committee, (2) the Superintendent of Education, Delhi, and (3) the Assistant Superintendent of Girls' Education, Delhi, belong to the same community as the majority of their additional staff?

(e) Will Government kindly place on the table a statement giving names, designation, community, qualifications, grade of pay and the work allotted to each member of the staff of the Municipal Board Girls' High School, New Delhi?

**Mr. G. S. Bajpai** (a) and (b). The school was raised to the High School standard with effect from the 1st October, 1932. One additional teacher, who is an Indian Christian, was appointed in November, 1932. Three teachers—two Indian Christians and one Muhammadan—have also been selected for appointment, but they have not yet joined.

(c) The appointments were made by the Municipal Committee, on the advice of the Education Department of Delhi.

(d) Of the four additional teachers, three are Indian Christians and one Muhammadan as already stated. The three officers mentioned in the question are Indian Christians. It has been most difficult to secure Hindu or Muhammadan trained women teachers who are competent to teach both English and Hindi or Urdu, in spite of the fact that these posts were advertised in Delhi and the adjoining provinces. The field of selection is therefore necessarily limited.

(e) Two statements, containing the information required by the Honourable Member, are laid on the table.

(1)  
*Statement showing Members of the Staff of the Municipal Girls' High School, New Delhi.*

No.	Name.	Designation.	Community.	Qualification.	Grade of pay.	Remarks.
1	Miss M. V. Earle	Principal	Anglo-Indian	B. A., B. T., L. T. (Knows Hindi)	Ra. 200—10—250	Management of the school. Was appointed <i>vice</i> Mrs. Mc'Murray who resigned in April, 1932.
2	Miss D. Sen Gupta	Head Mistress, Primary Department and Kindergarten.	Indian Christian.	B. T. C. (Agra), (Knows Hindi. Did 4 years Inspection work in Roorki. Had training in Kindergarten in England.)	100—5—140	Primary Department of the School. Appointed on 3rd November, 1932.
3	Mrs. L. Sen	Senior Teacher	Hindu.	B. A. (Punjab), (Knows Hindi and English).	110—5—130	Appointed on 2nd June, 1930.
4	Miss De'laplace	Teacher	Indian Christian.	J. A. V. (Metric), Knows Hindi, Urdu and English.	75—5—100	Appointed on 18th June, 1931.
5	Miss Ram Piar Devi	Teacher	Hindu.	S. V. (Middle), Knows Hindi.	35—3—50	Appointed on 14th May, 1931.
6	Miss I. Jacob	Teacher	Indian Christian.	S. V. A. (Middle), Knows Hindi, Urdu and English.	50—5—80	Appointed on 12th July, 1920.
7	Miss P. Mawashi	Teacher	Do.	S. V. (Middle), Knows Hindi, Urdu and English.	40—4—60	Appointed on 16th September, 1920.
8	Miss L. H. Rao	Teacher	Do.	Do.	45—2—50	Appointed on 7th May, 1927.
9	Miss Champa Devi	Teacher	Hindu	J. A. V. (Middle), Knows Hindi.	35—3—50	Appointed on 16th July, 1927.
10	Miss Elvin A. William	Teacher	Indian Christian.	J. A. V. (High School Examination, Delh., 3 years' experience).	80—4—100	Not yet joined.
11	Miss B. V. Singh	Teacher	Do.	F. A. (E. T. C.), 4 years' experience.	80—4—100	Do.
12	Musht. Jaffry Begum	Urdu and Persian Teacher.	Muhammedan	Teachers' Certificate Examination, Language Examination in Advanced Urdu. A. V. Middle.	80—4—100	Do



(II)

*Statement showing work allotted to each member of the staff in the Municipal Girls' High School, New Delhi.*

No.	Name of Teacher.	Subjects.	Classes.
		Management of the School.	
1	Miss M. V. Earle, Principal.	English . . . . Geometry . . . . Drawing . . . .	Special Class—Section A. Special Class—Section A. Special Class—Sections A. and B.
2	Miss D. Sen Gupta .	Supervision Primary Department. Kindergarten. English and Nature Study	Classes IV and V.
3	Mrs. L. Sen . . .	Hindi . . . . History . . . . Drill and games . . . .	Classes IX, VI and V. Classes IX, VIII and V. Class VI.
4	Miss Delaplace . .	Algebra and Arithmetic . Geography, English and Drawing. Geography, Hygiene, Gymnastics. Nature Study. . . .	Class IX. Class VIII. Class VII. Class IV.
5	Miss Ram Piar Devi .	Arithmetic, Hindi, Domestic Science. Hindi, History . . . . History, Hygiene, Domestic Science.	Class VIII. Class VII. Classes VI, IV and IX.
6	Miss I. Jacob . . .	Arithmetic, Urdu, Hygiene, Drawing. Urdu, English, Geography Section I.	Class V. Class IV.
7	Miss P. Mawashi .	Hygiene and sewing . . Arithmetic, Hygiene, Sewing, Domestic Science. Arithmetic . . . . Geography . . . . History . . . .	Class VIII. Class VI. Class VII. Class V. Class IV.
8	Miss L. H. Rao . .	All subjects and games and Hand work. Sewing and Domestic Science.	Class III. Classes VI and VII.
9	Miss Champa Devi .	Arithmetic and Hindi . Geography, Nature Study, Drawing, Sewing and Games. Sewing . . . .	Class IV. Class II. Class VII.

**Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** Is it a fact, Sir, that apart from the officers who have been mentioned in my question No. 696, the Secretary to the New Delhi Municipal Committee also is a Christian gentleman?

**Mr. G. S. Bajpai:** I believe, Sir, it is so.

**Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** Is it a fact that on account of the presence of so many Christians in the department, the teachers had been recruited from the Christian community only in such large numbers?

**Mr. G. S. Bajpai:** No, Sir; I am not prepared to accept that statement, because the appointments were made by the Municipal Committee and not by the Secretary or the Superintendent of Education.

**Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** On whose recommendation were these appointments made?

**Mr. G. S. Bajpai:** My Honourable friend must appreciate the distinction between making a recommendation and the act of appointment.

**Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** I appreciate the distinction, but I repeat my question. On whose recommendation was this appointment made?

**Mr. G. S. Bajpai:** I have answered that in reply to part (c) of his question. The appointments were made by the Municipal Committee on the advice of the Education Department of Delhi.

**Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** That is, Superintendent of Education.

**Mr. G. S. Bajpai:** The Superintendent of Education and his assistants.

**Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** Why did not my Honourable friend admit it before that on the Superintendent's recommendation these appointments were made?

**Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad:** Is it not a fact that the facts mentioned in question No. 694 are the direct outcome of the matters mentioned in question No. 696?

**Mr. G. S. Bajpai:** I confess that I see no connection between the facts mentioned in questions Nos. 694 and 696. Question No. 896 relates to certain appointments made by the New Delhi Municipality, four of which have been made since October, 1932, whereas the facts mentioned in question No. 694 occurred in July, 1931.

#### MOPLAHS SENTENCED IN CONNECTION WITH THE MOPLAH REBELLION.

697. **\*Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of Moplah prisoners, sentenced in connection with the Moplah rebellion, who are still undergoing their terms in India and outside India?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the number of Moplahs who are still not allowed to enter their home district?

**The Honourable Sir Harry Haig:** (a) The number of Moplahs convicted in connection with the Malabar Rebellion of 1921 now undergoing imprisonment is 221 in the Madras Presidency and 148 in the Andamans.

(b) The number is 50. This figure includes also persons externed for reasons not connected with the rebellion of 1921.

**PERSONS IN JAILS IN BRITISH INDIA FOR OFFENCES UNDER THE KASHMIR ORDINANCE.**

698. **\*Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** Will Government be pleased to state the number of persons who are still in jails in British India for offences under the Kashmir Ordinance?

**The Honourable Sir Harry Haig:** The number is nine.

**ADOPTION OF A SYSTEM OF COMMON ROLL REPRESENTATION IN FIJI.**

699. **\*Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** (a) Are Government aware that the Governor, Fiji, has stated in the Fiji Legislature that it was impracticable under present conditions to contemplate the adoption of a system of common roll representation?

(b) Do Government propose to make any representation to the Fiji Government and enquire what are the practical difficulties in the way of the adoption of a system of common roll representation?

**Mr. G. S. Bajpai:** (a) Government understand that this is so.

(b) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the correspondence published with this Department Resolution No. 24-Overseas, dated the 12th January, 1927, and the answer given to part (c) of Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh's question No. 634 on the 22nd September, 1931.

**RECRUITMENT OF SIKHS IN THE CENTRAL PRINTING OFFICE, CENTRAL PUBLICATION BRANCH, DELHI, AND THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, NEW DELHI.**

700. **\*Sardar Sant Singh:** (a) What is the total number of Hindus, Muhammadans and Sikhs in each of the offices of (1) Central Printing Office, (2) Central Publication Branch, Delhi and (3) Government of India Press, New Delhi?

(b) How many vacancies occurred during the last year and how were they filled up?

(c) Was any Sikh entertained in any of the vacancies? If not, why not? If so, is he working now?

(d) In order to give this community its due share, are Government prepared to order the recruitment of a sufficient number of Sikhs in each of these offices in future vacancies?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** (a) and (b). I assume the Honourable Member desires information in respect of superior staff only. A statement furnishing the necessary information is laid on the table.

(c) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative, the second part of the question does not therefore arise. So far as I know, the Sikh recruited is still employed.

(d) The orders of Government relating to the recruitment of minority communities will be followed.

*Statement.*

	(a)			No. of vacancies in 1932.	(b)		
	Hindus.	Muslims	Sikhs.		How filled.		
					Hindus.	Muslims.	Sikhs.
(1) Office of the Controller of Printing and Stationery (Central Printing Office has been merged in this Office)	24	6	4	6	3	2	1
(2) Central Publication Branch	50	14	..	Nil	..	..	..
(3) Government of India Press, New Delhi—							
(Clerical)	33	10	2	Nil	..	..	..
(Industrial)	132	169	3	12	6 vacancies were filled by departmental promotion; the remaining vacancies were not filled on account of paucity of work.		

**VACANCIES IN THE OFFICE OF THE PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE VICEROY.**

701. \***Sardar Sant Singh:** How many temporary, permanent and leave vacancies in the grades of clerks and Assistants occurred in the office of the Private Secretary to the Viceroy, during the last year? Was any Sikh entertained in any of them? If not, why not?

**The Honourable Sir Harry Haig:** During last year there was a leave vacancy for about three months in the grade of clerk in the office of the Private Secretary to His Excellency the Viceroy. In consideration of the communal composition of the office the vacancy was filled by the appointment of a Muslim. I would add that a Sikh has since been appointed permanently in the superior grade of the Private Secretary to His Excellency the Viceroy's Press.

**SUNDAY ALLOWANCE FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PRESS, NEW DELHI.**

702. **\*Sardar Sant Singh:** Will Government be pleased to state whether the question of the payment of the Sunday allowance of the men of the Government of India Press, New Delhi, has been decided yet since March, 1932? If not, why not?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** On the assumption that the Honourable Member's question relates to a doubt respecting the interpretation of certain orders governing the payment of overtime allowance for Sunday work, the answer is that orders were passed in June, 1932.

**HEATING ARRANGEMENTS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, NEW  
DELHI.**

703. **\*Sardar Sant Singh:** Will Government be pleased to state whether proper heating arrangements in the New Delhi Press buildings were made this winter? If not, why not? Are Government aware that there has been severe cold this year?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** Adequate heating arrangements were made as soon as the cold weather commenced.

**Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** May I ask the Honourable Member to state what steps have been taken to cool the atmosphere of this Chamber in view of the enormous amount of gas which is generated every day? (Laughter.)

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state whether any arrangement for heating will be made in the Western Hostel?

**Mr. Deputy President (Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty):** That question does not arise.

**ATTENDANCE OF THE HINDU EMPLOYEES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PRESS, NEW DELHI, ON THEIR COMMUNAL HOLIDAYS.**

704. **\*Sardar Sant Singh:** Will Government be pleased to state whether the Hindu salaried hands are compelled to attend office on their communal holidays in the Government of India Press, New Delhi, whereas the Muhammadans are not, on their communal holidays? If so, why?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** Hindu as well as Muslim salaried hands are allowed communal holidays if the state of work in the Press permits.

**HOURS OF ATTENDANCE OF THE CLERICAL STAFF OF THE GOVERNMENT  
OF INDIA PRESS, NEW DELHI.**

705. **\*Sardar Sant Singh:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state what is the hour of attendance of the clerical staff of the Government of India Press, New Delhi, and when they commence their work? Is it a fact that clerks do not reach their respective desks earlier than 11 A.M.? Who is responsible for all these irregularities?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state what are the educational qualifications of the Head Assistant? Is it a fact that misinterpretations of Government orders have been made on several occasions and that on the men's appealing to Government those were rectified?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** (a) The hours of attendance are from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. except on Saturdays when they are from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. Ten minutes' grace after the normal opening hour has been allowed. The men commence work on arrival. The last part of the question does not arise.

(b) He is a matriculate. The reply to the second part is in the negative.

**TRANSFER OF THE BOOKS BRANCH FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, NEW DELHI, TO THE CENTRAL PUBLICATION BRANCH.**

706. **\*Sardar Sant Singh:** Is it a fact that on the transfer of the Books Branch from the Government of India Press, New Delhi, to the Central Publication Branch, Civil Lines, Delhi, only two clerks will be transferred there, whereas Mr. Kudsia, an Assistant in the Books Branch, shall be retained in the Accounts Branch, making thereby two assistants there? What is the cause of this? Is it not an extra expenditure in these days of financial stringency?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** The question whether or not any staff will be transferred to the Central Publication Branch is still under consideration. The remaining parts of the question do not arise.

**NECESSITY FOR INCREASING THE CLERICAL STAFF IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, NEW DELHI.**

707. **\*Sardar Sant Singh:** Will Government be pleased to state why the clerical staff in the Government of India Press, New Delhi, is gradually increased? Have the clerks any fixed outturn of work to do daily? If not, why not? Is it a fact that the clerks idle their time from 12 Noon to 1 P.M. during the recess time of the industrial staff?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** The permanent clerical staff of the Government of India Press, New Delhi, has not been increased since 1927. Owing to a general increase in work since then, temporary fluctuating staff has been employed to cope with it. The nature of work done does not permit of any outturn being fixed. The reply to the last part is in the negative.

**MUSLIM EMPLOYEES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, NEW DELHI.**

708. **\*Sardar Sant Singh:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state what is the total number of the Muhammadan employees in the Government of India Press, New Delhi? If the number of Muhammadans is in excess, why do not Government appoint Christians, Sikhs and other minority community men?

(b) Is it a fact that the Assistant Manager of the said Press has appointed Muhammadan compositors again this month knowing that their number is in excess? What is the cause of this?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** (a) 184. The claims of all the minority communities are duly considered when recruitment is made.

(b) Appointments are not made by the Assistant Manager.

**NON-FILLING UP OF VACANCIES IN THE READING BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, NEW DELHI.**

709. **\*Sardar Sant Singh:** Will Government be pleased to state why some vacant posts of the Reading Branch in the Government of India Press, New Delhi, have not been filled up since the vacancies occurred?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** The posts were filled as soon as the state of work justified so doing.

**ALLOTMENT OF MARRIED CLERKS' QUARTERS IN SIMLA AND NEW DELHI.**

710. **\*Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) Is it a fact that in the allotment of married clerks' quarters in Simla preference is given to *junior* clerks? If so, what is the principle determining it?

(b) Is it a fact that in the allotment of married clerks' quarters in New Delhi preference is given to *senior* clerks? If so, what is the principle determining it?

(c) If the replies to the first parts of each of parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, are Government prepared to consider the question of the advisability of following one and the same principle in the allotment of quarters both in Simla and in New Delhi and giving effect to the same while making allotment of quarters for the coming winter season?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** (a) and (b). The facts are as the Honourable Member has stated them. The allotment of Government quarters by seniority, as is the case in Delhi, is a reasonable basis for allotment. In Simla, however, the principle of giving preference in allotment to junior clerks has been in force for some years as it was held that they stood in the greatest need of relief in the matter of house accommodation at that station.

(c) Government have considered the question and they do not propose to give effect to the suggestion, at any rate, for the present. They believe there is no general grievance felt at the difference of rule in the two places.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** Will the Honourable Member state if the only reason for the difference in the rule as regards Simla is tradition?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** The principle has been adopted in Simla for a very definite reason, which is that junior clerks stand in the greatest need of relief in the matter of accommodation at that station. I am not aware that circumstances have changed in that respect. If there is any grievance on the subject, I feel sure that the Imperial Secretariat Association would have represented it. We have heard nothing from them about it.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** No representations have yet been made to the Honourable Member?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** Not yet.

**PROTECTION FOR INDIAN AND BURMA RICE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM MARKET.**

711. **\*Mr. E. S. Millar:** (a) Has the attention of the Government of India been drawn to the omission of the word "paddy" from the item relating to rice in Schedule A to the Trade Agreement concluded at Ottawa between His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and the Government of India?

(b) Are the Government of India aware that Spanish paddy can now be imported into the United Kingdom and there milled into white rice and sold at prices which would enable it to compete severely with Indian and Burma rice, and thus nullify the protection which was intended by the Ottawa Agreement to be given to that rice?

(c) Do the Government of India propose to take immediate action with the object of securing to Indian and Burma rice full protection in the United Kingdom market?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Moyce** (on behalf of Sir Joseph Blore): (d) Yes.

(b) and (c). The Government of India have recently received a report on the subject from the Indian Trade Commissioner in London and the matter is engaging their attention.

**TROOPS FROM BRITISH INDIA SENT TO ALWAR.**

712. **\*Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) Will Government kindly state what troops from British India have been sent to Alwar, and whether their expenses will be borne by the Indian Exchequer or not, and, if the former, what approximately will be the total expenditure in this connection?

(b) Will Government kindly state the total amount of expenditure which fell on the Indian revenues when (i) Alwar State forces were sent to serve in the Great War; and (ii) Alwar State forces were sent to Ferozpur Jhirka in British territory in 1921, when serious riots broke out during the first no-rent campaign in Gurgaon District and elsewhere?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham:** (a) The Honourable Member is referred to the answer I gave on the 7th February to Mr. Maswood Ahmad's starred question No. 232. One section of a Mechanical Transport Company was subsequently sent to Alwar State, but about half of the troops have now returned.

I am not in a position at present to state what extra expenditure has been incurred.

(b) The information is being obtained and will be laid on the table in due course.

**Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** Is it not a fact that Alwar never asked for British troops to be sent out of British India?

**Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe:** That, Sir, is not a question which can be answered without offending against the Standing Orders which prohibit the discussion of the relations between the Governor-General and an Indian State.

**Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** I submit that the troops are British Indian troops and we pay for them. Therefore, I claim that it is the right of this House to ask whether British troops were sent unasked or at the discretion



of any party. Troops may be sent to China. Are we not in a position to ask whether the British Government in England asked for the troops to be sent? We pay for the troops. Therefore this question should be allowed as it does not conflict with the rule mentioned by my Honourable friend.

**Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad:** I think it is really pertinent that we should ask this question as to whether we are going to pay or the Alwar Government.

**Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe:** If it is the question as to who is going to pay for these troops, I am prepared to secure the information and lay it before the House. But the question asked by my Honourable friend was of quite a different nature. He asked at whose request the troops were sent and that was the subject on which I raised the point of order and pointed out the difficulty of answering it.

**Mr. Deputy President (Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty):** The troops in question are a part of the Army in India, are they not?

**Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe:** That is the case.

**Mr. Deputy President (Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty):** If a part of the Army in India has been sent to any place outside British India, and since the Army in India is paid for by Indian Exchequer,—in the opinion of the Chair, it will be quite in order for any Honourable Member to ask the question, “at whose request were such troops sent?” (Applause.)

**Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe:** If that is your ruling, Sir, I am afraid I must ask for notice of the question, because I am not in a position to supply the information off-hand.

## UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

### INSANITARY CONDITIONS NEAR SAMRU PLACE AND LUMSDEN SQUARE, NEW DELHI.

**60. Mr. S. O. Mitra:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the letter which appeared in the *Hindustan Times* of the 7th December, 1932, under the caption “Round a Cow House” regarding the insanitary conditions near Samru Place and Lumsden Square, New Delhi?

(b) If so, do Government propose to inquire into the matter and to remove the grievance complained of?

**Mr. G. S. Bajpai:** (a) Government have seen the letter.

(b) The New Delhi Municipal Committee is taking suitable action.

### RECRUITMENT TO THE SUBORDINATE ACCOUNTS SERVICE.

**61. Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** (a) With reference to their reply to question No. 467 of the 20th September, 1932, will Government please state if it is a fact that appointments to the Subordinate Accounts Service in the Accounts and Audit Department are made by direct nomination?

(b) If the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state whether candidates recruited directly have also to pass the prescribed examination?

(c) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement in the following form of the candidates recruited directly for all the offices under the Auditor-General in India during the period from 1st April, 1924 to 31st December, 1932?

Name of the candidate.	Muslim or non-Muslim.	No. of S. A. S. examinations at which he appeared.	Whether confirmed or not confirmed.

**The Honourable Sir George Schuster:** The information has been called for and will be laid on the table in due course.

**LOCAL ALLOWANCE PAID TO SORTERS, ETC., OF THE POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT STATIONED AT SILCHAR, GAUHATI AND TINSUKIA.**

**62. Mr. Uppi Sahab Bahadur:** Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that local allowance is paid to the sorters, etc., of the Post and Telegraph Department stationed at Silchar, Gauhati and Tinsukia? If so, will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of Hindus, Mussalmans, etc., who drew such allowance at each station during December, 1932? Were the members of the minority communities less than the proportionate number? Are Government prepared to issue orders to transfer a proportionate number of the members of the minority communities to those stationed in order to avoid preponderance of the majority communities?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the second and third parts Government regret that the information required by the Honourable Member is not readily available and as the payment of local or compensatory allowance is not regulated on communal considerations Government do not consider it necessary to issue the orders suggested by the Honourable Member.

**APPOINTMENT OF MUSLIMS TO THE OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT, RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE "S" DIVISION AND HEAD RECORD OFFICE, SILCHAR.**

**63. Mr. Uppi Sahab Bahadur:** How many clerks are sanctioned for the office of the Superintendent, Railway Mail Service, "S" Division, and Head Record Office, Silchar, and how many of them are Hindus, Mussalmans, etc.? If there is none, belonging to the minority communities, are Government prepared to issue orders to post a proportionate number of Mussalmans in these offices?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** Government have no information. The postings of officials to particular offices are not made on a communal basis.

**RECRUITMENT OF THE SORTERS OF THE MINORITY COMMUNITIES IN THE RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE "S" DIVISION.**

64. **Mr. Uppi Saheb Bahadur:** How many approved candidates for sorters have been registered in the Railway Mail Service "S" Division and how many of them are Hindus, Mussalmans, etc.? If the number of men belonging to minority communities is less than the proportionate number, are Government prepared to issue orders to take at once the required number belonging to the minority communities?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** I propose to answer questions Nos. 64 to 66 together.

Government have no information and to collect it in the form desired by the Honourable Member would involve an undue expenditure of time and labour. If however the Honourable Member will bring to the attention of Government any specific case in which he considers that Government orders for the protection of the interests of minority communities in recruitment have not been observed, necessary enquiries will be made in the matter.

**RECRUITMENT OF CLERKS OF THE MINORITY COMMUNITIES IN CERTAIN POSTAL DIVISIONS IN ASSAM.**

†65. **Mr. Uppi Saheb Bahadur:** Will Government be pleased to state the total number of permanent vacancies in the clerical cadre in the Surma Valley Division and Railway Mail Service "S" Division and in all the other Postal Divisions in Assam separately? How many of them have been filled up temporarily by Hindus, Mussalmans, etc., separately in December, 1931? Is the number of men belonging to minority communities less than the required number? If so, why?

**RECRUITMENT OF MUSLIMS AS INFERIOR SERVANTS IN CERTAIN HEAD POST OFFICES AND SUB-DIVISIONS IN ASSAM.**

†66. **Mr. Uppi Saheb Bahadur:** Will Government be pleased to state the total number of permanent vacancies of postmen, mail guards, inferior servants, etc., separately in December, 1932, in the Sylhet, Karimganj, Sunamganj and Cachar and such other head offices and sub-divisions in Assam separately? How many of them were filled up temporarily by Hindus, Mussalmans, etc.? Is the number of men belonging to minority communities less than the required number? If so, why?

**FILLING UP OF EXISTING VACANCIES IN THE POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT BY MUSLIMS.**

67. **Mr. Uppi Saheb Bahadur:** Do Government propose to issue immediate orders to fill up the existing vacancies in all grades in the Posts and Telegraphs Department by Mussalmans and other minority communities in order to avoid further preponderance of the majority communities?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 64.

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** No. The Government are of opinion that the case will be met by the observance of their orders as in force from time to time regarding the recruitment of members of minority communities.

**RECRUITMENT OF MEMBERS OF MINORITY COMMUNITIES IN THE POSTS  
AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT.**

**68. Mr. Uppi Sahab Bahadur:** (a) Is it a fact that Government have issued orders to give effect to the reservation of every third vacancy for the minority communities in all classes of appointments, including inferior service and menials in the Posts and Telegraphs Department? If so, are Government aware (i) that the recruitments to postmen, mail guards, inferior servants, porters and other menials and van peons are made from those already enlisted for some years and officiated in such posts for several times; (ii) that the members of the minority communities were not enlisted for such posts before the issue of the above orders; and (iii) that the members of the minority communities who have since been enlisted for such posts are compelled to go back as officiating vacancies are not filled up with them by the authorities on the plea that only every third permanent vacancy has to be reserved for the members of the minority communities and not the officiating and temporary vacancies?

(b) Do Government propose to issue immediate orders that every third vacancy should be reserved for minorities and that it applies to permanent, temporary or officiating vacancies in each class?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** (a) The reply to the first part is in the negative, as the orders referred to are in respect of posts filled by direct recruitment only and therefore do not apply to all classes of appointments. As regards the remainder of the question, Government have no precise information, though it is possible that the facts are as stated by the Honourable Member.

(b) Government are not prepared to take the action suggested as they consider that in the special conditions of the Posts and Telegraphs Department it would be administratively impracticable to give effect to it.

**RECRUITMENT OF MEMBERS OF MINORITY COMMUNITIES IN THE POSTS  
AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT.**

**69. Mr. Uppi Sahab Bahadur:** (a) Is it a fact that one-third of the clerical cadre (lower division) of the Postal and Railway Mail Service Departments has to be filled up by the postmen, mail guards, etc.? If so, what steps do Government propose to take so that the minority communities may get their adequate share in the lower division?

(b) Is it a fact that there are very few postmen, mail guards, etc., belonging to the minority communities? If so, do Government propose to issue immediate orders to fill up the one-third of the vacancies of lower division clerks by recruitment of members of the minority communities from outside, if such deserving candidates are not available in the department itself?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** (a) As regards the first part the fact is not as stated. The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to Mr. P. G. Reddi's starred question No. 768 in this House on

the 26th September, 1932. As regards the second part, members of minority communities will have access to the lower clerical division by promotion and also by direct recruitment as outsiders, and in the latter case their interests will be protected by the minority community recruitment rules. Government do not propose to take any further steps in the matter.

(b) No. The Honourable Member is referred to the reply to the second part of (a) above and to the replies given in this House to Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim's starred questions No. 72, on the 5th September, 1928, and No. 330 on the 30th January, 1929.

**LOCAL ALLOWANCES FOR CLERKS, RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE SORTERS, ETC.,  
OF THE POSTAL AND RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE DEPARTMENTS.**

**70. Mr. Uppi Sahab Bahadur:** Is it a fact that local allowances are sanctioned for the clerks, Railway Mail Service sorters, etc., of the Postal and Railway Mail Service Departments? If so, will Government please lay on the table a list showing the names of such places together with the number of (i) Hindus, (ii) Mussalmans, and (iii) others (officers and other officials) who drew such allowance during December, 1932? If the number of Mussalmans who drew such allowance is less than one-third of the majority community, will Government be pleased to state the reasons for this?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** Local or compensatory allowances are sanctioned for various classes of clerical and other subordinate staff in the Post Office and Railway Mail Service in various specified localities. As regards the latter part of the question, Government regret that the information wanted by the Honourable Member is not readily available nor do they consider it necessary to call for it. The allowances are not regulated by communal considerations but are attached to specified posts, the holders of which are entitled to them irrespective of the community to which they may belong.

**ABOLITION OF THE POST OF A SUPERINTENDENT IN THE DEPARTMENT  
OF INDUSTRIES AND LABOUR.**

**71. Mr. Uppi Sahab Bahadur:** (a) Is it a fact that in the Department of Industries and Labour there are two Assistant Secretaries, one Under Secretary and one Deputy Secretary, of whom one is an Establishment Officer? If so, will Government please state whether appointments and postings in respect of establishment are made by a Superintendent? If so, why?

(b) Is it a fact that the post of a Superintendent in the Industries and Labour Department which was abolished as a measure of retrenchment has been revived as a result of the amalgamation of the Industries and Public Works branches? If so, will Government please state the necessity for a wholetime superintendent for Cash and Issue sections, especially when both the clerk in charge and the cashier are each in receipt of Rs. 50 as special pay? Is a similar practice obtaining in other Departments?

(c) Is it a fact that all Establishment, Issue and Cash work of the Public Works Branch, before amalgamation, was supervised by the Assistant Secretary, Public Works and that of the Industries by a

Superintendent who was considered superfluous? On amalgamation, did Government consider the question of entrusting the whole work to one of the Assistant Secretaries or to a Superintendent with a charge allowance of Rs. 100 as is done in other Departments of the Government of India? If so, with what result?

(d) Are Government prepared to consider the desirability, in these days of retrenchment, of discontinuing that post immediately and entrusting the duties to one of the Assistant Secretaries and thus save Government from a loss of Rs. 10,000 per annum?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** The arrangements obtaining in the office of the Industries and Labour Department have been devised with due consideration to efficiency and economy. Government do not propose to make any change at present.

#### KALKAJI FAIR HELD AT DEVI TEMPLE NEAR OKHLA, DELHI.

72. **Bhagat Chandi Mal Gola:** (a) Are Government aware that Kalkaji fair is held twice a year at Devi temple near Okhla about eight miles from Delhi?

(b) Is it a fact that a special tax is levied on vehicles taking pilgrims to the temple?

(c) Are Government aware that the road leading to the temple from the place where the tax is collected is in a dilapidated condition?

(d) If the answer to part (c) be in the affirmative, do Government propose to construct a *pucca* road right up to the temple?

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

(b) Yes, by the District Board, which meets the cost of sanitation, lighting, etc., in connection with the fair.

(c) and (d). The road is not in a good state of repair, but, as it is under private ownership at present, the question of improving it cannot be considered by the District Board until control of the road passes to that body.

#### LICENCE FEES FOR CHARAS SHOPS IN DELHI.

73. **Kunwar Hajeer Ismail Ali Khan:** Will Government kindly state the amounts of increase or decrease in the licence fees for *charas* shops in the year 1931-32 as compared with previous years in Delhi?

**The Honourable Sir George Schuster:** With your permission, Sir, I will deal with questions Nos. 73 and 74 together.

I have called for a report in the matter and the information will be laid on the table in due course.

#### INCREASE OR DECREASE IN THE EXCISE REVENUE IN DELHI.

†74. **Kunwar Hajeer Ismail Ali Khan:** Will Government kindly state what was the total amount of increase or decrease in the excise revenue that occurred at the excise auctions for the years 1932-33 and 1933-34 as compared with the licence fees of the year 1931-32 in Delhi?

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†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 73.

## IMPORTS OF ILLICIT COCAINE INTO CALCUTTA.

75. **Kunwar Hajee Ismail Ali Khan:** Are Government aware that illicit cocaine is received in Delhi from Calcutta? If so, will Government kindly state what is their information as to the extent of imports of illicit cocaine into Calcutta and whether its imports are decreasing as compared with the previous years or not?

**The Honourable Sir George Schuster:** Delhi is believed to receive its supply of illicit cocaine mostly from Calcutta. The seizures of cocaine in Bengal (mainly at Calcutta) during the last five years were as below:

		In lbs.	
		By Customs Department.	By Excise Department.
1927	. . .	51	47
1928	. . .	89	22
1929	. . .	447	430
1930	. . .	102	40
1931	. . .	50	11

The inference seems to be that the illicit imports of cocaine have considerably decreased.

## SALE OF CHARAS IN DELHI.

76. **Kunwar Hajee Ismail Ali Khan:** Will Government kindly state how many seers of charas were sold in the licensed shops of Delhi in the years 1921-22, 1926-27 and 1931-32, respectively?

**The Honourable Sir George Schuster:** The sale of charas in Delhi during 1921-22, 1926-27 and 1931-32 was as follows:

		(In seers.)
1921-22	. . . . .	2740
1926-27	. . . . .	1010
1931-32	. . . . .	3581

## RECRUITMENT OF MEN IN CERTAIN CADRES OF SOME POSTAL CIRCLES.

77. **Mr. S. O. Mitra:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state how many clerks, sorters and selection grade posts up to the grade of Rs. 250—350 there were on the 1st April, 1932, in each of the following Postal Circles: (i) Bengal and Assam, (ii) Bombay, (iii) Madras, and (iv) Punjab and North-West Frontier?

(b) Will Government further state how many (i) selection grade posts up to the grade of Rs. 250—350, (ii) clerks, and (iii) sorters have been retrenched in the above circles up to the 31st January, 1933?

**Sir Thomas Ryan:** (a) and (b). Government regret that the information required by the Honourable Member is not readily available. His attention is, however, invited to the replies given in this House to his starred question No. 205 on the 19th September, 1932, and to his unstarred questions Nos. 235 and 236 on the 12th December, 1932.

### RETRENCHMENT OF TELEGRAPHISTS AND TELEGRAPH MASTERS.

78. **Mr. S. C. Mitra:** (a) Will Government please state the number of telegraphists on the 31st December, 1932, and how many were retrenched up to the 31st January, 1933?

(b) Will Government please state the number of Telegraph Masters on the 1st April, 1932, and how many posts have been retrenched up to the 31st January, 1933?

**Sir Thomas Ryan:** (a) As regards the first part, the number was 2,676, including 61 military telegraphists.

As regards the second part, the number of telegraphists retrenched or under orders of retrenchment from the 31st December, 1932, up to the 31st January, 1933, is 91.

(b) As regards the first part, the number was 312. As regards the last part, the number is 48.

### RETRENCHMENTS IN THE TELEGRAPH TRAFFIC AND TELEGRAPH ENGINEERING BRANCHES OF THE TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.

79. **Mr. S. C. Mitra:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that a committee was appointed by Government with Mr. S. P. Varma as Chairman to inquire into the possibilities of retrenchments in the Telegraph Traffic and Telegraph Engineering Branches of the Telegraph Department?

(b) If so, do Government propose to publish their report for the information of the Members of the Assembly?

(c) Is it a fact that the said Committee have recommended reduction in the number of officers in the Telegraph Engineering as well as in the Telegraph Traffic Branches? If so, how many officers have they recommended for reduction?

(d) Will Government please further state the number of officers on the 1st April, 1932, and the number of officers reduced in each of these two branches up to the 31st January, 1933?

(e) Is it a fact that the Committee have recommended reduction in the number of telegraphists and in the Calcutta Central Telegraph Office alone they have recommended the reduction of 157 posts?

**Sir Thomas Ryan:** (a) Not exactly; the Committee was concerned with the telegraph traffic service and only to a small extent with matters affecting the engineering branch.

(b) Government do not propose to publish the report, which is departmental in character; but a copy will be placed in the Library as soon as it has been printed.

(c) and (e). As I have just stated, the Committee was not concerned with the Engineering staff. Government have not yet been able to study the report and are therefore unable at present to furnish particulars of the recommendations contained in it: these will in due course be found in the copy referred to in my reply to part (b).

(d) I presume that by 'officers' the Honourable Member means gazetted officers. The information will be compiled and will be laid on the table. The Honourable Member will of course understand that any action taken up to date is in no way the result of the Committee's recommendations.



NON-FILLING UP OF VACANCIES IN THE READING BRANCH OF THE  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, NEW DELHI.

80. **Mr. S. C. Mitra:** (a) Are Government aware that great discontentment prevails in the Reading Branch of the Government of India Press, New Delhi, for not filling the posts of two temporary Proof Readers lying vacant for a long time?

(b) Is it a fact that the Manager of the Press put up a note to the Head Reader and Assistant Manager for their recommendations for filling these posts?

(c) Is it also a fact that they sent their recommendations to the Manager for his final signature a long time ago?

(d) Is it also a fact that the Manager verbally promised to the Secretary of the Works Committee that he would fill up the post?

(e) If the reply to part (d) be in the affirmative, will Government please state why the Manager is not keeping his pledge?

(f) Is it not a fact that the season is in full swing now in the press owing to a heavy rush of work? If so, what is the reason for not filling these posts?

(g) Do Government contemplate abolishing these posts? If so, why?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** (a) No: the posts have been filled.

(b) and (c). Government cannot give particulars of departmental discussions relating to the filling of appointments.

(d) Yes.

(e) and (f). Do no arise.

(g) No.

INSTITUTIONS AUTHORIZED TO SEND TRAINED MEN FOR APPOINTMENT  
AS GENERAL SERVICE AND STATION SERVICE TELEGRAPHISTS.

81. **Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** (a) Will Government please state the names of the institutions that were authorised before 1929 to send trained men for appointment as general service and station service telegraphists?

(b) Was any Hindu, Muslim, Sikh or Parsee ever recruited as a general service telegraphist from any of these institutions? If not, why not?

(c) Was any Muslim or Sikh ever recruited as a station service telegraphist from any of these institutions? If not, why not?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** (a) The following institutions were authorised to train candidates for appointments of—

(i) General Service Telegraphists:

(1) Lawrence Memorial School, Lovedale.

(2) St. Joseph's College, Comoor.

(3) St. Fidelis' High School, Mussooree.

(4) Barnes High School, Deolali.

(ii) Station Service Telegraphists:

(1) Scottish Churches College, Calcutta

(2) Ashutosh College, Calcutta.

(b) and (c). As regards the first parts, no one of the communities mentioned was recruited as a General Service Telegraphist and only one, a Muslim, was recruited as a Station Service Telegraphist from these institutions. As regards the second parts Government presume that the reason was that none or very few of the members of the communities in question underwent the necessary training at these institutions.

The Honourable Member is no doubt aware that the system of recruiting telegraphists has been completely altered since the period to which his question relates.

#### COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF CLERKS IN THE PATNA, MUZAFFARPUR AND CUTTACK TELEGRAPH OFFICERS.

82. **Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** (a) Will Government please lay on the table a statement showing the communal composition of clerks in the Patna, Muzaffarpur and Cuttack Telegraph offices in the Bihar and Orissa Circle?

(b) Will Government please state the number of non-Muslim clerks appointed since 1920, in the above offices, in the second and third grade and lower division?

(c) Is it a fact that since 1920, not a single Muslim clerk in any grade or division was appointed in the above mentioned telegraph offices?

(d) Will Government please state if these posts were ever advertised, and, if so, in what paper and on what date?

(e) Will Government please state the number of Muslim and non-Muslim candidates who appeared in the examination held for any of the above posts with their results since 1920?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** (a) to (e). Government regret that the information is not available. The orders for the adjustment of communal inequalities came into force in the Posts and Telegraphs clerical cadres only from November, 1927. In this connection, I would refer the Honourable Member to the latter part of the reply given to Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim's starred question No. 432 in this House on the 21st February, 1933.

#### NON-EMPLOYMENT OF MUSLIMS AS ELECTRICAL SUPERVISORS IN THE POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT.

83. **Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** (a) With reference to the reply by the Honourable Sir Frank Noyce to starred question No. 1378, dated the 22nd November, 1932, stating that the percentage of the Muslim Electrical Supervisors in the Posts and Telegraphs Department in 1927 was 1.55 and in 1931 1.53 and the strength of the cadre was 58 in 1927 and 65 in 1931, will Government be pleased to state how the Muslim representation in the cadre was allowed to decrease when the strength of the cadre was on the increase?

(b) Will Government please state whether qualified Muslim candidates were available for employment in the Electrical Supervisor cadre from 1927 to 1931 from (i) the staff, and (ii) outsiders?

(c) If the reply to the above be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the reasons for not appointing Muslims in this cadre?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** (a) For the purpose of recruitment the cadres of Electrical Supervisors and of Engineering Supervisors (General and Telephones) are taken as one. The method of recruitment to the latter cadres explained in my reply to part (b) of the Honourable Member's unstarred question No. 24 applies to the former cadre also. Excluding two Muslims, one selected on communal grounds and the other on merit, for appointment to the grades of Engineering Supervisors (General and Telephones) no other Muslim secured qualifying marks among the candidates appointed since 1929. The appointment of a Muslim to the cadre of Electrical Supervisors was therefore not possible.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

**NON-EMPLOYMENT OF MUSLIMS AS ENGINEERING SUPERVISORS IN THE POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT.**

**84. Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** (a) Is it a fact that, according to the statement of the Honourable Sir Frank Noyce in reply to starred question No. 1873, dated the 22nd November, 1932, Government officials failed to carry out the instructions of the Government contained in the Home Department Memorandum No. F.-175/25-Ests., dated the 5th February, 1926, and that since 1925, not a single Muslim was taken in the superior traffic branch, first and second divisions, and in the superior wireless branch?

(b) Is it a fact that prior to the introduction of the said Home Department memorandum, the proportion of Muslims in the grade of Engineering Supervisors, General and Telephone, was 6.2 per cent., and, after the instructions of the Home Department to remove the preponderance of any one community, it went down to 5.2 per cent. as per details below?

	1925.		1927.		1929.		1931.	
	Muslim.	Non-Muslim.	Muslim.	Non-Muslim.	Muslim.	Non-Muslim.	Muslim.	Non-Muslim.
Engineering Supervisors, General and Phone .	9	144	9	171	9	172	11	210
Muslim Percentage .	6.2%		5.2%		5.2%		5.2%	

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** (a) No. Appointments to the First and Second Divisions of the Superior Traffic Branch are not made by direct recruitment but by the promotion of selected subordinates and communal considerations do not arise in such promotions, nor do the orders quoted

refer to them. No direct recruitment has been made to the Superior Wireless Branch for the last six years and there was no necessity for giving weightage to communal considerations.

(b) The percentages stated by the Honourable Member are substantially correct. Appointments to these cadres were made prior to 1st January, 1929, from the ranks of selected telegraphists who were given special or practical training. Communal considerations do not arise in such appointments. From 1st January, 1929, half of the appointments to these cadres are made by direct recruitment of outsiders and half by promotion of departmental subordinates. Communal considerations come into the matter only in respect of the direct recruits.

#### ABSORPTION OF SURPLUS JUNIOR TELEGRAPHISTS.

**85. Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** (a) Is it a fact that the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs, has ordered to absorb surplus junior telegraphists by employing them temporarily in Combined Post Offices or in vacancies of signal room clerks?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government please state the number of telegraphists temporarily employed in the Combined Offices in Calcutta?

(c) Are Government aware that these orders have been violated in the Central Telegraph Office, New Delhi, where five senior telegraphists are employed on non-operative jobs and not junior telegraphists?

(d) Is it a fact that two senior telegraphists are utilised on non-operative jobs also at the Delhi Telegraph Office?

(e) If the reply to part (d) above be in the affirmative, will Government please state if these two telegraphists were in excess in that office and were utilised according to the Director-General's letter No. Est.-888-1/82, dated the 1st September, 1932?

**Sir Thomas Ryan:** (a) The fact is that according to the Director General's orders Heads of Circles are to select, at their discretion, surplus telegraphists for the duties referred to, having due regard to the desirability of selecting junior men.

(b) 23.

(c) The orders do not refer to the distribution of staff in the Central Telegraph Office.

(d) and (e). Government have no information, the matters are entirely within the competence of the Head of the Circle concerned.

#### EMPLOYMENT OF TELEGRAPHISTS IN THE CENTRAL TELEGRAPH OFFICE, NEW DELHI, AS DESK SUPERVISORS.

**86. Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** (a) Is it a fact that several telegraphists in the Central Telegraph Office, New Delhi, are employed as Desk Supervisors on non-operative duties and are in receipt of an allowance of Rs. 20 each?

(b) What are the regulations for selecting men for these kinds of supervisory posts with an allowance?

(c) Is it a fact that many senior men with twenty years and above service and having previous experience of Desk posts at Calcutta and other big offices are made to work at the instrument, whereas their juniors of no extra qualifications are benefited with the supervisory posts with an allowance of Rs. 20?

(d) Is it a fact that in the Central Telegraph Office, New Delhi, volunteers were called from among the senior telegraphists for the Desk supervisory post and that later, when the senior men volunteered for the same, the question was dropped and since then the senior men are waiting?

**Sir Thomas Ryan:** (a) Yes.

(b) A copy of the rules is placed on the table.

(c) and (d). Government have no information. If any individual considers that he has any grievance he is at liberty to submit a representation in the usual way.

### MANUAL OF APPOINTMENTS AND ALLOWANCES.

#### CHAPTER X, PAGE 101, PARAS. 99—100 :

For the existing paras. substitute the following :—

99(A).—The Head of a Circle may select telegraphists to draw the following special pay which has been sanctioned by the Government of India :—

- (1) A special pay of Rs. 10 a month for charge of a telegraph office in which the sanctioned staff of operatives, non-operatives and clerks (excluding the telegraphist in charge) is less than five.
- (2) A special pay of Rs. 20 a month for performing the duties of a Supervisor of desk work, the enquiry office, complaints branch, delivery office, public counter, paid calls and refund work and press traffic.
- (3) A special pay of Rs. 20 a month for holding charge of a telegraph office in which the sanctioned staff of operatives, non-operatives and clerks (excluding the telegraphist in charge) ranges from five to nine, and for performing the duties of Instructor in charge of training classes, testing telegraphist, Baudot Supervisor, Repeater Supervisor and Traffic Supervisor.

(B).—In selecting staff to fill the above mentioned appointments, other than the appointments of Baudot Supervisors, the order of preference should be as follows :—

- (1) telegraphists who have passed one of the examinations referred to in paras. 315 and 324 of the Posts and Telegraphs Manual, Volume IV, completed 15 years' service and passed the efficiency bar;
- (2) telegraphists who have passed one of the examinations referred to in (1) above;
- (3) telegraphists who have completed 15 years' service and passed the efficiency bar.

In each of the 1st two categories seniority will count from the date of passing the examination and in the case of category (3) from the date of appointment as Telegraphist.

(C).—In respect of the appointments of Baudot Supervisors the order of preference should be :—

- (1) telegraphists who have passed the examination referred to in paragraph 324 *ibid*;
- (2) telegraphists who have passed the examination referred to in paragraph 315 *ibid*.

In each of the above categories seniority will count from the date of passing the examination.

100. In short vacancies or when no Telegraphist with the necessary qualifications as detailed in rule 99 is available, a Telegraphist who has shewn marked practical ability to perform the duties of an allowanced post may be selected by the Head of a Circle to draw the special pay attached to that post.

**ROTATION OF DUTIES OF TIME-SCALE CLERKS IN THE CENTRAL TELEGRAPH OFFICE, NEW DELHI.**

**87. Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** (a) Is it a fact that the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs issued orders regarding fair rotation of duties of time-scale clerks in the Telegraph Offices in his communication No. Est.-A./29, dated the 15th October, 1929? If so, will Government please lay on the table a copy of the same?

(b) Is it a fact that the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, issued an order in August, 1929, stating that clerks employed in the Traffic Branch should be tried in the different branches of the office in rotation to make them efficient to do the work whenever and wherever necessary? If so, will Government please lay on the table a copy of the same?

(c) Is it a fact that several time-scale or upper division clerks in the Central Telegraph Office, New Delhi, and in the Telegraph Office, Delhi, have been declared unfit for promotion for the simple reason that they never worked in the Accounts and Establishment branches?

(d) Is it a fact that the senior clerks, declared unfit for promotion, were never given a chance of working in the Establishment or Accounts branches according to rotation?

(e) Is it a fact that the clerks in the Telegraph Offices are designated as signal room clerks?

(f) Is it a fact that a signal room clerk of ordinary time-scale is considered as efficient for future promotion, if he has got the knowledge of duties of all the branches in the Telegraph Office, and not only Establishment or Accounts branch?

**Sir Thomas Ryan:** (a) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the last part Government do not propose to place on the table copies of the Departmental correspondence.

(b) The fact is not as stated. The last part therefore does not arise.

(c) and (d). Government have no information. If any official considers that he has a grievance he is at liberty to submit his representation in the usual way.

(e) Some only of the clerks in telegraph offices are so designated.

(f) The facts are substantially as stated by the Honourable Member.

**ROTATION OF DUTIES OF TIME-SCALE CLERKS IN THE CENTRAL TELEGRAPH OFFICE, NEW DELHI.**

**88. Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** (a) Is it a fact that the following clerks have been working in one branch in the Central Telegraph Office, New Delhi, for the period mentioned against their names?

(i) Kanhyalal; (ii) Shamlal Gupta, working in the Accounts and Establishment branch for the last ten years or so; (iii) Abdul Majid, time-scale clerk working as a press clerk (typist) for the last twelve years; and (iv) Sundar Singh, time-scale clerk working as a drafts clerk for the last fourteen years.

(b) What action do Government propose to take against the officials concerned for evading the orders regarding rotation of duties of clerks in the time-scale as laid down in the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs communication, No. Est.-A./29, dated the 15th October, 1929?

(c) Do Government realize that the retention of time-scale clerks in one particular branch is liable to render them unfit to carry on the work of other branches efficiently?

**Sir Thomas Ryan:** (a) Government have no information.

(b) None, the orders in question were not absolute but left the matter to the discretion of Heads of Circles.

(c) No, not necessarily.

**CONVERSION OF CLERICAL APPOINTMENTS INTO LOWER DIVISION IN THE  
BENGAL AND ASSAM POSTAL CIRCLE.**

**89. Mr. S. O. Mitra:** (a) Will the Government of India be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, has decided that 88 per cent. of the appointments in the clerical cadre would be converted into lower division?

(b) If so, will Government please state whether this scheme has been given effect to in the Bengal and Assam Circle?

(c) Has the Director-General decided that the approved candidates in the Calcutta Post Office for appointment in the Upper Division waiting for about four or five years should be provided with appointments in the lower division?

(d) Has the Director-General decided that approved candidates and signallers of the Calcutta General Post Office would be given preference in filling up Lower Division appointments?

(e) Does the Director-General know that the Postmaster-General, Bengal and Assam, pitchforked many officials from his offices and from the Central Telegraph Office into the cadre of the Calcutta General Post Office and absorbed vacancies to the detriment of many approved candidates and signallers long waiting for those appointments?

(f) Does the Director-General know that the Postmaster-General, Bengal and Assam, has recently brought ten men from the mufasil Post Offices to fill up the existing vacancies in the upper division in the Calcutta General Post Office, despite his orders to convert those vacancies into lower division and to fill them up by approved candidates?

(g) If so, are Government prepared to make enquiries as to why there has been a departure by the Postmaster-General, Bengal and Assam, from the principle enunciated by the Director-General and to rescind the orders?

**Sir Thomas Ryan:** (a) The decision that 88 per cent. of the operative clerical cadre should be in the lower division is that of the Government of India.

(b) Effect is being given to it.

(c), (d) and (e). The Honourable Member is referred to the statement laid on the table of this House on the 27th of February, 1933, in reply to parts (b), (e), (f), (g) and (h) of his own starred question No. 252 asked on the 8th of that month.

(f) and (g). Enquiry is being made and Government will take such action as they may consider necessary.

## MESSAGE FROM H. E. THE VICEROY AND GOVERNOR GENERAL.

### RESIGNATION BY THE HONOURABLE SIR IBRAHIM RAHIMTOOLA OF HIS OFFICE OF PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

**Mr. Deputy President (Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty):** I have received the following Message from His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General.

(The Assembly received the Message standing.) \*

*"In pursuance of the provisions of section 63C of the Government of India Act, I, Freeman, Earl of Willingdon, hereby signify that I accept the resignation by the Honourable Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., of his office of President of the Legislative Assembly.*

(Sd.) WILLINGDON,

Viceroy and Governor General."

The 7th March, 1933.

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### EXPRESSIONS OF REGRET AT THE RESIGNATION OF THE HONOURABLE SIR IBRAHIM RAHIMTOOLA.

**The Honourable Sir Brojendra Mitter** (Leader of the House): I am sure, Sir, that regret at the resignation of the President, the Honourable Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola, must be universal in this House. When we heard at the beginning of the present Session that he was indisposed and could not, therefore, preside over our deliberations. I hoped that the indisposition would be short and that he would be back with us soon. Unfortunately, this has not happened, and Sir Ibrahim has had to resign his responsible and distinguished office under medical advice. We earnestly hope, Sir, that he will rapidly be restored to normal health. But, I am sure, that Honourable Members will not wish this occasion to pass without expression of our appreciation of his services as President of the Legislative Assembly. Sir Ibrahim came to this House with a varied and distinguished record of public service which included guidance, from the Chair, of the business of the Bombay Legislative Council for a period of four years. This House marked its recognition of his wisdom, experience and impartiality by electing him to the Chair. We all know, Sir, that he occupied that seat of honour with independence, with urbanity and with a steadfast sense of justice. (Loud Applause.) We shall greatly miss his tactful and judicious guidance and I would beg you, Sir, to convey to him, on behalf of Government, their keen sense of loss of a President who had earned, in full measure, the confidence, the esteem and the affection of every section of this House. (Applause.)

**Sir Hari Singh Gour** (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions: Non-Muham-madan): Sir, I rise to associate myself and my Party with everything that has fallen from the Honourable the Leader of the House. When Sir



Ibrahim Rahimtoola was elected to the Chair of this House, it was a precedent that was unique and there were many of us who felt that the Chair should have gone to a Member of the House. But within a very short time, his selection was more than justified. He earned the confidence of all sections and communities represented in this House and, during the short tenure of his office as President, he carried out the duties of his exalted office with a degree of impartiality and personal detachment which earned for him the confidence and gratitude of all Members of this House. (Loud Applause.) Sir, when, at the commencement of this Session, we did not see his familiar face, we did not for one moment suspect that on the last occasion when we said goodbye to him, we were to see him no more at the head of this House. But as under medical advice Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola has thought it fit to relinquish the reins of his office, all we can do is to convey to him through you, Sir, our heartiest sympathy with him in his illness and our sense of gratitude for the signal services he has rendered during his incumbency of the Presidentship of the Indian Legislative Assembly. (Applause.)

**Sir Abdur Rahim** (Calcutta and Suburbs: Muhammadan Urban): Sir, everyone of us here has heard with profound regret of the resignation which has been tendered by Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola of the high office of President of the Legislative Assembly. Sir, when he came here as a Member of the Assembly, being elected by a constituency in Bombay, with his great and distinguished career in various public capacities behind him, none of us had any doubt that he would render signal public service as a Member of the Assembly. When he expressed his desire to occupy the Chair, all of us thought that in him we should have a President who would render very valuable service to the cause of self-government in the country, and, Sir, his election was more than fully justified. (Applause.) In the Chair, he displayed an absolute familiarity with the Rules and Standing Orders of the House; not only that, but he knew what was necessary in order to forward the interests of the Assembly so that we may achieve our objective of reaching the final stage of Parliamentary Government in this country. Sir, his rulings were strictly in accordance with the law that governs this Assembly, and he conducted himself in the Chair with an impartiality and fairness which impressed every Member of the House. Sir, he was indeed so scrupulous as regards giving every man a chance in the House that none, not a single Member, could justly complain of the way he dealt with the agenda of business before the Assembly. Sir, it is with very great regret that we have heard that ill-health has compelled him to resign his post, because we know that he wanted to serve the public as long as he could. We all hope and earnestly pray that he may soon be restored to health and give such guidance to the public of this country even in his retreat as may be possible. Sir, I heartily associate myself and my Party with whatever has been said by the Leader of the House and by Sir Hari Singh Gour, and we want this message to be conveyed to him containing an expression, of our sense of the loss that we have sustained by his resignation.

**Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan** (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I and my Party have learnt with the greatest regret of the continued illness of Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola, and his resignation on account of that

[Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan.]

illness. We gave him full support in his election to the Chair, and we have always felt that we were more than justified in lending our full support to him. Sir, he acted very impartially and up to the very highest traditions of the House and indeed of any Parliament. (Loud Applause.) He was, in the Chair, never known to have faltered. He always showed the greatest skill in mastering the procedure and conducting the proceedings of the House in the best possible manner. It is a great loss to the House that he has to resign; in him we are losing one of the best men we can get in our country. Sir, I whole heartedly support every word that has fallen from my Honourable friend, the Leader of the House, and I and my Party associate with the motion.

**Sir Leslie Hudson** (Bombay: European): Sir, on behalf of the European Group I wish to associate myself with all the sentiments that have fallen from the previous speakers this morning in regard to the most regrettable resignation of Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola. Those of us who come from the Presidency of Bombay realised when he was elected to the Presidential Chair of this Honourable House that from our knowledge of his public work in the Presidency of Bombay culminating in the four years in which he held the Presidential Chair of the Provincial Council, we could with confidence leave the conduct of business in this House in his very capable hands. That confidence, Sir, has been entirely justified. His impartiality, the clarity of his decisions and the logical reasoning which led to those decisions have been most striking, and it is indeed with regret that we shall not see him in that Chair again. I join in hoping that his health may soon be restored and, as Sir Abdur Rahim has well said, that in his retirement he may still be able to work for the benefit and progress of India.

**Mr. N. N. Anklesaria** (Bombay Northern Division: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Sir, it is quite evident that the news of the resignation of Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola has been received in this House as in the whole country with the greatest possible regret. That regret, however, must be tempered with the thought that this well-earned rest will restore him to full health and ensure him still a long life of usefulness to the country. Sir, to few, to the very fortunate few, is vouchsafed the credit of having served their community, their country and their King with distinction, and to the entire satisfaction of all concerned. That credit indisputably is Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola's. With these words I associate myself and my Party with what has fallen from the Honourable the Leader of the House and the previous speakers.

**Mr. K. Ahmed** (Rajshahi Division: Muhammadian Rural): Sir, I join with the Leader of the House in all that he has said *viz.*, an expression of sorrow on behalf of the Members of this Assembly at the resignation of the Honourable the President. Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola was not only a popular figure in this Assembly, but he was well-known all over India. As a practical man, he has throughout his career in this country achieved brilliant success not only as the presiding figure among veterans in this Central Legislature, but also in the Provincial Council. Having been associated with him closely for the last five years, I can say that he was

a marvellous man with an extraordinary amount of experience and knowledge of the practical life of the country. And not in the Legislature alone, but in every sphere he was ready and willing to devote his services for the benefit of the country. In 1929, when he was on the Labour Commission, we travelled together in every province and from the merchants and municipalities in every town he was receiving addresses with regard to the great work he was then doing. Thereafter, we went to England. There also Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola rendered great service not only in the work on which he was engaged, but when there was internal trouble in the Commission, he used to give sound advice and bring the discussion to a conclusion without much trouble. He was an intelligent and a practical man. In the year 1931, we were very glad to find that before he left his work on the Commission, it was desired by Government that an important position like the Presidentship of the Assembly should be occupied by a man of his distinction. Every one of us welcomed him here and when we parted from him for a short time from the midst of his arduous work of the Royal Commission, he was brought in to this Assembly in the year 1931.

**Mr. Deputy President** (Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty): Order, order. The House is always indulgent to the Honourable Member and is always interested in listening to what he says. But he should not abuse that indulgence and I request him to cut short his remarks now.

**Mr. K. Ahmed:** In cutting short my remarks, Sir, I must add that he was above conspiracy and was never a partisan. He never allowed any party feeling to be hatched while in the Chair. I hope that his recovery will take place soon and that it will not take long time when we shall see him again in our midst. I think it is a great pity that we have to express our sorrow for a man of the status of Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola as he has not been able to complete his full term on account of his failing health and I join with other Members in appreciating the service that he has rendered to this Assembly. But, Sir, I hope that another President of long experience having the same status, if possible, and practical knowledge will be very soon elected, and I agree that the Resolution in this Assembly should go to Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola giving the full expression of this House that we are very sorry that he is not here to guide us.

**Mr. Deputy President** (Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty): I wish to associate with all that has been said by various Honourable Members of this House in appreciation of the great services rendered by Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola, not merely as the President of this House, but as a distinguished public servant of this country. (Applause.) In my capacity as Deputy President, it was my good fortune to come into more intimate contact with Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola than probably many Honourable Members of this House, and, as a result of that personal and intimate contact, I can say that in him I found one who encouraged the younger members of this House. What little knowledge I possess of the rules and procedure of this House, I owe to what I learnt at the feet of Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola. (Applause.) Though when he came to us in 1931 he was new to this House, yet he came to us with a distinguished record of public service, and the House honoured itself and

[Mr. Deputy President.]

honoured the country by electing him as the President of this Assembly. (Loud Applause.) In accepting the office I remember the words that he used on that occasion that he would strive to get honours marks and would be satisfied if he got pass marks; and, after two years of stewardship of this office, we might all unanimously pronounce that he has not merely won honours, but honours with distinction (Loud and Continued Applause.) He has been a zealous guardian of the rights and privileges of this House, specially of the non-official Members, and the House will remember the great service that he rendered to us, and, through that office, the great service that he rendered to the country in building up the tradition round this Chair. It will be my privilege to convey to Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola our grateful appreciation of the great services that he has so far rendered and our good wishes to him that he may soon be restored to normal health, so that he may for many years more place his services at the disposal of this country. (Loud Applause.)

### ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT.

**Mr. Deputy President** (Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty): I should like to take this opportunity to announce for the information of Honourable Members that in pursuance of sub-rule (1) of rule 5A of the Indian Legislative Rules, His Excellency the Governor General has been pleased to fix Tuesday, the 14th March, 1933, as the date for the holding of the election of the President of the Legislative Assembly. In this case nominations of candidates for the Presidentship must, under sub-rule (2) of that rule, be delivered to the Secretary before Noon on Monday next.

### THE GENERAL BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS—*contd.*

#### SECOND STAGE—*contd.*

##### DEMAND NO. 39—ARMY DEPARTMENT—*contd.*

**Mr. Deputy President** (Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty): The House will now resume consideration of Demand No. 39—Army Department.

#### *Military Expenditure.*

**Mr. B. Sitaramaraju** (Ganjam *cum* Vizagapatam: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Army Department' be reduced by Rs. 100" to discuss the military expenditure.

This demand for a reduction of the enormous expenditure being incurred under military charges is not a demand of today or yesterday. It is a demand which has been the theme of constant discussion and continuous agitation both in the press and on the platform. Year after year we have been discussing here this expenditure. The demand for a reduction of this expenditure is as old as the Congress itself, though it is

said that the sole delegate of the Congress before the Round Table Conference considered that the whole expenditure under this head is a sinful waste and that he would rely on the goodwill of his neighbours. Sir, I am not prepared to go so far as that. The goodwill of our neighbours is undoubtedly a security, but a well loaded gun is a better security. In these days when civilization is measured by the ability of scientifically killing each other, I consider a well equipped Army is after all the best security. But that does not mean that we should spend the major portion of our income merely for the purpose of defending us from what?—not enemies, prospective or contingent, but only for the purpose of incurring expenditure in the belief of fighting somebody someday. Sir, I am not unmindful of the fact that the Honourable the Finance Member in his speech said that a reduction was made in this direction. At any rate from the figures since 1929-30 a small reduction is noticeable. But the Honourable the Finance Member has, however, been frank enough to state:

"I know that a great part of their work has been, not the elimination of unnecessary or wasteful expenditure, but the giving up of cherished schemes destined to increase the efficiency of the Army or the amenities for the troops. They have given them up without rancour, because they recognised the greater urgency in the public interest of preserving financial equilibrium."

Further he said that the reduction was mostly due to the fall in commodity prices and he assured us that the most part of this reduction was due to that fact and he warned us again that:

"If prices were to rise again, as in the general interests of the country, one must hope they will, obviously under this head charges would increase."

Again, he says:

"I must also point out that this budgetary provision includes no margin for unforeseen expenditure, or for the continuance of the re-equipment programme which was laid down in 1928 and which is still being financed (to the limited extent which is possible) from reserves accumulated under the stabilised military budget system which was then inaugurated."

This shows that we cannot with any confidence say that the figure of 47 crores and odd is one that we can safely take even as the limit for expenditure that will be incurred by them. No doubt the Honourable the Finance Member was satisfied with the achievements in that direction; but we are not satisfied, because even 47 crores is a very big sum; and when we consider that there are several other items like Strategic Railways, Posts and Telegraphs and such like maintained for the Military; and if they were all to be brought under the same head, then the expenditure would be far higher than is shown now. The Retrenchment Committee had made certain recommendations; and although the Government had given effect to a few of these recommendations, still the whole retrenchment suggested by them has not been carried out, nor the avenues that had been pointed out explored. It is not my purpose to go into the past when I deal with this military expenditure and the heavy burden that has been hanging like a mill-stone round our necks all these years. I could, if I liked, have referred to the Simla Army Commission, the Inchcape Committee's Report, and other reports; but those reports would only emphasise

[Mr. B. Sitaramaraju.]

the obstinacy of the Government to maintain this expenditure at this high standard, but for want of time it is not necessary for me now to repeat them. I pass on. I propose to start with the bible, the bible of the bureaucracy, the book by which the Churchillian die-hards are swearing—I mean the Simon Commission Report. In Vol. II, paragraph 246, they say:

“An outstanding feature of this summary is the high proportion (62½ per cent.) which current expenditure on defence bears to the total expenditure of the Central Government—a higher proportion in fact than in any other country in the world . . . In the case of a federation, for example, which combined for purposes of defence only, military expenditure would absorb one hundred per cent. of the federation's budget . . . It is to be remembered that the extent to which taxation is felt as a burden depends very largely on the objects on which a Government spends its revenue . . . Again, wise expenditure on social services and particularly on health and education should be remunerative in the sense of increasing the wealth-producing power and, therefore, the taxable capacity of a country. Security is, of course essential if production is to develop; but it cannot be claimed for expenditure on defence either that it is a mere redistribution of income or that it promotes productive efficiency. Indeed, economically speaking, it is the most burdensome form of expenditure, and this is particularly the case where, as in the case of India, the Army contains a large element drawn from elsewhere.”

Further on they say:

“But apart altogether from the question of other forms of expenditure in India, the defence charge is undoubtedly high. A recent comparison of the military expenditure of the nations of the world shows that in this respect India is seventh on the list among the Great Powers and that her expenditure on armaments is between two and three times as great as that of the whole of the rest of the Empire outside Great Britain. The total is not only high in itself and as compared with other countries, but it has also greatly increased as compared with the pre-war situation. India in fact has not obtained any relief from the greater sense of world security, which has succeeded the World War. On the contrary her defence expenditure has risen even after allowing for the rise in prices and has grown more rapidly than in other parts of the Empire.”

Honourable Members are aware that before the war the expenditure stood below 30 crores; but, immediately after the war, when other nations were reducing their expenditure on the Military, the Government of India increased their expenditure nearly double. And all that for what? Not because they had to fight another war, but merely because they wanted to provide more amenities and comforts for the soldiers; and thus an expenditure to the tune of 30 crores was added annually to the military expenditure. In the Simon Commission Report, they say at page 170 . . .

**Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar** (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Will you kindly speak up? We cannot hear even half of what you are saying.

**Mr. B. Sitaramaraju**: I am sorry: I am having a bit of temperature. They say:

“Much discussion arises in India from time to time as to whether it is equitable for India to find so large a sum for this purpose, and this discussion revolves round the question—What is the army in India really for? We are aware that since the Statutory Commission was appointed the military burden which ought not to be charged against Indian revenues has been under discussion between the Government of India and the Home Government and we therefore refer to it with all possible reserve.”

This, Sir, is to be found in the majority report of the Simon Commission itself. I will refer to it a little later when I deal with the question of the contribution from the Imperial Exchequer towards the maintenance of this army. Finally on this question the Simon Commission Report says:

"We appreciate the fact, however, that, in the end, a self-governing India can only hope to function with reasonable prospect of success if it can command military forces of its own, and our proposal helps to remove an obstacle to the ultimate possession of such forces."

That will also bring in the question of Indianisation about which I will refer a little later. But from these passages it will be clear that even the Statutory Commission thought that the expenditure we incurred for military purposes in this country is far above our means, far more than we could afford to spend and certainly most unjustifiable in these days when nation-building activities are made to suffer in consequence of that; and when in future we have possibilities of a self-governing India, where the people can hope to have some more national activities being financed from the Central Government, we find that this will be a great handicap, and for that reason I maintain that this very big sum of 47 crores, not counting the other items that I have mentioned, should be reduced and ought to be reduced, and I submit that it can be done in three ways. One is by the reduction of the strength which is maintained at a very high figure, or if the strength is considered necessary, not for India's defence, but for Imperial purposes, to secure a contribution from the Imperial Exchequer. No. 2 is the stopping of the unjust exactions of England like capitation charges and the like from us; and No. 3 is to eliminate the wasteful and unnecessary expenditure that may be found in the various charges under this head. I propose to address myself to the first of these, that is, the strength of the Army.

Honourable Members are aware that at a time when it was necessary to reconquer India in 1859, the army then found necessary was just half of what it is today. It is not necessary for me to refer—for want of time I cannot do so—even to the Simla Army Commission Report which stated that the Empire element in this Army was far in excess and that it should be reduced. Further a British soldier costs many times an Indian soldier.

12 Noon. Sir, there are *prima facie* grounds that we need not maintain such a huge strength, because we have no warlike enemies on our borders. There was once the old Russian bogey. The modern Strategic Railway which we have built and the transport facilities that we possess enable us to move much more quickly, and mobilisation can be done in the shortest possible time. We have, again, the armed police and volunteers, and the bogey of North-West Frontier is not so real as it is made to appear to us. I am perfectly aware of the argument brought against this contention that the strength of our Army is not far in excess of our demands and my friend, Mr. Arthur Moore, on the last occasion said that the land frontiers of India were such that the present strength was absolutely necessary. Unfortunately, on that occasion I had no opportunity to reply to him, but, Sir, I will do it today. I would invite the Honourable Member to study the map of India where he will find that we have an impregnable mountain barrier and our land frontiers, instead of their being a source of weakness, are a source of strength for us.

[Mr. B. Sitaramaraju.]

I come to the next question, the contribution from the Imperial Exchequer. In this connection I would like to read from a speech delivered by the Secretary of State before the House of Commons. Mr. Wedgewood Benn said this. This is to be found in the Parliamentary Reports of 9th July, 1931, at page 2309. This is what he said:

—Reference to exactions by way of Capitation Charges and Transport Charges—

*"That arbitration has been agreed to in principle and the arrangements for it are proceeding, and coupled with it in the terms of reference, following the Report the Right Honourable Member for Spen Valley, Sir John Simon, is an inquiry as to what element of Imperial interest is involved (in the Army strength), and on that account what contribution, if any, from Imperial sources should go to the Indian Exchequer."*

This was the speech delivered by Mr. Wedgewood Benn, and this, coupled with the passage I have read from the Simon Commission's Report, will show to Honourable Members that on principle it was agreed that the strength of the Indian Army is an Imperial strength, and if an older authority is necessary for this purpose, I can quote from Mr. Buchanan's from the Army Commission Report, in which he said that India's military strength was Empire's strength, and in discharging the Imperial duties the burden rightly fell on the Imperial Exchequer. Now, I am perfectly well aware of the fact that a Capitation Rates Tribunal had been appointed, but that only satisfies our demand in one direction, but the question as to how far the Imperial Exchequer is to bear a portion of the burden which is incurred for keeping such a huge army in this country has not found a place in this reference which was made to that Committee. In view of the fact that the Secretary of State had made the statement, and in view of the fact that the statement has been made by the Simon Commission Report itself that the Government of India at the time was actually in correspondence with the Government in England for that purpose, we would like to know, Sir, that why no attempt has been made to let us know the result of the negotiations between Great Britain and the Government of India, and why we were not taken into confidence. We do not know even whether that subject is to all intents and purposes closed, because there has been a change in the ministry in England. That is a matter which requires the careful consideration of this House, and I venture to submit that there is absolutely no reason why we should maintain a huge army over and above our actual needs, and it is but just and right that a portion of its cost should be borne by the Imperial Exchequer.

The second point was about the Capitation Tribunal itself. I do not propose to go into it for want of time. I have got only three minutes more. I understand that their report is about to be published, or at any rate it was the wish of the House that it should be published, and the Government of India assured us that the wish of the House would be given effect to.

Now, Sir, I come to the question of retrenchment in the current budgeted expenditure under the various heads. We find from the notes appended to the Budget on military expenditure that there are several passages in which it is shown that there has not been retrenchment. For instance, I will take page 85 as an illustration. There the Budget for



1933-34 is more than the Budget for 1932-33 by 51 lakhs in one particular item, and it is stated that the increase was due to the promotion of officers and increment to establishments. Again, at page 144, we find that the Budget for 1933-34 is more than the Budget for 1932-33, and there we find a number of increases which were not to be found in the previous year. There are hundreds of similar other instances, and if one were to go carefully through the figures, it will be seen that there is a possibility of effecting an enormous reduction even in the current Budget. The elimination, as has been admitted, of wasteful and unnecessary expenditure has not been so far attended to, and the major portion of the reduction has been largely due to the fall in prices which in reality is not a reduction, but only a windfall that has been secured by the military authorities.

Then, again, Sir, we do not find sufficient reduction in the auxiliary forces, to the extent it is desirable, has been made, and it is very unfortunate that Members of this House, who were appointed to go into the Committee, could not devote all their time. The President of that Committee, Diwan Bahadur Rangachariar, was unable to continue his labours, because his health did not permit him to do so, and my friend, Diwan Bahadur Ramaswami Mudaliar, and Sir Edward Benthall who were on this Committee, had occasionally to go to the Round Table Conference. In spite of that, they have tried their best to suggest certain reductions, and I am very sorry to find even in this direction the recommendations made by that Committee have not been fully given effect to.

Now, I would like to close with only one or two remarks, and that is with reference to the manner in which the Stores Department is working. I do not see any reason why there should be a separate Stores Department when we have got the Indian Stores Department for the Government of India purposes which can very well assist the Army Department as well.

Again, Sir, there is the question of Ordnance Factories. I do not refer to my Honourable friend, the Home Member's Department which is not exactly an Ordnance Factory, but it is only a factory which manufactures Ordinances. But, Sir, in regard to these Ordnance Factories, recommendations have been made by the Sub-Committee that the establishment should be reduced and the minimum of staff necessary for the production of weapons, etc., should be retained. They also recommended that it is not proper that these factories should work only 15 per cent. of its total capacity, that these factories should be given opportunities to work to their full capacity and wherever they are considered unnecessary they should be scratched. As my time is up, I close with these few remarks, and I move that this motion be accepted by the House.

**Mr. Deputy President** (Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty): Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Army Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

**Mr. Arthur Moore** (Bengal: European): Sir, before making any more detailed observations on the question of army retrenchment, I should like to say how much we on this side of the House appreciate the very substantial result which has already been achieved. My friend, Mr.

[Mr. Arthur Moore.]

Sitaramaraju, has just quoted the Simon Report, and I might remind him that Sir Walter Layton in his financial Report, which was published with the Simon Commission's Report in 1930, said that the best he could hope for was that after the mechanisation programme had been completed, it might be possible to get the Budget down to 52 crores, and thereafter, at some future date, it might be possible to hope for further economies from the fall in prices. Now, we must recognise that the mechanisation programme has not yet been completed and yet the Army have got their Budget down to the neighbourhood of 46 crores. That is a real achievement and could only have been produced by a strong man who had grasped the financial urgency of the situation and its true bearing on the military situation, and I can assure His Excellency that the congratulations that we extend to him, on receiving the Field-Marshal's baton, are just as sincere as is the enthusiasm of the Army for their Commander. Sir Philip Chetwode has proved that he can win battles in peace as well as in war, and we confidently look to him to pursue the path of economy. I hope that as a result of the Capitation Committee there is going to be some permanent relief; but as regards the general question of economy, I am content to rely confidently on the Commander-in-Chief to insist that the public get every advantage possible from the fall in prices.

But, Sir, we live in dangerous times. The paramount consideration is the efficiency of our defence. We must, whatever the cost, be prepared to secure that the new Indian nation remains inviolate and inviolable; and there is one respect in which I confess I am not satisfied. Mr. Sitaramaraju has referred to India's impregnable mountain barriers. I am afraid that my Honourable friend is comforting himself with a resounding phrase. He has read history. Have the barriers of Hindustan proved impregnable in the past? I would remind him of what Mr. Baldwin said the other day, that the development of aircraft has broken down every natural barrier.

Now, let me draw the attention of the House to some very striking facts. For nearly ten years the Air Force in India has remained absolutely stationary. That is to say, it has consisted of eight squadrons, and this at a time when other modern powers have all been developing enormously their air arm. Russian military expenditure has made in recent years a staggering advance and the amount spent on military aviation is enormous. Nor is this all. Other countries are developing rapidly their civil aviation, whereas we in India still have a civil aviation which can only just be said to have any existence at all. We all know that it is an easy matter to convert civil aeroplanes into military aeroplanes, into bombers and troop carriers. I have seen reliable reports in the press to the effect that Russia for instance has now got a large fleet of a modern type of civil aeroplane which is capable of carrying a useful load of about two tons over 800 miles without refuelling. Just think what that means. I am not for a moment attributing to Russia hostile intentions. I recognise that since she engaged on her economic plans, her diplomacy has been more pacific and her propaganda in foreign countries has diminished. But I repeat that we live in dangerous times, and I ask Members to reflect on the fact that there is a fleet of aeroplanes capable of leaving a foreign territory, flying over the cities and towns of the Punjab, and returning comfortably to their base on the same day.

Let me give the House some Budget figures. We used to work in this country on a figure of about 2.17 crores for the Air Force. During re-equipment, it went up to 2.38. Now, it has come down to 1.58 crores, that is, a little over a million pounds is what we spend in this country on our Air Force. I have spoken on this subject for several years in this House. In the year 1929, I pointed out that whereas Great Britain was spending  $\frac{2}{5}$ ths as much on the air arm as she was spending on the army, in this country the proportion of Air to Army was only about  $\frac{1}{25}$ th. Now, is it not a very remarkable fact that that proportion, so striking then, has since been altering, not as we might have expected for the better, but for the worse! When I spoke in 1931, the proportion had already altered for the worse. This year, 1933, it has again altered for the worse. The new estimates at Home are not yet available. Taking the last year's figures, that is to say, the figures for the current year ending this month, Great Britain was spending £17½ million, in round figures, on the Royal Air Force plus one million pounds appropriated from the Navy for the Fleet Air Arm. That is to say, £18½ million Great Britain is spending today on the Air, whereas on the Army she is spending £96½ million. That means that she is spending more than half as much on the Air as on the Army. The proportion has gone up from  $\frac{2}{5}$ ths in 1929 to over  $\frac{1}{2}$  today. In this country, on the contrary, we are now spending, in round figures, Rs. 1½ crores on the Air and Rs. 44½ crores on the Army, that is to say, just over  $\frac{1}{30}$ th on the Air. I suggest that there must be something wrong in the fact that while in the rest of the world the balance is continually altering in favour of the Air Arm, in this country the balance is steadily altering to the detriment of the Air Arm.

**Mr. B. V. Jadhav** (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): It may be that an unnecessarily large army is maintained.

**Mr. Arthur Moore** : Now, I may be asked, what do I want. Well, Sir, year after year I have pleaded for transport squadrons. When it became necessary to evacuate our nationals from Kabul, people suddenly woke up to the importance of transport squadrons and they discovered that they had not got any. We had to borrow air transport from Iraq. But we were immediately promised that something better would be done. All that we got was two Clive aeroplanes—small troop carriers—and that is all we have ever had. In 1931, I begged for four transport squadrons. Today I shall be much more modest and I shall only ask whether the Commander-in-Chief cannot get for India one transport squadron. Egypt has a transport squadron, and Iraq has a transport squadron. Why cannot this great country, with a much greater problem of defence, have a transport squadron? In Egypt, last June, it became necessary to reinforce Iraq, when there was trouble there, from Egypt. In five days they moved a whole battalion by air from Cairo to Baghdad,—as against certainly a month by any other means available. Then, in the previous year, when there was trouble in Cyprus, they flew a whole company from Ramleh to Cyprus between breakfast and noon. Sir, I do not want to labour a point on which I have often spoken in this House. But I would call attention—if you will give me a few minutes more; it is the first time I have addressed the House this Session . . . . .

**Mr. Deputy President** (Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty): The Honourable Member has still got two minutes more.

**Sir Muhammad Yakub** (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, we find that the Air Force has effected economies of approximately six lakhs more than the Retrenchment Committee estimated for or hoped for. Cannot the Air Force be allowed to keep those additional economies which go beyond the hopes of the Retrenchment Committee, and set them aside towards the maintenance of a transport squadron? I imagine that its annual maintenance would not be more than about 15 lakhs, and I do feel confident that by that means the Army would find that they were able to make—as other countries have made—surprising economies in other directions. (Applause.)

**Sir Muhammad Yakub** (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, in lending my support to this cut, I do not propose to enter into the intricate question of the defence of India. Nor do I propose to go into problems like the Capitation Grant and things like that. I will confine myself to a very moderate aspect of this question, and that is the administrative side of the expenditure of the Army. As a humble member of the Army Retrenchment Committee, Sir, I had something to do with this branch of Army expenditure. We know that that Committee has produced a report the recommendations of which have always been considered by this House as extremely moderate and inadequate. Still, to my great disappointment, I find there is hardly any recommendation, moderate though it is, of this Committee which has been given effect to *in toto* by the Army Department. Sir, during my speech on the General Discussion on the Budget, I pointed out that we expected the Honourable the Finance Member to give us in detail the reasons why the recommendations of the Army Retrenchment Committee could not be accepted by the Government, but I still wait for a reply. No doubt among the budgetary papers we have been supplied by the Army Department, with a statement, showing the reductions secured in army expenditure as a result of the retrenchment campaign. But here, beyond giving the figures recommended by the Committee and the figures which have been accepted by the Army Department, we do not find any reasons or explanations given by the Army Department for not accepting our recommendations. Sir, within the small time at my disposal, it is not possible for me to enter into the details of the recommendations which we made and the extent to which they were not accepted by the Government, but by way of illustration I shall cite one or two items. In the first place, I would refer to the question of I. M. S. officers on the staff of the Kitchener College, Nowgong. This College is intended to prepare Indian non-commissioned officers for promotion to Viceroy's Commissioned ranks and only 152 students are turned out annually. On the medical staff of this College there was an I. M. S. Officer as well as a sub-assistant surgeon and we considered that the former should be abolished. Government have failed to give effect to this moderate recommendation and I should like the Army Secretary to tell the House why this recommendation could not be accepted.

Then, Sir, on the medical side of the Army expenditure we find that we are not only spending too much, but a great deal of extravagance is going on; and, while taking this opportunity to thank the Army Officers who co-operated with us in the Army Retrenchment Committee and appreciate the support they gave us in our work, I must say that the help we received from the Medical Officers of the Army was not as much as we expected. Sir, on page 56 of our interim report, you will find that the

cost of the Medical Services has been doubled since 1914. Then, Sir, we know that an establishment of 26 dental officers and 43 B. O. Rs. is maintained for British troops as compared with seven Officers in 1914. I am really at a loss to understand why this dental disease is becoming so common among British soldiers. We were told that, when these soldiers landed at Bombay, a very large number among them were found to be suffering from diseases of the teeth. For that the Army have appointed a special staff of 26 dental surgeons, besides the assistant surgeons who are kept in all the Army hospitals. We recommended that assistant surgeons should be given more advanced training in dentistry and that the present dental service be gradually eliminated. I should like the Army authorities to inform us what steps they have taken in this direction and how much of this dental staff is proposed to be retrenched. Then, Sir, we were informed that 91 officers of the Medical Services obtained additional allowances of Rs. 100 a month for being in possession of specialised qualifications. We saw no reason for the continuance of these allowances; and I do not know what effect has been given to this recommendation by the Army Department. These are all points on which we want an explanation and the reasons why they were not accepted. All doctors are considered as experts and we pay them only as experts, and, therefore, there is no reason why any officer who specialises himself in a particular disease should be given an extra allowance of Rs. 100 a month.

Then the second point to which we drew attention about the Medical Services was dependant on a reversal of the policy, which had hitherto obtained, of separation of Medical Services for British and Indian troops respectively. That was one of the most objectionable features that we saw in the administration of the Army Department. They maintain separate hospitals for British soldiers and for Indian soldiers. While making inspections at Calcutta, we found that a very large portion of the British soldiers' hospital in Calcutta was lying vacant and the same was the case with the Indian soldiers' hospital. We thought that if the British and Indian soldiers can fight together on the same field and live in the same trenches during the war, there was no reason why, when they get ill, they should not stay in the same hospital. That was a point which, if accepted, would have given a substantial saving. Of course no explanation has been given by the Army authorities, and I should like to know how far this recommendation of the Committee has been accepted.

Then, Sir, there are four schools in India known as the Lawrence schools. They provide a home and education in good climate for orphan children of British soldiers and ex-soldiers. The total net cost on the four schools is Rs. 5,91,000 per year. We considered that there was no justification to burden the Indian Exchequer with the expenditure on these schools, from which hardly any benefit accrues to the Army, while thousands of the children of the soil, who would form the future Army of the country cannot be provided with any sort of education. We, therefore, recommended that the scholarships to British soldiers' children amounting to Rs. 15,000 should be discontinued. That was not accepted, and I am still waiting for an explanation from the Army Secretary as to why this recommendation could not be accepted by the Army authorities.

Coming to the heads of supplies, we find that the British soldiers' ration was supplemented by a cash allowance of 8½ annas a day. This allowance is based on the allowance given in England. At one time it amounted to 6½ pence in England and 6½ annas in India. When the rate

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in England fell to 8½ pence the Indian rate dropped to 8½ annas. The rate in England is now three pence and we, therefore, recommended that the rate in India should also be reduced to three annas in accordance with the usual practice. This would give an annual saving of six lakhs, but even this most reasonable and moderate recommendation was not accepted. As I have just pointed out, we find that in their statement the Army authorities have given no reasons for not accepting the recommendations and have summarily rejected the most moderate recommendations. No doubt the Army Department have made certain other retrenchments besides those recommended by the Committee. The reason for this was that the time at the disposal of the Committee was very small and the range of subjects which we had to explore was very large. Moreover, the Army was hitherto a sealed book to the public and it was the first time when we had some peep into the working of the Army. We found that the number of brushes supplied to the British soldier was larger than is probably possessed by any Honourable Member of this House, except perhaps my aristocratic friend, Sir Cowasji Jehangir.

**Mr. B. Das** (Orissa Division : Non-Muhammadian) : How many brushes has the Army Secretary got?

**Sir Muhammad Yakub** : I do not know, but he has certainly not got as many as the British soldier has.

Then we found that the number of officers of the Army Headquarters itself was too large and there was hardly any work for the very large number of officers who were employed at the headquarters of the Army Staff. We tried, one day, to pay a visit to these offices to see what they were doing, and although, on that particular day, they were supplied with some papers which they were alleged to be dealing with, it was still difficult to find out what amount of work they were doing, and we could not be supplied with any statement to show how much work they were doing. So although the Army Department have made certain retrenchments themselves, that does not afford any excuse for not accepting the moderate recommendations which were made by the Army Retrenchment Committee. And I should like the Army Officers to give us a very satisfactory and detailed explanation and a logical explanation too to show why these recommendations have not been given effect to. With these remarks, I heartily support the cut motion moved.

**Diwan Bahadur A. Ramaswami Mudaliar** (Madras City : Non-Muhammadian Urban) : Sir, as this is an important subject, I wish to bring a preliminary matter to your notice. My honoured Leader, Sir Abdur Rahim, has given notice of a cut motion on the Foreign and Political Department and, normally, that would occupy the whole of the afternoon. I have the permission of my Leader to say that he has no objection if this debate is extended by another half-an-hour in the afternoon and his cut motion taken up at 8 o'clock; for it would be a pity if the discussion on this subject were to be cut short by lack of time.

**Mr. Deputy President** (Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty) : Order, order. If that is the desire of the Independent Party, and the Chair takes it that other Parties have no objection to that, the discussion might be

continued this afternoon. The Honourable gentleman suggests that half-an hour may be taken for this, but the Army Secretary must have his full time, that is, 20 minutes, and, if any other Member wants to speak, we have to set apart another 15 minutes. In that case . . . .

**Diwan Bahadur A. Ramaswami Mudaliar:** We have no objection if one hour is given.

**Mr. Deputy President (Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty):** The Chair will set apart an hour.

**Diwan Bahadur A. Ramaswami Mudaliar:** Mr. Deputy President, I am very thankful to you for the opportunity that you have given me of partaking in this debate, because, following the example of my friend, Sir Muhammad Yakub, and as a member of the Army Retrenchment Committee, I propose to address myself this afternoon to the subject with which we were charged as members of that Committee. There is a preliminary matter arising out of the observation of my friend, Mr. Moore, to which I should like to refer. Mr. Moore pictured a very disastrous future for us from the lack of sufficient Royal Air Force equipment and he told us that the country was going to be seriously affected by that lack of foresight. If he had read the Budget details a little more carefully, he would have found that the reduction in the Air Force expenditure was mainly due to the fact, as was explained in the Financial Adviser's statement last year, that the programme of equipment for the Royal Air Force had been completed, and if he will read . . . .

**Mr. Arthur Moore:** May I explain that I have not criticised the economising of expenditure on the Royal Air Force in this country. My complaint is directed towards the establishment. I should like to see an additional squadron. It has nothing to do either with equipment or with the economies effected.

**Diwan Bahadur A. Ramaswami Mudaliar:** Well, Sir, I shall not pursue the matter further, because the economy effected is really to a very large extent due to the fact that the programme of expenditure has been completed. As regards the further increase in the personnel, I have nothing to suggest, because I am not an expert in these matters. I only hope that the views of my friend, Mr. Moore, will be placed prominently before the Army Headquarters. I said, I proposed to deal with the subjects which formed the subject matter for the consideration of the Army Retrenchment Committee. We were asked not to deal with the pay of the fighting units or with the strength of the fighting units, but were asked to confine ourselves to what has been termed the auxiliary and ancillary services, and, it is from this point of view, that I propose to examine the amount of economy or retrenchment that has been carried out. Taking the Budget for the present year and comparing it with the actuals of 1931-32, you find that there has been a reduction of over five crores and 30 lakhs of rupees in gross expenditure, but you find, at the same time, the calculation is simple—that nearly three crores of rupees is with reference to the fighting units. Two crores and 67 lakhs is what I make out as the reduction on fighting units and other items outside the auxiliary services. We are thankful to the Commander-in-Chief for reducing the cost of the fighting units. The number of Officers with King's Commission has been reduced by 117; the number of British other ranks has been reduced by 1,623; the number of Officers with Viceroy's Commission has been reduced by 154 and the number of Indian other ranks has been

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reduced by 6,128. Taking this and the reduction in the Royal Air Force and the Auxiliary Force and the reserve fund, we find that there has been a reduction of nearly three crores in the gross expenditure. Therefore it comes to this that the real reduction in auxiliary and ancillary services amounts to not more than about 2½ crores at the most.

Now, Sir, I should like, in the limited time at my disposal, to refer only to one or two of these auxiliary services. My Honourable friend, Sir Muhammad Yakub, referred to the Medical Services. If I have time, I shall pursue the matter further, but I propose now to confine my attention to the Military Engineering Services. The Military Engineering Service and the Medical Services are the two services whose officers were not in a position to co-operate with the Army Retrenchment Committee to the extent to which they could have done and to the extent which we were justified to expect from them. From the observations that were made in the Report itself, you would have found that we did not get the same amount of co-operation from these two services. I am thankful to those officers and services in the Army who have placed their cards before the Army Retrenchment Committee and gave us full facts and figures and enabled us to learn something of a very intricate and complex system. But I must say, Sir, and say publicly from my place in this House, with reference to these services, that we did not have that co-operation, we did not have that amount of information, and it was with a "front negatif"—if I may use a French expression—"a negative face" that they met all our demands for information and all our suggestions for retrenchment. Now, with reference to the Military Engineering Services, you will notice that the amount of new works that is proposed to be carried out during the next year is considerably less than what was done in the year 1931-32 or what was provided for. There is a reduction of nearly one crore of rupees. In the course of our report we suggested that with reference to the maintenance of buildings, the maintenance of electric installations, furniture and other miscellaneous expenditure, there ought to be considerable reduction and we wound up by saying that the personnel of the Military Engineering Services was far too much and that, particularly in view of the fact that the country cannot afford the same amount of capital expenditure on new works as it has hitherto been carrying out, there must necessarily be a reduction in personnel. Let us see what reduction of personnel has been brought about in these services. In 1931, on the 1st April, there were 280 officers holding the King's Commission, the Garrison Engineers, the Royal Engineers, Command Engineers and all the hierarchy of Military Engineers. There were 230 officers. In 1933, there are 225 officers—a reduction of five; in the British other ranks there were 231 men in 1931 and there are 219 today. Among clerks and civilians, draughtsmen and other officers of that kind, there were 1,187 in 1931 and there are 1,210 in 1933. So far as followers are concerned, there were 500 in 1931 and there are 521 in 1933. So that there has hardly been any reduction in the personnel at all. My friend, Mr. McLeod, the Financial Adviser, to whose courtesy we owe much as members of the Army Retrenchment Committee and to whose courtesy again the Members of the Assembly owe a great deal, because he has always been considerate in supplying information, says in the course of his explanatory memorandum that effect has been given to a specific recommendation of the Retrenchment Sub-Committee, that the estimate for



Military Engineering Service should be abolished as a separate head and that it should be brought under the head of the Quarter Master General's Departments. The report of the Retrenchment Committee no doubt suggested it, but the reason for it has been missed. We found that the Quarter Master General was really not in a position to control the Engineering Services, that whereas other services are under some Army Headquarters staff, either the Chief of the General Staff, or the Adjutant General or the Master General of Ordnance, the Military Engineering Services did not owe any allegiance in practice to any Officer; and we suggested that the Quarter Master General should be in control of this Department. As we proceed to explain in our report, the reason was that he would then be able to have a check on the personnel which is at the present time unchecked and uncontrolled. We say:

"While averse from adding to the Quartermaster General's already onerous duties, we think that the ultimate general responsibility for the cost of the personnel employed on M. E. S. should rest with him, just as he accepts responsibility for the size of that engaged, e.g., on supply and transport duties. In making these suggestions we do not desire in any way to detract from the full technical responsibility of the Engineer-in-Chief. But we think that it is important in principle that the ultimate financial responsibility for expenditure on army services should rest with the Principal Staff Officers; an exception to this rule in the case of M. E. S. would be fair neither to the Principal Staff Officers nor to the Engineer-in-Chief."

I do not know whether the spirit of that recommendation has been accepted. If so, I regret to find that there has been no reduction of the personnel. Our recommendation was quite simple. We suggested that there should be a reduction of ten per cent. in the personnel; the figure at that time placed before us was 240 including some ten officers who should have been appointed according to the recommendation of the Government of India, but were not, as a matter of fact, appointed. We took that into consideration also and we recommended a ten per cent. cut—a reduction of 24 officers leaving the strength at 216 officers. Even that very modest and moderate recommendation has not been carried out. Tributes have been paid to my Honourable friend, Diwan Bahadur Rangachariar, who, as Chairman of the Army Retrenchment Committee, did his work so fairly and so justly. The one consideration that he had, the consideration which was also given expression to by my friend, Mr. Tottenham, yesterday, was that with reference to the military we should try to take the officers and the department as far as possible with us: otherwise, being practically a non-voted subject, whatever our recommendations may be, we will be knocking against a dead wall, that nothing would be done, that those beautiful words which are so often used by the military authorities, that it will be neither "safe nor prudent" to do these things, will again be flung at our face, if we made recommendations ignoring their point of view. It was, having regard to their views on this matter, that we made these moderate recommendations, recommendations in which not merely the non official Members of the Assembly agreed, but if I may say so, which were agreed to by Sir Edward Benthall on behalf of the European Group and by Mr. Bovenschen, the expert from England, to whose meritorious services as a member of the Retrenchment Committee I had occasion to pay tribute privately to the Finance Member and which I am glad to do publicly now on the floor of this House. A recommendation like that, accepted unanimously by the whole of this Committee, approved informally at least by the Officers of the Department, not the Engineers but others, if that recommendation has not been carried out, I ask myself what recommendations will be suitable to this particular service? Not merely is that the case with reference to the personnel, but

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with reference to the whole of their organisation, with reference to the expenditure that they devote to this service, the same tale can be told. We suggested that with reference to the maintenance of buildings there ought to be a certain amount of reduction. They have a wonderful way in the Engineering Service. If the total value of the buildings of the Army is 40 crores, they say that for the maintenance of these buildings they should have one and three-eighths per cent. of the capital cost. Never mind what each individual building costs, the total must be one and three-eighths . . . .

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham** (Army Secretary): May I intervene for one moment because it might save time? If the Honourable Member will read the reply I placed on the table last September in reply to Mr. Das' question, he will see that all these recommendations have been accepted. This particular one about the  $1\frac{3}{8}$ ths per cent. and the one about the Quarter Master General being put in control of the M. E. S. and also the reduction of establishment—they have all been accepted. (*Some Honourable Members*: "Hear, hear.")

**Diwan Bahadur A. Ramaswami Mudaliar**: My Honourable friend need not be quite so pleased with the cheers that he has received from those Members of the House who have not read the reply which my Honourable friend placed on the floor of the House in September, 1932. My Honourable friend may be perfectly certain that I have read the reply or statement which he made in reply to Mr. Das. I have gone through it carefully and I can show that while he has stated that he has accepted it, effect has not been given to it in the Budget estimates. It is perfectly true that my Honourable friend said in reply to Mr. Das' question that our recommendation that it should be  $1\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. and not  $1\frac{3}{8}$ ths has been accepted; it is perfectly true that in his reply he says that six per cent. will be calculated on the maintenance of electric installations and not eight per cent. It is perfectly true also that, with reference to furniture, my Honourable friend, in his reply, said that our recommendation has been accepted: it is perfectly true that in reply to that question, my Honourable friend said that the Quarter Master General will be in charge of the Military Engineering Services; but from first to last, I maintain—and, if I had the time at my disposal, I will prove it—that none of these recommendations has been given effect to in the Budget for 1933-34. If the Quarter Master General has control of the Military Engineering Services, may I ask what he has done with reference to the reduction in the personnel? My Honourable friend says that he has accepted these recommendations. I have just said that our recommendations show that the number of King's Commissioned Officers should be 216. In the estimates it is shown as 225. Will my Honourable friend please explain how it is that, after accepting our recommendations, he still retains the figure of 225 King's Commissioned Officers so far as the Military Engineering Service is concerned? My Honourable friend may rest assured that I have gone very carefully into this figure. For buildings, etc., the figure of over 50 lakhs has been provided under maintenance and repair; by a purely mathematical process for which my friend, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad, will be responsible, the figure of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. does not come up to that. Neither is the Budget proposal the proper cost with reference to roads. Now that my Honourable friend has come forward with his defence earlier than I expected, let me take the question of roads with reference to

which we made some suggestions. Turning to the Military Engineering Services estimates at page 207, I find that under military roads in cantonments the expenditure this year is 11.79 lakhs as against 12.63 lakhs last year. But under military roads ex-cantonments it is 11.35 lakhs as against 10.33 lakhs: so that the total figure is exactly the same as it was two years ago when we started the retrenchment campaign—about 23 lakhs. Will my Honourable friend turn to the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee and find out for himself whether we did not suggest a reduction of nearly 2½ lakhs in that one particular item? Does my Honourable friend suggest that he has accepted the recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee?

It is the same thing with reference to the electric installations. I have not got the time to go into these questions in detail; but let me turn to one other recommendation. With reference to the contracts that were given out by the M. E. S., we had a great deal of difficulty. It was left to us to find out, as members of the Retrenchment Committee, that the Military Engineering Service, efficient as it is, with such numerous King's Commissioned Officers, had a peculiar way of dealing with contracts. They had a system of rates such as that which prevails in the Public Works Department on the civil side. These rates were published years ago, in some cases six or seven years ago; and, on the strength of those rates, contracts were given out to contractors. Some of my friends in the Assembly know what military contracts are. The quotations that were given were these. A contractor quoted 30 per cent. below the schedule rates: another contractor quoted 35 per cent. below the schedule rates; and it was that competition which was the test for the acceptance of these contracts. We pointed out that it was a preposterous arrangement, that the first thing that they should do was to see that they revised their schedule of rates and brought it more into line with the prevailing conditions. The absolute unfairness of the whole thing is obvious. If a contractor were to quote only 35 per cent. of the total rates irrespective of each individual head, or another contractor were to quote 40 per cent. below the schedule rates, on some items the prices would have fallen much more than others; and there was the further complication that with reference to some materials it was open to the Army Department . . . .

**Mr. Deputy President** (Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty): Do I take it that the House would desire the Honourable Member to continue? (*Cries of "Yes".*)

**Diwan Bahadur A. Ramaswami Mudaliar**: I am grateful to the House; and there is the further fact to be taken into consideration, that with reference to these contracts it was open to the military authorities to supply material in particular places if the contract was given out. Now, let me read what we said with reference to this subject:

"We found in the course of enquiry that in certain instances the schedules had not been revised for five or six years and contractors were quoting as much as 30 per cent. less than the schedule rates. While it is true, as was represented to us, that so long as there is competition, tenders would represent the prevailing market prices and therefore the full value of a fall in prices would be obtained by quotations being made at a discount on the schedule rates, it seems to us by no means certain that fluctuations in market prices would affect all items in the schedule equally. And as quotations are made on the basis of increases or decreases on the schedule as a whole, it does not necessarily follow that, if the schedule is seriously out of date, such quotations would necessarily represent the fair market rate for the actual work required. We accordingly recommend a more frequent revision of the schedules as we are of opinion that such a revision will enable much closer supervision of rates to be enforced."

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I am thankful to my Honourable friend, the Army Secretary, for having said in reply to Mr. Das in September, 1932, that it has been done, but let me continue:

"We also recommend that all M. E. S. contracts for over Rs. 50,000 should be made by open tender instead of by calling for tenders from selected lists of contractors. Contracts for Rs. 50,000 and under should continue to be made by calling for tenders from selected lists of contractors, but once a year advertisements should be inserted in the local press inviting firms to apply to be put on those lists."

What has my Honourable friend done with reference to this particular recommendation? Let me give my Honourable friend's reply which is at page 124 of the Legislative Assembly Debates for September. The reply of the Army Department is this, presumably at the instance of the Military Engineering Services:

"Not accepted. Tenders are now invited by advertisement for works of a specialised nature and works likely to cost more than Rs. 5 lakhs.

To call for tenders throughout India for every work costing more than Rs. 50,000 would involve great clerical labour, delay and extra expense, without any increase of efficiency." (Laughter.)

Now, Sir, the story does not stop there. Let me turn to the remarks, not of a lay individual like myself, nor even of Mr. Bovenschen who was a party to this recommendation—let me turn to the remarks of the Director of Army Audit. Let me take his latest report, that of 1930-31, and what does he say on the subject? He has surely no prejudices about the military as I have. He has a warm regard for the M. E. S. as a whole. In paragraph 123 of the remarks of the Director of Army Audit, you will find:

"The Military Accounts Committee, which examined the Appropriation Accounts for 1928-29, was informed that the principles governing all contracts are being adopted generally on the Army side also (*vide* paragraph 56 of its Proceedings on that year's accounts). Instructions were issued by the Engineer-in-Chief to all Commands impressing on them that contracts should be given out without calling for tenders in exceptional cases only. Similar instructions regarding material alterations in the terms of contracts once concluded were also issued. An enquiry was made into the effect of these instructions but it is premature to make any comment this year as promised in paragraph 33 of my last Report, specially in view of the fact that the instructions referred to above were issued at the end of June 1930 when some of the contracts for 1930-31 had already been entered into. It is understood that further steps have also been since taken to see that the discretion to deviate from the general principles governing all contracts are exercised by local authorities as sparingly as possible. It will be watched in course of test audit that these instructions are followed."

Will my Honourable friend, speaking on behalf of the Army Department, kindly explain to me this conundrum? To the Director of Army Audit you say, you are going to call for tenders except in exceptional cases and, in answer to my Honourable friend and in answer to a recommendation that we made, a most logical and reasonable recommendation, a recommendation which, in your own interests,—Caesar's wife must be above suspicion—which, in your own interests, you are bound to accept, you turn round and say, tenders cannot be called for except where the work is for over Rs. five lakhs. And how many works, pray, even in the big Army Department, are there for over Rs. five lakhs, how many works are for over Rs. 50,000? Let me turn again to the Director of Army Audit. What does he find as a result of that system? With reference to these works, there is a very funny way in the army. They do not prepare

estimates. Their estimates need not correspond to the actualities at all. Let the Director of Army Audit give some instances of this. At page 66 of his report, he sums up the cases where there were no estimates at all. The amount of objections raised in 1980-81 for want of sanctioned estimates was Rs. 38,81,000. I make a present of that statement to my Honourable friend, the Army Secretary. He says:

"As compared with the year 1929-30, there has been a decrease in the amount of objections raised for want of vouchers but an increase in the amount of objections raised for want of sanctioned estimates."

Take, again, the estimates that are given in the Budget from time to time on these works:

"A noticeable instance of apparent over-estimating is Item 19, from which it appears that although Rs. 3,50,000 were allotted, the work was completed for Rs. 2,14,491. Item 37 is still more noticeable, as although Rs. 4,00,000 were allotted for the work during the year, it was completed with an expenditure of Rs. 85,493 only."

I have heard, in my experience of under-estimates, of the actual work going beyond the estimated figure and, therefore, necessitating what is termed a reappropriation, but I have not heard of an estimate for Rs. four lakhs being seriously made by a Command Royal Engineer and the work being finished in Rs. 83,000. I ask myself what sort of service is this where, on a test audit conducted by the Director of Army Audit, he is able to find out these peculiarities. I do not know if I am unfair to my friend, Mr. McLeod, who is mainly responsible for preparing the Budget estimates, but I find curiously enough pursuing the matter further that whereas, in former years, details of the cost of the works were given, in the present year the whole expenditure is put as a lump sum and no details of any kind are given. Is that due to the remarks of the Director of Army Audit so that some one standing in my place next year may not say, "Out of this estimate of four lakhs only Rs. 50,000 or Rs. 60,000 has been spent". Let my Honourable friend turn to the M. E. S. estimates for the year and he will find at page 204:

"Accommodation Works. Accommodation Detailed heads. Indian troops 30 lakhs. Officers quarters and messes 11 lakhs. Miscellaneous units 3 lakhs."

We had pages and pages of every detail in the previous years. We were shown that Rs. 40,000 were spent on this matter, Rs. 50,000 on another, two lakhs on re-formation of some lines, 2½ lakhs for erection of new lines, and so on. I ask my Honourable friend, why it is that in this year's Budget it has not been done, and, furthermore, whether the Army Secretary would recommend a continuance of this practice. No, Sir. There is something radically wrong with reference to the M. E. S. works. I complained two years ago that there was a rush of expenditure in March and that, even more seriously than on the civil side, the military side showed that rush of expenditure. I did not know that, two years later, I would have corroboration from another Army Audit report. I turn, again, to the last Army Audit report of Mr. Currie, and you will find at page 66, that expenditure incurred in June was 15 lakhs, expenditure in September, Rs. 33 lakhs, expenditure in December, 38 lakhs, and expenditure in March—what do you think, Mr. Deputy President,—Rs. one crore and nine lakhs. In one month, March, they have disposed

[Diwan Bahadur A. Ramaswami Mudaliar.]

of these enormous bills and spent over fifty per cent. of their allotment. What wonder if the Director points out that in one case, instead of the figure 12,000 a clerk wrote Rs. 22,000. It is just a slip—it is all in this report. Classical instances of efficiency with which the Department has been managed, and, for one case detected, I ask myself whether you can say with certainty that there are no other cases which have gone undetected. I do not know exactly who is responsible for the writing off of various items. I take an instance from the Military Engineering Service alone, and I should like to tell the House what that instance is:

"In 1926 the Brigadier Commander ..... Brigade decided to re-start the ..... Race Club and some old materials to the value of Rs. 1,244-8-0 recovered from the demolition of certain buildings in the station were, under his orders, supplied on credit to the Race Club for the construction of a Race Course. A building was also made over for the Race Course Jamadar's residence.

In January 1927 the Brigade departed for China, when a sum of Rs. 1,380-3-0 (Rs. 1,244-8-0 being the value of the materials and Rs. 135-11-0 on account of the rent for the building occupied by the Jamadar) was still unpaid by the Race Club.

Owing to the absence of troops from the station the Race Club fell heavily into debt and could not pay off the above sum in spite of several attempts made by the Military Engineer services authorities to recover them. The above named authorities however sold certain materials from the Race Course for Rs. 315-6-0 leaving a balance outstanding against the Club of Rs. 1,064-13-0.

The case was reported to the Army Headquarters on 7th April, 1930. Since the Brigade Commander, by ordering the issue of public stores on credit to a private body had acted, in contravention of rules, the responsibility for the loss devolved on him. The officer being on the retired list in England, the India Office was addressed in March 1931 to approach the Army Council with a view to recover the sum from the officer, but the amount was nevertheless written-off in Army Department letter..... in order to clear the amount outstanding on the books."

Now, I wish to ask the Army Secretary why, under what circumstances and on whose authority, this particular letter of the Army Department was issued authorising the writing off of that amount.

Let me take another instance:

"Up to August 1928, the Army Mansions at ..... were occupied by Military Officers who paid rent under the regulations. With a view to their being run as a hotel for Military Officers and thus removing to a great extent the existing unpopularity of residence in them, the mansions were let to a certain contractor for five years with effect from the 15th September, 1928, on an assessed rental of Rs. 14,730 payable in half yearly instalments of Rs. 7,365 each. The first instalment being payable three months after the execution of the lease was due on the 15th December, 1928, and the second on the 15th June, 1929."

The contractor defaulted when a large sum was due from him. A suit was filed and a decree was obtained:

"But immediate recovery not being possible,—Rs. 14,972-2-3 on account of rent and Rs. 1,220-13-0 on account of other items were written-off in an Army Department letter, dated 25th March, 1931."

Then, again, I can show that in the Medical Service also it is the same thing. We suggested that there were 224 nurses drawing a pay of Rs. 275 to Rs. 650 in the Army, and that they could well be substituted by Anglo-Indian or Indian nurses, specially Anglo-Indian nurses. Either for reasons of "safety or prudence",—I do not know which,—the Army authorities have not been able to accept our recommendation . . . .

**An Honourable Member: Both.**

**Diwan Bahadur A. Ramaswami Mudaliar:** Probably both. My friend is a good authority on where prudence should come in and how far the line of safety can be drawn. There are several recommendations. We suggested that a very smaller number of R. A. M. C. officers and other staff officers in the Medical Department might be enough and that the present strength of these officers might be reduced to 25, and that recommendation has not been given effect to. The other 25 officers are still there, they are overstaffed; you go to the Calcutta British Medical Hospital, as we did, and you will find that there are four to five R. A. M. C. officers carefully attending to,—how many patients, do you think, Mr. Deputy President? 17 in all. With an army of nurses, with an army of followers, with an Indian Hospital Corps, the only recommendation that has been accepted in that connection in its entirety is the reduction of over a thousand people of the Indian Hospital Corps.

Sir, I must now conclude by congratulating the Army on carrying out our recommendations so far as the fighting units and staff are concerned, and it will be churlish on my part if I do not acknowledge the good work that is done by the Quarter Master General himself and the other officers under him, the Adjutant General and others, but I must place on record my most emphatic protest that, so far as the Medical Services and the Military Engineering Services are concerned, they have done practically nothing and they do not possess the confidence of this House on account of the manner in which they have discharged their duties.

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

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The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. Deputy President (Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty) in the Chair.

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**Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen** (Presidency Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I rise to support the amendment moved by my friend, Mr. Raju. Retrenchment and more retrenchment has been the cry everywhere, and why? Because, although the condition of public finance has been described by the Honourable the Finance Member as satisfactory, the condition of India as a whole remains as unsatisfactory as before. The *zabbardust* Finance Member has balanced the Budget, and I congratulate him on his marvellous achievement, namely, that he has been able to convert a deficit into a surplus. But how has he achieved this object?—Partly by taxation and partly by retrenchment. All these are emergency measures, and these taxes will have to be removed sooner or later, because the Indian people have reached the last limit of their endurance. This endurance was possible, because they know how to lead the life of a *Sanyasi*. and, when these taxes will be removed, there will be a heavy deficit of about five crores; and if the income received through the Provincial Governments is to be foregone, then the deficit will be heavier. So, what is the real remedy? The real remedy is not only retrenchment of posts that are clearly superfluous, but of salaries, and also saving in expenditure. The saving in some departments comes to nothing, because money is lavishly spent in other directions. Like Penelope of old, the Honourable the Finance Member has been, in respect of the Army Department, unmaking the saving

[Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen.]

which he has been making in other Departments. What is the good of scraping one lakh here and two lakhs there? As the Bengali adage says; "If you take delight in hunting, hunt an elephant. If you take delight in taking other's money, commit robbery rather than pilfery". I would ask the Honourable the Finance Member to give up his meanness and be broad-minded. Of all the Departments, the Military Department is the biggest. This Department alone absorbs one-third of the total revenue. I would refer Honourable Members to the view expressed by Sir Walter Layton:

"The present military expenditure of India is so large both absolutely and in relation to the revenue of India as to be a dominating factor in India's financial situation. The following figures show the percentage incidence of defence expenditure upon net revenue in Great Britain and the Dominions:

India 33·7, Australia 3·7, Great Britain 23·6, Canada 3·7, New Zealand 5·2, Union of South Africa 3·1 and Irish Free State 6·8.

India in spite of her poverty has to bear a burden relatively heavier than that of Great Britain and ten times heavier than that of Australia."

It must be admitted that there has been a substantial economy in military expenditure. From 52 crores, it has come down to 46, but I beg to submit that the saving has not gone far enough. There is still room for economy as was clearly shown by the figures given to the House by Diwan Bahadur Ramaswami Mudaliar. He has scathingly exposed the Army Department and we are eager to hear what the Army Secretary has got to say in reply to his criticisms. There is one point which I want to emphasize. I beg to submit that the whole outlook regarding the army expenditure has to be changed. We have been maintaining a huge army for the last 100 years. Is it for self-defence only? No. It is not only for self-defence, but for some other purposes also. India is prepared to maintain an Army which is required only for her defence. She is not prepared to go further than that. Captain Liddle-Hart in his book "Re-making of Modern Armies" tells us that the military forces of the Dominions in peace time are organised for self-defence, not as expeditionary forces. The peace time forces consist of a small permanent nucleus which provides this instructional cadre for the main armed body—a citizen militia. So, my submission is, let there be "covering troops" as they call it, so that she may cope with occasional insurrections here and there, but she is not prepared to maintain a huge "field army" on a major war basis. The Russian menace has proved to be unfounded. So far as Afghanistan is concerned, India is required to maintain only friendly relations. Of course the condition in the Far East is causing some anxiety, but that does not justify the maintaining of a huge army for all time, and, if, in the interest of England, a huge army is to be maintained for all time, then, I submit that England must permanently share a substantial portion of the expense.

Sir, I have already described the Honourable the Finance Member as a *Zabardust* Member, and I would request him to strain every nerve to wrench out this from the authorities at home. I recall his reference to the Army expenditure at the Ottawa Conference and I know that although he may not do so in this House, he always argues in our favour elsewhere. Sir, another source of economy is Indianisation over which we had a lengthy discussion last afternoon. I would also suggest that Indians should be enlisted as volunteers. Give them substantial reforms and make them contented, and make your position safe and secure. Sir, certain sections of



the so-called Depressed Classes have been robbed of their hereditary profession by heterodox influence; and I would ask that they may be freely taken in to constitute the rank and file where I know they will give a very good account of themselves. That will provide them with a living and will minimise the expenditure. Sir, before I sit down, I would refer the Honourable the Finance Member as well as the Army Secretary to an article from the pen of Mr. F. G. Pratt, I. C. S. (retired) which appeared some days ago in the *National Call* under the caption of:

“What India Pays for its Army.

Military Burden on India: Need for Five Year Programme to reduce expenditure.

Costly Defence against Enemies that do not Exist.”

I shall conclude, Sir, by reading out a few sentences from this article. Says Mr. Pratt:

“The strength and organization of the Army would be on a very different scale if they were locally determined, as in the other Dominions, and not by military experts at Whitehall.

Is the fear of Russian military aggression well-founded, or, is this a traditional bogey which in the modern world can be seen to be a manifest absurdity?

Cut out the ‘Russian menace’, obliterate the visions of a Soviet Napoleon leading vast hordes of Russian peasants over hundreds of miles of wild and trackless and mountainous country for the conquest of India, and what other dangers call for insurance? Afghanistan? In order to maintain friendly relations, must Indian diplomacy be backed by a force equipped on a world-wide scale? The North-West Frontier? It is more secure and peaceful today than it has been for a generation. A net-work of motor roads has been spread over Waziristan, and its key positions are occupied by strong permanent garrisons of regular troops. Finally if there is any substance in the arguments above set forth, is there any single measure which would be better calculated—apart from its financial consequences—for restoring goodwill and confidence in India than an immediate decision to introduce a five-year programme of substantial reduction of India’s military expenditure?”

Sir, with these few words, I support the motion.

**Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan** (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, the last speaker talked about the Army and Indian defence. Now, one initial mistake that I find is made by several Honourable Members in this House is that they think more of the economy than of the nature of the functions of the Army in India. Surely, for the adequate defence of India, it is not a small Army which is required. India constitutes in reality the centre of the whole continent of Asia. The Indian Army is kept up not only for the sake of protection from disturbances within one province or another or from an attack on one frontier or on another. Now, the last speaker said that there was peace on the North-West Frontier, in Afghanistan and throughout Persia.

**Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen**: This is not my own view. This view has been expressed by a European I. C. S. Officer.

**Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan**: Well, that may be the view of many Englishmen in London even. I heard some of them speaking like this in England, but I wonder if they did so under some monetary pressure from the Congress or otherwise. (Laughter.)

**Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen**: Are they under Congress influence?

**Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan:** Well, I know many societies are actually working there in London and voicing the views of the Congress and such like bodies, probably as paid societies. Sir, economy may be a very good thing, but in this case it is a very bad thing, so far as it may affect the efficiency and real strength of the army which is required in India. Sir, if you look at the map of Asia, you will see that India is in the centre of it. Now, for purposes of defence, it is very necessary that the numbers of the white British soldiers of all arms in India must be so much that in case there is a big disturbance anywhere or disaffection within the Indian Army on account of religious or other disturbances, the British soldiers may be available in sufficient numbers to keep the peace within the Army as well as within India. Those, who are keen students of the Army in India, cannot but realize that the present peace in India is due to our safety from attacks, invasions, both internal and external. The peace and prosperity that you and I enjoy in India is due not so much to any other element or factor as is to the defence of India from internal and external attack and the safety secured and maintained for us by the British Government. Now, if we read the old history of India, what do we find? We find that the Hindu Rajahs always used to fight against one another, continually disturbing peace all round within the country. Neither did we enjoy peace during the times of the Moghul Emperors or Pathan Kings as we are all enjoying this time during the reign of the benign British Government . . . . .

**An Honourable Member:** The peace of the grave.

**Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan:** . . . . . and this peace is mainly secured by the strength and the efficiency of the Army in India. If the British lose this Empire,—India is so rich a country, and as there is no other such potentially rich country in any continent,—the eyes of all our enemies and other powers will be upon us, and they all will crave for India as part of their empire or kingdom if they can be so fortunate. The whole strength of the Army is not required for internal defence only, but you have to be careful that India must defend herself properly if attacked by land and sea. That should be the real strength of the British Army in India. You do not know the frontier tribes well. I myself belong to that Province and I wish that there should be regard and respect for those tribes. At present they are friendly to the British Government. But if, on account of some agitation tomorrow or in the future, they stand against us,—the House knows that their strength is about half a million people equipped with first-class arms,—and if there is no sufficient aeroplane power against them, even the whole Indian Army, excluding the white soldiers, will not be able to stand against them if they rise all against us unitedly, when there are political, communal and internal troubles in India.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai (Sind: Non-Muhammadian Urban):** Does not the Honourable Member think that when there are aeroplanes, the army should be reduced?

**Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan:** I am coming to that point later on; but, first of all, let me say what I wish to say. I appreciate the efforts of Honourable Members in the interest of economy which is for the good of India and the poor tax-payers, but they should ponder over the question of strength and efficiency of the Army very deeply. A penny wise and pound foolish policy would not be real economy. If we reduce the British Army,

we give cause to the other Powers and nations to invade India. For the sake of argument, if you reduce the Army by half its strength and bring down the expenditure to 20 crores, we will probably be very pleased and will congratulate every one responsible for that reduction. But if, next day, there is a war on sea or on the land frontier, then there will be millions of more money spent which the Legislature will gladly vote for protecting the country and saving India. I agree with some of the proposals regarding the retrenchment of one or two items which the members of the Retrenchment Committee think that there is good reason for reduction. But the men to judge of that reduction are the military men. The parent of a child who is undergoing an operation may say that the operation should be too small, but the doctor is the best person to know how much he should open so that all the pus inside may come out to avoid further troubles. In the same way, the persons with expert knowledge know well how much reduction is necessary and how much is not. If some items can be reduced, they will certainly do it, and they would not foolishly persist in continuing a thing which can easily be reduced. It is often said by many members that the Army expenditure must be reduced, but I have never heard such a proposal from a man who belongs to the Army or who has been to the theatres of war or living in provinces which are exposed to dangers. I should, therefore, ask them to think over this question, because today's wisdom may cause sorrow tomorrow. To reduce the Army which will disturb the peace and prosperity of India is not real economy.

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham:** Yesterday, Sir, I had the temerity to claim on behalf of the army administration that it was sympathetic towards Indian aspirations. Unfortunately the majority of the House did not agree with me. But today, undeterred by that defeat, I put forward another claim on behalf of the Army, and that is that the Army Administration is outstandingly alive to the need for economy and that it has been remarkably successful in attaining it. In fact, Sir, I do honestly contend that at no time since the present constitution started has the Army come before this Assembly with a record in this particular respect on which it has less reason to fear criticism and more reason to claim support. On the other hand, I am in a more difficult position today than I was yesterday, because the whole subject is so vast and the number of points that have been raised are so numerous that I shall find it almost impossible to deal adequately with them all in my reply.

I know, Sir, that there is a view held in certain quarters that the Army Department is a dark dungeon, the gates of which are opened only very occasionally for the inspection of Honourable Members. We have in the Retrenchment Committee done our best to remove that impression; and last year we welcomed for the first time three Honourable Members of this House as members of the Military Accounts Committee which goes into the Army Accounts on the report of the Director of Army Audit. And I do not think they can complain that we hid anything from them.

In this connection I should just like to say that I do not propose to follow my Honourable friend, Diwan Bahadur Ramaswami Mudaliar, and explain those financial irregularities which he read out from the Director of Army Audit's report. As has been explained before, the auditor's report is naturally a fault-finding report; it puts its finger on every fault it can find; but it says nothing about all the good things we have done. But that is by the way. The main point is that all those irregularities were gone into most exhaustively and carefully by the members of the

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Military Accounts Committee; explanations were put before them; and many of those explanations were accepted. There is just one particular point that I should like to mention, because I happen to have the information here with me. The Honourable Member referred to a case in which there was an appropriation of Rs. four lakhs for a certain project and the amount expended was only Rs. 85,000. That sounded bad. The explanation is that, if the Honourable Member would refer back to the report of the previous year, he would see that, in connection with this particular project, there had been an appropriation of Rs. two lakhs in the previous year and that a sum of Rs. 4,82,000 was spent. The explanation is that, after the Budget for 1930-31 had been framed, it was found possible to go on with this project in 1929-30 out of the savings which had accumulated in that year, and, therefore, the extra provision was not required in the following year.

Well, Sir, as I was saying, we in the Army Department have nothing to hide and we are anxious that Honourable Members of this House should know a great deal more about army finance and army problems than they do at present. If Honourable Members have any suggestions to make for bringing the Legislature into closer touch with the Army Department, we shall listen to them and welcome them with great pleasure.

Now, Sir, I will turn to the subject immediately under discussion, retrenchment of expenditure. I shall endeavour to give a brief review of the situation and then, if I can, go on to answer one or two of the more important criticisms that have been made.

In the last two or three years, the Army has been extensively employed in various parts of India, in Burma, on the frontier and in  
 3 P.M. Bengal. The Army has responded to all these calls promptly and efficiently and, what is more, it has paid for the extra cost of them entirely out of its own Budget. The extra cost of disturbances during the last three years comes up to nearly two crores of rupees and we have not asked for one penny extra. That, Sir, means that, if there had not been these troubles, we might have shown an even greater saving than we have; and I think that is an important matter that should not be overlooked.

Then, turning to the actual reductions that have been made, the figures are given fully in the papers attached to the Budget Estimates prepared by our Financial Adviser, and I can do no more than summarise them. In 1929-30, our Budget stood at 55.10 crores; in 1931-32, it stood at 52 crores; and the Budget for next year is 46.20 crores. That is to say, there has been a reduction in five years of nearly nine crores of rupees, of which 5½ have come in the last two years. If Honourable Members will look a little further back, they will find in 1922-23 a Budget of 68 crores. Now, that Budget admittedly included about five crores of expenditure which was due to the operations in Waziristan, but put it at 68 crores. Even so, since 1922-23, that is, about ten years ago, there has been a reduction in military expenditure of not less than 17 crores of rupees. These, Sir, are very large figures. Incidentally, also they bring us to exactly the half way point between the pre-war expenditure of 29 crores of rupees and the maximum post-war expenditure of 68 crores.

**Sir Cowasji Jehangir** (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): That is 50 per cent. increase now.

**Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham:** It is a difference of 17 crores. Forty-six is half way between 63 and 29. It is true that some part of these savings has been of an automatic nature. The fall in prices has accounted for about a crore and the reduction in the pay of British soldiers coming out from home has accounted for about three quarters of a crore. There are also other items of a more temporary nature which cannot be expected to recur for ever, such as the cut in pay, the reduction of our stocks and stores and the curtailment of some of our programmes; but the fact remains that there is behind all that a solid block of real retrenchment which has been secured by the united co-operation of all ranks in the Army and which has been obtained, not only by cutting down every possible item that was not absolutely necessary, but also, as the Honourable the Finance Member said the other day, by giving up various cherished schemes of progress. Moreover, and this is the point I wish particularly to emphasise, our policy of retrenchment has been carried out carefully and scientifically and we have always kept two main objects in view. The first has been to maintain a proper balance between fighting and administrative services—and here I may say, with reference to what my Honourable friend, Diwan Bahadur Mudaliar, said this morning, that those reductions that he mentioned were not all in the fighting services; a great many of the officers and men came from the administrative services. Then, the second object has been to avoid, as far as we possibly can, damaging the efficiency of our machine as a whole. I would ask the House to compare for one moment our achievement with that of the Inchcape Committee. The Inchcape Committee in 1923-24 recommended a military Budget of Rs. 57½ crores. Actually the Budget was in that year reduced to Rs. 55 crores, although, in the following year, it rose again to Rs. 56 crores; but the maximum reduction of expenditure that they had in view was down to Rs. 50 crores, and the reductions that they secured were secured by a ruthless and somewhat indiscriminate use of the axe. And, Sir, what was the result? The result was that the balance between administrative and fighting services was upset; the equipment of the Army fell into arrears; and five years later we had to come up with a programme of re-equipment which was calculated to cost Rs. 10 crores and which could only be financed by the machinery known as the stabilised Budget.

Now, Sir, the features of that Budget are well known. Firstly, a fixed allotment for a series of years, and, secondly, the power to carry forward savings within that allotment from one year to another. The first of these features disappeared long ago. The second, that is, the power to carry forward savings, has been preserved as far as it was possible to do so with the progressive reduction in our allotment; and it is to this second feature I think must be ascribed the ability of the Army authorities to put through a very large proportion of their re-equipment programme at a time of particular financial stringency and also at the same time to secure very large economies. So long as the Army knew that even a portion of the savings they secured would be retained for their own use, they were willing to work heart and soul to make those savings as large as possible; but, Sir, when golden eggs are produced on the assurance that the producer will be allowed to hatch a certain number of them,

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the disappointment of those hopes is not likely to lead to further productivity.

The only other point that I have to make about the stabilised Budget is that the system was very carefully examined by the Retrenchment Committee and they came to the deliberate conclusion that it involved no relaxation of financial control.

Now, Sir, returning to our re-equipment programme, some of it still remains to be accomplished. But I think I can say definitely that both our transport and our armament are now in a far better condition than they were five years ago; and in fact the army in India, in the matter of equipment, can now stand comparison with any army in the world. I contend that it is no mean achievement to have reduced expenditure by nine crores in five years and, at the same time to have put through a programme of re-equipment which has cost over seven crores and, in addition, to have paid out of our Budget nearly two crores on disturbances.

Now, Sir, it is perfectly true that it is no use having an Army at all unless that Army is properly equipped, armed, housed, fed and looked after in every way. Modern inventions come into the field, whether we like it or not. We must pay attention to them and keep up to date, because no Army can stagnate; and, in this connection, I would like to say a few words with regard to what my friend, Mr. Arthur Moore, said about the development of the Royal Air Force. I know he has made much the same remarks on previous occasions and that he has received the answer—perhaps a somewhat unsatisfactory answer for him—that the matter was one for experts and hardly suitable for discussion on the floor of this House. To that general position, I am afraid, I must adhere. It is a most difficult question and there are two sides of it; but I should like to assure the Honourable Member that his views and the views of those who think with him have been very carefully considered. The whole matter of the strength and composition of the armed forces in India is now at this moment under consideration in England, not by a particular department—either the War Office or the Air Ministry—but by the Committee of Imperial Defence; and, therefore, he has no reason to fear that every aspect of the case will not receive the full attention that it deserves.

As regards mechanization itself, I may say one or two words in view of certain remarks that were made in the course of the general discussion on the Budget. I confess I was somewhat surprised that certain Honourable Members should have expostulated at the idea that motors should be regarded as luxuries in civil life, but should have thrown some doubts as to the degree of mechanisation desirable in the Army. Of course the fact is that mechanisation is just as necessary in the Army as it is in civil life. There may, however, be an impression that we in India have been going in for all sorts of experiments in mechanisation, such as those which we know have been undertaken at home in mechanising fighting troops. If so, I should like to dispel that impression. In India we have proceeded only a very small way in that direction: we have practically no mechanised fighting units, except a few armoured cars and one mechanised field battery of artillery. The heavier guns and equipment are, it is true, drawn by motors, but that was the case for several years before the present mechanisation programme came into existence. As regards the transport of supplies, we have been doing our best to

mechanise; and we contend that our mechanisation *has* been economical. I have had figures prepared which show that the direct charges incurred upon the transport and supply services before the mechanisation programme was undertaken and the charges at the present day are about the same: that is to say, we spend on the mechanical transport and animal transport of today about the same we did in 1927. But in addition to that our present organisation gives us very greatly increased efficiency, efficiency due to increased mobility and increased lift . . .

**Diwan Bahadur A. Ramaswami Mudaliar:** Am I to understand that the total expenditure on animal transport and mechanical transport today is the same as it was on animal transport before the mechanisation scheme was introduced?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham:** That is not quite the case. Animal transport existed by itself before the war. Since the war we have always had some mechanical and animal transport, but until the present mechanisation programme was introduced, our expenditure on animal transport and mechanical transport combined came to so much; we then started this programme of mechanisation and switched over much more extensively from animal transport to mechanical transport. The initial expenditure was undoubtedly fairly heavy; but after the change over had taken place, the maintenance charges remained the same as before; and we have very much increased efficiency.

What I have been trying to prove in what I have said so far is that it is uneconomical and bad policy to finance defence expenditure by a series of drastic reductions which necessitate a few years later a special programme of re-equipment in order to get square. The object in view should, in our opinion, be to avoid violent fluctuations in defence expenditure and to endeavour to reach a minimum which is sufficient, and no more than sufficient, to keep the forces which it is desired to maintain up to the proper level of efficiency and readiness. That is our present policy. The last two years have been years of turmoil and they have produced remarkable results. What we are now engaged in doing is taking stock of the position, seeing how many of our economies are really of a recurring nature and how many of a non-recurring nature and generally attempting to arrive at a minimum normal maintenance figure for a force of a given size. Thus eventually, and I hope before long, we shall be able to say "If you wish to maintain a force of a particular size, you must give us so much money; and if you cannot afford to give us so much money, then you must reduce your fighting strength". That, I think, is what His Excellency the Viceroy had in mind when he informed this House the other day that the limits of retrenchment had nearly, if not quite, been reached.

Now, I am well aware that there are those who consider that our defence expenditure is still far too high, that the country cannot afford even Rs. 46-20 crores and that something must be done to reduce the bill. That is a perfectly legitimate view to hold, provided,—and I hope Honourable Members will not mind if I speak somewhat plainly,—provided that those who hold it are prepared to take the consequences of the reduction. Under our present constitution—I am merely stating the fact—that responsibility does not lie upon our critics. The responsibility lies primarily upon the Government of India and their expert adviser, His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief; and ultimately upon His Majesty's Government who are

[Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham.]

responsible for the safety of the whole Empire. It is the duty of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief to assess the risks to which India is exposed and to give an estimate of the insurance necessary to cover those risks. It is for the Government of India and His Majesty's Government, after taking into account all the circumstances, to decide whether that insurance is excessive or not; and finally it is the duty of the Army authorities to carry out the policy decided upon at the minimum cost to the tax-payer.

Now, as Honourable Members are aware, there are two very important inquiries which have taken place recently which have a most important bearing on this subject. I refer to the expert inquiry into the strength and composition of the Army in India, which is now under consideration by the Committee of Imperial Defence, and, secondly, to the Capitation Rate Tribunal, which, I can assure the Honourable the Mover, did go fully into the allied question of a contribution from Imperial revenues towards the cost of the Army in India and had before it all the arguments which have been adduced in favour of such a contribution in the past by Honourable Members of this House. Unfortunately I am not in a position to make any announcement with regard to either of these two inquiries. All I can say is that the decision cannot be much longer delayed. Meanwhile I do contend on behalf of the Army that they have fully discharged their side of the responsibility, that is to say, they have reduced the cost of the Army to the utmost limits short of reducing its strength. It is possible, I admit, that there may be a few more lakhs . . . . .

Mr. B. Sitaramaraju: If I may interrupt the Honourable Member, I would like to know from him clearly whether the Capitation Rate Tribunal has gone into the question of contribution leviable from the Imperial Exchequer to the Indian Exchequer.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I explained that the Tribunal *had* gone into that question. As I was saying, I admit that a few more thousands of rupees, or possibly a few more lakhs, may come from retrenchment. But I understand that what this House has in mind is a reduction of crores and not of lakhs. A second point is that no useful purpose is really served by quoting statistics which go to show that India pays far more for her defence than other countries of the world. Such statistics are misleading, and must be misleading, firstly, because they assume that all countries are equally vulnerable, which is obviously not the case, and secondly, because it is extremely difficult to arrive at any common basis of calculation. Some countries may include in their defence estimates charges on account of buildings, communications, pensions, and so on; whereas other countries may omit such items. There may be countries which show a comparatively small defence Budget and which yet may be making large preparations for war. Various statistics have been quoted by Honourable Members today and I quite admit that they may be right. All I say is that I could undertake to produce another set of statistics which would take into account various other matters, such as interest on war debt, and so on, and which might show that India did not pay in comparison so much for her defence expenditure as other countries do. I might also point to the fact that the actual incidence of the cost of defence in this country per head of the population is infinitely smaller than it is in any other country of the world.



**An Honourable Member:** But what is the income per head?

**Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham:** Sir, I do not regard such statistics as of the slightest importance. The fact is that the defence of a country is not a luxury; it is a hard necessity and its cost must depend upon the degree of risk to which each particular country is exposed. Meanwhile, I should like to make it clear in view of something that the Honourable the Mover said, that of all the great nations which took part in the Great War and were victorious, Great Britain and India are, I think, the only two nations in the world which have made considerable reductions in their defence expenditure since the war. In almost every other case, defence expenditure has very largely increased. In the second place, Honourable Members may have in mind a 29 crore Budget or something of that kind and may point to the fact that wholesale prices are now below the pre-war level. It does not, however, follow from this that the Army Budget can immediately follow suit. If one analyses the present Army Budget, one will find that no less than 70 per cent. of it goes on the pay and pensions of the troops. Wages in the open market have not fallen to anything like pre-war levels, and I suggest it would be wrong for Government, even if they could take such a course, to reduce the pay and pensions of their servants in view of what they still hope is a purely temporary fall in prices. We have, however, done what we can to adjust ourselves to the fall in prices. The pay of the British soldier has been reduced; the pay of the officers, British and Indian, in this country has been cut; our kit and clothing allowances have been reduced by over 12 lakhs; and the reduction of pay for future entrants of certain classes is under consideration. The sepoy's pay has not been touched, and I hope that nobody will suggest that it should be, although actually it does form a very large proportion of our total expenditure. On the other hand, only 12½ per cent. of our Budget goes on the purchase of stores, and those stores may include anything from raw material on the one hand to a finished aeroplane on the other. It is obvious that though wholesale prices may have fallen to pre-war levels, the price of manufactured articles has not followed suit, and, therefore, we cannot expect to secure equally large reductions on all our stores.

Finally, Sir, Honourable Members of this House may not realise that a 29 crore Budget in 1914 represented actually a larger proportion of the total revenues of India than does a 46 crore Budget today. I have the figures here and can produce them, if necessary. In other words, that means that the level of civil expenditure since the war,—if we are speaking about levels of expenditure,—has increased, while the level of defence expenditure has gone down.

Now, Sir, I shall attempt to deal with two or three of the more important criticisms that have been made during the course of this debate. In the first place, my friend, Sir Muhammad Yakub, complained that we had not given effect to certain recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee and that we had given no explanation for failing to do so. I think, if he were to look at the statements that were laid on the table this time last year, he would find that explanations had been given in all cases in which we had failed to accept the recommendations of the Committee. In the statements that we have laid on the table this year, we have definitely said that we have not repeated those explanations, as a small measure of economy. In any case, I think the recommendations to which Sir Muhammad Yakub referred were mostly of a minor character. If we

[Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham.]

had accepted them, it is true that we might have got another one or two more lakhs of rupees. But, as I said before, I understand that what we are now concerned with is a reduction of crores rather than of lakhs. I can give the Honourable Member in one case the explanation that he asked for—as regards the Lawrence Schools. He complained that we had not accepted that recommendation. The explanation is as follows,—and it was given in last year's Report:

"His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief accepts the principle that the Lawrence Schools should not be charged to the Army Estimates and will be glad to relinquish his responsibility to some other authority. Since the mere transfer of liability from the Army Estimates to some other head is not in itself an economy, the saving taken by the Committee of Rs. 5,90,000 has been omitted from their list. Pending settlement of the general question, it has been found possible to reduce the Army Estimates for the Lawrence Schools by some Rs. 36,000."

Then, Sir, my friend, Diwan Bahadur Ramaswami Mudaliar, made an attack on the Medical Services and the Military Engineer Services. I do not think he will expect me to answer everything that he said now. As regards the Medical Services, I can only point to the fact that we have actually secured Rs. 14½ lakhs saving in the Budget for next year against the recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee of Rs. 9 lakhs in the Budget for 1932-33. It is possible that our savings may be increased. For instance, we have fully accepted the principle of the amalgamation of British and Indian Hospitals, and we are doing our best to give effect to that policy as circumstances permit. Unfortunately, there are certain cantonments in which the Indian Hospital and the British Hospital are situated at different ends of the cantonment, and it would obviously not be an economical proposition to amalgamate them, but wherever we can, we have been doing so.

Then, my friend seemed to regret the fact that our Hospitals were empty, and that our Medical Officers had not enough work to do . . . .

**Diwan Bahadur A. Ramaswami Mudaliar:** I regretted the fact that there were too many Medical Officers.

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham:** Personally I should prefer to see four or even five Medical Officers looking after an empty Hospital than to see one or two Medical Officers looking after a full Hospital. It is very much cheaper.

Then, Sir, there is also the question of dentists. We did look into that matter most carefully, and what we were told was that there was no institution in India which afforded advanced training in dentistry of the kind which we require, and that, I suggest, is a matter which the Local Governments might look into and remedy. I can assure the House that the teeth of the Army are no worse than the teeth of any other section of the population. The fact is, I think, that the medical profession generally have been paying a great deal more attention than they used to do to that part of our anatomy. Generally speaking, I think we must remember that we have grim lessons behind us in the matter of the Medical Services, and we must be careful to do nothing which will adversely affect those Services which have now been brought to a very high level of efficiency and which have, after all, done an enormous amount to improve the health of the Army.

Then, Sir, there is the question of the Military Engineer Service. In the first place, I can assure my friend that all the recommendations we

have accepted have been given effect to. I cannot explain at the moment why it is that the effect of the reduction in the depreciation charges has not been greater; but I think probably the explanation is that the total capital cost of our buildings has increased owing to the addition of new buildings, which have been coming into existence year by year, and, therefore,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. on our present buildings is not so much less, as he might hope, than  $1\frac{3}{8}$  per cent. on the previous buildings.

Then, Sir, as regards establishments we have not announced this fact before, but we have had under consideration a thorough re-organization of the M. E. S. which has recently been accepted and sanctioned by the Secretary of State; and the result of that will be that there will be a reduction of 27 British Officers, against the 24 recommended by the Committee, and a reduction of two temporary civilians (Indians), and an addition of five Indian Assistant Engineers. That gives a total reduction of 24, which was the figure recommended by the Committee. It is possible that next year's Budget does not show the full reduction, but that may be due partly to the fact that some officers who were previously shown under other heads are now shown under M. E. S., and also possibly it will take some time for them to be absorbed and, therefore, provision next year . . .

**Mr. Deputy President** (Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty): The Honourable Member may now conclude.

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham:** Very well, Sir. I have nothing much more to say. I cannot hope that my remarks have satisfied all our critics. We in the Army Department are accustomed to adverse votes in the Assembly. I would merely suggest that it is possible to get too accustomed to such adverse votes. We all know that an adverse vote may be a very desirable stimulant, but if stimulants are administered in too frequent doses, they are apt to lose their effect and may in some cases turn into narcotics. I am not suggesting that we shall be negligent or lethargic in future; but I cannot disguise that it would be an enormous encouragement to us to receive the support of this House for once in a way. If, therefore, I have succeeded in convincing any single Member of this House that we have been making very real and genuine efforts to reduce expenditure, I hope he will give us that encouragement by the way in which he records his vote today.

**Mr. B. Sitaramaraju:** I do not propose to take up much time of the House. I would only like to say that my Honourable friend, the Army Secretary's remark with regard to the contribution and the Army strength that the matter was under the consideration of the Capitation Tribunal is indeed satisfactory to me,—not that the matter has been satisfactorily disposed of, but that the matter, when the report of the Capitation Tribunal is published, would be available to us for discussion. Therefore, for the present purposes, I consider that the matter, so far as the contribution and the Army strength are concerned, may be allowed to lie over for the present.

As regards the third question, the question of retrenchment, I am sorry to say that my Honourable friend's remarks are not as satisfactory as his remarks with regard to the first two. The Honourable gentleman himself has stated that he was able to meet a sum of two crores extra expenditure at a time when we consider that the Army was having a Budget only for its just requirements. After all, even if we were to take into consideration the fact that the prices have gone down, that could

[Mr. B. Sitaramaraju.]

only account for one crore of rupees, but here, as a matter of fact, is an admission that two crores extra expenditure, which was not found in the Budget, was actually found by reappropriation from the allotments allotted in that Budget. That would show that there is, in spite of the repeated statements made by the Army Secretary that they have only budgeted for their just requirements, still room for an expenditure of two crores without exceeding those limits. Further, we were given once to understand that the re-equipment programme had to be abandoned on account of retrenchment or that that was forced on them owing to the depression. We find here actually that no less than  $7\frac{1}{2}$  crores were spent during a period of three years when we were faced with an acute economic depression, and those  $7\frac{1}{2}$  crores were actually spent for that purpose, and all that remains to be done in that direction is only Rs.  $1\frac{1}{2}$  crores. That, again, shows that everything has not been properly done to retrench expenditure. The Honourable gentleman said that the Rs. 29 crores incurred on military expenditure prior to the War was a greater proportion of the revenue than the Rs. 47 crores military expenditure is of the present day revenue. I am afraid, I cannot agree with that. The policy of the Government of India from the earliest times was to take one major head of income for this purpose irrespective of other considerations. In the earlier years, land revenue was a principal source of revenue to the Central Government. When the land revenue was Rs. 17 crores, the military expenditure was 17 crores. When it went up to 21 crores, the military expenditure was 21 crores. Afterwards, when land revenue went over to the provinces, the Government of India transferred their affections to the customs revenue. When the customs revenue was 40 crores the military expenditure was 40 crores. When it went up to 50 crores, the military expenditure went up to 50 crores. (Laughter.) Therefore, all these would show that the actual requirements are never the criterion for expending on this Department.

**Hony. Captain Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand** (Nominated Non-Official): Has this not been the case with other Departments also, law and justice, medical, etc.?

**Mr. B. Sitaramaraju:** Assuming that other Departments have worked in a bad way, is that a reason why this Department also should work in a bad way? I do not think that the Honourable gentleman is right in comparing this with other Departments, because the expenditure of the Army Department in India has no parallel anywhere else in the world. I am sorry that the Army Secretary has not noted the fact when I read the Simon Commission report where a statement is made that we were spending on military expenditure twice and thrice the sum spent by all the other Empire countries put together, excluding Britain. We stand seventh among the Great Powers of the world so far as military expenditure is concerned.

The Army Secretary was taking credit for having reduced a sum of nine crores, and he also referred to the fact that immediately after the War the expenditure was even 63 crores, and that it has now been reduced to 47 crores, which he thinks is a reduction to be satisfied with. But I would invite Honourable Members' attention to the way in which the military expenditure has doubled after the War when other nations have reduced their expenditure. Only for the purpose of improved barrack and hospital accommodation and electric lighting, for an increase of

establishment of the Army Dental Corps in 1927, for a military nursing service for Indian troops sanctioned in 1926 and matters of that description, a sum of over 30 crores was added over and above the expenditure of 29 crores, that is to say, twice the sum was spent merely for the above purposes. It is no credit to say now that they have reduced from that high figure of 63 crores. I am glad that the Honourable gentleman has admitted that there are even in such an excellent and efficient department as the Army some bad points which my Honourable friend, Mr. Mudaliar, has emphasised. I am sorry to say that adequate answer has not been given to the remarks made by my Honourable friend, Mr. Mudaliar, particularly with reference to the two Departments which he has mentioned, namely, the Medical Services and the Military Engineering Services. The Army Secretary referred to the question of amalgamation of British and Indian Hospitals. I find in the Budget of 1933-34 a note at page 95 which states:

"In order to effect economy, it has been arranged at certain stations that Indian Military Hospitals should have small British sections attached to them and *vice versa* instead of having two complete Hospitals at the same station."

I thought that a great reform had been inaugurated, but great was my surprise when I found the identical words in the Budget Estimates of 1930-31. Sir, it seems that the priests of the Army Medical Service have an incantation which they repeat year after year.

The Retrenchment Committee have suggested nearly three crores retrenchment, but we find actually a reduction of only one crore and 70 lakhs, I will close with one more word. The threat that if the prices would go up it would increase the burden of military expenditure is very startling and very unpleasant at the moment when we are faced with an acute economic crisis. In fact, while the whole country is burning with economic depression, my friends in the military are fiddling with these re-equipment programmes regardless of the dire need for retrenchment. With these words, I resume my seat.

**Mr. Deputy President** (Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty): The question is:

"That the demand under the head 'Army Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The Assembly divided:

AYES—39.

Abdul Matin Chaudhury, Mr.  
 Abdur Rahim, Sir.  
 Anwar-ul-Azim, Mr. Muhammad.  
 Azhar Ali, Mr. Muhammad.  
 Biswas, Mr. C. C.  
 Das, Mr. B.  
 Dutt, Mr. Amar Nath.  
 Gour, Sir Hari Singh.  
 Hoon, Mr. A.  
 Jadhav, Mr. B. V.  
 Jehangir, Sir Cowasji.  
 Jog, Mr. S. G.  
 Joshi, Mr. N. M.  
 Krishnamachariar, Raja Bahadur G.  
 Kyaw Myint, U  
 Lahiri Chaudhury, Mr. D. K.  
 Lalchand Navalrai, Mr.  
 Maswood Ahmad, Mr. M.  
 Misra, Mr. B. N.  
 Mitra, Mr. S. C.  
 Mody, Mr. H. P.

Mudaliar, Diwan Bahadur A. Ramaswami.  
 Murtuza Sahab Bahadur, Maulvi Sayyid.  
 Neogy, Mr. K. C.  
 Pandit, Rao Bahadur S. R.  
 Parma Nand, Bhai.  
 Ranga Iyer, Mr. C. S.  
 Reddi, Mr. T. N. Ramakrishna.  
 Roy, Rai Bahadur Sukhraj.  
 Sen, Pandit Satyendra Nath.  
 Shafee Daoodi, Maulvi Muhammad.  
 Singh, Mr. Gaya Prasad.  
 Sitaramaraju, Mr. B.  
 Sohan Singh, Sirdar.  
 Thampan, Mr. K. P.  
 Uppi Sahab Bahadur, Mr.  
 Wajihuddin, Khan Bahadur Haji.  
 Yakub, Sir Muhammad.  
 Ziauddin Ahmad, Dr.

## NOES—44.

Abdul Hye, Khan Bahadur Abul  
Hasnat Muhammad.  
Acott, Mr. A. S. V.  
Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab.  
Allah Baksh Khan Tiwana, Khan  
Bahadur Malik.  
Amir Hussain, Khan Bahadur Saiyid.  
Bajpai, Mr. G. S.  
Bhore, The Honourable Sir Joseph.  
Clow, Mr. A. G.  
Dalal, Dr. R. D.  
DeSouza, Dr. F. X.  
Dutt, Mr. G. S.  
Dutt, Mr. P. C.  
Fox, Mr. H. B.  
Grant, Mr. C. F.  
Gwynne, Mr. C. W.  
Haig, The Honourable Sir Harry.  
Hezlett, Mr. J.  
Hudson, Sir Leslie.  
James, Mr. F. E.  
Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur  
Sardar.  
Lal Chand, Hony. Captain Rao  
Bahadur Chaudhri.

Leach, Mr. A. G.  
Mackenzie, Mr. R. T. H.  
Metcalfe, Mr. H. A. F.  
Miller, Mr. E. S.  
Mitchell, Mr. D. G.  
Mitter, The Honourable Sir  
Brojendra.  
Moore, Mr. Arthur.  
Morgan, Mr. G.  
Mukherjee, Rai Bahadur S. C.  
Nihal Singh, Sardar.  
Noyce, The Honourable Sir Frank.  
Rafuddin Ahmad, Khan Bahadur  
Maulvi.  
Rau, Mr. P. R.  
Ryan, Sir Thomas.  
Schuster, The Honourable Sir George.  
Scott, Mr. J. Ramsay.  
Seaman, Mr. C. K.  
Sher Muhammad Khan Gakhar,  
Captain.  
Singh, Mr. Pradvumna Prashad.  
Smart, Mr. W. W.  
Smith, Mr. R.  
Tottenham, Mr. G. R. F.  
Vachha, Khan Bahadur J. B.

The motion was negatived.

**Mr. Deputy President** (Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty): The question is:

"That a reduced sum not exceeding Rs. 4,08,999 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1934, in respect of the 'Army Department'."

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND NO. 31—FOREIGN AND POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

**Mr. Deputy President** (Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty): The House will now take up for consideration Demand No. 31. The motion before the House is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,63,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1934, in respect of the 'Foreign and Political Department'."

*Retrenchment of Expenditure controlled by the Foreign and Political Department and Indianisation.*

**Sir Abdur Rahim** (Calcutta and Suburbs: Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Foreign and Political Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

in order that we may discuss the questions of retrenchment of expenditure controlled by the Department, and of Indianisation.

Sir, the Army Secretary, in replying to the motion moved by my friend, Mr. Sitaramaraju, said that it is they that are responsible for the efficiency of the Army and for the expenditure incurred over the Army, implying thereby that the Legislature should abstain, as much as possible, from criticising the action of his Department. If that applies to the Army

Department, I am afraid, it applies with equal, if not stronger, force to the Foreign and Political Department. The Army Secretary also said that the Army is considered by some people in this House as a sort of dark dungeon. I wonder then how he would describe our ignorance with reference to the Foreign and Political Department. Sir, it is difficult for us to point out exactly what is the expenditure controlled by that Department and what savings, if any, have been effected in that Department. Sir, we have got to look not only into the big book of Demands for Grants, but also into an appendix that has been supplied to us. From the figures that I find there, it seems to me that the Budget of this Department—not only of the Secretariat, but also what is called “Political” and the various other terms under that head—comes to Rs. 3,92,21,100. I have tried my best to make the calculation and that is the result which I have reached. That does not include any expenditure for the N.-W. F. Province which has now its own Government and the Government of India only give them a subvention of one crore. If we take that into account, namely, the amount that is given to the N.-W. F. Province, the expenditure under the Foreign and Political Department would come to Rs. four crores 92 lakhs odd.

Now, when the General Purposes Sub-Committee went into the question of expenditure of this Department about the end of 1931, that Committee made certain proposals for reduction. Those proposals amounted altogether to one crore 33 lakhs odd, including the reductions proposed in the Budget of the N.-W. F. Province. The inquiry had been started before the separation of that province was effected, and the Committee's proposals also included a certain amount for Aden, I think, amounting to about Rs. 63,000. I do not think that the expenditure in that connection is included in the present Budget. If we, therefore, exclude the N.-W. F. Province Administration, and Aden, but include the expenditure under Watch and Ward and “Political” appertaining to that province, then in that case, the reductions proposed by the Sub-Committee would amount to Rs. 1,21,31,000. It was with reference to the Budget of 1931-32, that the Sub-Committee made its recommendations. So far as the present Budget shows, the saving in expenditure would only amount to Rs. 27,59,000. As I said yesterday, I wish, Sir, we had a statement from the Government as regards the reductions that have been made by them in the various Departments including the Foreign and Political Department. We have no such statement before us, and, therefore, I had to grope my way as best I could among the figures. Now, while the General Purposes Sub-Committee was sitting, we were informed that the Government were prepared to accept a reduction of 72 lakhs in the Foreign and Political Budget as against the figure of one crore 33 lakhs recommended by us. If the figures that I have given now are correct, then in that case it seems that the Government have not carried out even the reduction that they accepted at the time, in the present Budget. I should like to have a full statement from the Government on this point. Even if they reduced the Budget by 72 lakhs the reductions would amount to about 54 per cent. of the amount recommended by the Sub-Committee. Sir, it is not possible, within the very short time at my disposal, to deal with even the salient points on which we have made recommendations for retrenchment. But the Sub-Committee went very carefully into the question and produced a fairly big volume giving all the details. The conclusions reached by the Sub-Committee will be found at a glance at pages 261-262 of the Book where a summary is given. If we had the figures of the Government, we should be in a position to know how far Government have carried out the

[Sir Abdur Rahim.]

recommendations of the Sub-Committee,—under what heads they have thought fit not to accept our recommendations and under what heads they have actually accepted the recommendations of the Sub-Committee. The House knows—I am not sure that every Honourable Member knows it—that the Foreign and Political Department is an extremely mixed Department. It has, for instance, under its control certain Local Administrations, leaving out the N.-W. F. Province which now has a Government of its own, Ajmer-Merwara, Baluchistan, and it is also responsible for certain military organizations or semi-military organizations which are generally known as the Frontier Watch and Ward. Besides that, there are corps of certain aboriginal tribes known as the Mina Bhil Corps, the Mewa Bhil Corps and also another Corps, the Malwa Bhil Corps. Now, one of the recommendations of the Sub-Committee was that so far as the Frontier Watch and Ward is concerned, which accounts for an expenditure of nearly two crores—one crore 92 lakhs to be exact—most of it at any rate, if not the entire amount, should be debited to the Military Budget, because it is really a military organization, directed by military officers and maintained for more or less military purposes. Upon the materials that were available to us, the Sub-Committee recommended certain retrenchments in these military organizations. Now, in dealing with the question of retrenchment as well as Indianization, the Honourable Members of this House must feel the difficulty, that very little is known to the public regarding the operations of the Political Department, its organizations and the principles upon which it acts.

Now, take the Political Department proper; that is, the Political Agencies in the States within the limits of India. It was borne  
4 P.M. in upon us that so far as the question, for instance, of Indianisation or even of any large retrenchment is concerned, there were practical difficulties. There is an impression that the States in which the Residencies or Agencies are situated or which are looked after by those Agencies or Residencies may not like to have many Indians in the service. I understand from my Honourable friend, Diwan Bahadur Mudaliar, that this was contradicted by the Princes themselves at the Round Table Conference. Now, Sir, supposing that there is some foundation for thinking that as a matter of fact there is objection on the part of the States or some of the States to the employment of Indians in this Department, what does it amount to? The position is this. A great deal of stress is laid on the question of Paramountcy and it is contended by some people that the States must have as they have now, direct relations with the Crown, and it is not for British India, that is the India where we live, to intervene in the matter at all. Now, Sir, this is a very knotty question, but it seems to me that, if we look at the facts in their proper light, the answer is not at all difficult to reach. We all know the history of these Political Agencies or Residencies that were established in those early days when the British first assumed control of Government here, and these Agents and Residents were really Agents of the British people in the courts of those Princes or States. I suppose during those troublous days it was apprehended that for the safety of British Government they should have their own men in the States. Sir, what is the position now? The position now is that not only are the Political Agents there, but we have, I believe, a number of British officials in the service of the States themselves, and India is, looking forward, I mean, a number of politically minded people are looking forward to a real federation of the two Indias. If you proceed



on the strict basis that the question of relations between the States and the Crown is one in which British India cannot interfere, then the further question would naturally be asked, why should British India be saddled with the cost? And this becomes very relevant in connection with the question of retrenchment. I daresay, most of the Princes themselves would like to maintain direct relations with the Crown, and if that is also the attitude of Government, then it seems to me very difficult to justify saddling British India with any part of the cost on the Foreign and Political Department at all, because in that case it is the Imperial interest that has to be guarded. On the other hand, if there is likely to be a real federation between the two parts of India and, if we are to proceed on that basis, then the cost ought to be shared between the two, for it would then be in the common interest that these Agencies should be maintained in the States. As it is, it is we that have to pay the entire cost, and I want the House to bear this in mind in dealing with the question of retrenchment. The General Purposes Sub-Committee, while indicating their views as regards the question of policy, satisfied itself with proposing what it considered to be very moderate reductions in the expenditure of this Department. For instance, there are some Agencies which can be doubled up. There are a number of offices which can be reduced. There is the question of supervision or inspection of the Indian State Forces. The cost of that is entirely borne by the British India revenues while, as a matter of fact, the benefit accrues mainly to the States themselves.

**Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar:** No, it accrues to British India.

**Sir Abdur Rahim:** No doubt, if it is a part of the Indian Army, the benefit accrues to the whole of India. As regards that, however, the evidence that we had before the General Purposes Sub-Committee was that, as a matter of fact, the Indian Army could not interfere with the organisation or direction of these forces at all. Yet provision is made for their training and inspection out of the revenues of British India. That is the evidence we had and it is upon that evidence that I am basing my remarks.

Sir, as regards the question of Indianisation, what are the facts? I have before me the Quarterly List of the Foreign and Political Department, dated the 1st July, 1932,—I have not one of a later date,—but, if you go through the list, you will find a certain number of Indian names, names of those who are employed under this Department, but most of them doing judicial, administrative, i.e., magisterial or police or educational work. If you look for names of Indians, who are employed in what is political work proper, then all that I can find, subject to correction, is that there are only two men who are employed in such work—may be three, I believe it is not more than two or three. The rest are all employed in ordinarily judicial, magisterial or police or educational duties. Now, Sir, that, I submit, amounts practically to the exclusion of Indians from this Department. Of course if you accept the theory that political relations must be determined between the Crown and the States themselves alone, then the people of British India are out of court. In that case, the demand for expenditure under this head must also go. (Applause.) Sir, is there really any justification for excluding Indians from the Foreign and Political Department—I mean from the officers grades,—for there are of course a number of men employed in the clerical or subordinate staff, but from the officers' cadre, the Indians are practically excluded. I do

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not suggest that only men of British India should have a chance of being employed in these political agencies, but there is no reason why men of the States cannot be employed in similar capacities. We find that we have Indians now as Consular Officers or Agents in some other countries. In Europe, we have one or two. In South Africa we have one, and are we really to be told now that Indians should have no look into the agencies and residencies in India itself? There is the Foreign Branch of the Department which deals with the Envoys and Consulates outside India. There also an important question arises—how far should India bear the cost of these legations or consulates. The case that was put forward was this, that is, the case of the Foreign and Political Department, that expenditure on the Consulates, in the Persian Gulf littoral, in Persia, Arabia, Afghanistan, Baluchistan, Nepal, Tibet, all these are justifiable as being required for trade purposes. Now, Sir, there can be no doubt that India does carry on trade with these countries, and this trade has been carried on from time immemorial. But I do say with confidence that it is not to safeguard India's trade interests that any of these, or at any rate most of these agencies were established. (Hear, hear.)

If you look at the personnel of the Political Department, you will see that it consists of military officers or I. C. S. officers who have had no training or experience which would fit them to safeguard the trade interests of India. If you look at the entire organisation of the Department, of the foreign consulates and legations, the result is the same, that is to say, they are not maintained for trade purposes at all. This was recognised even by the British Government some time ago, who consented, so far as Persia and Persian Gulf is concerned, that they would bear half the cost, but still there seems to be very little justification for saddling India with the rest of the cost. Britain maintains embassies and consulates all over the world. Take for instance, the embassy or legation in Persia. Surely that is a British Imperial affair. This question was recently raised in connection with certain payment which India had to make towards the expenditure in China with reference to a certain consulate there. A Committee was appointed with Sir Henry Wheeler as Chairman. This Committee recommended that this expenditure should not be saddled on India and that the cost should be borne entirely by the British Exchequer. I do not see any reason why a proper enquiry should not be held with respect to similar payments with respect to consulate establishments in other parts of Asia. I mean to say that if a proper enquiry were held, then we should be in a better position to know why India should or should not bear any portion of the cost, what benefit India derives from these establishments and, if the cost is to be divided, what is the proper proportion between the two countries? This involves a big question of policy which suggested itself to the General Purposes Sub-Committee and which, I submit to the House, also requires careful examination. As regards the foreign consular establishments generally, we were in a difficult position, so far as obtaining the necessary information was concerned, but with the material available to the Sub-Committee it was in a position to recommend certain reductions in expenditure which were obvious to them. Sir, on this Sub-Committee we had the advantage of having Mr. Ramsay Scott, who was familiar with the condition of things in Persia, Baluchistan, and Afghanistan and who helped us greatly with information, and I should like to say that we felt very much strengthened in our recommendations by his support.

It is not possible to deal in detail with a subject like this within the short time at our disposal. All that I wish to say is: that it is an important Department which affords room for considerable retrenchment and I should like to hear from the Honourable the Secretary in charge of the Department what economies have been effected up to date. I should like to have a full statement of what has been done, what recommendations he was able to accept and what he did not accept. It is then that we shall be in a position to pass full judgment on the Budget of this Department.

**Mr. Deputy President** (Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty): Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Foreign and Political Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

**Mr. B. Das** (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, my Leader, Sir Abdur Rahim (Interruption and Cheers) enunciated a proposition that the Princes should bear the expenditure of the Political Department. I know the Political Department is a luxury and that Political Agents are a luxury; and we know that Princes have many luxuries; but Princes, like protected industries, are protected personages. So, naturally, when they incur any debts or commit any violence in British India, they cannot stand the racket of the British Courts and they also require that India and the Indian tax-payer should supply this additional luxury, the Political Department . . . . .

**Mr. Deputy President** (Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty): The Honourable Member cannot indulge in any attacks on the Indian Princes; it is not permitted by the rules.

**Mr. B. Das:** I am only referring to the Political Administration—how far under the coming Federation this thing will be possible—I do not think the Davidson Report says at all that the Princes should contribute a little more to the Indian Exchequer so that the cost of the Political Department might be partly borne by them. But while travelling nearly four weeks ago from Bombay to Cuttack, my native place, and from Cuttack to Delhi, I heard that the different Political Agents were exercising great pressure on the small tiny Rajas and Maharajas that they should oppose tooth and nail their coming into the Federation, because, when they come into the Federation, there are the Congress firebrands like Mr. S. C. Mitra and myself and Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh who will swallow these Princes and there will be no existence of these Princes in the Federal Assembly when they become part and parcel of the Federal Assembly. I am not today so sanguine that the Federation is coming at all or that the Princes will come into the Federation or that they will contribute their quota to meet the cost of administration of the Political Department. I do agree that there should be economy and retrenchment in the Political Department and I will not touch the special portfolio of my Honourable friend, Mr. Metcalfe,—the Foreign Department: I entirely agree with the observations of my friend and revered Leader, Sir Abdur Rahim, regarding the Foreign Department's policy. About the Political Department, I would like to illustrate it by referring to the particular part

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of the country which I inhabit—Orissa. As all of us know, Orissa is going to be a separate Province . . . . .

**Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe** (Foreign Secretary): May I point out that that question is still under consideration with the Secretary of State and that no decision has been taken and no decision is likely to be taken for some little time, and whether it will be discussed in those circumstances? That is information to the Honourable Member.

**Mr. Deputy President** (Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty): About the separation of Orissa?

**Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe**: No; placing of the Orissa States under the Government of India, Political Department, is a matter at present under consideration.

**Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh** (Muzaffarpur *cum* Champaran: Non-Muhamadan): But have you not got sanction from the Standing Finance Committee for giving effect to that recommendation? The other day a meeting was held when we sanctioned a sum of money for this purpose.

**Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe**: It is still under consideration: the matter is awaiting the orders of the Secretary of State.

**Mr. B. Das**: I do not wish to embarrass my friend, Mr. Metcalfe, but I wish to put certain matters for consideration by him and also by the Secretary of State. That is all I want and I am very glad that my friend, Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh, pointed out that the whole matter came up before the Standing Finance Committee and I read a portion of it published in the *Hindustan Times* this morning. I wish to point out that in Orissa the people are very apprehensive. There is strong rumour that the office of the Political Agent will be removed from Orissa—it is now located at Sambalpur,—and will be taken away to Bihar. Everybody knows that I am being separated from Bihar and we do not like that Bihar should become the headquarters for the Agent's office. Of course my Honourable friend, Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh, from Bihar wants always to profit at other people's cost. There are twenty-six States in Orissa known as the Orissa States and fourteen States in the Central Provinces. Why should the office be located in Bihar I cannot understand; and I would like to read here a resolution which was passed recently at the Utkal Leaders' Conference:

"This Conference is of opinion that the office of the Agent to the Governor-General for the Orissa States should be located in Orissa."

I am pointing out the whole thing from the view point of retrenchment. If the Agent's office is located at Sambalpur, then there is no necessity for any extra expenditure. But if the office is located at Ranchi, where, I am told, the Bihar Government has offered the Government of India two or three rickety buildings, the Biharis will come and work as the administrators and office staff of the Orissa States. We do not want outsiders to come to Orissa at all. There are enough Oriyas to look after

Orissa and Orissa States. I do hope the money that the Government of India spend for the Army or for the Political Department is distributed on a certain proportionate basis in the Provinces. Why is my friend, Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan, so anxious that the Army should be located in the North-West Frontier? Because most of the money is spent there and his people, whether they are shop-keepers or *bhistiwalas* or camel drivers—they all derive benefit from the money that the Army spends; it returns to the people there. I would like that the Army should be distributed and located in every Province so that the amount spent by the Central Government—(interruption) I do not yield—is returned to the people of the country. That is my submission to my friend, Mr. Metcalfe. I am not speaking to find fault with his Department; but I do wish that the Department, which he and his colleague control, will see that the office of the Political Agent is not removed from the interior of Orissa to a place outside Orissa and force on us intermediary rulers who will come from my friend, Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh's Province. We have had enough intermediary rulers: we have had enough Bengalis and enough Telugus and we do not want to be saddled with Bihari friends from Ranchi. I do not wish to talk about general retrenchment and I do feel, my friend, Mr. Metcalfe, will consider the proposition I have put forward whereby lots of money will be retrenched in the administration of the office of the Agent to the Governor General which will be shortly put up for the Orissa States. The people of these Orissa States should have easy approach to their Political Agent and Agent to the Governor General and that is why the Oriya people are so anxious that the Political Agent's Office should not be removed from Sambalpur in Orissa.

**Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar:** Sir, the motion comprises two different Departments of the Government of India—the Foreign and the Political. So far as the Foreign Department is concerned, I do not profess to know much about its operations and I do not, therefore, intend to take the time of the House by making observations upon a matter with which I am not particularly acquainted. But, I know some little thing about the Political Agency and I hope the House will allow me a few minutes to make my observations upon that portion of the motion which relates to retrenchment in connection with the Political Department. I will take first the question of the Indian States Army which, I said, was decidedly and distinctly for the benefit of the British Government. I say so, because if you will look back to the history of these Imperial Service Troops as they are called in Hyderabad—and I believe they are so called in other States, I certainly know it is so called in Mysore, the late Nizam, at the time of the Pinjdi incident, offered a sum of Rs. 60 lakhs for helping the British Indian Government in order to pursue their operations against the intended Russian invasion. Sir, the Russians never intended to invade. Certain officers got all those decorations that they used to get after the military operations and the Russians were supposed to have withdrawn having come half the way. However, these 60 lakhs were not utilised for some time, and then a brilliant idea struck somebody that it would be better to utilise that sum as a fund to raise and organize troops on the British Indian model so that they might be useful in time of war. That, Sir, is the genesis of the Hyderabad Imperial Service Troops, and that, I believe, is the genesis of the entire Imperial Service Troops, some of which were organized under circumstances which probably it would not be sane to make mention of here. However, what

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happens is this. They are not certainly under the operation of the Indian Military Regulations, but directly they are drafted into the field, they are under one command, they are under one set of rules and the Acts or Regulations in the various States have been amended in order to bring them into conformity with the Rules and Regulations obtaining in British India so far as the Army is concerned. Now, Sir, there is an officer called the Inspector General for the Imperial Service Troops and there are all sorts of other officers subordinate to him, and they are all paid from the British Indian Exchequer. If you look at the duties of these Imperial Service Troops, you will find that they have nothing absolutely to do during peace time. If there is a Commander-in-Chief's visit or if there is some other Army Manœuvre, all these troops come and decorate the field, with beautiful badges on their breasts and first class horses for the lancers and then they make all sorts of manœuvres and go home. That is the service these people render, and this is how they are kept fit, and there is an establishment to keep them fit. That, Sir, I understood, was the attack of my friend, Sir Abdur Rahim, when he said that the cost of training of those troops and keeping them fit should not be saddled on the British Indian Exchequer.

Now, with regard to the Political Agencies and Residents, we all remember, Sir, the picturesque description of Lord Macaulay where he says that even now there is a Nizam whose capital is overawed by a British cantonment and at whose Court there is a Resident who, under the shape of advice, gives commands which dare not be disobeyed. That is what Lord Macaulay wrote, and the position is not very much different today.

**An Honourable Member:** It is much worse.

**Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar:** I cannot say it is worse, for the reason that so much light has been beating now-a-days upon the operations of Political Agents and Political Residents that they, in spite of the extraordinary powers they possess or claim to deport people who make themselves a nuisance within their administered areas, are not in a position to exercise all those autocratic powers, more autocratic, I assure you, than even the powers of the Princes themselves which they used to exercise in the olden days.

Now, take the Hyderabad Residency. We have got there the Resident, two Assistant Residents and an extra Assistant. The Resident gets, I believe, Rs. 4,200 and Rs. 800 as sumptuary allowance. (*An Honourable Member:* "Sumptuous allowance")—I do not know what it is. Then, there is a First Resident, whose pay is somewhere about Rs. 1,800 to Rs. 2,000, and there is a second Assistant Resident whose pay is about Rs. 1,000. In the olden days, they administered the Berars and, later on, they administered certain cantonments and certain other areas. Now, all those things have gone. They have got in a grand name what they call the administered areas, and if you will look into it, you will find the railway lines as well as a few trade spots here and there are all they have got. In order to administer this, they have got these administrative officers.

There is a little story about the Indianisation which, I think, I might tell the House briefly. In the olden days, when Sir T. Plowden was the Resident of Hyderabad, he wanted to appoint, not a First or Second

Assistant Resident, but an extra Assistant Resident, who is the chief ministerial officer in the Residency, an Indian, by name Mr. Ganpatrao Sahasrabudhe. Telegraph wires were busy humming with telegrams between the then Foreign Office and the Residency at Hyderabad informing them that the skies were going to fall if Mr. Ganpatrao Sahasrabudhe were appointed Extra Assistant Resident. Sir T. Plowden was a strong man. Whatever may be said against him, he always stood out for the Indians and he at once offered his resignation, and he said: "Either you allow me to appoint this man or you may accept my resignation." Then Mr. Ganpatrao was appointed. That used to be the fight in the olden days. It is news to me,—I believe my friend, Diwan Bahadur Ramaswami Mudaliar, said just now that the Princes themselves do not want that Indians should be appointed. I do not know which Princes said that. I do not doubt . . . .

**Mr. Lalchand Navalral:** It is a fact.

**Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar:** I do not doubt that fact at all. That is why I am trying to know which Indian Princes said that and on what occasion . . . .

**Mr. N. M. Joshi** (Nominated Non-Official): They did not say that.

**Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar:** Very well, I do not know who said that. Surely, Sir, if one had had the time to read the speeches of His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner, regarding the pranks played by the various Political Agents attached to his Court, it would be curious that these Indian Princes should not like to have a few Indians in their States as Political Officers.

Now, I know a little bit of a story regarding the appointment of an Indian Executive Councillor. When one Member was proposed to be added to the Viceroy's Executive Council and also to the Governors' Executive Councils in the various Presidencies, it was stated that the whole of the British Empire in India would crumble down if Indians were admitted there, because the entire secrets of the Government of India and of the Provincial Governments would be known to the outside public and India would not be worth having for more than six months. I believe—I speak subject to correction.—His late Majesty the King Edward was persuaded to believe in that story, but, Sir, there was a statesman at the helm of affairs, the late Mr. John Morley. He was not going to stand any such nonsense. Before, however, this matter came to a head, an objection was raised that the Indian Princes would not like it . . . .

**Sir Cowasji Jehangir:** Like what?

**Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar:** They would not like the addition of one or two Indian Executive Councillors, and the Indian Princes would be dead against any such appointments. The reason is this. When the Indian Princes come to the headquarters of the Government of India the Indian Executive Councillors would take precedence over the Indian Princes including His Highness the Nizam. Therefore they told these Indian Princes: "Look here, your prestige is at stake if we appoint Indians as Members of the Executive Councils, you will be relegated to a second position". Well, Sir, the tables were turned. I believe the Government

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of India were told that the position occupied by an Indian Prince in the Court in British India was quite different from the official precedence established for the purposes of office in British India, and unfortunately the Viceroy's position itself was shown as an example that directly he hands over charge of his Viceroyalty he does not any longer take any precedence over any Indian State, while the rank of the Princes depended on their birth. However, the fact of the matter is . . . . .

**Diwan Bahadur A. Ramaswami Mudaliar:** May I interrupt my friend for a minute. I did not speak in this House, but I told my Leader, Sir Abdur Rahim, that the Indian Princes had stated, on behalf of their Chamber, at the Round Table Conference, that they had no objection to Indians serving in the Political Department.

**Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar:** I am very sorry I misunderstood . .

**Sir Abdur Rahim:** And that is exactly what I said.

**Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar:** I am very sorry I misunderstood my friend. I thought it was the other way. Otherwise I should not have wasted the time of the House over that sort of thing. Sir, if you look into the composition, into the personnel of these Residencies, you will find that a still larger amount than that proposed by Sir Abdur Rahim could be reduced from these establishments, and I, therefore, submit that the cut is a perfectly reasonable one and ought to be supported. I do not think I should take up the time of the House any more. I ask the House to consider this question seriously and pass the cut unanimously against the Government.

**Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe:** The Department which I represent has been attacked on so many counts that I shall have to devote myself almost entirely to defending it against one, the charge made by the Honourable the Mover of the motion that we have failed on the subject of retrenchment, and secondly, the connected charge that we have failed sufficiently to Indianise the Department. Before I comment on the subject of retrenchment, I should like to express my gratitude to my Honourable friend, Sir Abdur Rahim, on two counts. The first is that I am grateful to him for giving me an opportunity to abandon my habitual attitude of reticence (Laughter) and to lay before the House all my cards. The second is that I am grateful to him for having given me an opportunity of stating what my Department has done in the matter of retrenchment, which it is obvious from the figures which he stated to the House he has not clearly realised.

The Budget of 1931-32, on which the Retrenchment Committee, over which Sir Abdur Rahim presided, commenced to work, amounted actually to Rs. 648 lakhs and the retrenchment which they recommended on that was Rs. 133 lakhs. Taking that figure of Rs. 648 lakhs, we have first reduced it by Rs. 120 lakhs which is the amount provided for the provincial expenditure, by which I mean expenditure on the North-West Frontier Province. Over that the Foreign and Political Department has no longer any control, nor, therefore, are they able to effect any retrenchment. There are a number of other figures too included in the remaining figure of Rs. 530 lakhs over which we have no real control. They represent treaty



payments, obligatory payments owing to agreements effected many years ago, and also payments which are set off by receipts which are shown in other places. They amount to about Rs. 32 lakhs. The eventual amount which is susceptible, therefore, of retrenchment is Rs. 485 lakhs on which the General Purposes Sub-Committee recommended a total retrenchment of Rs. 121 lakhs, or approximately, 25 per cent. I have brought these figures to the notice of the House with some care, because, I think, it is desirable that they should realise exactly how much was recommended, and I should like at this stage also to point out to the House that those figures are only susceptible of reduction within certain clearly defined limits.

This Department includes among its activities the administrative control and the payment for the administration of at least three fairly important administrations—I refer to Baluchistan, Ajmer and Aden. The Department also conduct political relations on behalf of the Government of India with something over 500 Indian States. They also represent the interests of the Government of India in all the countries which border India. They also, and this is a very important thing, exercise political control and partial administration over the tribal areas of the North-West Frontier.

I will now turn to a statement, which I have here, showing the actual recommendations made by the General Purposes Sub-Committee, the retrenchments which we have effected and an explanation of our failure in each case to work up to the full amount of that recommendation. The first item which I will take—I will take all the important items in turn—is the Foreign and Political Department Secretariat. The General Purposes Sub-Committee recommended a reduction of Rs. 2,75,000. In 1932-33, we effected a reduction of Rs. 1,42,000, and, in the present Budget, we have effected a reduction of Rs. 1,90,000. We are, therefore, only a sum of Rs. 85,000 short of the full amount recommended. In this connection I may point out that the General Purposes Sub-Committee recommended that one of the two Secretaries in the Department should be abolished and also one Deputy Secretary. I can assure the House from my experience, having done the work of both Secretary and Deputy Secretary, that all of us have a very full time job.

**Mr. S. C. Mitra** (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions: Non-Muhamadan Rural): We suggested, instead of having two Secretaries, to have one head and a Joint Secretary.

**Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe**: Even that has, under the present circumstances, been found to be entirely impracticable. As the House will understand, a great deal of extra work is at present thrown upon the Department by the necessity for dealing with the various suggestions for Federation and Constitutional Reform. That reason alone is sufficient at the present time to make it quite impracticable to reduce the existing staff in the Department.

I will now turn to the North-West Frontier. In the political expenditure there, a cut was recommended of Rs. 2,75,000. We effected a saving of Rs. 1,64,000 in 1932-33, and in 1933-34 we worked up to Rs. 2,14,000. We are, therefore, only a sum of Rs. 61,000 short of achieving the full amount recommended. Under Frontier Watch and Ward, which includes an item to which my Honourable friend referred, namely, the irregular corps and so forth, a recommendation was made for a cut of Rs. five lakhs. We have already achieved in this Budget up to Rs. 4,50,000 and are, therefore, only a sum of Rs. 50,000 short of the amount recommended. Here,

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again, I must point out that the whole question of the civil armed forces on the North-West Frontier is one which has received the most careful consideration, not by one Committee, but by several, and only as recently as, I think, eighteen months ago, the whole question was most carefully examined by representatives of this Department, of the Army Department and of the Air Force whose recommendations have to a large extent been accepted. Further reduction is still being examined and will be examined. But the House must remember that we have in that area international obligations which we must fulfil, I refer to our obligations to Afghanistan. If we are deprived of the weapons, with which we exercise our political control, it will be impossible to fulfil those international obligations.

I turn now to Baluchistan. The Committee there recommended a cut of 10 lakhs and 25 thousand. In the first Budget after that, we made a reduction of eight lakhs and 48 thousand and, in this Budget, we have made a reduction of nine lakhs and 55 thousand. We are, therefore, only 70 thousand short out of the total recommendation of 10 lakhs and 25 thousand. In the case of Ajmer-Merwara, a reduction was recommended of three lakhs and two thousand. The reduction actually effected is three lakhs and 72 thousand. In the case of Rajputana, a reduction was recommended of three lakhs 42 thousand, and here we have so far only been able to work up to a reduction of one lakh and 99 thousand in the 1933-34 Budget. The reason for our failure to fulfil more is that the cut of one lakh and 50 thousand recommended on the Rajputana Police has proved to be impracticable. The matter, however, will be further considered. With regard to Central India, a cut of three lakhs and 25 thousand was recommended, and we have made a cut of three lakhs and 13 thousand in the present Budget. For Hyderabad, a cut of 1.61 lakhs was recommended, and we have made a cut of 1.58 lakhs in the present Budget. For the Western India States, 3.25 was recommended and we have made a cut of 2.74. There, again, we are only 51 thousand short out of 3½ lakhs. I may mention something about Aden at this stage since my Honourable friend devoted a few words of his speech to that subject. The reduction which was recommended by the General Purposes Sub-Committee was only 63 thousand and we have actually effected a reduction of a lakh and four thousand.

Now, the next important items are the Political Grant and the Frontier Watch and Ward grant. I will deal first with the Frontier Watch and Ward. There a recommendation was made for 48 lakhs and 55 thousand. In 1932-33, we retrenched 20 lakhs and in the following year we retrenched 22. There is a deficiency there of 25 lakhs which I will try to explain. The first reason is, we are six lakhs and 14 thousand short on works expenditure. There we have cut down all new works and we have reduced everything to the point at which we are merely carrying out the absolutely essential repairs. If these repairs are not carried out, eventually Government will be forced to spend a great deal more money than they are spending now and the result will be anything but economy. As regards the other big items, the Committee recommended that we should reduce the contribution which we at present make to Burma and Assam. Those contributions are made by Central revenues to the provinces and the House will understand that when contributions of that kind have been made for a great number of years, it is impossible without lengthy negotiations to get the other party to agree to surrender what they have had and it is

impossible for us merely to say to Burma "we will no longer pay you this large item of 15 lakhs which we have paid you for so long". There we have not so far been able to effect any reduction in the total contribution of 45.74 lakhs, but I understand the matter is still being considered in the Department of the Honourable the Home Member. In the case of Assam, there is a similar contribution of 16 lakhs which we have succeeded in reducing by 2.60 lakhs. The other large item which I would like to refer to particularly under the Political Grant is that which concerns consular representation abroad. As the Mover of the motion pointed out, India does at present pay a proportion of the expenditure incurred on consular representatives in Persia, the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, Tibet and Nepal. There are no doubt arguments why India should not pay for a thing which Colonies and Dominions get for nothing. I do not deny there are such arguments, but I can maintain that it is quite impossible for the Government of India, having paid these contributions for so many years, suddenly to turn to His Majesty's Government and say: "From this year we will utterly decline to pay any more".

**Sir Abdur Rahim:** That is not our recommendation. The whole amount is not taken into consideration.

**Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe:** But there are 16 lakhs included in the 121 which the Committee recommended. We cannot obviously straightaway say to His Majesty's Government: "We will no longer pay this amount". We must have time to consider the matter and to negotiate it and it may be necessary, as the Honourable the Mover of the motion has suggested, that a committee of inquiry should inquire into the whole thing and make recommendations as to future arrangements, but I submit that this Department cannot be blamed for having failed within the very short space of time since the Retrenchment Committee sought to effect this large reduction.

**Sir Abdur Rahim:** May I put a question to the Honourable Member? What is the total amount of reduction effected by this Department?

**Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe:** I was just coming to that. I will give the figures very briefly as to what actually we have done. The Committee's recommendation was 121 lakhs retrenchment. The retrenchment, which we have already effected, amounts to 71 lakhs. Further schemes are still under consideration which will give us, I hope, a saving of at least a lakh and a half. We have, therefore, worked fully up to the figure which the Honourable the Mover said had been promised. I may add that none of these cuts take into account at all the cut in pay which, I am told, will amount to something in the neighbourhood of 20 lakhs. We have excluded entirely this cut in pay which is only a temporary affair.

There are one or two points which have been raised by the Honourable the Mover and other speakers to which I think I should perhaps reply. One particular point was taken regarding the Indian States Forces. Here, I should like to say that the Indian States incur an annual expenditure of considerably over two crores on the upkeep of these forces. The General Purposes Sub-Committee recommended that the expenditure on the Military Adviser and his staff should be drastically reduced by two-thirds. That would have meant a reduction of four lakhs and 29 thousand. We have actually already effected a reduction of one lakh and 59 thousand under that head which, I think, is fairly

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creditable in the circumstances. Apparently the House is not aware of the position in regard to the State Forces. They have always been offered, in times of Imperial difficulty, and they have, I think, 5 P.M. I may say always, rendered extremely valuable service to the Empire, and I do not think that the statements which have been made about them from some quarters are in any way justified.

I will now turn very briefly to the question of Indianisation. It may interest the House to know the position as regards the method of recruitment. The Political Department is at present recruited entirely by selection. That selection rests with H. E. the Viceroy, and it is restricted to the following sources: (1) the Indian Civil Service, (2) the Indian Army, and (3) the Provincial Civil Service in case of exceptional merit. Now, up till 1921, the Political Department had not, with very few exceptions, had any Indian recruits. An arrangement was then made by which 25 per cent. of our annual recruitment should be from Indians. That we have done our best to work up to, but I would like the House to realize the practical difficulties which beset us in always fulfilling the full amount of the Indian recruitment which we have undertaken to do. Let us take first the I. C. S. No Indian member or British member of the I. C. S. can be forced to come into the Political Department. It is entirely a matter of his own choice whether he chooses to apply and our experience has been that very few Indians belonging to the I. C. S. do apply. Of those that have applied, several have not been selected, one has died and one has withdrawn. We still have one on the list and I hope it may be possible to get more.

Turning now to the Indian Army, that of course refers only to officers holding the King's Commission. As the House heard during yesterday's debate, it is desirable for the Indian Army to be Indianised as rapidly as possible. Now, if we in the Political Department take away the Indian officers who hold the King's Commissions from the Indian Army, how is that Indianisation to be effected with the requisite speed. (Laughter.)

**An Honourable Member:** Quite right!

**Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe:** That is only one point. There is another point. It is only natural that we wish to secure the best officers we can and it frequently happens that the officers commanding regiments are not willing to allow their best Indian officers to desert the military profession which they have selected and to go into civil employ. (Laughter.) Another difficulty is that the future of the Department is at the moment very uncertain. As was pointed out, the relations of the States are with the Crown by treaty, and the Crown has, therefore, a voice in the selection of its representatives. There may arise a situation in which the internal Department, that is to say, the Political Department as distinct from the Foreign Department, may have to be entirely separated in case some States do not federate or some States partially federate and if they stand upon their treaties. I hope no such thing will happen. But the future of the Department is really at present uncertain. The Honourable the Mover himself has today asked that in future we should be released from payment for all consular representation abroad. Well, a good many of our external posts are that very thing. Now, if His Majesty's Government take over the whole of that expenditure, will India be entitled to say, "You must have so many Indians in those consular posts"? I do

not think we could possibly do that. I do not say that that will happen, but it is an element of uncertainty which at the moment makes it very difficult for us to recruit a large number of Indians whose prospects in the Department will be anything but certain. Another point is that the N.-W. F. Province has recently been separated off and made into a separate Province. If that Province wishes to have a separate commission, it may be necessary for them to have one. That would take away from the Department a large number of posts which it at present has. If the N.-W. F. Province choose, as they probably will, to recruit a large number of Indians, that is their affair, but we find it difficult at the moment to recruit Indians when the possible sphere of their employment in the Department is being restricted in several directions.

**Mr. Deputy President** (Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty): The Honourable Member may now conclude.

**Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe:** I must apologize to the House, Sir, for having taken up so much time and I would only ask them to remember, when voting on this Resolution, that although, as a Department, we are sometimes reticent, we are not so from any desire to deprive the House of information which it is right that they should have. Our reticence is due only to what we feel to be sometimes necessary in order to protect the feelings of some of our more sensitive neighbours. The only other point I would like to make is that if we are expensive, we do attempt to avoid in all matters being extravagant; and I hope that although we do control a large amount of money, the House will also realize that we do try and perform for them a number of useful functions. (Loud Applause.)

**Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** With your permission, Sir, may I ask for one piece of information as neither myself nor any member of my party got an opportunity to speak . . . . .

**Mr. Deputy President** (Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty): Order, order. It was made perfectly clear by the Chair that it was to meet the unanimous wish of all sections of the House that a particular course was decided to be followed. Honourable Members must have known that this debate must conclude by about five o'clock, and so I called the Foreign Secretary at about twenty minutes to five. Honourable Members will, therefore, realise that if they did not get a chance of taking part in the debate, it was no fault of the Chair.

**Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer** (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I merely rise to assure you that the Secretary of my Party was not casting any reflection on the Chair. I think he was merely mentioning the fact that since he had had no opportunity of speaking, he would like to ask for some information. But if any misapprehension was felt on account of his remarks, I humbly beg to tender my apologies.

**Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** My only point was that I would have asked this question in the course of my speech, but I got no opportunity of asking such a question. Sir, the question which I was asking was concerning this point. There is a Cypher Bureau which has been in existence in the Foreign and Political Department since about 1925. I asked a

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question in this connection on the 7th March, 1927, pointing out that there was not a single Indian in the Cypher Bureau. This question repeatedly came up before the Standing Finance Committee and we were assured by the representative of the Department that efforts would be made to employ Indians as soon as possible. Now, we were told the other day in the Committee that it would take at least seven years more to have any Indian appointed to the Cypher Bureau. I should like my Honourable friend to tell the House what is the position of Indianisation with regard to this Cypher Bureau, and when even one Indian will be appointed to this post, which is, after all, a clerical appointment.

**Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe:** Sir, this question has been rather sprung upon me, but I will do my best to give very briefly the reasons so far as I know them for the point which my Honourable friend takes objection to. There are certain rules governing the use of cyphers—rules not made by the Government of India, but by His Majesty's Government—and those rules unfortunately for us do specify that certain classes of cyphers, by no means all, should not be placed in the hands of anybody (*A Voice: "Indians?"*). Well, of anybody except British European subjects. The rule is not made by us, but by the authorities at Home. (*Laughter.*) In order that we may have cypher communication with His Majesty's Government, it is necessary for us to hold some of their cyphers. That is the position. We have been for some years doing our best to remove this anomaly, and I hope that we shall shortly be able to do so.

**Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** So our chances in the Cypher Bureau are cypher? (*Laughter.*)

**Sir Abdur Rahim:** Sir, as regards that last point, is there any reason why could not the Foreign and Political Department have a cypher of its own? If they really do not want that Indians should be excluded from the Cypher Bureau, they could easily have a cypher of their own and get over the difficulty imposed by the British Government. And, of course, we are paying for all this.

Sir, as regards retrenchment, I was glad that the House has had a statement made by the Secretary of the Foreign and Political Department. I wish he had given the House this statement at an earlier stage.

**Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe:** Sir, may I, on a point of information, state that I have here a very large collection of statements which were prepared some time ago and which we hoped to have been able to get printed up? I am quite prepared to lay these on the table, and the Honourable the Mover will obtain from them all the information which he desires.

**Sir Abdur Rahim:** I am very much obliged for this information.

Then, as regards the employment of Indians, I am afraid, my Honourable friend has really given no reply. He has not even given us the number of Indians that are employed in the Political Department proper. I said I could find only two Indians out of 176. I take it that that is correct. I do not think any explanation has been given why a better chance should not be given to Indians in this Department. As regards

judicial and other Departments, that does not signify much. But it is a very important Department and we lay a great deal of stress on the question of employment of Indians in this Department specially having regard to the future constitution of India.

Sir, I wanted to get from Government whatever information we could on this subject and it is not necessary that I should press this motion to a division. We have heard what the Foreign Secretary had to tell us, but it does not mean that we shall not deal with this question again when the Finance Bill comes up before us. I beg leave of the House to withdraw the motion.

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

**Mr. Deputy President** (Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty): The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,63,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1934, in respect of 'Foreign and Political Department'."

The motion was adopted.

**Mr. Deputy President** (Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty): Tomorrow morning the House will take into consideration Demand No. 86 and the motion that stands in the name of Mr. N. N. Anklesaria.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 9th March, 1933.