

10th March, 1933

THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES
(Official Report)

Volume II, 1933

(23rd February to 10th March, 1933)

FIFTH SESSION
OF THE
FOURTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
1933



SIMLA
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS

1933

M97LAD

Legislative Assembly

President :

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

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

Deputy President :

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

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

Panel of Chairmen :

SIR HARI SINGH GOUR, Kt., M.L.A.

SIR ABDUR RAHIM, K.C.S.I., Kt., M.L.A.

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

MR. MUHAMMAD YAMIN KHAN, C.I.E., M.L.A.

Secretary :

MR. S. C. GUPTA, C.I.E., BAR.-AT-LAW.

Assistants of the Secretary :

MIAN MUHAMMAD RAFI, BAR.-AT-LAW.

RAI BAHADUR D. DUTT.

Marshal :

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

Committee on Public Petitions :

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

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

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

SIR ABDULLA-AL-MAMÜN SUHRAWARDY, Kt., M.L.A.

MR. B. SITARAMARAJU, M.L.A.

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

CONTENTS.

VOLUME II.—23rd February to 10th March, 1933.

PAGES.	PAGES.
THURSDAY, 23RD FEBRUARY, 1933—	
Questions and Answers ..	977—97
The Indian Wireless Telegraphy Bill—Presentation of the Report of the Select Committee ..	997
Statement of Business ..	997
The Railway Budget—List of Demands— <i>concl'd.</i> ..	998—1049
Demand No. 1—Railway Board— <i>concl'd.</i> ..	998—1049
General Policy and Administration of the Railway Board	998—1049
FRIDAY, 24TH FEBRUARY, 1933—	
The Railway Budget—List of Demands— <i>concl'd.</i> ..	1051—95
Demand No. 1—Railway Board— <i>concl'd.</i> ..	1051—95
Reduction in the number of Members of the Railway Board and in the pay of the Superior Officers of the Railway Board ..	1051—80
Retrenchment in the Railway Board ..	1080—85
Directors and Deputy Directors	1085—93
Paucity of Muslims in the Railway Services ..	1093—95
SATURDAY, 25TH FEBRUARY, 1933—	
Questions and Answers ..	1097—1137
Unstarred Questions and Answers	1137—58
Statement <i>re</i> Voters' Lists of the Central and Provincial Legislatures ..	1158
The Railway Budget—List of Demands— <i>concl'd.</i> ..	1159—1207
Demand No. 1—Railway Board— <i>concl'd.</i> ..	1159—1205
Paucity of Muslims in the Railway Services— <i>concl'd.</i> ..	1159—1205
Demand No. 2—Inspection ..	1205
Demand No. 3—Audit ..	1205
Demand No. 4—Working Expenses : Administration ..	1205
Demand No. 5—Working Expenses : Repairs and Maintenance and Operation ..	1206
Demand No. 6.—Companies' and Indian States' Share of Surplus Profits and Net Earnings ..	1206
Demand No. 9—Appropriation to Depreciation Fund ..	1206
SATURDAY, 25TH FEBRUARY, 1933—<i>concl'd.</i>	
Demand No. 11—Miscellaneous Expenditure ..	1206
Demand No. 14—Interest Charges ..	1206
Demand No. 7—New Construction ..	1207
Demand No. 8—Open Line Works	1207
Demand No. 10—Appropriation from Depreciation Fund ..	1207
MONDAY, 27TH FEBRUARY, 1933—	
Members Sworn ..	1209
Questions and Answers ..	1209—49
Motion for Adjournment <i>re</i> Ban on the holding of the Indian National Congress in Calcutta—Leave refused ..	1250—52
Statement laid on the Table	1252—55
The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill—Consideration postponed ..	1255—60
The Special Marriage (Amendment) Repealing Bill—Motion to consider negatived ..	1260—83
The Child Marriage Restraint (Amendment) Bill—Discussion not concluded ..	1284—1300
TUESDAY, 28TH FEBRUARY, 1933—	
Statements laid on the Table	1301—02
Demands for Supplementary Grants in respect of Railways ..	1302—40
Presentation of the General Budget for 1933-34 ..	1341—80
The Indian Finance Bill—Introduced ..	1380
WEDNESDAY, 1ST MARCH, 1933—	
Short Notice Questions and Answers ..	1381—95
Resolution <i>re</i> Release of Mr. Gandhi, Mufti Kifaetullah and other Political Prisoners—Consideration postponed ..	1396—1406
Resolution <i>re</i> Debentures of the Central Land Mortgage Bank of Madras—Withdrawn ..	1407—21
Resolution <i>re</i> Indian Film Industry—Withdrawn ..	1421—43

	PAGES.		PAGES.
THURSDAY, 2ND MARCH, 1933—		WEDNESDAY, 8TH MARCH, 1933—	
Questions and Answers ..	1445—59	Questions and Answers ..	1721—35
Unstarred Questions and Answers	1459—64	Unstarred Questions and Answers	1735—49
General Discussion of the General Budget	1464—1509	Message from H. E. the Viceroy and Governor General	1750
FRIDAY, 3RD MARCH, 1933—		Expressions of regret at the Resignation of the Honourable Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola	1750—54
Questions and Answers ..	1511—27	Election of the President	1754
Statement of Business ..	1527	The General Budget—List of Demands— <i>concl.</i> ..	1754—1805
General Discussion of the General Budget— <i>concl.</i> ..	1527—77	Demand No. 39.—Army Department— <i>concl.</i> ..	1754—88
MONDAY, 6TH MARCH, 1933—		Military Expenditure	1754—88
Questions and Answers ..	1579—89	Demand No. 31.—Foreign and Political Department—	1788—1805
Message from His Excellency the Governor General—Extension of the Term of the Legislative Assembly	1589	Retrenchment of Expenditure controlled by the Foreign and Political Department and Indianisation	1788—1805
The General Budget—List of Demands	1590—1644	THURSDAY, 9TH MARCH, 1933—	
Demand No. 16.—Customs—	1592—1615	The General Budget—List of Demands— <i>concl.</i> ..	1807—61
Dumping of Goods into India by Countries with Depreciated Currencies ..	1592—1615	Demand No. 86.—Expenditure in England—Secretary of State for India— ..	1807—32
Demand No. 17.—Taxes on Income—	1615—44	Safeguarding the Interests of Agriculturists and Landholders in the matter of Representation and Taxation in the New Constitution	1807—32
Removal of Surcharge and Restoration of old Exemption of Taxable Minimum	1615—44	Demand No. 40.—Department of Industries and Labour—	1832—62
TUESDAY, 7TH MARCH, 1933—		Labour Legislation and Labour Welfare including Government Employees ..	1832—62
Questions and Answers ..	1645—68	FRIDAY, 10TH MARCH, 1933—	
The General Budget—List of Demands— <i>concl.</i> ..	1666—1715	Statement of Business	1863
Demand No. 28.—Executive Council—	1666—87	The General Budget—List of Demands— <i>concl.</i> ..	1863—1932
Retrenchment and Indianisation of Services and Reduction of Pay for Future Entrants ..	1667—87	Demand No. 18.—Salt ..	1863—65
Demand No. 39.—Army Department—	1687—1715	Undesirability of the continuance of the Salt Tax	1864—65
Indianisation of the Indian Army	1687—1715	Demand No. 19.—Opium ..	1865
Appendix	1717—19	Demand No. 19A.—Excise	1866
		Demand No. 20.—Stamps	1866
		Demand No. 21.—Forest ..	1866

	PAGES.
FRIDAY, 10TH MARCH, 1933—contd.	
The General Budget—List of Demands— <i>contd.</i>	
Demand No. 22—Irrigation (including Working Expenses), Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works	1866
Demand No. 23—Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including Working Expenses) 1866—99	
Position of the Posts and Telegraphs Department in Bengal and Assam Circle 1867—73	
Grant of Special Allowance to the postal subordinates employed in the Wynad-Malabar	1873—76
Policy of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department 1876—95	
Equitable Apportionment of Revenue between Postal and Telegraph Branches 1895—96	
Grievances of Ex-Approved Candidates in the Calcutta General Post Office 1896—99	
Demand No. 25—Interest on Debt and Reduction or Avoidance of Debt 1899—1900, 1901—03	
Demand No. 26—Interest on Miscellaneous Obligations ..	1900
Demand No. 27—Staff, Household and Allowances of the Governor General	1900
Demand No. 29—Council of State 1900	
Demand No. 30—Legislative Assembly and Legislative Assembly Department	1904
Demand No. 32—Home Department	1904—19
Classification of Political Prisoners	1904—19
Demand No. 33—Public Service Commission	1919
Demand No. 34—Legislative Department—	1919
Demand No. 35—Department of Education, Health and Lands 1919	
Demand No. 36—Finance Department	1920
Demand No. 38—Commerce Department	1920
Demand No. 41—Central Board of Revenue	1920

	PAGES.
FRIDAY, 10TH MARCH, 1933—contd.	
The General Budget—List of Demands— <i>contd.</i>	
Demand No. 42—Payments to Provincial Governments on account of Administration of Agency subjects	1920
Demand No. 43—Audit	1920
Demand No. 44—Administration of Justice	1921
Demand No. 45—Police	1921
Demand No. 46—Ports and Pilotage	1921
Demand No. 47—Lighthouses and Lightships	1921
Demand No. 48—Survey of India	1921
Demand No. 49—Meteorology	1922
Demand No. 50—Geological Survey	1922
Demand No. 51—Botanical Survey	1922
Demand No. 52—Zoological Survey	1922
Demand No. 53—Archæology	1922
Demand No. 54—Mines	1923
Demand No. 55—Other Scientific Departments	1923
Demand No. 56—Education	1923
Demand No. 57—Medical Services 1923	
Demand No. 58—Public Health 1923	
Demand No. 59—Agriculture	1924
Demand No. 60—Imperial Council of Agricultural Research Department	1924
Demand No. 61—Civil Veterinary Services	1924
Demand No. 62—Industries	1924
Demand No. 63—Aviation	1924
Demand No. 64—Commercial Intelligence and Statistics	1925
Demand No. 65—Census	1925
Demand No. 66—Emigration—Internal	1925
Demand No. 67—Emigration—External	1925
Demand No. 68—Joint Stock Companies	1925
Demand No. 69—Miscellaneous Departments	1926

	PAGES.
FRIDAY, 10TH MARCH, 1933— <i>concl.</i>	
Demand No. 70—Indian Stores Department	1926
Demand No. 71—Currency	1926
Demand No. 72—Mint	1926
Demand No. 73—Civil Works	1926
Demand No. 74—Superannuation Allowances and Pensions	1927
Demand No. 75—Stationery and Printing	1927
Demand No. 76—Miscellaneous	1927
Demand No. 76A.—Expenditure on Retrenched Personnel charged to Revenue	1927
Demand No. 77—Refunds	1927
Demand No. 79—Baluchistan	1928
Demand No. 80—Delhi	1928
Demand No. 81—Ajmer-Merwara	1928
Demand No. 82—Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1928
Demand No. 83—Rajputana	1928
Demand No. 84—Central India	1929
Demand No. 85—Hyderabad	1929

	PAGES.
FRIDAY, 10TH MARCH, 1933— <i>concl.</i>	
Demand No. 85A—Aden	1929
Demand No. 87—Expenditure in England—High Commissioner for India	1929
Demand No. 88—Capital Outlay on Security Printing	1929
Demand No. 89—Forest Capital Outlay	1930
Demand No. 90—Irrigation	1930
Demand No. 91—Indian Posts and Telegraphs	1930
Demand No. 93—Capital Outlay on Currency Note Press	1930
Demand No. 94—Capital Outlay on Vizagapatam Harbour	1930
Demand No. 95—Capital Outlay on Lighthouses and Lightships	1931
Demand No. 96—Commuted value of Pensions	1931
Demand No. 96A.—Expenditure on Retrenched Personnel charged to Capital	1931
Demand No. 98—Interest-free Advances	1931
Demand No. 99—Loans and Advances bearing Interest	1931—32

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Friday, 10th 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.

STATEMENT OF BUSINESS.

The Honourable Sir Brojendra Mitter (Leader of the House): Mr. Deputy President, with your permission, I wish to make the usual forecast of Government business for next week. On Monday, motions will be made for the election of Members to the Standing Finance Committee and the Public Accounts Committee. On Tuesday, as Honourable Members already know, the election of the President will be held. During the week Government will introduce the following Bills:

- (1) A Bill to amend the Cotton Textile Industry (Protection) Act, 1930. This Bill will extend the operation of the Act for a period of seven months.
- (2) A Bill to supplement the Indian Tariff (Ottawa Trade Agreement) Amendment Act, 1932. The purpose of this Bill is merely to remove certain discrepancies and anomalies in the Act which have appeared as a result of experience and further examination.
- (3) A Bill to supplement the provisions of the Bengal Public Security Act, 1932, the Bihar and Orissa Public Safety Act, 1933, the Bombay Special (Emergency) Powers Act, 1932, the United Provinces Special Powers Act, 1932, and the Punjab Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 1932, for certain purposes. This Bill will be on the lines of the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment (Supplementary) Act, 1932.

The chief legislative business of the week will be the Finance Bill. The Honourable the Finance Member will move on Monday that the Bill be taken into consideration; and as many days as may be necessary will be devoted to its consideration. If there should be time, the Indian Medical Council Bill will be set down for further consideration, and Government will move for the consideration of the Report of the Select Committee on the Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Bill.

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

SECOND STAGE—*contd.*

DEMAND No. 18—SALT.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty): The House will now resume consideration of the second stage of the General Budget. The motion before the House is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 72,03,000 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 'Salt'."

Undesirability of the Continuance of the Salt Tax.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad (Patna and Chota Nagpur cum Orissa : Muhammadan): Sir, I move the motion which is in my name, that is:

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

I will discuss in this connection the salt policy of the Government of India, i.e., the taxation on salt. In this connection, Sir, I will inform the House that at present there are two forms of taxes on salt. One is under the Finance Act, that is, the excise duty and the other is under a separate Act called the Additional Import Duty Act. On the present occasion, I want to draw the attention of the Treasury Benches to the second item, because the first question we can discuss on the Finance Bill. So, I do not take that aspect today. I want to suggest to the Treasury Benches that this tax practically affects Bihar, Bengal and Assam mostly, and so these three provinces are mostly concerned with this taxation on salt. If you will see the history of this Act, you will find that the history of the matter begins with the recommendation of the Indian Taxation Enquiry Committee (1924-1925), which, in paragraph 179 of their report, recorded certain opinions of the lines on which an enquiry might be made with a view to removing the handicaps on the Indian manufacture of salt in the matter of supply of salt to Bengal. The Committee also recorded its opinion that it was desirable that India should be made self-supporting in the matter of salt supply if this could be secured by the granting of a strictly temporary advantage to the local manufacturer and considered that this aspect of the question should be enquired into by the Tariff Board. Then, Government, before sending this matter to the Tariff Board, desired to have the opinion of the Central Board of Revenue, but the Central Board of Revenue concluded that there was no *prima facie* case for such reference

The Honourable Sir George Schuster (Finance Member): Mr. Deputy President, as the time of the House is limited for discussing grants, I would like to remind the Honourable Member and the House that the matter with which the Honourable Member is dealing is bound to come up for discussion in this House in connection with any action which may be proposed as regards additional salt duty. I may inform the House that the Committee of this Assembly, which is considering what action to recommend to the Assembly in regard to this matter has not yet made its final report; but in any case, if the duty is to be continued, it is bound to come before the House, because the present Act expires on the 31st March, 1933. I would suggest, therefore, that a more suitable occasion for considering this matter will be available to this House.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: In this connection I want to draw your attention, Mr. Deputy President, that we want that this Bill should not come before the Assembly at all. I want to suggest that Government should not bring that Act to continue the additional salt duty and that this is the proper time for placing the arguments before them, so that they may not bring that Bill at all and the Committee of the House also may know the opinion of the Members of this side of the House and the opinion of the Local Governments in order that they may decide that there is absolutely no case for continuing that Act. For that reason, I submit, that you will permit me to place my remarks.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty): Of course the Chair cannot prevent the Honourable Member from raising a discussion

on the desirability of continuing the additional duty or tax if he desires to do so on this particular motion. But, in view of what the Honourable the Finance Member has stated, the Chair would make a suggestion to the Honourable Member and the House. The time of the House is very valuable, and, especially as the result of experience, it has been found that very few of the numerous demands are really discussed in the House. The Act imposing the additional salt duty will come up definitely for consideration before the termination of this Session in Delhi, because the present Act continues only up to the 31st March, 1933. When the Government bring proposals to continue the operation of that Act, it will then be the proper time for the House to discuss whether it will be desirable to do so. In view of this, the Chair would suggest to the Honourable Member whether he would not really be utilising his own time and the time of the House more valuably if he were to pass on to the other motions.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: Mr. Deputy President, I accept your suggestion and bow to your desire, but I will take the time of the House only for five minutes more. I only suggest what we want, and if the Honourable Member says that they are not willing to bring that Act, then the matter will die out. I only want to say that we do not want the continuance of the Additional Import Duty Act. It affects very much my province. Already injustices have several times been done to Bihar. The Bihar Government is opposed to this Act. The Bengal and Assam Governments are opposed to this Act. All the Governments are opposed to this Act, and the Bihar Government has sent a deputation to the Government of India, and the whole of my constituency shares the view of the Bihar Government in this matter that this taxation affects Bihar very much and the effect of this Act is that the price of salt has gone very high; and though a portion of that tax goes to the Bihar Government, it does not help the consumers at all. The consumers pay very much on account of this additional import duty to the Aden millowners and I would suggest that the matter should not be brought before this House later and that either the Act should be repealed or that it should not be further extended.

With these remarks, and, in view of what my Honourable friend, Sir George Schuster, has said, and, as desired by you, I ask the 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. 72,03,000 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 'Salt'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 19—OPIUM.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 55,87,000 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 'Opium'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 19A—EXCISE.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,68,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1934, in respect of 'Excise'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 20—STAMPS.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 16,43,000 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 'Stamps'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 21—FOREST.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,11,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1934, in respect of 'Forest'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 22—IRRIGATION (INCLUDING WORKING EXPENSES), NAVIGATION, EMBANKMENT AND DRAINAGE WORKS.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,24,000 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 'Irrigation (including Working Expenses), Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 23—INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT (INCLUDING WORKING EXPENSES).

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty): The motion before the House is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 10,44,08,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1934, in respect of 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including Working Expenses)'."

Position of the Posts and Telegraphs Department in Bengal and Assam Circle.

Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim. (Chittagong Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including Working Expenses)' be reduced by Rs. 100."

It is not my purpose in any way to bring in controversial matters at this belated hour of the budget discussion, but I should like to point out one or two salient facts which have been agitating the minds of my constituency, especially the people of Eastern Bengal. The constituency which I have the honour to represent comprises a fairly large area, about 800 square miles, if not more. We have some big islands also within that area, *viz.*, Hatiya, Sundip, Kutubdiya and Maschal.

I really do not know what guides the policy of Government in this Department at Calcutta in the matter of bringing them in close touch with the remotest parts wherefrom they get lots of revenue. The people in my part of the country go to almost all parts of the world, not excluding America even. They sometimes go to Arabia, Persia, China and Japan; and people and colonists living in those parts have family connections with this part of the Presidency and they have money orders remittances, telegrams and letters written home quite often; and if Government were in a position to tell the House, I am quite certain—I have got some information at my disposal—they would have surely known that the amount of communications I have referred to above is quite a large one. But the very hard part of the whole thing is this: if the postal authorities scan the location of post and telegraph offices in various parts of the country wherefrom these people go, they must have found that in one spot there are quite a number and in other parts there are none. Sometimes it is stated by the Department that perhaps it would not be a paying concern to put these offices in some of the islands of the Bay of Bengal. But my suggestion to them would be whether the people inhabiting those islands are not paying Government in various ways: are they not paying money order fees and are they not paying to the Government in a hundred and one ways? If they are making a contribution to the general revenue in those channels, my submission is that they ought to have facilities in return. Secondly, on a perusal of the postal map of my district, you will find that in a place called Hathazari, 12 miles from the town of Chittagong, you will find about 50 to 60 telegraph offices, whereas if you go south, even five miles, you will not find one telegraph office within a radius of ten square miles. What is this due to? The Department, it seems, in the past had no time to look to any thing else, except squeezing the public in the shape of dear post-cards and postage stamps. They never stir out of their den, and I am of opinion that the inspecting officers have been caring more for their travelling allowance than any thing else. As a matter of fact, if Government in this Department were alive to their duties and responsibilities to the people inhabiting that part, they would have made an effort to redress their grievances. But, as it is, even now it is not too late to mend matters and come to the rescue of the people. A perusal of the map of that district will show that to the south and south eastern parts there are long ranges of hills, and quite a number of people live there. I do not know if the Chittagong

[Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim.]

troubles are over, but if in those parts the poor people are looted, Government will not know what is really happening there. In that view of the matter, I think it is to the interest of Government themselves that post and telegraph offices should be properly established at convenient centres in that area and in the Islands I have mentioned above.

Secondly, I think I may also be permitted to say in this connection, though I have stated it in a general way, the position of the Department in Bengal and Assam Circle in some other aspects also. If one happens to go towards the southern side of Assam, I mean the southern extremity of Assam frontier, the position of the post offices there is really miserable.—one will not find a post office even within a radius of 100 miles. Of course, Government know their business best, but I think the people inhabiting that part have clamoured so often to redress their grievances to have more post offices, but so far Government have not paid any heed to them, I, therefore, think, Sir, that Government will be well advised in their own interest to have more post and telegraph offices established to the southern and eastern side of Assam.

About the general review of the Department as a whole in the Bengal and Assam Circle, I have not much to say except perhaps that, in the headquarter offices and in the town sub-offices, at Calcutta, there is a great paucity of Muslims. I had the privilege of interpellating here with regard to the position of Mussalmans in that particular office and in the office of the Post Master and Post Master General at Calcutta and also in the other offices under the same roof, and the reply has been far from satisfactory. I do not like to say more beyond the fact that the representation of Muslims in the Bengal and Assam Circle should be increased, and in that connection I may suggest that Government will do well to adopt the policy that has been followed by the Government of Bengal, because it will not be possible even with the help of an aeroplane to engraft people from Peshawar or Lahore to man the offices in Calcutta. Therefore, I suggest that the Government of India should adopt the policy which the Government of Bengal have followed in the matter of recruitment of the Mussalmans, who are more than 56 per cent. of the whole population. Muslims do not want favours, but mere justice.

Certain friends of mine in Calcutta and Dacca told me that if Government could devise a scheme so as to separate the postal side from the telegraph side, so far as the Assam and Bengal Circle was concerned, it will be an ideal proposition even from a commercial standpoint. I do not know if that question is being considered by Government, but I think that is a matter worth looking into, because it seems to me that the telegraph side everywhere in the Bengal and Assam Circle is overmanned, and I do not think it will tell on efficiency, if a certain amount of staff is reduced from those who are over represented.

In this connection I think I might be permitted to refer to another matter, because I shall be saved from moving some other cuts standing in my name. The postal association, with which I am intimately connected, both here and in Calcutta, have written to the authorities suggesting that it would be desirable to spread the postal services in the villages also in order to give facilities to the people, and it seems to me that the department have been indifferent to this matter. If anybody cares to go into the villages, he will find that a post office is in charge of a man

who is generally paid Rs. five or Rs. six with a full fledged peon who is allowed to get Rs. 20 to Rs. 30. So the result is, expenses do not pay, and a post office cannot prosper in a village; and thus people cannot benefit in the least. My suggestion, therefore, is this, that some method should be devised by which the lower paid staff of some kind could be sent over to the villages to help the departmental agents, and this agency will then become more popular and stayable.

There are one or two other matters which have been brought to the notice of the association with which we are connected. One is the position of the staff officers of these departments. Before the Retrenchment Committee reported on the working of this Department, the Superintendents of Post Offices were first class officers. I think they are not considered so now. Now, a Superintendent of Post Offices has an area to supervise almost equal to the area which is generally under a Commissioner of a Division, and, therefore, if these Superintendents are degraded in the matter of their travelling and other allowances, I do not know with what eye the public will look upon the Department as a whole. My submission in that connection is that the Department should devise some means to raise the status of their own officers. The Department is one of the most important in the civil administration of India. They have worked well in the past, and they should not go down in public estimation under any circumstances. With these few remarks, I commend my motion for the consideration of the House.

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

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including Working Expenses)' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Sir Thomas Ryan (Director General of Posts and Telegraphs): Sir, I regret very much that I was absent from the House when the Honourable Member opened his remarks, but I do not think that I have missed very much of what he said. I think he opened his remarks with a general complaint that the Posts and Telegraphs Department is not serving the Bengal province sufficiently, and that it has not extended its operations and its post offices throughout the Circle so as to give the public the service which they reasonably expect.

I think it is within the recollection of Members of this House that for several years past, it has been the avowed policy of the Government to extend the postal operations in the rural areas, and from time to time in recent years statistics have been placed before this House, and they have also been included in the annual reports, showing the very large number of new offices opened experimentally or as permanent additions to the postal system throughout the country. I have not got at the moment available separate statistics of this action relating to Bengal, but I am sure that the Bengal and Assam Circle shared fully in those measures. Unfortunately in the past couple of years, owing to financial difficulties, it has undoubtedly been necessary to slow down in that direction, although even now our efforts are not completely stopped. I can assure the Honourable Member that, in view of what he has said, I shall make a special examination of the present position in this respect in the Bengal Circle, and that where consistently with the financial position of the Department we can see reasonable opportunities of extending our operations and having more offices we shall endeavour to do so, but I cannot promise that there will be a very great advance in the immediate future in

[Sir Thomas Ryan.]

view of the existing unsatisfactory condition of the Department as a whole. There is, however, one method which I think the Honourable Member has hinted at—I am not quite sure that I caught all he said on the point—by which perhaps we may be able to make some advance to meet him. It has long been the policy of the Department where a small office would not pay for itself, if manned by Government servants paid on the regular scale, to employ what are called extra departmental agents, local school masters or other people who, for a small allowance, are willing to do a certain amount of postal work. In that way we have a great many branch post offices which are run very cheaply. Similar arrangements have also been in force, but not very extensively, for improving the delivery arrangements in various parts of the country without incurring heavy expense and people have been employed in certain cases on small allowances, not as regular full-fledged Government servants

Mr. K. Ahmed (Rajshahi Division: Muhammadan Rural): What will happen at the time of the General Election when lots of pamphlets will have to be distributed to the electors during the elections to the Provincial Councils and the Legislative Assembly?

An Honourable Member: Is the Honourable Member singing or speaking?

Sir Thomas Ryan: It is our policy and we have decided to extend further this system of increasing the delivery facilities and, I am sure, that the pamphlets which my Honourable friend, Mr. Kabeer ud-Din Ahmed, is thinking of will be dealt with satisfactorily. We will certainly endeavour to increase, as far as our financial position allows our doing so, by the adoption of this particularly economical method, the delivery facilities and the facilities for collecting letters in the rural areas. As regards the telegraph system, it is not quite so easy to increase facilities without incurring additional expense as it generally means putting up lines and employing relatively high paid staff, for you cannot expect untrained people to work telegraph instruments. We will see how far we can go. We have every desire to give the service the country demands, consistently with our financial limitations.

I think the Honourable Member then turned to the question of inadequate employment of Muslims in offices in the Bengal Circle. I did not catch precisely what he said, but I think that was the gist of his remarks. As to that the figures relating to various offices, which have frequently been given in replies to questions asked in the Assembly, show I think that the existing representation of the minority communities in general and of the Muslim community in particular is generally somewhat on the low side. But, as has also been explained in reply to some Honourable Members' questions, this is the result of recruitment carried on over a great many past years, and it is only in recent years that Government have been acting on a definite rule as regards the recruitment of minority communities. Sufficient time has not yet passed for those recruitment regulations to have produced their full effect. It is bound to be gradual, but I can assure the Honourable Member and the House that every effort is being made, and has been made in recent years, to ensure the most scrupulous observance of the Government orders regarding the recruitment of minority communities. I am aware from the large number of questions asked on this subject

with reference to particular cadres or offices that my Honourable friends of the Muslim community are somewhat sceptical on this point. I think it possible in a very large department like the Posts and Telegraphs where reliance has to be placed on a very large number of people that there is room for occasional failure to carry out the Government's instructions, although I am quite sure that such failures are by no means widespread. But anyhow to make it absolutely certain that there is no failure in this respect I have recently arranged for the annual supply by every Head of Circle of a detailed statement showing for every individual cadre for which direct recruitment is made the precise manner in which every vacancy is filled. With those statements before me it will be possible to detect any failure in carrying out the orders of the Government of India on this subject. Honourable Members can, therefore, rest assured that, whatever may be said of the present position which is the result of past recruitment, the orders which Government have issued on the subject, or any revised orders which they may issue from time to time, cannot possibly be overlooked or ignored by any recruiting officer under my control. It would be outside my province to say anything about changes in the recruitment orders which the Government may be considering. The Honourable Member knows that the matter is at present engaging the attention of the Government, but whatever the Government orders may be, they will undoubtedly be carried out by my staff.

I did not entirely understand the object with which my Honourable friend suggested that the postal and telegraph sides of the Department should be separated. In the whole of India there are at present only 100 telegraph offices which are confined exclusively to telegraph work. They are the principal telegraph offices in the main centres. For the great bulk of our telegraph work we have to rely upon the post offices, a very large number of which are, what are called, combined post and telegraph offices. It would be quite impracticable and extremely uneconomical to make an actual separation of the staff who can do and are doing postal and telegraph work. I think possibly my Honourable friend's remarks have been inspired by some misconception as to the actual division of the receipts of the postal and telegraph sides. In the general debate on the Budget, Mr. Lahiri Chaudhury referred to the division of the postal and telegraph receipts as being made on an arbitrary basis. If that is what the Honourable Member has in mind, I can assure him that the impression is entirely mistaken. Postal and telegraph receipts for the most part are separately accounted under the heads to which they relate. It is, however, true that a large volume of the inland telegraph business is paid for by postage stamps the sale proceeds of which are in the first instance compiled to a single head. But the question of working out the share which should go to the telegraph side and the share which should go to the postal side has engaged our most careful attention, and we have now in operation a system of working out the division which was recommended for our adoption by a post and telegraph expert who visited India some years ago from the British Post Office and with whom these matters were very fully discussed. I hope I am not wearying the House, but I might explain briefly that the volume of business is so large that it is impracticable without excessive expense to keep a separate account of every item of business done, but for two typical fortnightly periods of each year, the actual telegraph business is recorded in full detail and from the statistics so arrived at the average value of a telegram is deduced, and that average value of a telegram is applied to the total number of telegrams paid for

[Sir Thomas Ryan.]

by stamps in a year, the total inland telegraph share of the stamps receipts is worked out in this way. I have been examining, in consultation with my Financial Adviser, the statistics so arrived at, over a series of years, and they show a very reasonable degree of consistency from which, I think, I may fairly infer that the results arrived at are quite reliable. I may say that the whole matter was investigated by a very experienced officer of the Finance Department, Mr. A. C. Badenoch, a few years ago. He was then Accountant General, Railways, and after examining the system in detail, he recorded the opinion that it produces as satisfactory a division of postal and telegraph receipts as can reasonably be hoped for.

I think also the Honourable Member suggested that the Telegraph Branch is over-manned. I am not sure whether I heard him correctly. If that is the case, I may say that it is a fact that telegraph business and revenue have been declining in recent years and it is also the case that the reduction of the staff did not keep pace for some time with that reduction. That was due to a great many reasons, the principal one of which was the fact that we are here dealing with a highly trained technical staff and it was not thought desirable to reduce the staff immediately as we entertained hopes that the traffic would recover. Towards the end of last year, however, when it became apparent that the fall was continuing and that we had no very strong grounds for expecting that there would be an early recovery, I placed the whole position before the Government of India who agreed that we could no longer hold our hand and that we must carry out as extensive, ruthless if you like, retrenchment in respect of the telegraph staff as we were already doing in the case of the postal staff.

Mr. S. C. Mitra (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): On a point of order. I understand Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim's motion is to discuss the position of the department in Bengal and Assam Circle, but the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs is now dealing with the big issue about the postal accounts and telegraph accounts. I have a motion No. 97 dealing with that question. I should like to know whether I shall be precluded from moving my motion if incidentally the Director General deals with this question. Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim moved his motion only with reference to the Bengal and Assam Circle and incidentally he might have referred to this apportionment of accounts.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty): The fact that the Director General pleases to give a wider answer to a particular Member will not preclude another Honourable Member from moving his motion.

Sir Thomas Ryan: It is difficult for me not to make my answer rather wide, while dealing with such a matter, because the question raised by this motion, though it refers to the Bengal and Assam Circle, has really a general application. However, I shall say no more on this point at the moment in view of the probability that I shall have an opportunity of speaking further on it when replying to my friend, Mr. Mitra.

The Honourable Member, towards the end of his remarks, reverted to the question of extending the Postal and Telegraph service in Bengal and Assam. I can assure him that we are anxious to extend the service in Bengal and Assam, as elsewhere, to the utmost extent consistent with the

present position and prospects of the Posts and Telegraphs Department. I will undertake to examine the particular case of Bengal and Assam and the particular difficulties to which he has drawn attention, and, though I do not admit that the Circle has not received its fair share of our attention in the past, I can certainly assure him that it will receive at least as fair a share in the future as other Circles. I doubt if there are any other observations made by the Honourable Member to which it is necessary for me to make a special reference now.

Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Asim: I have listened with very great interest to the remarks of the Director General. I do not think I need say anything more. Our business is to call the attention of the Department to the various points which call for attention and, in view of the assurances that the matters will be looked into, I beg leave to withdraw my motion, and I will not press this to a division.

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

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty): Cut motion No. 86, by Mr. Thampan. In spite of the repeated rulings given in the past by the Chair about the nature of these cut motions, it appears that the Honourable Member seeks to reduce this demand to rupee one. That cut motion is entirely out of order and, if the Honourable Member would say that he gave it under a misapprehension, the Chair would be prepared to allow him to correct it.

Grant of Special Allowance to the Postal Subordinates employed in the Wynad-Malabar.

Mr. K. P. Thampan (West Coast and Nilgiris: Non-Muhammadian Rural): I want that the amount be reduced, only by Rupee 1, and not to Rupee 1. That was my intention.

Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including Working Expenses)' be reduced by Rupee 1."

Wynad is a highly malarial and unhealthy hilly tract. Cost of things are nearly double their price in the plains on account of the heavy conveyance charges uphill. Good water cannot be had everywhere and, therefore, special water carriers have to be engaged. Mosquito nets, warm clothing, healthy quarters and diet are indispensable to protect oneself against malaria and pneumonia. The ordinary pay is insufficient for these purposes and so the Local Government are granting a special allowance to their employees. They have got their own scale of allowance which is Rs. 50 for Police Inspectors, Tahsildars and P. W. D. Supervisors and Rs. 40 for Sub-Inspectors of Police, Sub-Registrars and clerks getting Rs. 80 and above. The special allowance for subordinates is graduated and ranges from half the salary to a maximum of Rs. 40. The Postal Department grants Rs. 10 to sub-postmasters and clerks and absolutely nothing to postmen and runners, etc., who have to do their duties practically in the open exposed to the full brunt of Wynad climate. One must see the Wynads to have an idea of the horrors which the postmen, messengers and runners have to face. Impenetrable forests, with wild animals such as tigers, bears and elephants, impassable hill ravines and

[Mr. K. P. Thampan.]

mountain streams with swamps full of malarial mosquitoes everywhere interpose between the different plantations through which they have to go daily in the discharge of their duties. While these poor men are denied any allowance, the Department has been paying the telegraph linemen 50 per cent. of his pay as allowance which is more than what a sub-postmaster drawing Rs. 185 gets. In addition, he is paid Rs. 2 as house-rent allowance.

In the Wynad no houses are available as the plantations consist entirely of coolies who have their own cooly lines constructed by their employers. Thus the low-paid men, not being provided with quarters, are forced to live in thatched huts with walls of flattened bamboos. My Honourable friend, Sir Frank Noyce, who has served in Malabar for a long time, knows the Wynad very well and I need not labour this point. Sir, as a result of the agitation carried on for the past several years, the Government, it would seem, allotted in 1927 or 1928 a sum of about Rs. 66,000 for the grant of such allowances to the officials who serve in unhealthy tracts in the Madras Presidency. Out of this allotment, though the employees of the Telegraph Department including linemen are paid 50 per cent. of their pay as allowance besides house-rent, nothing is paid to similar officials, such as postmen, mail peons, packers, etc., of the Postal Department, though the former and the latter are under the same Departmental head. There is an honest belief among postal workers that the major income is earned by them and the deficit in the working of the Department is due to extravagance on the telegraph side; and as such, the partiality shown towards the latter naturally fill them with grief and despair. Sir, I may point out as a concrete instance that the telegraph lineman in the Wynad whose pay is Rs. 18 to Rs. 38 (just like that of a postman) is granted 50 per cent. of his pay as special allowance besides Rs. 2 house-rent, while a postman in the same locality, who works side by side with the lineman, gets absolutely nothing except his pay. Is that not, I ask, very hard? Similar partiality towards the telegraph side and the step-motherly attitude towards the postal side will be evident from the way in which the recommendations of the Postal Retrenchment Committee have been carried out. Sir, it is not my purpose today to criticise the anomalous and invidious distinction that exists between the Postal and the Telegraph Departments in respect of the services under them. This grievance should be redressed. I shall conclude by saying that it is not a piece of generosity or charity that is demanded to be shown to the poor and low paid subordinates of the Postal Department in the Wynad, but it is a matter of imperative necessity for sheer existence there and my object is to impress upon the Department the fact that in the interest of efficient work and service it is highly necessary that some thing should be done to this class of men. I have seen the place myself and know the difficulties and it is my belief that it is long overdue. I hope my appeal will not be in vain. I commend this motion for the acceptance of the House.

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

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including Working Expenses)' be reduced by Rupee 1."

Sir Thomas Ryan: Sir, some few years ago, the question of the principle on which local and compensatory allowances should be given to members of the Postal and Telegraph staff employed in unhealthy or very expensive places was gone into at some length, and the Government of India adopted as a general rule the principle that we should be guided, as nearly as circumstances may admit, by the practice of the Local Governments in respect of their servants in the same localities. The Posts and Telegraphs Department then undertook a review of the actual scale of existing allowances given in various places to its staff with a view to revising them,—increasing them in some cases or reducing them in others—in accordance with the policy, just mentioned, of bringing them as nearly as possible on to the level of the Local Government's servants. This process was carried out in the first instance in respect of Burma and, in the second place, in respect of Sind and Baluchistan, where it has been extended, I think, to all the places in which the Local Governments give allowances. We would have continued this process in other parts of India—which is a very large matter as a great many places are involved—were it not for the same reason that I have already mentioned, namely, financial difficulty, because it would generally involve considerable increases of expenditure. We did, however, treat specially one or two special cases on the frontier. The case of the Wynads has been represented very forcibly by the Honourable Member, and not long ago he wrote personally to me on the subject, and I also have been in correspondence on this subject with the Post Master General, Madras,—who, I may say, is inclined to favour the adoption of the same course as the Honourable Member recommends. Well, at first we felt that although the case might be a good one on its intrinsic merits, it would involve us in considerable difficulty to extend to this particular case this special treatment that is recommended, as it would open the door naturally to similar demands in respect of a great many other places in respect of all of which we might be equally sympathetic, but in which we could not meet the extra cost.

Mr. K. P. Thampan: May I know what amount of expenditure would be involved in order to pay these allowances?

Sir Thomas Ryan: I am just coming to this point. I have been in correspondence with the Post Master General on the subject and there are indications that if we were to adopt the Local Government's system and apply it as closely as practicable to our people, the result might be that we would have to reduce the allowance granted to some of our people and would have to increase the allowances to others or to give allowances in the case of some men who do not get them at all. I have been in consultation with the financial authorities and they have agreed that if, on a detailed examination of the matter, it is found that the total net expenditure is not large, they will agree to extend the Madras Government's system to the postal and telegraph officials at the Wynads; that is to say, if it is found, on a more detailed examination than has been made, that it is not going to cost a large sum of money, we shall fall in with the Honourable Member's wishes. I cannot give an absolute promise, because I do not know what the cost will be; but I shall do my best to fall in with the recommendation made by my Honourable friend. Mr. Thampan, if the financial effect of the measure is not great.

Mr. K. P. Thampan: Sir, I am very glad to hear that the Government are satisfied with the merits and have also realized the importance of this matter, and in view of the sympathetic assurance given by my Honourable friend, Sir Thomas Ryan, there is no need to press my motion. I beg leave of the House, therefore, to withdraw it.

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

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: Sir, as the Government are going to make an announcement shortly regarding definite percentage for Muslim representation in the services, I do not want to move amendment No. 87* which stands in my name.

Policy of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department.

Mr. Muhammad Ashar Ali (Lucknow and Fyzabad Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including Working Expenses)' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Sir, it is my painful duty today to rise to discuss the retrenchment policy of the Government first of all. Sir, during our debates in the year 1981 this policy of the Government with regard to retrenchment was frequently debated in this House and at very great length. Our objection then was and even today is that the Department is still very topheavy, and what we have been condemning is that there is a great concentration of the retrenchment process in the lower ranks while leaving the appointments in the higher ranks absolutely and entirely untouched. That policy
12 NOON. did not produce any salutary effect on the angle of vision of Government as I find from the results of the so-called economy campaign pursued in the Posts and Telegraphs Department.

According to Sir Thomas Ryan's reply to Mr. S. C. Mitra's unstarred question No. 290, the total number of posts of officers ranks including Superintendents and gazetted postmasters before initiation of the retrenchment measures was 574 and the total pay and allowances they carried was approximately Rs. 48,22,000 a year. Out of this number 65 posts have been abolished up to date effecting a saving of about Rs. 5,48,000. From his reply to Mr. Mitra's unstarred question No. 291, however, it appears that 93 out of a total of 65 such appointments abolished were all in the Superintendent's cadre and the saving effected therefrom is Rs. 1,89,378. The number of higher appointments brought under reduction above the Superintendent's cadre appears to be quite a few, viz., the posts of one Deputy Director-General, one Controller of Telegraph Traffic, one Deputy Chief Engineer and one Deputy Post Master General, Telegraph Traffic. The posts of Assistant Directors-General have been abolished, but resurrected in the shape of Assistant Deputy Directors-General. If proper efforts had been made, it would have been easily possible to effect considerable economy by doing away with a number of other such higher appointments specially in the rank of Deputy Post Masters-General on the postal side

*"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including Working Expenses)' be reduced by Rs. 100 (Paucity of Muslims in the service)."

whose number is plethoric. On a comparison of the Budget figures with those for the year 1931-32, I find that expenditure has been curtailed to a certain extent under all heads with the exception of the Telegraph Engineering where the expenditure, instead of any decrease, has increased. This shows, Sir, that there has been absolutely no retrenchment in this branch. While amalgamating the Post Office with the Telegraphs, the Government gave the people to understand that the chief object of the amalgamation was to effect economy of expenditure in the Telegraph Branch. In actual effect, however, we find that the expenditure, specially in the Telegraph Engineering Branch, has gone on increasing since amalgamation, due to the increase in the number of Engineering offices year after year. It is a melancholy fact that even in these days of financial crisis Government have not made any efforts to curtail extravagance in this branch and have not touched a single higher appointment there. While, however, the Government have thus left these fruitful sources of economy almost untouched, they have allowed the retrenchment of 6,157 lower rank appointments, viz., 3,289 time-scale clerical appointments and 2,868 postmen's appointments in the Post Office and R. M. S. It is high time that Government should now direct their retrenchment measures to gazetted appointments both in the Post Office and Telegraphs, and I suggest that 25 per cent. of such appointments should, without delay, be brought under reduction.

Sir, there has been a long-standing complaint which has been repeatedly voiced by non-official Members in the Assembly that Government have treated the Telegraph Branch as their favourites. From the results of the so-called economy campaign in these two branches, it appears to me that the complaint is not altogether unjustified. The Posts and Telegraphs Retrenchment Advisory Sub-Committee appointed by Government themselves under the Chairmanship of my Honourable friend, Sir Cowasji Jehangir, found after a careful inquiry that altogether 228 appointments of telegraphists were in excess of requirements and recommended that immediate steps should be taken for absorbing this surplus. They similarly recommended 140 appointments of Telegraph Masters for abolition or absorption. But the number abolished up to October, 1932, was only 184 telegraphists' appointments and only 48 Telegraph Masters' appointments. While, however, Government have given only partial effect to the definite and well-considered recommendations of the Committee in respect of the surplus and superfluous appointments in the Telegraph Branch, they have brought under reduction up to 31st August, 1932, 137 selection grade appointments in the Post Office and R. M. S. although the Retrenchment Committee did not recommend a single appointment in these cadres to be retrenched. The percentage of selection grade supervisory appointments in the Post Office, I am told, is barely six in the Post Office and still less in the R. M. S. From the reply given by Sir Thomas Ryan to Mr. S. C. Mitra's unstarred questions No. 232 and No. 233, it appears that before initiation of the retrenchment measures the number of Telegraph Masters' appointments was 326 and that of Deputy Superintendents, Telegraph Traffic, was 51 as against a total of 2,830 telegraphists' appointments. Out of these numbers only 48 Telegraph Masters' appointments and only one Deputy Superintendent's appointment and 184 telegraphists' appointments have been brought under reduction. The total number of appointments of Telegraph Masters and Deputy Superintendents, taken together, which are the

[Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali.]

selection grade appointments in the Telegraph Traffic Branch, therefore, is at present 328 as against 2,646 telegraphists' appointments. These figures work out to over 12.4 selection grade appointments in the Telegraph Traffic Branch. These figures sufficiently explain why the Posts and Telegraphs Retrenchment Sub-Committee did not think it advisable at all to reduce the number of selection grade posts in the Post Office and R. M. S. as the number is admittedly very limited and incapable of further curtailment without causing serious deterioration of efficiency, while they made definite recommendations for reduction in the plethora number of such appointments in the Telegraph Traffic Branch. Considering the tremendous amount of monetary transaction done in the Post Office, the huge amounts of cash which the subordinate staff in the Post Office and R. M. S. have to handle every day, it is desirable from the public point of view that there should be a larger percentage of selection grade supervisory appointments there so that the right type of men with requisite experience and merit should constantly supervise and scrutinise the work of the subordinate staff to prevent any fraud or loss. The public cannot, therefore, view this drastic retrenchment in these appointments either with equanimity or approval. It will certainly be known to Honourable Members that a great amount of confidence is placed in these subordinate post office people; they have cash to handle and sometimes costly jewellery in their custody and their claims to higher appointments should be favourably considered by Government. But this drastic retrenchment will certainly disturb the faith of the public in the security of their money and properties in the custody of the Post Office and affect the regularity and clockwork punctuality of the service.

One fails to understand how the number of Telegraph Masters and Deputy Superintendent's appointments swelled up to such a high figure. Their number is capable of drastic curtailment considering the mechanical nature of the work comparatively free from monetary responsibilities done in the Telegraph Traffic Branch. The retrenchment policy of Government in the Posts and Telegraphs Department, therefore, is not only unintelligible in the extreme, but is also contrary to public opinion. It surely savours of unjustifiable differential treatment. Government appear to justify the retrenchment of a large number of operative posts in the Post Office and R. M. S. on the plea of fall of traffic. If there has been a fall of postal traffic, there has surely been a fall likewise in telegraph traffic. It is, therefore, incomprehensible why no attempts are being made to retrench the staff of telegraphists on this same principle.

It appears from Sir Thomas Ryan's reply to Mr. S. C. Mitra's unstarred question No. 238 that within a short time 286 departmental sub-offices and 390 departmental branch offices have been converted into extra departmental offices and have been placed under the charge of part time and cheaply paid employees called extra-departmental-agents. I understand that the services of postal servants who were retired due to old age are being utilised for this purpose. This is neither just to these old and spent up men nor to the public whom they are expected to serve. The conversion of departmental offices into extra-departmental ones is being effected without any fixed criterion and merely to effect economy. This is rather strange and the public have strong reasons to condemn this indiscriminate process of retrenchment as it means curtailment of postal facilities hitherto enjoyed by the localities served by these offices. The

Telegraph Retrenchment Committee under the Chairmanship of Mr. (now Sir) T. Ryan had strongly recommended that quite a large number of Departmental Telegraph Offices could easily be converted into combined offices, as a measure of economy, without causing any deterioration of efficiency or inconvenience to the public and it is difficult to comprehend why this fruitful measure of economy is not being pushed through, especially in view of the present financial crisis.

Sir, then I come to the case of the poor Inspectors of Post Offices and the R. M. S. and Superintendents and Head Clerks. As to these two appointments, i.e., Inspectors of Post Offices and Head Clerks of Superintendents of Post Offices, every one knows that they are the pick and pivot of efficiency of the whole services. Every one of us knows what services these lower staff of the Post Offices render to the public. These Inspectors and Head Clerks have also to pass a departmental examination, which, in many respects, I am told, is even stiffer than the examination prescribed for Superintendents. Now, the multifarious duties and responsibilities which these people have to perform are most onerous, and the Inspectors of Post Offices and R. M. S. are vested with even no powers at all. They are required to be thoroughly acquainted with the rules, with the character and abilities of their subordinates so as to be able to efficiently supervise their work and keep them under control. They have also to tour all round the year even during the monsoons, during which period, I am sure, other officers of other departments have not to do that duty of travelling and touring. Considering this difficulty and considering their pay and emoluments, it is very strange that their claims are not so very much recognised and they are not considered fit enough to be given good emoluments or good allowances. They are practically in charge of the Division at least for six months when the Superintendent is on tour. It is only with a view to removing their long standing grievances and disabilities that I am asking the Department today to improve their conditions and to look to their grievances. Their grievances are, as I have numbered them, four: the first is about their retrenchment in number, the second, they have no good concessions in travelling allowance, thirdly, the delegation of powers to Superintendents to impose on them all penalties except only dismissal and removal from service, and the fourth, the curtailment of their right of appeal in respect of these penalties, except only to the head of the Circle. This has added to a great extent insult to injury.

Sir, I remember that, in reply to an interpellation put in the Council of State by the Honourable Mr. G. S. Khaparde, the Government were pleased to state that there was a rule that an Inspector's sub-division should not ordinarily consist of more than 40 offices. Due to the remarkable increase in the number of post offices since the rule was framed, this became a dead letter and it will hardly be an exaggeration to say that on an average the Inspector's sub-divisions generally comprise more than 70 offices. From all this it will appear that the Inspectors and Head Clerks of Superintendents are very much at a loss in the performance of their duties. They find it very difficult to perform their duties and they are also handicapped by different kinds of difficulties.

Again, Sir, on account of devolution of duties and enlargement of powers of Inspectors of Post Offices, as a result of Booth Committee's recommendations, their correspondence and clerical work has enormously increased. The Inspector has to deal with about 9,000 references per year.

[Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali.]

i.e., about 80 references per day. In addition, he has to attend to telegrams received and despatched, prepare indents in duplicate, issue about 80 leave and appointment orders in a month, prepare combined maps, beat-maps and route lists and village sorting lists of all sub and branch offices, to examine B. O. abstracts and half yearly village returns, maintain register of complaints, punishment register, to deal with about 60 complaints in a year, and to prepare notices of hours of business. He has to issue reminders to sub and branch postmasters, maintain circular files and paste correction slips to Posts and Telegraphs Manuals and other books of reference. He has to translate all English references from the Superintendent and other offices to Branch Postmasters into vernacular and references from Branch Postmasters to the Superintendent into English. He has also to carry on correspondence for getting the letter-boxes in his sub-division painted and prepares travelling allowance bills for menials and his sub-divisions, to count forms and prepare schedules and other weekly, monthly, annual and special statements which are numerous. He has also to enter all references in the correspondence register and prepare cover for them. All this he has to do himself without any clerical assistance in addition to his touring and inspection work. It has, therefore, become almost impossible for him to do it satisfactorily. The various duties of these people, which I have laid before you, are themselves a proof to show that it is impossible for a literate man or for a very very intelligent man even to perform. I think it is a very hard case for all these poor people and I trust that the Department will look to these inconveniences, these difficult duties that the man has to perform, which are very colossal, very difficult and so various that it would be absolutely impossible for even an officer, who gets Rs. 4,000 or Rs. 3,000, to work as these poor people have to work.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty): The Honourable Member's time is up.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: I have done. There is only one point I wish to refer to and it is this: these Inspectors of Post Offices, in consideration of the special hardship which I have just related, used to enjoy special concessions as second class officers, irrespective of their pay, for the purposes of travelling allowance. Under the decision of the Government this long-enjoyed concession too has been recently withdrawn and this has caused not only great discomfort and inconvenience to the Inspectors, but also loss of efficiency. Sir, I move.

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

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including Working Expenses)' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. S. C. Mitra: Sir, the President of the All-India Postal Union has, in his very elaborate and able speech, put before the House the grievances of the postal officials. In his speech he has dealt mainly with the retrenchment question; and, as I gave notice of a similar question, I shall not feel any necessity to move that. We congratulate the Postal Department for all its efforts in accepting almost all the important recommendations of the Postal Retrenchment Committee . . .

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury (Bengal: Landholders): Except the recommendations of the Telegraph Engineering Department.

Mr. S. C. Mitra: My friend reminds me about the

Sir Thomas Ryan: Which recommendation?

Mr. S. C. Mitra: Mr. Lahiri Chaudhury will substantiate that. (Laughter.) We on this side of the House feel that the post office should be recognised more as a public utility department and should be judged mainly from that standard alone. Had it been a purely commercial department, I think the postal authorities would, for the purpose of economy, retrench or withdraw some of their branches in the outlying parts of the British Empire, say, some of their branches on the Tibet border or the Afghan border or some remote places where, I understand, they are not at all paying, but are really maintained for political purposes. I wish that the Postal Department should claim all that expenditure they incur, apart from the little income they derive, from the Political or other Departments of the Government of India. I know it is usually urged, when these questions are raised, that it is a mere transfer of accounts from one branch of the Government of India to another. But I think that is wholly illogical, because it is also demanded at the same moment that the post office should show no deficit and that their commercially kept accounts should show a balanced budget. In this connection, really there is a misapprehension—it may be—or it may be a well grounded apprehension in the public mind that the postal side of the Indian Postal Department is always paying; it has no deficit of its own; and the point of view from which we urge this matter is with no grudge against the Telegraph Department. As a public utility department, that side also can claim compensation from the public revenue; but on the ground that the postal side is not paying its way, there is always pressure for further retrenchment and the postal rates are not diminished.

I know the cases of the extra departmental agents who are not even considered as Government servants, though they discharge almost the same duties that involve very great responsibility: they have to discharge the work of the Savings Bank department, the Registration department and even to deliver telegraphic messages in villages: almost all this work is done by these poor agents. Their pay varies from three or five rupees to 15 or 16 rupees a month. It is higher in some provinces, but in Bengal it is very low. We have received numerous representations from these extra departmental agents to have only a rupee or two added to their pay for their contingencies. The difficulty is that they are a very big lot and even the grant of a contingency of a rupee or two involves a large amount. But I think it cannot be denied to them, rightly speaking; these poor men may not be whole time officers of the department; but why should they be asked to pay for these contingencies from their pocket? I understand, they have to supply their own ink, paper and stationery and they are seldom supplied with a table or chair. They have no comforts, and I think they cannot claim any leave: if they do, they must provide some substitute and the responsibility for that officiating man is on the permanent incumbent. So there are various grievances on the part of these extra departmental agents for whom rightly we can claim a contingency of two or three rupees a month. That has been pressed before the department for a very long time; but the general

[Mr. S. C. Mitra.]

answer always was that the total amount becomes a very large sum. The Postal Department is not unsympathetic, but owing to the wrong way in which the accounts of the Postal Department are kept, though in name it is run as a commercial department,—as a matter of fact, they suffer loss of much of their revenue from various other causes, for which, had they been a purely commercial department, they could claim compensation. Even this year, the Honourable the Finance Member said that there has already been a great increase in the work of the Postal Savings Bank and Postal Cash Certificates. But if we look into the figures, we will find that there has been very little addition to the postal revenue.

As regards the Post Office Cash Certificates, I find there is a sum of Rs. 3,30,000 credited for charges in connection with Cash Certificates work as compared with Rs. 4,45,000 in the year 1931-32, though in the previous year the work of the Cash Certificates was much less.

As regards the savings bank deposits side, though, instead of Rs. 45,96,000, there has been a sanction in the present Budget for Rs. 47 lakhs, yet the real work will be far in excess of it as the Honourable the Finance Member himself said:

"We estimate the net investment in post office cash certificates compares with average net receipts of about 2½ crores annually for the period from 1917, when these certificates were first started, until March 31, 1931."

I, therefore, suggest that more credit should be given to these items as well.

As regards the further point about the postal side getting its full credit for its work as compared with the engineering side, I shall raise that issue later on, because I have some definite suggestions to make. So I think it must be admitted that the Retrenchment Committee have done their best, though as my friend, Mr. Azhar Ali, says that his main point was that the higher officials in the department, the favoured few, have not been properly retrenched, though there has been sufficient retrenchment in regard to the lower paid subordinates. I know in the Postal Department the pay of the higher officials does not amount to very much, because we all know that in this Department there are not very many highly paid officials. 90 per cent. or even more of the posts are held by the poor officials, and so by any degree of retrenchment we cannot get a very large amount to help us to balance the Budget.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: Sir, I have great pleasure in supporting the motion of my friend, Mr. Azhar Ali, specially for the reason that I know something about the working of this Department, having been intimately connected with the Postal and R. M. S. Union in Bengal. When I made my general observations on the General Budget, I stated that there has been a very big jump under the head "Provision for Depreciation and Interest on Capital Outlay" and I also showed how Rs. 28,56,000 were charged in these two heads. I also brought to the notice of the House the defective system existing in regard to allocating the income from postage and message revenue. Now, Sir, rightly or wrongly, I think there is an impression that the telegraph side gets more income on account of the postage and message revenue. I, therefore, wish to suggest that separate telegraph stamps should be introduced which will reveal the correct position . . .

Mr. S. C. Mitra: That is a separate motion, and I shall move it separately.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: I also emphasised the fact that the correct position should be placed before the House, and there should be no hide and seek policy in this matter.

Sir, there is much to be said on the credit share of the cost of combined offices. Although the number of combined offices has increased, only 38,89,000 have been shown as share of the cost of combined offices against Rs. 34,24,886 in the year 1932-33. Let me remind the House that yesterday when my friend, Mr. Bajpai, replied to the interruption of Mr. K. Ahmed, he said that a school does not mean the building. So, in this particular case of amalgamation of telegraph and postal department, I should say that it does not mean the amalgamation of buildings also

Mr. K. Ahmed: I did not say that.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: Now, this amount cannot cover the pay, leave provision or pensionary charges of the combined hands. I invite the Government to submit a statement showing the number of combined hands actually employed on telegraph duties, number of inferior staff engaged in combined offices together with the approximate expenditure for their pay, leave and pensionary charges, otherwise it will be difficult to believe that this credit is fair to the post office. It will be better if the whole income derived through the combined offices is credited to the post office and its proportionate share of cost of engineering branch is credited to the telegraph branch.

While introducing the Budget on the 28th February, the Honourable the Finance Member stated that the figures of the post office cash certificates and the savings bank deposits were most striking:

"We estimate",

—said the Finance Member—

"The net interest in the post office cash certificate this year is at 10 crores and net addition of savings bank deposits at 4.35 crores. Both these figures greatly exceed any previous report and I may point out that the figure of 10 crores for post office cash certificates compares with average net receipts of about 2½ crores annually for the period from 1917."

This will prove that the work of the savings bank and cash certificates departments of all post offices has increased considerably. But only Rs. 47,000 have been provided in the Budget for management of post office savings bank and Government security works against Rs. 45,96,000 in the year 1932-33 and Rs. 44,41,158 in the year 1931-32.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty) Order, order. The Honourable Member is repeating what the previous speaker said.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: Excuse me, Sir, I was repeating these figures to give additional force to my arguments, because repetition generally brings home the arguments more forcibly.

[Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury.]

Now, Sir, there is another point to which I want to invite the attention of this House. Stamps worth six lakhs of rupees are paid to the Rulers of States free of charge. When the Department is not paying its way, stamps should not be given free of charge to them.

There are many post offices which are maintained for military purposes. Loss of these post offices should be debited to the Military Department. The post office has to incur expenditure to arrange for special delivery of mails to Governors and other high officers in the provinces, and, therefore, the Provincial Governments should be asked to pay the expenses. If the post office gets credit on all items fairly, there can be no loss at all in the post office, and we can always have a balanced Budget. With these observations, Sir, I support the motion of my friend, Mr. Azhar Ali.

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

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

Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen (Presidency Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I rise to support the motion moved by my Honourable friend, Mr. Azhar Ali. The Honourable the Mover has referred to the conversion of departmental telegraph offices into combined offices. First of all, I would like to elaborate that point. That was a recommendation made by the Committee presided over by my Honourable friend, the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs, Sir Thomas Ryan. In giving effect to that recommendation, only some unimportant offices have been converted, but the bigger ones have been left untouched, and their number will come close upon 50. Some of them may be enumerated—Jhansi, Naini Tal, Silchar, Bannu, Dera Ismail Khan, Multan, Darjeeling, Shillong, Cuttack, Cocanada, Bezwada, and so on. Sir, Government cannot find their way to reduce the postal rates, because their income does not allow them to do so. But I find that they do not give much attention to the sources of revenue. The average pay of the head of the departmental telegraph offices may be calculated at Rs. 400, and the house rent may be calculated at Rs. 50. If they combine the two offices, in one year alone they will be able to make an economy of about Rs. three lakhs. It may be argued that suitable hands may not be found to take charge of these combined offices. Sir, among the telegraphists there are some officers who were recruited from postal signallers and some of them are holding responsible jobs. They may be placed in charge of these combined offices. Of course, all those offices cannot be combined all at once, but some offices may be combined now and they may train others, and suitable men will be available in course of one or two years. In giving effect to the recommendations of the Postal Retrenchment Committee, presided over by my Honourable friend, Sir Cowasji Jehangir, the posts of Deputy Post Masters General, Traffic, were abolished, but their places were taken by Directors of Telegraphs. If the Post Masters General cannot do justice to both the sides, they may be assisted by assistants in the grade of Divisional Engineer of Telegraphs.

Now, I shall discuss the long standing grievance of another important branch, namely, the postal recruited telegraphists:

"After the amalgamation of Posts and Telegraphs, in or about the year 1913, a system of recruiting Local Scale Telegraphist from amongst the Postal Signallers was introduced, *vide* Director General's G. O. No. 8, dated 1st August 1915. According to this system, about three hundred specially selected signallers were transferred to the Telegraph side between the years 1913 and 1920. These transfers were not purely voluntary, but a selection based on merit. During this time, there was no time-scale of pay in the Postal Branch and they were transferred with the express desire that their prospects would be much better in the Telegraph side. They are given an increased salary of 37 per cent. on an average. A Postal Signaller, on temporary transfer to the Telegraph Branch, is given an increased salary of 20 per cent. of his pay . . ."

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce (Member for Industries and Labour): May I ask my Honourable friend from what he is reading?

Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen: I am reading from an article which appeared in 1929 in the All-India Postal and R. M. S. Union's magazine.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: 1929? (Laughter.)

Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen: Yes. (Laughter.) My point is that even after so many years their grievances have not been redressed:

"The introduction of the time-scale of pay and some other revisions in the conditions of the service in the Postal Branch brought about many changes and these men found that the purpose of their choice had been defeated and they have been put to positive loss in many cases by such transfers of service.

It may be argued that many of these men have been transferred to the General Service with higher scale of pay and thereby their losses have been made up. But this assumption is not correct. According to the Departmental standard, a Local Scale Telegraphist is entitled to an increase of 40 per cent. on his transfer to the General Service. This increase of pay is a compensation for the conditions of General Service; and the Postal recruited telegraphists were as much entitled to it as others for the reason that they accepted all the adverse conditions attached to the General Service. Actually, therefore, Postal Signallers of over three years' service have been losers. There are several other systems of recruitment to one branch from another in the Posts and Telegraphs, but in no case the men are to suffer any loss; on the contrary they get a clear advancement. These Postal Recruited Telegraphists have suffered in various ways. The following are their grievances:

- (1) Loss of benefit of all service in the Postal Branch.
- (2) Loss of benefit due to the Postal revision sanctioned after their entry in the Telegraph Branch.
- (3) Loss of prospects of rising to higher appointments.
- (4) No hope in many cases of rising to the maximum in their present grade.
- (5) Consequent loss by the reduction in the amount of the pension.

These men while they were working in the Post Office, were also serving the Telegraph Branch almost equally with the Telegraphists and they were under the same Director General and the same Post Master General and as such drawing salaries from both Postal and Telegraph Branches. The Honourable Member, Industries and Labour Department, in answer to a question in the Legislative Assembly, admitted that the telegraph work formed a part of the duty of postal signallers. In 1920, time scale of pay was introduced in the post offices whereby every member of the postal service was given the benefit of his past services and brought on to a pay according to his length of service. Even all temporary and probationary periods were counted towards increment in pay. Under orders of the Director General all previous services of a

{Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen.]

clerk on transfer from one branch to another in the Post Master General's office, Dead Letter Office, Railway Mail Service Office, Postal Audit Office and Telegraph Offices were recognised and calculated for purposes of increment of pay. The 'next below' rule was introduced where by the seniority of every one was safeguarded. But the signallers transferred from the post to the telegraph branch were alone deprived of these benefits. Representations were made separately and collectively by these men on many occasions and a memorial to His Excellency the Viceroy was submitted in May, 1923, but to no effect. In the beginning of 1926, the all-India Telegraph Union took up their cause and clearly showed that these men have really a very substantial grievance and asked the authorities to do them bare justice by counting their past services in the Post Office towards increment, if not for seniority. The Indian Telegraph Association recommended that these men should be brought on to a pay corresponding to that which they should have reached had they remained in the post office and that half of their entire service in the Post Offices should count for service and increment in the Telegraph Branch. In February 1926 the Government of India called for a statement showing the extra cost that would be involved if increments are granted to those men for their service in the Post Office. But after a consideration of more than a year the Government at last refused to do any justice to these men. The Government only agreed to return these men back to the Post Office if they so desired but did not consider it necessary to give them any assurance to safeguard their interests. Many of these men had been recommended for Inspectorships while in the post office and many have passed the Telegraph Mastership or Electrical Supervisors' Examination in the Telegraph side. How will these men be provided in the Post Office. Most of the men being in the Telegraph side for a long time had lost all touch with the post office work and they could not therefore accept a retransfer to the post office. Subsequently a memorial was submitted to the Secretary of State for India but it was not forwarded by the India Government. Now the question is why this batch of officials should be an exception to the general privilege granted to all other Government officials of counting their whole services for purposes of increment and seniority in the time scale of pay. Posts and Telegraphs constitute one and the same department. These men were simply transferred from one branch to another in the same department. All these men were recommended for their good work in recognition of which they were transferred to the Telegraph side to better their prospects. Why should they lose the benefit of their past service while each and every member of the Department availed of it. Military telegraphists on transfer"

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty): Order, order. While it will be permissible for an Honourable Member to read out reasonable quotations from a publication,—the practice of simply reading out the publication as part of a speech ought to be seriously deprecated.

Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen: Sir, I have almost finished. I would refer the Honourable Member to the magazine which I have mentioned. I hope he will inquire into their grievances and have them redressed. In 1929, a deputation waited on Mr. Rogers, then officiating Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs, and he was good enough to assure them that he would do his best to redress their grievances, but no consideration has yet been given. With these words, I support the motion.

Sir Thomas Ryan: I should like, in the first place, to express by appreciation of the few kind remarks which were interspersed in the general volume of condemnation by Mr. Azhar Ali and Mr. Mitra. I would like to say that I associate myself with what they said with regard to the reliability and the good service of the postal and telegraph subordinates. I am glad that a few words of commendation were also extended to me personally by Mr. Mitra who said that I was a sympathetic, though he suggested at the same time that I was a wrongheaded officer. I shall deal as briefly as the time at my disposal requires with the various points raised. In the first place Mr. Azhar Ali repeated the old allegation that the Postal and Telegraph Department is topheavy. I am very sorry that

the Administration Report for the year 1931-32, which is in the Press, will not be in the hands of Honourable Members for a short time, but I should just like to read a few figures from one paragraph, about the strength of the staff, where I refer to the fact that the total staff is over 130,000 and that the large number of superior, that is gazetted, staff in the Department is sometimes quoted as evidence that the establishment is topheavy. This impression should be corrected if it is realized that the number shown as 521 (in a statement here) of these officers includes 158 Divisional and other Superintendents, 48 Post Masters and 80 Telegraph Officers most of whom are in executive charge of the larger Post and Telegraph Offices or of sections of these and 137 Assistant and Deputy Assistant Engineers most of whom are in executive charge of Engineering Sub-Divisions or in comparable posts. If these are excluded, there remain under 100 officers in such higher charges as are commonly envisaged by the general public as controlling the business of the Department, and I do not think that the administration of a Department on this scale could be run with a smaller number of officers: moreover, as Mr. Mitra has acknowledged, the great majority of these officers draw relatively low pay and most of them have risen from the lower posts in the Department. I do not think that the Department is in any way overstaffed at the top or that it is extravagantly paid.

Certain statistics of retrenchment were cited by Mr. Azhar Ali. I think he was relying mainly on answers given a little time ago to questions about individual cadres. I should like to read out some later figures which have been compiled, which will, I hope, be soon in the hands of Honourable Members and which will show that the incidence of retrenchment has been much more equally divided than Honourable Members have admitted this morning. Under the heading of gazetted officers, we have retrenched—the statement I am reading from has been made up to the end of March, that is the end of this month and it takes account of retrenchments now in progress and the figures are in all cases approximate, but very nearly accurate—9.5 per cent. in strength and 8.3 per cent. in cost. Under clerical staff we have a net retrenchment of 2.6 per cent. in numbers and 10.1 per cent. in cost. Under lower subordinate engineering staff, I was told today that there has been no retrenchment. We have actually retrenched 8.8 per cent. of the strength and 9.8 per cent. of the cost, very nearly the same figure of cost, as for the postal clerical staff. Under the head of telegraph masters and telegraphists, the figures of retrenchment are the biggest of all, namely, 12.3 per cent. in strength and 17.6 per cent. in cost. Postmen, 8.0 per cent. in strength and 10.1 per cent. in cost, and the line staff 6.2 per cent. in strength and 6.5 per cent. in cost. Finally, the inferior service, 1.7 per cent. and 1.9 per cent. On the grand total, out of 130,008 men on the 30th November, 1931, we have effected a retrenchment of 4.4 per cent. in strength and of 9.8 per cent. in cost. I think it will be quite clear from these figures that a good deal of what has been said about the unfair incidence of retrenchment on the postal side is based on a misapprehension. As I was saying in response to an earlier motion for a cut this morning, it is true that the retrenchment on the telegraph traffic side was not pursued so vigorously as in other branches until the close of the last year and the beginning of this year, and it was for that reason that the figures at Mr. Azhar Ali's disposal were not as up-to-date, and in fact are very much short of the actuals as they will be at the end of this year.

[Sir Thomas Ryan.]

As regards the Telegraph Engineering Branch, it is true that the upper class staff has not been retrenched quite to the same extent as in other branches. Now, somebody who has not studied the report very closely said that we had not carried out the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee. The Retrenchment Committee made no recommendation in regard to the retrenchment of the engineering staff except as regards, I think, one post, that of the Deputy Chief Engineer in my own office. They recommended that that post should be abolished and replaced by one of a lower status. That measure was carried out. The general retrenchment of the engineering staff was merely left by the Retrenchment Committee to be further examined, separately from their own researches, and that examination has been carried out and has resulted in the retrenchment that I have just mentioned, namely 9·8 per cent. of the total cost and 8·8 per cent. of the total strength. There are very good reasons why it may not be possible to make retrenchment extensively on the engineering side and especially among the superior officers as it has been on the postal side. The Telegraph Engineering Branch is responsible for maintaining an immense net work of lines and a large number of offices and instruments throughout the country, and although the traffic of the Department has fallen within the last year or two, we have not been able to close down offices or remove a post or a mile of wire. These have to be kept up with the same efficiency as if they were heavily loaded. Reference was also made to the fact that the engineering expenditure has increased greatly since the amalgamation of the posts with the telegraphs in 1914. That, of course, is inevitable as a consequence of the development of telegraph engineering. We have now very much more in the way of high-speed telegraph working between the principal centres in India, involving a very high standard of maintenance of lines and the maintenance of expensive and very delicate equipment; and, particularly, we are spending now a good deal of money on the extension of telephony. The trunk lines which have been in existence for some years are rapidly being brought up to a high state of efficiency. It is quite inevitable that the Department must continue to spend money on the extension and the maintenance of this system and, incidentally, on the staff necessary to maintain it. As regards the reductions, which some people say we have gone too far on the postal side, I can only say that we have a business which has been falling off lamentably and it is only common business prudence to reduce your staff comparably with the reduction of business. We have accelerated the process by the diminution of the numbers of deliveries of letters at various places. In doing so we were certainly doing something which was not very pleasant to the public, but we had to do our best to reduce cost, and we did it on the advice of the Retrenchment Committee. In all these matters we have acted strictly in accordance with the advice of the Retrenchment Committee. We must cut our coat according to our cloth and that is what we have been doing. As regards the abolition of telegraph masters and telegraphists, I have just mentioned that we have really made, or are making, very heavy retrenchments although we began later than other retrenchments. So much so that I have received letters couched in terms of abuse compared to which I think the worst I have heard in this House is quite friendly. (Laughter.)

A good deal of weight was laid on the course of remarks this morning on the reduction in the number of selection grade posts in the supervisory

staff in relation to the staff supervised. There has been a good deal of misunderstanding about that on the part of the staff, and I think, in consequence, on the part of some Honourable Members also who have derived their information from the staff interested. The Retrenchment Committee, which is sometimes spoken of by members of my staff as having recommended the adoption of a fixed percentage of eight as between the number of supervisory clerical posts and the number of supervised posts, did not make in fact any such recommendation. They endorsed the recommendation of the Postal Committee of 1920 of which a member was the late Honourable Mr. Sarma, then a Member of the Indian Legislature, that the number of supervisory posts should be determined on nothing but the actual necessities of the situation, and as far as possible we do fix the number of these posts with reference to the actual supervisory work to be done. There may have to be less supervision in one office and more in another and the numbers vary accordingly. It certainly is true that, in the effort to secure every economy which we have lately been engaged upon in the hope of reducing expenditure, we have had to cut down the number of supervisory and selection posts: and if in some places a larger reduction was found to be possible than in other places, it is simply a matter of luck. We cannot have any uniform rule of thumb for settling these matters.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: May I know from the Honourable Member as to why 26 selection grade posts were reduced in Bengal?

Sir Thomas Ryan: The reason why 26 posts were reduced in Bengal were precisely what I have stated, that the responsible officers on the spot found that it was possible, or in their judgment expedient, to reduce 26 posts to a lower grade. I am quite willing to admit that, as has been alleged, different officers may actually employ different methods and may look somewhat differently at these problems. We have given them a certain amount of guidance, though there is not any rule of thumb, but there are certain formulæ for their help. It is always open to the local branches of the recognized unions of the officials concerned to represent such matters to the heads of the Circles who will certainly give their closest attention to any representation that in any particular place the thing has been over-done. We have not the slightest desire to reduce the number of these posts to an unreasonable extent; but we must determine the number of posts to be maintained with reference to the work to be done and not with reference to the consideration of providing a definite range of promotion. With regard to the conversion of telegraph offices into combined post and telegraph offices, I do not think Honourable Members can realise the great disparity in the numbers. In all India, as I mentioned this morning, there are only 100 "departmental", that is to say, exclusively telegraph offices, while there are 4,291 combined post and telegraph offices; it is not the case, as was stated this morning, that we have not pursued the policy of conversion which was recommended by a Committee presided over by myself some years ago, it naturally becomes more and more difficult to make these conversions as time goes on, because the remaining offices are the biggest ones, and the economy to be secured is manifestly less where you have a telegraph office which is exclusively and fully engaged on telegraph business than when you are dealing, as we were some years ago, with a large number of smaller telegraph offices not so fully worked. We are nevertheless even now pursuing this system; we will continue to

[Sir Thomas Ryan.]

convert purely telegraph offices into combined offices, or rather to amalgamate them with the local post offices and so make combined offices where it will pay us to do so.

Reference was made also to the practice of converting post offices into extra-departmental post offices run by non-departmental agents. I think it was Mr. Azhar Ali who hinted that there was some objection to this practice. We only do this where we are satisfied that the public service will not be materially impaired thereby, and our object in doing it is to secure a cheaper administration. If this motion should, though I hope it will not, go to the vote, I am glad to think that my Honourable friend, Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim, will for once walk into the same lobby with myself, because he will realise, even if others do not, that this is one of the measures by which we can cheapen the service and, therefore, afford to extend it in the province in which he is specially interested.

A good deal was also said, or rather read, this morning by Mr. Azhar Ali from a speech which he had prepared and which bore a certain likeness to certain representations which have recently reached me, about the Inspectors of Post Offices and the R. M. S. It is the case that the Inspectors of Post Offices and R. M. S. have expressed many grievances; when I had the pleasure of receiving a deputation from the principal Postal and R. M. S. Service Association not long ago, these matters were rather briefly touched on, and I promised that I would go into the matter if I were furnished with a detailed statement of the grievances, and there is a statement which I subsequently received in which these grievances were set out with no lack of detail. I must confess that I have not up to date been able to devote my personal attention to that statement of grievances. I have been too busy preparing and 'vetting' replies to the innumerable questions that my friends, Mr. Mitra and Mr. Maswood Ahmad, with a little occasional help from Bhai Parman Nand and others, have been constantly asking on communal and other matters. But the examination is in hand and I shall certainly give my closest attention to the complaints of the Inspectors, though I shall not attempt now to express any opinion one way or the other on the validity of the complaints made. In that connection I think one point made by Mr. Azhar Ali was that the delegation of powers was only increasing work. My experience is that a delegation of powers has the great advantage of reducing work. It would somewhat reduce my own work, for example, if the Honourable Member who sits in close charge of me would delegate all his authority to me and not require me to explain anything that I propose to do! I think with Inspectors it is much the same.

Reference was made, amongst some heads of individual grievances, to the grievance of the Inspectors in having been deprived lately of their special classification for purposes of travelling allowance; that is in fact the same point that was also referred to this morning by Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim in respect of Superintendents of Post Offices. There, again, I should like to transmit the blame to my Honourable friend, Sir Cowasji Jehangir, and the Committee presided over by him. They made that recommendation most deliberately after considering the objections which had previously prevailed against a similar proposal. Government have agreed, when the financial position of the department admits of it, to re-examine these matters, but they do not feel that they would be justified at the present time in restoring any of the special classifications.

Turning to Mr. Mitra's observations, I have already referred to the complaint that we have not carried out retrenchment on the engineering side. He laid some stress upon the fact that the Posts and Telegraphs Department is a public utility department and should be treated as such. In fact it is treated in that way. The Department does undertake a good deal of work which a purely commercial department would not do. We have undertaken this morning, for example, to look more sympathetically than a merely commercial department or company might do to Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim's demand for increased services in the less remunerative parts of his province. It is a fact, however that we are commercial enough to exact payment from other departments for the work done for them, and I think some of Mr. Mitra's remarks under that head must have been based on a misapprehension. For example, we have postal arrangements, rather expensive and certainly unprofitable, in places like Tibet. We do recover the full cost of these services from the departments which press us to maintain them; and that is our general policy,—to charge other departments for what we do for them.

I was a little taken by surprise by the complaint that we treat our extra-departmental agents unfairly by requiring them to provide at their own cost sealing wax, tables and chairs, and petty articles of stationery. It is a fact that we make no specific allowance for these items, but they are after all considered in the remuneration which is given for the work done. They know what they have to do in that way, and I am assured that there are plenty of people ready to come forward to be extra-departmental agents on the remuneration at present offered. I do not think, really, that there is a *prima facie* case for making a special allowance, which would be bound to be expensive in the aggregate.

Complaint was also made this morning that we do not get sufficient credit for work done for the Finance Department under such heads as management of the Post Office Savings Bank and Government security work, charges in connection with cash certificates and so forth. Well, Sir, while we are remunerated, I would certainly be glad if I could get more credit from the Finance Department which would improve the showing of my department, and I am glad to be able to quote my Honourable friends opposite in support of my efforts. But I must admit that we are at present paid on what has been accepted as a reasonable basis, the basis of so much per unit of work or so much per cash certificate handled and so forth. And the provision in the Budget is simply based on our estimate of the amount of work we shall have to do. It has been increased under the management of Post Office Savings Banks, etc. We provided for 47 lakhs in the current year as against 45·96 in the present year and considerably smaller figures for past years. We have provided a somewhat smaller figure, 3·80 lakhs as against 3·43 for charges in connection with cash certificates simply because we thought that the amount of work might somewhat fall off owing to the reduction of the return on the certificates. And if in fact more should come in, we shall automatically get greater credit and this matter will settle itself.

Mr. Chaudhury referred to certain points which he had also mentioned in his speech on the General Budget. He referred to the large increases in the provision for depreciation and for interest on capital. Well, there are large increases, and I am not surprised that they should have attracted his attention, but they are easily explained. As regards the provision for depreciation, the increase is due partly to an increase in

[Sir Thomas Ryan.]

the number of our assets, which we are always adding to, but in the main it is due to a change in the system of keeping the depreciation fund. As any Members of this House, who are versed in accounts matters, will know, a depreciation fund may be kept on what is called the "straight line" method or the "sinking fund" method. We used to keep it on the "sinking fund" method, but now it is kept on the straight line. The result is that the contribution to the fund is greater, but on the other hand we receive interest. The Department receives as part of its revenue interest on the sums accumulated in the fund and as a set off against the bigger contribution there is an increase of revenue exceeding 16 lakhs in the estimate for next year.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: Just one point, Sir. In this depreciation fund has the Government adopted the policy of the Retrenchment Committee Report?

Sir Thomas Ryan: Sir, in this respect the change which I have already referred to is simply due to the adoption of this recommendation in the Report of the Cowasji Jehangir Accounts Enquiry Committee, and the same is the case as regards the increase of interest on capital outlay. The same Committee considered that we have taken unduly short 'lives' as the estimated lives of various kinds of plant and equipment. The consequence of adopting longer lives was that we had to recast the capital account of the Department as from the 1st April, 1925. We started then on the assumption that the existing assets were worth a certain amount, but we had to revise and increase that figure, because we have now to assume that those assets still had a longer life before them than was originally estimated. Consequently we had to pay interest on a larger capital figure. Partly the increase in the interest charge is also due to the fact that we are required, as a commercial Department, or a Department keeping commercial accounts, to pay to the Finance Department interest on the loss which has accrued. The whole increase of interest on capital is due roughly half and half to these two causes.

I may just mention one other point, although it was not referred to specifically this morning. Mr. Chaudhury mentioned the other day that we have not taken account in the Budget for the cut in pay. As a matter of fact that impression is due to a change in the way in which the figures are exhibited and I can show him in detail, if he so wishes, that we have taken the cut in pay into account although it is not shown in the parallel columns side by side with the previous year's figures.

Reference was also made to defects in the method by which we determine the telegraph branch's share of the stamp revenue. I spoke at some little length on that subject this morning, when I was checked by Mr. Mitra, but, as I stated then, it is a fact that this distribution is not made on an arbitrary basis. We take detailed accounts in two typical periods of the year of the value and the number of telegrams handled. We deduce from these figures the average value of a telegram. We then apply that average value to the total number of inland telegrams paid for in cash during the year, and in that way we get a figure which, there is good reason to believe, is reasonably accurate. I would however say, without in any way anticipating the result of the examination, that we are examining now the question which Mr. Chaudhury raised whether

it would be desirable to revert to the practice of having separate telegraph stamps. There are certain objections to that which are pretty obvious. It means increased stocks, increased accounting difficulties, and I think increased difficulty to the public. I should imagine that many members of the public who pay for their telegrams in stamps would prefer not to have to use distinct stamps for that purpose. However, we are looking into the matter, and if it does seem to me, on the advice of my expert officers, that it would be a desirable change, I should certainly make a recommendation to the Government of India; but at the present moment my feeling is that it is probably not a desirable change and that the existing system of apportioning revenue is sufficiently accurate. Before leaving that point, I would like to say that, as I think it has already been mentioned in answer to a question in the House, Government have already taken a decision to abolish the existing practice of having combined postage and revenue stamps, and to have from the 1st April next year separate revenue stamps as they used to have many years ago. That will obviate any defect in our accounting owing to any mistake in the way in which credits of stamp revenue to Local Governments are calculated.

Replying to another point raised by Mr. Chaudhury, I would like to say that the amalgamation of offices is quite a real one and
 3 P.M. that when separate telegraph and post office are combined, it does not merely consist of putting the two staffs in one building. It is generally associated with considerable cheapening, because we usually employ in these combined offices postal signalers who are less expensive than the telegraph signalers, and they are supervised by the same postmaster instead of having a completely separate supervising staff. Mr. Chaudhury asked for a statement giving certain particulars with regard to the staff, etc., employed in the combined offices. I did not grasp the precise details that he asked for. In any case I could not at a moment's notice give elaborate statements showing the numbers of the staff, and so forth. But when I see the printed copy of Mr. Chaudhury's remarks, I shall see whether we can, without excessive labour, compile the information he wants, and if we can do so, I shall be happy to place it on the table of the House with a view to enabling him to draw any inference which he thinks reasonable. Mr. Chaudhury questioned the sufficiency of the credit which we give to the postal side of the Department on account of the staff employed in the combined offices. The credit is a sum about 84 lakhs of rupees. Well, I am open to conviction, but, so far as I know, this figure has been worked out in a reasonable manner, and it has certainly been accepted by the accounts officers so far, as giving a perfectly fair credit to the postal side for the work done for the telegraph side. If, when he has seen the statement to which I have just referred, Mr. Chaudhury can point out any defects in our system of working, I shall be only too pleased to reconsider the apportionment of the expenditure; but, at the present moment, I have no reason to believe that it is in any way incorrect. The suggestion that the telegraph earnings should be credited to the combined offices would mean, I think, the practical abandonment of our practice of keeping separate postal and telegraph accounts. Time is getting on and I must bring my remarks to a close. I shall only mention very briefly a few other points that have been raised. In regard to the alleged "free" grant of stamps to the Rulers of Indian States, I should like to emphasise that these stamps are not free grants;

[Sir Thomas Ryan.]

they are given in return for a consideration. I shall read a very short sentence from the Report of the Posts and Telegraphs Accounts Enquiry Committee, 1931:

"Our own examination of the documents placed at our disposal leads us to endorse the view of the Butler Committee that the grants of service stamps have been made on no general principle. Broadly speaking, however, the concessions have been made in most cases to attain throughout India a unified postal system, which would conduce to the general convenience of the public, and the ultimate advantage of the Department. We are not, therefore, in a position to recommend, immediately, either the stoppage of these concessions or the allocation of the cost thereof to any other department of Government."

That is to say, these stamps are given in return for substantial consideration, although owing to the fact that the sums have been fixed at different times over a great number of years, the precise way in which the grants have been calculated may not perhaps have been uniform.

A reference has been made to post offices maintained for railway purposes. I should be glad to have particulars of any office to which the Honourable Member refers, because I am not quite sure to what he does refer. We cannot always refuse to provide a post office where it is required, even if it is not in itself remunerative. For example, I was recently advised by my office to close the little post office which the Members of this Assembly use just round the corner here. I do not think many Members opposite would approve the withdrawal of that facility, although it means some loss to the Department.

I think, Sir, I have dealt with most of the points which have been raised and which bear directly on the policy of the Department. Pandit Sen referred to the grievances of certain signallers. He was reading from a document of 1928 or 1929. On his own showing, the grievances of these particular men have been repeatedly examined by Government who have not seen their way to redress the grievances, real or otherwise. But, if only as a matter of historical research, I shall be interested to look up the papers on that subject, and see whether there would be any practical purpose served in reopening it . . .

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: And I hope you will be convinced.

Sir Thomas Ryan: I am always open to conviction and if the case seems to me to be one in which injustice was really done and which can now be reopened after all these years, I should not hesitate to recommend Government to reopen it; but I do not think it likely that it can be reopened. I think I have said enough to show that the policy of the Department is a policy of which the Members of this Assembly may approve. We may not be able to give all the services which we would like to give, especially in present financial conditions; but we certainly are doing our best to meet the requirements of the public, and I hope that the Honourable Member will not feel so dissatisfied, after what I have said, that he will press his motion for a cut. (Cheers.)

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Sir, I have not much to say in reply after the hopes and assurances given by Sir Thomas Ryan. I find also that he has admitted certain of my points and the points raised on this side, and at the same time he assured us that he will give great consideration to our suggestions. It may be that our figures may be incorrect, but

we have to see to the facts and I trust that when we get the next report perhaps we may find correct figures and then we shall be able to work out our own conclusions. As regards the delegation of powers, I have not much to say in reply, but I am simply afraid that it may not land us in neglect. I want that this delegation should be properly used and that in future the rights and privileges of people may be well guarded. As regards the number of selection posts and the reductions, our only object is that the people should not suffer. It is quite correct that the people on the spot are the best judges; but we shall feel highly obliged and the country will feel grateful if the officer in charge on the spot takes more particular care about the people who are reduced. I have not more to say, except one remark about the top-heavy administration. I do not want to go into illustrations or reply to what my friend, Mr. Mitra, has said; but I may quote one instance and that will be enough to show that there is need for great consideration in future. We have got the post of a Financial Adviser. In spite of my knowing that very good work has been put in by the Financial Adviser, my point is that people in the Department now are quite competent to advise very reasonably and they know how to do the business and, at least, the present Accountant General of Post Offices, I submit, will be able to do the same work as efficiently as is expected of him. I do particularly refer to this instance, and I mean that posts like those are really such that perhaps it may not be necessary in future to keep. I have nothing more to say in reply on account of the hopes and assurances that have been given and beg leave of the House to withdraw my motion.

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

Equitable Apportionment of Revenue between Postal and Telegraph Branches.

Mr. S. C. Mitra: Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including Working Expenses)' be reduced by Rupees 100."

Even after the very elaborate speech of Sir Thomas Ryan, I still move this cut only to show that rightly or wrongly there is the apprehension in the public mind that the present system is defective in allocating the income on account of postage and the telegraphic message revenues. In my Budget speech I first suggested that there should be separate postal and telegraphic stamps, and I am glad, my friend, Mr. Lahiri Chaudhury, also supported today my views. The present system now is to take stock for two weeks in the year and from that to find out the average, and generalise from those figures. I think that the most that could be said about that system is that it is highly problematical. In any way the Director-General said that the change might not be desirable. By my motion I merely want to say that from this side of the House it will not be considered as undesirable, and the general public will not be very much inconvenienced if like the revenue stamp, telegraph stamps are separately printed, so that we can really account for our revenues both on the postal and on the telegraphic side. It is not my case to prove that the telegraphs side has not been properly retrenched. What I wanted to

[Mr. S. C. Mitra.]

show was that the postal side was not a deficit one. Referring to the Budget, I said:

"In the working expenses of the Budget, it is found that in all heads expenditure has been curtailed to certain extent on comparison with the year 1931-32 with the exception of engineering, where, instead of a decrease of expenditure, in comparison with the year 1931-32, the expenditure has increased year by year."

There is further evidence also, which I do not claim as conclusive, that the telegraph side has not been properly retrenched; but all that I demand is that, in all fairness to the postal side, when there is a desire in the public mind that there should be more accurate and scientific basis to calculate the revenue, instead of depending upon the very rough and ready method of finding out the aggregate for two weeks in the year and then multiplying it, a more serious attempt should be made. With these remarks, I move my motion.

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

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including Working Expenses)' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Sir Thomas Ryan: Sir, in view of what I have already had occasion to say today on the manner in which the apportionment of revenue between the postal and telegraph branches is made, I do not think there is need for me to say very much more now. As I have already explained, we are examining departmentally this question of having separate telegraph stamps. If it is really the case, as Mr. Mitra suggests, that there the necessity of using a different kind of stamp for telegraphic purposes would not cause public inconvenience, certainly one obstacle in this matter will be removed. For a long time now we have had the present system in existence, since the separate stamps were done away with, and it is my impression that they were done away with as a measure of public convenience to enable them to use the same stamps for both purposes. But, as I say, we are examining the matter, and we shall take full cognisance of what has been said by the Honourable Member on this subject, without making any promise that I shall be able ultimately to fall in with his views.

Mr. S. C. Mitra: Sir, as this matter is under consideration, I beg leave of the House to withdraw the motion.

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

'Grievances of Ex-Approved Candidates in the Calcutta General Post Office.'

Mr. S. C. Mitra: Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including Working Expenses)' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Sir, these approved candidates were recruited from time to time since 1926, and 40 of them had rendered continuous officiating service of nearly 8½ years in various capacities, some of them having even held independent charges during the period, before they were discharged on the 28th June, 1932. The Director-General in reply to one of my questions said that there

are at present 73 of them not provided for. I am informed that there are among them 12 graduates, 15 passed signallers, and the case of these approved candidates in Calcutta is one of very peculiar hardship. They entered the department in the hope that they would get permanent appointment after six months probation as laid down in the Fundamental Rules and had it not been for extraordinary and untoward circumstances, most of them would have been appointed in permanent vacancies in the upper division clerical cadre long ago. It was under contemplation for a very long time to farm out the treasury work of the Calcutta G. P. O. to contractors and all the vacancies which occurred there were kept unfilled since 1929 on the plea that it would be necessary to absorb the clerks of the Treasury Department in those vacancies on the transfer of the work to contractors. The scheme, however, appears to have been ultimately abandoned, but in November, 1930, there was retrenchment of staff in the Post Master General's office and the Calcutta Stock Depot, and the entire surplus staff, numbering nearly 30, were absorbed in the vacancies left unfilled in the Calcutta G. P. O. which would have otherwise gone to 30 of these *ex*-approved candidates. Then, again, came the Director-General's general orders under which all vacancies in the Calcutta G. P. O. as elsewhere were kept unfilled in view of pending retrenchment of staff and the approved candidates were told to wait until the effects of retrenchment. The Posts and Telegraphs Retrenchment Advisory Sub-Committee found out that there were 228 surplus telegraphists in excess of requirements and, in their report, submitted in September, 1931, recommended the abolition of these posts in future vacancies. To the painful surprise of these *ex*-approved candidates, 23 surplus telegraphists of the Central Telegraph Office, Calcutta, were pitchforked in 23 vacancies in the combined Town Sub-offices in Calcutta in June, 1932, and in spite of the Director-General's assurance that they have been only temporarily provided there and will be again shifted to the Telegraph Office, not a single surplus telegraphist has yet been taken away from the combined offices. The plea made out by the Director-General was that it was necessary and expedient to keep the surplus telegraphists in reserve for filling up future vacancies as trained telegraphists are not easily available and it was on this plea that 23 vacancies in combined offices, which should have gone to the signalling passed *ex*-approved candidates, have been unnecessarily blocked in spite of loud complaints from the Presidency Post Master that there is considerable wastage of man power, as the Departmental telegraphists, unlike postal signallers, cannot be utilised for postal work when they have no signalling duties to perform. I understand that the Post Master General, Bombay, has not allowed a single surplus telegraphist to be provided in any postal vacancy in his circle. Unfortunately, however, the Calcutta G. P. O. has become the dumping-ground for the surplus staff everywhere. I understand that eight more vacancies have again been filled up by eight surplus clerks in Howrah and Barrackpore Head offices and, to make the position of the *ex*-approved candidates still worse, a postal clerk from the Rangoon G. P. O. and a lady clerk from the Lahore G. P. O., have secured transfer to Calcutta to block two more vacancies. The *ex*-approved candidates have thus been permanently deprived by this process of pitchforking of any chance of getting any upper division clerical appointment for which they were originally recruited, as under departmental orders all vacancies in the clerical cadre are to be converted into lower division, but

[Mr. S. C. Mitra.]

their chance of being provided even in lower division clerical vacancies appears to be very remote considering that during the past eight months or over only 13 ex-approved candidates have been appointed in the lower division cadre. If things proceed at this slow pace, it will take six or more years to provide all the ex-approved candidates. The department is, therefore, under moral obligation to provide them and save their careers from being ruined altogether. I understand that the ex-approved candidates in Bombay and other Presidency towns have not been put to so much hardship as no pitchforking was allowed there. I earnestly appeal to the Director-General to devise some special means to provide these men as quickly as possible in consideration of their special hardship.

The main case is this. These people entered the postal service, and after three and, in some case, of six years' approved service, they are now thrown out and their lot is really very hard. Of course, when a campaign of retrenchment is pursued, there must be hardship on some people, but if people from the telegraph department, unlike other places like Bombay and Madras, are dumped in Calcutta, there will be very little chance for these ex-approved candidates to find a place in the postal department. I know the Director-General is considering their case sympathetically, but he should see that, as in other places, these people should not be put to any special hardship in the Bengal Circle due to people from the telegraph side filling up these vacancies. Sir, I move my motion.

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

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including Working Expenses)' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Sir Thomas Ryan: Sir, I am afraid that I shall find it very difficult to satisfy my friend on this point. At a time when retrenchment is carried out on a very large scale, it is, I am afraid, inevitable that people who were aspiring to enter the service, or who were actually employed in officiating posts, or kept on waiting lists expecting appointments, must be disappointed. Unless there should be a substantial improvement in the postal business which will justify us in increasing the staff again, I see little prospect of its being possible to offer posts to any large number of these unfortunate men to whom my friend refers. These "approved candidates" are persons who would normally have been absorbed in the Department long before now, and I have complete sympathy with their position—as I have with all those who have been disappointed in their normal expectations—but it would not be consistent with the policy of retrenchment or the inevitable results of retrenchment to employ them. The Honourable Member makes it a grievance that, instead of retrenching surplus telegraphists, we have employed these in postal vacancies and have thereby further lessened the prospects of these candidates for securing employment. When all is said and done, the postal telegraphist is a permanent Government servant, while the approved candidate at the most is a temporary or officiating employee, and surely it stands to reason that it is more correct for Government to provide, in a vacancy even outside his normal branch, for a permanent man rather than throw him out altogether and take on a man who is not yet on a permanent footing. That view evidently commended itself to the Retrenchment Subcommittee, because

that Committee did not specifically recommend the retrenchment of any surplus telegraphists, but expressed the hope that we would do precisely this thing—that we would be able to provide for them in vacancies in other offices. What the Honourable Member says rather surprised me—that this was found possible in Calcutta and not done in Bombay or elsewhere. The impression I have formed from his speech is that postal officials in Bombay and elsewhere have possibly failed to carry out the orders which were issued to them—not that the Post Master General, Calcutta, did wrongly in doing so. The only measure of consideration that I have been able to extend to these approved candidates I have done. We were pledged in respect of such vacancies as had to be filled in the lower division, to give those vacancies to men of the postmen class in the Posts and Telegraphs Department, and it was specially to meet the case of these “ex-approved candidates” as they are called, in Calcutta and elsewhere, especially in Calcutta where the case was represented to me personally, that I decided with the approval of the Government that one half of the lower division posts should be reserved for those approved candidates who had previously hoped to get into the higher division. That was a measure of consideration for them, at the cost, I am afraid, of the postal officials of the postmen class. It was as much as we felt we could do, and I am afraid that I cannot further satisfy the Honourable Member. I should be only too glad to provide for these men, but I think the policy of utilising vacancies for the absorption of surplus permanent Government officials even if they belonged to the telegraph branch is the right one. It was a policy which was recommended by the Retrenchment Committee, and I think it is one which we must continue to follow so long as there remain surplus telegraphists. I hope the Honourable the Mover will not press this motion to a division, because, if I do not fall in with his views, it is not because I do not sympathise with these men—I do sympathise with them—but because circumstances do not admit of my giving them a greater measure of consideration than has already been extended to them.

Mr. S. C. Mitra: I agree that my Honourable friend has tried to do his best for these people, but I appeal to him that, if there are in future any chances for absorbing these ex-approved candidates, he will do his best to absorb them. With that hope, I beg leave to withdraw my 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. 10,44,09,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1934, in respect of ‘Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including Working Expenses).’”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 25—INTEREST ON DEBT AND REDUCTION OR AVOIDANCE OF DEBT.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty): The motion before the House is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,14,88,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1934, in respect of ‘Interest on Debt and Reduction or Avoidance of Debt.’”

Mr. B. Das (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadan): I do not find the Finance Member in his seat; otherwise I wanted to ask him one question. May I put the question?

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty): Yes .

Mr. B. Das: My question is this. We have said that the sum he has provided for the reduction of debt should not be provided this year and should go towards reduction of taxation. He has evaded answering that question. I should like to have an answer from him.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty): The Honourable Member will get another chance on the Finance Bill to ask that question if he wants to do so.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): May I ask you to postpone this item and pass on to the next one?

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty): Yes, the Chair has no objection; it is but fair to postpone* the consideration of this Demand.

DEMAND No. 26—INTEREST ON MISCELLANEOUS OBLIGATIONS.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 50,42,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1934, in respect of 'Interest on Miscellaneous Obligations'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 27—STAFF, HOUSEHOLD AND ALLOWANCES OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,36,000 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 'Staff, Household and Allowances of the Governor General'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 29—COUNCIL OF STATE.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,04,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1934, in respect of 'Council of State'."

The motion was adopted.

*For further discussion of this demand see pp. 1901—63.

DEMAND NO. 25—INTEREST ON DEBT AND REDUCTION OR AVOIDANCE OF DEBT.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty): The House will now resume* consideration of Demand No. 25. The motion before the House is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,14,88,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1934, in respect of 'Interest on Debt and Reduction or Avoidance of Debt'."

Mr. B. Das: I wish to ask the Honourable the Finance Member one particular question. We have urged from this side of the House whether he can see his way not to provide any funds for reduction of debt in the Budget this year and to postpone it and utilise the sum for reduction of taxation.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: I would like, in this connection, to ask the Finance Member a few questions. My first question is, why the sterling loans have not been transferred to the rupee loan during these days. The second is, why, when the rate of interest has been very much lowered in England, we have not taken advantage of that low rate of interest. My third point is, why any provision has been made at all for payment of War debt since we are not paying War debt at all. Considering that our Budget is in a very bad condition, is it not desirable that we should do away with this particular item altogether? The fourth question is this: We are putting a very large sum under the head "avoidance of debt", just as my Honourable friend during the discussion on the Railway Budget said that we were putting very large sums in the depreciation fund. Therefore, in these bad days is it not desirable that such large sums should not be set aside and some relief should be given to the tax-payers?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: This is rather a novel form of debate. It seems that the House is content to receive answers from me and not to advance any arguments on the merits of a particular case. I am very flattered by that attitude.

My Honourable friend, Mr. Das, has raised the question as to whether in a year of difficulty like the present it is necessary for the Government to continue making provision according to the terms of the existing convention for the reduction and avoidance of debt. That, Sir, is a subject with which I dealt at some length in one of the earlier stages of our Budget discussions. I do not know whether my Honourable friend was present when I dealt with this point, but I am afraid that if he was not convinced by what I said then, I have really nothing to add on the matter. To my own mind, the arguments which I then advanced were entirely convincing. As I regard the position, it is this. We have got in this year, as I have always made it clear, to face conditions of very great uncertainty. It would be most unwise for the Government, in conditions of that kind, to cut out a provision which is in a sense a safety provision in the Budget. On its merits, it would be entirely unjustifiable. Apart from that, one of the great objects which we have had in view in the last year and which, I think, we may claim that we have gone a long way

[Sir George Schuster.]

to attaining with very beneficial results to the finances of the country, is the improvement of the Government's credit. Now, Sir, rightly or wrongly, there is nothing which creates such an adverse impression in the minds of the public at large both in this country and in London as any suggestion that the Government are helping themselves to get over their difficulties by the process of what is commonly known as raiding their own sinking fund. That is a course for which we should find it impossible to stand in present circumstances. When some Honourable Members have thought that we were exaggerating the safety provisions in our Budget this year, I found it necessary to point out one particular element of weakness in our present position which is not revealed in the budgetary figures, and that is the position as regards the Railways. My Honourable friend knows perfectly well that although we take credit for the full amount of interest due to us on the Government's advances to the Railways, the Railways are not, in fact, according to their own system of accounts, earning the money with which to pay that interest. They can only pay that interest by raiding their own depreciation fund. It may be held that the provision annually made for depreciation is too high and that in fact the Railways are not spending on replacements each year the same amount as they are setting aside for depreciation. But even if we take that into account, my Honourable friend will know, because he is a careful student of Railway accounts, that last year the amount which the Railways had to draw from the depreciation fund considerably exceeded the unexpended balance of their depreciation allocation for last year. Therefore, the Railways are really down on the year. They are paying us in interest more than their earnings by way of net profits, even if you add to those net profits the unexpended balance of their allocation for the year to the depreciation fund. That, Sir, is, as I say, an element of weakness in our position and an additional reason for not further increasing that weakness by reducing our own provision for reduction and avoidance of debt. If my Honourable friend is not convinced by those considerations, then his views on financial policy differ from my own, and I am sorry to say that we shall have to agree to differ. But I feel absolutely confident, and I hope that the House will share my confidence, that the view which we have taken of the position is the right one.

Then, Sir, my Honourable friend, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad, put to me three questions. I am afraid, I must confess I did not understand the purport of my Honourable friend's first question, but it seemed to me that he had in mind that we might possibly reduce our sterling indebtedness by increasing our rupee indebtedness. Surely my Honourable friend knows that when we borrow pounds sterling instead of rupees, we adopt that course not because it suits us better to borrow in London than in India, but because we want sterling. We have sterling commitments to meet, not rupee commitments. It serves no purpose to the Government to raise rupees in order to meet sterling expenditure unless it can convert those rupees into sterling and the amount of rupees which the Government can convert into sterling depends entirely on the exchange position and the amount of remittances which the Government can obtain through the market. I can assure my Honourable friend that we limit our sterling borrowing to the extreme minimum which is necessary in order to meet our requirements. We should never raise a penny more in London than we require to raise in order to meet our sterling commitments. The main

commitments which we have to consider at present, apart from our current requirements which we have been able to meet through the ordinary remittance purchases in the market, are in regard to the repayment of sterling loans, and those have to be repaid in sterling and we have to raise sterling for that purpose. Then, my Honourable friend asked me why we had not taken advantage of the low rates of interest prevailing in London to convert some of our own high interest bearing sterling loans. That, Sir, is a point which I thought I dealt with very fully in answering a similar criticism made by my Honourable friend from Madras, Diwan Bahadur Ramaswami Mudaliar. I told him then that it was a matter on which I was not in a position to give full information to the House, because there are all sorts of considerations involved which are not suitable for inclusion in a public statement, but I assured my Honourable friend that we had the matter in the forefront of our attention and that he could rely on us to take advantage of every opportunity that offered. I believe my Honourable friend was satisfied with that assurance and I can say no more now. But I might mention this—that a notification was issued on the 7th of March to the effect that we would repay the six per cent. loan which is maturing on the 15th June in London. Therefore we are committing ourselves to taking one step in the direction that my Honourable friend desires. We are in a position in any case to give notice of repayment of that loan, because our own existing sterling treasury balances are sufficient to meet that commitment even if we should not borrow further in London later in the year. Then, Sir, as regards the war debt, my Honourable friend again raised a question which has been several times discussed in the course of these debates. I can supply no further information on that point. We regard the war debt as we must regard it,—as an existing liability for which we have to make provision. It would be dishonest for us to put before the House Budget estimates which did not make provision for that liability. On the other hand, we are naturally doing all we can to get the whole question taken up in the course of this year, and considered together with the question of reparation payments under which we should benefit. If we can get our war debt liability reduced, postponed or cancelled, then undoubtedly our position will be *pro tanto* improved and it may be that that will provide us with a much-needed margin of improvement and which will make it possible at a later date to reduce taxation. (Hear, hear.) The House can be confident of this that we shall do our utmost in the matter and, as soon as our position has sufficiently improved, we shall certainly take steps in the direction of relaxing some of those emergency measures which are so unpopular with this House and with everybody in the country. Sir, I think that that sufficiently answers the questions that have been raised and, as I have no arguments to meet, I must content myself with giving the information. (Applause.)

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,14,88,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1934, in respect of 'Interest on Debt and Reduction or Avoidance of Debt'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 30—LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
DEPARTMENT.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,92,000 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 'Legislative Assembly and Legislative Assembly Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 32—HOME DEPARTMENT.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty): The motion before the House is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,70,000 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 'Home Department'."

Classification of Political Prisoners.

Mr. S. C. Mitra: Mr. Deputy President, I move:

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

Sir, I know that Jail is a provincial subject, but my justification for my motion is to call attention to the interference by the Government of India as regards the matter of the classification of prisoners. I think it is within the memory of most of the Members present here that the question of classification was taken up by the then Home Member and that he then consulted some of the Party Leaders before arriving at certain conclusions. We on this side of the House have all along urged that, in deciding about the treatment of prisoners in jail, the motive for the crime in question should also be taken into consideration; but, for reasons best known to Government, that was not done. The position taken up by them was generally that when a man is convicted and sent to prison, the jailor has to carry out the order of the judge. It is for the judge to decide whether the imprisonment should be simple or rigorous and also the period of imprisonment, and that he alone is to judge about the motive in awarding sentence. Once a man is convicted, the jailor has merely to carry out his orders and the duty of the jailor is only to see that the prisoner does not suffer in health.

[At this stage Mr. Deputy President (Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty) vacated the Chair which was occupied by Sir Leslie Hudson.]

Now, that depends on the status of the prisoner, and the mode of life he is accustomed to, and, so far as I know, those were the considerations that induced the Government of India to make some general rules for the classification of prisoners. But in effect now we find that instead of the political prisoners getting proper treatment, the treatment meted out to them is sometimes vindictive. Even the principles that were laid down by the Government of India with regard to taking into consideration the factor of their education, mode of life, training, and so on, are not taken into account in treating the prisoners in the Indian jails.

Sir, I shall not go into individual cases. That is not my purpose now. I can cite innumerable instances where not only gentlemen, but very respectable ladies, coming from the highest social strata of Indian life, have been classed as "C" class prisoners, without any consideration whatsoever, without the least compunction and often by way of vindictive punishment. Their previous career, their station in life, none of these things is held of any account. Even today, while coming here, I received a letter about the treatment of a certain gentleman, whom I do not know personally, namely, Professor Nigam. He was tried in the Delhi Conspiracy Case and is now in the Cawnpore jail and his brother writes to me to say that he was a Professor in the Hindu College here. But he has been classed as "C". I can cite any number of similar cases, but on the present occasion I shall not go into individual cases. I would like to establish before the House that the Local Governments have not been properly instructed by the Home Department of the Government of India, that the so-called rules of classification that the latter have framed are not even enforced in the provinces, and I think it will be borne out by several Members on this side at least that several ladies, who have been convicted in political cases, have been grouped and put along with women who have been sent to jail upon conviction for very heinous offences and that they were forced to live in the company of such degraded and desperate prisoners. I dare say, even this Government will not contend that the idea of punishment is merely vindictive instead of being corrective, and that they will not at least claim that they merely send these prisoners with a view to wreaking vengeance on them and thereby debasing them and destroying their morale. Instead of being corrective in any way, this mode of treatment of prisoners in jail really debases them.

Further, there are other classes of prisoners who are prisoners only in name, like State Prisoners under Regulation III of 1818, who are never tried or convicted and had no occasion to disprove the so-called charges which are hardly even known to them. These people are also treated sometimes very harshly and like ordinary criminals. We hear of many cases of hunger strike which are generally due to misbehaviour and insulting conduct of some of these jail officials. It is not always the fault of these jail officials, because I know from my own experience that in some prisons the Jail Superintendents do not know that the State Prisoners are not to be treated like ordinary criminals with whom they are accustomed to deal, in the jails. For all these reasons I think it is time for the Government of India to initiate further principles which should be strictly followed, that considerations about education, social status, and mode of life to which these political prisoners are accustomed should be taken into account before they are classified.

I know, and one can easily guess from the uniformity of punishment under several sections, that in dealing with political crime there must be some instructions, direct or indirect, even about the quantum of punishment that is being inflicted on political prisoners. I know that, instead of issuing notices to these magistrates and giving them hints, recourse is had to the Public Prosecutor to get up and say that he demands so much punishment in such cases. So really it is the policy of the Government of India to dictate to these magistrates directly or indirectly. If they do it, why should they dictate only about their sentence? Why should not they also enforce their own rules that the previous life and education and

[Mr. S. C. Mitra.]

status of prisoners should also be considered in classifying them? There is a general impression that in political cases it is due to the vindictiveness of the Government that they are embittering feelings. On these grounds, I move this motion and point out to Government that, instead of doing any good by this classification, they have really made the condition of the political prisoners far worse in the Indian jails.

Sir, I move.

Mr. Chairman (Sir Leslie Hudson): Out motion moved:

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

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Sir, I rise to support this motion. I had another motion in my name about the Aligarh and Muslim Universities which for want of time I have not moved today, and as I knew that my friend, Mr. Mitra, was going to move this motion, I thought that I should give preference to this, because I shall find more time on the Finance Bill to move that motion.

Sir, this question of classification of political prisoners has been engaging our attention for a very long time. The House knows well that questions after questions have been put in this House and the Home Department has always been moved with regard to classification. Sir, I am glad to be able to say that in my own province of the United Provinces, wherever such occasions have arisen, the Home Member there has tried his level best to satisfy the public demand. But that is not the case everywhere. I also know, Sir, that the Congress people or those who have gone to jail for civil disobedience, or other political prisoners do not want that there should be any expression of sympathy either in this House or outside. What they did they did in obedience to the country's cause and in obedience to their conscience. It is not for any kind of personal aggrandisement that they did this. Sir, the proper classification of prisoners, as my friend, Mr. Mitra, said, is very necessary. Those people who go to jail have to put up with circumstances in which their health suffers and their morals suffer and they cannot keep up their educational standards. If they are supplied with proper books and papers, they might be enlightened on modern subjects and the subjects which the country is at present discussing. Sir, it is all very well to say that certain people are put in the proper class, but we find everywhere that there are complaints and very little attention is paid to this matter. Sir, it is indeed a hardship in itself to send patriots to jail and Government ought to recognise that. Over and above that, if they are put in a class which is not their due and which causes them inconvenience, it is a matter which not only is a disgrace to the country, but also gives the Government a bad name. Sir, we recognise that their sacrifices are very great and they only go to jail for no crime of theirs, but only to serve their country. This the Government cannot deny that they are not doing all this for self-praise or for self-aggrandisement, and nobody will say that they have gone to jail from any selfish motives. Some people may say that they have gone for self-aggrandisement, but that is a far-fetched idea and nobody, having the least sense or wisdom in him, will ascribe that motive to these patriots.

With these remarks, I support this motion.

Mr. B. Das: Sir, I wish to voice the demands of the unfortunate province to which I belong. In that province, the province of Bihar and Orissa, Sir, the rules are somehow or other always misinterpreted. There are curious ways of dealing with things and things happen there which never happen in the province of my Honourable friend, Sir Harry Haig, the Home Member of which province was so much praised by my friend, Mr. Azhar Ali. Sir, in the Province of Bihar and Orissa, I think the prisoners of Orissa are not properly classed. The officials do not quite follow the lines laid down by the Government of India by which they are to classify the prisoners. Prisoners, who belong to good family or of high social position, are to be classified to higher classes, but at times they were classified, by some unwritten laws, to lower classes. I joined in a deputation to wait upon my Honourable friend, Sir Harry Haig, when he was acting Home Member in 1929 and asked him to treat uniformly all ex-legislators and we urged that all Ex-M. L. As. ought to be classed as "A" class prisoners. We drew his attention to the cases of Messrs. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai and Nilakantha Das and they were classed as "A" Class. Well, there is the case of Mr. Ram Narayan Singh, ex-M.L.A., from the province of my Honourable friend, Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh, and who was not classed as an "A" Class prisoner in the second Satyagraha movement. Mr. Dwarka Prasad Misra's case is another instance. He was very much ill-treated by the Government of the Central Provinces and he was put into Class "B". He was not even given clothes to wear and he was made to move from one jail to another with only a piece of blanket. I think the Honourable the Home Member knows the case fully well.

Then, there is the ill-treatment of women prisoners. That well-known Congress leader, Mrs. Kamla Devi Chattopadhyaya, who I am glad, is today out of the prison, was made a "C" Class prisoner. After we beckled the Honourable the Home Member, she was transferred to a better jail and placed in a better class. I will cite one instance in my own town, i.e., that of Mrs. Malati Devi. She was classified as a "C" Class prisoner and is still in prison. She is the wife of a younger cousin of mine. She is related to very many prominent people in India. She has a relative here in the House, though not a Member of the House. Mrs. Malati Devi is a grand-daughter of the late Mr. B. L. Gupta, once one of the Judges of the Calcutta High Court, and she is the daughter-in-law of the late Mr. Gokulanand Chaudhury, a prominent leader of Orissa in his time. Her husband's eldest brother, Babu Gopabandhu Chaudhury, is the leader of the Orissa Congress at present and he is the uncrowned king of Orissa. She belongs to the most advanced and respectable family in Orissa. But when the Deputy Magistrate tried her case which was started for picketing for the second or third time, she was classed as a "C" Class prisoner. This is a most heinous state of affairs. People, who belong to the highest family, who have got the highest social status in the country, are condemned as "C" Class prisoners, because Government think they will thereby break their spirit and humiliate these leaders in the eyes of the public; but I may remind my Honourable friend, the Home Member, that thereby you only create a halo to their name and fame. Those who are condemned as "C" Class prisoners, especially people, who like Malati Devi or Kamla Devi, occupy very high positions in society, their position and reputation in the country is enhanced thereby and the feeling of the country is irritated against the Government. I agree with the previous speakers that there should be

[Mr. B. Das.]

proper classification of prisoners who, otherwise, if they were not political prisoners, would have been classed as "B" Class or "A" Class; and "A" Class prisoners should not be condemned to "C" Class, simply because they are patriots and not criminals. I do hope that my Honourable friend will bear this in mind and advise the Provincial Governments not to have this salutary rule misinterpreted against the political prisoners which apparently they have hitherto done.

I believe, Sir, that we are on the threshold of peace and peaceful atmosphere and I hope my Honourable friend, Sir Harry Haig, will do his bit to create that peaceful atmosphere which we are anticipating with the release of the White Paper simultaneously with the release of all political leaders including Mahatma Gandhi. (Interruption.) I agree with my interrupter that white is the emblem of peace. I am glad that hope is dawning and the white angel of peace is coming with the White Paper.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: Sir, I wholeheartedly support the remarks made by the previous speakers. Evidently it is a fact, it is a bare naked fact, if I may say so, that justice and equity is being supplanted by barbarism and brutality. Number of instances have come before us, not only of ladies of ordinary station in life, but ladies of the most respectable families whose honour and dignity have been trampled under this malicious jail administration, and, if the Honourable the Home Member had the chance of visiting the jails and of hearing the woeful tales of respectable gentlemen and respectable ladies, he would find that practically barbarism is being practised there. If Government want to prove their *bona fides*, this is just the opportune moment when they should come with the utmost dignity just to show a little respect for these respectable ladies who are suffering.

It has been said by my Honourable friend, Mr. Mitra, that the judgment should be the judgment of the judges and the treatment in the jails should be administered by the judgment which the prisoners receive. But what do we find? From Delhi, Simla and other places, orders are issued, and the prisoners suffer for that. If this is the way of the administration, if this is to be justice, I should be the last man to co-operate with this Government. But I think it quite necessary at this moment when there is an atmosphere of peace and of waiting for the new Constitution, this should be the pioneer or initiative stage for better treatment of these prisoners and a real classification should be made of their daily life in jail.

Another thing that was pointed out by my friend, Mr. Mitra, was that ladies and gentlemen, who come from very respectable families, who do not commit any crime like ordinary criminals, and whom sometimes the Courts even do not find to be guilty, are treated in this manner. I want to emphasise this point particularly at this stage, so that my Honourable friend, the Home Member, will find some substantial means to classify these prisoners properly in the provincial jails and other places, and he should make it a point to see that these prisoners get proper treatment.

I perfectly well remember that Jatin Das sacrificed his life on account of this maladministration in the jail. I maintain that, from the sacrifice of that great soul the classification of prisoner has started. If that great soul was sacrificed in that manner for this classification and treatment,

I do not think any Member in this House, with a clear conscience, can approve of the present policy which is being administered by the executive of the Government, I mean the Home Member.

Mr. T. N. Ramakrishna Reddi (Madras ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Mr. Chairman, I have great pleasure in supporting wholeheartedly the motion so ably moved by Mr. S. C. Mitra who has got such an intimate knowledge of the working of the jails in this country. I am not speaking on behalf of such felons who commit felonious crimes and go to jails. Such people are bound to suffer and they are bound to suffer in jails also. For such persons any amount of harsh treatment in jails will not be out of place. But I am talking on behalf of these patriotic ladies and gentlemen who have gone to jail for the cause of a high idea, for the cause of patriotism and for the cause of the country. It is on behalf of these ladies and gentlemen that I appeal to the Government to adopt a more humane treatment for them when they go to jails. Surely they will never ask for such treatment: they are patriots and they go there and suffer; but any civilised Government should take into consideration their status and their position and the motives which prompt them to go to jails, and then the Government should give them the treatment which is their due. The Government themselves consider these ladies and gentlemen as equals to any of their best men: they have to make peace with them and some of them have been called to the Round Table Conference where they have been treated on terms of equality with the greatest men in Great Britain. I need not cite instances. So, when such patriotic men and women suffer for the sake of the country, they should certainly be given better treatment in jails.

Last year there was an adjournment motion in this House with regard to the treatment that was given to some ladies in the Delhi jail. Many of the ladies were sent from the Delhi jail to various other jails and they refused to go, because they had to be segregated and to be set along with male prisoners. When they refused to go, they were treated very badly. That gave rise to an adjournment motion in this House. I am not going to multiply instances and cases where women prisoners were put to the greatest troubles and hardships. I may also take this opportunity of bringing to the notice of this House that great patriots, after they have gone to jail, after they have experienced jail life for a couple of months or more, have practically become physical wrecks. That shows there is something rotten in the state of Denmark. I need not quote many instances: we have got a recent instance in the case of Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose who has gone to Vienna to recoup his health.

Mr. C. C. Biswas (Calcutta: Non-Muhammadan Urban): There was no question of "classification of prisoners" in his case.

Mr. T. N. Ramakrishna Reddi: I am speaking of the treatment which they get in jail.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: Is it not a fact that he was beaten in jail?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig (Home Member): What is this fact to which the Honourable Member is drawing attention?

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: The fact is that when Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose was in jail, he was beaten.

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: What is the Honourable Member's authority for this fantastic story?

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: The authority is the fact that Government dare not institute a non-official inquiry.

An Honourable Member: That was on a previous occasion.

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: The Honourable Member has not given his authority.

Mr. T. N. Ramakrishna Reddi: Then there is the case of Dr. Ansari who had to give up his political activities on account of considerations of health. There are many such instances. These go only to show that the Government want to prevent these patriots by terrorism from taking up the cause of the country. We have also been hearing of so many instances of hunger strikes in jails. I brought to the notice of the Home Member the case in the Rajahmundry jail where prisoners have been on hunger strike for the 90th or 100th day; and there are many such instances in various jails. Certainly most of these cases are due to not giving them proper classification in jails or proper treatment; the jail authorities want to ride rough-shod over them as they do with regard to felonious criminals. Most of these instances are due to the bad treatment they get in jails. So, this is the proper time to bring to the notice of the Government instances which are happening throughout the country of which the Honourable the Home Member himself might have heard, so that he might issue proper instructions to the various jail authorities to treat these prisoners much more humanely, and also instructions to Magistrates to give proper classification to the prisoners. With these words, I have great pleasure in supporting the motion moved by my friend, Mr. S. C. Mitra.

Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of Government and of the officers concerned in this question to an important point, that they should not provide so many facilities and luxuries in the jail which will produce an ardent desire in the minds of the poor or unemployed persons to commit ordinary political offences as to enjoy those facilities which are given in the jails. I was once a non-official visitor of the jail and visited a jail with the Deputy Commissioner. Several persons in the jail, who were enjoying far better comforts and much better life than they could ever expect at home.....

Mr. S. C. Mitra: Go there and try.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: I hope you embraced them in jail.

Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan: There are many persons in the jail who are enjoying better comforts than they do at home, and, if any Honourable gentleman is in doubt, he should come with me and I shall.....

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: The very recent statement made by some of the Nationalist leaders of your own province falsifies your statement; and it shows that even some of the prisoners were shot.

Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan: If anybody were to come with me, I will show him that these prisoners are enjoying better life there.....

An Honourable Member: When?

Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan: Any day you like, any Honourable Member may accompany me together with a high official to judge whether what I say is correct

An Honourable Member: Will you pay my travelling expenses?

Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan: I will pay your travelling expenses if I am wrong, but you will pay the travelling expenses for both of us if I am right.

Mr. C. C. Biswas: Sir, is betting allowed here? (Laughter.)

Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan: My point is that the necessities of life should be provided, and everything very necessary should be supplied, but there should be no luxuries provided, nor should the prisoners be given any extra facilities in jails; because, in that case, many people would like to go to jail. I will just tell an instance. During war days, most probably it was, I think, in 1918 or 1919, in the Dehra Ismail Khan district, there was poverty, and people wanted that cheap grain shops should be opened. Some grain dealers refused to co-operate with us. Many poor people came to me and I took them to the Honourable Mr. Latimer, the then Deputy Commissioner, and these people openly said that, on account of poverty, they will go and loot the shops, and if they are arrested, they will go before the Magistrate and confess their guilt and tell him that they did deliberately commit the offence because they would like to get into the jail where they can get some food and also do some work. The result was that all the rich people and the *banias* held a consultation and subscriptions were raised to open cheap grain shops.

[At this stage Mr. Deputy President (Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty) resumed the Chair.]

Sir, naturally, when there is great unemployment in the country, it is not a theoretical thing that I am talking, but it is a fact that many people would like to go to the jail, because many prisoners in jails have more facilities and better comforts of life than they can get in their homes. Therefore, these amenities of life should not be afforded to such a large extent, as it may produce a desire in the minds of the people to commit crimes and get into jails, and it will also be impossible for the Government to provide for all such people in jails. All necessities of life should be met, but there should be no luxuries provided; but, if there are any hardships, these should be removed.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh (Muzaffarpur cum Champaran: Non-Muham-madan): Sir, my friend, the Nominated Member from the North-West Frontier Province,

Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan: May I ask what is the difference between nominated and elected? As you are bound to your constituency, so I am also bound to mine, and it is a great honour for a Nominated Member to belong to one party rather than to be trying and begging 2,000 people for votes as elected Members do.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: My friend, the Nominated Member from the North-West Frontier Province, has spoken in his usual way. He has been true to the constituency which he represents, I mean the executive Government

Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan: I am following you.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: It is an irony of fate that my friend should stand up in this House and say that the treatment which is accorded to some of the political prisoners in jails is more comfortable than they deserve, when the Legislative Council of his own Province should be discussing or proposing to discuss a motion for the adjournment of the business of the local Council, relating to the harsh treatment meted out to the prisoners in the very jail of his Province.

Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan: Has the gentleman read the reply?

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty): Order, order.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: Whatever the reply may be,—I have not cared to read it carefully

Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan: Then you should first read it.....

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: May I be permitted to continue, Sir? I did my friend the courtesy of listening to his speech without interrupting him, and I will ask him to extend to me the same courtesy and listen to me without these constant interruptions which are somewhat indecorous.

What I was saying was this, that an attempt was made by the Non-Official members of the Legislative Council of his own Province to raise a discussion

Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan: First read the reply given by the Government and then

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: I think, Sir, the Executive Government should show greater sense of responsibility in Nominating Members to this House. (Applause from the Non-Official Benches.) It is not doing credit to themselves when they nominate Members who do not know what ordinary courtesy is when they are sitting in this House.

What I was saying was this, that there is deep dissatisfaction in the Province from which my friend, the Nominated Member, comes; with regard to the treatment meted out to political prisoners in the jails situated in his own Province

Mr. O. C. Biswas: On a point of order, Sir. Are we discussing the classification of prisoners, or the classification of Elected and Nominated Members of the Assembly? (Laughter.)

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: My friend says that he was for some time a non-official visitor of a jail in his own Province, and his impression is that the treatment in the jails is better than they deserve. If that is so, I think he has fully justified his nomination as a non-official visitor to that jail. My friend, Mr. S. C. Mitra, and others who followed him have very clearly shown the profound dissatisfaction that exists on account of the kind of classification that is sought to be made in regard to political prisoners in different parts of the country, and also on account of the treatment which is accorded to them. My friend, Mr. B. Das, whom we are sorry to part with from our own Province, has referred to the cases of Mr. Ram Narayan Singh, who is an ex-Member of this House from Bihar and also to the case of Mr. Dwarka Prasad Misra, who was also an ex-Member of this House from the Central Provinces, but my friend forgot to mention the name of another equally respected gentleman who comes from his own province of Orissa, and that is Pandit Nilakantha Das.....

Mr. B. Das: He is an "A" class prisoner.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: The sort of treatment that is meted out to Pandit Nilakantha Das is not at all satisfactory judging from the reports which are appearing in the press. I know the sort of feeling which existed between my friend, Mr. B. Das, and Pandit Nilakantha Das,

Mr. B. Das: Is it correct to reflect

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty): Order, order. In the opinion of the Chair, the Honourable Member is not justified in making that statement.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: I am sorry, Sir, I should have said anything to reflect upon my dear friend, Mr. B. Das,

Mr. B. Das: Sir, as all these discussions will appear in the press, will you kindly permit me to make a personal explanation? We are discussing the question of classification of prisoners. Pandit Nilakantha Das is an "A" class prisoner. In fact, during the first Satyagraha period, he was at first classed "B" and, at my request, my friend, Sir Harry Haig, classed him as "A", while others have been classed as "B" and "C" and so no question of ill-treatment arises, and that is why I did not discuss that matter. I feel that my friend should not have made that personal attack on me.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: Sir, Mr. Ram Narayan Singh, if my information is correct,—I speak subject to correction,—was also for some time classed as an "A" Class prisoner, and although some of the political prisoners are classified as "A" Class, the treatment that is meted out to them is very vindictive. That is what I wanted to show. I never intended to cast any sort of reflection upon the views of my esteemed friend, Mr. B. Das.

Now, Sir, there is a sort of humiliating treatment to which these political prisoners are subjected. Along with other ordinary criminals, these prisoners have to say every day in the morning and evening "*Sarkar Salam*". That is a humiliating thing which these prisoners are asked to do. The result is that this sort of treatment and the sort of classification that is made creates bitterness all over the country.

[Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh.]

Some Honourable Members have referred to the treatment which is accorded to ladies also who are very respectable and have good social standing in society. I will just allude to one case in Delhi alone. There is a lady whose name is Balwanti *alias* Baldevi. She is the wife of one Damodar Das Vaid. She is put in "C" Class, although my information is that when her husband was a political prisoner he was given special class treatment. Mr. Damodar Das Vaid is a respectable man of some standing who carries on the profession of a *vaid*, and it was expected that this lady would be classed as a "B" Class prisoner. But she has been classed as a "C" Class prisoner. My information is that she made an application dated the 18th January, 1933, to Mr. Pool, Additional District Magistrate, Delhi, requesting that she should be classed as a "B" Class prisoner. This application was sent to the police for enquiry and report. I do not know under what authority or under what law this was done. Her husband also put in an application before the Chief Commissioner of Delhi, dated the 25th December, 1932. I will not multiply these instances, but I will only say that this sort of promiscuous classification results in creating an amount of bitterness in the country among the prisoners' friends and relations and other people and defeats the very object which the Government have in view. It is intended to cow down the spirit of the political prisoners; but it results in creating a great amount of dissatisfaction which it is to the interest of Government to avoid.

The object of the punishment should be reformative and not vindictive. Instructions have, I understand, been issued by the Government of India with regard to classification of political prisoners. These instructions are in themselves not quite so satisfactory as they should be, but even as they are, they are not being properly carried out in many political cases where the judges and magistrates are carried away by their conscious or unconscious bias and mete out a sort of treatment which is neither desirable in such cases nor equitable. With these few words, I support the motion which is before the House.

Mr. O. C. Biswas: Sir, it is something to be grateful for that, at the end of a dull and dreary day, we have come upon something which provides some excitement! Listening to most of the speeches which have been made, I was wondering what we were discussing. The cut motion is, I take it, for the purpose of discussing the question of classification of political prisoners, but all sorts of matters have been imported into the debate, quite irrelevant to the topic raised. I am not at all certain even now whether Honourable Members, who have addressed the House, were objecting to the rules for classification of political prisoners, or to the application of those rules in individual cases. If, Sir, the rules are defective, it is just as well that Honourable Members, who consider them to be defective, brought the matter to the notice of the Government, pointing out in what respects they were defective and called for redress. On the other hand, if it is a question of application of the rules in individual cases, then we have got to consider to what extent the Central Government are responsible for it. Is it suggested that the Government of India issue directions by way of interfering with orders passed by the local authorities? Has there been any instance where it can be said, does any Honourable Member vouch for any statement, that the Central Government have really dictated to the Local Governments as to how a particular prisoner should be classified, or, even after he has been put in a

certain class, how he should be actually treated in jail? As most of the Honourable Members, who have addressed the House, have admitted, the classification is, as a rule, made by the trying Court. Some one said that trial Courts are full of bias, prejudice, and so on. Well, Sir, if they are full of bias or prejudice, they are the Courts which have awarded the sentences. If you accept the sentences, you must accept the classification as well. If you are not in a position to quarrel with the one, I do not see how you can quarrel with the other. If, on the other hand, there are cases where the classification is not made by the Courts, but by the jail authorities or the executive, you have got to show in what respect the jail authorities or the executive have departed from the standing instructions. Sir, what is more to the point is this. Has there been any instance where the attention of the authorities having been drawn to a specific complaint that the rules had not been followed, remedy was not forthcoming? That is the real point. What the Government can do is to lay down rules; it is their duty to see that those rules are satisfactory, that they are based on humanity, that they meet the requirements of the situation. It is also up to them to see that instructions are given that these rules are administered properly, and not in a vindictive spirit. That is about all that the higher authorities can do in the matter. If these rules are not properly administered in individual cases, that must be brought to the notice of the Government. If no relief is yet forthcoming, then, no doubt, it becomes a matter of legitimate comment. But it is no use indulging in sweeping generalisations and embarking on an indictment of Government as a whole, as if that was the deliberate policy of Government. I refuse to believe that that is the policy. Rules may or may not have been followed in particular cases. It is not claimed on behalf of the Government that none of their officers who are charged with the duty of administering the rules ever exceed the line. That is true not merely of the jail department, but of other departments as well. But when such cases are brought to their notice, if they do not take any action, then of course they become open to criticism. The picture has been painted in such lurid colours by some of my Honourable friends that people will think as if the whole of the jail administration throughout India in the case of political prisoners is one of unrelieved oppression, cruelty, barbarism. . . .

Mr. S. C. Mitra: You know the result.

Mr. O. C. Biswas: I do not know if all my friends who have spoken can claim to speak from personal experience.

Mr. S. C. Mitra: Yes, yes, from personal experience.

Mr. O. C. Biswas: Mr. Mitra is speaking of other days. Here we are discussing not the question of treatment of political prisoners; we are discussing the question of classification of political prisoners.

Mr. S. C. Mitra: Do you read newspapers?

Mr. O. C. Biswas: I do.

Mr. S. C. Mitra: There are innumerable cases. Every day a number of cases are reported in newspapers about classifying respectable gentlemen and ladies in class "C".

Mr O. C. Biswas: I refuse to accept my friend's arithmetic and regard the number as "innumerable", in proportion to the large number of prisoners who have been sent to jail. As I have said before, if there are specific instances we have a right to ask Government on their attention being drawn to alleged cases of maladministration of the rules, whether action has been taken by them or not. I will ask my Honourable friend to confine his attention to existing conditions after the classification rules were made, not the conditions which existed before. That, as I understand it, is the only point which arises upon this motion.

Mr D. K. Lahri Chaudhury: If I may mention a particular case, and if I am not ruled out, may I mention the Rajshahi Mail Robbery Case, where a son of a certain respectable gentleman was connected in that case but though sufficient proof was not forthcoming, the judge was compelled to give him punishment. I do not know why. It is a fact that after the judgment was over, the judge called for his father and told him: "I regret very much for the conviction of your son, but I had to do it." That particular prisoner has been put in "C" Class. A number of representations were made to put him in "B" Class. Nothing has happened so far.

Mr. O. C. Biswas: I do not know if my Honourable friend would like the executive to interfere with the judiciary in these matters.

Mr. S. C. Mitra: What about the Meerut case?

Mr. O. C. Biswas: Notwithstanding the interruptions from my friends, I make bold to say that the jail administration

Mr. S. C. Mitra: is not perfect?

Mr. O. C. Biswas: Nobody claims that it is perfect, but surely it is not "brutal", "barbarous" and all the other adjectives which have been applied. Take the civil disobedience prisoners who have gone to jail and come out. Can you honestly say what they have reported to you? I do not deny for a moment that there may have been cases where the treatment accorded to them was not in accordance with the rules, or where the classification was not to their liking, but it is quite different from stating that it is the deliberate policy of the Government to act in a spirit of vindictiveness. Let us not forget that by overstating our case, we only spoil it.

Mr. S. C. Mitra: You are overstating Government's case.

Mr. O. C. Biswas: As a matter of fact, does not my Honourable friend know that in a Bengal jail a lady prisoner was found writing love letters to a fellow prisoner? Is not my friend aware that in a jail in the Madras Presidency a lady was found in a condition

Mr. S. C. Mitra: You are overstating Government's case and spoiling it.

Mr. O. C. Biswas: I am absolutely at one with my friends when they plead for humane treatment, when they urge that the prisoners should be classified according to their status and station in life, and that they should not be dealt with in a spirit of vindictiveness, but what I object to is the exaggerated picture painted in such lurid colours.

Sir Muhammad Yakub (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): I think there is some confusion about this cut. The motion moved by my friend, Mr. Mitra, was about the classification of political prisoners; and, from reading the cut on the agenda, I thought that the object of moving this cut was whether there should be any classification of political prisoners or not. In the case of non-political prisoners, there is, of course, need for classification, as regards status, social position and comfort in life; but, I submit that, in the case of political prisoners, there ought not to be any classification. They are not offenders. They are not sent to jail for the sake of being punished. In fact, they are sent to jail for the sake of their opinions. So wealth, status in life or position should not be taken into consideration in convicting a political prisoner. If political prisoners command any respect, it is not on account of their wealth or education, but it is on account of their political ideas and, therefore, these invidious distinctions are objectionable. The political prisoner, whether he is a Raja or an ordinary labourer, must be placed in the same class, whatever that class may be. All these troubles that we have in jails about political prisoners are due to this classification. When a political prisoner finds that a fellow prisoner is receiving better treatment, is getting better food or is placed in a more comfortable house, naturally he feels that he is not being treated in a proper way, but if there were no classification, then there would not have been this feeling of resentment.

Then, again, classification has been left at the arbitrary will of the Magistrates. I have myself seen in Moradabad, a man, holding landed property and having a higher social status, was placed in the "C" Class, while others who did not enjoy that advantage were placed in the "B" Class, because one magistrate holds one opinion and another magistrate holds another opinion. Therefore, I submit, that there ought not to be this invidious distinction as regards political prisoners and all this classification of "A", "B" and "C" should be dropped in the case of political prisoners. With these words, I resume my seat.

(Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer got up to speak.)

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty): The Honourable Member is not debarred from speaking if he wants to, but the Chair would remind the House that as 5 o'clock is approaching and the guillotine would fall, Non-Official Members would be deprived of the opportunity of hearing the Government reply.

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): As the Honourable the Deputy President has reminded me that there are only five minutes between now and the guillotine, I will take only two minutes or one minute, leaving the Honourable the Home Member to comment on the situation arising from the discussion. After hearing the speech of my friend from Moradabad, all that I have got to say is that the policy of the Government has not been one of providing for equality and fraternity after the loss of liberty. We would rather ask for equality and fraternity behind prison bars, especially when there is a loss of liberty.

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: Sir, the course of the debate has not left me a very long time in which to endeavour to deal with the various points that have been raised. The Honourable the Mover of the motion, Mr. S. C. Mitra, appeared to blame the Government of India for having

[Sir Harry Haig.]

interfered with the discretion of Local Governments by laying down certain rules for classification. Now, Sir, I could well understand my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, who, I see, is not in his place, taking the line that no person should live at a higher standard than the ordinary manual labourer and that, on that account, it is not reasonable for Government to recognise within the jails these social and economic distinctions. By another process of thought, my Honourable friend, Sir Muhammad Yakub, arrived at the same position. But, Sir, I do not understand that that is the case that Mr. Mitra wishes to put before the House, and, therefore, I find some difficulty in understanding why the Government of India should be censured for doing, in fact, what was the demand three years ago of the Members of this House, namely, that a further distinction in the classification of prisoners should be introduced. Before that time, there was one very limited class known as the Special Class in which a very few individuals were placed on special grounds.

When the question of revising the classification rules came under consideration, it was generally felt that it was desirable to interpose a class between that very limited special "A" Class—to which I notice that my Honourable friend, Mr B. Das, thinks all Members of this Legislative Assembly are as of right entitled (Laughter),—and the "C" Class in which the ordinary prisoner naturally comes. Accordingly, a new class—"B" Class—was devised for persons of definitely superior status and economic condition and habit of life.

Now, I do not think that there is really any serious complaint as to the nature of the classification introduced by these rules. I do know, for there have been many questions directing my attention to this point in the House, that complaint is made that Local Governments do not always place prisoners precisely in those classes in which Honourable Members would desire to see them. Last September, that question was raised, and I was able to tell the House in connection with a representation which we received from an important Liberal Association in Western India that we had addressed Local Governments on the subject of the general principles of classification and had in fact assured ourselves that the Local Governments were fully cognizant of the principles that had been laid down and were fully applying those principles. I would remind the House that the classification is made in the first instance by the trial Courts and that it is open to revision by the Local Governments. The final responsibility rests on the Local Governments, but the Government of India have the responsibility of laying down the general principles and satisfying themselves that those general principles are observed.

Now, it has been said that in the case of, what are called, political prisoners, there is a policy of making the punishment vindictive, humiliating, barbarous—I do not know that I can enumerate all the adjectives which have been attached to this treatment of political prisoners. But, I think, Honourable Members may perhaps have a somewhat incorrect view of the actual conditions in our jails.

Mr. S. C. Mitra: Why then are there so many hunger-strikes?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: When I had occasion a few months ago to visit Ajmer

(It being Five of the Clock.)

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty): Order, order.

The question is:

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

The motion was negatived.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,70,000 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 'Home Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 33—PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,51,000 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 'Public Service Commission'."

(At this stage an Honourable Member was leaving the Chamber.)

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty): Order, order. No Honourable Member can leave the House when the Chair remains standing.

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 34—LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,04,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1934, in respect of the 'Legislative Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 35—DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, HEALTH AND LANDS.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,43,000 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 'Department of Education, Health and Lands'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 86—FINANCE DEPARTMENT.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,32,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1934, in respect of the 'Finance Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 88—COMMERCE DEPARTMENT.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,51,000 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 'Commerce Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 41—CENTRAL BOARD OF REVENUE.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,71,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1934, in respect of the 'Central Board of Revenue'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 42—PAYMENTS TO PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS ON ACCOUNT OF ADMINISTRATION OF AGENCY SUBJECTS.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,54,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1934, in respect of 'Payments to Provincial Governments on account of Administration of Agency Subjects'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 48—AUDIT.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 88,52,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1934, in respect of 'Audit'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 44—ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 58,000 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 'Administration of Justice'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 45—POLICE.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,88,000 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 'Police'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 46—PORTS AND PILOTAGE.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 10,78,000 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 'Ports and Pilotage'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 47—LIGHTHOUSES AND LIGHTSHIPS.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 10,19,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1934, in respect of 'Lighthouses and Lightships'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 48—SURVEY OF INDIA.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 15,24,000 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 'Survey of India'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 49—METEOROLOGY.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 17,09,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1934, in respect of 'Meteorology'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 50—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,73,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1934, in respect of 'Geological Survey'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 51—BOTANICAL SURVEY.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,34,000 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 'Botanical Survey'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 52—ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 83,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1934, in respect of 'Zoological Survey'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 53—ARCHÆOLOGY.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,08,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1934, in respect of 'Archæology'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 54—MINES.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,20,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1934, in respect of 'Mines'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 55—OTHER SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENTS.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,66,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1934, in respect of 'Other Scientific Departments'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 56—EDUCATION.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,84,000 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 'Education'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 57—MEDICAL SERVICES.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,17,000 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 'Medical Services'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 58—PUBLIC HEALTH.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,58,000 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 'Public Health'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 59—AGRICULTURE.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,15,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1934 in respect of 'Agriculture'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 60—IMPERIAL COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,08,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1934, in respect of 'Imperial Council of Agricultural Research Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 61—CIVIL VETERINARY SERVICES.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,78,000 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 'Civil Veterinary Services'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 62—INDUSTRIES.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,60,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1934, in respect of 'Industries'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 63—AVIATION.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,63,000 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 'Aviation'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 64—COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE AND STATISTICS.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,63,000 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 'Commercial Intelligence and Statistics'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 65—CENSUS.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 73,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1934, in respect of 'Census'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 66—EMIGRATION—INTERNAL.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 25,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1934, in respect of 'Emigration—Internal'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 67—EMIGRATION—EXTERNAL.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,89,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1934, in respect of 'Emigration—External'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 68—JOINT STOCK COMPANIES.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,15,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1934, in respect of 'Joint Stock Companies'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 69—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,37,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1934, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Departments'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 70—INDIAN STORES DEPARTMENT.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,67,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1934, in respect of 'Indian Stores Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 71—CURRENCY.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 43,39,000 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 'Currency'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 72—MINT.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 17,66,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1934, in respect of 'Mint'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 73—CIVIL WORKS.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,82,33,000 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 'Civil Works'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 74—SUPERANNUATION ALLOWANCES AND PENSIONS.

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 75,27,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1934, in respect of ‘Superannuation Allowances and Pensions’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 75—STATIONERY AND PRINTING.

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 35,22,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1934, in respect of ‘Stationery and Printing’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 76—MISCELLANEOUS.

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,10,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1934, in respect of ‘Miscellaneous’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 76A—EXPENDITURE ON RETRENCHED PERSONNEL CHARGED TO REVENUE.

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,45,000 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 ‘Expenditure on Retrenched Personnel charged to Revenue’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 77—REFUNDS.

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 93,25,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1934, in respect of ‘Refunds’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 79—BALUCHISTAN.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 27,25,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1934, in respect of 'Baluchistan'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 80—DELHI.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 42,25,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1934, in respect of 'Delhi'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 81—AJMER-MERWARA.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 13,67,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1934, in respect of 'Ajmer-Merwara'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 82—ANDAMANS AND NICOBAR ISLANDS.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 31,60,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1934, in respect of 'Andamans and Nicobar Islands'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 83—RAJPUTANA.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,26,000 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 'Rajputana'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 84—CENTRAL INDIA.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,43,000 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 'Central India'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 85—HYDERABAD

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,63,000 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 'Hyderabad'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 85A—ADEN.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,06,000 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 'Aden'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 87—EXPENDITURE IN ENGLAND—HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 24,57,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1934, in respect of 'Expenditure in England—High Commissioner for India'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 88—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON SECURITY PRINTING.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1934, in respect of 'Capital outlay on Security Printing'."

The motion was adopted.

1930

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

[10TH MARCH 1933.]

DEMAND No. 89—FOREST CAPITAL OUTLAY.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1934, in respect of 'Forest Capital Outlay'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 90—IRRIGATION.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1934, in respect of 'Irrigation'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 91—INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 15,78,000 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 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 93—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON CURRENCY NOTE PRESS.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1934, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Currency Note Press'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 94—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON VIZAGAPATAM HARBOUR.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 32,14,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1934, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Vizagapatam Harbour'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 95—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON LIGHTHOUSES AND LIGHTSHIPS.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1934, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Lighthouses and Lightships'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 96—COMMUTED VALUE OF PENSIONS.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 35,51,000 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 'Commuted Value of Pensions'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 96A—EXPENDITURE ON RETRENCHED PERSONNEL CHARGED TO CAPITAL.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1934, in respect of 'Expenditure on Retrenched Personnel charged to Capital'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 98—INTEREST-FREE ADVANCES.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 64,53,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1934, in respect of 'Interest-free Advances'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 99—LOANS AND ADVANCES BEARING INTEREST.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,38,37,000 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 'Loans and Advances bearing Interest'."

The Assembly divided:

(After the bells had stopped ringing.)

Mr. Amar Nath Dutt: On a point of order, Sir; after the motion was put the Chair was pleased to observe "The Noes have it" and a division was not challenged by any Member of this House (Interruption) and so I submit that the Chair's 'No' is the final decision.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty): The Chair's decision was that it thought that the Noes have it: a final decision has not been taken and a division had been challenged. The Chair has yet to give a final decision.

An Honourable Member: But they have not challenged it.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty): The Chair said that it thought the Noes have it and a final decision was not given. The final decision will now be given. The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,38,37,000 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 'Loans and Advances bearing Interest'."

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 13th March, 1933.