

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

MONDAY, 19th MARCH, 1934

Vol. III—No. 7

OFFICIAL REPORT



CONTENTS.

Questions and Answers.

Unstarred Questions and Answers.

Statements laid on the Table.

The Indian Aircraft Bill—Introduced.

The Indian Finance Bill—Discussion on the motion to consider not concluded.

**NEW DELHI : PRINTED BY THE MANAGER
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS : 1934**

Price Five Annas.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Monday, 19th March, 1934.

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

CREATION OF CERTAIN POSTS OF TELEGRAPH MASTERS.

501. ***Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury**: With reference to the reply to unstarred question No. 24, dated the 5th February, 1934, stating that the number of telegraph masters was 192 on the 31st December, 1933, and the provision in the Budget made for 227 Telegraph Masters, will Government please state whether they propose to create 35 additional posts in the year 1934-35?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Government do not propose to create any additional posts of telegraph masters in 1934-35 unless an increase is justified on the formula in force. The number of 192 telegraph masters mentioned in the reply to unstarred question No. 24, dated the 5th February, 1934, referred to permanent telegraph masters only as was made clear at the time. The provision in the Budget is not only for the permanent telegraph masters but also for those acting in existing vacancies.

INCREASE IN HAULAGE CHARGES, ETC., IN THE POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT.

502. ***Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury**: With reference to the provision of Rs. 8,55,000 as "Lump provision for increase in haulage charges, etc." on page 61 of the detailed statement of demand No. 23, will Government please state why this provision has been made and whether the Standing Finance Committee's sanction was obtained for it?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: As the Railways have demanded certain increases in the rates charged by them for various services rendered to the Post Office, provision has been made in case the claim, which is under examination, is admitted. No reference was made to the Standing Finance Committee because the item does not relate to a new service. It is merely part of a fluctuating item which appears annually in the budget.

SALE OF POSTCARDS.

503. ***Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury**: With reference to the Honourable the Finance Member's statement to the effect that there will be a loss of Rs. 56 lakhs if the value of postcard is reduced, will Government be pleased to state how many postcards were sold in the year 1932-33 and up to 31st December, 1933?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: The number of postcards issued from treasuries to Post Offices during the year 1932-33 was two hundred and ninety-three millions. The estimated number for the period from the 1st April, 1933, to the 31st December, 1933, is two hundred and fifteen and a quarter millions.

The estimated loss of Rs. 56 lakhs to which the Honourable Member refers is based upon the calculated number of inland postcards, including those of private manufacture, delivered by post offices during the year 1932-33 *plus* an increase of 10 per cent. in the traffic which it is estimated would result from a reduction of the price of postcards.

COMMITTEE TO ENQUIRE INTO THE POSSIBILITIES OF FURTHER ECONOMY IN THE POSTAL DEPARTMENT.

504. ***Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** (a) With reference to the reply to starred question No. 79, dated the 5th February, 1934, will Government be pleased to state whether the Reorganisation Committee will also re-examine the Time Test of the Post Office and Railway Mail Service?

(b) What is meant by "to investigate and overhaul the methods of work adopted in the postal branch"?

(c) Will the investigation include the system of work in the Audit Office?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) to (c). The precise terms of reference of the Postal Enquiry Committee, 1934, are contained in the Resolution of the Government of India published in the Gazette of India, dated the 17th March, 1934, to which the Honourable Member's attention is invited.

ASSISTANT POSTMASTERS IN THE CHITTAGONG, MYMENSINGH AND HOWRAH POST OFFICES.

505. ***Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** With reference to question No. 17, dated the 5th February, 1934, will Government be pleased to state why there are no selection grade Assistant Postmasters in Chittagong, Mymensingh and Howrah Post offices? Is it a fact that these offices are bigger than Madura and Meerut?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: As regards the first part of the question, selection grades are meant to provide for posts involving heavier work or responsibility, and as a review of the work and responsibilities of the Assistant Postmasters at Chittagong, Mymensingh and Howrah showed that this criterion was no longer satisfied in respect of these posts they were converted into supervisory posts in the time-scale with special supervisory allowances at the rate of Rs. 20 per month.

The reply to the second part is in the affirmative. The question of replacing selection grade Assistant Postmasters in these two offices by time-scale supervisors will be similarly reviewed.

NON-MAINTENANCE OF SAVINGS BANK LEDGERS IN THE CALCUTTA POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS AUDIT OFFICE.

506. ***Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** (a) Is it a fact that in the Calcutta Posts and Telegraphs Audit Office, Savings Bank Ledgers are not maintained, and that transactions are posted on cards? If so, will Government be pleased to state what is the system in other Audit Offices?

(b) How many typists have been employed for the purpose?

(c) What is the price of each typewriter?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (a) Yes. The same system obtains in other Audit Offices also.

(b) Accounting machines are used. Twenty-eight machine operators are employed in the Savings Bank Section of the Calcutta Office and there are ninety-six machinists in all the offices including Calcutta.

(c) The price of each accounting machine is at present Rs. 3,047.

SUBSIDY PAID TO DIFFERENT AIR SERVICES IN INDIA AND THE IMPERIAL AIRWAYS.

507. *Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: (a) Will Government please furnish a statement showing the amount of subsidy paid to different air services in India and Imperial Airways during this year?

(b) Do Government keep a separate account of income from the air mails? If not, will Government please state whether the service is paying?

(c) Do Government propose to introduce air mail stamps to keep separate accounts of Air mails? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) The only air service which is in receipt of a subsidy from the Government of India is the trans-India service operated jointly by Imperial Airways Limited and Indian Trans-Continental Airways, Limited. The subsidy given is in the form of the following concessions, namely:

(1) Remission of customs and excise duties on petrol, oil, aeroplanes, spare parts, etc., used on the service in India.

(2) Exemption from charges for landing, housing, wireless and meteorological facilities arising in India.

The value of these concessions for the current year is estimated at Rs. 95,200.

As a result of granting these concessions, there has, however, been a saving estimated at more than Rs. 1½ lakhs, as the charges for the conveyance of Indian air mails by the main service are now permitted by the authorities in England to be settled in sterling instead of, as formerly, on a gold basis. For further information on this point, I would refer the Honourable Member to my speech of September 20th, 1933, on the demand for a supplementary grant for civil aviation which he will find at page 1897 *et seq* of Volume VII of the Legislative Assembly Debates.

(b) No separate account of income from the Air mails is kept. Air Mail fees have been fixed on the basis of conveyance charges actually paid to air-carriers. There is therefore no reason to believe that air mail services are not paying.

(c) Air mail stamps are in existence but will be abolished as soon as the present stock is exhausted. It is not possible to keep separate account of air fees realised from the public on the basis of the sale proceeds of air mail stamps as these stamps can be utilised not only for the payment of the air-fee but also for the ordinary postage and registration charges, if any, on air mail articles. Moreover, ordinary postage stamps can also

be used for prepayment of air mail fees. It is not considered desirable to prescribe the use of air mail stamps only for payment of air fees as this would cause grave inconvenience to the public.

APPOINTMENT OF A RETIRED HIGH COURT JUDGE TO HIGH EXECUTIVE OFFICES.

508. *Mr. S. C. Mitra: (a) Are Government aware that there is a strong public opinion in the country against the principle of appointing High Court Judges to high executive offices after their retirement?

(b) If not, are Government prepared to make an enquiry on the subject?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: (a) and (b). Government are aware that some objection on principle may be felt in regard to such appointments, and appointments of this kind are not made without fully weighing these considerations.

LEAVE RULES OF THE HIGH COURT JUDGES OF CALCUTTA.

509. *Mr. S. C. Mitra: (a) Will Government please state the rules and regulations that govern the leave rules of the High Court Judges of Calcutta?

(b) Is there any special rule whereby a Judge of the Calcutta High Court may be considered to be on active service without attending the Courts?

(c) Does not the non-attendance of the Court on the part of the Judges construe absence?

(d) Will Government please state the number of days the present Chief Justice, Sir Claus Rankin, attended the Court since January, 1934?

(e) Is he on leave or on service since the 12th February, 1934? Has anybody acted as Chief Justice during this period?

(f) Is he permitted under the rules to continue as Chief Justice while not attending the Court at all?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: (a) The rules are contained in Article 543 of the Civil Service Regulations, a copy of which is in the Library.

(b) and (c). There is no rule on the subject nor is there any rule which debars a judge from being absent from Court for a short period without taking leave under the leave rules.

(d), (e) and (f). Sir George Rankin was on leave under the High Court Leave Rules from January 2 to January 29 inclusive and again from February 27. He was in charge of the duties of Chief Justice from January 30th to February 26 inclusive though I understand that for the greater part of the time owing to illness he was unable actually to attend Court.

Mr. S. C. Mitra: Arising out of answer to part (b) of the question, may I know what is the short period contemplated?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: There is no rule on the subject. There is naturally a certain amount of elasticity in the matter.

Mr. S. C. Mitra: When the Judges cannot attend the Court which is their primary function, why should they not go on leave and allow somebody else to act for them instead of continuing on while they cannot do any work?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: I think the Honourable Member will realise that throughout Government service a certain amount of elasticity is provided. We have, for instance, in the ordinary administration what is known as casual leave. There is no definite provision for casual leave in High Courts, but something of the same sort is, in my judgment, reasonable.

Mr. S. C. Mitra: In this particular case, do Government consider that this temporary leave was taken, rather for a long time, and that the other Judges of the High Court could not get even officiating chances?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: No, Sir. The Chief Justice was carrying out the duties of the Chief Justice during that period.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: Is it a fact that the Chief Justice and other Judges could take leave only from the Court?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: I am not quite sure what is the purport of my Honourable friend's question.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: I wanted to know, is it a fact that these Judges can take leave from attending the Court only, and not in other respects?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: That, I think, is a matter in the discretion of the Chief Justice.

Mr. S. C. Mitra: The principal duty of the Chief Justice is to preside over Courts, and not to do minor work in the office or in the Chamber.

Sir Muhammad Yakub: There is no question in it.

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: I cannot quite follow the Honourable Member's question, I am afraid.

Mr. S. C. Mitra: I am prepared to take a ruling from the President and not from an ex-President of the Assembly. However, I do not press the matter further.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: The Honourable Member stated that while the Chief Justice of Calcutta was away from Court, he was still carrying on the duties of the Chief Justice. What were those particular duties which he was carrying on without attending Court?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: The ordinary administrative duties of the Chief Justice in connection with the administration of the Court.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: Do Government consider that the non-judicial duties of the Chief Justice constitute such an important part of his function as to justify the Chief Justice not going on leave. but on the pretext of doing that part of his duty, being considered to be on duty?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: I am sorry that my Honourable friend should be making these personal reflections on Sir George Rankin. I should have thought that he would have been prepared to recognise that

it was hardly reasonable to make these attacks in connection with a judge whose very devoted, and, I might add, distinguished service, 'has temporarily brought about a breakdown in his health.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Has not the Honourable Member's attention been drawn to the discussion that has taken place in the Bengal Council, which would show the Honourable Member the amount of resentment that exists in Bengal in this matter?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: No, Sir.

Mr. S. C. Mitra: I did not mean any reflection on the Chief Justice. In fact, I understand from Mr. Mody that something like this happened in the Bombay High Court also sometimes back, where the Chief Justice attended to administrative and other work and not to judicial work. That means that the public expect them to devote more time to judicial work.

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: I have already made it clear that, not only in Bengal, but, as far as I am aware, in other High Courts a certain amount of latitude is allowed to Judges corresponding to what we should, in the ordinary administration, class as casual leave.

ASSESSMENT OF EXCISE DUTY ON SUGAR.

510. ***Bhai Parma Nand:** (a) What will be the mode of assessing the excise duty on sugar?

(b) Will this assessment be made on sugar manufactured before 1st April, 1934? If so, why? If not, should the sugar manufactured before 1st April be removed from the factory godowns, and if it is to be removed, where is it to be kept safe from rains? Will instructions be issued to the railway authorities to supply a sufficient number of wagons for clearing it?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (a) The attention of the Honourable Member is drawn to the provisions of the Bill which I introduced in this Assembly on the 13th of March.

(b) The answer to the first question in this part is that, under the Bill as drafted, sugar manufactured before the 1st of April, 1934, but issued from a factory after that date would be liable to the duty. I should prefer to reserve an expression of opinion upon the points raised in the remaining questions in this part until the provisions of the Bill come under discussion in the Assembly.

ENROLMENT OF AUDITORS.

511. ***Mr. Rahimtoola M. Chinoy:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether rule 8 of the Auditors Certificates Rules, 1932, was specially inserted to give benefit of enrolment as auditors to deserving persons having had both theoretical training and practical experience in the profession for a number of years, but who, through the force of circumstances, had not been able to put in the recognised period of service under the rules;

- (b) (i) the number of applications received for enrolment under the said rule 8;
- (ii) the number of applicants who were enrolled, and their qualifications; and
- (iii) the number of applicants who were refused enrolment and the reasons for their rejection;
- (c) whether they have received any representations from Chambers of Commerce, and the Corporation of Income-tax Accountants, Bombay, protesting against the manner in which this rule is being interpreted and asking for reconsideration of a number of deserving applications that have been rejected; if so, the action Government have taken or propose to take in the matter?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: (a) Rule 8 of the Auditor's Certificates Rules is intended to enrol on the Register of Accountants persons who ordinarily are neither entitled to nor eligible for enrolment but whose qualifications, both theoretical and practical, are up to the standard which should be maintained in the interests of the efficiency of the accountancy profession.

(b) (i) 88.

(ii) Five, of whom three have passed the Government Diploma Examination in Accountancy, one has passed the Bachelor of Commerce Examination of the Bombay University with Advanced Accounting and Auditing as a special subject—an examination which is recognised as equivalent to the Government Diploma Examination in Accountancy—and the fifth is Master of Commerce of the Birmingham University who studied Accounting for three years at that University for its Bachelor of Commerce Degree which he took in 1912. The Indian Accountancy Board and the Government of India were also satisfied that the applicants had sufficient practical experience to justify their enrolment.

(iii) 78. Their qualifications, both theoretical and practical, were not such as to justify their enrolment on the Register.

(c) Yes. The position has been explained to those bodies.

DROP IN THE INCOME-TAX REVENUE OF THE UNITED PROVINCES.

512. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** (a) Will Government please state whether there was a great drop in the Income-tax revenue of the United Provinces during the year ending the 31st March, 1933?

(b) What was the amount of tax left uncollected at the close of the year and how does it differ from the arrears of the previous year?

(c) What was the number of cases that could not be disposed of within the year, and what was the amount of tax thus remaining unassessed?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (a) No.

(b) The amount of arrears outstanding on 31st March, 1932, was Rs. 6,44,504 and on 31st March, 1933, Rs. 7,42,667.

(c) The information could not be obtained without an expenditure of time and labour disproportionate to the value of the results secured.

MUSLIM ASSISTANTS IN THE CENTRAL PUBLICATION BRANCH.

513. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** (a) Is it a fact that in the Central Publication Branch, out of seven assistants in the grade of Rs. 80—200, there is only one Muslim?

(b) Is it a fact that several posts in the assistants' grade are still lying vacant? If so, are Government prepared to fill up those vacancies with due regard to the instructions laid down in the Government Circular, issued some time ago, for adjustment of communal inequalities in Government offices, either by promotion or by direct recruitment from outside? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) There are six assistants in the grade, of whom one is a Muslim.

(b) There is only one post vacant and in filling it the Controller of Printing and Stationery will be guided by the standing orders on the subject.

MUSLIMS IN EACH CADRE IN THE CENTRAL PUBLICATION BRANCH.

514. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** Will Government please state:

- (a) the total number of men, cadre by cadre, appointed in the Central Publication Branch after its transfer from Calcutta to Delhi;
- (b) how many of them are Muslims in each cadre; and
- (c) whether due regard was paid to the legitimate proportion of the Muslims at the time of recruitment? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) and (b). I assume that the Honourable Member desires information in respect of appointments made by direct recruitment to the superior establishment of the Central Publication Branch. The required particulars are:

Five in the grade of Rs. 45—140 of whom two are Muslims.

Five in the grade of Rs. 35—80 of whom none is a Muslim.

Twelve in the grade of Rs. 40 of whom three are Muslims.

(c) There is no proportion of Muslims fixed by the standing orders but due regard was paid to the claims of minority communities. The second part does not arise.

RECRUITMENTS IN THE CENTRAL PUBLICATION BRANCH.

515. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** (a) Will Government please state whether the men recruited in the Central Publication Branch after its transfer from Calcutta to Delhi were the successful competitors in the examinations held from time to time by the Deputy Controller, Central Stationery, Calcutta, or whether they passed the Public Service Commission examinations?

(b) If the recruitment was not made by either of the methods indicated in part (a), were the vacancies advertised in the newspapers, inviting applications from outside people? If so, in which papers, and on what dates? If not, on what principle was the recruitment based?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) and (b). The majority of the men recruited had qualified in an examination conducted by the Deputy Controller, Stationery. The Central Publication Branch does not recruit men through the Public Service Commission. No advertisement in the newspapers was necessary as there were sufficient applicants and men working on the day-extra establishment from whom to select.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: Are the vacancies in this department published in the newspapers.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: If necessary. As I have already explained, no advertisement was considered necessary in this particular case.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: On what grounds do Government think it sometimes unnecessary to publish any advertisement in newspapers?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: When there is a sufficiently wide field of selection. If we were to publish advertisements in cases of this kind, we should probably have thousands of applications.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: Have Government any register of applications in this department?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I am naturally not personally familiar with the details of the procedure followed in a subordinate department of this character, but I have no doubt whatever that a register of applicants is kept.

RECRUITMENTS IN THE CENTRAL PUBLICATION BRANCH.

516. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** (a) Is it a fact that in the Central Publication Branch, several men, recruited on the daily wage basis, have been recommended by the present Officiating Manager, for being placed in the permanent clerical and assistants' grades, and that they have actually been serving in those capacities?

(b) Did those men pass the examinations held either by the Deputy Controller or by the Public Service Commission? If not, do Government propose to replace them by recruitment through the Public Service Commission? If not, why not?

(c) Is it a fact that the lifts to the daily wage hands, referred to in part (a), have been given by disregarding and superseding the claims of the temporary men who have been in service for about five years on fixed pay? If so, why were their claims disregarded and what arrangements do Government propose to make for these temporary hands?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) I am not prepared to disclose departmental recommendations relating to promotion. Two men recruited on a daily-wage basis are serving in the capacities stated.

(b) The answer to the first and the second parts is in the negative. As regards the last part, recruitment to the clerical staff of the Central Publication Branch is not made through the Public Service Commission.

(c) No. The second part does not arise.

ALLEGED INEFFICIENCY OF STAFF IN THE CENTRAL PUBLICATION BRANCH.

517. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** Is it a fact that the Officiating Manager of the Central Publication Branch is complaining to the higher authorities about the inefficiency of the whole staff? If so, will Government please state what is his standard of measuring efficiency?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I have nothing to add to the reply I gave on the 21st November, 1933, to part (b) of Mr. S. C. Mitra's starred question No. 1102.

INCREMENTS WITHHELD IN THE CENTRAL PUBLICATION BRANCH.

518. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** (a) Will Government please state the number of cases in which increments have been withheld since the transfer of the Central Publication Branch from Calcutta to Delhi?

(b) Will Government please state the length of service, and the qualifications of the persons whose increments have been withheld? How many of them are Muslims?

(c) Will Government please state whether specific charges were framed against the men concerned and explanations were called for from them before the increments were withheld?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) and (b). Four, of whom two are Muslims. Two of them are graduates and one an undergraduate. The service rendered ranges between five to ten years.

(c) No.

PERFORMANCES OF THE AMERICAN VARIETY SHOW AT AJMER.

519. ***Maulvi Sayyid Murtuza Saheb Bahadur:** (a) Is it a fact that a carnival, known as the American Variety Show, commenced its performances at Ajmer in June, 1933, with the permission of the local authorities?

(b) Is it a fact that public gambling was openly carried on under the auspices of the said Carnival?

(c) Is it a fact that one Swami B. Anand of Patti Katla, Ajmer, wrote to the Superintendent of Police, Ajmer-Merwara, protesting against public gambling carried on under the auspices of the said carnival?

(d) Is it a fact that the Superintendent of Police, Ajmer-Merwara, wrote to the said Swami B. Anand that the American Variety Show was allowed to conduct gambling games owing to the said American Variety Show's running at a loss at Ajmer and the gambling games being necessary to save it from such a loss?

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

(b) No.

(c) Yes, but only complaining against the carnival.

(d) No.

PROVISION OF FACILITIES FOR PASSENGERS ON THE POWERPETA RAILWAY STATION.

520. ***Rao Bahadur M. N. Rao:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether any Mahazar petitions have been received from the public of Ellore, West Godavari District, Madras Presidency, that the Powerpeta

railway station, which is the second station in the town, situated in the middle of a thickly populated area, is very inconvenient and inconvenient for the passengers?

(b) What action do Government propose to take to improve the condition of that station and to provide all necessary facilities required by the public? Is it not a long-felt want? If proposals were already made to reconstruct it into a very spacious one, what are they?

(c) If the reply to part (a) be in the negative, will Government please state whether the matter has been brought to their notice by the Departmental officers?

(d) Will Government please state whether any Mahazar petition has been received from the public of the same town to the effect that the above station should be converted into a Mail stopping one?

(e) Are Government aware that the majority of the passengers from that town assemble at that station for the purpose of catching different trains?

(f) If the reply to part (d) be in the affirmative, what action has been taken by Government in the matter? If none, what action do Government propose to take?

(g) Are Government aware that the above station is situated in the heart of a town with a population of 57,000?

Mr. P. R. Rau: No representations have been received by Government. Government will send a copy of the Honourable Member's question to the Agent, Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway, for such action as may be considered necessary.

NON-EMPLOYMENT OF *ex*-ARMY MEN ON STATE RAILWAYS.

521. ***Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen:** (a) With reference to the Honourable the Home Member's reply to my starred question No. 363, dated the 6th March, 1934, and Mr. P. R. Rau's reply to my starred question No. 157, dated the 16th February, 1934, regarding the non-employment of *ex*-Army men on State Railways, will Government be pleased to state if the resolution referred to in my question is in operation on the East Indian, the Eastern Bengal and the Great Indian Peninsula Railways? If not, why not?

(b) Are Government prepared to circulate the resolution on those railways?

(c) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, are Government aware that there have been cases where the resolution has been repeatedly violated in the Dinapur Division of the East Indian Railway? If not, are Government prepared to make enquiries into the matter?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) Government have no reason to believe that the resolution in question has been overlooked on the State-managed Railways.

(b) This is being done.

(c) The answer to both parts of this question is in the negative.

CASES OF NON-PAYMENT OF GRATUITY IN THE DINAPUR DIVISION OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

522. ***Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if there are any non-gazetted railway employees who have not been paid gratuity on resignation after a service of 20 years and above in the Dinapur Division of the East Indian Railway? If so, what is their number and what is the reason for the non-payment of the gratuity in their case?

(b) Do Government propose to pay them off without any further delay?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Under the gratuity rules, a gratuity may be granted to a subordinate on retirement or resignation after 15 years' service on grounds admitted by the authority competent to sanction the gratuity as good and sufficient from the point of view of the administration. Government have no reason to believe that this rule is not followed by the East Indian Railway. I am, however, sending a copy of the question to the Agent, East Indian Railway, for any action he may consider necessary.

RUMOURED ILLNESS OF MR. SATIN SEN, A STATE PRISONER IN THE CAMPBELLPUR JAIL.

523. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra:** (a) Is there any truth in the rumour that Mr. Satin Sen, a State Prisoner, now confined in the Campbellpur Jail, has been suffering from acute neurotic tuberculosis in the hip-joint? If so, what is his present condition and what treatment is he getting?

(b) Is it a fact that he fainted a few days ago while on his way to the lath-room?

(c) What was his weight when he came to Campbellpur Jail, and what is his weight at present?

(d) Did Government receive any representation from Mr. Sen, asking for permission to be transferred from the Jail?

(e) Is it a fact that the petition for transfer was supported by the Deputy Commissioner?

(f) What action have Government taken on his petition?

(g) Is it a fact that Mr. Sen is not allowed to receive or send any letters to his relatives? If so, from what date, and why?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: Enquiries are being made and a reply will be laid on the table in due course.

ILLNESS OF STATE PRISONER MR. SAILESWAR CHAKRAVARTY.

524. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra:** (a) Is it a fact that Mr. Saileswar Chakravarty, a State Prisoner, confined formerly at Campbellpur, has now been transferred to Suri Jail in Bengal?

(b) Is he now suffering from tuberculosis? If so, from what date, and where did he imbibe this contagion?

(c) Why has Mr. Chakravarty been transferred from Campbellpur?

(d) What is his present condition and weight, compared to his state of health at the time of arrest?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: (a) Yes. Mr. Chakravarty, however, is a detenu under the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act, and not a State Prisoner under the Regulation.

(b) and (d). The Government of India have no information regarding his present condition. He was first reported to be suffering from tubercular infection when he was at Campbellpur.

(c) On the ground of tubercular infection.

APPEALS AGAINST THE ORDERS OF THE DIRECTOR OF FARMS.

525. ***Sardar G. N. Mujumdar:** Is it a fact that in 1925 and 1929, the Director of Farms issued instructions not to forward appeals against his decisions to the higher authorities? If so, why?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: There is no record of such instructions having been issued.

VACANCIES IN THE GRADE OF MANAGERS AND SUPERVISORS OF FARMS.

526. ***Sardar G. N. Mujumdar:** (a) Is it a fact that there are some vacancies in the grade of Managers and Supervisors of Farms unfilled? If so, is it not intended to fill these vacancies by promotion from lower grades?

(b) Will Government please state the number of Indians holding independent charge of Dairy Farms, and their present pay? Are these men not considered suitable for promotion to higher grade to fill the existing vacancies?

(c) Is it a fact that at some stations, Supervisors, Managers, Clerks, etc., of Farms, are serving from the date of their appointment in the Department at the same place and near their homes where they were originally appointed, and that others have been very frequently transferred?

(d) Are Government prepared to fix some particular period for an individual to serve at one station?

(e) Is it a fact that European Managers of Farms on return from leave ex-India are posted to the same stations from where they proceeded on leave? If so, why?

(f) Are Government prepared to fix some period for these officers to serve at one and the same station?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: (a) The answer to the first question is in the affirmative. The question of filling these vacancies, whether by promotion from the lower grades or otherwise, is under consideration.

(b) There are some 19 Indians who hold independent charge of dairy farms. Their scales of pay are: as managers Rs. 200—30/2—500 per mensem, as supervisors Rs. 100—10/2—160—15/2—250 per mensem and

as assistant supervisors Rs. 50—5—90 per mensem. The answer to the second part of the question is the same as that to the second portion of part (a).

(c) Enquiries have been instituted and the result will be laid on the table in due course:

(d) and (f). No.

(e) The answer to the first question is in the negative, the second therefore does not arise.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE NUMBER OF VACANCIES FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION EXAMINATIONS.

527. ***Maulvi Badi-uz-Zaman:** Is it a fact that when a competitive examination for any service is held by the Public Service Commission, they are bound to announce the number of appointments for which the candidates are required to compete? If not, has there been any occasion when they did not announce the number of such appointments in any service offered for competition? If so, will Government please state the year, and the name of the service, when such action was resorted to and the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: The Commission are required to announce the number of vacancies when a competitive examination is to be held by them for an All-India Service or a Central Service, class I or II. There has been no occasion on which this has not been done.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION EXAMINATION FOR RECRUITMENT OF MINISTERIAL ESTABLISHMENT FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA OFFICES HELD IN 1926.

528. ***Maulvi Badi-uz-Zaman:** (a) Will Government please lay on the table a copy of the notification issued by the Public Service Commission for holding the competitive examination in 1926 for the recruitment of ministerial establishment for the Government of India Secretariat and its Attached Offices?

(b) How many appointments were offered for open competition, and how many for nomination?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: (a) A copy of the communiqué regarding the Ministerial Service examination held in 1926, is placed on the table. As the Honourable Member will observe, it was issued by the late Staff Selection Board, not by the Public Service Commission, which did not come into existence until October 1926.

(b) The terms of the notice stated specifically that the examination was in order to make a list of candidates qualified for employment in the Imperial Secretariat and its Attached Offices. No definite appointments were offered and no guarantee was given that a successful candidate would obtain an appointment.

STAFF SELECTION BOARD.

Communiqué.

The Board will hold an examination at Simla and Delhi beginning on the 29th November 1926, for the purpose of making a list of candidates qualified for employment in the Imperial Secretariat and its Attached Offices.

The list will be composed as follows :

	Rs.
(a) 12 candidates qualified for employment in the First Division—Pay in Secretariat	175 to 500
(b) 35 candidates qualified for employment in the Second Division—	
Pay in Secretariat	80 to 300
Pay in Attached Offices	75 to 175
(c) 75 candidates qualified for employment as Typist and Routine Clerks—	
Pay in Secretariat	75 to 170

2. The minimum educational qualifications required of candidates, other than permanent departmental candidates, is :

- (i) For First and Second Divisions—the Intermediate standard of any University or the Senior Cambridge.
- (ii) For Typist and Routine clerks—the Matriculation examination or the Junior Cambridge or equivalent examination.

3. Candidates must not be over 24 years of age on the 1st December 1926, and no successful candidate will ordinarily be appointed to Government service if his age exceeds 25 years when the vacancy occurs.

4. Candidates, who are already in permanent Government service are not debarred from appearing at the examination, provided they are otherwise eligible and that their age does not exceed 30 years on the 1st December 1926. But as vacancies are generally temporary in the first instance such candidates are warned that, even if successful at the examination, they may have to wait a long time before any post can be offered to them. Their names will moreover be struck off the Board's List on their attaining 30 years of age.

5. Each candidate must pay an entrance fee of Rs. 10 into a Treasury and obtain a Treasury Receipt. The Treasury receipt should then be forwarded to the undersigned with a request for the prescribed form of application. No form will be supplied to a candidate until the Treasury receipt is received. Cash remittances will not be received. Applications for forms received after Monday, the 1st November 1926, will be ignored. The form will give candidates all necessary instructions. No part of the fee is returnable.

6. Accepted candidates will be examined by means of written papers with a view to testing their intelligence general knowledge and information and knowledge of English. Thus they will be required to write an English composition draft a letter and telegram, write a precis, prepare a subject-index and answer certain questions on general information. Typists will be expected to type at a speed of 35 words a minute over a period of 20 minutes.

7. Candidates who satisfy the written and technical tests will be interviewed by the Board before final selection.

8. Candidates must pay their own expenses including Railway fare to and from Simla or Delhi.

9. No guarantee will be given to any successful candidate that he will obtain an appointment. Appointments are frequently temporary in the first instance. Permanent appointments are subject to a period of probation which may extend to one year.

(Sd.) E. H. BRANDON,
Secretary, Staff Selection Board.

SIMLA;

The 21st September 1926.

PUNISHMENTS INFLICTED FOR TRIFLING MATTERS BY THE DIVISIONAL SUPERINTENDENT, EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY, CALCUTTA.

529. ***Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen:** Will Government be pleased to enquire and report if it is a fact that the Divisional Superintendent, Broad Gauge, Calcutta, of the Eastern Bengal Railway, is frequently punishing the staff concerned with the running of trains for trifling matters, which has created wide-spread discontent?

Mr. P. R. Rau: No. It is open to the staff who consider they have grievances to take the ordinary method of bringing them to notice in the proper quarter.

FILLING UP OF VACANCIES IN HIGHER GRADES ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

530. ***Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen:** Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that on the East Indian Railway, in filling up vacancies in the higher grade of subordinate ranks, the cases of men in the same department drawing the maximum of the next lower grade and who have rendered efficient service are considered?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Government have no reason to doubt that in filling up vacancies in higher grades, the claims of all persons having any claim are considered.

IMPOSITION OF FINES ON STAFF ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

531. ***Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that Gokulram, a peon under the Deputy Chief Engineer, East Indian Railway, drawing Rs. 18 per month, has been fined Rs. 12?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state if there is any such rule in force on the East Indian Railway permitting an officer to fine the staff so heavily?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state what the policy is in the matter of imposing fine on the staff?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I have called for the information and will lay a reply on the table of the House in due course.

RETENTION OF THE HEAD ESTABLISHMENT CLERK AT DINAPUR FOR SEVEN OR EIGHT YEARS.

532. ***Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen:** (a) Is it a fact that the present head establishment clerk at Dinapur has been working there for the last seven or eight years?

(b) Is there any rule or practice that State Railway servants, concerned with money matters and establishment, are to be transferred at least every three years?

(c) If the answers to parts (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, will Government please state the reasons for a departure in the case cited?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) Government have no information.

(b) I am not aware of any such rule.

(c) Does not arise.

Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen: Are Government aware that this officer was reported against by his superior official as an unreliable man and it was recommended by him that he should be transferred to some other position?

Mr. P. R. Rau: No, Sir, I am not aware of that fact.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: Are Government aware that the position of a head establishment clerk is a very important one, and when such serious charges are made, it is better for the Government to make inquiries in all such cases?

Mr. P. R. Rau: No, Sir. The Agent is quite competent to deal with such questions.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: Do Government propose to ask the Agent to submit a report and the result of the inquiries by the railway authorities in this particular case?

Mr. P. R. Rau: No, Sir.

DECK PASSENGERS ON THE PILGRIM-SHIP "JEHANGIR".

533. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** Will Government please state the number of deck passengers on the pilgrim-ship "Jehangir" which sailed from Bombay on the 19th February, 1934?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: Sir, with your permission, I shall answer questions Nos. 533 and 534 together. Enquiries have been made and a reply will be furnished as soon as possible.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: Is it a fact, as Government have stated, that the replies to all these questions relating to the Haj pilgrimage will be laid on the table only? (Laughter.)

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: No, Sir. Government have reached no such decision.

LATRINES IN THE PILGRIM-SHIP "JEHANGIR".

†534. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** Will Government be pleased to state the number of latrines in the pilgrim-ship "Jehangir" which sailed from Bombay on the 19th February, 1934?

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

DISCONTINUANCE OF OFFICIATING PROMOTIONS IN THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE.

211. **Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen:** (a) With reference to the answer to starred question No. 67, parts (a) and (b), dated the 5th February, 1934, regarding discontinuance of officiating promotion in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office, will Government please state if the condition attaching to officiating appointments is also applicable to permanent appointments in the higher clerical grades?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 533.

(b) If the reply to part (a) is in the negative, will Government please explain the reason for this differential treatment? Is it not a fact that permanent promotions result in permanent expenditure to Government?

(c) If the reply to part (a) is in the affirmative, will Government please state why permanent promotions to Classes I and II have been made in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office after the date of stoppage of officiating promotions to these classes?

(d) Are the permanent promotions to Classes I and II made in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office after the date of stoppage of officiating promotions to these classes, considered by Government to be in order under any of the rules as they stand at present? If so, will Government please state whether the rules permit of permanent promotions being made without the assumption of duties and responsibilities of greater importance than those attaching to the substantive post from which an officer is promoted, and whether the rules do not permit of officiating promotions being made without fulfilling this condition? If so, what steps do Government propose to take to remove the anomaly and avoid extra expenditure?

(e) Will Government please inform this House if permanent promotions to Classes I and II have also been made in other Railway Accounts Offices besides the Railway Clearing Accounts Office, after the stoppage of officiating promotions to these classes? If so, will Government please lay on the table of the House a statement of such promotions including those made in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office, showing the extra pay which such men have got by their promotion to Class I from the date of such promotion up to the 28th February, 1984?

(f) Will Government please state the action which they propose to take towards the promotions referred to in part (e) of the question?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) No.

(b) and (d). Permanent promotions to higher clerical grades in such cases are admissible under rules and are in order. Where it is administratively considered desirable to have one or more grades comprising posts involving duties of approximately the same character or responsibility the pay of the grades is usually fixed on the basis that permanent promotions will be admissible. Government do not consider that any action is necessary in the matter.

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

(e) As such promotions are permissible and are ordinarily made in all offices Government do not consider that any public interest is served by compiling the information called for.

GRANT OF MILEAGE ALLOWANCE TO THE TRAVELLING TICKET CHECKING STAFF.

212. **Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin:** With reference to the reply to starred question No. 131, given in this House on the 16th February, 1984, will Government be pleased to state:

(a) if Travelling Ticket Examiners are connected with the charge of detecting ticketless travellers in the moving train;

(b) the definition of "In charge of moving train" and "connected with the charge of a moving train"; and

- (c) if there are any such employees on any State Railway who are neither directly connected with the charge of a moving train nor in charge of the moving train, but are still paid mileage allowance?

Mr. P. B. Rau: I am calling for information and will lay a reply on the table of the House, in due course.

GRANT OF MILEAGE ALLOWANCE TO THE TRAVELLING TICKET CHECKING STAFF.

213. Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Train Despatch Clerks or Free Service clerks, *i.e.*, those who travel in trains taking and delivering Railway dak, are directly connected with the charge of a running train on the East Indian Railway; and
- (b) whether it is a fact that such employees of the old Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway are still paid mileage allowance, and, if so, why the mileage allowance of the old Travelling Ticket Inspectors has been withdrawn?

Mr. P. B. Rau: I am calling for information and will lay a reply on the table of the House, in due course.

CONDUCTOR GUARDS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

214. Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) the duties of a Conductor Guard on the East Indian Railway as detailed in the Rule Books of the department;
- (b) whether they are directly connected with the charge of moving trains if so, in what respects; and
- (c) whether they are paid mileage allowance?

Mr. P. B. Rau: I am calling for information and will lay a reply on the table of the House, in due course.

DUTIES OF AN ENGINE KHALASI.

215. Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether an engine khalasi, *i.e.*, Jack, *i.e.*, the third man other than a driver and fireman, is in charge of a moving train, and, if not, whether he is directly connected with the charge of a moving train or engine;
- (b) why his duties have not been detailed in the General Rules for all Open Lines in British India as has been done in respect of guards, drivers and firemen;
- (c) his chief and primary duties on an engine in the normal working of a train; and
- (d) if it is a fact that he is paid mileage allowance?

Mr. P. B. Rau: I am calling for information and will lay a reply on the table of the House, in due course.

**CONSOLIDATED ALLOWANCE OF THE TRAVELLING TICKET INSPECTORS ON
THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.**

216. Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin: Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) why the *ex gratia* consolidated allowance sanctioned to the old Travelling Ticket Inspectors of the East Indian Railway is not paid to those of the staff who are working as Inspectors and on station duty and who drew a mileage allowance in their substantive capacity;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the decision communicated in this House on the 25th February, 1933, in reply to the starred question No. 488 (c), does not embody any such restriction, i.e., according to the decision of the Railway Board mentioned above all the old Travelling Ticket Inspectors working in the present Ticket checking system are entitled to the *ex gratia* allowance; and
- (c) whether they are prepared to see that it is done?

Mr. P. B. Rau: I am calling for information and will lay a reply on the table of the House, in due course.

**ALTERATION IN A FIRST INFORMATION REPORT RECORDED AT THE GOVERNMENT
RAILWAY POLICE STATION AT SHAMGARH IN CENTRAL INDIA.**

217. Maulvi Sayyid Murtuza Sahab Bahadur: (a) Is it a fact that the Sub-Inspector of the Government Railway Police, Rajputana, made an alteration in a First Information Report recorded at the Government Railway Police Station at Shamgarh in Central India on the 14th October, 1933, changing the offence recorded therein from section 304-A, I.P.C. into section 304, I.P.C.?

(b) Is it a fact that the registers of the Shamgarh Police Station were also altered in conformity with the alteration referred to in part (a) above?

(c) Is it a fact that, in consequence of the said changes, several respectable persons, including some employees of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, were arrested?

(d) Is it a fact that bail was refused to the said arrested persons?

(e) Is it a fact that the employees of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway Company referred to in part (c) above were arrested without obtaining the permission of the said Railway authorities?

(f) Is it a fact that the case had to be dropped without challaning the persons referred to in part (a) above for want of evidence?

(g) Was any action taken against the said Sub-Inspector of Police in connection with the matter? If not, why not?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe: The information is being obtained from the Agent to the Governor General in Rajputana and will be communicated to the House.

STRENGTH OF STAFF IN THE JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT OF DELHI.

218. **Manvi Sayyid Murtuza Saheb Bahadur:** (a) Will Government please lay on the table a statement showing the strength of Muhammadans and sister communities serving in the Judicial Department of Delhi and working in grades:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| (a) 75—5—125 and other grades upwards, | } showing the percentage? |
| (b) 45—2—95; | |
| (c) 35—1½—75; and | |
| (d) 35—1—55 | |

(b) If the percentage of Muhammadans happens to be low, are Government aware of the orders of Government that a preponderating element should not continue at all in favour of any community in any Government office?

(c) If the answer to part (b) is in the affirmative, will Government please state how they propose now to remedy this defect in future?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: I have called for the information from the Delhi Administration and will lay it on the table when received.

INCOME FROM EXPORT DUTY AND VALUE OF EXPORTED ARTICLES.

219. **Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** Will Government please state, without referring to the pages of the sea-borne trade statistics,

- (i) the income from total export duty during 1932-33; and
- (ii) the value of exported articles from the different provinces, separately, during 1932-33?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (i) Information regarding the export duty collected will be found on page 15 of the Explanatory Memorandum supplied to the Honourable Member along with other Budget papers on February 27th.

(ii) Information regarding the value of exports will be found in the separate Reports on the Maritime Trade of Bengal, Burma and the Province of Sind and the Report on the Sea-Borne Trade of the Bombay Presidency excluding Sind and the Madras Presidency for the year 1932-33, of which copies will be found in the Library of the House.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster (Finance Member): Sir, I lay on the table the information promised in reply to starred questions Nos. 204 and 205 asked by Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Aziz on the 21st February, 1934.

RECRUITMENT OF MEMBERS OF MINORITY COMMUNITIES IN THE OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY ACCOUNTANT GENERAL, POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS, DELHI.

204. (a) Yes.

(b) There were 52 vacancies to be filled up during the period specified in the question. Of these 17 should have gone to minority communities. As only 14 men

of minority communities qualified or fit for confirmation were available they were confirmed, and three more vacancies were reserved for members of minority communities. The Deputy Accountant General, Posts and Telegraphs understood the orders of the Government of India on the subject to mean that one third of the vacancies, instead of every third vacancy, should be allocated to members of minority communities. The position has now been made clear to him; the seniority list has been revised and every third place has been allocated to a member of a minority community.

LOSS OF OFFICIAL RECORDS FROM THE POSTAL AUDIT OFFICE, DELHI.

205. (a) Yes.

(b). (i) The Records lost were :

- (1) *The Savings Bank Annual Interest Statements* of two post offices, prepared in the Audit Office,
- (2) *Some Head Office Slips* (of deposits in the Head Post Offices, prepared in the Audit Office),
- (3) *Some Ledger Cards* (duplicates, prepared in the Audit Office, of post office ledgers recording transaction of deposits or withdrawals etc.),
- (4) *Warrants of Payments* i.e., authorities for withdrawals from Savings Bank Accounts combined with the depositors' receipt.

(ii) The records were not recovered but duplicates were prepared by the Audit Office in all cases except the warrants of payment in lieu of which admissions of payment were obtained by the Postmasters according to departmental rules.

(c). (i) Departmental action was taken to find out the culprits but there was no evidence against any particular person.

(ii) No.

(d) As no valuable documents were lost, it was not considered necessary to report the matter to the police.

(e) No. The Union made a proposal to form a representative vigilance committee but dropped it subsequently.

(f) Does not arise.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce (Member for Industries and Labour): Sir, I lay on the table the information promised in reply to starred question No. 211 asked by Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya on the 21st February, 1934.

REDUCTION OF FIVE POSTS OF CLERKS IN THE PUNJAB TELEGRAPH CIRCLE.

*211. (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) No.

(d) No. For purposes of retrenchment officials in the selection grade and in the ordinary time-scales are treated as in one category while those in the lower division are treated as belonging to another category.

(e) No. The retrenchment of personnel will be effected in accordance with the general orders of Government on the subject.

(f) No.

(g) Does not arise.

Mr. P. B. Rau (Financial Commissioner, Railways): Sir, I lay on the table the information promised in reply to starred question No. 124 asked by Diwan Bahadur Harbilas Sarda on 18th February, 1934.

GRIEVANCES OF THE PEOPLE OF BEECHLA TANK AGAINST THE RAILWAY AUTHORITIES.

*124. (a) It would appear from old plans that there used to be four ways of approach to the Beechla Tank locality from Ajmer City, two of which were "nullahs" and two roads. It is not known whether the land under these ways of approach was given to the Railway free of charge by the people of the locality.

(b) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative, but it is not a fact that there are no means of access open to the inhabitants of the locality at all hours.

(c) Road overbridges across railway yards have been provided on the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway at certain important stations where their provision was considered necessary and where the municipal authorities agreed to contribute to their cost.

(d) Representations have been received by the Railway Administration who have pointed out that the remedy lay in getting the Municipality to maintain the existing subway in a serviceable state.

(e) I am informed that up to about 1929, the public made unauthorised use of the main gate of the station for passing to and from the Beechla locality, but this practice, which constituted trespassing on railway land, was put a stop to after that year.

(f) and (h). A bridge over the railway yard is not considered necessary, because there is an existing subway as well as other means of access to the area under consideration.

(g) Yes, but with the full approval of the Municipality and after having constructed a new road in substitution of the one closed.

(i) The Railway Administration have reported that there is no record of people having been run over while crossing the railway yard.

(j) and (k). I am informed that the cultivators, who grow vegetables in the Beechla area, take them in head-loads to the shops of local dealers, in whose hands the rail-borne trade lies. In the circumstances there does not seem to be any necessity for giving any additional facilities for the vegetables to be taken direct to the station.

THE INDIAN AIRCRAFT BILL.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce (Member for Industries and Labour): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to make better provision for the control of the manufacture, possession, use, operation, sale, import and export of aircraft.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty): The question is:

"That leave be given to introduce a Bill to make better provision for the control of the manufacture, possession, use, operation, sale, import and export of aircraft."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE INDIAN FINANCE BILL.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty): The House will now resume consideration of the following motion moved by the Honourable Sir George Schuster on the 16th March, 1934:

"That the Bill to fix the duty on salt manufactured in or imported by land into, certain parts of British India, to vary certain duties leviable under the Indian Tariff Act, 1894, to fix maximum rates of postage under the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, to fix rates of income-tax and super-tax, further to amend the Indian Paper Currency Act, 1923 and to vary the excise duty on silver leviable under the Silver (Excise Duty) Act, 1930, be taken into consideration."

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa: Muhammadan): What about the item, Sir, regarding a motion for the election of Members to the Standing Finance Committee for Railways, standing in the name of the Honourable the Member for Commerce and Railways?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty): That motion is not being made today.

Sir Hari Singh Gour (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, the Honourable the Finance Member, in introducing his Budget speech, reminded us that this is the last occasion when he would ask this House to grant him supplies; and such being the case, he passed in review his five years' financial administration and asked this House to agree with him in the proposals he made. The Honourable the Finance Member, Sir, undoubtedly has minted his last Budget: but Honourable Members on this side of the House are equally taking part in what would appear to be their last Budget debate in this Assembly. If the Honourable the Finance Member felt impelled to review the financial situation during the last five years, it would be equally pertinent for Honourable Members on this side of the House to recall the salient facts ever since the inauguration of the Reforms in 1921. Fortunately, for this purpose we have a succinct statement contained in the Explanatory Memorandum of the Financial Secretary printed at page 1 of this brochure, and Honourable Members will find, if they glance at that statement, that, during the last fourteen years, there have been at least seven years of serious deficits in the revenues of the Government of India. Take, for example, the very first year, 1921-22, which opened with a deficit of 27·65 crores. Next year, it was followed by a deficit of 15·02 crores, and then we had small surpluses for three years, and then again we entered upon a cycle of deficits for three years, made good by the transfer of certain sums from the revenue reserve fund. The year 1928-29 had again a deficit of 32 lakhs. Then, there was a small surplus shown next year, and, then, again, we have entered upon a period of deficits of 11 lakhs, 12 lakhs, and so on. During the last five years, Honourable Members will find that we have saddled the country with taxation to the tune of nearly 51 crores. Let me give Honourable Members a few facts bearing on this subject. In 1930-31, the additional taxation amounted to 11·58 crores. In 1931 and 1932—the period of two Budgets, the normal Budget and the Emergency Budget,—in the normal Budget there was an additional taxation of 15 crores and in the Emergency Budget there was another taxation of 7½ crores—a total of 22½ crores. In the following year, 1932-33, there was an additional taxation of 14·83 crores, and in 1933-34, the year just ending, we have a taxation of 14·83 crores *plus* 3·87 crores. Now, the aggregate of all this is, as Honourable Members will find, in the neighbourhood of 51 crores. If Honourable Members will turn to

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): May I ask my Honourable friend what is his authority for quoting these figures? Where has he got them from?

Sir Hari Singh Gour: The authority for these figures are the Budget statements and the Budgets of the years I have referred to. I will be glad to lend the Honourable Member a copy if he wishes to verify these statements.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster (Finance Member): Did I correctly understand my Honourable friend to say that in the year 1933-34 we imposed an additional taxation of something like 14 crores? Did my Honourable friend say that?

Sir Hari Singh Gour: Yes, Sir.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: I challenge my Honourable friend's statement.

Sir Hari Singh Gour: The Budget that we passed in 1931, .

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: I am referring him to the figures of 1933-34.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: It is only 1.77 crores.

Sir Hari Singh Gour: That is correct. If Honourable Members will turn to the emergency Budget statements of the Honourable the Finance Member, Honourable Members will find that that was a Budget providing for supplies for 18 months and we wanted to revise that Budget by reducing taxation to the extent of about $3\frac{1}{2}$ crores, and we wanted to pass the Finance Bill by making the necessary reduction. The Honourable the Finance Member would not agree to it and he came forward on the 30th November, 1931, with a recommended Bill as it was originally introduced in this House. Honourable Members will find that on the third reading the Honourable the Finance Member's Bill was thrown out in this House by 48 to 63 votes, that is, by a majority of 15 votes. Now, the present Finance Bill is substantially a continuation of that Bill, slight changes in the postal rates and so on being the only variation from that Bill. We are, therefore, confronted with this position. During the last 14 years, of which a statement is given in the Explanatory Memorandum of the Government of India, the Government of India have been living beyond their means. Every year to which I have referred—at least seven years—and I venture to submit there are two more years, the Government of India have been in deficit. In 1922, one of us pointed out to the Government of India that they were burning their candle at both ends and that it was necessary for them to re-organise their public services.

Mr. B. Sitaramaraju (Ganjam *cum* Vizagapatam: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Because there are no more ends than two!

Sir Hari Singh Gour: Yes. The Government opposed the motion, but the non-official Benches carried the motion over the head of the Government by the appointment of a Retrenchment Committee, resulting in the appointment of what is popularly known as the Inchcape Committee. That Committee, Sir, was not charged with the duty of altering the policy of the Government of India and, within the ambit of the then Constitution, the Inchcape Committee decided that there should be retrenchment to the extent of about $20\frac{1}{2}$ crores in the expenses of the Government of India. Since then, the expenses of the Government of India have not come down, and I shall presently point out to this House, when I analyse the civil and military expenditure of the Government, that there has been

[Sir Hari Singh Gour.]

no substantial reduction in the expenditure of the Government of India. I am quite aware of the Retrenchment Committees appointed by this House and of the reduction in the expenditure made by the Government of India, but I am not dealing with the small detailed reduction of expenditure. I am dealing here with the broad question of policy. As Honourable Members will recall, we on this side of the House drew the attention of the Government only the other day that the time had come for the re-organisation of public services in this country. Three years back, the Honourable the Finance Member had informed this House that the pay bill of the Government of India, including the civil and army expenditure, Railways and the Provinces amounted to 120 crores per annum. Now, Sir, I ask you that if there were a re-organisation of the public services and the pay was settled on the Indian basis, there would be some chance of the reduction of expenditure in the near future although those who are the recipients of the emoluments which they have contracted for would have continued to receive their salaries and allowances till they retire. But what the elected Members of this House and what the conjoint body of the Indian Delegation have impressed upon the Government, both here and at Whitehall, is the necessity of immediately taking into consideration the question of the organisation of the services.

I remember that when we were debating this question, the Honourable the Finance Member was not even here in his seat, probably because he regarded that as a political question. But we had raised this question not as a political issue, but as a purely economic issue. We raised the question on the ground that, unless there is a re-organisation of the services of the Government of India and the reduction in the basic pay of the Indians in this country, the Government of India, impecunious as they have been during the last 14 years would plunge into the vortex of bankruptcy, irremediable bankruptcy, and we, therefore, asked the Government of India to take time by the forelock and set their house in order. What action the Government of India have taken, I know not, but, so far as the non-official Benches are concerned, there cannot be two opinions on the subject. Now, Sir, Honourable Members will be pleased to find that the amount of abnormal taxes bear a considerable ratio to the normal or taxed income of this country. If Honourable Members will turn to Table III, they will find that the total taxed income of the Government of India is only 70.84 crores, whereas these abnormal taxes that have been piled upon this country since the last five years, and I venture to submit, ever since the dawn of the Reforms, have come up to a round figure of nearly 50 crores. I submit this is a very serious position. We have been told by economists that the principle of additional taxation must take into consideration the following fundamental principles. I read from Mr. Armitage-Smith's "Principles and Methods of Taxation", page 27, in which the following sentences occur:

"All taxes are deduction from the spending power of individuals, and therefore from their demand for products of industry; they thus diminish voluntary consumption and production. Since taxation does not create wealth but only diverts it into the hands of Government, it cannot be justified except by its expediency, and it is only a good investment when its objects are clearly beneficial to the community, and when the taxes are raised by methods which are just and economic. Burdensome and unjust taxation reduces the productive capacity of a nation and can only tend to its exhaustion. A nation does not become prosperous in proportion to the amount

of its taxation, but it is able to bear heavy taxation with less suffering when it is prosperous and wealthy."

Now, Sir, let us apply this principle to the Budget of this year and to the taxation proposals embodied in the Finance Bill now under consideration. Honourable Members will find that, in the very opening passage of his speech, I am referring to paragraph 3, the Honourable the Finance Member has penned the following lines:

"In view of the extent to which we rely on customs import duties for revenue, the effects of this enormous drop must be obvious. At the same time our other main source of tax revenue—income-tax—was heavily cut into. I may give one simple index of this fall.

I want Honourable Members to mark these words.

"Taking the head of income assessable as 'profits' the annual profits of companies and registered firms in India which averaged over 53 crores in the eight years ending March, 31, 1930, fell to under 29 crores in 1932-33.

I regard this as the barometer of the nation's prosperity. If we find that the income of the joint-stock companies during the last year has fallen from 53 crores to 29 crores, what must be the fall in the individual incomes of the people who receive their incomes from either agriculture or from industries or from service. The Honourable the Finance Member has admitted that there has been an unprecedented fall in the prices of agricultural produce, and, therefore, we are confronted with the position that India is at the present day in a state of unprecedented economic depression and that the Honourable the Finance Member wishes not only to perpetuate the evils of his extraordinary Budget certified by the Governor General to saddle further upon this country an additional expenditure to the tune of 3·87 crores. He says he wants 1·47 crores from sugar, 2·10 crores from matches and ·30 crores from tobacco. I do not wish to cavil at the piece of legislation which we are considering at the present moment, but it is, I hope, pertinent if I draw your attention to the fact that under the Devolution Rules, printed at page 206 of the Government of India Act, clauses 25 and 26 lay down that "development of industries, including industrial research and technical education, and industrial matters included under the following heads, namely, factories, etc.", are provincial transferred subjects though the proviso entitles this House to legislate in respect of "factories, settlement of labour disputes, electricity, boilers and welfare of labour, including provident funds, industrial insurance (general health and accident), and housing". The question that arises in this connection is this. While it is perfectly legitimate to this House to legislate on sugar and matches excise duties, is it constitutionally right for the Government of India to appropriate the revenue received from these sources for purposes not justified by the Devolution Rules, and I submit that this is a question well worthy of consideration.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): How do you explain that the Government are not justified by the Devolution Rules?

Sir Hari Singh Gour: Honourable Members will find that these are transferred provincial subjects and the revenues from these sources are to go to the Provinces.

Sir Oowasji Jehangir: Where is that stated?

Sir Hari Singh Gour: Rule 16. That is in the Devolution Rules themselves and while we have got the right to legislate, I do not think—I speak subject to correction—that we have the right to appropriate the revenue from these sources for purposes not intended by the Devolution Rules. Be that as it may. The question will have to be considered when we deal with sugar and matches excise duties. For the present, what I wish to submit to the House is this. On a previous occasion, when we passed the 18 months Budget, we were told that if the House acceded to the request of the Honourable the Finance Member, we should be out of the wood and that, after the lapse of those 18 months, the country would be in a position to balance its Budget without additional taxation. That was the very purpose for which that Budget was passed. The Honourable the Finance Member had the Budget certified, because he said that he wanted to keep up the financial integrity of the Government of India. At the same time, he admitted that, in those days of unprecedented depression throughout the world, there were very few countries, if any, which were in a position of balancing their own Budgets. The reason is obvious. The countries which inflated their currencies and borrowed or carried over their deficits to the next two years or so were countries where the finances were entrusted to the popular representatives. Here, in India, the popular representatives have merely an advisory character and when they wanted the Finance Bill to be modified the Honourable the Finance Member was implacable. He said: “either I shall have the whole or not at all”, and he had the whole in spite of the striking vote of this Assembly. Well, Sir, comparisons are odious and I shall, therefore, pass by this question. But I say this that if the Honourable the Finance Member had been responsible to this House, instead of being responsible to an outside authority, he would be the first to fall into line with the other popular chambers where the difficulties of the day were tided over by carrying the deficits over instead of covering them by additional taxation. But we are not concerned with that question. What we are concerned with at the present moment is this. Is the country prepared or, what is more is the country in the present circumstances in a position to bear the additional burdens that are thrown upon it? We never agreed to the additional burdens 2½ years ago; are we in a position to agree to those burdens today? That is the main question, and I would ask the House, when the Finance Bill, is being voted upon, to recall the facts of November, 1931, and see if any fresh facts have been brought to light justifying a change of attitude on the part of Honourable Members on this side of the House.

I submit, Sir, that the Government of India have not been responsive to this Legislature to the extent we should like them to be. For the last 14 years, we have been pointing out that the country is not able to bear the burden of the heavy civil and military expenditure of Government. I have already dealt with the civil expenditure; let me for one moment turn to the military expenditure. The Honourable the Finance Member very often reminds us that the military expenditure has gone down from 56 crores to 46 crores, and he says that the thanks of this House are due to Government for this reduction. That is one side of the case; may I recall to the Honourable Members the other side of the case also? The military expenditure in 1913-14 was in the neighbourhood of 29 crores,

rather a few lakhs less than 29 crores. The prices today have reached the index figure of the prices of 1913-14; and it is for the Honourable the Finance Member to justify the increase of expenditure from 29 crores to 46 crores and not ask us to ratify his act because he has reduced the abnormal expenditure of 56 crores or even more to 46 crores. That, I submit, is the main question. In connection with the military expenditure, one unusual item in this year's Budget is the grant of a million and a half pounds by His Majesty's Government.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Does my Honourable friend mean that because the cost of living today is the same as in 1914, the salaries of all establishments should go down to the 1914 parity? Is that what he means?

Sir Hari Singh Gour: I submit that if there is a change of policy and if the prices do not go down to the parity of 1913-14, there would be still a very substantial reduction in the rates of the salaries of the military officials from what they stand today.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: I am talking of the civil establishment.

Sir Hari Singh Gour: I have already dealt with the civil establishment. I have pointed out,—I think the Honourable Member was not listening to it,—that in a special cut motion which I tabled the other day and for which my Honourable friend, Sir Cowasji Jehangir, voted, this House indicated in unmistakable terms that the time had come for the re-organisation of all the public services of the Government of India.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: That was a different point altogether. The Honourable Member is merely confusing the issue. I ask the Honourable Member a straightforward question. He says that the price levels have gone down to the levels of 1914. Will he inform the House whether he is prepared to advocate all establishment salaries going down to the level of 1914?

Sir Hari Singh Gour: The reply is given by an Honourable Member behind me, why not? And what about the Lee Concessions? And I submit that whatever may be the difference between my friend and myself on the details of the economy, the broad fact remains that, now that the prices have gone down to that level, a thorough revision of the military expenditure is necessary and urgently called for. That is the point that I am making.

Mr. B. Sitaramaraju: I think the Honourable Member's point is that rise in prices was one of the considerations for increasing the expenditure from 29 crores to 65 crores after the War. And, therefore, the point is that because the prices have gone low now, there is no justification to maintain it at that level. Is it not so?

Sir Hari Singh Gour: I think my Honourable friend, Mr. Sitaramaraju, has answered the doubts of Sir Cowasji Jehangir. But the point I am making is this. So far as military expenditure is concerned two points arise for consideration, and these two points I confidently submit to the judgment of this House. The first point is that the defence of this country must be in an increasing measure the concern of Indians and

[Sir Hari Singh Gour.]

there is no reason whatever for the retention of the British garrison in the strength in which it is maintained at the present moment. Some years back, we drew the attention of Government to this point and the Honourable the Finance Member then said that we could not turn out the British troops without notice. Well, Sir, sufficient time has been given to the Government of India to take up this question and to see that there is a reduction in the personnel of the white troops without which there can be no substantial reduction in the military expenditure of this country. The second point and a very important point from my point of view is the question of this subvention of a million and a half pounds to the revenues of India. I welcome that subvention, but at the same time I shall ask the Honourable the Finance Member whether coupled with that subvention there is not an obligation on the part of the Government of India to submit to the behests of the War Office in keeping up the equipment of the Indian Army to the level required by the War Office in England, so that as an arm of the Imperial Forces the Indian Army might be ready to take its place in any theatre of war. That was certainly the intention of the Esher Committee in 1918. Mr. Neogy, who is in the House, will recall the controversy to which it gave rise in this House and this House unanimously, with the concurrence of the Treasury Benches, decided that the primary and sole function of the Army in India was the defence of India; and if that purpose is kept in view, then I shall ask, why the Army of India should be manned and equipped so as to take the field upon any theatre of war not solely connected with the defence of India. I submit, that is a point upon which this House would like to have information from the Honourable the Finance Member.

I feel that this year's Budget and this year's consequent Finance Bill is not a Bill upon which this House can congratulate the
12 Noon. Honourable the Finance Member, nor indeed can we in the last days of our official life in this House support him and go back to the country and say "We have taxed you by increased import duties, increased customs duties, increased excise duties on sugar and matches, and, therefore, we want a renewal of your confidence to enable us to go back and support the Government in their economic and financial policy". The Finance Bill will go through, whether we like it or not. It has gone through before, and, therefore, there is no reality in the debate and the Honourable the Finance Member might just as well have said that whether the Honourable Members on this side of the House want it or not, he wants his money and he will get it. The question is not whether the country can afford the burden; the question is not whether it will not seriously impair the purchasing power of the people; the question is not that it will entail untold miseries upon the poor people of this country. But the question is, as the Finance Member has bluntly told us, that he wants that the Budget of the Government of India should be balanced. There was a famous emperor who used to use his fingers upon the fiddle when Rome was burning; but I have not yet heard of an emperor who uses his fingers to filch money from other people's pockets while Rome was burning. Here we have the country in a state of unprecedented depression, and yet the Honourable the Finance Member wishes to raise taxes and raise the revenue, regardless of the cries of anguish of the taxpayer. I know he has perhaps no choice in the matter; placed as he is in a position of irresponsibility to this House and a position of responsibility

to an outside authority. While I do not envy his position, I can at any rate understand his predicament, and while we will not be in a position to influence his decision on the floor of this House, we can at least do one thing, that is, ask him to take a message from the popular side of this House that, when he lays down the reins of his high office and goes back to England, we hope at any rate that he will remind the people of that country that the policy the Government of India have been pursuing in this country is not the right policy and that the Government of India though technically not responsible to this House, are not even responsive to its wishes.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: Sir, before I come to the subject of the Budget, may I, with your permission, refer to two points? The first is that in the discussion of the Finance Bill, Members refer to various aspects, and it will shorten the discussion very much if one Member at least from each Department may be present and correct incorrect information. As an instance, I will mention the fact that one Honourable gentleman quoted wrong facts about the post office and he was corrected in time, and the debate did not continue. Last time, my friend, Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon, made some observations about Baluchistan, and the impression left on my mind, in view of the fact that his facts were not controverted by the Honourable the Foreign Secretary, is that there is something substantially wrong with the British administration of Baluchistan: we are not doing justice to the people and we are not observing the laws of the land in that part of the country, but we are still continuing the old fashioned ideas of justice by means of the *jirga*, which might have been good two centuries ago, but they have got absolutely no force in the present times for two reasons. In the first place, if some of those people feel that the *jirga* is not doing justice and would do away with individuals, but owing to the British protection they could not do away with them. The second is that though the *jirga* system might have satisfied the aspirations of the people two centuries ago, we cannot say that the same is the position today, and, therefore, the sooner we do away with the administration of justice by means of the *jirga* and adopt a more rational form of government, the better it will be. I do not actually want a ruling from you, Sir, on this point, but it is an important point, and I trust you will yourself make some observations whenever opportunity arises, that at least one Member from each Department may be present on an occasion when Members are speaking on all kinds of topics.

Another thing is that my friend, Sir Muhammad Yakub, referred to something about his study of mathematics with reference to himself. If a person has not got any aptitude for mathematics, I consider it is not a sign of his weakness. Lord Macaulay did not know mathematics, and he learned by heart the binomial theorem; and when in an examination he was asked to describe a common pump, he wrote that it was first necessary to prove the binomial theorem, and started doing so, and handed in his examination paper. The University did not give him a degree, but they gave him an honorary degree later on. We have got instances, not only of Sir Muhammad Yakub, but of other great men. I tell one thing, which probably Sir Muhammad Yakub did not know, that I quoted his example and of others before the Senate of the Allahabad University, when I moved that mathematics should not be a compulsory subject in the Intermediate examination.

[Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad.]

This is the first time I am speaking since the Honourable Member laid his Budget before us, as I had no chance during the discussion on demands except for a short speech on planned economy. I congratulate the Honourable the Finance Member for the way in which he has carried on the finances of the country during these troublous times, and those, who have followed closely the finances of other countries, can see that it was not a joke. The world is passing through a great financial crisis, not only in financial matters, but also in general trade depression. Many countries could not honour their financial obligations: they are keeping up a managed currency and the position of their credit has gone down. We find that the credit of our securities, instead of going down, has gone up. When my friend, Sir George Schuster, took charge of his office, the $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent sterling security, which is really the thermometer of all the securities stood at 61. Then it went down to 53 $\frac{1}{2}$,—I am talking of sterling securities outside India,—and in March last year this security closed at 99. There was an appreciation of 61 per cent. since he took charge, and an appreciation of 86 per cent. since October, 1931. Therefore, these results are very good indeed, but evidently my Honourable friend, Sir George Schuster, did not pay for this from his pocket; the country had to pay for the appreciation of the credit of the country.

Sir, I shall first take up the question of the policy of taxation. My friend, Sir Hari Singh Gour, gave the figures, but there was one slight mistake in making calculations, that is, the figures in November, 1931, were calculated twice over. He credited the entire amount for 1932-33, and half of it for 1931-32. In the year 1930-31, we imposed a duty on textile of 1.25 crores, on sugar 1.80 crores, kerosene .35 crore, income-tax .70 crore, silver one crore, total five crores. In the year 1931-32, customs 9.82, income-tax five crores, total 14.82 crores. Now, in the second Finance Bill, which was presented in November, 1931, we imposed a duty on salt of .85, customs 3.1 surcharge 6.62, income-tax 3.53, postal and telegraphs .73, total 14.83 crores. There was no increase in customs duty in 1932-33. In 1933-34, boots and miscellaneous .27 crores, artificial silk 1.50 crores, total 1.79 crores. In the Budget of 1934-35, sugar 1.40 crores, tobacco .3 crore, matches 2.10 crores total 3.84 crores

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: I would like to point out that in giving these figures, he is giving the estimates of additional revenue; he is talking about the increase of taxation, but he has just included as one of the increases of taxation the extra five lakhs that we hope to get by reducing the silver duty from 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ annas to five annas. Surely, it cannot be added to the total of increased taxation. The point is important, because a great many of these measures,—for instance, the tobacco proposal,—are merely an attempt to adjust the duties in order to recover the revenue which we should otherwise lose. It is not to be treated as increased taxation.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: I am coming to it presently. I shall first of all take income-tax, and then come to the customs duty. We have increased income-tax during the course of these five years by 9.23 crores since 1930-31, and we find from the figures that our Budget in that particular year was 16 crores. Last year, the income was 17.23 crores, and so we have actually increased the income by 1.35 crores; we have

levied an additional taxation of 9-23. This really means that our income under the head of income-tax has gone down by eight crores. What does it really indicate? It shows that the income of the various classes of people has also gone down by an amount whose income-tax is eight crores. I have just got a copy of the report of the Income-tax Department, and I did not get sufficient time to calculate it, but I think I am nearly right if I estimate that the average of the income-tax is $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas per rupee. That really means that the loss of income of the people during the last five years as revealed by the loss of income-tax is in the neighbourhood of 80 crores. That means, again, that the income of the people, I mean of those who were capable of paying income-tax, has really diminished during this period by 80 crores. That is the point really that I want to make out. The capacity of the people has substantially fallen, and that is reflected by the income-tax figures.

The second point that I should like to make out is, that though year after year we have been adding to the taxes on customs, still we find that the revenue of the Government remains almost stationary. In the year 1930-31, our income under customs was 46·81. We have added the customs duty of about 30 crores, and still last year our income was 46·87. This year we estimated at 48·48, but I am quite sure that our actual income will fall short of our expectations. This shows that 46½ crores is practically the utmost capacity of this country. Sir, if you go on adding more taxes, you will find that the actual income would remain stationary. By levying taxes the prices go up, the people buy less and less, and thus the law of diminishing returns comes into operation, and that is really what the people can afford to pay. Therefore, in imposing new taxes in future, we have first of all to consider what is the taxable capacity of the people, because we have seen in these years by these figures that our income under customs remains 46 crores in spite of all the additions by these taxes which we have been piling upon it year by year. These are remarkable figures, because they show that the buying capacity of the people has been reached to the full, and there is absolutely no room for levying additional taxation. Sir, I feel that we have now arrived at a stage when our taxation policy should be revised, and we should consider carefully what are the commodities that can bear further taxation and what are the commodities that cannot bear any further taxation, and then decide the matter taking into account also the paying capacity of the people.

Sir, this is not all. The taxation now-a-days is not confined to the Finance Bill. Recently we have started a new form of taxation under the garb of raising the price level or providing temporary shelter or trying to say that we are encouraging the industries of the country, and thus a new form of taxation has been introduced. We do not know what effect it will produce on the general finances of the country. We have just passed a Finance Bill under the name of Customs Amendment Bill, and I tried my best to visualise in my mind how that measure would affect the general finances of the country, whether it would lead to increase the income of the country or diminish it, but all my attempts have failed. Therefore, it is very necessary, whenever we put any kind of duty, that we should visualise in our mind what would be the effect of such duties on the general finances of the country, whether it would lead to the imposition of new taxes or reduction of old taxes. We are proceeding in ignorance. Sir, it reminds me of a very important remark made by one of the greatest

[Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad.]

men, Al Beruni. He was calculating the value of one degree, which was previously done by Ptolemy and Yakub Alkandi. But Ptolemy calculated for a little over one degree and a little under one degree and took the mean. Then there was another Mathematician, Yakub Alkandi

Sir Muhammad Yakub (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Not myself I hope?

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: You are Sir Muhammad Yakub, and he was Yakub Alkandi who calculated for 15/16 and added one fifteenth of the value in order to get the value of one degree. Al Beruni remarked that both Ptolemy and Yakub Alkandi were wrong, but Ptolemy understood what he was doing and Yakub Alkandi did not. So the same is the case with the Finance Bill, and the Tariff Amendment Bills brought forward by the Commerce Member. Both the Finance Member and the Commerce Member were absolutely wrong in increasing the taxation of the country, because the people cannot bear any further taxation, but the Finance Member knows what the effect of his Bill would be on the general finances of the country, while the Commerce Member cannot tell what the effect of his measures would be on the general finances. Therefore, both were wrong,—one knows, while the other does not know what the effect would be. Now, I stand here and I ask any one on the Treasury Benches either on the floor of this House, or to point to any clerk, or assistant or Secretary or Joint Secretary, with whom I am prepared to sit for hours and hours, to calculate and tell me what would be the effect on the finances of the country of the Bills that we have already passed and of the Bill that is now before us. If we pass this Bill to raise the taxation and raise the price level and put a burden on the consumers, the effect is that the general income would go down, and it will be followed by some other taxation. One taxation leads to another taxation in order to make up the deficiency. This is not a very desirable thing to do. Whenever we bring forward any kind of Tariff Bill, if it is pure and simple protection, I can understand it, but if it is anything other than protection pure and simple, then I should like to know what its effect on the finances of the country would be. Before I finish this subject, let me say something about the manner of taxation. It is desirable that taxation should be Central. I am for respecting treaties with the States, but from that it does not follow that we should not undertake in our hands the collection of all the taxes and give to various States the amount which is due to them, and that is the only way by which this question can be solved.

Mr. B. Das (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadan): Will not my Honourable friend give us his own idea of a scientific planning of taxation so that the future Finance Member may profit by it?

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: I am very glad, my Honourable friend, Mr. Das, has put the question. Had the answer been so simple, probably the Finance Member would have adopted it long so. This is an exceedingly difficult problem. It requires very careful consideration, commodity after commodity. We have to study each commodity and follow the consumption in the country, and the effect on consumption by an increase of duty, and so on. This is a very difficult thing, but what I did suggest was that this was a thing which ought to be systematically studied by the Government.

Coming to the debt position, in the year 1930-31. our debt amounted to Rs. 1,074 crores, and now it stands at Rs. 1,212 crores, and the rise is particularly noticeable in the case of the sterling debt which in 1929 stood at Rs. 471.75, and now at Rs. 511.60 crores. I think with the export of gold it was desirable to have reduced our sterling debt, and we ought to have used a portion of our export of gold for that purpose. No doubt most of this money has been lent to revenue producing things like railways, but we have seen that railways are defaulting, they cannot pay. We have the States defaulting and they cannot pay, and ultimately the burden will fall on the poor tax-payers of British India.

I come now to the question of the export of gold. We have exported since September, 1931, Rs. 180 crores worth of gold. This is a very considerable sum. I did not object very strongly at the beginning, because it was a kind of reserve which helped us in maintaining the financial stability of the country, but has not the time come to stop this export? How long are you going to continue this export? I find that since 1900 till September, 1931, we had exported only Rs. 168 crores worth of gold, but since then our export has been at Rs. 180 crores, which is more than what was exported in a period of thirty-two years. Our import during that period is Rs. 701 crores, that is, since 1900. So we have still got a sufficient balance left, but it is very desirable that we should keep this reserve in our hands in order that we may fall back upon it in difficult times, and I think that the time has come when we should stop the export of gold and put an embargo upon it.

I do not like at this stage to dwell in great detail on questions relating to sugar, hides and skins, and other things, because we shall have an opportunity of dealing with them. I shall only make just one or two passing observations. About sugar, I should like to put a question to those who oppose the Government proposal. The income under the head "sugar" to the Government was Rs. ten crores and, on account of protection, it has been reduced to Rs. two crores. It means that the tax-payers of India have given a donation of Rs. eight crores to the manufacturers of sugar, because this sum of Rs. eight crores has been realised by imposing other taxes on the country.

Diwan Bahadur A. Ramaswami Mudaliar (Madras City: Non-Muhammadan Rural): May I point out that there is a fallacy in that argument? The figure of Rs. ten crores which he takes was a figure arrived at when sugar was selling at a very high rate. At present the Honourable Member must take into consideration the fall in prices.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: What I say is that our income from sugar was Rs. ten crores and it was reduced to Rs. two crores. I shall not go into all the reasons, but it does mean that it is a kind of donation which the tax-payer has placed at the disposal of the manufacturers and the consumers. We gave the industry a protection of Rs. 7-4-0. We stand by it and honour it, and there is no question of taking it away. They were promised another eight annas if the price of Java sugar came to less than Rs. four a maund, and as the price of Java sugar has fallen to less than Rs. four a maund, we give an extra eight annas. We stand by it and honour it. But the problem does not rest there. Unfortunately we made a mistake in the year 1931 by raising the duty by 25 per cent all round. I protested at that time and said that even the protective duties would be

[Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad.]

raised by 25 per cent. Though it was not heeded to at the time, I think now everybody must realise the mistake that was committed then. Now, the Government have rectified that mistake. As far as the manufacturers are concerned, they have absolutely no case, and the question is simply this, whether the import duty should be reduced from Rs. 9-11-0 to Rs. 7-12-0, so that we may just give the protection which we promised, or whether for revenue purposes we should put a uniform duty of Rs. 1-5-0 on all sugar imported as well as manufactured in this country. This is really a question between the Government and the consumer and not one between the manufacturers and the Government. I do not know why the manufacturers should be carrying on a propaganda. The fight is really between me as the consumer and the Government. This is really the position with regard to sugar.

Coming now to tobacco, I must frankly admit that I have no interest in this article. I never smoke nor do I offer a smoke to anybody else. Therefore, I am not interested in the matter.

An Honourable Member: But many Members are smoking cigarettes.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: Then they will fight, I remain neutral.

Coming to matches, I think the duty is rather high, and it ought to be lowered.

The next question relates to hides and skins. I do not like to dilate very much on that matter, because I have discussed it in previous years and we shall have an occasion to discuss it later on.

I think that all export duties are unhealthy, whether it is hide and skin or rice or any other thing. You could justify the export duty only on three grounds: (1) when we have monopoly of that commodity, so that the tax will fall on the consumers of the outside country and not on the industry itself, (2) When the raw product is intended to be utilised by the manufacturers in this country, and we desire to stop its export, (3) For revenue purposes. These are the three reasons on account of which the export duty could be justified. I find all these three conditions are not applicable to the hides and skins. The "Review of the Trade of India" on page 111 says that the trade under this head has been progressively smaller in the last two or three years. The total value has fallen from 8,92 lakhs in 1931-32 to 7,43 lakhs in the year under review, a fall of 16 per cent. Now, I will explain what is the difference between hides and skins. The skins of cows and buffaloes are called hides and the skins of goats and sheep are called skins. In the case of cow hides, in the year 1919, the export was 39,427. Then it came to 11,400 in 1932-33. Buffalo hides came down to 15,000 from 11,656. In the case of skins of goats and sheep, from 31,248 it came down to 13,300. The world consumption has not diminished. I do not want to go into details, but I would refer the House to my own speech delivered on the 18th March, 1933, in which I discussed this question at length. So I shall not waste the time of the House now by repeating the arguments.

The next thing is, whether it is required for the consumption of our own industry. Here we find that there has been a fall in our trade in tanned hides. In the "Trade Review", we find on the same page that 9,000 tons of hides were exported valued at 11,62 lakhs as compared with

10,300 tons valued at 12.13 lakhs in the preceding year. The amount of the manufactured articles has gone down. Therefore, we cannot say that we have been using it for the development of our own industry. The third thing is that it is not for revenue purposes, because I find that the revenues have fallen from 37.74 lakhs in 1929-30 to 14 lakhs in the year 1933-34. The amount is reduced to nearly one-third. So this is not a source of revenue at all. Therefore, this export duty of five per cent is not justified on account of monopoly. It is not justified for protection of the home industry; and it is not justified for revenue purposes, and I do not know on what ground this export duty can be supported. My friends may quote about the Cess Committee's report. This was written about six years ago. Circumstances have changed. At that time trade was prosperous and we could spend money for improvement, but now we have not got enough to eat and we are living on a starvation diet. The cess duty is out of question. I congratulate the Honourable the Finance Member for removing the export duty on hides, but I would have very much liked him to have also removed the duty on skins, because they are in nearly the same position as hides.

I now come to a new commodity. I do not know whether it will come under the Finance Department or the Commerce Department or under the Miscellaneous Department. I refer to the products turned out by the factories known as Universities and Colleges. This is a commodity whose price level has enormously fallen. We are taking great steps to increase the price level of agricultural products. We are trying to increase the price level of the manufactured articles. We are putting all sorts of taxation on the country in order to do it, but we are taking no steps to increase the price level of this commodity, known as graduates, matriculates, and so on. I call these factories, because they turn out the finished product known as the graduates, and so on. These factories were originally started to cater for the administration of the country. The total number of people engaged in the administration of the country including municipalities and district boards is .8 per cent of our population. This comes to 28 lakhs. These factories were started to train men for the rank and file of this .8 per cent of the population, but what about the remaining pursuits? These factories could only cater for one particular type, that is, the administration of the country. The next larger item in which the people are engaged are industries. These factories have to be modified in order that they may not suit the requirements of one particular class only, that is, the administration of the country. You have appointed a Tariff Board to consider the price level of various commodities. Is it not desirable that you have a Tariff Board to consider the articles produced by these Universities and Colleges? We have a protective duty for textiles and hosiery. Why not have a protective duty on this particular commodity known as the graduates?

Then, is it not desirable that we should give some kind of bounty to this particular industry? That is also a thing which we have got to consider. We ought to take up this problem in a business-like manner. We should consider them just like other "commodities": and if a Tariff Board conducts inquiries and recommends all the steps necessary with regard to the different kinds of commodities, then it is much more important to have a Board to go into the case of this particular commodity, which is much more important than the other commodities, for, while mismanagement with regard to the other commodities may bring about

[Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad.]

financial or economic ruin only, the neglect of this commodity must lead to the ruin of the general fabric and general political organization of the country. (Hear, hear.) Therefore, I say you ought to seriously consider the problem of this particular commodity.

Now, keeping these things in mind, I would like to suggest one or two things,—namely, that we ought really now to aim at catering men not only for the public administration, but also for the requirements of the country's business and trade, which absorbs the largest number, that is, about 15·1 per cent of the total population. With this object in view, we ought really to revise the entire system of our education and the entire outlook, in fact, with regard to our education in order to cater for the requirements of the country's industry and trade. We should not concentrate all our attention on the requirements merely of the administration of the country. Sir, let us consider how hollow is our position in these factories as far as the requirements of trade and business are concerned. Look at the curricula of all these schools. Whenever we talk of technical education, we talk of two things. First, technological institutes, which really train a few experts who may carry on research—probably about a dozen professors on high salaries imported from outside and a dozen lecturers and perhaps two dozen pupils under them. Now, that sort of thing does not meet the requirements of this country. I cannot say that it is waste of time and money, but I can say that it is not the economic use of our resources.

Then, there are industrial schools which train artisans. They take up boys from the sixth or the seventh standard and give them some kind of industrial instruction,—in tanning, dyeing, and so on, so as to produce an artisan class.

Sir Muhammad Yakub: Dying is so cheap in India. Everybody can die.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: Sir, there is another class of men which forms the largest class of men whose requirements we entirely ignore and that is in respect of what is called the secondary technical education,—that is, education in which men are trained to carry on the work of the factories, to act as foremen and to act as the leaders and the runners of the cottage industries. Now, this class of institution does not exist in this country. There are, however, good examples of this in European countries. As an illustration, I may mention polytechnics in London; you will find about 70 or 75 different professions and trades are taught in the same building along with the instruction that is imparted for the matriculation and other University examinations. Now, these institutions are very badly needed in this country. No doubt you will say that we have got too many graduates and matriculates every year. The number of matriculates who pass out every year is about 35,000 and the number of people who pass the other University examinations is about 30,000. These are really too large numbers to be absorbed, and many of these persons ought to have been diverted to training in technical subjects. Sir, it is a very serious matter. We do not want a Tariff Board of three persons. We really want a scheme in which we should have the co-operation of the Universities, of the Government, of the capitalist and of the business man, in order to find out the right solution of this very important and very pressing problem.

The other day, we had the All-India Universities Conference. They did not produce any definite scheme, because they knew that it could not be done by them alone. A single man would have drafted all the resolutions about technical teaching which the joint wisdom of the Conference succeeded in drafting in three days. I say this, not because they were not able men, but because the problem could not possibly be tackled by the Universities alone. We want the co-operation of all the different bodies. In England, we have got polytechnics. In Germany, they have got a different system; after the completion of the compulsory age limit, every boy and girl is sent compulsorily to some kind of school where technical education is imparted in that subject. There is technical education imparted for every profession you can think of, where a student gets regular instruction for four years. After that, he passes the examination and then gets into business. Whether we follow the system of polytechnics or the German system of technical education, it is immaterial, but the important point is that our institutions here are used to catering exclusively for one kind of requirements, that is, the administration of the country: they should cater substantially for the requirements of the trade and industry of the country which provides, as I said, for fifteen times the number engaged in the administration of the country.

I take up now one small topic and that is the League of Nations. (Laughter.) Unfortunately we did not have the time to discuss it. We requested the Honourable the Leader of the House to give us an opportunity of discussing it. We wanted to introduce the subject in the course of the general discussions, but unfortunately this was left out. Therefore, I would like to draw attention to it, because this is an institution on which we spend something like 15 lakhs every year. I am not against the League of Nations, and I am not proposing that the money should be stopped.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty): Order, order. The Chair just wants to make one position clear. The Chair has observed disappointment in some quarters that certain Members have not been called upon to speak. The Chair thought the House as a whole knew the principle on which it has been calling the various speakers. In a debate of this nature, the Chair has to distribute the time as equitably as possible among the various Parties in this House and the Chair wants Honourable Members belonging to the various Parties to realise that the greater the time taken by one individual member, the less the number of members of that Party who can speak. The Chair wants the House fully to realise that position.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: I do not want to dilate at length on this subject, but there is one thing to which I want to draw attention. There is an admirable report written by Sir Muhammad Habibullah's Delegation in 1929, and they drew attention to seven very important questions which I do not now want to read out, because I want to finish my speech in time. In this particular report, my Honourable friend, the Leader of the House, has also drawn attention to one or two very important questions which it is a pity that this House should not have the opportunity to discuss. India is paying money, and I advocate that we ought to take a more intelligent interest in the League of Nations; but, in view of your observations, Sir, I stop, and I do not discuss this question.

Rai Bahadur Kunwar Raghubir Singh (Agra Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I congratulate the Honourable the Finance Member on his making the best of a bad job.

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Non-Muhamadan Rural): How many times was the job bad?

Rai Bahadur Kunwar Raghubir Singh: Sir, we know that depression is troubling the whole world and it is not only India that has suffered from the fall in the prices of agricultural produce. Now, the Finance Bill which is before us proposes to levy certain excise duties on articles which are of great use to the poor people, I mean, for example, salt. The salt duty generally falls on the poor people, and it is not, I think, advisable to levy this duty. Sir, if we see through this Bill, we find that salt, which is manufactured in or imported by land into India, is to be taxed. We could have understood the position if salt coming from outside were to be taxed. But, Sir, both these clauses make it clear that that salt is to be taxed which is manufactured in or imported by land, which means not the outside salt, but the salt, which is manufactured in India and brought by land, is to be taxed.

Then, Sir, there is the question of the maximum rates of postage. Everybody knows that the country wants that the price of postcards should be reduced, because the poor people generally use postcards to send their messages, and the Honourable the Finance Member has not seen his way to reduce the price of postcards. He has been able to reduce the price of the stamps for envelopes by three pies, but there also is the condition that the weight of the envelope should not exceed half a tola. Sir, we have got two kinds of letter paper in the Assembly—big ones and small ones. If the big one is used, stamps of the same value will have to be affixed as is affixed now. But if the small envelope is used then, of course, one anna stamp may do. So, the advantage to the public by the reduction of the envelope stamp will not be much.

Then, there is the question of the reduction of telegraph rates. In that case, it is proposed to reduce the rate to eight annas, but only those firms who have got their registered addresses will be able to gain, because eight words cannot suffice for a man of business who has not got a registered address of his office. So, this tax also will not be beneficial to the public.

Then, there is the excise duty on silver. The country has been crying hoarse that the export of gold should be taxed. Instead of doing that, the proposal now before us is that the excise duty on silver will be varied. I do not know why, when we, the Non-Official Members of the House, have been impressing upon the Finance Member the necessity of putting an embargo on gold, he does not see his way to satisfy the public demand on this matter.

In previous years, we impressed upon the Finance Department the necessity of not levying taxes on incomes below Rs. 2,000. They have restored half the cut in the pay of their servants, but the taxation proposals are the same as last year; and next time, this five per cent. will also be restored. So, I do not know, if the Government saw that the five per cent. cut could be easily restored, why the incomes of at least Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 500 could not be exempted from taxation.

Sir Muhammad Yakub: What alternative taxes do you propose?

Rai Bahadur Kunwar Raghubir Singh: I am coming to that just now. Then, Sir, the country has been crying hoarse that the Lee concessions have not been stopped. The other day, there was a question in the Council of

State by the Honourable Mr. Jagadish Chandra Banerjee, and the Honourable Mr. Hallett, on behalf of the Government, dismissed it as irrelevant. I do not see, when the finances of the country are in a bad condition, why the Lee concessions should not be given a go-by.

Then, Sir, the country has been crying hoarse for the reduction of the white garrisons, but they have not yet been reduced. Even if they have been reduced, they have been reduced to a very small extent. It has been pointed out that the present military expenditure stands at 44½ crores. So, if this five per cent. cut is to be restored, this will not remain at this figure, but is bound to increase. So, the decrease in the military expenditure is not very appreciable.

Then, Sir, there is a proposed increase in the expenditure of the Income-tax Department amounting to Rs. 2,11,000. In my Province, I mean Agra and Oudh, they are going to appoint Additional Inspectors and other staff to the tune of several lakhs of rupees. When the rates of income-tax are almost the same as last year, there is no reason why the staff and Inspectors should be increased.

It has been proposed that the duty on hides would be abolished. It may benefit some people, but it would have been much better if the duty both on skins and hides had been abolished. It has been said in the Budget speech of the Honourable the Finance Member that because the hide trade was declining, therefore they thought it good to abolish it in order to give an impetus to the export of hides. But, Sir, the figures which have been given are 56 in 1933, that is 80 per cent; and 42 in 1932, that is 60 per cent. That means that there has been an increase of 20 per cent. Then, Sir, the value of exported hides in 1933 was 9.13 that is, 65 per cent. while in 1932 it was 7.76, that is 56 per cent. So, this shows that it is not correct to say that hide export has decreased. On the other hand, the figures show that it has increased. Sir Muhammad Yakub has already pointed out that the duty on sugar will kill the industry in the United Provinces where so many factories are springing up and it was thought that the requirements of the country will be met by such factories, and Governors and very highly placed officials have helped them to start, but the measure proposed by the Honourable the Finance Member will kill the industry to a considerable extent.

The duties on matches are also very much disliked by the public.

Sir Muhammad Yakub: What about the matchless!

Rai Bahadur Kunwar Raghubir Singh: So, I propose that instead of levying a duty on sugar and matches, customs duty on cigars, vegetable ghee, liquor and such other articles, which are consumed only by the rich, should be levied.

There should be no income-tax on incomes below Rs. 2,000, and if it is not acceptable to the Honourable the Finance Member, then at least Rs. 1,500 should be made the limit on which income-tax might be levied.

I will still appeal to the Honourable the Finance Member to lower the price of the postcard which the general public so much wants.

Then, Sir, we know and there is a great talk about it that the Federation is coming. I do not think how can the Federation come so soon when the duties proposed are those which were suggested in the Simon Commission Report for the Federal Constitution.

[Rai Bahadur Kunwar Raghubir Singh.]

Looking to the general administration of the country, we do not see any difference between the conditions of 1930 or, to go back even further, 1921 and now. If the Federation, or to put it in a better term, responsible government were really coming, there ought to have been a change in the behaviour of officials; but, on the contrary, we see that the Arms Act licences are being reduced and we see no sign of the Federation coming very soon. Moreover, whenever it comes, India is bound to be burdened with further taxation and a top-heavy administration. The administration, as we know, is already top-heavy and India, a poor country, cannot bear all that.

It has been said that the credit of India is very high. But I wish to point out that the credit of India has always been high. In the Budget speech of the Honourable the Finance Member great stress has been laid on the fact that the purchasing power of the masses requires to be increased, but we see that the masses like to go in for Khaddar and dhoti. They do not want any increase in the standard of living. With the spread of the Swadeshi movement, it is bound to increase further. If the Honourable the Finance Member, as has been pointed out, is keen on getting revenue to meet the expenditure of the Government of India, it is better that the revenue is derived from such sources as may not fall on the poor people.

Haji Chaudhury Muhammad Ismail Khan (Bakarganj cum Faridpur: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I join my Honourable friends in my appreciation of the way in which Sir George Schuster has once more steered the boat of India's finance successfully through turbulent waters. I should also like to take this opportunity of expressing my sorrow at the impending departure of such an able and worthy financier.

The relief that Sir George Schuster has afforded to my Province in making over half of the export duty on jute, has given general satisfaction. Inter-provincial bickerings and inter-provincial jealousies, Sir, I maintain, are unworthy of this House which should look to the weal and welfare of the whole of India and see that every Province gets its just dues. If the jute duty has been restored to us after all these years, it only means this that the Government have at last recognised their mistake and admitted our just claims. Unless this House maintains that claim, there is danger of distrust, even of disaffection among the different units which form the commonwealth of the great Indian Empire of which we are so reasonably proud.

Sir, the excise duty on matches has nearly doubled the price of the commodity. It is not the rich who would feel the measure so strongly as the bulk of the poor who, in these days of difficulties and distress, can hardly afford one meal a day. If he cannot revert to the old world methods of igniting fire in order to cook his meagre meal, you are yourself to blame.

Then, there is the excise duty on sugar. While the industry is still in its infancy and factories are still in the making, this duty is bound to affect a very large number adversely. Had the import duty on sugar been increased simultaneously, it would have afforded some protection to this promising industry.

The relief in the postal rates which Sir George Schuster promises to afford can in no way be treated as such. Had he reduced the rate of postcard to two pice, it would have meant something. It could then be

said to his credit that Sir George Schuster was anxious and in earnest to help the poor. Again, to reduce the price of envelopes by one pice and at the same time reduce the weight to half a tola is nothing more than a financial puzzle. Even taking off a pie from the five pice embossed envelopes, though treated as an administrative reform, means very little gain to the tax-payer. Then, there is the increase of rate from six to nine pies in the initial charge on inland book packets exceeding five tolas in weight, only on the ground that the book packet method of transmission was being abused. That is a very poor argument and can hardly be justified. It may increase the revenue, but at the cost of the tax-payer who is already over-burdened. The postal authorities are always at liberty to levy an extra charge in cases where they find that the system has been abused.

Sir George Schuster ought to have paid some consideration to the ability of the people to pay taxes. There is the case of the poor agriculturist and his landlord. The former is not getting even a fraction of the cost of produce, while the latter has to meet the revenue from other sources at his disposal as the land brings him next to nothing. As for instance, a peasant in Bengal is getting ten annas per maund for paddy now, while it used to fetch him two rupees per maund only a few years ago. This will show that the peasant is very hard hit and does stand in need of relief.

I should like, Sir, to protest against the surcharge on income-tax. It seems the Government intend to perpetuate this iniquitous taxation, year after year, on some pretext or another. Much has been said about the top-heavy administration year in and year out, on the floor of this House, but to little or no purpose. We hear a great deal about retrenchment in all branches of public services. But what is the use of retrenching menials or the ministerial staff when the people at the top are still there drawing fat salaries and, perhaps, fatter salaries than before. Such a course of action cannot but lead to disaster by multiplying the number of the great unemployed who are a source of danger to the country.

Sir, it was my privilege to represent for several years the Province of Bihar and Orissa on the Legislature of the supreme Government. The terrible calamity which has befallen that Province has evoked the genuine sympathy of the whole world. We are all thankful to His Excellency the Viceroy for what he has done and what he is doing to alleviate the miseries of the stricken population of my late constituency. I should like to take this opportunity of appealing to the Honourable the Finance Member to strain every nerve to render all possible financial assistance to the victims of the greatest of all natural calamities recorded in Indian History.

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya (Madras: Indian Commerce): Sir, I have imposed on myself a self-denying ordinance of silence and I have not opened my lips for about a month and a half. This Finance Bill debate is something like a *Holi* festival of the Assembly. This is the occasion on which speeches are made on all sorts of subjects and, just as in the *Holi* festival, they rub the hardest to the person whom they love best. Thus we have the opportunity of rubbing hard on the Honourable the Finance Member and also the other Members. I think we try to throw as much colour and dust as we can, but I would make this occasion for a *pavitra Holi* and speak only on one or two matters which concern our trade and commerce which I have the honour to represent.

[Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya.]

Sir, first of all I would say that Government are neglecting the finance and trade very much. They make a great show of doing something in this direction, but really they do nothing. We had formerly the Stone Age, the Golden Age, and all other ages, but we have now come to the "Age of Commissions and Committees". There is hardly anything on which on the slightest provocation a Commission or Committee is not appointed, and we get a lot of volumes in the form of reports, but practically nothing is done in this connection. I would on this occasion draw your pointed attention to this matter. These Committees and Commissions are very good methods for the Government to make the people talk about them and they give a very good opportunity to some of our friends here to sit on these Committees, draw allowances, go round the country, eat dinners and enjoy their trips. And now the epidemic has progressed further and some of our friends are taken to London and are made to commit themselves there in certain important matters. They are there in a different atmosphere and glamour, and forget themselves. In future they should not be allowed to go to these countries and thus commit the country to any retrograde policy. They should give an undertaking that they will not accept any Government job after thus helping the Government in these Committees and Conferences and Commissions. In fact, the electors should take an undertaking from the Members that, say, within five years after their quitting a seat in the Assembly, they will not take up any job under the Government. That is the only way in which we can purify our public life. Then, Sir, about these Commissions and Committees, as I have said, practically no action is taken. If Government were to do even one-tenth of what they know already, things would be much better, but practically nothing is done and the money is simply wasted on these Commissions.

I shall give you the example of a Committee which was appointed about four years ago, namely, the Indian Banking Enquiry Committee. This was a Committee consisting of about 21 members and two officers and the volumes of reports of the Central Enquiry Committee go to the length of 4,577 pages. The price of that report is Rs. 20. Now, if we take into consideration the reports and the volumes issued by the several Local Committees, the total price of these reports comes to Rs. 252-6-0 for a single copy each; and so the total price of one set of all the volumes including evidence comes to more than Rs. 270 and it cost Government Rs. 13,36,740 over it and the Provincial Governments contributed Rs. 92,614. The Committee was appointed on the 22nd January, 1929, on a Resolution passed by this House. They submitted their report in June, 1931, and we have not heard anything about it after that.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty): The Honourable Member may continue after lunch.

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. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) in the Chair.

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya: Sir, when we adjourned for lunch, I was speaking about the new industry that has been started in the country of

setting up Committees and Commissions to investigate into matters, but the Government take no notice of these Committees and never take any action, and I was citing the case of the Indian Banking Enquiry Committee, where they spent over Rs. 13 lakhs and the result was nil: rather, I may go further and say that, in considering the question of the Reserve Bank, some of the recommendations made by the Central Banking Enquiry Committee were entirely ignored. Thus, all this money was simply wasted and the Government as usual went to sleep. We have read Gulliver's Travels in our younger days, and in that book there is a story of a country where the inhabitants were like lotus eaters and went to sleep and who required flappers to wake them up. But even the Assembly's warnings do not wake the Government here to their sense of responsibility, and the public money is wasted like that. We have had a number of other Commissions and Committees: on occasions, when they find it convenient, they quote from these reports, but, when they do not find it convenient, they entirely suppress even the reports, as in the case of one Military Committee which never saw the light of the day though we asked for its publication while in the case of others, as in the case of the Lee *loot*, action was taken very soon, and in the case of yet others, like the Central Banking Enquiry Committee, no action has been taken. Speaking on matters concerning our trade and commerce, I may say that more vociferous industrial concerns like the spinning and weaving industries do sometimes receive some attention from the Government and I may point out that formerly the profession of spinning and weaving was not considered very respectable. We have got an Indian proverb which applies to our Commerce Member very aptly, which runs:

*"Mere lalla ke kaun kaun Yar,
Dhune Julahé aur manihar."*

Who are the bosom friends of my darling, the Member for Commerce? They are the spinners, the weavers and the glass blowers: rather I may say the froth blowers. (Laughter.) Those who talk much receive their attention, while those who render regular service—of course I do not mean that spinners and weavers do not render service . . .

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): You mean the bankers rendered regular service?

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya: They have rendered regular and valuable services and the Government spent something like 13 lakhs over the Banking Enquiry Committee, and did nothing.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: And now my Honourable friend has taken to the profession of spinning yarns!

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya: It is the regular and continuous spinning of yarns by my Honourable friends of the mill industry that has brought all this money and preference and other duties. I was going to mention the case, with reference to other industrial concerns, of the Hide Cess Enquiry Committee. We in the Madras Presidency are very much interested in this hide and skin business. A gallant Knight of the British Empire sitting in this House said that all those who came from Madras were very selfish people in this matter . . .

An Honourable Member: No, no. Who said that?

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya: My Honourable friend, Sir Muhammad Yakub, said that.

An Honourable Member: He was speaking of prostitutes and dancing girls.

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya: Anyhow he said that certain sections of the people of Madras were very selfish, and they were urging upon the Government not to abolish the export duty. I don't wish to speak about this export duty at present. I shall speak on it when I move my amendment on the Bill to omit the clause which removes the export duty on hides. But I wish to draw the attention of my friends to the importance of the hide and skin industry and how it has been neglected by the Government. I may tell the House here that I have no interest in the hide and skin business. As a Hindu, I cannot handle that line of business

Mr. N. M. Joshi: What about *Chamars*?

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya: Well, Sir, they are depressed classes, and probably now they are classed outside the Hindu community.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: They are certainly Hindus.

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya: At least, so far as the Madras Presidency is concerned, the industry is confined practically to Muslims, and when I speak on their behalf I should not be understood to be trying to back up an industry in which I am interested individually or as a Hindu from a financial point of view

Mr. N. M. Joshi: If you say as a Brahmin, it would be better.

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya: Also as a Brahmin, as well as a Hindu.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Not as a Hindu.

An Honourable Member: Brahmins are not Hindus then?

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya: Sir, tanning is a very old industry, and mention of it is to be found even in the Rig Veda. That Veda refers to tanners and skins of animals prepared by them.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: *Bap-re-Bap!*

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya: Why are you saying *Bap-re-Bap*? The Great Shiva himself sits on a tiger's skin, and the Gita says "*Chailajin Kushot-taram*", that you should have for practice of true contemplation an *asan* first of *Kusha* and then *Ajin* and then on the top of it you should have a cotton cloth

Mr. K. P. Thampan (West Coast and Nilgiris: Non-Muhammadan Rural): What about the piece of leather used at the time of *Upanayanam* by Brahmins?

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya: No Brahmin or *Dwij*a can be initiated without *charma*

Sir Hari Singh Gour: My Honourable friend, Mr. Pandya, is digressing. I would request him to keep to his point.

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya: Sir, in the Madras Presidency, the *Chamars* belong to one of the most depressed classes of India, though numerically they are a very important and large class. Nearly three million people are interested and engaged in this hide and skin industry. In this connection, the Commerce Department issued a notification on the 28th September, 1929 to constitute a Hide Cess Enquiry Committee and the Government order mentioned the number of items on which they wanted their opinion in the interests of the hide and skin trade—I don't want to read the details of the notification, but they desired the Committee to report to the Government of India "*at the earliest possible date*". That was the notification dated the 28th September, 1928. The Report was submitted on the 4th February, 1930, but till now no action has been taken on it. They spent or rather they estimated about Rs. 47,000 as the cost of the Committee. I rang up the Commerce Department to know what was the actual cost incurred, and they have so clean forgotten it that one of the officers there was surprised by the enquiry, and he said, it would take him some time before he could tell me exactly how much money was spent on that Committee. Now, Sir, the hide and skin trade amounts to about 40 to 50 crores of rupees. According to the Committee's Report, the estimates, however, differ. They have estimated it from 25 to 40 crores of rupees. The number of hides produced are about 25 million pieces; goatskins not less than 14 millions, sheepskins 12 millions, total, a definite amount of the value of about 20 crores. It is the sixth important industry in the country. It comes next to jute, cotton, food grains, tea and oil seeds. Of the total export trade of this country in this industry, Madras exports only six per cent. of raw material, Bombay ten per cent. Karachi 20 per cent. and Calcutta 54 per cent. Now, the House will understand the anxiety of the Calcutta people to see that the export duty is removed. Of world's production of cattle hides and kips, India produces about 25 to 33 per cent. and in regard to goat skins we produce about one-third of the world's production. So far as the tanning business is concerned, the export from Madras of tanned skins comes to 86 per cent. Bombay 11, Sind 3, and Bengal nil; in tanned hides, Madras 94 per cent. Bombay six per cent., Sind and Bengal each, nil. This will show why naturally the Bengal representatives here are keen on the removal of the export duty. Sir, it is not merely a question of export of hides and skins, but on account of the neglect in the various processes of tanning, the quality is very much deteriorated and a huge loss is incurred, with the result that the total national loss on hides and skins is supposed to be in the neighbourhood of about four crores of rupees. If these hides and skins were handled in a scientific manner and in a better way, India would have got at least four to five crores extra and the Finance Member his corresponding extra duty, and that is why this Cess Inquiry Committee was appointed. It was appointed with a view to rendering help to this industry with a view to getting the full economic value of their produce. It is a well known fact how the cattle are now neglected in our country. In this Report it is distinctly stated that if animals are properly taken care of, the quality of hides and skins would be much improved, and the national loss would be much less. I may mention here that there are two kinds of hides and skins. There is one kind which is called "fallen" hides, and there is another which is called "slaughtered". Slaughtered hides are those hides of the animals which are actually slaughtered in the slaughter houses, while the fallen hides are hides of animals who are found dead—an un-

[Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya.]

natural death due to starvation, etc. The unfortunate position is that 75 to 80 per cent. of the hides are from the "fallen" animals, and hence of low value. That is, the cattle are so little cared for. There was a time in India when every household had a cow, and, in an agricultural country like India, where the system of agriculture hinges on oxen while the domestic cow supplies the chief needs, such as milk, ghee, etc., large herds of cattle must be maintained. Though we hold about one-third of the total number of cattle in the world, the loss in the early death of these cattle is very great. The Government do not make provision to prevent their early death which is a very great economic and national loss to the country. I do not want to tire the House by reading the various points made by Dr. Meek's Committee.

Sir Hari Singh Gour: Take them all up with your amendment.

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya: The Committee has made very valuable suggestions for improving the trade in leather—hides and skins and also in tanning. None of those recommendations have been put into practice, and I am afraid the Government have not even passed a vote of thanks to the members and President of that Committee. I wish to draw the pointed attention of the Commerce Member to this matter and I hope he will give due attention to this report and come in time to the help of this industry. As for other matters regarding tanning, and whether we require an export or cess duty, I shall deal with that when I move my amendment. Unfortunately the matter has not received due attention from the Government.

Now, I will turn very briefly to another point and that is about the large gold exports from this country. The country has lost gold to the extent of about Rs. 175 crores by this time, and the Government have gained nothing by it. If they had purchased the gold, they would have had good security in support of their currency notes. On the other hand, the proceeds of the sale of silver and other resources are being put in what they call sterling securities. The Government have not made any attempt to keep the gold for themselves. If the Government had secured the gold, the people would be holding their currency notes with a much better and solid gold backing than what they have got at present and the export duty would have brought good income also. The country has been urging upon the Government to impose an export duty, but the Government have turned a deaf ear to it. We are told that it is very uneconomic to hoard gold. The advice is given to us by all those advanced countries who themselves are scrambling to get as much gold as they can possibly for themselves.

An Honourable Member: It cannot be eaten!

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya: It may not be eaten, but it has the greatest potential and economic value. Now, it is practically trying to lock up the stable after the steed has been stolen, but still it is not too late for the Government to see that something is done in this direction.

Now, Sir, I shall speak only about one matter about which my Honourable friend, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad, just spoke. And he spoke about what he called present day education. Our 18 Universities with their numerous colleges and schools are nothing else but "B.A. and B.L. Manufacturing Companies, Unlimited". They do not give any training

in the right direction. They simply give training of a literary kind, and both the Government and the public are to blame for this state of affairs. We have got 18 Universities and they have got their Senates and Syndicates. At least, so far as I know about our Madras Presidency, there are no bankers or commercial magnates or any industrialists on the Syndicate or Senate of the Madras University.

Diwan Bahadur A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: There are on the Senate. The Southern India Chamber of Commerce is specifically represented on the Senate by two members.

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya: Out of how many? The two were taken only recently. The result is that the debates of the Senate and Syndicate are merely pedagogues or school boys debates, and no practical work for the boys' future life work is undertaken by them. I do not mean any insult to my Honourable friend who may be on the University Senate or Syndicate or whatever body it may be

Mr. B. Sitaramaraju: What about Assembly?

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya: The Assembly debates? The less I speak about it, the better. Practically we are only a debating society without any power to enforce our will on the Government.

Mr. S. G. Jog (Berar Representative): Why do you speak at all?

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya: For the same reason for which you are here.

Mr. S. G. Jog: I do not hold that view.

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya: Sir, I wish that some action should be taken in the matter of education in this country. Mere literary education in a foreign language is not desirable for us, and some steps should be taken to give training of the right sort, and the parents also should not blindly go on sending their boys to turn them into B.A.'s, B.L.'s. When they find that there is no job for them, then only they think of something else. I would, therefore, urge upon the Government to give more attention to our educational system and also see that the Universities develop their educational activities on the right and practical lines.

Mr. S. C. Mitra (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): One redeeming feature of the Finance Member's last Budget is that he did not impose any further duty on salt, but unfortunately it was left to the Knight of Moradabad to suggest a further increase in the salt duty.

Sir Muhammad Yakub: And rightly too.

Mr. S. C. Mitra: It is well known that salt is a necessity of life, and the demand for it is so inelastic that there is a constant attraction for the Finance Member in times of difficulty to tax this poor man's commodity, but, as usual, Sir Muhammad Yakub is very anxious about the income-tax payers, particularly about the tax on the income of dancing girls.

Sir Muhammad Yakub: For the sake of my Honourable friend from Bengal!

Mr. S. C. Mitra: Government have been pleased to raise him to the status of a Knight, he may become a Peer in time, he is an aristocrat

Sir Muhammad Yakub: You are also moving in that direction.

Mr. S. C. Mitra: But he need not forget his olden days and the poor middle classes and poor cultivators whose vote he will have to seek ere long, and then he will learn a lesson.

Sir, I do not like to devote much time to the financial side following the well known principle for demanding redress of my political grievances before we are asked to vote for supplies. I like to deal with some of the political grievances, and if there is any time left, I shall try to deal with purely financial considerations. First of all, I like to deal with one question about the administration of the Army Department,—I mean the use that is made of the soldiers in Bengal. The soldier's profession was held in high esteem in this country, because the soldiers were ready to risk their life in serving the country, and, naturally, even though Government paid them a paltry sum as their salary, there was attraction for men coming from noble families to serve as ordinary soldiers, but the use that is being made of the soldiers in Bengal has made them fall in public esteem, and that is the principal reason why I like to draw the attention of the Government to this matter. I have received an authenticated report from the leaders of the district of Midnapore. I like to state their case which is corroborated by the evidence of some of the sufferers themselves:

"The soldiers in batches of 20 to 25 with a circle officer or a special magistrate or a sub-deputy collector and one or two sub-inspectors of police and other police officers are sent to different thanas from the sub-divisional town. Four or five camps are fixed up where they stay for three or four days. Each thana is being visited by different batches of troops in different routes.

Reception.—Police officers give verbal or written notices to shopkeepers and prominent villagers to decorate shops and to erect gates in the routes to be followed by a party of troops and to receive them. Teachers of schools within a distance of three to four miles have also to erect gates and to receive the soldiers with their boys who should carry flags and shout "*jais*" to give them ovation. The school sub-inspectors have to take particular care that no one remains absent. Absentee teachers, though small in number, are being deprived of their grants-in-aid. Each school has generally to serve more than one turn and the little boys have to remain standing for hours on each occasion. Several hundreds are collected at the instance of thana officers by general subscriptions. Defaulters are threatened with condign punishment. Processions with flowers, festoons, bugles and drums are to be arranged by villagers.

Extortion of Tea Parties, Dalties and other entertainments.—Well-to-do persons have no escape from giving either a tea party or a *dali*. A poor man, if he has sometimes incurred the wrath of even the chowkidar, has to pay for it and present *dalties*. The deputy Babu or the *daroga* Babu would send for persons and bid them present *dalties* with such articles as are put in the list they would supply. Any pleading to be excused with less costly or more easily available things would earn for the offender the filthiest language and the grossest insult. Men of position and honour have to remain standing for hours supplicatingly to receive orders from the officers just to avoid greater insult at their hands. Cash moneys are sometimes extracted in lieu of *dalties*. Teachers and members of school committees have in some cases to arrange tea parties or send *dalties*, as otherwise they would be deprived of their stipends. If they do not dance attendance on the visiting party, they are suspended or their aids are cancelled at the orders of the school sub-inspectors, who as a rule, play a most prominent part in the reception.

"Union Jack" Salutation.—Notices are served particularly on Congress workers, to salute the Union Jack on a particular day at a particular camp. If they do not turn up, their houses are searched and household articles are pillaged. They are flogged and members of their families are insulted, roughly handled and sometimes assaulted. The workers are arrested and taken to the camp, and if they refuse to salute

the Union Jack, they are subjected to inhuman torture in the shape of flogging, kicking, knocking their heads against the ground, and the like. They are also kept in confinement for long periods with their hands tied up or otherwise.

House searches and destruction of properties.—In these cases, too, the Congress workers are the targets. Besides, those persons, who have been deemed wanting in proper respect for the *daroga* Babu or any other officer, had their houses searched, household articles destroyed, and also received usual insults. Sometimes ladies are also assaulted and are subjected to humiliation.

Great excesses have so far been committed by searching parties. Properties have been destroyed, cash and ornaments have been robbed, houses have been desecrated, householders, from children to old men, have been flogged, ladies have been molested and even outrages on women have been committed.

Durbars.—The District Magistrate or the Additional District Magistrate holds a *darbar* in each *thana*. Notices are served particularly on Congress workers or Congress sympathisers for attendance. *Darbar* speeches are full of threats that the people should be careful to keep free from all sorts of movements, otherwise military help would be resorted to to suppress them.

Watch and Ward Committees.—Watch and ward committees are being formed by Circle Officers in villages. In the *durbars*, the members of such committees, who in many cases have been coerced to serve as such, are awarded *sanads* which warrant them to help in cases of dacoity in the villages. But in the *darbar* speeches they are directed that they must give information to the police whenever, a library or a gymnastic club, or a school is started in the village or if there is any meeting, political or otherwise, or there is any new-comer and so on.

Notices on Congress workers.—Those Congress workers, who have not submitted to the coercion by refusing to salute the Union Jack or to be a member of the watch and ward committee and those who have been considered incorrigible are being served with notices under the Bengal Suppression of Terrorist Outrage Act, 1932, to report to *thana* officers each week and to assist in the maintenance of law and order in connection with the combined civil and military operation to be carried out in the district from 15th December until the 31st April, 1934.

A few significant cases will give some idea about the serious situation.

During the small hours of the night of the 25th January, 1934, a number of Garwali soldiers surrounded the house of Sj. Murari Mohan Sasmal of Jukhia in P. S. Bhagwanpur in the Contai sub-division, and one of the soldiers committed rape on the wife of Sj. Bhuban Chandra Sasmal, the elder brother of Murari Babu. Both the brothers were absent from home and the neighbours were prevented by soldiers and policemen from coming to the rescue of the unfortunate woman.

On the 11th January, 1934, the junior sub-inspector of police, of P. S. Kedgree in the Contai sub-division, with a party of Garwali soldiers, constables and chowkidars, surrounded the house of Sj. Jogendra Nath Patra of Sillibari in P. S. Kedgree. Jogen Babu being absent from home, they enquired about Jogen Babu's wife, who at the sight of the soldiers, had ran away from the house with her two children and had been trying to take shelter in a neighbour's house. The sub-inspector, with some constables, chased her from one house to another for a distance of $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles, assaulted whomsoever they came across, held an identification parade of women to find her out and created a great panic throughout the village.

During the search in the night of the 3rd January, 1934, (3 A.M.) in the house of Sj. Indra Narayan Bera of village Katranka in P. S. Patashpur in the Contai sub-division, one of the soldiers of the searching party, headed by Mr. Dharendra Nath Mukherjee, the special magistrate of Contai, and Sj. Jagat Taran Chatterjee, the senior sub-inspector of police of P. S. Patashpur, with the apparent evil intention dragged Shrimati Rajanibala Bera, the daughter-in-law of Indra Babu, inside a room and the lady could only save her honour by threatening to make an end of her life with a knife. Shrimati Rajanibala was a Congress worker; she was asked to salute the Union Jack.

Serious damages were done to the properties of the Beras, male and female members were seriously assaulted—not even children excepted, and gold and silver ornaments were robbed.

After search in the house of Si. Kumar Narayan Panda, on the 27th December, 1933, a bundle of currency notes amounting in all to Rs. 2,635 was found missing.

Every article in the house of Kailas Chandra Maiti of Balichak, P. S. Kedgree, was smashed during search, and ornaments and other articles were robbed.

[Mr. S. C. Mitra.]

Cash payments were extorted from Jhātu Charan Maiti of Paschim Sarpai, Iswan Chandra Karan of Dakshin Nisehinta, P. S. Contai, and others on the 31st December, 1933.

On the 10th December, 1933, Sjs. Ashutosh Ray Chowdhury and Sjs. Ramanath Maiti (Congress workers) of Balyagobindapur, P. S. Patashpur, were flogged, threatened with their lives and kept in confinement for their refusal to salute the Union Jack, and their household articles were given over to pillage during search on the 9th December, 1933.

On the 10th January, 1934, Sjs. Sashi Sekhar Mandal of village Ektarpur, P. S. Patashpur, was arrested and taken to the soldiers' camp, and, on his refusal to salute the Union Jack, was flogged, slapped, kicked and otherwise assaulted for several times, was kept in confinement, tied up in a post, and his head was knocked against the ground before the Union Jack again and again and he was subjected to the most inhuman behaviour.

There are many other cases of the like.

On the 3rd January, 1934, school masters and students were assaulted for no fault of theirs, and their stipends were suspended, because Mahatma Gandhi and Chittaranjan's photos were found in the school. Two little boys were also inhumanly treated."

The District Magistrate, in his durbar speech, said that the Government had resolved to prevent any sort of destructive movement from gathering strength, as before, and, for this purpose, they might requisition the co-operation of the military at a moment's notice.

Sir, the people of the locality made it clear that they had no objection to honouring the Union Jack, but if anybody is forced to do it and it is against the code of honour of any particular self-respecting man to do so, trouble is created. How far the use of military force for all these purposes is justified, I leave it to this House to judge.

I shall now give a few more instances:

Potashpur Police Station.—The first instance of military excesses was committed on the 9th December last by a detachment of the Royal Garhwali Rifles, encamped at Manglamaro, in connection with house searches in the villages of Ballyagovindpur and Palpara under police station Potashpur; There Sjs. Ashutosh Ray Chowdhury, Ramanath Maiti and Kalipada Mahapatra were flogged and otherwise harassed for their refusal to salute the Union Jack. Another detachment encamping at the Argool Bungalow, on the 1st January 1934, led by the special magistrate, Mr. D. N. Mukherjee, and the sub-inspectors, Messrs. Jagat Taran Bannerjee and Khondakar, committed similar atrocities at the village Katranka on the occasion of searching the houses of the *Beras* on the 3rd January, 1934. Floggings, lathi, blows upon the inmates, not excepting ladies, and loot and destruction of property were freely indulged in by the soldiery. Sjs. Kumud Chandra Bera, Churadhari Bera, with his wife and the son, Monaranjan Bera, Nilkanta Bera, Indra Narayan Bera, with his wife and the daughter-in-law, Sia, Rajani Bala Bera; Kartick Ch. Bera, with his sons, Priyanath and Bholanath, Haridhan Bera, Gajendra Nath Bera, with his sons, Ariun, Arun and Bharat, and Satis Ch. and Narendra Nath Bera were amongst the victims. Assaults were due to the refusal to salute the Flag and furnish information leading to the recovery of the Congress Cyclostyle Machine.

Contai Police Station.—Prior to the arrival of the Royal Garhwali Rifles at Contai, the S. D. O. issued warrants to the local gentry directing them to join the reception of the troops and the Flag Salutation Ceremony on the 16th December and the Ceremonial Parade on the 18th December, 1933. Here *dalies* or, in lieu thereof, cash payments were extorted from the local people upon the threat of beletting the soldiery on their houses.

Ballyagovindpur.—On the 9th December, 1933, a number of soldiers of the Royal Garhwali Rifles, headed by a Havildar, surrounded the house of Sjs. Ashutosh Ray Chowdhury of Ballyagovindpur village under Patashpur police station. Sjs. Ray Chowdhury was asked to salute the Union Jack. But before he could understand the situation, he was secured with a rope, his hands being tied from behind, and was

severely belaboured by the Havildar. In the meantime, on the plea of a search, the soldiers entered his house and pillaged everything inside. With S. Ray Choudhury in their custody, the house of S. Ramanath Maity was next visited. He too was given a good thrashing and his house was also given over to similar pillage. Both of them were then taken to the Soldiers' Camp at Manglamaro and detained there for two days. On the 10th, at 5 p.m., both of them were taken to the Parade Ground and ordered to salute the Flag. On their refusal, there they were mercilessly belaboured, and, moreover, threatened to be shot dead. At last they were forcibly made to salute the Union Jack.

Palpara.—On the 9th December, the house of S. Kalipada Roy Mahapatra of Palpara was also surrounded by soldiers. Kalipada Babu was roughly handled for his refusal to salute the Flag and subsequently made a prisoner. His house was searched with considerable damage to property. But, persisting in his refusal to salute the Flag, he was again assaulted by the Havildar at the Parade Ground. They wanted him to execute a bond, but, as he was not agreeable to this, he was again given some fifty lashes.

Banamali Chatta.—At this village, a detachment of the Garhwali Rifles searched the houses of S. Sree Nath Chandra Jana and Kangal Chandra Jana, on the 26th December. Although nothing incriminating was found, the searching party broke into pieces several glass jars, looking glasses and earthen pots; tore open mattresses and quilts and scattered rice and *dal* on the floor. At Kangal Babu's place, despite being offered keys, they wantonly broke open a safe and mutilated important documents inside. In the evening, the local gentry were summoned at the Parade Ground and ordered to send *dalies* for the troops. There, S. Ananta Das of Kamardah and Bhagabat Chandra Jana of Laudan were abused in the most filthy language, roughly handled and forcibly made to salute the Union Jack.

Baitrakunda.—Here a party of soldiers searched the houses of S. Achinta Kumar Panday and Kumar Narayan Pandav on the 27th December. At the former place, a box and a portmanteau were broke open and paper inside destroyed. Foodstuffs were all scattered on the floor and got mixed up. At the latter place, three boxes, four portmanteaus, and one safe were broken open and the contents therein soiled pouring oil over them.

Bahari.—Here S. Byomkesh Das, a teacher of the Namaldiah, U. P. School, was summoned by the Havildar of a detachment, visiting the place on the 26th December, to salute the Union Jack with the local volunteers. In the absence of the Flag that day he had to salute the bare flag-staff then and there, and reappear the next day for proper salutation. *Dali* was also extorted from him, and also from Kumud Bandhu Panday, a local zaminder and the President Panchayat of Union No. IV. He had also to arrange for a dinner in honour of the Officer Commanding, Captain Murray, where no less than 62 Garhwali soldiers were among the guests.

Katranka.—Headed by the special magistrate, Mr. D. N. Mukherjee, and a Havildar among others, a batch of soldiers surrounded the house of the Bera at 3 a.m. on the 3rd January, 1934. While searching the house of S. Kumud Ch. Bera, his younger brother, S. Churadhari Bera, was kicked and dealt with 20 or 25 stripes and lathi blows. He got a nasty cut in his head, two inches long, and serious injuries in the right cheek and the little finger of the left hand. Kumud Babu's nephew, Sreeman Manoranjan and his mother each got five to six stripes. A soldier tugged the portion of the *saree* covering her head and the breast. The searching party then broke open wooden safes and robbed gold and silver ornaments approximately worth Rs. 100. Important documents and papers in connection with the estate of Kumud Babu's master have also been destroyed. The cost of other damages amounts to nearly Rs. 30 to Rs. 40.

S. Nilkanta Bera's house was also ransacked. Here, among other things, a few Charkas were smashed. Not satisfied with this, the soldiers went to the length of answering calls of nature in two rooms. S. Indra Narayan Bera's house was next visited. Apart from damage to property, here they insulted Indra Babu's wife and a daughter-in-law, named Sja. Rajanibala Bera, a local Congress worker. A soldier enquired of her about the Cyclostyle Machine and asked her in Hindi to salute the Union Jack. Before she could make out what the soldiers meant, she was struck with a lathi. Not satisfied with this, the soldier, with the apparent evil intention, tried to push aside the mother-in-law, while dragging the daughter-in-law inside the room. At this Sja. Rajanibala threatened to make an end of her life with a knife and thus saved her honour.

[Mr. S. C. Mitra.]

At S_j. Kartick Ch. Bera's house, his son, Priyanath Bera (16—17 years), was asked about the Cyclostyle Machine. Having no satisfactory answer from him, the special magistrate, Mr. Khondakar, and the Havildar, one after another flogged him 40 to 50 times. They broke two canes on his back. He was then removed to the Argoala Military Camp and forcibly made to salute the Union Jack in the evening. He had nothing to eat during the night and was let off at 4 P.M. the next day. Sreeman Bholanath (10 years), the youngest son of Kartick Babu, was also given a few stripes. The military visited the house of S_j. Haridhan Bera, who was laid up with dysentery for several months, and gave him 5 to 6 stripes for withholding information about the Cyclostyle. For similar supposed offence, his sons, Arjun, Arun, and Bharat were also flogged. S_j. Gajendra Nath Bera got kicks and stripes; Sreemans Satish Chandra Bera (13 years) and Narendra Nath Bera (14 years) had their heads knocked against the wall and also flogged for disclosing information leading to the recovery of the Machine.

I shall now give the English rendering of Notices of Reception and Flag Salutation Ceremonies:

“WARRANT NO. 1.

You are hereby informed that the Royal Garhwali soldiers of the Government will reach Contai on the 16th December, 1933, at 3 P.M. You are, therefore, directed to be present at the Dak Bungalow compound for their reception and the salutation of the British Flag at 3 P.M.

(Sd.) D. M. SEN,

Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Contai.”

Dated 15th December 1933.

Court Seal.

“WARRANT NO. 2.

You are hereby informed that the Ceremonial Parade of the Royal Garhwali Rifles will be held in the compound in front of Khas Mahal Office on the 18th December, 1933, at 11 A.M. You are directed to be present there at the appointed hour without fail.

(Sd.) D. M. SEN,

Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Contai.”

Dated the 16th December 1933.

Court Seal.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I rise to a point of order? Sir, I have heard speeches during the last two or three days on points of grievances on the ground that grievances should be redressed before supplies; and this practice has existed in this House for several years since I have been a Member of this House. It was also the practice that when Members made speeches regarding grievances, the Government Members in charge of Departments were present. Unfortunately that practice is now going out of use. Not only there was the practice of Government Members being present, but I remember very well that, on the last day of the general debate on the Budget or on the Finance Bill, the Government Members belonging to the various Departments used to reply to these speeches made putting forward various grievances. Now, I find that practice is going out of use; and I also find that Members make speeches without being heard by anybody. I feel, Mr. President, that this is a practice which really reduces the discussion in this House to a farce and it is against all Parliamentary forms of Government. I would, therefore, like you, Mr. President, to give a guidance to this House as to whether

it is in order to make speeches putting forward grievances during the general discussion as well as on the Finance Bill, and, if it is in order, you should also give a direction that Members responsible for various Departments should be present in this House, and at some stage of the discussion there should be a reply from these Members to the various grievances put forward regarding the administration of various Departments. If that is not practicable, however, I would suggest to you that that practice should be stopped in the interest of Parliamentary Government. We do not want Parliamentary Government to be brought into contempt.

The Honourable Sir Brojendra Mitter (Leader of the House): Sir, I must say that I feel that the absence of Members responsible for the different Departments does make the debate look to some extent unreal, and it is desirable that grievances ventilated during the general debate on the Finance Bill should be taken note of, and, if possible, replied to immediately; but, at the same time, I must say, the grievances cover such a wide field that it is not possible to reply to them straightaway in the course of the debate. I can assure the House that Members of all Departments take full note of everything that is said when the printed reports are available, and they not only take note of all these grievances, but, so far as is possible, take effective administrative steps for their removal. Nevertheless, for the dignity of the House, I feel that it is desirable that all the Government Departments should be represented. I can assure the House that no disrespect to the House is meant by a Member if he is not present. At this time particularly, Sir, every Member is over-worked and the time available is hardly enough to get through ordinary business, and, therefore, Members avail themselves of the general debate in getting through their ordinary work. I feel that this is not quite satisfactory, but to some extent it is inevitable, because every Member is working against time.

Mr. B. Das: And we are working on the Select Committee from nine o'clock in the morning tomorrow!

The Honourable Sir Brojendra Mitter: May I make a suggestion that if any Honourable Member has any special point to which he wants the Government of India to direct their attention, that Member might give an informal notice of the particular point to the Member concerned? In that case the Member will make it a point to be present. I have been fairly assiduous in my attendance, and I have noticed that many of the grievances relate to provincial matters for which the Government of India are not answerable. When I say that some sort of informal intimation to the Member concerned might be useful, I mean that the Member concerned may make it a point to be present and deal with the matter. However, I will take note of what my friend, Mr. Joshi, has said, and I may say that I generally agree with him.

Sir Hari Singh Gour: Sir, I think it would be a serious encroachment on the privileges of the House if the Honourable the Leader of the House were to require various Members to give a previous notice on the points they are going to raise.

The Honourable Sir Brojendra Mitter: Sir, I do not want to be misunderstood. I was careful in saying that some sort of informal intimation may be given. I never said that a formal notice should be given.

Sir Hari Singh Gour: But the point that has been conceded by the Honourable the Leader of the House is that it is in accordance with the Parliamentary practice and tradition that the Government are present in full force during the general debate on supplies in the House of Commons and have been present here in years past when the general debate takes place. It is only during the last two or three years, and particularly this year, that we find Honourable Members absenting themselves when important questions relating to the general grievances of the people are being ventilated from the floor of this House. I hope the Honourable the Leader of the House will convey to the Honourable Members concerned that we on this side of the House do desire that they should be present here to hear the grievances and to reply to them on the spot.

Sir Abdur Rahim (Calcutta and Suburbs: Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I entirely support the suggestion made by my Honourable friends, 3 P.M. Mr. Joshi and Sir Hari Singh Gour. If the debate on the general discussion of the Finance Bill is to have any value and any reality, it is certainly desirable that the Members of the Government or their Secretaries—either both or at least one of them—should be present here to hear what is being said on this side of the House or any other side of the House, and give a suitable reply by giving as much information as they are in a position to do at the moment. Of course, it is not possible—and I quite appreciate the remark made by the Honourable the Leader of the House—in a debate of this nature for any Member of the Government to give a detailed reply to every point that is raised. But that is another matter. The real question is that there has been a practice going on for years, I believe since the inception of this Assembly, for the Official Members to be present in the House. It is only during the last two or three years more particularly, as pointed out by my Honourable friend, Sir Hari Singh Gour, that there has been absolute want of attendance on the part of the Honourable Members in charge of various Departments, with the result that the whole debate becomes entirely unreal. Very few of us feel encouraged to say anything about any particular matter, and surely it cannot be expected that the Honourable the Finance Member should reply to all the debate. It is not possible. So, I do think that the Honourable the Leader of the House under your guidance will convey to all the Departments that it is incumbent on them to be present here to listen to the debate and give whatever reply they are able to do.

As regards the suggestion made by the Honourable the Leader of the House that some formal notice should be given, of course that is at the option of any of the Honourable Member who wants to raise any particular point, but it cannot be enforced and has never been enforced, and there is no reason why it should be enforced at present.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Sir, this side of the House surely realises the strain put upon Honourable Members during this time of the year, and especially this year. But I would point out one matter, namely, that my Honourable friend behind me, Mr. Mitra, has been for the last ten minutes making the most serious allegations against a certain Department.

Honourable Members: And it is a Department of the Government of India.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: And, Mr. President, it does not take two minutes for one of my Honourable friends on the Benches opposite to go and tell the Honourable Member concerned that most serious allegations are being made about his Department, and, therefore, a representative of that Department—I do not mean the Member in charge of that Department—should come to listen to the debate. That is to the advantage of the Department itself. Mr. Mitra's words will be broadcast all over India, and, Mr. President, I draw the attention of the Government that if they are broadcast without a contradiction on the floor of the House, it will be the fault of the Government and not the fault of my Honourable friend behind me. There was ample time just now to give warning that somebody ought to be here at least to take a few notes and to contradict Mr. Mitra if he was wrong. That is one point. The other point is that it is quite impossible for us to give notice. It is a very ordinary thing in the House of Commons for somebody to warn a Member of Government, a Cabinet Minister, or an Under-Secretary—in fact, it is generally the Whip who does it—that he should come immediately into the House and within two minutes there is somebody in the House. It is very often when there is a dull debate that there is not a single Government Member on the front Bench of the House of Commons, but the moment a single point is raised of any importance the Cabinet Minister or an Under-Secretary or somebody else turns up on the front Bench with lightning speed. As my Honourable friend says, sometimes the Prime Minister rushes into the House. Sometimes within three minutes the whole of the front Bench is full up. That practice may be followed here. I do not say that this side should be entirely exonerated, for only the other day we did feel that my Honourable friends behind me might have set a good example to Government by being present in little larger numbers. But there is no reason why a bad example set by this side of the House should have been so readily followed by my Honourable friends opposite. It is for them to set a good example. I trust that there will be some arrangement made whereby the Department will be informed as soon as any remarks are being made which are worth noting.

Mr. K. C. Neogy (Dacca Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I endorse the observations that have been made by my Honourable friends, Mr. Joshi and Sir Abdur Rahim, on the question of principle involved in this particular matter. If I understood my Honourable friend, the Leader of the House, correctly, perhaps there is an underlying current of thought that the grievances which my Honourable friend, Mr. Mitra, has been relating relate to a provincial subject. I do not know whether I am right in that.

Honourable Members: They do not relate to a provincial subject.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Most serious allegations are being made against a branch of the Army, and the allegations amount to this, that these people have disgraced the King's uniform which they have been wearing. It is a most serious kind of charge that can ever be levelled against a soldier, and yet I do not find that even the Whip of the Government has been very active in informing the Member concerned. I think not merely the Army Member, but also the Home Member should have been here on this occasion. As far as we can see, it is not, of course, for me to judge of their actions—the duty of the Government Whips seems to consist only in getting the Members to vote when there are divisions. But I might respectfully

[Mr. K. C. Neogy.]

remind them that there are more serious duties which appertain to the position of Whips as far as we understand them from other Parliamentary institutions.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: On a point of order, Sir. Is my Honourable friend in order in giving advice to Government Members? We are discussing, I put it to you, Sir, a point of order and we should be very glad to have your observations on the subject. My Honourable friend is taking advantage of it quite unfairly.

(At this stage, two or three Honourable Members got up to speak.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty): Order order: Does the Honourable Member (Mr. K. C. Neogy) wish to add anything more to his remarks?

Mr. K. C. Neogy: I do not think I have anything more to add, but we are entitled to complain that the Government have not been taking this Assembly seriously. And I might tell my Honourable friends, the Non-Official Members, that they are as much responsible for reducing the Assembly to this hopeless state as the Government themselves.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty): The Chair entirely agrees with the point of view expressed by Mr. Joshi and the Leaders of this House. In fact, the Honourable the Leader of the House himself agrees with the contention that, in the interests of a healthy and a fair debate, it is highly desirable that all the Departments of the Government must be represented. It is a well recognised practice that, on the general discussion of the Finance Bill, the whole civil and military administration of the Government of India is under review. It is, therefore, desirable that at least during these three or four days of the general discussion on the Finance Bill every effort must be made to see that some representative of every Department of the Government of India is present in the House during the whole of the debate. Certainly we must all sympathise with the Members of the Government of India who are over-worked. But the remedy is simple and is in the hands of the Government themselves. They have got the power of nominating Members and asking Nominated Members to resign and substitute other Members. What the Chair would suggest is that during the general discussion on the Finance Bill, it will be desirable if the Government see to it that every Department is represented in addition to the Member in charge by the Secretary of the Department. That is a matter purely of arrangement of nominations by Government during these days. Now that the Honourable the Leader of the House has taken notice of it, the Chair hopes there will be no further cause of complaint.

Mr. S. C. Mitra: Sir, I was dealing with the use that is made of the British Indian soldiers in some of the villages. Time there was when we found the Commander-in-Chief present when all these important matters were discussed. For reasons best known to the Military Department and to the Commander-in-Chief, he does not care to be present in this House. There is some unreality if the Members are not present to listen to the speeches. As a logical corollary from what the Leader of the House said, we can as well put our thoughts in print and send them to the Departments concerned and there is no necessity for calling a representative House like this at all if it is to have merely the opinion of the representatives or their remarks. It has been found that whenever they hear

the narration of events, it makes some impression upon them, and, powerful as they are here in India, we may expect some redress of our grievances. In the very beginning, I said that I claimed the right to ventilate our grievances, and, as a right, you, Sir, very wisely have been permitting us always on this occasion to discuss all relevant matters. (Hear, hear.)

I shall now refer to some of the circulars issued by some of those reception committees. I read now one circular which was issued to all the male members in a village:

"As you have been appointed a member of the newly constituted watch and ward committee of Union No....., you would be so good as to be present at the Janka police station compound on Monday, the 9th January, at 10 A.M., for the reception of the honoured District Magistrate and the acceptance of the sanad to the satisfaction of all. Absence will be deemed as a mark of disloyalty.

Yours faithfully,

(Sd.) PROFULLA KUMAR MAITY,

Chairman, Reception Committee."

I want the House to note that absence is punishable as a mark of disloyalty. In the judgment of a famous sedition case, disaffection has been defined as want of affection. Here I find non-attendance itself will be construed as disloyalty, and the punishment for disloyalty may be seven years' rigorous imprisonment. I shall not go into further details. I shall yet read a few of these to show to the Military Department the statements that have been made by responsible persons, because I know the seriousness of the allegations. I give the name of the village and the post office and the name of the person, so that the authorities can easily find out whether they are correct or not, and if they are not correct, it should be the duty of the Government to contradict these publicly. On another occasion, in a series of questions, I brought some of these matters to the notice of Government, and I was told that enquiries were being made and that answers would be supplied to me later on. So here I now give the names of those people who have given the statements and Government should at least make investigations. This is another statement that I should like to read:

"On the morning of 27th December last, at about 8 A.M. a band of soldiers accompanied by the police inspector....., and the sub-deputy collector, Contai, surrounded my house. No male members were then present. Ladies were ordered out, and one of them fainted away. Then they broke open three wooden boxes. The largest of these contained a bundle of currency notes made up of fourteen 100-rupee notes, one hundred and twenty-three ten-rupee notes and one five-rupee note, amounting in all to Rs. 2,635 only. All these things were destroyed in the presence of my brother, Sj. Ramanath Panday. I was at Amratala Chak for settlement work and reached home on receiving the news. On hearing from my brother, I searched for the bundle of notes. But I did not find it, it was missing.

(Sd.) KUMAR NARAYAN PANDAY."

Then, I should like to read the story of an attempted outrage. This is the statement:

"I was a Congress worker, but have given up Congress work for the last 1½ years owing to pecuniary difficulties, and have been practising medicine. On the 25th January last, I went out on a call and was informed on the next day that the soldiers and the police had visited my house, and rape had been committed on a female member of our family. On my return, I heard of the following incident from my sister-in-law and kinsmen. I wanted to send a wire to Mr. R. Maiti, M.L.C., but the post office at Kajlagarh refused to admit the wire as it was against the police."

[Mr. S. C. Mitra.]

—This is how the Postal Department has been functioning—

"At about 4 A.M., that is, towards the later part of the night of the 25th January, a batch of police and soldiers surrounded my house and the house of my kinsmen. They got entrance inside the compound probably through the broken portion of the boundary walls. Finding nobody there, they went into the courtyard of my uncle (Girish Babu). As both my elder brother, Rhuban Babu, and myself were away from home, my brother's wife, Sm. Janakibala Sasmal, with three children, was sleeping in a separate bed in Girish Babu's house. The sound of the steps of the soldiers and the flash of torch-lights awoke Girish Babu's mother who tried to awaken my sister-in-law by calling her. At this, some soldiers caught hold of her (Girish Babu's mother), while others of the party wrapped up my sister-in-law's face with a piece of cloth and tried to outrage her. She had a sudden break of her sleep. There were the shrieks of horror of my uncle's mother on the one hand and such a brutal attack on herself on the other, that she became so much nervous that she lost all power to fight against this outrage. At the cry of my uncle's mother, my uncle (Girish Babu) and a brother tried to run up to the place, but they were prevented by some other soldiers from doing so. The wife of Girish Babu, who was sharing the same bed with my uncle's mother, was also being dragged with apparent evil intention by one of the soldiers, but she ran away, got into a room and barred the door. In the morning (26th January), the sub-inspector of police of the Bhagwanpore thana arrived with S. J. Dwarakanath Sasmal, the collecting panchayat, and searched the house and got a statement signed by Girish Babu, S. J. Abinash Chandra Sasmal, Hemanta Kumar Sasmal and Adhar Chandra Bera that 'Nothing incriminating has been found and no property damaged'. Before they had signed this, they informed the sub-inspector and the panchayat of the outrage and requested them to take down the information. But they said nothing, and went away to the Mugbaria Camp.

(Sd.) MURARI MOHAN SASMAL,

Village Jukhia.

P. O. Bhagwanpore.

P. S. Bhagwanpore.

Midnapur."

Another case is:

"My name is Chowdhuri Charan Patra, of village Sillibari, in P. S. Kedgree. On the 10th January, 1934, a batch of Garhwali soldiers, the junior sub-inspector of the thana (Kedgree P. S.) and some chowkidars and dafadars visited the house of Jogendra Nath Patra of our village who was not at home. They did not find Jogen Babu's wife, too, at her house, and they reached my house in search of her. They were assaulting whomsoever they came across. At this, there was a commotion and I began to flee away towards the north of my house. The sub-inspector assured me of safety, and, as I went up to him, he enquired of Jogen Babu's wife and, on my pleading ignorance, he began to belabour me. At this time, my wife, daughter and other female members of my family, being horrified, began to run off to the east. The sub-inspector asked me to call them back with an assurance of safety. As they came back, he enquired of me whether there was Jogen Babu's wife in their midst and, on being answered in the negative, he again belaboured me. Then, he arrested me and all the womenfolk and took us to Ramhari Babu's house. There he ordered the dafadars and chowkidars to see whether there was Jogen Babu's wife in their midst. They examined each one of the ladies who were kept standing for an hour in the sun in Ramhari Babu's courtyard and were then dismissed. The assault committed on me was severe which caused a swelling of an inch in my right wrist which has no strength now. I had indecent abuses, too, from the daroga Babu.

(Sd.) CHOWDHURI CHARAN PATRA."

There are a number of cases, but it is not my intention to read all of them and tire the House. There are several incidents corroborated by the statement of these individuals, and I am ready to make over these papers to the Army Secretary. The same thing happened last year. I gave detailed accounts of the tyranny that was perpetrated on the people by the police and soldiers. Sir, can we not claim from Government some

satisfactory reply, at least to show that they have made elaborate enquiries and found out whether the statements are exaggerated or they are not correct to the full extent and that the incidents were unavoidable under certain circumstances. This is what I demand

An Honourable Member: Will an inquiry satisfy an outrage?

Mr. S. C. Mitra: If it is true, it will never satisfy, but, if otherwise, it will give an opportunity to Government to prove that it is not true.

I will read one or two cases more :

"Mr. Muzaffar Hussain, the junior sub-inspector of P. S. Pataspur and the sub-deputy collector of Contai, with a party of soldiers, surrounded my house on the 10th January 1934, and commenced searching my house. When I was informed that they wanted me, I went up to them and the sub-deputy collector gave me some stripes and the S. I. kicked me * * *

At about 11 o'clock, I was taken to the Palpara Camp. The subedar asked me to salute the Union Jack. On my refusal, he gave me 15 or 16 stripes. Then, my hands were tied up with a rope and I was tied from head to foot with a post. An hour later, I was brought down, was threatened to be shot dead and was made to sit with my face towards the sun for an hour. At about 1 P.M., I was taken inside the camp * * *. In the afternoon, the S. I. tried to convince me that I should salute the Union Jack. But I remained adamant. In the midst of the discussion, he suddenly began to administer fists and slapped me on my face and eyes, made me fall flat on the ground and kicked me freely. Then, I was taken to the Parade Ground and was ordered to salute the Union Jack. On my refusal, under orders of the officers, two chowkidars knocked my head against the ground. Not satisfied with that, the S. I. joined them and knocked my head 15 to 20 times against the ground. I was also given 15 to 20 kicks. There was a public gathering then at that time. I felt pain all over the body, there were bruises in the body and the head, and I was given no food or bed in the night. In this condition, on the 11th, I was made to walk a distance of 11 miles and I reached the soldiers' camp at Daitalghat at 11 o'clock. I was again urged to salute the Union Jack, and, on my refusal, the senior S. I., with the help of some chowkidars, made my head knock against the ground thrice and turned me out at noon. No food was given this day too."

This is another case :

"On the 3rd January, 1934 when the troops were passing through the village Karanji (P. S. Ramnagar), two boys of the village shouted "Bande Mataram". The soldiers gave a chase after them and assaulted whomsoever they came across. They entered the Karanji upper primary school and seriously assaulted the head pandit, Sj. Ramkrishna Jana, and the students of the school. They searched the school and seized the photos of Mahatma Gandhi and Deshabandhu Chittaranjan. The teachers were asked to go to the Balisi camp with the boys who shouted "Bande Mataram" although they were not students of the school. In the afternoon, the two boys, Sm. Bijoy Krishna Sahoo and Sm. Abala Kanta Das, were made to stand in the sun for 2½ hours with their heads caught by their hands passing under the thighs and the hips upwards. They were crying piteously through pain. After 2½ hours, they fell at the feet of the subedar and the circle officer of Egra. The circle officer gave them kicks and flogged them, and at last made them rub their nose against the ground for a distance of 30 cubits. The sub-divisional inspector has stopped the stipend of the said upper primary school and has called for an explanation from the teachers asking them why they purchased the pictures of Mahatma Gandhi and Chittaranjan."

There are several other cases, but they will take hours to read, and my purpose has been served by giving instances to show how the soldiers are behaving in this part of Bengal. Sir, it is not a statement of one or two men in one or two villages, and it is not confined to one police station. It goes on throughout the district. Does it not require the Government to see to all this in the good name of the soldiers themselves? As I have

[Mr. S. C. Mitra.]

said before, in India the profession of soldiering was always recognised as a noble profession. Are they not really demoralising the soldiers also by making them do this kind of work that is ordinarily left to the police? Sir, I hope that unlike the last time when I made similar complaints, this time at least the Government of India will inquire into these matters and will do justice. It is a very grave grievance; it is not a small matter as the Army Secretary may think. The Government the other day were preaching co-operation between Indians and Europeans. How is co-operation possible when the police and the military go in this way? The highest officials will say they want both repression and reformation. Repression is doing its utmost, but when the other question comes, the Government of India are helpless. They have no time to mind these matters. Sir, as I have said once before, the justification of a foreign rule is merely good government, if it has any justification at all. And, so far as I can understand it, the great strength of the British Government was the great faith of the Indian people in British justice. But, for the last few years, by legislation in this House, we have brought down the highest Tribunal to the position of a mere echo of executive orders, because its powers have been curtailed and lowered. And if the lowering of Government's prestige was made a charge, I think the executive here should be prosecuted and we can have a verdict of guilty against them.

The other important matter that I wanted to discuss was about the detenus. You know, Sir, that the detenus are not convicts. Usually they belong to three categories. They are, firstly, persons against whom Government have some suspicion, but which they cannot substantiate. The second category is of persons who are charged with some offence, but nothing is proved against them, and as soon as they come out of the dock, they are made detenus. To the third category belong persons who are, after a proper trial, acquitted, but even then they are invariably made detenus. I now find a further class, and that is of young men who have suffered their usual period of imprisonment and as soon as they come out after being in jail for four or five years, they are arrested and put under detention for an indefinite period. Sir, one can very well realise that in times of emergency, if the State needs, it may be necessary to keep people in restraint for some time, but when it becomes a chronic thing for years together, the emergency ceases; and what justification can Government then have for keeping these persons in confinement for an indefinite period of time? I raised this question times without number, and if Government think that, by repression alone, they will have their way, let them do it by all means. But they have tried it for several years now. If the lessons of history have not taught them anything, do they think that by merely keeping in restraint a few thousand boys and young men in jail, they will kill the idea of patriotism and love of one's own country? They are very much mistaken there. I never pleaded for any leniency in this matter; I want Government once for all to try all their resources to put an end to this spirit of revolt amongst young men. But I say that that is not the way in which any nation can be kept under subjugation for any length of time. When the people feel for their country and patriotism is once in them, it is futile to hope that by repression alone they will succeed. Sir, it is because I believe in British connection that I appeal to the other side that if they want real co-operation in the field of trade and industry, let them treat Indians like men. The idea of domination must cease. And

we are told that this White Paper is being gradually diluted and even the little that was proposed in the Third Round Table Conference is being whittled down to nothing. But my point was about detenus. Should not a civilised Government have some policy about keeping people in detention for years together? They shall have to release these detenus one day, but what attempts are they now making to bring them round to constitutional ways of thinking? I repeatedly raised this question: there is no answer. By mere repression they think they will succeed in making everybody a loyal subject. Suppression is always possible; by repression you can keep even the noblest feeling under suppression for some time; but it was never possible in the history of the world to keep a whole nation down by force and coercion.

One other point that I generally raise is about the classification of prisoners. Jails are a provincial subject, but not a transferred subject, and it is subject to the control of the Honourable the Home Member from here. But what is the result? The Honourable the Home Member cannot give any amelioration to these prisoners: he cannot help them in any way, but by some rigid rules, that he has made, he has made the position of the Provincial Governments very difficult. I know even now that for a long time in Bengal there was a class of special prisoners, that is, political prisoners coming from the *bhadralok* classes, who were given special treatment as regards reading books, etc. The Government of India thought that there should be no special class, and, when once a prisoner is in jail, he should be treated alike with others: of course, the classification should be only according to the standard of life that one is used to, and whether a prisoner will be able to keep up his health, should be the only criterion of classification. I now find that there are several hunger strikes, only for little amenities of life. In the jails in Bengal, the political prisoners demanded certain little facilities as regards the privilege of having a few books and a weekly newspaper and a better kind of rice.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury).]

I know the jail authorities are very sympathetic in these matters: even the superintendent of the jail is inclined to help; but the rules of the Honourable the Home Member stand in the way, because the Government of India, without realising local conditions, say that there should be no distinction between prisoner and prisoner once he is classified; and, so far as political prisoners are concerned, they are always classed as C class and very few in class B. I have no complaint if prisoners are honestly and justly classed according to the standard of life they are used to, having particular reference to their health; but when anybody is accused of any political offence, why should it be concluded that he was not used to a better kind of life than that in which he is put? In these small matters Government can afford to be generous. They claim that they have mastered the situation; that they have controlled the Congress. Then, why this meanness in these small matters if they want really to win the good opinion of the Indian public? Even according to their own estimate, I say, they can afford to be generous towards these political prisoners and detenus. We Indians are sentimental and are guided on many a matter, not by mere logic, but by the attitude of the officers of the Government. I appeal to the Honourable the Home Member to see if it is even now

[Mr. S. C. Mitra.]

possible to have a policy about releasing these detenus after detention now for years and years and giving some more facilities to political prisoners in Indian jails.

Mr. N. N. Anklesaria (Bombay Northern Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, it has been said that the debate on the Finance Bill is a debate on anything but the Finance Bill. My Honourable friend, Mr. Mitra, complained about the unreality which prevades a debate on the Finance Bill. I quite agree with him about this very unpleasant phenomenon in this House. The debate on the Finance Bill is unreal in more than one sense of the word. The expenditure estimates have been passed by us without the reduction even of a single pie and in full knowledge of the taxation proposals which the expenditure estimates involve. But, now, what do we find? Honourable Members have tabled hundreds of amendments for lowering the taxation and curtailing the proposals. Logical consistency would forbid such a procedure.

An Honourable Member: How?

Mr. N. N. Anklesaria: My Honourable friend asks me "How?". It is common sense that when we affirm that a thing is white, we cannot in the next breath say it is black

Diwan Bahadur A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: My Honourable friend does not know that there are more colours than white and black in the world. . .

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury): Two Honourable Members cannot speak at the same time. (Interruption.)

Mr. N. N. Anklesaria: I do not give way.

Diwan Bahadur A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: That is the easiest way out.

Mr. N. N. Anklesaria: I can understand my Honourable friend, Diwan Bahadur Ramaswami Mudaliar's anxiety about my straying into things which are not pleasant to his taste. I am also quite cognisant of the principle which obtains in all parliamentary institutions. I refer to the principle of "grievances before supplies". But that principle can be carried too far, as it has been done for the last four years that I have been here in this House. Indeed this very morning I noticed a very welcome change. Though my Honourable friend, Dr. Ziauddin, did talk of Yakub Alkandi and Al Beruni, there was an attempt to stick to the Finance Bill. My Honourable friend, Mr. Mitra, however, has struck another note, and, as I shall come later on to the point, I think he had full justification for doing what he did. Holding the view about this debate that I do, which I have just stated, I propose to offer some general remarks on the Finance Bill and also to enumerate or at least mention, as concisely as I may, some of the grievances on which my constituency of Guzerat feels very strongly.

Sir, dealing with the financial plan and the financial policy, pace Mr. Joshi, behind it, I would ask the Honourable the Finance Member as to why, though he has been complaining all these years about the uncertainty of the revenue and tax estimates of his Budget proposals, he has not

up till now explored the possibility of making those estimates more certain than they are at present. The uncertainty of the revenue estimates is due to one feature peculiar to India. The economic life of India is dominated by one event of supreme importance economically speaking, that is to say, the failure or the success of the monsoons. It is impossible to estimate what "the estimates" would turn out to be before the monsoon declares itself, and it has been suggested by several competent authorities that if the fiscal year of the Government of India were changed so as to begin some time in October, much of the uncertainty of "the estimates" may be avoided. I know my friend, the Finance Member, will say that there are insuperable administrative difficulties in the way, but he himself has shown us by putting forth his financial plan right in the middle of September, 1931, that something is possible in the direction I have indicated.

Now, Sir, as regards the financial proposals and the plan and the policy behind them, I could only say that the financial plan before us exhibits all the qualities of its author. It is a prudent and farseeing plan, as the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition admitted, when he spoke on the general discussion of the Budget, and I am quite sure, as the future will show. Secondly, Sir, it is a resolute plan. On the eve of his retirement, nothing would have been more pleasant to the Finance Member than to relax the taxation on the country, and it is the merit of Sir George Schuster that he has not followed and it is the resolute character of Sir George Schuster, which has prevented him from following the easy path which other Finance Members in the world have followed at one time or other in these times of depression. My friend could have had easy applause by restoring the salary cut, he could have pleased my friend, the Knight from Bombay, by relaxing the income-tax proposals, and he could have balanced his Budget by the easy means of inflation or by loans, as I myself respectfully advised him to do in 1931, but he has done nothing of the sort. He has chosen the steep and straight path rather than the slippery and the easy path selected by so many Finance Members in other countries.

Thirdly, I say the plan, which we are considering is a just plan. It does that social justice which has been much lacking in the financial proposals of the Government of India ever since that Fiscal Commission, the Commission of Bombay millowners, has provided a Bible of financial policy to the Government of India. Sir, if you compare the percentage of indirect taxation to that of direct taxation in England with the proportion in India, you will be struck by the fact that while the indirect taxation in England is only 40 per cent. of the whole tax revenue, in India it amounts to more than 75 per cent.

Then, the Honourable the Finance Member has talked, and I believe for the first time during his five years' tenure of office, so very strongly, about the cost which the country has to pay for the policy of protection. It is a welcome change in the attitude of the Government of India. It means that in spite of the din and the noise created by the millowners and their industrialist brethren, the voice of the Indian agriculturists is at last being heard. Secondly, I say, this financial plan is just, because it does a tardy justice to Bengal. Sir, I do hold, Bengal contains the cream of Indian intelligentsia and the solution of the problem of Bengal is the key to the problem of India. (Applause.) Sir, I am second to none in the love of my Province of Bombay, but my love for India is greater (Applause), and I deprecate all parochial feelings such as my friend, the

[Mr. N. N. Anklesaria.]

Knight from Bombay, gave vent to, the other day. Sir, His Excellency the Viceroy spoke of the dual policy, and I think this subvention to Bengal is the first material step taken by the Government of India towards supplementing the other half of their dual policy. . . .

An Honourable Member: The better half.

Mr. N. N. Anklesaria: Yes, certainly, the better half.

Now, Sir, I said there is a plan and a policy behind this financial proposal. My friend, Mr. Joshi, said the other day that there was no plan and no policy behind the proposals of the Finance Member and that he was simply drifting. Sir, after I heard Mr. Joshi, I took the trouble of looking up the Finance Member's speeches from 1929 to 1934, and I will put before the House the result of my investigation.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: What is the plan? What is the policy?

Mr. N. N. Anklesaria: My Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, again asks, what is the plan and what is the policy. It is well that the Finance Member has given a wider background in regard to the proposals which he has put forward in this present Budget, because it helps us to understand that he has not been drifting, but that he has been following a pre-meditated, consistent financial policy. My Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, seems to think that a national budget is the same as the budget of a city or a town municipality.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: No, no. That is not my idea.

Mr. N. N. Anklesaria: But it has been increasingly recognised that budget making is not merely the simple process of working out estimates of national expenditure and making financial proposals for meeting them. Every budgetary or financial plan has got its effects and repercussions on the life and health of the nation, and it is necessary to examine the potentiality of the financial or budgetary plan in that direction in judging of the goodness or badness of any financial proposals. Sir, when Sir George Schuster took office in 1929, earnest minded men were thinking about the financial position of England and they came to the conclusion that the financial policy of a country has to be looked into, not only from its own viewpoint, but also, and more so, from the viewpoint of the service which the financial policy renders to the economic development of the country concerned. The result of this conclusion was the appointment of the Macmillan Committee in 1929, and it would really be surprising to me if a man of Sir George Schuster's learning and experience should have been immune from the prevailing ideas of the day, and, indeed, that it was not so, is to be seen from the very first Budget speech which he delivered in this House in which he compared his tasks and duties with the tasks and duties of a physician. Sir, in the present connection, he was in one way in a peculiarly fortunate position. Whatever policy he thought of following he could not be deflected from it by popular wishes and views as in most democratic countries of the world, but if he was free from the dictation of the demos, he had perhaps a bigger master than the demos, I mean the Great Moghul at Whitehall. I have spoken on this point in my previous speeches, and I do not want to dilate on that, because, I

know Sir George Schuster does not like it. My Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, asked what was his plan and what was his policy. I say, from the debates it appears that the Honourable Member has repeated times out of number that his great object was to hand over to his Indian successors the financial structure of India, not only unimpaired, but developed and strengthened to meet any storm that might be in store for it. And as regards the means which he would employ, he has stated in his speeches that he always aimed at maintaining budgetary equilibrium and keeping India's credit high. Possibly these are not heroic means, nor are they heroic methods, but the result has proved that they are very sound means and very sound methods. Sir, the crisis of 1931 must have sorely tempted the Honourable Member to depart from what is known as the orthodox financial policy, and, if he had departed from that policy, he would have erred, if he had erred at all, in very good company, for every Finance Member in the whole world could be shown to be balancing his Budget, not by the orthodox policy, but by bold plans of inflation or loans or other methods which are ruled out by orthodox doctrines.

Mr. S. C. Mitra: Including England?

Mr. N. N. Anklesaria: My Honourable friend Mr. Mitra, asks me, including England? Yes, including England. Sir, the opportunity of 1931 he seized not to depart from the accepted orthodox policy, but, as he says, for exploring avenues to find out in what direction and form a permanent financial policy, which would ensure strength enough to withstand the strain that India was subjected to, might be framed and developed. And the result was the emergency plan. His last Budget speech would show that this period of exploration appeared to be over, and among the lessons which emerge from that exploration are these four which are most prominent, as I read his Budget speech. Firstly his Budget speech shows that the Finance Member considers that the agricultural industry has got a paramount claim on the attention of the Government of India. Secondly, it is essential to provide for increasing purchasing power of the raw products of the agriculturist by providing external markets and by making his necessities as cheaply obtainable as possible. Thirdly, the Finance Member emphasises, I say for the first time, in a striking manner the cost which this country is paying to fill the pockets of the Bombay millowners and other industrialists. Fourthly, the period of exploration has shown the necessity of broadening the basis of indirect taxation. All these lessons have been embodied in this plan, and if any Honourable Member wants details about it, I am prepared to give them. As I said, the methods and means employed by the Honourable the Finance Member are not by any means heroic, but the achievement which is to his credit is really heroic. He has told us, and told us with truth, that the industrial expansion of India has been unrivalled, not rivalled even by Japan, and that the credit of India has made a marvellous recovery. This may seem exaggeration, but it is absolutely correct. While every country is floundering in the morass of economic distress, India is the one country which has kept its head above water.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: Very nicely expressed.

Mr. N. N. Anklesaria: My Honourable friend, Dr. Ziauddin, thinks that keeping one's head above water is not a great achievement.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: I am praising you.

Mr. N. N. Anklesaria: I know Sir George Schuster has not brought the millenium, has not made ripe papayas to fall into the mouth of my Honourable friend, the Knight from Bombay, but he has made the financial condition of India the envy of all the Finance Members of the World.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: You are emptying all the Treasury Benches.

Mr. N. N. Anklesaria: My Honourable friend, Sir Cowasji Jehangir, though from his head he appears to have lost his hair, has not gained wisdom and he has not yet learnt not to interrupt a speaker in an unmannerly fashion without rhyme or reason. I do affirm in this House that if Sir Harry Haig has stood between anarchy and sedition on the one hand and India on the other, Sir George Schuster has stood between India and financial disaster. Bacon, I believe, talks of three categories of statesmen. There are statesmen who leave the country of which they took charge greater than they found it. There are statesmen who leave the country in the same condition as they found it, and there are statesmen who leave the country in a worse condition than they found it. When an impartial history is written, I am sure, Sir, in what category Sir George Schuster will be placed. Sir, it is an irony of fate that dodges all our human life, that when our cherished ideals, the ideals for which we have worked, are coming to fruition, another man luckier than ourselves gets the fruit and enjoys it. It is a pity that when the ship, which he has steered so efficiently and masterfully in such tempestuous seas, is in sight of the harbour, Sir George Schuster should have to transfer the helm to other hands than his own. It is a pity not for Sir George Schuster. It is a pity for this country, because, how many times in the history of this country the hunt has been called off, just when the promise of the kill was the brightest. This is enough as regards the financial plan and Mr. Joshi.

I now come to the grievances on which, as I said, my constituency feels rather strongly. Firstly, without offending my Muhammadan friends, I have to bring to the notice of the Government the disastrous effect which the policy of discriminating between classes and classes and races and races has been having on the people's mind in my constituency. Secondly, I should like to bring to the notice of the Government of India the feelings which are affecting the minds of the orthodox section of the Hindus in my constituency. The orthodox Hindus of Gujerat are a section of the population against which Gandhism has dashed itself in vain. They are the most loyal section of the Indian population in my constituency,

Sir Muhammad Yakub: And they are proud of their representative?

Mr. N. N. Anklesaria: and, as Sir Muhammad Yakub says, they are proud of their representative. Their feelings are very much excited at the apathy with which the Government appear to be looking upon their repeated demands for a safeguard about their religion in the new Constitution. This is all I have to say on the present occasion.

Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agia Division: Muhammadan Rural): This is an occasion when one is expected to speak out what grievances he feels and to give some kind of general advice to the Government. At

the very outset, I must say that I feel really very much pleased that there is a good deal of peace in the whole country. Compared to what we saw at this time last year, the situation has improved immensely. Although we have not got such prosperity as we felt last year that we might have, still we have a great deal of peace in the country, and we find people engaged on their normal business, which is a great sign of prosperity, and things have improved financially too. I find that commerce has, to a certain extent, improved, and this is bound to bring some kind of wealth to the country. I must, however, still say that the purchasing power of the people has not yet improved to any appreciable degree. The prices of raw produce are still very low, and, on account of such great depreciation in the prices of the raw materials, the purchasing power of the country cannot improve; and if the purchasing power of the people cannot improve, then it is bound to affect the customs revenue, because the imports certainly must fall, as the imports depend upon the people who are willing to purchase something from outside if they are able to do so. People have not got much money to purchase articles which are meant more or less to satisfy luxury, and the customs revenue will entirely depend in future on our improving the purchasing power of the general masses of the country. On this economic condition, Sir, of the major portion of the population depends the question of what kind of action is taken to increase the prices of those articles which are really produced by the larger number of people. I am glad the Government have extended the Wheat Protection Bill—and wheat protection means some kind of relief to the people who are growing wheat.

There is another item, that of cotton. Although Government are doing a great deal to increase the price of cotton and to enter into a treaty with Japan which has now removed the ban which it had imposed on Indian cotton, I find that the price of cotton has not gone so high as we had expected, that this treaty would bring about, and, naturally, on account of this, I wholeheartedly support what was suggested by my friend, Diwan Bahadur Ramaswami Mudaliar, on the last occasion, when the other Bill was for consideration, that we must have some other buyer for the Indian cotton, and I wholeheartedly support my Honourable friend, Mr. Mody's Pact with Sir William Clare-Lees from Lancashire. It may be called by some a "Mody-Lanka Pact", but I think it will bring a kind of stability to the Indian cotton grower, who will find a ready market if he is in future boycotted by one section of purchaser and the raw cotton will continue to be exported to this extent, as it is not required for the factories in India. I, Sir, find that Japan has been dumping her goods into India so cheap that it is draining away all the wealth of the Indian producer. We find that cheap toys, cheap cloth, cheap artificial silk cloth are imported into India and they are simply dumped, so that, for the sake of a little fun, lots of people spend their money in purchasing these goods even beyond their means. I do not mind if people spend their wealth, but if that wealth remains inside the country and spent even on frivolities, that will still not affect the whole country, but here we find that people recklessly go on buying cheap toys and cheap cloth which is not at all durable, and the whole wealth of India is thus going to Japan; and although I find that there are many quarters who would like to take up the cause of Japan and her trade with India, still I think it is a great menace to India's prosperity that these cheap and non-durable goods are dumped into India simply to tempt the poor people, who cannot afford to purchase them, to do so. For instance, I find that

[Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan.]

cheap artificial silk is being worn in the villages where it has become a custom in connection with marriage ceremonies for every villager to supply these artificial silk clothes along with the other wedding presents. Formerly, no such custom prevailed. But now every villager has to spend a certain amount of his money which he is forced to do on account of social customs. He is obliged to purchase these goods from Japan, and in this way the wealth of India is going from India mostly to Japan. Then, the Japanese manufacturers are great competitors of our handloom industry and our cottage industries, and unless Government come forward to check and put a stop to the Japanese imports, we will never find that India will prosper at all. I know there may be some Members in this House who do not share my views, and they would like that Japan should prosper and have good and even advantageous trade relations with us; but I think the majority of the people outside this House will support my views, and they find that the industries of India must prosper at the sacrifice of Japanese imports into this country; and I would suggest to the Government to impose prohibitive duties on all these cheap goods which come from England (Laughter)—I mean from Japan.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh (Muzaffarpur *cum* Champaran: Non-Muhammadan): Why not from England too?

Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan: My friend would act more sensibly if he keeps quiet. The duties may be prohibitive, but they are required in the interests of India's progress and prosperity, and I think Government will find ready support throughout the country and from a large section of this House also. Government should not grudge the fall which they are bound to have in their customs revenue by imposing such heavy tariffs on these imported goods because this loss will ultimately be made up in other ways.

There is another point which I want to draw the attention of Government to, and that is about the condition of the roads. Sir, a duty of two annas per gallon was imposed on petrol, simply for the sake of improving the roads. We find that very little has been done in this respect after this duty was imposed. The tax-payer is suffering and is paying continuously, but he finds that it is only those main roads that have been repaired, which are called the provincial roads.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce (Member for Industries and Labour): May I ask the Honourable Member if he is referring to his own Province or to conditions throughout India generally?

Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan: In motor cars I have travelled only in my Province, and I cannot speak about the rest of the country. But, judging from the condition of the roads in my Province, I thought that the same was the condition in other Provinces also. But I shall be glad if the same is not the case with other Provinces. What I want is that my Province should also prosper, and the roads which run in my Province should also be of a better condition. The roads which run from Delhi to Roorkee and to Aligarh are provincial roads; they are subsidized by the Government of India. Even the road from here to Aligarh is very bad at several places, and there are miles and miles of it on which the Honourable Member would not like to travel in a motor car at a greater speed than ten miles an hour. If my Honourable friend travels

on the Grand Trunk Road from Meerut to Cawnpore, he will find that at many places it has lost its old reputation, and it is not as good as it used to be before the lorry traffic began on these roads. What I want is that not only the main roads should be improved, but some kind of subsidy should be given to the District Boards. Our intention at the time when this duty was imposed was that a larger portion of this amount should be given to the Provinces who will distribute it to the district and municipal boards. I find that in some districts the roads are in a very bad condition. The Meerut district is not so bad, but the district of Bulandshahr is proverbially bad, and there are several roads in that district on which no kind of carriage can go. In the district of Aligarh, the roads were very good up to four or five years ago, but, during the last three or four years, they have deteriorated to such an extent that it is nearly next to impossible to travel on them in a car at a speed greater than ten, or, at the most, 15 miles per hour. I am very glad, however, that a very well known gentleman has taken up the charge of the Aligarh District Board, and I may say that the District Board members have shown their good sense by electing him as their President, I mean Nawab Bahadur Sir Muhammad Muzammilullah Khan. In his time the roads were very good, and I hope they will again become so, now that he has accepted the chairmanship. I want that the entire district should have good roads and all the money should be utilised on the feeder roads which connect the main roads in the Provinces. I know that the Honourable Member is taking great interest in this respect and he has got an Advisory Committee which goes into details every year. But I would like to remind him that he should inform the Ministers in various Provinces that they must exert their influence to a greater extent to see that the roads in the Provinces are kept in a better condition than they are now.

Sir, there is one more suggestion which I wish to make. It is in the interests of the Government servants. It particularly struck my attention when I found the other day that this House suffered a great loss and India suffered a great loss by the death of our old friend, Sir Thomas Ryan. I think, in the interests of a Government servant, Government ought to do this, that when a Government servant, who has served the Government for a certain period of his life, dies while in actual employ, then some kind of financial help must be given to his widow and children. It is a great pity that a man spends his life time in serving the country and the State, and all of a sudden he is taken away by death and his widow and children are left unprovided for. It may be said that it was the duty of the Government servant to provide for his own children, but, Sir, nobody knows when a man is to die. Death comes all of a sudden sometimes, and if a Government servant is serving the State, the State must provide for his widow and children to a certain extent. What I would think to be justifiable is this, that at least one-third of the pension, which a Government servant is entitled to commute, should be given to his widow and children. If he were alive, he himself would have enjoyed this amount. But I shall leave this question for the consideration of the Government. Besides, I want this rule to be extended to the Provincial Governments as well. I have seen many hard cases of this type in the Provinces, and I do not want that the wife and the children of the deceased Government servant should be left unprovided for.

Then, Sir, there is one other thing which I wish to bring out about the policy which is followed in the Railway Department and the Posts and Telegraphs Department of the Government of India. These are purely

[Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan.]

commercial departments, and I want that they should be run purely on commercial lines and they should not follow the example of other Departments of the Government of India. Sometimes we find that it causes hardship to deviate from the policy which is followed in other departments. But it is necessary that the Railway Department and the Posts and Telegraphs Department should be run on commercial lines only. From my experience of the Retrenchment Committee regarding the Posts and Telegraphs Department and also as a member for many years in the past of the Finance Committee relating to the Railways, I can say that sometimes it is very difficult to go against the policy of the Government of India. If one set of rules is applicable in one Department of the Government of India, they are equally applicable to other Departments also, and it is difficult to go against them when the Government which employ the persons is the same. Certain Departments of the Government of India are administrative Departments in which it is essential that one kind of rules should apply, but at the same time it is not desirable that the same set of rules with regard to pay and allowances should be applicable in these two Departments. I have come to know that when temporary hands are made permanent, they are given the same salary as had been given in the past. It is very difficult that some people should be enjoying one kind of salary and another set of people should be enjoying a different grade. But this is the time when Government must come out boldly and make up new rules and revised scales of salaries which may be applicable to all people who are now drawing salaries beyond Rs. 1,000. There are poorer classes of clerks whom nobody wants to touch. The Government have already fixed new rates of pay for the subordinates of these Departments. But I find the officers grades of the Posts and Telegraphs Department and the Railways have not been touched. The complaint comes in from the lower paid employees that the officers, who have the power to determine and fix the grades of salary, fix better grades for themselves and completely ignore the poor clerks. The lower paid employees have got this grievance, and, I therefore, suggest that, in the interests of the lower paid employees as well as in the interest of keeping contentment in the country and also saving the Government from criticism, the salaries of the high paid officials should be revised in the light of the present financial condition. There has been a cut of five per cent. But this means that the salary is fixed at the old rate and the people have to pay only five per cent out of that. But this is not what I want. I do not want to touch even the present employees. I want in future that the salaries of all the employees in the Railway Department and in the Posts and Telegraphs Department, who are drawing more than Rs. 1,000 as salary, should be determined by a body of non-official experts who may sit as an expert body and advise the Government purely from a business point of view and not with any consideration as to what other Departments are enjoying.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I cannot speak of the Railway Department, but I would remind my Honourable friend that the revised rates of pay for new entrants to the superior ranks of the Posts and Telegraphs Department have recently been published.

Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan: I know that some revised scale of pay has been fixed. They were according to what the Retrenchment Committee had recommended, but that Retrenchment Committee itself had one great

difficulty. I myself was a member of that Committee, and I found great difficulty that we could not make any recommendation with regard to the Posts and Telegraphs Department different from the pay other Departments of the Government of India were enjoying. That is my position that we could not suggest different treatment for the Posts and Telegraphs and the railway employees as we wanted to. The members belonging to the I.C.S. and the Police Service are purely administrative officers. But in the Posts and Telegraphs Department we must pay the men according to the financial condition prevailing in India at present and we must fix the rates of pay for this Department according to the pay that is prevalent for the best man available in the country. If we find that a man with the best brain enters into some profession, he should go up to a certain limit in his salary, but what is the justification for another man not having the same brain getting into Government service and getting better salary than what an Indian could get in any other profession? If you give special scales of salary to men with exceptional abilities, such as the Doctors or the Engineers or High Court Judges, these would be exceptional cases and I would not mind paying them. But here comes the grievance of the lower paid employees that they are simply treated very badly, and the higher grade people in the Posts and Telegraphs, simply because they have got the power of determining the salary of the staff, fix a higher scale of pay for themselves and a lower scale of pay for the subordinate staff. The complaint of the subordinates is quite justified. In fairness to the lower paid employees and in all decency, the Government should appoint a Committee, purely a non-official Committee, having some representatives of the services there, to devise some means of fixing the salary of these people who are drawing more than Rs. 1,000 in the Posts and Telegraphs Department. I submit, this must be done soon.

Now, I wish to say something about the railways. I have often found in the railways, not so much in the Posts and Telegraphs Department, that new posts are constantly created.

Diwan Bahadur A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: On a point of order, Sir. I thought that railways were excluded from discussion on the Finance Bill. We had a separate Railway Budget and we discussed railway finance then. The present is general finance apart from railways.

Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan: I thought that my Honourable friend, Mr. Mudaliar, had been sufficiently long in this House as to when to rise to a point of order. I do not understand how the point of order that he raised arises. Here, on the Finance Bill, we can discuss all subjects, and my Honourable friend, Mr. Mudaliar, must have been aware of that.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: We can talk about the solar system.

Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan: My Honourable friend, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad, also discussed about the solar system. He did not hesitate doing so, and this House listened to his mathematics which would have been very interesting if this House had been converted into the B.Sc. class of the M. A. O. College, Aligarh.

Now, Sir, I was referring to the railways. There is a difficulty in fixing different rates of pay to new entrants, because the Government cannot accept a new scale of salary as distinct from what they have already laid down. I find, there will be many people who would be available on a lower scale of salary. I submit that the market value of candidates

[Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan.]

has gone down. Such being the case, there is no justification in paying higher scales of pay and thus run the railways at a deficit as they are doing at present. I am sure that my Honourable friend, Mr. Rau, will agree with me on this point. I am sure he would find many cases where the Standing Finance Committee on Railways has been obliged to give sanction on the old scale, because they had no other option but to sanction on the old scale that has been laid down in the past. Even if we want to fix a new scale for any post, we could not do so. The Standing Finance Committee have either to accept the proposals of the Government or to reject them. The Committee was, therefore, obliged to give its sanction. This is not a very desirable state of affairs, and I think, in the interests of the financial position of the country, we should fix new scales of pay.

Another point that I should like to mention is this. I would urge upon the Government the desirability of taking full advantage of cheap rates of interest at this time. There is a lot of money which is available in the country, and if the Government float loans on a lower scale of interest, they will have plenty of money. That will also help in reducing the old debt and they can pay off the old loans which they had issued at high rates of interest. Even if there is a saving of one per cent in the shape of interest, it means a great gain to Government, and, out of a total debt of 800 crores which the Government have got at present, there will be a good deal of saving in the shape of interest if they take advantage of the cheap rate of money available at present. The Honourable the Finance Member floated a loan last year.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: Floated six loans.

Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan: Yes, six loans, and there was a good response and every one of the loans was fully subscribed within a short time. I think this is the time when full advantage should be taken of the low rates of interest and the burden on the State should be reduced. This is all I have got to say at present. I wanted to say something about the sugar industry, but I think I will get another opportunity to speak on that subject when the Sugar Bill comes for consideration.

Nawab Major Malik Talib Mehdi Khan (North Punjab: Muhammadan): Sir, my Honourable friend, Mr. Pandya, has just given out that 80 per cent of the cattle are killed and 20 per cent die a natural death. I am afraid I cannot accept those figures. As far as I can find out from the various statements issued from time to time, the facts are the other way round; and the recent telegraphic notes that we have been receiving from the Hide Merchants' Association of Calcutta support me in it. As regards the cess duty touched upon by him, he forgets that it is levied when trade is in a flourishing condition and not when it is on the verge of dying out. A perusal of the figures given on page 11 of the Review of Trade in India in 1932-33 shows that the export of raw hides and skins was:

in 1913-14	...	80,100
in 1930-31	...	41,100
in 1931-32	...	33,000
in 1932-33	...	28,600.

In view of the fall in trade from 80,000 to 27,000, is there any justification for keeping up this duty? It is evident that the number of animals which die every year practically remains the same, and the same is the

case with killed animals. The number of exported hides and skins as shown above has diminished to one-third and the amount of leather tanned in the country has also diminished. Therefore, the inevitable conclusion is that the *Chamars* do not find it remunerative to take out the skin; they simply bury it in the ground. I am a zamindar myself, and would be the last person to allow the destruction of a useful animal. But we cannot forget the economic point of view, particularly in the present depressed condition of the country. One sees hundreds and thousands of *gowshalas* in various places. If I take a hundred cattle per *gowshala* and calculate the minimum expenditure of two annas per animal, the amount works to Rs. 12-8-0 per day or Rs. 375 a month. I have been closely studying this question and looking into the condition of the animals which are kept in the *gowshalas*. I find that mostly they are sick, sorry and old. The question, therefore, is, whether it is humane to keep them and prolong their agony or to put an end to it. I have got the authority of Mahatma Gandhi who on one occasion allowed the destruction of a calf, because it was suffering from a disease. Their feeding is waste of public funds, which is not justified.

My second point is the financial position of the zamindars. It has been said that, out of 180 crores of gold which has been sold, 5 P.M. 150 crores is distress gold which the people were compelled to sell for payment of Government demands. The zamindar's reserve has diminished by this amount. His income has fallen to less than over one-third and he cannot pay the Government revenue from his income, and the value of the landed property has gone down to the lowest level. My Honourable friend, Mr. Amar Nath Dutt, offered to give up his land without any price, and I think it is still dear, because no one can afford to keep it.

My third point is the price level of cotton. I have got before me a table which is given on page 8 of the Review of Trade in India in 1932-33. I find in it that the index number for the sale of cotton in July, 1914, was 100 and it is now 40 which shows that the price of that commodity has gone down $2\frac{1}{2}$ times. As we are not getting the economic price of cotton, why do you raise the price of manufactured textiles and make no attempt to do so in the case of cotton? I ask a simple question, namely, how much cloth shall I get by selling one maund of cotton? If I get less, I will oppose raising the price of cloth. I have already urged the other day that we ought to give protective duties to those firms which do consume most of the country cotton.

My fourth point is the duty on matches. This duty is said to be hitting the poor people. We have now got two classes of people, the rich and the poor. The rich clamour that they are over-taxed, and, with the same breath, they urge that the poor should not be taxed. I do not understand what Government should do and how administration ought to run. I remember the time when in a whole village there was not a single match-box and the people used to kindle fire from one another's fireplace. The same practice is more or less carried on in villages even now, and one gets a match-box in the houses of Government servants or those who can afford it, namely, those who indulge in the habit of cigar or cigarette smoking. Hence I would not call it a duty on necessities of life, but on a luxury, and there is no earthly reason why luxuries should not be taxed.

[Nawab Major Malik Talib Mehdi Khan.]

My fifth point is the duty on tobacco. It is admitted by everybody that tobacco is a luxury, and, as I said above, there is no reason why luxuries should not be taxed. But I should like to point out at the same time that tobacco in the form in which it is smoked in the villages is a sheer waste of time, so much so, that it takes away daily four or five hours of the zamindar's time to prepare his *hooka* and smoke it. I, as a zamindar, would like its total prohibition, so that the zamindars may save time which is the most valuable thing in the world.

My last point is that we have been criticising various taxes that the Honourable the Finance Member has been adding to the list already existing; but I do not think that any constructive scheme has been put forward as to if these taxes are removed, how are they to be replaced, and there is no time to do it, though it was the proper way. If we are going to reduce taxes, we ought to find funds for running the Government which no doubt is already very expensive. Why it is so, it is too late to remedy. It is, however, a fact that a lot of money is required to run a good Government.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 20th March, 1934.