

3rd April 1935

THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

(Official Report)

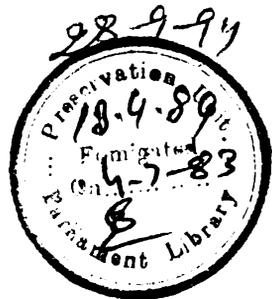
Volume IV, 1935

(29th March to 9th April, 1935)

FIRST SESSION

OF THE

FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
1935



NEW DELHI
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS
1935

Legislative Assembly.

President :

THE HONOURABLE SIR ABDUR RAHIM, K.C.S.I., KT.

Deputy President :

MR. AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA, M.L.A.

Panel of Chairmen :

SIR MUHAMMAD YAKUB, KT., M.L.A.

MR. S. SATYAMURTI, M.L.A.

LIEUT.-COLONEL SIR HENRY GIDNEY, KT., M.L.A.

SARDAR SANT SINGH, M.L.A.

Secretary :

MIAN MUHAMMAD RAFI, B.A.,-AT-LAW.

Assistant of the Secretary :

RAI BAHADUR D. DUTT.

Marshal :

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

Committee on Petitions :

MR. AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA, M.L.A., *Chairman*

MR. S. SATYAMURTI, M.L.A.

DR. ZIAUDDIN AHMAD, C.I.E., M.L.A.

RAJA SIR VASUDEVA RAJAH, KT., C.I.E., M.L.A.

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

CONTENTS.

VOLUME IV.—29th March to 9th April, 1935.

	PAGES.		PAGES.
FRIDAY, 29TH MARCH, 1935—		WEDNESDAY, 3RD APRIL, 1935—	
Questions and Answers	3027—77	Questions and Answers	3455—94
The Indian Criminal Law Amendment (Repeal) Bill—Discussion on the motion to consider not concluded	3078—3123	Unstarred Questions and Answers	3495—3515
SATURDAY, 30TH MARCH, 1935—		Statements laid on the Table	3515—18
Questions and Answers	3125—78	✓ The Indian Finance Bill—Discussion on the consideration of clauses not concluded	3518—65
Short Notice Question and Answer	3178	THURSDAY, 4TH APRIL, 1935—	
Statements laid on the Table	3179—88	Questions and Answers	3567—3630
Demands for Supplementary Grants—concl.	3188—3246	Election of a Member to the Standing Committee on Pilgrimage to the Hedjaz	3630
Statement of Business	3206	The Reserve Bank of India (Note Refund) Rules	3630—34
✓ The Parsi Marriage and Divorce Bill—Referred to Joint Committee	3246—47	Regulations re Powers of Command of Indian Commissioned Officers	3634
MONDAY, 1ST APRIL, 1935—		The Payment of Wages Bill—Appointment of certain Members to the Select Committee	3634—35
Questions and Answers	3249—3301	✓ The Indian Finance Bill—Discussion on the consideration of clauses concluded	3635—76
Motion re Election of a Member to the Standing Committee on Pilgrimage to the Hedjaz—Adopted	3301—02	FRIDAY, 5TH APRIL, 1935—	
The Cantonments (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	3302	Questions and Answers	3677—3725
The Indian Tea Cess (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	3302	Message from H. E. the Viceroy and Governor General	3725—26
Declaration by the Governor General in Council regarding the Customs Supplementary Demand refused by the Legislative Assembly	3302	The Indian Tariff (Amendment) Bill—Discussion on the motion to pass not concluded	3726—59
✓ The Indian Finance Bill—Discussion on the consideration of clauses not concluded	3303—53	SATURDAY, 6TH APRIL, 1935—	
TUESDAY, 2ND APRIL, 1935—		Questions and Answers	3761—98
Member Sworn	3355	The Indian Tariff (Amendment) Bill—Passed as amended	3798—3800
Questions and Answers	3355—3405	✓ The Indian Finance Bill—Recommended amendment negatived	3800—36
Short Notice Questions and Answers	3405—13	Statement of Business	3818
Motion for Adjournment re Hunger Strike of political prisoners at the Dacca Central Jail—Ruled out of order	3413—14	The Indian Tea Cess (Amendment) Bill—Passed	3836—52
The Indian Finance Bill—Discussion on the consideration of clauses not concluded	3414—53		

	PAGES.		PAGES.
MONDAY, 8TH APRIL, 1935—		MONDAY, 8TH APRIL, 1935	
Members Sworn	3853	<i>contd.</i>	
Questions and Answers	3853—74	Demands for Supplemen- tary Grants	3903—08
Statements laid on the Table	3874—93	The Cantonments (Amend- ment) Bill—Referred to Select Committee	3908—12
Motions for Adjournment re—		The Salt Additional Import Duty (Extending) Bill— Passed	3912—40
Prohibition of the holding of the session of the All- India Trade Union Con- gress at Calcutta— Ruled out of order	3894—95	The Indian Mines (Amend- ment) Bill—Passed as amended	3940—58
Publication of the views of some of the Members of the Indian Civil Ser- vice, serving in Bengal, on the Reforms—Ruled out of order	3895—3901	TUESDAY, 9TH APRIL, 1935—	
The Aligarh Muslim Uni- versity (Amendment) Bill	3901—02	Questions and Answers	3959—81
		Unstarred Questions and Answers	3981—92
		The Code of Civil Proce- dure (Third Amendment) Bill—Referred to Select Committee	3992—4007

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, 3rd April, 1935.

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

SCALES OF PENSIONS FOR THE INFERIOR SERVANTS IN THE EMPLOY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS, ETC.

1388. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will Government state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the scale of pensions for the inferior servants in the employ of the Government of India, Posts and Telegraphs, etc., retiring on the completion of their services is Rs. 4;
- (b) whether this scale was fixed about half a century ago;
- (c) whether such inferior servants are now granted pension equivalent to half their average pay by some Provincial Governments;
- (d) whether it is true that the scale of pension of the higher services have been revised owing to rise in prices;
- (e) if so, why the scale of pensions of the inferior servants have not been revised; and
- (f) whether Government are now prepared to consider the necessity for revising the scale of pension of the inferior servants in their employ?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) Yes, except that under Article 481 of the Civil Service Regulations, certain classes of inferior servants are entitled to higher pensions than Rs. 4 per month. All small pensions have also been given a temporary increase during the last 12 years.

(b) Yes.

(c) Only by one Local Government, *vis.*, the Government of Bombay.

(d) Yes, some years ago, mainly owing to the general rise in the cost of living.

(e) and (f). The question of the revision of the pensions of inferior servants under the Central Government has not been taken up owing to the unfavourable financial conditions. As promised by the Honourable the Finance Member on the 9th March, 1935, in reply to Mr. N. M. Joshi's motion on the demand under the head "Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including Working Expenses)", it will be given early and sympathetic consideration.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will it be considered before the end of the financial year?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: The Honourable the Finance Member promised the other day that he would take it up as soon as possible.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What is roughly the financial commitment which is likely to be incurred, if these inferior servants are given Rs. 8 instead of Rs. 4?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: That has not been calculated. If the Honourable Member will put down a question, we will work out the figures.

SECURITY DEMANDED FROM NEWSPAPERS BY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.

1389. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** (a) Will Government state, when security is demanded from newspapers, or when it is forfeited, whether the Local Governments act by themselves or they do so in consultation with the Government of India?

(b) Have Government laid down any rules for the guidance of Local Governments in the interests of a uniform policy? If so, will Government lay the rules on the table of this House?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) I invite attention to the provisions of sections 3 to 10 of the Press Act. The Government of India are not consulted before action is taken under those provisions.

(b) The Government of India have issued certain general instructions to Local Governments in regard to the administration of the Press Act, the general purport of which was that while the Act should be so administered as to achieve the object for which it was enacted, care should be taken to see that no undue hardship was caused in cases in which the Local Government were satisfied that the newspaper or press was not likely to offend against the provisions of the Act. It was also suggested that admonitions or warnings should be given in suitable cases, and that editors and others should be able to obtain advice from an officer of Government if they so desired. As these instructions are confidential, I regret, I cannot lay a copy on the table.

Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable Member tell us whether all the deposits which were demanded at the time of the Civil Disobedience Movement and are still held by Government have been returned to the various papers?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I have said, Sir, that it is a matter for the Local Governments to consider. I cannot possibly answer all questions concerning the Local Governments.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Have Government given any instructions that, so far as newspapers and presses who do not print matter likely to incite to violence to person or property, Local Governments are not to take any action?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I have said, Sir, that instructions are to the general effect that undue hardship is not to be caused in cases in which the Local Governments are satisfied that the newspaper or press is not likely to offend against the provisions of the Act.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I am asking, Sir, whether in those instructions any reference has been made to distinguish between newspapers and newspapers, on the basis of their inciting the readers or not inciting them, to acts of violence?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The security is demanded when the declaration is made. That is usually before the newspaper is published, and the District Magistrate uses his discretion whether to demand security or not. The purport of our instructions is that he should use his discretion so as not to cause hardship to a paper or press which he thinks is not likely to offend against the provisions of the Act.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I am asking, Sir, with regard to the subsequent proceedings about the forfeiture of deposits, whether there are any instructions directing the Local Governments not to take action, unless they are satisfied that the newspaper or the press is propagating matter which is likely to incite people to violence, to person or property?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The security cannot be forfeited unless the newspaper has offended against the Act.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: The Act is very comprehensive. I am, therefore, asking whether instructions have been given by the Government of India to the Local Governments to restrict the scope of action to cases where there is definite violence being advocated?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: No, I don't think so.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have any fresh instructions been sent after the withdrawal of the Civil Disobedience Movement?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Not so far as I am aware.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Has any officer been appointed by the Local Government to advise editors of newspapers to the knowledge of the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Yes, Sir.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: In what provinces have such officers been appointed?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I cannot say off-hand, but certainly in some provinces, to my knowledge, such officers have been appointed.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What are the duties of such officers?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: In this particular respect, the duties of these officers are to advise the editors when they come to them for advice.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Do they submit articles or letters to them before publication, and get their approval? Do the editors or other people who are responsible for publishing matter, either in the form of newspapers or pamphlets, submit that matter for the previous approval of the officer mentioned by the Home Member, and get his approval or advice?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I cannot say whether that is the general practice, but I have known cases where that has been done.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Do Government approve of this kind of pre-censorship in this country?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: It is purely voluntary; it is not pre-censorship of a compulsory kind.

Seth Govind Das: The Honourable Member just said that securities are demanded before the newspapers are published, but is he aware of the fact that from certain newspapers security was demanded at the time when the papers had already been in existence when the Civil Disobedience Movement was in progress, because certain articles contained in those newspapers were considered to be objectionable? Under the changed circumstances, don't Government think it proper that those securities should be returned now to the papers from whom they were taken?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: It depends on what line the newspapers are taking now.

PERSONS CONVICTED IN THE BURMA CONSPIRACY CASE IN 1916 AND SENTENCED TO TRANSPORTATION FOR LIFE.

1390. ***U Thein Maung:** (a) Are Government aware that Babu Amar Singh, S. Kapur Singh, Mr. Kirpa Ram, Mr. Mustafa and Mr. Hardutt Singh, were convicted in the Burmah conspiracy case in 1916 and sentenced to transportation for life?

(b) Are the above mentioned persons still undergoing their sentences in the Andamans?

(c) Is it a fact that persons sentenced to transportation for life are generally released after 14 years?

(d) Are Government prepared to give reasons for not releasing the above mentioned persons, even though they have undergone their sentence for more than 18 years?

(e) Are Government prepared to consider their case for release?

(f) Will Government please state the number of those persons who were sentenced to transportation for life in 1916 and have not been released up to this time?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) Yes.

(b) None of these prisoners is in the Andamans. Amar Singh, Kirpa Ram and Hardit Singh are in jails in Burma. The other two have been released.

(c) and (d). A sentence of transportation for life is actually a sentence for life and its limitation to a period of years is a matter for the Local Government concerned. There are executive orders directing the consideration of the cases of prisoners serving sentences of transportation for life in a jail in India at the end of 14 years, but it is for the Local Government to decide whether at the end of that time he should be released.

(e) The cases of the three prisoners who are still in jail will again be considered in due course by the Local Government.

(f) The Honourable Member presumably refers to the prisoners sentenced to transportation for life in the Mandalay conspiracy case. If so, only these three prisoners are still serving their sentences.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know if there is any other case on record where a prisoner was sentenced to transportation for life and was not released after 14 years except in the case of these political prisoners?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Yes, I am aware of many other cases.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I request the Honourable Member to quote any such cases?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: There are certainly certain prisoners convicted in 1919 in the Punjab.

Sardar Sant Singh: They are the same political prisoners. I want to know whether non-political prisoners convicted of murder, for instance, have ever been detained after 14 years of their imprisonment?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I recognise no distinction between political and non-political prisoners.

Sardar Sant Singh: The distinction, I may say, is very clear. Those who are convicted of offences connected with political disturbance are political prisoners. Is there any case in which a man was convicted of an offence like murder in an ordinary trial and was detained for more than 14 years?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Yes, many.

Sardar Sant Singh: I would like my Honourable friend to quote a single case. My position is that there is not a single case of that kind, and the Government are vindictive in the case of only these prisoners in question.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: No. The Honourable Member is misinformed. I know of many such cases.

Sardar Sant Singh: I would like the Honourable Member to lay on the table of the House any case in the Punjab, where a man, who was sentenced to transportation for life in an ordinary case, was detained after more than 14 years?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I can obtain the information if the Honourable Member wants me to, but I can assure him that I personally know of cases in which I myself as a Member of the Punjab Government had to pass orders.

Bhai Parma Nand: Is the Honourable Member aware that in a similar case, the Lahore Conspiracy Case, one man having the name Parma Nand, has undergone imprisonment for 20 years now, having been convicted in 1915, and it is now 1935, and he is still in the Lahore Jail and he has not yet been released?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: That does not arise out of this question.

Bhai Parma Nand: But the case was similar.

Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state what were the reasons that led the Government to release some of those who were convicted in the same trial on similar grounds, and why these people are being detained?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Because the offences committed by the persons released were of a less heinous character.

Sardar Sant Singh: Is it not a fact that they were convicted in the same trial, and they were given the same sentences by the presiding tribunal?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I cannot say that they were all given the same sentences, but they were all convicted at the same trial.

Sardar Sant Singh: Is it or is it not a fact that those persons who are now in the Burma Conspiracy case were convicted on the same ground, and this Burma Conspiracy case was a part of the Lahore Conspiracy cases, and these persons were charged with the same offences and they were convicted, though by different tribunals, of the same offences, but committed at different places?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The offences were committed in different places and the two trials were held separately, and I do not see how the Honourable Member can say it is one and the same case.

NOMINATION OF "Y" CADETS TO THE DEHRA DUN ACADEMY.

1391. ***Mr. N. V. Gadgil:** (a) With reference to the reply given to part (d) of the starred question No. 628, dated the 5th September, 1933, will Government please state in how many cases the Officers Commanding of different units, with which the so-called 'Y' cadets selected by the Army Headquarters have been working, have not since then recommended them for nomination to the Dehra Dun Academy and in preference to them have recommended their own nominees?

(b) On what grounds did the Officers Commanding recommend their own nominees in preference to the nominees of the Army Headquarters and what were the comparative educational and other qualifications?

(c) Who were nominated from the Army for the last two Sessions for admission to the Academy and from which regiments? What were their ranks and their educational and other qualifications?

(d) In how many cases have the Officers Commanding of units totally condemned and withdrawn the special facilities provided for such 'Y' cadets, and who are they and what are their educational and other qualifications and the age at present?

(e) Are Government aware that the predecessor of Colonel Mallock of the General Staff Branch, Army Headquarters, was of the opinion that the selection of candidates for 'Y' cadetship should be made by the Army Headquarters as a result of the competitive examination held for the Academy, and such a proposal was then accepted and candidates were selected for affording them special facilities for training in the ranks?

(f) Are Government also aware that on the assumption of the charge by Colonel Mallock, instead of the abovementioned procedure, he got his proposals to permit the Officers Commanding to select any man for the grant of such special facilities for training in the Army accepted and thus gave the Officers Commanding all powers of recruitment for King's (Indian) Commission?

(g) How many men of the regiment to which Colonel Mallock belonged before taking this appointment at the Headquarters have been admitted to the Academy under these revised orders and what were their qualifications?

(h) Are Government further aware that as a result of the change mentioned in (f) the Officers Commanding began to take the sons and relatives of those officials only who were directly under them?

(i) Are Government also aware that in this way many deserving and highly educated persons, particularly non-Jats, are debarred from entry to the Army?

(j) Are Government also aware that many a time many of the Jat families who have not got any of their men in the Army are also debarred from entry to the Army, even though their sons may be well-built and fit all round for Army service?

(k) Are Government also aware that as a result of this sort of difficulties in the way of general public, this service is being monopolised by a few families only?

(l) Are Government prepared to appoint a small Committee of this House to suggest some means whereby every suitable candidate may have a fair chance of entry to the military service through a central body which may make the selection of 'Y' cadets and control their training? If not, why not?

(m) In case Government are not prepared to appoint a Committee are they prepared to consider the advisability of controlling the recruitment of 'Y' cadets themselves by way of recruitment through the Army Headquarters and select the best hands from the ranks of the 'Y' cadets for admission to the Academy? If not, why not?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: (a) and (b). The collection of the detailed information asked for would entail considerable time and labour, but I can inform the Honourable Member that the whole of the 1930 batch have already entered the Academy and of the 30 who were specially enlisted in 1931, seven have secured cadetships, four were discharged at their own request, ten have been definitely dropped as being unlikely to make efficient officers and nine are still serving and have a chance of securing a cadetship in due course.

(c) The names have already been published in the Press, but I lay a statement on the table.

(d) In no case have the cadets in question been denied the facilities promised to them, but, in accordance with an undertaking that I gave in the Assembly in 1933, ten of them have been told that they would never be likely to secure a cadetship and might be wasting their time if they stayed on in the hope of doing so. These ten were given the option of continuing to serve in the ranks of the Army or of taking their discharge so as to seek other employment. Their names and ages are given in the statement which I lay on the table.

(e) and (f). The Honourable Member is under a complete misapprehension in suggesting that there has been a change of policy and attributing it to the staff officer whom he mentions by name. As I have frequently explained before, the "Y" cadets, on whose behalf he is interested, were young men who had failed to pass the open examinations in 1930 and 1931 and who were then given an opportunity of redeeming their failure by enlisting in the Army and standing their chance of securing an Indian Army cadetship. This procedure was followed, as a special case, in order to supplement the supply of Indian Army cadets until experience showed whether the full number of suitable candidates could be secured from those

normally serving in the Army. It was decided not to repeat the experiment after 1931, i.e., before the staff officer in question joined the General Staff Branch; but, apart from this there has been no change of system.

(g) Two. Their qualifications were the same as those of other Indian Army cadets.

(h) to (m). No. As stated in reply to starred question No. 32 on February the 5th, the allegations made are entirely baseless and Government are satisfied that the present methods give all suitable candidates a fair chance of securing a cadetship at the Academy.

Indian Army Cadets admitted to the Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun, for the terms commencing on the 24th August, 1934 and 31st January 1935 showing rank and unit, vide part (c) of starred question No. 1391.

Rank and Name.	Unit.
<i>24th August, 1934.</i>	
L/Naik Ghulam Farid Khan	4th Bn., 13th F. F. Rifles.
2/Lieut. H. C. Badhwar	11th Bn., 7th Rajput Regiment.
L/Naik Shaukat Ali Shah	6th Royal Bn., 13th F. F. Rifles.
L/Daffadar Kalwant Singh	19th K. G. O. Lancers.
Naik Ajmer Singh	1st Bn., 16th Punjab Regiment.
L/Naik Ram Singh	3rd Bn., 15th Punjab Regiment.
L/Daffadar Mohommed Abdel Ali	7th Light Cavalry.
L/Daffadar Ifthikharuddin	P. A. V. O. Cavalry.
L/Naik Bagambar Singh	1st Kumaon Rifles.
Jemadar Bhaskarrao Garud	2nd Bn., 5th Mahratta Light Infantry.
Naik Ahmad Din	K. G. O., Bengal S. & M.
L/Daffadar Man Singh	The Central India Horse.
L/Naik Bashir Ahmed	1st Bn., 14th Punjab Regiment.
L/Daffadar Jawsant Singh	P. A. V. O. Cavalry.
L/Naik Kartar Singh	4th Bn., 16th Punjab Regiment.
L/Naik R. Gurasami	Q. V. O. Madras S. & M.
L/Naik Rati Ram	2nd Bn., 19th Hyderabad Regiment.
L/Naik Nagindar Singh	2nd Bn., 11th Sikh Regiment.
<i>31st January, 1935.</i>	
L/Daffadar Shivdarshan Singh	6th (D. C. O.) Lancers.
L/Daffadar Malik Sher Bahadur Khan	7th Light Cavalry.
L/Daffadar Amrik Singh	P. A. V. O. Cavalry (11th F. F.).
L/Daffadar Mohd. Mashal Khan	13th D. C. O. Lancers.
L/Naik Balwant Singh	4th Bn., 2nd Punjab Regiment.
L/Naik Niaz Ahmed Rashid	1st Bn., 7th Rajput Regiment.
L/Naik Niaz Ahmed Khan	2nd Bn., 7th Rajput Regiment.
L/Naik Kartar Singh	5th Bn., 8th Punjab Regiment.
Naik Said Ali Khan	4th Bn., 10th Baluch Regiment.
L/Naik Hardial Singh	2nd Bn., 11th Sikh Regiment.
Naik Bikarmajit Singh	5th Bn., 12th F. F. Regiment.
L/Naik Inayatullah Jan	3rd Bn., 14th Punjab Regiment.
Jemadar Chaudhri Kartar Singh, I.D.S.M..	2nd Bn., 15th Punjab Regiment.
L/Naik Gian Chand	1st Bn., 16th Punjab Regiment.
L/Naik Mohammad Yusuf	2nd Bn., 16th Punjab Regiment.
L/Naik Nausher van Khan	2nd Bn., 16th Punjab Regiment.
Naik Paritam Singh	3rd Bn., 16th Punjab Regiment.
Havildar Habib Khan	3rd Bn., 15th Punjab Regiment.
L/Naik Abdullah Jan	I. A. S. C. Training Centre.
Corporal C. W. Adams	Dehra Dun Contingent, Auxiliary Force (India).

The qualifications of the above candidates were those necessary for admission to the Indian Military Academy, namely:

- (a) medically fit,
- (b) in possession of the Indian Army Special Certificate of Education,
- (c) of at least the rank of Lance Naik,
- (d) under the age of 25 years on the date of entry into the Academy,
- (e) recommended by their Commanding Officers for selection.

Names and ages of 'Y' cadets who have been discharged or given the option of serving on in the Army, vide part (d) of Starred Question No. 1391.

Name.	Age.
Harbans Singh Bawa	23 years, 6 months.
Wazir Chand	23 years, 6 months.
Abdul Hamid Khan	23 years, 2 months.
Mohammed Barkat Ullah	21 years, 10 months.
Gurbaksh Singh	23 years, 7 months.
Mohammed Ayub Khan	22 years, 3 months.
Goverdhan Lall Chandra	23 years, 6 months.
Ram Narain Sazana	23 years, 6 months.
Mohinder Singh	23 years.
Satya Prakash	22 years, 3 months.

Captain Sardar Sher Muhammad Khan: May I ask if the Army Headquarters have the authority to nominate the "Y" Cadets?

Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham: No. His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE OFFICERS IN THE MEDICAL RESEARCH DEPARTMENT.

1392. *Mr. Samuel Aaron: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (i) the total number of Indian Medical Service officers in the Medical Research Department;
- (ii) how many of them are Indians and how many of them Europeans;
- (iii) how many of them had research work to their credit before they were appointed to the Research Department;
- (iv) whether these officers have been able to do any important research after they were admitted into the Research Department;
- (v) whether Government will place on the table the results of the research work done by these officers; and
- (vi) how many of these officers have not been able to carry out any research after their admission to the department?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (i) Sixteen.

(ii) Seven Indian and nine Europeans.

(iii) All.

(iv) Yes.

(v) I lay on the table a list of publications reference to which will show the research work done by officers of the Medical Research Department.

(vi) None.

List of Publications

The Annual Reports of the Public Health Commissioner with the Government of India (Section VIII with Appendices.)

The Indian Journal of Medical Research.

Records of the Malaria Survey of India.

The Indian Medical Gazette.

The Reports of the Research Workers Conference, and the Technical Reports of the Scientific Advisory Board, Indian Research Fund Association.

Annual reports of the laboratories and institutes where officers of the Medical Research Department are employed.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it a fact that out of the five scholarships recently given, three were reserved for the I. M. S. officers, and that the qualifications of the non-I. M. S. applicants were found to be far superior to those of the I. M. S. applicants, yet the I. M. S. men had to be selected because of the reservation?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I think that my Honourable friend is not correctly describing the position. There are no such things as scholarships; there are appointments in the department, and the sanctioned cadre of the department provides for 18 I. M. S. and 12 non-I. M. S. men.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What is the reason for this reservation in a research department? Why does not the Government make a rule that those who are most competent to carry on research should be given the first offer, and why should they reserve any particular places for members of the I. M. S.?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: That is really linked up with the larger question of the strength of the I. M. S. on the civil side. We have to provide a certain number of appointments for the I. M. S. on the civil side, and, taking into consideration the position in the provinces and in the Government of India as a whole, we have fixed it at the figure which I have mentioned, namely, 18. But I can assure the Honourable Member that no member of the I. M. S. is chosen, merely because he is a member of the I. M. S., he is chosen only for his qualifications.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know that happens if there are not enough I. M. S. men for the places which are reserved for them, who are qualified, according to an independent and competent tribunal, to be appointed to those posts? Are the next class of the I. M. S. appointed, and the better men outside not considered?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: No, Sir. If it so happens that the requisite number of vacancies of I. M. S. officers cannot be filled because of the lack of suitably qualified men, the posts are held in abeyance.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: How has it happened in the past? Is it the view of the Government that in the past, whenever a vacancy arose for a post reserved for the I. M. S., there was available a competent man from the I. M. S. competent to do research work?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: Hitherto, I can assure my Honourable friend that the Government of India have felt no difficulty in getting suitable men to fill these posts. And if only my Honourable friend will take the trouble to look at the work which some of them have done, men whose names I shall mention, such as Sir Richard Christophers, Colonel Acton or Colonel Chopra—I can go on mentioning them—he will find that such work as has been done by them eminently demonstrates what I have already stated regarding their fitness for research.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Have all the men, who have been appointed to the research department, done work, which, in the opinion of the Government, is satisfactory to carry out the work which is set apart for this department?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I have only quoted the names of members of the I. M. S. who have served in the research department. Further, I would like to inform the House that there is a very strict probation extending over two years. That is to say, the officer after selection is attached to a tried and proved research worker for two years. It is a very real and effective probation, and only if the man makes good in those two years he is confirmed in the research department.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Is the probation after appointment?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: This probation is after recruitment for the medical research department.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Have Government considered, or will they consider the desirability of removing all this reservation, and throwing open appointments to the research department, purely on merit?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: As I have already informed the House, the question of reservation for I. M. S. officers is linked up with the larger question of the total number of appointments to be provided for such officers on the civil side. I cannot give any undertaking on that point. I shall see in connection with the next re-organisation of the I. M. S. whether any reduction of the reservation for I. M. S. officers is possible.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government bear in mind that, in future recruitment to this department, they should secure the very best men available, whether they belong to the I. M. S. or not?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I can assure my Honourable friend that it is a self-evident thing, namely, that Government will appoint only qualified persons.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Do Government always accept self-evident things?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: My Honourable friend will agree that what is self-evident to everybody, must be self-evident to Government.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Who decides the number of reservations? Is it the Government of India or the Secretary of State?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: The number of reservation is decided by the Secretary of State.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the proportion of I. M. S. to non-I. M. S. men? Is it 2 to 1?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: 18 to 12.

SPECIALIST APPOINTMENTS IN THE MEDICAL BRANCH OF THE INDIAN ARMY.

1393. ***Mr. Samuel Aaron:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (i) the number of specialist appointments in the medical branch of the Indian Army;
- (ii) how many of them are held by Indians and how many by Europeans;

- (iii) how many of these specialist appointments are held by officers of the R. A. M. C.;
- (iv) whether there is any Indian in the commissioned ranks of the R. A. M. C. in India;
- (v) how many Indians are holding the position of A. D. M. S. and above;
- (vi) whether there are any Indian I. M. S. officers in Army Head quarters in Delhi or Simla; if so, how many; and
- (vii) how many European I. M. S. and R. A. M. C. officers are employed in Army Headquarters?

Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham: (i) 92.

(ii) Indians 21, Europeans 70, one post is at present *vacant*.

(iii) 58.

(iv) No. It is a British corps.

(v) None at present.

(vi) Yes, one.

(vii) Seven.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know the reason for this extraordinary proportion of Europeans to Indians in the Medical branch of the Indian army?

Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham: I presume that there are more Europeans qualified for these specialist appointments on the army side, than Indians.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the proportion of the reservation for Europeans?

Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham: There is no proportion reserved, as far as I know, either for Europeans or Indians.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Is it because proper qualified Indians are not available?

Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham: On the army side—we are dealing here only with the army side—we employ both R. A. M. C. and I. M. S. officers. and, of the I. M. S. officers, there are a certain number of British and a certain number of Indians. From the figures I have given, the Honourable Member will see that in the I. M. S. there are more Indian than British officers employed as specialists. In addition to that, we have to take into account the R. A. M. C. who are entirely British. One of the reasons why more Indians are not appointed as specialists on the army side may be that Indian members of the I. M. S. have preferred civil employment rather than military employment, and, therefore, the best Indian officers in the I. M. S. have gone to the civil side.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Is there any proposal to increase the number of Indians in this branch?

Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham: There is no separate branch of specialists. They are all part of the military peace establishments of the army.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Is there any proposal to increase the number of Indians in this department?

Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham: The whole question of the strength of the military peace establishments is under consideration, and I cannot say more than that at the present moment.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are Government aware of the desire of this country that more and more Indians should be employed in this branch?

Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham: We have certainly borne in mind the desire that more Indians should be employed.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are Government aware that the Indians so far appointed have proved satisfactory in the discharge of their duties?

Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham: I cannot answer that in reply to a supplementary question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: You are not prepared to pay a compliment to Indian officers?

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: Is it a fact that four posts in the appointment to the Council of Medical Research are reserved for the I. M. S.

Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham: I do not see how that arises out of this question.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: I am talking about the Council of Research and the reservation for the I. M. S.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: That question does not arise out of this, as I have already said in regard to the previous question.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the answer to clause (v)?

Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham: None at present.

RENEWAL OF LICENCES GRANTED TO SHIPPING BROKERS UNDER SECTION 24 OF THE INDIAN MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT.

1394. ***Mr. N. M. Joshi:** With reference to Recommendation No. 158 of the Royal Commission on Labour in India, will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether they have accepted the recommendation not to renew the licences granted to shipping brokers under section 24 of the Indian Merchant Shipping Act;
- (b) whether, as mentioned on page 58 of the Third Report of the Department of Industries and Labour on the action taken by Government on the Commission's Recommendations, Government have withdrawn the shipping brokers' licences in Calcutta;

- (c) whether they are aware that shipping brokers in Bombay have had no hand in the recruitment of seamen for the last several years and are only functioning as shroffs, making advances of first month's wages to seamen of certain shipping companies only;
- (d) whether they are aware that the P. and O. S. N. Co., B. I. S. N. Co., and certain other shipping companies have for the last six years made their own arrangements to pay their seamen and thus totally eliminated the medium of the shipping brokers;
- (e) if so, why Government have not yet passed orders for the termination of shipping brokers' licence in Bombay;
- (f) whether Government have recently renewed the Bombay shipping brokers' licence;
- (g) whether Government have replied to the National Seamen's Union, Bombay, that no license is required for making advances of first month's wages to seamen; and
- (h) if so, why Government are continuing the licence to the shipping brokers of Bombay?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: (a) Government have accepted the principle of the recommendation.

(b) The licences will be withdrawn on the 20th June next when the notice given to the present licencees expires.

(c) Government are informed that this statement is not correct.

(d) Yes.

(e) Because certain other shipping companies still make use of licensed brokers for the recruitment of seamen, and Government understand that the present licencees are working satisfactorily.

(f) No. The licenses are annual and are due for renewal on 31st May.

(g) Yes.

(h) The reply is the same as that to (e) above.

TIME TEST FOR CORRESPONDENCE WORK IN FIRST CLASS HEAD POST OFFICES.

1395. ***Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** (a) Is it a fact that there is no Time Test for correspondence work in first class Head Post Offices?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state on what basis a large number of clerks of the Correspondence Department of the Calcutta General Post Office have been retrenched?

(c) If the reply to part (a) be in the negative, will Government be pleased to state what is the standard of fixing staff for the Correspondence Department of first class head offices?

(d) Will Government be pleased to place on the table a statement showing the number of clerks who worked in the Correspondence Department of the Calcutta General Post Office in the year 1931-32 and the number reduced up to 28th February, 1935?

(e) Is it a fact that the present Correspondence Department of the Calcutta General Post Office is a combination of several offices, viz., offices of three City Superintendents, the Superintendent, Calcutta Sorting Division, and the Presidency Postmaster, Calcutta?

(f) Will Government be pleased to place on the table a statement showing the number of (i) selection grade posts, (ii) time scale supervisory posts, and (iii) clerks working in the offices of the Inspecting Postmasters of the two Divisions in Bombay and of the Presidency Postmaster, Bombay?

(g) Is it a fact that the Postmaster General, Bengal and Assam Circle, further contemplates to reduce some clerks of the Correspondence Department, Calcutta General Post Office? If so, on what basis?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) Yes.

(c) Does not arise.

(b) and (d) to (g). The information is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House in due course.

CONVEYANCE CHARGES FOR CLERKS WORKING IN TOWN SUB-POST OFFICES OF CALCUTTA.

1306. ***Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** (a) Is it a fact that some times clerks working in town Sub-Post Offices of Calcutta are asked to go to the Calcutta General Post Office to bring some official documents from that office?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state who pay their conveyance charges?

(c) Are Government prepared to arrange to pay them the cost of conveyance? If not, why not?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) to (c). Government have no information. A copy of the question is being sent to the Head of the Circle who is competent to deal with the matter.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: Will the Honourable Member inquire into this matter and inform this House?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: It is not necessary, Sir. The Postmaster General is competent to pass the necessary orders in the matter as to whether any cost of conveyance should be paid to these clerks if they travel on duty?

SUPERVISOR FOR CLERKS IN THE MONEY ORDER BRANCH OF A POST OFFICE.

1307 ***Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** (a) Is it a fact that according to the present Time Test (Mr. Bewoor's Time Test) there should be one supervisor for six clerks in the money order branch of an office?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the negative, will Government be pleased to state what is meant in Appendix B-8 (page 81) of the Report on the Revision of Time Test of 1929?

(c) Will Government please state how many clerks are working in the Money Order Department of the following offices:

(i) Calcutta General Post Office, (ii) Bowbazar, (iii) Dharamtola, (iv) Barabazar, (v) Park Street, (vi) Beadon Street, and (vii) Amherst Street town sub-offices in Calcutta?

(d) How many supervisors are justified in the Money Order Departments of each of these offices?

(e) Do Government propose to sanction necessary supervisory posts in the offices where such posts are justified? If not, why not?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) Yes

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e). Government regret that the information required is not readily available. The Head of the Circle concerned is fully competent to deal with the points raised, in accordance with existing orders and a copy of the question is being sent to him for suitable action.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: With reference to part (c) of the question, I do not see why Government do not give the information and also how many supervisors are justified in the money order department. I understand from the circular of my Honourable friend, Mr. Bewoor, that for every six clerks there will be one supervisor. Will Government take note of this fact?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: Yes, Sir. I have replied to part (a) in the affirmative. The Postmaster General has full powers to recommend the appointment of a supervisor if it is justified according to the test, and, if I receive any recommendations from him, I will consider the matter.

SUBSIDY PAID TO THE STAMP CONTRACTORS OF CALCUTTA FOR SELLING STAMPS TO THE PUBLIC IN THE CALCUTTA POST OFFICES.

1398. ***Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the total amount of subsidy paid to the Stamp Contractors of Calcutta for selling stamps to the public in the Calcutta Post Offices?

(b) Will Government please also state whether they are to sell stamps at all hours of the day, or at some selected hours of the day?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) The total amount of subsidy paid to the contractor for selling or arranging for the sale of postage stamps and postal stationery in the Calcutta General Post Office and its 18 town sub-offices and in the Howrah Head Office is Rs. 1,850 per mensem.

(b) Under the terms of the agreement with Government, the contractor is required to employ the number of servants to work as stamp vendors as is fixed in the agreement and these are required to attend the post offices punctually on working days, holidays and Sundays at such hours as the Postmaster may fix subject to the condition that the total attendance of each of the stamp vendors shall not exceed eight hours per day and 52 hours per week of which not more than four hours shall be on Sundays.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why not sell stamps directly, Sir?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: We do sell them directly in many offices, but in the bigger offices we find it cheaper to arrange to have a contractor.

PROVISION OF GOVERNMENT QUARTERS FOR CLERKS WORKING IN THE DELHI POST OFFICE.

1399. *Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: (a) Is it a fact that clerks working in the Delhi Post Office are provided with Government quarters?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state whether any rent is charged from them and whether they are prepared to extend this concession to the postal employees working in Bombay and Calcutta?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) Yes, to a limited extent.

(b) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, accommodation for clerks has been provided, to a limited extent, in Delhi and New Delhi in view of the special local conditions. There is no similar necessity for providing accommodation for clerks in Bombay and Calcutta.

TENDERS INVITED TO CARRY MAILS IN CALCUTTA BY MOTOR VANS.

1400. *Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: (a) Is it a fact that tender has been invited to carry mails in Calcutta by motor vans?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state when the present contract will expire?

(c) What is the rate of mileage charged by the present contractors, and what is the rate of mileage prevailing in Calcutta?

(d) What amount is paid to the contractors annually?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) Yes.

(b) The present contract is due to expire on the 31st August, 1935.

(c) As regards the first part, I may inform the Honourable Member that the contractor is not paid on a mileage rate. He is paid a certain fixed subsidy per month for carrying mails according to an agreed schedule. As regards the second part, Government have no information; nor would the comparison suggested by the Honourable Member be at all helpful since, as I have already explained, the contractor is not paid on a mileage basis.

(d) The amount paid annually to the contractor is Rs. 1,98,000.

CONTRACT FOR TREASURY WORK OF THE CALCUTTA GENERAL POST OFFICE AND ITS TOWN SUB-OFFICES.

1401. *Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: (a) Is it a fact that the Treasury work of the Calcutta General Post Office as well as its town sub-offices will be given on contract?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state whether any tender has been issued?

(c) Has any contractor been selected for the purpose?

(d) If so, what will be his monthly subsidy?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) to (d). The question of introducing a contract system for the performance of treasury work in the Calcutta General Post Office is at present under consideration but tenders have not yet been called for.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government consider the advisability of carrying on this work directly by themselves, instead of asking for the intervention of the contractors?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: We do carry on treasury work in most post offices, but in the bigger post offices we find it more convenient and more economical to employ a treasury contractor.

POSTMEN RETRENCHED IN THE YEAR 1934-35 IN EACH POSTAL CIRCLE.

1402. *Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the total number of postmen retrenched up to 31st January, 1935, in the year 1934-35 in each Circle separately?

(b) What is the net saving due to this retrenchment?

(c) How many Extra Departmental Delivery Agents have been appointed in their places and what is their pay?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a), (b) and (c). Government regret that they are unable to furnish the information as its collection would involve an undue expenditure of time and labour.

Mr. M. Ghiasuddin: I rise to a point of order, Sir. Is it right for the Honourable Member to say that the Government are the sole judge as to whether a certain information is too costly and would involve too much labour? I put it to you, Sir, that it is a gross insult to the House to say that. I can accept the Government's point of view if they say that it is not in the public interest to disclose certain information, but day after day we hear them saying, that the Government are not prepared to do it, because it would involve too much work. . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Yesterday this question was raised and the Chair gave its ruling that it cannot say whether, in answer to a particular question, the information, that is to be supplied, entails so much labour and cost that it is not desirable that the Government should be asked to undertake to collect such information, but, as the Chair said, if, as regards any particular question, any Honourable Member thinks that the collection would not entail so much labour, then that particular question can be brought to the notice of the Chair; and the Chair has not yet heard any Honourable Member to suggest that in this case or in any other case yesterday the objection raised by Government was unreasonable.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: Sir, in this particular case, if I just state the facts before you, I hope it will be considered by you and by the Government?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): As regards this question, the Chair thinks it is possible that the Government's objection

is not unreasonable, for information is sought as regards the number of postmen retrenched up to 31st January, 1935, in the year 1934-35, in each Circle separately. The Chair does not see either what object will be served by collecting this information.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: Sir, the collection of the figures may take time, but I do not understand why it will be too expensive to get the information. It may be quite difficult to get the information in ten days, but if the Government come to this House and say that they will take a little more time, I may agree, but I am not prepared to accept the statement that it is not possible.

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: The retrenchment campaign started in June, 1931. The Honourable Member wants information about the number of postmen retrenched during the last four years and he wants it circle by circle. We have over 30,000 postmen employed in about 20,000 post offices and the collection of this information would involve a great deal of time and labour. I may further add that, as the retrenchment campaign has been definitely closed down on the 31st March, 1935, I do not understand what particular use this information could be, because there is not going to be any further compulsory retrenchment of postmen.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair must ask the Honourable Members to remember that to answer a question does entail a considerable amount of time, labour and cost. It is not known what the exact cost is, but, 1,400 questions have been answered already. Perhaps Government Members will be able to say what the cost of each question roughly is?

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: Sir, this is the only privilege we have got of asking questions, when there is an irresponsible Executive. (Laughter.)

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I understand that one estimate of average cost is Rs. 75. There are other higher estimates of the work and cost entailed.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What are the bases of the calculation?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I cannot go into that now.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member ought to realise that it is all right if a definite purpose is to be served by asking a particular question, but the Chair has come across many questions which apparently are asked merely out of curiosity.

PAYMENT OF PENSIONS TO THE RETIRED POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH EMPLOYEES FROM POST OFFICES.

1403. ***Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** (a) Is it a fact that with effect from the 1st April, 1935, pensions to the retired postal and telegraph employees will be paid from the Post Offices?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state what will be the approximate saving from this?

(c) Will Government be pleased to furnish a statement showing the total amount contributed to the Central Revenues as pensionary charges from the year 1924-25, and what amount was actually expended on payment of pensions during these years?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) Yes.

(b) The approximate saving to the finances of the Department as a result of making payments of pension to Posts and Telegraphs employees from Posts Offices cannot be estimated until the system has been in operation for some time. For the purpose of the budget estimates, however, a saving of about five lakhs of rupees has been assumed.

(c) I lay on the table a statement showing the amounts contributed by the Department to Central Revenues on account of pensionary charges since the year 1925-26. The amount actually expended on payment of pensions to Posts and Telegraphs officials, during 1924-25, was Rs. 38.57 lakhs, but no information is available for subsequent years as no separate account of these payments has been kept.

Statement showing the amounts contributed by the Posts and Telegraphs Department to Central Revenues on account of pensionary charges since the year 1925-26.

	Rs.
1925-26	49,9,049
1926-27	49,73,454
1927-28	49,74,107
1928-29	58 00,000
1929-30	60,00,000
1930-31	61,93,000
1931-32	58,39,583
1932-33	57,07,427
1933-34	55,93,932

APPOINTMENT OF OFFICIALS WHO PASSED THE INSPECTORSHIP EXAMINATION AS INSPECTORS OF POST OFFICES OR RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE.

1404. ***Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** (a) Is it a fact that at the time of abolition of the selection grade examination in the Post Offices, it was decided by the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs that officials who passed the Inspectorship examination will be appointed as Inspectors of Post Offices or Railway Mail Service and there would be a distinct line of their own?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state why in making officiating appointments in the vacancies in the line of Inspectors in the Bengal and Assam Circle, many passed Inspectors have not been taken in, while some unpassed men have been allowed to act either as Inspectors or as Head Clerks to the Superintendents?

(c) Are Government prepared to see that, while making such appointments, claims of the passed Inspectors are not overlooked? If not, why not?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) The facts are substantially as stated but the officials, referred to by the Honourable Member, were to be appointed as Inspectors only if they were not already holding lower selection grade posts in the general line at the time.

(b) and (c). Government have no information but they have no reason to believe that the orders regarding officiating arrangements in the Inspector's line are not being followed in the Bengal and Assam Circle. If any official considers that he has a grievance, it is open to him to represent it to the proper authority through the usual official channel.

FOREIGN TELEGRAMS BOOKED THROUGH COMBINED OFFICES AND DEPARTMENTAL TELEGRAPH OFFICES.

1405. ***Mr. D. K. Lahtri Chaudhury:** (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of foreign telegrams booked through combined offices and departmental telegraph offices, together with their values, separately, in respect of the year 1933-34?

(b) Is it a fact that telegraph communication with the foreign countries is maintained by the Eastern Cable Company, or some other Company?

(c) What is the rate of subsidy paid to the Company?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) The number of foreign telegrams booked through Combined and Departmental telegraph offices was 2,86,718 and 6,66,208 respectively. Their total value was Rs. 16,75,793 but it is not possible to give separate figures for Combined and Departmental offices.

(b) Telegraphic communication is maintained with foreign countries by (1) the Indian Radio and Cable Communications Company, Limited, and (2) Cable and Wireless, Limited.

(c) No subsidy is paid to these Companies.

IMPOSITION OF AN IMPORT DUTY TO STOP IMPORTS OF FOREIGN RICE AND PADDY.

1406. ***Prof. N. G. Banga:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(i) if they have received any more representations from the Madras Government, since the passing of the resolution by this House on the necessity for imposing an import duty, etc., to stop the imports of foreign rice and paddy; and

(ii) if so, when, and what is the nature of such representations?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré: (i) Yes, Sir.

(ii) A representation has been received within the last few days. As the document is considered confidential, I regret I am not able to disclose its contents.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Have they recommended an increase in the import duty?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré: My Honourable friend is trying to get information which I have already described as confidential.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it the latest representation made by the Madras Government with regard to the adjournment motion passed in the Madras Legislative Council protesting against this Bill?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré: The latest motion is in respect of the Bill which is now before the Assembly.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Expressing their dissatisfaction, Sir?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré: I have already said that I am not prepared to disclose any of the contents of that communication which is considered confidential.

**PROHIBITIVE DUTY UPON IMPORTS OF PADDY AND RICE FROM SIAM,
INDO-CHINA AND OTHER COUNTRIES.**

1407. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (i) the imports of paddy and rice from Siam, Indo-China and other countries during January and February of the current year;
- (ii) whether Government have come to any decision regarding the necessity for imposing a prohibitive import duty upon such imports;
- (iii) if so, when Government propose to publish and enforce it; and
- (iv) if not, when they are likely to come to a decision in this matter?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré: (i) A statement is laid on the table.

(ii) to (iv). The Honourable Member is referred to the Indian Tariff (Amendment) Bill introduced in this House on the 13th March, 1935.

Statement showing imports of paddy and rice into India from Siam, Indo-China and other countries during January and February, 1935.

	Siam.				Indo-China.				Other countries.				Total.			
	Paddy.		Rice.		Paddy.		Rice.		Paddy.		Rice.		Paddy.		Rice.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	(Tons).	Rs.	(Tons).	Rs.	(Tons).	Rs.	(Tons).	Rs.	(Tons).	Rs.	(Tons).	Rs.	(Tons).	Rs.	(Tons).	Rs.
January, 1935	1,517	76,372	5,633	3,66,425	N/U	N/U	217	16,900	N/U	N/U	6	1,361	1,517	76,372	5,636	4,08,676
February, 1935	N/U	N/U	14,233	11,23,790	3,960	2,13,566	2,127	1,64,409	N/U	N/U	4	739	3,956	2,13,569	16,364	13,08,861

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have Government got any necessary statistics of the imports of paddy and rice for March also?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: No, Sir, I am afraid not. I have got the figures for February.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government give their reasons for not including paddy or whole rice or for not imposing higher duties, when they introduce the Bill?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: I assume that Government will state their case fully before the House.

QUALIFYING TEST EXAMINATION HELD FOR THE POSTS OF JUNIOR READERS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, NEW DELHI.

1408. ***Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** (a) Is it a fact that a qualifying test examination was held for the post of junior readers in the Government of India Press, New Delhi, in November 1934?

(b) Is it a fact that copyholders and candidates from other branches were also allowed to sit at the said examination?

(c) Is it a fact that copyholders were examined on the 10th November, 1934, and other candidates were examined on the 12th November, 1934, and the same proof was given for correction on both days?

(d) If the reply to part (c) be in the affirmative, are Government prepared to declare the examination null and void, and re-examine all the candidates on the same day with the same question paper without further delay? If not, why not?

(e) Is it a fact that there were 100 words in dictation on the 10th November, 1934, and nearly 60 words on the 12th November, 1934, but seven mistakes were excused for a pass on both days? If so, why was this sort of differential treatment observed by the Manager of the Government of India Press, New Delhi?

(f) Is this sort of examination, *i.e.*, examination on different days with the same question paper, observed in any other Department of the Government of India, or in any University or in any Education Department? If so, will Government please state their names?

(g) If the answer to part (f) be in the negative, will Government please state why this strange system was observed in the Government of India Press, New Delhi?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a), (b), (c), (d) and (g). I invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the reply given by me on the 11th March, 1935, to parts (a) to (e) of Bhai Parma Nand's starred question No. 821.

(e) I have no information regarding these details.

(f) The ordinary practice is to examine simultaneously candidates who are attempting to pass the same test and to give them the same question paper in each subject.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: Will the Honourable Member kindly repeat the answers to parts (e) and (f) of my question?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:

"(e) I have no information regarding these details.

(f) The ordinary practice is to examine simultaneously candidates who are attempting to pass the same test and to give them the same question paper in each subject."

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: Will the Honourable Member kindly collect the information so far as part (e) is concerned and inform the House in due course?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: No, Sir. The matter hardly seems of sufficient importance to justify my doing so.

QUALIFYING TEST EXAMINATION HELD FOR THE POSTS OF JUNIOR READERS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, NEW DELHI.

1409. *Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: (a) Is it a fact that a qualifying test examination for the posts of junior readers was held in December, 1933?

(b) Is it a fact that pass mark in proof reading at that examination was to correct 66 per cent. of the mistakes?

(c) Is it a fact that pass mark at the examination of 1934, in proof reading was to correct only 50 per cent. of the mistakes?

(d) If the answers to parts (b) and (c) above be in the affirmative, will Government please state why this sort of change in pass marks was observed by the Manager of the Government of India Press, New Delhi?

(e) Is this practice, i.e., frequent change of pass marks, observed by any other Department of the Government of India? If not, why was it observed in the Government of India Press, New Delhi?

(f) Are Government prepared to declare those candidates as passed (qualified) who corrected 60 per cent. or more than 60 per cent. of the mistakes, but less than 66 per cent. in proof reading and passed in the dictation at the examination held in 1933, and to promote them according to their seniority? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) Yes.

(b), (c) and (d). I am not in possession of these details, but assume that the Manager fixed what, in the light of experience, appeared to be a suitable standard.

(e) I do not know what is meant by the Honourable Member's reference to "frequent changes". Only one change is mentioned in the earlier part of his question.

(f) No. I see no reason for interfering with the results of an examination held in 1933.

ADVERTISEMENTS SENT TO NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS WITH REGARD TO THE RAILWAYS, POSTS AND OTHER PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES.

1410. *Mr. Mathuradas Vissanji: (a) Will Government be pleased to state the rules or policy, if any, which guides them in sending out the advertisements to the several newspapers and periodicals in this country, with regard to the Railways, Posts and other such public utility services?

(b) Do Government make any discrimination, and if so, on what lines, between the advertisements sent to Indian-owned English daily newspapers, and vernacular newspapers on the one hand, and British-owned or British-managed newspapers on the other?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) The general policy is to select newspapers for advertisements according to their publicity value.

(b) No discrimination of the sort is made.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What are the considerations in deciding the publicity value—the number of subscribers, or the circulation of the paper?

Mr. P. R. Rau: That is part of the publicity value of the paper.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Is there any other consideration which is before the Government, apart from the extent of circulation?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The class of circulation.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: Do Government maintain any list of approved papers?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I am not aware of any such approved list of papers.

Seth Govind Das: Is it not a fact that generally advertisements are sent to Anglo-Indian papers?

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

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Are they sent to nationalist papers also?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I should like to have a definition of the "nationalist" papers?

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Are they sent to the *Indian Express* Madras?

Mr. P. R. Rau: If my Honourable friend wants particular information as regards particular papers, it is obvious I cannot reply without notice.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I ask how many advertisements are sent to Indian-owned and Indian-managed vernacular papers on the one hand, and to British-owned and British-managed newspapers on the other? Is there any proportion kept, or can my Honourable friend give me any figures?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I am afraid not.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government place a list of the papers on the table of the House to which advertisements are given?

Mr. P. R. Rau: My Honourable friend will realise that there are a large number of Railways in India and each railway has to advertise in

various papers on various occasions and for various objects. It is quite impossible for us to obtain information with regard to the various insertions of advertisements in each paper.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, I would like to bring this particular answer to your notice and later on ask for your indulgence for obtaining this information from the Government.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Yes.

Mr. T. S. Avinashillingam Chettiar: Apart from the railways, may I ask whether Government have any particular policy of giving advertisements to newspapers, Sir?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That question does not arise. The question is with reference to railways.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: No, Sir. It also relates to Posts and other public utility services.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): As regards these services, supplementary questions can be asked.

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: As regards the Post Offices, I can assure the Honourable Member that we do use the vernacular papers. The question of giving advertisements depends upon the publicity value, and the publicity value depends not merely on the circulation, but on the class of readers which any particular paper claims. For example, if we want to advertise telephones, it is no use advertising it in a newspaper which is not likely to be read by people who are in a position to use telephones and to pay for them. As regards vernacular newspapers, I have got here a list of 13 papers which are published in Urdu, Deonagri, Bengali, Gujrati and Tamil. I hope this will satisfy the Honourable Member.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member place that list on the table of the House?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: All right, Sir. This list includes the *Daily Inqilab* of Lahore and there is a larger number of other papers. I simply wanted to tell the Honourable Member that the information I have given to him is correct.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: Is the *Ananda Bazar Patrika* included in the list?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot put questions regarding every newspaper.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: The list is there, and instead of the Honourable Member reading out the whole of it, I wanted to inquire if the *Ananda Bazar Patrika* was included in it?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: The *Ananda Bazar Patrika* is not in the list.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Why can't we get a satisfactory answer, Sir? What we want to know is whether Government are using the tax-payer's money in giving advertisements, to help papers which are pro-Government, and not to help papers which are supposed to be anti-Government?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: Most certainly not.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Who decides this thing?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: The Agent of the Railway concerned.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What is the control of the Government over the Agents in this matter?

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

List of vernacular newspapers which the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department selected for the purpose of advertising Posts, Telegraphs and Telephone facilities during the year 1934-35.

1. Daily Inqilab, Lahore (Urdu).
2. Millap, Lahore (Urdu).
3. Simla Samachar, (Urdu).
4. Daily Tej, Delhi (Urdu).
5. Millat, Delhi (Urdu).
6. Nav Yug, Delhi (Devnagri).
7. Aj, Benares, (Devnagri).
8. Hind Jadid, Calcutta (Urdu).
9. Dainik Basumati, Calcutta (Bengali).
10. Bombay Samachar, Bombay (Guzrati).
11. Sandesh, Ahmedabad (Guzrati).
12. Swadeshmitran, Madras (Tamil).
13. Watan, Delhi (Urdu).

MONEY SPENT ON NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE SEVERAL DEPARTMENTS OF THE PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES.

1411. *Mr. Mathuradas Vissanj: (a) Will Government be pleased to state:

- (i) the amount of money spent on newspaper advertisements in the several departments of the public utility services, which require such advertising from time to time, during the last ten years; and
- (ii) the amount spent in such advertisements in the several daily newspapers, distinguishing between the English and vernacular newspapers in the several provinces?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the reasons which necessitate such advertisements, and regulations or conditions under which such advertisements are sent out, as well as the authorities by whom they are sent out?

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

(c) Will Government be pleased to state whether the Reserve Bank would require any such advertising service, and if so, whether any rule have been framed for sending out such advertisements?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) The information is not readily available and as its compilation would involve a considerable amount of labour, Government regret they are unable to undertake it. I should point out, Sir, that the Honourable Member desires information for ten years.

(b) The reasons vary according to the advertisements published. I presume, however, my Honourable friend has in mind advertisements which are in the nature of publicity propaganda, for which no regulations have been prescribed, it being left to the discretion of publicity officers and others with whom the responsibility rests in such matters to decide what form such publicity should take. The extent to which such advertisements may be published is limited by the funds sanctioned for advertising.

(c) Government have no information. The Reserve Bank if it needs to advertise will presumably make its own arrangements in the matter.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Sir, I will request you to kindly give a ruling with regard to this question. Some of us consider that it is a very important matter, and we should know how this money is spent. Will you kindly direct the Government to collect this information and give us a month later?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): From the nature of the question it is quite apparent that the objection taken by the Honourable Member representing the Government is well-founded.

NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENTS MADE IN COUNTRIES OUTSIDE INDIA FOR ANY OF THE INDIAN PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES.

1412. ***Mr. Mathuradas Vissanj:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether any newspaper advertisement is made in countries outside India for any of the Indian public utility services, particularly in regard to Railways, with special reference to attracting tourist traffic?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state the amount of such advertisements during the last ten years, distinguishing the several countries in which such amounts were spent, and mentioning the authorities responsible for making that outlay?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) Only the London and New York Branch Offices of the Central Publicity Bureau, Indian State Railways, advertise in newspapers in countries outside India.

(b) The Branch Office of the Central Publicity Bureau in London is responsible for advertising in the principal countries in Europe, and the Branch Office in New York advertises in the U. S. A. and Canada. Particulars are not available of the amount spent for advertising in each country. But I am placing on the table a statement showing the total amount spent during the years for which information is available.

	London.	New York.	Total.	—
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
1927-28		..	26,000	Particulars of the amount spent separately for London and New York are not available.
1928-29	..	..	29,000
1929-30	48,000	40,000	88,000	
1930-31	20,000	73,000	93,000	
1931-32	13,000	50,000	63,000	
1932-33	9,000	48,000	57,000	
1933-34	25,000	62,000	87,000	

ADVERTISEMENTS TO POPULARISE OVERSEAS TELEPHONE SERVICE, TRUNK TELEPHONE SERVICE IN INDIA AND LOCAL TELEPHONE SERVICES.

1413 ***Mr. Mathuradas Vissanji:** What steps have Government taken, in the nature of advertisement generally, to popularise their overseas telephone service, trunk telephone service in India and local telephone services, so as to reduce the loss under the Posts and Telegraphs Department collectively considered?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: The various telephone services of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department have been widely advertised in both English and Vernacular newspapers. These services are also being advertised extensively by the direct distribution of hand-bills to likely customers. The advertisement campaign which commenced in 1933-34 has already shown satisfactory results as indicated by the increasing revenue under this head shown in the Post and Telegraph Budget.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: Was this advertisement given to the *Ananda Bazar Patrika*?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: No, Sir.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: Does the Honourable Member know that it has got the largest circulation in India?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: No, Sir. I do not know.

ADVERTISEMENTS IN REGARD TO GOVERNMENT-OWNED AND MANAGED PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES.

1414. ***Mr. Mathuradas Vissanji:** Are Government prepared to consider the advisability of the policy, if any, in regard to advertising generally with special reference to Government owned and managed public utility services; and if so, whether they would submit such a policy for consideration of this House?

Mr. P. E. Rau: I have explained the policy of Government in my reply to question No. 1410.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government submit that policy to the consideration of the House?

Mr. P. E. Rau: The House has opportunities in the usual way of expressing its opinion. My Honourable friend can move a Resolution on the subject.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know the reason why Government do not propose to submit voluntarily their policy for the consideration of the House?

Mr. P. E. Rau: The policy of Government, as I have explained, is purely to select newspapers for advertisement according to their publicity value, and Government consider that there cannot be possibly two opinions on that subject.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: If there can be no two opinions on the subject, then why not submit it to the House for its consideration?

Mr. P. E. Rau: My Honourable friend, as I already said, has the usual facilities for bringing this question before the judgment of the House.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Very unusual facilities!

GRADUATES EMPLOYED ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY IN THE DIVISIONAL OFFICES.

1415. ***Bhai Parma Nand:** Will Government please state the number of graduates employed on the North Western Railway in the Divisional offices?

Mr. P. E. Rau: The information is not readily available.

RECRUITMENT OF GRADUATES INTO DIVISIONAL MINISTERIAL SERVICES ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

1416. ***Bhai Parma Nand:** Will Government please state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the North Western Railway Administration recruited certain graduates into Divisional Ministerial Services in order to improve the efficiency of the office;
- (b) whether those graduates were given an assurance, at the time of appointment, of further advancement in preference to the employees already in service in the grade;
- (c) whether those graduates are now told that their advancement will be in order of seniority; and
- (d) whether Government propose to remove the bar of seniority in order to fulfil the assurance given at the time of recruitment; if not, why not?

Mr. P. B. Rau: Government have no information but I am forwarding a copy of the question to the Agent, North Western Railway for examination.

FOOT-PATHS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BAZAR OF SUBZI MANDI IN OLD DELHI.

1417. ***Maulvi Muhammad Shafi Dandi:** (a) Are Government aware that the foot-paths on both sides of the *basar* of the Subzi Mandi in Old Delhi are used by petty traders, thereby causing considerable inconvenience to the public passing through that *basar*? If so, is it not a fact that the public is compelled to use the main road of Subzi Mandi *basar*, and there is always a serious danger of accidents?

(b) Will Government please state whether these petty traders have been authorized by the Municipality to use the said foot-paths? If so, under what rule, and do they propose to build any other foot-path for the public? If so, where? If not, why not?

(c) Will Government please state whether the police has been authorized by the Municipality to allow petty traders to use both the foot-paths of the Subzi Mandi *basar*? If not, are they aware that the police constables on duty there remain silent and do not stop this practice? If so, why?

(d) Are Government prepared to issue instructions to the police to warn the constables on duty at Subzi Mandi *basar* that they should not allow any petty-trader to use the said foot-paths? If not, why not?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) No stalls are placed by petty traders on these foot-paths but sometimes hawkers and peddlers frequent them when selling petty articles.

(b) Petty traders have not been authorised by the Municipality to use the foot-paths.

(c) The answer to the first part is in the negative. The police challaned about 90 hawkers in 1934, and have challaned about 40 during the present year up to date for selling articles on these foot-paths obstructing traffic.

(d) Instructions have already been issued to the police to challan hawkers utilising these foot-paths for the sale of their wares in a manner obstructive to traffic.

COMPULSORY RETIREMENT OF BRITISH KING'S COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.

1418. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** (a) Will Government state what percentage of British King's Commissioned Officers have been compulsorily retired?

(b) What is the percentage of the Indian King's Commissioned Officers so retired as compared with Europeans?

(c) Is the percentage of Indians retired more than the percentage of Europeans? If so, why?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: The Honourable Member has given no date from which he wishes the information to be collected; but, in any case, as I have previously explained, a large number of British Officers had to be compulsorily retired, both immediately after the war and also during the last five or six years, in order to avoid a surplus in particular ranks. Any

comparison based on statistics would, therefore, be misleading. I can only assure the Honourable Member that in the matter of compulsory retirement precisely the same standards are applied to British and Indian Officers.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know the exact statistics for the last four or five years? I understand the Honourable Member has got figures for the past four or five years.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: If the Honourable Member wishes me to collect the information for the last four or five years, I shall do so. I have not got the information with me here.

INDIANS WHO HAVE PASSED THE EXAMINATIONS FOR MAJORS' POSTS.

1419. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** (a) How many Indians have passed the examinations for the Majors' posts?

(b) How many of those passed have been appointed as Majors?

(c) Is it a fact that some Indians are compulsorily retired just before they should be promoted to Majors' post?

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

(b) None.

(c) No.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In reply to part (b), why none was appointed?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: Because none of them had enough service, that is to say, 18 years' service.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Is it a fact that the Government are retiring certain Indian officers under the War block terms?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: It is a fact that certain Indian officers do come under the War block terms.

Sardar Mangal Singh: With a view to facilitating Indianisation, is it not desirable that Indians should not be retired on War block terms?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I do not see how that arises out of this question. The Honourable Member opens a very large question and asks for my opinion. He does not ask for any information on a matter of fact.

Sardar Mangal Singh: My point is that the Government are retiring certain Indian officers under the pretext of War block terms, and that should not be done?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: My Honourable friend is speaking without knowledge of individual cases. I do not actually know the details yet myself, but I believe that most of the Indian officers in the War block were recruited when they were considerably above the normal age, and, therefore, most of them would have no chance of commanding their regiments. They would be super-annuated in any case before they reached command of their regiments.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Is it not a fact that, in answer to a previous question, the Honourable Member said there was one Indian Major?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: There is one Indian Major who was promoted as a special case without passing the promotion examination.

RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THE REMOVAL OF CHOTA NAGPUR DIVISION AND OTHER PARTS OF BIHAR FROM THE LIST OF "EXCLUDED AREAS."

1420. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** (a) Are Government aware of the fact that on the 18th day of February last, a resolution recommending the removal of Chota Nagpur Division and other parts of Bihar from the list of "Excluded Areas" has been passed in the local Legislative Council of Bihar and Orissa, and if so, what steps are they going to take in this matter?

(b) Are Government aware of a similar Resolution passed by the Indian Legislative Assembly on the 10th of February, 1927, and if so, will they be pleased to state what steps they have hitherto taken in this matter?

(c) Will Government be pleased to explain the significance of "Special Treatment" hitherto accorded and also to be accorded in future to the people of the backward tract and what are the actual measures hitherto taken and proposed to be taken in future by the Local and the Central Governments to give effect to the underlying principles of the "Special Treatment"?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: (a) The Government of Bihar and Orissa have communicated the fact to the Government of India, who have informed the Secretary of State.

(b) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative. A copy of the Resolution, together with a copy of the relevant proceedings of the House, was forwarded to the Secretary of State on the 3rd March, 1927.

(c) As regards the existing position I refer the Honourable Member to section 52A(2) of the Government of India Act and the Reforms Office Notification No. 4-G, dated the 3rd January, 1921. For information regarding the future treatment of these areas, I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the relevant provisions of the Government of India Bill in clauses 91 and 92 read with clause 52 and to paragraph 144 of the Report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee.

GRIEVANCES OF MUSLIMS IN THE CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

1421. ***Mr. A. K. Fuzlul Huq:** (a) With reference to the answer to my starred question No. 509 asked on the 23rd February, 1935, will Government please state what is the proportion of Sikhs as compared to officers, temporary and permanent, serving in the Central Public Works Department?

(b) Will Government be pleased to give figures community-wise of officers, subordinates, technical and non-technical, ministerial staff, fitters and wiremen, etc., etc., in the Central Public Works Department, who are temporary or work-charged?

(c) Is it a fact that on the 28th February, 1935, out of 24 temporary subordinates, there were four Muslims, seven Sikhs and 13 Hindus in the Central Public Works Department?

(d) Is it also a fact that out of 25 temporary clerical appointments on the 28th February, 1935, five were held by Muslims, four by Sikhs and 13 by Hindus?

(e) Is the percentage of Sikhs very high? If so, how do Government propose to redress the grievances of Muslims in these appointments? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) I presume that the Honourable Member refers to Gazetted Officers. Sikhs at present hold ten per cent. of the gazetted posts in the Central Public Works Department.

(b) It would involve an undue amount of labour to collect information regarding work-charged establishment. But I have obtained information in regard to temporary and officiating staff, and a statement giving this information is laid on the table.

(c) No. There were 41 temporary and officiating subordinates and surveyors in the Department on the 28th February last, of whom ten were Muslims, six were Sikhs and 25 were Hindus.

(d) No. Of 60 temporary and officiating appointments, which were in existence on the 28th February last, five were held by Sikhs, 13 by Muslims, 41 by Hindus, and one by an Indian Christian.

(e) I do not consider the percentage of Sikhs unduly high. The Honourable Member is very well aware that 25 per cent. of all new recruitment is reserved for Muslims.

Statement showing the strength of communities of officers, subordinates, technical and non-technical, and ministerial staff in the Central Public Works Department employed in a temporary or officiating capacity on 1st April, 1935.

Class of post.	Total No.	Hindus.	Muslims.	Euro-peans and Anglo Indians.	Sikhs.	Indian Christians.	Other Communities.	RE-MARKS
Temporary Engineers	3	1	..	2	..	..	..
Temporary Sub-Engineer	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
Works Assistant (Temporary)	1	..	..	1	..	..	..
Temporary Sub-Divisional Officer.	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
Subordinates and Surveyors	(a) 44	(b) 28	10	..	6	..	..
Draftsmen	20	10	8	..	1	..	1 (Parsi).	
Clerks	57	(b) 39	12	1	5	..	..

(a) Includes 2 Surveyors.
 (b) Includes 1 Jain.

POSTINGS, TRANSFERS AND APPOINTMENTS IN THE CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

1422. ***Mr. A. K. Fuzlul Huq:** With reference to the reply to my starred question No. 510 given on the 23rd February, 1935, will Government please state whether the Chief Engineer passes orders on all establishment cases individually or a statement is submitted to him fortnightly?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: All important cases are submitted to the Chief Engineer for orders. Weekly (and not fortnightly) lists of sanctions are also submitted to him for approval.

TRANSFER OF THE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE FROM PUSA TO DELHI.

1423. ***Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar:** (a) Are Government aware that there have been reports in the Press about earthquake tremors in Delhi in the course of the last one or two months? Are Government aware that there was a severe earthquake shock in Delhi in January 1934?

(b) Is not the sole reason for the transfer of the Pusa Agricultural Institute to Delhi the situation of Pusa in the earthquake zone?

(c) What are the advantages of transferring the Institute from one earthquake zone to another?

(d) What will be the cost of repairing the buildings etc., in Pusa, if the Institute were not transferred to Delhi?

(e) What is the cost of establishing a new institute at Delhi?

(f) Is it a fact that the cost of transferring the Institute to Delhi is more than the cost of repairs to the buildings in Pusa, and if so, why have Government decided on its transfer?

(g) Are Government prepared to consider the advisability of locating the Institute in a non-earthquake zone, like the Madras Presidency?

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

(b) No.

(c) to (f). I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to my speech on the motion for a Supplementary Grant on the 31st August, 1934, and on the 27th and 28th March, 1935.

(g) No.

GRIEVANCES OF MUSLIMS ON THE BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY.

1424. ***Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur:** (a) Will Government please state the number of (i) Muslim, (ii) Hindu and (iii) other officers including those on leave out of India, in the (i) Agency, (ii) Audit, (iii) Engineering, (iv) Signal, (v) Construction, (vi) Locomotive and Carriage, (vii) Stores, (viii) Medical, (ix) Traffic, (x) Watch and Ward, and (xi) Electrical Departments of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway?

(b) Is it a fact that there are not more than two per cent. Muslims in the superior services of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, taken as a whole?

(e) Is it not a fact that there are (i) no Muslim officers as against 12 in the Agency, (ii) no Muslim officers as against 14 in the Audit, (iii) no Muslim officers as against 33 in all, and eight from the Hindu community, in the Engineering Department, (iv) no Muslim officers as against seven in the Signal Department, (v) one Muslim officer as against 33 in the Locomotive and Carriage Department, (vi) no Muslim officer as against eight in the Stores Department, (vii) no Muslim officer as against eight, in the Medical Department, (viii) two Muslim officers as against 47 in the Traffic Department and (ix) no Muslim officers as against 11 in the Electrical Department of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) The available information is contained in appendix F of the Report by the Railway Board on Indian Railways for 1933-34, Volume I.

(b) Yes.

(c) If the figures given by the Honourable Member are intended to show the position as on the 31st March, 1934, they are not quite correct as will be seen from the Report I have referred him to.

GRIEVANCES OF MUSLIMS IN THE ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT OF THE BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY.

1425. ***Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur:** (a) Is it not a fact that in the Engineering Department of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, out of a total of 33 officers, and a total of eight officers from the Hindu community alone, there is not a single Muslim officer?

(b) Is it not a fact that the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway Administration has recently appointed a Hindu, who was working as an unpaid apprentice in the Locomotive and Carriage Department at Ajmer, as a probationary Assistant Engineer?

(c) Is it not a fact that 'a protest' was made to the Agent, Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, regarding this and that no heed was paid by the said administration?

(d) How do Government propose making amends for this disparity in the percentage of the Muslims in the said department, and what steps do Government propose to take for the breach of the rules regarding the recruitment of the Muslims?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) The total number of officers in the Engineering Department (including Signal Engineering Department) of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway on the 31st March, 1934, was 50, out of whom 14 were Hindus. No Muslim was employed in this Department as officer on the 31st March, 1934.

(b) and (c). Government have no information.

(d) The Agent, Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, has been asked to obtain the concurrence of his Board of Directors to the adoption of the policy laid down by the Government of India with the approval of the Secretary of State that 25 per cent. of all vacancies in superior service to be filled by direct recruitment of Indians should be reserved for Muslims.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF CERTAIN STAFF ON THE BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY.

1426. *Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur: Will Government please state what was the actual number on 1st January 1935 of staff (i) Muslim, (ii) Hindu, and (iii) others, in the lower and upper subordinate grades of Rs. 40—80; Rs. 80—120; Rs. 120—160; Rs. 160—200; Rs. 200—250 and upwards, in the Agency, Audit, Engineering, Signal, Stores, Traffic, Electrical, Medical, Watch and Ward, and Locomotive and Carriage Departments of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway broad and metre gauge systems?

Mr. P. B. Rau: With your permission, Sir, I shall reply to questions Nos. 1426, 1427, 1428 and 1429 together.

The information, in the possession of Government, with regard to the actual communal composition of staff on the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway is contained in Appendix F to the Report by the Railway Board on Indian Railways for 1933-34. Under the terms of the contract, the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, like other Company-managed Railways, has full powers in regard to recruitment of staff and the Government of India can, therefore, only advise them in such matters. The action the Railway Board have taken in order to give effect to the policy of the Government of India, is to fix percentages for Muslim recruitment, in each railway, so as to obtain the fixed percentage of 25 per cent. on all railways taken together, but, so far as Company-managed Railways are concerned, this is not mandatory but only advisory. The Agent, Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railways, has been asked to obtain the concurrence of his Board of Directors to the reservation of 12 per cent. of future recruitments for Muslims. Government hope that this scheme will be accepted by them but according to the contract they are not in a position to insist on this being done.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF DOCTORS OF THE BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY.

†1427. *Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur: (a) Will Government please state how many doctors (Sub-Assistant Surgeons and Assistant Surgeons)—(i) Muslims, (ii) Hindus, and (iii) others—were employed on the 1st January, 1935 in the Medical Department on the broad and metre gauge systems of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway?

(b) Is it not a fact that the Muslim community is conspicuous by its almost total absence, there being not more than two Muslim doctors in the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway Medical Department?

(c) Do Government propose to issue definite orders, breach of which should be reprimandable, regarding making amends for the injustice that has been done, or is being done to the Muslim community in the Railway Medical Department of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway?

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF "A" GRADE APPRENTICES IN THE CARRIAGE AND WAGON SHOPS OF THE BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY AT AJMER.

†1428. *Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur: (a) Will Government please state how many 'A' grade apprentices, (i) Muslim, (ii) Hindu and

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 1426.

(iii) others, have been taken in the Carriage and Wagon Shops of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, at Ajmer, since 1922?

(b) How many (i) Hindus, (ii) Muslims and (iii) other, passed apprentices have been fixed and promoted to the Chargemen's and Senior Chargemen's grades?

GRIEVANCES OF MUSLIMS ON THE BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY.

1429. ***Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur:** (a) Is it not a fact that little attention is paid by the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway authorities to the instructions and orders of the Government of India, regarding the fixation of a minimum of 25 per cent. of the appointments for the Muslim community?

(b) Is it a fact that no publicity is given to any vacancy or vacancies, either in the Officers' or Subordinates' grades, and vacancies are filled up and appointments made secretly without giving fixed minimum portion to the Muslim community?

(c) Do Government propose to press the authorities of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway to issue, as well as follow, the rules fixing due proportion for appointments and promotions in all grades and departments over the broad and metre gauge systems?

(d) In view of the foregoing, are Government prepared to appoint a Committee of the official and non-official members of the Central Legislature to investigate into the grievances of the Muslims in the service of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway? If not, why not?

FOREIGN INSURANCE COMPANIES DOING BUSINESS IN INDIA.

1430. ***Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Ohetty:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if foreign insurance companies can start and do business in India without any special conditions being imposed on them in any manner, whatsoever? If not, what are the conditions imposed?

(b) Are Government aware that Indian insurance companies cannot do such business in foreign countries without fulfilling some discriminatory conditions? If so, what are the conditions imposed by each foreign country on Indian insurance companies?

(c) Are Government aware that recently the Italian Government refused to allow an Indian insurance company to do business in Italy?

(d) Are Government also aware that recently several Italian insurance companies started their business in India and are carrying on their business?

(e) Are Government under any pact, treaty or contract with the Italian Government to allow their insurance companies to do business in India, while the latter Government might decline such facilities to Indian insurance companies?

(f) If not, are Government prepared to represent to the Italian Government that the continuance of their Companies in India will depend on similar treatment being accorded to Indian Companies in Italy?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Shore: (a) Yes.

(b) Government are not aware that it is necessary for Indian insurance companies to fulfil any discriminatory conditions before setting up business in foreign countries.

(c) Government have been informed that one Indian company has experienced difficulty in setting up business in Italy.

(d) So far as Government are aware, only one Italian company is transacting insurance business in this country.

(e) No, Sir. Article 1 of the Treaty of Commerce and Navigation between the United Kingdom and Italy, concluded on the 15th 12 Noon. of June, 1883, which is applicable to the commercial relations of Italy and British India, provides that the subjects of each of the two parties shall enjoy the same rights, privileges, liberties, favours, immunities and exemptions in matters of commerce and navigation, which are or may be enjoyed by native subjects.

(f) Government are prepared to make representations in any case in which it appears that the provisions of the Article just quoted have been infringed.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government take any steps with regard to the particular case mentioned in the reply to clause (c) of the question?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré: I think this particular case is already receiving attention. We have not been favoured by the individual concerned, as far as I know, with the details of his case, but the matter is being looked into.

Sardar Sant Singh: Has the attention of Government been drawn to the remarks made by a speaker in the meeting of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce recently that the Government of India have given an assurance to the Government of Italy that no steps will be taken against the Italian insurance companies in India even if Indian companies are not allowed to work in Italy?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré: I am not aware of any such assurance, Sir.

Sardar Sant Singh: Is there any truth in that statement?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré: Not that I am aware of.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Are Government prepared to put some restrictions on foreign insurance companies?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré: No, Sir; we cannot do so. As a matter of fact, I have quoted the terms of this treaty which regulates these questions of rights, privileges, liberties, etc., of the two parties, and we cannot infringe those terms.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know at what stage the negotiations between the Government of India and Italy are just now?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré: We are still expecting a reply from the Government of Italy.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: When do Government expect these negotiations to be over?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré: How can I be responsible for that?

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

“Y” CADETS SELECTED FOR ADMISSION TO THE INDIAN MILITARY ACADEMY.

260. **Sardar Sant Singh:** With reference to my question No. 178 on the 30th August, 1933, in this House, will Government be pleased to place on the table a statement giving:

- (i) the names of the “Y” Cadets who were selected for admission to the Military Academy subsequently, their period of service in the ranks and the date of their admission to the Military Academy;
- (ii) the names of those who voluntarily resigned from the Army;
- (iii) the names of those who are found unsuitable and asked to resign with dates of their resignation; and
- (iv) the names of those who are still serving in the ranks?

Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham: I lay a statement on the table.

Name.	Period of Service.		Date of admission to the Academy.
	Years.	Months.	
(i) Waheed Haider	2	3	1st February 1934.
Mohamed Abdel Ali	2	10	24th August 1934.
Jaswant Singh	2	9	24th August 1934.
(ii) Syed Wajid Ali			
Sikander Khan			
Hardip Singh Uberoi			
Mahbub Khan			

Name.	Date on which orders were issued by Army Headquarters giving the option of taking discharge or remaining in the ranks.
(iii) Mohamed Ayub Khan	28th November 1933.
Goverdhan Lall	7th September 1933.
Ram Narain Saxena	1st November 1933.
Harbans Singh Bawa	4th April 1934.
Gurbakhsh Singh	11th July 1933.
Abdul Hamid Khan	25th July 1932.
Wazir Chand	1st June 1933.
Mohamed Barkat Ullah	19th July 1934.
Satya Prakash	13th June 1934.
Mohinder Singh	12th March 1935.

It is not known which of them elected to serve on in the ranks.

- (iv) Sultan Muqarrab.
- Joginder Singh.
- Swarup Singh.
- Jagat Singh.
- Vithalrao Jadhav.
- Sampuran Bachan Singh.
- Jal Sorab Cama.
- Manohar Lal Katyul.
- Sadiq Ullah Khan.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF THE SUBORDINATE STAFF ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

261. **Sardar Sant Singh:** Will Government be pleased to place a statement on the table of this House, showing the number and percentage of subordinate staff, excluding labourers and inferior servants, employed on the North Western Railway by communities on the 31st December, 1934 in the following departments: Agency, Engineering, Transportation (Traffic and Commercial), Mechanical Engineering and Transportation (Power), Stores, Electrical, Medical, Accounts and others?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The latest information in regard to communal representation in railway subordinate services which gives the position on the 31st March, 1934, is given on pages 107--110 of Volume I of the Report by the Railway Board on Indian Railways for 1933-34.

CERTAIN INFORMATION IN RESPECT OF THE BOMBAY, CALCUTTA AND MADRAS GENERAL POST OFFICES.

262. **Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** Will Government be pleased to place on the table a statement showing the following information in respect of the Bombay, Calcutta and Madras General Post Offices, separately:

- (i) number of selection grade posts of Rs. 250—350;
- (ii) number of selection grade posts of Rs. 160—250;
- (iii) number of Time Scale Supervisors;
- (iv) number of clerks (Upper Division);
- (v) number of clerks (Lower Division);
- (vi) number of sorting postmen;
- (vii) number of Overseers;
- (viii) number of postmen; and
- (ix) number of inferior and other miscellaneous staff?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: Information has been called for and a statement will be placed on the table of the House in due course.

CERTAIN STAFF IN THE BOMBAY, CALCUTTA AND MADRAS GENERAL POST OFFICES.

263. **Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** (a) Will Government be pleased to place on the table a statement showing the number of (i) selection grade posts, (ii) time-scale supervisory posts; (iii) clerks of the staff, accounts, correspondence, sorting, money order, savings bank, delivery, deposit, sub-accounts, registration, and parcel departments of the Bombay, Calcutta and Madras General Posts Offices, separately, for each department?

(b) How many Town Inspectors are there in each of these three offices?

(c) How many town sub-offices are there in each of these towns?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a)—(c). Information has been called for and a statement will be placed on the table of the House in due course.

RENT OF POST OFFICE BUILDINGS IN BOMBAY, CALCUTTA, MADRAS AND RANGOON.

264. **Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the total amount of rent paid for the occupation of the Post Office buildings in Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and Rangoon in the year 1920-21 and in the year 1933-34?

(b) Has there been any increase in the payment of house rent?

(c) If the reply to part (b) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state what is the cause of the increase?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) The attached statement furnishes the information required by the Honourable Member.

(b) Yes.

(c) The increase is due to (i) the general rise in house-rents, (ii) the provision of additional accommodation for certain post offices necessitated by the growth of business, (iii) the removal of certain post offices to more spacious and centrally located buildings, and (iv) the opening of certain new post offices.

Statement showing the total amount of rent paid for the occupation of the Post Office Buildings in Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and Rangoon in the years 1920-21 and 1933-34.

Name of station.	Amount of rent paid during the year 1920-21.	Amount of rent paid during the year 1933-34.	Increase (+) Decrease (—).
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Bombay .	70,931	1,15,799	(+ 44, 868
Calcutta .	67,317	1,37,998	(+ 70,681
Madras .	18,991	33,388	(+ 14,397
Rangoon	3,984	6,980	(+ 2,996

CLERKS IN CERTAIN SUB-POST OFFICES IN CALCUTTA.

265. **Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of clerks working in the following offices?

(i) Shyambazar, (ii) Kidderpore, (iii) Bhowanipur, (iv) Kalighat, and (v) Elgin Road, Calcutta.

(b) Will Government please also state who remains in charge of these offices during the day when the Sub-Postmasters remain off duty?

(c) Do they get any special pay? If not, why not?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) (i). Shyambazar—12 (including one Deputy Sub-Postmaster on time-scale of pay).

(ii) Kidderpore—ten.

(iii) Bhowanipur—nine (including one Deputy Sub-Postmaster on time-scale of pay).

(iv) Kalighat—eight.

(v) Elgin Road—nine.

(b) In the Shyambazar and Bhowanipur Town Sub-offices, the Deputy Sub-Postmaster remains in charge, while in the remaining three offices, the senior clerks remains in charge.

(c) As regards the first part of the question, the reply is in the negative. In regard to the second part, I may inform the Honourable Member that the senior clerks who look after the office generally during the short period of the day when the Sub-Postmaster is off duty are not entitled to any special pay. The question of granting special pay to the Deputy Sub-Postmaster of the Shyambazar and Bhowanipur Town Sub-Offices who perform definite and wholly supervisory duties is under examination.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE OF THE POST OFFICE BRANCH.

266. **Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the income and expenditure for the year 1983-84 of the Post Office branches in each Circle separately?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: As the accounts of the Department are not kept by Circles, Government regret that they are unable readily to furnish the information. Special preparation would involve an expenditure of time and labour, which would be incommensurate with the value of the result.

PAY AND ALLOWANCES OF BRITISH AND INDIAN SOLDIERS AND OFFICERS OF THE ARMY.

267. **Dr. P. N. Banerjee:** Will Government be pleased to make a full statement relating to the pay and allowances of:

- (i) a British private,
- (ii) an Indian Sepoy,
- (iii) a British Commissioned officer,
- (iv) an Indian officer with a King's Commission,
- (v) an Indian officer with a Viceroy's Commission,
- (vi) a British non-commissioned officer, and
- (vii) an Indian non-commissioned officer?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: The information desired by the Honourable Member will be found in the Royal Warrant for Pay and the Pay and Allowance Regulations, Parts I and II and Part I—Special, copies of which are available in the Library.

COST OF BRITISH AND INDIAN INFANTRY AND CAVALRY BATTALIONS.

268. **Dr. P. N. Banerjee:** Will Government be pleased to state the cost of:

- (i) a British infantry battalion,
- (ii) an Indian infantry battalion,
- (iii) a British cavalry battalion,
- (iv) an Indian cavalry battalion, and
- (v) an artillery unit?

Mr. G. B. F. Tottenham: The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the statement on page 25 of the "Budget Estimates of Expenditure on Defence Services, 1935-36".

INCREMENTS MADE TO THE SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES OF BRITISH AND INDIAN SOLDIERS AND OFFICERS OF THE ARMY.

269. Dr. P. N. Banerjea: Will Government be pleased to state what increments have been made to the salaries and allowances of:

- (i) a British private,
- (ii) an Indian sepoy,
- (iii) a British Commissioned officer,
- (iv) an Indian officer with a King's Commission,
- (v) an Indian officer with a Viceroy's Commission,
- (vi) a British non-commissioned officer, and
- (vii) an Indian non-commissioned officer?

since the last European War?

Mr. G. B. F. Tottenham: The correction slips, in the books referred to in my answer to unstarred question No. 267, will show where any alteration has been made in the rates of pay and allowances since their original publication. To provide a complete answer to the question would involve an expenditure of time and labour incommensurate with the result.

AMOUNT OF INCREASE IN THE ARMY EXPENDITURE.

270. Dr. P. N. Banerjea: Will Government be pleased to state the amount of increase in the army expenditure since the pre-war year 1913-14, giving the details of increase under different heads and mentioning the causes of the increase in each case?

Mr. G. B. F. Tottenham: It would involve an unnecessary amount of labour to collect all the information the Honourable Member asks for, but much of it he will find in the pamphlet "Some Facts and Figures about Indian Defence, 1935-36", a copy of which was furnished to him last month.

INCOME FROM THE SALE OF REVENUE STAMPS AND POSTAGE STAMPS.

271. Mr. V. V. Giri: Will Government be pleased to place on the table a statement showing the total amount of income from the sale of revenue stamps from April 1934 to January 1935, together with the total amount of sale of postage stamps for the corresponding period?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: I lay on the table two statements giving the information available.

STATEMENT I.

Statement showing the revenue realized by the Provincial Governments during the period 1st April, 1934, to 31st October, 1934, from the sale of New Revenue Stamps.

Provincial Government.	Amount of Revenue.		
	Rs.	A.	P.
(1) Madras	5,04,049	0	0
(2) Bombay	4,64,293	14	1
(3) Bengal	4,94,452	13	8
(4) United Provinces	2,62,859	0	0
(5) Punjab	2,03,800	7	0
(6) Central Provinces	68,175	0	0
(7) Bihar and Orissa	1,02,145	0	0
(8) Assam	23,369	7	0
(9) Coorg	2,526	0	0

NOTE.—The above information relates only to those Provinces where the new Revenue Stamps are used and which, previous to the introduction of these stamps received annual assignments from the Posts and Telegraphs Department on account of the use of Unified Stamps for revenue purposes. The new Revenue Stamps have not been introduced in Burma while the North-West Frontier Province was a Central Administration and no assignment was paid to the Local Government by the Posts and Telegraph Department. Statistics for later period November to January, 1935, are not available at present.

STATEMENT II.

Statement showing receipts from the sale of postage stamps of all denominations during the period April, 1934, to January, 1935.

Postal Circle.	Amount of revenue.
	Rs.
(1) Central	36,12,094
(2) Burma	35,50,558
(3) Bihar and Orissa	28,34,731
(4) Bengal and Assam	1,15,81,087
(5) United Provinces	60,97,135
(6) Punjab and North-West Frontier Province	97,28,479
(7) Madras	1,17,44,510
(8) Sind and Baluchistan	24,42,702
(9) Bombay	1,31,69,810
(10) Wireless—Deduct amount of charges for fees for Wireless licenses, certificates, etc. realized in postage stamps and subsequently credited to the head "Postage and Message Revenue"	1,05,500
Total	6,46,55,606

CERTAIN PARTICULARS ABOUT CERTAIN POST OFFICES AND POSTAL MATTERS.

272. **Mr. V. V. Giri:** Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the following particulars for the year 1933-34:

- (i) total number of money orders issued and paid in India and Burma;
- (ii) total number of money orders issued and paid in Bengal and Assam Circle excluding Calcutta;
- (iii) total number of money orders issued and paid in Calcutta;
- (iv) total number of V.P.P. articles in India and Burma;
- (v) total number of V.P.P. articles in Bengal and Assam Circle (excluding Calcutta);

- (vi) total number of V.P.P. articles issued in Calcutta;
- (vii) total number of V.P.P. articles issued in Bombay Circle (excluding Bombay), and Bombay separately;
- (viii) total number of money orders issued and paid in Bombay Circle (excluding Bombay), and Bombay separately;
- (ix) total number of Savings Bank transactions in India and Burma;
- (x) total number of Savings Bank transactions in (1) Bombay Circle excluding Bombay, (2) Bombay, (3) Bengal and Assam Circle excluding Calcutta, (4) Calcutta, (5) Madras Circle excluding Madras, and (6) Madras;
- (xi) total number of letters posted and delivered in India and Burma;
- (xii) total number of letters, packets, etc. (unregistered), posted and delivered from the following places:
- (1) Bombay Circle excluding Bombay,
 - (2) Bombay,
 - (3) Bengal and Assam Circle excluding Calcutta, and
 - (4) Calcutta;
- (xiii) total number of registered articles and parcels posted and delivered in India and Burma; and
- (xiv) total number of registered articles and parcels posted and delivered from the following places:
- (1) Bombay Circle excluding Bombay,
 - (2) Bombay,
 - (3) Bengal and Assam Circle excluding Calcutta, and
 - (4) Calcutta?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: A statement furnishing the information required by the Honourable Member, as far as it is available, is appended.

Statement showing the statistics of certain classes of postal articles for the year 1933-34.

	Issued.	Paid.
(i) Total number of money orders issued and paid in India and Burma	37,567,000	37,971,000
(ii) Total number of money orders issued and paid in Bengal and Assam Circle excluding Calcutta	8,194,000	5,984,000
(iii) Total number of money orders issued and paid in Calcutta	2,253,000	2,952,000
(iv) Total number of V. P. articles in India and Burma	8,777,000*	
(v) Total number of V. P. articles in Bengal and Assam Circle (excluding Calcutta)	464,000*	
(vi) Total number of V. P. articles issued in Calcutta	1,861,000	
(vii) Total number of V. P. articles issued in Bombay Circle (excluding Bombay), and Bombay separately—		
(a) Bombay Circle excluding Bombay	555,000	
(b) Bombay	1,017,000	

* Figures relating to V. P. articles posted have been shown.

	Issued.	Paid.
(viii) Total number of money orders issued and paid in Bombay Circle (excluding Bombay), and Bombay separately—		
(a) Bombay Circle excluding Bombay	2,839,000	2,857,000
(b) Bombay	1,496,000	1,861,000
(ix) Total number of Savings Bank transactions in India and Burma		10,008,000
(x) Total number of Savings Bank transactions in—		
(1) Bombay Circle excluding Bombay		891,000
(2) Bombay		300,000
(3) Bengal and Assam Circle excluding Calcutta		1,782,000
(4) Calcutta		594,000
(5) Madras Circle excluding Madras		1,440,000
and		
(6) Madras		186,000
(xi) Total number of letters posted and delivered in India and Burma—		
Registered		28,189,000
Unregistered (estimated)		428,708,000
(xii) Total number of letters, packets, etc. (unregistered), posted and delivered from the following places :—		
(1) Bombay Circle excluding Bombay—		
(a) Unregistered articles of the letter mail		123,869,000
(b) Unregistered parcels		733,000
Total unregistered articles		124,602,000
(2) Bombay—		
(a) Unregistered articles of the letter mail		61,066,000
(b) Unregistered parcels		126,000
Total unregistered articles		61,192,000
(3) Bengal and Assam Circle excluding Calcutta—		
(a) Unregistered articles of the letter mail		141,637,000
(b) Unregistered parcels		264,000
Total unregistered articles		141,901,000
(4) Calcutta—		
(a) Unregistered articles of the letter mail		62,783,000
(b) Unregistered parcels		74,000
Total unregistered articles		62,857,000
(xiii) Total number of registered articles and parcels posted and delivered in India and Burma :—		
(a) Registered articles of the letter mail		31,323,000
(b) Registered articles of the parcel mail		9,864,000
Total registered articles		41,187,000

* Figures relating to number of Registered (including insured and V. P. (letters posted and estimated number of Unregistered letters received for delivery, which are available, have been shown.

† Figures relating to number of unregistered letters, packets, etc. received for delivery and unregistered parcels posted, which are available, have been shown.

‡ Figures relating to number of registered articles and parcels posted, which are available, have been shown.

(*vide*) Total number of registered articles and parcels posted and delivered from the following places :—

(1) Bombay Circle excluding Bombay—	
(a) Registered articles of the letter mail	2,278,000
(b) Registered articles of the parcel mail	609,000
Total registered articles	2,887,000
(2) Bombay—	
(a) Registered articles of the letter mail	2,297,000
(b) Registered articles of the parcel mail	921,000
Total registered articles	3,218,000
(3) Bengal and Assam Circle excluding Calcutta—	
(a) Registered articles of the letter mail	3,669,000
(b) Registered articles of the parcel mail	868,000
Total registered articles	4,535,000
(4) Calcutta—	
(a) Registered articles of the letter mail	3,237,000
(b) Registered articles of the parcel mail	1,580,000
Total registered articles	4,817,000

* Figures relating to number of registered articles and parcels posted, which are available, have been shown.

CLERKS, POSTMEN, SORTERS, ETC., IN EACH POSTAL CIRCLE AND RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE DIVISION.

273. **Mr. V. V. Giri:** Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the following information :

- (a) (i) clerks, (ii) postmen, (iii) selection grade posts of Rs. 160—250, and (iv) selection grade posts of Rs. 250—350 retrenched from April 1934 to January 1935 in each Circle separately; and
- (b) (i) sorters, (ii) selection grade posts of Rs. 160—250, and (iii) Inspectors in each R. M. S. Division, separately from April 1934 to January 1935?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) and (b). Government regret that they are unable to furnish the information as its collection would involve an undue expenditure of time and labour.

SUBSIDY PAID TO AIRWAYS COMPANIES FOR CARRYING AIR MAILS AND INCOME FROM AIR MAIL ARTICLES.

274. **Mr. V. V. Giri:** (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the total amount of subsidy paid to the different Airways companies for carrying air mails in India and outside India?

(b) What was the total number of postal articles carried by these mail companies from 1st April to 31st January, 1935, and the weight of the mails?

(c) What is the total income from the air mail articles?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) and (c). The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to parts (a) and (b) of Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury's starred question No. 507 in this House on the 19th March, 1934.

(b) No account of the number of postal articles despatched by air is maintained and Government are not, therefore, in a position to supply the information required. An account of the weight of mails carried is, however, maintained and a statement showing the weight of the mails carried during the period 1st April, 1934, to 31st January, 1935, by the different air services, is attached.

Statement of the weight of mails carried by different Air services in India and outside India from 1st April, 1934 to 31st January, 1935.

N.B.—The figures below represent the weight of mails for which India pays air conveyance charges to the companies, i.e., mails originating in India and Burma, and mails for which transit charges are recovered by the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department from foreign Postal Administrations.

Air Services.	Name of company.	Weight of air mails.	
		lb.	oz.
1. Karachi-Croydon	Imperial Airways, Ltd.	*67,833	14½
2. Karachi-Singapore	I. T. C. A., Ltd.	35,813	14½
3. Singapore-Australia	Qantas Empire Airways	†253	8½
4. K. L. M. (Dutch)	The Dutch (K. L. M.) Company	347	6½
5. Air France (French)	The French (Air France) Company	703	1
6. Perth-Adelaide	West Australian Airways, Ltd.	557	3
7. Karachi-Madras	Messrs. Tata Sons, Ltd.	37,138	2½
8. Calcutta-Dacca	Indian National Airways, Ltd.	1,418	12
9. Calcutta-Rangoon	Ditto	2,148	9½
10. Karachi-Lahore	Ditto	†4,552	14½

*This excludes 2,636 lbs. 3 ozs. of air mail parcels despatched from India for U. K.

†This represents the weight of mails from the middle of December 1934 when the service was introduced.

‡This represents the weight of mails from 4th December 1934 when the service was introduced.

VACANCIES IN THE CADRE OF MEDICAL OFFICERS ON RAILWAYS.

275. **Mr. Anugrah Narayan Sinha:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- the number of vacancies in the cadre of Medical Officers under Government railways during the last five years;
- how many of these vacancies were filled by direct appointments and how many by promotion; and
- how many of these appointments went to the candidates from the Province of Bihar and Orissa?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) On the State-managed Railways there were seven vacancies during the five years ending the 31st March, 1935.

(b) Five vacancies were filled by direct recruitment and two by promotion.

(c) None.

CARRIAGE OF MAIL BY TONGA FROM SHANKER GARH IN THE GURDASPUR DISTRICT.

276. Bhai Parma Nand: (a) Is it a fact that mail is sent from Shanker Garh, District Gurdaspur (Punjab) to out stations on contract by means of tonga?

(b) Is it a fact that the town of Shanker Garh has been connected by railway line?

(c) Is it a fact that soon after that, the people of Shanker Garh represented by several memorials to authorities that the mail be carried by railway instead of by tonga and that these representations of the people have remained unattended to?

(d) Is it a fact that the mail by tonga takes double the time and in rainy season treble the time which would have been taken by the Railway?

(e) If the answer to parts (c) and (d) be in the affirmative, are Government prepared to enquire into this case and take necessary action?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) to (e). Government have no information, but I have called for a report on receipt of which I will take suitable action.

COMMUNAL PARTIALITIES IN CONNECTION WITH THE APPOINTMENT OF THE HEAD MISTRESS OF THE GOVERNMENT GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL, AJMER.

277. Bhai Parma Nand: (a) Is it a fact that the Ajmer-Merwara Education Department follows the United Provinces Education Code, which provides that a District Inspecting Officer shall have complete knowledge of both forms of vernacular (Urdu and Hindi)?

(b) Is it a fact that on a recent appointment of Head Mistress of the Government Girls High School, Ajmer, who has to perform the duties of Assistant Inspectress of Girls Schools, the rule was ignored on the ground of her belonging to a particular religion, and the claim of another better qualified lady who did not belong to that religion, was set at naught?

(c) Has the Chief Commissioner of Ajmer-Merwara received any representation, both from the Hindus and Muslims, against this step of the Department?

(d) Has the attention of Government been drawn to an article in the *Hindustan Times* of the 3rd October, 1934 giving an expression of the feeling of the public resentment with reference to the partiality of the Department to a certain community?

(e) If the answer to parts (c) and (d) be in the affirmative, are Government prepared to take steps to remove the grievance of the public on account of communal partialities?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) The United Provinces Educational Code is followed by the Ajmer-Merwara Education Department as far as possible.

(b) No; the lady who was appointed to the post possesses exceptionally good qualifications.

(c) Four representations were received; two urging, and two opposing, a different appointment. No protest was received, however, after the selection had been made.

(d) Yes.

(e) Government do not consider that the allegations in the newspaper cutting referred to by the Honourable Member are correct.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS STARTED BY GOVERNMENT IN THE CENTRALLY ADMINISTERED AREAS AND PAY OF TEACHERS IN THEM.

278. **Seth Sheodass Daga:** (a) Will Government lay on the table a list of schools and other educational institutions which were started by Government in the centrally administered areas of India with a five years' educational programme as a result of a Resolution of the Legislative Assembly passed about nine years back?

(b) How many of these educational institutions have since then proved a success and been confirmed as permanent institutions? What are the names of such institutions?

(c) Is it a fact that the staff appointed in these institutions were given grades only for five years?

(d) Have the grades of these teachers been revised since then? If so, will Government please state the names of institutions, the teachers of which have been given revised grades, and also the names of those institutions, the teachers of which have not been given revised grades?

(e) Are Government prepared to consider the advisability of revising the grades of these teachers?

(f) If the answer to part (e) be in the negative, do Government contemplate to keep these teachers in their present grades for another twenty-five years of their service? If so, what new principle has been evolved to apply to these Government servants?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: Complete information is not readily available, and its collection from local authorities would involve an expenditure of time and labour which would be incommensurate with the value of the results.

CONFIRMATION OF STAFF RE-EMPLOYED IN THE OFFICE OF THE ACCOUNTANT GENERAL, CENTRAL REVENUES.

279. **Seth Sheodass Daga:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the normal period in which a qualified man is generally confirmed in the various Departments of the Government of India?

(b) Is it a fact that the re-employed personnel retrenched from the main office of the Accountant General, Central Revenues, have rendered service ranging between four to six years and have not yet been confirmed? If so, do Government propose to look to their early confirmation?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: (a) A qualified man, recruited against a permanent vacancy in the Departments of the Government of India, is ordinarily confirmed after the satisfactory completion of one year's probation. The confirmation of a person recruited, against a deputation or leave

vacancy, or to fill up a temporary post added to the cadre, depends on the occurrence of a vacancy in the permanent cadre, and it is not possible to specify the normal period after which such a person will be confirmed.

(b) Yes. The personnel to whom the question refers will be confirmed when it is possible to do so.

SCHEME OF RECORD CLERKS INTRODUCED IN THE OFFICE OF THE ACCOUNTANT GENERAL, CENTRAL REVENUES.

280. Seth Sheodass Daga: (a) Is it a fact that the scheme of record clerks recently introduced in the Audit Department was postponed in the Office of the Accountant General, United Provinces? If so, why was this scheme given effect to in the Office of the Accountant General, Central Revenues, even before the formal sanction of the Government of India was obtained? Were the circumstances in which it was postponed by the Accountant General, United Provinces, equally applicable in the case of the Office of the Accountant General, Central Revenues? Are such questions of vital importance decided simply on the recommendation of the individual officers?

(b) Is it a fact that the Auditor General had been pleased to order that this scheme of record clerks should be introduced in such a way that the interest of the retrenched personnel be not prejudiced and their even flow not checked? If so, why were record clerks in batches recruited when there was a large number of retrenched clerks still unprovided for, and why was it always that the re-employed clerk was discharged on the termination of any temporary post while the record clerks were allowed to continue in service irrespective of seniority?

(c) Is it a fact that the Accountant General, Central Revenues, has further submitted a scheme of routine clerks for the consideration of the Auditor General? If so, do Government propose to see that the interest of the temporary and re-employed personnel in that office in the matter of their confirmation in their respective scales is not affected in any way?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: (a) No. The scheme of Record Clerks is not peculiar to the office of the Accountant General, Central Revenues, but is being introduced as a general measure of economy in all Civil Audit offices under the Auditor-General at the suggestion of an officer who was placed on special duty by the Government of India in connection with the revision of scales of pay.

(b) Yes. In the Accountant-General, Central Revenues' office, Record Clerks were entertained in additional temporary posts created for routine duties, and not against regular clerical posts in which the retrenched clerks are usually appointed.

(c) Yes. In introducing any scheme of record and routine clerks the Auditor-General will carefully watch the interests of retrenched personnel.

ABOLITION OF THE POSTS OF SPECIAL RELIEVING STATION MASTERS IN THE KOTAH DISTRICT OF THE BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY.

281. Mr. B. B. Varma: Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a number of posts of Special Relieving Station

Masters of the grade of Rs. 165 per mensem and Rs. 120 per mensem have been abolished in Kotah District of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, and if so, how many?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Government have no information. These matters are disposed of finally by the Agent, Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway.

RELIEVING STATION MASTERS ASKED TO OFFICIATE AS DEPUTY STATION MASTERS OF GANGPUR CITY OR KOTAH JUNCTION.

282. **Mr. B. B. Varma:** (a) Is it a fact that Relieving Station Masters drawing Rs. 85 per mensem are asked to officiate as Deputy Station Masters of Gangpur city or Kotah Junction or as Controllers, who draw more than Rs. 225 per mensem?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state whether the staff drawing substantive pay of Rs. 85 per mensem are dealt with in the same manner as those drawing Rs. 225 to Rs. 300, when the former relieve the latter and commit same or similar mistakes?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Government have no information. The matters referred to are entirely within the competence of the Agent, Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, to decide.

STAFF GIVEN COMPULSORY LEAVE WITHOUT PAY ON THE BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY.

283. **Mr. B. B. Varma:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of staff given compulsory leave without pay in slack season on the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway?

(b) Is it a fact that complaints have been made that new staff are recruited, ignoring the claims of those on compulsory leave due to slack traffic on the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway?

(c) If so, are Government prepared to recommend to the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway to give preference to those on compulsory leave before engaging new staff?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The Agent, Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, reports:

“(a) 170 men were on compulsory leave during the last slack season.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.”

DUTIES PERFORMED BY THE DEPUTY STATION MASTERS AND GUARDS AT CERTAIN STATIONS ON THE BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY.

284. **Mr. B. B. Varma:** (a) Is it a fact that the Deputy Station Master of Idgah, Agra, Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, has to work as a signaller as well as a ticket collector?

(b) Is it a fact that a former guard of Agra-Belanganj line is now asked to work at Idgah as a menial brakesman and ticket collector alternately?

(c) Is it a fact that the Deputy Station Master of Shamgarh is asked to work as a signaller, booking clerk and ticket collector?

(d) Is it also a fact that a Deputy Station Master of Rutlam Station is required to supervise staff and work at two platforms considerably distant from each other?

(e) If the reply to the previous parts be in the affirmative, what are the reasons for the same?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Government have no information and are not prepared to interfere in these matters of detail which are entirely within the competence of the local Railway Administration to decide.

GRANT OF AN ALLOWANCE TO TICKET COLLECTORS ACTING AS GUARDS IN THE RUTLAM DISTRICT.

285. **Mr. B. B. Varma:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in Rutlam District, permanent ticket collectors drawing Rs. 55 or Rs. 70 per mensem are posted in the acting vacancies of guards in the grade of Rs. 140 without any relieving or acting allowance?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether the Railway Administration propose to grant relieving or acting allowance to the staff concerned in this respect?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Government have no information, but have sent a copy of the question to the Agent, Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, who has full powers in these matters.

RELIEF OF THE STAFF GRANTED LEAVE IN THE KOTAH DISTRICT OF THE BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY.

286. **Mr. B. B. Varma:** (a) Is it a fact that it rests only with District Traffic Superintendent, Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, Kotah District, to sanction due leave and passes and with Traffic Inspectors to make arrangements for relief of the staff, with the result that several cases occur in which although leave is sanctioned, staff are not timely relieved, or though relieved from duty after sanction of leave, passes are not timely received?

(b) Are Government prepared to ascertain from the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway Administration whether it is a fact that a pointsman, named Badri of Bandbarsta, claimed damages from his Traffic Inspector for not relieving him from duty in time to enable him to remove his wife to the Civil Hospital, Agra, with the result that she died due to inadequate medical assistance?

(c) Are Government prepared to enquire whether the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway Administration investigated this case, and state what steps have been taken to prevent recurrence of such cases in future?

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

NOTICE OF DISCHARGE SERVED ON ASH-PIT CLEANERS IN RUNNING SHEDS OF THE BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY.

287. **Mr. B. B. Varma:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether more than 250 ash-pit cleaners in running sheds on the broad gauge line of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway have been recently served with notices of discharge and their work handed over to private contractors? If so, have the concerned Railway Unions been consulted in the matter? If not, why not?

(b) Are Government aware that the Whitley Commission recommended that departmental labour should be substituted for contract labour and if that the action of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway is contrary to that?

(c) Are Government aware that by the proposed steps, the service conditions of the staff employed in the same labour will be drastically curtailed, and are Government prepared to recommend to the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway Administration not to substitute contract labour for the existing departmental labour?

Mr. P. E. Rau: (a) and (c). The Agent, Bombay Baroda and Central India Railway, reports:

"The cleaning of ash-pits is being done at present by departmental labour. It was proposed to do the work in future by contract at an estimated saving of approximately Rs. 1,200 per mensem. The proposal would result in the services of 185 purely temporary men and 11 permanent men being dispensed with. The proposal is still under consideration."

(b) Government are aware of the recommendation of the Royal Commission on Labour referred to. After considering this recommendation the Railway Board came to the conclusion that this matter is one which must be left to the discretion of the Agents and that the most efficient and economical method of undertaking particular works must be adopted in each case.

STAFF DISCHARGED ON ACCOUNT OF INDEBTEDNESS ON THE BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY.

288. **Mr. B. B. Varma:** Will Government be pleased to state the number of staff discharged on the ground of indebtedness on Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway?

Mr. P. E. Rau: The information is not readily available.

STAFF IN CAWNPORE-TUNDLA DOUBLING WORK AWAITING EMPLOYMENT.

289. **Mr. B. B. Varma:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Agent (Engineering), East Indian Railway, Calcutta, requested the Divisional Superintendent, Allahabad, under letter No. E. E.-8875 of the 22nd March, 1933, that all doubling staff discharged should be given employment in vacancies in divisions, and that none of them has so far been given work, and that new men have been appointed in suitable vacancies?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state how many of the doubling staff in Cawnpore-Tundla Doubling are still awaiting employment?

Mr. P. E. Rau: Government have no information; but have sent a copy of the question to the Agent, East Indian Railway, for any action he may consider necessary.

LOCOMOTIVE REQUIREMENTS OF RAILWAYS.

290. Mr. V. V. Giri: (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Raven Committee in paragraph 205 of their Report laid down a formula for assessing the locomotive requirements of Railways?

(b) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of locomotives in excess of requirements on the basis of Raven Committee's formula on State-owned Railways in each gauge respectively?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the number of average men-days per heavy locomotive repair in each railway workshop?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state the present percentage of supervision on numbers and wages in every State-owned Railway workshop on the lines contained in paragraphs 195 and 196 of the Raven Committee Report?

Mr. P. E. Rau: (a) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) The figures are as follows:

Eastern Bengal Railway	Nil.
North Western Railway	15 Broad Gauge.
Burma Railways	39 Metre Gauge.
Great Indian Peninsula Railway	108 Broad Gauge.
East Indian Railway	50 Broad Gauge.

(c) The information is not available as "Men-day" statements are not maintained in the State Railway Locomotive Workshops.

(d) The information is not readily available and the labour involved in compilation would be incommensurate with its value.

BUILDING OF STEEL COACHES FOR RAILWAYS.

291. Mr. V. V. Giri: (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that certain Railways have opined against building steel coaches and if so, which Railways?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is intended to indent any steel coaches for 1935-36 and if so, will Government be pleased to state whether thereby carriage building programme in railway workshops will be affected and if so, to what extent?

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

(b) Government are not aware of any proposals to indent for all steel coaches in 1935-36.

OPERATIONS AND REPAIRS IN THE STATE RAILWAY WORKSHOPS.

292. **Mr. V. V. Giri:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the volume and nature of manufacturing operations undertaken in each State-owned Railway workshop and the corresponding number of men-days of work in 1934-35 and provided for 1935-36?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state similar information in regard to repair work in each Locomotive Carriage and Wagon Shop of each State-owned Railway for the same periods?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) and (b). The information is not readily available and the labour involved in its compilation would be incommensurate with its value.

CAPITAL OUTLAY AND RECURRING NON-LABOUR CHARGES ON EACH RAILWAY WORKSHOP.

293. **Mr. V. V. Giri:** Will Government be pleased to state the amount of capital outlay and recurring non-labour charges incurred on each Railway workshop in 1934-35 and provided for 1935-36?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The information is not readily available and the labour involved in its compilation would be incommensurate with its value.

PROVISION IN THE BUDGET FOR DONATION TO EUROPEAN VAGRANTS.

294. **Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will Government state:

- (a) whether they are aware of a provision of Rs. 8,500 non-voted and Rs. 6,700 voted for donations for charitable purposes and charges on account of European vagrants (in Demand No. 76);
- (b) which are the charitable purposes for which these provisions are intended;
- (c) for which charitable purposes the amount was spent in the year 1933-34;
- (d) how much of these provisions was spent for charitable purposes and how much on account of European vagrants;
- (e) who gives these donations for charitable purposes; and
- (f) what is the nature of expenses under this head for European vagrants?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) Yes.

(b) The charitable purposes for which the provision is made are:

- (1) the repatriation of destitute Indians from abroad who are, in the great majority of cases, pilgrims; also repatriation from India of European insanes.
- (2) subsistence allowance to distressed seamen.
- (3) European vagrants, and
- (4) burial charges of paupers and charges on account of crews of vessels sailing under British Colours ship-wrecked while trading between Indian ports.

(c) and (d). The provision was distributed between the Governments of India, Madras, Bombay, Bengal and Burma. The details of expenditure by the Provincial Governments are not available. The expenditure of the Government of India in 1933-34 on charitable purposes was:

<u>Nov-vot'd</u>	.	On account of repatriation of British Indian subjects from Iraq and Persia.
Rs. 9,441		
<u>Vot'd</u>		
Rs. 9,573		
Rs. 5,021	.	. Repatriation charges.
Rs. 321	.	. Funeral expenses.
Rs. 31	.	. European Vagrants.

(e) The expenditure is sanctioned by the Departments of the Government of India concerned and by Local Governments as the case may be.

(f) Pecuniary help.

SUBSCRIPTION TO NEWS AGENCIES FOR SUPPLY OF TELEGRAMS.

295. **Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will Government state:

- (a) whether they have an item of expenditure of Rs. 61,200 in the Budget estimate 1935-36 for subscription to news agencies for supply of telegrams under Demand No. 76;
- (b) what are the details of this expenditure;
- (c) who are the agencies to whom it is disbursed;
- (d) whether these news charges were paid to the news agencies as a monopoly price, or whether tender is invited for the supply of these news and then an arrangement was come to;
- (e) whether the companies, that are now supplying news to the Government are Indian or European; and
- (f) whether Government are prepared to consider the advisability of encouraging Indian news agencies?

The Honourable Sir Henry Oak: (a) to (e) and (e). The sum of Rs. 61,200 provided in Demand No. 76-Miscellaneous to meet the cost of subscriptions to news agencies for supply of news telegrams is made up of (1) Rs. 49,200 which is the annual subscription to be paid under contract to Messrs. Reuters, Ltd., a *European* concern, and (2) Rs. 12,000 which represents the provision required to meet the cost of subscriptions to the Indian News Agency, an *Indian* concern, for the supply of its news telegrams.

(d) and (f). The arrangements made with Messrs. Reuters, Ltd., are of long standing dating as far back as 1873, when the Government of India entered into an agreement with this agency for the supply of their news services to Government officials on payment of a fixed annual subscription. The existing arrangement under which the Indian News Agency supply their news service to Government officials on ordinary commercial terms is also of long standing, dating from 1911.

SEATS IN THE THIRD CLASS CARRIAGES ON THE SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY.

296. **Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar:** (a) Are Government aware that third class carriages on the South Indian Railway have two seats on either side of the compartment with a long corridor passage in the middle?

(b) Are Government aware that these seats are neither broad enough nor long enough for one passenger to lie down even when there is accommodation? If not, are they prepared to at least make enquiries?

(c) Are Government prepared to order a reconditioning of the same when the reconditioning of the third class compartments is taken up in other lines of Railways?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) and (b). Yes, on the Metre Gauge section.

(c) Government are enquiring from the South Indian Railway, the services on which this particular design of carriage, is in use.

CLOSING OF LEVEL CROSSINGS ON THE MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA RAILWAY BETWEEN ARKANAM AMTATTUR.

297. **Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar:** (a) Are Government aware that the level crossings on the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway between Arkanam Amtattur are invariably closed and locked up even when there is no train in prospect?

(b) Are Government prepared to make enquiries?

(c) Are Government prepared to order the construction of over-bridges or under-ground passages, as in Delhi, so that motor and country carts may pass unhindered?

(d) If not, are Government prepared to take steps to see that the level-crossing gates are kept open when there are no trains in sight?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I am making enquiries from the Railway Administration and will lay a reply on the table in due course.

ACCIDENTS ON THE ELECTRIC LINE BETWEEN MADRAS AND TAMBARAM.

298. **Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar:** (a) Are Government aware that accidents occur very frequently on the electric line between Madras and Tambaram?

(b) Are Government prepared to take steps to prevent such accidents by constructing either over-bridges or under-ground passages, as is done in Delhi, so that pedastrains or vehicles may be saved from accident?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) and (b). Government are not aware that the number of accidents on this section is abnormal compared to those on other sections, or calls for special measures as suggested by the Honourable Member. The question of overbridges necessary over the South Indian Railway line in the Madras area was very fully discussed in 1929 with the Madras Government and the Madras Corporation and three overbridges were added as a result of the agreement arrived at after this discussion.

CONTRACTS FOR THE SUPPLY OF BALLAST STONES TO THE BURMA RAILWAYS.

299. **U Thein Maung:** Will Government please state what percentage in number and value of contracts for the supply of ballast stones to the Burma Railways has been given to Burmese contractors during the last three years?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I am making enquiries from the Railway Administration and will lay a reply on the table in due course.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 146 asked by Kunwar Hajee Ismail Ali Khan on the 19th July, 1934.

PILGRIMS TO HEDJAZ FROM EACH PROVINCE OF INDIA.

(a) The number of pilgrims, who proceeded to the Hedjaz by the direct sea route from the various Provinces of India, during the pilgrim season of 1933-34 is as follows:—

Province.	No. of pilgrim.
Madras	189
Bombay Presidency (excluding Sind)	1,128
Sind	465
Bengal and Assam	667
United Provinces	1,015
Punjab	1,811
Burma	47
Bihar and Orissa	109
Central Provinces	511
North-West Frontier Province	294
Baluchista	197
Delhi	175
Hyderabad (Deccan)	481
	7,089

In addition to the above, 754 Indian pilgrims proceeded to the Hedjaz by other routes, but information as to the provinces to which they belonged, is not available.

(b) The information is not available.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 63 asked by Mr. Nabi Baksh Illahi Baksh Bhutto on the 6th February, 1935.

TRANSFER OF SINDHIS WORKING IN THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY WORKSHOP AT SUKKUR TO LAHORE AND OTHER PLACES.

The Agent, North Western Railway, reports as follows :

(a) Yes. 113 were transferred.

(b) 50 Sindhis.

63 Non-Sindhis.

(c) The principle of detaining Sindhis in Sind was observed when arranging these transfers of staff from Sukkur as far as practicable. Out of 274 Sindhis originally employed only 50 were so transferred.

(d) Sindhi Muslims 50.

Muslims in general 89 (including Sindhi Muslims).

Information promised in reply to unstarred question No. 60 asked by Mr. Suryya Kumar Som, on the 22nd February, 1935.

SPANS OF THE BRIDGES OVER THE BRAHMAPUTRA ON THE ASSAM BENGAL RAILWAY NEAR MYMENSINGH.

(a) Soundings taken at the bridge site show that there is scarcely any alteration in the bed of the river since 1918. The flooding of the land on the eastern side during the rains is a normal occurrence and is in no way attributable to the bridge. The Railway Administration has no record of any complaints having been received from the local inhabitants either as regards the alleged silting of the river or the damage to cultivation by the flooding of the country to the east of the bridge.

(b) The bridge was designed originally with one central span of 250 feet and 8 spans of 100 feet. The headway allowed was 23 feet above High Flood Level. Subsequently the design was modified to two central spans of 200 feet, two spans of 150 feet and two spans of 100 feet, the headway remaining the same. Owing to the difficulty of obtaining girders of these spans during the War, representations were made to the Government of Bengal with a view to reducing the size of the spans. After protracted correspondence the Government of Bengal agreed to the bridge being constructed with 9 spans of 100 feet and a headway of 16 feet above High Flood Level on the condition that they could later on demand the substitution of two spans of 200 feet in place of four central spans together with a headway of 23 feet.

(c) No request has been received from the Government of Bengal to give effect to the condition mentioned in the concluding portion of the reply to (b).

(d) No complaints have been received by the Railway Administration from the Local Government or the business houses engaged in the Jute trade regarding the insufficiency of headway.

(e) The Railway Administration does not contemplate increasing the headway.

(f) A pontage charge is made by taking the distance for charge over the bridge as 10 miles. In the case of third class fares however the charge of Rs. 0-3-4 on a 10 mile basis was reduced to Re. 0-1-7 in 1932. The bridge proper is 996 feet long.

(g) About Rs. 9½ lakhs. The earnings from the additional charge are not allocated separately to the bridge and it is not possible to say without a detailed analysis of all traffic carried over this section, what the earnings from this addition to the mileage has been.

(h) and (i). The justification lies in the fact that the earnings of the Mymensingh Bhairab Bazar Railway, of which the bridge form a part, have not been such as to justify the Managing Agents agreeing to forego the pontage charge which is provided for under their contract.

Information promised in reply to parts (c) and (d) of starred question No. 505 asked by Mr. S. K. Hosmani on the 23rd February, 1935.

ABSENCE OF AN UNDERGROUND OR OVERHEAD PASSAGE FOR TRAFFIC AT GADAG STATION ON THE MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA RAILWAY.

(c) and (d). The Agent, Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway, estimates roughly that the cost of an overbridge at Gadag Station will be Rs. 3½ lakhs, if which Rs. 75,000 will be the cost of the bridge and Rs. 2,75,000 the cost of the approaches which would have to be met by the Gadag-Betgeri Municipality, were the suggestion of the Advisory Committee carried out. The Railway is addressing the Gadag Betgeri Municipality to enquire whether they will be prepared to bear a portion of the charges for making out a detailed estimate. This would cost Rs. 5,500.

Information promised in reply to unstarred questions Nos. 184 and 185 asked by Mr. B. B. Varma on the 9th March, 1935.

REFUSAL OF CERTAIN PRIVILEGES TO STATION MASTERS ON THE DELHI-UMBALA-KALKA SECTION.

No. 184. The Agent North Western Railway, reports :

"Last year Sonepat was the only station on the D. U. K. section at which the Station Master was not supplied with a *Punkha* coolie. This is being remedied during the current year.

Station Masters at Sonepat and Karnal did not receive supply of coal last year as they did not requisition for any."

NON-SUPPLY OF WINTER UNIFORM TO THE STATION MASTERS, ETC., IN THE DELHI DIVISION OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

No. 185. The Agent, North Western Railway, reports :

"According to the revised Dress Regulations of the North Western Railway now in force Yard Foremen are allowed uniform every year and Station Masters, Assistant Station Masters and Signallers every second year. This is due to the fact that the nature of the duties of a Yard Foreman involves greater wear and tear of uniform."

Information promised in reply to unstarred question No. 208 asked by Mr. N. M. Joshi on the 9th March, 1935.

STAFF QUARTERS AND HOUSE ALLOWANCES, ETC., AT HOWRAH.

(i) There are 178 European type staff quarters at Howrah, 751 Indian type staff quarters (out of which 82 quarters are for Indian subordinates and 669 for inferior staff).

(ii) 14 units are occupied by ministerial staff.

(iii) 915 units are occupied by station staff (out of which 246 are occupied by subordinates, and 669 are occupied by inferior staff).

(iv) Rs. 1,014-8-0 per mensem.

(v) Rs. 846 per mensem.

(vi) 333 subordinate staff under Claim I are without quarters.

88 subordinate staff under Claim II are without quarters.

181 subordinate staff under Claim III are without quarters.

NOTE :—The allocation of quarters is on the following lines :

First Claim.—Those who are eligible for rent free quarters or house rent allowance in lieu.

Second Claim.—Those who are required to live near the work and are liable to be called at any time for duty. Such as running staff—(this includes staff who in the ordinary course of their work are required to perform turns of night duty).

Third Claim.—Those who may be given quarters free of rent when available without admitting their claim for house rent allowance in lieu such as Train Examiner staff.

Fourth Claim.—To others at the discretion of Divisional Superintendent.

Information promised in reply to parts (c) and (d) of starred question No. 797 asked by Mr. Basanta Kumar Das on the 11th March, 1935.

REPORT OF THE ASSAM FLOOD ENQUIRY COMMITTEE.

(c) The Assam Flood Enquiry Committee recommended that afflux gauges should be fixed at certain mileages on the Kulaura Sylhet Branch and that openings should be provided at Miles 330/6, 231/10 and 232, the size and position of the openings to be decided after detailed examination.

The flood gauges were erected and records have been maintained of the flood levels every year. Flood gauges were also erected at the mileages where it was suggested waterways should be provided. Observations made during the years 1931-34 go to show that no openings are required at these places. In this connection it should be noted that the old waterways at these mileages, viz., Mile 230/6, 231/10 and 232 were not blocked by the Railway Company during the construction of the Kulaura Sylhet Branch but that they were blocked and blocked very effectively by the Local Board road 30 years before the Branch was even contemplated. If therefore, it is considered necessary to reopen all or any of these three old waterways, the cost of the bridges should be borne by the Local Government or the Local Board under clause II(a) (b) of the Railway Act.

(d) Observations taken during the years 1931-34 where the flood gauges have been erected show that the Railway embankment is in no way responsible for the failure of the paddy crops during years of normal rain-fall.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 1064 asked by Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar on the 27th March, 1935.

PROVISION OF TWO-SEATER BENCHES IN CERTAIN TRAINS ON THE SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY.

(a) There are carriages on the South Indian Railway provided with two seater benches, which are not generally utilised on important main line trains.

(b) Steps are being taken to replace these carriages by the latest type of third class carriages, when these are condemned or pass their time limit.

(c) Carriages having eight seater compartments are not run on any through trains on this Railway, with the exception of a buffet car.

THE INDIAN FINANCE BILL—contd.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The House will now resume consideration of the Indian Finance Bill. The question is:

“That Schedule I stand part of the Bill.”

According to the understanding arrived at, Honourable Members will formally move their amendments and then a comprehensive discussion will take place.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I beg to move*:

"That in Schedule I to the Bill, in the proposed First Schedule to the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, for the entries under the head 'Letters' the following be substituted:

'For a weight not exceeding one tola	One anna.
For a weight exceeding one tola but not exceeding two and a half tolas	One anna and three pies.
For every additional tola or fraction thereof	Half an anna."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Amendment moved:

"That in Schedule I to the Bill, in the proposed First Schedule to the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, for the entries under the head 'Letters' the following be substituted:

'For a weight not exceeding one tola	One anna.
For a weight exceeding one tola but not exceeding two and a half tolas	One anna and three pies.
For every additional tola or fraction thereof	Half an anna."

Mr. Suryya Kumar Som (Dacca Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I beg to move†:

"That in Schedule I to the Bill, in the proposed First Schedule to the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, for the entries under the head 'Letters' the following be substituted:

'For a weight not exceeding one tola	Nine pies.
For a weight exceeding one tola but not exceeding two tolas	One anna.
For every two and a half tolas or fraction thereof exceeding two tolas	One anna."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Amendment moved:

"That in Schedule I to the Bill, in the proposed First Schedule to the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, for the entries under the head 'Letters' the following be substituted:

'For a weight not exceeding one tola	Nine pies.
For a weight exceeding one tola but not exceeding two tolas	One anna.
For every two and a half tolas or fraction thereof exceeding two tolas	One anna."

*No. 56 on the list of amendments.

†No. 58 on the list of amendments.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I beg to move*:

"That in Schedule I to the Bill, in the proposed First Schedule to the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, for the first and second entries under the head 'Letters' the following be substituted :

' For a weight not exceeding one tola	One anna.
For a weight exceeding a tola but not exceeding two and a half tolas	One anna and three pies."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Amendment moved :

"That in Schedule I to the Bill, in the proposed First Schedule to the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, for the first and second entries under the head 'Letters' the following be substituted :

' For a weight not exceeding one tola	One anna.
For a weight exceeding a tola but not exceeding two and a half tolas	One anna and three pies."

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I move†:

"That in Schedule I to the Bill, in the proposed First Schedule to the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, for the second and third entries under the head 'Letters' the following be substituted :

' For every additional tola or fraction thereof in excess of one tola	Half an anna."
---	----------------

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Amendment moved :

"That in Schedule I to the Bill, in the proposed First Schedule to the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, for the second and third entries under the head 'Letters' the following be substituted :

' For every additional tola or fraction thereof in excess of one tola	Half an anna."
---	----------------

The discussion will now proceed on all the amendments.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Sir, before I speak on the subject proper, I should like, with your permission, to pay a tribute to the Postal Department of the Government of India. It is perhaps the only department that is a popular department. It is the only department that seeks to serve the poor and the rich alike. No official of Government, so far as I know, is a welcome visitor anywhere in the country, but the postman is always welcome. He brings a message of hope and of cheer from distant friends and distant relatives; and while we are anxious that no official of Government should come anywhere near us, we are always waiting at the door for the postman to appear. He brings an occasional postcard and he sometimes even brings a little money. But the trouble arises when he

*No. 60 on the list of amendments.

†No. 66 on the list of amendments.

brings a bearing letter; and I am going to propose to Government some method so that even this stigma may be removed from the post office.

With all the virtues of the post office, there has recently crept in a vice. It seems to me that like the King and Queen in the story, the parents of the Indian Post Office forgot to invite the Home Member at the time of jubilation at its birth; and that is why, acting the part of the evil fairy, he has touched the post office with a particular section, under which the letters of most of us on this side of the House are censored, intercepted and even devoured. I hope that it may be possible for the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs, in whom I discover a very old friend of our days at Cambridge,—to induce the Home Member to withdraw that section and give some much-needed relief to this side of the House. I am supporting this motion enabling the one anna envelope to carry a weight of one tola, on three grounds: one of propriety, the other of convenience and the third of meeting the interests of the poor. At present we have a system of carrying half a tola in an envelope stamped with an anna stamp, and then an additional pice carries an additional two tolas. I do not understand the logic of the situation. Half a tola only to be carried for one anna, and then two tolas more for an additional pice! Two and a half tolas for an anna and a quarter! Unless they wanted to adjust their weights to the English standards—I understand that an ounce is equal to $2\frac{1}{4}$ tolas—I do not know how they discovered this particular figure. I think that this half tola is a very dangerous weight. One does not know where the half tola ends and more than half tola begins. I can give many illustrations where even the post office has been at a loss to know as to what to do. I take a letter to a post office to be weighed. The postal clerk is usually an over-worked individual and has a multitude of miscellaneous work to do. He throws the letter roughly on the weighing machine; the needle shakes itself to a little further than half a tola and before the needle comes to a standstill he says it is more than half a tola. I say to myself I shall try another post office, and I go to another post office and there the postmaster accepts that very letter for one anna. Then, Sir, if you are careless in making sure from the postmaster beforehand he franks the letter as bearing, and the addressee has to pay two more pice. Nowadays the post office has got the rule that even if you have to complain against them, you must stamp your letter. Formerly, people could complain against the post office by letters that were posted without stamps, and so complaints could be made. Nowadays we have to stamp a letter of complaint as well.

An Honourable Member: And still you have paid a compliment to the post office.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: So, if you have to complain that you have been over-charged half an anna, you have to spend five pice. Who is so generous as to spend five pice and take all the additional trouble of writing a letter to the post office to recover only two pice?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce (Member for Industries and Labour): The Honourable Member should be aware that he can make a complaint in a letter which can be carried for an anna.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: I know there are many people in India who, having had this bad experience, have given up the anna stamp completely, and even if the letters are very light, they invariably use five pice stamps saying that it is better to tax oneself than to tax one's friends. I think that it is time that some relief were given. I am particularly thinking of the man in the village. He has not got such nice, well cut letter papers that you find lying in profuse abandon in the various rooms of the Council House meant for the anna post. The people in the villages usually stuff a yellow sheet in an envelope. That yellow sheet is more often than not a little heavier than half a tola, but not as heavy as one tola, and so their addressees have to pay an extra two pice. I, therefore, suggest that if we increase the weight that an anna post can carry, we shall be giving much relief to our ignorant and innocent brethren in the countryside. Therefore, Sir, on grounds of propriety which, I am sure, my Honourable friends opposite will accept, it is best to have one tola as the maximum weight for an anna envelope.

My second ground was that of convenience. In fact, I have covered that ground also when I was talking about propriety. It will be convenient both to the hard-worked employees of the post office as well as to the correspondents themselves. I am sure Government will be able to increase its revenue also if it increases the weight for the anna post. A postcard, for instance, is a very small thing. You cannot write very much on a postcard, and it costs nowadays three pice. I am hoping that the Assembly will reduce it to half anna. At present a postcard wants a three pice stamp and a half tola letter requires an anna stamp. I think this arrangement is very inconvenient, and I am sure that those who are in charge of the post office in this country must have realised by now that this arrangement has not been conducive either to their own convenience or to the convenience of the public at large.

My third ground was that we should be serving the interests of the poor very much if we made this change. Those of us,—and I am unfortunately also of that number,—who write large numbers of letters do not count the annas or the rupees that go to the post office from our pockets week after week; but for the poor man even a pice or two is a serious consideration; and if you are anxious that you should give some relief to the poor, it is best that you give him a chance of writing a letter from time to time to friends and relatives in distant places. They are not great letter writers; they do not spend an hour or two every day in writing letters to friends accepting or rejecting invitations to dinners and teas, but they do want an occasional letter from their friends and relatives. Sir, you are going to have Broadcasting. They will probably get detailed news through this Broadcasting apparatus of what is happening to bigwigs in England and other countries, but the poor man who listens to the Broadcasting and is informed of what is happening in Moscow or Berlin is more anxious to have some piece of information about his own relatives or friends than any news concerning Stalin or Hitler or other persons unknown to him. (Hear, hear.) Therefore, when the opposite Benches wax eloquent on the cultural and other aspects of Broadcasting, I hope they will also admit that broadcasting of postcards and envelopes will be a real blessing to the countryside. (Cheers.) There is a story, Sir, that once a number of merry-making motorists were held up on the road in the dark at the point of a revolver. The leader of the motorists called out: "Who are you?" And the leader of those on the road replied "We are

brigands, we rob the rich". And in a merry mood the man inside the motor called back and said: "That is all right, we are gentlemen, we rob the poor". The world seems to be divided between brigands and gentlemen. One tries to rob the rich, the other tries to rob the poor. I plead guilty to the charge of brigandage, because I do want to rob the rich, and that may be No. 58 on the list with which the Honourable the Law Member will begin his speech at Simla. (Laughter.) I hope the Honourable gentlemen opposite will not be eager to plead guilty to the charge of being gentlemen, if a gentleman means what this story says. With these few words, I hope I have been able to convince all sides of the House that from every point of view, it will be to the interests of everybody, the Government and the people alike, to allow the envelopes with an anna stamp to carry a whole tola of contents. Those who want to write heavier letters, whether the letters are love letters or business letters can, I feel, afford to pay more but let us enable the poor to send one tola of matter in one anna. The poor man will be satisfied, and most of us will be saved from cursing our postman who wants to charge an extra two pice on the letters he brings. I may tell you, Sir, that the postmen themselves are not very happy over this. I remember an incident when a postman delivered a letter and, while asking for two pice, said to the receiver: "Sir, you are mistaken if you think that the postage has been reduced from five to four pice; really it has been increased to six pice, and you better pay up two pice before you can have this letter". Postcards in the very nature of things cannot be made bearing, and even if they were bearing, one could read the card and hand it back to the postman with the willing consent of the postman himself. (Laughter.) But a letter has to be torn open, unless, of course, one knows the intricate device which the Honourable the Home Member evidently has by which he can open letters with steam and then regum them badly. (Laughter.) If the Government insist on having this heavy postage, I believe we brigands will have to find out some methods by which we can open letters and read them and give them back to the postmen. If you want to avoid any of these difficulties and if you want to have a contented and honest public using the post office, I hope the Government and every section of this House will accept the proposal that I have placed before them. (Cheers.)

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): May I know what will be the financial effect of this proposal?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I hope in the course of my remarks to give a reply to the question which my Honourable friend, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad, has just put.

Sir, it has been the practice, in recent years, in dealing with the first amendment to the Finance Bill which relates to postal charges, for the Member in charge of the Posts and Telegraphs Department to review the position of the Department in order to enable the House better to discuss the various amendments brought forward for its consideration. I trust, Sir, that you will allow me to adopt the past procedure on this occasion also. It seems specially desirable that I should do so in view of the fact that all the amendments in regard to the various branches of the department, letters, postcards, book packets, and newspapers, are being taken in separate groups, not individually, I trust that the House will bear with me if my exposition is a somewhat lengthy one. After all, the Posts and

[Sir Frank Noyce.]

Telegraphs Department is the most important department of the Government of India after the Railway Department. The Railway Department gets four days for its budget, and the Posts and Telegraphs Department, if it is lucky gets one. It is, therefore, I think, desirable that I should give the House a brief review of the financial position of the department as it stands today.

The important point which I would impress upon the House at the outset, for it is the background of the picture I am placing before it, is that it is the accepted policy—a policy which I think it is correct to say has never seriously been questioned by this House,—that, whilst the Posts and Telegraphs Department should be looked upon as a public utility service, it should, in the same way as Railways and any other organisations which are for the benefit of the general public and are looked upon as public utility services, be expected to pay its own way. As Sir Atul Chatterjee said in this House on March 12th, 1924, it has a valuable monopoly, and that monopoly should be so worked as to be a source of benefit to the general taxpayer without being a burden to him. It was in order to see how far this was the case that the accounts of the department were organised on a commercial basis with effect from 1925-26. It is also the accepted policy that any surpluses in the working of the department should normally be used for the extension of postal facilities, for reorganisation which may be necessary in order to ensure the highest efficiency, and also for revision of rates which may be possible and reasonable.

That, Sir, is our policy, and it is in the light of that policy, as I have stated it, that I hope the House will consider the position I shall now proceed to place before it.

Briefly, the position is that we have not yet got a surplus at all according to our estimates for next year, much less one that has come to stay, and it is for that reason that we have been unable to propose any revision of rates. I need hardly assure the House that it is a matter of keen personal disappointment to me that that should be the case. I can only here and now make an appeal to the House to exercise patience a little longer, and to enable us uninterruptedly to continue our efforts to place the department in such a sound financial position that we can go ahead confidently with any revision of rates in a downward direction.

It will, I think, be convenient if I start my review of the financial position of the department with the year 1925-26, for it was in that year, that, as I have said, the accounts of the department were placed on a commercial basis, and it is only since then that we can be sure that we are comparing like with like. I do not propose to weary the House with the figures for each year separately, but I shall deal with them by quinquenniums. During the quinquennium, 1925-26 to 1929-30, revenue increased at an annual rate of something like Rs. 27 lakhs per annum and reached a figure of Rs. 1129.49 lakhs in 1929-30. During the same period, however, expenditure increased by Rs. 52 lakhs per annum, about double the rate at which revenue increased, and in 1929-30 amounted to just under Rs. 1192 lakhs. The last year of the quinquennium, therefore, closed with a loss of nearly 62½ lakhs, the only branch to show a profit, and that a very modest one, being the telephone branch which yielded a surplus of just over a lakh of rupees. In 1930-31, that disastrous year of which we all have such poignant memories, the economic blizzard swept over us and revenue decreased by Rs. 51½ lakhs. Expenditure went up by

Rs. 19½ lakhs and the year ended with the colossal deficit of Rs. 183½ lakhs, in spite of the introduction of such economies as could be brought into force immediately. It was this situation which had to be faced by the increase in rates which came into effect in 1931. Those enhancements arrested the decline in revenue but did not stop it. In 1932-33, revenue had still further fallen by Rs. 22½ lakhs. The campaign of drastic retrenchment on which we embarked effected economies to the extent of about Rs. 114 lakhs, but none the less, the loss on the departmental working was still a heavy one, amounting as it did to Rs. 41·89 lakhs.

The accounts for 1933-34 showed a slight turning of the tide, so slight, however, as to be almost imperceptible. Revenue improved by some Rs. 17½ lakhs, but of this, Rs. 15½ lakhs represented an adjustment relating to the Depreciation Fund and was more than offset by a countervailing entry on the expenditure side. The real improvement was thus only Rs. 1·68 lakhs, but, small as it was, it was a very welcome one after the prolonged and unbroken decline in receipts. Expenditure, however, increased by Rs. 27½ lakhs, and the loss for the year amounted to nearly Rs. 52 lakhs, Rs. 10 lakhs more than in the previous year: of this Rs. 5·35 lakhs were accounted for by the accounts adjustment consequent on the conversion of the Sinking Fund into a Straight Line Depreciation Fund of which I shall have more to say in a moment.

I now turn to the year which has just closed. The trend of receipts towards the end of 1933-34 appeared to us to justify a more cheerful outlook in framing our estimates for 1934-35. As Sir George Schuster said when he introduced his budget last year, the only thing that we could be sure of was that, as the result of the efforts in the past, the department was slowly moving to an equilibrium between revenue and expenditure. It was in that belief that Government decided, with the approval of this House, to lower the initial weight on inland letters from 2½ tolas to ½ tola coupled with a reduction in the charge from 1½ annas to one anna, to remit the extra pice charged for five pice embossed envelopes and to introduce a minimum charge for ordinary telegrams of eight words of nine annas, with double that rate for express telegrams. A small change was made in the contrary direction and the initial charge on book packets not exceeding five tolas in weight was raised from six to nine pice. Together with these changes it was announced that Government had ordered a further enquiry into the working of the departmental depreciation fund. Pending the results of that enquiry, the contribution to the fund which, under the normal operation of the rules, would have amounted to over Rs. 36 lakhs was cut down arbitrarily to Rs. 9 lakhs, the estimated amount of the actual expenditure required for the renewal and reconstruction of the assets of the department during 1934-35. I should perhaps mention in passing a reform of some importance which has been introduced during the current year, namely, the discontinuance, except in Burma, of the use of postage stamps for revenue purposes. As the House is aware, the retrenchment campaign continued during the current year, retrenchment concessions being extended until March 31st next in order to enable the department to complete its retrenchment plans. The result of these measures combined, as they have undoubtedly been with that turn of the tide which became visible last year, has been that the loss of Rs. 14·47 lakhs budgeted for has been converted into a profit of Rs. 18·81 lakhs. That is for the year that has just closed. Comparing the revised estimates for 1934-35, with the actuals for 1933-34, revenue has increased by about

[Sir Frank Noyce.]

Rs. 32 lakhs while expenditure has decreased by Rs. 33 lakhs. It must, however, be remembered that the decrease in expenditure is accounted for to the extent of about Rs. 27 lakhs by the arbitrary reduction of the contribution to the depreciation fund. The result, though by no means all that we could wish, cannot, I venture to think, be regarded as unsatisfactory, when it is remembered that it has been achieved, after restoring, in 1933-34, half the cut in pay at a cost of Rs. 28 lakhs and providing for the inevitable increments of pay which will be a burden to the department for several years to come.

The House is entitled to ask at this stage why, when for the first time for many years past the department has a small surplus to show, no alteration in rates is proposed. I have already given an indication of the correct reply to that question. It is not so much that we have no guarantee that the surplus has come to stay but that it is, in point of fact, a fictitious one as it has been secured by an arbitrary deduction for one year in the contribution to the depreciation fund, a process which it is not desirable to repeat. That brings me to the budget estimates for 1935-36. We have placed the figures for revenue at Rs. 1192·57 lakhs, which show an improvement of Rs. 27·22 lakhs over the revised estimates for the current year. It is interesting to note that this Rs. 27 lakhs is practically the same figure as the annual improvement from 1925-26 to 1929-30, that is in the years before the effects of the economic depression became apparent. Unfortunately and also by a curious coincidence, the estimated expenditure for 1935-36, Rs. 1145·58 lakhs, shows an increase of almost exactly double the estimated increase in revenue, as it did in the 1925—1930 quinquennium. The main items which have contributed to worsen the position are the restoration of the remainder of the cut in pay, costing Rs. 27 lakhs, the increments in the pay of the staff, costing Rs. 15 lakhs and the restoration of the provision for depreciation not at its old rate but still at a rate which is Rs. 19 lakhs higher than it was in 1934-35.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadian Urban): Why is it so?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Because we are not repeating the raid on the depreciation fund. I shall have more to say about that in a moment. As I said just now, we do not think it advisable to raid the depreciation fund for more than one year. Against these increases has to be set a decrease in the expenditure which we can control of Rs. 7 lakhs. This leaves, as I have said, a net increase of Rs. 54 lakhs and turns last year's profit into a deficit of Rs. 13 lakhs.

Whilst it is a matter for great regret that the department has not yet balanced its revenue and expenditure, it is only fair to the department to remember that this loss is partly due to the fact that a number of the services which it renders are definitely unremunerative. I refer to the loss on Press telegrams, the loss on newspaper traffic and the much smaller loss on the non-commercial portions of the wireless systems of the country. If these losses were eliminated, the department would have a balanced budget.

Here, Sir, I may perhaps be permitted to digress for a few moments to make a comparison between our estimates for 1935-36, and those for 1929-30, the year immediately preceding the economic depression. It should, I

think, be a sufficient reply to those who complain that the Posts and Telegraphs Department suffers from a top-heavy administration to say that the expenditure on the pay of the officers in 1929-30 was Rs. 52·36 lakhs, whereas, in 1935-36, it will be only Rs. 45·65 lakhs, a decrease of over 12 per cent. In 1929-30, the pay of the establishment was Rs. 707 lakhs. In 1935-36, it will be Rs. 727 lakhs, an increase of nearly three per cent. There are only three other heads which show an increase, one is subsidies and payments to Railway Companies which show the small increase of Rs. 55,000. This is due to the fact that the State Railways have put forward a claim for increased charges for the haulage of mails. The claim is still under discussion but provision has had to be made against the possibility of its validity being admitted. I need hardly point out that payments for the carriage of mails are in the nature of contractual payments and that transportation services have to be maintained in spite of the decrease in the volume of the mails carried.

The second head under which charges have increased as compared with 1929-30 is Interest on Capital Outlay. The increase here is Rs. 17½ lakhs and it is partly explained by the increase in the accumulated loss on the working of the department on which it has to pay interest to General Revenues. That accumulated loss would be far greater than it is had it not been for the recommendations of the Posts and Telegraphs Accounts Enquiry Committee so ably presided over by my Honourable friend, Sir Cowasji Jehangir, as the result of which the deficit, which has accumulated up to the end of the year 1930-31, was reduced by Rs. 161·34 lakhs. The interest to be paid to general revenues during 1935-36 on account of the deficit amounts to nearly Rs. 7 lakhs. This, of course, is recurring expenditure of an entirely unremunerative character and its elimination at an early date is one of the objects the department has to set before itself, in addition to those I have already mentioned.

The two items I have just mentioned are on the debit side. There is an interesting one on the credit side and that is the increase of Rs. 18 lakhs in the credits to working expenses. This is mainly due to the great increase in the volume of Postal Savings Bank work and in Cash Certificate transactions. This increase has brought with it that increase in the audit and accounts charges of the department which was criticised by my Honourable friend, Sir Henry Gidney, and which amounts to Rs. 8½ lakhs as compared with 1929-30. Since that year, the number of Savings Bank accounts has increased by 784,000, the average number of depositors per bank has gone up from 181 to 244 and the average balance at the credit of each depositor has increased from Rs. 161 to Rs. 169. The total annual number of transactions increased from 7½ millions in 1929-30 to 10 millions in 1933-34. The increase in cash certificate business has been even more striking. The number of transactions in 1929-30 was 582,000 and in 1933-34 it was 816,000. The figures under both heads are remarkable for a period of severe depression. They afford ground for the confidence embodied in our estimates that 1935-36 will show a further increase in savings bank business.

The House would probably like to have at this stage an indication, however brief, of the financial vicissitudes of the constituent branches of the department. In 1929-30, the total revenue of the Postal Branch amounted to Rs. 789·77 lakhs. The lowest level reached since then was Rs. 732·44 lakhs in 1932-33. For 1935-36 we estimate a revenue of Rs. 770·86 lakhs—still 19 lakhs below that for 1929-30. On the expenditure side, the highest figure reached was Rs. 818 lakhs in 1930-31—some two

[Sir Frank Noyce.]

lakhs higher than in the previous year. The lowest level here was Rs. 738.51 lakhs in 1932-33. Our estimate for next year is Rs. 778.28 lakhs,—35 lakhs below the figure for 1930-31.

Our revenue from the Telegraph Branch in 1929-30 amounted to Rs. 282.22 lakhs. It fell to Rs. 258.02 lakhs in 1932-33. Our estimate for next year is Rs. 273.49 lakhs. Expenditure in 1929-30 was Rs. 317.43 lakhs, which rose to Rs. 329.94 lakhs the following year. For 1935-36, we estimate Rs. 292.95 lakhs. Our revenue estimates for 1935-36 are thus roughly only Rs. 9 lakhs below the receipts of 1929-30, whilst estimated expenditure is some Rs. 36 lakhs below the high figure of 1930-31.

The only bright spot in the last few years has been the telephone branch which has shown a profit every year with the exception of 1930-31. Revenue has increased steadily from the Rs. 54.39 lakhs of 1929-30 to the Rs. 80.49 lakhs which we hope to get next year. As this is a branch the activities of which are rapidly expanding, expenditure has also increased, though not to the same extent as revenue. In 1929-30, it amounted to Rs. 53.30 lakhs and in 1933-34 to Rs. 64.76 lakhs but in 1935-36 we are only providing Rs. 61.74 lakhs. In 1929-30, the profit on this branch was a little over one lakh, but we estimate that next year it will amount to Rs. 18½ lakhs. This very satisfactory result has been secured by a careful selection of projects both those for the establishment of local systems and those for the opening of new trunk lines.

The only other branch which remains to be mentioned is the Radio Telegraph Branch. The main revenue of this branch consists of recoveries from other departments, such as the Civil Aviation Department. The loss on this branch in 1929-30 was Rs. 6.86 lakhs. For 1935-36 it is estimated at Rs. 4.88 lakhs. As this is a branch of activity which is rapidly developing, the net improvement of Rs. 2 lakhs is not unsatisfactory.

I am glad that it is unnecessary for me to say much about retrenchment today for, as I have recently informed the House, the retrenchment campaign in the department ended on March, 31st, and the retrenchment concessions have been withdrawn. The ban on confirmation which has been in force since the retrenchment campaign started has also been withdrawn from April 1st and revised rates of pay for new entrants, which, as time goes on, should materially reduce expenditure in a department which has such a large personnel as the Posts and Telegraphs Department, came into force on the same date. In these circumstances, this should be the last occasion on which it should be necessary to refer to the contention that retrenchment has been lop-sided and that superior posts have been treated with special consideration. The answer to this criticism has already been furnished by my Honourable friend, Mr. Bewoor, the Director General, and I need not repeat it today. All I would say is that, if there has been any lop-sidedness, it has worked to the detriment of the gazetted staff. Another complaint which has been made in this connection is that retrenchment has been heavier on the postal side than in the Telegraph and Telephone Branches. There is this much truth in this and no more, namely, that the number of postal employees is far greater than the number of telegraph and telephone employees and that the application of the same principles to all branches—which is all that the department has done—has naturally brought about a greater reduction of staff in the branch whose numbers afforded more scope for it.

I think it was my Honourable friend, Mr. Lahiri Chaudhury, who the other day repeated the accusation of extravagant expenditure in the Telegraph Engineering Branch. In point of fact, the investigations to which this branch, in common with others, is subjected from time to time show that very substantial reductions in expenditure have been secured in recent years. If the estimates for 1935-36 are compared with the actuals for 1930-31, expenditure under pay of officers has fallen by 13.9 per cent., allowances and honoraria by 21.3 per cent., contingencies by 13.8 per cent., repairs to telegraph and telephone lines by 15.4 per cent., and repairs to apparatus and plant by 9.9 per cent. The cost of the subordinate staff such as engineering supervisors, inspectors and linemen has increased, since, with the rapid development of telephones, the mileage of wires they have to look after has increased by 20,000 miles, but the direct engineering expenditure per mile of wire has decreased from Rs. 13.09 per annum in 1929-30 to Rs. 11.26 in 1933-34. The average direct expenditure on each local telephone exchange has fallen considerably in the same period.

I have dealt at some length with the financial position of the department as a whole, for the amendments to the Finance Bill regarding postal rates should obviously be discussed in relation to that position. I have also dealt much more briefly with the financial position of the constituent branches of the department. I now turn to a point which has in the past invariably cropped up in the course of these discussions and will doubtless do so this year. It is the allocation of revenue and expenditure between the postal and telegraph branches. It has been frequently alleged in the past that the way in which the allocation is made is unfair to the Postal Branch on which the Telegraph and Wireless Branches are allowed to batten. I explained last year that the method of allocation of expenditure and receipts between the different branches of the department which we follow is the best that our audit and administrative officers have been able to devise. That method was overhauled a few years ago by an eminent British firm of Chartered Accountants and the few minor changes in it which they suggested were readily adopted. I promised, however, last year when the question was again raised, that a complete and authoritative description of the methods in use would be submitted to the Public Accounts Committee for its verdict on their suitability and fairness and for any suggestions regarding possible improvement that it felt in a position to make. We are awaiting the views of the Committee and I need hardly say that, when we get them, they will receive our most careful consideration. Another promise I made last year, which has been duly fulfilled, was that the method of allocating to the Telegraph Branch its share of the revenue derived from the sale of stamps, which, as the House knows, can be used both for postage and telegraph purposes, should again be subjected to examination. This has been done and the investigation has shown that it should be possible to make a direct computation of the value of stamps used for telegraph purposes. The results of this computation will not be available for another year. When they are received, they should throw further light on the position. I can only hope that as the result of the action we have taken in these two directions, it will not be long before a controversy which is already showing signs of age is laid to the rest it has well earned.

My Honourable friend, Sir Leslie Hudson, asked the other day for further information regarding the Depreciation Fund of the
 1 P.M. Posts and Telegraphs Department. This fund was instituted when the accounts of the department were first placed on a commercial

[Sir Frank Noyce.]

basis. From the 1st of April 1925 to 31st March, 1933, it was run on a Sinking Fund basis, the estimated lives of the various assets being those approved by Government in 1925 on the advice of their technical advisers who were, it must be admitted, working without any direct experience of a Depreciation Fund. The accumulations in the fund increased very rapidly and by 31st March, 1930, had reached a figure of over Rs. 165 lakhs. Experience showed that the amounts credited to the fund every year were very much greater than the amounts spent on the renewal and replacement of assets. This was, therefore, one of the questions on which Government sought the advice of the Posts and Telegraphs Accounts Enquiry Committee. That Committee recommended a revision of the lives of assets which, broadly speaking, amounted to a lengthening of those lives by from 25 to 50 per cent. of the original estimates. Government adopted this recommendation, but, unfortunately, the resulting reduction in the annual contribution from revenue to the Depreciation Fund was almost entirely absorbed by the rectification of an error in the method which had been followed in the earlier years and which was brought to light during the Committee's investigations. The Committee on grounds of simplicity also recommended that the Depreciation Fund should be operated on the straight-line basis. This recommendation was also accepted and the change was made in the accounts for 1933-34. For the benefit of Honourable Members who have not been initiated into the mysteries of a Depreciation Fund, as was my own position until recently, it may be explained that the difference between the two systems of operating a Depreciation Fund is more a difference in book-keeping than in financial results. With a Sinking Fund the interest earned on the balance of the fund is credited to the fund itself, and the result of this is that the annual contribution to the fund from the revenues is smaller than in the case of a straight-line Depreciation Fund, in working which the interest on the balance is treated as an addition to the revenue of the department which has consequently to make a larger contribution to the fund. The change that was made led to a small net increase in the annual debit to the department in the neighbourhood of Rs. 5½ lakhs. In spite of the changes sanctioned in the accounts of 1933-34, the disparity between the amounts contributed from the annual receipts to the fund and those actually spent on renewing assets continued to be very marked. In these circumstances, Government, last year, ordered a fresh inquiry into the whole subject and in view of the saving in the annual contribution that they had every reason to expect, it was decided to reduce the contribution during the year 1934-35 to an amount that would maintain the balance found to exist on the 31st March, 1934. As was explained in Sir George Schuster's budget speech last year, this saving in the expenditure of the department for 1934-35 was utilized to reorganise the postal and telegraph tariffs at an estimated cost of Rs. 27½ lakhs. The detailed investigations have been completed but it has not yet been found possible to collate the results and to obtain the final orders of Government. In anticipation of these orders, however,—and this is a point which will interest my Honourable friend, Sir Cowasji Jehangir,—Government have decided to reduce the contribution to the fund during 1935-36 by a sum of Rs. 10 lakhs as compared with the amount that would have been contributed on the basis of the lives adopted in the Report of the Committee over which he presided.

There is one other matter affecting the Posts and Telegraphs budget which will be of interest to Honourable Members. As a preliminary step

to the placing of the accounts of the department on a commercial basis, it was decided that, with effect from the accounts for 1923-24, the amount of pensions paid to the retired employees of the department should be charged against its budget. With effect from the 1st of April, 1925, it was tentatively decided that the amount to be charged in the Posts and Telegraphs accounts of each year should not be the actual payment during the year but should constitute a contribution payable to general revenues and based on actuarial calculations of pensionary liability. The question was also investigated by the Posts and Telegraphs Accounts Inquiry Committee which endorsed the principle but suggested various improvements in the method of determining the actuarial formula. Investigations which have been carried out since 1925 have, however, shown that the benefits that had been hoped for from the actuarial liability system, namely, simplicity in accounting and stability in budgeting have not been secured in practice. It has, therefore, been decided to abandon the system and to revert to the old method of limiting the charge on account of pensions to the actual payments made in the year. This change will be made effective in the accounts for 1925-26 and, it is expected, that it will result in an immediate benefit of Rs. 5 lakhs in the budget of the department for the current year. The details of the change are still being worked out but, from April 1st, pensions of employees retiring from the Posts and Telegraphs Department will be disbursed by that department through Post Offices and not by Civil Treasury Offices. It follows from this that the annual contribution which the department has hitherto been making to General Revenues, to meet this liability in respect of pensions, will cease and that the benefit of Rs. 5 lakhs in the departmental budget will be really secured by an equivalent increase in the general revenue budget. In other words, the decrease under one head and the increase under another cancel out each other and the revenue budget of the Government of India, as a whole, is not affected by the change, the object of which is to ensure that the accounts of the Posts and Telegraphs Department are a perfectly fair statement of the financial position of the department.

There is only one other point I need mention in passing for it is high time that I came to the issue immediately before the House and dealt with the specific amendments before it. It has been contended that our foreign postage rates are excessive and that they should be brought down to the level of the rates charged by foreign countries on the letters addressed to this country. All I need say about that is that the rates on letters addressed to this country from other countries are not uniform and that under the International Postal Convention there is no need that they should be. If we were to vary our postage to foreign countries to equalise it with that charged by each foreign country on its mails to India, it would involve us in inextricable confusion and would also involve us in an unnecessary sacrifice of revenue. Our postage rates to foreign countries are by no means high as compared with theirs to India.

To give a few examples: The amounts charged by France, Germany, Italy and the United States of America on letters and postcards to India are higher than those charged by India on letters to those countries.

Now, Sir, I have endeavoured to give the House the background of our proposals for this year or it would perhaps be more correct to say, our absence of proposals. I have noticed that the appetite of some of its Members for statistics is inexhaustible and I venture to hope, therefore, that I have not wearied it too greatly with the mass of figures which I

[Sir Frank Noyce.]

have placed at its disposal. I would remind it once again that the changes in rates we made last year were of an experimental nature, the loss of revenue anticipated being met from an arbitrary reduction in the contribution to the Depreciation Fund. I would also remind it that although, contrary to expectations, the revised estimates for the current year show a net improvement in the financial position, the surplus is unfortunately a short-lived one and the budget estimates for next year show a substantial loss.

Now, Sir, I come at last—the House will, I fear, think at very long last—to the amendments before it. I have no doubt whatever that in the course of the discussion on them, frequent reference will be made to the law of diminishing returns as it was in the course of the general discussion on the budget and on the Finance Bill. It is, I venture to think, unsafe to apply a so-called law which has a very definite meaning in the sphere for which it was originally laid down to a totally different sphere. In the agricultural and industrial sphere, the law of diminishing returns means that there comes a time when the application of additional labour or capital yields no return and may involve a dead loss. In its application to the Posts and Telegraphs Department, it means that an increase in rates means either no increase in revenue or even a diminished revenue. That such an increase in rates must at the outset and perhaps for such time as it lasts affect the *volume* of traffic is a proposition I am not concerned to deny. But that the increases in rates we have been compelled with the agreement of this House to sanction from time to time have in themselves meant a fall in revenue, I do most emphatically deny. The difficulty in establishing this proposition is of course that it is impossible to disentangle the effects of the economic depression or of the slight revival there was last year from the effects of the increased rates. We cannot unfortunately observe the results of the two cases separately and *in vacuo*. I maintain, however, that the figures I have already quoted bear out the soundness of my contention. The first full year of the depression in 1930-31 brought about a fall in our revenues by Rs. 52 lakhs. They continued to fall during the first part of 1931-32. Is there any one who would seriously contend that if we had not taken drastic action in 1931, the fall would not have placed the financial position of the department in a position from which it would have been difficult if not impossible to extricate it? As it was, the fall in 1931-32 was only Rs. 14 lakhs and in 1932-33, another Rs. 9 lakhs. In 1933-34, we were only five lakhs short of the figures for 1930-31 and in 1935-36, we hope to be some three lakhs ahead of those for 1929-30. I submit to the House that, in these circumstances, it cannot be maintained that the law of diminishing returns has operated in the Posts and Telegraphs sphere.

But, Sir, it will doubtless be argued that if we were to reduce our rates, the resulting increase in traffic would far more than compensate for the amount lost on each individual letter or postcard. That if we reduce the rates there *will* be an increase in traffic is a proposition which again I cannot deny but that that increase will, for some time to come, bring in sufficient to counterbalance the loss due to the reduced rates is not a proposition to which I can assent.

That brings me, Sir, to the specific amendments before the House. Four of these amendments have been moved. Nos. 56, 58, 60 and 66. I may here point out the cost of accepting the various amendments. The

cost of accepting amendment No. 56 would be 29 lakhs, the cost of accepting No. 58, would be 85 lakhs, the cost of accepting amendment No. 60, would be 16 lakhs and the cost of accepting amendment No. 66 would be 14 lakhs.

Seth Govind Das (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions: Non-Muhamadan): Was it not expected last year that on account of the reduction in envelope rate, there would be a loss of 27 lakhs, but as a matter of fact there was no loss at all?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: That is not the case. The loss on the one anna letter has been 20 lakhs. According to our enumeration of the number of letters carried for one anna, the loss that is the sacrifice of revenue involved has been 20 lakhs. Obviously if there had been no reduction last year, every letter bearing a one anna stamp would have gone for one anna and three pies.

Seth Govind Das: Here is a reply which the Honourable Mr. D. G. Mitchell gave in the Council of State on the 18th March, 1935, in reply to a question according to which there was no loss at all on one anna envelopes. The answer runs thus:

“(a) As no separate account of the sale proceeds of envelopes or of stamps used on letters is maintained, it is impossible to give accurately the information required by the Honourable Member. Enumeration taken in August, 1933 and in August, 1934, would point to an increase of about nine per cent in the total traffic, much of which probably occurred in the half tola letter. Part of the increase was probably due to the lower rate, but part must be ascribed to the general economic recovery. When the reduction in postal rates was announced last March it was expected to produce a loss of about Rs. 27 lakhs, as it was assumed that about 80 per cent of letters would come within the initial half tola weight. Special enumerations taken last July and November showed that, up till then at least, this figure was much too high. The best answer I can give to the Honourable Member is that the introduction of the half tola letter for one anna has not caused any substantial loss or gain in the postal revenue of the current financial year.”

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: There are two ways of looking at the question: the one is to look at the number of letters that were carried for one anna. Had it not been for the reduction of rates last year, those letters would obviously have had to pay one anna and three pies. Looking at it from that point of view, there has been a loss to the department of about 20 lakhs. That is one way of looking at it. The other way of looking at it is that given in the reply to the question which my Honourable friend has quoted. As was said last year, when the reduction in postal rates was announced last March, it was expected to produce a loss of 27 lakhs as it was estimated that eighty per cent. of the letters would come within the initial half tola weight. Experience has shown that the public has not yet got accustomed to the use of half tola letters for one anna as we anticipated; our estimate of 80 per cent. of letters has proved much too high and it is for that reason that the loss has not been as high as we anticipated. Perhaps it would be more correct if I stated that the gain to the public by the one anna rate has been 20 lakhs.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If the Honourable Member will take some time, he might resume his speech after lunch.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I think I can finish in a few minutes. As I already said; it is impossible to disentangle the two costs, the increase due to the lower rate and the increase due to the general economic recovery.

I am aware that our estimates will be challenged. It is no easy matter to frame estimates when you are dealing with hundreds of millions of articles. That is a point to which I would ask the House to pay special attention. However small the change on an individual article, the cost of that change runs into a colossal sum when it has to be multiplied by hundreds of millions as it has in the case of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department. I admit, Sir, that the experts who have framed them are the last persons who would claim infallibility for them but they have at any rate been framed by experts who have a far greater knowledge of the subject than any one else can lay claim to possess. That, Sir, completes the statement of my case. There is not a single one of the amendments before the House which would not involve the department in loss, a loss which the Government do not consider they should ask the department to face until it is in a position to present a balanced budget as we hope that the economy campaign and the economic recovery it is steadily pursuing and the rifts in the cloud of depression will enable it shortly to do.

My Honourable friend, Mr. Sri Prakasa, in proposing his amendment talked about the benefit which would accrue to the poor. I admit very frankly that his amendment is a logical one and the one which, had the outlook been brighter than it is, we should naturally have been the most ready to accept as it involves only a loss of 14 lakhs as against the much heavier losses involved in some of the other amendments. What I wish to impress upon the House in conclusion is that the Postal and Telegraphs Department is a department which is expected to pay its way, and to keep an even keel in the matter of expenditure and revenue. If, Sir, it is urged that a reduction in postal rates is a benefit to the poor, I am not prepared to deny it. I quite agree. But why should that benefit to the poor come at the expense of this particular department? If you are going to reduce your rates, if you are going to have a half anna postcard rate, costing as I shall show later on 54 lakhs, where are you going to stop? Why should the Posts and Telegraphs Department be the only sufferer? Why not the Railway Department? Why not cheapen railway fares because that would benefit the poor? Why not go on to the irrigation department? Why not reduce their rates

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai (Sind: Non-Muhammadan Rural): We are making a beginning here.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Because if you reduce their rates, it would be of real benefit to the poorer agriculturists. Once you depart from the safe moorings of commercial accounting, there is no end to what may come. You may think that in accepting such a small change as is involved in this amendment of Mr. Sri Prakasa, you are only making a very minute breach in the wall, a breach that will not matter. But once that breach is made it will go on extending; and, if as I have said, you consider that it does not matter whether the department balances its budget or not and a few lakhs here or there to give amenities, to the poorer classes are of no account, is not that a line that may be taken by the

employees of the department? Will not they also say that it does not matter if they get increased amenities as the department can afford a few lakhs here or a few lakhs there without any harm? That, Sir, is our defence for not making any reduction in our rates this year. We wish to see the department in a sound financial position before we do so, and I think there is every sign that we shall be able to show such a position in the near future.

Sir, let me, in conclusion, draw attention to what has happened in a country which is held up to us in this House as an example that we should follow. The last report of the United State's Postal Department, that is for the year ending 30th June, 1934, states that the decline in postal revenues was arrested by the increase in the rates on letter mail from two to three cents which came into force on July 1st, 1932. The Postmaster General urges very strongly that the three cent rate should be continued as a reduction to two cents would mean a loss of at least 75 millions dollars, somewhere about 22 crores of rupees, in the revenues of the Post Office. Let me point to an example there, a very definite example. He adds that the restoration of the two-cent rate on local delivery letter mail from July 1st, 1933, did not mean any increase, either in the volume of letter mail or the revenue derived from it, but had the effect of reducing revenue, in 1934, by over 21 million dollars, or about six crores. The United States figures are astronomical compared with ours but our position is the same. Like that country, we cannot at the moment afford to reduce our rates.

Sir, I have detained the House long enough, and I must apologise for having done so. I am compelled to oppose all these amendments. (Applause.)

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Sir, may I ask the Honourable Member one question? The Honourable Member said that in No. 56 the loss was 29 lakhs and in No. 60 the loss was 16 lakhs. The only difference between the two amendments is that in No. 56 for every additional tola after 2½ tolas half an anna is provided, and this has been left out in No. 60. Am I to understand that this difference of 13 lakhs between the two amendments is due to this provision in No. 56 for only half an anna for an additional tola over 2½ tolas?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor (Director General, Posts and Telegraphs): That is correct; it is the loss on the heavier letters.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: The Honourable Member's assumption is correct.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Twenty Minutes to Three of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Twenty Minutes to Three of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) in the Chair.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Mr. President, in asking the House to support our amendment, No. 56, I wish to place a few facts for the consideration of Honourable Members.

[Prof. N. G. Ranga.]

It is said by the Honourable Member for Industries that in 1925 and 1926 the policy on which the postal department should be conducted was laid down. According to that he said that it should be maintained as a public utility service and also that it should be expected to pay its own way. I am certainly in agreement with the Honourable Member when he said that this department should be carried on really as a public utility service. But my complaint is that it is not being carried on adequately as a public utility service.

Secondly, as regards the question of its paying its own way, I would like to confess that the Government has placed us in a very paradoxical position. If this department is to be self-dependent, then it means one of these three things, that in order to enable it to pay its own way, we should either allow it to cut down the pay and pension permissible to its employees or to raise the cost of its own service, or to cut down the total amount of the services that it renders to this country and to different sections of the people. I refuse to walk into this trap: I refuse to accept this paradoxical position. I consider that since this particular department really ought to be carried on essentially as a public utility service, it ought not to be expected to pay its own way in every direction and for the whole year. It may be, as was admitted by the Retrenchment Committee also, that in certain aspects of its work it may be found that Government has to incur certain losses. At the same time the Retrenchment Committee also admitted that this department should be allowed to carry on those sections of its work on which the Government loses heavily or even lightly every year. But even as a whole, the whole department cannot be expected to pay its own way throughout the year if really it is to be carried on as an adequate public utility service. If you take for instance, even according to the Honourable Member in charge, Press telegrams and newspaper services and telegraphic lines cause considerable losses every year: yet the Government of India is maintaining those sections and is incurring all those losses generously. These losses are very heavy, yet I do not grudge them: I am prepared to allow the pressmen and the newspaper men and all those who use the telegraphs to derive this particular benefit from the losses sustained by the Government of India; but, at the same time, there is another section of this particular department on which the Government of India is very particular that it should not lose very much, that it should not spend very much, and yet that is the particular section of their department which ought to be developed to a very much greater extent than has been made possible till now by this department or by this Government.

If we come to the rural aspect of their work, we find, that whereas there are two post offices for every town served by the postal service, there is only one post office for every 30 villages in this country: whereas there are as many as seven post boxes for every town served by this department, there is only one post box for every 16 villages; and yet we are told, and we find from the last year's annual report, that the number of village post offices has been decreasing, the number of village postal runners has been decreasing, the number of post boxes also has been decreasing. All along the line there has been a decrease in the services rendered by the postal department to the village folk. Take, for instance, the Press telegrams: certainly the villagers in this country

are not deriving one-tenth advantage from it as the townsmen. Taking all the telegraph services, it is established that it is being run more for the advantage of the towns than for the advantage of the villages. Yet Government are losing lakhs and lakhs every year; but they grudge to spend a few more lakhs per annum upon the rural aspect of their own work. Then, take, again, the villages and the towns. You have 2,575 towns in all in this country, and for them you have nearly 5,000 post offices. On the other hand for all these villages—nearly 7,00,000 of them, you have only 18,740 post offices. Is that rendering any service at all to the villages? Is that really the way in which the money that is being derived by this Government mostly from the villagers should be spent? Is it the purpose of this Government that it should go on spending money in establishing these departments and running them more for the advantage of the towns, than for the advantage of the villagers? I would like the Honourable Member in charge to give me an answer later on. Then, again, the extension of village postal services also has been going down. At one time a village post office was allowed to remain until the loss on it came to be a little more than Rs. 500 per annum. But somehow, in 1931, a new policy was adopted, according to which a village post office stands to be abolished if the loss on it came to be a little more than Rs. 120 per annum. It is really a heartless policy to say the least: Rs. 120 per annum on one village post office, the Government is not prepared to lose; but Government is prepared to lose lakhs and lakhs on Press telegrams, on newspapers and on telegraph lines and in so many other directions.

Coming again to the opening of experimental post offices, between 1925 and 1929, a liberal policy was followed: for, in 1925, as many as 602 new post offices were established, and, in 1929, 1,117 experimental post offices were opened; but, since 1930, a new policy of reducing the number of these new post offices has been followed, with the result that during the last year, 1933-34, there was actually a reduction in the total number of village post offices.

Coming to the postal runners, who have to carry these postal articles from one post office to branch offices, and from one branch office to the nearest village, the number of miles that they have covered has also come down by 2,109 during the year 1933-34

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: May I explain, Sir, that that reduction is frequently due to the introduction of motor services which replace runner services.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: At the same time, I do not know how my Honourable friend will explain the reduction in the number of post offices by 121, the reduction of the village postmen by 453 and the reduction in letter boxes by 1,239? And, Sir, what is the service that we are getting in this country? I find that there is only one post office for every 75 square miles; if you exclude the post office services rendered to the towns, and if you take into account only the villages, you will find that this particular area will be doubled. Then, Sir, for over 14,225 persons you have got only one post office. Are we to be satisfied with this? No. But what are we to do? We must have more and more post offices; we must have more and more post boxes, but the answer which the Honourable Member in charge gives us is that he has not got enough

[Prof. N. G. Ranga.]

money. If his department is to be self-dependent, if it is to pay its own way, then how can we expect this particular department to extend the postal services rendered to our country, and especially to our villagers?

Then, Sir, I come to the question of extra-departmental agents. After all, the department is not paying full salaries to all its employees. There are as many as 17,328 post offices managed by extra-departmental agents, who are only paid part time allowance and whose services are naturally secured at a price very much less than the market price. Therefore, the full price is paid only to those who run 6,348 post offices, and not to all the post offices, and yet the department is unable to establish more post offices, or even to instal more post boxes. The other day, I asked a question whether there was any objection at all to providing a post box to, at least, every village which is being visited by a postman, and the answer was that the cost that would be incurred was going to be so enormous that Government could not possibly consider that proposition; but, Sir, I would like to know how the Director General will explain some of these facts. Why is it, Sir, that special deliveries for distribution of foreign mails are being maintained in this country? Who are the people who are expected to be benefited by these special deliveries? Is it not a fact that Government is really losing a considerable amount of money because of these special deliveries? Secondly, there are special trains to carry foreign mails also. I do realise the advantage of running these special trains. I was abroad several times and for several years, and I know how anxious sometimes we were to receive letters from Home, but, at the same time, the satisfaction which the people abroad get by quickening the service is nothing compared to the satisfaction which the millions and millions of people would get if you opened more post offices and extended all kinds of postal facilities to the villages. Sir, my friends opposite may say that we are always exaggerating when we speak of millions and millions of people, but, it is a fact that millions and millions of people are still suffering for lack of postal facilities, and the satisfaction which these people would derive would certainly be much greater than the foreign traders and merchants or even our own people in this country or abroad would get.

Then, Sir, I should like to make a suggestion to the Honourable Member in charge for his consideration. It is a pity that when I was giving notice of an amendment to this particular Bill, I did not think of it, or at least I did not muster sufficient courage to allude to this. Now, five pice are charged for 2½ tolas extra, and this does not benefit the ordinary masses. This benefits the business people, merchants and townsmen who generally send heavy articles through the post but if the Government is sincere in its professions of sympathy and generosity towards the villagers, I feel that they should charge one anna for every tola for the first and then two annas for every 2½ tolas in addition

An Honourable Member: Government will accept it straightaway.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I don't think so.

An Honourable Member: What about love letters?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I am sure, every one of us has had a share of receiving love letters, but, at the same time, if a man is so generous

towards his own beloved as to write such long letters in order to pay two annas, I don't think he will grudge it.

Then, Sir, I would like to suggest for the consideration of Government that every year the Honourable Member in charge should do his best to pay a certain amount of subsidy to the postal department in order to enable it to open more post offices and put in more post boxes in the villages, so that the villagers in remote corners of India may derive a certain amount of benefit from this useful and necessary department.

Lastly, Sir, I should like to pay a compliment to this particular department. Sir, I have derived inspiration from the activities of this department to this extent that whenever an Anglo-Indian told me in England that the habit of taking bribes is ingrained in Indians and that such a habit cannot be readily eradicated at all, I was always able to tell them to look at the activities of our own telegraph and postal department. I found that is the one department in which this wretched evil of bribery is least found, and, therefore, I am glad this department is being carried on very efficiently. Therefore, I want that its activities should be extended to the villagers so that they may also derive benefit from it. If there was to be a post office in a village even though only five or six letters are posted in a day, even then it will not be a loss to the Government, because the existence of a post office will first of all stimulate the commercial instincts of every person and also social instincts of every person, and the villagers will take to letter-writing to a greater and greater extent. Secondly, if savings banks are also established along with the branch post offices, the villagers will be encouraged in their habits of thrift, and they can keep their few rupees or their small savings in the savings banks. It is a common experience that every year there is a conflagration in every village, and the small sums of money, which the poor villagers have with them, either in the shape of rupees or currency notes, are practically lost, because of this conflagration. But if, on the other hand, these savings banks are established, if every village post office will have a savings bank attached to it, then certainly the villagers will put their little savings in those savings banks.

Lastly, I would like to support this particular reduction in postal rates. The Honourable Member in charge may say—how can you ask for a reduction in postal charges when you are asking for the extension of the services of the postal department? I am perfectly consistent about this particular motion. I am asking for a subsidy of ten lakhs every year from the Finance Member. This year he has got Rs. 120 lakhs. Let him give Rs. 10 lakhs out of it. Let the postal department spend this amount on the extension of rural postal services.

We are nearing the Silver Jubilee. There was another Jubilee in England, and that was the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria, the late Queen of England and the Empress of this unhappy country. During that Jubilee, that is, about 50 years ago, a very useful policy was followed in England and I want that policy to be followed again now in this country, at least at the time of the next Jubilee, which, of course, many of us are not anxious to welcome. I want them to do this:

"As part of the postal improvements made to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1897 the Government decided to give a regular free delivery of letters to every house in the country. The extension took two years of strenuous work to complete, and at the end it was found that a free delivery had been given for the first time to some 55 million letters a year."

[Prof. N. G. Ranga.]

If that policy were followed in this country, not 55 million letters, but 5,500 million letters would certainly be given a chance of free delivery for the first time.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar (Leader of the House): Support the Jubilee Fund!

Prof. N. G. Ranga:

"The principle of the regular delivery is still maintained, though it is not of course in all cases a daily one. The rural delivery is probably one of the least remunerative parts of Post Office work—(I want the Honourable Member to remember the words 'one of the least remunerative parts of Post Office work')—and the cost of giving a delivery every day at isolated cottages receiving two or three letters a week would be prohibitive. Indeed, in the remote districts it not infrequently costs the Post Office sixpence or a shilling to deliver a halfpenny circular."

It costs them six pence or a shilling to deliver a halfpenny circular, and still they carry on that particular kind of service. But here, our civilised Government pleads poverty and says it cannot extend rural postal service because it has not got money and we cannot have it because it has got to pay its own way:

"So complete, however, has the system of postal delivery now become that even the most remote farmhouse on Dartmoor or in the Highlands and every inhabited islet in the Orkneys or Shetlands is regularly visited by the postman. The rural delivery work employs a small army of postmen on foot, on bicycles . . ."

I want our Government also to supply bicycles to our postmen.

" . . . with horses and carts, and in some districts on motor bicycles."

Unfortunately, in this country we supply motor bicycles only to those telegraph sergeants who are to serve the Viceregal Lodge:

"The rural postman has a special character of his own. He is not only a deliverer of letters but he is also a walking post office."

And I want our postmen to be walking post offices:

"He sells stamps, he accepts parcels or registered letters from any one on his walk; he blows his whistle."

I want our postmen also to blow their whistle whenever they come to the village:

" . . . he blows his whistle to announce to the waiting village that he is ready to collect their letters, and he will obtain postal orders for anyone who cannot visit a post office. He is, in fact, probably in closer contact with the public in his district than any other employee of the Post Office, and he is one of its most popular representatives."

Therefore, I expect the Government of India to pay more and more attention to the rural aspect of post office work and to establish more and more post offices and more and more post boxes, and at the same time, reduce the rates that it charges for its own services, especially this anna for every tola of weight for envelopes.

Some Honourable Members: Let the question be now put.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is that the question be now put.

The motion was adopted.

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

‘That in Schedule I to the Bill, in the proposed First Schedule to the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, for the first and second entries under the head ‘Letters’ the following be substituted:

‘For a weight not exceeding one tola	One anna
For a weight exceeding a tola but not exceeding two and a half tolas	One anna and three pies.’

The Assembly divided.

AYES—80.

Aaron, Mr. Samuel.
 Abdul Matin Chaudhury, Mr.
 Aney, Mr. M. S.
 Ayyangar, Mr. M. Ananthasayanam.
 Azhar Ali, Mr. Muhammad.
 Bajoria, Babu Baijnath.
 Banerjee, Dr. P. N.
 Baqui, Mr. M. A.
 Bardaloi, Srijut N. C.
 Bhagavan Das, Dr.
 Bhagchand Soni, Rai Babadur Seth.
 Chhattopadhyaya, Mr. Amarendra Nath.
 Chettiar, Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam.
 Chetty, Mr. Sami Vencatachelam.
 Das, Mr. B.
 Das, Mr. Basanta Kumar.
 Das, Pandit Nilakantha.
 Datta, Mr. Akhil Chandra.
 Desai, Mr. Bhulabhai J.
 Essak Sait, Mr. H. A. Sathar H.
 Fakir Chand, Mr.
 Fazli-Haq Piracha, Khan Sahib Shaikh.
 Fuzul Huq, Mr. A. K.
 Gadgil, Mr. N. V.
 Gnuba, Mr. K. L.
 Ghiasuddin, Mr. M.
 Ghulam Bhik Nairang, Syed.
 Giri, Mr. V. V.
 Govind Das, Seth.
 Gupta, Mr. Ghanshiam Singh.
 Hidayatallah, Sir Ghulam Hussein.
 Hockenull, Mr. F. W.
 Hoshmani, Mr. S. K.
 Hudson, Sir Leslie.
 James, Mr. F. E.
 Jedhe, Mr. K. M.
 Jehangir, Sir Cowasji.
 Jogendra Singh, Sirdar.
 Khan Sahib, Dr.

Khara, Dr. N. B.
 Lahiri Chaudhury, Mr. D. K.
 Lalchand Navalrai, Mr.
 Lindsay, Sir Darcy.
 Maitra, Pandit Lakshmi Kanta.
 Mangal Singh, Sardar.
 Milligan, Mr. J. A.
 Morgan, Mr. G.
 Mudaliar, Mr. C. N. Muthuranga.
 Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi, Qam.
 Muhammad Nauman, Mr.
 Murtuza Sahib Bahadur, Maulvi Syed.
 Nageswara Rao, Mr. K.
 Faliwal, Pandit Sri Krishna Datta.
 Pant, Pandit Govind Ballabh.
 Parma Nand, Bhai.
 Raghuhir Narayan Singh, Choudhri.
 Rajah, Raja Sir Vasudeva.
 Rajan, Dr. T. S. S.
 Raja, Mr. P. S. Kumaraswami.
 Ranga, Prof. N. G.
 Saksena, Mr. Mohan Lal.
 Sant Singh, Sardar.
 Satyamurti, Mr. S.
 Scott, Mr. J. Ramsay.
 Shaif Daudi, Maulvi Muhammad.
 Sham Lal, Mr.
 Sheodass Daga, Seth.
 Siddique Ali Khaz, Khan Sahib Nawab.
 Singh, Mr. Deep Narayan.
 Singh, Mr. Ram Narayan.
 Sinha, Mr. Anugrah Narayan.
 Sinha, Mr. Satya Narayan.
 Sinha, Mr. Shri Krishna.
 Som, Mr. Suryya Kumar.
 Sri Prakasa, Mr.
 Thein Maung, Dr.
 Thein, Maung, U.
 Varma, Mr. B. B.
 Vissanji, Mr. Mathuradas.
 Yakub, Sir Muhammad.

NOES—35.

Abdul Aziz, Khan Bahadur Mian.
 Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab.
 Allah Bakhsh Khan Tiwana, Khan
 Bahadur Nawab Malik.
 Ayyar, Rao Bahadur A. A.
 Venkatarama.
 Bajpai, Mr. G. S.
 Bewoor, Mr. G. V.
 Bhore, The Honourable Sir Joseph.
 Chatarji, Mr. J. M.
 Clow, Mr. A. G.
 Craik, The Honourable Sir Henry.
 Dalal, Dr. R. D.
 De'Souza, Dr. F. X.
 Drake, Mr. D. H. C.
 Gajapatiraj, Maharaj Kumar Vijaya
 Ananda.
 Graham, Sir Lancelot.
 Grigg, The Honourable Sir James.
 Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur
 Sardar Sir.

Joshi, Mr. N. M.
 Kirpalani, Mr. Hiranand Khushiram.
 Lloyd, Mr. A. H.
 Metcalfe, Mr. H. A. F.
 Mukerje, Mr. N. R.
 Mukherjee, Rai Bahadur Sir Satya-
 Charan.
 Nayar, Mr. C. Govindan.
 Noyce, The Honourable Sir Frank.
 Owen, Mr. L.
 Rau, Mr. P. B.
 Row, Mr. K. Sanjiva.
 Scott, Mr. W. L.
 Sher Muhammad Khan, Captain
 Sardar.
 Singh, Mr. Pradyumna Prashad.
 Sircar, The Honourable Sir
 Nripendra.
 Sloan, Mr. T.
 Swithinbank, Mr. B. W.
 Tottenham, Mr. G. R. F.

The motion was adopted.

Amendments Nos. 56, 58 and 66 were, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The House will take up the postcard now.

Mr. Basanta Kumar Das (Surma Valley *cum* Shillong: Non-Muham-
 madan): Sir, I rise to move:

"That in Schedule I to the Bill, in the proposed First Schedule to the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, for the entries under the head 'Postcards' the following be substituted:

' Single.	Six pies
Reply	One anna."

Although justice requires that the price of a postcard should be three pies and that of a reply postcard six pies, yet circumstanced as we are, I have thought that it would be a practical principle of conduct for the present to fix the price of the single card at six pies and that of the reply postcard at one anna. Sir, I shall place this case and examine the Government proposal from two standpoints—first, from the standpoint of the principle of taxation and secondly, from the standpoint of the utility of the Department of Post and Telegraphs as a public utility service. Sir, a postcard is generally used by a poor man for writing letters. We know, Sir, that there are some amongst us who might think that the use of a postcard by them for writing letters would demonstrate a niggardly habit on their part. But, Sir, that cannot be the case with poorman who will always use postcards for writing to their friends, relatives, and for business communication, because their means would not permit them to purchase envelopes for the purpose of writing letters. Sir, we heard the Honourable Member for Industries and Labour quote from a speech of Sir Atul Chatterji in the Legislative Assembly in 1924:

wherein the policy of Government was laid down, but from that speech we find the policy recognised also that the Postal and Telegraph Department should be so worked as to be a source of benefit to the general taxpayer instead of it being a burden on him. If the price of the postcard be fixed at six pice and that of the reply postcard at double that rate, that would not really add so much to the burden of taxation as the prices proposed by Government would do. Sir, if we go to the villages, we can very well realise that really the poor man is finding the cost of the postcard very high and too prohibitive for his means.

Now, if I may narrate my experience during the last elections, I may tell this House that I was really approached by a number of villagers to raise this question of the high price of the postcard and press for its reduction. Villagers gathered round me, during my visits to villages, and they were putting questions to me as to why this Government, even at this time when the economic depression is prevailing in such an acute form in the country and when really the poor man was finding it difficult even to earn his livelihood, was adhering to those high rates and thus adding to their burdens. They asked: "How is it that while we cannot now earn a pice so easily, the Government would ask us to pay up their taxes at the same rates as were prevailing in years when this economic depression did not set in and would even now raise the price of postcards and postage stamps?" Now, Sir, that is the way the villager is feeling the burden of taxation; and as a burdensome taxation cannot be supported on principle, the increasing of postal rates cannot find favour in this House, and, Sir, if really this taxation policy of the Government with regard to these postal rates be pursued, then I submit, Sir, that the poor man will really feel that he is being deprived of the only means of communicating with the friends and relations who might be living at a distance. Now, Sir, in the midst of the rank poverty prevailing in the land, we do not understand the policy of the Government as to why they should not take this fact into consideration and fix lower rates for the postcard. If we take into consideration, Sir, the one principle that was laid down by Armitage Smith in his book called "The Principal Methods of Taxation", then we shall find how injurious this policy of the Government is. Now, he said, that "high rates of postage, telegrams or telephone messages are of the nature of a transit duty and are both impolitic and uneconomic, since it tends to restrain communication and to reduce business".

Now, this Postal and Telegraph Department is really a utility service department just like the Railways, and these two utility service departments really help the growth of industry, agriculture and commerce in the land;—they help and stimulate the activities of the people in the direction of trade, commerce and industry which bring opulence to the country. Now, Sir, I remember once Sir Samuel Hoare described these two departments as being "the nervous system of the body politic", when replying to the deputation that waited on him on behalf of the Anglo-Indians, in England. In view of the fact that a large number of Anglo-Indians are employed in the two departments, he said that "this community represents the nervous system of India". (Hear, hear.) Now, the House will agree that the description was really true, because, we find that it is really these departments which would really increase the happiness of the people if they are conducted on such lines as would go to stimulate commerce, trade, industry and agriculture. So, if we look at this question from this standpoint, then we shall find that there is no

justification for fixing the price of the postcard at 9 pies and that of the reply postcard at double that which will certainly tend to impair the nervous system of the body politic, so to say. Then, Sir, if we take into consideration the effect of these rates on the utility of the postal services, then we shall find that these rates are gradually diminishing the utility of the service, its main function being affording of facility of communication. We find from the reports that have been prepared by the Government that practically, on account of these rates, there has been a downward march of the postal traffic. I shall not trouble the House with the figures contained in the report, but I shall show that really, by this increase of the price of the postcard and the reply postcard, the postal traffic so far as the postcard is concerned came down to 435 millions in 1933-34 from 590 millions in 1928-29. Now, Sir, we find, that even the overhead charges of the department are being maintained. There has been no retrenchment in that direction, and on account of this the high price of the postcard is to be maintained making it difficult for the poor man to purchase a postcard easily, for the purpose of writing his letter. Thus he is sometimes practically prevented from writing his letters to his near relations or to any person with whom he wants to communicate for business purposes. That is a position which cannot be tolerated and agreed to. Then, you will find, Sir, that on account of this rise of the rates of postcards and postage stamps, causing a fall in the postal traffic, the department has been compelled also to reduce the number of post offices and also to reduce the number of letter-boxes. You will find from the figures given in the report that in the year 1933 there were 18,889 post offices and in the year 1934 there were 18,740 post offices, that is, a reduction of 149. We find that in the year 1933 there were 60,611 letter-boxes and these were reduced to 59,732 in the year 1934. That would show how the rise in the price of postcards and postage stamps has tended to diminish as I contend, Sir, the utility of the department. Again, if other statistics given by the Government in their reports be taken into consideration, it will undoubtedly establish the fact that the utility of this department is diminishing. Its main function is the affording of facility of communication and that function it cannot perform as effectively as is desirable, because of the fact that the price of postcards and postage stamps has increased. With these few words, I beg to support my motion.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Amendment moved:

"That in Schedule I to the Bill, in the proposed First Schedule to the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, for the entries under the head 'Postcards' the following be substituted:

' Single	Six pies
Reply	One anna'."

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: Sir, the basic policy of the Government has been fully explained in the speech which was made this morning by the Honourable Member in charge of this Department. So far as I am concerned, I should merely like to deal with some of the points which were raised during the course of the debate and to tell the House what would be the economic effect of the reduction in the postcard rate. My friend, Mr. Sri Prakasa, for whose very friendly speech I am most grateful, made a reference to the fact that people have now to pay for complaining against the post office. Now, Sir, I do not see any reason why you should

not pay anything when you complain against the post office when you have to pay postage charges when you complain against any other department of Government. He also mentioned that people have to pay five pice for getting a refund of two pice. May I point out to him that it is not necessary for him always to post his complaint. If he will visit the post office on his way to his office or place of business and hand over the complaint to the postmaster, the latter will accept it without asking for any postage on that letter. A great deal of complaint has also been made regarding the restriction of postal facilities in rural areas especially in recent years. We fully admit this fact and we regret it as much as Members opposite. We have mentioned before that this policy of severe retrenchment was forced upon the department on account of the very serious fall in the traffic that was taking place. Honourable Members frequently say that the fall in traffic was due to the increase in the rates. This is not a fact. The fall in traffic had started before we revised our rates. The revision in rates took place on the 15th December, 1931, but the postcard traffic which had reached a maximum of 590 millions in the year 1928-29 fell down to 586 millions in 1929-30 and to 540 millions in 1930-31. The new rate only came into operation from the 15th December, 1931. In 1931-32 the traffic fell to 493 millions and again next year to 450 millions and in 1933-34 it fell to 439 millions. The point that I wish to make out is that this fall in traffic was not due to the increase in rates alone but the depression in trade was greatly responsible for this fall. Then, again, we find a similar fall in the number of letters and of other postal traffic.

Mr. M. S. Aney (Berar Representative): May I ask the Honourable Member if in giving these figures for the traffic he is also including the articles of Posts and Telegraphs service?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: I am excluding them.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Othettiar (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot: Non-Muhammadan Rural): How does he apportion this fall . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order: It would be better if the question is asked after the Honourable Member has finished his speech.

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: Honourable Members opposite must not misunderstand me when I am telling all these figures that I wish to argue against what they are saying. I am merely trying to explain to them that their assumption that the fall in traffic is due to the increase in rates is not borne out by the facts. I admit that the rise in rates has had some effect on the traffic but the economic depression is mainly responsible for the very large fall in this traffic and we can only look forward to an improvement in the economic conditions of the country and in its trade and commerce for a recovery of the postal traffic. Now, Sir, the Retrenchment Committee, which dealt with the finances of this department, went thoroughly into all items of expenditure and we accepted all their recommendations. Professor Ranga dealt with the question of special deliveries for foreign mails and special trains and said that if these were abolished we should be able to reduce the postage rates. I may assure him that both these questions have been thoroughly examined. Special deliveries are issued only in those places where the postmen would find it

[Mr. G. V. Bewoor.]

impossible to take the foreign mail which comes once a week along with the ordinary mail. In certain post offices the volume of mails received is four or five times that of the daily inland delivery mail. Therefore, unless we issue a special delivery by postmen that mail could not be carried to the addressee's names. Except in a few places in India, we have no longer got special deliveries of foreign mails. In regard to the special trains, there are really only two special trains, one goes from Calcutta to Bombay and the other goes once a fortnight from Bombay to Madras. We have found that if we did not have a special train, we would have to pay very nearly the same amount while causing a great deal of delay. I am mentioning these two instances in order to show to Honourable Members opposite that every avenue of economy has been examined and we have done all that we could to reduce the expenditure of the department, so much so that Honourable Members opposite frequently ask questions and criticise us adversely for having done so much retrenchment. The position of the department at present is that our revenues are still unable to cover the expenditure. In such a state of the finances of the department it is impossible for us to accept a change in the rate which is likely to involve such a big loss. Now, the postcard rate, if it is reduced to half an anna, is anticipated to involve a loss of 68 lakhs. That is to say, if there is no increase in the postcard traffic, the revenues of the department would suffer to the extent of 68 lakhs. But we are perfectly prepared to assume, though this would be a very generous assumption that there would be an increase of ten per cent. in the total postcard traffic during the coming year. I know many Honourable Members opposite think that a reduction in the rate from three pice to two pice would bring in such a rush of postcards that we shall get all that we lose by a reduction of the rate. I might mention, in this connection, that our estimates are based on a very careful examination of the course of traffic during the last many years. I am sure Honourable Members opposite will accept my figure for the reasons that I shall give them. In 1918-19, the total number of postcards was 565 millions, this was in the year when the postcard was one pice. By 1921-22, we had reached the figure of 648 millions, that is to say, in three years the postcard traffic had increased by 83 millions or an average of 28 millions per year. I hope Honourable Members will remember that these were the years of the boom period immediately after the War. In 1922, we revised the postcard rate and doubled it. The postcard traffic did not fall by fifty per cent. It fell from 648 millions to 528 millions, that is to say, in one year it fell by 125 millions or roughly by 20 per cent. In the next six years the traffic began slowly to increase as the public got accustomed to the higher rate and, by the end of 1928-29, when we reached the highest figure, we had recovered 87 millions of the traffic or roughly an average of 11 millions postcards per year. In 1929-30, the traffic remained almost steady at 586 millions. Then came the economic depression and the increase in the postcard rate so that by 1933-34, the traffic had fallen to 499 millions or at an average of 37 millions per annum. It will be seen that the traffic went up by 28 millions per year in the boom years, it went up by 11 millions per year during what may be called more or less normal years and it fell at the rate of 87 millions each year in the period during which there was economic depression as well as increase in rate. We are prepared to assume that if this postcard rate is reduced from three pice to two pice, the traffic will go up by ten per cent. next year.

Mr. S. Satyamurti (Madras City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Why not more?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: That is to say by 43 million postcards. As I have already pointed out, in the after-war boom years, when the postcard was one pice the average rate of increase was 28 millions, the rate of fall in the economic depression period was 37 millions and we really cannot possibly assume under the existing circumstances of the economic situation that a reduction of the postcard rate from three pice to two pice will result in any increase beyond 43 millions. To do so would be to go from the region of fair estimation to that of pure imagination. Honourable Members have already been told what happens to imaginative financiers. We anticipate, therefore, that allowing for an increase of 43 million postcards roughly in the next year, the loss would be reduced from 68 lakhs to 54 lakhs. Our Budget for 1935-36 shows a loss of 18 lakhs. We cannot possibly face a budget with a loss of another 54 lakhs added. The postcard rates in India are by no means heavy. I know Honourable Members opposite will contest that statement, but I want to say this; when I say they are not high, I mean they are not comparatively high, considering first, the area that is covered and secondly, the rates which are charged in various other countries.

Mr. A. K. Fuzlul Huq (Bakargunj *cum* Faridpur: Muhammadan Rural): What about the poverty of the people; that is the most important consideration.

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: We are dealing here with a department which is required to fix its rates in such a way that its expenditure is covered by its income.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Why?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: That is the accepted policy of Government. The rate for postcards is higher in fourteen of the leading countries of the world, Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Austria Hungary, Norway, Canada and Australia.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What is their wealth?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: In all these countries the postcard rates are higher. It is not a question of whether the people can afford it or not. If that is the principle on which the rates are to be fixed, then the whole policy on which the working of this department is based goes by the board. It means that the services will have to be subsidised by the general taxpayer for the benefit of the users of the post office. The Honourable Member in charge of the Department has already explained fully this morning that the policy of the department is that the rates should pay for the cost involved. We cannot run the department as a subsidised department. Once you do that, the limit up to which you can go in subsidising the department will be never certain. If you are going to subsidise the department for the sake of the poor man in the case of the postcard, then why not give him a pice postcard, or why not a free postcard?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: We are willing.

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: If Honourable Members are prepared to tax to the extent of making up the loss of the Post and Telegraph Department, it is not a matter for me. I wish merely to point out that considering the extent of area served by the Postal Department

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: What is the pay of the Director General?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: I am merely concerned in pointing out that considering the long distances which are to be covered in this country and the small volume of traffic which we have to deal with, the rates that are existing in India are by no means heavy in themselves. The letter rate of India is one of the cheapest in the world and the postcard rate in India, even at nine pies rate, is one of the cheapest in the world. It is all very well for Honourable Members, as Prof. Ranga did, to point to the example of Great Britain.

An Honourable Member: What is the rate in Japan?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: In Japan, it is five pies *i.e.*, less than half an anna. There again I would like to impress upon Honourable Members the extent of the country across which the articles are carried. What is the percentage of literacy? These countries have the great advantage of handling large quantities of mails across short distances and are, therefore, able to utilise machinery to a much larger extent. We, in this country, have to carry letters and postcards across distances of 1,800 miles across jungles and by hand, by camels, by elephants and naturally our cost is higher.

An Honourable Member: What about China?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: If it will satisfy my Honourable friend, I will tell him; it is 5½ pies. China is in such a disturbed state that we do not know exactly what China means now, what is the extent of the territory. I can give Honourable Members many reasons as to the comparatively high cost of the service in this country or rather the great profits made in countries where literacy is very high and where the distances are small compared with us. In the case of Great Britain, their example is always held to us. I can point out that, whereas we handle over a thousand million articles per annum, they handle over 6,000 million articles, and, therefore, their margin of profit is very much more. It is as much a matter of regret to the Government as to Honourable Members on the Opposite Benches that we are not able this year to give a lower rate either for the letter or for the postcard. But we have already assured the House that when there are surpluses and surpluses have come to stay we shall certainly take into consideration the question of the reduction of rates. Honourable Members opposite always want us to give better facilities to our staff, better pensions to our inferior staff, pensions for staff like telephone operators who are not getting pensions. They want more post offices in rural area and more frequent deliveries. All these things need money. If the rates are going to be cut down, and the department which is already working at a loss of 13 lakhs is going to be made to work with further loss, it is obvious that these concessions to-

the staff will have to be postponed for many years to come. And the extension of the postal facilities in rural areas will also have to be greatly restricted. The whole difference between us is this: Do you or do you not accept the principle that the post office should pay its way? If it is to pay its way you must accept our rates for the current year; if it is to be subsidised, there is no limit to the extent to which you can go in reducing the rates.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Reduce your expenditure.

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: I have already dealt with that question of the reduction of expenditure. We have retrenched so much,—I could give figures to the House but it is no use going into that point now,—we have retrenched so much that Honourable Members of the House have themselves been protesting against this retrenchment. And we have as a result of questions here, and advice, stopped the compulsory retrenchments in the postal department which was the only department which carried on this retrenchment for an extra year. For these reasons, I am very sorry that on behalf of Government I must oppose this amendment.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Sir, I had no intention of taking part in this debate but some questions of principle have been raised by the Honourable Member in charge and by the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs which I should like to speak about only for a few minutes. I realise how precious the time is at this late hour of the day and late period of the Session. Sir, we have always agreed to consider the Posts and Telegraphs Department as a commercial department; we mean thereby that they should so manage their affairs that they should make both ends meet. It has been strictly laid down that this department should make no profit; at the same time it should so adjust its rates as to make no loss. Now, Sir, if that principle is agreed to, I fully realise that the fixing of the rates plays a most important part and that the Honourable Member in charge and the Director General have some justification when they complain of our insisting upon putting down the rates. But, Sir, there is a limit at which we must stop. The Director General just now mentioned post offices in rural areas. Well, Sir, as he very well knows, the Retrenchment Committee went into that question fairly carefully, and we did find that post offices in rural areas cost the taxpayer a good deal. They can never be self-supporting. I do not believe they are self-supporting in any part of the world. We did suggest that up to a certain limit such post offices should be discouraged. But in the budget we find that the Finance Member has given one crore and 13 lakhs for village uplift, this large sum is provided for the advantage of the agricultural classes. It is for this House to consider whether the expansion of postal facilities in rural areas is of such importance as to insist that the Posts and Telegraphs Department should receive a subsidy out of the bounty allowed by the Finance Department.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: How is the recurring loss going to be met if postal facilities in rural areas are extended?

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: I assume that this bounty is going to be continued and . . .

The Honourable Sir James Grigg (Finance Member): One year at a time. The bounty, as the Honourable Member calls it, has been allocated out of last year's surplus. It is no longer available for any purpose whatever except the one for which it has been allocated.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: I am being led by the Honourable Member's statement into a controversy into which I did not desire or expect to be led into this afternoon. This surplus is not a windfall that the Honourable Member has got. It is money that his predecessor took out of our pockets by a miscalculation, and I contend, as I have always done, that that money should be returned to our pockets. My Honourable friend can go on underestimating his revenue from year to year and when he gets these surpluses my Honourable friend can afford to be liberal at our expense. I do not accept his contention. I only agree to one principle and that is that if you have a surplus due to your underestimating, that money is ours and should come back to our pockets, *i.e.*, the taxpayer's pockets. If you get a windfall such as you got a year or two ago by being let off from war debt interest, that is a windfall. It is a true and a proper windfall for which you can justifiably say that it must go for debt redemption or any other non-recurring purpose. But a windfall such as my Honourable friend has got is no windfall at all. It is the result of a miscalculation and of having overtaxed us last year, and I am afraid the Honourable Member may find that he is making the same mistake. It may be that we are wrong. If we are wrong and the surplus is as the Honourable Member expects, or is even smaller, we shall take off our hats to him and allow ourselves to be taxed. But if we find that that surplus is more than he expects, we shall not allow him next year to appropriate that surplus as he likes and for whatever bounties he chooses to give. It is our money and must be returned to us by a reduction of taxation or by such other grants as we approve of. That is the policy which I trust this House will insist upon being followed next year. So much for this non-recurring surplus. I contend that perhaps the Honourable Member and his Government will be forced into setting aside a certain sum for rural uplift from year to year from revenue which will come to them. What does it mean? It means that you are returning to the provinces some portion of the taxation which the provinces raise and which you under the Constitution take for your own use at the Centre.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta).]

You can return it in more than one way. In this case you will be returning it to the provinces earmarked for the use of the agricultural classes. That will continue. But my point was that if you desire to extend postal facilities, into rural areas, and if you consider that such facilities are—shall I say—necessities of life, then I contend that you will be justified in insisting that those facilities should be financed from subsidies from the centre and should not be considered as a part of the postal budget. Telephones,—self-supporting; Broadcasting, if it is in your department,—self-supporting; other facilities,—self-supporting; telegraphs,—self-supporting; but if you come to such services that you render to the country which you consider for the poorer classes are a

necessity of life just as much as wheat or rice, I think this House will be justified in saying that the loss which the post office department incurs should be made good from subsidies. Therefore this loss to post offices, even perhaps the loss on the one-anna one tola letter I consider as a subsidy from central revenues to the department of Posts and Telegraphs. You frame your budget to make both ends meet. If in that process you find that you are compelled to charge for your postcard 9 pies, that you are compelled to charge for your half tola letter one anna, then I consider that the balance should be made good from subsidies: but I will go no further than that. I will not allow telephone to be subsidised, or telegrams to be subsidised: I will not allow anything else to be subsidised from general revenues. I will make an exception only in the case of postcards. (Opposition Cheers.) I am very doubtful whether I would even make an exception in the case of letters: we have cut the revenue down by 16 lakhs and I think that the postal department ought to take the risk of budgeting for that deficit this year; but, with regard to postcards, I am definite in my opinion that there should be a subsidy from Central revenues

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai (Bombay Northern Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): If necessary.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: If necessary; and if literacy amongst the masses increases as my friend, the Director General, said, and it is bound to go on increasing, and if we can get a self-supporting three pie postcard why, nobody will be more pleased than ourselves, but until that time comes at least the six pie postcard may be given to us, and you may take for that purpose monies from the central revenues. As one who has always supported a commercial department for the posts and telegraphs, I would like now to make this one exception and, therefore to be consistent with all I have said in the past in regard to this department, I have been forced to make these remarks.

There is just one more point that I would like to mention, which I think is due to the department. Some Honourable Member jumped up and asked "What is the Director General's salary?" And somebody else said that the department was top-heavy. Now, I have been in the fortunate or perhaps unfortunate position of having had to examine very carefully the accounts of this department and also how far we can retrench; and I have come to the conclusion that this department is not top-heavy and that the services rendered by the officers of this department are services for which we should be grateful and I venture to suggest that if my Honourable friend the Director General had not been a member of the Civil Service, who was forced to take the pay of that service, in any other part of the world he would have demanded a higher salary for the service he is rendering. That is my opinion. If you get a head of a department with crores of revenue and crores of expenditure, in any part of the world you must expect to pay him a salary like the Rs. 4,000 that the Director General gets. (Interruption.) There we are in the land of imagination; and if my Honourable friend, Mr. Satyamurti, was made Director General of Posts and Telegraphs I would not be surprised if he demanded Rs. 10,000 a month (Laughter), and it may be quite possible that Mr. Satyamurti may deserve that Rs. 10,000. Now, there has been a fallacy in this country, a fallacy that has been emphasised over and over again by my Honourable friends, that we over-pay our highest officers. I know from experience that men doing the same kind

[Sir Cowasji Jehangir.]

of work, with the same responsibility, often get much more in other parts of the world. I will give you just one example of that fallacy: the other day one of my Honourable friends talked about the £1,700 a year the Minister of Transport gets as compared with the pay of the Commissioner for Railways. But the comparison is not a good one. For in England, the men who do the same work or less responsible work than the Commissioner of Railways does get sometimes between £7,000 to £10,000 a year: the heads of these railways in England draw £7,000 to £10,000 a year.

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

Therefore to compare the salary of the Minister for Transport in England with the executive head of a great railway system is not a fair comparison. I only point that out to show that sometimes we may be misled; and I feel confident that when it comes to the turn of my Honourable friends to sit on the Government Benches, they will in years to come congratulate themselves if they will be able to get officers to do the same work on the same salary. I trust I have not led the debate into lines of controversy, and that my Honourable friends will not try to give a reply to me today, but will reserve it for another occasion. I was forced into these remarks by some remarks made: we shall have our controversy on this question which is a side issue at a later date. On the present occasion, for the reasons that I have given, I beg to support the amendment placed before the House. (Opposition Cheers.)

Some Honourable Members: The question may now be put.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Sir, I did not intend to add anything to the exposition of the case against this amendment which has already been placed before the House by the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs: but I am compelled to do so by what has just fallen from the lips of my Honourable friend, Sir Cowasji Jehangir. If there is one man in this House or outside it who has done more for the Posts and Telegraphs Department in an unofficial capacity than Sir Cowasji Jehangir, I shall be glad to meet him. The Department is under a very deep debt of gratitude to him for all that he did for it both on the Posts and Telegraphs Accounts Enquiry Committee and the Posts and Telegraphs Retrenchment Committee. But there is no one who has done more than he has to keep it in the straight path of financial orthodoxy; and, therefore, it is with the very deepest regret that I have heard him this afternoon getting up to give a push to the department to send it down the slope which will eventually land it in financial damnation.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: On a point of personal explanation, Sir, I have stated clearly that the department should get a subsidy to the extent to which it loses on postcards; but the department's accounts should be kept straight.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: But that is the danger. I know that my Honourable friend says "Give it a subvention: keep its accounts exactly as before: pursue the same policy but get a subvention from general revenues". But I contend that that is a dangerous path, that the danger will still be there and I will show the reason why I think so. It

is all very well for my Honourable friend to say, "Give the Department a subsidy for a cheap postcard". But, as he admitted himself, at the start of his speech, he thought for a minute—at any rate I gathered that he did—of giving a subsidy for the one-tola letter for one anna

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: I am doubtful about that, I admit.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: He is doubtful about it, he says: there are going to be a lot of other doubtful cases: there are always going to be doubtful cases. Once you start on this evil policy of subsidising cheap postcards from general revenues, you will never be able to stop: my Honourable friend, Professor Ranga, wants a subsidy for an expansion in the number of village post offices and so it will go on. How are you going to decide which activities are to come within the financial canons of propriety, which activities are to be legitimately charged to the post offices, and for which activities you have to go to general revenues? That, Sir, is a point that I tried to make this morning, and I should like to lay further emphasis on it now. Where is the money to come from? From general revenues? My friend says that this year the cost of giving half anna postcards which amounts to about 54 lakhs can be found from the surplus. But, on the most liberal estimate, if there is a ten per cent. increase in the traffic in postcards, the nett loss of the following year will be 40 lakhs, the nett loss the year after that will be 26 lakhs, and the nett loss in the following year will be 12 lakhs, so there will be a total loss of 132 lakhs if my Honourable friend's suggestion is accepted before postcards pay for themselves: Are we certain that we are going to have a sufficient surplus next year to be in a position to give 40 lakhs as a subsidy next year, 26 lakhs the year after and 12 lakhs in the following year? I am quite sure my Honourable colleague the Finance Member will be quite unable to give us any guarantee

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: There will be a demand for reduction of surcharge.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: As my Honourable colleague reminds me, if there is any surplus, the first demand will be for the redemption of the pledge for the reduction of surcharge on income-tax

An Honourable Member: We will come to that just now.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Another subsidy?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: That makes my position stronger, because where is the money to come from? You cannot have subsidies from general revenues for all purposes.

Again, Sir, as regards village post offices, I entirely sympathise with my friends opposite in their desire that postal facilities should be extended in rural areas, and, as I said the other day, we are devoting half a lakh in the current year for that purpose, but if you are going to increase postal facilities in rural areas, you have got to find the money to keep them going. The House recognises that there is a definite loss on a large number of these post offices. It is all very well to say that we will pay for that loss this year out of the surplus, but the loss will go on increasing like a snow-ball until you come to a stage when there will be so many rural post offices on which loss is incurred that they will become a very serious burden on the department. Sir, whatever decision this House may come to, I would

[Sir Frank Noyce.]

earnestly appeal to it to let the Posts and Telegraphs Department go on as at present. I, as the Member in charge of that department, have no desire to come to this House hat in hand asking for subsidies from general revenues. Let us proceed as we are proceeding on the straight and narrow path of financial propriety in the endeavour to pay our way as an honest department should do.

Several Honourable Members: Sir, the question be now put.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order. The question is that the question be now put.

The motion was adopted.

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

"That in Schedule I to the Bill, in the proposed First Schedule to the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, for the entries under the head 'Postcards' the following be substituted:

'Single	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	Six pies.
Reply	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	One anna'."

The Assembly divided:

AYES—79.

Aaron, Mr. Samuel.
 Abdul Matin Chaudhury, Mr.
 Abdullah, Mr. H. M.
 Aney, Mr. M. S.
 Ayyangar, Mr. M. Ananthasayanam.
 Azhar Ali, Mr. Muhammad.
 Bajoria, Babu Baijnath.
 Banerjee, Dr. P. N.
 Baqui, Mr. M. A.
 Bardaloi, Srijiut N. C.
 Bhagavan Das, Dr.
 Bhagchand Soni, Rai Bahadur Seth.
 Chhattopadhyaya, Mr. Amarendra
 Nath.
 Chettiar, Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam.
 Chetty, Mr. Sami Vencatachelam.
 Das, Mr. B.
 Das, Mr. Basanta Kumar.
 Das, Pandit Nilakantha.
 Datta, Mr. Akhij Cuandra.
 Desai, Mr. Bhulabhai J.
 Essak Sait, Mr. H. A. Sether H.
 Fakir Chand, Mr.
 Fazl-i-Haq Piracha, Khan Sahib
 Shaikh.
 Fuzlul Huq, Mr. A. K.
 Gadgil, Mr. N. V.
 Gauba, Mr. K. L.
 Ghiasuddin, Mr. M.
 Ghulam Bhik Nairang, Syed.
 Giri, Mr. V. V.
 Govind Das, Seth.
 Gupta, Mr. Ghanasham Singh.
 Hidayatallah, Sir Ghulam Hussain.
 Hosmani, Mr. S. K.
 Jedhe, Mr. K. M.
 Jehangir, Sir Cowasji.
 Jogendra Singh, Sirdar.
 Khan Sahib, Dr.
 Khare, Dr. N. B.
 Lahiri Chaudhury, Mr. D. K.
 Lechand Navalrai, Mr
 Majitra, Pandit Lakshmi Kanta.

Mangal Singh, Sardar.
 Mehr Shah, Nawab Sahibzada Sir
 Sayad Muhammad.
 Mudanar, Mr. C. N. Muthuranga.
 Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi, Qazi,
 Muhammad Nauman, Mr.
 Murtuza Sahib Bahadur, Maulvi
 Syed.
 Nageswara Rao, Mr. K.
 Faiwal, Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta.
 Pant, Pandit Govind Ballabh.
 Parma Nand, Bhai.
 Raghbir Narayan Singh, Choadhri.
 Rajah, Raja Sir Vasudeva.
 Rajan, Dr. T. S. S.
 Raju, Mr. P. S. Kumaraswami.
 Ranga, Prof. N. G.
 Saksena, Mr. Mohan Lal.
 Sant Singh, Sardar.
 Satyamurti, Mr. S.
 Shafi Daudi, Maulvi Muhammad.
 Sham Lal, Mr.
 Shankat Ali, Maulana.
 Sheodass Daga, Seth.
 Siddique Ali Khan, Khan Sahib
 Nawab.
 Singh, Mr. Deep Narayan.
 Singh, Mr. Ram Narayan.
 Sinha, Mr. Anugrah Narayan.
 Sinha, Mr. Satya Narayan.
 Sinha, Mr. Shri Krishna.
 Sinha, Raja Bahadur Harihar Prasad
 Narayan.
 Som, Mr. Suryya Kumar.
 Sri Prakasa, Mr.
 Thein Maung, Dr.
 Thein, Maung, U
 Umar Aly Shah, Mr.
 Varma, Mr. B. B.
 Vissanji, Mr. Mathuradas.
 Yakub, Sir Muhammed
 Ziauddin Ahmad, Dr.

NOES—44.

Abdul Aziz, Khan Bahadur Mian.
 Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab.
 Allah Bakhsh Khan Tiwana, Khan
 Bahadur Nawab Malik.
 Ayyar, Rao Bahadur A. A. Venkata-
 rama.
 Bajpai, Mr. G. S.
 Bewoor, Mr. G. V.
 Bhore, The Honourable Sir Joseph.
 Chatarji, Mr. J. M.
 Clow, Mr. A. G.
 Craik, The Honourable Sir Henry.
 Dalal, Dr. R. D.
 DeSouza, Dr. F. X.
 Drake, Mr. D. H. C.
 Graham, Sir Lancelot.
 Grigg, The Honourable Sir James
 Hockenbuhl, Mr. F. W.
 Hudson, Sir Leelis.
 James, Mr. F. E.
 Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur
 Sardar Sir.
 Joshi, Mr. N. M.
 Kirpalani, Mr. Hiranand Khushiram.
 Lal Chand, Captain Rao Bahadur
 Chaudhri.

Lindsay, Sir Darcy.
 Lloyd, Mr. A. H.
 Metcalfe, Mr. H. A. F.
 Milligan, Mr. J. A.
 Morgan, Mr. G.
 Mukerje, Mr. N. R.
 Mukherjee, Rai Bahadur Sir Satya
 Charan.
 Nayar, Mr. C. Govindan.
 Noyce, The Honourable Sir Frank.
 Owen, Mr. L.
 Rajah, Rao Bahadur M. C.
 Rau, Mr. P. R.
 Row, Mr. K. Sanjiva.
 Sarma, Mr. R. S.
 Scott, Mr. J. Ramsay.
 Scott, Mr. W. L.
 Sher Muhammad Khan, Captain
 Sardar.
 Singh, Mr. Pradyumna Prashad,
 Sircar, The Honourable Sir
 Nripendra.
 Sloan, Mr. T.
 Swithinbank, Mr. B. W.
 Tottenham, Mr. G. R. F.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The next item is the Schedule,—Book, Pattern and Sample Packets,—will now be taken up. The motions* relating to these are Nos. 72 to 77. Nos. 72, 74 and 77 appear to be practically to the same effect.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Nos. 74 and 77 are exactly the same, but No. 72 is slightly different.

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: No. 72 excludes sample packets. It only relates to book packets

Pandit Nilakantha Das (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadan): I do not move my motion No. 72

*72. "That in Schedule I to the Bill, in the proposed First Schedule to the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, after the existing entries under the head 'Postcards' the following heading and entries be inserted and the word 'Book' occurring under the head 'Book, Pattern and Sample Packets' be omitted :

•Book packets including matter for press :

For the first five tolas or fraction thereof Six pies.

For every additional five tolas or fraction thereof in excess of five tolas Six pies."

Mr. F. E. James (Madras: European): I beg to move No. 73.

"That in Schedule I to the Bill, in the proposed First Schedule to the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, for the entries under the head 'Book, Pattern and Sample Packets' the following be substituted:

For a weight not exceeding two and a half tolas	Six pies.
For a weight exceeding two and a half tolas, but not exceeding five tolas	Nine pies.
For every additional five tolas, or fraction thereof in excess of five tolas	Six pies."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved.

"That in Schedule I to the Bill, in the proposed First Schedule to the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, for the entries under the head 'Book, Pattern and Sample Packets' the following be substituted:

For a weight not exceeding two and a half tolas	Six pies.
For a weight exceeding two and a half tolas, but not exceeding five tolas	Nine pies.
For every additional five tolas, or fraction thereof in excess of five tolas	Six pies."

Mr. F. E. James: I do not move No. 74.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadian Urban): I do not move No. 75, but I support No. 73 moved by Mr. James.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Sir, I move No. 76:

"That in Schedule I to the Bill, in the proposed First Schedule to the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, for the entries under the head 'Book, Pattern and Sample Packets' the following be substituted:

For the first five tolas or fraction thereof	Six pies.
For every additional five tolas or fraction thereof in excess of five tolas	Three pies."

73. "That in Schedule I to the Bill, in the proposed First Schedule to the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, for the entries under the head 'Book, Pattern and Sample Packets' the following be substituted:

For a weight not exceeding two and a half tolas	Six pies
For a weight exceeding two and a half tolas, but not exceeding five tolas	Nine pies.
For every additional five tolas, or fraction thereof in excess of five tolas	Six pies."

74. "That in Schedule I to the Bill, in the proposed First Schedule to the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, for the entries under the head 'Book, Pattern and Sample Packets' the following be substituted:

For every five tolas or fraction thereof	Six pies."
--	------------

75. "That in Schedule I to the Bill, in the proposed First Schedule to the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, for the entries under the head 'Book, Pattern and Sample Packets' the following be substituted:

For the first five tolas or fraction thereof	Six pies.
For every additional five tolas or fraction thereof in excess of five tolas	One anna."

76. "That in Schedule I to the Bill, in the proposed First Schedule to the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, for the entries under the head 'Book, Pattern and Sample Packets' the following be substituted:

For the first five tolas or fraction thereof	Six pies.
For every additional five tolas or fraction thereof in excess of five tolas	Three pies."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved.

"That in Schedule I to the Bill, in the proposed First Schedule to the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, for the entries under the head 'Book, Pattern and Sample Packets' the following be substituted:

'For the first five tolas or fraction thereof	Six pies.
For every additional five tolas or fraction thereof in excess of five tolas	Three pies."

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I do not move No. 77.

Sir Darcy Lindsay (Bengal: European): Before I speak on this amendment, I would venture to suggest to the Honourable Member in charge, Sir Frank Noyce, that next year when he delivers to this House a very valuable speech of the kind we had this morning, full of details and full of figures, he should have the speech printed and given to Members who wish to read the same. After he has delivered his speech, this, I am quite sure, would meet with appreciation. This time last year we were told by the Finance Member that the increase of one pice in the rate for book covers was necessary to stop the diversion of the post card traffic. He stated:

"The book packet method of transmission is undoubtedly being abused, and a change is urgently necessary to stop the diversion, with consequent loss of revenue, that is occurring of post card traffic to the book packet category. We estimate a gain of a little over five lakhs in revenue from this change."

Coupled with a subsequent statement made by the Honourable Member in charge, it could certainly be inferred that the loss from diversion was in the region of five lakhs and it also stands out that the raid on the book post packets was not so much for revenue purposes but to recover the loss on the diversion of traffic. I have been studying the charts given in the valuable report issued annually by the Posts and Telegraphs Department and I find that, if all the increased traffic in the year 1932-33 in book packets was due to diversion of post card traffic, the amount of loss could not be more than 1,25,000. It would indeed be a tall order to assume that such was the case and I doubt there having been any appreciable diversion to avoid the higher rate. It may be, however, that former users of post cards for advertising now use the envelope instead. I only quote this to show how very misleading guesswork figures can be. There can be no doubt that traders in particular, who use the book post as a medium of advertising, have been hard hit by this quite needless increase in rate which, as I have before mentioned, was not imposed for revenue purposes, and, under all the circumstances of the case, my Group urge that the former rate of six pies be restored. Our amendment is that the initial weight be reduced to 2½ tolas and for every additional five tolas or fraction thereof six pies. We base our demand on the undoubted fact that the increased rate is a hardship upon genuine traders and also on the fact

77. "That in Schedule I to the Bill, in the proposed First Schedule to the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, for the entries under the head 'Book, Pattern and Sample Packets' the following be substituted:

'For the first five tolas or fraction thereof	Six pies."
---	------------

[Sir Darcy Lindsay.]

that there has been evident misunderstanding in reference to the necessity for the increase while the estimate of revenue gain has been very wise of the mark. I believe that our proposal will entail a diminution of 6½ lakhs in revenue and I plead that this small sum be given up for the reasons as stated. It would reduce to ten lakhs the estimated gain in revenue which is double of what the Honourable the Finance Member expected to receive. Members have doubtless received a memorial issued by the Bombay Booksellers Association giving certain facts and figures and, it is further pointed out that the volume of daily correspondence has decreased to an alarming extent. I have heard from other sources that advertising has had to be curtailed and my Honourable friend, Mr. James, tells me that he has had many complaints from the Madras Presidency. Sir, I have had letters from tea planters in the Darjeeling District who make very large use of this book packet postage in order to sell locally their tea. One of the planters issued as many as 100 thousand of these envelopes and owing to the increase in postage this has had to be largely reduced.

Our enterprising Director General of Posts and Telegraphs, Mr. Bewoor, is a great believer in the fact that it pays to advertise. Recently we have had many examples of this in the circulars that he has issued and I am quite sure that he will appreciate the soundness of our argument that the half anna rate be restored.

Sir, I am very sorry that I did not have an opportunity of speaking on the post card reduction, as I had hoped to suggest to the Honourable Member in charge that something might be done in that direction to commemorate the Silver Jubilee. What could be a finer move than to reduce the post card to half an anna with a Silver Jubilee stamp to commemorate the event. (Hear, hear.) I hope the Government will consider the proposal. I do not know in what direction the Post office proposes to commemorate the Silver Jubilee—by the issue of special stamps or otherwise—but I do think that the issue of half anna Silver Jubilee post card would keep the Silver Jubilee of their Majesties in our minds for all time. (Hear, hear.) We have discussed ways and means and how difficult it is to find the money to meet the reductions that the House has voted for. Now, Sir, it was only I think in the year 1919-20 that the first contribution was demanded by the Central Government from the Postal Department for interest on capital account. I think the amount was about 54 lakhs. It has since grown to something like 80 lakhs. I have always argued that much of the block was provided by the surpluses earned by the Telegraph and the Postal Department. I took out figures some years ago, I think from 1915-16 to 1921-22, and the surplus shown in the annual postal reports was over 8 crores. I remember Sir Charles Innes in 1921 told the House that the Telegraph Department had made a surplus of one crore and 71 lakhs and for many years past it had been earning very substantial surpluses. I contend that those surpluses must have been devoted to building post offices and the extension of the telegraph lines. It seems a little hard that we should now be called upon to pay interest on our own money. I just offer that as one suggestion to the Finance Department as a means of assisting the Posts and Telegraphs. Another matter relates to the Press rates. I

have been studying that valuable compilation, the Report of Post and Telegraphs Accounts Enquiry Committee prepared by my Honourable friend, Sir Cowasji Jehangir

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: I did not prepare it. I was only Chairman of the Committee.

Sir Darcy Lindsay: showing that the loss to the Telegraph Department was something like Rs. 20 lakhs a year. It seems very unjust to me that the Postal Department should have to meet this charge. (Hear, hear.) It surely is a charge which a Publicity Department should meet; and on these grounds, I think the Government might very well return to the Post Office or rather pay to the Post Office the 15 lakhs or 20 lakhs that they lose every year. Now, Sir, to return to the book-packet. I sincerely hope that the House will support me in this very mild request for a return to the half an anna postage for 2½ tolas in weight. It will be much appreciated by all parties in India and traders in particular. (Applause.) With these remarks, Sir, I commend the amendment to the House. (Loud Applause.)

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: Sir, before I deal with the particular question of the book-packet rates, I think I must not let Sir Darcy Lindsay's criticism on the capital accounts of the Department and the interest charge on it to go unchallenged. I believe that my friend, Sir Darcy Lindsay, has not read the Report of the Postal Accounts Enquiry Committee.

Sir Darcy Lindsay: He has.

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: This very question was referred to and fully discussed by them. Sir, in paragraph 80, they say:

"The decision to charge interest on the entire capital outlay of the Department has been the subject of criticism in various quarters on the ground that in the past capital expenditure was found out of the revenue surpluses of the Government of India and that these surpluses of Government were partly built up by large surpluses surrendered by the Posts and Telegraphs Department."

That is exactly the criticism which Sir Darcy Lindsay has brought up to-day. I do not wish to deal with all the arguments for and against which the Committee went into and which will be found in Chapter IX of the Report. The conclusion they came to was that:

"As no undertaking can obtain the use of capital without paying for such use either by way of dividends or of interest, it is necessary, in order to obtain a true account of the financial position of the Department and a true test of the correctness of the rates charged for its services, that interest should be included in the accounts of the Department."

There are many other arguments which were for and against this particular proposition which have been dealt with in the report, and I would recommend a very careful study of that somewhat complicated problem. The next point of Sir Darcy Lindsay's which I would like to deal with is the question of this estimate of Rs. 5 lakhs to which he referred. The point we made last year was this. The postcard rate was three pice

[Mr. G. V. Bewoor.]

and the book-packet rate was two pice. We stated that, owing to this, there was a large amount of post-card traffic, that is to say, "communications", which would go on post-cards or postcards themselves which were diverted legitimately or illegitimately to the book-packet traffic because the sender saved one pice. Now in our post offices, we deal with thousands, literally thousands, of articles which are received for delivery and which have to be issued for delivery as soon as possible. We cannot possibly provide the large amount of staff that would be required to examine every one of these book-packet articles. We do our best. What we meant was that, as there was this difference between the two rates, there was a great deal of illicit sending of postcards as book-packets, and we wanted to stop that. We did not mean that the value of this misuse was equal to Rs. 5 lakhs. That of course cannot possibly be estimated, but what was meant was that the result of revising the book-packet rate would be that, on the assumptions we made at that time, we would receive Rs. 5 lakhs of additional revenue.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: How much has your postcard traffic gone up by the stopping of this illegal traffic?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: It is impossible to say, because the year 1934-35 has only just ended; but I have here some few figures which show that in the area served by the Calcutta G. P. O., where there are a large number of commercial firms, the number of postcards went up from 94,000 to 98,000 during one week in August, whereas the number of book-packets at the same time fell from 48,000 to 45,000. But, however, that may be, the actual result of the increase in the book-packet rate has not been that enormous fall with which we were threatened during the discussion last year. We were told that the raising of the book-packet rate would be a great blow to the business concerns. We actually allowed in our estimates for a reduction in the traffic of 20 per cent. We said we were putting up the rate by 50 per cent, from two pice to three pice, but we anticipated a fall of 20 per cent in the total traffic and we anticipated an additional revenue of 5 lakhs only. Actually, the book-packet traffic has refused to be depressed. Of course Sir Darcy Lindsay should naturally know better; probably he has certain sources of information which tell him that business houses have ceased or reduced advertising by way of book-packets a great deal, but our statistics show that the traffic has only fallen by about one per cent.

Sir Darcy Lindsay: How does the Honourable Member arrive at those figures?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: The method of arriving at these figures is after all and must necessarily be a very rough one. (Hear, hear.) In the course of every year, all over the country and in every postal department in the world the method followed is to take account of the number of articles received for delivery during the period of one week in every post office, —during one week in August and one week in February, one being a

slack period and the other being a busy period. The total number of articles received for delivery multiplied by 26 is taken as equal to the number of articles posted during the first half-year and similarly the figures for February multiplied by 26 are taken to represent number of articles during second half-year, the total of both being a rough estimate of the total number of articles: and all I can tell the House is that for comparative purposes these figures must be reliable, even though they may not be reliable in themselves; for example, we took the enumeration exactly under the same circumstances in August, 1933, and I compare the figures with the figures taken in the enumeration in August, 1934. It is seen that the book-packet traffic has refused to be depressed, and, therefore, it would appear that the traders are able to bear the charge of three pice on the first five tolas. The other argument which we advanced last year, namely, that the difference in the book-packet rate and the postcard rate should not be allowed to continue I cannot advance just now, because the postcard rate has been reduced to two pice. We are unable to accept that reduction and I must, therefore, oppose the reduction in the book-packet rate as well. I fully recognise the advantages of advertising and I would like to see more business houses utilising the post office for advertising by approaching the individual through the post office rather than by approaching him by means of broadcast advertisements in newspapers or on hustings and so on. I entirely agree that this is desirable and we should like to encourage them to send advertisements by book-packet but we have to consider what it costs us and what we can afford. It is all very well to say: Let them send more advertisements by book-packets. But we cannot possibly sell below the cost price and as I have said our cost price is not covered until the post office income covers its total expenditure.

Mr. F. E. James: That argument was advanced last year and my Honourable friend has just now advanced it. The real difficulty has been the question of smuggling and not the question of revenue. It is the question of smuggling to which he should direct his attention.

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: I have already pointed out that if the postcard rate is reduced to two pice, that argument can no longer be used. But we find that we cannot possibly bear the loss on the postcard rate and we merely want to say as an argument that we cannot afford to reduce the book-packet rate from three pice to two pice. As Sir Darcy Lindsay has already stated, we estimate that as a result of the revision of the rates, there will be a loss to the department of 6½ lakhs of revenue; In the present state of the finances of the department we cannot accept this loss to be added on to the loss that already exists.

Several Honourable Members: The question may now be put.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is that the question be now put.

The motion was adopted.

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

"That in Schedule I to the Bill, in the proposed First Schedule to the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, for the entries under the head 'Book, Pattern and Sample Packets' the following be substituted:

- For a weight not exceeding two and a half tolas Six pies.
 For a weight exceeding two and a half tolas, but not exceeding five tolas Nine pies.
 For every additional five tolas, or fraction thereof in excess of five tolas Six pies."

The Assembly divided:

AYES—84.

Aaron, Mr. Samuel.
 Abdoola Haroon, Seth Haji.
 Abdul Matin Chaudhury, Mr.
 Abdullah, Mr. H. M.
 Aney, Mr. M. S.
 Ayyangar, Mr. M. Ananthasayanam.
 Azhar Ali, Mr. Muhammad.
 Bajoria, Babu Baijnath.
 Banerjee, Dr. P. N.
 Baqui, Mr. M. A.
 Bardoloi, Srijut N. C.
 Bhagavan Das, Dr.
 Bhagchand Soni, Rai Bahadur Seth.
 Chhattopadhyaya, Mr. Amarendra Nath.
 Chettiar, Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam.
 Chetty, Mr. Sami Venkatachalam.
 Das, Mr. B.
 Das, Mr. Basanta Kumar.
 Das, Pandit Nilakantha.
 Datta, Mr. Akh. Chandra.
 Desai, Mr. Bhulabhai J.
 Essak Sait, Mr. H. A. Sathar H.
 Fakir Chand, Mr.
 Fuzlul Huq, Mr. A. K.
 Gadgil, Mr. N. V.
 Gauba, Mr. K. L.
 Ghiasuddin, Mr. M.
 Ghulam Bhik Nairang, Syed.
 Gidney, Lieut. Colonel Sir Henry.
 Giri, Mr. V. V.
 Govind Das, Seth.
 Gupta, Mr. Ghansham Singh.
 Hidayatallah, Sir Ghulam Hussain.
 Hockenhull, Mr. F. W.
 Hosmani, Mr. S. K.
 Hudson, Sir Leslie.
 James, Mr. F. E.
 Jedhe, Mr. K. M.
 Jehangir, Sir Cowasji.
 Jogendra Singh, Sirdar.
 Khan Sahib, Dr.
 Khare, Dr. N. B.
 Labiri Chaudhury, Mr. D. K.

Lalchand Navalrai, Mr.
 Lindsay, Sir Darcy.
 Maitra, Pandit Lakshmi Kanta.
 Mangal Singh, Sardar.
 Milligan, Mr. J. A.
 Morgan, Mr. G.
 Mudaliar, Mr. C. N. Muthuranga.
 Muhammad Ahmad Kasmi, Qazi.
 Muhammad Nauman, Mr.
 Murtuza Sahib Bahadur, Maulvi Syed,
 Nageswara Rao, Mr. K.
 Paliwal, Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta.
 Pant, Pandit Govind Ballabh.
 Parma Nand, Phai.
 Raghuraj Narayan Singh, Choudhary.
 Rajah, Raja Sir Vasudeva.
 Rajan, Dr. T. S. S.
 Raju, Mr. P. S. Kumaraswami.
 Ranga, Prof. N. G.
 Saksena, Mr. Mohan Lal.
 Sant Singh Sardar.
 Satyamurti, Mr. S.
 Scott, Mr. J. Ramsay.
 Shafi Dandi, Maulvi Muhammad.
 Sham Lal, Mr.
 Shaukat Ali, Maulana.
 Sheodass Daga, Seth.
 Siddique Ali Khan, Khan Sahib Nawab.
 Singh, Mr. Deep Narayan.
 Singh, Mr. Ram Narayan.
 Sinha, Mr. Anugran Narayan.
 Sinha, Mr. Satya Narayan.
 Sinha, Mr. S Bri Krishna.
 Som, Mr. Survyia Kumar.
 Sri Prakasa, Mr.
 Thein Maung, Dr.
 Thein, Maung, U.
 Umar Ali Shah, Mr.
 Varma, Mr. B. B.
 Vissanji, Mr. Mathuradas.
 Ziauddin Ahmad, Dr.

NOES—39.

Abdul Azis, Khan Bahadur Mian.
 Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab.
 Allah Bakhsh Khan Tiwana, Khan
 Bahadur Nawab Malik.
 Ayyar, Rao Bahadur A. A. Venkata-
 rama.
 Bajpai, Mr. G. S.
 Bewoor, Mr. G. V.
 Bhoré, The Honourable Sir Joseph.
 Chatarji, Mr. J. M.
 Clow, Mr. A. G.
 Craik, The Honourable Sir Henry.
 Dalal, Dr. B. D.
 DeSouza, Dr. F. X.
 Drake, Mr. D. H. C.
 Gajapatiraj, Maharaj Kumar Vijaya
 Ananda.
 Graham, Sir Lancelot.
 Grigg, The Honourable Sir James.
 Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur
 Sardar Sir.
 Joshi, Mr. N. M.
 Kirpalani, Mr. Hiranand Kashiram.
 Lloyd, Mr. A. H.

Mehr Shah, Nawab Sahibzada Sir
 Sayad Muhammad.
 Metcalfe, Mr. H. A. F.
 Mukerjee, Mr. N. K.
 Mukerjee, Rai Bahadur Sir Satya
 Charan.
 Nayar, Mr. C. Govindan.
 Noyce, The Honourable Sir Frank.
 Owen, Mr. L.
 Rajah, Rao Bahadur M. C.
 Rau, Mr. P. B.
 Row, Mr. K. Sanjiva.
 Sarma, Mr. R. S.
 Scott, Mr. W. L.
 Sher Muhammad Khan, Captain
 Sardar.
 Singh, Mr. Pradyumna Prashad.
 Sinha, Raja Bahadur Harihar Prasad
 Narayan.
 Sircar, The Honourable Sir Nripendra
 Sloan, Mr. T.
 Swithinbank, Mr. B. W.
 Tottenham, Mr. G. B. F.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): There is another amendment which has been moved,—No. 76. That is disposed of by the vote on the last amendment.

... There are some other items, but the Chair does not know whether the House would like to sit for some time and dispose of those items. The Chair is prepared to sit longer to dispose of those items.

Some Honourable Members: We shall finish Posts and Telegraphs today.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If that is the desire, the Chair will continue the proceedings. The next item relates to newspapers.

There are two identical motions,—Nos. 78 and 79.

Pandit Nilakantha Das: I do not move my motion No. 78*.

*78. "That in Schedule I to the Bill, in the proposed First Schedule to the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, for the entries under the head 'Registered Newspapers' the following be substituted :

• For a weight not exceeding twenty tolas	Quarter of an anna.
For every twenty tolas, or fraction thereof, exceeding twenty tolas	Quarter of an anna."

Mr. H. M. Abdullah (West Central Punjab: Muhammadan): Sir, I beg to move No. 79:

"That in Schedule I to the Bill, in the proposed First Schedule to the Indian Post Office Act, 1933, for the entries under the head '*Registered Newspapers*' the following be substituted:

' For a weight not exceeding ten tolas	Quarter of anna.
' For every additional ten tolas or fraction thereof	'Quarter of an anna'."

Sir, I do not like to make a long speech, but wish to confine my remarks to a few words. My amendment aims at restoring the postal rates for registered newspapers to what they were before. It is more reasonable than the amendment of my Honourable friend, Pandit Nilakantha Das, and as it will not involve much loss to the Government, I hope the House will accept it.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That in Schedule I to the Bill, in the proposed First Schedule to the Indian Post Office Act, 1933, for the entries under the head '*Registered Newspapers*' the following be substituted:

' For a weight not exceeding ten tolas	Quarter of an anna.
' For every additional ten tolas or fraction thereof	'Quarter of an anna'."

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Sir, I propose to follow my Honourable friend's excellent example of brevity. All I need say in regard to this amendment is that the newspaper rates are the only postal rates which have remained unchanged in this country since 1921. Whilst every other branch of postal traffic has had its rates increased, newspapers were left entirely alone. We lose money on every newspaper that we carry and is there any reason why that loss should be increased? Is there any justification for showing special favours to newspapers when other branches of the postal traffic need them far more?

Sir, Qwasji Jehangir: What does it cost?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: It would cost three lakhs, but the point is one of principle. When we have left these rates alone for the past fourteen years when other branches of traffic have had their rates increased, why should we now alter the rates for newspapers when we are not in a position to afford it?

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

"That in Schedule I to the Bill, in the proposed First Schedule to the Indian Post Office Act, 1933, for the entries under the head '*Registered Newspapers*' the following be substituted:

' For a weight not exceeding ten tolas	Quarter of an anna.
' For every additional ten tolas or fraction thereof	'Quarter of an anna'."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The last item relating to the post office is amendment No. 80*.

Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar (South Arcot *cum* Chingleput: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I do not move my amendment*.

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

“That Schedule I, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Schedule I, as amended, was added to the Bill.

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

“That clause 4 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 4 was added to the Bill.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 4th April, 1935.

*“That in Schedule I to the Bill, in the proposed First Schedule to the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, against the second entry under the head ‘*Parcels*’, for the words ‘Four annas’ the words ‘Three annas’ be substituted.”